

# WYKE REGIS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Founded 1925

Affiliated to the RHS & Dorset Federation of Horticultural Societies

President Mr Colin Giles

HEADQUARTERS  
& TRADING POST  
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OPENING TIMES  
WEDNESDAY 2 – 4PM  
SATURDAY 9.30AM – 12.30PM



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## FEBRUARY 2016 NEWSLETTER

### CHANGE OF EMAIL ADDRESS

The old WRHS email address will stop working after 12th February.  
New address: [wrhs1925@btconnect.com](mailto:wrhs1925@btconnect.com) Please update your address book.

A society like the WRHS attracts members from many walks of life, with many skills not directly related to horticulture and gardening. Not **directly** related, but still very relevant to the work of the Society. Without members with skills in building, plumbing, book-keeping, and business management, the Society would quickly fall apart at the seams!

Members who not only **possess** skills, but are also willing to **use** those skills for the benefit of all WRHS members.

Faced with the daunting task of radically updating the Society's working practices and business infrastructure, we asked if any member could offer skills in setting up computer systems, and as if by magic, a response immediately popped into my email box from Richard Miller. Before his recent retirement, Richard was Implementation Director for a major software programming organisation, and computerised stock control is one of his areas of expertise. How good is that !!!

Introducing new computer-based working practices can be a minefield for the uninitiated amateur. It is all too easy to create a system that looks fine and dandy, until the day when you ask someone else to use it in earnest. The users promptly find that several vital functions don't work as required, and want features that you forgot to include, or weren't asked for. Suddenly your nice new shiny system looks about as handy as a cow with a musket!

When the Working Group set up by the General Committee held an initial meeting with Richard, it was immediately obvious that his professional expertise will be invaluable. Brian Shaw has more to say in his Chairman's Notes, it is enough to say here that the members of the Trading Team were looking very much more happy and relaxed by the end of the first Working Group meeting! The future looks promising.

### WEBSITE

We plan to expand the WRHS website, by including general information and cultivation instructions relating to varieties offered at the Trading Post. This will be a gradual process, but should prove a useful reference source. Why not email some photos of the crops you have raised, to [wrhs.news@markhamhouse.org.uk](mailto:wrhs.news@markhamhouse.org.uk) for inclusion?

### CORRECTION

For many years, a well-known local newspaper upheld a fine tradition of reporting the local news with all the names spelt wrongly. Alas, their cloak seems to have fallen upon my shoulders.

The January newsletter included an updated list of Committee Members, with the Treasurer's name misspelt.

Our Treasurer's name is **Paul Clarke** with an E, not Clark as I mistyped. Mea culpa, mea culpa, maxima mea culpa! Sorry, Paul.

**Dave Best (Editor)** [wrhs.news@markhamhouse.org.uk](mailto:wrhs.news@markhamhouse.org.uk)

## TRADING POST

Sales are restricted to WRHS members. Membership is available from the Trading Post for £5 per year.

**If you have a bright idea for new stock items, please tell one of the Trading Team -**

Brian Shaw, Paul Clarke, Paul Hare, Andrea Inns, & Gill Ketchley.

**Please bring your own plastic bags if required – no more freebies from the supermarkets!**

Here are a few of the items currently in stock:

<b>SEED POTATOES</b>	Salad:	Charlotte, International Kidney, Nicola	All at £1.25 / kg
	1 <sup>st</sup> Early:	Pentland Javelin, Rocket	
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Early:	Kestrel, Marfona, Wilja	
	Main:	Cara, Desiree, King Edward, Maris Piper, Picasso	
	Main:	Sarpo Mira (blight resistant)	£1.40 / kg
<b>ONIONS</b>	Winter sowing onions: Senshyu Yellow, Shakespeare, reduced from 80p to 40p per 200g		
<b>SHALLOTS</b>	Red Sun, & Golden Gourmet, 500g for £2.00 or 800g for £3.00		
<b>GARLIC</b>	Vallelado Wight – a soft-necked variety for planting now, reduced from £1.65 to £1.20 each		
<b>SEEDS</b>	A <b>wide</b> variety of vegetable and flower seeds and green manures – too many to list! Can't find the seed variety you particularly wanted? Add it to the new <b>Seed Request Book</b> .		
<b>POTTED BULBS</b>	Hyacinths, crocus, and miniature daffodils (tête-à-tête), all ready potted up.		
<b>WILDLIFE FOOD</b>	Bird seed, fat-balls, and peanuts.		
<b>MATERIALS</b>	Winter wash for fruit trees. Jeyes fluid for cleaning paths. Bubble wrap. Anti-pigeon netting. Fleece wrap. Pea & bean netting. Weed suppressing fabric. Capillary matting. Composts. Some grit – new stocks are still awaited.		
<b>TOOLS</b>	Spades, forks, hand forks, trowels, shears, & secateurs.		
<b>BAGS</b>	Strong jute shopping bags printed with the WRHS logo – very smart! £1.50 each		

## WRHS GROWN PLANTS

The following plants are being raised from seed in the WRHS poly-tunnel, and will be available for sale:

**Broad Beans, French Beans, Summer/Autumn Cabbage, Celeriac, Celery, Indoor Cucumber, Leeks.**

## TOOL HIRE

The following tools are available for hire from the Trading Post at very modest rates:

One Wolf heavy duty tree pruning kit, comprising:  
ZMV4 telescopic pole 2.2 to 4 metres long + RCVM heavy duty lopper + PC370MS pruning saw.

One light-weight lopper, approx 3.9 metres long.

Two light-weight spreaders for lawn treatments (sand, fertilisers etc.)

One "HANDY THS50" heavy duty spreader for lawn treatments.

## WHAT TO DO THIS MONTH

Apple and pear trees should be pruned when they are dormant, which they should be at present.

The Trading Team have restocked with secateurs, so there's no need to struggle on with a notched or blunt pair.

**Did you know** that the Society has long pruners & loppers available for hire? Beats falling off a ladder trying to reach the top branches! Enquire at the Trading Post – don't wait too long, because they're in popular demand.

The Trading Post also has stocks of winter wash, grease, and grease bands to protect your fruit trees against bugs.

**Autumn fruiting** raspberry canes should be cut back to ground level this month.

(**Summer fruiting** varieties should have been cut back immediately after harvesting – let's hope you remembered!)

Cane, bush, and tree fruits should be given general-purpose fertiliser (Ho! to the Trading Post if you've run out) and mulched with well-rotted manure or garden compost.

All soft fruits should be given a top dressing of potassium sulphate (a.k.a “sulphate of potash”).

Winter flowering heathers can be trimmed once the flowers have faded.

The side-shoots of Wisteria and Campsis should be cut back to two or three buds.

For pruning purposes, Clematis are divided into three groups.

**Group 1** Clematis are the early-blooming varieties that flower on the previous season shoots; these require no pruning unless badly overgrown.

**Group 2** Clematis are the large-flowered cultivars that flower in May to June on the previous season shoots; dead shoots of this group can be pruned in February.

**Group 3** Clematis flower in mid to late summer on the last 60cm (2ft) of the **current** year's growth. These **must** be pruned regularly, otherwise the result will be a tangled mass of bare stems with flowers only on the extremities. Cut back Group 3 Clematis to the lowest pair of strong buds this month.

The earliest varieties of snowdrop have been in flower for some time, and now the common "*Galanthus Nivalis*", are coming into flower as well. Unlike most flowering bulbs, which are planted when they are dry, snowdrops and aconites must be planted in the green, so now is the time to brave the disgusting weather and get planting. Somewhat confusingly, the **spring snowflake** "*Leucojum vernal*" should be planted **dry**, in the autumn.

A garden is nothing without birds, and now is the time to check that your nest boxes have survived the winter, and to replace any that have fallen apart. Expect the small birds to start nesting early in this crazy weather.

## SOCIAL EVENTS

**Plant Swap Day - Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2016 10:00 'til 12:00.**

Details: <http://wrhs.btck.co.uk/SOCIALEVENTS/PlantSwapDay>

**A Quiz Night** is planned for **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2016**, starting at 7:30pm

There will be questions on gardening and a multitude of other subjects.

Tickets £5 each. **Places are limited to 30.** The price includes a finger buffet (bring your own drinks).

WRHS Quiz Nights are always popular, so buy your tickets as soon as they become available.

Details: <http://wrhs.btck.co.uk/SOCIALEVENTS/QuizNight>

A trip to **Wilton House & Country Fair - Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2016** is under consideration.

Details: <http://wrhs.btck.co.uk/SOCIALEVENTS/WiltonHouse>

**Summer Show - Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2016.** Provisional date, subject to the Scout Hall being available.

The Schedule will be released shortly. Details: <http://wrhs.btck.co.uk/SOCIALEVENTS/SummerShow>

## FACEBOOK

The WRHS facebook group is restricted to WRHS members and moderated by Jim Burt & Martyn Simmons. Log onto your facebook account, search for “Wyke Regis Horticultural Society”, and request to be a friend.

The link is: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/440186932834132/>

## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

The WRHS Committee held its meeting on Tuesday 12 January 2016.

It was a real pleasure for me to meet all the Committee Members and to receive written reports from all the Officers.

It was agreed that the Financial Year will run from 1 July to 30 June each year and that the AGM will be held within 90 days of the end of the Financial Year, giving the Treasurer at least six weeks to draw up the Accounts and have them audited before presentation to the AGM. Membership will run from 1 April to 31 March, as before.

The computer systems for the Society are presently being examined and Richard Miller, a member who has just retired as Implementation Director for a major software programming organisation, has agreed to be the Society's IT Manager.

It is intended that a fully integrated system be created, with the Trading Post till being able to read bar-codes (as in a supermarket) so that all sales and receipts will be recorded electronically. It is intended that a Cloud-based system will be set up which ensures security for the Society's data. All requirements of the Data Protection Act will be respected.

The poly-tunnel will be moved to the corner of the rear yard and will be used to propagate plants for sale.

We have checked with the Society's lawyers and we have been advised that, providing all Raffle Tickets are sold **on site to WRHS Members only**, they can be sold in advance. We anticipate that this will increase participation in raffles, increase income, and enable the offering of higher value prizes.

David Best has agreed to run the Website and to produce the Newsletter.

Many points were raised at the AGM about the Constitution and it was agreed that the General Secretary, Carrie Dalby, will collate these and circulate them to the General Committee for discussion at the next Committee Meeting on Tuesday 1 March 2016.

If you would like to have an informal chat with me, I can usually be found in the Trading Post on Wednesday afternoons and Saturday mornings for an hour or so.

**Brian Shaw (Chairman)**

## BUILDING NEWS

### WORK COMPLETED

The back room of the Trading Post is now equipped with a dust extraction cabinet, built by Cliff Elliot. Bulk fertilisers and the like can now be weighed out and bagged up for sale without the risk of dust inhalation.

Jim Burt has improved the toilet facilities by installing a new twin flush system.

A problem with the hinges of the main gate to the Trading Post yard has been solved; the gate is now easy to open.

Office facilities have been set up in the back room of the Trading Post.

### WORK SCHEDULED

Repairs to the shed roof are urgently needed, as rain ingress is causing damage to some of the stock.

## GREENHOUSE FOR SALE

**8 ft x 6 ft Robinsons "Popular" greenhouse for sale at £50.**

Intact and complete with original assembly instructions. Seller is happy to assist buyer with disassembly.

Buyer collects from Dorchester Road, Broadwey.

Contact: **Steve Stanwix - mobile 07778 371099**