

WYKE REGIS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



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HQ & TRADING POST
RYLANDS LANE
WYKE REGIS
WEYMOUTH DT4 9PY

Founded 1925
Affiliated to the RHS & DFHS
President Dr Brian Shaw

Telephone: 01305 759668
email: enquiries@wrhs.org.uk or newsletter@wrhs.org.uk
website: <http://wrhs.org.uk/>

Price
10p

OPENING TIMES
WEDNESDAY 2pm – 4pm
SATURDAY 9.30am – 12.30pm

MAY 2018 NEWSLETTER

GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION

Please read this - it affects YOU !

The General Data Protection Regulation, inflicted upon us by the EU, comes into force later this month, and is causing widespread grief to small organisations all over the country.

The main service which the WRHS gives to its Members is to sell horticultural products at greatly reduced prices.

Our Trading Licence restricts us to selling to WRHS Members only, so

(A) we have to know exactly who our Members are, and

(B) we must be able to show that we sell only to Members, if challenged by the Local Authority.

WHAT DATA DO WE NEED TO HOLD ?

Membership data comprises name, address, telephone number(s), email address, and for Juniors only, date of birth.

HOW DO WE STORE YOUR DATA ?

Paper records are kept in a locked safe, accessible to two nominated persons only.

Computer records are held on one of the Society's computers, with heavily restricted access and hefty password protection. An electronic backup is kept in the safe with the paper records.

Previously, the electronic till held your address, 'phone numbers, & email address, **but no longer does so.**

If you allow your **name** to be held on the till, then you can shop when you have forgotten / mislaid your membership card. Otherwise you will have to present your Membership Card at every purchase, as the till will know only your Card Number.

HOW DO WE USE YOUR DATA ?

We do not plague our Members with tedious telephone calls.

We may ring to say that the purse or credit card that you dropped is locked in the safe, waiting for you to collect, or to say that you have won a prize in the Christmas Draw, but not for much else.

We rarely send more than one email per month - this newsletter - so you won't be smothered in spam.

We will NEVER sell your data to any outside organisation.

WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO DO ?

The GDPR imposes extremely strict rules on all organisations that hold personal data on identifiable individuals.

Without your written permission, we will be unable to continue to hold or use your necessary personal data

This means that you cannot continue to be a Member if you don't sign a GDPR form

Don't blame the General Committee - they didn't design the GDPR or wish for it.

Don't blame the General Secretary, who has spent hours sitting with a table full of forms, helping Members to fill them in, and patiently explaining why they need to.

Don't blame the IT Manager, who has spent weeks reorganising data storage systems and rewriting reams of software - he certainly didn't wish for the blighted GDPR !

"Thank you" to everyone who has already filled in and signed a GDPR form.

If you have not yet done so, please, **IN YOUR OWN INTEREST**, come into the Trading Post and sign a GDPR form **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE** - even if you pay by Standing Order.

SUMMER SHOW

WRHS Summer Show - Saturday 21st July

Schedules are in the Trading Post now, so plenty of time to start growing, sewing, knitting, painting or taking your camera out

Get the children involved !

Open to everyone, including non-Members

Rooted Begonia cuttings for Class 16 are on sale at £2, which includes Show entry fee

CALENDAR PHOTO COMPETITION

While you are hard at work in your garden or allotment, don't forget the

WRHS Calendar Competition

which has become a regular feature of our Society life.

The 2018 WRHS Calendar was well received by the Members, and we hope to keep up the high standard for 2019.

Copies of the Competition Rules are available from the Trading Post or can be downloaded from the website.

HANGERS HEROES PUMPKIN COMPETITION



Three competitions this year

Heaviest Pumpkin - open to all

Junior Heaviest Pumpkin - 16 or under

Best Carved Pumpkin - open to all

Prizes sponsored by the
Marquis of Granby Restaurant

Weigh-In at the Harvest Supper
on Saturday 27th October from 5pm



The variety to be grown is "Dills Atlantic Giant".

The entry fee of £2.50 includes either 4 seeds or 1 plant.

Entry Forms, seeds and plants are available from the Trading Post now.

Hangers Heroes is a registered charity that works to raise funds for various local small charities and other not-for-profit organisations.

<http://www.hangersheroes.co.uk/>



Small charities remain close to the true spirit of charity - the workers are usually volunteers who give their time and effort because they care.

But it's difficult for a small charity to do the work and raise funds at the same time. Hangers Heroes fills the fund-raising role.

DURSTON'S COMPOST

The products from our new compost supplier, Durston's of Street, have proved so popular that we have already had to order another lorry load. This second delivery proved something of a pantomime, as we discovered too late that the charger of the electric pallet shifter had failed, leaving the batteries flat ! The sight of a gaggle of geriatrics manhandling massive pallets of compost into the yard, using only a manually operated lifter, and encouraged by a small dog, must have provided the neighbours considerable entertainment.

Happily, none of us collapsed, and all was safely gathered in.

We await the arrival of "The Man" to repair the electric Lifter-Shifter with eager anticipation !

DURSTON'S PRODUCTS IN STOCK

40 litre Multipurpose Compost	£2.90
60 litre Multipurpose Compost	£3.40
40 litre Farmyard Manure	£2.70
40 litre Ericaceous Compost	£2.70
100 litre Bark - large chip	£7.20
Growbag	£1.55

DURSTON'S PRODUCTS ON ORDER

40 litre Peat Free Compost	£3.30
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ALSO AVAILABLE IN THE YARD

15kg Grow Organic	£7.70	Ground cover, in various grades & widths
25 litre John Innes No.1	£5.30	Greenhouse shading, in two densities
20kg 6X Pelleted Chicken Manure	£14.30	Pea & Bean netting
6 litre Sharp Sand	£0.90	Anti-butterfly netting
6 litre Potting Grit	£1.10	Bamboo canes, 3 foot to 8 foot

GOING PEAT FREE !

Although it costs slightly more than peat-based, our new peat-free compost is selling so well we've sold out !
We are awaiting another delivery - enquire at the Trading Post for the delivery date.

When commercial peat-free composts were first introduced several years ago, they were distinctly disappointing, and got a deservedly bad press. But technology moves on pretty rapidly, even in the horticultural world, and the peat-free product the Society is offering is in a rather different class.

It is made from plant material and wood chips, and is composted at high temperature until well rotted and sterile.

Being pH neutral, it can be used for any plants, and of course, it is a sustainable product.

Multi-purpose compost is 50% sedge peat and 25% moss peat, and by using it, we gardeners are rapidly destroying the ancient and irreplaceable peat bogs of Somerset and Ireland.

Sure, peat based compost is the familiar growing medium we were brought up to use, and we use it without thinking.

But times change, and it's time we all started thinking, and switching to sustainable, peat-free compost.

MEMBERSHIP

If you haven't already renewed your subscription, it is now well overdue.

Still only £5 ! That's less than 10p a week !

Any subscriptions not renewed by 30th June will be deemed expired and removed from our records.

Why not pay by Standing Order through your Bank? Forms are available at the Trading Post.

If you already pay by Standing Order, please check that the payment date is 1st April
- not on the anniversary of the day you joined the Society.

SEED POTATOES

There are just a few varieties of seed potatoes left

Reduced to £1.00 per kilo

Pentland Javelin	First Early	Almost Gone !		King Edward	Main crop	Almost Gone !
Red Duke of York	First Early	Low Stock		Picasso	Main crop	Almost Gone !
Rocket	First Early	Low Stock		Sarpo Mira	Main crop	Low Stock
Marfona	Second Early	Low Stock		International Kidney	Salad variety	Almost Gone !
Desiree	Main crop	Almost Gone !		Nicola	Salad variety	Low Stock

NO LATE NIGHT OPENING

The Society regrets that we are not able to open late this year.

We do not have enough trained volunteers to run the Trading Post for an extra session.

We urgently need volunteers with management skills, who have the time to learn how the Trading Post operates, including the Till, who can become Duty Supervisors. In addition to serving on the rota during opening times, supervisors will need to spend 2 to 3 hours a week 'out of hours' helping with the stock management.

If you think you could help, please contact the General Secretary, Carrie Dalby, for more information.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE

During May, the exterior doors to the Trading Post are being refurbished to comply with Fire Regulations.
We apologise for any inconvenience, but this is essential work.

MEMBERS' PLANTS FOR SALE

Members can bring in **good quality** plants for sale, in **clean pots**, with the **name of the plant** on the label.

There is a charge of 20%. If they are not sold after three months, we ask you to take them away.

You **must** register as a Seller and obtain barcoded labels for your plants, or you will not be paid!











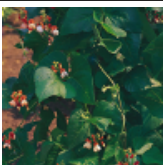






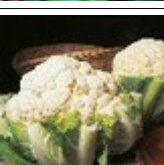

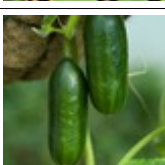




You are responsible for maintaining your own plants - weeding and dead-heading.

The Society will water them for you. No plants will be kept over Winter.

The Society is always happy to accept donations of plants for sale, but they must be of good quality,
in sound pots and have the plant's name label.

PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE PLANTS UNTIL YOU HAVE CHECKED THEM IN WITH THE DUTY SUPERVISOR.

SEEDS TO SOW NOW

Dwarf French Bean Tendergreen 50g 50p		Dwarf French Bean Purple Teepee 50g 90p		Dwarf French Bean Sprite 50g 60p		Dwarf French Bean Masterpiece 50g 65p	
Climbing French Bean Blue Lake 50g 65p		Climbing French Bean Cosse Violette 50g 90p		Climbing French Bean Cobra 50g £2.20		Oriental Bean Edamame Green Shell 25g £2.30	
Runner Bean Firestorm 50g £1.20		Runner Bean White Lady 100g £1.45		Runner Bean Painted Lady 50g 65p		Runner Bean Moonlight 50g £1.45	
Runner Bean Scarlet Emperor 50g 50p		Runner Bean Scarlet Emperor 100g 95p		Runner Bean Enorma 100g £1.10		Runner Bean Painted Lady 100g £1.20	
Pea Delikett 100g £1.05		Pea Onward 100g 60p		Pea Meteor 50g 25p		Pea Hurst Green Shaft 100g 60p	
Pea Kelvedon Wonder 50g 40p		Pea Kelvedon Wonder 100g 70p		Pea Oregon Sugar Pod 50g 45p		Calabrese Stemia F1 £2.80 £2.52	
Cauliflower Autumn Giant £1.30 £1.17		Courgette Atena Polka £2.00 £1.80		Cucumber Mini Munch £3.35 £3.02		Onion Spring Lilia £1.80 £1.62	
Kale Scarlet £1.30 £1.17		Radicchio (Chicory) Palla Rossa £1.30 £1.17		Squash Turks Turban £1.30 £1.17		Sweet Corn Goldcrest £1.80 £1.62	

PLASTIC POLLUTION

My seeds from the Trading Post are doing well, although they're still in **plastic** trays. It made me reminisce.

My father bought bedding plants in **wooden** trays...re-usable, just like plastic, but eventually biodegradable.

You can still get them but they're expensive, so I'll put them on my birthday list.

The commercial race is on to produce cheap, mass-produced alternatives to plastic trays and pots - in wood, bamboo or rice hulls. I know because several online garden suppliers have currently run out of wooden trays, rice-hull pots and other sustainable alternatives to plastic.

Suppliers like Burdon and Ball, Lichfield Planter Co, Seedpantry and the Garden Superstore are in the race.

But are there any Dorset suppliers out there please?

David Wood

ALTERNATIVES TO PLASTIC

One way in which the Society keeps down prices is to buy large sacks of fertilisers etc. and rebag them into the small quantities that most gardeners require. Currently we use heavy gauge polythene bags for this purpose, but in pursuit of our aim to reduce our dependence on plastics, we have obtained a supply of foil-lined white paper bags, which look quite promising. We shall be trying these out in the near future. One advantage is that we can print directly onto these bags, instead of using a card header, so the bag will still be labelled after you've opened it.

We are also trying out some wooden plant labels – a bit like oversized lolly sticks – and shall be phasing out the white plastic labels. They look better than plastic, are easier to write on, and may not be quite so attractive to blackbirds, who seem to delight in snatching up white plant labels and tossing them over their shoulders !

We are still looking for clay pots at reasonable prices, and will keep you posted on progress.

We are still looking for a second hand Belfast sink in which to wash flower pots, but it seems likely that we shall have to purchase a new one.



SLUGS & SNAILS & ... HEDGEHOGS

A perpetual gardening dilemma is how to control slugs and snails while also encouraging the beneficial wildlife which act as natural pest controllers.



Slug pellets containing metaldehyde or ferric phosphate are NOT safe for wildlife, whatever the container says.

The pellets and poisoned molluscs can be eaten by pets, birds and hedgehogs, causing them an agonising death.

Nematodes, though a bit costly, do provide a safe, long-term solution. Start using them in March and continue until October to reduce slug/snail populations and thus overwintering eggs too.

Barrier methods - horticultural grit, crushed eggshells, animal or human hair, wool pellets, hardwood sawdust or copper tape - work by deterring slugs from crossing over, delivering an electric shock, or desiccating them.

Beer traps attract and then drown slugs, and oatmeal or bran bloats them, making them easy prey for birds and hedgehogs.

Using a combination of two or three of these more benign methods together works best.

If you do resort to slug pellets, remember that slug bait is the main ingredient. They contain only 5% poison. So follow the dosing instructions - use too many and you are actually attracting molluscs!

Visit <https://www.hedgehogstreet.org> for ideas on how you can help hedgehogs to thrive.

Remember - a hedgehog about in daylight needs help

If you have any queries or you find a hog out in the day, contact :

Hedgehog Friendly Portland 01305 860461 email: portlandhedgehog@jomorland.f9.co.uk

Nematodes

We ordered an interesting new variety of Nematodes that don't need to be kept in the 'fridge.

Alas, our supplier has let us down, and we are unlikely to obtain any this season.

We recommend that you buy live Nematodes from www.nematodesdirect.co.uk, which, although appearing expensive, are very effective.

There are other slug repellents available at the Trading Post, including traps and wool pellets.

Mulch mats and cabbage collars are also in stock to deter other pests.

YOUNG BORDER PLANTS

**Alternanthera
Purple Knight
5 plants £2.50**



**Calibrachoa F1
Kabloom
5 plants £2.50**



**Cosmos
Razzmatazz
5 plants £2.50**



**Dianthus
F1 Corona
5 plants £1.50**



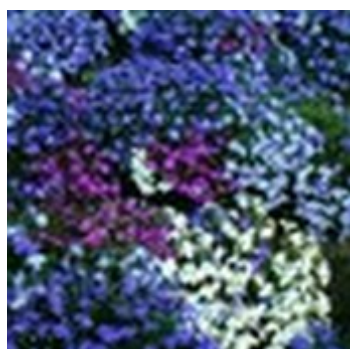
**Dianthus
F1 Sweet
5 plants £2.50**



**Gazania
F1 Daybreak
5 plants £1.50**



**Lobelia
String of Pearls
5 plants £1.50**



**Lobelia trailing
Regatta
5 plants £1.50**



**Nemesia
Sundrops
5 plants £1.50**



**Antirrhinum F1
Twinny
5 plants £1.50**



FLOWER ARRANGING

We now stock ribbons, oasis, bowls, wires and much more.
Please let us know if there is anything else that we should sell.

THE QUEEN'S COMMONWEALTH CANOPY

The Queen's Commonwealth Canopy is a project to conserve native forests and to plant more trees throughout the world far into the future.

Each Commonwealth country is pledging an area of woodland or forest: the UK is donating Epping Forest to the scheme (some 6 thousand acres of ancient woodland). The Woodland Trust has provided 50,000 trees to schools and groups to increase native trees growing across the country.

We can each do our bit by planting a tree in our own gardens:

either a dwarf tree in a pot, or larger trees if we have space. There are many fruit trees, grown on dwarfing rootstock suitable for small gardens. Where possible, we should plant British species: silver birch, rowan or hazel, but all trees are valuable to wildlife.

Our gardens tend to be patches of lawn and shrubs, so can we try to add canopy?

If every garden had a tree, there would be corridors for birds and insects across the land.

www.queenscommonwealthcanopy.org

WHAT TO DO THIS MONTH

-  Keep weeds under control. Hoe ! Hoe ! Hoe !
-  Sow new lawns or repair bare patches
-  Mow lawns weekly, once they dry out sufficiently
-  Watch out for viburnum beetle and lily beetle grubs
-  Plant out summer bedding at the end of the month
-  Water early and late for best results.
Recycle water when possible.
-  Earth up potatoes, and plant any still remaining.
The Trading Post still has a few varieties available.
-  Open greenhouse vents and doors on warm days.
-  The Trading Post has max/min thermometers to help you keep track of your greenhouse temperature.
-  Take care not to disturb nesting birds when trimming the hedges. Bird observation duties are the perfect excuse to spend a quiet hour on a sun-lounger, armed with a notebook and a large glass of beer !
-  Lift and divide overcrowded clumps of daffodils and other spring-flowering bulbs
-  Plant out tomatoes, courgettes and pumpkins that were previously sown under cover.
-  Sow French beans, runner beans, squash, cucumbers and pumpkin seeds directly into prepared beds outside.
Cover with horticultural fleece if a late frost is forecast. Fleece is available at the Trading Post.
-  Sow sweet corn outside in blocks, 45cm (18in) apart, two seeds per hole. Select the stronger seedling later.
-  Sow cauliflowers and purple sprouting broccoli for a winter crop.
-  Why not try sowing something different this year ? The Trading Post has all sorts of interesting vegetable seeds in stock.

COMPANION PLANTING

Controlling insects without using chemicals can be achieved by
'Companion Planting'

Sow the Green Manure **Phacelia** with your beans to deter blackfly and **Alfalfa** with the potatoes for wireworm

Try sowing **Nasturtium** seeds between cabbages
White Butterflies prefer them !

Mint between Tomatoes deters aphids.

Black fly that invade Broad Beans do **not** like **Summer Savoury**.

Sow **Sweet Peas** with your Runner Beans
to encourage bees to pollinate the flowers.