

# WYKE REGIS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



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](mailto:enquiries@wrhs.org.uk) or [newsletter@wrhs.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@wrhs.org.uk)  
website: <http://wrhs.org.uk/>

Price  
10p

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

## JUNE 2018 NEWSLETTER

## WRHS SUMMER SHOW SATURDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> JULY

### *Have you entered yet ?*

There are classes for vegetables and flowers, of course,  
but did you know that you can show your knitting, painting, baking and photography?

There are classes for children, too...get them growing and painting!

Pick up a Schedule from the Trading Post or download one from [www.wrhs.org](http://www.wrhs.org).  
You may need to download the free **Mozilla Firefox** web browser to open the web page.  
(The IT Manager will make the WRHS website compatible with other browsers if he lives long enough !)

**Shows don't just happen, they need people to help.**

### *Could you lend a hand setting it up the day before?*

We need to carry tables round to the Scout Hut next door to the Trading Post.

**During the Show, refreshments will be served in the Trading Post**

**from 9.30am until 4pm.**

**Could you bake a cake?**

**Or make a quiche?**

**Or bring something else for lunch?**

**All contributions will be gratefully received.**



Following the Prize-giving at 3pm, there will be the draw for the Raffle.  
Donations of prizes would be appreciated.  
Last year, the raffle helped to pay the rent of the Scout Hut.  
Please support your gardening club.

*Did you win a cup last year?*



Please bring it back in time for the Show,  
*preferably cleaned !*

## ELM TREE SURVEY



**Have you an elm tree in your garden? Do you know how to spot one?**

Look at the leaves - one side is lower in the stalk!

Have a look at the Scout's tree as you enter the Trading Post.

Most of the *Ulmus* family were wiped out in the 1970s by Dutch Elm Disease, but a few hardy individuals have survived.

The Conservation Foundation has launched the Great British Elm Search and is asking gardeners to record their elm trees on an interactive map on

[www.conservationfoundation.co.uk/elms/](http://www.conservationfoundation.co.uk/elms/)

It is hoped that the survey will help to understand why some trees have natural resistance, which will potentially help to return them to the British countryside.



## COMPOST ENTERTAINMENT



*It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven upon the earth beneath.  
The quality of mercy may not be strained, but the tailgate was.*

This required the bags to be man-handled into the yard.  
Our electric shifter, still not repaired, threw in the towel.

Craig the lorry driver, was very patient and helpful.  
We are grateful to Rocky Allen, Carrie Dalby, & Les Scott  
for managing to lift all the fallen bags and for pushing  
and shoving the rest into the yard.  
Your Editor / IT Mangler (the pot-bellied geriatric in blue)  
also joined in the festivities.

And only the day before, he had decided that IT work  
was too sedentary and that he needed more exercise !



Have you tried the Peat-free multipurpose compost yet? It is very good quality.

If you buy Growbags, note that they get highly compressed during packaging,  
so remember to loosen the contents well **before** you cut holes in the plastic for your plants.

### DURSTON'S PRODUCTS IN STOCK

60 litre Multipurpose Compost	£3.40
40 litre Peat Free Compost	£3.30
40 litre Farmyard Manure	£2.70
40 litre Ericaceous Compost	£2.70
100 litre Bark - large chip	£7.20
Growbag	£1.55

## WHAT TO DO THIS MONTH

### IN THE VEGETABLE GARDEN

- ▶ The danger of frosts is past, so plant out tender crops such as courgettes, squashes, cucumbers, and tomatoes. You can warm the soil if it is still cold by putting a cloche on the ground.
- ▶ Remember to harden-off your seedlings in a cold frame or cold greenhouse before planting out, especially if the nights are still cold. Be especially careful with celery which is prone to bolt if exposed to cold.
- ▶ Continue to sow a good range of vegetable crops directly into the soil now.
- ▶ Keep sowing or planting in succession to avoid gluts. Ideally, make a few plantings or sowings once a fortnight.
- ▶ Keep potatoes watered in dry spells and to earth them up once they are high enough. If your soil is heavy and clayey, earth up with spent compost. Depending on the weather and planting times, first earlies, and in some areas second earlies, will be ready in June. You will know that they are ready if they have finished flowering, about ten weeks after planting. Carefully remove some soil to check for size and if they are still too small cover them up and wait a bit longer!
- ▶ Keep checking your tomato plants for side shoots and remove them regularly. Keep tomatoes watered in dry spells and feed with a specialist tomato feed (which is high in potash) at ten day intervals, once the flowers have developed.
- ▶ Keep the weeds down !!! Hoe weedlings in dry soil. Avoid disturbing vegetable roots when uprooting large weeds.
- ▶ When watering other than seed beds, avoid merely damping the soil surface, which encourages surface rooting. A good mulch will help to conserve water.

### FRUIT TREES ETC.

- ▶ In June, fruit trees, especially apples, drop excess fruit. After the dropping has finished, thin out the fruit remaining if the branches are still overcrowded.
- ▶ If we get a prolonged dry spell, don't forget that fruit bushes and trees need watering. Swelling apples, particularly on young trees, as well as soft fruit need water as much as leafy vegetables. Treat them the same as your vegetable plots, giving them a good soaking rather than just wetting the surface, to avoid encouraging surface rooting.
- ▶ Tie in blackberry canes and raspberry canes on summer fruiting bushes as they grow. Though autumn fruiting raspberries are bushes and not canes they may well need support too, as they can be beaten about by strong winds.
- ▶ Check netting on fruit cages and over strawberries to make sure there is no access for the birds. Do make regular checks that no animals or birds have become tangled in the netting.
- ▶ Stop harvesting your rhubarb by mid June. After that, give your plants a good feed by mulching with compost mixed with well-rotted manure or an artificial fertiliser, such as Growmore, to enable them to build strength for next year.

### IN THE FLOWER GARDEN

- ▶ In early June apply a general purpose pelleted organic fertiliser to the ground prior to planting out bedding plants.
- ▶ Plant out your summer flowering bedding plants directly in the ground or in containers. Water well and kept moist in dry weather. Remember to leave a gap at the top of containers and hanging baskets, so the water does not run off.
- ▶ Sow late flowering hardy and half-hardy annuals like Calendula, Godetia, Clarkia, & Coreopsis outdoors.
- ▶ Soak Anemone rhizomes (e.g. Anemone coronaria) overnight, and plant 5cm (2in) deep in moist, free-draining soil or compost, adding lots of leaf mould or organic matter. They take about three months to flower after planting.
- ▶ Perennials, such as delphiniums, hollyhocks and lupins or hardy biennials such as Canterbury Bells, or Foxgloves, can be sown now. They can go directly outside or in pots if you have limited space.
- ▶ Thin out any hardy annuals you have already sown in their flowering positions.
- ▶ Tidy up spring flowering plants, cutting back may stimulate new growth.
- ▶ Do not cut back the foliage of spring bulbs until it has completely died down, so the bulb can be fed from the leaves.
- ▶ Keep on top of weeding, as much as possible. Tackle bindweed and goosegrass before they become a problem and smother your plants. Avoid putting goosegrass or celandine on your compost heaps.
- ▶ Stake tall perennials to prevent wind damage to flower spikes.
- ▶ The Trading Post sells some metal supports that are useful for this.
- ▶ Tie sweet peas onto their supports using jute twine, not plastic string, to encourage a good climbing display.



# SEED POTATOES

Potatoes require 14 - 17 weeks to grow, so planting them now will yield a crop by September or October. As long as they are harvested before the ground freezes, late crops can be very tasty. They do need water, so must not be allowed to dry out in hot summer weeks. The few varieties left at the Trading Post are **free**.

Ideal for growing in bags for that special treat. Potato-growing bags are also stocked at the Trading Post.

## SEEDS TO SOW NOW

<b>Dwarf French Bean</b> Tendergreen 50g 50p		<b>Dwarf French Bean</b> Purple Teepee 50g 90p		<b>Dwarf French Bean</b> Sprite 50g 60p		<b>Dwarf French Bean</b> Masterpiece 50g 65p	
<b>Climbing French Bean</b> Blue Lake 50g 65p		<b>Climbing French Bean</b> Cosse Violette 50g 90p		<b>Climbing French Bean</b> Cobra 50g £2.20		<b>Oriental Bean</b> Edamame Green Shell 25g £2.30	
<b>Runner Bean</b> Firestorm 50g £1.20		<b>Runner Bean</b> White Lady 100g £1.45		<b>Runner Bean</b> Painted Lady 50g 65p		<b>Runner Bean</b> Moonlight 50g £1.45	
<b>Runner Bean</b> Scarlet Emperor 50g 50p		<b>Runner Bean</b> Scarlet Emperor 100g 95p		<b>Runner Bean</b> Enorma 100g £1.10		<b>Runner Bean</b> Painted Lady 100g £1.20	
<b>Pea</b> Kelvedon Wonder 100g 70p		<b>Pea</b> Onward 100g 60p		<b>Pea</b> Oregon Sugar Pod 50g 45p		<b>Pea</b> Hurst Green Shaft 100g 60p	
<b>French Bean</b> Barlotta <del>£1.80</del> £1.62		<b>French Bean</b> Yard Long <del>£1.80</del> £1.62		<b>Pak Choi</b> Red Choi F1 <del>£1.50</del> £1.35		<b>Radish</b> Mixed <del>£1.25</del> £1.13	
<b>Green Manure</b> Summer Mix <del>£1.50</del> £1.35p		<b>Lettuce</b> Little Gem Cos <del>£1.05</del> £0.95		<b>Lettuce</b> Saladin <del>£1.25</del> £1.13		<b>Carrot</b> Mixed <del>£2.35</del> £2.12	
<b>Kale</b> Scarlet <del>£1.30</del> £1.17		<b>Radicchio</b> (Chicory) Palla Rossa <del>£1.30</del> £1.17		<b>Squash</b> Turks Turban <del>£1.30</del> £1.17		<b>Sweet Corn</b> Goldcrest <del>£1.80</del> £1.62	
<b>Squash</b> Butternut Hunter <del>£1.95</del> £1.76		<b>Courgette</b> Atena Polka <del>£2.00</del> £1.80		<b>Kohl Rabi</b> Purple Delicacy <del>£1.35</del> £1.22		<b>Onion</b> Spring Lilia <del>£1.80</del> £1.62	

## PLASTIC POLLUTION

My compost from the trading post comes in plastic bags. Rather than add to the plastic mountain I've been reusing them. I lined the inside of the coconut matting for my manger-style hanging baskets by cutting a diagonal about 40cm across from the corner, so making a pouch. The liner works well with a few holes punched in it, down in the corner. I've also redesigned an area and put gravel down, with compost bags underneath as a weed suppressant. There's been pressure on the horticultural industry to source degradable bio-plastics from natural materials. The media reports on how extremely complex it is to source viable alternatives but hopefully our compost bags will soon be environmentally friendly.

David Wood

## GARDEN HAZARDS FOR HOGS



Hedgehogs are most welcome garden visitors, helping to control slugs, snails, caterpillars and other pests.

*But gardens can be perilous places for them.*

- **Garden netting can entangle hogs.**  
Securely fasten it 15cms ( 6 inches ) above the ground so that they can pass safely beneath.
- **Strimming and mowing can cause awful injuries.**  
Before you start, gently prod long grass or vegetation with a stick to check for resting hedgehogs.

- **Dog bites are some of the most frequent and unnecessary injuries seen at rescues.** To avoid them, when you let your dog out after dark either take it on a lead or muzzle it. A mouthful of hog spines could cost you an expensive out-of-hours vet visit too !

- **Compost heaps should be turned *carefully* with a spade** to avoid injuring any hog nesting inside.

- **Bonfires *must* be turned, or freshly-made before lighting.**

- **Ponds need a sloping shore, rocks or a rough piece of wood angled into the water** to allow hogs to climb out.

- **Finally, remember slug pellets of all kinds are lethal to pets and wildlife.**  
See the May newsletter for better methods of slug control.



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](mailto:portlandhedgehog@jomorland.f9.co.uk)



## **TRADING POST CLOSED**

We regret that the Trading Post will not be open on Saturday 2 June, due to a lack of suitably trained and experienced volunteers able to fill essential roles.

## **ALTERNATIVES TO PLASTIC**

The Society buys bulk sacks of peas and beans, rebags them into the small quantities that most gardeners require, and sells them at greatly reduced prices. We are currently trying out white, foil lined bags instead of polythene bags, but the only available size is slightly too wide, so we intend trying smaller stout manilla envelopes for rebagged seeds.

However, the foil-lined bags should be good for rebagged fertilisers, and you will see some products appearing soon.

## **RULES**

From time to time, the General Committee recognises the need to make a Rule to enforce a decision that affects the running of the Society. These are appended to the Constitution as Rules - a copy is always on the Noticeboard. There are currently 9 Rules that have been approved by the Committee: more are added as deemed necessary.

These are the recent Rules

### **RULE 6 - MEMBERSHIP & TERMINATION**

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

It is a condition of Membership that the Society be permitted to hold personal details of its Members.

The Society reserves the right to hold the title, first and last names and address of each and every full member, in both hard copy and electronically. These details will be stored securely in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations 2018. A form is provided for the Member to sign agreement to this.

All Membership renewals will be charged £5.

#### **TERMINATION**

If a Membership fee has not been paid for the current year by 30th June, that Member's details will be retained for a full year, (provided we have GDPR agreement) and deleted on the following 1st April, if still unpaid. Members renewing after 30th June lose their Stakeholder status.

### **RULE 7 - MEMBERS' PLANTS - WINTER BREAK**

All Members' plants remaining unsold on the last day of trading before the Winter break must be removed. No Members' plants can be over-Wintered at the Trading Post.

If a Member's plants have not been collected by the last day of trading before the Winter break, the Society will dispose of the plants.

Members who wish to sell plants (or any other goods) through the Society must provide an email address and/or a telephone number by which they can be contacted, and must agree to these data being held by the Society.

### **RULE 8 - MEMBERS' PLANTS - TIME LIMIT**

Members' Plants for sale will only be displayed for three months, after which the Society will notify the Seller and the plants will be removed from sale. The plants must be collected by the seller within one month of the notification, or the Society will dispose of the plants.

### **RULE 9 - GENERAL COMMITTEE ROLES**

At the second last General Committee Meeting prior to an AGM, positions on the Committee must be defined and vacancies identified. These must be advertised with the Notice of the AGM, inviting applicants. Job descriptions can be given. Any vacancies not filled at the AGM must be discussed at the first General Committee Meeting following the AGM and suitable persons found to be co-opted to them.