

WYKE REGIS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



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

Founded 1925
Affiliated to the RHS & DFHS
President Mr Colin Giles

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

Price
10p

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

JANUARY 2017 NEWSLETTER

NEWS & EVENTS

The Trading Post reopens on Saturday 14th January

The Seed Potatoes have arrived !

See page 2 for varieties and prices

Onions, shallots and several varieties of broad beans are due by Saturday 21st January

**WRHS 2017 Calendar is still available
at only £5.00**

Wyke Regis Horticultural Society



**Photo Competition
Calendar
2017**

Photo by Gill Kitchley

Quiz Night with Ploughman's Supper

Friday 27th January 2017

Starting at 7:30pm prompt !

£5.00 including food

Bring your own drinks

Some tickets still available at the Trading Post

WRHS Quiz Nights are always popular
so get your tickets quickly

Calendar Photo Competition

The WRHS 2017 Calendar has proved very popular,
so we plan to publish another in time for 2018.

It will be on sale towards the end of this year, and once
again will feature photos taken by WRHS Members.

The competition for the 2018 WRHS Calendar is open
NOW

We hope to include photographs
evocative of every month of the year.
Gardening / horticultural themes and local scenes
will be accepted.

Send your entries to calendar@wrhs.org.uk

VISIT TO LONGLEAT FESTIVAL OF LIGHT

On Sunday 4th November we enjoyed a trip to Longleat House, its many attractions and Festival of Light. The day started very cold but bright and we were glad to board the bus and settle down to enjoy the journey to Longleat. We arrived in good time for lunch - there were a number of venues to choose from, and we had plenty of time to visit the many attractions such as the bat cave, singing tree, animal park, and lake trip. The House was of particular interest as each room was beautifully decorated with a different Edwardian Christmas theme. Characters dressed in Edwardian costume drifted through the main rooms and integrated with the visitors. The day brightened and the lanterns all around were very impressive, the animals beautifully designed and created, even more so when lit up later in the day as it got dark. It was a pleasure to wander around the Beatrice Potter themed garden; its stories and characters were exquisitely designed and utterly enchanting. It was a pleasant ride back with much to reflect on, certainly a spectacle not to be missed. J.R.





SEED POTATOES

New season's seed potatoes - just arrived.

Sold by weight. Select your own tubers, and buy exactly the quantity you want.

Sixteen varieties to choose from - 1st Early - 2nd Early - Main Crop

All priced at only £1.30 per kilo – which is well below normal retail prices

Charlotte Salad Waxy variety		International Kidney Salad Scab resistant		Pentland Javelin 1st early Scab & eelworm resistant		Red Duke of York 1st early Scab resistant	
Rocket 1st early Eelworm resistant		Lady Christl 1st/2nd early Scab & eelworm resistant		Estima 2nd early Scab resistant		Kestrel 2nd early Scab resistant	
Marfona 2nd early		Wilja 2nd early Scab resistant		Cara Main crop Scab, blight & eelworm resistant		Desiree Main crop Waxy red variety	
King Edward Main crop Scab resistant		Maris Piper Main crop Eelworm resistant		Picasso Main crop Red-eyed variety		Sarpo Mira Late maincrop Blight resistant	

VOLUNTEERS

The Society depends upon volunteers for its operation and its continued existence

Non-Trading Hours Volunteers

VOLUNTEER NOW !

*But I'm at work on Wednesdays,
and on Saturdays I spend time with my children !*

That's why we have a new volunteer scheme not restricted to trading hours. Lots of jobs are actually easier if done out of trading hours - like restocking the display stands in the shop, and rebagging seeds and fertilisers.

**Let us know when you might be able to help
It doesn't have to be every week**

Please email general_secretary@wrhs.org.uk



Trading Hours Volunteers

Several new Members who joined recently immediately became volunteers, and are already doing sterling work, for which we are most grateful.

We still need more volunteers for general duties, like serving refreshments, tidying plants, potting up plants. Could you spare an hour or so on an occasional Saturday morning or Wednesday afternoon?

You don't need to be an expert in horticulture - there are knowledgeable folk here who will be happy to teach you basic horticultural skills. It's pleasant work, and you get to meet some very nice fellow gardeners, too.

Maybe you have non-horticultural practical skills. If so, there are plenty of vital tasks to be done. Much improvement work has been done during the Winter shut-down, but we hope to do a good deal more during 2017, especially outside, at the back of the premises.

There are plenty of possibilities for enthusiastic volunteers !

Please email general_secretary@wrhs.org.uk if you think you might be able to help.

A RECIPE FOR JANUARY



A smooth vegetable soup that's full of flavour.

You may still have leeks on your allotment and stored potatoes and onions. This is an excellent way of using these vegetables and is warming on a cold winter's day too. You can leave out the crème fraîche if you are on a post Christmas diet, or just add a swirl to serve. It can also be served with a sprinkling of chopped chives or crumbled crispy pancetta.

Leek and Potato Soup

Serves 4 - 6

Contributed by The Kitchen Gardener

Ingredients

1 tablespoon vegetable oil
1 onion, sliced
225g (8oz) potatoes, cubed
2 medium leeks, sliced
1.2 litres (2 pints) vegetable stock
salt
freshly ground black pepper
150ml (5 fl oz) double cream or crème fraîche




















Optional Toppings

chopped chives
pancetta

Method

1. Heat the oil in a large pan and add the onions, potatoes and leeks.
2. Cook for 3-4 minutes until starting to soften.
3. Add the vegetable stock and bring to the boil.
4. Season well and simmer until the vegetables are tender.
5. Use a blender to produce a smooth consistency.
6. Reheat in a clean pan, stir in the cream or crème fraîche
7. Heat through and serve.

WHAT TO DO THIS MONTH

-  Recycle your Christmas tree by shredding it for mulch - unless it's an artificial one!
-  Clean pots and greenhouses ready for spring - the Trading Post stocks Jeyes Fluid.
-  Dig over any vacant plots that have not been dug already.
-  Check apple trees for canker - prune and burn any diseased wood.
-  Prune apples, pears, quinces and medlars.
-  Start forcing rhubarb.
-  Inspect stored tubers of Dahlia, Begonia and Canna for rots or drying out.
-  Regularly check stored fruit and remove any rotten ones.
-  Remove any remaining plant debris from the vegetable plot. **Don't compost any diseased material** - burn or bin it.
-  Apply winter washes to fruit trees and bushes - the Trading Post has stocks.
-  Apply a top dressing of sulphate of potash to all fruits and nuts - it's available from the Trading Post.
-  Save old egg boxes ready for chitting your seed potatoes.
-  Insulate the outdoor tap. Turn off the isolating valve indoors, and drain down, leaving the outdoor tap open.
-  Prevent ponds from freezing. A half filled plastic milk bottle floated in the pond can keep the surface open.
-  Never break pond ice with a hammer - use hot water and patience !
-  Keep putting out food and water for hungry birds. Remember to unfreeze the water **every day** in cold weather.
-  Keep mice away from stored produce. The Trading Post has mouse traps.
-  Plan your vegetable crop rotations and flower plantings for the coming season.
Check out the new stocks of seeds at the Trading Post.
-  Remember to keep notes throughout the year - what varieties you plant, and when, and how well (or badly !) they fare.
Take a few photos to go with your notes. If we all pool our experiences, we can all help each other.
Local knowledge is worth more than the generalisations you can get from gardening books!

Remember to pick up your free copy of the January edition of Country Gardener from the Trading Post

MODERNISATION

The plan was to refit the WRHS Office during the Winter break, and to shift the old metal racks into the small "inner shop" room.

After that we intended to think about how to modernise the shop - probably at sometime during 2017.

Well ! The Office now has enough bench space, mains sockets and computer access points for everyone who needs to work there, plus lots of splendid new wall cupboards. No longer shall we be falling over one another or competing for computer access.

But there's more !

Thanks to a huge effort by Cliff Elliott, with assistance from Paul Hare and Malcolm Ketchley, the north wall of the inner shop has been completely stripped and re-clad, and is now fully equipped with slat-board display units, with new storage cupboards below.

All the stocks of packeted seeds are now displayed in this area, and as a result it is far easier to see what's on offer.

The rolls of netting and sheeting have been moved out into the garage, and will be dispensed from the Yard in future.

Later in the year we hope to improve the Yard facilities, and install new racking to hold the roll materials conveniently under cover.

Samples of the roll materials are now displayed on the wall of the inner shop room. The hire tools are also displayed nearby.

The free-standing seed racks supplied by Kings Seeds have been removed from the main shop, together with all the other display units that used to block the light from the windows. Andrea Inns, Richard Williamson and others have worked their way through several gallons of white paint, and the combination of white paint and clear windows has done much to disperse the gloomy aspect previously presented by the Society's premises - and that's even before we have invested in a new lighting installation!

Two new wheeled "gondolas" fitted with slat-board displays have been deployed in the main shop.



It will be quick and easy to trundle these gondolas into the inner shop room when the main room is needed for social events. All these improvements have resulted in a much better use of the available floor-space, making the premises look far less cluttered.

Carrie Dalby, our General Secretary (official duties "just writing the Minutes of 6 Committee Meetings per year") has deployed her skills and experience as an architect and project manager, and held the whole project together, working almost non-stop.

Indeed, Carrie and Andrea have practically lived on the premises, apart from a day or so at Christmas.

John Kaye has also contributed much time and effort to the project, as has John Budd, and of course, our Chairman, Brian Shaw.

Even your Editor tore himself away from his computer and infested the premises, spending much time lying down under benches or on top of shelving units, disabling the electricity supply when it was most needed, and generally getting in the way.

A big "Thank You" to the Members who performed tedious tasks such as shifting stock and furniture, and cleaning up all the mess, and especial thanks to the core team, for their time, effort, and the sheer quality of their work.

If you haven't seen the work while it was in progress, do come and check it out.

There is an added incentive to visit the Trading Post - we have new coffee-making equipment, so the café now serves **real** coffee.