

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 or newsletter@wrhs.org.uk
website: <http://wrhs.org.uk/>

Price
10p

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

JANUARY 2019 NEWSLETTER

WINTER BREAK !

Major changes at the Horti!

Whilst the membership weren't looking, The Society has been working to complete the refurbishment of the Trading Post that they began three years ago.

The plan seemed straightforward: fold up the tables and put in a row of cupboards along the West wall.



Firstly, we removed the old panelling, so that the units could be fitted neatly below the windowsills ... and there our troubles began !

Some time back in unrecorded history, that wall has been struck by something as big as the forklift truck, pushing the pre-cast concrete panels outwards, cracking them.

Over time, those cracks have let in the rain and the concrete has started to crumble.

Following professional advice, the Committee took the decision to replace that section with a concrete block wall.

The Trading Post is an extended Marley garage that has been standing for some 40 years - it is a steel frame structure with bolted concrete panel cladding that has several weak spots where there has been water ingress. Looking to the future, we can gradually replace the cladding with block walling to strengthen and essentially renew the building.

The Society would like to thank Wayne Billings for so generously giving up his time over Christmas to build the wall for us.

Thanks must also go to Rocky Allen, Michael Waldoock, John Kaye, Fred Colebrook, Albert Bash and Leon Billings for the building work, to Dave Best for the designs and Chris Mowlam for the electrics.

We have gone to Press before completion, so you will have to come in and see for yourselves!

*We re-open on Saturday 12th January
9.30am until 12.30pm*



MEMBERS' PLANT SALES

Members may bring their own plants for sale when the Trading Post re-opens.

The Society takes 20% of the sale price, to cover costs.

Plants will be watered, but it is the owner's responsibility to keep them in good condition.

Plants can only be offered for sale for three months: if unsold then, they must be removed.

Coloured dots will be provided to put on the labels to indicate which month they were put out on display.

The Society provides barcoded adhesive labels which show the price and identify the seller.

Every plant **must be barcoded so that the seller can be paid !**

SOCIAL EVENTS

Trips

The Society hopes to make at least one trip to a garden venue during the year. Where would you like to go?

What would you like to do? Shall we hire a coach? Would you like a guided tour?

Please help us to choose something that will be supported.

Talks and Workshops

What are you interested in? Would you like short talks, or a Workshop on a particular subject?

We are planning a brief series of demonstrations on setting up and using a greenhouse or poly tunnel - will you come?

You will get hands-on sowing seeds and taking cuttings...with explanations and encouragement as you work.

Please contact Carrie, generalsecretary@wrhs.org.uk or talk to her in the Trading Post.

RHS AFFILIATION

This Society is affiliated to the Royal Horticultural Society,

which enables our Members to use the Membership No. 10522321

to make enquiries to the RHS about their gardening problems.

If we cannot answer your questions in the Trading Post, we email the RHS!

Each month, we receive a copy of The Garden magazine, which is full of useful information and advice.

There is a copy on a table in the café for Members to read. Past copies are left out for Members to take away.

There are also other periodicals available for free.

The Country Gardener and Wyke Register arrive monthly and are also free.

BOOK SALE

The Society has received donations of gardening books to sell.

There will be a Book Sale on Saturday 12th January when the Trading Post re-opens.

Further donations will be welcomed.

MICROWAVE OVEN

The Society is grateful to Christina Moody for donating a microwave oven to the kitchen.

This will enable us to serve hot food more often.

RELEASING RESCUED HEDGEHOGS



Your General Secretary releasing Lucky

Lucky the hoglet was named after he had a narrow escape. He survived a fall of 10ft into my neighbour's back yard in late October and was found about 36 hrs later (she'd heard snuffling the previous evening) by which time he was very dehydrated, cold and hungry, and weighed only 235gms.

Hoglets that small and dehydrated can quickly die, but after emergency first aid of warmth and rehydration, he recovered enough to eat and began putting on weight steadily over the next fortnight.

Then he stopped eating, started coughing and his weight dropped by nearly a quarter. The cough is a symptom of lungworm, and microscopic examination of a faecal sample also revealed infestation with two more parasites common in hedgehogs.

Poor Lucky was treated for all three at once with the help of a vet and he started gaining weight again. Five weeks after he was first found, he was up to 640gms and ready for release back into the wild.

His new home is the allotment worked by the WRHS General Secretary, Carrie Dalby, at Grove Road, Portland where he will help deal with the slugs, snails, beetles and caterpillars.

Hedgehogs released after care are supported for a week or so with supplementary feeding at night (protected from the neighbourhood cats) and a hog house is installed into which they are released so they have a safe place to rest. This helps maintain their weight while they find their feet in the wild and start foraging for their natural prey.

Jo Morland

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

Next Month

Look out for instructions for making two different types of hog house recommended by the British Hedgehog Preservation Society.

PLUS ÇA CHANGE

An Excerpt from **A Gardener's Testament** by Gertrude Jekyll

A Retrospective : Old fashioned flowers

First published in Black's Gardening Dictionary c1929

It is of interest to consider what were the flowers of gardens of our great-grandmothers, or of about a hundred years ago [1829], and to think how charming those gardens must have been, although many of the plants that we now think indispensable were then unknown. From the middle to the end of the eighteenth century there had been in operation that great change in the treatment of pleasure-grounds that involved the inclusion of much larger spaces. In some ways it was a wholesome innovation, for it gave a wider outlook in all senses; but, as with all matters of prevailing fashion, it had regrettable consequences, for there were then existing all over the country the small enclosed gardens of Manor houses and those belonging to many a modest dwelling of fairly well-to-do people; gardens that had remained unchanged since Jacobean and even Tudor times, but that must now be swept away in obedience to the new fashion of landscape gardening. But, a few people were faithful to the old gardens, and to the old garden flowers also, and to this day these remain and retain a special degree of loving appreciation such as we do not extend the many newcomers, however gorgeous they may be and however well-fitted to take their place in our modern pleasure-grounds.

PLASTIC REDUCTION

*In January I have a first go at propagating seed in the conservatory for the new season.
I'm now trying out seed trays made from bamboo and rice from www.haxnicks.co.uk @ £3.99.
The claim is that they will last 5 years or more, but are eventually compostable.*

As for the new season's compost, there are lots of suppliers out there who will supply in bulk bags or even loose, so reducing the use of the current ubiquitous packaging – black plastic bags.

*This service is offered by www.compostdirect.com www.thecompostcentre.co.uk
and www.cpa-horticulture.co.uk*

Bulk buying, if you have the space, is a much cheaper way to buy.

*Several companies also supply jute and hessian sacks
so we don't have to manoeuvre a tipper truck full of compost around our gardens!*

David Wood

*The Durstons composts stocked by the Society are supplied in **recyclable** plastic sacks.*

METALDEHYDE SLUG PELLETS

*The **sale** of Metaldehyde slug pellets will be banned in Britain from July this year.
Their **use** will become illegal in July 2020.*

The Society has a small stock of Metaldehyde pellets, which will not be replaced.

DEFRA are permitting the use of Ferric Phosphate pellets instead - we sell them as "Slug Rid".

*We are researching possible alternatives and would be grateful
for any knowledge that our Members could share with us.*

MEMBERSHIP

Subscriptions become due on 1st April.

Current Members can renew from 12th January - Membership valid until 31st March 2020.

Why not pay by Standing Order? Forms are available.

It costs only £5 a year to access all the bargains for sale at the Trading Post.

New Members joining before 1st April get Membership until 31st March 2020 at no extra cost.

Tell your gardening friends !

VEGETABLE CRUMBLE

Ingredients

300g Carrots, sliced
500g Mixed Root Vegetables, cubed
1 Onion, chopped
2 Tblsp Oil
50g Breadcrumbs
50 g Cheddar Cheese, grated
FOR THE SAUCE
40g Butter
40g Wholemeal Flour
400ml Milk
1 tsp Mustard
1 Tblsp Yoghurt

Method

1. Preheat oven to 180°C (Gas Mark 4-5)
2. Heat oil in sauté pan. Sauté veg and onions for 5 minutes. Place in oven-proof dish.
3. Make the sauce, or use packet sauce if preferred.
 1. In a pan, melt the butter, add the flour, mix well and cook for a minute - do not brown.
 2. Remove from heat, add milk and whisk until smooth.
 3. Replace on heat and slowly bring back to the boil, whisking constantly.
 4. Simmer for 1 minute.
 5. Remove from heat. Add mustard and yoghurt. Stir and combine.
4. Pour sauce over the veg.
5. Mix cheese and breadcrumbs and sprinkle over the top.
6. Bake for 40 - 50 minutes.

Lorraine Bash

SEED POTATOES

The seed potatoes - arriving soon **Still only £1.40/kg**



Arran Pilot First Early

Established and popular, due to its excellent taste. High yields of white skinned tubers with shallow eyes and pure white flesh. Good scab resistance. Among the best boiling potatoes available.



Lady Christl First Early

Very early medium sized, yellow skinned, oval tubers with good yields. Good disease resistance, especially to common scab and potato cyst nematode. Creamy, tasty flesh. RHS Award of Garden Merit.



Pentland Javelin First Early

A superb tasting variety which takes a week or two longer than other first earlies to mature. Can be left in the ground longer to produce larger, more floury potatoes.



Rocket First Early

Probably the earliest of all varieties, but not the tastiest. The flavour can be enhanced by generous use of salt, butter and fresh mint.



Swift First Early

One of the earliest earlies. Crops in about 60 days. High yield of round-to-oval white tubers with creamy flesh and shallow eyes. Good resistance to blackleg, common scab, powdery scab and eelworm.



Estima Second Early

A reliable, high yielding variety, with good resistance to , drought, slugs and scab. Perhaps better classified as an early main-crop than a second early.



Kestrel Second Early

Bred from Solanum vernei x Cara, Kestrel offers good slug resistance, and produces consistently large potatoes of excellent flavour.



Marfona Second Early

A slightly waxy variety with moderate resistance to blight and scab. Its full flavour makes it good for baking, boiling, or mashing.



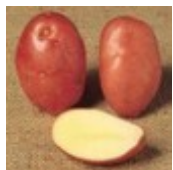
Wilja Second Early

Yields potatoes of consistent size and excellent flavour. Good resistance to everything except eelworm.



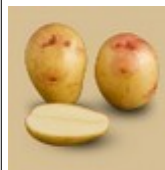
Cara Main crop

Good disease resistance to blight, drought, slugs and scab, giving a high yield of fair sized potatoes. Not strongly flavoured.



Desiree Main crop

A versatile variety bred from Urgenta x Depesche. Good baked, roasted, boiled, mashed, or chipped. Can be treated as an early main crop if desired.



King Edward Main crop

Introduced in 1902, and still widely grown for its excellent taste, good keeping properties and above average disease resistance.



Maris Piper Main crop

Gives high yields of medium sized tubers, which keep very well. Excellent for baking, frying and boiling.



Picasso Main crop

A modern, disease resistant variety, with a mild flavour and good firm texture, suitable for a wide range of uses.



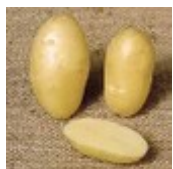
Charlotte Salad variety

Excellent flavour and boil without falling apart. Average resistance to blight and unlikely to be affected by scab or slugs.



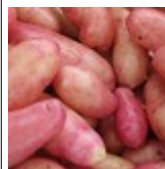
International Kidney Salad variety

Known as Jersey Royals when grown on Jersey. Excellent, distinctive flavour when picked early and boiled with the very thin skin left on.



Nicola Salad variety

Excellent flavour, served hot or cold. Reasonably good disease resistance overall, but susceptible to blight.



Pink Fir Apple Salad variety

Long, knobbly shaped variety, so scrub with a brush before cooking, and eat with the skins on. Expose harvested crop to the sun for a couple of days and they will store for two or three months.

WHAT TO DO THIS MONTH

FLOWERS & SHRUBS

- ▶ Winter prune whilst plants are dormant. **Be careful not to prune spring flowering shrubs, or you will lose the blossom.**
- ▶ Check tall plants for wind rock.
- ▶ Protect tender plants in containers against frost. There is bubble-wrap and fleece for sale in the Trading Post.
- ▶ Plant bare rooted trees, shrubs and fruit bushes.
- ▶ Bare rooted roses establish well if planted and cut back while dormant. Stake standard roses to prevent wind rock.
- ▶ Plant spring flowering lilies.
- ▶ Deadhead winter flowering plants to prolong their flowering.

FRUIT & VEGETABLES

- ▶ Prune apple and pear trees, but leave stone fruits until the summer to avoid silver leaf infections.
- ▶ Cut autumn fruiting raspberries down to the soil.
- ▶ Prune established blackcurrant bushes, taking out a third of the two year or older wood down to the base.
- ▶ If frosts are forecast, protect autumn sown crops, such as Aquadulce broad beans, with fleece or cloches.
- ▶ Dig over any vacant plots, avoiding walking on the soil if it is waterlogged or frosted. On heavy soils, stand on a board to even out the pressure and reduce compaction.
- ▶ After severe weather, check stakes, ties & supports, and structures such as sheds, compost heaps & raised beds for damage.
- ▶ Check at the Trading Post when seed potatoes, garlic and onion sets are to be delivered.
- ▶ Research the seed varieties held at the Trading Post, and maybe try out some new ones!
- ▶ Start chitting your seed potatoes in late January or early February in a bright, dry, frost free place. Avoid a centrally heated area or the chits will grow too long and weak.
- ▶ Plant garlic now to be sure it has a period of cold weather
- ▶ Cover the ground to warm up the soil for early planting of peas.
- ▶ Plan next year's planting and manure the soil to suit the crops. Avoid manure in beds for carrots and parsnips.
- ▶ Leave some areas overgrown for wildlife. Allow some green manures to flower, especially mustard for insects.

GENERAL MAINTENANCE

- ▶ Ventilate the green house - daily if possible - to allow air circulation.
- ▶ A real Christmas tree can be shredded for mulch, or used as protection for tender plants by laying the branches over the beds.
- ▶ Remove blanket weed, duck weed fallen leaves from ponds.
- ▶ Do not walk on the lawn if it is frosted.
- ▶ If the lawn needs cutting, wait until the grass is dry; set the blades high for a gentle trim. Do not mow in frosty weather.
- ▶ If cold weather is forecast, isolate and drain outside taps to prevent pipes from freezing and bursting.
- ▶ If prolonged cold weather is forecast, drain exposed water butts to avoid the water freezing solid and splitting the butt.

Happy New Year !