

WYKE REGIS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Founded 1925

Affiliated to the RHS & Dorset Federation of Horticultural Societies

President Mr Colin Giles

HQ & TRADING POST
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OPENING TIMES

WEDNESDAY 2 – 4PM

SATURDAY 9.30AM – 12.30PM

MAY 2016 NEWSLETTER



SALES DESK VOLUNTEERS

We need a few more volunteers on the sales desk and general shop duties. The work is light, but important to the life of the Society.

EVENING TALKS ORGANISER

You don't have to give the talks or introduce the speakers, just organise.

PUBLICITY OFFICER or TEAM

To liaise with local papers, distribute posters etc.

Please email newsletter@wrhs.org.uk or leave a message at the Trading Post if you can help.

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

There has been much fruitful activity by Members since the publication of the last newsletter, resulting in the Electronic Point of Sale system (EPOS) being installed, tested, refined, with the trading and membership data being vetted and updated. The system should enhance our feeling of achievement in being part of an efficient and successful organisation. I would like to record our grateful thanks to Graham Baldry for his work on behalf of the Society as Membership Secretary. Also I would like to thank Jackie Rocket for organising a very successful and enjoyable Plant Swap Morning on 23 April.

The contents of the Constitution have been examined by Committee Members and the resulting changes will be published once they have been considered and approved by the Committee.

Brian Shaw (Chairman)

SOWING SEEDS

The display at the Trading Post this month ► is all about sowing seeds, and should be particularly helpful to those who are relatively new to gardening.



PLANT SWAP

The recent Plant Swap event proved popular. Around 100 plants have found new homes. Much cake was consumed, thanks to the baking skills of several Members, and to Carrie Dalby & Deirdre Boston on café duty.

REMINDERS

MEMBERSHIP CARDS

To comply with our trading licence, Trading Post sales are restricted to WRHS Members only.

YOU **MUST** PRESENT YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD WHEN MAKING A PURCHASE

SECOND HAND FLOWER POTS

Please don't leave any more flower pots at the Trading Post. We are already overwhelmed!

SALES OF MEMBERS' PLANTS

If you bring home grown plants for sale at the Trading Post, you **MUST** register them at the Sales Desk **BEFORE** leaving them outside on the display stand, otherwise you may not get paid if your plants are sold.

Please see the [website](#) for the rules.

PLEASE COLLECT YOUR NEW BARCODED MEMBERSHIP CARD FROM THE TRADING POST

Fees: **£5.00** for Annual Membership, or **£12.00** if you want to receive the Newsletter by post

IF YOU PAY BY STANDING ORDER, PLEASE DATE YOUR ORDER **1st APRIL**
AND USE THE MEMBERSHIP NUMBER ON YOUR NEW MEMBERSHIP CARD AS THE **REFERENCE**

TRADING POST

MEMBERSHIP CARD MUST BE SHOWN WHEN MAKING ANY PURCHASE

SEED POTATOES	Salad	Nicola, International Kidney (almost gone) , Charlotte (sold out)			All at £1.25 / kg £1.00 / kg		
	1 st Early	Rocket, Pentland Javelin (sold out)					
	2 nd Early	Kestrel, Wilja, Marfona (almost gone)					
	Main	Desiree, King Edward, Maris Piper, Cara, Picasso (almost gone)					
	Main	Sarpo Mira (blight resistant)	£1.40 / kg		£1.20 / kg		
ONION SETS	Stuttgart, Sturon, Red Karmen				200g	80p	
SHALLOTS	Golden Gourmet, Red Sun (almost gone)		500g	£2.00	800g	£3.00	
PEAS	Meteor				100g	50p	
	Douce Provence				100g	60p	
	Sugar Snap, Kelvedon Wonder,				100g	70p	
	Early Onward, Onward				100g	80p	
	Waverex				100g	£1.20	
BROAD BEANS	Bunyard's Exhibition, Giant Exhibition, Witkiem Manita, Masterpiece Green Longpod				100g	60p	
	Sutton Dwarf				100g	70p	
	Karmazyn				100g	90p	
FRENCH BEANS	Sprite	Dwarf variety, long straight pods		100g	84p		
	Canadian Wonder	Dwarf variety, crops heavily		100g	85p		
	Safari	Dwarf variety, late maturing, disease resistant		50g	95p		
	Tendergreen	Dwarf variety, stringless		50g	50p	100g	95p
	Cobra	Climbing variety, good shelf life		50g	£2.00		
	Hunter	Climbing variety, early or maincrop		50g	£1.60	100g	£2.25
	Cosse Violette	Climbing variety, purple pods, good flavour		100g	£1.10		
	Blue Lake	Climbing variety, crops well. (Almost gone)		50g	60p		
RUNNER BEANS	Scarlet Emperor	Early variety		100g	75p		
	Enorma	Extra long pods		100g	95p		
	Painted Lady	Outstanding flavour		100g	£1.10		
	Polestar	Early variety		100g	£1.15		
	Red Knight	Very heavy cropping stringless variety		100g	£1.35		
	White Lady	White flowered variety - less liable to bird damage		100g	£1.45		
	Hestia	Dwarf early variety, suitable for tubs		100g	£1.85		
	Moonlight	White flowered variety, sets easily		100g	£2.25		
LAWN CARE	Grass seed, hard wearing, low maintenance.				100 g	75p	
	Lawn sand				2.5 kg	£1.75	
	'Sportsmaster' spring/summer lawn feed				1 kg	£2.00	
BULK MATERIALS	Multipurpose Compost	40 litre	£2.00	6 x 40 ltr	£11.00		
	Multipurpose Compost	80 litre	£4.00	3 x 80 ltr	£11.00		
	Horse Manure Compost	45 litre	£2.00	70 litre	£3.60		
	Ericaceous Compost	75 litre	£3.75				
	John Innes No.1 John Innes No.3	25 litre	£5.00				
	Somerset Peat	40 litre	£2.50				
	Somerset Topsoil	25 litre	£2.50				
	"Groworganic" Fertiliser	15 kg	£7.95				
	6X Organic Fertiliser - SPECIAL PURCHASE - SPECIAL PRICE !	15 kg	£5.00				
	6X Organic Chicken Manure Pellets	20 kg	£8.95				
	Potting grit (new stock)	Bag	£1.30				
	Sharp sand	Bag	£0.95				
	Oak Tree brand Landscape Bark	70 litre	£5.50	2x70 litre	£10.00		
	WRHS GROWN PLANTS	Peas - Douce Provence, Onward				tray	£1.50
Broad Beans - Bunyard's Exhibition				tray	£1.50		
Onions - Senshyu Yellow					£1.00		
Cabbage – Duncan					65p		
Calabrese – Marathon					65p		
Cauliflower – Mayflower					65p		
Salad leaves				tray	£1.00		
HARDWARE	Strong wheelbarrow, black - "Apollo" 90 litre capacity.					£30.00	
	This is normally sold as a DIY Kit, but comes ready assembled from WRHS. That's service!						
	A large consignment of plastic goods has just arrived from Garland Products Ltd. Details will be on the website shortly. Meanwhile, browse round the Trading Post. Excellent prices!						

WHAT TO DO THIS MONTH

- 🚩 Beware of late frosts - protect tender plants. Do you need fleece and ground pegs? Available at the Trading Post.
- 🌱 There's still time to plant potatoes. The Trading Post has cut price seed potatoes. Remember to earth them up.
- 🌱 Lift and divide overcrowded clumps of spring-flowering bulbs before they disappear below ground level.
- 🌱 Mow lawns weekly, if the ground is dry enough to get the mower on it!
- 🌱 Keep an eye on your hedges for signs of nesting birds. Don't clip hedges until the nestlings have flown.
- 🌱 Remember to open greenhouse vents and doors on warm days, and shut them at night.
- 🌱 Unbung the water butts, and clean them out if necessary. The Trading Post stocks water butts, too!
- 🌱 Plant out summer bedding at the end of the month.
- 🚩 Look out for viburnum beetle and lily beetle grubs.
- 😓 Carry on [weeding](#)!

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

SOCIAL EVENTS

[Trip to Wilton House & Country Fair](#)

Sunday 7th August 2016

[House & Gardens](#) entrance £9.75 includes

Cecil Beaton photographic [exhibition](#)

[Country Fair](#) (entrance £5) features steam engines, vintage cars, dog and equestrian events, stalls, antiques & crafts, local bands, and a catering village.

Coach £11.

Booking forms available at the Trading Post

[Quiz Night](#)

Friday 3rd June 2016 7:30pm prompt !

~~Tickets £5 including finger buffet~~ **SOLD OUT**



Summer Show



Saturday 13th August 2016

30 Classes - flowers, fruit, vegetables, cakes, preserves, handicrafts, photography

Schedule & Entry Form available now from the Trading Post and on the [website](#)

The "FUSCHIA GROWN FROM CUTTING" class is proving popular. A few Fuchsia cuttings are still available at £1.75 including show entry fee.

A RECIPE FOR MAY

Asparagus, pea, feta & mint salad

Fresh spring flavours combine in this tasty side salad that deserves to be eaten outside in the sunshine.

Preparation: Under 30mins

Cooking Time: Under 10mins

Serves 2

Ingredients:

3 handfuls freshly podded peas
1 bunch skinny asparagus, blanched
100g (3½ oz) feta cheese
1 handful chopped mint leaves
lemon juice, to taste
olive oil, to taste
salt and freshly ground black pepper
black onion seeds, to taste

Method

1. Gently mix together all ingredients except onion seeds.
2. Add salt and pepper to taste.
3. Serve topped with sprinkled onion seeds.



GLYPHOSATE WEED-KILLER

This month's scare story comes from the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), which has announced that glyphosate, the active ingredient in the most popular and effective weed-killers, is "probably carcinogenic". This, as one might expect, has caused strong, but mixed reactions. Persons given to panicking are calling loudly for an instant world-wide ban. Weed-killer manufacturers are outraged, although the Bundesinstitut für Risikobewertung (BfR) (that's the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment to you and me) has said in its measured way, that "there is no validated or significant relationship between glyphosate and cancer among humans".

(See publication [BfR Communication 007/2015, 23/03/2015](#))

The current EU licence for glyphosate runs out at the end of June 2016; the European Parliament recently passed a resolution recommending that the European Commission renews the licence for 7 years, rather than 15 years, as originally proposed by the Commission. A final decision is to be taken sometime this month. You may wish to dive into the Trading Post to stock up on your favourite weed killer before then, since resolution calls for glyphosate to be restricted to **professional use only**. It remains to be seen which way the Commission will jump. A ban would mean goodbye to "Roundup", Vitax "Weedfree" & Weedfree Path & Patio", Bayer "Super Strength Weedkiller", and Scotts "Pathclear".

A professor of occupational and environmental medicine at Southampton University suggests that the opinions expressed by the various interested parties should be taken with "a pinch of salt".

His comments will, no doubt, be roundly denounced on the grounds that there is already too much salt in our diet.

It may be worth pondering that acetaldehyde, for example, which the IARC lists as carcinogenic in humans, occurs naturally in coffee, bread, and ripe fruit, and is produced by plants such as broccoli, onions and strawberries.

Acrylamide, which like glyphosate, is said to be "probably carcinogenic", is found in black olives, prunes, coffee and toast, and seems to be generated by cooking almost any starchy food at temperatures above 120°C.

Excuse me for a moment while I brew a pot coffee and toast a slice of bread. I may skip the prunes.

MODERNISATION

ELECTRONIC POINT OF SALE SYSTEM (EPOS)

The WRHS modernisation programme is going very well indeed. The new sales till and bar-code scanner have arrived and have been set up by Richard Miller, our IT Manager. Details of the remarkably wide range of items stocked by the Trading Post have been entered into the "Back Office" database on which the system depends.

Members of the Trading Team and a few other Committee Members were recently given an initial "hands on" demonstration of the system. We spent a happy evening making "dummy" purchases, and doing our best to be as difficult as possible. Some Committee Members showed a remarkable talent for playing the "Difficult Customer", but the system proved resilient, and coped well, even with such gems of perversity as the "customer" who wanted to buy one seed potato! We all came away well impressed with the facilities and the ease of operation of the new system.

Most of us have an inbuilt distrust of change, and an instinct to prefer the familiar, however flawed, over innovation. Age brings experience, and experience begets cynicism. In the course of my working life, I have endured a number of ill-conceived computer-based systems, intended to improve efficiency but proving almost unworkable in practice. So when it comes to cynicism, I'm there in the front rank, looking for problems. And despite this, I am truly impressed.

The new system will not be brought into use immediately - every stock entry has to be checked for accuracy by the Trading Team, who also need to become familiar with operating the "Back Office" software. A full stock-take will also be necessary. Sales desk volunteers will be given training in the use of new till and bar-code scanner.

If you are one of the gallant volunteers on the sales-desk rota, or are thinking of volunteering, rest assured - the new system will be **much** easier to work with than the existing muddle involving folders, bits of paper and guesswork. How you manage to cope with the present system is frankly amazing!

There will, of course, be a few minor changes for Members when making purchases. When buying stock from the yard, we will pay at the till first, and then present the receipt to the yard manager and collect the goods. The new till system will know **exactly** how many bags of everything are still out in the yard, so there's no need worry about paying for something, only to find that someone else has just bought the last one!

We shall, however, be asked to present our membership card **whenever** we make a purchase.

We should, of course, do this under the present system, but have become rather slack about it in recent years.

NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES

We are in the process of switching to a new web hosting service. New email accounts will appear on the Committee page of the website as they are set up. A new website is under development - but that may take a little longer!

Dave Best (Editor) newsletter@wrhs.org.uk