

# 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](mailto:enquiries@wrhs.org.uk)  
website: <http://wrhs.btck.co.uk/>

Price  
10p

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

## DECEMBER 2016 NEWSLETTER

### EVENTS

#### Longleat Festival of Light 4th December 2016

Prices including coach and entrance  
Adult £38.50 Senior £33.45 Child £32.45

Coach pick-up points will be:  
St Edmund's Church, Wyke Smugglers Hotel,  
St Nicholas Church, The Law Courts,  
Dorchester Road, & Spa Hotel



Congratulations to Gill Ketchley  
on winning the WRHS Calendar Competition

Wyke Regis Horticultural Society



#### Photo Competition Calendar 2017

Photo by Gill Ketchley

WRHS Calendar is on sale now  
Only £5.00

The Ideal Christmas Gift  
Twelve Great Pictures including Gill's Cover Photo



#### Richard Williamson's Christmas Wreath Workshop

**SOLD OUT !**

Wednesday 14th December 2016  
10:00 to about 13:00

Frame, wire, moss & some greenery  
will be supplied  
but remember to bring your own decorations



Last Trading Day for 2016

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup>  
December**



Your last chance to buy Christmas stocking fillers  
for the gardener in your life.

Mince Pies, Sausage Rolls, Tea & Coffee  
will be free to Members

**Grand Christmas Draw at 11:30am**

£1 Draw Tickets are on sale at the Trading Post

#### 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 COMPETITION



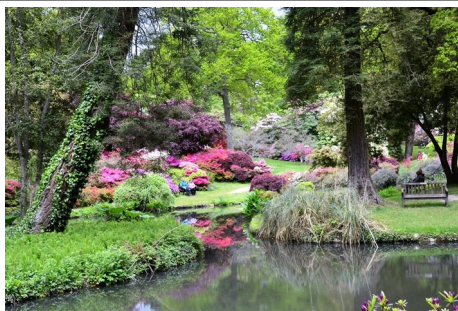
JANUARY



FEBRUARY



MARCH



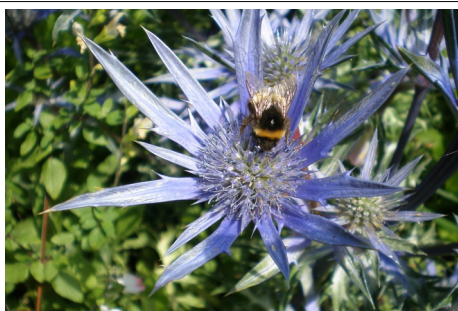
APRIL



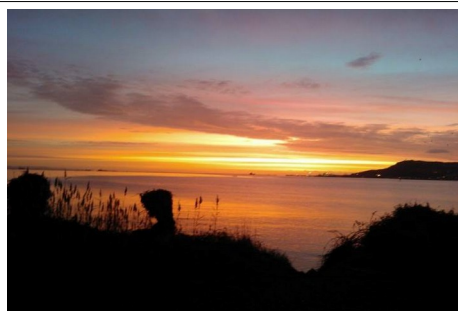
MAY



JUNE



JULY



AUGUST



SEPTEMBER



OCTOBER



NOVEMBER



DECEMBER

These are the photographs chosen by popular vote for our 2017 Calendar.

Our thanks to everyone who took part in the competition, at rather short notice.

The competition for the 2018 WRHS Calendar is open **now** and we hope to include photographs illustrating each month of the year. Gardening / horticultural themes and local scenes will be accepted.

Send your entries to [calendar@wrhs.org.uk](mailto:calendar@wrhs.org.uk)



## A RECIPE FOR DECEMBER



### Ingredients

8 leeks, washed and cut into 8cm pieces  
300g smoked salmon slices  
50g butter, plus extra for greasing  
50g plain flour  
450ml milk  
175g cheddar cheese, grated

### Baked Leeks and Smoked Salmon with Cheese Sauce

Serves 4

Contributed by The Kitchen Gardener

This recipe also works well with chicory.  
A lovely antidote to all the Christmas fare.

### Method

1. Preheat the oven to 200°C (Gas 6), or 180°C for fan oven.
2. Boil a large pan of salted water, add the leeks and cook for 3 minutes.
3. Drain the leeks and transfer to a buttered oven dish.
4. Arrange the salmon slices on top of leeks.
5. Melt the butter in a small pan. Add the flour and stir continuously for 2 minutes until lightly golden.
6. Remove from heat. Slowly whisk in the milk to make a smooth sauce. Return to heat and simmer for 2-3 minutes, stirring continuously.
7. Season sauce to taste. Pour over leeks & salmon. Sprinkle with grated cheese.
8. Bake in preheated oven for about 15 minutes until cheese is gold and bubbling.

## CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REVIEW

This has been a very busy year for the Society, with the Committee putting many new ideas into effect. The installation of an Electronic Point of Sale System has required a lot of time and effort from Richard Miller and the team of volunteers who have learnt to use it. All the trading activities are now recorded via this system. Membership has increased. The excellent Newsletters and Website, managed by Dave Best, are much appreciated. Plants sales have proved popular and are now the biggest selling range. Members have been bringing their own plants to sell and we would encourage more to do the same. A Horticultural Team is now in place. The closure of Value House has inspired us to improve the Trading Post and enhance the stock we carry. A major refit is planned during the Christmas recess and we would appreciate help from anyone with woodworking, painting and labouring skills willing to spare an hour or two.

**The Committee wish all our Members a Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you in the New Year.**

## 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](mailto: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.

An ambitious development project is taking shape, which will involve construction work, installing shop fittings, painting etc. A lot of refitting work needs to be done during the winter shut-down, from 10<sup>th</sup> December to 14<sup>th</sup> January - can you help at all ?

There are plenty of possibilities for enthusiastic volunteers !

Please email [general\\_secretary@wrhs.org.uk](mailto:general_secretary@wrhs.org.uk) if you think you might be able to help.

## WHAT TO DO THIS MONTH

-  Tie down everything that hasn't already been blown away !
-  Check the greenhouse heater.
-  Does the greenhouse thermometer still work? If not, buy one from the Trading Post before 10th December.
-  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 !
-  Prune open-grown apples and pears, but not those trained against walls.
-  Prune acers, birches and vines before Christmas to avoid bleeding.
-  Harvest leeks, parsnips, winter cabbage, sprouts and remaining root crops.
-  Deciduous trees and shrubs can still be planted and transplanted.
-  Take hardwood cuttings.
-  Keep mice away from stored produce. The Trading Post has mouse traps, poison bait and bait stations.
-  Reduce watering of house-plants
-  Buy Christmas presents and stocking fillers for the gardener in your life **now** before the Trading Post closes !
-  Remember to keep notes of 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 all the generalisations you can get from gardening books!

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

## MODERNISATION

The new display stands and new seeds have arrived, and are now installed in the main shop area.

The adjustable "slat board" display units, which were purchased as an experiment, have been fitted to the north wall of the main shop, and are currently displaying some of the goods stocked by the Society. Encouraged by the positive comments made by many WRHS Members, we propose to extend this display area onto the side walls of the north end of the shop.

We also propose to fit lockable cupboards below the slat boards, allowing stock to be stored adjacent to the relevant displays. Displaying only a few of each product and keeping the bulk out of sight but conveniently to hand should improve the appearance of the displays and make it easier to find what you are looking for. Using "in-shop" storage instead of holding back-stock in a stock room should make it easier for volunteers to keep the displays correctly stocked, whilst reducing the need for stock movement records.

Standard floor cupboards designed to be fitted beneath 600mm worktops would be too deep, making it difficult to browse the displays and reach the products, so we shall fit shallow cupboards, designed as high-level wall units, mount them on custom made plinths, and fit white melamine tops above them.

The lighting technician who made a site visit has sent his technical recommendation for new lighting, which is under consideration.

Work has already started in the inner shop room. The newly formed Horticultural Team (all two of them!) put their horticultural activities on temporary hold and cleared all the stock from the shelves of the inner shop, and have relocated it in a highly organised fashion. A truly magnificent effort, and essential preparation for refitting of the office and the inner shop.

Some stock lines that are not normally in demand at this time of year may not be on display, so if you can't see what you need, just ask - there's usually someone working in the office who will be pleased to assist you.

If you venture into the inner shop room, you will see that Woodworm Towers has been demolished to make way for redevelopment ! The principal tenants of that tower block were said to be deceased, and it's to be hoped that they were, for their former residence has been converted into potash on a nearby allotment. One or two large spiders claimed to have rights as sub-tenants, but failed to produce documentary evidence, and so were deemed to be squatters and were summarily evicted.

A big "Thank You" to all the Members who have offered practical skills for the office refit work during the winter shut-down period. It is probable that some shop-fitting work will also be undertaken during this period.

**If you can help with the refitting work, please contact the project manager, Carrie Dalby [general\\_secretary@wrhs.org.uk](mailto:general_secretary@wrhs.org.uk)**

The Trading Post will close at 12:30pm on **Saturday 10th December**, and will re-open at 9:30am on **Saturday 14th January 2017**.