

WYKE REGIS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



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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.org.uk/>

Price
10p

OPENING TIMES
WEDNESDAY 2pm – 6.30pm
SATURDAY 9.30am – 12.30pm

JUNE 2017 NEWSLETTER

SUPPORT OUR SOCIETY !

In recent months, the Society has gone from strength to strength.

Hard to believe that only 18 months ago, there was the possibility of folding it for good! The make-over of the Trading Post and the closure of Value House have encouraged more people to join and sales have increased rapidly.

The rate of turnover has challenged the small team of volunteers to keep up and they are **struggling** !

There are various jobs to be done and all sorts of volunteering opportunities.

PLEASE CAN YOU HELP?

Till operators

Would you like to learn to use the till? We operate an EPOS system.

There is a rota, so you do not have to do regular, or frequent, shifts. You can do an hour or two to suit you, whenever you can.

Duty Managers

We need a Duty Manager for each of the three two-hour shifts a week. Members asked for later opening on Wednesdays, so we need more people to man the Trading Post at these times. Duties include opening up and setting up, greeting customers, helping volunteers and showing people round. Not arduous, but an essential friendly face of the Society.

Yard Managers

Can you lift 25kgs? We need volunteers to help customers to purchase bulk bags of composts.

Café Staff

We sell tea and coffee during opening hours. It is not a busy job. We use kettles and a filter coffee machine. Would you like to do that for an hour two? It would be much appreciated.

General Volunteers

Shelf packers, fertiliser-weighers, seed-baggers, cleaners...all the little jobs that keep the Trading Post going. No regular rota. If you find yourself with some time to spare, pop in and ask what needs doing, there's always something.

Horticultural Volunteers

Potting-on, sowing seeds, labelling, display-stocking, deadheading, watering...it all needs doing and this work is growing daily. Training is available, if you are not sure. These jobs are very flexible and not confined to opening hours. If you can spare any time, we can arrange work parties. This is a great opportunity to share your skills or learn new ones.

FANCY ANY OF THESE TASKS?

Please contact the General Secretary, Carrie Dalby.

Talk to her in the Trading Post, leave a message on the Trading Post phone 01305 759668, or email generalsecretary@wrhs.org.uk

NEWS & EVENTS

EMERGENCY NOTICE

**The Trading Post will not open on
Saturday 10th June
due to an acute lack of staff**

The Society has 630 Members but is kept running by a small handful of volunteers. We need a few more -
Duty Managers, Till Operators, Yard Staff, & Café Staff.

HOW ABOUT IT ?

The WRHS Summer Show

Saturday 15th July 2017





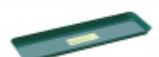



















Many classes, not just in Horticulture. Schedule and Entry Form available at the Trading Post or the website <http://wrhs.org.uk/>

SHOW VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- Set up tables in the Scout Hut on Friday 14th at 7:30pm
 - Stewards to help Exhibitors & Judges on Saturday 15th
 - Kitchen / Café helpers (2 hour rota slots) on Saturday 15th
 - Dismantle tables and clear up after 4pm on Saturday 15th
- Email: enquiries@wrhs.org.uk or speak to Rachel Waldoock

NEW PRODUCT LINES

Well below normal retail prices

Marker Pen Staedtler fine black £2.00		Plant Ring Coated Steel 15cm £4.25 £2.50		Plant Ring Coated Steel 23cm £4.75 £2.80		Plant Clips Pack of 50 £2.75 £1.50	
Windowsill Tray Small £2.69 £1.55		Hose Connector Waterstop £2.65		Hose Connector Plain £2.25		Raffia 50g bundle £2.49 £1.35	
Thermometer Wall £3.99 £2.15		Thermometer Max/Min £17.25 £9.25		3-Ply Jute Twine Natural 500g £4.99 £2.70		3-Ply Jute Twine Green 500g £4.99 £2.70	
Q4 Tomato Feed 1 litre £7.25 £6.55		Handy Tray Large £4.85 £2.80		Indoor Water Can 0.7 litre £5.49 £4.45		Flexi-Tub 26 litre £11.25 £6.10	
Bean & Pea Bag with cane ring £10.75 £5.80		Potato Bag £6.99 £3.80		Rigger Gloves Large £2.20		Gloves Small Pink £5.99 £4.75	
Growbag Tray £5.75 £3.10		Vitax Slug Gone 1 litre £3.25 £1.20		Rain Diverter Kit £8.50 £4.60		Water Butt Linking Kit £8.50 £4.60	

WRHS WEBSITE

The long awaited new WRHS website recently went live - for some people, at least !

It appears that the new website wrhs.org.uk works correctly with some web browsers but not with others.

You certainly need to have Javascript enabled on your web browser, but some Members have reported problems even so.

The website was built using only standard commands, but as someone once said,

"The nice thing about standards is that there are so many to choose from."

My guess is that I have used a command that is not implemented by every browser.

Now we have to find out which command is upsetting your particular web browser.

Since neither the Society nor I have enough types of hardware & software available to test exhaustively, we shall need **your** help.



Opening wrhs.org.uk should give you the page shown on the left.

If not, please enable Javascript on your web browser and try again.

Clicking on any of the copper plant labels **should** take you to another page, but apparently this doesn't work for everyone. If it doesn't work for you, please email me at webmaster@wrhs.org.uk and tell me ...

Which **web browser** you are using (e.g. Internet Explorer, Edge, Opera)

Which **operating system** you run (e.g. Windows 10, Linux Mint 18)

Which **device** you are using (e.g. PC, Mac, iPad)

Many thanks. Dave Best

A RECIPE FOR JUNE

Gooseberry Fool

Contributed by The Kitchen Gardener

I know, June is synonymous with strawberries and, while there are plenty of recipes for this lovely fruit, I don't think you can beat them eaten on their own with some cream. So with this in mind I thought I would find another seasonal fruit to make a quick and simple dessert.

This gooseberry fool recipe uses fragrant elderflower cordial and home-made custard in this traditional English dessert.

Ingredients

450g gooseberries, topped & tailed.
150ml elderflower cordial

For the custard

2 egg yolks
1 tsp arrowroot
150ml milk
30g sugar
150ml double cream

Fresh elderflowers, to decorate



Method

- 1 Put the prepared gooseberries in a pan with the elderflower cordial; simmer gently until soft and pulpy.
- 2 When cold, place in a serving dish.
- 3 Beat the egg yolks, arrowroot & sugar together in a jug.
- 4 Heat the milk to boiling point, then add it to the egg mixture, stirring well.
- 5 Return mixture to pan & heat gently, stirring to produce a thick custard. **DO NOT BOIL !**
- 6 Strain the custard into a clean bowl and cool.
- 7 Whip the cream to the same consistency as the gooseberries.
- 8 Gently stir the cream into the gooseberries and then fold in the custard. Try to give it a marbled effect in the serving bowl.
- 9 Place a few elderflowers on top to decorate.

WHAT IS HAPPENING AT THE HORTI?

During the Winter break, the Committee took the opportunity to refurbish the Trading Post.

The old brown shelves and their woodworm were removed and replaced with bright white slat-walling and storage cupboards.

The office had a make-over, too. Out went two walls of metal shelving, to be replaced with a full bank of storage bins and ample work station space. The computers are wired in with bespoke circuitry and extensive power sockets.

It was all done in six weeks by nine volunteers! They have now had a rest and are ready to start the next stage.

The slat-walling has proved so effective, useful and admired that it will be extended further into both the main shop and back shop. More storage cupboards will be installed to replace the tables under the main shop displays, matching the row in the back shop.

Later in the year, the ceiling in the back shop will be replaced and insulation added. The lighting will also be upgraded.

This work has proved so successful that we have already recouped the outlay and are encouraged to do more.

The plant sales are so popular that we require more growing space. We are looking to upgrade our poly-tunnel, adding cold frame systems using netting, to enable propagation all year round. Some of the shelving taken from the office will be used to increase work surfaces, so that more volunteers can be involved in sowing and potting on.

This year, we bought plug plants and grew them on. We hope to do this again next year, with a wider variety.

The Society buys fertilisers wholesale and weighs them out into more manageable sizes for our Members.









This requires working space, currently being done in the main shop. The need for a proper workshop is evident, so there are plans to complete the existing enclosure of the old sand bin in the yard.

The rolls of membranes and netting also need a new home and will be incorporated into that area.

Does any of this interest you? Would you like to help? Are you willing to give an hour or two?

If you can lend a hand, please talk to the General Secretary, Carrie Dalby, or any member of the Committee, or email generalsecretary@wrhs.org.uk

WHAT TO DO THIS MONTH

-  Hoe surface weeds regularly before they become established. Deep rooted weeds should be dug out.
-  Watering should be done late in the day for best effect.
-  Pinch out side-shoots on tomatoes, and start treating for blight.
-  Water tomatoes & peppers **regularly** to prevent blossom end rot. Erratic watering leads to calcium deficiency.
-  Harvest lettuce, radish, other salads and early potatoes.
-  Keep later cropping potatoes well earthed up, and start to treat for blight,
-  Position summer hanging baskets and containers outside.
-  Mow lawns at least once a week.
-  Plant out summer bedding.
-  Stake tall or floppy plants. Canes, cane tops, and plant support rings are in stock at the Trading Post.
-  Prune many spring-flowering shrubs.
-  Shade greenhouses to keep them cool and prevent scorch. The Trading Post has shade netting and paint.
-  Sow salad crops - beetroot, Chinese cabbage, pak choi, radish.
-  Salad leaf crops may do better in part shade, since hot dry weather can lead to bitter tasting leaves.
-  Sow French, runner & broad beans, peas, squash, sweetcorn, & outdoor cucumbers directly into prepared beds.
-  French beans are best sown in traditional rows, 45cm (18in) apart, at 15-22cm (6-9in) spacing.
-  Runner beans need fertile ground and strong cane supports. The Trading Post has canes, grips, & twine.
-  Peas need something to scramble over - the Trading post stocks suitable pea netting.
-  Pinch out the top of broad beans once the lowest flowers have set, to help prevent aphid attack.
-  Plant sweet corn in blocks 45cm (18in) apart with two seeds per hole, before mid-June.
-  Courgettes, marrows and pumpkins can still be sown outdoors in early June here in the south.
-  Sow calabrese, turnips and kohlrabi for an autumn crop.
-  Avoid using insecticides on crops when they are in flower.
-  Peg down strawberry runners and remove cloches from outdoor strawberries once cropped.
-  Guard against red spider mite, whitefly, codling moth, plum moth, & raspberry beetle. The Trading Post stocks various traps and treatments.
-  Remove yellowing brassica leaves immediately to prevent spread of grey mould and brassica downy mildew.
-  Keep slug protection constantly renewed.
-  Defeat carrot fly by covering the plants with Enviromesh - stocked at the Trading Post.
-  Pull off suckers appearing around the base of fruit trees.
-  Summer prune red and white currants and gooseberries.
- Shorten newly planted raspberry canes once new shoots are produced.
- Regularly feed ridge cucumbers with a liquid tomato feed - the Trading Post has several products to choose from.
- Provide pot-grown fruit with high-potassium liquid feed.
- Net cherries and soft fruit against birds - suitable netting is available from the Trading Post.



Remember to keep notes throughout the year - which 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!

If you grow any food crops, please take part in research by Jill Edmonson of the University of Sheffield. See www.myharvest.org.uk or get more information from the Trading Post.

Remember to pick up your free copy of the June edition of Country Gardener and the Wyke Register from the Trading Post