

WYKE REGIS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Founded 1925

Affiliated to the RHS & Dorset Federation of Horticultural Societies

President Mr Colin Giles

HEADQUARTERS
& TRADING POST
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OPENING TIMES
WEDNESDAY 2 – 4PM
SATURDAY 9.30AM – 12.30PM



JOIN US ON FACEBOOK

THE TRADING POST WILL REOPEN AT 9:30 AM ON SATURDAY 23 JANUARY 2016

JANUARY 2016 NEWSLETTER

NEW YEAR – NEW GROWTH!

With each New Year, we look forward to gardens coming back to life, with a mixture of well established plants and new introductions. The WRHS has its roots down in 1925, and has many well established features, but like a mature tree, it can be taken for granted, and its needs ignored until radical treatment becomes essential.

Fortunately for all of us, the Society's problems were treated before they became terminal. Several staunch members, especially Paul Hare, have worked long and hard to avert the ultimate disaster. Under Paul's chairmanship, the changes essential to restore the Society to health have been identified, and a working plan is now place.

Many of the Society's working practices are being updated in order to make them efficient and robust. Properly implemented computer systems can provide great benefits and make day to day running easy, but such systems need careful thought, and are hard work to set up initially. A good deal of work is being put into this area. New stock control and record keeping systems will allow the newly appointed Trading Team to offer a better service to members while keeping finances under better control. Any member who thinks they can be of assistance in setting up the computer systems please contact Paul Hare.

Change can be difficult to cope with, but be reassured - "Change for the sake of Change" is **not** happening! Once we have all got used to the new systems, they will be simpler for those who have to operate them, and will give the Trading Post Team a clear view of all that's happening.

As you will have seen from the December newsletter, Jim Burt has passed the post of Editor to me, Dave Best. Jim has more than enough to do for the Society in other ways. However, "Editing the newsletter" is **not** "Writing the newsletter". Although I have been a member for many years, I do **not** pretend to be a gardener. The members of a society like WRHS have a wide variety of skills between them. There must be some members who have a lot of useful knowledge and experience of particular aspects of gardening and horticulture. Why not share that experience by writing a short article for the newsletter? Local knowledge can be valuable – growing conditions can vary tremendously in different parts of the country, so the generalised advice given in gardening books isn't always a perfect match for local conditions.

Don't be put off if you have never yet written for publication, or if you don't consider yourself a writer.

If you can come up with the information, I can adjust the wording as necessary.

Between us, we can produce something useful and interesting for the membership.

Feel free to email me at wrhs.news@markhamhouse.org.uk I look forward to hearing from you. Dave Best

TRADING POST

The Trading Post will reopen on Saturday 23rd January 2016

Sales are restricted to WRHS members. Membership is available from the Trading Post for £5 per year.

The Trading Post is now being run by the newly appointed Trading Team -
Brian Shaw, Paul Clarke, Paul Hare, Andrea Inns, & Gill Ketchley.

The team has already been hard at work, introducing a computerised stock control system, and ordering new stock.

Here are a few of the items currently available:

POTATOES	A selection of salad potatoes. 1st and 2nd earlies and main-crop potatoes. Potato orders will be ready for collection on Saturday 23 rd . Stocks are also available for those who forgot to order.
ONIONS	Winter sowing onions at reduced prices.
GARLIC	Also at reduced prices.
SEEDS	A wide variety of vegetable and flower seeds and green manures – too many to list!
POTTED BULBS	Hyacinths, crocus, and miniature daffodils (tête-à-tête), all ready potted up.
WILDLIFE FOOD	Bird seed, fat-balls, and peanuts.
MATERIALS	Winter wash for fruit trees. Jeyes fluid for cleaning paths. Bubble wrap. Anti-pigeon netting. Fleece wrap. Weed suppressing fabric. Composts. Some grit – new stocks are still awaited.
TOOLS	Spades, forks, hand forks, trowels, and shears. Secateurs are on order!

Plant sales at the Trading Post

All members may offer home-grown plants for sale at the Trading Post

PLEASE NOTE – THE RULES HAVE CHANGED

- 1 Each plant must be potted in suitable potting medium, in a clean, undamaged pot.
- 2 Each plant must carry **TWO** labels in waterproof ink:
Label A with **Seller's Name & Price & Date**.
Label B with **Plant Name** (plus anything else you wish to add).
- 3 All plants must be accepted/registered by the person on duty at the Trading Post desk, who will record the seller's name and email address or telephone number.
- 4 Trading Post volunteers will keep the plants watered.
- 5 When a plant is sold, payment and Label A will be taken by the desk staff, who will record the sale.
20% of the price will be retained by WRHS. The seller will be given the remaining 80% together with Label A.
- 6 The seller will be advised to collect any plants that remain unsold after 3 months.
- 7 Any plants remaining for a further month after notification may be disposed of by Trading Post staff.

Labels and good quality waterproof markers may be purchased from the Trading Post, if required.

FACEBOOK

The WRHS facebook account is restricted to WRHS members, and moderated by Jim Burt & Martyn Simmons.

Log onto your facebook account, search for "Wyke Regis Horticultural Society", and request to be a friend.

Before posting anything to the site you must register your name with one of the Moderators.

Once registered, you can submit photos of your garden or allotment, comments etc. via the Moderators.

The link is <https://www.facebook.com/groups/440186932834132/>

SOCIAL EVENTS

Your Social Secretary, Jackie Rockett, is already making plans for garden-related social events for the enjoyment of WRHS members

A **Plant Swap Day** is planned for **Saturday 23rd April 2016**.

Another ever-popular **Quiz Night** is in preparation.

And the intriguing possibility of a trip to the **Festival of Light** at Longleat House is rumoured.

Details will follow !

WHAT TO DO THIS MONTH

The weather seems to have no respect for the seasons nowadays, does it!

A clump of daffodils near my house was in full bloom before Christmas, and has now gone over!

It may be no longer enough just look at those nice, fixed tables in our gardening manuals to see what to do each month. We need to ask "**WHY** do it at that time of year?" and then make adjustments if the weather is playing silly whatsits with the seasons.

Apple and pear trees should be pruned when they are dormant, which they ought to be at present.

Acers (Maples) should also be pruned (if needed) while fully dormant, as they tend to bleed badly otherwise.

The January issue of the RHS magazine "The Garden" has some detailed advice on winter pruning, and there's more on the RHS website. The Trading Team hope to restock with secateurs by Saturday 23rd January.

The Trading Post has stocks of winter wash, grease, and grease bands to protect your fruit trees against bugs.

Given the amount of rain we have had lately, it may be difficult to get onto the plot at present without ending up with all the topsoil attached to your wellies!

Keep an eye on your lawn for water-logging. When the ground eventually dries out, you will need to improve the drainage where necessary by making holes with a fork and filling the holes with sharp sand.

An easy way to remember which patches need treating is to take a few photographs while the lawn is still water-logged. Digital photography is so cheap and convenient, isn't it!

Now that the temperature is falling at last, you may need to take action. The Trading Post has stocks of bubble wrap to protecting tender plants against the cold, fleece to warm the soil, woven fabric to inhibit weed growth, and netting to keep the blighted pigeons off the brassicas !

It might be as well to check your paths and paving for mould, and give the slippery areas a good brush with Jeyes Fluid, before someone breaks a leg! Stocks of Jeyes Fluid (but not spare legs) are available at the Trading Post.

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

As your newly appointed Chairman, the philosophy that I wish to encourage is one of enjoyment from being involved in the Society's activities, coupled with a feeling of achievement in being part of an efficient and successful organisation.

I feel that it is important that we build a strong sense of a community which is based on the sharing of the significant fund of knowledge and experience present amongst the Society's Members.

I look forward to hearing your views on how we might improve the Society, and to meeting you in the Trading Post, and at the various social events throughout the year.

May I wish you happy and stimulating gardening throughout 2016. Brian Shaw

COMMITTEE

The list of Committee Members published in the December newsletter was incomplete. Antia Mato-Hombre was unable to take up responsibility for the website and facebook page.

The corrected list is as follows.

NAME	RESPONSIBILITIES
Colin Giles	President and DFHS Representative
Brian Shaw	Chairman and Trading Team Member
Dale Culbreath	Vice Chairman
Carrie Dalby	General Secretary
Paul Clark	Treasurer and Trading Team Member
Graham Baldrey	Membership Secretary
Jackie Rockett	Social Secretary
Paul Hare	Trading Team Member
Andrea Inns	Trading Team Member
Gill Ketchley	Trading Team Member
Jim Burt	Building Maintenance and Facebook Moderator
Bob Sanders	Building Maintenance
Cliff Elliot	Building Maintenance
David Best	Newsletter Editor
Martyn Simmons	Facebook Moderator
Malcolm Ketchley	Key Holder Co-ordinator
Roger Russell	-
John Southway	-