

WESTON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

March 2024

Dear Members

Hooray! February is finally over. The daylight hours are increasing and we can plan for Spring. I have bought the seeds I require. I usually start sowing seeds at the beginning of March.. I recommend that you buy all requirements for the garden this month, as come May and June the shelves will be empty.

The ground is very wet, and should not be stood on or worked in anyway. Luckily, I have been able to do quite a lot of weeding from the footpaths. There is always a debate as to what time of the year composted material should be added to the vegetable plots, Autumn or Spring. The 'No Dig' brigade suggest applying the compost in Autumn, whereas the 'Traditional growers' are split between dig in the compost in Autumn or early Spring. This year favours the Autumn philosophy for both camps.

Members who receive the LOCALREACH magazine will be familiar with the gardening articles written by Rachael Leverton. Rachael's latest article detailed what fertilisers should be applied to different plants and vegetables. I will not repeat what she wrote, except that at this time of year an all-round fertiliser should be applied to shrubs and to perennial plants. Growmore is a very good product for this job.

I think that it would be very beneficial if at a future meeting we have a discussion on fertilisers and explain what the fertiliser's N, P, K, ratings stand for and what is appropriate for a particular plant.

Our February meeting had John Addison discussing vegetable growing. It was a very informative talk, which could have gone on far beyond the allotted time. I think he gave a fair opinion on the advantages of the 'No Dig' method of cultivation, but he did bring up one relevant item, that being that 'No Dig' requires an awful lot of weeding. This is because the domestic compost heap does not generate enough heat to kill off all the seeds in the heap, of either weeds or flowers. I have found this to be a problem, especially if the space between the vegetables is not wide enough to hoe through.

Our speaker for the next meeting on Thursday March 14th is Gil Hazell, and her talk is entitled ' Sweet Peas, Growing and Showing'. This will be of interest to established growers and beginners.

Memberships can be renewed before and after the speaker has finished her talk.

As per the AGM voting, Single Membership is £10, Family Membership is £15.

Entrance for the meeting is £2 per member and £3 per non-member.

St Peter's Church Hall, Baytree Road. Meeting starts at 7.30pm

Kind regards,

John Chapman,

Chairman