



Newsletter
No 37
Mar/April
2017

**WESTON-SUPER-MARE
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**
www.wsmhorticultural.org.uk

SOCIETY OFFICERS

President: Reg Davis
Chairman: Bert Filer: Tel 01934 514057
Treasurer: Sue & Rod Thomas: Tel 01934 627358
Secretary: Cynthia Filer: Tel 01934 514057

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING was very well attended so thank you to all who came along. The existing Committee was re-elected en-bloc with the addition of IRIS BAILEY, DAVID ROCK and JOHN CHAPMAN who is taking on the organising of the Flower Show. Our thanks go to BRIAN AIREY who has transformed the show over the last two years.

The Society, in general, had a very successful year, the highlight being the FLOWER SHOW, which again was held in the Town Square.

No doubt you have seen the redevelopment work currently going on in that area of our Town and therefore this year's show will be held in Grove Park.

The monthly MEETINGS were well attended, the COACH TRIPS were enjoyed by everyone who went, a lot of members entered the GARDEN COMPETITIONS which were of a particularly high standard.

Unfortunately, the blot on the copy book was THE TRADING HUT which again showed a trading deficit. The way to rectify this situation is either to increase sales or reduce the overheads or both. We have taken the first steps.....During the quiet Autumn and Winter months, the Hut will only open on Saturdays.

Our trading licence does not permit us to sell to the general public, we rely on you "our members" to purchase your composts, fertilisers and garden sundries from us. Our prices are normally well below anything you will find in Garden Centres and you get the benefit of having the bags loaded in your car by a kindly committee member.

THE HUT IS OPEN ON SATURDAY FROM 9:30 – 12:30
AND ON SUNDAY FROM 9:30—12:00

The hut is located on the right, at the end of Rector's Way, which is off Drove Road. Rector's Way is the second turning on the left from the roundabout at the top of Drove Road.

MEETINGS: The next meeting will be on 9th March at St Peter's Church Hall, Baytree Road at 7.30. The Speaker will be an old friend of the Society Tony Gray who is now Manager of the newly refurbished Garden Park Nursery on the A370 road to Bristol. Tony, who is a very practical speaker will be giving us a talk on "What to do in the Garden NOW" and will be giving lots of hints and tips on how to wake up our gardens after the winter. This will be followed on 13th April also at St Peter's when the Speaker will be Sally Leaney "Garden Design - keep it simple". Sally is a Garden Designer but does not advocate complicated designs and tries to keep everything simple. As several of our members have asked for ideas on how to plant shady places she will be including this in her talk.

£SUBSCRIPTION£

Just a reminder for those who have not yet paid, Derek is in the Hut at weekends and will also be ready to take your money at our regular monthly meetings.

It was agreed at the last AGM that the family subscription should be increased in order to make the subscriptions more equal.

From 2017 the single subscription will remain at £6.00 and the family subscription will be £10.00

PLANT SALE 13th & 14th MAY 2017

If you have surplus plants then please bring them along, particularly vegetables, we could do with a few more growers of brassicas, beans and tomatoes, in fact anything edible!
If you can help please contact Bert Filer.

POTATOES

The seed potato delivery has arrived and your orders have been bagged awaiting your collection.

Stand the tubers in trays in a bright, warm position to encourage the "eyes" to produce small shoots. Plant early varieties outside in open ground or in large pots or bags from the end of March, then 2nd and main crop varieties at the end of April. If you are planning to grow them in pots, use one that is at least 25cm (10") in diameter and half fill with compost. Bury the tuber just below the surface. As shoots grow, cover with more compost until the pot is full. Cover the young plants with fleece if frost is forecast.

COACH TRIPS

Please take note of change of date from previous newsletter

The visit to Kilver Court is now Saturday 5th August.

Also Chatsworth House is 3 days June 7th - 8th - 9th June

Two trips are scheduled for 2017.

The first trip is to.....

Chatsworth House Flower Show. Leaving Weston on Wednesday 7th June, making a lunch stop on the way. We will stay for two nights at the Best Western Plus West Retford Hotel with bed, breakfast and evening meal. On Thursday 8th we will spend the day at the RHS Flower Show held in the grounds of Chatsworth House. On third day Friday 9th we will return to Weston stopping at Buxton where you can visit the Pavilion Gardens, museum or just stroll around the town. Spaces still available at cost of £230 each, including admission to Flower Show. (single room supplement £55.00). Deposit of £35.00 required on booking.

The second planned trip on Saturday August 5th is to.....

Kilver Court Designer Village and Gardens, in Shepton Mallett.

Taking a lunch break at Dobbies Garden Centre, Shepton Mallett, and then travelling to Wells for the afternoon.

Spaces are still available at a cost of £20.00 per person (including admission cost to Kilver Court).

Deposit of £5.00 is required on booking.

If you are interested in either of the trips please contact Brenda Wall on 01934 620948.

THE ROLE OF OUR SECRETARY CYNTHIA SHE NEEDS YOUR HELP!!

As the Society grows and becomes more successful, the workload on certain officers increases well beyond an acceptable level. This is the case with our Secretary Cynthia, who needs some help and we would like to appoint an assistant to relieve the pressure. If you are interested and could spare a couple of hours, she would be absolutely delighted to hear from you. Pick up the phone now, she is waiting for your call!!!!

THE FLOWER SHOW 12th AUGUST 2017

We are delighted to inform you that John Chapman has taken on the very important role of Show Secretary.

SEASONAL GARDENING TIPS

SPRING has officially sprung, regardless of the weather! It's time to get outside to plant, sow, prick-out seedlings, mulch, feed, train and prune. Just don't forget to keep an eye out for the pests and diseases determined to spoil the fun.

CONTROL SLUGS & SNAILS: As temperatures increase the lush new growth is irresistible to slugs and snails. Organic pellets based on ferric phosphate are just as effective as ones based on methaldehyde. Biological controls though do not have any effect on snails.

PLANT SHALLOTS: Plant the sets so that the tip is just below the surface. Space them 15cm (6") apart in rows 30cm (12") apart.

TIE CLIMBING ROSES: For flowers at eye-level, rather than towering above your head, tie in climbing rose stems as near to horizontal as possible. This will encourage them to bloom lower down.

FEED YOUR BORDERS: Give shrubs and perennials a boost by applying a general purpose fertiliser such as Growmore.

PINCH OUT the tips of your sweet peas in March and plant them out in April, Support them with canes and tie them in at the start to get them going.

FEED fruit trees and bushes with granular feed. Use sulphate of potash for better fruiting.

BE VIGILANT about pests and diseases on fruit trees. Think about using sprays for serious problems.

CHOOSE flowers such as Limnanthes to grow among crops to attract hoverflies.

HELP pollination of peaches and apricots by dabbing pollen from flower to flower with a paint-brush.

PULL succulent pink rhubarb stems.

DRIVE OUT old diseases by clearing fallen leaves and fruits and spreading a mulch of compost over the soil to smother any disease spores.

TOP TIPS FOR BUSHIER FUCHSIAS:

Fuchsias die back in winter and produce new shoots from the base in spring. Dieback varies from year to year depending on how cold it is. When new shoots appear in April, cut woody stems back to just above the new shoots, which will grow very quickly in a warm greenhouse. Encourage side shoots and bushier growth by pinching out the tips once two or three pairs of leaves appear.

BRITISH SUMMER TIME:

The clocks go forward on Sunday 26th March. This means lighter nights and an extra hour in the garden.

GET READY NOW! RUNNER BEANS.

It may seem like ages before you will be putting frost-tender runner bean seeds in the ground, but the preparation starts NOW. Runners need 5 star accommodation if they are to perform at their best, but it is well worth the effort. You will need a generous trench lined with newspaper to keep in the moisture. Fill it with plenty of rich garden compost mixed with well rotted stable manure and leave to settle. If you cover it with clear plastic or polythene cloches to warm up the soil you will have a flying start to the season.