



Newsletter
No 27
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2015

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

SOCIETY OFFICERS

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

MEETINGS: Thanks to Cynthia we have had some wonderful speakers this year and we are finishing the winter/spring season with Margaret Walker on May 14th. Margaret is an experienced Floral Art demonstrator and she will be showing us how to make some lovely arrangements. Her demonstration is called 'Springtime' which will be accompanied by a very amusing commentary. We then have a break for the Summer and return in September to be entertained by John Thatcher of Thatcher's Cider Company.

Malvern Show: The two day mini holiday to Croome Court and the Malvern Spring Show starts on May 8th. The coach will pick up in the usual places as follows
Locking Road Car Park @ 0830
Worle by LIDL @ 0845 **Please don't be late.**
We are planning to leave the show at 4.00pm on Saturday to be back in Weston by about 6.00pm.

Highgrove: I have only managed to get 50 tickets for this very popular tour, which will now take place on **Tuesday 11th August**. Unfortunately some people are going to be disappointed as I have around 70 people wishing to go. The tour of Highgrove is at 11.30am. We will leave WsM at 08.30 and stop in Tetbury for comfort and coffee.
The first 50 people on the list who paid a deposit will be invited to attend and if there are drop-outs I will move further down the list.
I think this is the fairest way and I hope you all agree.
The list is enclosed and if you are in the top 50 I would like you to phone me to confirm that you are able to go and agree to pay the balance of £30 immediately.
As I mentioned previously ALL deposits are refundable, if you are unable to attend.

Chris Nelson 01934 625765

PLANT SALE

SATURDAY and SUNDAY 16th and 17th MAY at the Trading Hut, Clarke's Field Allotments.

The gates will be open at **9o'clock** and not before to ensure that everyone has a fair chance to purchase plants.

There will be a good selection of bedding and vegetable plants for sale as well as fuchsias, geraniums, perennials and anything else that members have brought along. The plants are good quality at bargain prices, so be early to avoid disappointment, When it's gone, it's gone!

We rely on the plant sale to help keep the Trading Hut going so please come along and encourage all your family and friends to buy their plants there as well.

Your President, Chairman and Committee look forward to seeing you some time over the weekend. The Trading Hut will be open for business as usual.

The Hut will be open on Friday evening, 15th May from 4.30-6.30pm to receive any plants you may wish to donate (please make sure they are labelled).

PRIVATE GARDEN competition in conjunction with **Weston in Bloom**

Judging this year will take place commencing 18th July by Bert and Cynthia Filer and Clive Wall. There will be a first, second and third place prizes in each of the following categories.

- Front garden
- Large garden
- Medium garden
- Small garden
- Hanging basket.

The appearance, tasteful arrangement, colour and cleanliness of the gardens are all taken into consideration, as well as any special feature. The prizes and trophies will be presented at the Flower Show by the Town Mayor. Entry forms are enclosed. Additional forms are available from the Trading Hut or from Bert and Cynthia.

ALLOTMENT COMPETITION Entry will be automatic for members. Clive Wall will be visiting all of the sites week commencing 6th July. Only member's plots will be eligible and there will be a prize of £10.00 for the winners of the best kept ladies' and men's allotments. Trophies will be presented at the Flower Show in August

Obituaries: Regrettably, Alan Owen, a member of longstanding died recently. Our thoughts are with Lorraine and family at this time.

OPEN GARDENS:

Sue and Rod Thomas are opening their garden at 5 Quantock Road on 26th July
Mrs P Williams of 22 Exeter Road is open on 19th and 26th July.

71st Annual Flower Show

8th August 2015

This year the show is to be held in the Italian Gardens, behind the Winter Gardens, and will be sponsored by Weston in Bloom, Weston Business Improvement District (BID) and The Lions Club of Weston -super-Mare. It will be bigger and better than anything you have seen before with displays, demonstrations, trader stalls and exhibitors. Make a note in your diary NOW.

The trading hut continues to be well stocked with your necessary composts and fertilisers, canes and fleece, seeds and sets of both onion and shallot. There is always a committee member on hand to help load your car and answer any gardening questions.

You don't get that at B&Q!!!

What to do now and other helpful tips

At the time of writing this article for the May/June issue, the weather has been very kind to us, but please don't get carried away yet, unless you have a heated greenhouse. There is some cold weather on its way with perhaps a touch of frost, so please protect your tender plants and seedlings.

Firstly let's talk SEEDS as there is plenty of time to sow. Sow short rows of lettuce, carrot, beetroot, spring onions and other salad crops to ensure continuous supply. French beans and runner beans can be sown in pots in the greenhouse or windowsill in early May, to be hardened off and planted out at the end of the month or early June, but be prepared to cover them if late frosts threaten. Sweet corn, courgettes, marrow can also be sown inside in early May for planting out in early June.

As the danger of frosts becomes less likely, start to harden off bedding plants by putting them outside for a few hours during the day and covering them at night.

Mulch around fruit trees with any suitable compost as this will help to retain moisture at the roots.

As gooseberries develop it can be beneficial to thin them out to allow larger fruit to develop. The small fruit can be used for cooking. Keep a watch out for gooseberry sawfly—the symptoms are severe defoliation and the presence of caterpillar like larvae. Red and white currant bushes can also be affected. The sawfly is the most destructive pest of gooseberries and can

develop three generations a year with grubs active from early May to the end of September. Apples and pears may need spraying to prevent scab if this has been a problem in previous years. Also continue to spray roses to control aphids, mildew and blackspot. All plants need a range of nutrients to help them grow. In the Trading Hut we have a great range of products including Chempak 2, 3, 4 & 8. These can easily be dissolved in water and applied as a solution to indoor and outdoor plants. These are balanced feeds, which contain phosphate as well as nitrogen, potassium and other trace elements. Chempak 2 has a high nitrogen content, the Chempak 3 is a more general purpose balanced fertiliser. Chempak 4 is high in potash and finally Chempak 8 has a low nitrogen content. Information on what is best for your plants is available from the Trading Hut and is shown on all packs.

Choose the right tomatoes: Check the labels on tomato plants before buying to ensure you get the type you want. Plants are often labelled as 'determinate' or 'indeterminate'. Indeterminate varieties are grown on cordons or vines with a single stem trained up a strong support and all the side-shoots removed.

Determinate varieties are grown as bushes and develop numerous side-shoots. They are ideal in pots and hanging baskets, either in the greenhouse or outdoors. When buying, select plants that are well branched, with strong shoots and disease free leaves with no sign of yellowing.

Dead head daffodils as soon as they finish flowering so that they can put all their energy into building up their reserves for next year.

*Got a few minutes to spare?
Sow biennial flowers such as foxgloves and wallflowers in good quality seed compost. Cover wallflower seeds with a layer of vermiculite but do not cover foxgloves as they need light to germinate*

BACK TO BASICS:

With grass growing quickly your lawn needs regular care and attention to keep it looking good. Set the mower blades high, at 5/6cm, before you mow this month to avoid scalping the grass as this leaves spaces in which weeds can grow. Longer grass will also withstand summer drought better than short. Cutting the lawn every 4-5 days keeps it looking pristine and each mow can be done more quickly than when you are tackling long grass. Regular cutting also encourages the grass to produce sideshoots low down, which fill gaps, making the lawn look more luscious. If moss is present, spike the lawn with a garden fork to relieve surface compaction, then apply a mosskiller, raking out the dead moss once it goes black. Afterwards sprinkle a mixture of compost and grass seed over the areas to thicken grass coverage.