



Newsletter
No 39
May/June
2017

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

SOCIETY OFFICERS

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

MEETINGS:

THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING HAS BEEN CHANGED TO 18TH MAY AS THE CHURCH HAS A VERY IMPORTANT MEETING ON THE ORIGINAL DATE.

The meeting will be held in St Peter's Church Hall, Baytree Road at 7.30pm. The Speaker will be Neil Ross who will be giving a talk on **Behind the Scenes at Sissington Castle Gardens** that are both beautiful and historic created by Rita Sackville. Ross will be telling us what goes on behind the scenes to keep the gardens looking so beautiful. There will be a raffle and refreshments. This will be the last meeting of the Winter/Spring Session that has been very successful and we now look forward to our summer activities.

WE ARE DELIGHTED TO ANNOUNCE THAT MARGARET TOVEY AND WENDY O'CONNOR HAVE VOLUNTEERED TO ACT AS ASSISTANTS TO OUR SECRETARY CYNTHIA AND ARE ALREADY UNDERTAKING THE PUBLICITY AND WILL BE DOING THE PAPERWORK FOR THE GARDEN COMPETITION.

COACH TRIPS

There are still places available for the three day trip to Chatsworth House on 7th-9th June.
The cost is £230 (single supplement £55)
The day trip to Kilver Court on 5th August is fully booked

**THE BALANCE OF MONIES FOR
BOTH TRIPS IS NOW DUE**

Contact – Brenda Wall on 01934-620948

PLANT SALE SATURDAY 13th &

SUNDAY 14th MAY

The gates will open at **9 o'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 come 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 the members of the 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 also open on Friday evening, 12th 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 17th July by Clive Wall plus a very capable assistant. Unfortunately Bert and Cynthia are unable to judge this year. There will be a first prize of £25, second prize £15 and £10 for third place in each of the following categories. Large, Medium, Small and Front garden and a £10 prize for the best hanging basket.

Your garden doesn't have to be full of bedding plants, the general scheme, tasteful arrangement, cultivation and cleanliness are all taken into account with the variety of plants, tubs and hanging baskets. Also, any special features. An entry form is attached and should be returned to Margaret Tovey, 18 Oxford Square, Locking, Weston-super-Mare BS24 7DP.

OPEN GARDENS:

Patsy Williams of 22 Exeter Road will be opening her garden on 29//30th July 11am to 5pm in aid of the Weston Hospice. This is a very interesting garden with many unusual tropical plants. If anyone else would like to open their garden in aid of the Hospice please let Cynthia know.

ALLOTMENT COMPETITION

Entry will be automatic for members. Clive Wall will be visiting all sites during week commencing 10th 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

73rd Annual Flower Show 12th August 2017

The 2017 Flower Show is being held on Saturday 12th August in Grove Park, Weston s Mare. Preparations are in hand, with the Show Schedule being available in early June, which includes an upgrade of the Children's Classes and several other new classes.

Donations of prizes for the raffle will be most welcome.

If anyone would like to become involved with the Show, please contact John Chapman on 01934 418904.

The Trading Hut continues to be well stocked with your necessary composts and



fertilisers, canes and fleece, seeds and sets. There is always a committee member on hand to help load your car and answer any gardening questions.

Bert has also stocked the hut with a range of herbaceous plants and will be selling them off at wholesale prices. He will be there every Saturday and Sunday.

HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW??

At the time of writing we are enjoying some very mild and very dry weather, 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.

I know I say this every year, but it is important to control **slugs and snails** in your garden. It is so disheartening to see your tender plants destroyed overnight by these pests. Scatter a mulch of crushed eggshells around the base of young plants to help deter slugs and snails. Spreading them in a ring around each plant creates a good barrier against molluscs. Other money saving organic methods of control include bonfire ash and coffee grounds, bran and oatmeal work well too, but these need regular reapplication to prove effective. Grapefruit and orange skin halves act as handy traps as the slugs like to hide underneath and can be lifted and removed.

HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW??

Basal cuttings are a good way to increase many perennials when their new shoots are 3-4 inches high. Gently scrape away a little soil around the crown of the plant and cut off several shoots as near to the base as possible using a sharp knife. Put the cuttings into a pot of moist compost, cover with a plastic bag and stand in a warm, shady place (the plant, not you). Suitable plants that can be propagated by taking basal cuttings include Achillea, Chrysanthemum, Delphinium, Euphorbia, Gypsophila, Lupins and Mallows.

Asparagus crowns can be bought and planted. Asparagus is expensive to buy as a vegetable but inexpensive to grow as it can crop for over 20 years. Prepare the site well by digging in plenty of well rotted manure. Buy one year old crowns, preferably all-male variety such as Lucullus or Franklin and plant them as soon as possible, soaking the crowns in water for an hour before planting. Dig a trench six inches wide and twelve inches between rows. Rake in a general fertiliser and shape the base of the trench to form a ridge. Put the crowns on the ridge twelve inches apart. Never leave the crowns exposed to dry out. Water in and water well in dry weather. Do not harvest in the first year and only pick a few in the second year. From the third year you will have asparagus to harvest for about four to six weeks. Harvest the spears when they are about 4-6 inches long by cutting them cleanly with a sharp knife about 2 inches below ground. Never cut all the spears, but leave a few to leaf up and build the crown for next year.

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. Leave flower heads on smaller bulbs like snowdrops and scillas so that they can self-seed.

Want to know the secrets to handsome hanging baskets?

When you plant up, always use a good quality compost, and add some slow release fertiliser and water retaining crystals - they'll make the baskets so much easier to care for come summer! Make sure you always plant up around the sides of the baskets, this will give more impact, quicker! Through the season, keep taking off the dead flowers and you'll get more and more grow on!

THE TRADING HUT will be open every Saturday from 9:30-12:30 and every Sunday from 9:30-12:00