

West Bridgford and Rushcliffe Horticultural Society Newsletter - July 2021

This newsletter is intended to update Members on our Annual Show.

Annual Show – Saturday 4th September - **POSTPONED**

The Show Committee of the WBRHS have held a number of meetings since April. A full Committee meeting was set for 22nd June to take advantage of the changes to Covid-19 restrictions/guidance that HM Government were due to announce (14th June), and take effect after 21st June. However, HM Government announced a four week delay in the easing of any restrictions. Therefore, for the full Committee meeting held on 22nd June, the Show Committee suggested three options in order assist the whole Committee in deciding whether the Show should be held this year. These options were:

1. to **proceed with holding the 2021 Annual Show** as restrictions on “gatherings” were expected to be lifted/relaxed sufficiently from 19th July
2. to **acquire the printed materials** in anticipation for holding for the Annual Show (Schedules, Entry Cards, Prize Cards) with the anticipation that HM Government restrictions would be lifted/relaxed enough after 19th July to allow the show to proceed. This would require an outlay of £100-150 which would be lost if restrictions were not sufficiently eased.
3. **Postpone the 2021 Show with immediate effect.** To leave the decision until the 19th July would be too short a time frame to purchase and distribute items needed to support the smooth running of the Show.

After discussion the Committee voted by 7 votes to 2 for Option 3. The reasons for choosing Option 3 generally centred around the uncertainty of guidance/rules, that would be applied to large indoor gatherings/meetings after 19th July, including:

- any restrictions placed by the venue owners after 19th July, (e.g. maximum numbers/ ventilation/ social distancing requirements/ mask wearing)
- whether contact data would need to be collected for exhibitors, and particularly, visitors. (The Show generally attracts over 200 visitors as well as up to 50 competitors)
- whether catering could be provided within any social distancing guidelines
- waiting the outcome of HM Government reviews: e.g. COVID-status certification; Events Research Programme
- whether judges would be willing to participate within any restrictions

Mary O'Reilly, Chair of the WBRHS, expressed regret that we have made this decision to postpone, and understands that many people will be disappointed. We would all have wanted to be in a position to go ahead, however on balance it feels like the correct decision. Let's hope next year we will be able to have a show, which is usually a highlight of the year for all our members.

Society Huts and Supplies – peat-free compost

The Society Huts remain well-stocked, but further supplies via our wholesaler, Gro-well, could be subject to interruption during the remainder of the year. Until at least 19th July the huts are open under the restrictions that covered most of 2020, guided by the six points below.

1. **Huts will open strictly between 10 am and Noon on Sundays**
2. **Members will maintain a strict 2 metre separation while waiting/queuing**
3. **If more than three customers are waiting for service please “try again later”**
4. **Only Committee Members are to enter storage and sales huts**
5. **After being served please remove purchases immediately to either your vehicle or allotment plot**
6. **At Burleigh Road Hut be aware of members of the public passing through the adjoining area**

Peat-free Compost: Following recent publicity and HM Government announcements, hut managers have received enquiries regarding the availability of peat-free composts. Our normal wholesaler, Gro-well, stocks a premium peat free multipurpose compost based on a tried and tested professional mix. It comprises a blend of coir and finally milled bark, enhanced by a wetting agent and market leading base fertilisers. It does not contain any recycled waste ingredients. The product is described as ideal for seed sowing and potting on. 60 litre bags are currently priced by Gro-well at about £6.

WBRHS Committee