

West Bridgford and Rushcliffe Horticultural Society

Newsletter - April 2021

This newsletter is intended to update Members on some of our regular Society events.

AGM and Committee and Lutterell Hall

The Society held its first ZOOM Committee Meeting and AGM during March. The AGM was “attended” by 22 members. The Committee will try to hold its monthly meeting in this way for some months as all Rushcliffe Borough Council (RBC) community venues remain closed. The day-to-day management of Lutterell Hall will transfer to The Rock Church from 1st May 2021 while RBC will retain ownership of the property. We have been invited to meet with Rock Church to discuss our future needs in Lutterell Hall, particularly the Annual Show (see below).

Dennis Matthews (Treasurer for many years) and Audrey Peacock, Show Secretary, have now retired from the Committee. They have a combined involvement of over 90 years with WB&RHS for which the Society is immensely grateful. We plan to mark this involvement in due course.

Mary O'Reilly has taken over as Chairperson, and we welcome Teresa Hopwood and Chris Ellis on to the Committee. The Committee will elect a Vice Chairperson and new Show Secretary at its next meeting. There are still vacancies on the Committee and we would welcome interest from any member wishing to be involved with the Society and who may bring fresh ideas for its future development.

Society Huts and Supplies

The Society huts are now fully restocking, but further supplies via our wholesaler, Gro-well, could be subject to interruption during the year. We 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**

Some of you may have noticed the change in composition of the Multipurpose Compost we get from Growell. This is because the proportion of coir has increased from 10% to 30%. To trial the OLD and NEW compost I set two packets of Cocktail Crush F1 (tomato); 10 seeds in each of two equal sized trays, with equal amounts of OLD and NEW Multipurpose compost. Both watered (about) the same and kept in the same enclosed environment (a large clear plastic bag) and planted on 12th March. Both showed 100% germination by 20th March with seeds in OLD compost showed about 24 hours before the NEW. Below are photographs six days after emergence.



OLD

NEW

Trips and Outings

At the current time, under HM Government restrictions, it remains difficult to confirm any trips or outings in early 2021. Visits to one of the Autumn shows, Malvern or Harrogate may be a possibility, but many members may still be wary of close proximity for travelling by coach.

We hoped to visit to the new RHS Bridgewater Garden at Worsley New Hall, Salford, Manchester which opens in May 2021. A visit may be a possibility, but is more likely in 2022. The site covers 154 acres and has a number exhibition gardens include Paradise Garden, Walled Garden, Chinese Garden and Kitchen Garden

Best Kept Allotment Competition

The WB&RHS committee will be considering whether this years competition is possible. The judging involves two independent judges and a steward travelling around the 5 allotment sites on a single morning in June by car. This therefore necessitates close contact between all three persons involved. Current Government advice would suggest this type of activity could go ahead as up to 6 people can meet **indoors** from May 17th.

Annual Show – Saturday 4th September (provisional)

When we meet with The Rock Church to discuss booking conditions for Lutterell Hall it is hoped to identify any possible restrictions that may affect the us holding a Show in September 2021. The Show generally attracts over 200 visitors as well as up to 50 competitors. However, before the Show can proceed:

- firstly, we await future HM Government announcements on plans for physical distancing, particularly for **large gatherings**.
- and secondly, only if the WB&RHS Committee feel it is safe to do so.

If we able to have the Annual Show in 2021 it will be without Betty Rootham. She has passed us a letter which says, *"Having decided to give up organising the refreshments at the Annual Show, it is with much appreciation that Anthea Crofts has kindly agreed to take over so I know they will be in capable hands. I would like to thank the team of loyal helpers for their support over the years, especially after Andrew died. It meant a great deal to Tony and I. I hope to be there on the day supporting the show as I always have done, even when it was held at the Gordon Road Methodist Church Hall with Pat Williamson and Margaret Berry. I wish the show continued success as it always has done in the past."*

Stay Safe and Keep Planting & Growing

WBRHS Committee