

The Wrea Green Horticultural Society Show Countdown

Showstopper jobs for

April

Vegetables and Fruit			
Class	Entry	Jobs and advice	Judging Criteria for the show
1	Six tomatoes on a plate	Seeds sown last month can be pricked out into 4" pots when large enough to handle. Allow six weeks from pricking out to planting them in their final planting position in the greenhouse, or outdoors at the beginning of June.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uniform in size and shape • Ripe but firm • Rich in colour with fresh calyx and stalk intact • Blemish free and unpolished
2	Nine cherry tomatoes on a plate		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uniform in size and shape • Fresh, ripe but firm • Blemish free and unpolished • Rich in colour with fresh calyx attached
3	Two marrows	Sow seeds under glass, one seed to a pot. (There appears to be no consensus whether marrows and courgettes are the same thing. To meet the RHS judging criteria, it would be best to buy seeds specifically labelled Marrow rather than to rely on a courgette becoming large enough to qualify as a marrow.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young and not over-ripe • Uniform, well-shaped and tender • Any colour
4	Three carrots with tops	Carrots should be sown directly into the soil as moving the seedlings creates forked roots and wafts the lovely carrot smell around to attract carrot root fly. Carrots can be sown all the way through to July so succession sowing might increase the chances of good specimens being ready for the show.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good uniform shape • Tender roots, free from side shoots • Skins clear and colour bright • Tops trimmed
5	Four potatoes	Plant out second earlies early this month. Earth up and first earlies that begin to appear to protect them from frost. Plant maincrop at the end of the month. The traditional way is to dig a narrow trench 12cm (5in) deep. This can be lined with compost or even grass clippings for a better crop. The seed tubers are spaced 30cm (12in) apart for earlies and 37cm (15in) for maincrop varieties in rows 24in (60cm) apart for earlies and 75cm (30in) apart for maincrop. Sprinkle slug pellets or other slug deterrents between the tubers as keel slugs can be a problem.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skins clear and free from blemishes • Eyes few in number and shallow • Skins should not be scrubbed

		Potatoes need a sunny site away from frost pockets - the newly emerging foliage is susceptible to frost damage.	
6	Three onions	Plant onion sets 10cm (4in) apart in rows 30cm (12in) apart from mid-March to mid-April. Gently push the sets into soft, well-worked soil so that the tip is just showing, and firm the soil around them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uniform bulbs, firm, well-ripened and of good colour • No thickness or softness in necks • No excessive removal of outer skins • Tops neatly tied with natural material and roots neatly trimmed. See www.youtube.com/watch?v=AtAVHegHb4k for demonstration video
7	Two leeks	<p>Leeks can be still sown outdoors this month. Leeks that have been sown in trays can be pricked out and potted on when large enough to handle. <u>If serious, show-stopping leeks are wanted</u>, the following advice comes from the National Allotment Society:</p> <p><i>It is important that the leek bed is well prepared beforehand. The soil needs to be in lightly firmed but still soft underneath. This is because the easiest way to form a tender white stem (blanching) is to transplant the young leek plants so that the base of the leek is at least 9ins/20cms below the surface of the soil. Young leeks are planted with a dibber which are usually made from a broken spade or fork handle. It is important to use a dibber with a blunt end if it is too pointed it will leave the roots of the plants hanging in the air. It is better to make all of the holes along the row first and then drop the leek plants in one operation. If the surface of the soil is too dry and keeps falling into the hole, water along the line of the row first to bind the soil together. As the dibber is pushed into the soil it needs to be twisted from around to smear the walls of the hole which prevents them from collapsing. Thoroughly water the tray or box containing the leek transplants before gently tipping all of them out of the tray or box. Carefully separate the individual plants and wash the compost off the roots. The next job is to cut down the roots leaving them ½ inch/12mm long this doesn't harm them and it makes them easier to drop into the hole. The other part of the operation is to reduce the foliage by about 50% this helps to overcome the problem of water loss through the leaves before the roots begin to regrow. It also helps to make it more difficult for the birds to pull the young leeks out of the hole. The last job is to water each leek plant in. Use a watering can with the rose off and fill each hole</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good length of straight, blanched stem without any bulbous base • Solid, thick and tight with clean spotless skins; no ribbing • Not excessively stripped • Firm, fresh, undamaged, leaves • Roots uncut, with soil washed and teased away

		<i>containing a plant right up to the top. This will help to puddle the roots in and provide enough moisture during this delicate period in the leeks development.</i>	
8	Four runner beans	Sow runner beans under glass. Sow one seed per pot to make planting out into the trench prepared last month, easier.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Straight, fresh, pods of good colour • No outward sign of seeds • Stalks attached • Slender and long • A crisp snap when broken
9	Three apples	Sprinkle a good balanced fertiliser around the base of your tree.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not polish – retain the 'bloom' • Eyes and stalks intact • Clear, unblemished skin • Good colour for the cultivar
10	Three Parsnips	Parsnips like loose, light soil with no manure. They split for fun if the roots encounter any obstacles. When the soil has warmed up, or lay polythene for a week to speed this up, till the parsnip bed to a depth of 12" to 15" adding compost to a depth of 4". Alternatively, create a furrow and fill with compost, pat down and sow the seeds onto this. Place 3 seeds together every 6" and cover to a depth of 1/2" with more compost. Thin to the strongest one when they are large enough to handle. (Don't pull out the unwanted seedlings as this may disturb the one you are keeping; just nip them off at the base.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long, large, well-developed, symmetrical, well-shouldered and shapely. • White roots, smooth-skinned and free from side-shoots or blemishes. • Taproot intact, • Leaves trimmed to 75mm.
11	Three courgettes	Sow one seed per 3" pot to a depth of 3/4" and place in a propagator or warm windowsill at 20°C to 25°C. Germination is 5 to 8 days. Do not plant out until all risk of frost has passed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young and tender • Uniform shape and colour • Approx. 15cms long and 3 to 4 cms in diameter. Round varieties approx. 7 to 8 cms in diameter – any colour but well-matched
12	Ugly vegetable	From any of the above categories or others.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home grown

Flowers			
Class	Entry	Jobs and advice	Judging Criteria for the show
13	Single bloom	Select the variety you might like to enter and buy the seeds or begin to nurture the plant if it's in your garden. As hard as it is to do, the best blooms usually develop when other surrounding buds have been pinched out.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leaves below the water-line removed Flower at its peak – not under-developed or past its peak A good specimen of the cultivar in shape, colour and size
14	Vase of Chrysanthemums	Newly propagated young plants need to be hardened off in April by being placed in a cold frame	<p>There are many types of chrysanthemum and they flower from September to November. For the purposes of this show, we do not specify type or form but judging will be based upon the generic criteria below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rings or canes may be used to support the blooms Blooms are symmetrical Pleasing in form, size, freshness, colour, uniformity, staging and foliage.
15	Bowl of mixed dahlias	Divide the tubers prepared last month when shoots are 2-3cm (about an inch) tall by separating them into portions ensuring each section has both roots and shoots. Pot each section into a separate container and grow on.	<p><i>Generic criteria for all dahlia types submitted in this unclassified class.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blooms fresh and clean All florets intact, firm and without blemish or defect Colour(s) clear and well-defined and consistent throughout in self-coloured varieties Shaded, bi-coloured varieties are evenly shaded or tipped throughout the bloom
16	Vase of sweet Peas	Harden off sweet pea seedlings. Pinch out the growing tip to encourage side shoots. Prepare the ground where the sweet peas will grow with plenty of well-rotted compost.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to 15 spikes Strong spikes with well-spaced blooms Long, straight stems Flowers fully open and fresh Large, erect flowers Closed keel (the joined petals under the main petals) No developing seed pods or colour loss
17	Vase of mixed roses	Roses should have been pruned last month. (See March). Sprinkle rose feed and mulch around the base.	<p><i>Generic criteria for all rose types submitted in this unclassified class.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doubles – open to half or three quarters Singles and semi-doubles – fully opened Blooms fresh, clean and sparkling Full depth of colour which is bright and glowing Straight stems Clean, undamaged foliage, cleaned only with water Good colour combination of mixed roses No overcrowding or large spaces Display balanced with the height and size of the bowl

Floral Art			
Class	Entry	Jobs and advice	Judging Criteria for the show
18	Royal Wedding Arrangement		<p>Although the date will have passed, what would you have made for the new Royal Couple? This can be a table decoration; a pedestal arrangement, bride's bouquet or a pew-end arrangement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Flowers may be home-grown and/or bought</u> • Colours reflect a Royal wedding and/or the couple involved • Container/base appropriate to the design • Design – good balance, proportion, space, form and texture • (The judges will acknowledge that the flowers that are available in May will not be available in September)
19	Arrangement in a tea pot		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flowers suitable for a teapot • Colour harmony between the flowers, and the flowers and the teapot • Design – good balance, proportion, space, form and texture
20	Planted Welly		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean welly with drainage holes in the sole • Stable – weighted in the foot to ensure stability • Healthy plants • Good colour combinations • Display balanced with the size and height of the boot
21	Harvest/Autumn Arrangement		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Flowers may be home-grown and/or bought</u> • Flowers, foliage and props appropriate to the season and title • Container/base appropriate to the design • Design – good balance, proportion, space, form and texture

Culinary

Class	Entry	Jobs and advice	Judging Criteria for the show
22	Victoria Sponge		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May be baked in one or two tins • No cooling rack marks on top or bottom surfaces • Raspberry jam, sufficiently and evenly spread • Light sprinkling of caster sugar on top • Pale golden brown in colour, evenly baked • Top flat without air bubbles or crinkly edges • Bottom and top halves of equal thickness • Texture, fine, light and even • Flavour delicate with no dominant flavour
23	Decorated Cake		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The cake can be any shape or type (fruit, sponge, chocolate etc) • It can be iced or decorated with nuts, fruit or other edible items • It can have iced messages • It can have a combination of edible and non-edible decorations such as flowers. • It should not have too many non-edible props.
24	Quiche (any filling)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shortcrust pastry base light and short, not hard and brittle – no soggy bottoms • Egg mixture is cooked in the middle • Pastry at the edges even, pale golden and not too thick • Adequate filling with no over-spilling • Filling uniformly diced or chopped and evenly distributed • Well-seasoned, good flavour combination
25	Round of shortbread		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presented in the round • Approximately 12mm (1/2 inch thick) • Marked into sections with a knife before baking • Neat, evenly shaped and smooth • Pale golden brown. Not overcooked at the edges or pale underneath • Crisp texture • Smooth base • Traditional butter flavour • May be lightly sprinkled with caster sugar
26	Harvest sheaf loaf		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be edible (not made as a craft item) • Shape relevant to harvest time • Well-shaped and patterns well-defined • Golden, glossy finish.

Jams and Chutneys

Class	Entry	Jobs and advice	Judging Criteria for the show
27	One jar chutney		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Label should state 'hot' or 'mild' • Colour bright and even throughout • Dark chutney should be bright not muddy • Reasonably firm, uniform consistency • No large pieces of onion, skin, cores or stones • No air bubbles or free vinegar • Mature flavour • Good blended flavour, characteristic of ingredients used
28	One jar marmalade		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based upon citrus fruit – flavour additions allowed and must appear on label • Colour bright and characteristic of citrus used • Jelly-like consistency – not runny or too firm • No air bubbles or scum • Peel tender, uniformly cut and distributed (sliced not minced) • Slightly bitter taste true to the fruit used
29	One jar jam (soft fruit)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colour bright, even and characteristic of the fruit used • No scum, foreign bodies, mould or sugar crystals • Fruit evenly distributed, not too many stones • Skins tender • Jellified texture, not runny with loose liquid • Flavour full, fresh and characteristic of the fruit used
30	One jar lemon curd		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date made should reflect 4 week 'Eat by' period (contains eggs) • Colour bright, characteristic of lemons, and even • Consistency spreadable, not runny or rough • No egg spots, peel, scum, sugar crystals or air bubbles • Fresh flavour, well-balanced and not greasy
31	One jar jelly (savoury or sweet)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jelly brilliantly clear • No pulp, haze or scum • Colour even, bright and characteristic of the ingredients used • Consistency should tremble but hold its shape • No air bubbles • Flavour true to the ingredients used, full and well balanced

Art and Craft

Class	Entry	Jobs and advice	Judging Criteria for the show
32	Portrait in any medium		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All entries must have the name, address and telephone number of the entrant on the back and the class number in which it is to be entered. For woodwork, pottery and ceramics items, this should be attached to the item. Art work up to A3 including mount. <p>These classes are not currently covered by national WI criteria. Judging will therefore tend to be based upon personal preference of the judge, taking into account the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eye-appeal – is there a focal point? • Colour • Perspective • Balance and composition • Tonal value • Use of materials including presentation • Sign on the back or cover signature
33	Pencil or ink drawing		34
35	Item of woodwork		

Needlecraft

Class	Entry	Jobs and advice	Judging Criteria for the show
36	Stuffed toy		<p><i>Class covers Soft Toys; Stuffed Toys; Knitted Toys; Rag Dolls</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All entries for classes 36-40 must have the name, address and telephone number of the entrant attached and the class number in which it is to be entered. All buttons, eyes and extras must be firmly attached Toy suitable for intended age group – safety, size and sturdiness Good play or comfort value Fur fabric toys must not have fur trapped in the seams Stuffing must be evenly distributed and soft
37	Item of needlework		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decorative items; clothes; toys, bags; purses, etc., any item that has used mainly needlework techniques in the construction Kits allowed Hand or machined Framed or open Effective combination of thread, fabric and stitching to give colour and texture appropriate to the shape and intended purpose Stitching shows skill in applying known and adapted techniques
38	Item or picture in cross stitch		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No size limit No trailing threads Even, accurate stitches formed in the same direction Thread should fill each hole and not catch the hole edges Stretching should ensure vertical and horizontal lines parallel to the mount or frame
39	Crochet work		<p>Judging will consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complexity Workmanship Use of colour Aesthetic appeal Function
40	Knitted item		

Amateur Photography

Class	Entry	Jobs and advice	Judging Criteria for the show
41	Sun up/Sun down	Sunsets and Sunrises over any type of natural or manmade landscapes	
42	Sport	Just what it says on the tin! Action shots; celebration/despair shots; team or individual.	
43	Building/architecture	Local, national or global. Buildings or aspects of buildings, (windows, doors, roofs) that are interesting and beautifully photographed.	
44	Wrea Green	<p>This year, we would like to try to produce a 2019 Wrea Green Calendar to raise funds for the Horticultural Show. We hope to create a calendar from your photographs in and around the village. In order to do this, we would need a selection of seasonal photographs, each of which would clearly represent the season or relevant month on the calendar.</p> <p>What to do:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look out for photo opportunities for the calendar. We would like seasonal photographs showing all aspects of village life such as Field Day; the car show; cricket; football; the allotments; the green; school sports; church festivals; the Christmas Tree switch on as well as quirky and unexpected ones. Enter the photo/s in Class 44 in the usual way. (Instructions will be in the Summer Brochure) Save the image somewhere safe so that we can use it for the calendar should it be chosen. 	
45	Black and White	Black and white photographs of anything where the use of black and white has enhanced the subject more effectively than colour might have done.	

- **All photographs must be no bigger than A4, including the mount.**
- **Unframed**
- **All photographs must have the name, address and telephone number of the entrant on the back and the class number in which it is to be entered.**
- Does the photograph show originality?
- Does it reflect the class title?
- Is it in perfect focus?
- Is it properly exposed?
- Is the photograph well-composed with the emphasis on the main subject?
- Is the photograph clean and suitably mounted?

Children's Classes			
Class	Entry	Jobs and advice	Judging Criteria for the show
46	Miniature garden in a box		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In a seed tray or similar sized box • Can be a living, growing garden or a temporary display for the Show • Props should enhance and contribute to the design
47	Flowers in a jug		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fresh flowers and leaves with no fading or drooping • Height of flowers is balanced with the size, height and shape of the jug
48	Shoe box scene		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can incorporate both the box and the lid • Google 'Shoe Box Scenes' to get inspiration.
49	Plasticine or Das® clay dinosaur		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use plasticine, Das® or similar. • Model a dinosaur and paint if preferred. • Ensure that it will stand and not fall over!
50	Drawing or painting of your family	Everyone you can think of, including your pets!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to A3 • Landscape or portrait • Paint or pencil • Signature and age group on the back, top left.

Prizes for classes 46 to 50 will be awarded to entries by children in Year 3 and below and for children in Year 4 to Year 7

Entry forms and entry items will be submitted to us from Ribby-with-Wrea School at the end of the Summer term. Children who live in the village but do not attend this school, will receive an entry form with the summer brochure.