

RHS Affiliated Societies

THE UK'S LARGEST NETWORK OF GARDENING CLUBS

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2009



Carry on Growing and saving

Tim Sandall

The RHS is adding a new grow your own fruit section to its Grow Your Own campaign when it returns in March with a series of open days across all four RHS gardens. As ever, the campaign will bring you top advice on how to grow your own at home – whether it's in a container on your window sill or in a garden plot or allotment. Carol Klein's new RHS book, *Grow Your*

Own Fruit is also available to purchase, and much like Carol's veg version, considers every stage in the process of growing fruit, with step-by-step photography detailing the best varieties to grow, how to plant, care for and harvest your crops.

This year, we'd also like you to help us build up a picture of what produce you already grow and how you see the recession impacting on

your gardening and produce shopping habits. If you can spare five minutes and have access to a computer, we'd be very grateful if you can fill in our short, online survey. What's more, those taking part will have the chance to win one of ten copies of *Grow Your Own Fruit* (published by Mitchell Beazley, January 2009).



To take part, just visit www.rhs.org.uk/vegetables and click on

the survey link.

Read on for a few handy tips from the 'Fruit Calendar' so you can get to work straight away! More advice can be found at www.rhs.org.uk/growyourown

continued on 2 →

Happy New Year to you all! I hope you enjoyed a great festive season and that you are looking forward to a great year of gardening ahead.

2009 sees the expansion of the RHS Grow Your Own campaign to offer people lots of new tips and advice on how to grow and care for their own fruit. Gardening clubs can really help to boost this campaign by encouraging members to grow their own and perhaps more importantly, by showing those who have never tried, how

easy and rewarding it really is. Remember that space, or lack of, does not have to be an issue – a window sill will do!

Biodiversity continues to be a prominent theme, and one which the RHS recognises and actively promotes, believing that it is possible to enhance the wildlife potential in any garden without compromising the gardener's enjoyment of it. We tend to take the existence of certain species for granted without realising the threat to their existence, usually due to loss

of habitat. If we could all do our own little bit in our own gardens, we could see a huge difference being made (as you will learn from the Gardening Advice section and Operation Bumblebee update). It's not just about doing things on a large scale and it is important that younger generations are also made aware of this reality.

I will leave you to read on, but in the mean time, enjoy the rest of winter as we wait for the first signs of spring to appear. I shall be in touch again in a few months with

the Spring Newsletter and look forward to speaking to some of you over the course of the year. A big thank you to those who have already been in touch and sent us information on their society. It makes for very interesting reading and greatly helps the work we do.

Happy gardening,

Rachel Coogan
Development Executive
(Community Horticulture)

Peter Buckley, RHS President



Peter Buckley

The RHS was very sad to announce the sudden death of its President, Peter Buckley, who died on 2 December after a short illness.

Peter joined the council of the RHS in 1998, became treasurer in 2002 and served as the Society's President since 2006. With his tireless enthusiasm for people, plants and gardening, and a keen interest in every aspect of the Society's operations, Peter played a key role in shaping the charitable

work of the RHS. Under his dedicated leadership the Council embraced a new strategy for the development of the RHS while upholding the charity's core values and heritage.

Peter combined his voluntary role as President of the RHS with his full time role as Chairman of Caledonia Investments. In his spare time, Peter was a passionate gardener and continued to develop his own extensive gardens in Scotland.

The RHS has since

announced the appointment of Giles Coode-Adams as its new President. Giles Coode-Adams joined the RHS Council in 2002 and became Treasurer in 2006. He also serves on the Woody Plant Committee and is Chairman of the Gardens Advisory Committee and Picture Committee.

Andrew Sells has been appointed by the trustees to take over as Treasurer. Andrew has served on Council for the past five years, and been involved in the commercial activities of the Society for more than 10 years. He is a Chartered Accountant.

Giles Coode-Adams and Andrew Sells are appointed to serve as President and Treasurer until the AGM on 2 July 2009 when both offices will be filled by election by the RHS membership.

For further information, please contact:
Andrew Smith,
The Secretary, RHS
Tel: 020 7821 3034
E-mail: andrewsmith@rhs.org.uk

On the hunt for threatened fungus

Conservationists are appealing to the public for sightings of Britain's most colourful, but most threatened species of fungus, in order to identify and protect the last remaining sites where it flourishes. The waxcap is easy to recognise with its wide gills and shiny cap in shades of pink, yellow and scarlet. But though it was once a common sight, the increasing use of fertilisers means the unimproved grassland habitat it prefers is fast disappearing. The pink waxcap (*Hygrocybe calytriformis*) and the date-coloured waxcap (*H. spadicea*) are both already on the UK Biodiversity Action Plan's list of species needing protection. Plantlife has already begun monitoring sites where waxcaps are known to appear, and now the National Trust has set up an online survey which the public can contribute to.

Go to www.nationaltrust.org.uk for more information



Pink waxcap

Laurie Knight iStockphoto

Land and garden share scheme proves a great success

A ground-breaking garden share scheme run by a town in Devon has inspired similar projects across the country to match would-be gardeners with unused land that they can cultivate.

Lou Brown started the Totnes Gardenshare Scheme after her own experience of being a keen gardener, yet living in rented accommodation without access to a garden of her own. Now, she matches people who want to grow their own veg, with people who have land but can't use it – a role she describes as 'a bit like a gardeners' dating agency'.

'Everyone's got involved – working parents who have two kids and haven't time to garden as they'd like, or older people who used to garden but can't any more,' she explains. 'We have quite a few seasoned gardeners – and we have some beginners, too.'

Participants go through

a stringent vetting scheme including interviews, signed contracts and a fee for public liability insurance. 'By the time they get to that stage those people who are going to drop out have already done so,' says Lou.

The scheme began early in 2008, and by the end of the season had grown from three gardens to 21. All are taking part in 2009 as well, and the scheme is even beginning to expand beyond the boundaries of Totnes. Gardeners in other towns are starting similar schemes; and a visit to Totnes also inspired TV chef and food campaigner Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall to set up a national gardenshare scheme, called Landshare.

'Whether it's a back garden, or a farmer who can spare a quarter of an acre near the edge of a village, or a company who owns a bit of waste ground they're not using for the next couple of years, if they can let people use it to grow vegetables, then brilliant,' says Hugh.

With waiting lists for allotments lengthening across the country, gardenshare schemes could be key to unlocking fallow land for grow-your-own enthusiasts to use, Lou believes.

'The idea is to grow local food resilience through access to land,' she says. 'But it's also about long-term community relationships as well as gardening.'



Tim Sandell

To find out more about landshare, visit:

<http://www.landshare.net/>

To find out more about the Totnes garden share scheme, visit:

<http://totnes.transitionnetwork.org/gardenshare/home>

Charming worms



OPAL

Gardeners and nature lovers are being asked for their help in recording the country's population of earthworms. The aim is to find out more about a garden creature that is essential to the health of our soils, yet largely remains a mystery.

The survey is the first of a series of such projects run by Opal, a three-year initiative supported by more than a dozen organisations including the Natural History Museum, Imperial College London and the Environment Agency. It enlists ordinary people to carry out research into subjects, such as soil, air, biodiversity and climate change.

There are 26 species of earthworms in Britain, of which about 15 are common, but virtually nothing is known about where they live and the types of soils they prefer. There has been little research into their habits since Charles Darwin first identified their vital importance to soil function 130 years ago.

Those who take part in the earthworm survey will receive full instructions including a

free identification chart and a sachet of mustard – essential equipment for getting worms to come to the surface.

'It brings up worms that are deep burrowers, which you wouldn't see any other way,' says Natural History Museum entomologist Steve Brooks. 'It does irritate them but it doesn't do them any harm.'

Other ways to look at earthworms include digging a pit and sifting through the removed soil and also looking in compost heaps, among leaves and under fallen branches. You can enter results straight onto the survey website, where they will be added to an interactive map showing population distributions and soil types.

'We're expecting tens of thousands of responses from all over Britain,' says Steve. 'It will be the first time we've had an idea of the general distribution across the country – which worms are local to certain areas and soil types.'

The survey starts in March 2009, but you can register for a survey pack now by visiting the website at www.opalexplornature.org.

Carry on Growing and saving

← from page one

Late winter

General

- Take delivery of and plant nuts, fruit trees, and bushes if the soil isn't frozen.
- Apply a top-dressing of sulphate of potash to all fruit and nuts if not done last month.
- Clear ground under trees and bushes of weeds.

Tree fruit

- Remove any rotten stored fruit
- Protect almond, peach, apricot and nectarine blossom from frost, but make sure insects can

access blooms.

- Spray against peach leaf curl for a second time.
- Untie festooned fruit tree branches that have set into position.
- Prune citrus.
- Harvest citrus fruit once mature.
- Last chance to winter prune apples, pears, medlars and quinces.

Soft fruit

- Move some pot-grown strawberries under heated glass for an early, forced crop.
- Cover soil-grown strawberries with cloches.
- Last chance to prune established autumn

raspberries.

- Prune newly planted raspberries back to 30cm (12in) if not done already.
- Tip back summer raspberry canes to 15cm (6in) above their top support wire.
- Last chance to prune red/white currants and gooseberries.

The RHS Grow Your Own campaign is sponsored by NS&I.



Proud sponsors

Affiliated Societies logo

As a RHS Affiliated Society, you have access to the Affiliated Societies logo for use on all your stationery, letterheads, show programmes etc. From the many communications that we receive from Affiliated Societies, we have noticed that many of you are still using the now out-of-date shield logo on your letterheads and show programmes. If you would like us to send you an electronic version of the pictured logo, please email affsocs@rhs.org.uk. A paper version is available for those without email.



Go electronic in 2009

The RHS is very keen to communicate with its members using more environmentally friendly means. Whilst we realise not everybody has access to a computer, many do, and what greener and more efficient way of communicating than by email? It's really easy to set up an account and it means you can be added onto the Affiliated Societies E-communications mailing list. Furthermore, if you set up a generic email specific to your society, future secretaries can manage the same account meaning continuous Affiliated Societies E-communications. This year, we have started to send out four electronic communications a year and we hope to do a lot more using email in the future. We don't want any of our Affiliated Societies to miss out and it also helps you as it means secretaries can easily forward on mailings to fellow online members. There are loads of free email providers so why not set one up today and go electronic?

Banksian/Grenfell medal orders

Don't forget to place your orders for a Banksian or Grenfell medal before the 31 March. Like last year, you do not need to complete an application form; you just need to provide us with your society name, affiliation number and date of your show. You can do this by telephone, email or post. Please refer to the Contact Us section for details.



Encouraging wildlife to your garden

With a diverse combination of plants, gardens can provide a rich habitat for biodiversity. Even in the smallest of gardens, an area can be managed to welcome in more wildlife. Often involving only small changes in the way tasks are undertaken, the results can be a well-balanced environment in which flora and fauna will thrive. What's more, it is another great way of encouraging and educating children as they discover the merits of gardening for wildlife.

Starting small

When setting out to encourage wildlife into your garden remember that diversity is key. By providing a range of habitats many different inhabitants can be attracted. If animals are to be encouraged they will require food, water, nesting sites and roosting sites.

Insects may not be every gardener's idea of desirable wildlife, but they are fundamental to increasing the larger and more obvious forms of wildlife in the garden. Gardens with a healthy population of insects and other invertebrates will be self-sustaining and hold the widest range of wildlife.

Lurking in the undergrowth

There are many books devoted to encouraging birds and butterflies into the garden. Much less attention, however, is given to less-attractive small invertebrates, yet these form the base of the food chain.

Ants are food for green woodpeckers; caterpillars and spiders for blue tits and robins; slugs for slowworms, frogs, toads and newts; moths and other night-flying insects for bats; and more than 50 percent of a hedgehog's diet is made up of beetles, beetle larvae, caterpillars, earwigs and earthworms.



Flowers with multiple florets that produce abundant nectar are ideal for attracting butterflies.



Rotten wood provides shelter for insects.

Providing habitats

Ensure your garden is desirable to wildlife by creating suitable habitats. Ponds are extremely valuable to wildlife; even a large tub or half barrel in a small garden will improve biodiversity.

Much of the fauna that inhabits your garden is frequently overlooked or simply too small to see, but can be encouraged by making and using garden compost, stacking rather than burning dead wood, leaving zones with undisturbed leaf litter and, where possible, using only rainwater to top up ponds. Soil is home to many

animals, so try to keep off heavy, clay soils when they are wet in order to avoid compaction. Consider using raised beds and no-dig methods of gardening to maintain good soil structure.

The leafy layer

Plants create the foundation that sustains garden wildlife. It does not take a jungle to attract animals, so look to existing plants to assess their suitability.

Different coloured flowers attract different pollinators: bees are said to be attracted to the colours blue, lavender, purple and white; moths are

guided by scent and pale colours, while butterflies feed on the nectar of plants such as buddleia, *Sedum spectabile*, *Centranthus ruber* (red valerian) and sweet William. Beneficial insects such as hoverflies are attracted to plants in the daisy and cow parsley families.

Selecting suitable species

When choosing plants to include in the wildlife garden consider their potential to provide pollen, nectar, fruit or seed valuable for wildlife. It is not just native plants that are beneficial. Many exotic ornamental species produce a plentiful supply of nectar and pollen. *Lobelia cardinalis* (cardinal flower) is pollinated by hummingbirds in its native habitat, but in the UK its nectar will attract butterflies and moths.

Bedding plants

Though bedding displays are usually brief and spectacular, careful choice of plants can make a difference to wildlife. Annual bedding plants such as *Nemesia*, *Heliotropium* (cherry pie plant), and nasturtiums are rich in nectar and pollen, attracting hoverflies and butterflies. Wild flowers and garden plants can both attract moths at night. Consider wild flowers, such as lady's bedstraw, primrose and purple loosestrife.

Herbaceous border

Spring displays in the herbaceous border begin with flowers such as *Pulmonaria* and *Doronicum*, moving into the summer flowers, catmint, *Solidago virgaurea* (golden rod) and *Thalictrum* and finally the autumn displays of *Helenium*, *Eryngium* (left) and *Aster novae-angliae*.

All provide a bounty for many hoverflies and bees. Leaving on the dead seedheads of *Echinops*, *Dipsacus* (teasel), evening

primrose, sunflower and grasses such as *Molinia caerulea* and *Miscanthus sinensis* (right) will provide a supply of seed for birds from the autumn well into the winter months.

Many insects benefit from dry, safe places to rest, particularly in the winter months. Delay cutting down the stems of herbaceous perennials and ornamental grasses until spring. If this is too untidy then at least bundle up some of the cut stems, particularly hollow stems such as *Delphinium* and *Onopordum*, and leave them at the back of the border.

Camouflage cover

Shady, overgrown areas provide cover and nesting places for shy foraging creatures such as shrews, voles and hedgehogs. Frogs, newts and toads enjoy leafy cover, the shade of which keeps the temperature down and the humidity up. Common ivy flowers attract bees, hoverflies, holly blue butterflies and night-feeding moths. Ivy offers nectar and pollen up to December and berries thereafter.

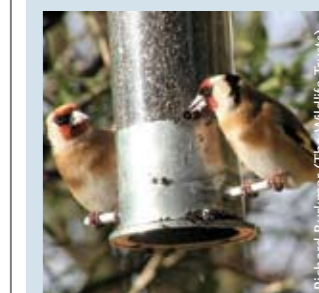
Mature shrub shelter

An established shrub garden requires little maintenance and as such provides wildlife with a relatively undisturbed sanctuary. The opportunity for nesting, shelter and roosting is enjoyed by a variety of songbirds such as wren, thrush and blackbird. Activities that would disturb nesting birds, such as hedge pruning, should be avoided from March to August.

Leaf litter and annual mulching creates a habitat for beetles, worms and slugs - all good foodstuff for foraging thrushes, blackbirds, shrews and hedgehogs. Choose flowering and fruiting shrubs such as *Berberis*, *Pyracantha* and *Mahonia* for the benefit of insects and birds.

Winter retreats

Many insects benefit from dry, safe places to rest, particularly in the winter months. Delay cutting down the stems of herbaceous perennials such as ornamental grasses until spring. If this is too untidy then bundle up some of the cut stems, particularly hollow stems of plants such as *Delphinium* and *Onopordum*, and leave them at the back of the border.



Wildlife jobs for February

- Put up nesting boxes for birds
- Keep bird feeders topped up and continue to put out food on the ground and bird table (avoid foods that could cause choking in young fledglings)
- Keep the bird bath topped up
- Regularly clean the bird bath and table.
- Put out hedgehog and badger food.
- Plant new berrying trees and shrubs - a mix of natives and non-natives works well
- Put out log and/or rock piles to create areas of shelter for wildlife
- Plan and dig a wildlife pond
- Build a compost bin
- Prepare the ground for a wild flower meadow
- But and hang a bee nesting box

For a month-by-month guide on attracting wildlife to your garden, visit www.rhs.org.uk/advice/problems_wildlife.asp

Clitheroe Garden Club



Clitheroe Garden Club Annual Show

Clitheroe Garden Club, in Lancashire, was formed in 1976 by a group of enthusiastic amateurs and boasts a membership of 134 individuals, as well as three societies. They formed with the aim to:

- promote an interest in all types of gardening
- to arrange presentations and discussions for members, especially with regard to local problems
- to provide a non-profit making sales hut where members and affiliates can purchase their gardening requisites
- to arrange activities which encourage social aspects of club life
- to involve members of the public in their activities
- to be involved with the local community.

Open to anyone, the club, with their policy of openness, is happy to share their policies and information as well as throwing open their meeting doors to the public every month. Indeed they advertise their meetings in the local press and village magazines, and invite guest speakers to come along to entertain those in

attendance at their meeting venue – the club house of a local cricket club. A members' raffle is also held at the meetings in order to finance some of their overheads. Like many other societies, CGC do struggle to increase attendance at their monthly meetings; however, they continue to be enjoyed by a faithful membership minority.

Member/affiliate benefits

CGC offers its members fantastic benefits and they have even extended membership to other local gardening clubs through an affiliation scheme. Their attempts to forge links with other local gardening groups, and to support their activities, has meant increased community participation and encourages increased support of their own activities. Outings to major shows, houses and gardens are popular activities in the summer months, as are the evening trips to places of horticultural interest, dinners and other social events. The club sales huts are also greatly received and, situated on a prominent site on the

town allotments, are open every Sunday morning and by arrangement at other times. The sales huts have also become a convenient and informal meeting place, encouraging communication amongst society members and allowing them to iron out many of their gardening problems!

Annual show and children

The Clitheroe Garden Club Annual Show, held at the local primary school, is the highlight of the year and showcases the hard work and contribution the society makes to the community, whilst helping keep an old tradition alive. The club does a lot to reach out to young people through local schools, brownies, guides, cubs and scouts, and encourages them to get involved in gardening activities. Special children's classes are included in the show as well as the 'Children's Challenge', where any child can grow something from seeds or seedlings provided for free by the club, and enter the results in the show. There are also craft and photography classes for children and every single

child entrant receives a small gift, aside from the winners' prizes and trophies of course, which are always proudly received!

Fundraising/charity

In order to raise funds to stage the annual show, CGC holds a coffee evening and garden viewing in July, which is well supported by the community. Their fundraising work does not stop there and proceeds from their charity coffee morning, hosted by the mayor, goes to local charities. Furthermore, proceeds from exhibits, donated for auction by exhibitors at their annual show, are donated to the children of the school for their Christmas activities.

Clitheroe Garden Club is a very active gardening club and is well integrated within the community. Their efforts to involve children and to try and attract younger audiences are key to their longevity, as is good communication, which is vital to maintaining club membership and expanding their role in the community. Through local press, bi-monthly newsletters, a club website, club brochure and a club e-mail address, they manage to maintain their visibility and their open, honest and welcoming approach. Of course nothing is possible without the dedication of their committee members and volunteers, which has enabled them to run successfully for the past 33 years. With several key officers resigning this year, including the Chairman and Secretary who have served for almost 10 years, it is sincerely hoped that their stepping down does not hinder the society's future success and that they may fulfil their aims for many more years to come.

Thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Gregson of the CGC for their contribution to this article.

Happy Birthday!

Special birthday wishes and congratulations go out to the following Affiliated Societies on reaching the significant milestones of 50, 100 and 150 years!



50 years:

Lodsworth & District Garden Club
Mitchel Troy VPA
Chelselbourne Gardens Club
Bodle Street Gardening Club
Chieveley & District Gardening Club
Totteridge Garden Club
Trefechan & Cefn Gardeners Association
Surrey area of NAFAS
Spetchley & District Gardeners Society
Roedale Allotment & Garden Society
Beverley & District Allotment and Gardens Association
Bideford District Cacti Pot Plant Club
Chiltern Edge Horticultural Society

100 years:

Bembridge Horticultural Society
Mickleham & Westhumble Horticultural Society
Newbury & District Agricultural Society
Torphins Horticultural & Industrial Society
Wallington, Carshalton & Beddington Horticultural Society
Hampstead Garden Suburb Horticultural Society

150 years:

Ballater Royal Horticultural Society

Operation Bumblebee update: Bombus back on Worcestershire farm

Worcestershire vegetable growers Paul and Mike Southall, have miraculously brought back one of the UK's most endangered species of bumblebee to Norchard Farm near Stourport on Severn. Special conservation areas of Syngenta Operation Bumblebee habitat planted around their fields are currently ablaze with colour, full of pollen and nectar and alive with the buzz of bumblebees and other insect species.

One of these bumblebees, *Bombus ruderatus*, is one of the most precariously balanced species in the UK. The loss of habitat and breeding sites over the past 50 years has seen numbers fall dramatically, with just two sites in Worcestershire currently recording its existence. Now experts have identified this rare

species on the Southall's farm, along with thousands of other bumblebees, butterflies and insects.

"The results we have seen on our farm has been incredibly exciting," enthuses Mike Southall. "The Operation Bumblebee wildflower habitats are full of colour and teeming with insect life. The speed at which bumblebees and other insects have colonised even small areas of dedicated habitat is quite remarkable."

Paul and Mike have been encouraged and helped to establish the special mix of wild red clover and other native flowering plants to provide essential sources of pollen and nectar, and with it encourage the return of bumblebees onto UK farmland. Even small areas of the new habitat can make a huge difference by providing a season-long source of pollen and nectar

that are the building blocks of biodiversity.

Extensive research and on-farm trials has shown establishing an area of just 100m x 10m of the new habitat (1/10th hectare) can increase bumblebee numbers by up to 600% in two years, along with equally significant increases in butterflies and other insects.

Gardeners everywhere can make a real difference by creating their own piece of Operation Bumblebee and grow species of trees, shrubs and flowers that attract these essential pollinators to their own gardens.

For more information on Operation Bumblebee, please contact:
Geoff Coates
Syngenta Crop Protection
Tel: 01949 844060
Email: geoff.coates@syngenta.com



Bombus ruderatus



A glance at 2009

Whether it's one of our world-famous flower shows, an event at an RHS Garden, talk by a gardening celebrity or short course that appeals,

there is something for everyone in 2009. Check out the special group rates in your Groups Guide 2009, make a date in your diary

and get booking! Tickets and spaces always tend to go quickly – proof of the continuing popularity of RHS Shows, Gardens and

other RHS Recommended Events.

For a full events listing visit www.rhs.org.uk/rhseventfinder.

RHS Show dates

For information on prices, times and bookings, please refer to the main RHS website www.rhs.org.uk/whatson/events.

- **RHS London Plant & Design Show***
17 – 18 February
- **RHS Spring Flower Show, Cardiff**
17 – 19 April
- **BBC GWL, Birmingham**
10 – 14 June
- **RHS Wisley Flower Show**
11 – 13 September
- **RHS Orchid Show, London***
21 – 22 March
- **Malvern Spring Gardening Show**
7 – 10 May
- **RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show***
7 – 12 July
- **Malvern Autumn Show**
26 – 27 Sept
- **RHS London Greener Gardening Show***
31 March – 1 April
- **RHS Chelsea Flower Show**
19 – 23 May
- **RHS Flower Show at Tatton Park**
22 – 26 July
- **RHS London Autumn Harvest Show***
13 – 14 October

*Affiliated Society rates apply for groups of 10 or more.



The 2009 Growing for Success series of talks is set to be a great inspiration to all gardeners! We have a fantastic range of speakers concentrating on two of today's most exciting horticultural themes; Healthy Living and Garden Design. Some of the many highlights of this year's talks include Toby Buckland talking in Guernsey on "The Craft of Working & Designing with Plants", Chris Beardshaw talking in Cheltenham on "How does your garden Grow?" and Bunny Guinness's talk at Picton Castle on "Transforming your Garden".

As a key part of the RHS's charitable programme, the

Growing for Success series relies on the support and enthusiasm of RHS Affiliated Societies across the UK.

Many thanks to all those who supported the Growing for Success programme in 2008 and we hope that you will continue to show your support in 2009.

To find out more go to www.rhs.org.uk/whatson/events/regional.htm where you can download regional 'What's On' leaflets as well as a full listing of the 2009 Growing for Success talks. Alternatively you can call 0845 062 1111.

RHS Gardens

The four RHS Gardens host a variety of great gardening events throughout the year for all ages and abilities.

Event brochures and information can be obtained

either directly from the gardens, from the new RHS Garden websites or through Event Finder on the RHS website. Please refer to your Information Pack for garden contact details or visit www.rhs.org.uk/whatson/gardens

RHS Recommended Events

Short courses, workshops and other great gardening events are held at a variety of venues throughout the year. Delivered by horticulture professionals and designed to inspire the amateur gardener whilst improving their gardening knowledge and skills, they are fantastic value for money and will leave you wanting more. What's more, if you are an individual RHS member you will pay 20% less than non-members. To discover what RHS Recommended

Events are being held near you go to www.rhs.org.uk/rhseventfinder.



Affiliated Society Events

Do remember that your society can publicise its own shows and events on RHS Event Finder by filling in the Event Finder Application form in your Information Pack.

Contact us

The next newsletter will be published in Spring 2009. We always love to hear more about your society's activities, the ways you involve your local community in gardening and any ideas you'd like to share. If you'd like to tell us more about your gardening club, please contact:

Affiliated Societies, Royal Horticultural Society, 80 Vincent Square, London SW1P 2PE, tel: 020 7821 3069 or email: affsocs@rhs.org.uk

For an alternative format of this newsletter please contact us via the above details.