



The Wrea Green Horticultural Society Show Countdown

Showstopper jobs for

APRIL



| | | Vegetables and F | ruit |
|-------|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| 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 | 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 | position in the greenhouse, or outdoors at the beginning of June. | 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.) | 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 carroty 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. | 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. | 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. | Uniform bulbs, firm, well-ripened and of good colour No thickness or softness in necks No excessive removal of outer skins Tops neatly ties with natural material and roots neatly trimmed. See www.youtube.com/watch?v=AtAVHegHb4k for demonstration video |
| 7 | Two leeks | 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. If serious, showstopping leeks are wanted, the following advice comes from the National Allotment Society: 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 | Good length, 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, th soil washed and teased away |

| 8 | Four runner beans | watering can with the rose off and fill each hole 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. Sow runner beans under glass. Sow one seed per pot to make planting out into the trench prepared last month, easier. | 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. | 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 ½" 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.) | 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 ¾" 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. | 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 | Harvest Basket/Box | Variety! Start planning for a great selection now. | Maximum diameter or sides of container 15" Mixture of home-grown produce Attractive arrangement Healthy, fresh, clean produce Wonky, but unblemished, produce accepted |
| 13 | Ugly vegetable | From any of the above categories or others not listed | Home grown |

| | | Flowers | |
|-------|-------------------------------|---|--|
| Class | Entry | Jobs and advice | Judging Criteria for the show |
| 14 | 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. | 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 |
| 15 | Jug of home- grown flowers | Any mixture of annuals and perennials grown at home or allotment | Home grown Perennials or annuals or a mixture of both Flowers turgid and fresh Good balance of jug dimensions and flowers |
| 16 | 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. | Generic criteria for all dahlia types submitted in this unclassified class. 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 |
| 17 | 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. | 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 |
| 18 | Vase of mixed roses | Roses should have been pruned last month. (See March). Sprinkle rose feed and mulch around the base. | Generic criteria for all rose types submitted in this unclassified class. 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 | |
| 19 | Cake stand arrangement | | Foliage/flowers may be home-grown and/or bought Floral arrangement on a tiered cake stand – 2+ layers Arrangement reflects the shape and layering of the cake stand Flowers and foliage fresh and unblemished Good combination of contrasting or harmonising colours | |
| 20 | Arrangement in a tea pot | | Foliage/flowers may be home-grown and/or bought Flowers suitable for a teapot Colour harmony between the flowers, and the flowers and the teapot Design – good balance, proportion, space, form and texture | |
| 21 | Arrangement in/on a re-cycled item | | Flowers may be home-grown and/or bought Re-cycled item can be anything suitable in/on/by which to arrange flowers: domestic; mechanical; industrial; natural. Flowers and foliage fresh and unblemished Good combination of contrasting or harmonising colours | |
| 22 | Tints and tones of autumn | | Flowers may be home-grown and/or bought, fresh or dried Flowers and foliage fresh and unblemished Flowers and foliage in good condition if dried Good combination of contrasting or harmonising colours Autumn is reflected in the materials and the colours used | |







| | | Culinary | |
|-------|-----------------------------|------------------|--|
| Class | Entry | Jobs and advice | Judging Criteria for the show |
| 23 | Lemon Drizzle Cake | | Well risen, even in shape and baking Sponge light and moist Flavour both tangy and sweet Lining paper removed Sides smooth Crunchy layer of lemony sugar on the top Can be round or rectangular |
| 24 | Fruit Loaf | | Loaf-shaped Well risen, even in shape and baking Domed shaped top which may be cracked No burnt fruit on the surface Fruit distributed evenly throughout the loaf Fairly moist Denser than sponge cake but not solid Sweet and fruity taste |
| 25 | Cornish Pasty | 12.5%. MEAT WEG | As stipulated by The Cornish Pasty Association Minimum of 12.5% meat and 25% vegetable Roughly diced or minced beef Sliced or diced potato Swede (turnip) Onion Seasoning to taste (mainly salt & pepper) The pastry can be shortcrust, rough puff or puff, but it has to be savoury and able to withstand baking and handling without breaking It can be glazed with egg, or milk, or both, to give the finished pasty its golden colour. It must be crimped |
| 26 | Millionaire's Shortbread | | Three distinct layers Soft, firm caramel – not toffee Thin layer of unbroken chocolate 6 pieces |
| 27 | Parkin | | Texture close and crumbly Evenly risen, top flat and glossy Very dark brown Ginger flavour is distinctive |

| | Jams and Chutneys | | | |
|-------|--------------------|-----------------|--|--|
| Class | Entry | Jobs and advice | Judging Criteria for the show | |
| | | | Label should state 'hot' or 'mild' | |
| | | | Colour bright and even throughout | |
| | | | Dark chutney should be bright not muddy | |
| 28 | One jar chutney | | Reasonably firm, uniform consistency | |
| 20 | One jai challey | | No large pieces of onion, skin, cores or stones | |
| | | | No air bubbles or free vinegar | |
| | | | Mature flavour | |
| | | | Good blended flavour, characteristic of ingredients used | |
| | | | Based upon citrus fruit – flavour additions allowed and must | |
| | | | appear on label | |
| | One jar marmalade | | Colour bright and characteristic of citrus used | |
| 29 | | | 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 | |
| | | | Colour bright, even and characteristic of blackcurrants | |
| | Soft fruit Jam | | No scum, foreign bodies, mould or sugar crystals | |
| 30 | | | Fruit evenly distributed, | |
| | | | Skins tender | |
| | | | Jellified texture, not runny with loose liquid | |
| | | | Flavour full, fresh and characteristic of the fruit used | |
| | | | Date made should reflect 4 week 'Eat by' period (contains) | |
| | | | eggs) | |
| 31 | One jar fruit curd | | Colour bright, characteristic of fruit | |
| | ' | | Consistency spreadable, not runny or rough | |
| | | | No egg spots, peel, scum, sugar crystals or air bubbles | |
| | | | Fresh flavour, well-balanced and not greasy | |

Art and Craft

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.

Art work up to A3 including mount.

Judging will consider:

| • Com | plexity • Workma | anship • Use of colour • Aesthetic app | eal |
|-------|-------------------------------|--|---|
| Class | Entry | Jobs and advice | Judging Criteria for the show |
| 32 | Animal Portrait in any medium | | Eye-appeal – is there a focal point? Good perspective Good balance and composition Good tonal value Good use of materials including presentation Sign on the back or cover signature |
| 33 | Bookmark | | If used, no visual signs of glue or fixing tape used Clean, crisp finish with no curled or creased corners Clean and neat Good use of colour and design Well-finished; hand-made rather than home-made Robust enough to last through several books Can be for either children or adults Can be double-sided |
| 34 | Up-cycled Item | | Any used/old item that has been re-purposed Re-designed old clothing should be wearable if intended to wear Shabby-chic items should be functional or attractive Re-constructed broken items into something different (e.g. cutlery or clock workings jewellery;) The finished items should be well-made and reflect a standard of finish appropriate for the item (i.e. scuffed woodwork on a shabby-chic item is acceptable but drawers that stick are not) |
| 35 | Bird Feeder | | Can be made from any weather-proof material/s Easy access for feeding Free-standing, hanging or fixed Can be made from new or recycled or reclaimed materials |

Needlecraft

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.

Art work up to A3 including mount.

Judging will consider:

| Con | | nanship • Use of colour • Aest | thetic appeal | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|--|
| Class | Entry | Jobs and advice | | Judging Criteria for the show |
| 36 | Sock puppet | | | A hand puppet made from a sock Sock must be clean Puppet stuffed to show shape and form Eyes, ears and other additions must be securely attached Consider displaying on a support – e.g. a kitchen roll holder. |
| 37 | Needle-Felting | | • | A 3D object (animal, vegetable, plant or other, created by the 'stabbing' technique of needle-felting wool) Finished item should be well-shaped and represent the item upon which it is based, well Stray fibres should be kept to a minimum with the overall outcome being firm and tightly felted Good use of colour with soft colour merging where appropriate Added pieces should be firmly secured at the joins Additional details may be added but these should not make up the bulk of the finished item. |
| 38 | Item or picture in cross stitch | | • | 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 | Christmas Decoration | | | Christmas decoration made using mainly needle-craft Free standing, fixed or hanging Good combination of colours to reflect Christmas or Nativity |
| 40 | Knitted item | | • | Design, colour and yarn is appropriate for the knitted item's function Tension is consistent and provide a suitable fabric and texture The item should be finished well with invisibly joined seams and matched patterns Button holes should be neat and spaced well (not necessarily equidistant) |

| | Amateur Photography | | | |
|-------|---------------------|---|--|--|
| Class | Entry | Jobs and Advice | Judging Criteria for the show | |
| 41 | Pets | Cute or uglyConventional or exoticYours, or one that caught your eye | All photographs must be mounted no bigger than A4 | |
| 42 | Doors | Domestic, industrial, commercial, religious, historic, mechanical, natural – whatever gets you through to the other side! | All photographs must be mounted, no bigger than A4, including the mount. Unframed All photographs must have the name, address and telephone | |
| 43 | Red | Up for your own, unique interpretation – just like last year! | number of the entrant on the back and the class number in which it is to be entered. • Does the photograph show originality? | |
| 44 | Nature | In any of its forms: Life Death and decay Weather Landscape Geography | 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? | |
| 45 | People | Whoever; wherever, whenever doing whatsoever. Individuals or groups. | - 15 the photograph clean and suitably mounted: | |



PRE-SCHOOL AGE

CHILDREN NOT YET AT SCHOOL OR ATTENDING A PRE-SCHOOL

| | Children's Classes | | | |
|----|---|---|--|--|
| | Pre-School Age | Judging Criteria | | |
| 46 | Jug of flowers | Fresh flowers and leaves with no fading or drooping Height of flowers is balanced with the size, height and shape of the jug Name, age and PS* tied or stuck on the jug | | |
| 47 | Beach in a Box | In a seed tray or similar sized box Seaside or coastal theme Props should enhance and contribute to the design Name age and PS* provided with box | | |
| 48 | Junk Model | Create a model of anything you like out of plastic and other recycleable materials e.g. Rockets; cars, monsters, buildings, aliens, mobiles . Name, age and PS* provided with model | | |
| 49 | Painting of a vegetable or vegetables | No bigger than A3 Use of paint not crayons Name, age and PS* on back of painting – top right-hand corner | | |
| 50 | Vegetable made from playdough, clay, plasticine or any malleable material | 3D Vegetable modelled from any malleable material such as clay, plasticine, playdough etc. Name, age and PS* provided with model | | |

^{*}PS to indicate pre-school age

FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN IN RECEPTION, YEAR 1 OR YEAR 2

Changes to Chidren's Classes Schedule

Please enter your child in the school year group (Not class name) they are in at the time they created their entry.

Year 2 pupils in a mixed Key Stage class, please enter from these classes.

| | Reception and Key Stage 1 | Judging Criteria |
|----|-----------------------------------|---|
| 51 | Jug of flowers | Fresh flowers and leaves with no fading or drooping Height of flowers is balanced with the size, height and shape of the jug Name and age and Year Group tied or stuck on the jug |
| 52 | Book Cover for a Traditional Tale | Two-sided folded A4 card showing traditional tale title (and author if known) on the front and 'blurb' on the back Short 'blurb' giving brief summary of the story – e.g. An exciting story about a little girl and a Big Bad Wolf! Will be displayed standing, so card should be used A spine included and the title written on this sideways Name, age and Year Group on inside cover |
| 53 | Portrait of a famous person | No bigger than A4 Any medium; paint; crayon; pencil Name of the subject on the front Name, age and Year Group on the back, top right hand corner |
| 54 | Landscape painting | No bigger than A3 Use of paint Name and age and Year group on back – top right-hand corner |

| FF | Traditional Tale character/animal model. | • | A 3D model of a traditional tale character in any medium; clay, plasticine, playdough, card etc | |
|----|--|---|---|--|
| 55 | | | Include a label of the character's name | |
| | | • | Name, age and Year Group included with the model | |

FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN IN YEAR 3, YEAR 4, YEAR 5 OR YEAR 6

Year 3 pupils in the mixed Key Stage class, please enter from these classes

| | Key Stage 2 | Judging Criteria |
|----|-----------------------------|---|
| 56 | Six Cup Cakes | Cupcakes are uniform in size Attractive in appearance Texture is light and moist Flavour is pleasing Icing is smooth and enhances the cake. Name, age and Year Group included with the entry. |
| 57 | Story – 500 words | A fictional, original story of no more than 500 words. Written or printed on one side of the pages as the stories will be displayed in a book Characters may be real people, current day or historical, but the story must be fiction Name, age and Year Group under the title |
| 58 | Aztec Mask | A mask made from any medium; card, Modroc, clay, papier mache, etc Based upon historical illustrations from the Aztec civilization Include a hole from which the mask may be hung Name, age and Year Group included with the entry. |
| 59 | Coastal Landscape painting | No bigger than A3 Use of paint Name and age on back – top right-hand corner |
| 60 | Photograph of a farm animal | Photograph must be taken by the entrant No bigger than A4 including mount Colour or black and white Any farm animal |

| Name, age and Year Group on the back of the photograph |
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