



Flitwick Gardeners' Association

Issue 107

Summer 2018

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 18th August	Annual Show
Saturday 6th October	Autumn Show
Thursday 15 th November	FGA Quiz

Flitwick Gardeners' Association

We are an association run by members, for members. Our aim is to promote gardening in Flitwick and the surrounding villages.

We have a members' shop, The Seed Box, where we try to stock useful items including seeds, tools and chemicals at very competitive prices. We also have a library and a small range of loan equipment.

We run shows, organise an annual quiz and run the occasional trip to visit a garden. We're always pleased to welcome new members and always looking for help in running the Association and activities. We'd love to hear from you – just a few hours here and there would make all the difference.

How to find us

The Seed Box is situated behind the site of the old Flitwick Leisure Centre on Steppingley Road, MK45 1TH.

For security reasons there's currently a temporary fence around the old leisure centre in Flitwick. The entrance gate has been fitted with a padlock that works with an allotment key. Please be sure to close and lock the gate behind you every time you use it.

When The Seed Box is open for trading a committee member will remove the padlock and then secure the site on leaving. We ask everyone to be vigilant to ensure no unauthorised persons enter the site.

The fence is a temporary measure until Central Bedfordshire Council decide on a more permanent means of fully securing the site until it is sold.

In the meantime we will endeavour to keep you updated on the situation as soon as we hear of any proposals.

Seed Box Opening Hours

Friday	7.30 pm to 9.00 pm Feb to Nov
Saturday	2.00 pm to 4.00 pm Feb to Nov (closed on Show Days)

Telephone

Outside of these hours you can always leave a message for us on the answering machine on **01525 717289**.

Email addresses

General enquiries etc.	enquiries@flitwickgardeners.co.uk
Magazine	newsletter@flitwickgardeners.co.uk
Show info and entries	fgashow@flitwickgardeners.co.uk

Website / Facebook address

Facebook Group	https://www.facebook.com/groups/flitwickgardeners
Website	www.flitwickgardeners.co.uk

Executive Committee

Syd Pye	Chairman
Colin Stennett	Secretary and Show Secretary
J-P R Carter	Deputy Chairman and Show Committee
Laurie Arnold	Seeds and Deputy Trading Secretary
Kath Stennett	Membership Secretary and Show Committee
Ian Holman	Deputy Secretary and Show Committee
Alan Kirkdale & Carolyn Kirkdale	Magazine Editors
Ann Lutley	Publicity Officer
Sue Titchener	Seed Box Rota Coordinator

Show Committee (not mentioned above)

Sonia Corfe

Honorary Life Members

Linda Pitts, Syd Pye, Cliff White, Maryan Pateman

David Empson 1938 - 2018

David was a big man; when he entered a room you took notice, when he spoke you listened and Flitwick Gardeners Association owe him so much. A founder member of the FGA his favourite story was of how on the first day of trading, from what were a set of stables (long gone) on the High Street, that if the Association had not got it they would get it. A customer asked for a greenhouse. The following week that customer had his greenhouse!! That was 1974 and right through to February this year David was an active member of the FGA holding several positions, including several years as Chairman. He was also the representative for Beds, Bucks & Herts to the Eastern Region of the National Executive of Allotment Societies; speaking up for allotments when many, including Flitwick were threatened with unwanted relocation or worse. He knew allotment law.

When David stepped down from the Executive he was awarded Life Membership of the Association, but he didn't rest on his laurels; he remained a member of the Show Committee. In that capacity apart from assisting at the Shows with setting up, breaking down afterwards, selling raffle tickets etc. he was always ready to give advice on how to display exhibits to their best, for which many entrants over the years can be grateful. He turned many entries into prize winners and this is where I personally am very grateful to David. He also ran the FGA Quiz, finding all the questions, where his aim was for people to enjoy themselves and fairly easily get the majority of right answers.

David was an RHS Judge who encouraged me to learn from him what to look for as a Show Judge. We went to several Shows where initially I watched, but gradually was asked more and more to make the decisions until finally I was added to the RHS list of judges with David's recommendation. As I said at the beginning, David Empson was a big man and he will be missed.

J-P Carter
FGA Deputy Chairman

FGA TO CLOSE ?

As a result of the AGM we currently have no one in the FGA Officer posts of Treasurer and Trading Secretary and without someone in each of these positions we cannot continue to operate as an Association. Unless both of these roles are filled within the next two months the Executive Committee will need to consider how to close down the Association.

Below is an outline of each of the roles:

Treasurer

- All FGA banking matters including payments of invoices and paying income from the Seed box into the bank.
- Provide monthly tracking report to the Executive Committee
- Arrangement and payment of FGA insurance.
- Balancing of income / expenses from the Seed box / shows
- Production of Annual Accounts and getting them 'examined'
- Till guardian including obtaining till consumables
- PDQ machine operation including obtaining consumables.
- Managing the FGA bank account as required

Trading Secretary

- Co-ordinate with Seed box area controllers to ensure correct stock items held and stock levels maintained
- Put together requirements for the bulk order, place order and arrange delivery
- Put together seasonal orders, order and arrange delivery (Spring/Autumn bulbs, Onions and Potatoes)
- Co-ordinate 'Monday Mob'
- Monitor legislation changes for potential impact on stock holding
- Co-ordinate Annual stock count
- Provide stock report to the Treasurer for inclusion in the Annual accounts
- Analysis of Seed box sales by area?
- Ensure that the Seed Box is maintained/cleaned/etc. as required.

If you think you could do either of the roles or would like to know more information please contact one of the members of the Executive at the Seed Box or email enquiries@flitwickgardeners.co.uk

We need some urgent positive responses.

Colin Stennett
FGA Secretary

Spring Show 2018

Normally snowdrops just before a Spring show are a good thing but not when they cover already growing and flowering plants twice in the weeks leading up to the show !!. Thankfully the poor weather improved and the day itself was fine and I wondered if people would have anything to bring to the show.

As usual our members didn't disappoint with some really good exhibits in a lot of the classes, although most people's white daffodils and tulips were saving themselves for garden displays rather than the show benches. Some really good hyacinths added a heady fragrance to the hall and again the two cookery classes were well supported. A lot of people took the opportunity to look round the hall after judging was completed and enjoyed some really excellent homemade cakes. It was also good to see a number of entries in the children's pot of daffodils and the decorated eggs. Thanks to everyone that exhibited and helped at the show, either during the day or providing cakes for refreshments or raffle prizes.

Colin Stennett
Show Secretary

Mid Beds Flower Club joins forces with FGA

We are pleased to announce that at the FGA Autumn Show we will, after a break of several years, have flower arrangement classes. There will be 3 classes and details of these will be included in the Annual Show Schedule and in the FGA Autumn magazine. The classes will be open to everyone; you do not need to be a member of the FGA or the Mid Beds Flower Club.

If you are interested in participating and would like to see what is involved the Mid Beds Flower Club meeting on the 12th May will be a practical session for ideas to be tried out for the show classes and visitors are welcome. There is a charge of £6 for the meeting and further details can be obtained from either Pauline on 01525 752146 or Carol on 01525 715357.

Mid Beds Flower club is looking forward to joining with the FGA for a successful Autumn Show.

Pauline Manning
Chairman Mid Beds Flower Club

Autumn Show Flower Arrangement Classes

There will be 3 new flower arrangement classes in the Autumn Show with the following description, with more details in the next two magazines including size restrictions.

1. Autumn Glory. A basket to include fruit and flowers
2. Holiday Memories. A Petite exhibit.
3. Curtain Up. An interpretive exhibit representing a musical.

The FGA and new Data Protection Regulations

New data protection regulations come into force on 25th May 2018 and as a result the FGA must obtain your permission to store your personal information and to use it to keep in touch with you.

If you have not already completed one of our "Data use consent" forms we would be very grateful if you would call at the "Seed box" to do so. Alternatively you can download a form to complete and then scan and email it to enquiries@flitwickgardeners.co.uk. To do this, visit our web site at www.flitwickgardeners.co.uk. From the menu select "The FGA" and then "Your Privacy", click the link "Data use consent form" to download the form. The FGA collects your personal contact information only to enable us to administer your membership and to send you FGA related information - primarily your magazine. We never share your information with third parties. There are copies of our full Data Protection Policy at the "Seed box" on request or on our Web site on the same page as the form (see above) by clicking the link "FGA General Data Protection Policy".

Kath Stennett,
Membership Secretary

Renewing Your Membership For 2018

If you have already renewed your membership for the year to December 31st 2018 you will have a light green membership card. If not then please hurry along to the Seed Box to renew as soon as possible. Any renewals after May 25th 2018 will incur a £2 re-joining fee.

Kath Stennett,
Membership secretary

2018 Annual Show Photography classes

The classes for the 2018 Annual Show on Saturday 18th August are:

103 Friends	104 Open Country
105 Grand Designs	106 Sports Report

The children's photography class subject is 'Transport'

TRADING REPORT April 2018

Well another AGM has come and gone and there is still no replacement Trading Secretary so here I go again producing another update for the magazine.

The year has started reasonably well considering that the weather has encouraged anything but being outside gardening. When the ground was not frozen it was covered in funny white stuff or too wet to get on, except for that all important digging. Of course when the weather did change it soon became too hot and dry, but that is the lot of the gardener.

Once again I apologise to those who purchased Winston potatoes from us, I cannot remember ever having such a problem before and will be staying with the supplier next year. In fact the order for both potatoes and onions was fairly accurate and there was relatively little wastage. I will again be fine tuning the order this year and it will be more important than ever to pre-order yours so that I can meet your needs. This year there were several varieties, especially Maris Piper, which were almost completely ordered with minimal amounts for general sale. I was also able to provide a free trial potato 'Carolus' for all who pre-ordered, if you have some and have any comment please let me know.

Many of you may have noticed that we have been struggling with 'little visitors' since the start of construction of the new Leisure Centre, I've noticed it in the amount of seed being consumed by them and the amount of nesting deep in the bowels of the compost. Hopefully we finally have a complete deterrent in place; I've certainly not seen any new signs of activity recently. As a result of our visitors, we are not pushing own pack seed at present as we are not sure how much of it has been eaten. I am about to start leaving seed around to see if it gets eaten and if not will hopefully soon be back selling own pack seed. In the meantime please do ask, as what we have is in good metal cabinets so should be safe.

Late last year we set up a discount table to get rid of old stock. I do hope you managed to take advantage of that table, and the long term discount rack. I think we have tidied a lot of things up and my thanks to Jan for managing that for us. However we have now run out of obvious candidates from foods and killers for discounting so the table should disappear, but watch for it to re-appear as we start rationalising other areas.

On my plot this winter I tried a couple of green manures! I will say I am most impressed with Phacelia but not so impressed with winter grazing Rye, I think this large seed attracted the pigeons who consumed most of it before it even germinated. I'll let you know if I notice better results where the phacelia was. I do hope to be able to stock this as an over wintering green manure, especially good for

those of us on very light soil as it stops the leaching effect over winter. If you are interested in buying some please let me know as the bigger the amount I order the cheaper it becomes.

I have also got a bit carried away growing things from seeds and plugs. Do watch the FGA Facebook page as I will be saying when I'm bringing things to the Seed Box for sale, I'll take a small amount to cover my costs and the rest will go in the Keech box. If you have excess of anything please bring it along and help the FGA support this great cause.

Did you know that every year there is a 'potato race' in Greenfield/Flitton? As part of it the FGA sponsor a junior competition to grow the greatest weight of potatoes in a bucket provided by the organisers from tubers provided by us! This year we will be there weighing the potatoes and awarding gold, silver and bronze medals to the top three, hopefully there will be fewer entries to weigh than the 200+ buckets and potatoes provided to children. The potato race day is 17th June so do watch for the posters, there is normally one at the one 0 one roundabout on the fencing, then come along and join the fun.

Whilst talking of fun, there are a lot of gardens opening for charity around us. If you're interested in visiting any, we have promotional leaflets with details at the Seed Box.

Perhaps a bit off trading but worth including here is the fact that FGA is affiliated to both the Royal Horticultural Society and the National Vegetable Society. Both the monthly RHS and quarterly NVS journals are available for you to view in the Seed Box Committee room, but please do not remove them as they are there for all. The RHS magazine always has articles on many diverse aspects of gardening including reports on the results of the trials carried out by the Society. Obviously the NVS journal has a narrower focus with some excellent suggestions for soil improvement, growing show veg, pests and fungal diseases to note just some of the articles in the latest version. Well it's time to get the hanging baskets made, fill the allotment with everything that's overcrowding the greenhouse and plant on everything else. It's all go when I'm this far behind.

Finally a question, why do weeds never seem to stop growing?

Great Gardening
Jim Godden
FGA temporary Trading Secretary

MYHarvest



Calling all gardeners – we request your help!

The MYHarvest project, which started last year, is continuing for the next few years. Anyone who sent in details of their harvest last year is thanked and warmly encouraged to continue submitting results. Newcomers are very welcome to get involved.

MYHarvest (Measure Your Harvest) is a project in which gardeners can be involved, to help estimate the contribution of home-grown fruit and vegetables to UK national food production. Finding out how much food is grown at home is key to providing evidence to support the use of land for growing in urban areas, and promoting benefits to food security, healthy diets and wellbeing. Jill Edmonson and Roscoe Blevins (from Houghton Conquest), researchers at the University of Sheffield, working with the RHS and the National Allotment Society, are asking gardeners and allotment holders to provide information on the space given to edibles, and their yields. This will help them understand how much allotment and garden space is needed to ensure access to suitable land and food growing for UK cities and towns' increasing populations.

Vegetables and fruit being recorded include potatoes, tomatoes, beans, onions, courgettes, brassicas, apples, currants, strawberries. (A full list and an explanation of what simple measurements are required are on the website.) You don't have to record everything you grow - you may just choose to submit details of one or two crops. Everything is useful.

Take part at: www.myharvest.org.uk. You can also follow the project's progress on Twitter (@MYHarvestUK), Facebook (/MYHarvestUK) and Instagram (@MYHarvestUK).

Paper copies of information on the crops and measurements required will be available at The Seedbox, for anyone without access to a computer.

Your help with this exciting project will be much appreciated
Ros Blevins

Treasurer's Report 2017

With the unfortunate death of Dave Pateman after many years as Treasurer I have stepped in to carry on. After a very steep learning curve I've managed to adapt Dave's tracking system to my preferences. Unfortunately during the change over some things have fallen through the net and so the accounts are really the best practical. This occurred simply because I did not understand the importance of certain items. One example is that I did not originally rigorously record cash difference on the till so those are actually absorbed into the Net income rather than appearing as a separate item on the accounts. I'm not too worried as the previous year these differences were only about 50p a week!

I wish we could thank Dave for all his years as treasurer but I do know that right to the end he was giving me all the assistance I asked for. I'm sure we will all miss Dave.

From the accounts you can see that trading was slightly down, mostly owing to losing one order worth about £400 of potato turnover and not selling any live plants, reducing income by about £1500. Also I suspect that the heavy discounting of old stock late in the year will have distorted revenue. The trading surplus fell, but so did our costs so the small amount of net income remained very similar to the previous year.

The committee is well aware that 2018 is the last year of the current lease so there will be changes to our cost structure going forward. You can also see that FGA has reasonable reserves to cover the contingency of moving to new premises should that be required.

Finally I'd like to point out that there was a relatively large amount for debtors in 2016 because we had not received payment for Unwins seeds due when we stopped stocking them. We used that payment to offset part of the cost of the compost delivery from Westland received in December 2016.

Jim Godden
Acting Treasurer.

Flitwick Gardeners' Association

DRAFT Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2017

2016		Expenditure		2016		Income		
£		£	£	£		£	£	
12,586	Purchases	13,208		12,367	Sales - ~ General		13,723	
548	Hus Creditors 2017	1,099		1,917	~ Potatoes		1,865	
(1,009)	Less Creditors 2016	(548)	13,759	1,613	~ Seeds		1,780	
(36,383)	Less Stock-Current Year		(36,202)	1,111	~ Plants		325	
38,169	Hus Stock-Previous Year		36,383	17,794				
13,911			13,940	1,055	Hus Debtors-Current Year		-	
449	Trading Expenses		432	(1,055)	Less Debtors-Previous Year		(1,055)	
28	Trading Assets - Depreciation		32	-	Hus Dividends & Div counts		-	
3,406	Trading Surplus for Year		2,253					
17,794		TOTAL	16,637	17,794			TOTAL	16,637

Income & Expenditure Account

103	General Expenses	190		3,406	Trading Surplus		2,253	
-	Memorial Garden @ Seed box	-		52	Stalls			
851	Show & Social Expenses - see overleaf	339		799	Subscriptions		761	
40	Decorations & Repairs	-		61	Show & Social Income (see overleaf)		285	
13/4	Rent (inc. Amortisation) & Insurance	888		9	Other Income ~ Bank Interest (less tax)		4	
536	Magazines & Printing	311		8	~ Equipment Loans		15	
231	Fire Protection/Alarm Contract	239		-	~ Bank Compensation		-	
62	Affiliations	35		-	Cash Differences on bill (nett)			
3/4	Telephone	399						
-	Gratuities	-						
663	Sponsorship & Advertising	43						
661	Bank & PUG Charges	620						
27	Cash Differences on bill (nett)							
213	Net Income to Accumulated Fund	174						
5,035		TOTAL	3,298	5,035			TOTAL	3,298

Charity Account

-	Distribution During Year	-			Income for the Year		-	
691	Balance in Hand	691		691	Bank Interest (Less tax)			
				691	Balance Brought Forward		691	
691		TOTAL	691	691			TOTAL	691

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2017

548	Creditors	1,099		581	Fixed Assets		56	
33,842	Accumulated Fund B/F	71,188		36,383	Stock at Cost		36,897	
213	from Income & Expenditure Account	174		1,055	Debtors		-	
39,000	Development & Contingency Account B/F			15,623	Cash at Bank ~ Current Account		14,939	
691	Charity Account		691	19,514	~ Deposit Account		19,514	
				691	~ Charity Account		691	
				447	Cash in Hand		1,055	
74,294		TOTAL	73,162	74,294			TOTAL	73,162

Notes:

1. No provision for tax liability has been made in these accounts.
2. accumulated Fund B/F and Development & Contingency Account B/F combined.
3. Sponsorship of Carnival and Flowers festivals stopped this year.

I confirm the above records are in agreement with the books and information supplied to me and reflect a true statement of the Associations affairs.

Breakdown of Assets and Depreciation - 2017							
Show and Social Committee Assets and Depreciation							
Item	Purchase Date	Cost	Yrs Dep	Previous Dep	Current Dep	Current Value	
Voice Amplifier	10/24/2013	£ 35.89	5	£ 28.89	£ 7.00	£ -	
					£ 7.00	£ -	
Trading Committee Assets and Depreciation							
Pallet Truck	11/16/2015	£ 144.00	5	£ 88.00	£ 28.00	£ 56.00	
VAX		£ 70.00	5	£ -	£ 14.00	£ 56.00	
					£ 42.00	£ 112.00	
Seed Box Lease (Lease to be amortized over it's 20 year life)	Sep-98	£ 9,800.00	20	£ 9,310.00	£ 490.00	£ -	
					Total Assets	£ 112.00	
The Show and Social Committee also hold in stock for use next year the following items:-							
	Show Rosettes				£ 350.00		
Bank Reconciliation							
	Current Account Statement				£ 15,631.25	13507.14	
	Less Uncleared Cheques				£ 75.00	13.35	
	Plus Credits not yet entered				£ 67.00		
						£ 15,623.25	
High Interest Business Account - Trading & Charity							
						£ 20,205.49	
Show and Social Events							
Event					Expenditure	Income	
Spring Show					£10.70	£128.30	
Summer Show					£114.06	£248.50	
Autumn Show					£2.55	£157.00	
Invitation Quiz Night							
Village Hall Fees 2017					£135.00		
Rosettes					£69.36		
Voice Amplifier - Depreciation					£7.00		
Totals					£338.67	£533.80	
Note: Show resettes no longer treated as an asset as they have no intrinsic value!							
J G Godden 01.01.2018. temp.Treasurer.							

Newbury Farm Plants

Fresh, nursery-grown plants in Silsoe

We are a small, friendly, business located on the family farm in Silsoe. We specialize in growing hardy perennials but also stock a wide range of hardy plants including climbers, bamboos, Acers and semi mature 'feature' plants and topiary. We stock compost and more besides - a little bit of everything that a good garden needs basically!

- ~ Hardy perennials ~
 - ~ Seasonal bedding plants ~
 - ~ Fruit trees, Herbs & vegetables ~
 - ~ Shrubs, specimen plants and topiary ~
 - ~ Climbers, bamboos, ferns
- Compost and terracotta pots

**10 % discount offered on all garden plants
for Flitwick Gardeners Association members**

Please present your membership card at the till

How to find us:

From Flitwick head towards Clophill on the A507, take the right-hand turn signed Silsoe/Flitton – stay on this road, the nursery is approximately 1/2 mile on the left as you enter Silsoe just past the 30mph sign.

Open:

Tue to Sat 9am – 5pm

Sunday 10.30 – 4pm

(Nov/Dec/Jan close at 4pm.

Closed from Christmas and throughout January)

For news, photos and special offers follow us on Facebook - [facebook.com/newburyfarmplants](https://www.facebook.com/newburyfarmplants)



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