



Flitwick Gardeners' Association

Issue 118

Autumn 2022

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 8th October 2022 Autumn Show
Thursday 24th November 2022 Quiz Night (8.00pm)

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.

Construction of the new development on the Old Leisure Centre site has started, so temporary access to the Seed Box is now via the New Leisure Centre car park. See page 12 for details.

Seed box Opening Hours

Friday	Closed until further notice
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

Colin Stennett	Secretary and Show Secretary
Jim Godden	Chairman
Leonie Coverley	Treasurer
J-P Carter	Deputy Chairman and Show Committee
Laurie Arnold	Seeds and Deputy Trading Coordinator
Kath Stennett	Membership Secretary and Show Committee
Ian Holman	Deputy Secretary and Show Committee
Alan & Carolyn Kirkdale	Magazine Editors
Ann Lutley	Publicity Officer
Sue Titchener	Seed Box Rota Coordinator
Daniel Doyle	Trading Coordinator
Sue Livens	Trading Coordinator

Show Committee (not mentioned above)

Sonia Corfe

Honorary Life Members

Linda Pitts, Syd Pye, Maryan Pateman, J-P Carter, Jim Godden, Colin & Kath Stennett

Chit Chat from the Chair

What a year! How do we gardeners cope?

Considering the desert conditions we had to endure, I was astonished at how good our Summer Show was. I gathered what little I had to exhibit; hoping to assist in making something that looked like a show. I'm glad I did and so many of our members also stepped up, making it as good a show as I have seen for a while..... well since last year anyway. Well done all and my particular thanks to the 'Show Committee' for their hard work pulling it all together. Most of all though, thanks to all those members who put their exhibits on the tables. Please look at the photographs on Facebook and if you didn't exhibit anything this time, consider doing so next time; remember, it's your FGA and your show. Our Autumn Show will be in October, so have a look in the Show Schedule to see if you have anything you can exhibit.

There is nothing I can say about the weather that has not already been said. I hope, like me, you are relishing the recent rain and the greening of you garden and/or allotment. Let us hope that through this winter we have sufficient rain to replenish the water supplies.

Start planning your gardening for next year, by considering what did well this year and what didn't. We should receive Dobies gardening, catalogues soon, so do grab one from the Seed Box and decide what you will be planting. Other suppliers' catalogues are also available online. One of the highlights of my year is planning what to grow next year.

I like to keep these chit-chat's short so let me end with personal thanks to Dan who has stepped in as Trading Secretary. I'm working with him to make it as easy as possible, but I'm delighted that he is already changing things; which can only be good for the FGA.

Happy Gardening
Jim Godden
Chairman

FGA MEMBERSHIP

Don't forget to renew your FGA Membership, which will be £3 for the year.

TRADING Update May 2022

I'm fully expecting this to be my last Trading Report, (thank goodness I hear you all saying) as Dan and I are progressing the hand-over quite rapidly. Thanks to all the feedback you've given over the years; it has meant a lot to me, when folks show that my utterances were not a complete waste of time. In this short report there are familiar topics and little new.

The Potato and Onion order form is included in this magazine and as you see, the prices have continued to rise, but not by as much as I had feared. We do still offer the best value for money we can. The first catalogue I have received which includes seed potatoes for 2023, has them priced at £6.95 for 1.5kg, - I'll say no more! Also we continue to rationalise our offering and reduce the order to avoid waste, but it is something we seldom get 100% correct and I apologise in advance for any disappointment caused. As always, I urge you all to order your favourites to guarantee that we can provide them.

Yet again, the Government has set a date for the withdrawal of composts containing peat. This time, the statement is for it to be illegal to sell compost containing peat from 2024. We don't know yet whether this will be followed by action but we are planning accordingly.

As usual, this year we expect to have Dobies seed catalogues with a discount offer of some sort, so when we have them, please pick up a copy at the Seed Box. Don't forget the Fothergills seeds we sell with a discount of 25% on the packet price. We are planning to have our bulk delivery in December as usual. If you want something specific, for instance a roll of netting or a complete pallet of compost, please contact us at the Seed Box or via the web site and we should be able to work out a discounted price for you. Equally if you want something not normally stocked by the FGA, ask and we will try to get it for you.

Finally an apology for the inevitable price rises we will see next year; this is totally beyond our control.

Jim Godden
FGA Temporary Trading Secretary

Annual Show Report

What a difference 5 months can make – just before the spring show there was snow jeopardizing flowers for display and now, we've had 3 months of very hot and dry weather. Yet again our members proved they can grow some wonderful vegetables, flowers, and fruit despite the weather. Whilst some classes had fewer entries than normal, for instance French and Runner beans, I was pleased to see entries in most classes. There were also some great entries in the home produce, handicrafts, photography, and children's classes. The hall looked an absolute picture when we opened for visitors to view them, as well as enjoy the usual tea, coffee and excellent homemade cakes.

I'd like to thank all those who helped on the day of the show, all the people who made cakes, the exhibitors and everyone that came to look around when the judging was complete. Without you all, we could not have run the show.

Colin Stennett
Show Secretary

FGA Quiz

On Thursday 24th November 2022 the Show Committee are organising a quiz evening starting at 8 pm with admission from 7:30 pm and finishing around 10 pm. It is NOT a quiz all about gardening things, but a light-hearted general knowledge quiz with the aim of everyone enjoying themselves. The cost is £12 for a team of 4 people, and this not only covers entry to the quiz but also sandwiches, cakes, tea and coffee. People may also bring their own food and drink, including alcohol. If you can get a group of 4 people (they don't have to be FGA members) and fancy joining us for the evening, please contact me via email (fgashow@flitwickgardeners.co.uk) or call me (01525 716982) by the middle of October so that we have some idea of the number of teams.

Colin Stennett
Show Secretary

2023 Annual Show Photographic Classes

103 A Bedfordshire building
105 Bedfordshire Water

104 A Bedfordshire Landscape
106 Bedfordshire Life

The Children's photographic class will be a photograph of 'My favourite Bedfordshire place'.

Committee Positions

FGA Online Presence – help required

I look after the “digital presence” of the Flitwick Gardeners Association. By this I mean that I maintain the web site and email account etc.

I am looking for someone to take over these tasks from me.

Do you have some experience in this area? Perhaps you run your own website or that of another organisation as a hobby, or perhaps you are an IT professional.

Could you ensure our domain remains registered, keep the website up to date (currently HTML, CSS and Javascript) and/or give the site a new look?

Could you manage our email account including the sending of the email version of the magazine to about 100 members four times a year?

It would be extremely useful if you could also join the committee so that you can keep in touch with requirements. The committee meets monthly on a Monday evening.

If you would like to help the FGA in this way, please get in touch by emailing enquiries@flitwickgardeners.co.uk

Kath Stennett

Magazine Editor

Is anyone interested in taking on the role of FGA Magazine Editor? We produce 3 magazines and a Christmas Flyer each year. Articles for the magazine would be sent to you by email. You would proof read them and fit them into the magazine, then email it to a company that prints it for us in booklet form. Other volunteers distribute the magazines to our members. If you would like to know more, please contact us by email: enquiries@flitwickgardeners.co.uk

AUTUMN SHOW SCHEDULE – Saturday 8th October 2022

FLITWICK VILLAGE HALL

Admission FREE

SHOW RULES

The rules of the Annual show shall apply to this show, except for Rule 2.

An Exhibitor may show up to 2 entries per class in the Autumn Show

Entries via email to: FGASHOW@Flitwickgardeners.co.uk or to 10 Salisbury Road or at the show.

Children may enter any class, and in classes 1 to 12 their entry will be judged as a Children's class

Staging of exhibits 12:30 pm to 2 pm.

Judging 2 pm to 3 pm.

Open to the Public - 3 pm – 4 pm

SCHEDULE of CLASSES

HEAVIEST AND LONGEST

- | | |
|-----|--|
| 1 | Heaviest Marrow |
| 2 | Heaviest Onion |
| 3 | Heaviest Beetroot |
| 4 | Heaviest Carrot |
| 5 | Heaviest Cabbage |
| 6 | Heaviest Potato |
| 7 | Heaviest Tomato |
| 8 | Longest Runner Bean |
| 9 | Largest Sunflower Head |
| 10 | Heaviest Parsnip - Jonathan Wilde Cup |
| 11 | Smallest Ripe Tomato |
| 12 | Misshapen Vegetable |
| 12a | Heaviest Crop of potatoes from 1 tuber supplied by the FGA |

VEGETABLES NSALG Trophy for most points in the following classes

- 13 Five Potatoes - White - One variety
- 14 Five Potatoes - Other than white - One variety
- 15 Two Marrows or Courgettes
- 16 Three Carrots
- 17 Two Leeks
- 18 Two Parsnips
- 19 Five Tomatoes
- 20 Three Onions
- 20a Any other Vegetable – 2 or more items

FLOWERS Cliff White Trophy – Best exhibit in Flower classes

- 21 Three stems of Spray Chrysanthemums
- 21a Three stems of single stem Chrysanthemums
- 22 Three Dahlias - Cactus or Semi-cactus
- 23 Three Dahlias - Decorative
- 24 Three Dahlias - Ball
- 25 Three Dahlias - Pompon – not to exceed 55 mm diameter
- 26 One Dahlia - any variety
- 27 Three Roses – any variety
- 28 One Pot Plant - Flower
- 29 One Pot Plant - Foliage
- 30 One Pot of Alpine
- 31 One Vase of Flowering Shrub
- 32 One Vase of one distinct kind of flower
- 33 One Vase of Mixed Flowers

FRUIT All fruit shown with stalks - except apricots, nectarines, peaches, blueberries, citrus fruit and nuts. Leaves may be used to decorate

- 34 Four Dessert Apples (**not to be polished**)
- 35 Four Cooking Apples (**not to be polished**)
- 36 Four Pears
- 37 Nine individual Soft fruit - of any one kind
- 38 A Bunch of Grapes
- 39 Any other fruit, including nuts, not covered in any other class in the schedule

PUMPKINS

- 40 Heaviest Pumpkin
- 41 Decorated/Carved Pumpkin - children

Flitwick Gardeners' Association

Telephone - 01525 – 717289 (24 hour answerphone)

Pre-Season Potato and Onion Sets Order Form – 2023

Name..... Address

.....

Telephone.....F.G.A. Membership Number

Please reserve the following packs of Seed Potatoes and Onion sets for me when they are delivered

Orders handed in by the end of Dec 22 will be telephoned to advise when they are ready for collection.

Number of Packs	Variety	Total Cost
3kg 10 seed		
	“First Earlies”	3 Kg (10)
.....	Duke of York	£ 4.50 (£2.00)
.....	Duke of York (RED)	£ 4.50 (£2.00)
.....	Casablanca	£ 4.50 (£2.00)
.....	Foremost	£ 4.50 (£2.00)
.....	Maris Bard	£ 4.50 (£2.00)
.....	Pentland Javelin	£ 4.50 (£2.00)
.....	Rocket (EARLY)	£ 4.50 (£2.00)
.....	Swift (VERY EARLY)	£ 4.50 (£2.00)
	“Second Earlies”	3 Kg (10)
.....	Acoustic	£ 4.50 (£2.00)
.....	Charlotte	£ 4.50 (£2.00)
.....	Kestrel	£ 4.50 (£2.00)
.....	Marfona	£ 4.50 (£2.00)
.....	Wilja	£ 4.50 (£2.00)
	“Main Crop”	3 Kg (10)
.....	Cara	£ 4.50 (£2.00)
.....	Desiree	£ 4.50 (£2.00)
.....	King Edward	£ 4.50 (£2.00)
.....	Maris Piper	£ 4.50 (£2.00)
.....	Picasso	£ 4.50 (£2.00)
.....	Organic Setanta	£ 4.50 (£2.00)
.....	Vales Sovereign	£ 4.50 (£2.00)

Salad Variety

..... **Pink Fir Apple** **£ 2.80**

“Onion Sets and Shallots”

.....	Golden Gourmet Shallots (0.5 Kg)	£ 2.30	.....
.....	Red Sun Shallots (0.5 Kg)	£ 2.30	.....
.....	Yellow Moon Shallots (0.5 Kg)	£ 2.30	.....
.....	Biztro Shallots (0.5 Kg)	£ 2.30	.....
.....	Red Baron Onion Sets (0.25 Kg)	£ 2.00	.....
.....	Snowball Onion Sets (0.25 Kg)	£ 2.00	.....
.....	Sturon Onion Sets (0.5 Kg)	£ 2.00	.....
.....	Stuttgarter Onion Sets (0.5 Kg)	£ 2.00	.....
.....	Hercules F1 Onion Sets (0.5 Kg)	£ 2.00	.....
.....	Pink Panther Onion Sets (0.5 Kg)	£ 2.00	.....

Total Due £.....

Less Deposit Paid £

(Minimum Deposit 50p per pack)

BALANCE DUE £

For F.G.A. use Telephoned

Our potato tester pack next year will be Caledonian Rose.

Temporary Route to the Seed Box

Some members are still having difficulty in finding the Seed Box. Hopefully, this will help: -

- Drive into the leisure centre car park and keep right
- Follow the purple hoardings to the bottom of the car park, then turn right
- At the end, either park at the top of the allotments or (if collecting compost) turn right to the Seed Box.
- Please do not park on the access road.

