



# Flitwick Gardeners' Association

Issue 106

Spring 2018

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	FGA Spring Show
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> April	Annual General Meeting
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> August	Annual Show
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> October	Autumn Show

## **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 p.m. to 9.00 p.m. (Feb to Nov)
Saturday	2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. (Feb to Nov)

## 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.	<a href="mailto:enquiries@flitwickgardeners.co.uk">enquiries@flitwickgardeners.co.uk</a>
Magazine	<a href="mailto:newsletter@flitwickgardeners.co.uk">newsletter@flitwickgardeners.co.uk</a>
Show info and entries	<a href="mailto:fgashow@flitwickgardeners.co.uk">fgashow@flitwickgardeners.co.uk</a>

## Website / Facebook address

Facebook Group	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/flitwickgardeners">https://www.facebook.com/groups/flitwickgardeners</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.flitwickgardeners.co.uk">www.flitwickgardeners.co.uk</a>

## Executive Committee

Syd Pye	Chairman and Rota Coordinator
Colin Stennett	Secretary and Show Secretary
Jim Godden	Acting Treasurer
Jim Godden	Acting Trading 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

## Show Committee (not mentioned above)

Dave Empson  
Cliff White

## Honorary Life Members

Dave Empson, Linda Pitts, Syd Pye, Cliff White, Maryan Pateman.

# **SPRING SHOW**

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at the Village Hall.**

Staging of exhibits 12:30- 2pm  
Judging 2 - 3pm  
Public admitted 3pm – **No admission charge**

## **RULES**

1. All classes are open to members of the Association, their partners and to their children or grandchildren who are 16 years or younger.
2. Entries can be made at the show when brought in for staging or **Email entries in advance to: [FGASHOW@Flitwickgardeners.co.uk](mailto:FGASHOW@Flitwickgardeners.co.uk)**
3. There will be no entry fee for exhibits.
4. **Each Exhibitor may enter up to 2 entries in any one class**
5. Classes 1 - 14, 17, 18, 21, 23, 25 and 27 to be shown as cut flowers in vases to be supplied by the FGA.
6. Entries for Classes 15, 16, 19, 20, 22, 24 and 26 to be shown as grown.
7. All exhibits in classes 1 to 25 (inclusive) and 27 must be grown by the exhibitor in their garden or allotment
8. Pot Plants must be exhibited in terracotta or plain plastic type pots and for class 26 must have been in exhibitors possession for at least 6 months
9. **NO Exhibit should be removed from display until after the raffle has been completed** (approximately 16:00).

## **TROPHIES**

Flitwick Gardeners Association Spring Show – Best Vase in Show  
Flitwick Gardeners Association Spring Show – Best Bloom in Show

## **NARCISSI (DAFFODILS)**

See page 3 for further information on the classification of daffodils.

### **CLASS No.                      DIVISION 1 TRUMPET DAFFODIL CULTIVARS**

- |   |                                        |
|---|----------------------------------------|
| 1 | One Bloom Yellow Perianth              |
| 2 | One Bloom White Perianth               |
| 3 | One Vase, Three Blooms of one Cultivar |

### **DIVISION 2 LARGE-CUPPED DAFFODIL CULTIVARS**

- |   |                                        |
|---|----------------------------------------|
| 4 | One Bloom Yellow Perianth              |
| 5 | One Bloom White Perianth               |
| 6 | One Vase, Three Blooms of one Cultivar |

### **DIVISION 3 SMALL-CUPPED DAFFODIL CULTIVARS**

- 7 One Bloom, any colour  
8 One Vase, Three Blooms of one Cultivar

### **DIVISION 4 DOUBLE DAFFODIL CULTIVARS**

- 9 One Bloom, any colour  
10 One Vase, Three Blooms of one Cultivar

### **Multi-headed Daffodil Cultivar** (e.g. Cheerfulness, Tete a Tete)

- 11 One Stem  
12 One Vase of Three Stems of one Cultivar

### **Any Other Daffodil Cultivar not mentioned above**

- 13 One Stem  
14 One Vase of Three Stems of one Cultivar

### **Pot of Daffodil – from any of the Divisions**

- 15 One Pot of Narcissi, any number of bulbs, one Cultivar (Pot not to exceed 300 mm (12 Inches) diameter)

### **CHILDRENS' BULB COMPETITION**

- 16 One Pot of Narcissi (Daffodils)

### **TULIPS**

- 17 One Bloom  
18 One Vase, three Blooms of one Cultivar  
19 One Pot of Tulips, any number of bulbs, one Cultivar (Pot not to exceed 300 mm (12 inches) diameter)

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

- 20 One Pot of growing Polyanthus or Primula  
21 One Stem of Hyacinth  
22 One Pot of one or more Hyacinths  
23 One Vase of Flowering Shrub of one or more varieties  
24 One Pot of growing bulbs, excluding anything mentioned above  
25 One Vase of Mixed Flowers – at least 6 different types of flower  
26 Any Other Pot Plant (Flowering or Foliage)  
27 One Vase of 4 stems of Daffodil from 4 different Divisions  
28 One Decorated Hardboiled Egg (Children only)  
29 A Pasty with a savoury filling (homemade)  
30 5 Shortbread biscuits (homemade)

## The Basic Daffodil Dictionary

**Anther** the pollen-bearing part of the stamen

**Corona** refers to the cup or trumpet

**Filament** the stalk of the stamen

**Pedice**l is the 'neck' of the flower which joins it to the stem

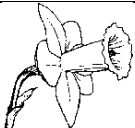




**Perianth** refers to the petals


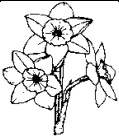

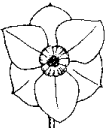

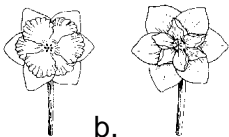
**Reflexed** petals are those which are angled away from the corona

**Stamen** the male part of the flower, consisting of filament and anther

Further, more detailed information can be found on the Royal Horticultural Society web site at <http://www.rhs.org.uk>

## Horticultural classification of Daffodils

Division 1: Trumpet	
	One flower to each stem. The corona is as long or longer than the perianth.  Examples: Golden Harvest, Rembrandt
Division 2: Large Cupped	
	One flower to each stem. The corona is more than one third but less than equal to the length of the perianth.  Examples: Armada, Carlton, Ceylon, Desdemona
Division 3: Small Cupped	
	One flower to each stem. The corona is NOT more than one third the length of the perianth.  Examples: Angel, Barret Browning, Birma, Lemonade
Division 4: Double	
	One or more flowers per stem, with doubling of the perianth segments or corona or both.  Examples: Acropolis, Golden Ducat, Unique
Division 5: Triandrus	
	Usually two or more pendent flowers per stem, perianth segments often reflexed.  Examples: Rippling Waters, Thalia, Hawera

<b>Division 6: Cyclamineus</b>	
	<p>One flower per stem; perianth segments prominently reflexed. Flower at an acute angle to the stem with a very short pedicel.</p> <p>Examples: Charity May, Dove Wings, Jetfire</p>
<b>Division 7: Jonquilla and Apodanthus</b>	
	<p>Usually 1 to 5 (more rarely up to 8) flowers per stem; perianth segments spreading or reflexed; corona cup shaped, funnel shaped or flared, usually wider than long; flowers usually fragrant.</p> <p>Examples: Lintie, Suzy, Sweetness</p>
<b>Division 8: Tazetta</b>	
	<p>Usually 3 to 20 flowers to a stout stem; perianth segments spreading (not reflexed); flowers usually fragrant</p> <p>Example: Geranium</p>
<b>Division 9: Poeticus</b>	
	<p>Usually one flower to a stem; perianth segments white; corona very short or disc shaped, usually with a green/yellow centre and a red rim, but sometimes of a single colour; flowers usually fragrant</p> <p>Example: Actaea</p>
<b>Division 10: Bulbicodium</b>	
	<p>Usually one flower to a stem; perianth segments insignificant compared to the corona; anthers dorsifixed (ie attached more or less centrally to the filament); filament and style usually curved</p> <p>Examples: Golden Bells, Julia Jane, Nylon</p>
<b>Division 11: Split Corona</b>	
 <p>a.      b.</p>	<p>Corona is split, usually for more than half it's length.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>corona segments opposite the perianth segments; the corona segments usually in two whorls of three</li> <li>corona segments alternate to the perianth segments; the corona segments usually in a single whorl of six</li> </ol> <p>Examples: Articol, Broadway Star</p>
<b>Division 12: Other</b>	
Miscellaneous cultivars which do not fit above classifications	
<b>Division 13: Other</b>	
Cultivars distinguished solely by botanical name	

## **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'

### **Free onion sets**

We will have at the Spring show, and afterwards at the Seed Box, Onion sets for children to grow at home for exhibiting at the Annual Show. Make sure your children and grandchildren get theirs!

### **Heaviest crop of potato class and special Dahlia class**

In the Autumn show we have a class for the heaviest crop of potatoes grown from a single tuber supplied by the Show Committee.

In the Annual show we again have some Tahiti Sunrise Dahlias for sale at the Seed box where your money for purchasing them will be refunded if you exhibit 2 of the flowers in the special class.

If you're interested in joining in one or both classes this year please call into the Seed box to collect your tuber. There will be a limited number available - so don't delay your decision too long.

Colin Stennett  
Show Secretary



### **Show Committee Report**

Once again 2017 proved to be a year where members supported all three of our shows with some wonderful exhibits - proving not only do they know how to grow things but that they're also good at cookery, handicrafts and photography.

The Spring show had lots of quality Daffodils and Tulips on display, as well as some good entries in the cookery classes.

The Annual show, our 40th, filled the hall with lots of entries in the majority of classes. A spectacle befitting such a milestone.

The Autumn show will probably be remembered for the size of some of the exhibits - a 300lb Pumpkin plus 4 marrows over 35lbs and a cabbage of 3lbs. There were also some very good entries in the vegetable, flower and fruit classes.

Thanks to everyone who helped with any / all of the events in whatever capacity and to those that exhibited at the shows - without your support none of the events would be possible.

We're looking for more people to join the show committee to help with sorting out the schedules and helping on show days - if you're interested please contact me or anyone on the Executive or Show Committee. Without more people to help it will be difficult to continue with the shows.

Colin Stennett

Show Secretary

### **TRADING REPORT January 2018**

Thanks to all those who stepped in and weighed up the potatoes whilst I was off sunning myself in the Algarve. Thanks to all the members who have been appreciative and encouraging, that has allowed me to continue enjoying my role as Trading Secretary. Thanks to those who have stepped up to relieve a lot of the work from my role by taking ownership of trading areas.

The re-organisation of trading will continue into 2018 so do please visit us for you basic gardening needs. You will find that through time we will be reducing the number of variants of items we stock, particularly in killers, foods and tools. Over time we will also be making sure we stock items which have a reasonable turnover time, don't expect to see anything where I say "these were in stock when I took over as Trading Secretary" stay on the

shelves much longer. I will also be trying to ensure that we stop having overlapping stock of an item on a shelf.

Very soon we will also be getting new sack barrows as those we have are getting fairly old and kn.....d.

New items in stock for 2018 in particular:

- Fine Vermiculite, in 3Ltr bags and ideal for lightly covering seeds.
- Draper, Telescopic hose Lance, Wheeled hose reel, Dust masks,
- Two types of wild bird food,

A few other changes you may notice:

- All Hozelock items will be withdrawn as they run out!
- All compost buy 4 pay for 3! The cheapest item free!
- Stopped doing Chicken Pellet refills, to reduce load on helpers when trading. So it will now only be available as big bag or 3 kg.

If you have the skills to repair them and want either a petrol strimmer or electric shredder please see me, Syd or Colin as we have these which we wish to get rid of! The most we ask is a small contribution to our charity of the year!

We hope to be able to train and introduce two new Exec members to trading over the year to reduce the reliance on our very few volunteers for this role.

Please understand while we do this, as there are sure to be some issues.

I think I have done some 15 years as Trading Secretary and have enjoyed it. I am sad that trading volume seems to reduce slightly every year and it becomes more difficult to compete, as major traders cherry pick items that they can bulk buy and sell at prices lower than our wholesale purchase price. I have seen Flitwick change dramatically over my years living here. When I arrived it was a small country town with a large new estate and a train line carrying a few travellers into London; how different things are now! I hope I have set Trading off towards a good future so please continue to support us and recommend us to your friends as the alternative is not something I wish to seriously contemplate.

Great Gardening.

Jim Godden

FGA temporary Trading Secretary

## **David Pateman**

David was a member of the Association for more than twenty years, a former allotment holder, which led him to become a member of the FGA. He was then elected as a member of the Executive Committee and to my knowledge was elected Treasurer in 2003; an office he held until his died on 26<sup>th</sup> November. David also assisted the Trading Secretary by controlling the compost section. David will be greatly missed by the Committee for all the other events he assisted at and in recognition, the Executive Committee decided to award Honorary Life Membership to him, but his death occurred prior to us being able to deliver it to him. This has now been transferred to Maryan who also assists as a till helper.

David's funeral was well attended along with many members of the Gardeners' Association and we convey our thoughts and condolences to Maryan and the rest of the family.

## **The Seed Box**

I was lucky enough to take on my first allotment plot in 2009 in Woburn Sands and started shopping at the Seed Box shortly afterwards. The more experienced plot holders on our field already knew the secret of the seed box. It is so much more than somewhere to buy bits that you need or think you need! I started volunteering on the till to give something back for being able to buy what I needed at a great price. In the time that I have helping man the tills I have gained so much more than I gave. I have learned from the committee and also from the members that come in each week and share their knowledge. Hearing and sharing others allotmenting experiences, the successes and failures along the way. I recommend volunteering, it's a couple of hours which I look forward to. Manning the tills, helping members take compost and bits to their cars or becoming a member of the committee, enabling the Association to carry on. Give it a try, you won't regret it.

Anne Corbett

## **Syd's Snippets**

Another year, another day – the Seedbox has re – opened and within the first two weekends 92% of the pre – orders had been collected – thank you all for your co-operation, as this then allowed us the space to weigh up our remaining stock which has been fast departing through the doors. For those who did not pre order, do not worry, we do still have some left for sale, although some varieties have already sold out.

Our next important meeting is the Annual General Meeting which will be held on Thursday 5th April 2018 at the Rufus Centre commencing at 7.45pm. This year the meeting is especially important, as advised elsewhere in this issue, we suffered the death of our Treasurer, David Pateman at the end of November so we will have to elect another Treasurer at this meeting. We have received a tentative agreement to this post, but it is based on the appointment of a Trading Secretary.

To this end, last year we started a Trading Committee, which should reduce some of the pressure on the Trading Secretary, as area individuals are in place and reporting back to the Trading Secretary. We are now looking for someone to take on this roll with that person being responsible for placing the overall final order based on information provided by the “area” controllers.

Apart from the above, we are still also looking for ‘key holders’ to help run the Seed box during opening hours, hopefully we may have two who will commence training this month. However, we are now down to 5 and unless we receive urgent response, do not be surprised if you arrive and the Seed box is closed. We too have other commitments and these can cause the only person available not to be around at the last minute due to family issues. These needs may be required at the last minute, so there is no time to arrange replacements, although we will endeavour to advise in advance if at all possible.

As stated on many previous occasions, if you arrive and the place is locked and you have not offered your services, it is your fault and not ours. We are a members club, run by members, for the members and this has always been our claim - we just need more people to come forward and share the workload.

Syd Pye  
Chairman

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 5th April 2018  
The Rufus Centre, Flitwick  
7.45pm

## AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 27th April 2017.
3. Presentation of Annual Reports.
4. Presentation of the Financial Report.
5. Chairman's Address.
6. Election of officers:-
  - a) Chairman
  - b) Treasurer
  - c) Secretary
  - d) Trading Officer
  - e) Executive Committee.
  - f) Sub-Committee Additional Members.
  - g) Honorary Auditor.
7. To consider the motion proposed by the Secretary and seconded by the Treasurer that the Annual Subscription, Joining Fee and Re-Joining Fee remain unchanged at £2.00 each and that the Surcharge to the Annual Subscription Fee where applied remains unchanged at £3
8. Report on the Future of the Seed box.
10. Any other business.

Nominations for the four Officer appointments are to be lodged at the Seed Box or with the Secretary, Colin Stennett, 10 Salisbury Road, Flitwick, Beds, MK45 1UD at least 21 days prior to the meeting.

# Flitwick Gardeners' Association

## RULES

As at 11 April, 2013

**1.Name:** The name of the Association shall be the Flitwick Gardeners' Association.

**2.Objects:** To promote the interests of gardeners and allotment holders and to take joint action for the benefit of members; To conduct negotiations in respect of land; To take such steps as may be required by the local Authority for the good management and cultivation of allotments; To protect members from damage, trespass and theft; To arrange for instruction, lectures, discussions, exhibitions, and competitions and to distribute literature pertaining to these objectives.

**3.Members:** The Association shall consist of persons who are resident within the Town of Flitwick. Non-residents of Flitwick whose application for membership is approved by the Committee may join but may not vote at any General Meeting.

**4.Fees and Subscriptions:** There will be a joining fee for all new members and for lapsed members applying to re-join after membership has lapsed in accordance with Rule 5. Every member shall pay an annual subscription, payable in advance of the due date of January 1st. Members receiving the magazine by Royal Mail shall pay an annual surcharge. The amount of the joining fee and of the annual subscription and the surcharge shall be set annually by the Annual General Meeting.

**5.Arrears:** Any member who is three months in arrears with his subscription shall be deemed to have ceased to be a member, unless explanation is given to the Committee in writing of extenuating circumstances.

**6.Officers:** The Officers shall be Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary and Trading Secretary. All Officers shall be ex-officio members of the Executive Committee.

**7.Committee:** The affairs of the Association shall be conducted by an Executive Committee of not less than eight members. A quorum shall be of not less than five members. Vacancies arising may be filled by co-option on the authority of the Executive Committee. All members shall retire annually and a fresh Committee be elected at each Annual General Meeting. Retiring members shall be eligible for re-election.

**8.General Meetings:** An Annual General Meeting shall be held during March or April each year. 14 days' notice shall be given and a quorum shall be ten members. At the meeting shall be presented the Secretary's Report and a set of Audited Accounts and the Officers and Executive Committee Members elected for the coming year. The Financial Year shall be from the First of January until the Thirty-First of December. The Secretary shall have authority to convene an Extraordinary General Meeting at any time after giving the due notice but he shall always do so if so requested by no less than ten general members in writing.

**9. Discussions at Meetings:** No party political or sectarian discussions shall be raised or resolutions proposed, at any Committee, sub-committee or General Meeting of the Association.

**10. Funds:** The Committee shall open an account with a Bank selected by the Executive Committee in the name of the Flitwick Gardeners Association and all monies received from any source on behalf of the Association shall be passed through the Treasurer or his nominee to be paid into the account. Cheques shall be signed by two signatories authorised by the Executive Committee one of whom shall always be the Treasurer or his nominee. But cheques may be signed by one Officer below £100.

**11. Auditors:** There shall be appointed two Auditors who are not members of the Executive Committee to audit the accounts and submit their reports to the Annual General Meeting. Only one auditor need be appointed if the auditor is a Chartered Accountant or person with an equivalent qualification.

**12. Affiliation:** The Association shall affiliate itself to any suitable Group providing it is non-political or non-sectarian and shall pay such annual affiliation fees as may from time to time be prescribed. Nominees may be appointed to represent the Association at the various organisations as determined from time to time.

**13. Offences:** The Executive Committee may terminate the membership of a member whose conduct is proved to their satisfaction to be detrimental to the Association or to the interests of his/her fellow members. Any charge against a member must be communicated in writing. An appeal from a decision of the Executive Committee may be made to a Special General Meeting on the requisition in writing of three members to the Secretary who will convene an Extraordinary General Meeting as soon as possible to hear the appeal.

**14. Conversion, Dissolution, Etc:** The Association may be converted into a registered society, or may be dissolved, or these rules may be amended by a two-thirds majority of those present and entitled to vote at a General Meeting convened with the due fourteen days' notice. The notice convening the General Meeting shall list the reason(s) for calling it.

**15. Matters arising not covered by these Rules:** Any matter not covered by the rules may be dealt with by the Executive Committee at its sole discretion.

## Winston Potatoes

If you purchased Winston potatoes from the FGA, please check them immediately as they may be diseased. If yours are affected, please return them to the seed box for a replacement as soon as possible.

# 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/Feb close at 4pm.  
Closed from Christmas and throughout January)

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



**Newbury Farm, Ampthill Road, Silsoe, MK45 4HB.**  
Tel 01525 860048. [www.newburyfarmplants.co.uk](http://www.newburyfarmplants.co.uk)

