



Flitwick Gardeners' Association

Issue 116

Spring 2022

CONTENTS

Page 2	About us
Page 3	Seed Box opening hours
Page 4	Trading Update
Page 5	2022 FGA AGM
Page 6	AGM Agenda
Page 7	Chairman's Report for AGM
Page 8	Treasurer's Report
Page 9	Accounts
Page 11	AGM Trading Report
Page 12	Show Committee Report
Page 14	Spring Show Schedule
Page 17	Show Entry Form
Page 19	FGA Rules

SEE BACK PAGE FOR ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS TO THE SEED BOX

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 2 nd April 2022	Spring Show
Friday 22 nd April 2022	FGA AGM
Saturday 20 th August 2022	Annual Show
Saturday 8 th October 2022	Autumn Show
Thursday 24 th 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.

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.

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

TRADING Update March 2022

More of a 'what to look for at the Seed Box' than usual, so a look at some specifics:-

Potatoes and Onions – All orders are weighed and most folk have been phoned to let them know the orders are available for collection. Sorry if you've not heard from us, but please come and collect your order anyway. We cannot accept any more orders, but please come and select what you want from what is available on the display rack.

Compost – We are trialling a different system by which you go to the till to order and pay for goods and you will then be given a paper slip to take to the compost room. Helpers in the compost room will get your compost and deliver it to your car. Also, please be aware that the discount offer this year is focused on allowing everyone to trial the Melcourt peat free compost.

Own pack – We generally have good stock and plenty more ready to weigh. Please collect an information sheet from the shelves, suggesting how to use each item.

Pots and trays – We have labelled the racks with the prices for these items, rather than using thousands of price tickets. If you could try and note those prices, it would be helpful for the till operators.

Hanging basket – I've not ordered much for this area for quite a while having previously got some very good prices. The prices on our baskets and liners now reflect this and are very cheap (just mentioning!)

Tools – Rationalisation continues and we now have just a few Wolf multi-change items left. They all seem to be a lot cheaper than at other local outlets. If you see a bargain, it probably is.

We have now moved to Draper for Carbon Steel and Wilkinson for stainless steel. Please let me know if there is a tool you would like. You are probably not alone and I can add it to the list of items for the next order.

Lawn goods – Rationalisation of this area is almost complete! We have large bags of lawn foods and the Wrights packs in particular are good value. For approximately 25% price increase, there is a 50%+ increase in coverage.

Water goods – we are phasing out Hozelock, and it seems to be taking forever. Eventually we will be concentrating on Draper products which are about half the

Hozelock price. In my limited experience the basic hose items are totally compatible between the two ranges!

Not a complete commentary but hopefully enough to make you rush to the Seed Box on a Saturday afternoon, 2-4 pm, and keep us well occupied.

If there are any issue about trading, please come along any Saturday and discuss them with the key holder.

I have said in the Trading AGM report that I'm stepping down, but I still expect to be at the Seed Box regularly. Please do raise any FGA issues with me as I'll (hopefully) still be Chairman.

My last contribution is to wish Dan all the best as Trading Secretary and I promise him all the help he asks for, within reason, as he gets up to speed as my replacement.

Jim Godden
FGA Temporary Trading Secretary

2022 FGA AGM

Unfortunately we've been unable to find a room in which to hold our AGM, on Friday 22nd April 2022. Therefore, as last year, we will be holding the AGM using Zoom meeting facilities. If you would like to attend please send an email to enquiries@flitwickgardeners.co.uk and near the time of the AGM we will send you the joining details for the meeting, as well as the minutes from the 2021 AGM.

Colin Stennett
Secretary

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday 22nd April 2022

Zoom meeting

7.30pm

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 15th April 2021.
3. Chairman's Address.
4. Presentation of Annual Reports.
5. Presentation of the Financial Report.
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 2021 AGM and seconded by the Secretary that the Annual Subscription, Joining Fee and Re-Joining Fee be changed to £3.00 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.
9. 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.

Chairman's Report for FGA AGM 2021

My start for an annual report is always to review the previous year's report. During my recap, I realised how much we had achieved in 2021 even with the difficult conditions caused by Covid:

- Many new helpers have emerged to assist in running the FGA
- The Summer Show took place and this year we hope for a full set of shows.
- Zoom meetings for the committee are now routine, and still thankfully short.
- Progress on the various issues at the Seed Box are slowly being addressed. I hope you find it a bit less cluttered and generally cleaner (Thanks Sue and Jan).

Overall I think that 2021 was a very good year and the trading and accounts seem to support that view.

The last paragraph of my AGM report last year started "Assuming we are staying at the Seed Box..." As I hope you all know by now, yes we are staying here. In fact Leonie (Treasurer) is trying to progress an ongoing lease for the Seed Box, to replace our current interim lease with the Town Council. This will enable us to start making it a better place and high on my personal list is improved, more modern lighting. Our Trading Secretary in waiting has many ideas which I'm sure he will implement over time.

We have recently been informed that the start dates for the Care Home development to commence is imminent. Interim access arrangements have been agreed for Saturday opening (only) during the development which; are detailed in this magazine. Please especially note that the Seed Box car park will be fairly small and if you only want small items please use the alternative area on the allotment site. If you are using the allotment site parking please try not to obstruct the allotment holders' access.

We still only have temporary volunteers for several FGA roles. Please see descriptions in this magazine. Individually these are not too arduous, so if you are interested in any of them, please go to our website and send an email expressing your interest! I will come back to you personally to discuss possibilities.

As a summary of the FGA year I think it had everything that was expected and was highly successful considering the environment (sorry, Covid impacts) that completely dominated our lives over the year. Thanks to everyone; Helpers and members, for making it such a good year. Let's hope that we actually get to a new normal in 2022, whatever it may be.

Thanks for wearing masks; it helps us all. I wonder if BC will now have a new meaning and will it be followed by AC?

Treasurer's Report 2021

As I write this, England is finally emerging from two years of Covid restrictions and supposedly turning a corner into some semblance of normality! The impacts of the pandemic have been widespread and felt particularly harshly by small business; it's reported that in 2021 over 17,000 retail premises closed, a stark reminder of this. Fortunately Flitwick gardeners are a resilient bunch and the Seed Box was not one of these!! It's been fantastic this year to see the results of the hard work that volunteers have put in, and a turnaround to making a surplus again. The headline figures for the FGA in 2021 are as follows:

- **Sales were significantly up** this year (£19,777 in 2021 vs £13,773 in 2020). This is partially due to the 2020 Seed Box closures, but the longer-term trend is also an increase in sales income. It's particularly noteworthy that Compost sales income has risen 48% since 2019.
- With increased sales, the cost of purchases has increased, as you would expect. However, despite this, **Trading Surplus was significantly up** this year (£4,151 in 2021 vs £1,323 in 2020), due to the high sales volumes and lower Covid-related costs.
- Most expenses were broadly in line with the prior year. There was a **one-off increase in Rent** as Flitwick Town Council unearthed some invoices totalling £409 that dated from 2018!
- This year saw the very welcome return of the **Summer Show**, which generated net income of £50. A special thank you to everyone who made this happen despite the challenge of constantly changing Covid-rules!
- Overall, the **Net Surplus for 2021 was £1,496** (vs net *deficit* of £902 in 2020).

It was agreed at the 2021 AGM that we should donate the full balance of £691 from the FGA Charity Account to support the local community: The money was transferred to "Flitwick Combined Charities", a group which provide grants to help those in our community who are in financial need. The charity was very appreciative of our donation, and it is fantastic to know this money is now being actively used for worthwhile causes.

As I started with some figures from the recent news, I will end with some too. The Bank of England recently announced that they expect inflation to rise to over 7% in the spring of 2022 – higher than it has been for 30 years... The Seed Box is not immune to the effects of inflation, and we have seen huge increases in the cost of purchases for 2022 trading. It is on this basis that we will propose at the AGM to raise the annual FGA membership cost from £2 to £3. If you think this sounds like too high an increase, consider that the membership cost has been unchanged since the 1990s

(it may be even longer ago – I stand to be corrected!) and if we had raised the membership cost in line with inflation it would be nearer £5 by now!!
Please let me know if you have any questions or comments. Many thanks,

Leonie Coverley
Treasurer

Filtwick Gardeners' Association
Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2021

<u>2020</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>2021</u>
£		£	£		£
Trading Account					
11,468	Purchases	15,389	6,102	Sales: - General	8,855
-	Plus Creditors - Current Year	-	1,749	- Potatoes	1,931
(1,382)	Less Creditors - Previous Year	15,389	1,371	- Seeds	1,202
(31,642)	Less Stock - Current Year	(31,725)	4,551	- Compost	7,789
33,615	Plus Stock - Previous Year	31,642	13,773		19,777
12,059		15,306		Plus Debtors - Current Year	-
357	Trading Expenses	286		Less Debtors - Previous Year	-
34	Trading Assets - Depreciation (see Notes)	34			
1,323	Trading Surplus for Year	4,151			
13,773	TOTAL	19,777	13,773	TOTAL	19,777

Income & Expenditure Account

8	General Expenses	72	1,323	Trading Surplus	4,151
-	Show & Social Expenses (see Notes)	175	380	Membership Income	490
-	Redecoration & Repairs	-	-	Show & Social Income (see Notes)	225
587	Rent (Inc. Amortisation) & Insurance	1,028	18	Other Income: - Bank Interest	2
311	Magazines & Printing	409	7	- Equipment Loans	45
435	Fire Protection/Alarm Contract	438	-	Cash Differences on Till (net)	-
65	Affiliations	65			
524	Telephone	468			
-	Gratuities & Donations	10			
43	Sponsorship & Advertising	-			
614	Bank & PDQ Charges	712			
43	Cash Differences on Till (net)	40			
(902)	Net Income to Accumulated Fund	1,496			
1,728	TOTAL	4,913	1,728	TOTAL	4,913

Charity Account

-	Distribution During Year	(691)	-	Income for the Year	-
691	Opening Balance	691	691	Balance Brought Forward	-
691	TOTAL	-	691	TOTAL	-

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2021

-	Creditors	-	54	Fixed Assets	20
69,989	Accumulated Fund B/F	69,088	31,642	Stock at Cost	31,725
(902)	From Income & Expenditure Account	1,496	-	Debtors	-
691	Charity Account	-	11,938	Cash at Bank - Current Account	23,262
			25,308	- Deposit Account	15,310
			691	- Charity Account	-
			145	Cash in Hand	267
69,778	TOTAL	70,584	69,778	TOTAL	70,584

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

Flitwick Gardeners' Association
Notes to the Accounts - 2021

Trading Assets and Depreciation

<u>Item</u>	<u>Purchase Date</u>	<u>Cost</u> £	<u>Yrs Dep</u>	<u>Previous Dep</u> £	<u>Current Dep</u> £	<u>Current Value</u> £
VAX	Sep-17	70	5	56	14	-
Sack Truck	Mar-19	100	5	60	20	20
					<u>34</u>	<u>20</u>
Seed Box Lease	Sep-98	9,800	20	9,800		-
(Previous lease was amortised 1998 - 2017 and a new lease is pending action from Flitwick Town Council)						
					<u>Total Assets</u>	<u>20</u>

Show and Social Events

<u>Event</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>		<u>Income</u>	
	<u>2020</u> £	<u>2021</u> £	<u>2020</u> £	<u>2021</u> £
Spring Show	-	-	-	-
Summer Show	-	171	-	222
Autumn Show	-	-	-	-
Quiz Night	-	-	-	-
Sundry	-	4	-	3
Totals	<u>-</u>	<u>175</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>225</u>
Net Profit			<u>-</u>	<u>50</u>

Bank Reconciliation

	<u>2020</u> £	<u>2021</u> £
Current Account Statement	13,414	5,151
Less unrepresented Payments	-	(409)
Plus unrepresented Receipts	-	-
Less early payment received re: next year's trading	(785)	-
Add back early payment made re: next year's trading	-	18,520
	<u>12,629</u>	<u>23,262</u>
Business Savings Account	<u>25,368</u>	<u>15,310</u>

L Coverley 01.01.2022
Treasurer

AGM TRADING REPORT

2021 was another fraught year with excellent results.

The biggest sales item by a long way was compost and having nearly run out of everything in 2020, we had two lorry loads, direct from Northern Ireland, for 2021 and still many items ran out. For 2022 we have further increased our compost order with the addition of RHS approved Melcourt peat free compost. Unfortunately the Clover peat free was in very short supply and we did not get any. Hopefully this year we will not run out. The discount offer for 2022 is intended to allow members to try the Melcourt for free when they buy 3 of specified Clover Peat based compost. Own pack sales continue to increase, so I think members are realising what a good deal they offer.

During the last 4 months of each year, I've put in an order for the following year; to keep the shelves full. This is never easy and this year some of the wholesale price rises were mind boggling, particularly on the chemicals. According to our main supplier, this is all about the industry having to adapt after Brexit. I think that products which previously got EEC wide approvals now need one specifically for the UK. Because of this change, several large European producers seem to have sold rights to their products to UK companies. In turn this has resulted in higher prices to us and hence you, sorry but we can only pass those on.

I know that for me, the allotment and garden have been my source of sanity over the last 2 years. Please promote gardening in general and the FGA to your friends, as I'm sure they will benefit, even with the higher membership coming next year. £3.00 per annum is not a lot, especially as you can save at least that amount by buying one 3kg pack of seed potatoes from us.

Finally, a huge thanks to everyone who helps the FGA in any capacity, whether you are an old stager or recent recruit, you are too many to mention but you are all equally appreciated.

Great Gardening

Jim Godden

FGA Temporary Trading Secretary

2022 Annual Show Photography classes

The classes for the 2022 Annual Show on Saturday 20th August are:

103 Near

104 Far

105 Fast

106 Slow

The children's photography class will be any of the above subjects

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 Summer show there is also a special Dahlia class, again with a tuber supplied by the FGA

If you're interested in joining in one or both classes this year please see me at the Spring show or 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

COVID restrictions prevented us from holding 2 of our 3 shows and our Quiz Night last year. We were pleased to be able to still run our Annual Show, whilst following all COVID rules that were in place at the time. Based on the number of members that put in entries into the show and the number of people coming to look around when the judging was completed, it seems as though others were glad that it happened. As usual there were some wonderful entries and some amazing cakes for people to enjoy. My thanks to everyone who helped to make the show a success and I'm hoping that for 2022 everything can be back to as near normal as possible.

If you can help organising, or help out at the show and would be willing to join the Show Committee, please come and have a chat with me.

We're always looking for more people to put entries into our shows. The shows are meant to be for fun and if you've never entered before, there are always lots of helpful, non-scary people that can assist you. Why not come along and give it a try?

Colin Stennett
Show Secretary

Don't forget to renew your membership

If you have not already renewed your membership for 2022, please come along to the Seed Box to do so as soon as possible. You have until the AGM on 22nd April to renew, after this date your membership will expire, and you will need to pay an additional £2 re-joining fee.

Kath Stennett
Membership Secretary

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

The National Garden Scheme will be running this year. The link to their 2022 Bedfordshire Gardens booklet is <https://bit.ly/2022-ngsbeds-booklet> ? There is also a post about this on the FGA Facebook group.

SPRING SHOW

Saturday 2nd April 2022 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**
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 exhibitor's 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 16 for further information on the classification of daffodils.

CLASS No. DIVISION 1 TRUMPET DAFFODIL CULTIVARS

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

DIVISION 2 LARGE-CUPPED DAFFODIL CULTIVARS

- | | |
|---|--|
| 4 | One Bloom Yellow Petals |
| 5 | One Bloom White Petals |
| 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)

Horticultural classification of Daffodils

Division 1: Trumpet	
	<p>One flower to each stem. The cup or trumpet is as long or longer than the petals.</p> <p>Examples: Golden Harvest, Rembrandt</p>
Division 2: Large Cupped	
	<p>One flower to each stem. The cup or trumpet is more than one third but less than equal to the length of the petals.</p> <p>Examples: Armada, Carlton, Ceylon, Desdemona</p>
Division 3: Small Cupped	
	<p>One flower to each stem. The cup or trumpet is NOT more than one third the length of the petals.</p> <p>Examples: Angel, Barret Browning, Birma, Lemonade</p>
Division 4: Double	
	<p>One or more flowers per stem, with doubling of the petal segments or cup / trumpet or both.</p> <p>Examples: Acropolis, Golden Ducat, Unique</p>

ENTRY FORM

Flitwick Gardener’s Association Spring Show Entry Form. Ring the classes you intend to enter (and put a ‘2’ next to a class if you intend to put 2 entries in that class)

Members Name Membership No.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27				

Spouse’s Name

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27				

Child’s Name Age..... 16 28

Child’s Name Age..... 16 28

Child’s Name Age..... 16 28

Flitwick Gardeners' Association

RULES

As at 5th April, 2019

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 and nearby towns and villages.

4.Fees and Subscriptions: There will be a joining fee for all new members and for lapsed members applying to rejoin 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 Examined 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. Association Accounts: The end of year accounts shall be examined by an examiner who is not a member of the Executive Committee and submit their report to the Annual General Meeting.

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 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.

Temporary route to the Seed Box

As soon as construction of the development on the Old Leisure Centre site starts (likely to be April 2022), access to the Seed Box will be via the New Leisure Centre car park, shown pink in the plan below.

Limited parking will still be available 'inside' the Seed Box area.

Parking will also be available in the allotment site. Please do not obstruct the drive ways if using the allotment area.

