



Flitwick Gardeners' Association

Issue 124

Autumn 2024

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 12th October 2024 - Autumn Show
Thursday 21st November 2024 - FGA Quiz (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 is well under, so temporary access to the Seed Box is now via the back-right corner of the New Leisure Centre car park. See page 12 for details.

Seed box Opening Hours

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

Ian Holman	Chairman, Deputy Secretary, Magazine Editor and Show Committee
Colin Stennett	Secretary and Show Secretary
Daniel Doyle	Trading Coordinator
Leonie Coverley	Treasurer
J-P Carter	Deputy Chairman and Show Committee
Laurie Arnold	Seeds and Deputy Trading Coordinator
Kath Stennett	Show Committee
Francis Prior	Membership Secretary, Deputy Treasurer
Ann Lutley	Publicity Officer
Sue Titchener	Seed Box Rota Coordinator

Show Committee (not mentioned above)

Sue Foster

Honorary Life Members

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

Chit Chat from the Chair

The FGA Annual Show was a day of mixed emotions for me – the sadness of (unsurprisingly) not defending the (surprisingly) won Crawley Cup for the best potatoes at last year's show (although my wife was secretly pleased, give how much room it up took on a shelf!) and the pride of winning the not-hotly contested men's cookery class. But, hey, a win's a win! However, the main feelings were pride in seeing an excellent Show and a packed village hall; and a satisfied stomach from the always amazing homemade cakes on sale. Thanks to everyone who made the day such a success.

If you've ever wondered about entering one of our Shows, then my advice is to just give it a go! There's always plenty of help on hand, whether from the members of the Show Committee or other FGA members, and no-one will laugh or criticize your entries. And in the heaviest and longest classes at the forthcoming autumn show, looks don't matter in the slightest! So give it a go and bring your entries to the Village Hall before 2pm on Saturday 12th October.

Finally, you'll see elsewhere in the magazine that it's membership renewal and potato and onion ordering time. Dan made great strides earlier this year in reducing the wastage on our bulk potato orders, but this does mean that there's less choice available at the Seedbox once pre-orders have been fulfilled. So do get your pre-orders to us to secure your favoured varieties. And whilst doing that, why not bring a family member or friend along to see what the FGA has to offer.

Happy Gardening!

Ian Holman
FGA Chairman

Don't Forget!!
Renew your Membership for 2025

Don't miss out on all the benefits of membership:
Same low price as last year (£3)
Why not introduce a friend?

The FGA is for you and needs YOU

2024 Annual Show Photographic Classes

- 103: Clouds or Mist
- 104: Sunshine
- 105: Rain
- 106: Frost or Snow

The Children's photographic class will be 'A Sunny Day'.

Seeds

You are likely to see a few changes to the FGA seeds over the next few years as we transition from Fothergills to Kings Seeds. This year we hope to have both ranges available. There is no change to the arrangements for Dobies seeds and catalogues should appear as usual at the end of Sept/beginning of October and you can put in one order for all you need or put in several orders at different times of the year.

Moles Seeds for bulk buying are also still available in the filing cabinets. Just ask if you want any.

Laurie Arnold (Seeds and Deputy Trading Coordinator)

TRADING Update September 2024

I would like to thank everyone for their continued support at the Seedbox. Not only the volunteers but our members for their loyalty during this transition period from Peated products to peat-free. And a special shout out to those members supporting us with moving your own compost to your car. Its greatly appreciated!

We have made every effort to keep the products you know and trust in stock and available. This year each of us had to change how we work our allotments, gardens and the products we use. The good news is that, although we made the decision to go peat-free, the variety of products available has increased and please keep your eyes out for what products we will have in for next year.

Currently we are moving into Potato and Onion season. We have again had to change our prices a very small amount due to inflation. 3kg bags, 10 tubers and onions are only going up by 25p along with the onions. This is still amazing value and I look forward to receiving each member's pre orders.

We again will order in based on this requirement. More orders means more stock brought in so please pre order to avoid being disappointed. Due to a lack of orders on certain varieties we have made the decision to discontinue some lines. Others are just not available anymore from our supplier.

I welcome each of you to come down and discuss what your options are with regards to what to buy to fill your needs and keep your eyes out for our new updated product boards. These will be used to help explain what works best and when.

Some of our missing products will return as I know many are chasing for certain things. With our main supplier having closed down we have sourced what we need elsewhere and will be getting this in shortly.

Also do remember that we trade right up to the last weekend in November and close at the beginning of December. We will be open for potato pre orders in the new year however. Before we come back to trading

Again thank you for your continued support and I Wish everyone every planting success.

Dan Doyle

FGA Trading Secretary

Annual Show Report

Once again members proved that they know how to grow and make things. The village hall was filled with some really good examples of vegetables, flowers, fruit, home produce, handicrafts, and photographs. It was particularly pleasing to see so many great entries in the children's onion class, although slightly disappointing that there were no entries in the other children's classes. If anyone has got suggestions for classes that children might be interested in taking part in, please let me know so that they can be considered for future shows.

The judges had to spend quite a long time going through the entries to decide which were the top 3 in each of the classes. Once we opened to let everyone look around, the hall was soon packed with everyone enjoying the exhibits and everyone who entered things seemed pleased with how well they'd done. People were soon tucking into fabulous homemade cakes with tea/coffee. Thanks to everyone that made the show such a success with help on the day, making cakes, putting entries into the show and to coming in to look around.

Colin Stennett
Show Secretary

FGA Quiz (Thursday 21st November)

On Thursday 21st November 2024 the FGA Show Committee are organising our annual quiz evening at Flitwick Village Hall, starting at 8:00 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 up to 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

AUTUMN SHOW SCHEDULE – Saturday 12th October 2024

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

Children may enter any class, but their entries in classes 1 to 12 (inclusive) and 40 will be judged separately.

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

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 One Rose – any variety
- 28 One Pot Plant - Flower
- 29 One Pot Plant - Foliage
- 30 One Vase of Mixed Foliage
- 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

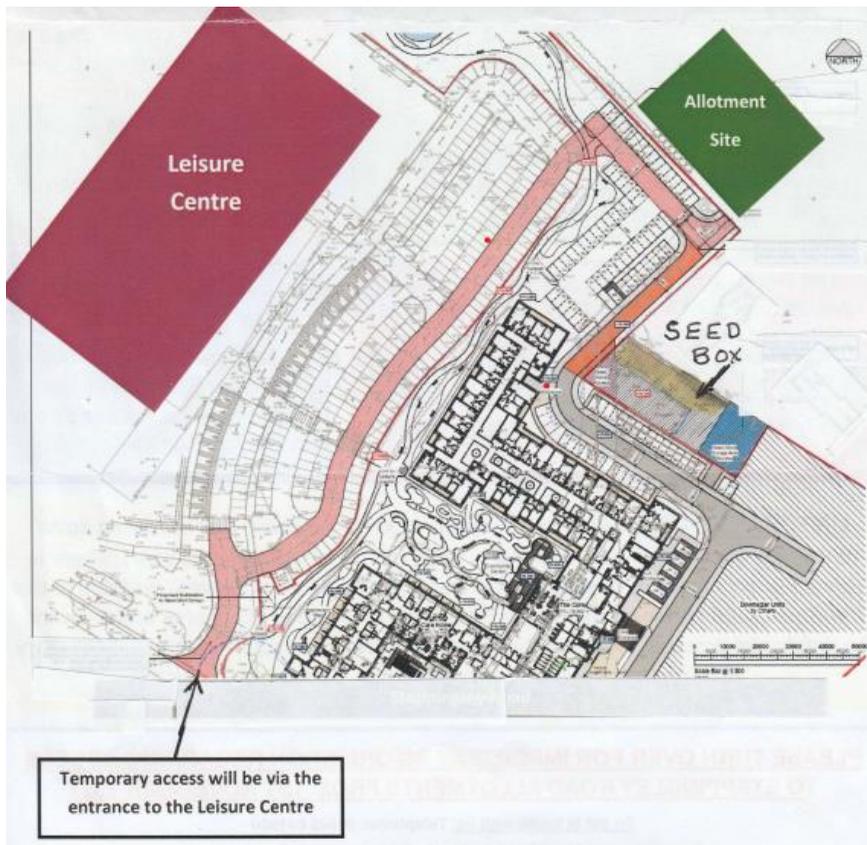
MISCELLANEOUS

- 42 Homemade Christmas Card

Temporary Route to the Seed Box

If you need help describing the route to the Seedbox to prospective members, 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.



Flitwick Gardeners' Association

Telephone - 01525 – 717289 (24 hour answerphone)

Pre-Season Potato and Onion Sets Order Form – 2025

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 received by the end of Dec 24 will be telephoned to advise when they are ready for collection.

Number of Packs 3kg 10 seed	Variety	Total Cost
	“First Earlies”	3 Kg (10)
.....	Duke of York	£5.00 (£2.50)
.....	Duke of York (RED)	£5.00 (£2.50)
.....	Foremost	£5.00 (£2.50)
.....	Maris Bard	£5.00 (£2.50)
.....	Pentland Javelin	£5.00 (£2.50)
.....	Rocket(EARLY)	£5.00 (£2.50)
.....	Swift (VERY EARLY)	£5.00 (£2.50)
	“Second Earlies”	3 Kg (10)
.....	Acoustic	£5.00 (£2.50)
.....	Charlotte	£5.00 (£2.50)
.....	Kestrel	£5.00 (£2.50)
.....	Marfona	£5.00 (£2.50)
.....	Wilja	£5.00 (£2.50)
	“Main Crop”	3 Kg (10)
.....	Cara	£5.00 (£2.50)
.....	Desiree	£5.00 (£2.50)
.....	King Edward	£5.00 (£2.50)
.....	Maris Piper	£5.00 (£2.50)
.....	Picasso	£5.00 (£2.50)
.....	Organic Setanta	£5.00 (£2.50)
.....	Caledonian Rose	£5.00 (£2.50)

“Onion Sets and Shallots”

.....	Red Sun Shallots (0.5 Kg)	£2.75
.....	Yellow Moon Shallots (0.5 Kg)	£2.75
.....	Biztro Shallots (0.5 Kg)	£2.75
.....	Red Baron Onion Sets (0.25 Kg)	£2.50
.....	Centurion F1 Onion Sets (0.25 Kg)	£2.50
.....	Sturon Onion Sets (0.5 Kg)	£2.50
.....	Stuttgarter Onion Sets (0.5 Kg)	£2.50
.....	Hercules F1 Onion Sets (0.25 Kg)	£2.50

Total Due **£**.....

Less Deposit Paid **£**

(Minimum Deposit 50p per pack)

BALANCE DUE **£**

For F.G.A. use Telephoned