



Flitwick Gardeners' Association

Issue 127

Autumn 2025

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 11th October 2025 - Autumn Show
Thursday 20th November 2025 - 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.

What3words:

///octopus.downhill.sprayer –Seedbox location

///wake.perfumes.every - Approximate position, at the back of the leisure centre car park, of the start of the access track to the Seedbox

New phone number: **07592 996139**

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 **07592 996139**.

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, 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
Siân Jones	Deputy Secretary
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

As another growing year approaches its finale of the FGA's Autumn Show, it will soon be time for you to select your best, smallest, longest or heaviest entries. There's always plenty of friendly help on hand, so please support us and bring your entries to the Village Hall before 2pm on Saturday 11th October.

Given the very dry spring and summer and multiple heatwaves, the quality of the exhibits at this year's Summer Show were particularly impressive. A testament to the enthusiasm and skill (and watering) of our members. Whilst not all plants and trees have enjoyed this year's warm dry weather, it has been a welcome boon for butterflies after last year's wet and cool summer which represented a low point in a downward trend for butterflies. We can all support butterfly conservation by mowing our lawn less (that's how I justify it to my wife!), planting more native flowers or nectar-rich flowers with an open habit, and prolonging flowering by deadheading and mulching. So as you peruse the Dobies catalogues (available from the Seedbox soon) or our new range of Kings Seeds, please consider butterflies - in your planting choices and in finding space for flowers in your garden, balcony, pots or allotments. There's some great resources available at [Butterfly Conservation](#).

Finally, you'll see elsewhere in the magazine that it's membership renewal and potato and onion ordering time. To help keep our prices low, Dan strives to minimise 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 secure your favoured varieties by pre-ordering. 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)

PS If you were wondering about how we got on growing the flowers for our elder son's wedding, I'm very pleased (and mightily relieved) to say that the hours of watering were worthwhile!

Don't Forget!!
Renew your Membership for 2026

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

2026 Annual Show Photographic Classes

Your photographic interpretation of the following words:

103 – Distance

104 – Speed

105 – Height

106 – Time

The Children's photographic class (96) will be 'Close up'.

Kings Seeds

If you've been to the Seedbox lately you will have noticed that our Fothergills seeds stand is empty. Hopefully by the time you read this magazine, it will have been replaced with a fully-stocked flower and vegetable seeds from Kings Seeds. 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.

TRADING Update September 2025

As always, I would like to thank everyone for their continued support at the Seedbox and the members who continue to come down and purchase from us. Without this we would not be able to continue to supply products at the low prices we offer.

Please continue with helping to move your compost to your car when you are able, it is greatly appreciated. This year you all joined us in using peat-free products and surprised us with the demand for certain products. The good news is that we will be getting more of what you want in ready for next year and keep an eye out when in the Seedbox for possible additional offers.

We are moving into potato and onion season as usual. Again, as you can appreciate the price has changed slightly. But as those who order year on year you know that we are still amazing value for the amount you get. Please tell your neighbours, fellow allotmenters and strangers about this! Potatoes and onions are ordered from our supplier based on your pre-order demand so please take the time to drop off your sheets as early as possible to avoid disappointment. We have kept the same varieties and again will have a new variety for you all to sample. And please give us your feedback for the Francis variety given out last year.

We have a change of seed supplier coming this month. We will again be stocking up over the close down period. Make note that we again continue trading until the end of November and then shut down for December with late January being mainly for Potato and Onion collections. I would also like to remind everyone that we offer our own brand of food and fertilisers. Great products that save you money and offer more volume than those in the prepacked boxes and bottles. I implore you to take one of our Own pack cheat sheets and I think you will be surprised what you can add to help yield great results with your planting.

Wishing you every planting success and don't neglect your beds over winter.

Dan Doyle (Trading Secretary)

Annual Show Report

Even 4 declared heatwaves during the year and no significant rain for several weeks didn't prevent members from bringing in a stunning array of exhibits for the show. Having spent a couple of days prior to the show filling out entry cards I knew that we'd have fun making sure there was enough room for all the exhibits, and as it turned out by the time staging was complete there were more entries than we'd had before, from the records that I've got. The hall was once again 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 classes, especially as we had made some changes to their classes. It was also pleasing to see a number of people entering the show for the first time, and doing well with their entries.

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, and where the trophies should be awarded.

Once we opened to let everyone look around, the hall was soon busy with everyone enjoying the exhibits and those who entered things seemed pleased with how well they'd done. People were soon tucking into some tea/coffee and fabulous homemade cakes. 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 20th November)

On Thursday 20th November 2025 the FGA Show Committee are organising a 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 £16 for a team of 4 people, which covers entry to the quiz and 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 11th October 2025

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**

Childrens 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.

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 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

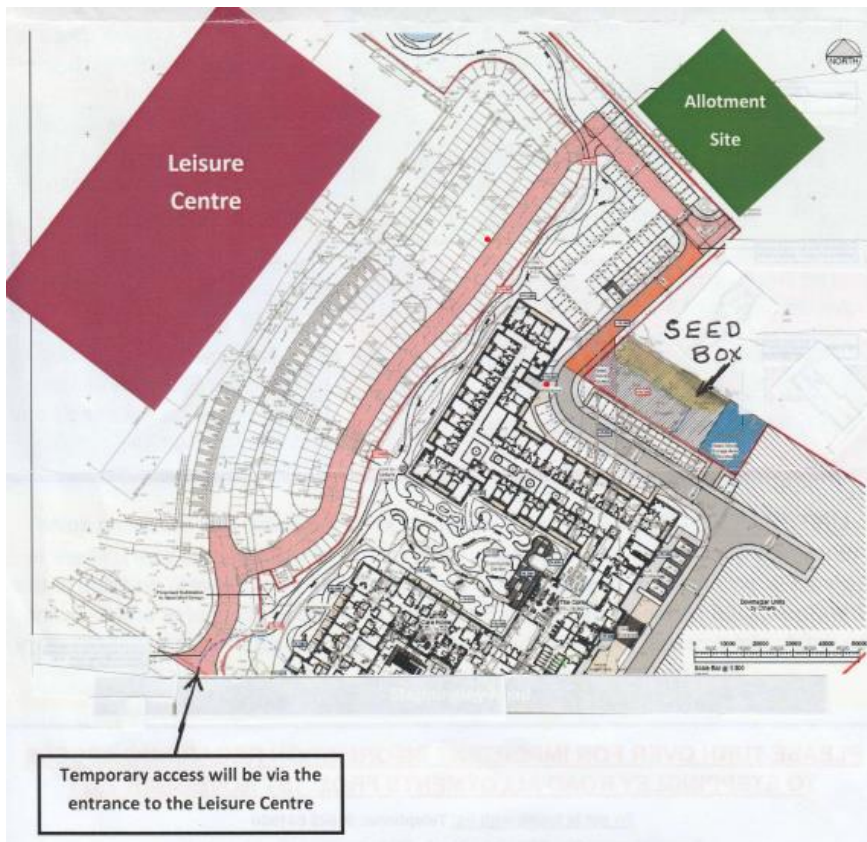
MISCELLANEOUS

- 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 - 07592 996139

Pre-Season Potato and Onion Sets Order Form – 2025/26

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 25 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)
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.....	Duke of York	£5.50	(£2.50)
.....	Duke of York (RED)	£5.50	(£2.50)
.....	Foremost	£5.50	(£2.50)
.....	Maris Bard	£5.50	(£2.50)
.....	Pentland Javelin	£5.50	(£2.50)
.....	Rocket(EARLY)	£5.50	(£2.50)
.....	Swift (VERY EARLY)	£5.50	(£2.50)

	"Second Earlies"	3 Kg (10)
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.....	Acoustic	£5.50	(£2.50)
.....	Charlotte	£5.50	(£2.50)
.....	Kestrel	£5.50	(£2.50)
.....	Marfona	£5.50	(£2.50)
.....	Wilja	£5.50	(£2.50)

	"Main Crop"	3 Kg (10)
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.....	Cara	£5.50	(£2.50)
.....	Desiree	£5.50	(£2.50)
.....	King Edward	£5.50	(£2.50)
.....	Maris Piper	£5.50	(£2.50)
.....	Picasso	£5.50	(£2.50)
.....	Organic Setanta	£5.50	(£2.50)	.....
.....	Caledonian Rose	£5.50	(£2.50)	.....

"Onion Sets and Shallots"

.....	Red Sun Shallots (0.5 Kg)	£3.50	.....
.....	Yellow Moon Shallots (0.5 Kg)	£3.50	.....
.....	Biztro Shallots (0.5 Kg)	£3.50	.....
.....	Red Baron Onion Sets (0.25 Kg)	£3.00	.....
.....	Centurion F1 Onion Sets (0.25 Kg)	£3.00	.....
.....	Sturon Onion Sets (0.5 Kg)	£3.00	.....
.....	Stuttgarter Onion Sets (0.5 Kg)	£3.00	.....
.....	Hercules F1 Onion Sets (0.25 Kg)	£3.00	.....

Total Due £.....

Less Deposit Paid £

(Minimum Deposit 50p per pack)

BALANCE DUE £

For F.G.A. use Telephoned