



Flitwick Gardeners' Association

Issue 130

Autumn 2026

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 10th October - Autumn Show

Thursday 26th November - FGA Quiz (8.00pm)

Flitwick Gardeners' Association

We are an association run by members, for members. Our aim is to promote and support gardening and growing 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 new Red Kite Meadows care home that is beside Flitwick Leisure Centre with access via Red Kite Road, off Steppingley Road. If you're unsure, see the map at <https://www.flitwickgardeners.co.uk/fgaopen.htm>

What3words:

///octopus.downhill.sprayer –Seedbox location

///butlers.signs.again – Steppingley Road access to Seedbox via Red Kite Road

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
Francis Prior	Membership Secretary, Deputy Treasurer
Ann Lutley	Publicity Officer
Sue Titchener	Seed Box Rota Coordinator

Other committee members (not mentioned above)

Kath Stennett	Show Committee
Sue Foster	Show Committee
Francis Phillips	Website

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 Show Committee has, as usual, been busy this year organizing the FGA's three shows (as well as the quiz). Despite the drought and multiple heatwaves, it was great to see the wide range of entries across the vegetable, flowers, fruit, home produce, arts and crafts and children's classes in last month's Annual or Summer Show. It was especially wonderful to see the delight on member's faces when they saw a rosette or trophy by their entries. And their look of pride whilst being photographed by family or friends. Well done and thank you to everyone who entered. And to everyone else on the Show Committee (especially Colin) and to all the helpers on the day for making it such a successful and enjoyable day.

As another growing year approaches its finale, it will soon be time for you to select your best, smallest, longest, ugliest or heaviest entries for the FGA's Autumn Show. As you will have seen from my entry in the "Collection of four different kinds of vegetables" in the annual show, it's the taking part that's important! 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 10th October. If you really have nothing to show, then come and enjoy the spectacle and the cake at 3pm.

Finally, you'll see later in the magazine that it's membership renewal and potato, onions, shallots and garlic (***new for this year!***) 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 in spring once pre-orders have been fulfilled. So secure your favoured varieties by pre-ordering. Looking at the Dobies and Fothergil websites, 1kg of seed potatoes (approx. 8-14) tubers were priced at between £7.95 and £9.99 – compared those with our prices at the back of the magazine to see what a great deal you're getting.

So whilst ordering your potatoes, garlic and onions and renewing your membership, 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 2027

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

2027 Annual Show Photographic Classes

Your photographic interpretation of the following words:

103 – Spring

104 – Summer

104 – Autumn

106 – Winter

The Children's photographic class (96) will be 'My favourite time of year'

Kings and Dobies Seeds

We hope that you've been pleased with the range of flower and vegetable seeds from Kings Seeds that we've stocked in the Seedbox this year. And the discount that you receive on **every** pack of 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. You can put in one order for all you need or put in several orders at different times of the year.

NEW!

Garlic available to pre-order. See the order form at the back of the magazine. We're offering two bulb packs of two varieties of spring planting 'soft neck' garlic at an excellent price – do try them!

TRADING Update September 2026

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. Each year is bringing new challenges regarding trading and getting in the products you want at a great price.

Compost sales have taken a dip this period mainly as the weather has been incredibly dry! But don't forget to come and get your compost, manure and fertilisers now the weather is going to turn more favourable as we enter Autumn.

This year we are looking to mix up the potato and onion selection and add in some garlic! You all asked for it and we think it will be worth it so be sure to look over the order form. You will also notice another year brings another price range. For those ordering with us for years you know you're still getting a great deal so please tell your neighbours, fellow allotmenters and strangers about this!

Potatoes and onions are ordered based off pre-ordered demand so please take the time to drop off your sheets to avoid disappointment. Mixing it up this year we will have a new variety for you all to sample. Please give us your feedback for the Saggita variety given out last year.

We will continue to serve your seed needs through King seeds and please remember that anything you don't find on the shelf can be ordered in special, you only need to get in contact. Make note that we again continue trading until the end of November and then shut down for December with late January being for Potato and Onion collections.

Final reminder to 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 branded 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.

Please continue with helping shift compost when you are able, it is greatly appreciated.

Wishing you every planting success

Dan Doyle (Trading Secretary)

Annual Show Report

Last year I was worried when we had 4 heatwaves and no significant rain – who would believe that this year the weather has given growers an even bigger challenge. Personally, I've struggled to grow quite a few different vegetables to eat let alone think about showing and the flowers in our garden were glorious weeks before the show took place!!! I thought everyone would struggle to get things to show. However, by midday when the judges arrived the hall was looking a lot fuller than expected and we had the **2nd highest number of entries ever**. Some classes had a lot less entries than usual, for instance beans, but others such as tomatoes and onions were up on previous years. We also seem to have a thriving group of members who can create great needlework, drawings/paintings and photographs.

It was also pleasing to see a number of people entering the show for the first time and doing well with their entries. Once we opened to let everyone look around, the hall was soon busy with everyone enjoying the exhibits and 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 26th November)

On Thursday 26th November, 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 about gardening things, but a light-hearted general knowledge quiz with the aim of everyone enjoying themselves and 50% of the profits on the night go to local charities. The cost is £16 for a team of 4 people, which covers entry to the quiz and an interval drink of tea or coffee with a slice of cake. 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)

Horticultural classification of Dahlias

Pompon Dahlias	Class 62
	Pompon Dahlias have fully double blooms that resemble perfect miniature spheres. Their petals largely curl inwards towards the centre of the flower. For FGA class 62, the flower's diameter must not exceed 55 mm
Ball Dahlias	Class 65
	Ball dahlias have fully double blooms, ball shaped or slightly flattened. Their petals are rounded at the tips, with margins spirally arranged and curl inwards towards the centre of the flower. Ball dahlias are larger than pompon dahlias, and tend to have slightly less tightly rolled petals
Decorative Dahlias	Class 64
	Decorative Dahlias have double blooms showing no visible central disc in the flower. Their petals are generally broad, flat, blunt pointed at the tips and curl inwards towards the centre of the flower. The blooms of Decorative Dahlias are more open than Ball and Pompons
Cactus Dahlias	Class 63
	Cactus Dahlias have fully double blooms known for their spiky petals. Their petals are usually pointed, narrow and curl outwards to the rear of the flower for the majority of their length.
Semi-Cactus Dahlias	Class 63
	Semi-Cactus Dahlias have fully double blooms. Their petals are usually pointed, narrow and curl outwards to the rear of the flower for some of their length. Semi-cactus dahlias are entered in the same class as Cactus dahlias

There are other dahlia types, and they can be entered into the **'any other flower'** class.

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

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 2:00 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 - **Jim Godden Trophy**
- 41 Decorated / Carved Pumpkin – children

MISCELLANEOUS

- 42 Homemade Christmas Card

Flitwick Gardeners' Association
 Telephone -
Pre-Season Potato and Onion Sets Order Form
January 2027 collection

Name Address

TelephoneF.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 26 will be telephoned to advise when they
 are ready for collection.***

Number of Packs		“First Earlies”	3 Kg (10)		Total Cost
3kg	10 seed				
.....		Sharpes Express	£ 6.00	(£3.00)	.....
.....		Foremost	£ 6.00	(£3.00)	.....
.....		Maris Bard	£ 6.00	(£3.00)	.....
.....		Pentland Javelin	£ 6.00	(£3.00)	.....
.....		Rocket (EARLY)	£ 6.00	(£3.00)	.....

		“Second Earlies”	3 Kg	(10)	
.....	.....	Acoustic	£ 6.00	(£3.00)	.....
.....	.....	Charlotte	£ 6.00	(£3.00)	.....
.....	.....	Kestrel	£ 6.00	(£3.00)	.....
.....	.....	Wilja	£ 6.00	(£3.00)	.....

		“Main Crop”	3 Kg	(10)	
.....	.....	Cara	£ 6.00	(£3.00)	.....
.....	.....	Desiree	£ 6.00	(£3.00)	.....
.....	.....	King Edward	£ 6.00	(£3.00)	.....
.....	.....	Maris Piper	£ 6.00	(£3.00)	.....
.....	.....	Picasso	£ 6.00	(£3.00)	.....
.....	.....	Organic Setanta	£ 6.00	(£3.00)	.....
.....	.....	Caledonian Rose	£ 6.00	(£3.00)	.....

“Onion Sets and Shallots”

.....	Red Sun Shallots (0.5 Kg)	£ 4.00	.....
.....	Yellow Moon Shallots (0.5 Kg)	£ 4.00	.....
.....	Biztro Shallots (0.5 Kg)	£ 4.00	.....
.....	Red Baron Onion Sets (0.25 Kg)	£ 3.50	.....
.....	Sturon Onion Sets (0.5 Kg)	£ 3.50	.....
.....	Stuttgarter Onion Sets (0.5 Kg)	£ 3.50	.....

Garlic (soft neck) *New for this year!*

.....	Pink Germidour (Bag of 2 bulbs)	£ 3.00	.....
.....	Vigour (Bag of 2 bulbs)	£ 3.00	.....

_____	Total Due	£.....
	Less Deposit Paid	£
(Minimum Deposit £1 per pack)		
	BALANCE DUE	£

For F.G.A. use **Telephoned**