



# Flitwick Gardeners' Association

Issue 108

Autumn 2018

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 6th October	Autumn Show
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	FGA Quiz

## **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	7.30 pm to 9.00 pm Feb to Nov
Saturday	2.00 pm to 4.00 pm Feb to Nov <b>(closed on Show Days)</b>

## **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**

Colin Stennett	Secretary and Show Secretary
J-P R Carter	Deputy Chairman and Show Committee
Leonie Coverley	Treasurer
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
Sue Titchener	Seed Box Rota Coordinator

## **Show Committee** (not mentioned above)

Sonia Corfe

## **Honorary Life Members**

Linda Pitts, Syd Pye, Cliff White, Maryan Pateman

## **The FGA and the Seed box**

Following our Chairman, Syd Pye's unexpected and sudden move to Yorkshire, the FGA are now faced with a critical dilemma. As Syd had been a key holder there are now only 2 members that can cover key holder duty at the Seed box on a Friday night and a further 2 members on Saturday afternoons. This is an unsustainable situation.

### **We need more members to become key holders.**

It is not an arduous job and training, what little is needed, will of course be given.

We have also recently learnt from Flitwick Town Council that the developers of the old leisure centre site also want to build on the land that the Seed box and Council tractor store currently occupies. At present we do not know when this is planned to affect us, however we will need to start preparations for moving the contents of Seed box to a new location. In order to achieve this we will need a group of people to organise and facilitate the move, who will obviously work alongside the committee. The committee cannot take sole responsibility for making this happen successfully.

**If you can help** please come and chat to any of the committee members at the Seed box or send your details to [enquiries@flitwickgardeners.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@flitwickgardeners.co.uk)

If we do not get people to fill these roles the committee will need to consider what options are available, which may include reduction in opening hours of the Seed box or ultimately even closure of the Seed box.

FGA Executive Committee

## Annual Show 2018

Shows were being cancelled in towns and villages and people kept telling me they didn't think they would have anything to put into the show. The hot weather had played havoc with everyone trying to grow vegetables and flowers. Entries to me before the show were down on previous years but I knew we'd have enough exhibits to put on a good display in the hall and if things were really quiet, at least I could sit and eat some of the great homemade cakes that would be on sale.

In the end, whilst the number of entries in the vegetables and flowers were down, the quality of the exhibits plus the quality of entries in all other areas of the show more than adequately made up for the lack in numbers. It was brilliant to see so many members showing for the first time, as well as two tables nearly full of children's entries. All the judges were very complimentary about the quality of the exhibits and the fantastic sight that they made in the hall.

As for me being able to sit peacefully and eat some cake - no chance! Word must have got around the town about our refreshments because there was nearly always a queue and in the end I had to draw the raffle, as the cake had virtually run out and the hall was buzzing with people enjoying the show. My thanks to everyone who helped make the day a great success - exhibitors, judges, helpers in so many different areas (setting up / clearing down the hall, making / selling refreshments, judges etc.) and to everyone that came to support the event.

Colin Stennett  
Show Secretary

## 2019 Annual Show Photographic Classes

103	Colours	104	Letters of the Alphabet
105	Numbers	106	Shapes

The children's photographic class will be Colours.

## **FGA Quiz**

On Thursday 15th November 2018 the Show Committee are organising a quiz evening starting at 8:00, admission from 7:30, and finishing around 10:00. 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 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](mailto:fgashow@flitwickgardeners.co.uk)) or call me (01525 716982) before the end of September so that we have some idea of the number of teams.

## **Autumn Show Flower Arrangement classes**

As you will see from the schedule in this magazine we have got some new flower arrangement classes in the Autumn show. These will be organised and judged by people from the Mid-Beds Flower club but are open for FGA members to enter. If you would like to enter any or all of the flower arrangement classes, please use the contact details above to let me know before the 29th September - this is so that we know how many entries there will be to ensure the required hall space is available.

## **Free while stocks last!**

Once again we are giving away daffodil bulbs (with a pot, bulb fibre and a set of growing instructions) to children or grandchildren (under 16 years old) of FGA members, for growing on through the winter and early spring and to be exhibited at the Spring Show next year. We are using a new variety this year in the hope that more bulbs will still be in flower at the Spring Show. These bulbs are FREE so let's encourage the next generation of gardeners. To claim, please come to the Autumn show or collect from the Seed Box after the show – provided the rush is not too great and they have not all gone – and don't forget to bring them along to the Spring Show.

Colin Stennett  
Show Secretary

## TRADING REPORT August 2018

What amazing weather we seem to be having this year. I made the mistake, well with hindsight, of spending much of the autumn and spring forked over my grass to encourage root growth. I then treated it with a sieved top soil and lawn sand so now the drought has ended, hopefully, I have wonderful brown patch with a few bits of green. The signs are not good and I am fully expecting to have to over-sow the whole lawn in spring. Still at least it is the same weather for all of us.

Trading for the summer has been relatively slow especially on Friday evenings. We currently have only two key holding volunteers for Friday evenings and one for Saturdays; with me doing both on some weekends. Such a small number of key holders has meant that on about three occasions we have not been able to open and for this I apologise, but we are all volunteers and have other commitments. With the lack of trade on a Friday evening we have at times been closing early. I think I can speak for all four volunteers when I say **PLEASE HELP, WE NEED YOU.** At the next Executive meeting I expect us to consider how things will change so watch this space, and others.

Well let's move on to nicer things.

The potato order is included in this issue of the magazine and is also available on the counter at the Seed Box. I am delighted to be able to keep the prices the same as last year. Having thrown away potatoes over the last few years I've continued reducing the order and removed:

- Anya: very similar to Pink Fir Apple which has higher sales.
- Estima: Only one order for 2018 and threw most of the one sack away.
- Osprey: Threw most of these away in 2018.
- Pentland Crown: Threw most of these away in 2018.
- Sarpo Mira: No longer available from our supplier

But following very good feedback from those who have cropped and used them I have included this years' trial potato Carolus which is a main crop I must admit I've not even dug mine yet so I'm looking forward to trying them! (I think I can tell you now that the potato for the most in a bucket at the Autumn show was Carolus, so come along and see how they cropped.)

My overall plea is that you pre-order your potatoes as around mid-November I will be topping up or reducing, based on the orders I have received. Please ensure you get what you want and order early. If you have a specific request not covered on the order form please do ask me as I may be able to help.

At the Seed Box now are Autumn 'own pack' seeds with winter mix and Phacelia green manures and Aquadulce Broad Beans.

We have had a little visitor and I now store the seeds in metal filing cabinets which seem to have frustrated the little .... Please ask if you want any. I'm looking for an easy way to store grass seed, as a 25kg bag is a bit big to fit in a drawer. If any of you have mouse proof containers you no longer need, which are capable of holding 25kg of grass seed, I'd appreciate relieving you of them! Having mentioned seeds, by the time this reaches you, we fully expect to have received and displayed next years' seeds from Fothergills.

Jobs to do in the autumn:

- Dig empty ground as soon as you can.
- Planting green manure will feed the soil in spring when it is dug in and reduces leaching of goodness from the soil over winter.
- Keep the hoe moving, weeds seem to keep growing right through winter.
- Don't let dead leaves stand on or around your brassicas; this just encourages slugs and disease.
- Do give your lawn an autumn feed. This will encourage root growth and should assist the recovery process following this years' drought.
- If you can find a supplier there is still plenty of time to plant spring brassicas.
- There are even a few types of carrot, oriental veg, and salad crops well worth a try.
- Don't forget that overwintered spring onions, for those early salads, can be planted now.

Remember that some things need sowing quite early for the following year, especially if you have a greenhouse, for example sweet peas, onions from seed and I'm even going to try leeks. In a similar vein to the last item, last year I planted Mange Tout peas in late August and was cropping them almost to Christmas so I'm trying it again this year. What a wonderful out of season treat they were. If you try an experiment do share the experience with us a snippet for the magazine is always welcome.

OK so you've finished all that digging and planting and starting to think about 2019. I have already urged you to order you potatoes and onions before mid-November and we should have the Dobies Seed Catalogues available at the Seed Box from late September/October. I fully expect Dobies to again offer 50% off when you quote the FGA code with your order.

Great Gardening  
Jim Godden  
FGA Trading Secretary

**Flitwick Gardeners' Association**  
**Telephone - 01525 - 717289 (24 hour answerphone)**

**Pre-Season Potato and Onion Sets Order Form – 2019**

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 handed in by the end of Dec 2018 will be telephoned to advise when they are ready for collection.*

<b>Number of Packs</b>	<b>Variety</b>	<b>“First Earlies” 3 Kg (10)</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
3kg	10 seed		

.....	<b>Duke of York (RED)</b>	<b>£ 3.45</b>	<b>(£1.50)</b>	.....
.....	<b>Epicure</b>	<b>£ 3.45</b>	<b>(£1.50)</b>	.....
.....	<b>Foremost</b>	<b>£ 3.45</b>	<b>(£1.50)</b>	.....
.....	<b>International Kidney</b>	<b>£ 3.45</b>	<b>(£1.50)</b>	.....
.....	<b>Lady Christl</b>	<b>£ 3.45</b>	<b>(£1.50)</b>	.....
.....	<b>Pentland Javelin</b>	<b>£ 3.45</b>	<b>(£1.50)</b>	.....
.....	<b>Maris Bard</b>	<b>£ 3.45</b>	<b>(£1.50)</b>	.....
.....	<b>Rocket (EARLY)</b>	<b>£ 3.45</b>	<b>(£1.50)</b>	.....
.....	<b>Swift (VERY EARLY)</b>	<b>£ 3.45</b>	<b>(£1.50)</b>	.....
.....	<b>Winston</b>	<b>£ 3.45</b>	<b>(£1.50)</b>	.....

**“Second Earlies” (3 Kg)**

.....	<b>Charlotte</b>	<b>£ 3.45</b>	<b>(£1.50)</b>	.....
.....	<b>Kestrel</b>	<b>£ 3.45</b>	<b>(£1.50)</b>	.....
.....	<b>Marfona</b>	<b>£ 3.45</b>	<b>(£1.50)</b>	.....
.....	<b>Wilja</b>	<b>£ 3.45</b>	<b>(£1.50)</b>	.....

**“Main Crop” (3 Kg)**

.....	<b>Cara</b>	<b>£ 3.45</b>	(£1.50)	.....
.....	<b>Carolus</b>	<b>£ 3.45</b>	(£1.50)	.....
.....	<b>Desiree</b>	<b>£ 3.45</b>	(£1.50)	.....
.....	<b>King Edward</b>	<b>£ 3.45</b>	(£1.50)	.....
.....	<b>Majestic</b>	<b>£ 3.45</b>	(£1.50)	.....
.....	<b>Pentland Crown</b>	<b>£ 3.45</b>	(£1.50)	.....
.....	<b>Picasso</b>	<b>£ 3.45</b>	(£1.50)	.....
.....	<b>Vales Sovereign</b>	<b>£ 3.45</b>	(£1.50)	.....

**Salad variety**

.....	<b>Pink Fir Apple</b>	<b>£ 2.35</b>
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**“Onion Sets and Shallots”**

.....	<b>Golden Gourmet Shallots (0.5 Kg)</b>	<b>£ 1.60</b>	.....
.....	<b>Red Sun Shallots (0.5 Kg)</b>	<b>£ 1.60</b>	.....
.....	<b>Red Baron Onion Sets (0.25 Kg)</b>	<b>£ 1.00</b>	.....
.....	<b>Sturon Onion Sets (0.5 Kg)</b>	<b>£ 1.00</b>	.....
.....	<b>Stuttgarter Onion Sets (0.5 Kg)</b>	<b>£ 1.00</b>	.....

**Total Due £.....**

**+ Total number of packs**  
**spud sets**

**Less Deposit Paid £.....**  
**(Minimum Deposit 50p per pack)**

**BALANCE DUE £.....**

\*\*\*\*\*

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

## **Syd's Snippets - The Last Edition**

This will be my final report as we have moved up to Yorkshire to be nearer our daughters and grandchildren. The move had been planned for a while, but a hiccup in the chain came into place rather suddenly whilst on holiday in Malta and on our return we had a week to get removers in place and the packing done so hence this last edition of the snippets.

Having been a member since 1979 and served on the committee from 1984 onwards; chairman on three occasions and secretary for a number of years, it is with great sadness that I am leaving, but having been made a life member 2 years ago I will still retain my membership and will pop in when I am in the area.

This however will place more pressure on the running of the Association, as they are now down to just 4 key holders to cover the opening of the Seed box every Friday & Saturday from the beginning of February until the end of November. Hence my final plea, for a few members to come forward and offer assistance. With almost eighty sessions to be covered during the year and only four volunteers who also have holidays and family commitments, it's inevitable that on occasions no one will be available to man the Seed box. In conclusion I would like to thank you all for your support during my terms of office and for your attendance at the various shows and other events that have taken place. I am certain your new Chairman would like you all to continue to do so.

Thank you all once again and look forward to bumping into you on my frequent visits back down South.

Syd Pye  
Chairman

## **Gardening Tips**

### **Did you know.....**

- Angelica planted with Rhubarb makes it less acidic.
- Cooled camomile tea makes a gentle anti-fungal spray for seedlings.
- Cola poured onto the soil around azaleas helps them grow more efficiently.
- Lemon balm acts as a mosquito repellent and attracts bees to pollinate your flowers.
- Used coffee grounds, sprinkled around your Lily plants helps deter Lily beetles.
- Large clear plastic boxes with lids make good mini greenhouses.
- Plastic forks planted in the soil with the prongs pointed up, keeps animals away from your plants

## AUTUMN SHOW SCHEDULE – Saturday 6th October 2018

### FLITWICK VILLAGE HALL

#### **SHOW RULES**

The rules of the Annual show shall apply to this show, with the exception of Rule 2.

**An Exhibitor may show up to 2 entries per class in the Autumn show, except for the Flower Arrangement Classes.**

Entries via email to: FGASHOW@Flitwickgardeners.co.uk or to 10 Salisbury Road or to be made 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 – **FREE**

#### **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 - <b>Jonathan Wilde Cup</b>
11	Smallest Ripe Tomato
12	Missshapen 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	One Cauliflower
16	Three Carrots
17	Two Leeks
18	Two Parsnips
19	Five Tomatoes
20	Any other Vegetable – 2 or more items

##### **FLOWERS** **Cliff White Trophy – Best exhibit in Flower classes**

21	Three stems of Spray 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 Three Roses – any variety
- 28 One Pot Plant - Flower
- 29 One Pot Plant - Foliage
- 30 One Pot of Alpine
- 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

**FLOWER ARRANGEMENT CLASSES**

- A **Novice Class\* - Autumn Glory.**  
An exhibit incorporating a basket, to include flowers and fruit. Exhibit to be viewed all round on open tabling.  
Space allowed: Depth - 61cm (24inches). Width - 61cm (24inches).  
\* A Novice is someone who has not previously won a flower arrangement class at an FGA Show.
- B **Petite exhibit - Holiday Memories.**  
Exhibit may be brought to the show already completed. Accessories allowed but not too dominant. Space allowed: Depth - 25cm (10inches). Width - 25cm (10inches). Height - 25cm (10inches).
- C **Interpretive Exhibit - Curtain Up.**  
An interpretive exhibit representing a musical. Exhibit to be titled. Accessories allowed but not too dominant. Space allowed: Depth - 69cm (27inches). Width - 69cm (27inches). Height - 100cm (39inches).

If you want to enter any of the flower arrangement classes you **MUST** notify the Show Secretary or via the FGA email address (see page 6 for details) by **Saturday 29th September 2018.**

## ENTRY FORM

Flitwick Gardener's Association Autumn 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	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	24	25	26						

27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
	37	38	39	40					

**Flower Arrangement Classes (max 1 entry per class)** A B C

Spouse's Name .....

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	11	12	13						

14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	24	25	26						

27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
	37	38	39	40					

**Flower Arrangement Classes (max 1 entry per class)** A B C

Child's Name ..... Age..... 41

Child's Name ..... Age..... 41

Child's Name ..... Age..... 41

# 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, Acer's 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)

