



Flitwick Gardeners' Association

Issue 109

Spring 2019

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 4th April	Annual General Meeting
Saturday 6 th April	FGA Spring Show
Saturday 17th August	Annual Show
Saturday 5th October	Autumn Show
Thursday 28 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 (first Saturday in February – last Saturday in November)

Friday	7.30 pm to 9.00 pm Feb to Nov
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
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

Chit Chat from the Chair

Hello one and all,

In the absence of an elected chairman because, as you are probably aware, Syd left us at very short notice and me being deputy have had to fill the void. I'm writing this article in the midst of some potential upheaval for the FGA. As you know, the old leisure centre site is being redeveloped and there is the possibility that we will have to be relocated. If so, the location will have to be somewhere that is acceptable to all. Various locations have been mooted, but until the issue is settled we are unable to tell you - the members - anything. We can't tell what we don't know. The A.G.M of the FGA takes place on April 4th at the Rufus Centre where hopefully the situation will be clearer. This is your opportunity to ask questions of the Executive Committee and vote on the issues raised and who the members of that committee are to be. However, there is one major concern at the moment. If you live outside of Flitwick, whilst you can speak at the meeting you can NOT vote. This leads to the possibility that there would not be sufficient attendees to carry a motion. I will therefore propose at the meeting that this rule be amended so that ANY person present who is a member of the FGA be allowed to vote on any issue. If this is carried - and only Flitwick based members can vote on this - then one and all can vote on the rest of the agenda. The other thing to be aware of is that membership fees - currently £2 for renewal - must be paid no later than March 31st or else you are deemed lapsed; no longer a member and unable to vote. It will also cost £4 to join and you will probably be given a new number.

Lastly, I do not wish to be Chairman again, 15 years first time round was enough so, volunteers please for all positions within the FGA from Chair to Committee members to key holders, till operators and general helpers. It's your association, come and have your say on the 4th April. I'll be there! Here endeth the first lesson,
Enjoy your gardening once the weather improves,

J-P CARTER

Deputy and Acting Chairman.

PLEA from the Rota Organiser

Firstly, I would like to express a heartfelt thanks to all those people who regularly give up their Friday evenings and Saturday afternoon, in order to open up and man the tills at the Seed Box to enable it to trade. Without these dedicated people, the Seed Box would not be able to be a trading organisation for the benefit of its members.

I have just completed the rota for 2019, this being a particularly challenging job with so very few people to choose from. Out of a membership of over 300, it is surprising to me that so few 'step up to the plate' and volunteer to do a shift at the Seed box. The Seed box used to open on a Tuesday evening but this has now stopped owing to a lack of volunteers. If more people don't volunteer to help, either by manning the tills or being a key holder, then the opening of the seed box on Friday evenings and Saturday afternoons will be put in jeopardy. Because of the lack of volunteers, it is possible that the Seed Box may sometimes be closed owing to illness or holidays.

I am aware of the people who give their time to help at the shows, the dedicated people who do other jobs for the association and a very hard working committee who devote an inordinate amount of time behind the scenes to maintaining the smooth running of the association however, this still leaves over 200 members who benefit from membership but do nothing to help maintain this valuable local organisation. We currently have 7 key holders and 16 members who man the tills. Neither job is onerous and if everyone gave a little of their time; either Friday evening (1.5 hrs) or Saturday afternoon (2 hrs) during the trading year, then the burden could be more equally shared out. We have recently lost several members who were key holders and they urgently need to be replaced with younger members who will keep this excellent resource open for the future and for the benefit of all the residents of Flitwick and the surrounding areas.

Sue Titchener - Seed Box Rota Coordinator

Don't forget to renew your membership

If you have not already renewed your membership for 2019 please come along to the Seed Box to do so as soon as possible. You have until the AGM on 4th 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

TRADING REPORT January 2019

Having got so cold I stopped playing golf after only 9 holes today summer seems such a long way away. Still I've started sowing my seed for greenhouse plants thanks again to Dobies for their fantastic offer to Allotment Societies; that 50% reduction was fantastic. Catalogues are still available if you have not ordered your seed yet and mine arrived in less than a week from order date! I also went to Madeira and purchased some seeds in the local market and I seemed to get a lot for my Euro. I just hope they are of suitable quality.

Whilst on seeds at the FGA we do a small range of own pack seeds. Of particular interest at present are runner bean 'Scarlet Emperor', broad bean 'Masterpiece Green Longpod' and 'Pea Hurst Green Shaft' which are even cheaper than discount Dobies. I'm thinking of introducing a French Bean but I'm not sure what variety; any suggestions gratefully received.

The onions and potatoes this year were more than 50% pre-ordered. Whilst there is a reasonable selection of varieties for sale on a first come first served basis. I do expect to run out of the most popular varieties, so come and get yours ASAP. This is particularly true of the onions and shallots, where only relatively few are available. To add variety to the shallots I ordered a selection of pre-packs which are available at a discount to the suggested selling price. For a couple of years we've had problems with Golden Gourmet shallots and I'm thinking of changing to a different variety next year, any suggestions?

I ordered a few seed varieties from Robinson's and noticed they did a booklet 'Robinson's Cultivation Hints' what an excellent 36 pages it is; covering all the main varieties and giving growing tips and covering all stages with hints and a most concise year plan (2 pages of A5!). Just one I noticed, when sowing, all seeds should be covered by the depth of the seed. I would not mind £1 for every time I've been asked for that advice.

Well with so little changed I'm off to model rail stuff and hoping it soon warms up so that I can get my digging finished.

A last bit of advice, do not rush to plant with the ground as cold as it is when there are frosts; you just risk those valuable seeds rotting before germinating. Cloches or a cold greenhouse can assist but take care with anything frost tender for a long time yet.

Great Gardening

Jim Godden - FGA Temporary Trading Secretary

2018 Show Committee Report

2018 proved to be a year of extreme weather with severe storms in Spring and a sizzling Summer making life extremely difficult for people to grow things for eating let alone for showing. During the Summer I heard of numerous local shows that were being cancelled, or that went ahead with seriously reduced entries.

However, whilst the number of entries to our shows were slightly down on previous years, there were still enough quality exhibits in all the shows to make the hall worth a visit and act as a showpiece for the FGA.

Congratulations to everyone that managed to grow things that were good enough to show and also the talented handicraft and photographic members of the association.

Once again the Autumn show provided us with a huge pumpkin that was even too heavy for the butchers scales we had borrowed. Thankfully I'd anticipated the potential problem and brought a document with me showing how to 'fairly' accurately estimate the weight of the beast at roughly 370lbs.

The Autumn show also saw us re-introduce some Flower Arranging classes courtesy of the Mid-Beds Flower Club; who organised the classes and

judging. It gave everyone something different to look at when they came to the show and I was glad to see some of our members entering the classes.

There will also be some Flower Arrangement classes in our Spring show - see elsewhere in this magazine for the Spring show schedule for all of the classes.

Thanks to everyone who helped with any / all of the events in whatever capacity and to those that exhibited at the shows - without your support none of the events would be possible.

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

Colin Stennett
Show Secretary

SPRING SHOW

Saturday 6th April 2019 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 exhibitors 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 10 for further information on the classification of daffodils.

<u>CLASS No.</u>	<u>DIVISION 1 TRUMPET DAFFODIL CULTIVARS</u>
-------------------------	---

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

	<u>DIVISION 2 LARGE-CUPPED DAFFODIL CULTIVARS</u>
--	--

- | | |
|---|--|
| 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)
29 3 Tartlets with a savoury filling (homemade - any type of pastry, any savoury filling)
30 A Marble Cake (homemade)

FLOWER ARRANGEMENT CLASSES

A Novice Class* - Spring Fever

An exhibit to feature spring flowers. 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 – Little Gem.

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).

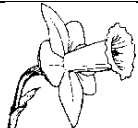

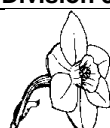

C Interpretive Exhibit – Tales from the Nursery

An interpretive exhibit representing a nursery rhyme or children's story. Exhibit to be titled. Accessories allowed but not too dominant. Space allowed: Depth - 69cm (27inches). Width - 69cm (27inches). Height - 100cm (39inches).

Note – Only exhibits for class B may be brought completed to the show. Classes A & C must be assembled at the venue

If you want to enter any of the flower arrangement classes you **MUST** notify the Show Secretary or via the FGA email address by **Saturday 30th March 2019**

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 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	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	29	30		

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	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	29	30		

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

Child's Name	Age.....	16	28
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Child's Name	Age.....	16	28
--------------------	----------	----	----

Child's Name	Age.....	16	28
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2019 Annual Show Photographic Classes

103	Colours	104	Letters of the Alphabet
105	Numbers	106	Shapes

The children's photographic class will be Colours.

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 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

Proposed FGA Rule change

At the 2018 FGA AGM a question was asked of the Executive Committee as to whether it was still reasonable for the Association rules to state that non-Flitwick residents are not able to vote at the AGM. During the year the Executive have considered this and decided that there is no reason currently why this rule should be applied.

It is therefore proposed that at the 2019 AGM a vote to be taken, by Flitwick members, for the removal of this rule.

Colin Stennett

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 4th April 2019
The Rufus Centre, Flitwick
7.45pm

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 5th April 2018.
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 Secretary and seconded by the Treasurer that the Annual Subscription, Joining Fee and Re-Joining Fee remain unchanged at £2.00 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.

Flitwick Gardeners' Association

DRAFT Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2018

2017 £	Expenditure	£	2018 £	2017 £	Income	£	2018 £
Trading Account							
13,208	Purchases	12,781		13,723	Sales: ~ General	11,862	
1,099	Plus Creditors - Current Year	-		1,865	~ Potatoes	1,860	
(548)	Less Creditors - Previous Year	(1,099)	11,682	1,780	~ Seeds	1,513	
(36,202)	Less Stock - Current Year		(35,181)	325	~ Plants	252	
36,383	Plus Stock - Previous Year		36,202	17,692			15,487
13,940			12,703		- Plus Debtors - Current Year		-
432	Trading Expenses		277	(1,055)	Less Debtors - Previous Year		-
32	Trading Assets - Depreciation (see overleaf)		62				
2,233	Trading Surplus for Year		2,445				
16,637	TOTAL		15,487	16,637	TOTAL		15,487
Income & Expenditure Account							
190	General Expenses		48	2,233	Trading Surplus		2,445
339	Show & Social Expenses (see overleaf)		457		- Stalls		-
-	Redecoration & Repairs		-	761	Subscriptions		732
888	Rent (Inc. Amortisation) & Insurance		1,101	285	Show & Social Income (see overleaf)		853
371	Magazines & Printing		768	4	Other Income - Bank Interest		40
239	Fire Protection/Alarm Contract		386	15	- Equipment Loans		36
35	Affiliations		62	-	Cash Differences on Till (net)		-
399	Telephone		427				
-	Gratuities & Donations		103				
43	Sponsorship & Advertising		43				
620	Bank & PDQ Charges		570				
-	Cash Differences on Till (net)		19				
174	Net Income to Accumulated Fund		122				
3,298	TOTAL		4,106	3,298	TOTAL		4,106
Charity Account							
-	Distribution During Year		-	-	Income for the Year		-
691	Balance in Hand		691	691	Balance Brought Forward		691
691	TOTAL		691	691	TOTAL		691
Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2018							
1,099	Creditors		-	56	Fixed Assets		150
71,188	Accumulated Fund B/F		70,972	36,897	Stock at Cost		35,181
174	from Income & Expenditure Account		122		- Debtors		-
691	Charity Account		691	14,939	Cash at Bank - Current Account		15,244
				19,514	- Deposit Account		20,249
				691	- Charity Account		691
				1,055	Cash in Hand		270
73,152	TOTAL		71,785	73,152	TOTAL		71,785
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.							

<u>Flitwick Gardeners' Association</u>							
<u>DRAFT Breakdown of Assets and Depreciation - 2018</u>							
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>	
Pallet Truck	Nov-15	£ 144	5	£ 88	£ 28	£ 28	
VAX	Sep-17	£ 70	5	£ 14	£ 14	£ 42	
Sack Truck	Mar-18	£ 100	5	£ -	£ 20	£ 80	
					£ 62	£ 150	
Seed Box Lease	Sep-98	£ 9,800	20	£ 9,800		£ -	
(Lease has now been amortized over its 20 year life)							
					Total Assets	£ 150	
Show and Social Events							
				<u>Expenditure</u>		<u>Income</u>	
<u>Event</u>		<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>		<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	
Spring Show		£ 11	£ 75		£ 128	£ 159	
Summer Show		£ 114	£ 209		£ 249	£ 256	
Autumn Show		£ 3	£ 70		£ 157	£ 205	
Quiz Night		£ -	£ 103		£ -	£ 234	
Village Hall Fees - <i>prior year</i>		£ 135	£ -				
Rosettes		£ 69	£ -				
Voice Amplifier - Depreciation		£ 7	£ -				
Totals		£ 339	£ 457		£ 534	£ 853	
Net Profit					£ 195	£ 397	
<u>Bank Reconciliation</u>							
					<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	
Current Account Statement					£ 15,126	£ 15,935	
Less Uncleared Cheques					£ -	£ -	
Plus Credits not yet entered					£ -	£ -	
					£ 15,126	£ 15,935	
Business Savings Account					£ 20,209	£ 20,249	
L Coverley 01.01.2019							
Treasurer							

AGM TRADING REPORT

Last year I outlined the start for a rationalisation of the number of stock items held on the shelves, I am pleased to report that a full four pages have been removed from the list! Thanks particularly to Jan for pushing things and setting up the discount table. Things will progress a bit less dramatically this year but we will be continuing the rationalisation.

It is very interesting to see the rate of change by the manufacturer's items being altered, discontinued, updated, etc. it's difficult to keep up. Bayer have gone to a new brand. Vitax continue to rebrand items into their own name. Westland continue to replace Arthur Bowers brand with their own. On top of that we are tending to concentrate on Doff and Vitax products where possible to provide the volumes we need to get the best discounts from our wholesaler.

I'm also amazed at the wholesale inflation rate for our products. We work on such a tight margin that we cannot absorb these increases so it is often worth checking to see if we have any older and cheaper stock of the same item! Also I was surprised at how little difference there is between the price for smaller and larger items, I had three sizes of plant saucers and the difference between 7" and 10" was minimal!

Changes you may notice are:

- 5kg pack of sands and gravels going as the wholesale price for 5kg is 70% of the same item at 20kg!
- All paint and preservatives are going as we sell out.
- Hozelock will continue to wither and die.
- We only ordered Clover compost products this year, and plan to move over to their products as we run out of previous ranges.
- I'm stopping Bark, as the bulk packs from major DIY stores are too cheap for us to readily compete.
- I will continue to look for good deals such as the Galvanised watering cans I spotted this year.
- Hanging Basket reducing to a minimum to meet basic requirements.

You can see in the accounts that stock value reduced over 2018 owing to the various measures outlined above. Trading generally held up very well considering the amount of discounting available. Overall it was a steady year with relatively few problems. The major issue for the year was that I had to replace all the Winston potatoes due to a fungal infection, sorry to all affected. I feel happy that all is now ticking over nicely.

This year we have several new volunteers being trained to be key holders and hopefully this will reduce the pressure on the four of us who have been doing that role. I'm disappointed that there has not been a volunteer to take over as Trading Secretary and would still like to give the role up!

Finally we have no real progress on whether the Seed Box will stay where we are although things do now seem to be progressing on planning for the overall site. Hopefully there will be some clarity soon so that we can start planning the move. I would like to re-iterate that I will not be responsible for the move having first made that clear several years ago. We have several volunteers to assist with the move so if necessary things should be OK.

Great Gardening for 2019
Jim Godden
FGA Trading Secretary

RHS survey to help gardeners save water

Watering sounds like a very simple horticultural skill but it is one of the major causes of poor growth and loss of plants and water is a precious resource that we should use wisely.

The Royal Horticultural Society have launched a simple survey to understand how they can help gardeners save water in the garden or allotment, especially after last summer's drought, and to inform their ongoing work. The survey, which should take less than 4 minutes to complete, is available a

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/WateringGardeners>

Flitwick Gardeners' Association

RULES

As at 5 April, 2018

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. Non-residents of Flitwick whose application for membership is approved by the Committee may join but may not vote at any General Meeting.

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 Extra-ordinary 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 and entitled to vote 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.

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Newbury Farm, Ampthill Road, Silsoe, MK45 4HB.
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