



Flitwick Gardeners' Association

Issue 113

Autumn 2020

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 27th March 2021 Spring Show

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	Currently not open owing to Covid
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
Jim Godden	Chairman
Leonie Coverley	Treasurer
J-P Carter	Deputy Chairman and Show Committee
Laurie Arnold	Seeds and Deputy Trading Coordinator
Kath Stennett	Membership Secretary and Show Committee
Ian Holman	Deputy Secretary and Show Committee
Alan & Carolyn Kirkdale	Magazine Editors
Ann Lutley	Publicity Officer
Sue Titchener	Seed Box Rota Coordinator
Vacant	Trading Coordinator

Show Committee (not mentioned above)

Sonia Corfe

Honorary Life Members

Linda Pitts, Syd Pye, Maryan Pateman, J-P Carter, Jim Godden

Chit Chat from the Chair

How else can I start this chit chat but with Covid. It has been great to get the Seed Box up and running again, even if we currently only have sufficient volunteers for Saturday opening. Thanks to all who have visited us and the many kind words for those helping; it means a lot to us all. I'm sorry about how soon we ran out of compost; we had intended to re-order a second lorry load in March which did not happen (wonder why?). Those who have visited the Seed Box will have seen that we have hand sanitiser and social distancing.

Secondly, thanks to all our volunteers! As always we would be closed without you. However, as always we desperately need more helpers as Covid has shown that our loyal band had all grown older and many are having to take great care and so not able to help us at present. I'm sure many will start again in time but we all seem to get a year older every 12 months. I've said for several years that I wish to step down from Trading Secretary, having done the job for well over 10 years. In this magazine you will see other contributions from others who also wish to change their involvement. If there is any way you can assist please contact me at the Seed Box or via the FGA email (enquiries@flitwickgardeners.co.uk).

The question I'm asked most often continues to be are we moving. I wish I knew! However move or no move the time seems be near when a complete review of the FGA will be needed. If we don't move I'd suggest this would involve a complete refurbishment of the Seed Box and its operation; including when we open.

You may have missed the Summer show and now the Autumn show has had to be cancelled as well. We are doing what we can for a virtual show so if you have something of merit to share please post it on our Facebook pages. If you have children we do hope to have bulbs for them to grow over winter, to show in the Spring show (ever optimistic).

Finally were doing our best in difficult times thanks for your support so far and here's hoping it can continue.

Jim Godden
Chairman

Committee Positions

If anyone is interested in taking on the role of FGA Magazine Editor, or Membership Secretary and would like to know more about what's involved, please contact us by email :-enquiries@flitwickgardeners.co.uk

Autumn Show and Quiz

Owing to the continuing restrictions on public gatherings and the use of the Village Hall, we have decided to cancel both the autumn show and the Quiz for this year. However we'd still like to see photographs of your entries for the show on the FGA Facebook group page to see what people have been growing, particularly your misshapen vegetables, flowers and large vegetables. Hopefully everything will be back to normal in time for our spring show, which will be on Saturday 27th March 2021.

Colin Stennett
Show Secretary

TRADING Update January 2020

Considering the year, trading has been surprisingly good and turnover is close to normal levels. In part this shows the major contribution of potatoes and compost to our total sales, but also the loyalty of you all to FGA.

Inevitably with the move to mainly cashless payment, we are seeing a change in costs that have been absorbed but we will review to see if we need to adjust prices. This is a good time to remind everyone that we do not reprice items so at times you may see two or more prices for the same item on the shelves, please buy the cheaper version and feel lucky.

It seems that every year the weather finds new ways to confuse us gardeners. Wet beginning, long dry period, wet again and then changeable and most recently very early 'autumn' storms. However, I think this year has been relatively co-operative and I've had some very good results. I have been watering more than normal and now understand why so many on Station Road allotments water as much as they can. I must admit to getting fed up after carrying 100 or so gallons a day, but then along came the rains to do the job properly. We did have one interesting incident when a six inch diameter branch decided to fall off my apple tree one Friday evening. This leads me to advise anyone who has mistletoe to manage it, as it is parasitic and very heavy. Interesting times and one skip of tree and pruning's later things are back to normal.

Many who have visited the Seed Box have seen that we have provided some expensive food to little visitors. We cannot readily protect all our seeds on the racks from mice and often packets get nibbled, please let us know if you find bad ones and we will take action to remove them. However, I want to continue selling seeds if possible and we will see what we can do about the mice. The overgrown 'field' provides a lovely place for them, hence our recent problems. Whilst mentioning

seeds. we expect to have Dobies Catalogues again this year, which normally arrive late September or early October. Do drop in and collect a copy and hopefully a 50% discount will be available again this year.

As I write this article, I'm planning to go to Spalding next week to get autumn sowing onions and garlic and possibly a small range of bulbs. I've also ordered bulk broad bean Aquadulce, autumn sowing peas and green manure for sowing now which will be available to weigh to order at a considerable discount over normal packet prices. Included in this magazine is the 2021 potato order form. There is a small rise in the wholesale price of the potatoes which has not affected the price we can sell them at. Unfortunately the price of onions has risen dramatically and shallots slightly, because of this we've had to increase our price to you, sorry.

Some good news I've received recently is that we should be able to get Clover compost for another year. If you want large amounts, e.g. a complete pallet, please contact me at the Seed Box I will be able to do a deal for you, the only downside is that you will need to be able to take the whole pallet on delivery day.

A big success this year has been the items we sell off the roll. Sorry that several items have run out, but when I order for our December delivery, I will be re-stocking. Again if you want a complete roll contact me, as I can do a deal if you can take it very soon after delivery.

A member acquired a large amount of gardening related items and passed them to me for the FGA. Despite my best intentions I've not even had time to examine what we have. Over the next week or so, I will be putting these items out to sell for Keech. These will be cash sales only and the contribution will be put, by the purchaser, in the pot for Keech attached to the till. All on a first come first served basis and please be aware of social distancing as I will not be spreading these items out and we cannot wipe them clean due to lack of staff.

Something completely different, the Seed Box phone has an answering machine which is only listened to on Saturday afternoons. We do try to return calls, but it helps if you leave a number. If you don't, we just throw the message away as we have no way of contacting you.

Finally; please continue to support us and bear with us as we do our best to cope with the latest guidance on Covid. If we are busy, please co-operate by waiting outside. I know that as the weather gets worse, waiting outside will be more of an issue but I don't know what else we can do. Please wear a mask in the Seed Box and if you have a reason not to wear one, call to us and we can discuss it before you enter, or we can shop for you!

Stay safe and see you soon.

Jim Godden
FGA Temporary Trading Secretary

Flitwick Gardeners' Association
 Telephone - 01525 – 717289 (24 hour answerphone)
Pre-Season Potato and Onion Sets Order Form – 2021

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 20 will be telephoned to advise when they are ready for collection.

Number of Packs	Variety “First Earlies”	3 Kg (10)	Total Cost
3kg 10 seed			
.....	Duke of York (RED)	£ 3.75 (£1.60)	
.....	Epicure	£ 3.75 (£1.60)	
.....	Casablanca	£ 3.75 (£1.60)	
.....	Foremost	£ 3.75 (£1.60)	
.....	International Kidney	£ 3.75 (£1.60)	
.....	Maris Bard	£ 3.75 (£1.60)	
.....	Lady Christl	£ 3.75 (£1.60)	
.....	Pentland Javelin	£ 3.75 (£1.60)	
.....	Rocket (EARLY)	£ 3.75 (£1.60)	
.....	Swift (VERY EARLY)	£ 3.75 (£1.60)	
.....	Winston	£ 3.75 (£1.60)	
	“Second Earlies” (3 Kg)		
.....	Charlotte	£ 3.75 (£1.60)	
.....	Estima	£ 3.75 (£1.60)	

.....	Kestrel	£ 3.75	(£1.60)	.....
.....	Marfona	£ 3.75	(£1.60)	.....
.....	Wilja	£ 3.75	(£1.60)	.....

“Main Crop” (3 Kg)

.....	Cara	£ 3.75	(£1.60)	.....
.....	Carolus	£ 3.75	(£1.60)	.....
.....	Desiree	£ 3.75	(£1.60)	.....
.....	King Edward	£ 3.75	(£1.60)	.....
.....	Majestic	£ 3.75	(£1.60)	.....
.....	Maxine	£ 3.75	(£1.60)	.....
.....	Maris Piper	£ 3.75	(£1.60)	.....
.....	Picasso	£ 3.75	(£1.60)	.....
.....	Setanta	£ 3.75	(£1.60)	.....
.....	Vales Sovereign	£ 3.75	(£1.60)	.....

Salad variety

.....	Pink Fir Apple	£ 2.35	.....
.....			

“Onion Sets and Shallots”

.....	Golden Gourmet Shallots (0.5 Kg)	£ 1.80	.....
.....	Red Sun Shallots (0.5 Kg)	£ 1.80	.....
.....	Yellow Moon Shallots (0.5 Kg)	£ 1.80	.....
.....	Red Baron Onion Sets (0.25 Kg)	£ 1.30	.....
.....	Sturton Onion Sets (0.5 Kg)	£ 1.30	.....
.....	Stuttgarter Onion Sets (0.5 Kg)	£ 1.30	.....

Total Due

Less Deposit Paid £

(Minimum Deposit 50p per pack)

BALANCE DUE £

For F.G.A. use Telephoned