



# Flitwick Gardeners' Association

Issue 112

Spring 2020

## CONTENTS

<b>Page 2</b>	About us
<b>Page 3</b>	Seed Box opening hours
<b>Page 4</b>	2019 Show Committee Report
<b>Page 5</b>	Trading Update
<b>Page 6</b>	Plea from Rota Organiser
<b>Page 7</b>	Annual General Meeting Agenda
<b>Page 8</b>	AGM Chairman's Report
<b>Page 8</b>	AGM Trading Report
<b>Page 10</b>	Accounts for 2019
<b>Page 11</b>	Spring Show Schedule
<b>Page 15</b>	FGA Rules

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> April	Spring Show
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	FGA Annual General Meeting
Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> August	Annual Show
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	Autumn Show
Thursday 26 <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
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
<b>Vacant</b>	<b>Trading Coordinator</b>

## Show Committee (not mentioned above)

Sonia Corfe

## Honorary Life Members

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

## **2019 Show Committee Report**

Thankfully the weather in 2019 was a lot better than 2018, which meant that many of our members were able to grow some wonderful vegetables, flowers and fruit; not only for their own enjoyment, but also for entering into our shows. There were also some really good entries in the photography, handcraft, cookery and children's classes. Whilst not really classifying them as 'good to look at' the entries in the Autumn's heaviest and longest classes were also a sight to behold.

All 3 shows had a good number of entries, especially the Autumn Show which was the second highest ever, with a fair number of members exhibiting. It was really pleasing to see members enter a show for the first time and seeing more children also putting in exhibits. The high quality of the entries left judges struggling to complete their duties in the allotted time.

The general knowledge quiz in November had 15 teams enter and all seemed to have a great night with the eventual winners triumphing after a very good final round.

My thanks to everyone that entered exhibits in the shows or took part in the quiz. I am also extremely grateful to all those people that helped at the events in whatever capacity; be it setting up / clearing down the hall, providing or serving refreshments, judging or supporting the judges and generally making sure that everything runs as smoothly as it does.

I hope that the weather provides ideal growing conditions for 2020 and that as many of you as possible put entries into our shows.

Colin Stennett  
Show Secretary

### **Photographic Classes - Annual show 2020**

The following are the adult photograph classes for 2020:

103 – Red      104 - Green      105 - Blue      106 - White

The Children's photographic class is Food

### **Free onion sets**

At the Spring Show and afterwards at the Seed Box, we will have onion sets for children to grow at home and then exhibit at the Annual Show.

Make sure your children and grandchildren get theirs!

## TRADING Update January 2020

In my AGM report I mentioned that I had ordered compost from Clover again and I'm actively pushing to know their product strategy. To date I've had little response other than Brexit has raised a number of issues for Clover which they are considering, i.e. no news yet but I'm watching that space.

More importantly, we still ordered a complete lorry load of compost and if sales are at the same rate as last year, I'm likely to order a second lorry load as stocks fall. Unfortunately, we have had to increase some of the prices slightly, so 3 (4) bags of multi-purpose Clover now cost £13.20 compared to £12.00 last year; that's £4.40 each.

Potato pre-orders this year amounted to a considerably higher proportion of the delivery, than in previous years. This will result in fewer on the shelves, but ultimately less wastage than last year, when about 15% went in the skip. We have already sold out of some of the onion varieties. Our prices are remarkably inexpensive compared to commercial suppliers, e.g.

FGA £3.75 for 3kg. Dobies Potatoes from £3.00 per kg when you buy 5kg.

***Remember that ordering your potatoes before the end of November will give you the best chance of getting the varieties of your choice.***

I apologise to those who ordered Carolus, but our supplier was not satisfied with the quality of them, so none have been available, I did randomly check a few catalogue suppliers' websites and they all seem to have sold out or mysteriously disappeared. The suggested replacement is Setanta which we do have.

Before I move on completely from potatoes, there is an interesting change in that some of the brands are moving towards self-distribution, or exclusive channels; most notably Sarpo potatoes. This is making it increasingly interesting to choose the varieties we sell and this year I've actually sourced potatoes from two suppliers. I'm not sure if this is the best way forward, as it increases the work load and makes receiving the deliveries more difficult.

Some new products this year are:

- Maxicrop lawn food, seaweed based and organic; as are all Maxicrop products.
- Wilkinson stainless steel tools, following some issues with those previously stocked.
- SBM, formerly Bayer.

We have a small range of loose seed, including lawn seed, green manures, peas, beans and bird food. All at prices well below the packet price. Please ask, as we keep them in filing cabinets to avoid little furry visitors helping themselves.

Last and far from least I'm hoping to soon have posters promoting our re-launched load tools. Some time ago we had quite a range including power tools, but owing to insurance issues, all the power tools had to be retired. We have now adopted a standard cost and tools can be hired for £1 a week with £10 deposit.

We currently have available:

- Rotary lawn spreaders,
- Dropper lawn spreader
- Long tree loppers (up to 8ft)
- Heavy duty loppers
- Fence post scissors
- Fence post spade
- Post Hammer
- Lawn (hand) scarifier
- Back pack sprayer

To hire any item, simply fill in a form, pay your £10, and walk out with it. Return it the following weekend in good condition and get £9 refunded.

That's all for this time folks! Great Gardening

Jim Godden

FGA Temporary Trading Secretary

### **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 afternoons, in order to open up and man the tills at the Seed Box. Without these dedicated people, the Seed Box would not exist.

I am in the process of producing the rota for 2020 and this is a particularly challenging job, with a so very few people to choose from. Out of a membership of over 300, more than 200 members benefit from membership but do nothing to help maintain this valuable local organisation. We have recently lost several volunteers and now have only 7 key holders and 16 members who man the tills. We urgently need more volunteers to help keep this excellent resource open for the benefit all the residents of Flitwick and the surrounding areas.

Neither job is onerous, so if you feel that you could help on a few Friday evenings (1½ hrs) or Saturday afternoons (2 hrs) during the trading season of February to November, please talk to the people at the Seed Box on your next visit, to find out what's involved. We look forward to seeing you.

Sue Titchener

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Rufus Centre, Flitwick  
Thursday 23rd April 2020 7.45pm

### **AGENDA**

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 4th April 2019.
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.

### **Magazine Editor**

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

## **AGM Chairman's Report**

Well how fast that year has passed. I've had an interesting year as Chairman of the FGA with the continued uncertainty over the future of FGA and whether we will still have the Seed Box. There have been lots of rumours, much suggesting and a few meetings, but sadly no conclusions. There may be more to report at the AGM, but I do not have high hopes for any firm news.

It's good to see that membership numbers held up well and particular thanks to all who renew so promptly every year. Also my thanks to all who help whether it be at the Seed Box, at shows, on the committee, producing the magazine or in any other way. Without you all there would be no FGA! Yes we rely on volunteers for EVERYTHING we do and always welcome any offers to assist, so if you think you would like to help us in any way, just come to the Seed Box and offer your services. No reasonable offer is ever refused; be it to assist at the shows or quiz or something more involved like joining the committee.

**Another Plea** - Let us know how you would like to see the FGA develop over the next few years. Perhaps gardening related trips (we used to do these, but support waned and made them uneconomic), more loan tools, updated library, some gardening related talks, gardening 'get togethers' to share experiences etc. If we do re-start any of the things above would you support them? Could you even help organise them? Depending on what happens with the Seed Box, there could be a golden opportunity to make some changes.

I'm looking forward to another year, and hoping you have a brilliant gardening season.

Jim Godden  
Chairman FGA

## **AGM TRADING REPORT**

A huge percentage of FGA turnover is compost and we offer the most competitive prices we can. Some years ago we introduced 4 for the price of 3 with cheapest free. I'm delighted to say we will be continuing it for at least one more year (see Trading Report page 6). I do apologise that many items of compost ran out last year, so that I'm considering a mid-year delivery in 2020.

There is also a great push to reduce the impact of gardening on the environment, I'm looking to promote all these over the next year by increasing the use of environmentally friendly products, whilst reducing those now frowned upon. You may or may not have noticed that I have removed some items and provided more environmentally friendly alternatives.

Another item which has hit headlines big time over the year is 'plastic pollution'. I did note that after many years of using hessian potato sacks our supplier moved to plastic net sacks this year, wow! As we are really only just starting on the road to zero plastic all I can do is monitor the situation and see where things go over the next year. Please rest assured I do try wherever possible to get non-plastic alternative products, but availability is lagging well behind the pressure from environmental groups/studies/etc.

You will see from the accounts that Potatoes and Onions are a significant element of turnover. Wastage has been a problem, but last years' was the lowest for several years (2020 is likely to be lower still). I urge members to order their potatoes before the end of November, so that I have the option to order additional quantities of the most popular varieties requested.

I hope you will have noticed the changes at the Seed Box. The Food, Fertilisers and Killers sections are much better presented than previously, as the people who organise these sections are getting to terms with rationalisation. I am delighted at the reduced time I spend on these areas.

I also have plans to rationalise the sundries, pots/trays and water goods. Could you offer just an hour or two, one Saturday a month and a little more in those long dark evenings of November, by taking on one of these areas?

Finally; I must thank all those who work so hard at the Seed Box in a variety of ways. It has caused me a novel problem in that Anne is starting to accept that I'm not at the Seed Box for every trading session, thanks to you all.

Great Gardening

Jim Godden  
FGA temporary Trading Secretary

## Flitwick Gardeners' Association

### DRAFT Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2019

<u>2018</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>2019</u>
£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Trading Account</b>					
12,781	Purchases	10,364	11,862	Sales: ~ General	7,842
-	Plus Creditors - Current Year	1,382	1,860	~ Potatoes	1,473
(1,099)	Less Creditors - Previous Year	-	1,513	~ Seeds	1,487
(35,181)	Less Stock - Current Year	(33,615)	252	(2018: Plants) ~ Compost	5,237
36,202	Plus Stock - Previous Year	35,181	15,487		16,039
12,703		13,312	-	Plus Debtors - Current Year	-
277	Trading Expenses	229	-	Less Debtors - Previous Year	-
62	Trading Assets - Depreciation (see overleaf)	62			
2,445	Trading Surplus for Year	2,436			
<b>15,487</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16,039</b>	<b>15,487</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16,039</b>
<b>Income &amp; Expenditure Account</b>					
48	General Expenses	60	2,445	Trading Surplus	2,436
457	Show & Social Expenses (see overleaf)	597	-	Stalls	-
-	Redecoration & Repairs	-	732	Subscriptions	698
1,101	Rent (Inc. Amortisation) & Insurance	843	853	Show & Social Income (see overleaf)	845
768	Magazines & Printing	591	40	Other Income: ~ Bank Interest	40
386	Fire Protection/Alarm Contract	424	36	~ Equipment Loans	12
62	Affiliations	35	-	Cash Differences on Till (net)	2
427	Telephone	455			
103	Gratuities & Donations	81			
43	Sponsorship & Advertising	45			
570	Bank & PDQ Charges	628			
19	Cash Differences on Till (net)	-			
122	Net Income to Accumulated Fund	274			
<b>4,106</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,033</b>	<b>4,106</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,033</b>
<b>Charity Account</b>					
-	Distribution During Year	-	-	Income for the Year	-
691	Balance in Hand	691	691	Balance Brought Forward	691
<b>691</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>691</b>	<b>691</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>691</b>
<b>Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2019</b>					
-	Creditors	1,382	150	Fixed Assets	88
70,972	Accumulated Fund B/F	71,096	35,181	Stock at Cost	33,615
122	From Income & Expenditure Account	274	-	Debtors	-
691	Charity Account	691	15,244	Cash at Bank ~ Current Account	18,563
			20,249	~ Deposit Account	20,290
			691	~ Charity Account	691
			270	Cash in Hand	196
<b>71,785</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>73,443</b>	<b>71,785</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>73,443</b>

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.

**Flitwick Gardeners' Association**  
**DRAFT Breakdown of Assets and Depreciation - 2019**

**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	£ 116	£ 28	£ -
VAX	Sep-17	£ 70	5	£ 28	£ 14	£ 28
Sack Truck	Mar-18	£ 100	5	£ 20	£ 20	£ 60
					<b>£ 62</b>	<b>£ 88</b>
Seed Box Lease	Sep-98	£ 9,800	20	£ 9,800		£ -
(Lease has now been amortized over its 20 year life)						
<b>Total Assets</b>						<b>£ 88</b>

**Show and Social Events**

<u>Event</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>		<u>Income</u>	
	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
Spring Show	£ 75	£ 113	£ 159	£ 168
Summer Show	£ 209	£ 233	£ 256	£ 245
Autumn Show	£ 70	£ 71	£ 205	£ 176
Quiz Night	£ 103	£ 126	£ 234	£ 256
Sundry (medals, engraving, etc)	£ -	£ 53		
Totals	<b>£ 457</b>	<b>£ 597</b>	<b>£ 853</b>	<b>£ 845</b>
<b>Net Profit</b>			<b>£ 397</b>	<b>£ 248</b>

**Bank Reconciliation**

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
Current Account Statement	£ 15,935	£ 19,254
Less Uncleared Cheques	£ -	£ -
Plus Credits not yet entered	£ -	£ -
	<b>£ 15,935</b>	<b>£ 19,254</b>
Business Savings Account	<b>£ 20,249</b>	<b>£ 20,290</b>
L Coverley 01.01.2020		
Treasurer		

# **SPRING SHOW**

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2020 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](mailto: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 14 for further information on the classification of daffodils.

### **CLASS No.                      DIVISION 1 TRUMPET DAFFODIL CULTIVARS**

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

### **DIVISION 2 LARGE-CUPPED DAFFODIL CULTIVARS**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 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)

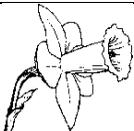
### **TULIPS**

- 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 A homemade Quiche  
30 A homemade Victoria Sandwich ( Filling of your choice)

## Horticultural classification of Daffodils

<b>Division 1: Trumpet</b>	
	<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>
<b>Division 2: Large Cupped</b>	
	<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>
<b>Division 3: Small Cupped</b>	
	<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>
<b>Division 4: Double</b>	
	<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>

### **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 Annual/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

### **Don't forget to renew your membership**

If you have not already renewed your membership for 2020 please come along to the Seed Box to do so as soon as possible. You have until the AGM on 23<sup>rd</sup> 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

# Flitwick Gardeners' Association

## RULES

As at 5th April, 2019

**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 and nearby towns and villages.

**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 Extraordinary 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 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.