



Flitwick Gardeners' Association

Issue 102

Christmas 2016

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 4th February - First day of Trading

Saturday April 8th - Spring Show

Sat/Sun May 6/7th – FGA open weekend (to be confirmed)

Saturday August 19th - Annual Show

Saturday October 7th - Autumn Show

Thursday November 23rd - 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 your ideas, or offers to help out – volunteering is both rewarding and fulfilling so why not give it a go!

How to find us

The Seed Box is situated behind 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.

The fence is a temporary measure until Central Beds decide on a more permanent means of fully securing the site until it is sold.

In the meantime we will endeavour to keep you updated on the situation as soon as we hear of any proposals.

Seed Box Opening Hours

| | |
|----------|-------------------------------------|
| Friday | 7.30 p.m. to 9.00 p.m. (Feb to Nov) |
| Saturday | 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. (Feb to Nov) |

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

| | |
|---------|-----------------------------|
| Website | www.flitwickgardeners.co.uk |
|---------|-----------------------------|

Letters to the Editor

- Do you have an idea for the newsletter?
- Would you like to share your volunteering experience?
- Maybe you'd like to thank a member or swap some top tips...

Whatever you'd like to share or ask send your letter to the editor to newsletter@flitwickgardeners.co.uk for the opportunity to feature in the next newsletter.

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, Acers 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/newburfarmplants](https://www.facebook.com/newburfarmplants)



Newbury Farm, Amptill Road, Silsoe, MK45 4HB.
Tel 01525 860048. www.newburfarmplants.co.uk



Make volunteering your new year's resolution!

Volunteering is a really rewarding and fun way to meet people and learn new skills.

No offer is too large or too small. We're currently looking for volunteers to help with the running of the Association including trading support for the Seed Box

**Why not pop along to The Seed Box one Saturday afternoon
and find out more.**

Or you can email us at:
enquiries@flitwickgardeners.co.uk

Syd's Snippets – December 2016

Gardeners All,

Despite the conditions of the area surrounding the Seed box we would like to assure you that we are still there and trading. However we are now closed for the normal winter period and will re open on the first Saturday in February. We have suffered on occasions due to loss of power and over one weekend no one to man the premises for which we apologise but did advise that it may happen.

At the time of writing work has begun to demolish the old Leisure Centre site – this is due to be completed before Christmas. The power supply has been re-routed and we should not suffer any further problems in that respect. We are currently awaiting a date for a new water main to be installed. We understand that the plan is to level the site and the land will be placed on the market for a developer to purchase. Once that has occurred we should have some idea of what the future plans for the site and as to whether we will remain in situ.

Back to the problems mentioned in the first paragraph we appealed at the AGM and again in our newsletters and to date no one has come forward in respect to taking over as Trading Secretary or as Executive members required to open the Seed box and run the required sessions. **Unless we get someone, or a group of people, willing to take on the role of Trading Secretary we cannot to continue to operate the Seed box as there will be no one to ensure stock items are replenished and required items such as seeds and seed potatoes ordered.** At present we are now down to six people to act as the Executive role to cover Friday evenings and Saturday afternoons from February through to the end of November so we receive firm commitments to also take on this role.

We need people to come forward for both these areas by the AGM otherwise we cannot guarantee to be open on the advertised dates and without a trading secretary whether there will be any goods to sell! This is one last chance for people to come forward to assist in the running of the Association which has been run by volunteers since the early 1970s, so please give these matters your urgent attention and contact me on 01525 716986 or sydpye@btinternet.com if you can help in any way.

On a final note on behalf of the Executive Committee I thank those that have supported us during the year by making purchases from the Seedbox and attending the various shows. I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a good gardening year in 2017.

Syd Pye
Chairman

Autumn 2016

2016 Autumn Show Report

Once again we had a lot of high quality and decent sized vegetables and flowers to exhibit (although the longest bean and smallest ripe tomato did not qualify for either category). By the end of staging, the hall was filled with 172 exhibits and some impressive looking tables. The two people checking everything in took to a quiet corner of the hall to recover (I really need to design a form and get people to submit it in before the show - sorry guys) leaving the judge less than an hour to complete his assessments. Once again all the classes were well supported and judging them all was a real challenge.

By the time we opened the doors to the public there were some excellent cakes ready to enjoy. Thanks to everyone that helped at the show, baked cakes, exhibited, judged or came to look around.

Colin Stennett
Show Secretary

2017 Photography classes

The photography photos for the 2017 Annual Show are:

| | | | |
|-----|----------|-----|-------------|
| 103 | Flitwick | 104 | Gardens |
| 105 | Ruby | 106 | Anniversary |

The children's photography class subject is 'Something / Someone Old'

Cookery Classes for the Spring Show

For the Spring Show in April 2017 we've decided to continue with two cookery classes. The first class is 'A Bedfordshire Clanger' - back by popular request and the fact we had some stunning entries the last time we had it in the show. The second class is 'A Simnel Cake'. Please try and enter these classes, as well as all the usual flower classes.

Flitwick Gardeners' Association
 Telephone - 01525 - 717289 (24 hour answerphone)
Pre Season Potato and Onion Sets Order Form - 2017

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 2016 will be telephoned to advise when they are ready for collection.

| Number of Packs 3kg 10 seed | Variety | "First Earlies" 3 Kg (10) | Total Cost |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|------------|
| ..... | Duke of York (RED) | £ 3.45 (£1.50) | ..... |
| ..... | Epicure | £ 3.45 (£1.50) | ..... |
| ..... | Foremost | £ 3.45 (£1.50) | ..... |
| ..... | Pentland Javelin | £ 3.45 (£1.50) | ..... |
| ..... | Maris Bard | £ 3.45 (£1.50) | ..... |
| ..... | Rocket (EARLY) | £ 3.45 (£1.50) | ..... |
| ..... | Swift (VERY EARLY) | £ 3.45 (£1.50) | ..... |
| ..... | Winston | £ 3.45 (£1.50) | ..... |

"Second Earlies" (3 Kg)

| | | | |
|-------|-----------|----------------|-------|
| ..... | Charlotte | £ 3.45 (£1.50) | ..... |
| ..... | Kestrel | £ 3.45 (£1.50) | ..... |
| ..... | Marfona | £ 3.45 (£1.50) | ..... |
| ..... | Wilja | £ 3.45 (£1.50) | ..... |

"Main Crop" (3 Kg)

| | | | |
|-------|-----------------|----------------|-------|
| ..... | Cara | £ 3.45 (£1.50) | ..... |
| ..... | Desiree | £ 3.45 (£1.50) | ..... |
| ..... | Estima | £ 3.45 (£1.50) | ..... |
| ..... | King Edward | £ 3.45 (£1.50) | ..... |
| ..... | Majestic | £ 3.45 (£1.50) | ..... |
| ..... | Maris Piper | £ 3.45 (£1.50) | ..... |
| ..... | Pentland Crown | £ 3.45 (£1.50) | ..... |
| ..... | Picasso | £ 3.45 (£1.50) | ..... |
| ..... | Sarpo Mira | £ 3.45 (£1.50) | ..... |
| ..... | Vales Sovereign | £ 3.45 (£1.50) | ..... |

Specials varieties

| | | | |
|-------|------------------------|--------|-------|
| ..... | Anya (Salad) | £ 2.35 | ..... |
| ..... | International Kidney | £ 2.35 | ..... |
| ..... | Golden Wonder | £ 2.35 | ..... |
| ..... | Osprey | £ 2.35 | ..... |
| ..... | Pink Fir Apple (Salad) | £ 2.35 | ..... |

"Onion Sets and Shallots"

| | | | |
|-------|--------------------------------------|--------|-------|
| ..... | Golden Gourmet Shallots (0.5 Kg) | £ 1.60 | ..... |
| ..... | Red Sun Shallots (0.5 Kg) | £ 1.60 | ..... |
| ..... | Red Baron Onion Sets (0.5 Kg) | £ 1.60 | ..... |
| ..... | Snowball (white) Onion Sets (0.5 Kg) | £ 1.60 | ..... |
| ..... | Sturon Onion Sets (0.5 Kg) | £ 1.00 | ..... |
| ..... | Stuttgarter Onion Sets (0.5 Kg) | £ 1.00 | ..... |

Total Due £.....

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

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

BALANCE DUE £.....

For F.G.A. use Telephoned