



# Flitwick Gardeners' Association

Issue 103

Spring 2017

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> February	First day of Trading
Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> April	Spring Show
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> April	FGA AGM, Rufus Centre 7:45pm
Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> August	FGA 40 <sup>th</sup> Annual Show
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> October	Autumn Show
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</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.

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

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>

## Share your top tips on....Lawn Care

We've had a request for an article on lawn care so we're appealing to members to please share your best tips and website



recommendations by emailing us at: [newsletter@flitwickgardeners.co.uk](mailto:newsletter@flitwickgardeners.co.uk)

We'll then publish your tips in the next newsletter.

# FGA MEMBERS



**YOUR GARDENING ASSOCIATION**

**NEEDS  
YOU**

*we are currently looking for*

**Seed Box till operators**

*to help out in the Seed Box on a Friday evening and or Saturday afternoon.*

If you can spare a couple of hours for the rota on either day please either  
**pop along to The Seed Box on a Saturday afternoon and introduce yourself,**  
**or, you can email us at:**

***[enquiries@flitwickgardeners.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@flitwickgardeners.co.uk)***

## **Executive Committee**

Syd Pye	Chairman and Rota Coordinator
Colin Stennett	Secretary and Show Secretary
Dave Pateman	Acting Treasurer
Jim Godden	Acting Trading Secretary
J-P R Carter	Deputy Chairman and Show Committee
Laurie Arnold	Seeds and Deputy Trading Secretary
Kath Stennett	Membership Secretary and Show Committee
Ian Holman	Deputy Secretary and Show Committee
Justine Cullen	Magazine Editor and Assistant Trading Secretary
Ann Lutley	Publicity Officer
Cliff White	Show Committee

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

Dave Empson

## **Membership Report**

At the end of December 2016 we had a total of 369 fully paid up members of the Association. This compares to 401 members at the end of 2015. We had 45 new members join our Association during 2015 compared to 63 new members joining in 2014.

Membership of the Association may be renewed up until the AGM for a fee of £2, after which a joining fee will also need to be paid, which is currently £2.

The AGM is being held at the Rufus Centre on **Thursday 27th April 2017** starting at 7.45pm in the Woodfield Room. Refreshments will be available.

Members who receive their magazines by post will be charged an additional £3 due to the cost of postage.

**Kath Stennett**  
**Membership Secretary**

Spring 2017

## **Show Committee Report**

The year started slowly with the Spring show suffering from slightly fewer entries than recently thanks to the effects of Storm Katie. However the hall was still a blaze of colour from some good quality flowers and there were some delicious looking entries in the cookery classes.

The Annual show continues to amaze with the highest number of exhibits since 1998 and a large number of very good exhibits in the majority of classes, with the exception of the novice classes. What was equally pleasing was seeing so many FGA members entering things for the show, helping run the show and looking round at the exhibits.

The Autumn show again contained a lot of very good quality exhibits. There were also some very large exhibits in the marrow, cabbage, potato, carrot and beetroot classes as well as some pretty unusual exhibits in the freak vegetable classes.

The annual FGA Quiz was thoroughly enjoyed by all that attended although numbers were down on previous years and the questions seemed to be set at a reasonable level for all the teams to get good scores.

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.

Next year is the 40th Anniversary of the FGA Annual show - so why not find something to exhibit at that, or any, show to make it a special event.

**Colin Stennett**  
**Show Secretary**

## AGM TRADING REPORT 2016

At the 2016 AGM I reluctantly agreed to another year as FGA trading Secretary. Throughout the year I have kept things ticking over and done my best. Unfortunately many things contributed to a year that has not been as successful as we may have liked.

Uncertainty about the future of the Seed Box: whilst we do pass on all the information we get as soon as we can it does get very frustrating giving the same answers now as from day one of the announcement that a new leisure centre was to be built.

Gated community to keep 'travellers' off the site: opening has been very erratic at times and you (the members) have not been able to rely on the Seed Box being open. We have now reached a compromise with the Central Beds Council and for the foreseeable future expect to be able to trade at our normal times.

Lack of volunteers: This has stopped opening a couple of times but more of this elsewhere so I'll say no more here. We tried Wednesday opening but I found it to be of little benefit as sales were very low, hence we are not continuing the experiment.

Membership ageing: Where are the young gardeners?

The overall effect of all the above is that trading is considerably lower than previous years. Several measures have been put in place to try and address the continued fall in membership numbers but there is little I as Trading Secretary can do to affect this, as I have proven over several years of trying.

One big debate on the Committee has been should we change our opening hours? If you have an opinion please either come to the AGM, or email FGA via our website, or visit us at the Seed Box and let us know what you think.

Please see the trading report in this magazine for information on what I am proposing moving forward, it is dramatic because I, and the committee, have no confidence that we can keep the Seed Box running long term with

the same level of stock and effort as has been put in over the years. So I have produced a proposal of what size of FGA trading would I continue to manage as trading secretary.

My final comment is that any commercial enterprise would have given up long ago as the stock levels are far too high for the revenue generated!

Happy Gardening.

Jim Godden  
FGA Trading Secretary

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### **2017 Annual Show Photography classes**

The classes for the 2017 Annual Show on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> August are:

103	Flitwick	104	Gardens
105	Ruby	106	Anniversary

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

### **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!

Colin Stennett  
Show Secretary



# **SPRING SHOW**

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at the Village Hall**

Staging of exhibits 12:30- 2pm  
Judging 2 - 3pm  
Public admitted 3pm – **Free admission**

## **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 11 for further information on the classification of daffodils.

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

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

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

- 4 One Bloom Yellow Perianth
- 5 One Bloom White Perianth
- 7 One Vase, Three Blooms of one Cultivar

**DIVISION 3 SMALL-CUPPED DAFFODIL CULTIVARS**

- 8 One Bloom, any colour
- 9 One Vase, Three Blooms of one Cultivar

**DIVISION 4 DOUBLE DAFFODIL CULTIVARS**

- 10 One Bloom, any colour
- 11 One Vase, Three Blooms of one Cultivar

**Multi-headed Daffodil Cultivar** (e.g. Cheerfulness, Tete a Tete)

- 12 One Stem
- 13 One Vase of Three Stems of one Cultivar

**Any Other Daffodil Cultivar not mentioned above**

- 14 One Stem
- 15 One Vase of Three Stems of one Cultivar

**Pot of Daffodil – from any of the Divisions**

- 16 One Pot of Narcissi, any number of bulbs, one Cultivar (Pot not to exceed 300 mm (12 Inches) diameter)

**CHILDRENS' BULB COMPETITION**

- 17 One Pot of Narcissi (Daffodils)

**TULIPS**

- 18 One Bloom
- 19 One Vase, three Blooms of one Cultivar
- 20 One Pot of Tulips, any number of bulbs, one Cultivar (Pot not to exceed 300 mm (12 inches) diameter)

**MISCELLANEOUS**

- 21 One Pot of growing Polyanthus or Primula
- 22 One Stem of Hyacinth
- 23 One Pot of one or more Hyacinths
- 24 One Vase of Flowering Shrub of one or more varieties
- 25 One Pot of growing bulbs, excluding anything mentioned above
- 26 One Vase of Mixed Flowers – at least 6 different types of flower
- 27 Any Other Pot Plant (Flowering or Foliage)
- 28 One Vase of 4 stems of Daffodil from 4 different Divisions
- 29 One Decorated Hardboiled Egg (Children only)
- 30 A Bedfordshire Clanger (homemade)
- 31 A Simnel Cake (homemade)

## The Basic Daffodil Dictionary

**Anther** the pollen-bearing part of the stamen

**Corona** refers to the cup or trumpet

**Filament** the stalk of the stamen

**Pedicel** is the 'neck' of the flower which joins it to the stem

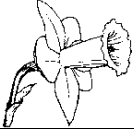




**Perianth** refers to the petals




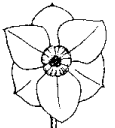

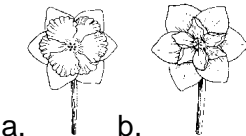
**Reflexed** petals are those which are angled away from the corona

**Stamen** the male part of the flower, consisting of filament and anther

Further, more detailed information can be found on the Royal Horticultural Society web site at <http://www.rhs.org.uk>

### Horticultural classification of Daffodils

<b>Division 1: Trumpet</b>	
	One flower to each stem. The corona is as long or longer than the perianth.  Examples: Golden Harvest, Rembrandt
<b>Division 2: Large Cupped</b>	
	One flower to each stem. The corona is more than one third but less than equal to the length of the perianth.  Examples: Armada, Carlton, Ceylon, Desdemona
<b>Division 3: Small Cupped</b>	
	One flower to each stem. The corona is NOT more than one third the length of the perianth.  Examples: Angel, Barret Browning, Birma, Lemonade
<b>Division 4: Double</b>	
	One or more flowers per stem, with doubling of the perianth segments or corona or both.  Examples: Acropolis, Golden Ducat, Unique
<b>Division 5: Triandrus</b>	
	Usually two or more pendent flowers per stem, perianth segments often reflexed.  Examples: Rippling Waters, Thalia, Hawera

<b>Division 6: Cyclamineus</b>	
	<p>One flower per stem; perianth segments prominently reflexed. Flower at an acute angle to the stem with a very short pedicel.</p> <p>Examples: Charity May, Dove Wings, Jetfire</p>
<b>Division 7: Jonquilla and Apodanthus</b>	
	<p>Usually 1 to 5 (more rarely up to 8) flowers per stem; perianth segments spreading or reflexed; corona cup shaped, funnel shaped or flared, usually wider than long; flowers usually fragrant.</p> <p>Examples: Lintie, Suzy, Sweetness</p>
<b>Division 8: Tazetta</b>	
	<p>Usually 3 to 20 flowers to a stout stem; perianth segments spreading (not reflexed); flowers usually fragrant</p> <p>Example: Geranium</p>
<b>Division 9: Poeticus</b>	
	<p>Usually one flower to a stem; perianth segments white; corona very short or disc shaped, usually with a green/ yellow centre and a red rim, but sometimes of a single colour; flowers usually fragrant</p> <p>Example: Actaea</p>
<b>Division 10: Bulbicodium</b>	
	<p>Usually one flower to a stem; perianth segments insignificant compared to the corona; anthers dorsifixed (ie attached more or less centrally to the filament); filament and style usually curved</p> <p>Examples: Golden Bells, Julia Jane, Nylon</p>
<b>Division 11: Split Corona</b>	
 <p>a.                      b.</p>	<p>Corona is split, usually for more than half it's length.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>corona segments opposite the perianth segments; the corona segments usually in two whorls of three</li> <li>corona segments alternate to the perianth segments; the corona segments usually in a single whorl of six</li> </ol> <p>Examples: Articol, Broadway Star</p>
<b>Division 12: Other</b>	
Miscellaneous cultivars which do not fit above classifications	
<b>Division 13: Other</b>	
Cultivars distinguished solely by botanical name	

**Apple Bitter Pit - an article by FGA member Rod Mayhew**



*Image sourced from <https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/profile?PID=607>*

## Apple Bitter Pit

Bitter pit is a disorder, not a disease, caused by low levels of calcium in the fruit and is more common after hot, dry summers.

It is rarely due to calcium deficiency in the soil and can even occur in tree growing on chalk.

### Symptoms.

Small sunken pits develop on the surface and the flesh beneath the pits is dry and discoloured. In severe cases brown areas of tissue are scattered throughout the flesh and it takes on an unpleasant, bitter taste.

Symptoms can appear from when the fruits are half developed, until they are harvested, although often do not develop until storage.

It is more common on young, vigorously-growing trees, especially those fed heavily with nitrogenous fertilisers; but it can also develop on fairly old trees especially culinary cultivars with large fruit.

### Control.

Correct feeding and watering to maintain steady growth throughout the growing season is the key to reducing problems with bitter pit.

- Use a general-purpose, balanced fertiliser and avoid excessive feeding with nitrogen, potassium and magnesium fertilisers which can cause or exacerbate the problem.
- Install irrigation to maintain a uniform water supply in dry periods and mulch the soil around the tree to retain moisture.
- Summer pruning of apple trees reduces the leaf area, which helps to control vigour and redirects calcium to fruits as well as foliage. However, avoid heavy pruning.

**Foliar sprays of calcium nitrate** can be applied from mid-June to mid-September. This increases the concentration of calcium within the developing apples.

- The more sprays the better the fruit quality.

- The RHS suggests dissolving 10g calcium nitrate per litre of water applied as a fine spray to the trees where the solution wets the leaves but does not run off.
- The quantity of solution depends on size and number of trees. (2 small trees occupying - 12 square metres will require 132g of calcium nitrate per season, which for 5 sprays would require 26g per session, or about 2.5 litres of solution.)
- Avoid mixing calcium nitrate solution with other fertilisers, fungicides or insecticides.
- Spray only in the evening when temperatures are below 21<sup>0</sup>C to avoid 'russeting'
- A very few cultivars are sensitive to calcium nitrate spray, so use a half strength spray.
- If in doubt treat one branch and wait 5 days. If no damage is seen, the whole tree can be treated.
- In the 'Seed Box' there is a Chempak product simply labelled 'Calcium'

I ran into this problem with the cultivar 'Monarch' years ago and had a couple of good crops of wonderful fruit until the great drought of 1976. This was before the days of Google and despite liming we ended up cutting down a perfectly good tree.

The replacement tree 'Howgate Wonder' (which incidentally holds the world weight record) is this year now suffering with the same problem. The standard text books made passing comment but the RHS website info, on which this article is based, shows full colour pictures and a list of susceptible and resistant cultivars.

**Rod Mayhew**  
**FGA Member**

## **Chairman's Report**

Members all, 2016 was a challenging year for the Association as The Seedbox appeared to be situated within Camp Bastion rather than being adjacent to a leisure centre. This situation combined with power cuts and problems with the water supply has reflected on membership numbers along with a large drop in trading.

Despite trying to keep you all informed to the best of our ability, on speaking to members in town many have asked if we are still open or have moved to another site? On this point, we still don't know. You will have seen that the old building has been demolished and the site prepared for the new development. To our knowledge the site has yet to be sold. Once that has happened, the new developer will have to decide whether we stay in-situ or move us to another site. We will let you know as soon as we do.

Moving forward we have received a couple of offers for taking over some of the trading areas and others to assist behind the counter but for various reasons have also lost a few till operators, so we are looking for assistance on Friday evenings and Saturday afternoons. Executive members, who hold keys and open up the building are in desperate need of additional help, at present we only have Jim and Dave who are available for both sessions along with another two who can do Fridays or Saturdays. Unless we receive urgent help in this area please do not be surprised to find the building locked up when you arrive - we shall try and advise, by way of notices in the Seedbox or on the first gate if this is the case.

In conclusion, on behalf of the committee, I would like to thank all those who are involved in the running of the FGA, for whatever of the roles they undertake, as without their continued support we could not survive.

**Syd Pye**  
**Chairman**



# **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

7.45pm, Thursday 27th April 2017  
The Woodfield Room, The Rufus Centre, Flitwick

## **AGENDA**

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 14th April 2016.
3. Presentation of Annual Reports.
4. Presentation of the Financial Report.
5. Chairman's Address.
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.

## TRADING REPORT January 2017

As I say in my annual trading report for 2016 unless we get a volunteer to take over as trading secretary there will be major changes at the Seed Box. This article outlines those changes which are intended to produce an FGA which can be managed with the resources available. Repeating the regular plea for more help lets us do more.

First a plea to every member to recruit others to boost our memberships, big the FGA up a bit and certainly get folks to come and see us at the Seed Box. Trading hours are well known as Friday evening 7.30 to 9.00 and Saturday 2.00 to 4.00pm.

So what can you expect to see over the next year? I'll start with what you will not see:

- No Spring open weekend!
- No Wednesday opening!
- Possibly some weekends with no opening!

I've alluded to the fact that the FGA has far too much stock and too many stock items to be managed by the committee as it was. We have managed to take a number of areas of trading and get volunteers to oversee them. This role is basically to get to know the stock, decide which items should be kept and which we should allow to wither and die. For instance how many ant killers do we really need? Answer 2 or 3 and we actually have nearly 20 listed in our stock book at present. This is true throughout the Seed Box! Below I give a very brief, and subject to much discussion, outline of where I see the individual areas going!

**Compost:** We have already reduced the number of stock items over several years and probably need little more change. It would be good to retain the one lorry load of Clover products per year.

**Foods and Fertilisers:** A new broom will sweep clean I hope to reduce this to about 50 items from the current near 200.

Hanging baskets: Sell what we have and then have no more than 3 sizes of hanging baskets and liners to match, possible some wall baskets and liners to match and a couple of sizes of wall brackets, that's all folks.

Killers: A different new broom will sweep this area again looking to reduce the current 150+ items to about 50.

Lawn goods: Reduce to a total of about 10-15 items (any volunteer to decide which and manage the area?) otherwise Jim will have to do it.

Own Pack: Uniquely this needs little change!

Pots/Trays: Reduce significantly but one of the more difficult areas to achieve this in, but long term overseer Syd (Chairman) Pye will be my advisor here!

Sundries: Needs a long hard look and an objective of reducing to about 100 items seems realistic. Again a volunteer to oversee the area would be more than welcome (I've not often been known to beg but I could for this one!).

Tools: I'm actually quite keen to oversee this area myself and have already got a very good idea of where I wish to take it, just watch as all Wolf multi-change stock is sold and not replaced, and we concentrate on basic gardening tool requirements, spades, forks, hoes, rakes and a few others but not many.

Water: Again I have a firm proposal that we go for one good but relatively cheap watering can in two sizes, stop all Hozelock in favour of the considerably cheaper Draper items, which appear to be fully compatible with Hozelock fittings. Continue the watering can roses and as above that's all folks.

How are we going to achieve all this downsizing? Well I've worked through the months and think that we start with a promotion on foods/ferts in March, and then continue with lawn items in April, hanging baskets in May, killers in June, watering in July and tools in the autumn. I've tried to put the items most likely to be in demand in the month I think they are most

needed. Each Month there will be a display of the items on the main display rack with the offer.

If you think I am overreacting please let me know, but this has been coming for a number of years! Rest assured I will not continue putting in the 10-40 hours a week that I have been for the last few years trying to keep things as they have been. Hopefully the plan outlined above will put the FGA trading side back on a sustainable footing without the few volunteers we have putting in too many hours.

On a lighter note, I managed to under order Maris Piper potatoes and had more pre-orders than available potatoes. So I went around our two nearest horticultural outlets (Nurseries) at one they had individuals (pick and mix) and nets of unspecified weight, at the other they had 2kg nets. So needing 25 kg I totted up that it would cost more to buy them retail near Flitwick than to drive to Spalding Auctions and buy them, so after just over 4 hours driving there they were ready for weighing. There is a little message there about the FGA prices versus local retailers, we do our best please support us. Just in case anyone is worried we will be doing potatoes again next year as they are one of our best trading items, even if we have been getting b\*\*\*\*y cold weighing them out for you!

Please help us during this year if you see your favourite item on discount it is probably on the withdrawal list, let us know if this happens as we are flying blind in this time of consolidation but can adapt to members' requirements if we know them. Hint: buy what you want cheap and then tell us and you may get the best of both worlds.

Great Gardening!

**Jim Godden**  
**FGA Trading Secretary**

# Flitwick Gardeners' Association

## RULES

As at 11 April, 2013

**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 Audited 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. Auditors:** There shall be appointed two Auditors who are not members of the Executive Committee to audit the accounts and submit their reports to the Annual General Meeting. Only one auditor need be appointed if the auditor is a Chartered Accountant or person with an equivalent qualification.

**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 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.