



WAGS News

October 2016



Wallingford Allotments and Gardens Society
Affiliated Member of the Royal Horticultural Society No. 10572234

www.wags-wallingford.com

Trading Store at Centre 70 open to members only Every Saturday 11-12 am

WAGS Store closed 10th, 17th, 24th & 31st December; re-opens 7th January 2017

Annual subscription £4.00 (per household)

Hello Everyone

I write this newsletter with my head full of Succulents as I am on holiday visiting the Isles of Scilly for the very first time. As a gardener, I am totally amazed at the sub-tropical plants that grow everywhere on the Islands – even appearing like little bright green faces peeping out of hedgerows – as well as on the inspiring gardens of Tresco.

These gardens gave me so many ideas with their different walkways, meandering green paths, and granite paved areas full of Campanula, seating areas arranged with various aspects in mind, views, ponds and arbours full of stunning deep purple Jackmanii Clematis trailing over the top. So many beautiful shades of green in these gardens of spiky Agave and towering Canary Date Palms that it was evident form was definitely the king over flower here.

As an extra treat, I saw also for the first time, a Red Squirrel as they thrive here without their cousin, the more guerrilla-like Grey Squirrel! It was like going back to childhood and reading books about animals in the forest, Squirrel Nutkin, to see this red fluff scampering along the tree bough.

We were also very lucky to catch a sighting of a mega rare bird – a Cliff Swallow – that had been blown in by the hurricane that hit Penzance and the islands a few weeks ago. We were with two birdwatchers who spotted it and within an hour there were more than 30 twitchers there, and they kept arriving all week from all over the UK. Everyone watching the swooping and diving of this one little bird. Aah it is the simple things in life that give us pleasure sometimes (me watching the antics of the twitchers and they watching the bird!).

Well back to home and having missed the WAGS show, I feel I thoroughly missed out after seeing some of the amazing photos in the Herald and taken by Sandra's husband. Well done everyone – I can feel a little bit of competitiveness stirring within me and I hope to be there next year, even if it is just for the oddest shaped vegetable. See more news of the show from Sandra below.

This month's recipe comes with 'Seasons of mists and mellow fruitfulness' in mind and some of the very impressive and beautifully Orange Pumpkins on show all over the allotments.

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Pumpkin Biscuits

These biscuits are made at Thanksgiving time on the last Thursday in the month, in New England, USA. They readily use up all the pumpkins left over from Halloween and as pumpkins are a very good nutritious source, we can eat biscuits and feel smug at the same time.

300g (or 10 oz.) of self-raising flour	1 Tbsp baking powder
1 tsp salt	2 1/2 Tbsp brown sugar
113 g (4 oz.) cold unsalted butter cut into small bits	450g (15 oz.) cooked pumpkin, pureed
2 tsp juice of a squeezed orange	2 Tbsp whipping cream

- Pre-heat the Oven to 200°C (400°F) and butter baking trays
- Sift flour and baking powder into a mixing bowl; add brown sugar and salt
- Using a pastry cutter or knife, cut the butter into the mixture until it resembles a crumble or coarse meal. Stir in the pumpkin and orange juice to make a soft dough
- Wash floured hands and working on a well-floured surface, pat the biscuit dough till half an inch thick. Cut out with a cutter of your choice, and place biscuits on the baking sheet
- Using a pastry brush, brush the tops of the biscuits lightly with cream. Bake until lightly browned, about 15 minutes.

Makes about 36 biscuits.

Enjoy them with the normal Halloween candles around and have a great pumpkin time.

Denise Irwin
Newsletter Editor

Madam Chairman's Piece

Another season comes towards its end; I hope you enjoyed eating the fruits of your labour and didn't let the pests get you down. As I write this we come to the end of a very hot week with the mother of all thunderstorms, so at least I don't have to water anything for a while!

The Autumn Show last Saturday (10 Sept) was a great day despite a bit of rain. We already have the Dobie's catalogue in store this month, offering a great discount on seeds, as usual.

If you have any ideas for WAGS 2017, or would like to get involved, I would love to hear from you. Thank you to all WAGS members for supporting your society; if you know a keen gardener who is not a member, please mention us.

And one final piece of news, Ros Lester has kindly agreed to take on the role of WAGS President, so on behalf of the committee and all members I would like to welcome her to WAGS.

Sandra Halstead
01491 836527, s.halstead2@btinternet.com

Store News

The Dobies catalogues are now available in store. Remember the process is that the catalogue now contains a code that you need to put on your order form. This code identifies that you are a WAGS member. You then simply send your order form and payment directly to Dobies for processing and they deliver to your home address. You will still get your 30% on seeds and 10% on other items, so come and collect a catalogue and place your order soon. You can also use the code to order online if you prefer.

Potatoes should be available from the end of February 2017. The varieties will be listed in the January newsletter, along with details on shallots and onions.

WAGS is also still looking for someone to take over the role of Store Manager, if you think this might be of interest, please get in touch with the committee.

Colin Timmins
Store Manager

The Autumn Show

We had another great show this year, despite the weather. The Roke and Benson brass band entertained us all afternoon beneath their gazebo, and although there wasn't the usual row of people sitting outside watching them, we could all hear the band indoors and it really made the day.

A big THANK YOU to everyone who helped with the show and to all those who exhibited; we had six new people enter classes in the show this year, across most sections, which was great to see. I have great expectations of them for 2017! I would like to thank all our judges who give up their time to carefully judge each exhibit, and to the Mayor, Ros Lester, for handing out the prizes and helping with the raffle.

Finally a huge thank you to our kind sponsors who support WAGS by covering some of the costs of staging the show; please give them your support:



Our Major Sponsor: Champions

Sponsor of the Floral Art Section: Keri Harvey The Florists

Sponsor of the Children's Prizes: Wallingford Bookshop

For giving us a discount on engraving for the trophies: Feet First

I thoroughly enjoyed the day and hope that all of you who took part, or came on the day, enjoyed yourselves too. Special thanks go to those who stayed to help us tidy up at the end of a long day. Picking out just a few of the highlights: Chris Ottaway, one of the new exhibitors, had some seriously unusual veg in class 17 which had the judges on their smart phones googling (is that a word?). Peter Willis won the WAGS Top Gardener with some lovely veg and stunning Chrysanthemums. Eve Hodgson got Best in Show Flowers for her dahlias, which then also won overall "Best in Show".



I was well pleased to win a new trophy this year for my dahlias, and for getting 1st prize for "oddest shaped veg" for my little potato man with a cute face.

So thinking about next year, I am really looking forward to seeing how the first-timers expand on their entries this year, to seeing yet more new faces and to seeing the return of a few people absent this year – you know who you are!

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As always, please help the children to enter – they do enjoy it so much and yet so few enter. There is a list of Trophy Winners in this newsletter and on the website.

For anyone who missed the show, the website has some photographs, so do take a look: www.wags-wallingford.com. We didn't capture all the exhibits, so if you have any photos, particularly of winning entries, please email them to me.

All you WAGS members out there, I look forward to seeing you on September 9th 2017.



Sandra Halstead
Show Secretary & Chairman

P.S. If you have any ideas or suggestions regarding the show, please do get in touch with me, I would love to hear them.

P.P.S. Engraving your cups: please take to Feet First and obtain a receipt to get a refund from the Store.

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## Invitation from Wallingford Gardening Club

**Herbaceous Borders:** At our November meeting, Geoff Hawkins returns to give a talk about how to design, plant, and look after herbaceous borders. Geoff worked as Head Gardener at the Mill Court private estate in Hampshire, and retired from there after 35 years. As a head gardener he ran the small estate of 30 acres working in greenhouses, vegetable and fruit gardens, herbaceous and shrub borders as well as looking after the trees, ponds and natural features on the estate.

The talk will be held at Ridgeway Community Church, Wallingford at 7.30pm on Thurs 10th Nov. Visitors very welcome £2.

Isabelle Darby (01491-836867)

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Tables for Hire

WAGS owns 10 trestle tables which are available for hire at £5 per table, or £30 for all 10. Each table is 6ft by 2ft 6" (L x W x H: 180 x 75 x 74 cm) and folds in half to 3ft x 2ft 6".

So remember if you are having a party, or a garage sale, and need some tables for the day, please contact George: georgesmall68@yahoo.co.uk

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🌲 Keri The Florist 2016 'CHRISTMAS' Workshop Dates 🌲

This year we are again running several 90-minute workshops. All fresh material & sundries supplied, design made is yours to take home. Six students per workshop – to take place at Keri The Florist – free parking.

Course Info:

Course Reference: KTFxmas2016

Course Duration: 90 mins

Course Fees: £30.00 per session

Course Dates : Various – see below

Sunday 4th December: **Traditional Door Wreath**

Times: 10am-11.30am / 12.30pm-2pm / 3pm-4.30pm

Sunday 18th December: **Traditional Door Wreath**

Times: 10am-11.30am / 12.30pm-2pm / 3pm-4.30pm

Monday 19th December: **Table Decoration**

Time: 7pm-8.30pm

All our Christmas courses are designed to give students an ideal introduction into floristry. You will learn a range of basic skills and will be able to construct simple designs with confidence. The course will cover basic techniques such as wiring & binding along with working with oasis (depending on which workshop you book)

The course is aimed at beginners with an interest in floristry.

Light refreshment will be supplied.

If you would like to book any of the above workshops please contact Keri or Laura via email, call 01491 838005 or pop into the shop. Dates do tend to go very quickly so please book ASAP to avoid disappointment.

Bookings unfortunately cannot be taken via Facebook.

Payment is required upon booking and is non refundable.

Keri The Florist
1 Ayres Yard, Station Road
Wallingford OX10 0JZ
t: [01491 838005](tel:01491838005)

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\*\*\* *WAGS Store re-opens 7th January 2016, 11:00 – 12:00* \*\*\*

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Results of the Wallingford Allotments and Gardens Society Autumn Show 2016

Description	Trophy	Exhibitor
WAGS Top Gardener	The Bill Stickley Trophy	Peter Willis
WAGS Novice Top Gardener	The Talbot Trophy	<i>No entries</i>
Vegetables - Members Only	The President's Cup	Sandra Halstead
Best in Show - Vegetables	The Albert Reed Memorial Trophy	Peter Willis
Flowers - Open	The Slade Memorial Bowl	Edward Hodgson
Flowers - Members Only	The Vice President's Cup	Sandra Halstead
Best in Show - Flowers	The Gniadek Cup	Eve Hodgson
Pot Plants Members Only	The W.A.G.S. Cup	Sandra Halstead
Fruit - Members Only	The Members Trophy	Richard Guppy / Tom Buckingham
Best in Show - Fruit	The Peter Hallett Memorial Bowl	Tom Buckingham
Specialities - Open	The Arthur Shepherd Trophy	Marion Cherry
Length, Weight & Odd - Members Only	The Bob Burrell Memorial Trophy	Sandra Halstead
Heaviest Four Onions	The Macmower Trophy	Edward Hodgson
Children - Aged 5 to 8 years	The Audrey Bosley Trophy	Mabel Whitehead
Children - Aged 9 to 12 years	The Lillian & William Wells Memorial Trophy	Amy Cole
Container Gardening - Open	The Mayoress' Trophy	Marion Cherry
Floral Art - Open	The Floral Art Cup	Eve Hodgson
Floral Art – Best in Show	The Linnian Cup	Alison Broadbridge
Tastiest Tomato	Commemorative Plaque	Richard Guppy
Most Scented Rose	Commemorative Plaque	Tom Buckingham
Art and Craft - Open	The Craft Cup	Linda Rouse
Photography - Open	The Latter Trophy	Doreen Thomas
Best in Show - Best Effort	The Founders Cup	Judith Pengilley
Best in Show - Family	The Mayor's Trophy	Hodgson family
RHS Banksian Medal	The RHS Banksian Medal & Certificate	Tom Buckingham
Highest No. of Points in the show	Ben Buckingham Memorial Cup	Sandra Halstead
Best in Show - Members Only	Eddie Small Shield	Eve Hodgson