

An exciting (or troubling) find?



This rare specimen turned up recently in a Wallingford garden. The **ghost slug** is a burrowing earthworm-predator is of special interest as it is "the only verified record [...] from beyond South Wales and Bristol," according to Dr Ben Rowson, Museum of Wales.

Where did it come from? Have you found one in your garden?

Read more at: www.wags-wallingford.com



The **2013 subscription rate** is £4.00 per household – valid from January 2013. To **renew** your subscription, please complete the form on the reverse (p. 7) and hand it in to the Store. Please include an **email** if you have one, especially if you live outside Wallingford. As well as the newsletter in electronic format (and colour, where available), you will receive other occasional news. New members are welcome to join at any time.



Next issue: October 2013
Deadline for copy: 1 September 2013
Copies available in store: 5 October 2013
Please send contributions to Frances at wagsnews@gmail.com

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WAGS News

July 2013



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

New website www.wags-wallingford.com



It's Show Time!! September 14th at Centre 70 see page 4

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Trading Store at Centre 70 **open to members only**
Every Saturday and first Sunday in the month: 10:00 – 12:00
(except August)

Annual subscription £4.00 (per household)

The views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Society.

WAGS News

WAGS Committee 2013/14

| | | |
|--|---|---------------------|
| President | Peter Atkins (ex officio) | 201950 |
| Chairperson | Sandra Halstead s.halstead2@btinternet.com | 836527 |
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| Treasurer | Richard Guppy guppies@talktalk.net | |
| Membership Sec. (& publicity) | Frances Watkins | 833041 |
| Store Manager | Colin Timmins | |
| <i>Asst Store Manager</i> | <i>Vacant</i> | |
| Show Secretary (& publicity) | Sandra Halstead s.halstead2@btinternet.com | 836527 |
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| Newsletter Editor | Frances Watkins wagsnews@gmail.com | 833041 |
| <i>Trips Organiser</i> | <i>Vacant</i> | |
| <i>Catering Officer</i> | <i>Vacant</i> | |
| Committee*: | | |
| George Small | Ivy Small | Joyce Stickley |
| | | Bernard Thorrington |

Please contact any of us if you have an hour or so a month to spare and could help us run WAGS. No expertise required!



WAGS Diary

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|--|
| 2013: | | |
| Saturday 14 September | Autumn Show | |
| 2014: | | |
| Friday 4 April | AGM | |
| Saturday 10 May | Plant Sale | |

WAGS News

Contact wagsnews@gmail.com to receive this Newsletter in PDF format, as well as occasional eNews. This is also the email address to write to if you have opted to receive this newsletter by email, but are still having a hard copy delivered – there may be a problem with your email address.

Discounts

Discounts are currently available at the following businesses (if you ask first), on the production of your **CURRENT** WAGS Membership Card, which must be shown before the transaction is started:

- Goring Hardware**, Red Cross Road, Goring – 10% on gardening products
- Norman Cox & Partners**, Scotts Common, Checkendon – 5%
Most items, but check at cash desk – NOT with any other offers
- Root 1**, Brightwell-cum-Sotwell – 10% *Mondays and Tuesdays only*
Shrubs, herbaceous plants, pot plants – NOT with any other offers
- Toad Hall**, Marlow Road (Fawley Court), Henley (Mon–Fri) – 5%
Most items except fencing and machinery – NOT with any other offers
- Wears Nursery**, Brightwell-cum-Sotwell – 10%
Shrubs, plants, trees, alpines, composts, bark and fertilisers
- Woodcote Garden Centre**, Reading Road, Woodcote – 10% on plants
- Yarnton Nurseries**, Sandy Lane, Yarnton, Kidlington – 10%
excluding items already discounted, purchases in restaurant or franchises

[List subject to revision]

WALLINGFORD ALLOTMENTS & GARDENS SOCIETY *Membership Application / Renewal 2013*

Please complete – **print clearly** – and hand in to the Store.

Membership fee: **£4.00** (per household)

Name:

Address*:

.....

.....

Postcode **Tel no.:**

I would like to receive the Newsletter by email

Email [please print clearly!].

* If you live outside Wallingford and cannot receive the Newsletter by email, please collect your copies from the WAGS Store or provide a c/o address.

WAGS News

Store News

We have now stocked up on all the usual variety of composts, fertilizers (by the kg), liquid fertilizers and tomato feeds, not to mention seed trays, string, labels, etc. Apologies for our low stocks during May.

Let me know if there is something you need that is not in stock - we prefer to order specific items on request, rather than have them gathering dust on the shelves.

We are still looking for someone to help in the Store. If you are able to help out on the odd Saturday morning — or maybe you are interested in helping to run the store on a more regular basis — please contact me at the Store.

Please note:

The Store will be CLOSED on 3, 4, 10, 17, 24 and 31 August 2013

Colin Timmins
Store Manager

Albert Reed

It is with regret that WAGS must let you know that we have recently 'lost' one of our staunchest members. Many members will have met Albert, either at the Store, at WAGS events, or at his Allotment; he passed away on Friday 26th April.

Albert was loved by all who knew him as a genuinely gentle, kind man who always had time to help others, particularly with anything to do with gardening.

The funeral took place at St Mary's Church, Wallingford on Friday 17th May.

Tool Sale Albert's Sons, Dan and Neal held a sale of Albert's gardening tools and other items at the Fir Tree Allotment on Sunday 2nd June. The sale was a huge success – they raised an amazing £505.10 on the day. They have added this to the £300 in funeral donations and shared it between the British Heart Foundation and the Stroke Association, as Albert's chosen charities. Dan and Neal wish to thank everyone for their support.

WAGS News

Madam Chairman's Piece

Colin Timmins recently stepped down as chairman due to the weight of other commitments, and so I have taken on the role. I'm not too keen on 'chairperson' so let's go with madam chairman! Colin has kindly offered to take the role of vice chairman to help me learn the ropes.

June heralded in some very welcome warm weather and I hope it is still with you as you read this!

If you're online, do take a look at our new website:

www.wags-wallingford.com.

Bernard Novell kindly volunteered to design and maintain the website and the committee are very grateful for his kind offer. If you have any news, any links you think would be useful for other members, or anything you want to comment on the blog page, please do contact us.

We are also pulling together a potted history of WAGS to go on the website. Anyone who was involved in WAGS in the past and has any good stories to share, I would love to include them! Email them through or write them down and give them in at the store, addressed to me.

If you have any suggestions on any aspect covered by the Society, please tell me or one of the Committee, we welcome any new ideas.

Enjoy the Summer, let's hope it's a good one!

Sandra Halstead

WAGS News

WAGS Autumn Show – Saturday 14th September 2.00-4.00 pm

You will find the Show Schedule & Entry Forms with this Newsletter.

I'm writing this on the 2nd June and the weather has finally taken a turn for the warmer and everything in the garden and veg patch is trying to catch up on lost time.

Nearly all our judges are confirmed for the show, although I am looking for a backup to help Jean as Barbara is not sure she can make it, so if you know of anyone with good experience of baking and jam making who has an hour or two free on the 14th, please do let me know. It's a lot of fun and no formal qualifications are required.

On the children's classes, the theme this year is recycling, whilst the floral art classes commemorate a couple of centenaries.

Remember, if you won a trophy last year, please return it to the store and in clean condition, **by Saturday 27th July**.

I said this last year and I say it again, surely one or two of you reading this are willing to help out your WAGS committee and give me just an hour or two on the day to help out with teas and supporting the judges. Last year, not a soul. This year ???

So put the date in your diary, hopefully enter something and remember admission is free, the tea and cakes are yummy, and the exhibits are truly inspiring.

If you are thinking of entering for the first time and have any questions at all, however small, please do drop me an email or give me a call.

Sandra Halstead
WAGS Show Secretary
s.halstead2@btinternet.com
01491 836527

WAGS News

Another Successful Spring Plant Sale

The Spring plant sale this May went very well and sales were up on last year, with both the vegetables and the bedding selling fast. As we saw last year, it is the vegetables that sell out first, so those of you who are keen vegetable growers please make a note to sow a few extra next Spring and bring them along.

Thank you for your support if you purchased anything, and a special thank you to those who grew plants to donate.

Please do remember to return the trays, so we will have something to grow next year's plants in (you don't have to wash them!).

The money made goes towards helping run WAGS, and in particular to cover some of the considerable costs of staging the Autumn Show. In total we raised £638, compared to £520 last year.



Tables for Hire

WAGS now owns 10 trestle tables which are available for hire at £5 per table, or £30 for all 10. Each table is 6 ft by 2 ft (183 × 61 cm) and folds in half to 3 × 2 ft.

Please contact George Small for further details:
georgesmall68@yahoo.co.uk