



WAGS News

October 2014



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 10:00–12:00 (except August)
Annual subscription £4.00 (per household)

Madam Chairman's Piece

The Autumn Show marks the last event of the WAGS 2014 calendar, and what a great day we had. It was lovely to have the band playing out in the sunshine and be able to sit out with tea and a slice of cake!

September has been, and looks to continue to be, a lovely warm month, pretty dry though. I will keep my fingers crossed for the frost to delay, so that I can continue to enjoy my dahlias as long as possible.

We hope to have the Dobie's catalogue in store by the end of September, offering a great discount on seeds, as usual – read details in the Store Manager's report. Great job for a cold evening, going through a catalogue and finding lovely seeds to try.

If you have any ideas for WAGS 2015, I would love to hear from you. Anyone out there want to help us run trips, or support us running the store?

Thank you to all WAGS members for supporting your society; don't forget to recommend us to your green-fingered friends.

Sandra Halstead

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Store News

The Dobies catalogues will be available in store from October.

Important change to Dobies Orders This year there is a change to how orders are placed. The catalogue will contain a code that you need to put on your order form. This code identifies that you are a WAGS member. Members should send their **order forms and payment directly to Dobies** for processing, rather than handing them in at the Store. You will still get your **30% on seeds and 10% on other items**, so come and collect a catalogue and place your order.

We stock all the usual variety of composts, fertilizers (by the kg), liquid fertilizers and tomato feeds, not to mention seed trays, string, labels, etc. – at 'membership' prices too! Do let me know if there is something you need that is not in stock – we'll order it on request.

We're still looking for helpers to run the Store — if you have an odd hour to spare Saturday mornings, please contact Sandra to add your name to her list of potential helpers. I'm also still looking for an Assistant Store Manager to stand in for me if I'm away. Please call in to the Store for a chat if you are interested.

Colin Timmins
Store Manager



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Apple Day in Brightwell cum Sotwell

Brightwell cum Sotwell will be holding their 5th Apple Day on Sunday 12 October at the Red Lion pub from 12:00 to 15:00. This free event is a celebration of this year's apple harvest and usually includes apple tastings, traditional cider, apple juice, jams, honey and cakes for sale, and kids' apple-themed games. It will also mark the launch of their

community Orchard. The highlight of the day will be Paul Chilton's impressive display of some of the 78 heritage varieties of apple found in the village.

You can follow preparations for the day on the Brightwell Village Orchard Group Website:

<http://brightwellorchards.blogspot.co.uk>



THE AUTUMN SHOW

We had another great show this year; and great veg despite the plague of slugs! We were surrounded by beautiful flowers, giant pumpkins, lovely crafts, tasty jams, stunning floral art and so much more. And it was great to have the Roke and Benson brass band there to entertain us; didn't they sound good and look so smart!

A big THANK YOU to everyone who helped with the show and to all those who exhibited; numbers were slightly up on last year, which is great to see. Thanks also to all our judges who give up their time to share their expertise, and to the Deputy Mayor Lynda Atkins 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 Sponsors: Champions, Pettit's, Rowse Honey and Fugro

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: Feetfirst

It was exhausting, but I thoroughly enjoyed the day and hope that all of you who took part, or came on the day, enjoyed yourselves too.

Picking out a few winners: As always we can rely on Jean to set the bar, particularly on container plants this year. Quite something to see Antonio balancing those begonias on his head! The floral art blew me away again this year, well done ladies (sadly it is always ladies – come on boys!). The judges were all impressed with standard of the exhibits they had to judge, except perhaps for my ornamental pears. As usual, there is a list of Trophy Winners in this newsletter and on the website.

One lovely story relates to Albert Reed who is sadly no longer with us. We decided to have a trophy to commemorate him, and thought the "Best in Show Vegetable" would suit him best. I was therefore delighted when I won that trophy for the first time for my Shallots, whose grandparents were shallots that Albert gave me, and they were displayed in a little wooden tray that Albert also kindly gave me when he stopped showing himself.

I was pleased to see a few more children enter this year, but they really do love to have more entries to compete against. So, if you have kiddywinks, do consider encouraging them to enter next year, they will get a lot from it I am sure.

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Results from the Wallingford Allotments and Gardens Society Autumn Show 2014

Trophy Name	Section Description	Exhibitor Name
The Bill Stickley Trophy	W.A.G.S. Top Gardener	Jean Teles
The Talbot Trophy	W.A.G.S. Novice Top Gardener	Richard Guppy
The President's Cup	Vegetables - Members Only	Thomas Buckingham
Albert Reed Memorial Trophy	Best in Show - Vegetables	Sandra Halstead
The Slade Memorial Bowl	Flowers - Open	William Woodward
The Vice President's Cup	Flowers - Members Only	Thomas Buckingham
The Joe Gniadek Cup	Best in Show - Flowers	Sandra Halstead
The W.A.G.S. Cup	Pot Plants - Members only	Jean Teles
Members Trophy	Fruit - Members Only	Richard Guppy
The Peter Hallett Memorial Bowl	Best in Show - Fruit	Richard Guppy
The Arthur Shepherd Trophy	Specialities - Open (to All)	Brenda Crocker
The Johnstone Cup	Wine - Open	Alison Bloomfield
The Bob Burrell Memorial Trophy	Length & Weight - Members Only	Thomas Buckingham
The MacMower Trophy	Heaviest Four Onions (from seed)	Jean Teles
The Audrey Bosley Trophy	Children Only - Aged 5-8 years	Amy Cole
Book Token	Children Only - Aged 5-8 years	Mabel Whitehead
The Lillian & William Wells Memorial Trophy	Children aged 9-12 years	Matilda Whitehead
The Floral Art Cup	Floral Art - Open	Eve Hodgson
The Mayoress' Trophy	Container Gardening - Open	Jean Teles
Commemorative Plaque	Tastiest Tomato - 1 dish of 3	Sandra Halstead
Commemorative Plaque	Most Scented Rose	Sandra Halstead
The Craft Cup	Art and Craft - Open	Will Cunnington
The Latter Trophy	Photography - Open	Nadine Mitschunas
Founders Cup	Secretary's Choice for Best Effort	Nadine Mitschunas
Mayor's Trophy	Best Family Effort	The Whitehead Family
RHS Banksian Medal	Highest total prize money	Jean Teles
Ben Buckingham Memorial Cup	Highest total number of points.	Jean Teles
The Eddie Small Shield	Best in Show - Members Only Classes	Jean Teles