



WAGS News

October 2017



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 during December and January; re-opens 3rd February 2018

Annual subscription £4.00 (per household)

Madam Chairman's Piece

Before the WAGS Show it was Summer and from that Saturday it just feels like Autumn, much colder, the end of another Season; I hope all your veg and fruit grew well, if not then there is always next year!

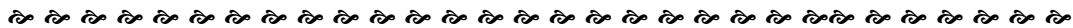
Thank you to all WAGS members for supporting your society; if you know a keen gardener who is not a member, please mention us to them. If you have any ideas for WAGS 2018, or would like to get involved, I would love to hear from you.

We are in the process of setting up a Facebook page, so please do visit it:

www.facebook.com/WallingfordAGS

Sandra Halstead

01491 836527, s.halstead2@btinternet.com



Store News

Hello from the WAGS Store!

Regular visitors to the store will know that through the wonderful skills and talents of Flick and Giles we now have a lovely new sign outside and on the wall. A sincere thank you to both for their huge efforts. It brightens up the façade and we all love it! As part of the standard up-keep of Centre70 the store windows will also be re-painted in the near future.

We are still open 11am-12noon every Saturday from February to November and we are closed through the months of August, December and January.

We will be receiving the new seed catalogues very soon, so please drop by and pick one up. If you miss the opening time on a Saturday, do email me (at the address below) and I can arrange a mid-week collection.

We are building the store rota for 2018 and would welcome another store member in the team. There are currently three of us Richard, Jill and myself but another person would be ideal. Please email me if you are interested or come into the store for a chat.

On Saturday 30th Sept we are having a store clean up starting at 11am, and we would welcome anyone who wants to come along and help out. We will also be working out what to order for 2018

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based on what we've sold and from your feedback throughout the year. Let me know if there is anything in particular you would like to see in stock.

Thank you for your continued support and looking forward to seeing you in store.

Happy Gardening,

Jayne Page
Store Manager
jbumley@hotmail.com



The Autumn Show

Another really enjoyable day. A big THANK YOU to everyone who helped with the show, it really struck me this year how much I depend on help and how well those who do help just get on and get things done.

Great to see those who were "new exhibitors" last year came back for more and a few people took schedules with the promise of entering next year. We had a lot more exhibits this year which was fab. I would like thank all our judges who give up their time to carefully judge each exhibit, and to the Mayor Mick Kidley for handing out the prizes and helping with the raffle. The Roke and Benson brass band kept us entertained and managed to get a good bit of playing done before the rain came.

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 & Rowse
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



I thoroughly enjoyed myself and hope that all of you who took part, or came on the day, enjoyed yourselves too. Special thanks 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 last year, won the cup for "Best Effort" and he has promised me great things for next year. Peter Willis won the WAGS Top Gardener again this year, and Annabelle Padwick won Novice Top Gardener – so watch out Peter, she'll be after your cup! Best news is that my French beans won "Best in Show Veg" then also won overall "Best in Show", so I am a very happy bunny.

There were some lovely floral art entries and craft/art entries but again the bakery judges did not need my help, although I did manage to try a little of one yummy pie.

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So thinking about next year I am really looking forward to seeing how the 1st timers continue to expand on their entries, to seeing yet more new faces and to see the return of a few people absent this year – you know who you are! 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 we will put the list on the website.

For anyone who missed the show, the website will have 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 8th 2018.

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.



Sandra Halstead
Show Secretary & Chairman



Photography Section at the WAGS Autumn Show

Our photography judge Paul, very much enjoyed judging the entries at the show this year and we have persuaded him to offer us some advice and suggestions to help us all get the best from our photos:

- Take your camera with you when you're out - if you don't have your camera, you can't take a picture. Having said that, most of us have our mobile phones with cameras - so take lots of pictures on your phone.
- Have a note of the show's subject titles and when you're out, take some pictures with the subject in mind - try to take a picture that accurately fits the title; much better than sorting through previously taken pictures to try to get a picture that might fit; they're rarely as good.
- Make sure all the basics are correct: is your subject in focus, is the colour on the print as you saw it on the day, is the exposure right (not too dark/light), make sure horizons are level, unless of course you want to add some interest by tilting the picture deliberately.
- Try getting a bigger print made and see how this improves the impact of the picture and try being a bit ruthless, concentrating the viewer's eye on the subject by cutting any distracting detail at the edges of your picture off - careful use of scissors is fine.
- If your picture is a close up - when you're taking the picture try going even closer to get rid of any peripheral detail, if this isn't possible, try cropping edges off the finished print as above.
- When you're taking your picture, try different angles. Most amateur pictures are taken by photographers standing up and holding the camera to their eye (i.e. at about 5 feet off the

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ground), try crouching down, standing on a (steady) object or laying the camera on the ground - great for getting a whole new perspective - you may be surprised.

- Finally, try going on a trip with a friend who also likes taking pictures - you'll get ideas from each other, you can compare pictures as you take them and any long suffering partner won't have to stand waiting as you spend half an hour perfecting that winning picture - you can enjoy taking your pictures! And remember the camera gives you limitless possibilities to express your creativity, so have fun!

With this in mind, below will be the classes for the 2018 Show Schedule, so you have lots of time to take that perfect picture. We have included 'close-up' again to challenge you to really get close-up this time!

1. Close-up
2. A beautiful building
3. What a mess!
4. Transport
5. Colour

Thanks Paul for all of your suggestions, and we're all very excited to see everybody's entries in 2018!

Paul Hallett
Photography Section Judge



Invitations from Wallingford Gardening Club

Isabelle Darby would like us to share with you a couple of dates for diary:

Thursday 12th October @ 7:30pm

Going for Gold at Chelsea: At the October meeting of the Wallingford Gardening Club, Dr Stephen Head returns to talk to us about exhibiting and competing at the Chelsea Flower Show. Steve is particularly proud of leading a team that won Gold and 'Best in Show' for a Courtyard Garden at Chelsea 2010.

Steve is a well known local environmental consultant, who is passionate about his interests. He is a popular speaker on gardening and wildlife having made many radio and TV appearances, and has been the national co-ordinator for the Wildlife Gardening Forum for many years. Steve has led several UK environmental charities, and was a board member of the Exmoor National Park Authority for eight years.

Thursday 9th November @ 7:30pm

Autumn Aspirations - looking forward to Spring: At the November meeting of the Wallingford Gardening Club, Paul Patton will present an illustrated talk "Autumn - looking forward to Spring". Paul is a professional horticultural consultant, plant pathologist, writer and broadcaster. He will give tips on how to prepare a garden for next spring.

Both events will take place at the Ridgeway Community Church, Wallingford and visitors are very welcome £3.

Isabelle Darby (01491-836867)

Advance notice of future events:-

Thurs 14 December - AGM and quiz, followed by mince pies and wine



🌲 **Keri The Florist 2017 'CHRISTMAS' Workshop Dates** 🌲

Create your very own Christmas wreath - made by you. All fresh material & sundries supplied, design made is yours to take home. Six Students per workshop. Workshops take place at Keri The Florist. Free parking.

Course Info:

Course Reference: KTFxmas2017 Course Fee: £40.00 per session

Sunday 3rd December: **Traditional Door Wreath**

Times: 10am-12pm / 12.30pm-2.30pm / 3pm-5pm

Sunday 10th December: **Traditional Door Wreath**

Times: 10am-12pm / 12.30pm-2.30pm / 3pm-5pm

All our Christmas courses are designed to give students an ideal introduction to 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 mossed frames & a selection of textured foliage. The course is aimed at beginners with an interest in floristry. Light refreshments will be supplied, and don't forget to bring along a friend to share the festive fun!

If you would like to book onto a workshop please contact Keri or Laura via email (wallingfordflowers@googlemail.com), call 01491 838005 or pop into the shop. Dates tend to go very quickly so please book ASAP to avoid disappointment. Bookings unfortunately cannot be taken via Facebook. Payment is required upon booking & is non-refundable.

Keri The Florist, 1 Ayres Yard, Station Road, Wallingford, OX10 0JZ
www.wallingfordflowers.co.uk



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



***** WAGS Store re-opens 3rd February 2018, 11:00 – 12:00 *****



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Results of the Wallingford Allotments and Gardens Society Autumn Show 2017

Category	Trophy	Winner
WAGS Top Gardener	The Bill Stickley Trophy	Peter Willis
WAGS Novice Top Gardener	The Talbot Trophy	Annabelle Padwick
Vegetables - members only	The Presidents Cup	Sandra Halstead
Best in Show Vegetables	The Albert Reed Memorial Trophy	Sandra Halstead
Flowers - open	The Slade Memorial Bowl	Edward Hodgson
Flowers - members only	The Vice Presidents Cup	Tommy Buckingham
Best in show - Flowers	The Joe Gniadek Cup	Edward Hodgson
Pot Plants - Members Only	The WAGS Cup	Jayne Page
Fruit - members only	The Members Trophy	Alison Broadbridge
Best in show - Fruit	The Peter Hallet Memorial Bowl	Richard Guppy
Specialities - Open	The Arthur Shepard Trophy	Gwen Guppy
Length and weight - members only	The Bob Burrel Memorial Trophy	Tommy Buckingham
Heaviest 4 onions grown from seed	The MacMower Trophy	Edward Hodgson
Children aged 5-8 1st	The Audrey Bosley Trophy	Mabel Whitehead
Children aged 5-8 2nd	Children 5-8 £3	Jacob Webb
Floral Art - open	The Floral Art Cup	Alison Broadbridge
Best in show - Floral Art	The WAGS Linnian Cup	Eve Hodgson
Container Gardening - open	The Mayoress Trophy	Jayne Page
Tastiest tomato	Commemorative Plaque Tomato	Sandra Halstead
Most scented rose	Commemorative Plaque Rose	Sandra Halstead
Art and craft - open	The Craft Cup	Linda Rouse
Photography - open	The Latter Trophy	Doreen Thomas
Secretary's choice for best effort	Founders Cup	Chris Ottaway
Best family effort	Mayors Trophy	The Whiteheads
Highest prize money total	The Banksian Medal	Edward Hodgson
Highest number of points	The Ben Buckingham Memorial Cup	Sandra Halstead
Best in show - Members classes	The Eddie Small Shield	Sandra Halstead
Best allotment	Wallingford Town Council Allotment Shield	D James

