

WAGS News

Invitation from the Friends of St Mary's and St Leonard's Churches: An evening with John Negus

Wednesday 24th October 7.0 for 7.30 pm - Masonic Hall, Wallingford

Following a now established tradition "The Friends" will be offering an evening meal after our speaker, John Negus, has shared with us some thoughts within his theme for the evening "Twelve Months of Colour".

John—broadcaster, weekly contributor to "Amateur Gardening", cruise lecturer, contemporary and friend of Alan Titchmarsh—presents his material with a great deal of audience participation, encouraging everyone, gardeners or onlookers, to share their own experiences as well as offering novel ideas himself for improving our gardens and other areas around us. With such a broad base, a lively, entertaining and instructive evening awaits you!

He has spoken in Wallingford to the Forty-One Club and the Wallingford Gardening Club in the last twelve months and it gives us great pleasure to offer him the chance of a wider audience. We hope to arrange an "Every One Wins" raffle during the meal and John will be giving out various gifts during and after his talk. Early reservation of tickets costing £12 is advised as we are again restricting numbers to no more than 80 places. Reservations and tickets available via (all numbers are 01491):

Shirley Chapman (832309); Val Wolsey (836820); Belinda Lee-Jones (836223)

Ray Johnson

Friends of St Mary's and St Leonard's Churches



WAGS News

October 2012

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



News online at: wallingfordags.blogspot.co.uk



This amazing tree was photographed at Wisley – report on p.9



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. 11) 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.



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Please send contributions to Frances at wagsnews@gmail.com

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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

Annual subscription £4.00 (per household)

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

WAGS News

WAGS Committee 2012/13

President	Peter Atkins (ex officio)
Chairman	Colin Timmins
Treasurer	Richard Guppy
Secretary	Sam Timmins
Store Manager	Colin Timmins
Asst Store Manager	Vacant
Show Secretary	Sandra Halstead
Asst Show Sec.	Toni Littledale
Newsletter Editor & Membership	Frances Watkins wagsnews@gmail.com
Trips Organiser	Vacant
Committee*:	
George Small	Ivy Small
Joyce Stickley	Bernard Thorrington

* there are vacancies on the Committee—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!

Visit wallingfordags.blogspot.co.uk for up-to-date news, or contact wagsnews@gmail.com to receive eNews.



Forthcoming WAGS events

Friday 12 April 2013	Annual General Meeting (new date)
Saturday 11 May 2013	Plant Sale

WAGS Store closed:

Please note that due the **Christmas holidays** the Store will be closed on Saturdays 15th, 22nd, December 2012 and Saturday 5th January 2013.

WAGS News

(continued from page 10) *Late Orange; Laxton's – Epicure, Fortune, Superb; Pearmain – Adam's, Worcester*

Doing a quick back-of-the-envelope sum we calculated that there are about 30 tons of apples in the village, almost enough to fill a Waitrose lorry or produce approximately 20,000 bottles of juice.

Pleasing outcomes following this survey were the planting of an orchard in the village school, two successful Apple Days held at the Red Lion, one Pressing Day, an abandoned orchard has been bought and restored, old or unusual varieties have been grafted to produce new trees, surplus apples are being sold in the village community shop and villagers have begun making their own juice and cider using the village press.

Alison Bloomfield

If any member has surplus apples that they would like to swap for a drop of cider, then Mark Powell of Ashtrees Farm would love to hear from you. Both cooks and eaters are fine. You can contact Mark on 07790 021030 or e-mail: ashtreesfarm@hotmail.co.uk

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.

Apples in Brightwell cum Sotwell

Brightwell cum Sotwell has been a fruit growing village for over 100 years and taking just a short stroll around the village it is easy to see that there are still a large number of fruit trees in private gardens and abandoned orchards. The village Environment Group felt that it was a good idea to carry out a survey of the trees. The results were surprising and impressive.

Of the 443 houses counted we recorded 669 apple trees. From their size and location in gardens which were once orchards on old maps, it is clear that many trees might be 50–80 years old, some possibly older. Traditional orchards would have had more than one type of fruit tree to ensure a mixed harvest, so we also recorded 96 pear, 21 cherry and 121 plum trees.

Some members might remember Paul Chilton and Chiltons Fruit Farm next to what is now Route One. Paul still lives in Brightwell and as an orchard expert he identified all the varieties and produced a magnificent display of apples each Apple Day.

Just a mile or two from Waitrose and Tesco, who sell only 6-8 different types of apple, we discovered that there are a staggering 62 different varieties in Brightwell.



Apple Day 2010

There are large numbers of Bramley and Blenheim, but sometimes only one tree of a particular variety like Grenadier and Edward VII. Around the village there are trees fruiting from late July through to mid-November, some storing through to March or April. Many were well-known apples, but there were also some curious and surprising names from the past. These are just a few:
The men – *Arthur Turner, Charles Ross, George Cave, James Grieve, John Standish, Jonathan, Rev. W. Wilks, William Crump, Winston*; the ladies – *Annie Elizabeth, Barnack Beauty, Beauty of Bath and Kent, Ingrid Marie*; the Royals – *Blenheim Orange, Edward VII, Lane's Prince Albert, Lord Derby, Lord Lambourne, Monarch, Grenadier*; the seasons – *Emneth Early, Sunset, Winter Gem*; Russets – *Golden, Herefordshire, Egremont, Ard Cairn*; Pippins – *Ribston, Sturmer, Cox's Orange*; Seedlings – *Bramley's, Dumelow's, Miller's, Red Miller's; Tydeman's – Early Worcester,*

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Chairman's Piece

In June, Toni organised a successful trip to the RHS Gardens at Wisley, which everyone enjoyed, in spite of the dull weather. Read more about it on page 9.

The August Band Concert in Wallingford Castle Gardens was also a success, though the threat of rain might have deterred a few people from coming to hear the Goring & Streatley Concert Band this year. Thank you to all of the WAGS Committee and members who helped make these events such a success.

The Autumn Show was also another huge success. Much fun was had by all who attended. Our thanks and congratulations go to Sandra, who organised and coordinated the Show again this year. Well done everyone who won a trophy - the list of all the winners is on the inside pages. Thanks also to the judges, stewards, catering team and many helpers for all your hard work behind the scenes. Read Sandra's report on pages 4-5.

The 2013 Membership Cards will be available in the Store shortly - the membership form is on page 7; and look out for the Dobies catalogues due out later in October. Get your seed orders in early so that you get the maximum 30% discount.

We are always looking for new Committee Members or helpers. We are more than happy if you want to help when you can, such as at the Show, the AGM or the Band Concert, either as an individual or with some friends. There are currently vacancies on the Committee for:

WAGS Store Assistant Manager (to help with the Store and stand in for the Store Manager);

Catering Officer/Team (to cater at the AGM and Autumn Show, as well as organise teas & cakes for the Band Concert and Show); and

Trips organizer (to run trips to gardens/places of interest).

Can you help? WAGS needs you! Do contact any of the Committee listed opposite to find out more.

Thank you to all WAGS members for your continued support.

Colin Timmins

Autumn Show 2012

What a great show and what great weather! Thank you to all those who helped with the show, both before and on the day. You are all very much appreciated believe me! Thanks also to all our judges who give up their time to share their expertise, and to the Mayor, Ros Lester, for handing out the prizes.

Also a big thank you to our kind sponsors who help WAGS to cover some of the costs of staging the show, please give them all a round of applause:

Our Major Sponsors: Champions and Rowse Honey
Sponsor of the Floral Art Section: Keri Harvey The Florists
Sponsors of individual Classes, Trophies & Children's Prizes:
FeetFirst; Lesters Estate Agency; Wallingford Bookshop; Pettits and Down-To-Earth for their donation to our raffle



Sandra Halstead (Show Secretary); Peter Atkins (WAGS President); and William and Peter Woodward receiving the Best Family Effort Trophy from Ros Lester.

I thoroughly enjoyed the day and hope that all those who took part, and those who came to see their efforts, enjoyed themselves too.

Trip to RHS Wisley

The trip to RHS Wisley, on Sunday 10th June, was a resounding success. The coach was full and entry free, as WAGS is affiliated to the RHS.

With the jet stream so far south, the weather was wet and dreary across the country. Under the circumstances, we were lucky to be spared the rain, other than a very slight drizzle towards the end of the trip. The gardens of Wisley were a delight to the eye, and surprisingly varied in appearance.

While the vegetable and more formally arranged gardens feature strongly on the television, the site is extensive and very rural in parts, with some secluded areas of long grass and the river Wey skirting the edges of the gardens.

There was an abundance of colour and a huge range of flowers. The aquilegia was at its peak, a subtle blend of reds, mauves and blues, while the rose garden showed no such restraint, the colouring being considerably more vivid. For all the unending variety, the pink garden rose was still hard to beat, particularly with its scent so evocative of summer.

In the Wild Garden, the gunnera leaves spread majestically, like furry rhubarb. Had the sun been shining, this would have been a place to keep cool.

The apple orchard extended as far as one could see, with 670 varieties, the names of which escape me. It was here that we saw a jay, the first of a series of sightings of rarer birds. We later saw a kingfisher, a green woodpecker and a heron which appeared statuesque until its beak pierced the water and caught a fish.

In the middle of the gardens was a bandstand and a Punch and Judy show in its striped, miniature tent. It was a fitting centrepiece in this enchanting environment.

Above all, our group was such a convivial bunch that everyone seemed to enjoy themselves from the time we left Wallingford to the time we returned.



Did you enjoy the trip? Do you think you might be able to help us organise the next one? WAGS needs you! Please contact a Committee member (see p. 2) if you think you can help.

Toni Littledale

WAGS News

Store News

The Dobies Catalogues will be in Store from early October – there's **30% discount on seeds and 10% discount on plants** ordered.

Please note that due the Christmas holidays the Store will be closed on Saturdays 15th, 22nd December 2012 and Saturday 5th January 2013.

I am in the process of ordering the seed potatoes which will be available from the Store in February 2013. If you want to order a 25kg bag of seed potatoes, please let me know as soon as possible, so it can be included in the order. We will be stocking the following varieties:

Arran Pilot	Charlotte
Lady Christi	Foremost
Rocket	Kestrel
Estima	Cara
Wilja	International Kidney
Desiree	Rooster
Picasso	

The WAGS Store stocks a variety of composts, fertilizers (by the kg), liquid fertilizers and tomato feeds, not to mention seed trays, string, labels, etc. Let me know if there is something you need that is not in stock.

If you are able to help out on the odd Saturday during the year – or maybe you are interested in being Assistant Store Manager – please contact me at the Store.

Colin Timmins Store Manager



Thank you for supporting WAGS

In July, Waitrose included WAGS in their *Community Matters* fundraising for local charities in the Wallingford Store; we are very grateful for the £217 raised, and thank both the local shoppers and Waitrose for this boost to our Show funds. Thank you, too, if you put your green counter in the WAGS slot!

Thanks to everyone who turned out on what ended up being another typically chilly August Sunday afternoon to listen to the Goring and Streatley Concert Band at the WAGS Band Concert on Sunday 12 August – the cakes sold raised £147, which went toward running WAGS Autumn Show.



Do you enjoy baking? Maybe you know someone who does, or who could help set up a buffet meal? WAGS need your catering skills to bake cakes for sale and help at our events! Please contact a Committee member for details.

WAGS News

Picking out a few of the trophy winners, Jean and Antonio Teles again excelled themselves, as did Eve Hodgson for her Floral Art. William and Peter Woodward were awarded the cup for "Best Family Effort" which I hope they enjoyed! Finally, well done to Fir Tree Junior School for winning the Novice Top Gardener Cup – that was the cup which first got me into exhibiting.

We are an allotments and gardens society, and the vegetable and flower entries were of a very high standard, but we also have many other classes in the show which had really high-quality entries this year – stunning photography, delicious baking and jams, talented art and crafts.



In the children's section there was a class "jam tarts decorated with a Royal theme" which caught my eye. The children had been really creative and there were some great entries.



As usual, there is a list of Trophy Winners in this newsletter.

I hope to load up some photographs on to our web site, so do take a look: wallingfordags.blogspot.co.uk

Thanks again to everyone involved, you were all fab. And all you WAGS members out there, I look forward to seeing you on Sept 14th 2013.

Sandra Halstead
Show Secretary

Wallingford Allotments and Gardens Society

Autumn Show 2012

Trophy Results

Trophy	Section	Exhibitor
The Bill Stickley Trophy	W.A.G.S. Top Gardener	Peter Willis
The Talbot Trophy	W.A.G.S. Novice Top Gardener	Fir Tree Junior School
The President's Cup	Vegetables (members only)	Sandra Halstead
Jim Purvey Memorial Trophy	Best in Show - Vegetables	William Woodward
The Slade Memorial Bowl	Flowers (open)	William Woodward
The Vice President's Cup	Flowers (members only)	Tom Buckingham
The Joe Gniadek Cup	Best in Show - Flowers	Eve Hodgson
The W.A.G.S. Cup	Pot Plants (members only)	Sandra Halstead
The Members Trophy	Fruit (members only)	Jean Teles
The Peter Hallett Memorial Bowl	Best in Show - Fruit	Jean Teles
The Arthur Shepherd Trophy	Specialities (open)	Gwen Guppy
The Johnstone Cup	Wine (open)	Gordon Spencer
The Bob Burrell Memorial Trophy	Length & Weight (members)	Jean Teles
The Macmower Trophy	Heaviest Four Onions	Tom Buckingham
The Audrey Bosley Trophy	Children 5 to 8 years - 1 st	Harry Freeland
£3 book token	Children 5 to 8 years - 2 nd	Charlie Freeland
£2 book token	Children 5 to 8 years - 3 rd	-
Lilian & William Wells Mem. Trophy	Children 9 to 12 years - 1 st	Liberty Spencer-Cosford
£3 book token	Children 9 to 12 years - 2 nd	Matilda Whitehead
£2 book token	Children 9 to 12 years - 3 rd	Grace Freeland
The Floral Art Cup	Floral Art (open)	Eve Hodgson
The Mayoress' Trophy	Container Gardening (open)	Michael Tolman
Commemorative Plaque	Tastiest Tomato	Sandra Halstead
Commemorative Plaque	Most Scented Rose	Richard Guppy
The Craft Cup	Art & Craft (open)	Moya Lee
The Latter Trophy	Photography (open)	Pat Collier
The Founders' Cup	Secretary's Choice for Best Effort	Gwen Guppy
The Mayor's Trophy	Best Family Effort	Woodward Family
RHS Banksian Medal	Most Prize Money (classes A,B,C,E + H)	Sandra Halstead
Ben Buckingham Memorial Cup	Highest Total Points (in all classes)	Jean Teles
The Eddie Small Shield	Best in Show (members only classes)	Jean Teles
Wallingford Town Council Allotment Shield	Best Kept Allotment	Nadine Mitschunas

08 September 2012