

WAGS AGM, Centre 70

Friday 4th April 2014, 7:30 pm

Agenda

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Presidents opening remarks
- 3 Minutes of previous AGM
- 4 Chairman's report
- 5 Treasurer's report
- 6 Trading Store report
- 7 a Membership fee 2015
b Band concert 2015
c Autumn show 2015
- 8 Election of Committee Members
- 9 Any other business – **to be notified to the secretary in writing at least 14 days before the AGM**

To be followed by a buffet including cheese, biscuits, nibbles, desserts and wine @ £4.00 per head.



WAGS News

January 2014



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

www.wags-wallingford.com



The **2014 subscription rate** is £4.00 per household.
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: April 2014
Deadline for copy: 1 March 2014
Copies available in store: 5 April 2014
Please send contributions to Frances at wagsnews@gmail.com

Printed by Albry Printing, Wallingford



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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 | (to be appointed) | |
| Chairman | Sandra Halstead s.halstead2@btinternet.com | 836527 |
| Treasurer | Richard Guppy guppies@talktalk.net | |
| Secretary | Sam Timmins | |
| Store Manager | Colin Timmins colintimmins@aol.com | 837648 |
| <i>Asst Store Manager</i> | <i>Vacant</i> | |
| Show Secretary | Sandra Halstead | |
| Asst Show Sec. | Toni Littledale | |
| Membership & Newsletter | Frances Watkins wagsnews@gmail.com | 833041 |

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! The Committee meets once a month on a Monday evening.



WAGS Diary 2014

Friday 4 April AGM
 Saturday 10 May Plant Sale
 Saturday 13 September Autumn Show



Visit www.wags-wallingford.com for up-to-date news and other information. To receive this Newsletter in PDF format, as well as receive occasional eNews. contact wagsnews@gmail.com. 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.

WAGS News

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 – Take up their **loyalty card** and you will earn reward points on all garden purchases any day of the week, see their website for details and visit Root 1 for an application form.
- 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, alpiners, 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 2014**

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 in Wallingford.

WAGS News

Store News

The *Dobies Catalogues* are now in the store; the discounts are as follows:

Seeds - 30%

Anything else - 10%

Please visit the store if you have a query about your order.

Potatoes

The following seed potatoes have been ordered, and will be available at the end of February/early March 2014 - all at £2.60 a bag:

| | |
|-------------|----------------------|
| Aaron Pilot | International Kidney |
| Foremost | Estima second early |
| Rocket | Desiree |
| Kestrel | Picasso |
| Wilja | Cara |
| Charlotte | Rooster |

Most varieties are in 2.5kg bags.

Sturon onion sets will also be available.

The WAGS Store stocks the usual variety of **composts**, **fertilizers** (by the kg), **liquid fertilizers** and **tomato feeds**, not to mention **seed trays**, **string**, **labels**, etc. We currently also have some **weed control fabric**. 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 always looking for **people to help** in the Store for an hour or two on Saturday mornings – if you are interested, or would like to get involved with running the store on a more regular basis, please contact me at the Store.

Colin Timmins
Store Manager

WAGS News

Madam Chairman's Piece

I hope you all had a lovely Christmas and New Year. I am writing this in early December, so I don't know what the weather will bring us this Christmas, but some snow on a non-work day would be nice.

Are you happy with the state of your allotment/garden? All ready for Spring planting? Yer right! I think I should be planting my shallots soon, and onions if I can give them some heat. January is often the coldest month of the year, but they do recommend we ventilate the greenhouse/coldframe on sunny days. A bit of digging is a good way to keep warm, my husband says; if you'd rather keep warm by staying inside, January is a good time to think about crop rotations and plan out 2014's vegetable plot.

Some dates to put into your new 2014 diary/calendar, so you don't miss out:

- Our AGM is on Friday 4th April, starting at 7.30 @ Centre 70
- We hope to be supporting the St George celebrations in the town square again, on 19th April 2014
- And the mega Plant Sale of annuals, veg and perennials is on Saturday 10th May at the store

As ever, we would love to see some new faces on the team, to help support the hard-working committee members. I understand that you may not be in a position to make a commitment to join the committee, so can I ask you to please let me know that you are willing to help out at events, if available. I can then keep a list of "WAGS helpers" that we can contact as and when we need a bit of support, for the Show, the store or for trips etc. This would be a real help to keeping WAGS going. If you would like to find out more about joining the committee that would be fab, just give me a call, and any ideas you have are also very welcome.

Wishing you a great growing season in 2014!

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

Potato growing

Growing your own potatoes is so easy, and a wonderful way of encouraging children to help in the garden or allotment. What taste can beat that of cooked new potatoes, just hours after digging them up? Potatoes – especially new ones – are a good source of vitamin C, as well as potassium, protein and fibre. Growing potatoes is easy if you make sure that you buy good quality seed. A small bag from the Store should provide about 30 tubers – enough to plant a 10–12 m row.

Potatoes like rich, well-prepared soil, so add some well-rotted manure or compost over the winter. Either dig it in, or let the worms and rain do the work!

As soon as you have got your bag of seed potatoes home, you need to set them out in trays – use egg cartons – in a light, airy, frost-free place to sprout (chit) before planting. The sprouts grow out of the eyes, generally at one end of the seed – put this “rose end” uppermost – but don’t let them grow too spindly!

Plant first earlies, such as Maris Bard and Swift, in mid-March for use as new potatoes in June and July. Second earlies, such as Kestrel – good for chips and roast potatoes – are planted in early April for lifting from July to September. Maincrop varieties like Maris Piper take longer to mature. Plant these in late April, to lift in September/early October for winter storage. If space is a premium, try one of the



salad varieties, such as Charlotte or Nicola, and just grow a small crop to harvest when shop prices are high.

To plant them, just dig a hole (15–20 cm deep) and drop a potato in each with the sprouts facing up. Allow plenty of space between plants and make sure they are well watered, especially when they start to flower. To avoid the potatoes turning green, the soil needs to be earthed up round the green tops as they grow. That way more offshoots are produced, which means more potatoes! Also, you want to avoid the potatoes turning green as this makes them mildly toxic.

If, like me, you have very little space, try putting a few tubers in a large pot about 30 to 45 cm wide. Fill it with good, rich potting compost and put in about four seed potatoes to a depth of about 10–15 cm. Cover them with soil and keep well watered. As growth progresses, add more compost at intervals till it reaches just below the rim of the pot.

You can harvest baby potatoes by carefully scraping away the soil around a plant, leaving the main plant still in place. Pull up earlies when the plant starts to flower, but leave maincrops till the leaves wilt and die. Lift them out of the soil but take care as you dig up the plants not to spike any on your fork. Children can join in the treasure hunt and scabble through the soil looking for ones you might have missed...

Have fun!

Frances Watkins

The Internet is a mine of information and ideas; here are just a few for grow-your-own advice as well as recipes and how to preserve/freeze etc.:

<http://www.rhs.org.uk/Gardening/Grow-Your-Own/Veg-A-to-Z/Potatoes>

<http://www.howtogrow.co.uk/how-to-grow-potatoes.html>

And this site in the USA tested 7 different ways of planting potatoes, 4 in containers and 3 in the ground:

<http://www.organicgardening.com/learn-and-grow/7-ways-plant-potatoes>