

## St George's Day Celebrations

WAGS will be at the St George's Day Celebrations in Wallingford Market Place on Saturday 19 April, to increase awareness of the society and the benefits of membership. Do stop by to say hello!

If you introduce a friend on the day who joins WAGS, we will thank you with a free packet of seeds (until we run out!). We will also have some beautiful *Primula auricula* plants for sale, which should be looking at their best in April.



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:** July 2014  
**Deadline for copy:** 1 May 2014

Please send contributions to [wagsnews@gmail.com](mailto:wagsnews@gmail.com)

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# WAGS News

April 2014



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

[www.wags-wallingford.com](http://www.wags-wallingford.com)



Get ready for the Plant Sale on May 10th! See p.5

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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)

WAGS Committee 2013/14

Table with 2 columns: Role and Name/Contact Info. Roles include President, Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Store Manager, Asst Store Manager, Show Secretary, Asst Show Sec., Membership & Newsletter.

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 would like to know more about how you can help—no expertise required! The Committee meets once a month on a Monday evening.



WAGS Diary 2014

Table with 2 columns: Date and Event. Events include AGM 19:30 Centre 70, Plant Sale 10:00–12:00 Centre 70, 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.

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
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

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.

[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

### Plant Sale (continued)

Don't forget to think of WAGS and sow a few extra seeds of your own and bring the plants to the sale either on the evening of Friday 9th May (between 6 and 7 pm), or before the sale on Saturday morning. Please label your plants clearly for the benefit of buyers!

If you have ½ hour or more free on the Saturday morning, we would love your help. Please get in touch and let us know.

Look forward to seeing you all.

P.S. Please remember to return the trays/pots so we have something to grow next year's plants in. It is not too late if you have any from last year, just leave them at the store—they don't need to be washed first!

## Store News

### Potatoes

We have nearly sold out of seed potatoes at the time of writing. **Red Onion** and **Shallot** sets are still available.

The 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'm writing this mid-March, on a lovely warm sunny day, after a wet winter with no frost to speak of and no snow at all, helping all the good and the bad bugs get through the winter. Is it Spring now or will we get at late cold snap? I have had snow on my birthday in April!

Our AGM is 4th April, so you may not get this newsletter before then and things may happen at the AGM that change what I have written below, we live in hope.

Firstly, Peter Atkins our President for many years, stepped down a few months ago and has been very much missed by the committee. We miss not only his support, work and ideas on the committee, but also the man himself. We are looking for a new President, but nothing is decided as I write this.

Join the "WAGS COMMITTEE": As seems to be the case with WAGS over the years, we still do not have enough support or new blood on the committee. As someone who worked full time, I do appreciate how precious time is. However, being on the committee is not time-consuming, we are a friendly bunch and it is a great way of getting to know the WAGS community. If you just want to find out more, please get in touch with me and I can answer any questions you have (before you commit to anything!). We have vacancies for catering and trips, neither are onerous tasks and are a great way to meet other WAGS members. We are also looking for someone to be assistant store manager, which would suit someone recently retired, to support Colin running the store for a couple of hours on a Saturday.

Be a "WAGS HELPER": As an alternative, if you are unsure about being "official" but would like to support WAGS if and when you can, may I suggest that you register your support with me, and I will then email the "helpers" group as and when we need support, to see if you are free.

Our lovely new Website: A big thank you to Bernard Novell for his continued support of WAGS by designing and managing our website for us, much appreciated! If you have any suggestions or links to add, please do send them through using the contacts page.

So I wish you all a successful start to the growing season, a lovely warm summer with rain overnight, and lots of ladybirds, lacewings and frogs to eat all the bugs & slugs.

**Sandra Halstead**

01491 836527, s.halstead2@btinternet.com

### The September Show

The show is on Saturday 13th and the band will be with us again, so let's hope for a dry day!

To give you all time to take your artistic photos, get creative and practice cooking, here are the titles for Art, Photography and Crafts; together with the 2014 Children's classes:

#### Section I: Art & Craft – Open to all

- Art entitled "Favourite Season" (Any media painting, i.e. oil, water colour, pencil drawing, pen & ink etc. or mixed media)
- A hand made item, knitted or sewn, not exceeding 60x60cm (24" x 24") – no height restriction
- Any other hand-made item, including items made from kits, not exceeding 60x60cm (24" x 24") – no height restriction

#### Section J: Photography – Open to all

- Colour Print entitled "Close-up"
- Colour Print entitled "My pet(s)"
- Colour Print entitled "Day out"
- Colour Print entitled "Pride and Joy"
- Colour Print entitled "The colour blue"

Maximum size of print 18 cm x 13 cm (7" x 5"), un-framed, un-mounted.

#### Section K - Children

Children aged 5 to 8 years (i.e. have had their 5th Birthday but not their 9th on the day of the show)

- 3 biscuits decorated with an animal theme (biscuits can be shop bought)
- A decorated plant pot (max 6", does not need to have a plant in it!)
- A painting or drawing of your pet using any medium (max A4)
- Any mode of transport – made from vegetables (cardboard, cocktail type sticks & cello-tape also allowed)

Children aged 9 to 12 years (i.e. have had their 9th Birthday but not their 13th on the day of the show)

- 4 cup cakes, decorated with sea creature(s)
- A happy scarecrow on a stick fixed in a flower pot
- A seed tray garden of a witch or wizard's garden (max 25x40cm)
- Landscape collage depicting one of the 4 seasons – Spring, Summer, Autumn or Winter (max A4)

The complete Schedule comes out in July with the next newsletter and will detail the new titles for Floral Art.

If you would like any advice on showing, or have any questions about the schedule, please do give me a call or email.

I look forward to seeing you on the 13th September, for what is always a great day.

**Sandra Halstead**

01491 836527, s.halstead2@btinternet.com

### Spring Plant Sale

WAGS Spring Plant Sale will be held at the store on Saturday 10th May 2014, starting at 9am. Proceeds are used to help run WAGS and cover some of the costs of the Autumn show.

As well as Annuals we hope to have a good display of vegetables plants and perennials, all kindly grown by members of WAGS. Annuals will include:

**Geranium** (Pelargoniums): Deep rose, salmon, orange, white, pink and red

**Lobelia** (trailing): Mixture of blues, pinks, purples and white

**Petunia**: Red, Pink, Cerise, Purple and White

**Verbena**: masses of deep red, pink and white flowers

