

WAGS News

January 2015



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)

WAGS Store Christmas Holiday – closed 13, 20 & 27 Dec 2014; 3 Jan 2015. Re-opening 10 Jan 2015

Madam Chairman’s Piece

I am writing this in mid-November after a very mild Autumn, although one mild frost did see off my dahlias; such a shame as they had masses of flowers. You will be reading this in Early January – did we have a white Christmas? I hope you all had a lovely Christmas either way!

Please remember to renew your membership for 2015 and do add your e-mail address (if you have one) to your renewal slip. In 2014 we have used your emails to keep you updated with news ‘between newsletters’, and for those without email we put up notices in store. Hopefully you don’t feel we bombard you or send junk. It would be great to hear back from a few of you once in a while!

If you haven’t ordered seeds with your WAGS discount you can still do so, and don’t forget to claim your discounts from

those local firms who support WAGS by offering money off their products on production of your WAGS Membership Card (please show card to cashier before they start the transaction). There is also the trial of a WAGS seed swap in store, we all have spare viable seed we will never get around to using, so bring it in and swap it for something new you would love to grow.

The next WAGS event is the famous plant sale on 9th May. Vegetable plants are very popular so if you have spare seed, please do sow it and donate the plants to your society. If you need pots to grow them in, we have lots of ‘pre-loved’ pots available in store for a small donation.

Sandra Halstead

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Store News

WAGS store has had another successful year. Thanks to Alec Houston for his help every week and to the Committee members who helped cover the store in my absence.

It is with sadness that I have to announce that I will be stepping down as Store Manager in 2015. I have really enjoyed my time as Store Manager but I feel it is time to move aside and allow others to come forward to run the store, either individually or as a group. I wish the best of luck to whoever takes over.

It is still not too late to order your seeds and plants from Dobies*. There are still some catalogues in the Store.

The seed potatoes, together with the onion and shallot sets, will be on sale from early March. The seed potatoes are in 2.5 kg bags (except Rooster which is in 2 kg bags) and will cost £2.60 each, with the exception of Rooster which will cost £2.70.

We will be stocking the following varieties:

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

Happy gardening!

Colin Timmins
Store Manager

* **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.

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## 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" (LxWxH 180x75x74cm) and folds in half to 3 x 2ft 6". So remember if you are having a party this Summer, or a garage sale, and need some tables for the day, please contact George: [georgesmall68@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:georgesmall68@yahoo.co.uk)



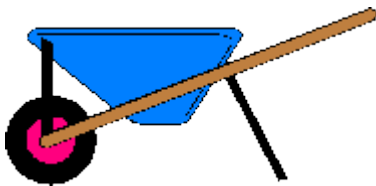
# WAGS News

## Jobs for January/February

(Advice from the RHS)

### VEG

- Sow broad beans in pots in mild areas, placing them in a cold frame
- Sow seed indoors for early crops eg: lettuces, summer brassicas, spinach, salad onions
- Sow onion seed in a heated propagator
- Prepare seedbeds, covering them with clear polythene, cloches or fleece to warm up the soil before sowing. If frosty and dry, leave soil exposed as the frost and birds to get rid of soil pests
- Chit seed potato tubers when you get them



### FRUIT

- Prune apples & pears
- Prune currants and gooseberries
- Good time to plant fruit trees & bushes when ground is not frozen
- Apply a top dressing of Sulphate of Potash to all fruit by end Feb

### THE NEVER ENDING FIGHT AGAINST PESKY PESTS

- Use Slug controls where needed (will 2015 be as bad as 2014?!)
- Place mice controls near stored vegetables and any in the ground still
- Protect brassicas from pigeon damage
- Pick yellowing leaves brassicas promptly, to prevent spread of grey mould & downy mildew
- Remove all remaining plant debris from the vegetable plot

## Membership

WAGS membership is £4.00 per household and valid for one year. To renew for 2015, please complete the form below and bring to the store with your payment. Newsletters are distributed by email – news is frequently posted at the website first. If you would like a printed copy, please come and pick one up from the store.

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### WALLINGFORD ALLOTMENTS & GARDENS SOCIETY *Membership Application / 2015 Renewal*

Name.....

Address.....

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Postcode..... Tel no. ....

Email [please print].....