



WGA 2017 Newsletter & AGM Minutes

The AGM was held on Saturday 25th November. Details are given below but a summary of the main points agreed are as follows:

- **August shop opening will be reduced from 9-12 to 10-12**
- **Garden related chemicals and liquids will no longer be accepted for charity sales**
- **A small amount of the Associations reserves will be spent on upgrading the shop – volunteers needed to help!**

Finances - Turnover, stock and cash in hand all remained similar to last year. Turnover fell by a small amount but stock was also reduced and balance this out. £7500 remains in the bank and is earning a moderate rate of interest. It was agreed that some of the current savings will be spent on upgrading some areas of the shop.

Charity Donations - Air Ambulance £495.35p, Wantage Independent Advice Service - £154.07p. This is an increase over last year's totals.

Membership – This is now 224 (the same as last year).

Shop Upgrade – the surfaces and walls of the shop have not really received any attention for many years and so it was agreed to spend a small amount (up to around £350) to carry out some renovation and try to make the environment a bit more functional and attractive to members.

Seeds – Orders from members and the shop totalled around £500 in 2017. This is significantly less than estimated to Kings when we agreed the discount levels (currently 30%).

We will continue to stock a range of basic seeds but would encourage members to use the Kings account for their own orders. Orders can be placed in 3 ways:

- On line using the link on the web page. Be sure to use this to obtain the club discount <https://www.kingsseeds.com/Secure/Register?ur=wantage>
- Fill in a paper order form and bring it into the shop with payment, the order will be sent to your home address
- For odd packets you might be interested in, order through the shop (pay in advance) and we will add to our monthly orders, the order can then be collected from the shop.

Mid-Week Opening – There continues to be a low level of sales on Wednesday evenings and we will continue with this.

August Opening – Most weeks are relatively slow after the peak at the beginning of the Summer and so it was agreed to reduce opening from 9-12 to 10-12. We will advise members again nearer to the time.

Publicity / Web Page – The members buy and sell page on the web site was reasonably successful and will be continued.

Committee - The 5 committee members agreed to stand for another year and this was proposed and seconded without any further nominations.

GHS / Plant Sale – Dates for these are 19th May for GHS and 26th for our charity plant sale at the hut.

Date for 2018 AGM – Next year's AGM will be held on Saturday 24th November.

New Products - We are looking at the prices for Enviromesh which has been requested by several members. Details will be sent on when the product has been purchased.

Charity Donations – Tools etc. have long been a good source of income for the charities and a useful way for new gardeners to get started without breaking the bank.

Very few of the boxes and bottles of pesticides / weedkillers and fertilisers we have brought in ever get taken away however and this leaves us with a growing problem to solve in terms of disposal. On this basis, we would ask club members to no longer donate any chemicals or liquids for charity sales.

Shop Rota – Around 40 members volunteered to help out in the shop this year (which was a big increase over previous years). Thanks to all of those that helped and please speak to Sally to help her fill up the rota for next year. We have 88 slots to fill each year so we still would like many more volunteers.

Thanks for your continued support

WGA Committee