



Wantage Gardeners Association

2016 Newsletter

AGM Minutes

The AGM was held on Saturday 10th December. 10 members plus the committee attended, 7 members sent apologies. the following points were covered:

Finances - turnover, stock and cash in hand all remained largely stable and no significant unexpected outgoings were incurred.

Charity Donations - Air Ambulance £404.92p with one collection box outstanding, Wantage Independent Advice Service - £205.20p

Membership - Sally has been more rigorous this year ensuring an accurate record of members was kept and we now have 224, this is down on previous years but may just reflect a more accurate count.

Seeds - The number of individual orders placed with Kings and the total value of these is still down on that we used to see with Dobbies. Kings have had some issues with their pricing and seem to have got the web ordering working efficiently now. When the value of seeds sold through the shop is added the total is similar to the overall sales previously seen so shop seed sales will continue.

There was an issue with their Gardeners Delight seeds (which weren't!) and Kings have offered to replace these at no charge for next year - let us know if you have had a problem with this variety.

The facility to order on line and the direct posting of catalogues by Kings has meant that the role of Seed Secretary has much reduced in scope and Terry proposed the position be dissolved. This was agreed.

Please continue to support us by buying seeds on line and through the shop as this will allow us to maintain the 30% discount Kings are currently offering us. Details on ordering can be found on the web site, <http://www.wantagegardeners.org.uk/Kings-seeds/kings-seeds.html>.

.Mid-Week Opening - this has not generated a huge amount of added trade but was felt by members to be useful and growing in popularity and will be continued in 2017.

Publicity / Web Page - The web page remains a useful facility with around 150 hits per month during shop opening months. We will try a members buy and sell page next year to try to raise more interest and help members recycle unwanted equipment.

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

Date for 2017 AGM - The change to a Saturday morning for the AGM was forced on us but was felt to be a better option and so the date for next years' AGM will be Saturday 25th November at 10:30

New Products

Potatoes & Garlic

This year Darren bought prepacked 2kg bags which saved the need for bagging up. This proved successful and most people seemed pleased with the varieties available. We will carry on with these this year too.

Some members commented that they preferred smaller bags to allow them to try different varieties. If this suits you better, please ask and we can split a bag into 1kg lots.

We are expecting the potatoes in for the shop opening and will email to confirm when they are ready.

We were also able to source garlic (Marco variety) at a very reasonable price which went very quickly – we'll repeat this order too.

SylvaGrow Peat Free Compost.

This has attracted a lot of attention in the press as being a comparably performing product to peat based composts and has sold very well in the shop. We also introduced SylvaGrow with John Innes which is suitable for sowing seeds and cuttings.

More information can be found at <http://sylvagrow.co.uk/gardening-with-the-range/>. We are still the only stockists in the area.

If there are any other products you would like to suggest we stock, drop Darren an email on info@wantageardeners.org.uk

Shop Rota

This is the usual plea for helpers for Saturdays and Wednesdays. Thanks to those of you who have helped this year but some new faces would be much appreciated for just one week in the year. Last year a total 28 members volunteered out of 224 with a consequent heavy reliance on the committee to man the shop resulting. We open about 40 days per year with 2 people required per opening so need around one duty per 3 years for each member to keep the shop running!

If you are feeling motivated, particularly for February, please contact Sally on shoprota@wantageardeners.org.uk or 07810430146.

Diary Dates

Grove Horticultural Society Plant sale – 13th May (WGA will have a stand)

WGA Plant sale – 20th May

Web Page

We will add a page to the web site to allow members to buy and sell garden related products by submitting details for posting onto the page. We aren't sure how popular this will be but we can give it a try for the year and see how it goes.

Local garden related services will also be able to advertise for a very small fee.

We will start this by providing details on the web site when the shop re-opens.

Remember - the shop reopens on the 4th February, see you there!

Thanks for your continued support

WGA Committee