

Wivenhoe Allotment and Gardens Association

Christmas Newsletter 2014



Headlines: There is both good and not so good news to report to you all; we start with the not so good news!!

Association Secretary Urgently Needed

As part of the constitution of WAGA it is necessary for the Association to have a Secretary. If we cannot elect a secretary by February 2015 it will be difficult for us to continue.

Role Description: Taking minutes at monthly meeting

Dealing with correspondence

Booking halls

Arranging Trading Hut manning

Liaising between other organisations.

This post should not take up too much time plus there is a yearly honorarium for the person who is elected.

To continue with the not so good news...

To continue with these concerns, if the WAGA committee does not receive new and younger members to join in the running of the Association by February 2015 we will be in a difficult position and will question whether we can continue.

The few volunteer members who continue to maintain the allotment site such as the water supply, running the Trading Hut and the many various tasks which are involved in keeping the site tidy, need more help. They continue to be enthusiastic but more help is needed to share the workload.

We must not forget the benefits to the WAGA Garden members who are able to purchase goods from the Trading Hut at a discount, join in social events and take advantage of a regular supply of compost from our own bins as well as the use of equipment, mowers strimmers etc.

Garden members are encouraged to join the committee and help allotment members to sustain the future of this wonderful Association. Joining the committee ensures we cover items important to all our members. Come on - give it a try.

Please Note a Date for your Diary.

WAGA AGM on February 8th 2015 at 11.00am at Wivenhoe Cricket Club. Please come and support your Association. Doors open at 10.45am.

Now the GOOD NEWS of 2014

The 50th WAGA Show was a great success with the number of entries up for the second year in a row. We had over 200 people through the doors and I am sure they enjoyed the produce and crafts on display. We would like to thank everyone who helped, both with the organisation before the show and also on the day. It is only because of these volunteers that the Show is able to go ahead. Next year, as an experiment, we are holding the show in August and we hope we will get even more entries so that the Show can continue into the future.

Please Note a Date for your Diary.

51st WAGA Show on Saturday 22 August 2015 at William Loveless Hall, Wivenhoe. Please support your Association in every way.

Compost Toilet

Plans for the compost toilet on the Rectory Road Allotment site are progressing well. Currently we have raised from local sources £3,590 towards our target of £11,140 and await the results of a grant application due out in December where we have applied for the remainder of the money.

Wivenhoe Town Council are supporting this project and have agreed that we can use the front 6 metres of two plots in the centre of the Allotments just off the track for a communal area and for the compost toilet. The compost toilet tank requires a north/south orientation and access to direct sun and prevailing winds are essential for its green method of desiccation to be effective. It is hoped that the compost toilet will be in situ in 2015.

Work has started on clearing the ground ready for the compost toilet and the creation of the communal area where members can meet and enjoy some downtime.

Subscriptions:

Association membership is due on 1 January 2015 and must be paid no later than 31 March please. Once you have paid your dues (£5 or £2.50 OAP rate per household) you can order your potatoes. By popular demand we have 24 varieties of seed potato to choose from next year.

Potatoes:

The table below gives details of the potatoes on offer in 2015. We offer them in bags of 3lb, 7lb, 14lb and 21lb. As a guide we will be charging £3.20 for 7lb of seed potatoes (same as last year).

The Trading Hut is open **Saturdays and Sundays throughout January** for seed potato orders, general trade and payment of subscriptions:

Saturday 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31 January 14:30 to 15:30

Sundays 4, 11, 18, and 25 January 10:00 to 12 noon

First Earlies	Second Earlies	Main Crop	Salad
Arran Pilot	British Queen	Cara	Anya
Casablanca	Estima	Desiree	Charlotte
Foremost	Kestrel	Picasso	International Kidney
Lady Christl	Maris Peer	Romano	Nicola
Pentland Javellin	Nadine		Pink Fir Apple
Rocket	Wilja		
Sharpes Express			
Swift			
Winston			

Seed potatoes will be available on a first come first served basis until we run out of stocks on our order schedule.

So don't delay come visit us in January, pay your subs and order your spuds!

Seed potatoes will start arriving from February so watch out for more detailed information on the Notice Boards.

Trading Hut continues to open for two hours on a Sunday morning from 10.00 till 12 noon. So far this year sales are up on last year. Don't forget the lawn mowers and strimmer are available on a Sunday morning to help allotment holders keep their paths and headlands tidy. Don't forget arrangements can be made for equipment to be borrowed by Garden members as well.

WAGA Website WAGA now has its own website so take a look and let us know what you think, it is still work in progress; follow this link <http://wivenhoeallotment.wordpress.com/>
A huge thank you to Johnathan Boalch who has built the site and is maintaining it for us.

Facebook page WAGA also have a Facebook page so go on, like and share our page, just type in WAGA and up the page will come.

Colne Radio Our intrepid trio, Sid Price, Peter Watkinson and Margaret Medler continue to produce a monthly **Gardening Notes** programme on Colne Radio that goes out every Saturday morning at 11.00am on the Internet, follow this link <http://www.colneradio.com/> Go on, listen in and find out what is happening in the allotments and gardens of Wivenhoe.

Chair's Christmas Message: I would like to thank everyone who helped out with 50th show for making 2014 a memorable year. We saw entrants into the show rise and also a 30% rise in people coming to enjoy Show Day. We still have work to do to try and get schools and children to enter into the 'Show Spirit'. Our 50th Show medals were enthusiastically received and we may repeat this if funds allow. It has been a busy but fruitful year and we would like to ask people to support and join in with WAGA activities to support the ongoing work of the Committee.



I wish you all a wonderful festive time. **Trazar**