

WANTAGE GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

Please visit www.wantagegardeners.org.uk for more information.

NEWSLETTER 2012

The Association is a not for profit trading association run by volunteer members operating from the "Shop" in the Romney hut at the Scout Centre, Springfield Road, Wantage, also access from Icknield Lane with parking. Shop opens every Saturday from 9am to 12 mid-day, starting on 4th February 2012 until the last Saturday in September. September hours reduced to 10am to 12 mid-day.

Shop Rota Secretary

Maurice Rawlings had to retire due to ill health after doing the job for 8 years. Unfortunately he passed away on Friday 23rd December. We all thank Maurice for the work he did, especially for getting more people to share helping in the Shop duties. At the last AGM Darren Lister kindly offered to do the work and his contact details are as follows: 16, Ashdown Way, Grove OX12 0AG, telephone 07765035159, or email darrenlister1972@hotmail.co.uk Please contact Darren if you are able to help in the Shop on Saturday mornings. Overleaf is a slip you can fill in and leave at the Shop or send to Darren. To reduce costs we are asking members to give their email addresses and telephone numbers when signing up. It is entirely voluntary and will only be used within the Association to keep in touch with members to let them know of deliveries, offers etc.

Preparing the Shop for 2012 season

When the seed potatoes, onions and shallots have been delivered in January it would be appreciated if volunteers could help with bagging them off. An announcement will be made on the web-site and I will inform members who wish to help. My email address is mwelham123@tiscali.co.uk, telephone (01235) 868073. As usual the sessions will be no longer than two hours.

Calendar of events for 2012

Saturday 12 May, Grove Horticultural Society Plant sale in Grove village hall, Main Street, 10am until mid-day. The Association will have a table and sales are for the benefit of the Association.

Saturday 19th May Wantage Gardeners Association Charity Plant Sale and anything gardening Bring, Buy, Swap. in the Shop from 10am until mid-day. Last year's event along with the Charity tables in the Shop every Saturday raised £602.88 for the Thames Valley and Chilterns Air Ambulance Trust and £321.18 for the Wantage Independent Advice Centre. At the AGM it was decided to continue to support these two local charities.

Sunday 13th May. Malvern Spring Show, Royal Horticultural Society's early event of the year. Expected cost of coach, driver and entry £27.50. More details in the Shop.

Sunday 15th July. Loseley Park Gardens, Surrey. A visit organised by Grove Horticultural Society. More details in the Shop.

If you are able to help in the Shop we would appreciate it if you would let us know.

I am able to help in the Shop on the following Saturdays:

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Name **Telephone**.....

Address.....

Email.....Helpers get 10% discount when on duty, except for seed potatoes.

Please return **ASAP** to Darren Lister (contact details above or email darrenlister1972@hotmail.co.uk / 07765035159), or to the Secretary Mike Welham, (mwelham123@tiscali.co.uk / 01235 868073), or to the shop during opening hours.

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Leek moth (Acrolepiopsis assectella)

Many members have reported that their leeks have been attacked by the Leek moth during 2012. Other alliums are liable to attack but leeks appear to be the vegetable of choice. The crop can be protected by covering with a fleece from the seedling stage. Some members have reported success in reducing the damage by cutting the leek stem down to below the level that the caterpillar has descended. There is a leek moth fact sheet in the Shop for your perusal.

Bargain Compost Sale We have several composts we wish to sell off at greatly reduced prices. Monro Peat based 25lts, Monro Peat free 30lts and Erin Multipurpose 25lts. All of the above at £1.30 per bag or 5 bags for £5.50. Klassmann Container compost 70lts at £5 each or 3 for £12. The offer is on the stock currently in the Shop.

Composts, Manures & Mulches, Fertilisers by Geoff Rowse Copies of this 2012 article are available in the Shop free of charge to members.

Potatoes This year's early varieties are Arran Pilot, Pentland Javelin, Foremost and Rocket. Second earlies are Charlotte, Kestrel, and Wilja. Main crop we have Cara, Desiree, Majestic , Pentland Crown and Sarpo Mira. Salad variety Pink Fir Apple. Sarpo Mira has very good blight resistance and Cara moderate blight resistance.

Prices: Sarpo Mira and Pink Fir Apple 1kg for £1.00

All remaining varieties at 2010 prices:

1.5kgs - £1.50 3kgs - £2.50 6kgs - £4.70 12kgs - £9.10 25kgs - £18.70

We have ordered Sturon onion and Golden Gourmet shallot sets. Also available 50 gram bags of Kelvedon Wonder early peas, Broad Bean Windsor, Runner beans Mergoles (white seeded)and Enorma . Would members interested in purchasing spent Mushroom compost please let the secretary know.