

Cheltenham and District Allotment Holders' Association

President: Christine Ryder

www.cheltenhamallotments.org

NEWSLETTER



Affiliated to the National Allotment Society and the Gloucestershire Federation of Gardening Societies.

Summer 2017

CHAIRMAN: Mr M D Hunt, 6 Arle Close, Cheltenham GL51 8JZ. Tel: 01242 230609

VICE-CHAIRMAN: Mrs D M Ashdown, 20 Cromwell Road, Cheltenham GL52 5DW. Tel: 01242 582008

SECRETARY: Ms Layla Avaron, Tel: 01242 802777 (and leave a message)

TREASURER: Mr C A Smith, 15 Dunster Road, Cheltenham GL51 0NL. Tel: 01242 523740

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Ms K Smith, 15 Alma Close, Cheltenham GL51 3NA. Tel: 01242 257718

CDAHA Autumn Meeting

Monday, September 4th at 7pm in the Municipal Offices

The speaker will be David Cropp, he is an RHS qualified gardener, retired from teaching - not by trade!

He has run three full sized allotments himself which were recovered from a derelict state. All three are different styles, and include fruit, flowers and vegetables, including salads. He likes to experiment with unusual varieties to see what they are like – sometimes awful!

He has developed a successful style of overwintering allotments, which improves their condition dramatically come the spring.

Raffle tickets will be on sale at the meeting.

Website Passwords

C&DAHA Website

The new password for access to the members' area of our website is **Violetta** this is a blue variety of potato.

National Website (nsalg.org.uk)

The User Name is: s9327

Password: nsalg12

Facebook

Follow us on Facebook, look us up under 'Cheltenham & District Allotment Holders Association', [here](#) is a link.

Dates for Your Diary

C&DAHA Meetings for 2017

Monday December 4th – Annual General Meeting

All meetings Start at 7pm and are held at the Municipal Offices, Promenade, Cheltenham. All members are invited to attend.

Upton Wold Gardens, nr Morton-in-Marsh

Friday 9th June 5pm to 7pm for Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust. Entry £5 per person.

For information contact James Bagshaw, email: james.bagshaw@gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk or phone him on 01452 383333.

Ashton under Hill Open Gardens

Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th June 2017 1pm to 6pm. The website www.ashtonopengardens.co.uk has more information. In brief, this is their 40th anniversary of opening,

- 26 gardens will be open;
- Refreshments and plant sales;
- Photographic exhibition at St Barbara's Church;
- Local Blacksmith demonstrating metalwork;
- Exhibition of stained glass;
- Entry is £6 per person, under 16s free.

Elkstone Open Gardens Day

11th June 2pm to 6pm, £5 per person, children free. See www.elkstonevillage.com for further details.

Prestbury Village Open Gardens

Saturday 17th & Sunday 18th June 2pm to 5pm Adults £5, accompanied children free. For further details click on this [link](#).

Usk Open Gardens weekend

The Usk Open Gardens weekend will be on Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th June 2017, 10am to 5pm, tickets are £7.50 for the day or £10 for the weekend; children can go in for free. If you are interested please contact Cathy Davies on 01291 672625 or visit their website <http://www.uskopengardens.com/>.



Usk Castle

Gloucestershire Federation of Gardening 7th Annual Sweet Pea Show

Saturday 22nd July 1pm to 4pm at Shurdington Social Centre, the schedule is available on the [Gloucestershire Federation of Gardening](#) website.

National Allotment Week

August 14th – 20th 2017 is National Allotment Week. This year's theme is “**Growing the Movement**” and The National Allotment Society (www.nsalg.org.uk) will be publicising Open Days and Allotment Shows taking place in the regions during this week on their website and on the National Allotments Week Facebook page. The NSA would also like to hear about new sites, site regeneration and innovative projects. Check out the website and email any details you would like included to diane@nsalg.org.uk

The Church in Warden Hill Gardening Club Annual Show

Saturday 19th August 2017, 2:00pm at St Christopher's Church & Halls, Warden Hill. Admission £1.00 for show schedule allowing entrance. Show schedules will be available at local garden centres and Dundry Nurseries a month before the show. Many categories are 'Open' to non-members. Contact Barbara Tarren (club secretary) on 01242 230074 for further information.

Cheltenham Horticultural Society Summer Show

Sunday 20th August 2017, 12:00pm to 3:30pm at Pittville Pump Rooms. Admission £2.00

Many classes have been made 'Open' so anyone can enter. Please consider entering some of the classes, helping to make this an enjoyable event for both competitors and visitors to the show. More details can be found on the CHS website

www.cheltenhamhorticultural.co.uk and at the end of this newsletter.

Cheltenham Connect Village Show

This event takes place on a Sunday in September and has a produce section. Further details in the next newsletter.

Membership Subscriptions

Membership subscriptions for 2017 became due on 1st of January 2017. The subscription is £6 for the year.

Advantages of membership include:

- The seed scheme (savings of approx. 40%),
- 10% discount at:
 - Dundry Nurseries, Bamfurlong Lane,
 - Cleeve Supplies, Tobyfield Rd,
 - Mobile chiropodist, Tel: 07713209729
- insurance giving public liability cover related to your plot
- a Newsletter four times per year
- Three meetings per year – two with guest speakers

(Please inform your neighbour plot holders who are not members of these benefits).

Email addresses

If you are a new email user or have changed your email address, please let me know. This ensures you receive this quarterly newsletter promptly as well as the occasional bulletin of topical news. Please notify changes to newsletter@cheltenhamallotments.org

Information on the Internet

A website that contains a wealth of information about allotments. Visit <http://www.allaboutallotments.co.uk/>

MyHarvest

[MyHarvest](#) is a research project being run by a team at the University of Sheffield. The team is working with members of the public who grow on allotments, in gardens and other spaces across the UK, to determine the yield of typical UK staple fruit and vegetable crops. If you would like to participate please go to their website myharvest.org.uk to find out more.

Kate's Allotment – Spring

It's amazing how spring creeps in, there I was in March with an almost empty allotment, with lots of seedlings waiting in the wings for suitable weather to be hardened off and planted out, then I get to the middle of May and the allotment is nearly full of growing stuff and I think 'how did that happen'?

My lettuces are doing very well this year, I don't seem to be having the problems with slugs that caused me so much trouble early in the year in 2016.



Lettuce from the left, Mixed, All Year Round, Tom Thumb, Salad Bowl and Winter Density



First harvest of this year's lettuce – not much I know but it makes me feel as though the growing season has really begun, and since then I've had more lettuce and my first broad beans.



Despite being covered with fleece, the potatoes I planted earliest (3rd March), did catch the frost but they are recovering well and looking very healthy, the left two rows are Violetta, a blue variety, the other 5 rows are Pink Fir Apple, a particular favourite. My peas are coming on really well as are my celeriac (last year I lost most of them to slugs).



Of course, not everything goes quite to plan. I put out these cauliflower seedlings, put round slug pellets under the collars, the next day they were looking chewed, I suspected slugs or caterpillars, put more pellets, sprayed with vinegar and water – over the coming days still signs of damage to the leaves – then I noticed one seedling was right out of the ground and the light dawned – pigeons, since I've put some mesh over the seedlings, they are starting to recover though I've lost two.

I've been trying to grow Good King Henry (*Chenopodium bonus-henricus*), this is a perennial plant whose leaves can be used like spinach and young shoots can be cooked and eaten like asparagus. I found the seed quite difficult to get, eventually buying it from Chase Garden. It seems to be difficult to get to germinate, so far in my 6 3.5" pots, after 2 sowings, I've got 1 small seedling ☹, perhaps I just need to be patient.

This year, for the first time. I'm also growing Salsify (if anyone has any good recipes for it, please let me know) and swedes.

I've decided to try and provide some input to [MyHarvest](#), so I'm weighing everything I pick and keeping a note (when I remember!).

Tips

Controlling Leek Moth – from Dave Martel

I suffered leek moth damage a few years ago. I cut the tops off the leeks at the first sign of damage and destroyed the tops (not in the compost heap!) leaving only about an inch of the plant above ground. The plant regenerated itself and I have had no problem since. I do cut back any plants that show any damage to the leaves over the first couple of months.

Growing Onions – from John Rendell

This year I am using black fabric ground cover for my onions seed and sets.

I used a metre-wide roll, raked and prepared the bed raked level or slightly raised, placed the ground cover in place and made the planting holes, I lifted one side of the ground cover and folded it back, raked again then sprinkle slug pellets on the bed. I then replaced the ground cover and planted out the onions.

It sounds a bit fiddly but is well worth it. The advantages are:

1. less watering
2. almost weed free
3. not having to hoe and cut stray roots means less white rot.

Here are some pictures of John's onion beds.



Avoiding Cabbage Root Fly – from John Petchey

I have found that by treating my newly planted out brassica plants with Wilkinsons Ant & crawling insect powder I do not get any root fly problems. You may need to re-treat with powder after heavy rain.

Notes

Well-rotted Manure

Riding For the Disabled (RDA) have lots of well-rotted manure at their field on the race course, to arrange access, please phone or text Sue on 07419 754486. You will need to take bags and a spade or fork.

Mushroom Compost – from Colin Smith

If anyone wants to buy mushroom compost, ring 07748 192255

Primrose Vale – Land-share plots

I had some information from Graham Barratt that Primrose Vale has some of its land-share plots vacant (these were started by Hugh Fernley Whittingstall a few years ago). If you are interested please contact Primrose Vale on 01242 863359, their website is www.primrosevale.com

Possible Allotment – Pheasant Lane

I had this message from Elliott Wakefield who lives in Pheasant Lane:

We have recently moved into a property at Pheasant Lane, which has a large and lovely garden, with a partially screened allotment area with raised beds, green house & shed.

We love the garden but aren't green fingered, and wondered whether we could advertise the allotment? We aren't seeking any money for use of the allotment (just some of the produce!).



If you might be interested, please contact Elliot at elliott_wakefield@hotmail.com or phone him on 07525 742478.

Chase High Barn Style Cloche Frames

The C&DAHA secretary has 140 Chase High Barn style cloche frames, that she got from someone who was moving from the area. They each require 4 sheets of 2ft x 1ft x 3mm horticultural glass. If anyone would like some please contact her on 01242 802777 (and leave a message) or email secretary@cheltenhamallotments.org

Events

Cheltenham Horticultural Society Spring Show

The CHS Spring Show was held on the 2nd April, the Cheltenham and District Allotment Holders Association had a stand that attracted a good level of attention over the time the show was open.



Colin Smith (association treasurer) with our (former) Mayor and President Chris Ryder.



C&DAHA Stand, Seedlings, plants and vegetables thanks to Rosemary and Colin Smith.



Prizes were won by some of our members (Shown here: Dennis Sutton, Colin Smith and Bob Lawson) including several first and seconds.

Malvern Spring Show

The Malvern Spring Show took place from the 11th to 14th May, the National Allotment Association had a wonderful stand with all the pots and vegetation provided by Rosemary and Colin Smith. It was obvious that a great deal of hard work had gone into preparing the stand and the day that I was there (Friday 12th), it attracted a good deal of attention, with many people coming to ask questions.



Rosemary & Colin Smith with Liz Bunting (Legal and Operations Manager from the National Allotment Society).

Recipe

This is a slightly modified recipe from a recipe book by Gail Duff published in 1976, Titled 'Fresh all the year' The recipe is called Chinese Pork with Green Peppers (I prefer to use red ones when I make it).

1 lb (450gm) pork fillet or other lean pork cut, finely diced

2 tablespoons olive oil

2 cloves garlic, chopped

1 large onion, chopped

2 large peppers – any colour you like (I prefer red orange or yellow, but green is okay too), chopped

1 dessertspoon chopped fresh ginger (you can use ground, but I think fresh is nicer).

Salt & Ground black pepper

1 ½ tablespoons cornflour

1 dessertspoon soy sauce

¾ pt. (450ml) stock (I usually use chicken stock)

Heat the olive oil in a large frying pan on a high heat, add the chopped onion and stir until the pieces are just starting to colour and are becoming translucent. Add diced pork, garlic and ginger, cook until the pork is brown, stirring the pieces around the pan all the time. Add the chopped peppers, stir them in and cook slowly for 5 minutes. Meanwhile blend the cornflour, soy sauce and stock together, pour this mixture into the pan, raise the heat to moderate, and keep stirring until the sauce is thick, add salt and pepper according to taste, gently simmer while you cook some rice. Serve with fried, steamed or boiled rice (my preference is boiled brown jasmine rice).

Many thanks to all who have provided input to this newsletter .

Open Classes at the Cheltenham Horticultural Society Summer Show

Sunday, 20th August 2017

Now is the time to think about your potential entries at the show. Below are listed the classes have been designated 'Open' to allow anyone to participate, that might be of interest to allotment holders. Please consider entering some of the following classes to make this a real competition which will be of interest to everyone including members of the public who attend.

Class	Description	Details
51	"Grow Your Own"	An exhibit featuring vegetables, fruit, flowers and foliage that you might grow in a garden or allotment. To be judged and viewed from the front. Space allowed 30cm x 30cm. Height unrestricted.
52	'Five A Day'	An exhibit incorporating your chosen fruit and vegetables together with foliage in a container of your choice. To be judged and viewed from the front. Space allowed 30cm x 30cm x 30cm high.
60	THREE POTATOES	Any one variety
61	FIVE CHERRY TOMATOES	Any one variety with calyx
62	FIVE TOMATOES	Any other one variety with calyx
63	THREE CARROTS	Any one variety; tops trimmed to approx. 75mm
64	THREE ONIONS	Any one variety
65	SIX RUNNER BEANS	With some stalk
66	TRAY OF VEGETABLES	A selection of vegetables to be displayed within a standard seed tray measuring 37cm x 24cm
67	LETTUCES	A pair of lettuces with root
69	A PAIR OF CUCUMBERS	
70	COURGETTES	2 courgettes with flowers
73	3 BEETROOT	
74	5 SHALLOTS	
75	1 DISH OF 10 RASPBERRIES	with calyx
77	COLLECTION OF CULINARY HERBS IN A VASE	
78	THE LONGEST RUNNER BEAN	
79	3 RADISHES	
80	A PAIR OF PARSNIPS	
81	PAIR OF MARROWS	
82	SALAD VEGETABLES	A tray of at least 3 salad vegetables to be displayed within a standard seed tray measuring no more than 37 x 24cm
83	ONE DISH OF OTHER SOFT FRUIT	
84	PEAS	6 full pods
85	A PAIR OF CABBAGES	
86	THE HEAVIEST POTATO	
87	THE LONGEST CARROT	
88	3 SPRING ONIONS	
102	AN ANIMAL MADE FROM FRUIT AND VEGETABLES	Exhibitors aged 4 to 8 years of age.
105	A POT OF ANYTHING YOU HAVE GROWN	Exhibitors aged 9 to 14 years of age
107	A DRAWING OF A GARDEN SHED	Exhibitors aged 9 to 14 years of age

Further details of the show will appear on the Cheltenham Horticultural society website
<http://www.cheltenhamhorticultural.co.uk/shows.asp>

If you Google 'showing vegetables' you will find several websites which give you guidance on preparing your vegetables for show.

Dennis Sutton

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION 2017

To: Mr. Colin Smith, 15 Dunster Road, Cheltenham, GL51 0NL

Please find enclosed £6.00 to renew my membership for 2017 (Please make cheques payable to (C&DAHA).

Name..... (Please print)

Address.....

.....Postcode.....

Email address.....

Allotment site..... Plot No.....