

Cheltenham and District Allotment Holders' Association

President: Alderman Christine Ryder

www.cheltenhamallotments.org

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

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2019

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C&DAHA Spring Meeting Monday March 4th – Nick Morgan

Nick Morgan will present a talk titled "A Considered Approach to managing garden pests and diseases."

Nick retired to Gloucestershire in 2016 after 23 years working in key roles for the RHS. He holds the RHS master of horticultural award. Nick loves to share his knowledge and inspire others to enjoy gardening. He can give expert advice about growing and fertilisers.

Raffle tickets will be on sale, to be drawn at the end of the meeting.

Membership Subscriptions – See Page 8

Membership subscriptions for 2019 become due on 1st of January 2019. The subscription is £6.50 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 a guest speaker.

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

Please note that this is the last newsletter that you will receive if you have not renewed your membership for 2019.

Facebook

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

Website Passwords

C&DAHA Website

The new password for access to the members' area of our website is **Buckingham**, a variety of tayberry that I shall be planting in 2019.

National Website (nsalg.org.uk)

The User Name is: s9327

Password: nsalg12

Information on the Internet

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

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

IMPORTANT - SEE ITEM ON ASIAN HORNETS ON PAGE 7

National Allotment Society

The National Allotment Society (NAS) is providing Allotmenteer Liability Insurance to the C&DAHA at no additional cost. It provides cover to member plot holders accused of accidentally causing injury or damage at their allotment plot.

Details can be found on the National Allotment Society website <https://www.nsalg.org.uk/join-us/membership/>.

All those who joined before 31st Jan 2019 and asked to be included are now covered. I will send the details of members joining after this date to the NAS at the end of the month that they join.

The National Allotment Society website contains a lot of useful information, including a 'retail discount booklet' that gives details of discounts that are available to members.

Dates for Your Diary

C&DAHA Meetings for 2019

Monday September 2nd - Marion Stainton

"Growing vegetables: getting the best from your efforts".

This is a 'back to basics' talk which focuses on a practical approach to planning and managing your vegetable growing. The emphasis is very much on planning in that prevention is better than cure, especially in this world where sustainability is very much in our minds. The approach is not an organic one, but one where chemicals are only used as a last resort. <http://www.marionet.co.uk/the-brooks>

Monday December 2nd – Annual General Meeting

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

Cheltenham Horticultural Society Spring Show & Craft Show

Sunday March 24th in the Pittville Pump Rooms from 12.30 to 3.30pm. Admission: Adults £2.00, Children under 16 – Free.

As well as the exhibits of spring flowers and bulbs competing for attention on the show benches, there will be the chance to buy from a greater number of stalls than ever before. There will be traders selling fruit juices, jams and chutneys as well as stalls of second-hand books and bric-a-brac, crafts made by members of the Society and cakes and produce. There will be a garden sundries stall selling everything from plant supports and string to secateurs and labels, all at very competitive prices. As always, there will be 5 nurseries

in attendance with a wide range of plants for sale. All of this should provide a fun afternoon out for anyone interested in gardening.

Full details, including the show schedule, can be found on the CHS website, please click on this link cheltenhamhorticultural.co.uk. You can also contact The Chairman, Dot Ward, with any queries on 01242 579750.

The following classes are 'open' and anyone can enter.

Section A – Daffodils Classes 4-9, please see the schedule for details.

Section B – Plants Growing in a Container, all classes, please see the schedule for details.

Section H – Vegetables:

100. Three stems of forced Rhubarb
101. One Winter Vegetable
102. Three Different Winter Vegetables
103. 1 full sized Seed Tray (not modular) of pricked-out Vegetable/Salad Plants.
104. The heaviest Leek.

Section J – Seasonal Fun (ages 4 – 100):

110. Easter Bonnet.
111. Garden in a standard size seed tray.
112. Animal made from vegetables.

Section D – Floral Art, all classes, please see the schedule for details.

Section E – Junior Exhibits, all classes, please see the schedule for details.

RHS Malvern Spring Festival

Thursday 9th to Sunday 12th May, 09:00 – 18:00 each day. For full details see the website <https://www.rhs.org.uk/shows-events/malvern-spring-festival>

Ashton under Hill Open Gardens

Saturday 8th & Sunday 9th June, 1pm to 6pm

At least 25 gardens open plus refreshments, stalls and exhibitions. Entry price: Adults £6.00 Children free, discounts available for larger parties. Further details at www.ashtonopengardens.co.uk

MyHarvest

A research team at the University of Sheffield are working with members of the public growing food in allotments, gardens and other own-growing spaces across the UK to understand the yield of typical UK staple fruit and vegetable crops.

If you would like to participate, details of how you can do this can be found on their website myharvest.org.uk.

Request for Committee Members

The current C&DAHA committee does not have representatives from all the allotment sites in Cheltenham. We would very much like to have people on the committee from every site so that we can fully represent the views of our members. The committee meets for about 2 hours 4 times a year. If you could spare that time, please let one of the members listed at the top of the front page know. We need members from the following sites:

- Reddings Road
- Warden Hill
- Hatherley Road
- All Saints
- Croft (each of the 3 sites)
- Hall Road
- Ryeworth & Haver
- Severn Road
- Hayden Lane

Winter Events

C&DAHA 42nd AGM

The C&DAHA 42nd AGM was held on the 3rd December 2018 at 7pm at the Municipal Offices.

Alderman Chris Ryder gave the President's address. She noted that we had good crops in 2018, despite the weather. She suggested that we have a suggestion box at meetings where members can suggest improvements. She thanked Dennis Sutton and our Secretary, Layla Avaron, for their work on producing our Data Protection Statement, ensuring that we comply with the General Data Protection Regulations that came into force in 2018. She also thanked Colin and Rosemary Smith for the work they do in producing stands for the various shows, both locally and nationally.

Chairman, Michael Hunt, thanked Chris Ryder for her support and various members of the committee for the work they do in running the association. Treasurer, Colin Smith said that more people are now receiving the newsletter by email, only 45 now receive it by post.

Dennis Sutton is chasing up the exact meaning of the Allotmenters Liability Insurance with the National Allotment Society to check if we need additional insurance to cover our stand at shows.

Fiona Jones, who audits the treasurers report, is able to do this for another year, but probably not for longer as she may be leaving Gloucestershire in the future.



Layla was presented with the Chris Ryder cup for all the good work she has done for the association.



John Rendell was awarded with the Roy Marchant Cup, awarded to a senior citizen (over 60) managing a full-size plot.

Mrs Rose Morris was awarded the Colin Smith cup, awarded to a senior citizen managing up to half a plot.

Tips, Tales and Sales

Electric Strimmer for Sale

FOR SALE Black and Decker mains electric strimmer. Old but in working order. £5 Call Ros on 07795 258090.

VHS Tapes Wanted

Dundry Nurseries are getting involved in recycling as a way of raising money for the butterfly garden. If you have any tapes that you do not want, please can you take them to the nursery, there is a container at the back of the nursery for them to be put in.

Horse Manure

I had an email from Bob (not a member, but his name is on the list for an allotment), to whom I recommended Home Farm (see Relevant Suppliers) as a source of horse manure. He went and collected 20 bags, says its fantastic stuff and the chap who runs the place is 'incredibly nice and accommodating'. Nice to hear.

PAS100 Compost/Soil Conditioner – from Scott

Chelbury mushroom farm closed last year, this forced me to find an alternative supplier of bulk garden compost/soil conditioner. Searching the internet, I found references to PAS100.

The blurb for it read: "This is a soil conditioner made from recycled green waste material, shredded and composted in a carefully controlled environment. The finished product is analysed on a regular basis to comply with Public Available Specification 100". The specification monitors nutrient levels and guarantees the absence of undesirable substances such as heavy metals, pesticide residues etc.

I ordered *5 tonnes from a **local haulier who previously delivered the mushroom compost from Chelbury.

On delivery two things were immediately noticeable, the material was very free flowing, and it was hot.



The free-flowing nature certainly helped when wheelbarrowing the material on to the garden. Over the next couple of days that it took to shift the material it retained its heat, I could feel the warmth through the leg of my trousers as I shovelled. Once spread it makes the garden look as though it had been covered in a layer of soot, as the material is so dark in appearance.



It is too early to say how effective it has been, time will tell. In the two months it has been on the garden it has retained its structure and consequently has been an effective mulch.



The dark colour should have helped in retaining what heat there is from the winter sun.

The material easily stains hands and hard surfaces; however, it can be easily washed off.



I will monitor the effectiveness over the growing season and report again.

*I was actually delivered 6.45 tonnes, I paid £20 for the extra 1.45 tonnes. The weight during loading at the supply depot is done by approximation, the actual weight is determined by the in and out weight of the vehicle on the weighbridge.

The delivery was made by tractor and a very large trailer. I live in a cul-de-sac on a housing estate and the load was delivered with no problems.

** Scott has asked that I don't include the name of the supplier as the supplier was concerned he might be overwhelmed with orders!

Kate's Allotment – Winter

I always think that everything looks a bit drab and dowdy on the allotment at this time of year, so it's nice to see signs of life carrying on.



Broad beans (The Sutton) sown in the autumn and covered when the weather was cold, seem to be coming on well. I shall plant a few more beans soon to fill the gaps that have appeared. The wire looks a bit bent as when I had it covered with fleece, it seemed as if creatures were trying to get in and bending the wire. I also had a lesson in not buying too cheap; I purchased some very cheap fleece to put over the wire to keep the frost out, but it just got torn in no time whereas my reasonably priced fleece went through the winter undamaged.



There are still leeks to be eaten, these are a mix of 'Below Zero and Porbella.



I've continued to sow the seed of Celeriac (Prinz) at the end of the suggested sowing period (end of April) and have had no problems with them bolting despite the hot summer. I've

used them in a roast vegetable mix (see recipe) and mashed with potato, both very yummy.



These are my final lot of carrots (Autumn King II), they have been excellent this year. The cabbage tops are from the flower sprouts (Petit Posy) that I grew, they were very tasty. The sprouts are a mix of Trafalgar and Cromwell, both have done well. In the middle one of the Celeriac.



The potatoes are chitting, Pink Fir Apple (left) never seem to do much until they are in the ground, on the right are my experiment for this year, a variety called Athlete, said to be very tasty and very resistant to blight, scab and eel worm.





My trusty propagator has its first seeds of the season to keep warm; two pots of cauliflowers (Igloo), a narrow tray of leeks (Below Zero) and a modular tray of shallot seed (Matador). Its great to see new life peeping through.

Last year I tried growing Scorzonera instead of Salsify (which I failed with the previous year due to forgetting to thin the seedlings). Germination was poor, even though I put in 3 seeds per sowing hole, only about ½ had anything come up. Then about 1/3rd of those bolted and I had about 4 plants remaining. But ultimately my soil is too heavy, you really need light sandy soil to get the roots out – I think I'll give up with that experiment!

Relevant Suppliers

Gardening Gloves

For gardening gloves and hand care products, have a look at www.lovelyhands.co.uk, Claire Wiseman is based in Cheltenham and has recently set up 'Lovely Hands' as an on-line business.

Coffee Sacks

Kate Davis stocks 'coffee sacks', which some gardeners find useful. She is local, her email address is katedavis968@hotmail.com, phone: 07583 905922.

The sacks are £2.00 each with discount for bulk buying.

Specialist Garden & Pet Bedding Supplier

E-coco Products UK are a specialist supplier based in Bredon. They supply peat free composts for orchids, citrus, chillies and many other plants and organic substrates for chicken bedding and other small animals. You can contact them through their website e-cocoproducts.co.uk, Email ecocoproductsuk@gmail.com, Tel: 07792 116164.

Bulk suppliers of Manures/Composts

Horse Manure

Home Farm Equestrian Centre, Brockhampton Lane, Swindon Village, GL51 9RS
www.homefarmequestriancentre.co.uk

Wholesale Supplier of Gardening Products and Tools

K G Loach, www.kgloach.co.uk, 01260 275902

KG Loach have been around for around 50 years, as they are a wholesale supplier, they would be of use if you can get together with fellow allotmenters to buy in bulk.

Café at Naunton Park

The Naunton Park Baker and Graze café (<http://www.bakerandgraze.com/>) is in the Naunton Park Pavilion next to Asquith Road allotments, there is seating both inside and outside overlooking the park.

Recipe – Oven Roasted Winter Vegetables

This is a recipe I'm very fond of from 'Delia's Vegetarian Collection'. The root vegetables used can be varied according to taste and what is available. Serves 6 (I find more like 4).

Ingredients – Vegetable quantities are prepared weights

- 12 shallots, peeled
- 12 oz (350 g) peeled and deseeded butternut squash
- 12 oz (350 g) peeled sweet potato
- 12 oz (350 g) peeled swede
- 12 oz (350 g) peeled celeriac
- 1 tablespoon freshly chopped rosemary and thyme
- 2 large cloves garlic, peeled and crushed
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- Salt & freshly milled black pepper

A baking tray measuring 11 x 16 inches (28 x 40 cm)

Pre-heat the oven to gas mark 7, 425°F (220°C).

Cut the vegetables into large chunky pieces (no smaller than 1½ inches/4 cm) – leaving the celeriac until last, as it may discolour if left for too long – place in a large bowl, then add the herbs, garlic, olive oil and seasoning and just use your hands to mix them. (If required the vegetables can now be kept in a sealed container in the fridge for 2-3 days.)

To cook the vegetables, spread them out on the baking tray and cook in the pre-heated oven on a high shelf for 30-40 minutes, until they're tender and turning brown at the edges.

Many thanks to all who have provided input to this newsletter 🌟🏆

ASIAN HORNET

Vespa velutina

What is it?

An invasive non-native hornet originally from Asia. Suspected records should be reported immediately. A highly aggressive predator of native insects, posing a significant threat to honey bees and other pollinators. Accidentally introduced to France in 2004 where it spread rapidly. In 2016 the first UK sighting was confirmed in Gloucestershire, and a second sighting was confirmed more recently (2017) in North Devon.



Where might I see it?

Most likely to be seen close to bee hives - bee keepers should be alert. Active from February to November in suburban areas in the south of England and Wales, or around major ports.

What does it look like?

Distinctive hornet, smaller than our native species. A key feature is the almost entirely dark abdomen, except for the 4th segment which is yellow.

- Slightly smaller than native hornet
- Dark abdomen, 4th segment yellow
- Bright yellow tips to legs (native hornet dark)
- Entirely brown or black thorax (native hornet more orange)

Asian Hornet abdomen

Native Hornet abdomen



Makes very large nests



- 'Hawks' outside honey bee colonies killing bees as they attempt to defend their hive

DANGER!

This hornet stings. Do not disturb an active nest. Seek advice using the details below.

For more information or to report any sightings please email:

alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk

If you have an iPhone or Android, download the free recording app:

Asian Hornet Watch

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION 2019

Please ensure you fill in all sections

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

Please find enclosed £6.50 to renew my membership for 2019 Please make cheques payable to (C&DAHA).

Name..... (Please print)

Address.....

.....Postcode.....

Email address.....

Telephone No: Daytime..... Mobile.....

Allotment Site..... Plot No (s).....

Consent: C&DAHA will hold the above data in electronic format. The data will only be used for the purposes specified in our data protection statement (see below).

By submitting this form, you are agreeing to this data being stored and used as described below.

Please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you are applying by post in order to receive your membership card.

✂.....

Data Protection Statement

To conform to the new General Data Protection Regulations the Association is required to obtain your consent to hold your contact details. The holding of a mailing list under the regulations is “**considered as legitimate and expected**”.

We will always store your personal details securely.

Data held: Your name, address, telephone number, email address, allotment site and plot number.

How we use the data: We will use it to provide the services we offer you, namely:

- to send out the C&DAHA newsletter by post or e-mail,
- to send you magazines, details of upcoming events or other relevant information
- to make available the monthly blog
- to enable you to participate in the Kings seed scheme.

The data will also be used by the committee for purposes of your opting into the Allotmenteeer Liability Insurance. This information will be forwarded to the National Allotment Society who will send it to Shield Total Insurance who guarantee to store it securely.

Time frame data stored: Data will be kept for one year after termination of membership.

Sharing data: Your data will be shared with Kings Seeds, The National Allotment Society and Shield Total Insurance only.

Member rights: You have the right to have your name removed from the list, to obtain all details held about you, to have your history deleted, to change your details and to complain to the Information Commissioner’s Office. Please inform the Treasurer if you wish to exercise any of the above rights.

Consent: The Association is required to hold evidence of your consent to its holding of the contact information. There is an item on the joining/renewal form asking you to consent to our storing the information you have given and for us to contact you to send you information related to the Association’s activities. You should keep a copy of your consent/renewal form along with this document.