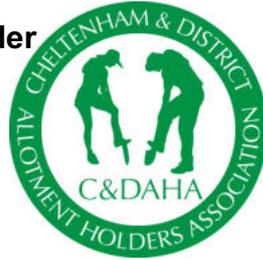


Cheltenham and District Allotment Holders' Association

President: Alderman Christine Ryder

www.cheltenhamallotments.org



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

NEWSLETTER

Summer 2020

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

C&DAHA Autumn Meeting **Monday September 7th – Bring and Share Evening**

Bring and share evening of produce, products and knowledge. More information will be included in the autumn newsletter, at the moment it's difficult to know what sort of events will be allowed to go ahead and whether the Municipal Offices will have reopened.

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

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

Membership Advantages Include:

- **The Seed Scheme (savings of approx. 40%)**
- **10% discount at:**
 - **Dundry Nurseries, Bamfurlong Lane,**
 - **Cleeve Supplies, Tobyfield Rd,**
- **insurance giving public liability cover related to your plot and allotment related shows/events you attend,**
- **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).

Facebook

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

Information on the Internet

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

Website Passwords

C&DAHA Website

The new password for access to the members' area of our website is **EmeraldIce**, a variety of kale that I am growing this year.

National Website (nsalg.org.uk)

The Username is: s448b
Password: 1848327

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

Updated GDPR Statement, see page 7

The C&DAHA Data Protection Statement has been updated in line with changes to the National Allotment Societies insurance scheme and to reflect current practise.

National Allotments Week 2020

The annual campaign week was due to take place from the 10th to 16th August, the theme for 2020 is 'Growing Food for Health and Well-being', a reflection of the many benefits of growing, cooking and eating your own fruit and vegetables. However, the present situation means that we are still likely to be socially distancing by August, but if you are able to think of safe ways to promote the benefits of allotment life, then it would be great to do that.

Allotmenters Liability Insurance

At the end of each month, details are sent of all those who joined the C&DAHA that month, to the National Allotment Society. They then send me an email confirming that all those people are now covered by the Allotmenter Liability Insurance that they provide as part of our society's affiliation to them. Details of the insurance cover can be found here: <https://www.nsalg.org.uk/join-us/allotmenters-liability-insurance/> please note, the insurance cover changed from the 9th May, claims are now administered by the NAS and the cover has improved and members details are only passed to the insurer in the event of a claim.

Dates for Your Diary

C&DAHA Meetings for 2020

Monday December 7th - Annual General Meeting

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

Other Forthcoming Events

Many forthcoming events have been cancelled due to the restrictions in place because of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) emergency, these include:

- Churchdown Horticultural Society 70th Annual Show
- Cheltenham Horticultural Society Summer Show & Plant Sales
- St Christopher's Gardening Club Annual Show

Malvern Autumn Show

26th September 2020 to 27th September 2020, 9am to 6pm each day, tickets are £19.00 for both days, under 16s go in free. Check their website for more details: <https://www.malvernautumn.co.uk/>

Virtual Visits

Malvern Spring Show

If you fancy a virtual visit to the RHS Malvern Spring Festival, try this website: <https://www.rhsmalvern.co.uk/>

Virtual Garden Visits

The National Garden Scheme (NGS) gardens are currently closed, but you might like to try a 'virtual visit' to one of the gardens, look at this website <https://ngs.org.uk/virtual-garden-visits/> for more information. The Gloucestershire gardens include Kiftsgate Court and Algars Manor. The NGS are asking for donations to help to continue to support the charities it supports in the area of nursing and health care. Their beneficiaries include Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie, Hospice UK and The Queen's Nursing Institute. Details of how to donate can be found on the NGS website.

NNSS Have you seen this insect?

ASIAN HORNET

Vespa velutina

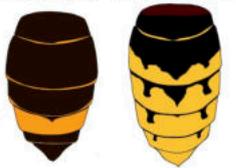
What is it?
An invasive non-native hornet originally from Asia. Suspected records should be reported immediately. A highly aggressive predator of native insects, posing a significant threat to honey bees and other pollinators. Accidentally introduced to France in 2004 where it spread rapidly. A number of sightings have been recorded in the UK since 2016.



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)



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 go to:
www.nonnativespecies.org/alerts/asianhornet
or email: alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk
If you have an iPhone or Android, download the free recording app:
Asian Hornet Watch
www.nonnativespecies.org

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:

Blacksmiths Lane, Reddings Road, Hatherley Road, Charlton Kings Parish Allotments (Croft and Sappercombe), Severn Road, Hayden Lane.

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.

Spring Events

C&DAHA Spring Meeting

The C&DAHA Spring Meeting was held at 7pm on the 2nd March at the Municipal Offices – what an age ago that seems.

Natasha Purdy gave us a talk on 'What to do with your produce'. She started with oils and vinegars, these can easily be flavoured with herbs and spices. She had brought along an example, where she started with ordinary white vinegar and had put in cloves, star anise, cinnamon, thyme, rosemary, coriander and black peppercorns. The result could be used for salads, and chutneys for example.

She said when making any preserves it's important to use fruit and veg at the right stage of ripeness and for it to be very fresh.

She doesn't advise keeping products for more than a year, the point is that you carry products made from produce of one year into the next.

She pointed out the importance of sterilising the jars and bottles that were going to be used, a temperature of more than 70°C is required. She suggests leaving jars, bottles and lids in the oven at 100°C for 10 to 15 minutes in order to sterilise them. Jars and bottles used for sweet and savoury preserves should be kept separate as the taste of onion can linger for a long time.

She cooked a chilli for us using onions, mixed herbs, minced beef, tomato puree, salt, pepper, red kidney beans, chutney and chopped tomatoes, it was very tasty. She had also brought along jam tarts, raspberry and lemon curd (her own jams), these were also very good.

We had quite a low turnout for the meeting, I wonder if it was the subject (cooking) or the fact that the corona virus was around, and people were already starting to think twice about going to gatherings.

Tips, Tales, Wanted and Offered

A query from Peter

On the Ryeworth site we have all the usual pests including deer, pigeons and mice. Additionally, we have pheasants which can be heard making calls from the hedgerows and have also been seen strutting around recently. But are they a pest? Do any of our crops attract them? What is their normal diet? Any answers to newsletter@cheltenhamallotments.org and I will pass them on to Peter and put anything of general interest in the autumn newsletter.

Lovely spring pictures - from House Husband



Comment on the Current Situation

From a different Peter, one of my fellow allotmenters on the Alma Road site.

Coffee, corona virus prevention, and recycling and old shower seat!



actually contains planted out shallot (Matador F1) seedling (I seem to do much better with seed), I've had to cover with net as otherwise animals (I think foxes) run about over it (well that's how it looks) and dig the seedlings up.



Of the brassicas I've planted out so far, two died and one was looking a bit wan, investigation showed the two that were dead had large leather jackets in the root ball, the third had a vine weevil. All were despatched and the rather wan looking brassica is now starting to perk up.



With all the warm weather, some of the strawberries (gariguette) are starting to ripen, I had my first two today, and very nice they were.

Kate's Allotment – Spring



Here is a reminder of February, rain and more rain, the ground was waterlogged well into March. I didn't end up planting my potatoes out until 21st March, even then the ground was very wet.



Over the winter and early spring, my husband kindly trundled wheelbarrow loads of mushroom compost down to the allotment, it's been very good for the beds and improved the moisture holding ability of the soil a great deal. This bed



This is a new spinach for me (Amazon F1), up until now I've tended to grow 'red kitten' which I like, but it goes over so quickly when it's hot, this is supposed to stand the heat better.



Dwarf green beans (Safari) – alas have been hit by the frost, I'm not sure if they will recover, I do have more coming on though.



There are two sorts of broad bean here, farther away 'Masterpiece Green Longpod' which I'm growing for the first time and 'The Sutton', quite a few of 'The Sutton' didn't germinate hence the gap, however I put some more seeds in the soil and these are just starting to show.



Here is a tale of lack of patience on my part, these are seedlings of a Butternut squash 'Butterscotch', a small variety which I grew last year and was very pleased with. They had come up and were growing so well that I planted them out a few days ago, alas, despite covering with fleece, the frost has killed them all 😞. Since I only had 8 seeds and only 5 germinated, I've had to order some more seed.



I have a nice mix of lettuce now and spinach (red kitten), I didn't sow the spinach, it just seems to have

grown from seeds that were sown last year but didn't germinate.



This year I'm growing potato varieties; Pink Fir Apple, Verdi and Sarpo Kifli. I can never resist trying something new. Sarpo Kifli is supposed to be able to be left in the ground for a long time and still taste good – I don't suppose I will be testing that out. Verdi and Sarpo Kifli both have a high resistance to blight. Due to the recent frost, the plants are not looking anything like as healthy as this at the moment, but I'm sure they will recover.



I noticed the leaves of my peas (Hurst Greenshaft) were starting to look very ragged – pesky pigeons no doubt, so I've netted them.



Left are the first few runner beans (Firestorm), and right is a climbing green bean (Cobra). I covered them against the frost (the bricks are to provide some anchorage for the frost protecting fleece), and they seem to have survived with just a little leaf damage. I like successional planting so that I get enough produce for me and my husband (and a some to share with my neighbours) for as long as possible during the year.



These are my new brassica cages, two have soft green netting, the third have a much stiffer black net, which I

think I prefer, it seem much easier to get it neat and tidy so that it doesn't trip anyone or on catch their clothing. The nets are all about 7mm to keep out the butterflies and the pesky pigeons.



This a tomato plant called Koralik, it grows as a bush and has tomatoes that are like a large cherry tomato. A neighbour grew them last year, and I really liked the flavour. The plants have been touched by the frost, but I'm keeping my fingers crossed that they might recover – see below – might be wishful thinking.



No hope of recovery for the sweetcorn though 😞. Luckily, I have enough seed to re-sow.



chicken bedding and other small animals. You can contact them through their website e-cocoproducts.co.uk, Email ecocoproductsuk@gmail.com, Tel: 07792 116164.

Recipe – Chicken Rissotto

This recipe is based on one from a Sainsbury's 'Special Diets' cookbook I bought in 1995.

Serves 4

Preparation and cooking time: 45 minutes

Ingredients

2 tablespoons olive oil
1 leek, chopped roughly (I like to use mini leeks – they are very easy to grow)
50 g (2 oz) mushrooms, chopped
250g (8 oz) bulgur wheat
350 ml (12 fl oz) chicken stock
150 g (6 oz) fresh or frozen beans, sliced finely, or peas
1 tablespoon raisins
175 g (6 oz) cooked chicken, pulled or cut into small pieces
Salt and freshly ground black pepper.

Method

Heat the oil in a saucepan, add the raisins and stir, letting them puff up a bit in the oil, then add the leek and fry gently until it is just beginning to soften. Add the mushrooms and cook for 2 minutes. Add the bulgur wheat, stir, then add the beans or peas followed by the stock.

Stir well, then bring to the boil, cover and simmer for 15 to 20 minutes or until the bulgur wheat is cooked and all the liquid has been absorbed. Stir in the chicken and cook for a few minutes to heat through, then season to taste and serve.

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

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 runs 'Lovely Hands' as an on-line business.

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

THE CHELTENHAM AND DISTRICT ALLOTMENT HOLDERS' ASSOCIATION



Data Protection Statement

To conform to the 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 King's seed scheme.

The data will also be used by the committee for the Allotmenters Liability Insurance offered by the National Allotment Society. The data will be forwarded to the National Allotment Society who will store it securely. The National Allotment Society will only send a member's details to the company providing the insurance in the event of a claim.

Time frame data stored: Data will be kept for two years after termination of membership.

Sharing data: Your data will be shared with Kings Seeds, The National Allotment Society and the National Allotment Society's insurance provider in the event of a claim.

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. Submission of a membership application form, including membership renewal using the seed scheme form, will be considered to be your 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 renewal form along with a copy of this document.

Chairman

May 2020