

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

Autumn 2022

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 & MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Ms K Smith, 15 Alma Close, Cheltenham GL51 3NA. Tel: 07903 653134

C&DAHA Autumn Meeting

Monday September 5th, 7pm - Reg Moule

One of Worcestershire's best-loved gardening personalities, broadcaster Reg has received five garden radio broadcasting awards from the Garden Media Guild. He manages David's Nurseries at Martin Hussingtree, near Worcester.

The meeting will be held in St Mark's Methodist Church Hall, Gloucester Road, Cheltenham GL51 8PX, some parking is available at the church hall.

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

Membership Subscriptions – see page - 8

Membership subscriptions for 2023 become due on 1st January 2023. The subscription is £7.00 for the year.

Advantages of membership include:

- **The Seed Scheme (savings of approx. 40%) – see page 7**
- **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,**
- **online access to the National Allotment Society quarterly magazine 'Allotment and Leisure Gardener,**
- **three meetings per year – two with a guest speaker.**

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

Website Passwords

C&DAHA Website

The new password for access to the members' area of our website is **Analena**, a variety of lettuce that has been recommended to me for next year.

National Allotment Society Website (nalg.org.uk)

The Username is: s448b

Password: 1848327

If you **log into the members area** of the NAS website, you can read the latest edition of the NAS quarterly magazine 'Allotment and Leisure Gardener'.

<https://www.nalg.org.uk/members-area/the-allotment-and-leisure-gardener-magazine/>

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.

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

Allotmenters Liability Insurance

Allotmenter Liability Insurance is provided by the National Allotment Society as part of our association's affiliation to them. Details of the insurance cover can be found here: <https://www.nalg.org.uk/join-us/allotmenters-liability-insurance/>, please note that members details are only passed to the insurer in the event of a claim.

Request for Committee Members

The current C&DAHA committee does not have representatives from all the allotment sites in Cheltenham and the surrounding districts. We would 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 amount of 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, Croft, Warden Hill,
Severn Road, Hayden Road,
Ryeworth Road including Haver
Bishops Cleeve Tithe Barn**

MyHarvest

A research team at the University of Sheffield is 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 or see the results of their work so far, details can be found on their website myharvest.org.uk.

Dates for Your Diary

C&DAHA Meetings for 2022

Monday December 5th – Annual General Meeting

The meeting will start at 7pm and will be held in St Mark's Methodist Church Hall, Gloucester Road, Cheltenham GL51 8PX, some parking is available at the church hall.

Other forthcoming Events

Malvern Autumn Show

The Malvern Autumn Show will take place over three days from the 23rd September to 25th September 2022. Full details can be found on their website: <https://www.malvernautumn.co.uk/> Under 16s go in for free.

Summer Events

C&DAHA Summer Social Meeting

A social evening was held at the C&DAHA Headquarters Building on the Asquith Road Allotments. It was a pleasant sunny, warm evening. Claire Plowright demonstrated tool sharpening outside the building and scones with cream and jam were available inside. Chaz Pearce brought along a selection of seedlings for anyone who wanted them.

It was quite a quiet event, about 15 members came along, tea was drunk, scones were eaten and pleasant vegetable growing chat was had.

St Christopher's Gardening Club 60th Annual Open Show, Saturday 20th August 2022

A week before the 60th Anniversary Show was due to take place, the organisers were wondering if there would be enough entries for the show to go ahead as there had been very few at that point, due to the exceptionally dry weather. Rain saved the day and sufficient fell to get things growing enough for good numbers of lovely flowers and good-looking produce to be entered.



Judging of entries took place in the morning, with Colin and Rosemary Smith (below left) involved in the judging.



Cheltenham's Mayor, Sandra Holliday (above right), came along to present the cups and certificates, this picture shows her presenting a cup to Shaun Colvin. Shaun won many prizes for his vegetables, including the St Christopher's Silver Jubilee Challenge Cup 'for the member gaining the most points in the vegetable classes'.



There seemed to be plenty of visitors all through the afternoon. The refreshment area provided a wonderful selection of homemade cake to enjoy with a nice cup of tea or coffee – this picture shows some of what was on offer.

CHS Summer Show, Sunday 21st August 2022

Sunday was a beautiful sunny day, it brought plenty of visitors to Pittville Park and a good number of visitors to the Cheltenham Horticultural Society's Summer Show. Apart from the floral and vegetable exhibits, there were stands from nurseries such as Hoo House and Ireley Hardy Plant, craft stands including our Chairman Mike Hunt with his honey and bees, and plants, second-hand books, jigsaws and homemade cakes provided by CHS members.



There were plenty of good entries and prizes won by our members, here is a selection (below).



Tips, Tales and Requests

From Alan at Alma Road – The Onion Conundrum

My onions and shallots were badly affected by the onion leaf miner this year (as I believe, were many others on the Alma Road Allotments). Whilst visiting Dundry Nurseries in May to buy some bedding plants I noticed that they still had onion sets, so I purchased some.

I planted a short row under a mesh tunnel, for protection from the pest, but planted the rest uncovered as I didn't have enough tunnels (they were being used for brassicas). The interesting thing was that the onions under the mesh tunnel grew much quicker than those uncovered. The tunnel was removed when the onions were getting too tall and the onions are still generally more developed than the ones uncovered.

I sprayed the plants affected by the fly with Bayer Greenfly killer and most of the onions have recovered, but not the shallots!

I am still waiting to see how the late planted onions perform.

Potatoes from Yvonne

As an advocate of the no digging method of gardening I would often say "that's all very well but how do you lift your potatoes?" Although I heartily endorse the benefits to the soil of the no dig method, I have to say I am also very keen to minimise hard work. So when I heard a chap on the internet talking about a no dig method of growing potatoes I was keen to try it. He said it gave him higher yields and he could use the same ground year after year.

I have raised beds anyway so following his advice I placed the seed potatoes on the surface of the soil (no digging, not even a dip) and then covered them with bought compost. As the plants developed, I topped up the compost careful to cover any exposed tubers. Of course, it's been such a hot, dry season and all my potatoes bar one variety just stopped growing weeks ago with the foliage crisp and brown so I can't say whether I would have had higher yields, or whether using this method was partly to blame for the foliage dying back. What I can say was that I did get a good number of potatoes per plant, but I've never had so many with green patches. I know some were just a bit exposed but many below the surface also had green patches on their upper side. I can only conclude that the compost just wasn't sufficient to keep the light out. What else could have caused this? I'd be interested to know if anyone else has any experience here.

And to conclude, the variety which is still growing with lovely green leaves in full sun is Pink Fir Apple. I thought perhaps they come from somewhere very hot and exotic to be doing this well but all I could find out was that they are a heritage variety developed in 1850s in France. But I love their taste, with good yellow flesh and they also store well. (Whoops I hope they don't run out at Dundry Nurseries next year!).

From Carolyn & Liz

Here are a before and after picture of our Alma Road plot which we took over on 1st April 2022. It's been a delight from the day we started, from clearing the weeds to our first harvest! We've inherited some wonderful fruit bushes which yielded at least 70lbs of fruit (blackberries, strawberries, blackcurrants, and redcurrants) which was a fantastic surprise! The community at Alma Rd is lovely and we've enjoyed the chats as much as the digging and planting! We're looking forward to many happy times on our plot!



Finds on a New Allotment – from Barry, Asquith Rd

At the beginning of last year, I took on an adjacent allotment (not all of it but about a quarter of the allotment). I was keen to take on this much neglected piece of land as, although it was covered in brambles and rather unpleasant weeds, it did have some mature fruit trees and a large pile of compost that had been there for at least 20 years! I had spent much of lockdown building some raised beds and this compost would fill them nicely.

The heap was about 2 to 3 metres long, a metre or two wide and a metre high at its highest point. And I was looking forward to digging it out and moving it to its new home. What I thought would take me a few weeks took all year! A nice selection of plastic trays and pots, glass bottles and soft drink tins were liberally dotted around the pile, along with lots of plastic netting. It was everywhere! The fact that many weeds had incorporated the netting into their root structure made it slow work to untangle. But what made the whole exercise unpleasant were the dozens of plastic bags. Don't let anybody tell you that plastic takes decades to breakdown!

As soon as I touched a bag it disintegrated in front of my eyes into hundreds of little pieces and blew away in the wind! I had to carefully dig around the bags and remove them and the surrounding soil into old compost bags for disposal. It took ages to complete. But I did find a unique item in the pile. I have been on the allotment for many years and never seen anybody grow a crop of windscreen wipers! Yet here was one, lying at the bottom of my compost pile. No idea how it got there or why it was there. But it remains the strangest thing I've seen on the allotment.

Also from Barry - A plea from a not so nimble allotment holder.

I appreciate that everybody is in a rush these days and time is precious, particularly to those who are still at work. But please, if you must cycle on the grass paths so that you get to your allotment those few seconds earlier, please take care. Age brings many things to many of us, including poor eyesight and hearing and little gymnastic ability! So, as you cycle down the paths please watch out for others and do not assume they will quickly get out of your way as you approach. Otherwise having an allotment will become a blood sport for some!

A lovely picture from Sue

My artichokes started to open up before they got to a good size, so I let them go to flower. Happy bees.



From our Chairman, Mike

I have been digging my potatoes up, can anyone have an uglier potato than the one in pictures, I couldn't find its best side. It weighed in at 1.2kg, does anyone have a bigger uglier root vegetable?



Kate's Allotment – Summer

I think the words that describe the summer so far are 'aphids', 'heat' and 'drought'. I can't remember beans of all sorts being covered with aphids to such an extent. Mike, our committee chairman suggested spraying weekly with a mix of rapeseed oil (20ml) and washing up liquid (10ml) in a litre of water. This has been helpful, but there have still been a lot of aphids and the ladybirds and hoverflies don't seem to be keeping up in helping to keep the numbers down.

The heat and drought have made for hard work keeping the allotment watered. We've been watering 3 times a week, as early in the morning as we can get to the allotment. I've been very grateful to my husband for taking on most of this work so I can get on with weeding, planting out seedlings and picking whatever is ready to eat. We were both delighted when the skies opened, and we had 38mm rain – all the water butts refilled, and the ground was satisfyingly damp. However, we still need a lot more to soften the ground.



I had the most wonderful crop of Tayberries (Buckingham) this year. I've frozen about 3 kilos; we like to eat them mixed with other berries and yoghurt.

They are under net to stop the pesky pigeons pulling the (usually) unripe fruit off and dropping it hither and thither.



This year I decided to grow the tomato variety, Koraliik again. I just love the flavour. I only planted 2 seedlings this year as

they are so prolific. As you can see there are lots of tomatoes, both ripe, ripening and to come.



The celeriac (Asterix F1) are coming on very well this year, I have just replaced the one whose roots were munched (in the back row) – whether it will grow now I'm not sure, but it seems to be doing okay at the moment. The two lavender plants at the bottom of the picture are growing well. I planted six seedlings in the spring, my husband on strimming duties nearly demolished them all, but I can report that I now have 4 very good-looking plants – so he is forgiven.



I moved raspberry canes (Allgold) from my garden to the allotment, in the worst of the heat. I have kept them well watered, and they have all survived. The lettuces on the left are Claremont, I've been very pleased with these, they have a nice flavour and stand well, even in the heat. To the right of those are a few Lolla Rossa, a very tasty red lettuce, the row in the front of the photo are Little Gem, they really don't like the heat. The miscellaneous plants in this photo are tomatoes, that have come up from seed from last year's crop.



These are butternut squash (Butterbush), I grew them alongside nasturtiums, they are not doing well, very late producing squashes, there are two so far and lots of flower I'm not sure where I went wrong, and this variety has grown very well for me in the past.



Here's what we all want from our allotments, something to take home to eat. On the left one beetroot, this year I grew several varieties, this is 'Pablo F1' I thought it particularly good and tending to be a much more even shape than most of the Boltardy I grew. Next in, carrots, these are Berlicum and Early Nantes 2 – both are supposed to be 'blunt ended cylindrical' carrots – neither look to fit that description to me – but they both taste very nice. Next at the back is a lettuce (Claremont), these lettuce are quite large, but seem to keep quite well. In front of the lettuce, strawberries – Mara de Bois, these have the most wonderful flavour (in my opinion) and produce fruit over a very long period. In front again a picking of Koralik and on the right a mix of beans – runner bean, Firestorm and climbing bean Violette and Cobra.

When watering my brassicas, which I grow in net cages to keep away the pesky white butterflies and pigeons, I could see lots of flies flying up as I watered, outside the net, were several wasps flying around. I observed one fly come out from the net and land on one of the poles that holds the cage netting. In an instant a wasp swooped in, landed on the fly, killed it and flew off with it. They are very good hunters.

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

Soil Testing

Safe Soil UK offer a range of soil testing services from basic fertility to tests for various types of contaminants as shown on their website: www.safesoil.co.uk. You can contact them through their website, or phone Robert Galster on 07795 486 409 or email him at rgalster@safesoil.co.uk

Recipe – Summer Pudding

This is great time of year to make and enjoy Summer Pudding. This recipe comes from 'The Good Housekeeping Step-by-Step Cookbook' give to me around 1982.

Ingredients to serve 4:

450-500gm (1 – 1¼ lb) mixed blackcurrants, blackberries, raspberries and redcurrants

30ml (2tbsp) water

150gm (5oz) Sugar (I'd probably use 100gm as I don't like it too sweet)

100-175gm (4-6oz) white bread, thinly sliced

To serve:

Whipped cream

Method:

- 1 Wash and pick over the fruits, string the currants and top and tail them. Put the water and sugar in a large saucepan and bring slowly to the boil. Add the fruit and stew them gently until they are soft but still hold their shape.
- 2 Cut the crusts off the bread and discard them. Line a 900ml (1½ pint) capacity pudding basin with some of the slices, pour in the stewed fruit mixture and cover with the remaining bread,
- 3 Place a saucer smaller in diameter than the top of the basin on top of the pudding; weight it down and leave overnight in a cool place. Turn out and serve with whipped cream.

Note that this recipe freezes extremely well. It can also be used to make 2 or 4 small puddings by adjusting the amount of bread and using smaller pudding basins.

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

Seed Scheme 2022 – 2023

If you are a new member, or have used the seed scheme before, an order pack will normally be delivered to you by volunteers. Please ensure that your allotment plot has a clearly visible number as this will help with delivery of your pack. The pack comprises the Kings Seeds catalogue, an order form and a coloured Summary Sheet. If you have not received your pack by **30th September**, please call Mr Colin Smith on 01242 523740.

Our seed scheme, which is operated in conjunction with the National Allotment Society and Kings Seeds, offers good quality seeds at very favourable prices compared with garden centres and other retailers. Kings Seeds are one of the largest seed companies in the UK and also supplies seeds to a large sector of the commercial market.

Again, this year we are taking advantage of the option provided by the suppliers under which they make up individual member's orders prior to despatching the bulk order to us. The charge for this service is **£1.50** which is already entered on the Summary Sheet. **Please do not forget to add it** in when calculating the total amount on the Summary Sheet. Please ensure you include your **home address** on the **Kings Seeds Order Form**.

You should ignore the part of the order form which asks for your membership number which is intended for Societies or Associations and not individual members.

Please do not order seed potatoes from this catalogue as we will not accept them. You will get a better deal at Dundry Nurseries.

As before, **fruit bushes and asparagus** are ordered on the same sheet as the seeds. Delivery of these will be to your home address in March, weather permitting.

Please complete your Kings Seeds Order Form and the coloured Summary Sheet and return them together with your remittance no later than **Monday October 10th, 2022**, to: Mr Colin Smith, Linara, 15 Dunster Rd, Cheltenham, GL51 0NL. **Please do not send to E W King & Co.**

Please make cheques/postal orders payable to "C&DAHA" and do not send cash through the post. You can also pay by bank transfer to: The Cheltenham & District Allotment Holders Ass, Sort code: 08 92 99 Account No: 65189063, Reference 'Seeds 2022'.

Late orders for seeds etc. can be accepted but must be accompanied by an additional **£3** to cover postage.

Seed collection will be from the AGM on Monday 5th December 2022 or from C&DAHA HQ in Asquith Road on Friday 9th December 2022 between 10am and 2pm

You should retain the catalogue and send only the order form, summary sheet and remittance to Colin Smith.

Please check with your catalogue and order form that you have ordered what you **actually intended** to order before sending your form. Please either take a copy of your order form or keep a list of what you have ordered or mark what you have ordered in your catalogue. Please keep them safely as this enables you to check your order on receipt of your seeds/plants.

If anything about using the Seed Scheme is unclear, please contact Colin Smith, or another member of the committee listed on the first page, for clarification.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION 2022
Please ensure you fill in all sections

TO: Ms. K A Smith, 15 Alma Close, Cheltenham, GL51 3NA

Please find enclosed my **£7.00** joining fee/membership renewal subscription for 2023 (cheques should be made payable to C&DAHA, payment by bank transfer should be to: The Cheltenham & District Allotment Holders Ass, Sort code: 08 92 99 Account No: 65189063, reference 'renew 2023' plus your allotment number (as an example 'renew 2023 31B', where 31B is your plot number) on no account should you send cash through the post).

Name..... (Please print)

Address.....

..... Postcode.....

Email address.....

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

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

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

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.

✂.....

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 of the Cheltenham and District Allotment Holders' Association May 2020