

Cheltenham and District Allotment Holders' Association

President: Alderman Christine Ryder

www.cheltenhamallotments.org

NEWSLETTER



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

Spring 2023

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 Spring Meeting

Monday March 6th – Bee Keeping

Our chairman and bee keeping expert, Michael Hunt, will talk about how he got into bee keeping 50 years ago and where it has taken him.

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

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

Membership Subscriptions

Membership subscriptions for 2023 became due on 1st January 2023. The subscription is £7.00 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,
- **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).

Please note that this is the last newsletter that you will receive if you have not renewed your membership for 2023.

Website Passwords

C&DAHA Website

The new password for access to the members' area of our website is **Rovada**, a variety of Redcurrant I planted last year, and hope will fruit this year.

National Allotment Society Website (nsalg.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.nsalg.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.nsalg.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 2023

Monday June 5th, 2023 - Summer Social Evening

This event will be held at the C&DAHA headquarters at Asquith Road. To find our building, go to the end of Asquith Road, there is a car park ahead and along a path to the left of the allotments is our HQ. If you use What3Words, the reference is Begin.Couch.pits.

- Members are invited to bring and share any surplus seeds, plants and produce.
- There will be a tool sharpening demonstration.

The social evening starts at 7pm, refreshments will be available.

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

Cheltenham Horticultural Society Spring Flower Show

Sunday 2nd April 2023 in the Pittville Pump Rooms from 12.30 to 3.30pm. Admission: Adults £2.50, Children under 16 – Free.

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 Show Secretary, Dot Ward, with any queries on 01242 579750, email dotward99@yahoo.co.uk. For those wishing to enter exhibits in the show, the deadline for the submission of entry forms is Friday 31st March. 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. One Flower and one Vegetable grown by yourself
104. The heaviest Leek.

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

110. An Easter Greeting Card.
111. A Farm Vehicle made from recycled material.
112. A Flower made from soft material (knitting wool, felt etc.).

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

The RHS Malvern Spring Show will be on from Thursday 11th May until Sunday 14th May, 9am to 6pm each day. For more details visit <https://www.rhs.org.uk/shows-events/malvern-spring-festival>

Open Sweet Pea Show

The Gloucestershire Federation of Gardening Societies will be holding an Open Sweet Pea Show on Saturday 24th June 2023 at Dundry Nurseries, Bamfurlong Lane. A poster showing where further information can be found is included with this newsletter.

Tender Shoots Garden Club Network

For anyone who uses Zoom, the Tender Shoots Garden Club Network has resumed their Zoom talks now for their autumn and winter program. These talks are open to anyone to attend, a list of talks is included with the newsletter, for more information see their website <https://tendershoots.uk/programme/>.

Garden Lecture Days

'The Generous Gardener' holds Lecture Days and Plant Sales. Details can be found on their website <https://thegenerousgardener.co.uk/>. Lecture days are held at Rodmarton Manor near Cirencester and cost £125 per day including tea and coffee before the first talk and a 2-course lunch. Specialist plant sales are held at Charlton Farm near Malmesbury.

Winter Events

C&DAHA 44th Annual General Meeting

The C&DAHA 44th AGM was held on Monday 5th December 2022 at 7pm at St Mark's Methodist Church Hall in Cheltenham.

As the AGM was postponed last year, this year's AGM covered both 2021 and 2022.

Alderman Chris Ryder gave the President's address, she said, throughout 2021-2022 the C&DAHA committee have continued to work behind the scenes, keeping the cogs turning with regular meetings, open days to hear allotmenters's views and finding guest speakers and venues. She thanked Cheltenham Borough Council for their 'Building Community Grant' that we were awarded to continue with meetings whenever possible after the Pandemic.

She thanked our secretary, Layla, for her hard work in refurbishing the Community Garden at the Midwinter site, it was great to know that many volunteers came to assist her. She then organised a Queens Jubilee event which many attended and enjoyed. It is pleasing to know that several allotment sites have a corner for get togethers, which are surely good for moral.

She said, this year's weather was so challenging starting with gales, then heat in the summer months, it was good to hear that several local gardening clubs and organisations were still able to produce enough produce for their annual shows to go on.

Our Chairman, Mike Hunt, said that we have been through some strange weather and times over the last three years. Our committee has worked hard to keep the association going without being able to meet face to face during lockdown. Finding ways to continue, within the law and keeping each other safe.

The seed scheme caused some problems for us and for Kings, He feels proud of our committee, especially Colin and Rosemary Smith for their dedication in getting the seeds to our members when they arrive. Kate our editor for keeping everyone in touch with what was going on or not. Layla, our secretary beavering

away in the background keeping the committee up to speed.

Mike appealed for new members to come onto our committee, the current members are getting older, he has been on the committee since his thirties, other have been on the committee for longer.

Our Treasurer, Colin Smith, reported that financially the Association is in much the same position as last year, so we have not felt the need to increase our membership subscription amount for 2023. We currently have 189 members, down by 10 from 2021. **Colin has given notice that he wishes to step down from the position of Treasurer in August 2023.**

Our Secretary, Layla Avaron, said a particular thanks to Phil James for his taking over and revamping the website, we have noticed that we no longer get requests for allotments and the correct people to approach are now clearly signposted. She also thanked Claire Plowright for organising speakers and venues since the municipal offices were not available to us.

As a quorum of members was present, a vote was taken on the proposed changes to the Rules of Membership, this was passed.

All members of the committee agreed to be re-elected for the year 2023, with the provision that Colin Smith will only remain as Treasurer until August 2023.

Rosemary and Colin Smith provided an excellent spread of refreshments to enjoy once the AGM business had been completed. It was a shame that more of our members were not there to share it.

Tips, Tales, Found and Requests

Seeds for a Resilient Future from Miriam

Here is a link to an article on gardeners interested in boosting biodiversity in Stroud Community Seed Bank, <https://reasonstobecheerful.world/seed-diversity-uk-gardeners/>. Miriam wondered if there was anything of this kind in Cheltenham, or if not if something similar could be started here as it would be useful to find out what grows well in Cheltenham.

If this is of interest to anyone or they know of something like this already, let me know and I will put you in touch with Miriam.

A lovely Shed Painting from Bryan

On a shed as Bryan enters the Hall Road allotments there are some sunflowers have been painted.

He thought some allotment art was a good idea, so commissioned a piece of artwork from one of his daughters.



A Welcome Find by Sue

One fine afternoon, in the early part of last Summer, Sue was playing 'catch-up'. She had grown too many vegetable plants and didn't have enough space to plant them out.

She was carefully weeding and preparing the soil when she spotted something shiny... "don't get too excited she said to herself, probably a piece of foil from her home-made compost." Still, it was hot and worth slowing down and taking a look. So, she did. she picked up a very tiny, muddy object.

Several years ago, she had lost one earring. she was fond of the small white gold stud earrings that were a Christmas present from her husband. As she held the muddy object in her hand she excitedly began to wonder if it was the long-lost earring. As she turned it over and examined it, she knew it was! She took it home, cleaned it up and reunited it with its partner.

Completely, unaware that it may be on the allotment, she had focused her search on the house, eventually imagining it may have gone up the Hoover! She's

heard of people finding precious objects on their allotments but never imagined that she would be one of those people!

Kate's Allotment – Winter

First a sad find. On my way to my allotment on a frosty morning in early December, I found a hedgehog curled up in the grass as if asleep, but sadly dead, no sign of any injury, I guess it was part of a late litter that didn't get heavy enough to hibernate and so perished in the cold.



We certainly had some snow, and lower temperatures than we've seen for a few years at -9.5°C. Although I shook as much snow off my cages as possible, I still got some bent poles.



Neither the purple sprouting broccoli on the right of the above cage, nor the Russian Kale in the middle, ever recovered. I was surprised at the broccoli as it was a type expected to produce spears in January, February and March. Only Redbor kale and savoy cabbages continued as if nothing had happened.



The net covered tunnel on my neighbour's allotment, made an amazing recovery. Though flattened by the snow, once the snow melted, it rebounded – the wonders of plastic hoops. I think. It still needs straightening out and the netting mending, but it has survived relatively well.



After the snow melted, here we have boxing day, with a local fox enjoying the sunshine.



Here is my last harvest of carrots (a mixture of Berlicum and Eskimo) and celeriac (Prinz), these survived the snow and cold temperatures extremely well – no doubt insulated by being buried under a good layer of snow.

And finally, a slightly gruesome picture. You may know I'm not a big fan of the pesky pigeons. Our local fox had obviously been busy and managed to catch one. Naturally, as foxes do, it had cached it, though not terrible well.



Two days later when I returned to my allotment, only a dent in the soil remained.

I shan't include another picture of my chitting potatoes but suffice to say I can't resist trying a new variety most years. This year as well as my favourites; Pink Fir Apple and Sarpo Kifli, I'm going to try a variety that currently goes by the name of BIM, both skin and flesh are purple and the flavour is said to be very good, so it will be interesting to see how it turns out.

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 – Stir Fry Veg, Salmon & Lemon

Tagliatelle

This is based on a Waitrose recipe, but to make it easier to make, I've experimented with frozen veg, which seems to work very well. Since I can't have dairy products, I've replaced those with vegan alternatives and the whole seems a tasty dish.

Serves 2

Ingredients:

2 tsp Naturli vegan spreadable (or butter or your own preference)

1 tbsp Extra virgin olive oil

2 Salmon fillets, around 110 – 130gms each

320gms Soffritto mix (I use a frozen version of this and allow it to thaw a bit before cooking)

50ml dry white wine

250gm fresh wholemeal penne (or use a dried wholewheat penne and adjust the cooking time accordingly)

90ml Alpro soya cream

1 unwaxed lemon, zest and juice

Method:

- 1 Bring a large saucepan of water to the boil. Put a large frying pan over a high heat and add 1 tsp of the vegan spreadable and ½ tbsp oil. Season the salmon fillets to the pan, skin-side down, cook for 4-6 minutes, then flip and cook on the other side for 7-9 minutes, until cooked through, you can remove the skin whilst the salmon is cooking. Place the cooked salmon on a plate and break into bit sized pieces.
- 2 Add the remaining spreadable and oil to the empty frying, reduce the heat and add the soffritto mix and a pinch of salt. Cover with a lid or plate and cook for 2 minutes, remove the lid, increase the heat to medium, add the white wine. Reduce for 2 minutes
- 3 Add some salt to the large pan of boiling water and add the pasta, cook according to the instructions, then drain well.
- 4 Add the soya cream to the frying pan, followed by the lemon zest, juice and some black pepper. Add the drained pasta to the sauce in the frying pan and toss well to combine. Add the salmon pieces to the pan and gently mix in well. Taste for seasoning and serve.

I've also made this with a frozen stir fry vegetable mix. In section 2, I cooked them for about 10 minutes on a high heat as per the instructions on the pack.

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