

# February 2024 Newsletter

## BALGA AGM 2024

We had our Annual General Meeting in January 2024 at the Community Centre in Baldock. Along with the formal business, we heard reports from various committee members about the work we completed last year.

The winners of the Best Kept Allotment Competition were awarded their certificate and trophy by Councillor Muir. Please see the pictures below of the tenants receiving their certificate, trophy, and gift voucher for the Members' Shop.



Mick Camp, Alison Gentle, Jon Jones, and Phil Charsley were all re-elected onto the Committee. We welcome Ian Rees and Sarah Bassett, who were voted onto the Committee as well.

Despite the problems we've had with the lock at North Road, it was agreed by those present from the North Road site that the lock on the gate should not be replaced for the time being.

Membership fees would be increased from £6 to £7 for 2024/25. Allotment rents would stay the same.

BALGA had received over £2,000 from the North Herts Lottery. This would be used to provide solar security lighting for the sites and a box for food bank donations at North Road.

## BALGA AGM 2024

An update was given on the progress of bringing back in to use 30 half-plots at the North Road site. BALGA had been liaising with Urban & Civic on the provision of allotments and expanding the facilities at the current sites as part of the expansion of Baldock.

The Committee was given the go ahead to look into changing BALGA from an unincorporated association to a co-operative. There will be more information on this soon.

We would like to thank everyone who attended the AGM, and we look forward to sharing our progress with you this year.

## Working Party at North Road

We had a working party at North Road on Thursday, February 22nd, to bring two plots back into use. A big thank you to the eight members who helped put the rubbish into piles ready to be removed or put on a bonfire. I know lots of you emailed back to say you couldn't help on that date. We will need a couple more working parties to bring this plot back into use, so please look out for the next date. Any help is greatly appreciated.

Please, can we kindly ask members not to dump any further rubbish in this area because it will cost the Association more money to remove the rubbish where the money could be better spent to improve the site's facilities.



# North Herts Community Lottery

We are very pleased to announce that one member won £2000 in early February. Congratulations to that lucky member. We've had lots of new members recently, so perhaps you would like to join as well? Tickets cost £1 per week. So not only will you potentially win prizes, but our Association will receive 50% of all tickets sold. Visit <https://www.northhertscommunitylottery.co.uk/support/baldock-allotment> to buy tickets. It was agreed at the AGM that we would use the ticket money to buy a food collection box.

However, we need someone to support Jacqui (Min Sec) with collecting the food box once a week, and for someone to collect at North Road. Please email [minsec@balga-online.co.uk](mailto:minsec@balga-online.co.uk) if you're interested in helping.



## Potato Weekend

Last weekend was Potato Weekend. Thank you to everyone who pre-ordered potatoes, onions, and shallots, or who came to the shop to make purchases. The shop was very busy. We have already sold out of all First Early Potatoes and Charlotte. There are still stocks of Saxon, Orla, Setanta, Sarpo Mira, Picasso, and Desiree. There are a very small number of onion sets available as well as shallots.

As a result of feedback this year we will be looking to give earlier notice of the varieties that we expect to have available. For those of you, without internet access, we will be looking to have a paper form available for you to make pre-orders.

You can now find the latest price list on [www.balga-online.co.uk](http://www.balga-online.co.uk) **Ross**

## New members and Plot Vacancies

### Clothall Road

Clothall Road is fully tenanted

### North Road

2 x half plots  
3x raised beds

We are continuing to let plots in strict order of the waiting list, which currently stands at over 40 people. Our total membership is now 340 members!

We still have some raised beds at North, please email me if you know any who would be interested.

## Manure and Ace of Herts

We've noticed that some members have taken some Ace of Herts and Manure, but we haven't received payment, especially at North Road. If you still need to make a payment, please use the following details:

**Account Name:** BALGA Trading

**Sort Code:** 30-94-30

**Account Number:** 01618621

Once you have made the payment, please email [treasurer@balga-online.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@balga-online.co.uk) so your payment can be confirmed.

If we do not receive payment, then we cannot order more to the site. North Road Site Reps will go around and check to see who has used the manure or Ace of Herts.

## BHS Spring Show

The Baldock Horticultural Society's Members' Spring Show is on Wednesday, March 20th, at Brandles School at 8pm. Staging is between 7:00pm to 7:55pm. Members of BALGA are warmly welcomed to enter exhibits. The Show Schedules and Entry Forms are on the website.

Please visit [www.bhs-online.co.uk](http://www.bhs-online.co.uk) for more information and to download the schedule and entry forms.



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Thank you for reading, *Miles*

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Members' Group



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