

June 2024 Newsletter

Best Kept Allotment 2024

We are thrilled to announce that the top 10 plots from the North Road and Clothall Road sites have been shortlisted for the next round of our Best-Kept Allotment Competition. This recognition is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the chosen plot-holders.

In addition to these outstanding plots, we are also excited to recognise the four best newcomers from each site. Their fresh enthusiasm and innovative approaches have made a significant impact and deserve special commendation.

The shortlisted plots and newcomers will now proceed to the final round, where they will be evaluated by two esteemed external judges during the week commencing 15 July. We are confident that their keen eyes and expertise will help in selecting the very best of the best.

Here's to celebrating the beauty and productivity of our allotments. Congratulations to all our finalists and newcomers, and best of luck in the next stage of the competition!

Basil Bryant Cup			
Clothall Road		North Road	
Plot No.	Tenant	Plot No.	Tenant
CR2A	John L	NR2	Gordon & Sally P
CR6	Jon J	NR3C	Rob H
CR7B	David W	NR6	Mark & Maggie O
CR10A	Michael W	NR10	Pete T
CR17B	Andy C	12B/13B	Jim H
CR21	Libby F & Luke M	NR38A	Tim C
CR30A	Sharon N	NR49B/50B	Dave K
CR41B	Brenda C	NR68	Kasha & David G
CR44	John M	NR71A	Paul E
CR47B	Adam H	NR76	Alan R

Best Newcomer (Clothall Road & North Road) (For new tenants starting 1 May 2023 – 30 April 2024)			
Clothall Road Frank Conway Cup		North Road John Gray Cup	
Plot No.	Tenant	Plot No.	Tenant
CR4B	Alice W	NR9B	Gary & Natalie K
CR14A	Kemjira S	NR23A	Sarah H
CR14B	Ness and John G	NR60A	Colin M
CR37A	Lesley M	NR70A	Chris and Karen A

National Allotments Week

For over two decades, National Allotments Week, initiated by The National Allotment Society, has been a cherished tradition that encourages allotment holders across the UK to open their gates and showcase the beauty and benefits of their sites. This week-long celebration highlights the social, health, and environmental advantages of maintaining allotments.

This year, National Allotments Week will run from Monday, August 12th to Sunday, August 18th, with a special focus on biodiversity. Throughout the week, NAS will be sharing fantastic content from our expert partners and ambassadors, offering valuable tips on how to encourage pollinators and wildlife on your allotment.

Join BALGA's Open Day to celebrate the week

As part of the festivities, BALGA (Baldock Allotment and Leisure Gardeners Association) will be hosting an Open Day on Saturday 17, August, at Tapps Garden Centre (opposite our Clothall Road allotment site) from 2pm to 4pm. As usual, members can collect their Kings Seeds catalogue, meet the committee and the other members. There will be refreshments available to buy at Tapps Garden Centre. If you have any ideas for this event, please email me at publicity@balga-online.co.uk.

Stay tuned for updates on the venue, and in the meantime, prepare to celebrate and learn how to make your allotment a haven for biodiversity.



North Herts Lottery

We are thrilled to announce that, thanks to your generosity and support, we have successfully raised £3,000 through the North Herts Lottery! Your contributions are making a significant difference, and we are immensely grateful for your dedication and commitment. If you're a new member and would like to join, please click the link below to get started:

[Join the North Herts Community Lottery](#)

At our recent AGM, it was agreed that we would use the funds to purchase floodlights. If anyone has expertise in this field, please contact Alison at vice-chair@balga-online.co.uk. We would greatly appreciate any support.



Becoming a Cooperative

At our BALGA Annual General Meeting (AGM) back in January, members present unanimously agreed that your committee should explore further the steps required for our Association to become a Cooperative, as strongly recommended by the National Allotment Society (NAS). The NAS has a model set of rules for a Cooperative, which your committee has been working to slightly adapt so that it better corresponds with our needs and which would then replace our current Constitution once registered with the Financial Conduct Authority. However, our current Constitution cannot be changed without the approval of two-thirds of the members present at a quorate AGM or EGM.

Your committee has agreed that rather than calling a face-to-face meeting, this can be more conveniently achieved by a paper EGM. Within the next few weeks, every current member will receive by email (or by paper for those not on email) a copy of the draft rules to give you all the opportunity to raise any questions or concerns you may have about it. Once any such issues have been satisfactorily answered, a separate form will allow your vote to be cast. A full explanation of the benefits and implications to BALGA, and you, its members, of making this change will also be enclosed. Come to our Open Day to find out more. **Mick**

Phil's plants

Thank you to Phil for bringing his plants every week to sell at the shop. As a result, we made over £50 from the sale of plants. Thank you to the members who supported the initiative by buying plants.

New members and Plot Vacancies

Clothall Road

1 x half plot

North Road

2 x half plots

1x raised bed

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 350 members!

We still have one raised bed at North Road, please email me if you know any who would be interested.

Manure and Ace of Herts

Do you need to make a payment for manure or Ace of Herts? Please use the details below to make your payment.

Account Name: BALGA Trading

Sort Code: 30-94-30

Account Number: 01618621

No pay, no more delivery

Bait boxes

We've had a few enquiries regarding the black boxes around sites. These are bait boxes which are a safe and effective way to manage the rat population without harming other wildlife or pets. We carefully selected locations for the boxes to maximise their efficiency and minimize any potential risks.



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Thank you for reading, *Miles*

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Members' Group



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