



October 2024 Newsletter



Quiz Night 2024

It is not long now until our annual BALGA Quiz. BALGA invites you to our Annual Quiz Night on Friday, November 22nd, 2024, at the Baldock Community Centre. Doors open at 7:00 pm, with the quiz starting at 7:30 pm. This year's quiz will be hosted by our new Publicity Officer, Sarah Bassett, along with Chris Bassett.

Everyone is welcome to join—teams of up to 6 people can compete for just £5 per person. Invite friends, family, or neighbours for a relaxed evening open to all, whether you're a BALGA member or not. If you don't have a full team, we can arrange groups on the night.

What to Expect:

- Quiz Competition – Fun, engaging questions for everyone
- Raffle – A chance to win great prizes
- Bar – Drinks available for purchase at the Community Centre bar

Tickets are available at the Baldock Community Centre or the Allotment Shop on Football Close, open Sundays from 10 am to 12 noon. We look forward to seeing you there!



Becoming a Co-Operative

As you will know from previous newsletters, your BALGA committee have been working hard to change BALGA from an unincorporated association to a co-operative (co-op). The co-op consultations papers will be coming to your inbox/post box very soon and replies will need to be returned by November 25th.

The National Allotment Society (NAS) strongly recommends this cooperative model, which will enable us to manage and protect BALGA more effectively for the long term.

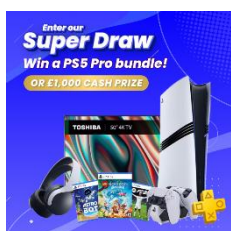
You will receive the following documents via email or hand delivered for those not on email:

1. Proposed Model Rules
2. Revised Tenancy Agreement
3. Members Agreement.
4. Committee Procedure

How Will These Changes Affect You?

- **Membership Share:** Every member will hold a single, non-withdrawable, non-transferrable share in BALGA at a nominal cost of £1. No dividends will be payable, and BALGA will continue to hold its £1 share in the NAS.
- **Membership Fees:** With fees increasing to £7 for 2024/2025, we'll use the additional £1 to cover the cost of each current member's share this year. New members will pay for their share upon joining in subsequent years.
- **Membership Agreement:** Each member must agree in writing to abide by the new Rules.

North Herts Lottery



Have you joined the North Herts Lottery to support BALGA and help raise funds for those little extras? Tickets cost just £1 per week. Not only could you potentially win exciting prizes, but our Association will also receive 50% of all tickets sold. Right now, you have the chance to win a PS5 Pro Bundle or £1,000 in cash, all for just £1 a week! The PlayStation bundle includes a selection of games and accessories, enjoyed on a 50" Smart 4K Ultra HD TV for the ultimate gaming experience. Eekly draws with the potential to win £25,000 each week. We have had one £2,000 winner in the past, although many £25 winners. Visit <https://www.northhertscommunitylottery.co.uk/support/baldock-allotment> to buy your tickets.

North Road Expansion

Starting in November, work will commence to clear and prepare the area pictured on the right for future allotment use. The project, conducted under a license granted by North Herts Council, will involve clearing overgrown vegetation, installing fencing, and restoring the land to a suitable condition for cultivation. The entire process is anticipated to take several weeks. During this period, various machinery will be in operation on-site. For safety, please keep dogs, children, and other visitors under close supervision while work is underway. If you are interested in renting an allotment plot once the land is prepared, please visit www.balga-online.co.uk to register your interest. **Phil (General Secretary)**



Shop Update

The shop is back up and running again following the recent break in.

Autumn onion sets and shallots have sold out. More onion sets and shallots will be available in February when seed potatoes are on sale. Tulips have also sold out, but there are still a few daffodils available. There is also a reasonable number of garlic remaining.

The shop currently has a good quantity of free cardboard. Cardboard can be useful if you are thinking about trying no dig.

We are expecting to have quantities of the following seed potatoes available in February

First Earlies: Caledonian Pearl, Casablanca, Foremost, Francis and Rocket

Second Earlies: Charlott and Kestrel

Main Crop: Desiree, Picasso, Sarpo Mira and Setanta

Ordering online will be in place. Paper order forms will also be available from the shop in November or on Compost Sunday. **Ross (Trading Secretary)**

Food Bank

We will finish collecting produce from the Clothall Road and North Road food bank boxes at the end of October and will resume collections next spring. Thank you to everyone who donated surplus produce, as well as to those who helped collect and deliver it to the local food banks. I'm sure the local community will benefit greatly from our efforts.

New members and Plot Vacancies

Clothall Road

7 x half plots

2 x Quarter plots

North Road

8 x half plots

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 360 members!

Dates for your Diary

22 November 2024 – Quiz Night

24 November 2024 - Last opening day for the shop

20 January 2025 – BALGA AGM

26 January 2025 - Compost Sunday – an opportunity to stock up on compost for the season ahead

15 & 16 February 2025 - Potato Weekend (subject to delivery of potatoes on time)

Committee

Are you interested in joining the BALGA committee? Joining the committee offers a range of benefits, including:

- Being part of a great team that makes a difference
- Helping your community
- Sharing your skills and expertise to benefit others
- Playing a role in planning for the future

Please contact Mick (Chair) on 01462 893418 or chairman@balga-online.co.uk.



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Thank you for reading,

Miles and Sarah

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Members' Group



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