

February 2025 Newsletter

BALGA AGM

Thank you to the 53 members who attended our 2025 AGM on 20th January, several of whom had only recently joined our Association, plus a further 5 voting by proxy. The meeting began with presentations to the winners of the 2024 Best Kept Allotment Competition before receiving the various reports listed on the agenda.

The main business focused on BALGA becoming a Co-operative which, following a presentation by Phil reiterating the advantages of such a move and after some discussion, was approved by an overwhelming majority as were the Model Rules that will replace our existing Constitution. Phil then gave an illustrated update on the progress of work on the North Road site extension; since the meeting that work is now almost complete.

Moving on from the AGM the Model Rules and formal application have now been forwarded to the National Allotment Society, acting as our sponsors, for submission to the Financial Conduct Authority for those Rules to be approved and registered.

It will be necessary to call a further General Meeting once the Rules have been approved to agree minor amendments not made in this submission and to keep the cost to the minimum £120 actually paid. Once registered such amendments to the Rules are free. The new Membership Agreement and Committee Procedure plus the amended Tenancy Agreement also need to be approved. We look forward to your continued support at that future meeting.

Drum Roll Please

Here are the fabulous winners of the 2024 Best Kept Allotment Competition.....



Kemjira, winner of the Best Newcomer at Clothall Road and winner of The Frank Conway cup.



Colin, winner of The Best Newcomer at North Road and the winner of The John Gray cup.



Dave, winner of The Best Overall Plot at North Road.



And finally Adam, winner of The Best Overall Plot. He also scored the most points overall and retained the Basil Bryant Cup.

Coop Rules Watch this Space

Since the AGM in January, our registration as a Cooperative Society is well under way. To simplify the registration and to save money, our initial rules will say we are "Baldock Allotment and Leisure Gardeners' Society Ltd." At our inaugural meeting we will ask you to vote to change our name to "Association", not "Society", and to make a few other changes. After those changes have been registered, we will all be required to sign the new Member's Agreement, and Tenancy Agreement.

We Need Your Help!

Alison, our vice chairperson and Clothall Road Site rep is organising two working parties at the Clothall Road site. The first of these would be on Sunday 23rd February from 10am to 12 noon, followed by a second on Sunday 9th March from 10am to 12 noon; both are weather permitting. If anyone can help, please let Alison know by emailing crsiterep@balga-online.co.uk. Last week I sent out an email re. a working party at the North Road site, this is on Saturday 22nd February from 9.30am to 12 noon to clear three vacated plots to make them ready for the new tenants. Please let us know if you can help at North Road by emailing Mick at chairman@ba:ga-online.co.uk. Any member from either site is very welcome to help at either working party; thank you in anticipation.

Spring Show 2025

The Baldock Horticultural Society's Members' Spring Show is on Wednesday 19th March, 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 for more information and to download the schedule and entry forms.

Potato Sales

We have already received orders for over 80% of the seed potatoes at the shop. At present, we still have good stocks of Sarpo Mira, Setanta and Desiree. If you are growing potatoes, it's not too late to pick up some potato fertilizer to improve your yield. In addition to potatoes there are still onion sets and shallots available. Please be aware that online order via our website will stop later this week, but you will still be able to come to the members' shop on a Sunday between 10am and 12 noon.

Letchworth Organic Gardeners

Diane Ketcher of Letchworth & District Organic Gardeners gave a fascinating presentation at Baldock Library earlier this month. Letchworth Organic Gardeners are part of Garden Organic, click on the link to find out more, including their history and information about the Heritage Seed Library <https://www.gardenorganic.org.uk/> and have a look at their Facebook page @Letchworth & district Organic Gardeners <https://tinyurl.com/ymp37hc4>.

Our very own general secretary, Phil has been a member of the heritage Seed Library for over 30 years and all the tomatoes he grows are from their seed.



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Thank you for reading, Sarah

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Members' Group



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