

# Newsletter December 2024

## Potato and Onion Ordering

On line ordering of potatoes, onions and shallots is expected to be possible in early January. The year we will have stocks of the following seed potatoes:

Caledonian Pearl	1st Early
Casablanca	1st Early
Foremost	1st Early
Francis	1st Early
Rocket	1st Early
Charlotte	2nd Early
Kestrel	2nd Early
Sarpo Mira	Main Crop
Setanta	Main Crop
Picasso	Main Crop
Desiree	Main Crop

We will be selling taster packs consisting of a potato grow bag, five early potatoes and some potato fertilizer – all that needs adding is a bag of compost!



## Exciting Projects!

### North Road update

If you have your allotment at our North Road Site or have been for a walk at Ivel Springs, you may well have noticed the progress has been made to reinstate/create up to 30 plots. There has been a digger on site, some pipework has been removed and the area levelled. There are piles of bark chippings strategically placed in preparation to make pathways for the new plots.



### Clothall Road Working Parties

Despite the inclement weather on Sunday 24th November, the working party at Clothall Road went ahead and was very successful. We started at 10am and thanks to the ten people who gave their time, we were finished clearing the communal plot by 11.30am, in time for a warm up and thank you coffee at Tapps. More terrible weather was forecast for Sunday 8th December, but that did not put off a second working party of intrepid volunteers.

Ross and Alison would like to thank everyone who gave up their Sunday mornings to help clear the community plot at Clothall Road, which was an amazing success.

The plot is not clear and ready for what's left of the manure/Ace of Herts to be spread over the plot, which will then be covered in weed control fabric. It is our intention to have new deliveries of both manure and Ace of Herts as soon as possible after that.

It is our hope to use some of the lottery funding to provide raised beds on the top half of this area; both of our sites will then have raised beds. It will be another project to provide a pathway for mobility access at both sites and hopefully this will also be a funded project, but our lottery grants also act as matched funding, so being part of the lottery is a real benefit to BALGA.

Again a HUGE thanks go to all who attended and helped out at both working parties, we could not have achieved so much without you

## Gingerbread Dreams

Inspired by their allotment on North Road this year, creativity took hold and produced these stunning results, just fabulous!



Wishing all of our BALGA members a very happy and healthy festive season.

## Seed Orders

Autumn Seed Orders amounting to 972 packets and £1462 came from 53 orders, 21 of them on line. When compared to standard packet prices 40% more expensive, members between them saved just under £1000 through the National Seed Scheme plus a further £110 from the additional "early bird" discount of 7.5%. Orders for other items amounted to £418. BALGA also received £214 from commission for our own funds.

If you missed the Autumn order, particularly newer members, a second collated order will be sent at the end of January with prices still 40% cheaper but without the additional 7.5% discount.

Catalogues available for collection from Mick, 01462 893418 or [chairman@balga-online.co.uk](mailto:chairman@balga-online.co.uk), or at our AGM on 20th January. To benefit from this Scheme you must order through BALGA and not direct to Kings Seeds.

## Compost Sunday

Compost Sunday will be on 26 January 2025. This will give you an opportunity to stock up on compost for the forthcoming growing season. The shop now has good stocks of compost which are still at 2024 prices. This year we have 10l bags of seed compost available.

## BALGA AGM

A reminder our Annual General Meeting is on Monday 20th January, 7pm for 7.30pm at Baldock Community Centre with a pay bar available. This is a particularly important meeting at which we need to decide on whether to approve the four draft documents already circulated as an essential step towards BALGA becoming a Co-operative. Please book the date in your diary, show your support for your committee who've worked hard to produce these documents, and make every effort to attend. We look forward to meeting you there.

## BALGA Quiz Night

Thanks to all those who supported our quiz night held on Friday 22nd November at the Community Centre. We sold 53 tickets in total and made £97 from the raffle, all prizes of which were generously donated. Following the cost of the hall hire, we made a total profit of £249.50p. A very worthwhile & enjoyable evening.'

A big thank you also to our members Sarah and Chris who, as "Quiz Mistress and Quiz Master" did an excellent job to make the evening the success it was.

Mick Camp  
Chairman



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Thank you for reading, Sarah

[www-balga-online.co.uk](http://www-balga-online.co.uk)



Members' Group



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