



December Newsletter

“Chill December brings the sleet,
Blazing fire, and Christmas treat.”

Sara Coleridge (1802–1852)

On behalf of your Committee I would like to wish you all a very good Christmas and all the very best for the New Year.

I think the above saying is perhaps near to the truth as according to the Met Office December conditions are most likely to be changeable, wetter and windier conditions are more likely than normal. Temperatures are most likely to be near or above average overall, although this doesn't rule out some spells of cold weather and associated wintry hazards, though the chances of any prolonged spells of cold weather are low.

Society News:

During October there were a number of instances of vandalism on Clarence A Allotments. A fair amount of damage was done by vandals, including the breaking of greenhouse glass and the spraying of graffiti on surfaces. The police were notified and preventative measures installed on the allotment; fortunately the vandalism has ceased. It is a timely lesson to all allotmenters to ensure that where gates are fitted then these are **closed and locked** at all times. Your tenancy agreement states that “Entrance gates, where provided, must be kept closed and locked at all times after entering and leaving the site.”

Show Schedule: A number of changes have been made to the Show Schedule. There is now an Open and Members Section. The Open Section has the four classes requiring collections of vegetables and fruit and is open to all comers. The Members Section is open to NLHS Members only. There have been a few minor changes and the inclusion of a class for rhubarb, onions under 250 grams and a vase of three spray chrysanthemums. The date of the Show is 14th September and the location is as last year the Grandstand Community Centre.

Whilst on the subject of chrysanthemums and the new class. I have obtained three varieties of sprays from a leading exhibitor and intend to root cuttings from this stock. Our intention is to give the cuttings away to members at the AGM, 3rd April 2024, on the understanding that those taking the cuttings exhibit at the show in September. The sprays are weather resistant, easily grown in the garden border and do not necessarily need any special treatment.

I shall be giving a talk on growing chrysanthemums at the AGM explaining in addition of the cultivation of exhibition singles how to grow and get your sprays onto the show bench.

The National Allotment Society magazine Allotment and Leisure Gardener is available on the web-site. There are a number of interesting articles including one on the mapping of allotment sites throughout the UK and as usual the most useful guide to the season jobs for December through to February.

Items of Interest:

The Potato House, a Scottish company has a brilliant web-site where one can get answers to most questions relating to potatoes. In addition, they supply a good range of potatoes, including heritage potatoes. They distribute a monthly newsletter packed with good information and the next few will feature articles on blight resistant potatoes and what varieties to grow for 2024. The web site can be obtained by following this link: <https://www.potatohouse.co.uk/> and sign ups for the newsletter.

John Harrison who runs the Allotment gardening website has released an ebook, costing the grand sum of £2.75, entitled 'Allotment Garden Growing Through the Seasons – Winter Guide'. This guide is packed with useful information along with some hearty and warming recipes, and will make a good read for us all as the winter nights continue to draw in. To obtain further information and a copy of the ebook follow this link: <https://www.allotment-garden.org/book/growing-through-seasons-winter-guide/>

The Store will reopen on the 27th January 2024 when membership fees are due and for the collection of seed and potato orders along with the sale of normal composts and garden requisites.

