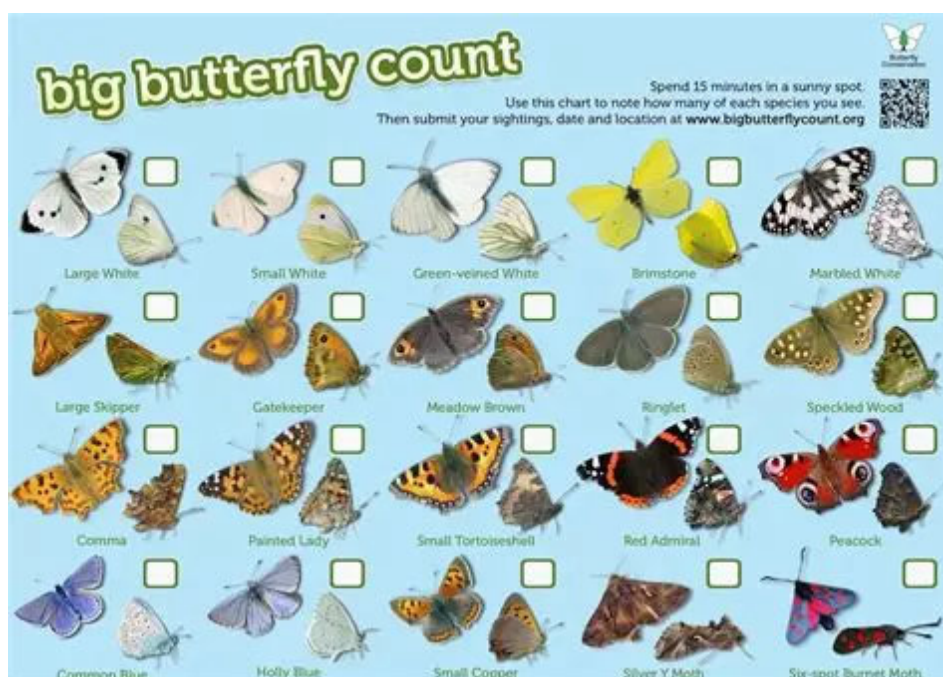


HAA Summer newsletter

Dates for your diary



Big Butterfly Count

Only if it's a dry and fairly still day when butterflies might fly: meet on **Sunday 16 July at 10.30 am** at the Shed Shop. Full instructions and a chart will be provided.



Sunset bat walks

Again, only if it is a dry and fairly still evening when bats might fly: join us on an informal wildlife walk at dusk. A bat detector will be available and an introduction given. We will be looking, not only for bats, but any other wildlife we might come across. Children will be welcome but they must be accompanied by an adult. Please wear sturdy shoes, as the ground might be uneven. **Meet at 9pm at the Shed Shop on Friday 14 July, Saturday 15 July and Monday 24 July.**



Highgate Horticultural Society Summer Show

The HSS 159th Summer Show will be held on **Saturday 22 July** at the United Reformed Church in Pond Square **between 2 and 5pm**. you can find out how to enter and check out the categories [here](#) - all entries must be received by **5pm on the Thursday 20 July**.

Our annual allotments picnic and crop swap

Do join your friends and neighbours for a convivial afternoon in the picnic area opposite the Shed Shop on **Saturday 2 September between 1 and 5pm**. Bring food and drink to share + any surplus produce or preserves you would like to share.

Equipment Hire Dates

Strimmers (battery and petrol), wood chippers and mowers (manual and petrol) are available for hire from our equipment store at reasonable hire rates. Please email in advance on HAAequipment@outlook.com to book for the following hire sessions:

Monday 17 July 2-4

Sunday 30 July 11-1

Saturday 5 August 11-1

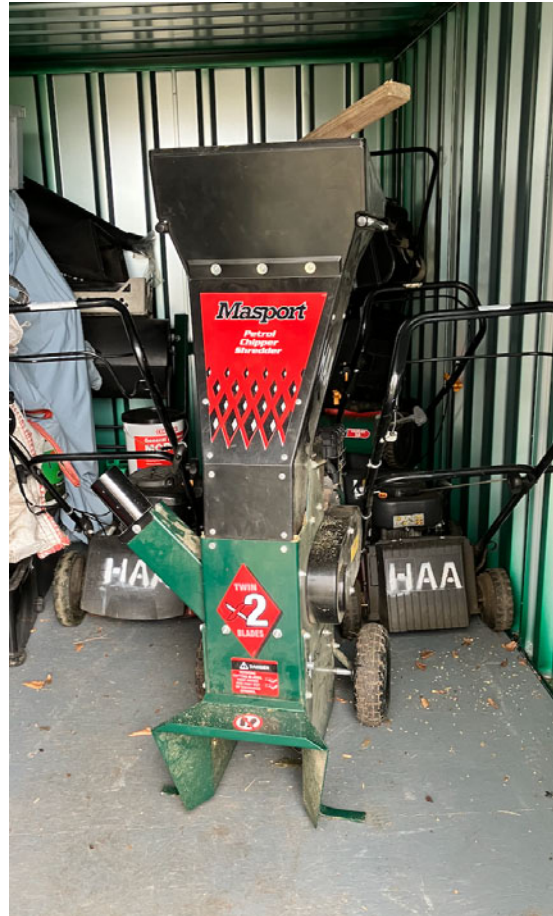
Saturday 19 August 11-1

Monday 28 August (Bank Holiday) 2-4

Saturday 9 September 11-1

Saturday 23 September 2-4

Saturday 30 September 11-1



New Shed Shop Summer hours

From July to the end of September, the Shed Shop will no longer open at the hottest part of the day! The new time will be **5-6pm on Sundays** and - thanks to new volunteers Susannah and Nigel - it will continue to open from **5-6pm on Wednesdays**. A reminder that we take cash or payment using a smartphone app at the time of sale, but we do not have a card reader. Cash or App will keep your volunteer salesperson sweet!

We would welcome **more volunteers for the Shop and also to help with equipment hire** - anyone who has an aptitude for demonstrating or maintaining machinery would be particularly welcome for the latter - please contact HAAequipment@outlook.com.

Notes from your Site Secretary

Borders and Paths

Now we are in the rampant grass-growing season please remember that tall grass growing on the edge of your plot or on the common paths adjoining your plot is YOUR responsibility to keep cut short. Yes, sometimes a kind person may mow or strim nearby but it is actually YOUR job to keep your plot boundaries and paths tidy.

“I’ll just pick a couple as I go past...”

This is the “Do As You Would Be Done By” notice! At this time of year and on into summer there will be all sorts of delicious fruit within your reach as you walk the common paths on site, particularly as raspberry canes are often planted close to plot borders. Please **don’t** pick other people’s fruit if it overhangs into the common paths. The only circumstances in which you can pick fruit from someone else’s fruit bush is if the branches overhang unambiguously into your own plot area – in such a case you can prune them back to the boundary, or harvest if you must – or ask your neighbour to tie them back. But bushes adjoining common paths – please let them be.

A Suggested Quiet Time Each Week

In response to a number of requests, your committee have agreed to *suggest* to all tenants that – if possible – you abstain from the use of noisy powered equipment such as strimmers or mowers **on Sundays between 3pm and 6pm**. We stress this is a request, not a requirement. Do your best to avoid that time if you can. Your dozing neighbours thank you in advance.

Documents on the HAA Website

There are some important and/or useful documents on the HAA website Documents Page at <https://www.highgate-allotments.org/documents> . At the top of the page are some important “official” documents such as your tenancy agreement and explicit guides to what constitutes appropriate and sufficient cultivation. It is these documents that underlie the periodic inspections that take place across all the Haringey allotment sites, so I do recommend you remind yourselves what is in there. Farther down the page you will find such things as Minutes from our HAA committee meetings, and draft Minutes of our most recent AGM held in March 2023.

June 2023 Inspection

A site inspection by the Haringey Council Allotment Coordinator took place in the second week of June. If you have heard nothing from Haringey, or from me, suggesting the need to improve your cultivation, then well done – but KEEP IT UP. There is likely to be a second inspection in late summer/early autumn when it is expected that all plots will be even more full of bounty (some plots in June - such as mine - are not fully planted up yet). Now is the time to plant, water, feed and weed.

Geoff Kemball-Cook



Helping Highgate hedgehogs

It is exciting that Highgate Allotments is one of the few places with hedgehogs and there is an existing bio-corridor to Sheldon Avenue, the golf course, the Heath and the Kenwood Estate. The hedgehog in this picture was seen in 2020 on plot Q1A.

Allotments are good and bad for amphibians, reptiles and hedgehogs. Wild animals love the varied habitats, the absence of motor traffic and the quiet and low light night times. But many animals get accidentally injured or killed through the use of agrochemicals, when turning the compost, strimming or bonfires. Hedgehogs are also vulnerable to getting entangled in protective crop netting. If you would like to help them, check out the British Hedgehog Preservation Society advice [here](#).

Best watering etiquette for a dry summer

- Check if your neighbours are waiting to use the tap and politely form a queue if necessary!
- Always fill up the water tank before connecting your hose to the tap so others can use it as a dip tank;
- Whilst your hose is connected, get on with the watering and don't take breaks;
- Water as required with the hand held hose - don't leave it lying around soaking the ground or connected to a sprinkler;
- If you can, water in the evenings or early in the morning while it is still cool.

PS We still need dip tanks for communal water taps where the tank is missing - if you have a spare one you could donate, please contact highgateallotments@outlook.com.

Happy Summer gardening from your Committee to everyone on our lovely site



STOP PRESS: Our very successful plant sale on Sunday raised £140.35 for the HAA and local charity Harington. Many thanks to Sue and John Cakebread who organised it so ably and all those who donated plants.



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Our mailing address is:
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