

# The Grower



Newsletter



## DISCOUNT REWARD SCHEME

The new discount reward cards will be valid from 1st March 2014 for 1 year. Both South Heath Nursery and JPS Stationers are offering a 10% discount to cardholders. The new cards can be purchased for the price of £1 and will be available in the first instance at the CHS potato sales in February and March. If you are not able to get your card on any of those mornings, they will also be available at all Chesham Allotments Group events. Alternatively, please contact any member of the Chesham Allotments Group.

## CENTENARY PINS

If you haven't yet purchased your centenary pin, they are still available for the bargain price of £2 each. Contact any Allotments Group Representative for further details



## FISH AND CHIP SUPPER / QUIZ NIGHT

Congratulations to the winning team from the Fish & Chip supper / quiz held on 16th November. This was an excellent evening, raising over £250! Many thanks to our quizmaster Phil Folly for yet another evening of tantalising questions. We are all looking forward to the next one on Saturday 10th May 2014.



The winning team!

## COFFEE MORNINGS—DATES FOR 2014

**Pre-season opening times.** Although next year's Chesham Allotments Group (CAG ) Coffee Mornings won't formally start until April 2014, the Focal Point Hut on Cameron Road will be open for tea, coffee and cakes on certain dates in February and March. These dates are when the Chesham Horticultural Society (CHS) will be **selling seed potatoes and onion sets**; they are as follows: Saturday **22<sup>nd</sup> February**, Saturday **1<sup>st</sup> March** and Saturday **8<sup>th</sup> March**. So come along to the Focal Point Hut on one or all of these three Saturdays, **between 10:00-12:00**, and support both CHS and CAG.

**Main season opening times.** The CAG Coffee Mornings will start on Saturday **5<sup>th</sup> April** (10:00 to 12:00) and then run through to Saturday **18<sup>th</sup> October**.

**Price increase.** Please note that from 2014, the price of a cup of tea or coffee together with a slice of cake will be at the new price of **£1.00**.

**Volunteers required.** The Coffee Mornings are run on a voluntary basis, so **helpers are needed** to serve the drinks on each Saturday morning (on the dates detailed above) and to bake cakes (for which there is a reimbursement of £2.00 per cake). If you would be willing to help **serve on a Saturday morning or bake an occasional cake**, please contact Ian MacEachern (Tel: 01494 776866, Mobile: 07572 379784, email: [maceachern@maceachernian6.orangehome.co.uk](mailto:maceachern@maceachernian6.orangehome.co.uk)) as soon as possible.

We look forward to welcoming you all again in 2014!

## LOCAL COMMUNITY EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

ALLOTMENTS GROUP		CHESHAM HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY	
Saturdays—22nd February, 1st March, 8th March	Coffee mornings to coincide with CHS potato and onion sale.	Saturday 22nd February Saturday 1st March Saturday 8th March	Sale of Seed potatoes and onion sets at CHS Hut—Cameron Road
Saturday 5th April	Regular coffee mornings commence		
Saturday 10th May	Fish & Chip Supper/ Quiz night		

## YOUR ALLOTMENT GROUP REPRESENTATIVES

ALLEN TILBURY (Chairman) Plot 104 CR	MARSHALL HALL (Vice-chair) Plot 47A/47B	RAY WILLIAMS (Treasurer) Plots 215/216 CR	YVONNE WEBSTER (Secretary – minutes) Plot 63A CR
ANDREW SINCLAIR (Secretary– correspondence) Plot 45B CR	JIM ABBOTT (Representative) Plot 31/32 CR	IAN MACEACHERN (Coffee morning co-ord) Plot 223B CR	VINCE CROMPTON (Representative) Plot 36 CR
BEVERLY MACKAY (Editor—The Grower) Plot 3B AR	CLAIRE MALAN (Representative) Plot 235A CR	JAN SIMS (Advertising/ notices) Plot 70A CR	JAMES BOLE (Representative) Plot 9A/B AR
VINCENT LUCAS (Representative) Plot 227D CR	COLETTE LITTLE (Council)	PATRICIA CHERRILL (Council)	CR = CAMERON RD AR = ASHERIDGE ROAD

## SEASON'S END

So to be different here's few photos of crops at the end of their lifespan!



Forlorn Corn



Gone Soggy



Has Beans!



Not so prickly now



Stragglers



Was that a frost?

It's all part of a plan, 'the leaves that were green turn to brown' as Paul Simon once wrote. It's at this time of the year when we naturally reflect on the season that has just passed and take stock of the successes and failures (if there's been any). 2013 was a real roller coaster of a season. What was looking to be a write off with all the early bad weather finished up taking us all by surprise and most people I've talked to have been more than happy with their harvest.

For those of you who have taken on allotments during this season it's next year when all your hard work will really pay off. Rome wasn't built in a day and if you've taken on a neglected plot you will now realise just how much hard work it can be. The pleasure and satisfaction that you will get from growing your own really does make all the effort worthwhile though I promise.

Of course you may have been lucky and taken over a well worked plot and revelling in your success at one of the Chesham Horticultural Society's shows. Hopefully that will spur you on to do even better next season!

Before we know it 2014 and the start of the new growing season will be upon us and the green shoots (though not so much groundsel next year...please) will be poking through again. Have a good Christmas everybody.

David Page



## WE NEED BEES

WE NEED BEES, and bees need:-

Nectar - for carbohydrate.

Pollen - for protein.

Water - to dilute nectar, and it is used to cool the 'nursery'. This is obtained from wet stones, leaves etc, and bees like to have a regular place to go to.

A Home - a hive, a hole in a building, bank or underground, and in odd places.

They do not like anything ending in '----cide', or cobwebs.

A favourite plant with beekeepers is lavender. The amount of nectar and pollen pro-

vided by flowers varies. Early in the season, wallflowers are good for nectar AND pollen .

Please think about how bees can be attracted to your allotment even when you vegetable growing season is quiet!

Jean Staveley



## EDIBLE GARDEN SHOW 2014

Award-winning grow-your-own event, The Edible Garden Show, is putting down new roots at London's Alexandra Palace from 28th — 30th March 2014 in a move to bring the popular show to new audiences around the country.

Scheduled for the beginning of the growing season, The Edible Garden Show is bursting with innovative products, top exhibitors, home-grown produce, food, livestock and a celebrity line-up of experts.

For more show information visit:  
[www.theediblegardenshow.co.uk](http://www.theediblegardenshow.co.uk)

## EMAIL NOTIFICATIONS

If you would like Chesham Allotments Group to send you occasional updates by email, please send your email address to Marshall Hall at

[hallmarshall@live.co.uk](mailto:hallmarshall@live.co.uk)

The Chesham Allotments Group will not give or sell your email to any other organisation or individual for any purpose. The content of your messages will be limited to information related to the allotments. For example: security alerts, events, announcements etc. We promise not to bombard you with 'junk'. You may opt out of receiving messages at any time simply by informing us.



# DRIVERS



**DRIVING YOUR VEHICLE ONTO THE ALLOTMENT SITES IS  
AT YOUR OWN RISK.**

**BEWARE OF:**

- ♦ **TENANTS, CONTRACTORS, COUNCIL STAFF AT WORK**
- ♦ **POSSIBLE ADVERSE CAMBERS**
- ♦ **POSSIBLE SLOPES & SLIPPERY SURFACES**



The above notice is now on the gates at the allotment sites. Please be careful with your cars. Of course — if you do take the risk, with luck, you may find a willing team of volunteers to help you out of the ditch!!



Your Allotments Group Representatives would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing you all at allotment events in 2014.

