

The Grower



Newsletter



Your Allotments Group Representatives would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very **Happy New Year**. We look forward to seeing you all at allotment events in 2015.

FISH AND CHIP SUPPER / QUIZ NIGHT

The Fish and Chip Supper on 29th November was held in The Temperance Hall. A chirpy team of helpers arrived early to set up before 54 attendees came bearing delicious desserts and lots of raffle prizes. After our excellent fish and chips, we put the grey matter to work with an challenging quiz by Phil Folly, including everyone's favourite 'Connections' round. Pausing briefly for dessert (very yummy boozy trifle - thanks whoever

brought that), and for the raffle to be drawn (thanks to Beverly for selling the tickets), the quiz was finally won by...well, by my team much to our surprise, having come eighth last time. So we had a great time but I think everyone else did too. Many thanks to Phil for the quiz, to Yvonne for score-keeping, to Allen and Vince for organising, to the helpers and to everyone for coming.

Kate Hutchinson



The Winning Team celebrate!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

CHESHAM ALLOTMENTS GROUP CALENDAR DATES

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date and time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Coffee Mornings	Saturday 21st February 2015 Saturday 28th February 2015 Saturday 7th March 2015 10 am—12 noon	Focal Point Hut, Cameron Road

CHESHAM HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY CALENDAR DATES

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date and time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Sale of seed potatoes and onion sets	Saturday 21st February 2015 Saturday 28th February 2015 Saturday 7th March 2015 10 am—12 noon	CHS Hut, Cameron Road
Social event	Wednesday 15th April 2015	McMinn Centre
Plant Sale	Saturday 16th May 2015	Trinity Baptist Church
Early Show	Saturday 4th July 2015	Trinity Baptist Church
Late Show	Saturday 5th September 2015	Trinity Baptist Church
AGM	Saturday 18th November 2015	Trinity Baptist Church

YOUR ALLOTMENTS GROUP AND REPRESENTATIVES

ALLEN TILBURY (Chairman) Plot 104 CR	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	VINCE CROMPTON (Representative) Plot 36 CR	BEVERLY MACKAY (Editor—The Grower) Plot 3B AR	JAMES BOLE (Representative) Plot 9A/B AR
VINCENT LUCAS (Representative) Plot 227D CR	KATE HUTCHINSON (Representative) Plot 58D CR	TIM ANDREW (Representative) Plot 48A CR	RUTH JUETT (Council)
PATRICIA CHERRILL (Council)	CR = CAMERON RD AR = ASHERIDGE ROAD		

How to Clean & Disinfect a Greenhouse—Part 2

Disinfecting the Greenhouse

Things You'll Need

- ◆ Razor blade (preferably in a scraper)
- ◆ Cloth or sponge and bucket
- ◆ Laundry or dish detergent (borate based)
- ◆ Household bleach

Instructions

- ◆ Clean the greenhouse and completely rid it of any plants, trees and pots. The chemicals you're going to be dealing with can harm any long term plants in residence. Remove any staging which may restrict access to the glass. Open any available windows and leave the doors open to air out the greenhouse. Allow circulation while you're dealing with chemicals.
- ◆ Use the razor blade to scrape any mould, dirt or other growths from the inside walls of the greenhouse. Be careful to scrape away any mould or suspicious growth; leaving anything behind can result in re-growth. Discard of the scrapings.
- ◆ Combine equal parts dish or laundry detergent with warm water to make a cleansing solution. Use a cloth, sponge or mop to clean the windows of your greenhouse. Leave the solution to dry on the glass.
- ◆ Mix a second solution of 1/4 cup bleach to 1 gallon of water in your bucket. Wash the panes of glass with the bleach solution to disinfect the greenhouse. Allow the solution to dry for 20 minutes, and then repeat with another disinfecting rinse Allow the second rinsing to dry for another 20 minutes.
- ◆ Mix a third solution, using 70 percent borate-based laundry or dish soap (check the label for borate) with 30 percent warm water. Use the sponge, cloth or mop to wash the greenhouse windows once again with this solution. Allow the solution to dry to prevent any future mould growth.

Steps to Prevent Disease Contamination

- ◆ Disinfect benches, preferably made of wire. Pots, flats and trays should be new or disinfected. Wood benches can be a source for root rot diseases and insect infestations. Algae growing on wood surfaces create an ideal environment for fungus gnats and shore flies. Plant pathogens such as *Pythium* can grow within the wood and plants rooting into the wood can become infected.
- ◆ Disinfect potting tables preferably made of a non-porous surface such as a laminate.
- ◆ Set up washing stations for hand washing and foot baths at the entrances of each greenhouse, especially propagation houses.
- ◆ Keeping hands and fingernails clean can help reduce the spread of diseases. If wearing latex or other protective gloves, clean as you would your hands and change periodically. Change the disinfectant daily in foot baths and wash floor mats weekly.
- ◆ Keep pets off of benches and potting areas.
- ◆ Provide supports throughout the greenhouse to hang hose nozzles. Keep all containers and hose nozzles off the floor to prevent contamination with pathogens.
- ◆ Keep growing media in a clean area and covered.
- ◆ Avoid carrying over plant material.
- ◆ Avoid accumulating dirty pots, old growing media or plant debris in the media mixing area.
- ◆ Make sure trash bins in the greenhouses are covered so that disease spores do not spread to the crop.
- ◆ Use horticultural oil on vegetation/weeds outside, around the greenhouse perimeter to smother over-wintering pests.

Lemony Leeks and Sprouts

This is how I always do my sprouts on Christmas Day. I think they are much tastier than plain boiled sprouts. I adapted the recipe from one I found in a magazine many years ago.

1lb/450g Brussels Sprouts

2 leeks—trimmed and sliced

2oz/50g butter

Juice of a lemon

Salt and pepper

1. Prepare sprouts
2. Cook in boiling salted water for five minutes then drain.
3. Heat butter in a large frying pan with the lemon juice.
4. Add the leeks and sprouts.
5. Fry gently until beginning to soften.
6. Season and serve.

You can garnish with lemon zest if you wish.

Allotment Holders Pre planting Exercises

Begin by standing on a comfortable surface, where you have plenty of room at each side.

With a 5lb potato bag in each hand, extend your arms straight out from your sides and hold them there as long as you can. Try to reach a full minute, and then relax.

Each day you'll find that you can hold this position for just a bit longer.

After a couple of weeks, move up to 10lb potato bags . Then try 20 lb potato bags and eventually try to get to where you can lift a 50lb potato bag in each hand and hold your arms straight for more than a full minute. (I'm at this level).

After you feel confident at that level, put a potato in each bag!!!

Sara Saunders



DISCOUNT REWARD SCHEME

The new discount reward cards will be valid from 1st March 2015 for 1 year. Both South Heath Nursery and JPS Stationers are offering a 10% discount to cardholders. The new cards are free 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.

WANTED!

Would you like to help on the Allotments Group? Please don't wait to be asked. We currently have 2 vacancies for willing and enthusiastic allotment holders.

1. Vice-Chairman—to support the Chairman in his role.
2. Coffee Morning Co-ordinator—to make a rota to ensure that people are serving tea/coffee and cakes throughout the summer.

For more information, please speak to Allen Tilbury (Chairman) or any Allotments Group representative.

Thank you!