

The Grower



Chesham Horticultural Society

I normally buy the tickets for Chelsea Flower Show at this time of year, but to my amazement all tickets have been sold.

I can't buy members' tickets nor public tickets.

What we have decided to do is buy two tickets for the RHS Hampton Court Palace Show on Saturday 13th July – this I have done.

So, if you would like to go into the draw for these tickets please let me know.

The draw will take place at the Social Evening at the McMinn Centre on Wednesday 17th April.

Please spread the word amongst our fellow members who are not on e-mail.

Look forward to hearing from you.

Regards
Mike Allenby

Coffee Mornings

Thank you to all of you who helped at and supported our three coffee mornings which were held during the Chesham Horticultural Society's annual potato sale at the hut. There was a delicious choice of home-made cakes available every week, giving everyone a reminder of the delights to look forward to during the warmer summer months. Despite the first coffee morning having a steady snowfall, it was still well attended by a hardy group of people, some of whom were then spotted digging their allotments in the snow. It is amazing how much



energy a good slice of home-made cake can give you! Regular coffee mornings are scheduled to recommence on 13th April 2013 .

Volunteers always welcome!

Fish and Chip Supper with Quiz Night

A full house of 88 Fish & Chip and quiz enthusiasts enjoyed the Fish and Chip evening at the Temperance Hall on 10th November 2012. Thanks to Phil Folly who prepared and executed the tantalising quiz. Noted thanks also to Nautica, in Amersham who provide the Fish & Chips and to everyone who brought along delicious puddings to share! Appreciation was expressed to Beverly Mackay (editor of the Grower), for overseeing the Raffle and handing out the generously donated 54 prizes to the valiant winners. The Chesham Allotments group extend their thanks to all who supported the event, and take this opportunity to announce the next Fish & Chip evening with quiz and raffle, which will take place on SATURDAY 20th APRIL 2013 at THE TEMPERANCE HALL. On the evening, there will also be a sale of craft items made by Yvonne Webster , with proceeds going to the McMinn Centre. Price per head is £6.50p.

Please book by completing the booking form at the end of this newsletter and enclosing monies.

Allen Tilbury - Chairman - Allotments Group

Composting Poster Competition

As part of **International Compost Awareness Week 6 – 12 May 2013** Master Composters are organising a free UK wide poster competition to promote composting.

The concept and images of the poster may be based on any aspect of home, allotment, school or community composting covering the composting process or the use of compost. When creating the poster, please remember that the winning posters will be published on national websites and may be reproduced to promote composting by different organisations.

All entries will be reviewed by the judges and the best three identified in each category:

1. Under 11 years of age
2. 11 -18 years of age
3. Adult

For full details of the competition, please go to the website carryoncomposting.com

Closing Date 8th May

A very big thank you from me to everyone who has contributed to this edition of The Grower. Without you, it wouldn't exist! . If anyone has any articles or suggestions for articles that they would like to see in the next edition, please email me at beverlymackay@virginmedia.com

I am always looking for hints and tips to share, such as Sara's brassica collars . Also, any good recipes using produce from the allotments will be much appreciated! I look forward to hearing from you. Finally, David, asks "who's he?" at the end of his fascinating article on Schrebergartens. I can answer that—he is the intrepid person spotted digging in the snow!

Beverly Mackay (Editor—The Grower)

A Handy Tip

Collars not Cuffs for my Brassicas!

I give my newly planted brassica plants collars!

I cut down white paper plates to around 10 cm diameter, make a slit to the middle of the plate and carefully place around each plant to protect them from cabbage root fly.

Cabbage root flies lay their eggs if there is a space where the stem meets the soil and the hatched maggots will eat and kill the plant.

Once my brassicas develop sturdier stems I remove the collars.

An added bonus is the white plates reflect the light back on to my growing seedlings from below and form a useful paper mulch stopping moisture evaporating close to the newly watered in plants.

I usually recycle a few paper plates from the Coffee Mornings so it costs me nothing too!

Sara Saunders



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Email: admin@chesham.gov.uk

LOCAL COMMUNITY EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

ALLOTMENTS GROUP		CHESHAM HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY	
13th April 2013	Coffee mornings re-commence at the Focal Point, every Saturday 10a.m. — 12 noon	Wednesday 17th April	Social evening at McMinn Centre
20th April 2013	Fish and Chip Supper with Quiz Night	Saturday July 6th	Early Summer Show

YOUR ALLOTMENT GROUP REPRESENTATIVES

ALLEN TILBURY (CHAIRMAN) Plot 104 CR	MARSHALL HALL (VICE CHAIR) Plot 47A/47B	JOHN SHARP (TREASURER) Plots 33 and 37A CR	YVONNE WEBSTER (SECRETARY - MINUTES) Plot 63A CR
ANDREW SINCLAIR (SECRETARY - CORRESPONDENCE) Plot 45B CR	JIM ABBOTT Plot 31/32 CR	CHRIS CHALLIS Plots 65A/66A/67A CR	VINCE CROMPTON Plot 36 CR
BEVERLY MACKAY Plot 3B AR	CLAIRE MALAN Plot 235A CR	SARA SAUNDERS Plot 84B CR	COLETTE LITTLE (COUNCIL)
PATRICIA CHERRILL (COUNCIL)		CR = CAMERON RD	AR = ASHERIDGE ROAD

What's in a name?

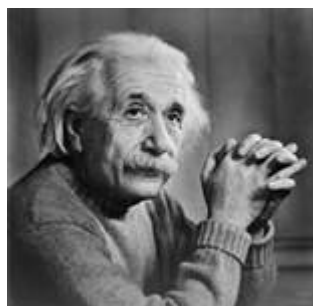
I'm guessing the name Daniel Gottlob Moritz Schreber (1808 – 1861) probably doesn't mean that much to the average allotment holder in Cameron Road? It certainly didn't to me until a visit to Berlin last October.

However, in Germany his name is synonymous with allotment gardening. Moritz Schreber, as he was more commonly known, was a German doctor and lecturer at Leipzig University. He was also a Director of the Sanatorium in that city and was particularly concerned with the problems caused by 'urbanisation'. He noticed the effects of people migrating 'en masse' to inner city areas and the effect it was having, particularly on children.

He wrote various publications on this issue and advocated the allocation of green spaces to residents living in such areas. Local authorities took note of his eminent writings and such spaces were provided. Originally these were intended as play areas for children, but when they became neglected the parents took great delight in cultivating them to grow flowers, fruit and vegetables. The latter becoming a necessity during and after the World Wars when food was scarce. By 1946 Berlin alone had over 200,000 'Schrebergartens' as they became affectionately known and today 4% of that city is still covered by allotments. In Germany overall there are an amazing total of 1.4 million allotments. Of course, as with many other continental allotment complexes 'Schrebergartens' are not just places to toil and grow crops. They have become areas in which city dwellers can relax, take to the sun and

generally socialise with neighbours over a few beers or a barbeque, etc; and hopefully where the children can be weaned away from their Play Stations.

However it is expected that the gardens are kept tidy by the tenants.



One famous allotment holder was **Albert Einstein** (I guess you've all heard of him?) who had a small allotment in Berlin-Spandau. Although he was fully involved with the garden community, his time spent theorising over relativity and other such trivia meant he somewhat neglected his garden which led to the proliferation of weeds, etc. In the end his local Allotments Association became ever more despairing of its appearance and it was in 1922 that the local authority was forced into taking action. Hence it was that in the same year that he received his Nobel Prize he was also served with a warning letter to put his garden in order prior to the 25th of the month or face the consequences.

David Page (who's he?)

Get making now for the CHS Early Summer Show!

The new Arts and Crafts section of the Chesham Horticultural Society Early Summer Show had some fantastic exhibits last year. Let's make it even better this year, so please think about what you can create for this year's show on Saturday July 6th.

The classes and their subjects are as follows: Photography - with a subject of "Shadows", size to be no more than 7x5 inches, taken within the last 12 months, no frame or mounts, either colour or black/white; Card-making - Subject to be "A Birthday", max.size A4; Handicrafts - any item made within the last twelve months includes but is not limited to, knitting, woodwork, crochet, pottery, sculpture, embroidery, and NEW this year, a set of three decorated cup cakes freshly made!; Painting/Drawing - any subject created within the last twelve months.

Get making now and good luck!
Yvonne Webster, Chair of CHS

Focal Point Library for Allotment Holders

To supplement the excellent *Chesham Allotments Induction Pack*, which is full of helpful information for allotment holders and to be found at www.cheshamallotments.org.uk, we now have a selection of books at the Focal Point.

Available Saturday Coffee Mornings to dip into whilst enjoying a natter, cup of coffee or tea and a slice of home made cake, or to 'try before you buy', books can also be borrowed on a week-to-week basis by allotment holders*. A selection of magazines and topical leaflets are also available. The book titles are:

Grow Your Own Vegetables Joy Larcom

The most recent edition of the classic guide to making the most of your vegetable plot. Includes information on manures, composts, fertilizers and growing information for over 100 vegetables and much more.

RHS Growing Fruit Harry Baker

A practical reference book with step by step illustrations and guide to fruit growing and pruning for conventional fruit and more exotic cultivars.

The Vegetable & Herb Expert Dr D G Hessayon

A straightforward guide to learn how, where and when to grow vegetables and herbs.

RHS Vegetable and Fruit Gardening Michael Pollock

The current edition with practical, step by step tried and trusted techniques and tips, with sections on seasonal tasks, yields, harvesting times, pests and diseases.

What's Wrong With My Vegetable Garden? Deardorff/Wadsworth

Photographs help identify specific problems, organic solutions are provided, and what is needed for plants to thrive and stay healthy.

*NB: Allotment holders can borrow one book for one week at a time. Books must be signed out to the Allotment Holder and signed back in to the Focal Point using the Duplicate Book provided, either by an Allotments Group Representative, or the nominated person(s) at the Focal Point Serverly. Thank you.

Sara Saunders

Fish & Chip Supper with Quiz, Saturday 20th April 2013, 7pm, Temperance Hall, Chesham

BOOKING REQUIRED FORPERSONS, COST £6.50 PER HEAD

I enclose payment for.....
 Name.....
 Address.....

 Tel. No.....

Please Indicate the number of meals required below :	
FISH.....	
SAUSAGES.....	
FISH CAKES.....	

Please bring your own drink; Wine, Beer, or non-alcoholic AND a dessert with a view to sharing.

There will be a raffle, so bring some extra cash.

Contact Vince Crompton or Allen Tilbury, 16 Hillside, Chesham (01494 782926) or hand your form / money to any Allotments Group Officer/Representative. Please make any cheques payable to Chesham Allotments Group. Thank you.
 This form may be photocopied.