

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 at all Chesham Allotments Group events, including the coffee mornings. Alternatively, please contact any member of the Chesham Allotments Group.



Chesham Town Council, Town Hall,
Chesham, HP5 1DS
Phone: 01494 774842. Fax: 01494

COFFEE MORNINGS

The first three coffee mornings of the season, linked the dates of the Chesham Horticultural Society Potato Sale days have now taken place. This year the weather was much improved on the previous year's snow, with the sun even putting in an appearance. All of the mornings were well supported, with the cake even running out on one of them (luckily everyone managed to get at least one slice first!) It was lovely to catch up with everyone and find out what the plans are for the coming season.

Regular coffee mornings are starting again on 5th April and we are sure they will continue to be a regular Saturday morning treat for many people. If you have never been to one, then why not make this the season to try it out. Where else in town can you get a hot drink and a delicious slice of home-made cake for just £1? Not to mention the fresh air and excellent company!

If you are able to help keep these mornings going in any way, either by helping to serve one Saturday or by baking an occasional cake, then please contact Ian MacEachern (email: maceachern@maceachernian6.orangehome.co.uk) He will be delighted to hear from you. Remember, many hands make light work!

For those of you who don't know Ian, here he is enjoying the array of cakes at the coffee morning in February.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

CHESHAM ALLOTMENTS GROUP CALENDAR DATES

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date and time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Coffee Mornings—bring your friends and family	Every Saturday 10 am—12 noon 5th April—18th October inclusive	Cameron Road Focal Point Hut (except 31st May & 16th August)
Coffee Mornings	Saturday 31st May & Saturday 16th August 10 am—12 noon	Asheridge Road Allotments—on the hard-standing area by the big gates
Fish and Chip Supper with Quiz and Raffle—£7.50 per head	Saturday 10th May @ 7pm	Temperance Hall, Church Street (booking form on back page)

CHESHAM HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY CALENDAR DATES

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date and time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Seed potato/onion/shallot/ Compost sales	Saturdays through April and May 10 am—11.30 am	Horticultural Hut Cameron Road
Annual Social Evening with re- freshments and raffle	Wednesday April 9th @ 7.30 pm	McMinn Centre, East Street
Blenheim Palace Garden Show	Saturday 21st June	Contact Molly on 01494 785989
Wisley Gardens	Saturday 26th July	Contact Molly on 01494 785989
CHS Plant Sale (fundraiser)	Saturday 17th May from 9 am	Trinity Baptist Church, Red Lion Street

CHESHAM IN BLOOM CALENDAR DATES

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date and time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Mother's Day—Children's Potted Plants and Gifts	Saturday 29th March 10 am—12 noon	Chesham Broadway
Fish and Chip Supper with Quiz and Raffle £8 per head Fundraiser for C.I.B. and Mayor's Charity (Dementia Café)	Saturday 12th April @ 7 pm	Contact Vince Crompton on 01494 782926
Plant Sale (fundraiser)	Saturday 24th May 10 am—2 pm	Market Stall

CHESHAM IN BLOOM

Chesham in Bloom is a small voluntary group who cares passionately about the Town's environment and strives to maintain clean, sustainable, and pleasant surroundings.

We are pleased to state that in 2012 and 2013 due to the efforts of our dedicated group and helpers, we entered the Town in the Thames and Chiltern in Bloom regional competition, and we won the Silver Gilt award and also the award for the Best Large Town category on both occasions.

We have a full diary of events for 2014, and request that you join us to retain our Best Large Town award in the Thames and Chiltern in Bloom competition, and improve our Silver Gilt status.

You can help support Chesham in Bloom by entering our Photographic Competitions. You also have the opportunity to enter your Front Gardens in the Spring and Summer Competitions.

Did you know, that you can volunteer for as little as two hours throughout the calendar year to weed the High Street, dead head plants and water bedding plants within the Town Centre.

The Chesham in Bloom Fish and Chip Supper with quiz and raffle is on the 12th April, and part of the funds raised will be donated to the Mayor's charity (Dementia Cafe). Tickets cost £8.00p per head.

Our Plant Sale will be held on the 24th May. Could you please help by donating spare plants and seedlings.

On 29th March, children will be given the opportunity to pot up plants for Mother's Day in a shop premises in the Broadway.

We would love to hear from you, please contact [www.chesham.gov.uk/Chesham in Bloom.aspx](http://www.chesham.gov.uk/Chesham%20in%20Bloom.aspx) or cibpublicity@hotmail.co.uk or Kathryn Graves 583798 or e-mail policy@chesham.gov.uk or Vince Crompton 782926 or vincencrompton@btinternet.com

We invite you to become a member at a cost of just £1.00p. Please show your support by joining Chesham in Bloom at your earliest convenience.

Vince Crompton (Chairman – Chesham in Bloom)

CHESHAM HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY EVENTS

The annual CHS Plant Sale is on Saturday May 17th from 09:30 - 12:00 outside the Trinity Baptist Church in Red Lion Street. Please support the society - come along and stock up on those flower and vegetable plants that you did not get around to growing yourself! If you have any spare plants to donate to the sale then bring them down on the morning of the sale.

Now is the time to be thinking about what you are going to exhibit at the CHS Early Show on Saturday July 5th. Schedules will be available from Yvonne Webster (yonwebster@gmail.com) in early June, in the meantime you could also be creating your entry for the Arts and Crafts section of the show. Categories this year are:

Photography: the subject is 'Weather', photos taken within the last 12 months, no frames or mounts, either colour or black and white. Max size 7" x 5".

Card making: the subject is 'Anniversary' Max size A4. Created within the last 12 months.

Handicrafts: any item made within the last 12 months. Includes but is not limited to knitting, woodwork, crochet, pottery, sculpture, embroidery.

Painting/Drawing: any subject created within the last 12 months.

Please note that the whole of the Early Summer Show is an Open Show and is not limited to Society members.

Yvonne Webster

THE BIG ALLOTMENT CHALLENGE

Would you like to take part in a new primetime television show on BBC2? Silver River Productions are currently making a new show called the Big Allotment Challenge and are looking for keen amateur gardeners to take part.. They will transform a plot of earth into a patch of beauty and reveal all the wonderful possibilities that can be unlocked from allotment growing! It couldn't be easier to apply; all you need to do is email grow@silverriver.tv for an application form. It would be brilliant to see someone from Chesham crowned the champion of The Big Allotment Challenge!

YOUR ALLOTMENTS GROUP AND 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 223A 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

HOW TO CURE DAFFODILS FOR RE-PLANTING

1. **Allow the blossom and the leaves to completely fade on their own.** Avoid cutting them back until they are completely withered. This will usually take about six weeks. Even though it might look scraggly, the foliage collects the sun's energy through photosynthesis and pumps it down into the bulb so it can grow next year. If you want, you can cut the spent flower early, but be sure to leave the stem intact.
2. **Snip off the blossom (if you haven't done so already) and the withered leaves right at the soil line.** If you're going to leave them in the ground, that's all you need to do. Normal watering of the garden and winter rains will not bring them up to bud until they are "ready". That's it. If your preference is to bring them up for over-summer storage, proceed to the next step.
3. **Dig deep into the soil several inches away from where the bulb is located.** Try to bring the bulb up with one clean spade full of soil and the bulb. Use care not to damage the bulb. Handle them gently, because bruising them will cause them to rot.
4. **Clean off the bulb by brushing excess soil away with your fingers.** Any bulbs that are clumped together will probably separate on their own as you brush off the dirt. Leave the ones that are firmly attached to the mother bulb as is. Remove any "caked-on" moist soil that is clinging to the bulb.
5. **Examine the bulbs for any signs of rot, deterioration or damage that may have been caused by nibbling critters.** Discard bulbs that do not appear to be healthy.
6. **Set the bulb aside in open air for a short period of time (usually about an hour) until the last bit of soil has dried.** Then, with a brush or a towel or rag, remove any additional clinging soil.
7. **Loosely place the bulbs into a well-ventilated bag.** A mesh onion bag or the leg cut from a pair of nylon stockings works very well. Inexpensive tulle from a fabric store can be used to fashion a bag, too. Close up the opening of the bag with twine or string, leaving enough excess to form a loop for hanging. You can also rest them on an old window screen set on two boxes or sawhorses so that air can flow underneath them.
8. **Hang the bulb-filled bag in an area that will not be exposed to direct sunlight, heat or dampness.** Far corners (away from the door) of the garage are fine, but avoid placing the bag near a water heater or laundry appliances. Generally, a shady spot with good air circulation is good.
9. **Allow the bulbs to cure.** If you're using a bag and you've hung it indoors, you can simply leave them alone until you're ready to do autumn planting. If you used a window screen or if you left your bulbs outside, bring them in and put them in a paper bag for storage in a dark, cool, well-ventilated spot.
10. **Examine the bulbs again before replanting them.** Look for any signs of rot or mildew and discard them if they do not appear healthy. Plant the remaining bulbs and wait for them to bloom in the Spring.



Marshall Hall

Fish & Chip Supper with Quiz, Saturday 10th May 2014, 7pm, Temperance Hall, Chesham

BOOKING REQUIRED FORPERSONS, COST £7.50 PER HEAD

I enclose payment for.....

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Tel. No.....

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.

Please Indicate the number of meals required below :

FISH.....	
SAUSAGES.....	
FISH CAKES.....	

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.