

The Grower



EARLY COFFEE MORNING SUCCESS



The first 3 coffee mornings of the year which coincided with The Chesham Horticultural Society's potato and onion sales were very successful. Many people turned out despite the chilly weather. It was good to renew old acquaintances after the winter break, make new acquaintances, and of course to sample the deli-

cious homemade cakes. For a while the sun even shone too! We look forward to seeing everyone again when the summer season of coffee mornings gets under way from Saturday 11th April. We hope to welcome you all there! The price has been kept at £1 for a drink and a slice of cake. What a bargain!

CHESHAM HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The photo on the right taken by Chris Spruytenburg shows Mike Allenby, Albert Braithwaite, Adrian Norris, Lesley Mountain and Brian Beningfield during a lull in the sale of seed potatoes etc on 28 February.

The three dedicated sales days went well with most of the stock sold.

At this time we have quite a few seed potatoes, onions and shallots still to sell as we bought more than we had last year.

The Trading Hut on Plot 3 Cameron Road is open on Saturdays through to the end of May from 10 – 11.30. The exception to this will be 16 May when it is our Plant Sale at Trinity Baptist Church.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

CHESHAM ALLOTMENTS GROUP CALENDAR DATES

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date and time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Coffee Mornings Begin	Saturday 11th April 2015 10 am—12 noon	Focal Point Hut, Cameron Road
Fish and Chip Supper with Quiz	Saturday 30th May 2015 7pm	Trinity Baptist Church PLEASE NOTE NEW VENUE!

CHESHAM HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY CALENDAR DATES

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date and time</u>	<u>Location</u>
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

CHESHAM IN BLOOM CALENDAR DATES

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date and time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Fish & Chip Supper with Quiz Night	Saturday 18th April 2015 £8 per person	Douglas McMinn Centre- Contact Vincent Crompton, Kathryn Graves or Mo Fay- yaz for more info
Wild Seed Planting	Saturday 25th April 2015 11:00 hrs	Chesham Moor Gym & Swim
Litter Picking—Volunteers required please	Saturday May 2nd 2015 11:00 hrs	Market Square
Plant Sale—plant donations welcome	Saturday 23rd May 10:00—14:00 hrs	Chesham High Street
Photo Competition Closing date	Monday 1st June	Email or deliver to Town Hall
Tidy and litter picking	4th, 16th, 18th & 25th June 2015 17:00—19:00 hrs	Market Square

What is your Favourite Gardening Book?

Every year around this time I find my gardening bug waking up. The shoots of snowdrops and crocuses suddenly inspire me to throw off the winter slough and I get all excited about gardening and my allotment again. As I am much better at reading about other people gardening than I am actually doing the garden or tending the allotment myself, the first thing I do is turn to a number of old friends on the bookshelves.

The book that made me want an allotment to start with is *Urban Gardener* by Elspeth Thompson.

It is based on a regular article slot she had in the *Sunday Telegraph* back in the nineties and documents creating a tiny back garden and taking on an allotment. I always like to read tales of people making mistakes (comforting to know you're not alone) and there are plenty in here.

Slugs, cats and high water tables all appear as pests and when she documents the sheer effort of keeping on top of it all in high summer, it is all too familiar!

A Handful Of Earth by Barney Bardsley is sort of a diary about tending a garden and allotment but much more about how she was helped by the restorative powers of nature following her husband's death after a long fight with cancer. Very few of us now grow food out of necessity and she has a thoughtful and insightful take on how plants are important to us.

The next one to fall off the shelf is similar in idea and form but very different in style. *Allotted Time* (subtitled *Two Blokes, One Shed, No Idea - a great summing up*) by Robin Shelton is the story of two men, both to a greater or lesser extent depressed and broke, who on the spur of the moment take over an allotment in their village. An amusing and blokish read, it nevertheless reflects how working with nature and the process of growing food can contribute hugely to someone's welfare. They both end the year in a much better place mentally and even with some food to eat!

I would love to know other people's recommendations for good gardening books to read.

Kate Hutchinson

Don't forget, we have a small library of gardening books and magazines at the Focal Point Hut. These can be signed out and borrowed by allotment holders when the Focal Point Hut is open.

YOUR ALLOTMENTS GROUP AND REPRESENTATIVES

ALLEN TILBURY (Chairman) Plot 104 CR	TIM ANDREW Vice Chairman) Plot 48A 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	RUTH JUETT (Council)
PATRICIA CHERRILL (Council)	CR = CAMERON RD AR = ASHERIDGE ROAD		

HAPPY RETIREMENT!

Expect to see much more of Allotments Group Member Jim Abbott down on the plot now that he has retired from his job as a postman. This poem written for him by a lady on his round shows how much he will be missed!

First Class Male!

*Come the snow in Winter
Come the driving rain
Heatwave, storm or pestilence
Through it all he came!
Regular as clockwork -
We could set our clock by him
He'd be there to the letter
Our Faithful 'Postie' Jim!
He always makes it to our door
Along each path and hill
Just to bring a birthday card
Parcel or gas bill!*

*Dodging the recycling bins
And keeping off the grass
It was all in the delivery -
He really was first class!
Facing dogs and weather
His safety was at risk
But cur or hail we'd get our mail -
And we were never missed!
But now he's off and leaving us
And closing up his sack
But we'll stamp him 'Return to Sender'
So we can get him back!!*

Sheila Webb
(Thank you Jim for always delivering with a smile)



Chesham Town Council
Chesham Town Council, Town Hall, Chesham, HP5 1DS
Phone: 01494 774842. Fax: 01494 582908
Email: admin@chesham.gov.uk

Fish & Chip Supper with Quiz, Saturday 30th May 2015, 7pm, Trinity Baptist Church, Chesham

**BOOKING REQUIRED FOR PERSONS,
COST £7.50 PER HEAD**

I enclose payment for.....
Name.....
Address.....
.....
Tel. No.....

Contact Kate Hutchinson on 01494 256325 or Allen Tilbury on 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.

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	
VEGETARIAN	