

The Grower



Newsletter

REMINDER ALLOTMENT RENTS

Allotment rents are now due to be paid. Please pay your rent for 2013/2014 at the Town Hall. Many thanks
Mr. W Richards
Town Clerk

COFFEE MORNINGS

The last coffee morning of the season was held on the sunny morning of October 12th. Each week was well attended, whatever the weather and all monies raised will go towards Allotment funds. Special thanks go to everyone who gave up their Saturday mornings to serve us and to all those who donated cakes. Finally, many thanks to Chris Challis, who once again expertly co-ordinated the rota of helpers.

We look forward to seeing you all again in 2014!

Annual General Meeting 2013

This year's Annual General Meeting took place at Chesham Town Hall on September 12th. The full minutes of the AGM and the chairman's report will be placed on our website.

ALLOTMENT JUDGING RESULTS

Allotments were judged on 19th June and 7th August 2013.

We thought that the allotments were generally of a high standard, but not so good as last year no doubt due to the earlier prolonged cold weather and then the intense heat for two weeks in July. As last year, we were disappointed that only 8 of the 44 new tenant plots were worth judging when we first looked in June.

The results are:

Cameron Road large plots

1 st	Vince Crompton	173 points (out of 200)
2 nd	Marshall Hall	167 points
3 rd	Mr J Pedder	151 points

Asheridge Road/Bellingdon Road large plots

1 st	Arthur Shipp	163 points (out of 200)
2 nd	Mr G Rogers	144 points

Other large plots were either ineligible as previous winners or not sufficiently meritorious to provide competition.

Small plots

1 st	John Newman	160 points (out of 200)
2 nd	Mr I Worsfold	159 points
3 rd	Mrs M MacEachern	151 points

New Tenants

1 st	Ms B Sabatine	80 points (out of 100)
2 nd	Mr I Patterson	72 points
3 rd	Mrs Walters	66 points

M J Allenby (Secretary and lead Judge) 9th August 2013

Our thanks go to Mike and his team of judges, Brian Beningfield and Leslie Mountain, who continue to turn out year after year, sometimes in difficult weather conditions to judge the plots. At least on the 2 occasions they turned out this year, the weather was kind to them.

The trophies were presented by Town Mayor, Mark Shaw at the Annual General Meeting held at the Town Hall on 12th September. Congratulations to all the winners.

ALLOTMENTS OPEN DAY 2013

On August 10th 2013, this year's Allotment Open Day was held at Cameron Road. This date is significant because it falls within the National Allotment Week period. Yet again, the day was a huge success.

This season on the allotment produced different challenges to last year, with a wet spring followed by a hot dry spell in the summer. However, our allotment holders once again rose to the occasion, donating a huge variety of produce which was on display in the marquee for the visitors. For a small donation, people had the chance to take some freshly picked produce home and to be able to taste the difference that freshness makes.

The proceedings were officially opened by the current Town Mayor – Mark Shaw, who was joined on the day by his wife Mary. Other town councillors were also in attendance. Special thanks need to go to the Mayor and his wife as it was their Wedding Anniversary! Loraine Faulkner used allotment grown flowers to produce a beautiful bunch of flowers which was presented to Mary.

The marquee and gazebo again proved their worth. They were beautifully decorated with Vince's never-ending supply of hanging baskets and also with strings of onions and elephant garlic! The selection of top-quality home-made cakes was fantastic to

see and delicious to eat! Thanks go to all those who ran the refreshments during the day and to Marshall Hall for operating the newly purchased generator to maintain constant hot water during the day.

Claire Malan ran a very successful raffle. Thanks go to everyone who generously donated the excellent prizes.

Phil Folly's scavenger hunt kept the children entertained and happy with their lovely prizes; the sun also played its part to help create a great show on the day.

Chairman Allen Tilbury would like to thank all those who put in such a spirited effort through Friday and Saturday to ensure our Open Day was such a success again.



LOCAL COMMUNITY EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

ALLOTMENTS GROUP		CHESHAM HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY	
Sat 16th November	Fish and Chip Supper / Quiz Night 7.00 pm Temperance Hall, Chesham (For Booking Form, please see page 4)	Wednesday 20th November	CHS Annual General Meeting, 7.30pm at Trinity Baptist Church

SALE OF SEED POTATOES, ONIONS, ETC. We have been advised by Chesham Horticultural Society that there will be 3 dates for the hut to be open in 2014. They will be around the end of February and beginning of March.

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 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

OPEN DAY 2013



CHANGES TO THE ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE

You will note that there have been a few changes to the Allotments Group Committee shown on page 2 and confirmed at this year's Annual General meeting held on September 12th. Allen Tilbury was once again elected as Chairman and Marshall Hall was duly elected as Vice-chairman. Ray Williams was elected as the new Treasurer. He replaces John Sharp who has sadly left the group and moved to Scotland! Andrew Sinclair was re-elected as Correspondence Secretary and Yvonne Webster remains as Minutes Secretary.

James Bole was elected as Representative for the Asheridge/Bellingdon Road site and will support Beverly Mackay, who was also re-elected as representative for Asheridge Road/Bellingdon Road. Beverly is also the editor of the allotments newsletter - The Grower. Vincent Lucas joins the group as representative for Cameron Road North Side and will support Claire Malan, who was re-elected as representative for the same site.

Joan Sims has agreed to join the Allotments Group and produce advertising and events notices. Her graphic design tech-

nique will be useful. Jan has stepped in to replace Sara Saunders who for 4 years valiantly produced our notices to advertise on the site gates at Asheridge Road and Cameron Road. Ian MacEachern has also agreed to join the group as our new coffee morning co-ordinator, replacing Chris Challis who has kept our popular coffee mornings running like clockwork. Both Sara and Chris are continuing with their allotment activities and we look forward to seeing them both at our social events. The committee would like to thank them both for all their work for the group and the allotment holders.

All other existing committee members remain and this was agreed by the meeting. Patricia Cherrill and Colette Lilley remain as our Town Council representatives.

A healthy group relies on changes to personnel. New members generate new ideas and that can only be good for allotment holders. I am sure you will join me in wishing the group well for the new season.

Allen Tilbury

ALLOTMENTS SECURITY

In the past, if you have been alone on the allotment, you were able to leave the gate unlocked. However, there have been times recently where other members of the public have followed allotment holders onto the site and some incidents have been reported. In light of this we would ask that you always lock the gate behind you on entering the allotments and when you leave. The exception to this is of course when we are having coffee mornings and other events which many people are attending, including non-allotment holders. It is always worth having your mobile phone with you in case you wish to report any suspicious behaviour to the police or have an accident yourself.

CHESHAM COOKBOOK

The Chesham Allotments Group is pleased to announce that a special recipe book including contributions from the Chesham allotment holders is now on sale at the Chesham Museum. The book is a collection of favourite recipes provided by local Chesham people and there are delicious meal ideas that will satisfy a wide range of tastes. The book includes favourites from the museum's dedicated band of volunteers, food inspired from the Chesham allotments, world cuisine, and recipes from the Lowndes Estate. It is a truly local recipe book that will bring a taste of Chesham to your dinner table- an ideal Christmas present and on sale in the museum shop at £6.

CHESHAM IN BLOOM

Our heartfelt congratulations go to the Chesham in Bloom team. This year they have again won two categories in the Thames and Chiltern Regional area of the Britain in Bloom contest. Firstly they maintained the standard set in previous years by winning a Silver Gilt award again, but not content with that, Chesham was also named overall winner in the large town category for the second year running, receiving an engraved glass bowl. This year the awards ceremony was held in Reading on September 18th and Town Mayor Mark Shaw and Chesham in Bloom Chairman Vince Crompton accepted the awards on behalf of the town from the Mayor of Reading. They were joined at the ceremony by Rachel Watts, Vice-chair of Chesham in Bloom and Phil Folly, who has worked tirelessly with the Chesham Environmental Group to keep the town looking good. Also, congratulations to Elm Tree School who again received a Highly Commended certificate in the Mark

Mattock Regional Schools Competition.

Thanks go to all the allotment holders who made sure their plots were tidy when the Britain in Bloom judges visited on July 9th. They were particularly impressed again with the wild-flower meadow that Loraine and Larry Faulkner created.

On a technical note, the Royal Horticultural Society's definition of a Silver Gilt is as follows. "A high standard entry that meets the judging criteria and objectives of Britain in Bloom, including sections of exceptionally high standard. Generally meets sustainable and quality thresholds, but these may not be entirely consistent throughout the area. Offers potential to be a future Gold Medal winner in the future."

Best wishes to the Chesham in Bloom team for 2014!

PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE AND PRICE INCREASES

We were informed earlier this year by the Town Council that events organised by the group on the allotment sites are not covered by the Town Council's Public Liability Insurance. To help offset this necessary annual expense, our Treasurer Ray Williams put forward 2 proposals at the AGM which were discussed and agreed for implementation.

- 1) To increase the price charged for tea/coffee and a piece of home-made cake at coffee mornings to £1, to be implemented from February 2014. We have to be mindful that the current 50p charge has not changed since the coffee mornings began in the Spring of 2007.
- 2) A nominal charge of £1 to be levied against the Discount/Reward Card from February 2014. The annual printing costs of the card is £38.

COFFEE IN THE RAIN!

This photo shows just how hardy we allotment holders can be! Taken at what turned out to be a very successful coffee morning at Asheridge Road, the rain failed to suppress anyone's appetite for the array of cakes on offer. Two of our coffee mornings each year are held at the Asheridge Road site. We hope for sunshine at them in 2014!




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

Fish & Chip Supper with Quiz, Saturday 16th November 2013, 7pm, Temperance Hall, Chesham

BOOKING REQUIRED FORPERSONS, COST £7.50 PER HEAD

I enclose payment for.....

Name.....

Address.....

.....
 Tel. No.....

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.

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.....	