

October 2014

Visit our website: <http://www.cheshamallotments.org.uk>

The Grower



Newsletter

ALLOTMENT JUDGING RESULTS

The allotments were judged on 11th June and 6th August 2014. The Judges, led by Mike Allenby from the Chesham Horticultural Society, thought the allotments were generally of a high standard, especially at the August judging after the extreme heat of July.

The results are:

Cameron Road large plots

1st Derek Chandler	Plots 84A & 85
2nd Jim Abbott	Plots 31 & 32
3rd Marshall Hall	Plots 47A & 47B

Asheridge Road/ Bellingdon Road large plots

1st Brian Shrieve	Plot 27
2nd Ken Hughes	Plot 22

Small Plots

1st Ms B Sabatine	Plot 26A, Bellingdon Road
2nd Mr I Patterson	Plot 29B, Bellingdon Road
3rd Mrs G Payne	Plot 81A Cameron Road

New Tenants

1st Ms A Godden	Plot 219B, Cameron Road
2nd Mr J Benfield	Plot 235B Cameron Road
3rd Mr K Bignell	Plot 33B, Cameron Road



FISH & CHIP SUPPER / QUIZ NIGHT

Our next Fish & Chip Supper/Quiz night will be held on Saturday 29th November at 7pm in the Temperance Hall - Tickets cost £7.50 each. The booking form is on the back of this issue of The Grower.

The winners are pictured receiving their trophies from the Town Mayor, Cllr Mo Fayyaz, at the AGM

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

CHESHAM ALLOTMENTS GROUP CALENDAR DATES

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date and time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Fish & Chip Supper with Quiz Night & Raffle	Saturday 29th November, 7pm	Temperance Hall

CHESHAM HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY CALENDAR DATES

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date and time</u>	<u>Location</u>
AGM	Wednesday 19th November, 7.30 p.m.	Trinity Baptist Church

BRITAIN IN BLOOM—NATIONAL COMPETITION

Part of the Royal Horticultural judge's tour of Chesham included the Cameron Road site. The judges were very complimentary as to the general appearance of the allotments and also commented on the community spirit engendered by the developed site of the Focal Point. They also expressed very favourable comments when they looked around the Focal Point garden - designed, landscaped and maintained by Loraine and Larry Faulkner.

The highlight of the Cameron Road site are the Wild Flower beds that Loraine and Larry prepared and sowed with wild flower seeds for the 3rd year. The judges took their time in viewing the varied and colourful flowers that were in full bloom. The Allotments Group also say a big thank you to the allotment holders who made a special effort to present their well cultivated plots in a tidy manner and to keep the communal paths well-trimmed.

We are delighted to announce that having received Silver Gilt for the past 2 years, this year Chesham have received the prestigious **Gold Award**. We have also been awarded the **Best Large Town** in the Thames and Chiltern Area again!



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– correspon- dence) 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			

CHESHAM HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY LATE SUMMER SHOW

Allotment holders were well represented as Silverware Trophy Winners at the CHS Late Summer Show on Saturday 6th September 2014.

Lorraine Faulkner won 2 trophies for her floral displays and floral art.

Dawn Spinks won a trophy for her culinary delights in the Domestic Section.

Albert Braithwaite won a shield and a medal for his entries in the Dahlia Section.

Vincent Crompton won 6 Trophies, including best exhibit in show (orchid), most entries across fruit, vegetables, and flowers and overall top scorer.



EXTRACT FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE AGM

I take this opportunity to thank the Allotments Group members for their valued team effort in supporting allotment holders with the preparation and presentation of the social events over the last 12 months. Two Fish and Chip suppers with Quiz at the Temperance Hall November 2013 and April 2014, The Cheese and Wine evening in July at the Focal Point and the Allotments Open Day in August were a particular success for all concerned. Over 80 people visited the Open Day. The Allotments Group expresses their thanks for the donated produce from a number of allotment holders. Thanks also to the Town Mayor, Cllr Mohammad Fayyaz, for opening the Open Day proceedings and also in attendance was his wife. Phil Folley also needs a special note of thanks for planning and coordinating the eager group of children following an adventure trail on the allotments.

The Coffee mornings are very well supported by allotment holders and their families and friends, and especially the children. The season started in April and finishes in October 2014. I remind all plot holders that the social gatherings are for all allotment holders and friends from Cameron Road and Asheridge Road, and the Allotments Group appreciate your continued support. A special thanks is noted for the plot holders who regularly make cakes and also help out on the Coffee morning rota for the Saturday coffee mornings.

The Allotments Group also benefit from the very active and supporting community spirit with other horticultural groups in the Town, the Chesham Horticultural Society and the Chesham in Bloom Committee (Vince Crompton is Chairperson of Chesham in Bloom). It is worthy of note that Allotment Group members Yvonne, Jim, Vince and myself are currently members of the Chesham Horticultural Society. I also express sincere thanks to Bob Ayres - Parks and Premises Manager and his team for the support given to the allotment sites, Cameron Road and Asheridge Road, over the last 12 months. The Allotments Group acknowledge the valued support of the Recreation and Arts Committee chaired by Councillor Derek Lacey and also the Chesham Town Councillors seconded to the Allotments Group, Councillors Ruth Juett and Patricia Cherrill. Special thanks to Bill Richards, Town Clerk, for his continued support and valued advice. Our thanks are also extended to Maria McGwynn and Sue Moffit at The Town Hall office for their support of the Allotments Group for printing and sending out The Grower newsletter, and administration of the allotment sites, and also Kathryn Graves supporting us with Risk Assessments.

I close the evening by acknowledging the valiant effort of the allotment holders in the maintenance and cultivation of their plots and there has been a sustained improvement over the last few years. I hope you have had a successful season, and wish you continued success for the foreseeable future.

Date of Next Annual General Meeting Thursday, 10th September 2015

How to Clean & Disinfect a Greenhouse—Part 1

Because we've had a very mild autumn this year many of us with greenhouses are taking advantage of the weather to "winterise" them in preparation for an early start next spring. Greenhouses are a very valuable tool to anyone trying to get an early start on their growing season. But the humidity and warmth inside a greenhouse can lead to moulds and rotting. This mould can be unsightly, unhealthy and dangerous to plants. If you find mould growing in your greenhouse, it's important to take care of it right away by cleaning and disinfecting the greenhouse.

Some growers wait until the week before opening a greenhouse before cleaning debris from the previous growing season. It is better to clean as early as possible to eliminate over-wintering sites for pests to reduce their populations prior to the spring growing season. Pests are much easier to prevent than to cure. Although disinfecting should be done routinely, timing does not always permit this extra effort. Take the opportunity to thoroughly clean greenhouses between crop cycles when greenhouses are totally empty.

Cleaning

Cleaning involves physically removing weeds, debris and soil and is the first step prior to disinfecting a greenhouse and equipment. Some growers use a "Shop Vac" on concrete and covered floors to remove debris. Soil and organic residues from plants and growing media reduce the effectiveness of disinfectants. There are some cleaners specifically developed for greenhouse use, for example Strip-It, that is a combination of cleaning and wetting agents formulated to remove algae, dirt and hard water deposits. High pressure power washing with soap and water is also an option. Soap is especially useful in removing greasy deposits however, thorough rinsing is needed because soap residues can inactivate certain disinfectants such as the Q-salts.

Begin at the top and work your way down. Sweep down walls and internal structures and clean the floor of soil, organic matter and weeds. Disease causing organisms can be lodged on rafters, window ledges, tops of overhead piping and folds in plastic. Extra care is needed to clean these areas and also textured surfaces such as concrete and wood which can hide many kinds of organisms.

Install physical weed mat barriers if floors are bare dirt or gravel and repair existing mats. Weed barriers prevent weeds and make it easier to manage algae. Avoid using stone on top of the weed mat that will trap soil and moisture, creating an ideal environment for weeds, diseases, insects and algae.

Marshall Hall

Fish & Chip Supper with Quiz, Saturday 29th November 2014, 7pm, Temperance Hall, Chesham

BOOKING REQUIRED FORPERSONS, 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.....	