

The GROWER

December 2016

www.cheshamallotments.org.uk

Email your articles, ideas or news to thegrowernewsletter@gmail.com

MERRY



CHRISTMAS!

Wishing all allotment holders Seasons Greetings and A Happy and Prosperous New Year

Fish & Chip Supper/Quiz Night

The November Fish and Chip Supper / Quiz Night was amazing well attended, with 99 people turning up to exercise their brains and fill their stomachs! The fish and chips (or alternatives) went down a treat and then the quiz started.

After the first two rounds we had a break for a delicious selection of deserts and the raffle. The final two rounds and the sheets of cryptic questions and cartoon double act picture quiz completed a very close-run contest, with Marshall's Deputies taking the winner's spot, leaving Marshall in the awkward position of presenting the prize to himself!

The evening made an amazing £450 for the Allotments Group funds. £171 came from the raffle alone so huge thanks to those who contributed the prizes and to our youngest allotment holder, Nastasha MacBean and her sister, who worked hard selling tickets.

Many thanks to everyone who contributed all those delicious puddings. Also thanks to the tribe of helpers who set up the tables and rose to the task of working out how to squeeze so many people in. Most importantly the evening could not have happened without Beverly Mackay taking her first turn in the quizmaster's role and doing an excellent job with brain-teasing questions. Thank you Beverly!



Get the most from your roast....potatoes!

I think we all know that one of the main stars, if not the star, of the Christmas Dinner is the roast potato. The turkey you can live without (well, we have for 30 years and survived), but without a crunchy roast potato, your cracker would lose it's bang and the dinner would be as soggy as a sprout started a week last Tuesday.

There are two ways to go with roast potatoes. The first is my 'every day' version which requires no par-boiling. Simply cut the potatoes into walnut sized pieces, dry with a tea-towel and place straight in the hot oil in the roasting tin. I don't even bother peeling them. Cook 210C or Gas 7 for about 40mins. Sprinkle with a little salt. This works for new potatoes too.

The second way, which is more appropriate for a festive day, involves par-boiling. Do this an hour or more ahead of when they need to go in the oven. Even the night before is okay. Peel some floury potatoes, cut to the size you want, then place in cold salted water and bring to the boil. Simmer for 5 mins. Drain and leave to cool in the strainer. When cold and dry (doesn't that sound appealing?), shake the strainer to rough up the edges of the spuds.

When ready to cook, preheat oven to Gas 6/200C with a tin with a good layer of sunflower oil or rapeseed oil (or goose fat if your guests warrant the expense). Season potatoes with salt and pepper, place in the hot fat and cook for 45mins or until crispy crunchy.

Possibly not for the Christmas dinner as there is so much else going on, but woody herbs like rosemary, thyme and sage give an extra oomph to roast potatoes. Make sure they get coated in fat too so they don't burn. Flavoured rapeseed oils are now widely available and they also are a good choice to use. Garlic and oak-smoked are my favourites.

CHESHAM ALLOTMENTS GROUP CALENDAR

EVENT	DATE & TIME	LOCATION
Coffee mornings	Saturday 10am –12pm They will resume in 2017 for the Chesham Horticultural Society Potato days 18th & 25th Feb and 3rd March	Focal Point Hut, Cameron Road

CHESHAM HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY DATES

EVENT	DATE & TIME	LOCATION
Potato Sales	Saturday mornings 18th & 25th Feb and 3rd March 2016	Sales Hut (1st gate Cameron Road)

DISCOUNT REWARD CARD SCHEME

The new discount reward cards will be valid from 1st March 2017 for 1 year. Both South Heath Nursery and JPS Stationers are offering a 10% discount to cardholders. The new cards are free and will be available in the first instance at the CHS potato sales in February and March. If you are not able to get your card on any of those mornings, they will also be available at all Chesham Allotments Group events.

Why does Father Christmas want to work at his allotment?

Because he likes to hoe, hoe, hoe!



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CHESHAM ALLOTMENTS GROUP REPRESENTATIVES

MARSHALL HALL (Chairman) Plot 47A/47B CR	TIM ANDREW (Vice Chair) Plot 48A CR	RAY WILLIAMS (Treasurer) Plots 215/216 CR	BEVERLY MACKAY (Representative) Plot 3B AR
ANDREW SINCLAIR (Correspondence Secretary) Plot 45B CR	JIM ABBOTT (Representative) Plot 31/32 CR	DAVE HALL (Representative) Plot 12 CR	TONY MUIR (Representative) Plot 28 AR
VINCENT LUCAS (Representative) Plot 227D CR	KATE HUTCHINSON (Editor—The Grower) Plot 58D/80A CR	COLIN WILSON (Representative) Plot 220B CR	
JANE MACBEAN Town Council Representative	CR = CAMERON ROAD AR = ASHERIDGE ROAD		The representatives are here for you. Please do come and talk to us about any issues!

