

# The GROWER

October 2016

[www.cheshamallotments.org.uk](http://www.cheshamallotments.org.uk)

Email your articles, ideas or news to [thegrowernewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:thegrowernewsletter@gmail.com)

## *Report from THE AGM*

**Allen Tilbury** started the evening as Chairman welcoming Noel Brown, the Mayor, and Bill Richards, the Town Clerk, and giving his Chairman's report but, as he announced last year, then stepped down and did not stand for re-election. Marshall Hall was elected as the new Chairman. The Vice-Chair and the rest of the committee were re-elected, with the exception of Vince Crompton who also stood down, and a new committee member, Colin Wilson, was elected. The finances of Chesham Allotments Group are in good order through fundraising efforts of coffee mornings, the Open Day and the Fish & Chip Quiz nights, and the committee will consider how to use them to further benefit the allotments.



**Mike Allenby** from Chesham Horticultural Society, who with his colleagues, Brian Benningfield and Lesley Mountain, inspected the plots in June and August, announced the awards for the Best Kept Plot and Best Small Plot. The allotments were thought to have been of a generally high standard and they were pleased that the standard of new tenancies had improved since the previous year. However they were disappointed that only one large plot on Asheridge Road site was considered worthy of being judged.

The awards were presented by the Mayor. Vincent Crompton won Best Large Plot Cameron Road with 173 points out of 200, the highest score of the night. Mr G Rogers won Best Large Plot Asheridge Road. The Best Small Plot had a unusual result of having two joint winners, Mr I Patterson and Mr S Brooks, both scoring 149 points. And the Best New Tenant was Mr S Driscoll from Cameron Road.



**Bill Richards** spoke of Chesham allotments being on an upward curve. New fencing has been installed at Asheridge Road. Regular inspections four times a year have moved on failing tenants but there is a waiting list still on both sites. Bob Ayres, the Parks and Premises manager for many years has retired, and is to be replaced by Paul Isom.



*Allen receiving his vouchers*

### **Bill Richards, Noel Brown and Tim**

**Andrew**, the vice-chair, all paid tribute to Allen Tilbury and Vince Crompton, both of whom have stepped down from the committee after many years. The Mayor said he was full of respect for the difference they had made to the allotments, creating a community and working tirelessly. Tim mentioned how many of the things that are now taken for granted: the Focal Point, the loo, the Coffee Mornings, Open Day, Quiz nights and even the Chesham Allotments Group itself, all started through the hard work and efforts of Allen and Vince. Allen was then presented with garden tokens for himself and Vince Crompton as a personal gift from the committee members and with a bench for the Focal Point from the Chesham Allotments Group engraved 'Allen and Vince's Bench—September 2016'.

*A huge Thank You! from all of us  
to Allen and Vince for all they have  
done for all Chesham Allotmenters!*

**FISH AND CHIP SUPPER/QUIZ 12th NOV  
— BOOKING FORM INSIDE!**



## CHESHAM ALLOTMENTS GROUP CALENDAR

EVENT	DATE & TIME	LOCATION
Coffee mornings	Saturday mornings until 15th October 10am—12pm. They will resume next year for the Chesham Horticultural Society Potato Days 18th & 25th Feb and 4th March	Focal Point Hut, Cameron Road
Fish & Chips/Quiz Evening	Saturday 12th November 7.00pm	McMinn Centre, East Street

## CHESHAM HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

EVENT	DATE & TIME	LOCATION
AGM (inc. speaker on Social & Therapeutic Horticulture)	Wednesday 16th November 7.30pm	Trinity Baptist Church, Red Lion Street
Potato Sales	Saturday mornings 18th & 25th Feb and 4th March 2017	Sales Hut (1st gate Cameron Road)

## Fish & Chip Supper/Quiz Night 7pm, 12th November 2016 McMINN Centre, East Street, Chesham

**BOOKING REQUIRED FOR .....PERSONS, COST £8 PER HEAD**

I enclose payment for.....

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Tel. No.....

Email.....

**Please bring your own drink and nibbles AND a dessert with a view to sharing.**

**There will be a raffle, so bring some extra cash! Contributions for raffle also gratefully received.**

Please Indicate the number of meals required below :

FISH

SAUSAGES

FISH CAKES

VEGETARIAN

**Contact Vincent Lucas on 01494 774198 to reserve your places or hand your form / money in at the Coffee Mornings or to any Allotments Group Officer/Representative. Please make any cheques payable to Chesham Allotments Group. Thank you. This form may be photocopied.**

# OPEN DAY

The Annual Allotments Open Day at Cameron Road on 13th August was a great success. The weather was perfect and the event was very well attended, with some visitors being inspired to go straight to the Town Hall to get their own allotment! Noel Brown, the Mayor opened the proceedings and everyone enjoyed the atmosphere, the produce and the refreshments. The raffle was also very busy with many prizes on offer. Many thanks to everyone who donated produce, cakes, prizes and their valuable time for this day. It is a huge group effort and everyone's contribution was greatly appreciated. We had record takings of £433.55!



Allen Tilbury and Vince Crompton with the new bench at the Focal Point. We hope they find it a good place to rest and admire the view after their labours on their plots!

## ALLOTMENTS RENTS ARE NOW DUE!

Don't forget to pop down to the Town Hall to pay your rent for the upcoming year. Rents are due Oct 1st.

## On your marks, get set, BAKE!!!

Once again, the coffee mornings this year have been very successful. In addition to providing a chance to show off your weird veg or to get advice from fellow allotmenters about broad bean problems (or to tease Marshall Hall about his cake addiction), the coffee mornings help raise funds for the allotments. At only £1 for a hot drink and a piece of homemade cake they are certainly the best value in town. Beverly Mackay is our coffee morning coordinator. If you would be happy to spend an occasional Saturday morning serving at the Focal Point Hut or you would like to provide a cake sometimes, please contact Beverly at [beverlymackay@virginmedia.com](mailto:beverlymackay@virginmedia.com).



*Which vegetable do you throw away the outside, cook the inside, eat the outside and throw away the inside?*

SWEETCORN

## CHESHAM IN BLOOM—GOLD AGAIN!

Huge congratulations to Chesham in Bloom for winning Gold again and the award of Best Large Town in The Thames and Chiltern area. Any volunteers for next year will be very welcome.



## PEN A FEW LINES FOR THE GROWER!

When the winter weather keeps you inside with nothing much that can be done on the allotment, don't just sit there dreaming of the summer months; instead - what could be better than to pen a few lines for The GROWER? What exotic vegetables have you grown? How have you finally solved a pigeon problem? Doesn't have to be a long article, anything of interest will do. This is a forum for sharing knowledge so please put your green fingers to the keyboard and email me a few lines! *Kate* [thegrowernewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:thegrowernewsletter@gmail.com)



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## Get Growing Garlic! *by Vincent Crompton*

Garlic is best grown in sunny fertile well drained soil. It is prudent to apply compost and a fertilizer (optional) before planting. The application of compost (your own well-rotted garden compost is suitable) helps to retain moisture in the soil which is beneficial for growing and requires less watering.



Garlic comes in the form of a bulb. Before planting, divide the bulb into cloves. Plant one clove per hole six inches apart and three inches deep. If planting more than one row leave approximately twelve inches between each row. Water well after planting. If the weather is dry, continue to water the plants.

Keep the plants free from weeds but if there is a need to clear weeds be careful not to damage plants to avoid disease.

Garlic can be planted in the autumn, which produces larger bulbs, or in the early spring. Those planted in the autumn mature earlier but it is prudent to commence harvesting around July to August. Harvesting of the bulbs can commence when the foliage above the surface of the soil starts to turn yellow. The mature bulbs can be eaten fresh or can be dried and stored.

It is recommended that only certified bulbs should be planted. Do not use bought bulbs from supermarkets to plant as these are not certified as disease free. These are for eating. Your best dried bulbs can be used for planting the following year.

### Sweet Garlic and Herb Tart

Make a 9" **shortcrust pastry case** and bake blind. Fry 2 **large sliced onions** gently in a little **olive oil** until soft and golden. Add 1 tsp **light brown sugar**, cover and remove from heat. Roast 2 **heads of garlic** in microwave (as recipe). Melt 25g **butter**, add 2 tps each of **chopped parsley, thyme** and **oregano**, then mash in the garlic. Add the butter mixture and onions to 220ml **double cream**, two beaten **eggs, salt** and **pepper** and a little **nutmeg** or **mace**. Pour into case. Bake in a preheated oven 190°/Gas 5 for about 30mins until golden and set. Serve warm or at room temperature.

### Spanish Garlic and Parsley Sauce—start with two cloves and add more to taste

Cloves of garlic, lots of parsley, a few gherkins (or pickled runner beans), lots of extra virgin olive oil. Put in processor and blitz.

### Easy Roasted Garlic

Into a small glass bowl, put 1 head of **garlic**, 4 tbsps **water**, 1 tbsp **olive oil** and a sprig of **rosemary**. Cook in a microwave on full power for 4 mins, leave to rest for 5 mins. Squeeze out the softened garlic.

### L'Aïllade Toulousaine (Garlic and Walnut dip or sauce)

In a food processor (or pestle and mortar if you are feeling strong) turn 2 cloves **garlic** (raw or roasted as above if you prefer a gentler taste) and 100g **walnuts** into a paste, add a pinch of **salt**. Drop by drop, add **olive oil** (or walnut oil) stirring until you have a thick sauce. Use as a dip for bread or crudités, a sauce to go with lamb or heat gently with cream or crème fraiche to coat pasta.

## 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!