

# The Grower



**CHESHAM**  
**ALLOTMENTS**  
*Group*

[www.cheshamallotments.org.uk](http://www.cheshamallotments.org.uk)  
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**OCTOBER 2018**

## **Badgers on our Allotments**

A badger sett has appeared on the Cameron Road site in the area below the gate by the car park. It appears to be well-established and some of the holes that have appeared are very large.

Whether you are a badger lover or not, my guess is that none of us wants them on our plot. The problem for all of us is that badgers are a protected species. The law is very clear and is vigorously enforced, with an unlimited fine and a prison sentence of up to six months the possible sanctions.

Simply, it is against the law to:

- Wilfully kill, injure or take a badger (or attempt to do so);
- Cruelly ill-treat a badger;
- Dig for a badger intentionally;
- Intentionally or recklessly damage or destroy a badger sett, **or obstruct access to it** (my emphasis);
- Cause a dog to enter a badger sett;
- Disturb a badger when it is occupying a sett.

The Council has applied for a licence to allow it to use approved means to move the badgers on. Of course, given the size and nature of the Cameron Road site, the common sense expectation is that they may just move elsewhere among the allotments. But this is the most that can be done and we just have to be patient. Towards the end of the year, during the period when badgers have young, not even this action can be taken.

Love 'em or loathe 'em, the badgers are among us and we all, tenants and the council as landlord, are subject to the law whether we like it or not. Indeed, the council as a public body has to be seen to be upholding the regulations. The sett may be making the area unsafe, so it has been roped off until the badgers have moved away.

So there we are. No doubt we shall all follow the progress of our 'friends' with the black and white snouts with interest. If and when there is anything to report, we shall inform you through the Grower.

*by Tim Andrew, Vice Chair*

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## **Fish & Chip/Quiz Night**

**10th Nov 7pm at Chesham Town Hall**

Our last social get-together of the year.

Do come along - either with a team, or just join up with other people when you arrive . Booking form on page 2.

We look forward to seeing you there!

# **Rents Due!**

**Rents were due on 1st  
of October.**

## CHESHAM ALLOTMENTS GROUP CALENDAR

EVENT	DATE & TIME	LOCATION
Allotment Cafe	Sat until 13th October 10am to 12pm.	Focal Point Hut, Cameron Road
Fish & Chip/Quiz Night	Sat 10th November 7pm	Chesham Town Hall

## CHESHAM HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY DATES

EVENT	DATE & TIME	LOCATION
2018 AGM	21st November	Trinity Baptist Church

### Spud In A Bucket

Congratulations to our Spud in a Bucket winner John Cox who got an amazing yield of 3.831kg. Congratulations as well to our 3.316kg runner up Millie who received her certificate from our Vice Chair at the Macmillan Coffee morning. Our lowest entry was 0.177kg. Whatever your result we hope you enjoyed taking part.

### Macmillan Coffee Morning

We raised an amazing £157.57 at our first Macmillan Coffee Morning on 29th September. Thanks to all who came and generously donated.



#### Our email — [cheshamallotments@gmail.com](mailto:cheshamallotments@gmail.com)

Please send us a quick hello with your plot number to be added to our email list for occasional reminders of allotment events. Your details will not be shared with anyone else. Our full Privacy Policy is available online.



**Chesham**  
TOWN COUNCIL

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**Fish & Chip/Quiz Night 10th November 7pm Chesham Town Hall**  
**BOOKING REQUIRED FOR .....PERSONS, COST £10 PER HEAD includes supper and hot drinks**

I enclose payment of .....

Name.....

Plot No..... Tel No.....

Email.....

Please Indicate the number of meals required below :

FISH

SAUSAGES

FISH CAKES

VEGETARIAN

Please email [cheshamallotments@gmail.com](mailto:cheshamallotments@gmail.com) to reserve your places or hand your form/payment in at the Allotment Café or at JPS Stationers in the High Street or to any Allotments Group Officer/ Representative.

Please make cheques payable to Chesham Allotments Group. Thank you.

Please bring your own cold drinks and a dessert to share. And don't forget some money for the raffle!

## Grow Your Own Wedding

Our daughter Naomi got engaged in August of 2016 and we were quickly caught up in wedding plans.

It was with some trepidation that I agreed to her request to grow the flowers for her wedding at the allotment. I had not had a very good success rate growing flowers, although I had for some time wanted to have a cutting patch. However, never one to be daunted by a challenge, we started to make our plans. Naomi, who is very creative, chose a palette of colours for the wedding, orange pink, peach and dark blue - all toning together beautifully and once these were finalised we sat down in September with Sarah Raven's gardening book 'Grow Your Own Cut Flowers'.

We ended up with a list of flowers that Naomi liked and would be in flower in early September. Antirrhinum, cosmos, orange crocosmia, sunflowers (harlequin mixed), dahlias, roses, nigella, calendula, poppies, eschschotzia California variety, nicotiana, eryngium, hydrangea, echinops, and the grass panercum.

In October I started preparing beds for the perennial plants and we placed our orders, scouring the David Austin catalogue, various seed catalogues and also online to find varieties that matched her choice. I chose the situations for the perennials quite carefully as they would become permanent features of our plot; the roses and crocosmia I planned to have in a row at the top of the plot, I duly dug in lots of manure. Behind this area we have a row of lavender which is doing very well and above that an area of very poor soil that has never been cultivated, ideal for the eryngiums.

The roses arrived first, we had chosen:

'Jubilee Celebration' a lovely raspberry pink, 'Lady Emma Hamilton' a mixture of rich peach and orange, and finally 'The Wedgewood Rose', an ethereal pale pink, all repeat flowering varieties. Then the hydrangeas arrived: Hydrangea macrophylla Lanarth (a white variety), Hydranga paniculata confetti (a pale green). The eryngiums went in last and I just hoped that they would establish themselves over the winter.



February saw the sowing of the seeds that needed to be raised in the warmth of an array of heated propagators on our south facing front room window sill. I eagerly awaited those first shoots and the time when they would need pricking out. I did lose quite a few seedlings to damping off but I managed to keep enough of them healthy to grow on. As the weather improved I started to prepare the beds where I was going to plant out the annuals and plan the planting.

March saw the dahlias arriving; we had ordered Totally Tangerine and Waltzing Matilda from Sarah Raven in toning peaches and orange and then purchased more general varieties for the reception displays - Rising Sun, Paintball, Edge of Joy, Pooh.

As soon as the soil was warm enough in April I started direct sowing the half-hardy annual seeds, pot marigolds, nigella, poppies and the painted sage and cornflowers for the flower confetti. May came and the time to harden-off the indoor sown plants in order to plant them out.



Then watering and waiting and feeding the plants regularly with liquid seaweed meal or liquid comfrey. The plants grew, budded and then the flowers appeared. It was an amazing display of colours, buzzing with bees. So began a weekly regime of picking and dead heading and feeding with the liquid feed to keep them flowering until the wedding.

Having given away lots of flowers over the summer, Thursday 31st August arrived, the Day of the Picking. Four of us picked the flowers and filled seven bucketfuls of flowers and greenery, and left them in the cool to arrange in the church on Friday morning; both the arrangements for the church and also for the reception tables.

By the end of Friday our preparations were completed and our home grown wedding was all set for 2nd September. The Saturday was the perfect day we had all hoped it would be.

Heather Williams

*Well done Heather, what an amazing Mother of the Bride and a great inspiration to grow cut flowers on your plot, even if there are no nuptials planned!*

## Miss Rotherham's Apple Drink

This is a lovely refreshing drink that can be made using windfalls since bruises on the apples do not matter. It will keep for up to three months in a cool, dark place.

The Miss Rotherham of the title was my godmother. She never married and her godchildren were substitutes for the family she would have loved to have: she was very kind and generous to me. She led a quiet life. At Christmas she might occasionally go a little wild and be prepared to have a glass of something, but her general view of the demon drink was that a spoonful of sherry trifle was the first step on the slippery slope to the everlasting bonfire.

I mention this because she seems not to have noticed that the second phase of this recipe certainly involves some fermentation since the bottles must be opened for the first time with great caution: they erupt like Vesuvius due to the pressure of the CO<sub>2</sub>. As anyone who has studied any science knows, the other by-product of fermentation is alcohol, although I suspect there is in fact very little made in this case.

This is the simplest of recipes to follow and the result is a light, refreshing drink. It was given to me so long ago the units are Imperial. By *Tim Andrew*

### ***Miss Rotherham's Apple Drink***

Ingredients  
4lb apples  
1 gallon of water

Wash the apples and cut up into small cubes (bruises do not matter).  
Put in a china or plastic bucket with the water.  
Cover with thick cloth and leave for 5 days, stirring at intervals.  
Strain off the apples from the liquid with a wire sieve

1lb sugar  
Juice of 1 lemon  
A few cloves  
A few bits of chopped ginger

Put in the sugar, lemon juice, cloves and ginger.  
Cover and leave for 2 days.

Bottle.  
Leave for 10 days before using.

Open each bottle with great care the first time, ideally in a sink!

Will keep for 3 months in cool store.

## 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	CLAIRE MALAN (Secretary) Plot 235A CR
ANDREW SINCLAIR (Community Liaison) Plot 45B CR	JIM ABBOTT (Historian & Archivist) Plot 31/32 CR	DAVE HALL (Maintenance and Facilities) Plot 12 CR	TONY MUIR (Website) Plot 28 AR
CHRIS MACKAY (Database Manager) Plot 6A AR	KATE HUTCHINSON (Editor—The Grower) Plot 58D/80A CR	CHRIS SPRUYTENBURG (Education and Orientation) Plot 93 CR	SIMON LEE (Representative at Large) Plot 46A CR
JANE MACBEAN Town Council Representative		CR = CAMERON ROAD AR = ASHERIDGE ROAD	cheshamallotments@gmail.com