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## Welcome from the chair

Welcome to our first issue of the new look Grower in 2020. Well done to Simon who has brought a previously unseen level of expertise to the job. Doesn't it look great?

It is fair to say that it has been one of the wettest autumns and winters I can remember since I moved to Chesham. I doubt if I am alone in having spent hardly anytime at the allotments this winter. Either it has been raining, about to rain, or too wet from all the rain to make it possible to work.

I imagine there is going to be a lot of catching up to come Spring. Even one trip to collect some sprouts and dig up Jerusalem artichokes required some of the balance (with alas none of the grace) of Torvill and Dean as we slid around the paths.

Most of the Jerusalem artichokes we took to Chesham Community Fridge. You can read more about this initiative elsewhere in this issue.

As usual, we will be opening the Allotment Cafe for the three Saturdays of the Chesham Horticultural Society potato sales between 10am and 12pm. Although you may have noticed the new hut for CHS by the Focal Point, it is not yet ready for use. See page two for more information. Don't forget to come to the Cafe after you have purchased your potatoes and enjoy a coffee and slice of cake.

See you on the plot!

Kate

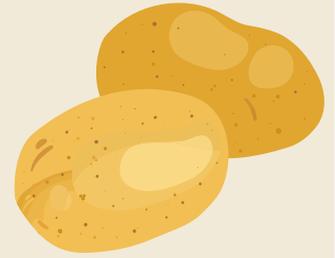


## Chesham Horticultural Society potato, onion and shallot sales

Anyone who has been on the Cameron Road allotments over the autumn and winter months will have seen the new CHS trading hut rising from the ground on the plot next to the Focal Point. This is all thanks to Allen Tilbury pushing the project forward and to the hard work and skill of Larry Faulkner and David Hall in erecting the structure. The society is extremely grateful to them for taking on this project and also to Lorraine Faulkner who has been assisting with sorting out the levels and paths around the new hut.

It was hoped that we might have been able to open the new hut for the 2020 trading season, but due to the challenging wet winter weather it is taking a long time for the inside to dry out sufficiently for it to be sealed, a floor laid and the walls and roof insulated to protect stock from the cold. We are anticipating being able to trade from it by Easter. A further update will be issued later in the winter.

In the meantime, the existing Trading Hut further down Cameron Road will open again in February for our annual Potato, Onion and Shallot sale.



It will then be open every Saturday from 7 March until further notice and can also be opened at other times by prior appointment.

Contact Adrian Norris on 07718 609719.

### When?

- Saturday 15th February
- Saturday 22nd February
- Saturday 29th February
- 9 am to 12 noon

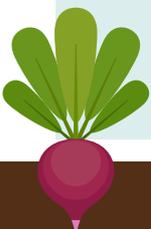
## Plot inspections

It's never nice to be told you are not doing a good job and that is unfortunately what happens to some of us now and again.

Allotment inspections by the Town Council happen four times a year, normally accompanied by a member of the CAG committee. As a responsible landlord, CTC has to check that plots are being cultivated and kept in a good state. The first inspection will take place in April and by then plots should be being prepared or planted up. Any plots that look neglected will be noted and checked back on.

To avoid receiving a 'buck your ideas up' letter, put in the effort early! If you have mitigating circumstances for your plot being in a poor state, please let the Council know as soon as possible.

And if you want to give your plot up, again please let them know so a new tenant can take over before the weeds do.



## Spud in a bucket competition 2020



This year, we are changing the rules of this fun competition, to open it up to more entrants, including children.

The **maximum bucket size** allowed is a standard 14 litre bucket - larger containers will not be considered.

Look out for further details in the next issue of The Grower and other publicity.





## Welcome to our new tenants

A very warm welcome to our new tenants at Asheridge Road and both Cameron Road sites.

It's great to have you with us and we wish you many years of fun, enjoyable (and productive!) allotmenting.

There's a wealth of information to be found right on the sites themselves - don't be shy, go and say hello to other allotment holders. You'll find (hopefully!) everyone has some hints and tips to share. We're a very friendly lot!

### The old ones are the best (aren't they?) writes Tim Andrew

My parents were gardeners, and my father at one time had an allotment, so I grew up conscious of the annual rhythms of gardening: pruning the roses and planting the spuds in the spring, cutting down the old raspberry canes after fruiting, the routine hoeing and grass cutting.

But when I acquired a large garden with my first house - large enough for the equivalent of a 5 pole allotment for vegetables at the top - I realised I didn't have a clue. So I bought one book and was given another: Shewell-Cooper's *The Complete Gardener*, my father's 'bible', and the RHS's *The Vegetable Garden Displayed*. Neither has a single glossy colour photograph. The latter was first published in 1941 as part of the Dig For Victory campaign, and my 1974 edition still has the wonderful original black-and white photographs of gardeners in jackets and ties hoeing and digging.

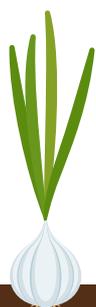
New crop varieties have come along, new pesticides and new equipment. But for basic horticultural advice, these are still my go-to references. After more than 40 years, the advice still stands. Who needs glossy photos?



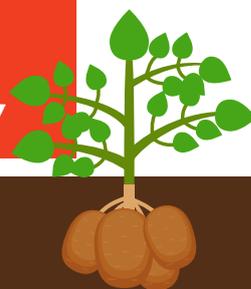
### Getting The Grower by email

If you've received your copy of *The Grower* in the post, this is because Chesham Town Council doesn't have your email address. You can help reduce costs and be greener at the same time by receiving future issues by email.

Simply email [townhall@chesham.gov.uk](mailto:townhall@chesham.gov.uk) to be added to the distribution list.



Spring Quiz Night: 25 April  
Save the date! More details to follow



## Chesham Community Fridge

Based down the left-hand side of Broadway Baptist Church, Chesham Community Fridge is an environmentally-friendly initiative to avoid food waste.

Volunteers collect food (and other items with a short shelf life) from supermarkets, shops and businesses, and it is free for anyone to go along and fill a bag with produce. They would welcome donations from allotmenters, so anytime you, your family and your neighbours have had it up to here with runner beans or rhubarb (or

Jerusalem artichokes!) why not take your excess produce along?

The Community Fridge is open 10am - 12pm on Wednesdays and Saturdays. If donating, you can bypass the queue and hand your produce to the volunteers. To help stop the food waste, join the back of the queue with a bag and see what goodies you can pick up!

**CHESHAM  
COMMUNITY FRIDGE**

## 2020 Calendar

Here are some key dates for your calendar this year. There will be a full calendar in the next issue of The Grower.

|                                 |                   |                     |           |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| CHS sales                       | 15/22/29 February | Summer social       | 11 July   |
| First weekly coffee morning     | 11 April          | Allotments Open Day | 15 August |
| Spring Quiz                     | 25 April          |                     |           |
| Chesham in Bloom coffee morning | 6 June            |                     |           |

## Chesham Allotments Group representatives

**Kate Hutchinson**  
Chair

**Tim Andrew**  
Vice Chair

**Ray Williams**  
Treasurer

**Chris Spruytenburg**  
Education & Orientation

**Jim Abbott**  
Historian & Archivist

**Marshall Hall**  
Website

**Clare Malan**  
Secretary

**Chris Mackay**  
Database Manager

**Dave Hall**  
Maintenance

**Averil Savage**  
Cafe Coordinator

**Jane MacBean**  
Town Council Rep.

**Simon Lee**  
Editor, The Grower



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