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Welcome from the chair

Don't we live in interesting times?

As I write, it has been six weeks since we have been politely requested to keep ourselves to ourselves. For some of us, that has meant more time on the plot (my own plot has achieved a previously unseen level of tidiness - not tidy, just tidier), but for the many who are working from home but are busier than ever or for those who have been told not to go out, it is very frustrating.

The difficulty buying compost and seeds and other supplies has also been a problem for many people.

By this time, we should have had a few coffee mornings, a quiz night and be gearing up for our VE Day celebrations at the Focal Point. We will continue to review the situation as advice changes.

Normally when the Allotment Cafe goes on tour to Asheridge Road, it involves someone having to shift a load of chairs and tables from the Focal Point to Asheridge Road and back again. So the good news is that we have obtained permission to put up a shed at Asheridge Road to store tables and chairs permanently and that will happen when conditions allow.

See you (from a minimum of two metres) on the plot!

Regards

Kate

Neighbours

Neighbours, everybody needs good neighbours....



Bonfires

For the sake of our neighbours, we are never allowed bonfires before 6pm in the summer and at the moment this is more important than ever. Please don't have bonfires at all if you can help it in the current time.

every plot there should be a path that a wheelbarrow can be easily pushed along.

Even if you have two adjacent plots, that path should be maintained. So please check your paths, pull back your beds if needed and make sure greenhouse and sheds do not get too close to the edge.

Paths

On the plots, we also have neighbours and we have noticed many paths between plots are being eroded, making it difficult for other people to walk through. Around

Oh and can you get that theme tune out of your head now??!!



Unfortunately, we have had some intruders on the plots recently.

We know it is tempting to leave the gates unlocked when you are working your plot, especially at the moment, but **please close and lock the gates** behind you when you enter or leave.

We should all be wearing gloves, using hand sanitiser or washing our hands after touching the gates anyway, so touching the lock won't make much difference.

Keeping the bugs at bay

Don't put up with pesky bugs on the allotment or at home - try these natural repellants!



MARIGOLD

Mosquitoes and aphids



BASIL

Mosquitoes and houseflies



LAVENDER

Moths, flees, flies and mosquitoes



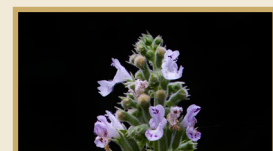
PEPPERMINT

Spiders, mosquitoes and ants



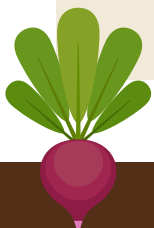
ROSEMARY

Fleas and ticks



CATNIP

Mosquitoes





Spud in a bucket competition

Whilst as ploholders we now have to be socially distant, potatoes grown in a bucket don't!

This year we changed 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.

Keep 'em growing and we'll update you as to how the competition can be safely judged this year.

A 'broad' range of uses for a popular allotment crop

Broad beans (also know as fava beans (as well as many other names) – fava just being Italian for 'broad') have been eaten in the Mediterranean for 8000 years and have been found in the earliest human settlements.

Here's a selection of recipes using this popular Asheridge Road and Cameron Road staple - some early-sown crops may soon be coming into harvest - otherwise, keep a copy of this page and refer to it later in the season, if these bean recipes take your fancy.

Broad Beans in Cream (serves two - use as a side dish or as a pasta sauce)

Take approx 200g broad beans – boil until just tender. In a pan, gently simmer 250ml of double cream, a crushed garlic clove and salt and pepper for five minutes. Fry a slice of bacon or use a slice of ham and cut into little pieces. Add bacon/ham and beans to cream mixture and heat through together. Add a handful of chopped parsley and serve.

Broad Bean Hummus (great after a hard morning at the allotment)

Boil the podded beans until just soft, then whizz in a food processor with some extra virgin olive oil, a little lemon juice, salt and crushed garlic to taste. Serve hot on a chunky piece of toast.

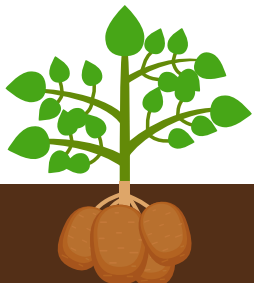
Broad Bean Orzo

Simmer 200g orzo pasta in 500ml stock or water until water is absorbed and the orzo cooked. Add 2 chopped spring onions, 300g cooked broad beans, 100g marinated feta cubes, 1 tbsp chopped flat leaf parsley, a spritz of lemon juice and a generous drizzle of extra virgin olive oil. Stir, then serve.

Plot inspections

In 'normal times', the first inspection takes 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.

Please be advised that in these far from normal times, the Town Council is understanding that not all plots can be tended to and there will be **no plot inspections until further notice**.



A request from Restore Hope Latimer



Alison Greenhalgh is Hope Development Manager at Restore Hope Latimer, a charity that works with families and children in need.

She recently contacted us, saying, "Restore Hope has been involved with Storehouse, a COVID 19 community response project involving many organisations, including Chiltern Foodbank.

As part of this we have been involved in getting Foodbank boxes out to the community during lockdown. We have realised that while Foodbank parcels are brilliant, fresh fruit and veg would enhance the offering. We are now looking at putting together fresh food deliveries to the most vulnerable in the community. In order to make this sustainable for the longer term, we have made the bold decision to create a market garden on one of our fields. We are in the process of preparing the soil and are asking for donations of spare vegetable and salad plants and seeds to plant and sow as soon as we can. We would be really grateful."

Seeds can be sent to Restore Hope, The Estate Office, Latimer Park, Latimer, Chesham, HP5 1TU. If restrictions are lifted, or your essential journey takes you past the office, plants can also be dropped off there between 2pm and 4pm.

Otherwise, please contact cheshamallotments@gmail.com and we will arrange a donation point and delivery.

Calendar dates for 2020

In the first 2020 issue of The Grower, we said that more dates and information about events would be available in this, the second issue. Given the current situation, we are clearly unable to confirm any dates until further notice.

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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