

Thursday, August 19, 2004

Issue 1

The Plot Thickens...

This months articles....

- Introducing your new Newsletter
- Your Autumn Show needs you!
- Gold medal won at the Southsea Show

Don't forget if you have any articles to contribute for the next Newsletter please leave them in the shop. Hopefully this will be produced sometime in the Autumn after the show.

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Eastney & Milton Allotment Association

Introduction to your Newsletter

At the last Committee Meeting it was decided that a Newsletter would be produced to keep Plot Holders informed of forthcoming events. It could

also incorporate any articles which may be of interest or help to others and also any useful recipes not already in the cookery books. (There are a lot of new gardeners

and tips may seem obvious to all you seasoned growers but most of us are still learning). Also it could offer useful items for sale etc.

The Autumn Show

The Allotment Autumn Show is coming up on Sunday the 5th September. The previous show secretary, Trevor Stark, had to give up organizing the produce entries etc. due to pressure of work. He has done an excellent job for some years and it was hard to find someone to fill his shoes. After some searching Andrew Leonard kindly agreed to step in and has produced some excellent posters and has everything in hand. It is an excellent show and brings the local community in and everyone

has a good time. The schedules are now in the shop if you wish to enter any produce for the show and have to be completed and returned by 31st August.

If you have never been it is a really good afternoon out and the admission fee is only 50p. You can have a nice cup of tea and a home made slice of cake. Jams and Pickles and home made cakes are on sale. There will be a raffle, tombola and games for the children and also a bric a brac stall. If you have any spare produce,

old tools or bric a brac please leave in the shop. Volunteers are needed for the Saturday at 9.00 am to help put up the tents and also on the Sunday afterwards to help take them down.

The Harvest Supper is being held in St James's Social Club on Thursday 16th September at 7.00 pm. This is when all the prize winners receive their rosettes and cups. It is a very good evening, Shirley Gunn organizes an excellent supper and the tickets will be on sale in the shop soon.

Southsea Show

The Southsea Show has just been held and the Association won a gold medal for their stall. It is thought that this is a good bit of publicity for the allotments as it keeps the public interested and raises

the profile of the allotments. Also leaflets were given out advertising the allotments Autumn Show. More produce was needed to put on the stall and next year it has been suggested that a box be put outside the shop

for any donations. The stall was produced and manned by volunteers and quite a few cookery books were sold, plus cakes and the produce. It was a very good weekend.



This Issue's Top Tip

Don't plant tomato plants where you have grown potatoes in the last two years as blight can be passed on. If you do get blight on your tomatoes cut off all brown

leaves and stems immediately, as this will spread to the fruit, and spray with Bordeaux Mixture. If all else fails pick your green tomatoes and make the

recipe below. Also a recipe for Green Tomato Jam can be found in Volume 3 of the recipe books. (On sale in the shop at only £1.00.)

Allotment News

All the profits from the various events go into the Associations coffers. It is hoped to purchase another show tent as the one used now is very tatty but will have to do for this year. Enquiries have been made but they are very expensive. New gazebos and a shop blind have been purchased this year. Also the roofs on the containers have been repaired and made rain proof. A new roof was put on the shop by the Corporation and volunteers lined the roof inside and painted it. Lights are going to be put in the shop before the winter.

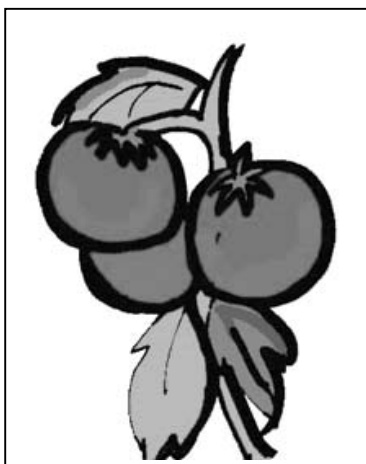
The shop is very worthwhile, not only to purchase gardening items but for the selling of gate keys to new

allotment holders and also for a chat if you need to know anything relating to growing crops. Good seed potatoes can be purchased in the spring, also onion sets and broad beans in the Autumn. It may not always be as cheap as the large stores but is convenient for those forgotten purchases i.e. slug killer etc. This is open on Sunday and Tuesday from 9.30 to 11.30 and manned by volunteers. More volunteers are always needed. It is only for 2 hours a month and is quite interesting and good fun. If anyone is interested please see Lindsay or ask in the shop.

Also if anyone is interested in joining the Committee, new ideas are always welcome.

Mike Simpson, the Chairman of the Association, is still liaising with the Corporation for the provision of more skips etc. but unfortunately the story is still the same that they have no money. As only one skip is provided a month please try and compost as much as possible. There will be a communal bonfire on bonfire night, so if you are not planning your own, all your old wood etc. can be burnt then. (The whereabouts of the bonfire will be in the next newsletter and posted on the shop, so please keep all your old wood etc. until then and leave the skip free for other items i.e. broken glass, old tin etc.)

"The Shop is open on Sunday and Tuesday from 9.30 to 11.30 and manned by volunteers."



Green Tomato Chutney

1lb Cooking apples, peeled cored and finely chopped, 8oz onions skinned and finely chopped, 3lb green tomatoes, thinly sliced, 8 oz sultanas, 8oz demerara sugar, 2 tsp salt, ¾ pint malt vinegar, 4 small pieces of dried root ginger (or 1 tsp

powdered ginger) 1/2 tsp cayenne pepper, 1 tsp mustard powder.

Put all ingredients into a preserving pan – bring to the boil, reduce heat and simmer gently for about 2 hours, stirring occasionally until

tender, reduced to a thick consistency and no excess liquid remains.

Remove the ginger (if used) spoon into preheated jars and cover at once with airtight vinegar-proof tops.