

Tuesday, February 1st, 2006
Issue 10

The Plot Thickens...



Spring edition!

This month's articles...

- Introduction
- Allotment News
- Chairman's Chatter
- Top Tips
- Annual Accounts
- Recipe
- Poem
- ...and finally

Don't forget if you have any articles to contribute for the next Newsletter, please leave them in the shop.

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Introduction to issue 10

I expect like me you have had enough of the cold weather and are itching to get on with the planting. I think the weather men were correct for once in predicting a cold

winter! It has been mentioned that some hardy folk have their seed potatoes in already but I must confess that mine are still chitting snugly in the shed! The only consolation is that

the weeds are not growing much yet! (For information on weeds see Hilary's contribution in the Top Tips section.)

Allotment News

The AGM was held on the 1st February at Bransbury Park Community Association. A copy of the minutes has been posted in the shop. It was requested by a plot holder that the names and plot numbers of the Committee be made available for those who cannot get into the shop on a Sunday or Tuesday. It was thought that if they had any thing they wished to discuss they could then find a member of the Committee easily. There is a plan of the allotments on the shop notice board.

Since the meeting there has been further vandalism at the allotments and these mindless offences must be reported to the police. The telephone number is 0845 045 45 45. If these acts are not reported then the police will take no action so

the more that are reported the better. If you can take cuttings of *Pyrocantha* and plant along the inside of the fence this will help. Also any spare brambles!

We have a new **W**Committee member. Her name is Janet Howarth and she has an allotment at 73 Milton Piece. She is very welcome and hopefully will enjoy her time at the allotments and serving on the Committee!

Apparently there are now about 130 people on the waiting list for plots. The Committee thought they would compile a list of plots not being worked and pass this on to Ashley at the Corporation. If there is an unworked plot near you please give the number in to the shop.

This year's subs are now due. Still £2.50 which enables you to buy in the shop and enter your produce in the Autumn Show. Some of this money goes towards membership of the NASLG (very worthwhile) and for insurance for the shop.

There is a good variety of seed potatoes in the shop, although some types are selling fast. They are excellent value! Also shallots and onions, broad beans and peas and of course a good selection of seeds.

The purchase of the new tent is underway and the deposit paid. When it arrives we will arrange a working party to practice erecting it!

Allotment News continued

The names and plot numbers of the Committee are as follows:

*Get to know the
Committee!*

Mike Simpson	Chairman	104 Eastney Lake
Carole Bannister	Secretary	79 Milton Piece
Peter Spreadbury	Treasurer	106 Eastney Lake
Brian Forcey	Trading Officer	80 Milton Piece
Andrew Leonard	Show Secretary	19 Eastney Lake
Gina Chambers		60 Milton Piece
Lindsay Murday		34 Milton Piece
Val Peach		79A Eastney Lake
Trevor Stark		93A Milton Piece
John Wade		68 Milton Piece

Chairman's Chatter

*please report any
damage to the
police, the more
complaints they get
the more chance of
some action!*

Needless to say not much going on at the moment. Another wave of vandalism, please report any damage to the police, the more complaints they get the more chance of some action! You can phone or pop into Highland Road station, it only takes a minute and the more of you who complain the better (Yes I've been!) All we keep hearing about is the drought which is going to take place this summer and I can see the water getting turned off or at least a hosepipe ban. I suggest another water butt which will at least give a small supply. The next E & M function will be the plant sale on May 14th outside the shop. Not too early to be planning what to plant bearing in mind that any surplus plants are needed at the sale.

Top Tips

*The principle is
simple; when soil is
exposed to the light
any seeds in it
germinate. By
hoeing and leaving
the soil in the same
place there are no
seeds left to
germinate.*

Stay off the soil. Don't be tempted to walk on or dig wet, sticky soil. Wait until it has dried out a bit or it will damage the structure!

If you find you are spending far too much time weeding take a note out of Hilary Thomas's book and get out your sharpened Dutch hoe.

If you can hoe the prepared ground several times for a couple of weeks before you sow. Leave enough space to carefully hoe between the rows. After three or four weeks you can happily go on holiday and know that there will be clear ground when you return. The principle is simple; when soil is exposed to the light any seeds in it germinate. By hoeing and leaving the soil in the same place there are no seeds left to germinate.

Thanks Hilary for that tip - don't forget you seasoned allotment holders that a lot of us are fairly new to gardening and any tips can be very useful!

Annual Accounts

Eastney & Milton Allotment Holders Association		
Balance Sheet at 31st December 2005		
INCOME		
2004		2005
£360.00	membership subscription	£326.00
£5,456.65	shop sales	£4,518.47
£3.58	interest TSB account	£4.02
£30.00	southsea show award	£30.00
£287.00	harvest supper	259.3
£1,107.67	autumn show	£1,508.00
£17.41	refund show secretary	£16.16
£400.15	plant sale	£355.80
£44.02	Xmas raffle	£20.00
£266.10	sales southsea show	£298.40
=====		=====
£7,972.58		£7,336.15
OUTGOING		
2004		2005
£0.00	deposit new marquee	£1,000.00
£20.00	chairmans expenses	£20.00
£4,714.86	stock purchased	£2,901.53
£10.00	shop plot	£10.00
£243.97	NSALG membership insurance	£192.50
£651.48	autumn show	£912.60
£21.00	RHS affiliation	£23.00
£0.00	southsea show	£192.20
£12.00	agm hall hire	£12.00
£127.66	stationary etc	£67.62
£0.00	cookbooks news letter	£245.43
£409.04	site maintenance	£483.76
£66.78	spoilt stock	£8.37
£119.68	harvest supper	£75.68
£192.06	consumables	£32.75
£30.00	float for shop	£30.00
£42.22	plant sale	£16.79
£6,660.75		£6,224.23
=====		=====
£1,311.83	YEAR-END PROFIT	£1,111.92
=====		=====
£4,963.46	Lloyds TSB account	£5,685.50
£2,416.16	stock in hand	£1,942.71
£42.63	cash in hand	£40.25
£30.00	float	£30.00
=====		=====
£7,452.25		£7,698.46

We made a trading profit of £1,111.92

We had £1,942.71 of stock in the shop

We had £5,685.50 in our bank account

Roast Garlic - a recipe picked up from the Garlic Farm on the I.O.W. last week!

Recipe for Roast Garlic

Roast Garlic - a recipe picked up from the Garlic Farm on the I.O.W. last week! Take a bulb, cut the roots off. Cut across at the top of the white to just show the cloves. Place in foil large enough to wrap the bulb. Drizzle one

dessertspoon olive oil and salt and pepper over the bulb. Wrap tightly (or use a garlic baker). Bake in medium oven for 30-40 minutes or until garlic is soft and tender. Spread the puree on toast, with soft cheese or roast peppers.



medium bulb for two slices of toast) or as a flavour addition to almost anything.

A poem

A poem, including art work, penned by John Caws about the dreaded blight.



May I thank those allotmenters who nurture my spores throughout the years.
I pray the blighted plants will be retained to allow me to wreak havoc again.
All that effort and toil to prepare your crop, I can wipe out in a jot;
Summer months will see me rise, unless you (the plot holder) seriously plan my demise.
John (not Poet Laureate!)

...and finally

Make a note of the plant sale in your diaries - Sunday 14th May at 10.30 am, outside the shop!

Also Hilary asked me to let you know about the Portsmouth Horticultural Society who meet on the second Wednesday of the month commencing at 7.00 pm, at the Scout Hall, The Ridings, Hilsea. (Along London Road, opposite Oakwood Road down Curtis Mead.) The talks are varied and of special interest to plot holders is "The Making of an Organic Vegetable Garden" on Wednesday 12th April. Refreshments can be obtained and a raffle is held. £2.00 on the door for non members. Further information can

be obtained from the notice board outside the shop. Make a note of the plant sale in your diaries - Sunday 14th May at 10.30 am, outside the shop! There will be a raffle with various prizes including a 30m reinforced hose and attachments. Come along and have a nice cup of tea and slice of home made cake! If you could grow some extra plants for sale on the day it would be very much appreciated. And finally, finally, Brian has asked if you collect the tokens on

the packets and bring them into the shop. These tokens are being collected nationwide and the WI have raised enough money for 35,000 trees to be planted in Ethiopia. Oxfam hopes that the trees will help prevent soil erosion and give the people a form of income! They are lovely people and it is a very worthwhile cause. If you haven't tried Yorkshire Tea it is a good strong tea and you would be helping a very friendly and gentle people who even in the face of extreme poverty manage to retain their dignity!