

Monday, August 11th, 2008
Issue 22

The Plot Thickens...

Introduction to issue 22

I hope you are all enjoying the 'lovely' British Summer, at least we haven't had to water much! All the plants seem to love it and we have had a plethora of courgettes, cucumbers and beans. As this is

the first newsletter since the Plant Sale I have to report that all went well on the day, the weather was fine and lots of people turned up both to man the stalls and sell the plants. The raffle went

well with most of the prizes being collected on the day and the others afterwards. The teddy was not claimed and is still forlornly sitting in the shop! He will be put in the raffle at the Autumn Show.

Eastney and Milton Allotment Holders Association

Autumn Show

Bric a Brac
Bouncy Castle
Plate Smashing
Tombola & Raffle
Teas & Ice Creams
Homemade Cakes & Pickles
Produce on Show & For-Sale
and more...



Sunday 31st August 2008
Milton Allotments, off Locksway Road, Milton, Portsmouth
Show Opens: 1.30pm
Admission: 50p
further details on www.eastneyandmiltonallotments.co.uk

This month's articles...

- Introduction
- Allotment News
- Chairman's Chatter
- Help Wanted!
- Top Tips
- Recipe
- Poetry
- ...and finally

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

Allotment News

Please spare a thought for Roger Young, who works for the Council and is in charge of the allotments. He is recovering from a quite severe stroke and we all wish him well for a speedy recovery.

The main activity on the agenda is the pending Autumn Show, which takes place on Sunday 31st August. As usual we would be very grateful for all the help we can get!

One of the marquees is being erected on Friday night the 29th starting at 6.00 pm! This will be helpful for the Saturday when the other two have to be erected. You will all be glad we are no longer having to put up the two green marquees and hopefully they will be sold in the near future!

On the Saturday we will start at 9.00 am and have a mid morning tea break with some of Gina's delicious muffins and then lunch

about 1.00 pm. Hopefully we should be finished by mid afternoon. Then on Sunday after the show at 4.30 pm we have to take it all down and put it away!

If you can help even for part of the time it would be great and make it much easier for everyone!

Also a first aider is needed and help is needed in the catering tent during the show if you have a spare hour or two!

If you have any good bric a brac to offload it will be gratefully received also tools to sell.

Also any spare pickle and jam, cakes and any produce and flowers which we can sell!

Most of all do enter your produce, this is what it's all about and its lovely if you win. First, seconds and thirds receive a certificate and rosette

and you may be lucky enough to keep a cup or trophy for a year with your name on. It is not as hard as you may think, you may be pleasantly surprised! We have new scales for weighing the biggest pumpkin etc., also don't forget the best bucket of compost for which you receive a cup! The entry forms are in the shop now and must be returned no later than the Sunday before the Show!

It is a lovely afternoon out and enjoyed by a lot of locals, so please do help to keep this Show going!

The prize giving evening will be on Wednesday 10th September at the Cockleshell Community Centre at Eastney near the Eastney Swimming Pool. It was held there about 4 years ago and is a very nice venue with a bar!

Well its nearly show time and once again we shall need all the help we can get.

Chairman's Chatter

Well its nearly show time and once again we shall need all the help we can get. The marquees need plenty of people to pull on ropes. Elsewhere are lists of what we need for the show.

Roger Young is still very ill and I don't know if we will see him at the allotments again which is a great shame!

At present, understandably, we aren't getting anything done by the Council but we will keep trying!

Another load of scrap has been sold which made £70, bringing the total so far to over £200. A reminder no gas bottles or fridges please. On the subject of waste the skip driver took all the

contents this time, so we have finally got rid of the rubbish in the corner. Please if you take green stuff to the compost heap empty your plastic bags and do not leave rubbish which is not suitable to be composted!

Hope to see a nice lot of you to help at the show – lets hope the weather is kind.

Come and Help at the Autumn Show!

A list of all items needed for the show!

Pickles and Chutneys

Jams

Cakes

(All to go in the entrance tent)

Bric a Brac

Tools

Items for Tombola

Produce and flowers

Any of the above except cakes and produce can be taken into the shop beforehand.

Help needed – Friday 6.00pm onwards, Saturday 9.00am onwards, Sunday 4.30 pm onwards. Help needed in the Catering tent, a First Aider and anyone who can help at the Show.

Thank you all!



SATURDAY 30th and SUNDAY 31st AUGUST
I need your help on the these two days:
Saturday from 9.00 am to erect the marquees for the show
Sunday morning to finish all those jobs left over from Saturday
and from 4.00 pm onwards to dismantle the whole show
Mike Simpson (Chairman)

Cure your onions well and they will last you into winter.

Top Tips

Cure your onions well and they will last you into winter. Once the foliage turns yellow and flops, give them one more week then dig them up, lying them on the soil for a couple of days if the weather is good. Eat the soft, the imperfect and the thick of neck, and lay the rest in a bright, airy place, such as a porch for a fortnight. Once the

outer skins are papery and the roots wiry, store in net bags, plaits or even the legs of old tights, tying a knot between each onion so that you can then snip one off as you need it. Use the larger ones first as the smaller keep much longer!

And also a quote from Fred Streeter:-
'Sometimes we try to be a bit too clever in

this world! Take the poor old gardener who's plagued by blackfly. He'll spend a small fortune on sprays and things when all he need do is take a little soil from the bottom of the plant and sprinkle it like powder all over those blessed blackfly. That'll finish them off it gets in their teeth you know!

Sweetcorn and Red Pepper Relish

Ingredients:

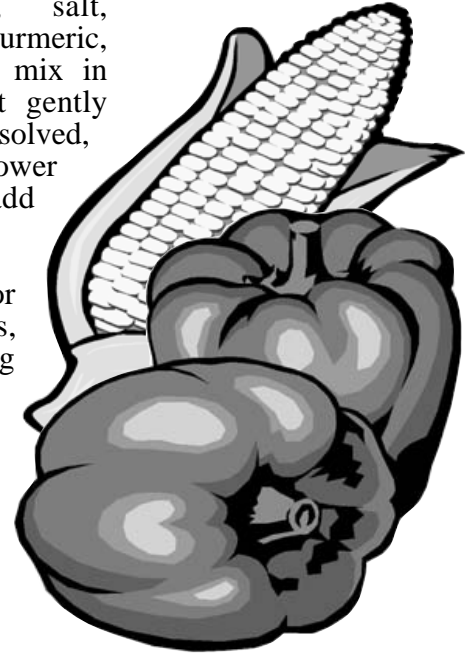
6 fresh corn cobs or a large tin of sweetcorn drained
200g White Cabbage – chopped finely
2 medium Onions – finely diced
2 small Red Peppers – finely diced
175g Sugar
2 level tbs flour
2 level tsp salt
2 level tsp mustard powder
½ level tsp turmeric
1 pint distilled vinegar

Method:

Cook sweetcorn off the corn cobs, mix corn, cabbage, onion and

pepper together. Blend sugar, flour, salt, mustard and turmeric, then gradually mix in vinegar. Heat gently until sugar dissolved, bring to boil, lower heat and add vegetables.

Then simmer for 25/30 minutes, stirring occasionally until it thickens. Then put into sterilized jars, cover and seal. Will keep for 3 months.



Sweetcorn and Red Pepper Relish sent in by Barbara Simpson – makes 2 ½ pints (I have tasted this and it is delicious!)

A poem taken from a gardening book compiled by Richard Briers!

Poetry

RHUBARB TED

written by Ann O'Connor

I knew a funny little man
His name was Rhubarb Ted;
They called him that because he wore
Rhubarb on his head.

I'd grown so used to this strange sight,
The cause I did not seek;
But then one day to my surprise,
I saw he wore a leek.

I asked him if he'd please explain,
And let me know the reason;
He said, 'I'm wearing leek because
Rhubarb's out of season!'

...and finally

I still keep reading in the tabloids about the rising amount of people wanting allotments! All due to the rising prices of food and also to what is sprayed on it no doubt! If you no longer need all your allotment or are finding it hard to work why not give up

half and let the Council re-allocate it to someone else! I know there are still some overgrown sites but hopefully the Council are trying to sort it all out! There are still about 200 on the waiting list!

Dates to remember 31st August for the Autumn Show and Wednesday 10th September for the Cockleshell Community Centre at Eastney to collect your certificates and cups!

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