

Monday, November 30th, 2009
Issue 28

The Plot Thickens...



Christmas 2009

This month's articles...

- Introduction
- Allotment News
- Chairman's Chatter
- Recipe
- Top Tips
- Bonfire Pictures
- ...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 28

It is hard to believe that in a couple of months the seed potatoes will be in the allotment shop! It seems we've only just sown the broad beans and planted the onions and garlic etc. The weather has been so mild it was an excellent time for tidying the plot so we decided to cut down a large old bramble and get it on the bonfire. This turned out to be

much harder than we at first thought but was well worth the effort! We don't know yet if the bonfire will be on for next year as there is talk of turning the car park into plots! Watch this space! It was only thanks to the Chairman, Mike Simpson's, perseverance that we had one this year. (He spent quite a lot of time at the Council offices filling in forms etc.)

We managed to get some potash from the remains of the bonfire before the Council cleared the remains away. It saved the ratepayers a few thousand pounds by burning all the old wood so the Council did not have to take it away. So hope we can have a bonfire again next year.

The AGM will be held on Monday 18th January at 7.30 pm at Bransbury Park Community Centre

Allotment News

The Harvest Supper was an enjoyable evening and the food was good. The venue drew a good crowd and it was nice to see all the plot holders going up for their prizes. There were some newcomers receiving prizes too, which is what it is all about!

Not a lot of news at the moment, Mike is still waiting for a meeting with the Council to confirm what is going on at the allotments!

There have been a couple of dead foxes

found on the allotments but the good news is that some of those which are being treated for mange by some of the plot holders look really healthy so keep up the good work!

In answer to a query from a plot holder, which was left in the suggestion box, the names and telephone numbers of the Allotment Committee are already displayed in the shop on the notice board! The suggestion of having a copy of the newsletter in the shop

for anyone to read if they can't get a copy is a good one, thank you, and one is on the notice board now! A copy is put on the web site for downloading but not everyone has a computer. Any other suggestions please put them in the box and if you have any articles for the newsletters please leave them there too! It would be nice to have an article by a new plot holder to let everyone know how you are getting on.

Chairman's Chatter

Well as this is the Christmas edition, "Happy Christmas and New Year to you all".

You can serve this plain, with toasted French bread floating on top or thickly sprinkled with grated chest.

There are 3 Top Tips in this issue!

Not much happening at the moment. Still, its nice to see several new faces so some plots must be getting let! We keep on to the Council but find it very frustrating as nothing seems to get done. Bonfire day and plenty of plots had their fire during the day and the evening, good to see

despite the council ban. The bonfire on the car park, which we had finally got permission for, was set alight 4.15 (one match!). By 4.30 the fire brigade had been called! Someone at the other side of the bay must have rung them at once, but when the fire chief saw our letter from the Council

all was well. Next morning nothing was left but the ash. Please don't dump any rubbish on the site, we don't know yet what will happen for next year.

P.S. don't forget the Christmas raffle being run by Janet Haworth, tickets on sale in the shop.

French Onion Soup

Ingredients:

4 Large Onions thinly sliced

1½ oz butter

1 generous tablespoon brown sugar

2 pints of vegetable or chicken stock

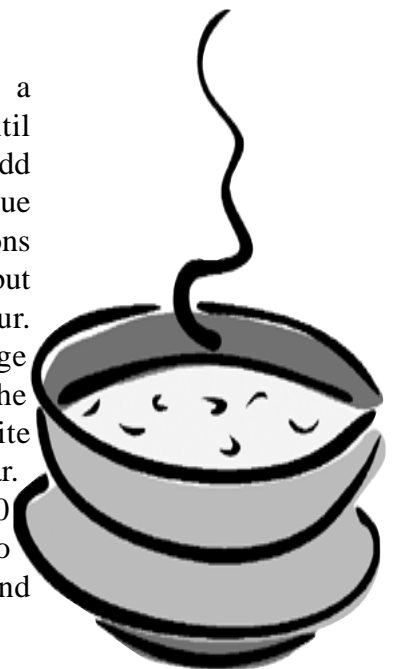
Dash of white wine or white wine vinegar

Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Method:

Melt the butter or margarine in a large frying pan and add the

onions. Stir with a wooden spoon until they soften. Then add the sugar and continue to stir until the onions are a good brown (but not black) colour. Transfer to a large saucepan. Add the stock and the white wine or wine vinegar. Simmer for about 20 minutes and season to taste with salt and pepper.



Top Tips

New allotmenters, you lucky few who finally reached the top of the waiting list, if you can roughly dig over your soil before the cold weather sets in you will make it much easier for you come the spring. It doesn't have to be a thorough job, just turn the earth in big clods and the frost will work away at it and break it up for you.

If you want your ground to have a nitrogen boost leave in the roots of your beans. Rather than tugging up the whole plant cut off the growth at the base of the plant and leave in until the spring when it will be an excellent place to plant those potatoes.

I have often wondered what possible use wasps are except to bother us when having a picnic! I have just been reading that they in fact do a good job collecting insect larvae for food, which is a help to all of us growing crops. So next time you see one don't be too hasty in shooing them away!

Bonfire pictures by Carole Bannister

*Here is our
Chairman, Mike
Simpson, adding fuel
to the fire*



*John Peach tries to
douse the flames*



...and finally

*The next social item
on the agenda will
be the Christmas
raffle, which will be
drawn on Sunday
13th December in
the Shop.*

If you are spraying your trees or anything else for that matter please do so at night when bees are not about as you could kill them too and also be careful of other people. We need to protect our bees as much as possible as they are declining in numbers.

The next social item on the agenda will be the Christmas raffle, which will be drawn on Sunday the 13th December. This is the last day of trading in the shop for the year! There will be free home made mince pies and mulled wine to sup and

it is nice to see other plot holders, have a chat and feel a bit Christmassy. The shop will be open as usual at 9.30 and the draw will take place at 11.00.