

Monday, July 18, 2005  
Issue 6

# The Plot Thickens...

## ***This month's articles...***

- Introduction
- Allotment News
- Chairman's Chatter
- Milton Locks
- Top Tips
- Recipe
- ...and finally

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

## Introduction to issue 6

As it is now the middle of the summer hopefully you are all picking lots of lovely soft fruit and vegetables. It's amazing the quality of the fruit and vegetables we grow and sometimes something fails but you may have

a glut of other things. The one constant is the taste which is so superior to that bought in the shops. We are very lucky to have the space and the time to grow our own! Volume 8 of the Associations Cookery Book will be on sale at

the Southsea Show and also obtainable in the Shop soon. At only £1.00 it is good value and all the back numbers are on sale too. There are some lovely recipes to enable you to use up all those delicious vegetables and fruit.

## Allotment News

The next event on the calendar is the Southsea Show in which the Allotment Association have a stall in the Flower Marquee. We have done very well in the past and have won a cup and certificates. The Association feel that it is good publicity to have a stall and raise the awareness of allotments in general - although we have a waiting list at the moment! It is also a good venue to advertise the Autumn Show and sell the cookery books. It is all done by volunteers and a very good job they do too! If you have any spare produce available on the Wednesday before the Show (3rd August) please leave in the boxes which will be put outside the shop on that day, and don't forget to visit the stall if you go to the Show.

All too soon it will be the Autumn Show at the allotments which is being held on the 4th September. If you have never been this is a great afternoon out with stalls and of course the produce tent where you can see some fantastic fruit and vegetables. Please try and enter your produce in the show - it is a lot of luck on the day if your veg is just right for entering and it is worth a try. It is lovely to win a trophy and certificate. A list of categories can be obtained from the shop and entry forms will be printed soon. You can only enter if you are a paid up member. This costs £2.50 of which £1.50 goes to the National Allotment Society who are there to help allotments which are being shut down or have any problems. If

anyone has any good bric a brac and any new unwanted goods which would be suitable for the Tombola Stall at the Show please could you take them to the Shop. Every little helps. If anyone has any ideas or suggestions for trips please leave a note in the shop. Also Brian (our man who looks after the shop) would like any suggestions for types of potatoes for next year. Obviously he can't order too many types, but if you have a favourite he may be able to get them. He did very well this year and we had a good selection and they were very cheap. He does a fantastic job in the shop. Obviously the prices can't compete with the big stores but it is convenient and you can buy a small amount of most items.

## Chairman's Chatter

Well the next event is our stand at the Southsea Show so please give your support. Even if you don't go to the show, Gina, Sheila and Alan, who are planning our stand need any surplus produce to make a good show. Details elsewhere in the letter.

With the weather so hot (well it is as I write this) the hoses are in play every day. So please remember not to hog it, we have heard

tales of people using the hose for three hours! Please consider other people, twenty minutes should be enough for most plots!

At a meeting with the Council's Laura Reidman, she informed me that after a meeting with the police regarding security, they are going to rectify problems with the fencing where people have been getting in. They are also going to put anti-vandal paint round the top of the

fences together with notices telling people its there! We can only hope this will help. In the meantime make sure sheds are locked, if possible windows covered and expensive items marked.

Also, I have got a small result on the skip front. Anyone taking on a new plot can ring Laura at the Council and if there is enough rubbish it will result in a skip. Watch this space!

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## Milton Locks

Dave (our resident security guard) next to the shop, obtained this picture of some of the buildings that used to be around the locks. I remember in the 50's that these were still

there! Some of them had lovely gardens and were lived in all the time. There were also houseboats along the shore and some of my school friends lived in them. You can see the

Thatched House Pub in the background. If anyone has memories of the Locks please let us know and we can put it in our next newsletter.

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*You can see the Thatched House Pub in the background.*

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*Two Top Tips  
in this issue!*

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## Top Tips

Place a sheet of Aluminium Foil on the ground between rows of tomato plants and secure with stones. The light reflected by the foil repels aphids and

the radiant heat can hasten the ripening of tomatoes by up to two weeks. Useful if we get tomato blight this year.

If you don't want to use

harsh weed killers just pour neat white vinegar onto weeds, although I don't think this will benefit the soil it may work on paths etc.

## Recipe

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*This is the time for  
barbecues...*

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As this is the time for barbecues a good recipe for using up those veggies is to make kebabs.

Skewer evenly sized chunks of various vegetables and cook over the coal for 15

minutes.

Onions, courgettes, marrows, squash, aubergines and peppers.

Marinate them first in a mixture of equal parts of olive oil, honey and vinegar with a crushed

garlic clove mixed in. The oil stops them burning while the combination of the honey, vinegar and garlic creates a crunchy coating.

## ...and finally

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Please try not to dump weeds, etc., especially on the piles of leaves which are rotting nicely and will be used by

many plot holders to fill their compost heaps. If you can't compost it try and take it home for the dustmen. And if you

see anyone dumping fridges etc. please take their number and report them to the shop.

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*Please try not to  
dump weeds*

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