

## OCTOBER QUIZ

- 1 FROK
- 2 A RACING NEWT
- 3 NOBEL MEA
- 4 MUD RATS
- 5 TOCKER
- 6 LACED FORM
- 7 ENGRAVED SLOG
- 8 PHASE OUT FLASH TOP
- 9 EAR GO ON
- 10 ARMY ROSE
- 11 RIBBED
- 12 WELL RED IKE
- 13 ENSURE HE GO
- 14 COMB IN POST
- 15 SAY RESTED

## JANUARY QUIZ

Find the Flowers

- 1 Animal in a hurry
- 2 Sugary Bill
- 3 Fallen Water Crystals
- 4 Smart Beast
- 5 She looks sweet upon a seat
- 6 To remind one
- 7 Prudish emblem
- 8 Quadrupeds Gauntlet
- 9 Part of the Eye
- 10 Churned milk in a Vessel
- 11 Scottish Emblem
- 12 Tinned Milk

You've had it easy for the last few issues lets see how you get on with these

If you cant get all of them still send in your entry it could be don to the person with the most.

Winner Gets Five Pound Shop

## STOP PRESS

Asparagus Crown.

Unfortunately our order was not large enough to get the best price. They will now be 33p each still cheaper than anywhere else . They arrive April

## ANSWERS TO OCTOBER QUIZ

- 1 FORK
  - 2 WATERING CAN
  - 3 BONE MEAL
  - 4 MUSTARD
  - 5 ROCKET
  - 6 COLD FRAME
  - 7 GARDEN GLOVES
  - 8 SULPHATE OF POTASH
  - 9 OREGANO
  - 10 ROSEMARY
  - 11 DIBBER
  - 12 WEED KILLER
  - 13 GREEN HOUSE
  - 14 COMPOST BIN
  - 15 SEED TRAYS.
- WINNER OF THE OCT £5 Shop voucher  
Is D BROADHURST CONGRATULATIONS

## STRAWBERRIES

In medieval times Strawberries were regarded as Aphrodisiacs .  
Strawberry, borage and sour cream soup was traditionally served to newlyweds at their wedding breakfast.  
If anyone has the recipe I will publish it in the next newsletter . Subject to trying it out myself !  
JT

## SEED SWAP

CHRIS SEARLE will be running a seed swap at the John Trimm Meeting on Feb. 21st. Anyone who has any surplus seed bring them along perhaps you can swap them for some you want.

## Committee members 2008

President Wilf Marshal Plot 66  
Chairman Peter Whiting Plot 110  
Vice Chairman Richard Owen Plot 1  
Treasurer Martin Mancey Plot 7  
Secretary Jill Owen Plot 1  
Purchasing secretaries Mary & Mike Pidgley Plot 90  
Show secretary Dave stone Plot 63.  
Newsletter Editor John Troke Plot 119a  
John Miles Plot 51  
Chris Searle Plot 109  
Ron Owen Plot 19  
Pauline Mancey Plot 7

DATE JAN 08

PLOT No.

# Longbarrow Allotments Newsletter

## THE THOUGHTS OF CHAIRMAN PETER

Happy New Year – We are now into January, each day there is a little more daylight and our thoughts drift to planning the up-coming growing season. What, I wonder, will 2008 hold for Longbarrow? – It will be difficult to beat 2007!

Hopefully we will be entering the Kitchen Garden “Best Site” competition. Any suggestions on how we can increase our chances of going one better than last year would be warmly welcomed.

On 21<sup>st</sup> February we are holding an evening with John Trimm in the allotment building. John is a leading member of the National Vegetable Society, a top exhibitor and was a judge on the TV programme “The Great British Village Show”.

At this event Chris Searle (plot 109) is organising a “seed swap”. Anyone with surplus seeds should either contact Chris or bring them along the evening. Full details elsewhere in this newsletter.

Later in the year we will be holding a “fun race night”. A fellow plot holder has offered his equipment for this. Full details when they become known.

We will also be holding our open day, hopefully in better weather. Again more details as they are known but, as always, volunteers will be needed. Please contact Jill Owen on plot No 1 if you can help.

On the subject of volunteers, Wilf is always looking for people to help run the shop on Sundays. If you can help please contact Wilf at the shop any morning.

One small “moan” – Last Autumn we ordered some fruit bushes/plants. These were paid for in advance and when they arrived it was announced at the AGM that they were ready for collection. At the same time notices were posted on all the boards but it still took over a month for some of the plants to be collected. Please keep your eye on the notice boards (on the gate, next to the shop entrance and in the toilets) especially if you have ordered something e.g. Asparagus crowns.

Good gardening

Peter Whiting  
Chairman

## ASPARAGUS

We have ordered asparagus crowns for April delivery. A number of people have asked how to deal with them when they arrive, below is a rough guide to their cultivation.

1. Preparing the bed - The earlier you can do this the better. Choose a spot which is sheltered and in full sun and does not become waterlogged. Dig the area nice and deep, removing **all** perennial weeds (you will never be able to dig this bed again). Incorporate plenty of manure or other organic matter.
2. Planting - Take out a trench about 9" deep in the shape of an inverted V. Spread out the roots on this. Cover the crowns with a few inches of soil. For the first season continue to cover the plants as they grow. Plant approx 15" apart in the row. If more than one row is required these should be 3' apart. Alternatively, set out a double row in a staggered formation.
3. Harvesting – It is best not to cut any spears (shoots) in the first year (if you can't resist make sure it is only very few). In subsequent years the spears can be cut, from just below the soil surface, as they reach about 6" high. Cutting must stop in mid to late June (the longest day is often used as a guide), to allow the ferns to grow and build up the strength of the plants.
4. Autumn/Winter Treatment – When the ferns turn yellow in late autumn cut then down to ground level. The bed can then be cleared of any weeds that may be present. Cover the bed with some well rotted manure or compost to both feed the plants and keep down weeds.  
As growth starts in spring give a feed of Blood, Fish and Bone, or similar general fertilizer.

Asparagus beds will, given good conditions and treatment, last many, many years, thirty plus years is not unusual.

This delicious vegetable is very expensive in the shops but is so easy to grow we should all try to find space for some.

Good luck.

Peter Whiting

Christmas Cracker Gardening Gags  
Not so many around this year.  
What is green and jumps around the  
allotment . A Spring Onion

Wanted  
Volunteer to join the toilet cleaning  
rota Please let Wilf know if you are  
available

DO NOT MISS THIS DATE FEB 21st. 7.30 pm

JOHN TRIMM F.N.V.S. GROWING & SHOWING VEGETABLES.

John is one of this country's leading vegetable exhibitors and judges. Many of you will recognise him as one of the judges on that beautiful T.V. programme "The Great British Village Show" Hobnobbing with the likes of Prince Charles, Alan Tichmarch, Medwin Williams and other gardening greats. Some of us were fortunate enough to hear John give a short talk at the annual allotments prizegiving last year and we were so impressed we invited him to give an evening at Longbarrow Which he agreed to do. So DON'T MISS THIS you will not be disappointed.

FEB 21st 7.30pm LONGBARROW HALL

### Spring Flower Plugs

Order forms are now available for plugs .Last year there were quite a few left so it is important ,if you want some this spring that you place your order or you could well miss out. remember they show a good saving on garden centre

### Rats

Once again we have the council in to deal with the rats .This time they are not as big a problem so if you have evidence of them on your plot .(not just running across )please inform the shop. If you come across an orange drain pipe please leave it alone thanks

### Talking Shop

I'm sure you will agree that Mary and Martin have done a wonderful job in rearranging and modernising the shop also the range of goods kept is very comprehensive.

We now have in stock seed potatoes onion sets shallots, this years seeds and all the things you need to get off to a good start in 2008 all at very competitive prices

### Gardeners World Special

On Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April there will be a Gardeners World special shown on BBC 2. The programme is about one of the presenters, Joe Swift, taking an overgrown allotment in North London and will follow the early stages of bringing the plot into production. On 28<sup>th</sup> January our chairman was invited, as a result of winning the allotment of the year competition, to go along to a days filming and lend a hand. Joe is a garden designer and co presenter of Gardeners World but knows very little about vegetable growing and needed advice. The plot is not in good condition, it is thick with couch grass and mares tail and to make matters worse the soil is heavy clay. During the summer Gardeners World will visit Joes plot regularly to check on progress. The programme will, all being well, visit our site during the season when we will have an opportunity to make Joe jealous when he sees what an attractive and productive allotment site looks like. When we know any firm dates we, of course, let you know.