

Nottingham Allotment newsletter number 5

This newsletter is a new addition to the Allotment website. It is in fact a reduced version of the Good Life (the Allotment magazine).

This newsletter is from issue number 32 for the Good Life (Nov 2014)

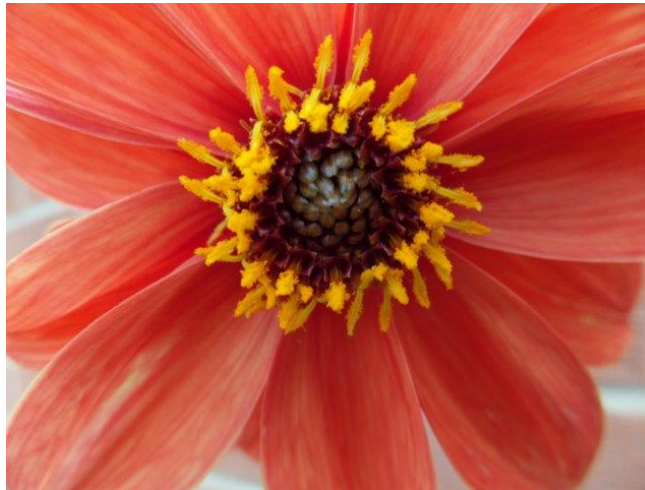


Photo by Jenny

Editor's comments

This is the winter edition of the Good Life. Now we are coming to the end of 2014 let's hope next summer will be as good as the last one. However we don't want the threatened giant hornets and slugs which has appeared on the media.

The two main recent events at the allotment were the Open Day and the Vegetable competition. I would like to thank all the people who gave their help to these events.

I would also like to thank Mavis for setting and running the Book shop on Sunday morning.

Two short articles are given on chillies and the new threat to gardens 'The Spanish Slug'.

The water was switched on after Allotment's Bonfire night on 1st November. Make sure you have an alternative supply of water. Also remember that the toilet will not flush. You will have to use a bucket of water.

Remember to prepare for winter on the allotment. Clear away the weeds and the winter dig. Merry Christmas to you all and a very Happy New Year.

Important announcements for the allotment

The Honorary Secretary attended the **Derby Allotment Networking Event on Thursday 9th October 2014**. The meeting gives the City Council and Allotments managers the opportunity to meet and exchange ideas and concerns. Two issues were identified and discussed.

Security of sites: Crime Prevention.

There is no magic bullet: You make you shed very secure using the best available equipment or you don't lock you shed. The best way to prevent damage is to not keep valuables in your shed and leave it unlocked. Mark any equipment you have so if it is taken and recovered then it can be returned and the person who took it can be prosecuted. Tips:

- Windows – cover over or block off;
- Do you need to store valuables on site?
- Do not leave tools out;
- "SmartWater" or "CREMARK" marking of equipment and tools or just use paint to mark your tools with your post code.

Bonfires on Site.

The Council discourages people from having bonfires because:

- Smoke can cause a nuisance
- Can be irritating to neighbours
- Smoke raises air pollution levels

- Fire can spread to adjacent materials
- Wildlife use piles of garden waste as a refuge – they could be trapped inside!
- Smoke may drift across roads and be dangerous to traffic.

Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, smoke from a bonfire can be a statutory nuisance to people living and working nearby. Where Council Officers witness a smoke nuisance from a bonfire they are under duty to serve an Abatement Notice to stop the nuisance. If there is a breach then a court appearance can result in a £5,000 fine. It could be that one person on the allotment could be issued with a notice and then the next bonfire results in a court appearance. It is individual plot holder's responsibility **not** the Management Committees.

What you should do with your waste is Compost it.

Baths on Site

Derby City Council has banned the bringing onto allotment sites baths. This follows an incident where a child fell into a bath used for water storage on a Derby Allotment site. In addition and in light of this incident the Management Committee have been requested to review our procedures and practices with regard to water storage to ensure they do not pose a risk to anyone using the allotments and especially children. We do have a rule that all children are accompanied by an adult when using or visiting the Environmental (Pearson) Garden. On your own plot please ensure that any open water has a cover on it to prevent people falling in. If you do have a bath on site and are not using it please remove it from site.

Rent's Update

The rents for 2015 will be set at the December's Management Committee Meeting but there will be a change as we will be charging by the square metre and not the square yard. Derby City Council have pointed out to us that we are not allowed to charge using imperial measure so they have changed their rebate form. So all the plot sizes have been converted from square yards to square metres and the charge has changed from 13.5p to 16.15p. Look out for the notices before Christmas about the new rent level. Please note that rent is due on January 1st if not paid by the end of March you will be deemed that you have resigned and left the Allotment Association.

BOOK SHOP OPEN



Sunday morning

HARD BACKS £1

PAPER BACKS 50p

Book Donations gratefully received (bring to the shop on a Sunday 10am-12pm)

Proceeds go to the Allotment

CARNIVAL NEWS

One of our customers from the last Chaddesden Carnival has praised our hanging baskets and pointed out that two were still in flower in October and she will buy more next year.

OPEN DAY



A couple of photos taken on the Open Day.

This year Open day was held in August. It was a very nice sunny day and had plenty of visitors.

The year's competition was held on 21st September.

Vegetable competition

This year's winner is Michael Gilligan, see photo, with the heaviest onion. Michael has the choice of next year's competition vegetable. The other competition winners are given in a separate table and which is also available on the allotment website.



Some winning vegetables



Children's entries



One desperate parsnip

Spanish Slug

The monster slugs, from Spain, can grow up to five inches long. They have been found eating dead mice, dog mess and even each other.

The species have already caused havoc in Scandinavia where slugs feast on road kills, caused so much slime it became a road hazard.

The new species, *Arion vulgaris*, was first identified in East Anglia at the end of last year.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/gardening/9791458/Millions-of-killer-slugs-set-to-take-over-gardens.html>

However it has taken until now to confirm the species is new to the British Isles.

At first scientists thought they could be bigger versions of the slightly smaller Spanish stealth slug (*Arion flagellus*) which have been in the UK since the end of the last war.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/gardening/9791458/Millions-of-killer-slugs-set-to-take-over-gardens.html>



Here are some of the chillies we have been growing in our green house. I thought I would enlighten you on the scale use to measure their strengths.



Bhut Jolokia Assam India Scoville rating 1000000 (extremely hot) – half a strong as pepper spray.



Paper Lantern 350000 – 400000(very hot). A decent curry.



Sweet fruity and hot Habanero-type chili



Peruvian lemon drop Lemony flavoured type chili 30000 - 50000 (hot)

SCOVILLE UNIT RATING	TYPE OF PEPPER
15,000,000-16,000,000	Pure capsaicin
2,000,000-5,300,000	Standard U.S. Grade pepper spray
855,000-1,041,427	Naga Jolokia
350,000-577,000	Red Savina Habanero
100,000-350,000	Habanero chili, Scotch Bonnet
100,000-200,000	Jamaican Hot Pepper
50,000-100,000	Thai Pepper, Pequin Pepper
30,000-50,000	Cayenne Pepper, Tabasco pepper
10,000-23,000	Serrano Pepper
5,000-10,000	Wax Pepper
4,500-5,000	New Mexican Anaheim pepper
2,500-8,000	Jalapeño Pepper
1,500-2,500	Rocotillo Pepper
1,000-1,500	Poblano Pepper
500-2,500	Anaheim pepper
100-500	Pimento, Pepperoncini
0	No heat, Bell pepper

Hot sauces are measured these days in Scoville Units. The "Scoville Organoleptic Test" was developed in 1912 by Wilbur Scoville to measure the heat level of chilli peppers. Pure ground chillies were mixed with sugar water, and a group of "testers" would taste the solution. The solution was diluted in equal increments until the "hotness" was no longer detected.