

the

Syston Allotment Society

Newsletter



Grand Day Out

We are planning another day out this year – last year’s trip to Garden Organic Ryton was a tremendous success and the nominations for our destination are still being discussed. If you would like to go somewhere with an allotment theme within the not-too-distant area, please make a suggestion to the committee. The back page will always have contact details of the committee as well as some valuable information for a variety of allotment subjects.



Committee praises Town Council Egg-cellence

The society is pleased to announce that Syston Town Council has embraced a subsection of the *Allotments Act 1950* by allowing the keeping of hens and rabbits on the allotments. The committee and STC have worked hard in consultation and have agreed a set of rules and guidance in keeping hens. We have even elected a Poultry Officer – Grizz from plot 15b.

More details on Page 3.

Save the Date!

Hedge Trim

15th May

Weather permitting, we will be trimming the front hedge and some general tidy-up jobs near the pond.

Spring Sale

22nd May

Help us fund the committee coffers by donating produce. Where does the money go? See page 2

Plot judging

July

The best allotment prizes will be judged as close to 1st July as weather will allow

Syston & The Knoll

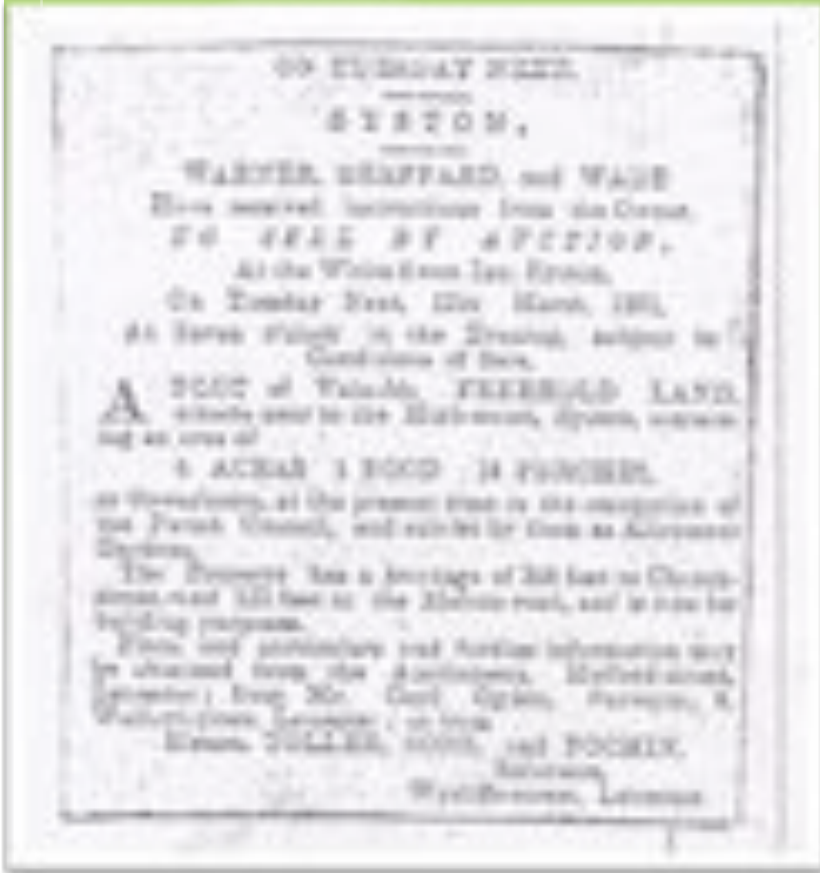
Syston has had allotments for at least 110 years and not just in Upper Church Street...

Other allotments

There are at least two other allotment plots known to have existed in Syston: One Allotment garden is in the area now occupied by Coplow Crescent off Goode's Lane, whilst another was along Barkby Road near the junction of College Road. Plot holder Grizz has been liaising with Syston Historical Society in obtaining further information as the previous owner of our allotment is unknown.

Sale by public auction, 1901

Grizz has obtained the attached notice of sale from the Historical Society and our next level of research will be to identify the "Owner" mentioned within this notice.



Forthcoming Spring produce sale

The Spring sale is set for Saturday, 22nd May. Plot holders are kindly requested to make donations and present them to Terry Bailey on Friday 21st or to be present at the allotments during the hours of sale (9am to midday). Plot holders are welcome to join us at the Point-Of-Sale under the bandstand in Market Square.

The "Knoll"

Mick Hall left a note when he reluctantly gave up his allotment at plot 15 giving a brief history of his shed and the allotments. He stated that there was, for a long time, a sign on the gate that said "The Knoll". Knoll has two meanings – a small hill or mound, and to summon by a bell, however there are other local references - Knowle's field and a Knowle's Cottage which may offer the correct derivation.





It's been a varied Spring so far...

Our pond has been used to donate frog spawn to the Birstall allotment society who have no spawn this year. There were so many frogs in the pond this year that many were climbing on top of each other in some kind of amphibious orgy! Any witnesses may have mis-spelt it as Frogs Porn.

We have had perhaps the worst case of vandalism this year so far with almost every plot suffering from minor damage of removed plants to our sheds upturned and glasshouses smashed. Local PCSO Glenn has been visiting us and on one occasion the vandal lost a lot of blood that was banked by Scenes Of Crimes Officers (SOCO) for future use. If you encounter any visitation, no matter what the damage done, please report it to Leicester

constabulary via telephone 222-2222.

Now that the keeping of chickens has been accepted by the council, Grizz (plot 15b) and Vin & Lyn (Coach trip fame & plot 57b) have now built coops within the rules agreed between the Town Council and the Committee. If you want to keep chickens, please visit Grizz on 15b who will sum up the pros and cons and supply a DVD to help you decide if this is the route for you.

Also, many thanks go to those of you who attended the AGM on 15th March, followed by an excellent presentation by Mike Davey regarding year-round growth. Details of your questions and replies can be found on the minutes which have been placed on the notice-board by the entrance to the allotments.

450g/141/2oz rhubarb
450g/141/2oz caster sugar
The rind of one lemon



Rhubarb Jam

Makes about three small parfait jars

Wash the rhubarb and remove any stringy bits. Pat dry and weigh the remainder, as it is important to have equal quantities of sugar to fruit when making jams.

Slice the fruit into one-inch pieces and place in a preserving pot or heavy-based saucepan and cover with the sugar. Place over a gentle heat, stir continuously to prevent burning and, when the sugar has melted completely, stir in the lemon rind and turn up the heat.

Boil the jam for 10 minutes, then remove the pot from the heat. Sterilise your jars by putting them in boiling water for 10 minutes, then spoon the warm rhubarb into each jar. Seal with lids.

Allow the jars to cool in a draft-free space and remember that once the seal has been broken the jam must be stored in the fridge.

The Allotment committee



Peter Rowlatt



Sam Eames



Paul Windridge



Grizz



Mick Streetley



Terry Bailey



Matt Davis



Terry Farmer

We are the committee who work on your behalf in getting the shop stocked, liaising with the council, organising social events, keeping the appearance of the site tidy and attending committee meetings. We are also available for advice as we know the history of the site and many of the projects that have gone before, as well as projects currently underway or being investigated. We are also knowledgeable about statutes that affect the allotments and you as tenants on council owned land. We do not police the site itself nor are we responsible for keeping your plots tidy and worked but we do accompany the council during their regular inspections.

We also keep you up to date with issues that may affect you, both by this vital newsletter and on the world wide web at the web address below.

Missing from our mug-shots is Jackie Stanley (plot 2A) who is also on the committee.

We are available via the following methods:

Internet: www.matthewdavis.co.uk/sas

e-mail: sas@matthewdavis.co.uk

twitter: www.twitter.com/AllotmentsLE7

facebook: www.facebook.com (search Syston Allotment Society)