



Newport Parish Council

Allotment Newsletter Summer 2015

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Dates for your diary.....

The **Allotment Produce Show** will be held on Sunday 12th July 11-4 as part of Newport Parish Council's inaugural Summer Fair at Victoria Recreation Ground. This event is to celebrate the Parish Council taking on the responsibility of this community facility (the grounds and the Pavilion) from the IW Council. The Parish Council are pleased to be working in partnership with the long-established Newport Victoria Sports & Social Club.

For further details and an application form contact Maxine Yule (details at top of page) or download from www.newportwight.org.uk. Closing date for entry forms 7th July.



The **Allotment Forum** meeting will now be held on Wednesday 17th June at 7pm in the Riverside Centre.



Newport's Bloomin' Green Competition. This isn't about creating a pristine Chelsea Show exhibit! It's about having a wildlife-friendly garden or allotment, whether that's by planting nectar and pollen-rich plants for bees and butterflies, providing a small pond for amphibians or a habitat pile using recycled wood pallets or making your allotment organic.

Don't forget the judges will also award points for any clever uses of recycling materials. Remember, the more innovative the better! How about a scarecrow fashioned out of reclaimed materials or bird feeders made from plastic bottles? Turn over the page for tips on how to achieve this.

Closing date for entry forms is 12th June. Judging will take place mid-late July. For further information contact Maxine Yule (details at top of page).

Allotment Mocktails

"Summertime and the living is easy" After a hard day on the allotment what better than to put your feet up with a refreshing 'Mocktail'. Some of the ingredients you may well be growing on your plot - there's an enormous recipe range you could choose from but here's just one to give you inspiration!

Strawberry-Mint Soda

- 2 large limes, quartered
- 1/2 bunch mint leaves
- 7 strawberries, quartered
- 1 cup white sugar
- 3 cups carbonated water



Squeeze the lime quarters into a sturdy glass pitcher. Toss the juiced limes into the pitcher along with the mint, strawberries, and sugar. Crush the fruits together with a muddler to release the juices from the strawberries and the oil from the mint leaves. Stir in the club soda until the sugar has dissolved. Pour into the sugared glasses over ice cubes to serve.

See <http://allrecipes.com/Recipe/Strawberry-Mint-Soda>

National Allotments Week 10th - 16th August 2015

Take part in the National Allotments Society's competition 'A Plot for all ages'. Categories include Oldest plot-holder/Youngest plot-holder / Oldest site. For further details go to <http://www.nsalg.org.uk/news-events-campaigns/national-allotments-week/>



Recycling on the allotments

Please ensure you help keep the sites tidy by removing any unwanted materials or rubbish. And don't forget to recycle wherever possible – if you're entering the Bloomin' Green Competition that could earn you points too! Here are just a few tips:

“Deter animals from digging up or pooping on your fresh herbs and veggies by strategically placing a few plastic forks in your garden or raised beds....” *Tip courtesy of First Tunnels Polytunnels Ltd's Facebook page.*

Pair of split wellies lurking in the shed? Then plant them up!



<http://hubpages.com/hub/-recycled-container-gardening-ideas>

Reusing plastic bottles: the uses for these is endless, from cutting off the top half to use as a mini cloche, using as bird feeders or even, for the very ambitious, making an entire greenhouse !



Photo: www.greenoptimistic.com

Keep the bugs at bay!

Sharing your plot with a host of hungry invaders or pulling out weeds on a daily basis can drive you to distraction - but rather than reach for pesticides that can do more harm than good why not try these biofriendly pest and weed spray ideas?

DIY Homemade Garlic-Mint Garden Insect Spray (*adapted from Keeper of the Home*)

2 whole heads garlic, cloves separated and peeled
3 cups mint leaves (and stems)
2 tsp. dry cayenne pepper
2 small squirts of biodegradable dishwashing liquid
Add the garlic and mint to a food processor and pulse for a few seconds.

Transfer mixture to a large pot and add the cayenne and 12 cups water.

Bring to a boil; remove from heat and let sit overnight. Strain into a couple of spray bottles (or gallon garden sprayer) and add the two small squirts of dish soap.

To Use:

Shake well before each use, this mainly repels bugs, though if they rub against it, it can kill them. Spray all the leaves on affected plants, including the undersides – preferably on a cloudy day so as not to burn the plants. Wait a few days to see the effect and then apply more if needed

Homemade vinegar weed killer spray (<http://www.rspb.org.uk/community/wildlife/homesforwildlife>)

4 cups of vinegar to half a cup of salt and two teaspoons of washing up liquid or multiples thereof. Be aware it will kill treasured plants nearby if not used with care, either spray on a sunny day or paint on leaves with a paintbrush or wipe on with a cloth.

And finally

If you would like to contribute a photo, recipe, article, etc. to the Autumn newsletter please contact Maxine Yule using the details shown at the top of the newsletter.

Be sure to check for regular updates and for all the latest news and information on the allotments and Newport Parish Council at:

www.newportwight.org

www.twitter.com/newportiwpc

www.facebook.com/newportwight

