



The Buckinghamshire District Association  
(promoting the growing and eating of vegetables)  
Secretary (Tel: 01296 630659)

Aylesbury Allotment holders are very welcome to attend National Vegetable Society talks staged to help allotment holders grow better vegetables.

NVS Members: Free, Non-members: £3

The venue for our 2020 talks will be:-

The Community Centre, Church Street, Wingrave, HP22 4PD

**Tuesday 25th February 2020 @ 7.00pm: "Seeds & Seed Production" - A talk by David Thornton from Select Seeds**

David is coming to enlighten us on all aspects of seeds and seed production. Whilst David's choice of varieties is of particular interest to exhibitors, he also has a keen focus on the best varieties for the allotment grower and kitchen gardener. David will show us what goes in to producing our favourite seeds to satisfy the top gardeners and show winners alike. David will be bringing seeds for sale to this talk.

As we start another allotment year a few reminders please .....

- \* do not wander onto other plots unless you are tending it in someone's absence and never take produce unless permission has been given. If a plot is vacant (and please check first) with fruit ready to harvest, don't let it go to waste and share the goodies with other tenants too.
- \* maintain the pathways bordering your plots, the Town Council will only cut the main access paths and tracks.
- \* ensure the gates are locked after you use them.

## WINTER VEGETABLE & LENTIL SOUP

### Ingredients

- 85g Dried red Lentils
- 2 Carrots, quartered lengthways, then diced
- 3 sticks of Celery, sliced
- 2 small Leeks, sliced
- 2 tbsp. Tomato puree
- 1 tbsp. fresh Thyme leaves
- 3 large Garlic cloves, chopped
- 1 tbsp. vegetable bouillon powder
- 1 heaped tsp ground Coriander

### Method

- Tip dried red lentils, celery sticks and leeks in to a large pan.
- Add the tomato puree, fresh thyme leaves, garlic cloves, vegetable bouillon powder and ground coriander.
- Pour over 1½ litres of boiling water from the kettle and stir well.
- Cover and leave to simmer for 30 minutes, until the vegetables and lentils are tender.
- Ladle in to bowls and eat straight away.
- If you like a thick texture, blitz a third of the soup with a hand blender or in a food processor.



carrots, sliced

December 2019



## AYLESBURY TOWN COUNCIL ALLOTMENT MATTERS



The year is coming to an end, the shortest day will soon be here and we look forward to the new season.

With the winter weather being a bit unpredictable, take time to sit down in the warm with the seed catalogues and start planning what you will grow next year, or, if you do venture onto your allotment plot, make sure you thaw out with a large bowl of the Winter soup on your return home (recipe on the back page)!

*Aylesbury Town Council would like to wish you all a Very Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for the New Year*

### Allotment Rents - Notice of Increase with effect 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020

Everyone should by now have received notification of a rent increase for 2020. Following formal consideration by the Council's Direct Services Committee at their meeting on 5 June 2019, it was agreed that allotment rents will increase by 2% with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020.

Details of the new rents are shown in the table below.

Site	Plot Size	Current Rent	New Rent (from 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2020)
Crown Leys	10 Pole	£62.00	£63.24
Crown Leys	5 Pole	£31.00	£31.62
All other sites	10 Pole	£50.00	£51.00
All other sites	5 Pole	£25.00	£25.50
All sites	2.5 Pole	£10.00	£10.20

At present the cost of providing allotments is not covered by the income derived from them and thus a modest increase was considered fair and reasonable.

### Responsibilities ...

*Please remember it is the plotholder's responsibly to ensure that the internal paths and communal areas adjoining the plots are kept cut and free of weeds, also, all pathways should be kept to a minimum width of 2 feet.*

### DISPOSAL OF WASTE

On some allotment sites, it has been noted that garden waste not fit for composting and household rubbish, has been deposited in the hedges or ditches rather than being taken to the tip. Tenants are asked to dispose of their waste responsibly and if you have a neighbour who does not have transport, offer to help them out if you are making a trip to the tip yourself.

### New Allotment Holders

If this is your first season as an allotment holder, a very warm welcome. The first year is always the most daunting as you get to grips with the digging and preparation. As time goes on, it does get easier and, of course, you get to enjoy the fresh air, exercise, chat with other allotment holders. The most important of all is that you get to reap the benefits of all the lovely fresh produce you have worked so hard for.

**DO YOU HAVE SURPLUS SEEDS?  
WHY NOT SWAP WITH YOUR  
FELLOW GARDENERS !**



***And the winners are.....***

**ALLOTMENT COMPETITION 2019**

The 2019 Aylesbury Town Council (ATC) Allotments Awards were held on 1st August at Lindengate. We would like to express our thanks to Lindengate, not only for opening their gardens for the evening, but also to Charlie Powell and Andy Grant for judging the allotment plots. The judges awarded prizes to the best three plots at each site, with additional prizes for Best Newcomer, Best Fruit, Best Use of Space, Colour on your Allotment, Overall Winner and the new Graham Webster Memorial Cup for the Best Vegetable. Lindengate also created a new award called the Lindengate Award, which created three stunning engraved prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. The presentations were made by the Town Mayor, Cllr Mike Smith with all winners each receiving an engraved award and certificate. 1st prize and best winners, also received a voucher. Good Luck to everyone for next years awards!!!

**Here is a selection of some of the winning plots:**



**Ardenham Lane**  
1st - Mr Mhandu  
2nd - Mr Rigby  
3rd - Mr Reyes

**Bedgrove**  
1st - Mr Horne  
2nd - Mr Sulikowski  
3rd - Mr Ramasamy

**Bierton Road**  
1st - Mr Cox  
2nd - Mr Hurley  
3rd - Ms Howard

**Crown Leys**  
1st - Mr Dilleyston  
2nd - Mr Walker  
3rd - Mr Golder

**Old Stoke Road**  
1st - Mr Mitchell  
2nd - Mr White  
3rd - Ms Wickham & Ms Crabtree

**Tring Road**  
1st - Mr Santosusso  
2nd - Mr Keasley  
3rd - Mr & Mrs Poulton

**Whaddon Chase**  
1st - Mr Richardson  
2nd - Mr Seymour  
3rd - Mrs Bass

**Overall Winner**  
Mrs Northam-Bedgrove

**Best Newcomer Award**  
Mr Aylmer-Bedgrove

**Commended Newcomer**  
Mrs Beaton-Crown Leys  
Mr Searle-Tring Road

**Graham Webster Award**  
Mr Keasley-Best Veg

**Best Fruit**  
Ms Bentz

**Colour on Your Allotment**  
Mr Cox-Bierton Road

**Clever Use of Space**  
Ms Howard-Bierton Road

**Lindengate Award**  
1st - Mrs Northam  
2nd - Mr Santosusso  
3rd - Mrs Wilks



Lindengate is a mental health charity that offers specialised gardening activities to help those with mental health needs in their continuing recovery. Our services, known as Social and Therapeutic Horticulture (STH), use the healing power of nature and the outdoors to improve mental wellbeing, boost self-esteem & social inclusion and encourage long-term recovery. STH is recognised to be beneficial for a wide range of mental health needs including anxiety, depression, loneliness as well as for people with autism (ASD), dementia and head injury.

The charity operates from a 5-acre site in south Buckinghamshire which is easily reached from within Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire and Oxfordshire. They offer gardening, conservation, horticulture, craft and construction activities that enable users to spend time in a managed and calm environment, either singly or in small groups, reducing their isolation and working towards their recovery.

If you would like to BE A PART OF SOMETHING SPECIAL AND HELP THEM MAKE IT HAPPEN, They are always looking for enthusiastic individuals to volunteer and be part of their team. No matter what you have to offer, at Lindengate we will have a worthwhile opportunity for you to enjoy. And don't worry if you do not have green fingers!

You can contact them using the following details: Telephone: 01296 622443 or email: [volunteer@lindengate.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@lindengate.org.uk)