

BUTT FOR YOU!

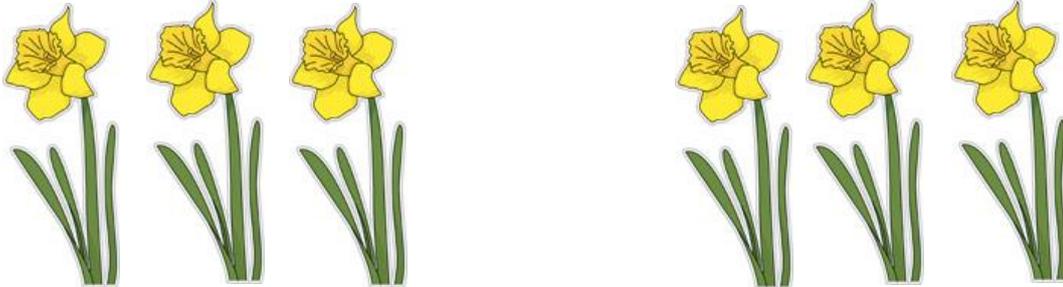
Butts Piece Newsletter

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Allotment Committee

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DAFFODOWNDILLY

She wore her yellow sun bonnet,
She wore her greenest gown
She turned to the south wind
And curtsied up and down
She turned to the sunlight
And shook her yellow head
And whispered to her neighbour
"Winter is dead"

A.A. Milne



TIME TO INTO ACTION

Finally, after one of the wettest winter's on record we have a little sunshine. Spring is in the air with the daffodils and blossom very much in evidence and hope springs eternal that we will soon be able to catch up on all the digging, weeding and ground preparation usually done during fine periods of the winter months ready for planting.

If you haven't already started, it's a good idea to chit potatoes and plant peas and broad beans in pots in a sheltered spot ready for planting out next month. French beans can also be started off but it is better to wait a couple of weeks before starting runner beans which soon catch up if planted out in May.

Slugs and snails will become more active in spring so it's a good idea to take preventive measures early on to mitigate damage to young plants. Beer traps, wool pellets, egg shells, pea shingle, copper tape and of course slug pellets can all be used depending on your preferences. If using slug pellets, try to use the wildlife friendly variety. If anyone has any other tips for pest control please share them with us so we can pass them on via the newsletter.

Now is a good opportunity to fertilize your plot a few weeks before planting. There are numerous products on the market and it can be confusing what to use, when and where. Farmyard and stable manure are excellent soil improvers, but must be well rotted before application otherwise it can burn young roots. Garden and household compost are also very good. When making your own compost, make sure that the plant matter is thoroughly decomposed – compost should be sweet smelling and of a crumbly texture. Leafmould is particularly good for clay soils and mushroom compost is high in nutrients but is not good for limy soils. Other organic fertilizers and old favourites are blood fish and bone, seaweed extracts and hoof and horn which are good for all soils and contain natural minerals. There are also inorganic fertilizers with different solutions of nitrates, phosphates and potassium along with varying amounts of other trace elements produced from chemical processes.

AGM & RENEWALS 2014

This year's which we hope that many of you will attend. This is your chance to let us know how you would like the allotments to evolve and what facilities you feel could be provided. We have not received any nominations for new committee members but there is still time if anyone would like to join and nominations can be made at the meeting.



AGM will be held in the Village Hall (small hall) at 8pm on 26th March 2014. This is your chance to let us know how you would like the allotments to evolve and what facilities you feel could be provided. We have not received any nominations for new committee members but there is still time if anyone would like to join and nominations can be made at the meeting.

Renewals for the coming season will shortly be sent out and payment is due by 1st April 2014. Payment can be made at the AGM or direct to the Parish Council. If you are not planning to renew this year please let the Parish Clerk know in good time so that anyone taking over can do so at the beginning of the season.



due by 1st Council. If good time

COMPOST TOILET

The new compost toilet has now been installed and is ready to use. Please read the instructions which are published on sawdust, which helps the composting process and reduces odours and hand sanitiser which should be used before and after using the facility. Toilet paper can also be used provided it is deposited in the rear of the toilet. Please ensure that children are supervised before and after they are unable to read those published. Committee members will periodically check cleanliness and replenish supplies.



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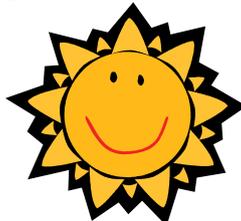
Committee members will periodically check cleanliness and replenish supplies.

Please use this facility responsibly and leave it as clean as you would expect to find it.



Thought for the day:-

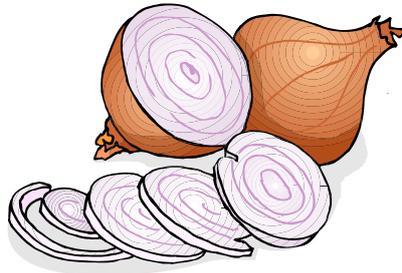
God made rainy days, so gardeners could get the housework done.



And so to work.....

RECIPE CORNER

ONION QUICHE



Ingredients

1lb (500g) onions
4 rashers streaky bacon
2oz (50g) butter
6oz (175g) shortcrust pastry
3 eggs
½ pt (300ml) soured cream
3 tbsps dry white wine
salt and pepper
1 tbsp finely chopped basil

Peel and slice the onions.

Melt the butter in a pan, add the onions and allow to “sweat” on a low heat until they are soft and golden but not brown. Drain and allow to cool.

Prepare the pastry and line an 8” (20cm) flan tin. Put in the fridge to chill.

To make the filling, beat the eggs and season with salt and pepper. Beat in the dry white wine and the soured cream then add the basil.

Fold the cooked onions into the mixture and spoon into the prepared and chilled pastry.

Lay 4 bacon rashers on top and bake for 40 minutes at 200 deg C (400 deg F/ gas mark 6) until the filling is firm.

Serve with a crispy salad or jacket potato.

Readers's Digest

Food from your Garden and Allotment

DOGS AT THE ALLOTMENTS

Could we please remind everyone that the terms and conditions state that dogs brought to the allotments must be kept on a lead at all times. Please ensure that dogs are properly supervised and that they do not defecate within the allotment enclosure. Should accidents occur, please collect and dispose of any mess immediately and place in the receptacle provided near to the Wilcher Close gate.