



February 2022

Welcome to the first Newsletter of 2022. It is aimed to publish Newsletter four times each year with a special separate Newsletter covering the Annual Produce and Flower Show. We welcome newsworthy features, comments, articles, recipes etc these should be forwarded to the Secretary nlhssecretary@gmail.com or the Chairman mal.nlhschair@gmail.com

Having just returned from the Store with my bag full of seed potatoes and seeds I spent an enjoyable afternoon laying out my potatoes in egg boxes for them to chit and sowing my banana shallots and leeks.

Stop Press: The National Allotment Society magazine (Issue 1 - 2022) has just been delivered and on page 43 there is a full page spread covering last year's show and the announcement of our AGM/Mick Poultny's talk on 6TH April. A copy is on the website and as soon as the full magazine becomes available to download it will be put on the website.

Society News:

First and foremost the new Society website is live and full of useful information and details of forthcoming events access can be gained by following this link: <https://www.northlincolnhorticulturalsociety.co.uk> The date of the AGM has been agreed as the 6th April which is followed with a talk by Mick Poultny. Further social events have been agreed and are detailed on the web-site. The Annual Produce and Flower show is on 10th September. Late last year we had a visit by the editor of Kitchen Garden, Steve Ott. He spent several hours chatting with members and wandering around Clarence 'A' allotment taking photos. This resulted in the publication of an excellent article in February's edition of the magazine. You can read the article on the Society website.





Store News:

The Store opened on the 29th January and is open every Saturday morning until the end on November, times 9am until 1130am. All seed and potato orders are all bagged up and ready for collect. One's membership needs to be renewed as of January and those who take advantage of the National Allotment Society's free third party liability offer need to be members.

The Store is fully stocked with composts, fertilisers and general gardening requisites including fleece/mesh for the protection from frosts and pigeons and black polythene for the control of weeds.

Last year there was some concern voiced regarding the quality of the compost we stocked as a result we have replaced this with two of Growells's composts Bloom and Grow and Bloom and Grow Magic(this latter compost contains seaweed). Both are proving to be excellent composts. We also changed to Growells's organic peat free composts for those members who prefer to grow organically.

There are some potatoes, shallots and onions left from our orders but these are selling rather quickly.

You should be aware that we no longer loan gardening machinery to members, this is because of possible liability should there be an accident. This equipment will be eventually sold to members

Annual Produce and Flower Show

Following the success of last year's show we are holding this year's show on 10th September at the Grandstand Community Centre. The Committee have agreed the schedule, a copy of which is on the website with the Show details. <https://www.northlincolnhorticulturalsociety.co.uk/annual-show>. There are several new classes some of which call for a collection of vegetables and a Master Gardeners Class requiring a vase of flowers and dishes of vegetables and fruit.

Now is the time to start planning ones entry by reading through the Schedule. I hear one saying that I would rather grow my vegetables for the table, however, one can take them to the show first and then to the kitchen.

February Jobs

- Digging should be almost complete if not finished. The soil is too cold for direct sowing but cloches will help raise the soil temperature.



- A good month to complete any necessary repairs and to service one's gardening equipment.
- Mulch fruit areas. Final spray of winter tree wash and application of grease bands.
- Plenty to do in the greenhouse especially if it is heated. Prick out leeks and onions, a first sowing of Brussel sprouts, early cabbage, and perhaps a few tomatoes, peppers, aubergines and chillis.

March Jobs

- This is the month when the season really gets going. The light levels and daylight length, a real trigger for new growth, improve and first sowings can be made for an early crop. However, the best laid plans can be spoiled by the weather especially there is still a good chance of a frost. Keep an eye on the overnight temperatures and protect plants and seedlings from frosts.
- With all the rain we have had it is perhaps a good idea to test the soil for nutrient levels (NPK) and ph levels. Soil testing kits are relatively cheap and easy to use. Use planks/scaffolding boards to walk if the soil is wet to avoid compacting the soil.
- The sowing of seed both outside can begin and continue sowing under cover. Check the back of the seed packets for information on sowing times, advice on how to sow and handy tips. Potatoes should have started to chit and plant out the early cultivars followed at regular intervals of second earlies and main crop.
- Plant out onion sets, shallots and garlic before they start to produce shoots. Reject any that are shooting as they are likely to bolt during the summer.

Stop Press

Evening Talk by Mick Poultney aka 'The Compost King'

Immediately after the AGM Wednesday 6th April, 8pm
at Castle Ward Working Men's Club, Kingsley Street, Lincoln, LN1 3JN.

- Complete any unfinished digging and winter pruning. Give soft fruit a top dressing of general fertiliser and keep some fleece handy to protect the developing





strawberry flowers from frost. Any frost damaged flowers are easily identified as they display a tell-tale “black eye” at the centre of the dead flower.

- When the weather conditions allow it, complete the preparations of seed beds for direct seed sowing. Spread the job out over several days to allow the surface of the soil to dry out.

Isi's Apple and Mincemeat Tart

Ingredients:

Cooking/eating apples

Mincemeat

Pastry flan case.

Cinnamon

Crumble mixture for the

Line a pie dish with short crust pastry.

Bake in the oven till dried.

Remove and sprinkle lightly with cinnamon.

Cover the base with mincemeat, as much as one likes.

Then cover with a layer of lightly cooked and then drained apple.

For the topping sprinkle over a crumble mixture and press down firmly.

Society Contact Details

If you wish to contact the Society try one of the following:

Mal Reynolds: mal.nlhschair@gmail.com

Ingrid Seal: nlhssecretary@gmail.com

Key Dates for 2022

AGM - 6th April

Annual Show - 10th September

Store Opens - 29th January

Store Closes - 12th November

Contributions for the spring newsletter should be forwarded to
mal.nlhschair@gmail.com

