



August Newsletter

Do what you can, with what you have

Its never too late

Show date 10th Sept

Our Annual Product and Flower show is only a matter of a few weeks away and is the Society's main event of the year.

If not already done so Members intending to enter should download a copy of the schedule from the web site; link:

<https://www.northlincolnhorticulturalsociety.co.uk/annual-show>

marking off those classes one intends to enter, checking the last date for entries to be submitted and finally, details for staging. For those not intending to enter there is tea, coffee and refreshments available from 9am so come and meet friends and fellow members, and once the judging is complete take a look at the entries. The Show opens to the general public at 1230pm and prize giving is at 2pm.

Stop Press:

We are making a small change to the web-site by replacing the 'Stop Press' heading with 'Articles.' It is intended to populate this section with a number of 'How To' articles which will hopefully explain how to grow different vegetables and other aspects related to gardening. The first article on 'How to Grow Carrots' will be available shortly.

The issue regarding the community Right to Build on Long Leys continues. The Council have set out a number of criteria that the LLRA need to answer before they would undertake any further work. The criteria are extensive and far reaching and the LLRA may have some difficulty in satisfactorily answering them.



If one intends to grow some new potatoes for Christmas now is the time to purchase them and get them chiting. Charlotte is the variety one should consider and can be purchased from Kings seeds.

Society News:

The Summer Solstice evening was a great success. The list was closed with some 46 members booking for the evening. The Society's garden looked magnificent in the early evening sun and despite the threat of rain the weather kept fine and we enjoyed a balmy evening throughout. There was a delicious fare of various sandwiches, sausage rolls, pies and mouth watering desserts. A convivial atmosphere ensued, interspaced with several excellent guitar recitals. In all a most enjoyable evening.



Stop Press

*A talk by
Peter Booker - NVS Judge
On*

**Preparing your vegetables for the Show bench
27th July 8pm**

Buffet

**Castle Ward Working Man's Club
Kingsley St, Lincoln**

The next social event is on 27th July, a talk by our show judge Peter Booker on how to prepare one's vegetables for show. Peter will be discussing growing methods, varieties for exhibition and preparation. There will be a buffet, if you intend to come along, listen to Peter and enjoy meeting members and the buffet please email Ingrid nlhssecretary@gmail.com

Following the last Newsletters mention of NPK a number of members have been making reference to "Comfrey Tea." This is an organic liquid fertiliser high in potash and can be used for feeding tomatoes, potatoes, peppers etc. Whilst discussing organic liquid fertilisers one can also consider "Nettle Tea" which has a high nitrogen content and therefore good for nitrogen loving plants such as brassicas and sweetcorn. Both are



easy to make by compressing the leaves in water to make the tea however, both smell disgusting. If purchasing comfrey buy only Block 14 type which is a sterile clone because if the plant set viable seed then the seedlings would quickly cover ones plot.

Comfrey is a versatile plant, its leaves can be used to lining the trench when planting potatoes (should the leaves be available at planting time) also when planting French and runner beans. Also use wilted and/or chopped leaves on the compost heap and as a mulch between rows of potatoes, around tomatoes etc.

Make Comfrey tea by adding 1kg/2 lb of wilted/chopped leaves to 15l/3 gallons of water and leave for a period of up to six weeks. Ensure the container has a lid as the smell is akin to raw sewage. Use the resulting liquid undiluted. For nettle tea add 1kg/2lb of nettle leaves to 10l/2 gallons of water and leave for approx two weeks. Use the resulting liquid at a dilution rate of 10:1.

Block 14 Comfrey can be purchased here comfrey.co.uk

Whilst researching content for the 'How To' guides the mention of "Garlic' Barrier" occurs frequently. Allicin, a pungent and potent compound derived from Garlic proves to be an successful method of pest control without the use of insecticides and chemicals and is effective over a wide range of insects, beetles, caterpillars, borers as well as being particularly effective against slugs and snails.

This natural pesticide can be purchased but this normally has other natural ingredients added and it is simple to make ones own. There are a number of recipes on the internet but all have a similar required effect. The main ingredients are garlic cloves, mineral oil dish soap(biodegradable) and water. The simple steps are as follow:

- a. Blend four cloves of garlic with a tablespoon of mineral oil and let it sit for 24 hours.
- b. Strain the paste, add one tablespoon of soap and a pint of water.
- c. This resulting mixture is in a concentrated form and must be diluted before use at a rate of two tablespoons of concentrate to one pint of water. n.b. Be sure to test your spray on a small part of your plant and wait for a day or two to make sure that there is no damage to the leaves. If there is yellowing or other damage, you can further dilute your garlic spray.



