

PRICE 50p



Issue N° 6.  
December 2001

# *The Allotment Gardener*

**The Journal Of The Nottingham  
& District Allotments Council**

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## **RALEIGH**

### **Relocation of Blenheim Lane Allotments**

We feel it necessary to write to set the record straight, due to the misleading information that has been printed about the relocation of Blenheim Allotments. Contrary to what has been suggested no allotment holder will be displaced. The Nottingham & District Allotments Council was consulted about the proposal before it was announced to the public. Nottingham City Council is one of a very few authorities that have an Allotment Charter, Allotments Advisory Group and stated policy. It has carried out its commitment to these fully.

The compensation package that has been negotiated by N. & D.A.C. and the working party with the City Council is as follows. The two sites will have security fencing around the perimeters, individual plots will be fenced and hedges replanted. Where possible ploholders sheds and/or greenhouses will be relocated on their new plots. If this is not practical new sheds/greenhouses of similar size and value will be erected in their place. The main avenues will be wide enough to accommodate skip lorries etc. with car parking at various points. Two feet of topsoil will be laid on the sites. Compensation will be provided for established trees and bushes, which could not be practically relocated. The Pigeon Fanciers are to have new lofts provided on their plots. In addition each allotment holder will receive a payment for the hardship caused by re-location. A purpose built clubhouse with toilets was offered but the ploholders rejected this in favour of having a supply of organic fertiliser.

A number of plots will be made available for disabled persons. The sites will be granted Statutory Status plus a 25-year lease in line with other sites in the city. Any ploholder who does not want to take up a plot on the new sites will be fully compensated for the value of their property. This goes far beyond the legal requirement for compensation which is for growing crops, residual fertilisers and manure.

In closing I quote the secretary of Blenheim New Site who confirms that 100% of his tenants are in favour of the deal and agree to move. The officials of Blenheim Lane Site say 95% of their tenants are also in agreement and the last thing they need is any further delay in the move.

R.B. Knowles

Chairman Nottingham & District Allotments Council

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## **NEWS FLASH**

Potato, onion and seed schemes:-  
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## ALLOTMENT COMPETITION

The allotment competition is now over, so those that have entered can now relax. As the site that I am on has hedges all the way round each plot and the site, a question came to mind as I was merrily cutting my hedge, I came across a linnet's nest. When Tony Hallam came around with the judge I asked him why was the competition in July for the sites, I can appreciate the plots being judged in July as that is when all the crops are in full growth, but as birds still have their young until the end of July, would it not be better to have the sites judged in August, he gave me a very vague reply. As an allotment holder I enjoy the wild life that we have, should we not be protecting it, should we not ask the Advisory Group to put a proposal to the Nottingham City Council that Sites should be judged in August and not July, this way the birds that still have chicks will have a chance? I would like anybody to send their comments to me, and whether anybody else agrees with me.

D. Dinsdale

Secretary.

As part of my role as Secretary I assist in the distribution of the Journal, I came across a Mr. Robinson. When I went to his bungalow to deliver the Journal, there he was sitting in a chair admiring his back garden, when I popped my head around the corner I was amazed at what I saw. Vegetables in pots all in rows. I felt that if Mr. Robinson would help me do a write up for the Journal it would be interesting for a lot of people that have small gardens, and those that have problems digging (don't we all). So watch this space.

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### Snippets from the Nottingham & District Allotments Council meetings:

The Nottingham & District Allotments Council have available a Constitution and Tenancy Agreement, which has been written up by a barrister, due to the Human Rights Acts that came into force last year. The documents are available to our members for a small fee. If anybody wants any further information regarding these documents, please contact Mr. Knowles or Mrs. Dinsdale.

Nottingham & District Knees Up will be held on 7th December 2001. Please contact Mr. Steve Waterfall if you are interested.



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Vice-Chairman Mr. W. Maher 4 Barbrook Close, Wollaton, Nottingham, NG8 1JG. Tel: 0115 9163327

Secretary Mrs. D. Dinsdale 34 Courtleet Way, Nottingham, NG6 8FG. Tel: 0115 9279172

Treasurer Mr. P. McGrath 42 Baythorn Road, Bilborough, Nottingham, NG8 4FB. Tel: 0115 9290516

Publicity Officer Mr. S. Waterfall 29 Plungar Close, Beechdale Estate, Nottingham, NG8 3FW. Tel: 0115 9297289

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Mr. J. Sheeron 3 Churchfield Lane, Radford, Nottingham, NG7 5QA.  
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Mr. J. Dyer 14 Kinross Crescent, Beechdale, Nottingham, NG8 3FU.  
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Mr. J. Tring 82 Elmswood Garden, Sherwood, Nottingham, NG5 4AW.  
Tel: 0115 9620632

Mr. C. Humphrey 43 Windermere Road, Forest Fields, Nottingham, NG7 6HL  
Tel: N/A

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### **Secretary's comments**

I think it is time that a thankyou should go to all the people that have sent letters to me for the Journal, without these people it would have been hard to keep it on going. I would like to thank Mr. Allan for sending in the information on Plant Nutrients, which I hope you have found useful.

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If any members have anything to sell, then why not advertise it in the Allotment Journal. The cost will be £3.00 for anything over £10.00, anything you have for sale under £10.00 is free.

Please contact Mr. S. Waterfall or Mrs. D. Dinsdale for any further information.

If anybody out there has any secret information on how to grow good crops, why not let others share your knowledge. So please ring Reg. Knowles or Doreen Dinsdale. Our phone numbers are in this Journal.

**HAVE YOU ANY SUGGESTIONS?**

**DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS?**

**ALL COMMENTS WELCOME**

IF SO, PLEASE CONTACT:  
MR. S. WATERFALL OR  
MRS. D. DINSDALE

## COOKS POTATO GUIDE PART 4

How many of us have cooked potatoes and they have gone all mushy? The art of cooking potatoes is not to cook them too long and not to boil them, but simmer them.

### Eating quality

Floury potatoes make the fluffiest bakers, the creamiest purees and mash, the best roast potatoes and chips, and can be among the most deeply satisfying potatoes to eat. They break up more easily when boiled. Cook's tip for best results and full flavour, rather than boiling in water, steam or microwave small floury potatoes in their skins.

Waxy potatoes, which are favoured on the Continent, have a creamy-waxy texture that does not break up when cooked. Perfect for salads, boiling and gratins, but can also be baked or pureed, and are often just as good hot or cold.

All-Purpose Neither especially waxy nor floury, these potatoes can be used for all cooking purposes.

### Cooking potatoes

Make sure the water covers the potatoes. When the water starts to boil, turn down the heat, so they are only simmering, check with a fork after around 15 mins.

New potatoes need approx. 20 to 25 mins. to simmer. Late potatoes vary on the sort you are using. For example Cara does not need as long as some other kinds, they will go mushy if cooked too long. If you work on the basis that the potato that is good for chips does not take as long as the ones that are not good chip potatoes.

## CHEAP AND GOOD POTATO RECIPE

### POTATOES ANNA

1kg/2lb potatoes, very thinly sliced

125 g./4 oz butter, softened

salt and pepper

chopped parsley to garnish

Chill the potato slices in iced water for 30 minutes. Drain and dry well. Place a layer of potato over the base of a generously buttered baking dish. Spread over some of the softened butter. Season lightly with salt and pepper. Repeat layers of potato, butter and seasoning, ending with a layer of potato butter. Put the dish into the oven preheated to hot (220 C/425 F or Gas mark 7) and bake for 45 to 55 minutes, or until the potatoes are soft. Turn out on to a warmed serving dish and garnish with parsley (Serves 4).

### STUFFED POTATOES

4 potatoes, baked and halved

25 g/1 oz butter

3 eggs, separated

50 g/2 oz cooked ham, diced

salt and pepper

50 g/2 oz parmesan cheese grated

Scoop the pulp out of the potatoes and mash well. Mix in the butter, egg yolks and ham. Press the mixture back into the potato halves. Beat the egg whites until they are stiff, and fold in seasoning to taste and cheese. Put the potatoes on a baking sheet and pile the mixture on top. Put the sheet into the oven preheated to warm (170 C/325 F or gas mark 3) and bake for 10 minutes.

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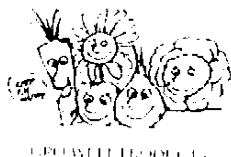
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## CITY OF NOTTINGHAM

### ANNUAL ALLOTMENTS COMPETITION 2001

This year the site category of the competition was judged by Mr. Malcolm Connolly of Leapool Allotment Association and Dave Hewes of Gedling Borough Council.

Judging day was Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2001.

In the morning we visited four of the seven sites entered, Woodthorpe, Mill, Windmill and Whitemoor.

After lunch came Melbourne Road, Old Basford and Bradford Street.

Fortunately the weather was fine and a good day was enjoyed by us all.

Old Basford was the overall winner with 155 points out of 200.

Melbourne won the over 8 acres category with 110 points.

Fifty – two entries were received in the individual plot section which was judged on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> July 2001 by our local BBC Radio and Television personality, John Stirland.

John's gardening experience working at Boots Horticultural Research Station at Lenton and lecturing at Broomfield College helped when trying to decide who the top six would be. These decisions were made more difficult on the second day when summer suddenly turned into winter.

We got waterlogged at Klondyke and nearly blown away at Colwick Woods, but were still able to appreciate the excellent gardens we saw.

At the end of the day, over a welcome cup of tea, the winner was chosen. For the third consecutive year 1<sup>st</sup> place went to Mrs. J. Collishaw, Old Basford with a massive 295 points out of a possible 300.

I would like to thank not only the winners but all of you who took the trouble to enter. Remember, without you gardeners we wouldn't have a competition.

### REMINDER FROM THE ALLOTMENTS OFFICE

Don't forget that the offer to reimburse the cost of hiring chippers and shredders to Nottingham City Allotment Associations is still on. Also B.T.C.V. have been engaged to carry out training days for hedgelaying, planting etc, during the Autumn and Winter, so if you are interested give me a call on 0115 9152078.

## **THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CHRYSANTHEMUMS AND GROWORGANIC.**

Based in the heart of Somerset five miles south of Glastonbury Tor on the Somerset levels nestling beneath the Polden hills lies the 'home of Groworganic'.

This is where I combine my work as a director with the pleasures of growing over three hundred early chrysanthemums in raised beds and eighty late chrysanthemums in pots.

I have been growing chrysanthemums for eight years showing at both local and national shows. My first year at the national show in Bingley Hall, Stafford rewarded me with a win for the best vase of large intermediates with a cultivar Malcolm Perkins.

As a novice to the growing of chrysanthemums I owe part of my success to the use of Groworganic fertiliser which is produced at our factory here in Somerset.

### **STOCK SELECTION**

At the end of the growing season at the beginning of October, I select stock which has produced the best blooms. They are lifted and the stem cut back to approximately nine inches, then placed in plastic mushroom boxes with a little peat to cover roots. They must be kept moist but not wet and then placed in cold frames to allow them to become used to low temperatures for six to eight weeks.

### **RAISED BEDS**

The growing area is cleared in October and roughly dug applying a liberal dressing of Groworganic at eight to ten ounces per sq. yard.

The raised beds are then left for the winter frosts to break down the soil.

### **GREENHOUSE**

The mushroom boxes are brought into the greenhouse for the cultivars that need an earlier rooting date at the beginning of December. They are then well watered and put onto a heat mat with a bottom temperature of 55 degrees F. and a controlled fan heater set at 50 degrees F. at night for frost protection.

### **CUTTINGS**

Cuttings are taken in batches of ten from the beginning of January through to the end February so as to give four week flowering period through September. The cuttings are rooted in a mixture of equal parts sterilised loam, moss peat and sharp washed grit with no added fertiliser.

This mix is well watered and the cuttings are only misted over in early morning if there is a sign of wilting. This will encourage root growth and not top growth. After two weeks the cuttings are rooted and put onto a bench in the coolest part of the greenhouse and only watered if necessary.

Two weeks later is the time to pot on into 3" pots in a mixture of seven part loam, three part moss peat and two part grit.

By mid March the established cuttings are now potted on into 5" square plastic pots. The mixture is the same as in the 3" pots but with the addition of eight ounces Groworganic organic fertiliser to the bushel.

The plants are now put into a cold frame to harden off. This is the time to stop certain varieties (cultivars) by pinching out the growing tip. This process has to be done across all varieties at different times as some varieties flower earlier than others. This enables all varieties to flower through the four week period in September.

### **APRIL THROUGH TO JULY**

Groworganic is added to the raised beds at the rate of ten ounces a square yard. The raised beds are now rotovated and raked down and a soil analysis is taken. Planting out starts in the second week of May after the frosts. Each row will take sixteen plants at eighteen inches spacing. Some cultivars are grown two up, others one up to achieve size and form.

At the beginning of July buds appear and all side buds are removed leaving the crown bud to develop. Lateral shoots are also removed which grow from the leaf axle. The single bud will be allowed to develop for ten to fourteen days before a bud bag is placed on with the date of bagging. After a further ten days larger bags (13" x 15") are put on all intermediates but the reflex varieties are left to develop naturally without any bags.

Plants are watered regularly from bud appearing and a mulch of last years beech leaves is placed around the roots to prevent the soil drying out.

Overhead covers and surrounding windbreak are erected in the first week of August to protect the blooms from rain.

### **SHOW TIME**

Towards the end of August flowers are selected for the various shows, hopefully blooms will be at their peak on show day.

The blooms for various classes are cut three days before

.... Continued from page 6

## SHOW DAY

The day arrives amidst a hive of activity with exhibitors staging their blooms, a quick chat with friends, listening to new tips and advice and the watchful eye on the competition.

## JUDGING

When judging has been completed and hopefully you are lucky enough to have a card or two you can now ponder over what should have been done to improve the exhibit.

Thoughts are already into planning next season, new varieties, new methods.

## CONCLUSION

The satisfaction is that you have done your best taking a single cutting, nurtured, pampered, and exhibit it to its peak appearance.

If a prize is not forthcoming this year there will always be next!!!!

written by

Jim Searle (director Groworganic)



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## INDIVIDUAL/LIFE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

To The Nottingham and District Allotments Council  
7 Mattingly Road, Hemphill Vale, Nottingham NG6 7BD.

I \_\_\_\_\_ (Capitals Please)  
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☐ £10.00 for 1 YEAR MEMBERSHIP ☐ £100.00 for LIFE MEMBERSHIP Please tick as applicable

## SHOW REPORT 2001 SEASON

Our show dates for this year have been thrown into turmoil due to the recent foot and mouth outbreaks and precautions.

However, some shows did take place albeit in a smaller format. We kicked off the season with Thrumpton show in April and although I was not present due to other commitments, I cannot comment too much about it, but I do believe our usual antics went down well.

July saw us in Toton at the one day event (Farmers Market). Quite a few people have shown interest in our activities and wares, the weather was reasonably kind and the Co-operative Society were very kind in letting us use their facilities. A drink of beer in the afternoon rounded the day off nicely. July 13th, 14th and 15th arrived and we turned up at Locko Park Show. We have been attending this show for a few years now and we met up with some old friends plus I hope made some new ones. Pat, Bill, Reg and myself manned the stand on the first day, which was quite busy indeed, serving people and chatting in between gulps of beer and sandwiches. On the Sunday myself and Pat wasn't able to attend due to commitments once again. However Alan, Doug, Ann and Norman complete with their partners helped out. I found out later that it was rather difficult for Reg to get the stand etc. home from the show owing to lack of room in his car (So there still is more help out there needed in shows). But Reg managed it, Bless Him!

The Riverside Festival was held on August 4th and 5th at the Trent Embankment, and arrangements had been made with Nottingham City Council for ourselves and the "3 Societies" to perform in our own Marquee. The tent was set up and we were ready for action! Business was a little slow on both days but we flew the flag amongst the rain, showers and fairground music. The whole event was excellent and thanks go to Bob Chaffin and Paul Morgan and team for the provision, thanks also go to members of the "3 Societies" who helped on our stand when we nipped off to the bar. After closing down the stand on Saturday night we all went for a stroll at side of the Trent bathed in glorious sunshine we once again found the bar and rounded off the day drinking cider and talking to two old friends who usually run bars at these events.....Blissfull.

The one day event, Clifton Show was held on Saturday August 25th and after setting up we could have a look around ourselves, what a lovely little show, plenty of exhibits, plenty to see and do plus loads of well known faces of the show circuit. Oh and then there was the beer but that's another story! I would like to thank on behalf of the Nottingham & District Horace and his team for inviting us and making us so welcome.

I received a phone call a couple of days later to find Reg. on the other end, quite excited at the fact that we had been invited to "Newark Home And Garden Show" on September 14th, 15th and 16th, we were once again on the road. Joe, Pat, Reg and myself set up on Thursday afternoon and Friday morning came and we were ready for action! Now this is a big show it would take you a month of Sundays to walk round it. Business was pretty brisk and while we were doing our performance Joe and Pat set off to find ..... you've guessed it (the Bar). We made many new friends and a lot of people were very interested. Saturday and Sunday Pat and myself were unable to attend due to, once again other commitments, like Judging Long Eaton Show on the Saturday, and you can't be in two places at once, but John Sheeron and Horace Grant stepped in to help Reg. and did a good job.

So that's about it for now, except to say a big thankyou to everybody who was connected and helped in any way, shape or form. **If you feel like helping at any show. Please do not hesitate to contact me. WE URGENTLY NEED YOUR HELP. Give it a try, I promise you won't regret it.**

**Happy Hoeing--S. Waterfall, Publicity Officer.**

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# THE NOTTINGHAM & DISTRICT ALLOTMENTS COUNCIL

The representative body for affiliated Allotment Gardeners and associations in England & Wales

## 2001/2002 MEETING DATES

Meetings of the Council will be held at 7.30 p.m. on the following dates at the  
White Horse Public House, Ilkeston Road, Nottingham

### GENERAL MEETINGS

Tuesday 8th January 2002

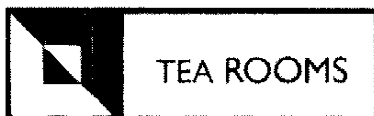
Tuesday 5th March 2002 A.G.M.

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Tuesday 4th December 2001

Tuesday 5th February 2002

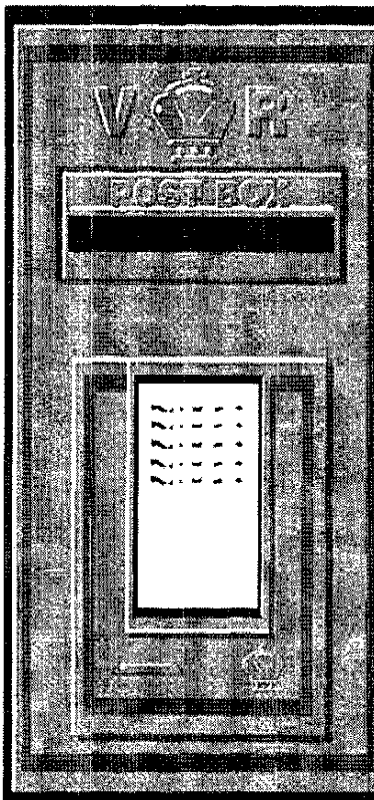
If you have any problems or items of interest which you would like to tell the members, please instruct your delegates to raise it at the meeting.



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(see page 2)

I think that the three Musketeers (Joe, Pat, & Steve), should tell our readers about their escapades at the end of the first day at the Newark Show. Secretary, Doreen.

### QUESTION

Does anybody know of any book that gives questions on garden quizzes? If you do please contact Mr. Knowles, Chairman, or Doreen Dinsdale, Secretary.

# Legal Column

## Q. What is a quorum.

A quorum is the minimum number of members required to take a decision of a body such as an allotment association. The most common situation is where an 'association' meeting votes to do something but the number of members present is less than the quorum set out in the association's constitution. Technically such a decision is unlawful. However, as we will see it is up to an association to rectify this situation itself. A simple example will suffice to explain this. An association meeting votes to expel a member. Only 10 members (out of a total 17 members) are present. The constitution of that particular association requires a minimum of 11 members to be present to take a binding decision (this is known as being quorate). The vote to expel is carried 9 votes to 1. Has the member any redress? The common legal position is that the law will not interfere with a decision that can be rectified or ratified by the majority of members. It can be seen in this example that indeed, the majority of members in fact voted for the expulsion. Therefore, despite the decision being technically unlawful it would stand because it was taken by the majority of members.

Even if the numbers in our example were different, say only 3 members were present, it would still be for the majority to overturn the decision, to ratify it, or to simply do nothing, at the next meeting. The law will very rarely interfere with a majority decision (or majority apathy). On joining an association a member becomes bound by the decisions of the majority. If the majority decide to ignore a breach of the rules, then there is nothing an individual member or a minority group can do.

On a more pragmatic note, if your meeting is not quorate it does not stop you from taking decisions. If the majority of members disagree with the decision you have taken they can simply vote to overturn it at the next meeting or a special meeting can be called to deal with the situation. If it is a decision that cannot be overturned, the members taking the earlier decision will run the risk of being financially responsible if they acted outside the normal powers afforded to officers and general meetings. Take for example, a decision to purchase a 'company car' for the secretary. If such a decision was within the powers of the association (as stated by its constitution), the members concerned would bear no personal financial responsibility. If however, there was no power to do such a thing, the members would bear financial responsibility, but only if the majority decided to sue them to recover the loss.

Similarly, if officers of an association act beyond their powers or in breach of the constitution, the first port of call will be for the majority of members of the members of the association to overturn the decision, remove the officers and even sue them. Again, if the majority chose to ignore the act or indeed to ratify the act (i.e. by a majority vote) there is little the individual member or minority group can do.

Whilst we often complain about how a association is managed or run, it is for us to win majority votes if we are to do anything. Alternatively, we can take our ball and go and play elsewhere!

Andrew Baxter LLB LLM,

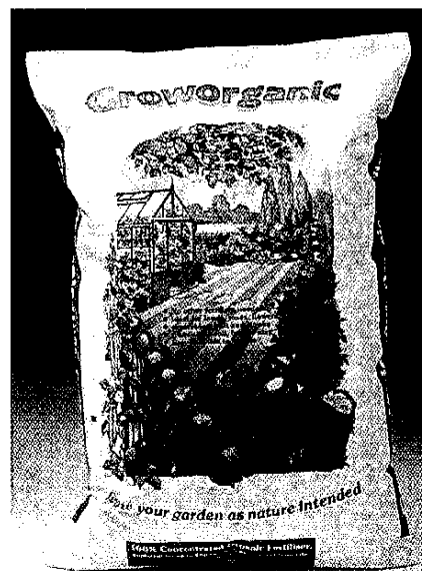


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| 30 Bags of Groworganic @ £3.50 plus vat per bag       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 20/ 40/ 60 8Kg tubs pellets @ £3.50 plus vat per tub  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 20/ 40/ 60 20Kg bags pellets @ £5.95 plus vat per bag | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 20/40 25Kg bags of pellets @ £9.25 plus vat per bag   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
- (tick appropriate box)

Name .....

Address .....

Post Code.....Telephone Number .....

NO CHEQUES REQUIRED - Delivery and payment arranged through our wholesaler