

# Lost money on your investment?

**William Thornley** from Bolton got back **£21,400** from Halifax

**David Mitchell** from Dumbarton got back **£14,400** from Lloyds

**Sandra Hall** from Glossop got back **£23,000** from HSBC

AS SEEN ON TV

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## CHAS'S ROCK'N' ROLL ALLOTMENT

**H**AVEN'T grown any potatoes this year. No particular reason really but I suppose in general having the luxury of not having to rely on my produce to feed the family like a lot of our forefathers did, I do find myself growing certain things only every other year. That way it don't become a chore and I think: "Oh yeah, I'll grow some potatoes or whatever this year!" and I get excited.

In any case it's only early potatoes I grow. Later crops usually get blight and so are too much trouble on my rock 'n' roll allotment. Sweetcorn I sort of grow every other year too but onions I grow every year. Wouldn't be without 'em!

I look forward to all the jobs on the allotment. I like digging, although I did get terrible backache one year. I dug for too long in one spell. The doctor

**'Little and often is definitely a motto of mine'**

advised I spread my jobs; 20 minutes digging, 20 minutes sowing, 20 minutes weeding and so on. That way you are using different muscles for short periods of time. Also, "little and often" is definitely a motto of mine. It works in life and on my allotment.

I carry a hoe most of the time and when I see a weed I cut its head off. Get 'em quick. Some people moan too much about weeds. They're only troublesome if you let 'em take hold. After all, if your land don't grow weeds then it's pretty rotten land ain't it? But yes, "little and often" keeps your plot in shape. Even if you can only get over there for 30 minutes a day it's well worth it but make sure it is every day or at least most days.

The worst thing you can do, and I've seen it done, is get stuck in clearing a new plot for hours every day then end up feeling achy to the bone. So guess what? You don't wanna go back. So in a



Picture: LUKE SANTILLI

few weeks the plot is back to square one. But little and often and you will always look forward to going to the allotment and it will stay in shape.

So did I transplant the butternut squash that was

looking ill atop of the hill? Yes and replaced it with a tub of beer and 24 hours later the butternut squash had perked up a little.

The tub of beer? Well, I tell you what, I've never known anything like it! Could be like a bad dream.

Imagine turning up at the swimming pool one day to find there's no room for you to jump in. It's full up with fat blokes placed end to end like sardines. Well, that's what that beer tub was like but full up with slugs. Drunk. Or they had been. But now they were brown bread. Not really a bad way to die is it? Better than hanging. Or the electric chair. But then how would you know where a slug's neck is? Or get one to stop sliming about while you get the chair straps on him?

I think that salt thing is horrible though. The old beer tubs are the best way to be rid of slugs. Only everybody's got to do it, then all the slugs on the allotment will have a private party and won't gatecrash yours.

I'm going to e-mail all my allotment neighbours to do this. Gotta feeling the slug prob is going to be nailed once and for

**'Give the slugs cheap lager or they'll get fussy'**

all! I'm so pleased. Gotta feeling this is going to work. The slugs don't seem to be fussy about what beer it is so far (I first tried it a while ago). They could get fussy later on though if we ain't careful. Like fish do. Only like pink maggots or Ye Olde Oak luncheon meat, or something, but let's not worry about this for the moment.

Don't experiment at this stage. Start simple. Give 'em the cheapest lager. No classy real ale. Don't give 'em a chance to develop a taste. If they start getting fussy we're in trouble. We gotta be the bosses here! So let the Chassie Beer Tub Slug Beano begin!

● *Chas and Dave's autobiography All About Us is published by John Blake at £7.99. Forthcoming Chas and Dave gigs: Shanklin Theatre, Isle of Wight, August 15; Princess Theatre, Clacton, August 23; Orchard, Dartford, September 6.*



**Did you know?**  
by Mitchell Symons

**JENNIFER LOPEZ, WHO WILL BE 45 ON THURSDAY, LAUNCHED HER OWN FRAGRANCE (GLOW). THESE CELEBRITIES DID LIKEWISE...**

- Lady Gaga – Lady Gaga Fame
- Kylie Minogue – Darling
- David Beckham – Homme By David Beckham
- Rihanna – Nude
- Taylor Swift – Wonderstruck
- Sarah Jessica Parker – Lovely
- Peter Andre – Mysterious Girl
- Justin Bieber – Someday
- Carlos Santana – Carlos by Carlos Santana
- Paris Hilton – Heiress
- Halle Berry – Halle Berry
- Bruce Willis – Bruce Willis
- Sean "P Diddy" Combs – Unforgivable
- Antonio Banderas – Antonio
- Madonna – Truth Or Dare By Madonna
- Beyoncé – Heat
- Shania Twain – Shania
- Celine Dion – Celine
- Michael Jordan – Michael Jordan
- Cher – Uninhibited
- Christina Aguilera – Christina Aguilera
- Enrique Iglesias – True Star
- Jennifer Aniston – Jennifer Aniston
- Mariah Carey – M
- Britney Spears – Fantasy Twist
- Prince – Get Wild

**THIS WEEK'S PONDERABLES...**

- Today is the 70th anniversary of Claus von Stauffenberg's failed attempt to assassinate Hitler. He and his fellow conspirators were executed the next day.
- Each of an octopus's tentacles has about 200 suckers.
- Stray animals, including dogs, bulls and cows, are common on the runways of India's airports and therefore pose a safety threat.
- Scientists have worked out that it would have taken 2.5 million seagulls to lift James's giant peach into the air, not the 501 that Roald Dahl suggested.
- When the Mona Lisa was stolen in 1911, people went to the Louvre to look at the space left.
- If you think all footballers are thick, consider England player (and twice FA Cup winner) Harry Goodhart: he became Professor of Humanities at Edinburgh University. Mind you, it was the late 19th century.
- Hapax legomenon (hapax for short) is the expression that describes a word used just once in, say, a writer's collected works.
- Elvis Presley, right, wore a cross and a Star of David saying: "I don't want to miss out on Heaven due to a technicality."



**THIS WEEK'S IMPONDERABLE...**

**Why do we "spill the beans" when we accidentally reveal something?**  
In Ancient Greece, beans were used when voting for candidates who were standing for various positions. Each candidate would be assigned an urn into which the voters would place a white bean (meaning that they liked the candidate) or a black bean (meaning that they didn't). If a clumsy person accidentally knocked over the container he would be "spilling the beans" and inadvertently showing how well a candidate was doing.

**WISE WORDS...**

Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery and today is a gift; that's why they call it the present. (Eleanor Roosevelt)

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The men run off and disappear. Then he hears muffled sounds, quite near.

### Rupert

And The Blue Star  
EPISODE 33

Rupert listens to the gruff voices of Black Pedro and his crew, first arguing and then becoming fainter, and by squirming over he manages to sit up in time to see the men disappearing downhill. While he is wondering what he can do to get free from the ropes he hears another sound, muffled and much nearer.

"There's somebody else here," he breathes. After more squirming he is able to kneel up and peer into the darkness of the shelter. "Surely I can see a pair of boots!" he whispers.



He shuffles forward on his knees. "A pair of boots! Who is it, please?"

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