CHAS'S ROCK'N ALLOTMENT

SUNDAY AFTERNOON: TRIVIA

EEMS a long time now since summer don't it? In the summers years pend at least one night sleeping in the garden under the stars. It was something that I liked to look back on when the frosty winter turned up and think yes, I actually kipped out here last summer.

I'd pick a summer's night, or rather the night would pick me one of them nice warm nights that we usually do get one or two of every summer. One afternoon in one of them summers I was doing some weeding when my next door neighbour slung his head over the fence.

"How are you?" he said. "Fine," I said, carrying on weeding. "I got the fright of my life the other morning," he said "Why, what happened?". "Well, I couldn't sleep so I got up. It was about 6am. Anyway I decided to

'Parsnips have a better flavour after a frost'

take a walk down the garden. Bit of a mist rising. Your chickens were just waking up. Noticed you'd made a new compost heap near the shed and had covered it up. Then, through the mist, I could swear I saw the heap begin to move. No... I must be imagining it. I blinked my eyes like mad but it WAS moving Then it rose up and started to make its way down the garden towards the house. I ran indoors and yes, I admit, I did have a tot of whisky. Tell me it was you. It was you. Wasn't it?".

"Sure was," said I, "Got a bit chilly so I went indoors and got in bed with Joan "

Think that was the summer of 1976. Bit chilly that morning but it is the warmest summer I can remember. Was also very dry so vegetables had to be kept well watered. The bit of lawn I had at each end of my plot turned pure white. Gonna have to re-turf that. I thought, that grass is dead, But no, said my old neighbour, that'll all come up when we finally get a bit of rain. He was right. I learned that year that grass was mighty tougȟ stuff.

the first time my greenhouse tomatoes splitting. It was my Got a few though that I am saving fourth year of growing my own and this had not happened before. But the answer, I found, was simple. I was watering first thing and last thing at night but because of the unusually hot summer I needed to water in between too. The plants in the heat of the day were drying out quickly and the evening watering was gulped up so thirstily that the toms were swelling too fast

for their britches. Little and often

a goodly amount and often. Parsnips could have been better this year but I think it is because it was a bit too cold and damp Also that year I experienced for when I sowed 'em. They germinated very patchily. Gonna sow 'em late March next year.

Rupert

And The Thinking Cap

EPISODE 2

Rupert gazes after the little guinea pig,

Why is he so quiet?" asks Rupert. "It's

He and Algy move off, leaving Rupert

"H'm, yes, and I'm nearly in the same

things I would like, but I can't decide what

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fix as little Gregory, there are lots of

I want most of all for Christmas."

who is walking away slowly and sadly. "We can't cheer him up at all," says

Podgy, "He hasn't smiled once since

not like Gregory to be unhappy."

nore thoughtful than ever.

we've been with him."

for Christmas. So how do you know when a root vegetable is ready for harvesting? Stick your finger in the soil round the top of the root. If you are happy with the size then pull it up.

Don't forget that parsnips can grow pretty big though, so you can leave them well into the winter if you want. It is also a well proven folklore fact that parsnips mprove in flavour after being

subjected to a couple of hard frosts. So Jack Frost ain't all bad

• An Audience with Chas

Hodges DVD now available at chashodges.co.uk. Chas's new Christmas sonas The Maaic Ot Christmas and Boogie Woogie Christmas are now available to download at apple.com/uk/ itunes and Amazon co uk. All. profits to Water Aid. Chas and Dave gigs (with Status Quo): December 15, Pavilion, Plumouth December 16, Arena Cardiff; December 18, BIC, Bournemouth; December 19, 02 London; December 20 Brighton Centre: December 21 Robin 2.

Bilston. For full list of tour dates



"He just can't think of anything



"H'm, I've got lots of things in mind,



My problem's which to choose I find

Did you by Mitchell **Symons**

THE FIRST EPISODE OF THE SIMPSONS WAS **BROADCAST IN THE U.S. 25 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK. SO HERE'S HOMER..**

Well, it's 1am. Better go home and spend some

quality time with the kids. What's the point of going out? We're just

gonna wind up back here anyway.

Books are useless! I only ever read one book, To Kill A Mockingbird, and it gave me absolutely no insight on how to kill mockingbirds! Sure it taught me not to judge a man by the colour of his skin... but what

Son, when you participate in sporting events, it's not whether you win or lose: it's how drunk vou get.

f something's hard to do, then it's not worth doing. Forty seconds? But I want it now!

I'm like that guy who single-handedly built the rocket and flew to the Moon. What was his name? Apollo

All my life I've had one dream, to achieve my many goals.

When will I learn? The answer to life's problems aren't at the bottom of a bottle, they're on TV! Operator! Give me the number for 911!

THE ACTOR ROBSON GREEN, WHO TURNS 50 ON THURSDAY, HAS THE MIDDLE NAME **GOLIGHTLY. HÉRE ARE OTHER PEOPLE WITH**

Kim NOEL Kardashian **Zach KNIGHT Galifianakis** Orlando BI ANCHARD Bloom **Isla LANG Fisher** John SCOT Barrowman **Emma DUERRE Watson** Florence LEONTINE Welch



THIS WEEK'S PONDERARIES

 There's still a Dallas public library book overdue. from Lee Harvey Oswald.

• The first recorded incorrect use of the word "literally" was in 1769.

The writer Samuel Johnson is now reckoned to have suffered from Tourette's syndrome.

● Until the 1940s rhubarb was considered a vegetable. It became a fruit when baffled US customs officials decided it should be classified according to the way it was eaten.

More than one out of every eight marriages in the

US is of couples who met online. • Lions are the only truly social cat species with most females in a pride closely related.

• When the Byzantine emperor Justinian II was deposed in AD695, his enemies slit his nose and tongue on the basis that he'd never be able to rule again disfigured. Ten years later, Justinian The Slit-Nosed returned to power and paraded his enemies through the streets before killing them.

THIS WEEK'S IMPONDERABLE...

Tomorrow is the 70th anniversary of Glenn Miller's death. How exactly did he die?

For years, the official line was that Glenn Miller the American big band musician, composer and bandleader had died when the plane taking him across the Channel to France to perform to US troops stationed in France disappeared

And then the rumours and conspiracy theories started. It was claimed Miller had died in a French brothel and the plane crash was invented so as not to destroy his reputation. Other accounts suggested nis plane was destroyed by a British bomb jettisoned after an aborted bombing raid.

The truth, as now established, is that Miller's plane nad a faulty carburettor. The single-engined UC-64 Norseman was notorious for having a carburettor that was defective in cold weather and had a history of causing crashes by icing up.

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