

CHAS'S ROCK'N ROLL ALLOTMENT

CAN SOME plants be likened to humans? And can some humans have plant-like traits? Some comparisons have been made in both cases, but how far can it go?

Imagine Gardeners' Question Time. "OK, the lady at the front in the red hat. You have a question?" "Yes I have." "OK, love, fire away." "OK, my name's Maud Binge from Dudley and it concerns my husband. You see, he seems of late to be growing quite a bit out of the top of his trousers. He has been wearing these strides for some years now, so could he be trouserbound?"

"I've kept him well cropped over the years and made sure he's been fed regularly; perhaps I should cut down on feed? His fruit and veg is beginning to drop off a bit of late too, but I am managing and the greengrocer round the corner said he's always

'I've got beer for the slugs and gin for leeks'

there if I'm stuck. But is my husband worth re-potting, or re-trousering as it were?"

"Will overwintering him in the greenhouse do any good, or should he be simply grubbed up and replaced? The dog will miss him." Could happen, but what a rotten wife, eh?"

Had a count up and found I had 70 leeks on the go and not 40. I must have planted 30 when I wasn't looking, but I discovered they've got "rust".

Rust-coloured spots on the leaves. Found out it is a fungal disease and is seldom fatal but it looks rotten and I bet it sets back growth a bit.

Kris Collins from Thompson & Morgan says there isn't really an effective fungicide on the amateur market to get rid of it and asks if they are not too crowded? They are not. Ten to 12 inches between each plant in rows two-and-a-half to three feet apart. In a central part of my allotment too so plenty of air.



Picture: LUKE SANTILLI

Most books say remove the affected leaves and burn 'em so I have been doing that. Also an allotment neighbour reckons that spraying the leaves with gin helps so I have done that. I did dilute a

half a bottle of gin with half a bottle of water and I will see what happens. Seems to be becoming a boozy old allotment though, what with beer for the slugs and gin for the leeks. "Bacey for the

parson, brandy for the clerk." What next? The parsnips'll turn monkey if they don't get treated to a round of rum 'n' cokes? "Watch the wall my darlings as the runner beans ride by." Drunk.

If for any reason you have let your allotment go to weeds and wish you hadn't, but are frightened to go and see because you know you will turn straight round and go back home again, then here's a tip for you. Don't think of your allotment as a whole, think of it in patches of four square yards each.

Go round and mark out four square yards, 6ft by 6ft. Weed it, dig it, rake it and make it look immaculate. Then go home.

You will not be able to stop thinking about it and will not be able to wait to get back round there to get the next four square yards looking immaculate.

You might even wake up in the

'Enjoy every minute and no aching bones'

night and have to stop yourself putting on your wellies and getting on your bike there and then. But do what I suggest and before you know it, the whole allotment will be looking immaculate and you will have enjoyed every minute you were doing it and won't have no aching bones as a result. Little and often. It works.

As you complete each patch run your eye over the previous prepared patches for emerging weeds and chop their heads off immediately with the old Dutch hoe. They'll soon get fed up.

● *Chas and Dave: All About Us (John Blake, £7.99). Forthcoming Chas and Dave gigs: Bedford Corn Exchange, October 16; Becks Theatre, Hayes, October 17; Parr Hall, Warrington, October 18. An Audience With Chas Hodges (hosted by Goodmaze and Shed), The Corringham Hall, Corringham, Essex, October 26 (0844 561 7107)*



Did you know?

by Mitchell Symons

COLE PORTER, WHO DIED 50 YEARS AGO ON WEDNESDAY, BEQUEATHED HIS DIAMOND DRESS STUD TO DOUGLAS FAIRBANKS JNR. HERE ARE OTHER INTERESTING BEQUESTS...

● In 1950, George Bernard Shaw left a considerable portion of his estate for the purpose of replacing the English alphabet of 26 letters with a more efficient one of at least 40 letters. It was never achieved

● **The longest will in the world was one drawn up for American Frederica Cook, when it was proved at London's Somerset House in 1925. It consisted of four bound volumes totalling 95,940 words. Amazingly, she didn't have all that much to leave**

● The shortest valid British will, which was contested but eventually passed after the 1906 case Thorn v Dickens, consisted of three words: "All for mother".

What caused the confusion was that the testator didn't mean his mother but his wife

● **William Shakespeare bequeathed to his wife Anne "my second best bed". This has been interpreted as a snub. In fact, his "second best bed" was probably the one most used by the two of them and it was therefore a sentimental gesture. His best bed went to the male heirs of his elder daughter**

● WC Fields's last requests, as listed in his will, were ignored. He wanted his body cremated without any religious ceremony. However, both his estranged Roman Catholic wife and mistress held separate religious ceremonies before his body was interred in a mausoleum in 1946. It is also interesting to note that nothing came of the provision he had made for a "WC Fields College for orphan white boys and girls where no religion of any sort is to be preached"

● **In 1964, Ian Fleming (left), the author of the James Bond novels, left £500 to each of four friends with the instruction that they should "spend the same within 12 months of receipt on some extravagance"**

● The 1978 chess final at Wormwood Scrubs Prison was between Moors Murderer Ian Brady and disgraced MP John Stonehouse

● **Some 90 per cent of the world's amber production comes from the Amber Coast of the Sambia peninsula on the Baltic Sea**

● People in Japan are more likely to know the population of the United States than Americans

● **Friday is the 200th anniversary of the London Beer Flood. A huge vat of beer ruptured at a brewery, causing other vats to rupture which sent a 323,000-gallon tide of beer into the streets. Basements were flooded and eight people died**

● **Twice as many forks as knives are sold in the UK as so many people eat with just a fork**

● Napoleon had a drinking cup made out of the skull of a famous Italian explorer named Cagliostro

● **Insects consume 10 per cent of the world's food supply**

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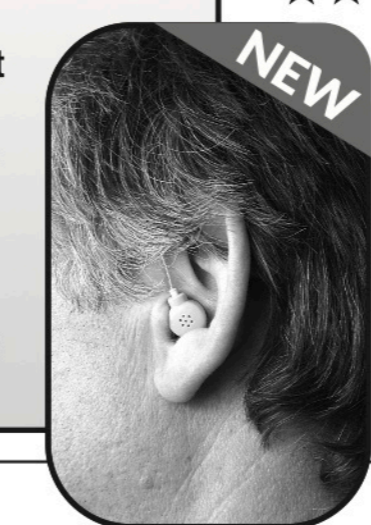
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Keith from Basingstoke: "The **Ear Pro 4000** is exactly what you see in the ad. It looks really good, I only wish it had been around years ago, I would have felt much more confident."

Mary from Canterbury: "For some time I've found the hearing in my left ear not as good as my right, it's especially noticeable

when I am on the phone. I finally took the plunge to buy a hearing device, I can't believe what a difference it's made. Thank you."

Susanne from Redditch: "Wow, this is an amazing product! Last year I spent over £500 on a device from a high street store and I thought I'd buy the **Ear Pro 4000** as a back-up. But now I use the **Ear Pro 4000** all the time, it's so much better"

Ralph from Colchester says: "Highly recommended, at last I've found a device that fits and doesn't protrude out of my ear."

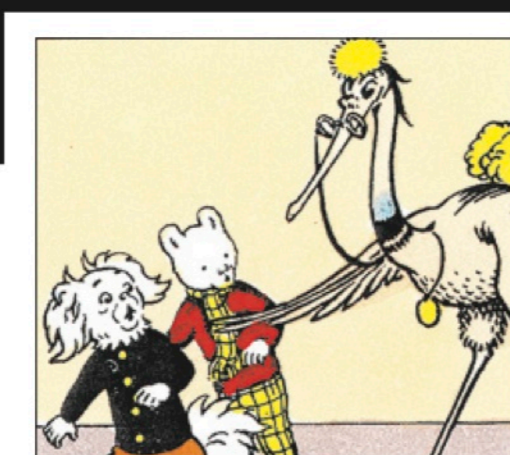


Rupert And The Fire Bird EPISODE 21

The arrival of the fire bird makes Rupert very excited. "Come on, we can answer the King's question now and tell him all we know about it!" he says.

But they are too late. The King has already turned among his bowing courtiers and has disappeared into the palace in order to cross to another tower. "I wonder if we had better follow him," Rupert murmurs.

"No," says a voice. "You certainly may not! Of all the impudence!" an important looking bird approaches and bars their way.



He's answered by an angry snort, "No! You'll do nothing of the sort!"

Says Rupert, frowning, "We're too late! Shall we go in? Or shall we wait?"

To order the **Rupert Annual for 2015** No. 79 (out now) at £7.99 with free UK delivery, please call **0871 988 8370** or send a cheque/PO to The Official Classic Rupert Bear Shop, PO Box 200, Falmouth TR11 4WJ; or order it online at **classicrupertbearshop.com**. UK delivery is free.

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