

CHAS'S

ROCK'N' ROLL

ALLOTMENT

GOOD soil is like a good song. Both are vital foundations. Good soil is essential for achieving a top quality end product. A good song is essential for achieving a top quality end product. Mediocre soil can only produce mediocre results. A mediocre song can only produce mediocre results. The only difference is that a good song lasts for ever but to keep the soil in good heart you need to replenish it every now and then. I try to keep to the following pattern. Year one I spread farmyard manure over one half of my plot and dig it in. Year two I spread farmyard manure over the other half of my plot and dig it in and so on. If you decide to follow this pattern then use the un-manured half for root crops such as carrots and parsnips. Fresh manure can cause the roots to fork. This year's fresh

‘Looking forward to a few winter warming stews’

manured area will be rotted down by next year so then you can swap the root crops around. Globe beetroot is a root crop but as the round part you eat develops above the ground I've not found that it matters as you don't eat the forking roots.

Dug me first leek and I am well pleased. Best I have grown to date. This is what I did. Seedlings about 6ins high and knitting needle thick were planted out in June in trenches.

Kept 'em well weeded and watered, watering with liquid seaweed about once a fortnight and earthing up (hoeing the earth up to the base of the leeks) every now and then. Looking forward to a few good winter warming leek soups and stews now.

Yes, winter ain't far away, but it don't seem to get as cold as I remember it when I was young. But, in general, the houses are warmer today. Having an Aga and a wood-burning stove now



Picture: LUKE SANTILLI

we use the central heating to a minimum but when the central heating went off one year this old house felt like a tomb. I don't like full on central heating but used gently it does take the "tomb" out of the house.

The terraced house I was brought up in in north London had no such central heating luxuries though. The first I heard of it was when my great grandfather used to warm his bum in front of the fire and wink at me and say, "central heating". But those old houses were COLD. Especially on a winter's morning. Actual ice would form on the inside of the windows. You just did not want to get out of bed. Well, I didn't. I'd say to myself "I'll

count 10 and I'll get up." I'd count to 10. Then. Oh well, just one more "10". 1,2,3...

Then Nan, from the yard, would shout up at the bedroom window, "You're gonna be late for school," (scraping burnt bits off the toast). Then I'd belt downstairs in me pants, hoping she'd got the fire lit. Sometimes she had, sometimes she hadn't.

I remember one morning going downstairs and the fire was lit, but I decided that I didn't want to go to school so I hit on a plan. While Nan was out in the washus (the wash house) I held the peak of my school cap to the fire and kept putting it on my forehead. By the time Nan came into the kitchen my forehead was red hot.

"Feel my head, Nan. I think I'm coming down with something." Nan felt my head. It must have almost burnt her hand. "Nothing wrong with you. Go on, off you go, the kids are all going in." I was sure I was going to fool her. But looking back she was most definitely having a good giggle watching me through a crack in the washus door.

● *Chas and Dave gigs: St Andrews Hall, Norwich, November 9; Fareham Hall, Fareham, November 14; 15 Rock City, Nottingham, November 15. For full list of tour dates visit chasndave.net. Chas and Dave's autobiography All About Us by Chas Hodges (John Blake, £7.99)*



WITH THE SOUTHWOLD WAYS WITH WORDS FESTIVAL DRAWING TO AN END, HERE ARE SOME WORDS TO READ ALOUD... They had to subject the subject to a series of tests. I didn't object to the object. The farm was used to produce produce. The bandage was wound around the wound. They were too close to the door to close it. They had to polish the Polish furniture. A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum. The soldier decided to desert in the desert. How can I intimate this to my most intimate friend? When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes. A seamstress and a sewer fell down into a sewer line.

SIR TIM RICE, WHO TURNS 70 TOMORROW, SANG BACKING VOCALS ON LILY THE PINK BY THE SCAFFOLD. HERE ARE OTHER PEOPLE AND THE SONGS ON WHICH THEY SANG BACKING VOCALS... Emily Blunt – Me And Mrs Jones (Michael Bubl ) Cher – You've Lost That Lovin' Feelin' (The Righteous Brothers) Michael Jackson – Girls, Girls, Girls (Jay-Z) Harry Nilsson – You're 16 (Ringo Starr) Lawrence Dallaglio (as part of a school choir) – We Don't Need Another Hero (Tina Turner) Mary Hopkin – Sound And Vision (David Bowie) PP Arnold – Tin Soldier (The Small Faces) Keith Moon – All You Need Is Love (The Beatles) Dusty Springfield – The Bitch Is Back (Elton John) Marianne Faithfull – Yellow Submarine (The Beatles) Daryl Hall – Original Sin (INXS) David Bowie – Reflektor (Arcade Fire)

THIS WEEK'S PONDERABLES... ● 125 years ago this week, the American journalist Nellie Bly set out to travel around the world in 80 days (following the Jules Verne novel) She completed the journey in 72 days, setting a world record. ● The word tribe comes from the Latin word "tribus" – meaning "three peoples". ● Bill Clinton (left) was taught a jujitsu move by his aides to prevent Yassar Arafat hugging him for the cameras. ● The Manx term for the kipper is "skeddan jiarg", which translates as "red herring". ● Rollerblades were invented in 1980 by Scott and Brennan Olson of Minnesota who took hockey skates and replaced the blade with three in-line wheels. ● The ravens of the Tower of London are enlisted as soldiers and can be dismissed for unsatisfactory conduct. ● Spotted skunks do handstands before they spray.



THIS WEEK'S IMPONDERABLE... Why are grumpy people said to have gotten out of the wrong side of the bed? Traditionally, anything to do with the left, especially the left side of the body, has been viewed with extreme suspicion. So much so that the Latin word for "left" was "sinister" from which we get the word of the same name. So to ward off evil, innkeepers would always ensure that the left side of a bed was pushed against the wall so that guests would have no other option but get up on the right side of the bed. In those days, the opposite of right was "left" with all its sinister connotations; over time, the opposite to right became simply "wrong"!

WISE WORDS... "No one has a finer command of language than the person who keeps his mouth shut." (Senator Sam Rayburn)

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Introducing the all new

Gtech Multi

AirRam's perfect partner

Gtech  
MULTI



"Convenient, easy AND powerful" "This cleaner is amazing! It's easy to use, does a great job of the skirting boards, stairs, curtains... and it's cordless. It has no trouble removing the black cat hair from the sofa! I don't miss my heavy old vacuum." Mrs. L. Rodgers



Don't bend down to clean skirting boards



Make short work of stairs

“Using the attachments on a traditional upright vacuum can be a real pain. Dragging it round from plug to plug; the hose still never seems to reach far enough; not to mention the cumbersome weight. We’ve designed the powerful, lightweight Gtech Multi to make all those problems disappear.”

Nick Grey – Inventor, Owner of Gtech

Cordless freedom

In 2012 we launched the critically acclaimed AirRam, allowing you to lose the weight and the cord, whilst keeping the performance of mains powered upright vacuums (10/10 Is this the best vacuum cleaner ever? Daily Mail).\*

Now we've developed the Multi: The attachments you're used to on your upright vacuum and great cleaning performance all rolled into a cordless hand-held solution.

High performance

Upright mains vacuums can be heavy. Cordless, hand-held vacuums are lighter, but may leave you disappointed with poor performance.

The Multi delivers high performance cordless cleaning right into the palm of your hand – giving you the freedom and versatility to make short work of edges, stairs, upholstery, curtains and even the car interior. Multi's upholstery tool is also ideal for removing pet hair.

Long run-time

With up to 30 minutes run-time, the Multi outlasts the leading cordless hand-held vacuums.†

Powered by a professional-grade Lithium-ion battery, Multi is fully charged in just 4-hours. Alternatively, Multi can deliver a burst of additional cleaning with a short 1-hour charge. An easy to read LED display lets you know how much charge is left in the battery, so you won't be caught short.

Attachments on-board

Multi is armed with a full set of attachments (crevice tool, dusting brush and upholstery tool) to help you get into those nooks and crannies. It even conceals a flexible hose that pulls out, allowing you to reach into those really awkward spaces. Pull the trigger and Multi's integrated lights illuminate the target cleaning area, leaving nowhere for the dirt to hide.

Don't bend down to clean skirting boards – Order your Multi direct from Gtech today and receive a free 36cm (14-inch) extension tube.

You can love vacuuming...

At Gtech, we believe there's got be an easier way to clean your home. From our British headquarters, we're busy creating uncomplicated, easy to use technology to make your life easier.

THE ULTIMATE  
CLEANING  
SYSTEM  
SAVE £49

Gtech are also offering the AirRam and Multi for a combined price of **£299** (includes free Multi extension tube). That's a saving of **£49** off RRP (Gtech AirRam £199 / Gtech Multi £149). Call or see website for details.

“10/10 Is this the best vacuum cleaner ever?”  
Daily Mail



“It seems Jack’s working round that spot!” And Rupert sets off at a trot.

Rupert

And Jenny Frost

EPISODE 19

Rupert asks more about the winter weather at the other villages. “Is there snow at Pussyville too?” he queries. “Ay, that there is, Master Rupert,” says the postman. “It’s less deep at Popton, and it seems to be moving this way.” “That’s a bit of luck,” says Rupert. “He must be working over here.” And, without explaining what he means, he forges ahead until he sees the snow covered slopes round Popton. “Well, this snow’s even enough,” he thinks. Now Rupert is not sure how to act.



Round Popton all is white as milk, With crisp fresh snow, as smooth as silk.

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