

# CHAS'S ROCK'N ROLL ALLOTMENT

STARTED Eldon Road Junior School in Edmonton when I was seven. I remember being shown around on the first day and being excited that the school had a garden for the class to grow stuff in. It was pointed out to us and I remember it like a photograph.

Good things that happen in your life are summoned up as images that are frozen in time ain't they?

The patch wasn't very big but it looked good to me. About 6ft by 3ft, it was freshly dug and ready to go. I'd only ever grown two Cos lettuces in my back garden before, guided by Mum, which I couldn't wait to eat so picked 'em when they were 4ins high and ate 'em between two slices of bread and salad cream.

Delicious. Another vivid memory. Now my class had a proper school garden but I never got to

## 'I wore old Mrs Barlow's long drawers'

grow anything in it. It wasn't put to use or ever referred to again. I suppose our teacher Mr Selford wasn't interested in gardening, like the teacher before was. He was interested in the arts though. He loved John Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress and under his direction the class put on a production of it. I was John Bunyan and I wore old Mrs Barlow next doors' long drawers.

I remember my mum trying them on me. How she hid her face from me I don't know. She did, though. I never sussed, I thought I looked cool. She must have been fit to bust.

The play went on and all the mums were there to see it. In the scene where Christian meets the Monster, the Monster was a little boy, shuffling, menacingly, with a big cardboard box over his head and body. There was a fierce face painted on it and a curtain tacked around the bottom to hide his legs. Bit by bit, as the Monster shuffled across, the curtain



Picture: LUKE SANTILLI

started to come adrift and pretty soon fell altogether to reveal two little legs in black school plimsolls. The painted cardboard box twisted round imploringly trying to spot, through two little eye holes, Mr Selford for

direction. The mums roared. Mr Selford was none too pleased about it though and copped the right hump.

I used to sit next to Peter Huff in class. One afternoon I let one go. He didn't think it was funny at

all. He started punching me and I couldn't stop giggling. "Come out here you two," said Mr Selford. We went out there.

"What's going on?" asked Mr Selford. Still annoyed at me Peter Huff pointed at me accusingly. "Charlie Hodges let a fart sir," he said. I couldn't believe it. He said this to a teacher. All in among terror and suppressing the urge to laugh, I denied it.

"Go outside and think it over," said Mr Selford. To this day I don't know what he meant by that. Think what over?

But outside was where the school garden was, which I'd forgotten about. Now the nicely dug over patch was a mass of weeds and stinging nettles.

I obviously had the gardening instinct in me then because I remember looking at it with a tinge of sadness. I would have loved to have grown something on that small plot. I know now

## 'Growing your own teaches you to slow down'

I would have got some valuable early gardening experience had this plot got used but it didn't.

I think today, at least, all primary schools should have their own allotment. Growing your own has got so much going for it. It not only produces wonderful stuff to eat but it also teaches you to slow down; not to rush through life, not to be continually overtaking but to sit back and enjoy the journey.

● *Chas & Dave's autobiography All About Us by Chas Hodges is published by John Blake (£7.99). Future Chas & Dave gigs: Cambridge Corn Exchange, Wednesday; Anvil Theatre, Basingstoke, Friday; G Live, Guildford, September 28; Winter Gardens, Margate, October 3; Pavilion, Bournemouth, October 5. 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

WITH MORE AND MORE PEOPLE TAKING TO THE TWITTERSPHERE, HERE ARE SOME WONDERFUL ONLINE SPELLING MISTAKES...

### Derriere

"Your dairy air looks rather ravishing from this vantage point."

### Menopause

"So hot in the office today one of the secretaries thought she was metal pausing."

### Cologne

"I love it when you can still smell your boyfriend's colon on you."

### Overreact

"I always ovary act to small stuff."

### Wounds

"Time heals all wombs."

### Self-esteem

"Ladies that fall in luv with other peoples boyfriends have low selves of steam."

### Pedestal

"Women, stop puttin' these men on such a high pedal stool. Not all of them are worth it."

### C-section

"Ladies do you prefer natural birth or sea sexion?"

### Lactose intolerant

"I can't eat dairy any more. I think I'm lack toast and tolerant."

CATHERINE ZETA JONES, WHO TURNS 45 ON THURSDAY, BECAME A GOOD FENCER WHEN SHE SHOT THE MASK OF ZORRO. HERE ARE OTHER CELEBRITY FENCERS...

Marcel Marceau, Neil Diamond, Anita Harris, Bruce Dickinson, Gene Wilder, Sir Rocco Forte, Mick Fleetwood, Bryan Mosley, Ioan Gruffudd, Sylvester Stallone, Robson Green, Sir Christopher Bland (fenced in the Olympics)



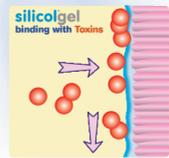
### THIS WEEK'S PONDERABLES...

- The ancient Greeks believed that the only way to grow a good crop of basil was to scatter the seeds while cursing and stomping your feet.
- The online book retailer Amazon was originally going to be called Relentless.
- During the Second World War, future PM Sir Edward Heath commanded a firing squad which executed a Polish soldier convicted of rape and murder.
- There is only one reference to sneezing in the Bible.
- The actor James Doohan, who played Scotty in the original Star Trek TV series, helped to create the Klingon language that is now spoken by geeks all around the world.
- After John Law Hume, a violinist on the Titanic, died in the disaster, his family were sent an invoice for his uniform.
- The Bald Eagle swims by using its wings to perform a sort of butterfly stroke.

### THIS WEEK'S IMPONDERABLE... With the Ryder Cup starting this week, do you have an uplifting story from previous contests?

In 1969, the Ryder Cup was between the US and Great Britain and Ireland (nowadays the US's opponents are Europe which makes for a closer encounter). The Americans had won the previous five. In the final singles match on the final day, with the teams all square, Jack Nicklaus and Tony Jacklin were on the final green. Nicklaus sank his final putt leaving Jacklin with a short putt to tie the contest. To everyone's amazement Nicklaus conceded the putt, saying: "Tony, I don't think for a second you're going to miss that putt but I'm not going to give you the chance." It was an extraordinary gesture: if Jacklin had missed it, the US would have won the Cup.

mitchellsymons@columnist.com



www.silicol.co.uk

# silicolgel®

## The Stomach Protector

Colloidal Silicic Acid for Gastrointestinal Disorders

Fast, effective treatment for:

- ✔ Irritable Bowel Syndrome
- ✔ Heartburn & Reflux
- ✔ Diarrhoea
- ✔ Stomach ache
- ✔ Flatulence
- ✔ Nausea

"Hooray - Finally a treatment that really works!"

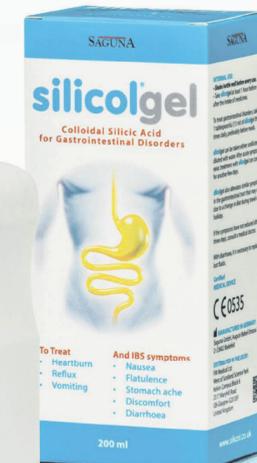
silicolgel taken orally, works by coating the stomach and intestine with a protective layer. The gel binds with irritants and toxins which are rendered harmless to pass naturally out of the body. Also binds with gases. A single tablespoon of silicolgel taken three times a day is shown to normalise the stomach and bowel quickly and without side-effects.

Available in independent health stores & pharmacies and at:



HOLLAND & BARRETT

the good life



Certified Medical Device produced in Germany. CE 0535

<sup>(1)</sup> Thom, E. A randomised placebo controlled double-blind study of silicol® in the treatment of non-ulcer dyspepsia (NUDI) (irritable bowel syndrome).

## Laithwaite's WINE

### Finest, mature Reserva and Gran Reservas from Spain

12 bottles now just £106.88 \$65.88

Mellow, barrel-aged perfection for just £8.90 £5.49 a bottle. With 98 years of age between them, these oak barrel-aged gems are perfectly mellow and mature and infused with that lovely vanilla character so typical of Spain's finest reds. Ten of the twelve wines are Gran Reservas, the country's top-of-the-range category. Valencia's medal-winning Palacio del Conde sets the standard with rich berry flavours and creamy textures, along with lavish Ramon Roqueta 2006 from 12th century estate in Catalonia and the stunning 9-year-old, Gold medal-winning Don Mendoza. No other country offers so many beautifully aged reds. No other wine merchant makes them so affordable.

Order a case for only £106.88 £65.88 (equivalent to £5.49 per bottle). You SAVE £41 and delivery, normally £7.99, is FREE.

ORDER ONLINE AT [laithwaites.co.uk/sunexpress](http://laithwaites.co.uk/sunexpress)

OR CALL 03330 148 188 Offer Code: LYH10 8.30am to 9pm Monday to Friday - 9am to 6pm Saturday - 9am to 6pm Sunday



### OUR GUARANTEE

IF YOU AREN'T HAPPY WITH A BOTTLE, DON'T PAY FOR IT

Buy Laithwaite's Tony Laithwaite



SAVE £41 Price equivalent to £5.49 a bottle.

FREE DELIVERY USUALLY £7.99

### LIMITED OFFER - ORDER TODAY

YES, please send me the 12-bottle Old Spanish Reds case for just £55.88. Phone 03330 148 188, order online at [laithwaites.co.uk/sunexpress](http://laithwaites.co.uk/sunexpress) or complete this form and return it to: Laithwaite's, FREEPOST (SCE6178), Reading RG7 4ZJ.

Title \_\_\_\_\_ First name \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Postcode \_\_\_\_\_  
 Daytime Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Please charge my VISA / VISA DEBIT / MASTERCARD / AMEX / DINERS CLUB card: \_\_\_\_\_ Valid from date: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Please tick if you do not wish to receive special offers from Laithwaite's Wine via email  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

(I confirm I am over 18 years of age) [drinkaware.co.uk](http://drinkaware.co.uk)

Offer valid for new customers, one case only per household while stocks last. No further discount or voucher can be applied. Offer ends 31st October 2014. You or anybody you buy wine for must be 18 years or over. All goods are subject to availability. Items are offered at the price and quantity stated here. If you wish to order different quantities, please call us for prices and availability. Orders for two or more cases may arrive separately. In the unlikely event of wines becoming unavailable, a substitute of similar style and of equal or greater value will be supplied. If you are unhappy with any substitutions you receive we will arrange to collect them from you (free of charge) and replace the bottles or give you a refund as appropriate. Please write 'No substitutes' on your order form, or set our operator know. Delivery to UK only (excluding Channel Islands and BFPO addresses). Standard delivery is free with this offer but is normally charged at £7.99 per order. Standard delivery takes 2 working days (delivery to offshore islands, NI, Scottish Highlands and some other areas of Scotland may take a few days longer). You can track your order online by logging into your account and clicking on 'My Orders' or by calling 03330 148 188. You may cancel your order up to and including 14 calendar days after the day on which you receive your order and we will arrange to collect (free of charge) the unwanted goods and reimburse the appropriate sums paid including delivery costs within 14 days after the day we receive the goods back or if earlier on the day on which you supply to us appropriate evidence of having sent back the products provided all the bottles are unopened and intact and the product is in its original packaging. Please let us know if you wish to cancel by contacting our Customer Service team by phone, email or completing the cancellation form available online at [laithwaites.co.uk/cancellationform](http://laithwaites.co.uk/cancellationform). Order acceptance and the contract between you and Laithwaite's Wine will only be formed on the dispatch to you of the products ordered. Please see [laithwaites.co.uk/terms](http://laithwaites.co.uk/terms) for full terms and conditions. If you have any queries please call 03330 148 188 or email us at [customerservice@laithwaites.co.uk](mailto:customerservice@laithwaites.co.uk). Calls to this number cost the same as calling an 01 or 02 number. Where calls to this number are part of any 'inclusive' minutes (on mobile or landline), calls to this number will also be included. Please check with your operator for exact charges. We may monitor and record calls for training purposes. By registering and entering your details you consent to receiving promotional offers from Laithwaite's Wine and other members of the Direct Wines Group. You also agree to the terms of our Privacy Policy and Cookie Policy available at [laithwaites.co.uk/privacy](http://laithwaites.co.uk/privacy). We occasionally make names and addresses (but never email addresses) available to other carefully selected companies whose products or services may interest you. If you do not wish to receive such offers, please write to us at the address below: call 03330 148 188 or email us at [customerservice@laithwaites.co.uk](mailto:customerservice@laithwaites.co.uk). Laithwaite's Wine part of Direct Wines Ltd. Registered in England and Wales. Registered Number: 1035291. New Aquitaine House, Easter Way, Theale, Reading, Berkshire RG7 4PL.



## Rupert

And The Fire Bird EPISODE 20

Rupert's inquisitiveness is now keener than ever and while his pal starts to pick up the papers he prowls around the box.

"Hullo, there's a little door here," he mutters. "I wonder if it opens?" He presses a catch, the round door swings down and he has to sway backwards as smoke streams out of the box.

Immediately there is a shout and Pong-Ping dashes across to close the door with a snap.

"You stupid, stupid thing. You've no idea what danger you were in," he cries.



"Oh my! That was a stupid trick!" Cries Pong-Ping. "Let me shut it, quick!"

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 [classicroperbearshop.com](http://classicroperbearshop.com). UK delivery is free.