BRIDPORT and DISTRICT ALLOTMENTS SOCIETY

Newsletter Summer 2019



Summer BBQ 12th June

This year the BADAS Members' Summer Meeting will be an allotment walkabout and social event with barbecue on the **Flaxhayes** allotments. This will be held, rain or shine, on the evening of **Wednesday 12th June** starting at 7 p.m.

This is always a popular and enjoyable evening – having a wander around other people's allotments – and last year we decided to try adding a BBQ event, on site, so that after a walkabout, members could meet and talk, while enjoying a drink and a bite to eat.

We were very lucky with the weather at Skilling in 2018 and a lovely evening was had by all who attended, so we are going for it again this year.

This time we will be on the Flaxhayes Allotment site, which is accessed from St Swithins Road. Flaxhayes allotment-holder and BADAS member, Barry Thomas, has kindly agreed that we can set up next to his allotment, which is plot 25. This is in the corner, furthest away from St Swithins Road, but close to the road through North Mills. There is a small entrance gate right next to Barry's allotment so that's the easiest way to come in – we'll mark it in some way on the night.

We hope you will join us for a sociable evening – a good chance to meet fellow allotmenteers, especially if you are a new member.

Put the date in your diary – Wednesday 12th June – and come and join us. Just to help us with catering etc – can you email either Mandy or Lynne if you think you will be attending. If you have any queries about this event please contact Lynne [redacted] or Mandy [redacted]

Allotment demand fuelled by Brexit?

Press reports suggest that concerns about food supplies following a "No Deal" Brexit may be fuelling an increased demand for allotments. There have even been questions in the House of Lords about how the Government plans to meet the growing demand that is likely to follow departure from the European Union. Franchi Seeds put together a "Brexit survival pack" full of vegetable seeds, initially as a joke, but then found themselves inundated with orders.



Nationally there are now 90,000 people on waiting lists for allotments, while locally there has been an increase in waiting list numbers despite the recent provision of new allotments by Bridport Town Council. 36% of local councils are reported to be planning to increase the number of plots they offer, a significant number when the recent trend has been for cash-strapped councils to sell them off to fund other services.

A recent study found that 43% of gardeners under 40 in the UK grow vegetables compared with 32% of the over-60s. In a recent article in the *Guardian*, Lia Leendertz suggested "it's the new *Good Life*, a natural reaction to a sharpening appreciation of how insecure our food system is and the harm it does to our environment. As food production accounts for about a quarter of the world's greenhouse emissions, sticking your fork into the earth and scattering a few seeds is an instant and direct way of making a big impact, and lots of young people want a piece of that."

BADAS Summer Meeting - Wednesday 12th June 2019

As reported above, the next meeting of the Bridport and District Allotments Society will be an outdoor event with refreshments and BBQ, at Plot 25 on the Flaxhayes allotments, starting at 7 pm. All members welcome..

News from the Bridport Community Allotment

The Community Allotment started its 2019 weekly meetings on Thursday 21st March and, apart from one really grotty week weather-wise, we've had an average of 10 people per session.

One of the first tasks was to clear the beds of self seeded poppy plants that had got all over the place. As usual at the beginning of the season we had a good re-organisation of the sheds, throwing out all the accumulated junk and putting up several new lots of hooks and clips to hold all the tools that were standing on the floor and getting in the way. We now have nice tidy sheds with the equipment colour coded so it goes back in the correct place.

The crops were given a real boost by the excellent Easter weather and both outdoor and polytunnel plants have been growing well. However, the potato tops were frosted at the beginning of May, but not badly, so we earthed them up and the tubers should be fine.

We've just sowed a selection of different climbing beans as they all did very well last year, especially the Borlotti beans. We shall soon be planting out the baby brassicas - this time a bit more widely spaced as last year some were badly affected by mildew.

All the raised beds have been allocated with about four of them changing hands this year when people move on or find an allotment of their own.

Our soft fruit is all doing well with plenty of small fruit on already so it will soon be time to cover the blackcurrants with netting. This week we gave them all a good mulch with home-made compost and also put straw under the strawberries which appear to have a lot of fruits this year. We must be doing something right!

Jenn Baker, Community Allotment Co-ordinator



Grapevine at the Community Allotment



Raised beds at the Community Allotment

New Town Council Allotments open

Bridport Town Council has opened its new allotment site near the cemetery off Walditch Road. There has been a 100% take-up of the new plots and the first tenants started working their allotments in April. A water supply will be made available from early June. There are still more than 70 people on the council's waiting lists for allotments.



New allotment site off Walditch Road

Bridport and District Allotments Society

Membership of the Bridport & District Allotments Society costs £2 per annum, and gives entitlement to discounts e.g. on some items at Groves. Our Membership Secretary/Treasurer Mandy Rathbone will be pleased to receive your subscriptions at [redacted] For information please contact Mandy by email [redacted]

Receiving the newsletter: We now send out the newsletter, meeting agenda and minutes by email — *if any member is unable to receive these by email, please contact the Secretary, Lynne Atkinson, on* [redacted] to receive a copy by post or hand delivery.

Committee members needed! We urgently need a few more committee members to keep up the Society's good work Contact Lynne on [redacted]

Published by Bridport and District Allotments Society, c/o Unit 17, St Michael's Trading Estate, Bridport DT6 3RR
www.bridportallotmentsociety.co.uk (01308-250260); Email bridportallotmentsociety@gmail.com