

BRIDPORT and DISTRICT ALLOTMENTS SOCIETY

Newsletter

Summer 2020



Summer Event cancelled

At this time of year we would normally be announcing details of our summer meeting/get-together, when we visit one of the Bridport allotment sites and members have a chance to see what other people are doing on their allotments.

Two years ago we enhanced the summer meeting by holding a barbecue with refreshments on the Skilling allotments. This was such a success that we repeated the experiment on the Flaxhayes/St Swithin's site in 2019 (see *photo*). The intention was to do it again in June this year on one of the other Bridport sites, but clearly to do so would be in breach of the current Coronavirus restrictions, so the BADAS committee has with great regret decided to abandon plans for a summer event.

We will keep open the possibility of holding the event in early autumn, in which case we will let members know.

Vandalism and Theft

A number of incidents have been reported in recent weeks, including vandalism and theft of fruit bushes at Priory Gardens and theft of a rotavator from a shed at West Allington. These incidents have been reported to the Police and Town Council. Members are urged to be vigilant and to inform the Police, Council and Allotment Society of any other instances.

Coronavirus Impact

The Government announced in March that plotholders would be allowed, even encouraged to continue to cultivate their allotments, both as a means of exercise and as a source of healthy food. With many people unable to attend or carry out their normal work, one result has been that they have been able to spend more time and care on their allotments. Less fortunate have been those in the extremely vulnerable category who had to remain indoors until early June.

Bridport allotment sites were not closed down because of the virus, in line with Government advice. Bridport Town Council posted notices on the entrance to its sites, displaying the advice of the National Allotments Society on precautions to be taken, e.g. handwashing and use of hand sanitizer, not visiting the allotment if you or a family member has the virus or symptoms, observing current social distancing when on the allotment and not sharing garden tools or washing hands in communal water butts.

The full **NAS** Coronavirus advice can be found at: <https://www.nsalg.org.uk/news/covid19-information/>

Garden centres were compulsorily closed for the first few weeks of the lockdown, but were allowed to re-open in mid-May. Groves also offer a free delivery service and a click-and-collect service.

NB: if you have stories/pictures of your allotment activities during the Coronavirus crisis, your newsletter editor will be pleased to receive them: charleswild@btinternet.com.

Bridport Town Council and allotment waiting lists

Bridport Town Council maintains waiting lists for allotments, and although the council offices are currently closed, information about council allotments and a waiting list request form can be found at;

<https://www.bridport-tc.gov.uk/services/allotments/>

The Society is grateful for the continuing support of the town council for allotments, and would like to wish a happy retirement in June to **Linda Bullock**, who as administrative officer excelled as event facilitator, always allocating BADAS seats in the marquee at the Food Festival and promoting BADAS to all who acquired an allotment in Bridport. And congratulations to BADAS member **Ian Bark** on his recent election as Town Mayor.

**BADAS Summer Barbecue and site visit—CANCELLED
because of the Coronavirus**



Bridport Community Orchard & Allotments

I think we'll all have stories of how things haven't gone to plan this year!. Luckily, we have a couple of willing and able gardeners in our group who have worked hard to keep the allotment going despite the lack of people. They sowed all the seeds, looked after the resultant seedlings and have now planted everything out in this wonderful weather.

I have organised a watering rota which, with three plots and no rain, could have been a gargantuan task. Luckily I had enough volunteers that everyone need only do one session a week so with any luck we shall have excellent crops again over the coming months.

Earlier this year we were lucky enough to be awarded a grant from the West Bay Car Boot Fund to go towards the purchase of a new, bigger polytunnel. I had hoped that it would have been up and running by now but.....!!! Never mind, it's something to look forward to later in the year.

At this time I'm not sure whether the Allotment Open Afternoon will be allowed in August, but look out for local advertising nearer the time just in case.

The orchard has also been given a bit of TLC with paths kept mown amongst the trees so that, a few weeks ago, people could walk through and see all this year's splendid blossom while keeping socially distanced. Most of the trees have what looks like a good crop again - we only hope that Apple Day can go ahead in October.

At least the sun is shining!

Jenn Baker
Community Allotment Organiser

Ron Grimwood

I was saddened to hear that Ron Grimwood, a long standing member of BADAS, had died last December. I was also astonished to learn that he was 86 years old – he certainly didn't look it!

I first met Ron in the late '90s, when I took over plot number 11 at Skilling, and he had plot number 2, which was in fact two plots separated by a wide path that gave access to the site for tractors/ trailers delivering manure etc.

As a relative 'new boy', I found Ron very welcoming and ready to impart advice in a friendly, non judgmental way and we became good colleagues over the succeeding years.

Ron lived in Askerswell and his wife Janet regularly used to come with him to the allotment.

Between them they kept a very tidy plot, and specialised in soft fruit (raspberries, strawberries and blackberries in particular), also potatoes, onions, brassicas and salad crops. Ron was a regular attendee at the BADAS quarterly meetings.

After I gave up my plot, I rather lost touch with Ron, but unexpectedly bumped into him early last October on the top of a double deck bus!

I had returned from a holiday in Leicestershire, and travelled down by train to Dorchester to catch the bus to Bridport. You can imagine my surprise when I found Ron sitting on the top deck at the front, enjoying the view. Needless to say, we had a good reminisce and before we knew it were back in Bridport. Little did I realise that would be the last time we would meet.

Our belated condolences go to Janet and family.

Bob Driscoll, May 2020

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 192 North Allington, Brldport DT6 5EB. For information please contact Mandy by email at manwell52@hotmail.co.uk.

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 01308-424587 to receive a copy by post or hand delivery.

Website: visit our website at:
www.bridportallotmentsociety.co.uk