

BRIDPORT and DISTRICT ALLOTMENTS SOCIETY

Newsletter

Spring 2021



Charles Wild (centre) with Bob Driscoll and Mandy Rathbone at the BADAS BBQ Summer 2018

Newsletter Editor Retires

It is with regret that we have to say goodbye to our long-term newsletter editor and committee member, Charles Wild.

Charles has done a great job, over many years, producing a quality publication to keep members up to date and provide interesting articles. We wish him all the best and hope to see him at our social events.

His retirement from this role has left a big hole, and our membership secretary, Mandy Rathbone, has offered to step in, **on a temporary basis**, and would welcome contributions for the next newsletter. These can be sent to her at:

bridportallotmentsociety@gmail.com

However it would be LOVELY if there was a BADAS member out there who would be willing to step in and assist with the newsletter role. Other committee members are available to help. **Please get in touch if you can help in any way with this.**

BADAS Website Re-launch

www.bridportallotmentsociety.co.uk

Spring has sprung and thanks to an industrious member of our committee, our BADAS website has had a spring clean and revamp.

Have a look and you will find:-

1. From Plot to Plate - a downloadable recipe for the month using produce you may have on your allotment.
2. Monthly hints for jobs that you could be doing.
3. Tips that may be useful—there is a new one about the meanings of the markings on pallets.
4. Plans of the allotments sites
5. Contact information for allotment providers
6. Discounts negotiated with suppliers
7. Information Leaflets
8. And a whole lot more! We also hope to get a Facebook page set up soon.

If you have any good hints and tips, recipes or news that you think would be useful to others, please send it in. Our contact details are on the website Home Page

www.bridportallotmentsociety.co.uk

BADAS Summer Meeting - July 2021

We very much hope that Covid regulations will allow us to have our Summer Meeting including an allotment walkabout, barbecue and outdoor social time. No date has been set for this yet, but keep checking the website and your emails.



Interview with a Plot Holder – April 2021

Mike Bulgin has worked a BTC plot in South Street for about seven years. The allotment is very important to him as he moved to a new house and the garden was too small and shaded to grow vegetables.

It's an allotment of about 5m x 8 m which seems small although originally it was divided into two half plots. It has an 18inch depth of excellent soil over a clay subsoil.

Mike grows all the normal allotment vegetables but is now incorporating soft fruit and fruit trees which will not require as much attention. He does have a greenhouse in which he will continue to grow tomatoes and herbs and probably runner beans on the plot.

Although not gardening organically he minimises the amount of chemical intervention; hating to see his efforts frustrated by pests and diseases! He will not be putting in as much effort now; up to recently, in the growing season he would be working the plot for about an hour every evening, however moving to soft fruit anticipates spending less time.

He recommends that new allotment holders just go for it! Try out things that you want to grow and see if they work! It's all about gaining experience. He has found having an allotment very rewarding for both the produce and the experience - but has also found that it takes a lot more time than he had imagined!

A note from BADAS Membership Secretary

I have noticed that a few members have been a bit unclear as to the way we issue BADAS membership cards so thought I would clarify.

If you pay your membership along with your allotment rent to Bridport Town Council, BTC send me a list of members who have paid, and I then issue the cards in exactly the same way as I would if paid to us directly. BTC transfer the subs to BADAS. BADAS has negotiated all the various discounts with local suppliers, but these suppliers are not involved in our membership system. I hope that helps. Mandy Rathbone (Mem. Sec.)

Call for ban on Peat Compost

Climate-concerned gardeners demand UK ban on peat compost

Extract from The Guardian—2nd April 2021

The UK government must ban the sales of peat compost this year after its goal of a voluntary phaseout by 2020 proved an "abject failure", according to a group of gardening experts, conservationists and scientists.

Peat bogs store huge amounts of carbon and must be retained to help tackle the climate crisis. In a letter to the environment secretary, George Eustice, seen by the Guardian, the group say the UK as host of the UN climate summit talks this year should show leadership on the issue.

The Easter weekend is traditionally the biggest gardening weekend of the year, and the first coronavirus lockdown in 2020 is estimated to have created 3 million new gardeners. In a survey by the Wildlife Trusts published on Friday, just one of the 20 leading garden retailers – Travis Perkins – said it would end peat compost sales in 2021. The trusts said there was no sign of the government's long-awaited peat strategy.

"In 2011, the government set voluntary targets to end sales of peat-based compost for domestic use by 2020. This has been an abject failure," said the letter to Eustice signed by the TV gardeners Alan Titchmarsh, Kate Bradbury and James Wong, the conservationist Isabella Tree and dozens of others. "If the government wants to show global leadership on the climate crisis before it hosts the Cop26 climate conference, this is a vital step."

In November the gardener Monty Don called peat in compost "environmental vandalism" and joined the National Trust, the Royal Horticultural Society and other groups in calling for a ban. The government's voluntary target for the horticulture sector was to end sales to gardeners by 2020 and to end professional use of peat – for example, in plant growing – by 2030.

For the full article see the News Page of the BADAS website

www.bridportallotmentsociety.co.uk

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]

[REDACTED] For information please contact Mandy by email at [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.*

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