

BRIDPORT and DISTRICT ALLOTMENTS SOCIETY

Newsletter

Summer 2021

NEW BEGINNINGS - HOME HUB FOR BADAS

Daryl Chambers of Bridport Town Council has kindly offered us a small patch in the Skilling North allotment site to use as an allotment community hub area.

We have ordered a shed to go there so that we can put on events for members like seed and plant swaps and other social activities.

Unfortunately the waiting time for getting sheds installed is about three months so, in the mean time, once the site is cleared, we hope to be able to get the swap events on the go and plan to have our Summer Social event there on Thursday 15th July.

We are excited to have this project started and if members have any ideas for what they would like to see us organising at the site, please get in touch with us via our BADAS email address.

From Fiona Dare (chair)



Committee members Brian Atkinson, Fiona Dare, John Abbot and willing helper Roger Harris helping to clear the site. Mandy Rathbone was on the other side of the camera.

BADAS BBQ / SOCIAL

Thursday 15th July 7pm
At our new social hub area

Members are invited to our BBQ—please let us know if you will be coming so that we can cater appropriately.

Bring a chair and your own glass, if you like, and come and have a chat, drink and food.

Reply to: bridportallotmentsociety@gmail.com
or phone 01308 250260

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, Brlport DT6 5EB. For information please contact Mandy by email at manwell52@hotmail.co.uk.

FROM OLD HAND . . .

Barry Thomas is interviewed by Lynne Atkinson.

I've had an allotment for quite some time. I remember that it was at the time of the Falklands war which I think would make it 1982 or thereabouts. It's a pastime which I very much enjoy as I like growing things - particularly those that are good to eat!

I have a full size plot at Flaxhayes where the soil is very light. I use a three-part crop rotation because I don't have room for a four part rotation - which would be preferable. I grow just about all the vegetables available and also a lot of fruit: including raspberries, strawberries, blackberries, gooseberries, loganberries and blackcurrants.



I work full time and so in regards to working on the plot I'm restricted to the evenings and weekends unless I'm on holiday. Basically I guess that I spend too much time there - it could be 15 or 16 hours per week - but I should add that I do get a lot of help from my wife! I don't normally give advice to people unless they ask me, and any advice would depend on how experienced they were. When I started, I wasn't at all sure what was required, but soon found that it is hard work, but very rewarding. I found that most things will grow well if you look after them properly; however most people don't realise

how much work is involved - and you really do only get out what you put in!

. . . To NEW GIRL

Two years ago I was just beginning to prepare my Peak District allotment for spring planting - in June! It was made up of four terraces on the side of a Derbyshire Dale with a river far below and four to six foot high dry stone walls between.

Now I share a half plot on the wonderfully flat Flaxhayes site and am slowly trying to fashion it to provide some of the qualities I love as well as developing its own character. Instead of a river I have a pond: the beds are very small but varied to contain veg., fruit and flowers. Instead of honey bee hives I am trying to attract bumbles and solitary bees, and 'walls' of climbing berries such as blackberry, loganberry and wineberry will give me some of the height.

My compost area is vital. It may look like a collection of dustbins, but there is a wormery and an anaerobic digestion system to kill off the noxious weeds.

It's an exciting adventure in a completely different location and climate. I am going to make lots of mistakes and learn a whole new way of gardening. The folk seem friendly, my garden partner is wonderfully long suffering and so the adventure begins . . .

Jeni Edwards.

Articles, pictures, poems, ideas for the next newsletter to me at

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.