

BRIDPORT and DISTRICT ALLOTMENTS SOCIETY

Newsletter

Spring 2023

Fruit Trees donated to BADAS Members



The Co-Ordinator of “Bridport Tree Planting”, Joe Hackett, hands over a gift of ten apple trees to BADAS Chair, Fiona Dare, in front of some lucky recipients.

“Just the start of what we hope will be a good partnership” said Joe afterwards. “We hope in the autumn to be able to give more ‘food trees’ - not just apples but pears, plums and nuts—to people with allotments. We want to do everything we can to encourage the production of local nutritious food.”

Bridport Tree Planting has been in existence since the autumn of 2019. Part of West Dorset Friends of the Earth, it started with a gathering of names of people interested in trees to help fight climate change and increase biodiversity. Soon it grew in strength by being able to give away non-fruit native species such as rowan, hazel, hawthorn and birch, to each household—this still applies—and also planted trees in public spaces—Asker Meadows and St Marys Fields.

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Next BADAS Meeting - Wednesday 15th March at 7 p.m.

The next meeting of BADAS will be held on Wednesday 15th March at Mountfield, Bridport. Brian Hesketh will give a talk “Gardening in the Goldilocks Era” about our responses as gardeners to climate change.

Bridport Tree Planting continued from Page 1

"I remember well that first public planting. Seventy people turned up. It was organized chaos!" said Joe. "Soon after that two good things happened. We were sponsored by Groves Nursery, who generously gave us a tree or equivalent for every tree they sold, and we were lucky to also find a private sponsor who is very keen on trees. Thanks to her, we have never been short of money. We've planted or given away close to a thousand trees each year."

John Hinsley, another local resident, is a key part of the success, ordering in free saplings from OVO Energy as part of the I Dig Trees initiative, and advising local groups and individuals.

Bridport Tree Planting has just finished planting another public open space—Flaxhayes at the top end of St Swithins Road—and works closely with Bridport Town Council.

For more information, and if you wish to receive Bridport Tree Planting's newsletter, apply to bridportallotmentsociety@gmail.com

Continuing the environmental theme

BADAS Members—Don't miss the next BADAS Meeting at 7p.m. on Wednesday 15th March at Mountfield, when local gardener, Brian Hesketh, will give a talk

Gardening in the Goldilocks Era

A presentation in two parts about our response as gardeners to changes in climate.

The first part brings us up to date on the changes.

The second part reminds of the positive difference we already make by working the land, and what further steps we might make.

Brian has been growing vegetables, organically, in Drimpton for 20 years, though he first planted seeds ("Love Lies Bleeding") as a boy 60 years ago. In common with many gardeners and growers he has noticed changes which we now attribute to climate change. Curious by nature and always a keen researcher, he has been seeking to understand what is happening to the climate and how we, as gardeners and growers, may be affected and how we might adapt.

Don't miss the opportunity to come and listen to this talk and meet and exchange ideas with other BADAS Members.

Chedington Compost (chedingtoncompost.co.uk)

have offered BADAS Members 5% discount on their bulk bags of composted manure etc. See BADAS website for details of how to claim this discount.

BADAS Membership 2023

Don't forget to renew your BADAS membership ASAP. Those who haven't renewed by 15th March will be removed from the mailing list.

Contact Membership Secretary, Mandy Rathbone, by email at bridportallotmentsociety@gmail.com for information on how to renew.

Newsletter contributions welcome

If you have any items you would like to see included in future issues of our Newsletter, (Published quarterly) please contact our secretary Lynne at bridportallotmentsociety@gmail.com

Contributions for the next edition welcome at any time before **15th May 2023** please.

THE CONTINUAL “THORNY” SUBJECT OF UNTENDED ALLOTMENTS

BADAS is frequently contacted by members with complaints about untended, overgrown allotments. These cause much consternation, not only because the weeds and brambles eventually invade neighbouring plots, but because the waiting list of those hoping for allotment is very long and it is annoying to see otherwise good land going to waste. Obviously there are sometimes mitigating circumstances involved, like temporary illness, but at other times, the situation goes on and on.

As a society, we have no control over the allocation of plots, but we encourage you to pass on complaints to Bridport Town Council who have responsibility for the allotments.

If you have concerns about a long-term untended plot, we suggest that you take photos and email them, along with the plot number (if you know it) to Bridport Town Council with your complaint. Their email address is **enquiries@bridport-tc.gov.uk**

Please also copy us in to your email—**bridportallotmentsociety@gmail.com** so that we can monitor the problem.

Fiona Dare/Chair BADAS

**Spring will be here before we know it So with
that in mind the BADAS Committee are holding a**

SEED SWAP EVENT

On Saturday 11th March, from 11 a.m til 1 p.m.

At The BADAS Hub

(The Hub is located at the northern end of the Skilling North Allotment site, enter through the double metal gates accessed from the public path through from Skilling to Foundry Lane)

This is an opportunity to sort through your seed stock and bring along any surplus/spares you may have to add to the swap pile. Or to swap for something else you fancy trying.

Even if you have no seeds to bring—come along and browse the selection.

Tea and coffee will be available.

Come along and chat to us about your gardening plans for 2023.

BADAS Boffin, Brian Atkinson, continues the environmental theme of this newsletter with this article he has written about the Green Economy.

What is the Green Economy?

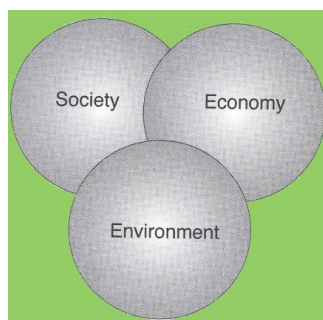


Figure 1 Conventional economics

Conventional linear economists are not concerned about the depletion of natural resources, since they believe human ingenuity will resolve this problem by finding substitutes

The 3 main assumptions of mainstream economics.

1. People have rational preferences among outcomes.
2. Individuals maximise utility; firms maximise profits.
3. People act independently on the basis of full and relevant information.

Does this work? Do we act rationally? Are we well informed? Can we determine which bank account is the best? Do we believe advertising?

A quote from Kenneth Boulding (1910 – 1993, economist, educator, peace activist, poet, religious mystic, devoted Quaker, systems scientist, and interdisciplinary philosopher.):

'Anyone who believes exponential growth can go on forever in a finite world is either: a Madman or an Economist!'

The alternative is a Green Economy



Figure 2 The Green Economy Paradigm

- A Green Economy can be defined as one that results in improved human wellbeing and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities.
- A Green Economy is characterized by substantially increased investments in economic sectors that build on and enhance the earth's natural capital or reduce ecological scarcities and environmental risks.
- These sectors include renewable energy, low-carbon transport, energy-efficient buildings, clean technologies, improved waste management, improved freshwater provision, sustainable agriculture, forestry, and fisheries. These investments are driven by, or supported by, national policy reforms and the development of international policy and market infrastructure.

What a circular economy means

The circular economy means moving away from the world's current – and enormously wasteful – economic model of 'take, make, throw away', in which resources are extracted, turned into products, used, and discarded.

It entails redesigning products to be more durable, reusable, repairable, and recyclable, and therefore kept in circulation for as long as possible. Beyond product design innovations, it also means changing the way we consume and use goods and services, and rethinking consumerism as a society.

The term 'circular economy' is sometimes used as if it is something that does not yet exist. In fact, many parts of the global economy are already 'circular' to some extent but are largely invisible to those living in developed economies.

Any move towards a green economy almost certainly requires that economy to be Circular as far as is possible.