BRIDPORT and DISTRICT ALLOTMENTS SOCIETY

Newsletter **Winter 2023**

FREE FRUIT TREES TO GIVE AWAY

The lovely people at the Bridport Tree Planting Group are once again gifting BADAS some fruit trees to give away to our members. There will be around 15 mixed bare root trees available sometime in late December/early January.

If you are interested in receiving one of these, please let us know by Sunday 17th December, by email or phone:
BADASHUB@outlook.com or 01308 250260

Once we know when the trees are going to arrive, we'll let the applicants know and we'll distribute them at the Hub. If this offer is over-subscribed, we will put the names into a draw.
Don't miss out—get your name in ASAP.





Please note our new email address

BADASHUB@outlook.com

For all your BADAS queries



Dates for your diary and other notices



Next BADAS Meeting—Christmas Social Event

Thursday 14th December 2023
7 p.m. at Bridport Youth Centre, Gundry Lane

Our popular Christmas Social is moving location to Bridport Youth Centre.

Everyone is welcome—there will be light festive refreshments and plenty of opportunity to chat to fellow allotment holders and hear how the 2023 gardening year has gone for them. It is also another opportunity to pick up your 2024 membership card if you have renewed via Bridport Town Council, or to renew on the spot.

It would be really helpful if you can let us know whether you will be coming—it makes catering so much easier!

New Membership Cards 2024

Due to the huge increase in postal costs, we are trying to hand over new membership cards for 2024 in person.

If you have renewed via Bridport Town Council there will be an opportunity to pick up your new card at our Christmas Social Event or at the **BADAS Hub on Saturday 6th January 2024 between 11 a.m. and midday.**

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 2024
Don't forget—your current membership runs out on 31st December 2023.

Contact Membership Secretary, Mandy Rathbone, by email at manwell52@hotmail.co.uk 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 Newsletter Editor (Mandy) manwell52@hotmail.co.uk

Contributions for the next edition welcome at any time before **16th February 2024** please.

BECOMING A BADAS COMMITTEE MEMBER SHOULDN'T FRIGHTEN ANYONE

(We don't bite!)

All that is needed is for you to come to two short formal (actually, fairly informal) meetings per year, hopefully attend the two social gatherings and help out where you can at events that we organize.

The two social gatherings are the BADAS BBQ in July and the Christmas event in December where we have sausage rolls, mince pies, wine and a chat.

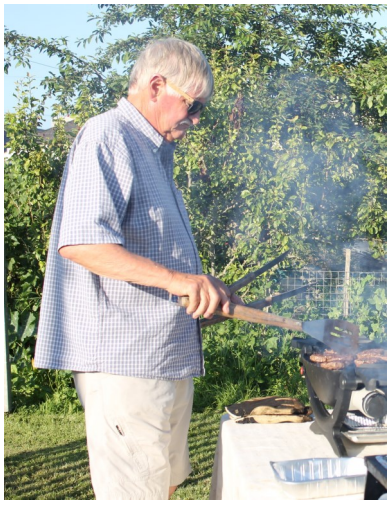
In Feb/March we hold a Seed Swap event and in May a Plant Swap event—bring seeds or plants you don't need and/or pick up seeds or plants you might like. We offer tea, coffee and biscuits as well.
In addition we have a stand at the Bridport Food Festival, giving away our Plot to Plate recipe leaflets and offering kids a chance to plant and take home a pumpkin seed– which goes down very well.

All of these events are organized to benefit members, but at the moment there are not enough people helping out and the handful of committee members that we have are taking the strain.

Unfortunately lack of participation is a problem now experienced by a lot of groups and societies and the stark truth is, if no-one joins in, these groups eventually fold leaving Society, in the greater sense, poorer.

If you would like to join our friendly committee, or just offer help, please let us know. Fiona Dare—BADAS Chair.







VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR HUB MAINTENANCE

Our BADAS Hub, situated in the Skilling North allotments, is a wonderful resource which, like any site, needs regular maintenance to keep it spick and span. Hopefully most members will have been there to collect their 2024 membership cards and know now, if they didn't before, what a good space it is.

We are looking for volunteers to mow the grass, during the growing season, on a rota basis using the society's mower. As the shed is raised, it takes 2 people to get our old mower out and to put it away afterwards.

Please consider whether you can help as the job fell on too few people this year, and as the saying goes, "many hands make light work".

If you can give a little time for this, please let us know by email or phone and in the Spring we will contact you to agree your dates for the rota.

Many thanks indeed to our latest volunteer helper, Alan Hobby, who has joined the membership team to help with collating and producing the new membership cards. This help is much appreciated.





Waiting List for Allotments in England almost doubles

An article in The Guardian newspaper recently reported that allotment waiting lists have almost doubled in the last 12 years.
The most recent figures show that there are now 157,820 applications on lists held by English local authorities—up 81% since 2011 and the average waiting time for an allotment is 3 years. Campaigners say that this rise is due to an increased demand because of the cost of living crisis, awareness of sustainable growing and healthy eating, and the delay in turning over plots that are not being properly used. As reported in our AGM Minutes, Bridport Town Council allotment waiting list stands at 83 within Bridport and 85 outside the parish.

Published by Bridport and District Allotments Society
www.bridportallotmentsociety.co.uk (01308-250260); **Email BADASHUB@outlook.com**