BRIDPORT and DISTRICT ALLOTMENTS SOCIETY

Newsletter Autumn 2024



GLUT STALL

Finally we have reached that time of year when we might possibly have an excess of produce. I have had the following request from Sam Wilberforce who helps run the "glut stall".

Please bring along your excess vegetables and fruit to the community food stall (the glut stall) on Thursdays around 9 a.m. at St Swithins Church (North Allington), or the Fridge at the Chapel in the Garden at 10 a.m. on Saturdays.

Any donations will be most gratefully accepted.

THEFTS FROM ALLOTMENTS

We have recently had several reports of the theft of tools and produce from allotments. So far, the sites targeted have been Flaxhayes, Skilling, West Allington and the Palmers allotments off Priory Lane. Blackcurrant and gooseberry bushes have been stripped, a pumpkin taken and one very unfortunate member came back from a few days away to find blackberries, runner beans, raspberries and calabrese gone, having earlier lost broad beans.

If this happens to you, please report it to the Police (getting a crime number), the Town Council and to us at BADAS. I don't know how it can be stopped, but if these incidents are reported, a pattern may emerge.

We all work hard to grow our fruit and veg and I'm sure that most of us happily give any excess away to friends, family and the Glut Stall, but it is horrible to have it stolen.

We have also had a report of badgers vandalizing a member's sweetcorn. They apparently stripped and ate it all leaving quite a mess. Brian May would probably find that amusing, but I'm not sure that the allotment holder did!

Fiona Dare(BADAS Chair)/August 2024



Dates for your diary and other notices



COMING SOON

Thursday 19th Sept 2024 at 7 p.m.
BADAS AGM/Members' Meeting
Upstairs at Bridport Youth Centre, Gundry Lane

Please join us for our Annual General Meeting. We will whizz through the obligatory reports and accounts and then there will be a chance to discuss matters of real interest—to raise issues that are concerning you or to suggest ways that we can help each other. We look forward to seeing you there.

GARDENING TOOLS FOR NEW MEMBERS

Following a conversation with a new BADAS member/allotment holder, a call went out to members who might have spare tools that they could donate. For those who haven't gardened before, it can be quite daunting to start from scratch buying a set of basic tools.

BADAS members have been very generous and we would like to thank
Suzanne Finch, Alan Mildenhall and Brian Atkinson for tools that have been
donated so far. We are in the process of passing these on to other members who need them. If anyone else would like to donate tools or spare gardening books please contact us e: badashub@outlook.com. We also have a wealth of expertise and gardening experience amongst our members, so please come along to one of our events, and tap into this.

BADAS is looking for a good quality, second hand, robust petrol mower for cutting the grass at the BADAS Hub.

If anyone knows of a mower that is surplus to requirements, please let us know.

badashub@outlook.com

FRUIT TREE GIVEAWAY

Joe Hackett of Bridport Tree Planting Group has contacted us once again with the offer of free fruit trees for our members this autumn/winter.

Look out for the email later in the year.

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 2025

Your current membership runs until 31.12.24 but if you pay your allotment rent to BTC you will be getting your renewal letter in Oct or Nov and we will issue new membership cards towards the end of the year. We hope you will decide to rejoin for 2025.

Contact Membership Secretary, Mandy Rathbone, by email at badashub@outlook.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 Newsletter Editor (Mandy) badashub@outlook.com

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



<u>This request was sent in by Steve Meek at Bridport Community Allotment</u>

Please join me in teaching growing skills!

I am teaching beginners "How to grow food" in a free weekly session on the Community Allotment in the Orchard, and it seems to be well received. The learners are a mix of ages, and some are waiting for an allotment, whilst others just grow at home. These are informal, practical sessions with no written material or paperwork. We all know that many people wait years for their allotment, then really struggle with it as they have insufficient knowledge, little experience and no support. We could address this by expanding these sessions to reach more people, resulting in better use of land, happier growers and less waste. Teaching is rewarding and fun!

Anyone interested in joining me on this voluntary project?
Please email me at bridportcommunityallotment@gmail.com
Thanks! Steve Meek

Potato Puzzle



BADAS Member, Alan Hobby, has a potato puzzle which he would like other members to solve for him if possible.

Alan planted a row of first early Rocket potatoes this year and when he came to harvest them, while most came out of the ground looking like Rockets (the potato on the left) one plant produced completely different potatoes (as pictured on the right) Alan says they were delicious, yellow and waxy and he would love to grow them again, but doesn't know what variety they are. Can anyone help? Email badashub@outlook.com.



