BRIDPORT and DISTRICT ALLOTMENTS SOCIETY

Newsletter Winter 2014-15

December Meeting speaker and refreshments

Lynne Atkinson writes:

"I have had confirmation from our Guest Speaker who is booked for our winter meeting on Thursday 11th December, **Mr Derek Pride,** M.I.T.G, F.N.V.S .

"The talk will be called '*Growing, Showing and Judging.*'

"We will have a free raffle, and refreshments and a few nibbles too. Something to look forward to!"

News items

Security reminder

"At our Annual General Meeting in September, I was asked to remind all allotment users who have a security padlock on their gates to ensure that the gates are closed and the padlock securely in place.

"There have been instances of gates being left open and unlocked overnight — we have also received reports of produce being stolen."

Lynne Atkinson

Allotments waiting list

Bridport Town Council reports that there are now 24 members of the parish on the waiting list for allotments, plus 34 from neighbouring parishes.

Water Supply to allotments

Bridport Town Surveyor Daryl Chambers reports that there is now a water supply to the allotments behind the Medical Centre.



Bridport Potato Day

Saturday 10th January 2015, 10 am-2 pm
United Church Hall, East Street

This will be the fourth Potato day to be hosted in Bridport - it has become a valued day in Bridport's gardening calendar. Pennard Plants, a nursery based in Somerset specialising in heritage and heirloom seeds and plants will be coming along with 60+ varieties of potatoes. They have a wealth of knowledge about the varieties they sell and which specific soil conditions they thrive in. They will also be bringing onion sets, garlic, heritage seeds, fruit trees and bushes. Entry is free and refreshments are available.

It is in fact the last time the current organisers will be running the day. If anyone is interested in taking on the organisation of Potato Day 2016, then please call Jude on the number below.

For more information call Jude Hopkins [redacted]

Allotments Society Winter Meeting

Thursday 11 December 2014, 7.00 pm
At Mountfield, Bridport Town Council office, Rax Lane
Speaker, free raffle and refreshments — all members welcome.



Bridport Seed Swap 2015

Saturday 14th February 2015, 10-12am, Ropemakers, West Street, Bridport

The Ropemakers will be hosting the annual Bridport seed swap for the second time on 14th February. What better way to spend Valentine's morning than to come along and spread the love with this event! Last year 50+ people came to swap their seeds and take advantage of the opportunity to enjoy sharing experiences with other local gardeners. People came with a variety of saved and surplus seeds ranging from beans to broccoli, squash to sunflowers. The tables were filled with an abundance of growing possibilities and people felt happy to take a gamble on a seed variety that was new to them or even tick some seeds off their wish list. The surplus seeds left over at the end of the morning were donated to Rethink for their allotment project.

The resurgence in "Grow your own" is surely nowhere more prevalent than in Bridport! Whether you have surplus seed from the free seed packet offer on a magazine, have saved seed from an unusual bean variety, or would simply like to see what others have brought, the Bridport seed swap promises to be a positive event to celebrate the anticipation of the new season to come. There is no obligation to bring seeds to swap as you are welcome to take seeds for a small donation to charity. The seed swap will be held in the back room of the Ropemakers.

For more information call Eileen Haste 421678.



Borough Gardens project

Borough Gardens

Planting has been going on apace at the Borough Gardens. Back in July, on a pretty hot day, our band of volunteers, with Loren Winters from the Town Council workforce, planted up the border in front of the listed south facing wall. Herbaceous perennials, roses and a few shrubs will all contribute colour, scent and food for insects. Thanks to subsequent watering, and weeding (of course), the border is now beginning to look quite established. More infill planting here and in the other borders will take place in the spring.

This autumn we cleared some space for wallflowers, and the rain held off long enough one morning for us to plant them and some bulbs for spring and summer colour. We even had our usual coffee, cake and biscuits in the dry, and finished just as the rain was starting up again.

As ever many thanks are due to our volunteers and Loren for some enthusiastic (and sometimes muddy) digging, weeding, and planting, and to Daryl Chambers the Town Surveyor for his help and support. If you want to be kept informed of future events at the Borough Gardens, or would like to volunteer, please contact coordinator Maggie Ray at [redacted] who will add your name to the "Friends of the Borough Gardens" list.

Gill Massey

Bridport and District Allotments Society

Membership of the Bridport & District Allotments Society costs £2 per annum. Our Membership Secretary/Treasurer Mandy Rathbone will be pleased to receive your subscriptions. Please contact Mandy on [redacted] or send her an email at [redacted].

Burton Bradstock Society: Secretary Geoff Adderley, email [redacted]

Receiving the newsletter by email: If any member who currently receives the newsletter/minutes of meetings through the letterbox could receive them by email (and save us delivery cost/time), please contact Lynne Atkinson - [redacted]

Newsletter contributions welcome: if you have any items you would like to see included in future issues of our Newsletter (which comes out quarterly) or if there are subjects you would like us to cover, please contact the Editor, Charles Wild, [redacted]; or email entries to [redacted]. Contributions to the next edition (articles, news items and/or photographs) are welcome at any time, but by **10 February 2015** please. Many thanks for contributions this time - please keep them coming.

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