

BRIDPORT and DISTRICT ALLOTMENTS SOCIETY

Newsletter

Autumn 2018

Chairman's Report

What an unusual year this has been so far for the gardens and allotments. So wet in the spring I thought of growing rice, now at last we seem to have come to the end of the heatwave.

The BBQ was a great success thanks to Mandy and her helpers, the weather was good and so was the food. Hopefully we will have another next year so those who did not come this year will come next.

The Society usually has a meeting in September but this is not well attended so the committee has agreed to postpone it. There will now be a short AGM and a Christmas gathering combined with our drink and nibbles social meeting on December 13th at Mountfield. By then we all may have caught up with our winter digging etc. and be able to get a spade in the solid ground.

Finally, we like to have two speakers a year but these are difficult to find for fruit and vegetables. Has anyone got any ideas? Please let Lynne know [REDACTED] - we can pay if necessary.

May the rest of the growing season be good to you.

Colin Sparkes (Chairman)

Rotted Horse Manure

Delivered by tractor and trailer—approximately two and a half tonnes (full loads only). Bridport local area.- October/November. £50 per load, cash on delivery. .

Call Colin Sparkes [REDACTED] with your contact number. Driver will phone you to arrange delivery site and time, a day or two before he delivers



Summer meeting and BBQ

For our summer meeting we have a tradition of visiting one of the local allotment sites, hoping for some seasonal weather.

This year it was the turn of Skilling South allotments, and committee members organised a barbecue and refreshments,. There was a good turnout and the weather was perfect, a beautiful June evening,.

Thanks to Mandy and Fiona and their helpers for all their hard work in organising such a successful event, which we hope to repeat next year.



BADAS Xmas Meeting - Thursday 13th December 2018

At Mountfield (town council offices), Rax Lane.

Christmas Quiz and buffet, starting at 7 pm. All members welcome.



Growing Garlic (or *Kignen*)

A number of people ask when is the best time to plant garlic. September/October is a good time while the soil is still warm enough to start growth. Alys Fowler in the *Guardian* advised that the cloves you plant need to spend 30 days and nights below 10C for bulb initiation to occur. If garlic doesn't have a cold spell you may get a single bulb with no cloves, which looks much like a tiny white onion.

By the New Year you should see a little green shoot poking out of the soil, but as the temperature drops the garlic slows green growth above ground and starts its work below. The cold nights divide the bulb into cloves. In spring, when the days lengthen and the soil warms, the plant above ground will grow.

Garlic likes rich, free-draining soil. Alys Fowler recommends planting cloves 10cm deep, a little less on heavy soil, and in full sun, 18cm apart in each direction, or in rows 30cm apart with 10cm between cloves. Planting them too close together will result in very small cloves. Garlic thrives on potash; fresh ash from bonfires can be worked into the ground before planting. You can feed again in mid-spring with seaweed or comfrey to top up growth.

It is usually recommended to use bulbs which have grown in a similar climate to our own, so planting bulbs from Italy or the South of France may not be a good idea. Last year I bought bulbs from the Breton onion-sellers who were visiting Bridport, and grew some beautiful garlic from those despite the late cold, wet spell in the spring. The onion seller advised me that the Breton name for garlic is *kignen* (French *ail*). Unfortunately they only come over to Bridport every other year, so they won't be here again till September 2019. But there are many varieties: Alys Fowler mentions that any name that ends in Wight comes from the Garlic Farm on the Isle of Wight and has been selected to do well in our climate.

Shed Break-ins

We have been notified by Flaxhayes members of recent shed break-ins.

Advice if this happens to you.

- Notify the police, even if nothing has been taken – they will give you a crime report number (01308-422266).
- Notify Bridport Town Council (01308-456722).
- Notify Bridport Allotments Society (01308-250260).
- Avoid keeping anything valuable in your shed.

Town Council Waiting Lists

There is still a strong demand for allotments. Bridport Town Council lets out about 180 plots, but still has a waiting list of 32 people living within the town boundaries, and another 41 from neighbouring parishes.

Potato Day, 2019

Another date for the diary—Potato Day when you can buy a wide range of heritage and other seed potatoes, will be held at the United Church on Saturday 5th January 2019.



Bridport and District Allotments Society

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 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] For information please contact Mandy by email at [REDACTED]

Receiving the newsletter: 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 [REDACTED] to receive a copy by post or hand delivery.

Website: visit our website at:
www.bridportallotmentsociety.co.uk