BRIDPORT and DISTRICT ALLOTMENTS SOCIETY

Newsletter Winter 2015-16

Organic Vegetable Growing
a talk by Brian Hesketh

will be the highlight of our Winter Meeting to which all members are invited. This will be held in the Marriage Room at Mountfield, Rax Lane (the Town Council offices), at 7 pm on **Thursday 10th December**. Afterwards, members are invited for **refreshments** including soft drinks, wine, mince pies and nibbles - and an informal discussion about allotment matters.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Receiving your newsletter
A Message to our Members

At our Annual General Meeting held on 24th September 2015, the decision was made to reduce the amount of correspondence which has to be delivered by volunteers.

The reason for the change is the increased cost of photocopying and paper, also the shortage of volunteers willing to help - we have three committee vacancies that have not been filled for two years.

BADAS is urging its members to receive the club's information by e-mail if you have the facility. If you have not already done so, please could you let us have your email address by contacting [redacted]

We know that some members don't have the use of computers, in which case they can phone the Secretary on [redacted] give their name and address, and they will still receive the newsletters by hand delivery.

However those who already receive newsletters, agendas and minutes electronically can appreciate that not only do they get the latest news, it also comes in colour; there are offers from fellow members on items that can be recycled, e.g. greenhouses, sheds, paving slabs - normally free of charge. The newsletter will also be available as a download from our new website (www.bridportallotmentsociety.co.uk).

Members also receive emails with up to date information from fellow allotment holders on such things as shed break-ins and anything that is suspicious.

The committee thanks the existing volunteers for their sterling work, and hope that they will continue. The new method of delivery will start in March 2016. Membership remains the same at £2.00 per year.

Lynne Atkinson, Secretary

Next Allotments Society Meeting

Thursday 10 December 2015, 7.00 pm, in the Bridport Town Council offices at Mountfield, Rax Lane. All members welcome..



A Mixed Year

News from the Community Allotment

(*next to the Community Orchard behind St Mary's Church)*

Well, 2015 is almost done and dusted and I don't think many of us will be sorry to see the back of it! It seems to have been one of those years - not quite hot enough, not enough rain when needed then too much all in one go and last winter wasn't cold enough to kill off the bugs.



Are we gardeners never satisfied?!

The Community Allotment has had some good bits though. We were delighted that our polytunnel melons grew well and looked like the real thing. Sadly, their flavour wasn't as sweet as it should have been, probably due to the aforementioned lack of heat in the summer. No matter, we were happy that they produced fruits and we may well have another go next year.

As usual we had bumper crops of blackcurrants and runner/French beans and the salsify we tried for the first time has also done very well. As you can see from the photo our cucumbers were very prolific too and tasted wonderful but I can just see the supermarkets throwing up their hands in horror at our bendy specimens!



Our Allotment Open Afternoon in August was, again, a great success (see details in the last newsletter).

You may have noticed our new set of compost containers, constructed from recycled pallets, at the bottom of the orchard. The idea is to create a 'hot' compost system and we have been filling them with a mix of fresh green material, mainly orchard grass clippings and things from the allotment, along with older, woody material. They also swallowed all the apple pulp left over from the juicing sessions on Apple Day. The resulting compost will be used as a mulch in the orchard and to condition the soil in the allotment. We have, again, sown several beds of green manure after their success last year.

Having finished our weekly meetings for the season we shall only have monthly maintenance sessions throughout the winter.

We can now look forward to getting out the seed catalogues and start planning for 2016 when we hope to welcome more new members.

Jenn Baker, Community Allotment Coordinator

Bridport Potato Day

Saturday 9th January 2016

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

United Church Hall, East Street

Pennard Plants, specialists in seed potatoes and heritage vegetable and flower seeds will be supplying a wonderful variety to choose from at Bridport's annual Potato Day.

For more information call Jude on :[redacted]



Bridport Potato Day 2013

Borough Gardens

appeal for winter weeders

Many thanks to our hardy band of **Weekly Wednesday Weeders** who have cared for the Gardens over the summer.

Now that the season is nearing its end, we will be meeting every **First** and **Third Wednesday** of the month (weather permitting) from 10-12.

All welcome - you don't need to be a gardening expert. You don't need to come for the whole time - just turn up when you can. Even a quarter of an hour makes a difference. Or just call in for a chat - we appreciate new ideas for restoring this lovely "secret garden" in the middle of the town.

Please bring tools if you have them, but there will be spares.

For those who haven't yet discovered it, the Borough Garden is off South Street, via the Tanyard or Gundry Lane.

To keep up with our news, email [redacted] to be added to the "Friends of the Borough Gardens" group.

Maggie Ray



Bridport Seed Swap

Saturday 13th February 2016,
10-12 a.m. at the Ropemakers Arms.

Come along and join fellow gardeners in this the third annual Bridport Seed Swap; an opportunity to swap surplus seeds with other local growers and share stories and successes from the previous season.

Maybe you have spare saved seed or surplus packets to give away and if not then simply come along anyway, there's always plenty to go round. It's a great way to try growing something new or unusual and have a chance to try those varieties that are tried and tested in our local growing conditions, We look forward to seeing you.

For more information call Eileen:[redacted]



In a spare moment from his allotment, Bridport Allotments Society Chairman Colin Sparkes lends a hand by pruning the Town Council roses outside Mountfield.

News from Bridport Town Council

Compost Bins Removed

Bridport Town Council has reluctantly decided to remove the compost bins installed at its allotment sites, because of persistent misuse.

It appears that the bin at Flaxhayes is being used by non-allotment holders, and others are being filled with non-compostable material.

The bins at West Allington (behind the Medical Centre) have already been removed. Town Surveyor Daryl Chambers said that he has removed the contents on two occasions at high cost to the Town Council - but cannot afford to do so any more.

The council is therefore proposing to remove all the compost bins that were installed. BADAS has accepted this decision, and urges plotholders to compost all their own waste.

Water troughs

Bridport Town Council has asked us to point out that at this time of the year when there is a likelihood of freezing, the supply of water to the troughs is turned off.

Members with polytunnels should always make sure that they have their own supply of water available.

Please do not wash your tools and vegetables in the water troughs as you run the risk of passing plant diseases (such as cabbage club root) in the water.

Please close the gate

A complaint has been received about the entrance gate to the allotments at rear of Bridport Medical Centre being left open. Dog walkers in the rear field are worried that loose dogs may run out into the road. Of course it is the owners' responsibility to control their pets but could plot holders please bear the problem in mind and be considerate to others.

Colin Sparkes (Chairman)

Our new website

BADAS has a new website which is currently being trialled. We would welcome any comments and suggestions regarding the layout, content etc.

We would welcome photographs of the different allotment sites and any other content, hints, etc for inclusion.

www.bridportallotmentsociety.co.uk

Comments and suggestions please to [redacted]



Water trough at West Allington

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]

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, [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 2016** please**.** Many thanks for contributions this time - please keep them coming.

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