

Bridport and District Allotments Society
AGM Thursday 18th September 2014 at Mountfield, Rax Lane,
Bridport

Meeting commenced: 7:02pm.

Apologies for absence: David Rapson & Francesca Hale.

Matters arising from the last meeting:

The Chairman has found the plots behind St Swithin's Road.

Skilling gate will be renewed by the Council

Bob Symes has not replied to the Secretary - other speakers are being looked into for December.

Chair suggested contacting penny at Castle Garden Centre as corporate membership gives one free talk per year.

Chairman's Report for Year Ending 31st August 2014:

This year the weather has been rather variable to say the least. September to December 2013 rainfall was average with a few normal cold snaps: January to June it never seemed to stop raining, making planting very difficult and germination very erratic. This was followed by hot dry weather until August, the ground was then baked hard making the digging of potatoes, for instant, almost impossible. Since then, of course, we have seen an average British Summer. It has been a very challenging year, some things good some bad. Runner beans and potatoes did well but carrots seem to have been very poor on most allotments. Soft fruit also did well. Even with the vagaries of the weather we still manage to produce food for our families.

The Allotment Society has had its usual four meetings a year including this one. In December 2013 we had Jill Lloyd and Friends, from the Community Orchard and Allotments talk about how their organisation was set up and how it operates. Volunteers look after the pond, the trees and wild flower meadow area. Our March meeting was supposed to be Becky Groves from Little Groves Nursery at Beaminster but unfortunately she fell ill, however Joy Michaud stepped in at the last minute and spoke about choosing the right things to grow. Our outside June meeting was at Flaxhayes site where there were some comments on the state of the site compared with say 10 years ago when it stood out as clean, tidy and very productive.

According to the Bridport town Council there are 37 residents on the waiting list from the town and 34 from outside the town, and I understand that if someone is offered a plot and refuses it - their name goes to the bottom of the list. The Council in the past has provided notice boards to the various site but those at Skilling need replacing. Very little vandalism has been reported this year; if it occurs please report it to the Police.

A quick walk around all the Town Council sites earlier this month, I counted a total of 30 plots which seemed to be abandoned or neglected and were not in accordance with the Tenancy Agreement section 3 "in a proper state of cultivation" and section 4 "hedges, ditches and paths shall be properly maintained." There is therefore very little reason to have new sites. I believe 4 plots have been provided at Pine View although in Allington Parish.

.The Society has had displays in the Bridport Tent at both the Melplash Show and the Food Fair by curtesy of the Town council

The Committee met in July to plan this meeting and the coming year. The Committee has vacancies for Minute secretary to replace Richard Edwards, Brian Atkinson taking over mid-year now wishes to give up, Francesca Hale is not seeking re-election and Ralf Probert (who died last year) and has not been replaced so far. The representative from Burton Bradstock, Margaret Tebbs has been replaced with Jeff Adderley.

I must say a big thank you to Lynne our Secretary for keeping me on the straight and narrow , to Charles Wild for the Newsletter , and Mandy Rathbone membership secretary and treasurer. Please send Charles any items you come across; he struggles some times to get items of interest. And then there are the members who deliver the News letters etc four times a year. And lastly the Town Council, particularly Daryl Chambers

Colin Sparkes (Chairman) 12/9/14

Membership & Treasurer's Report to AGM 2014

The overall number of members has increased by 1 on last year - 193 in total.

This year we continued to invite speakers to come to 2 of our quarterly meetings and to hold a raffle and provide refreshments on these occasions. In addition to this it was also agreed to support allotment holders who had `successfully set up beehives on their allotment. Donations of £50 each

were paid to two allotment holders who had done this.

Some other expenses have been slightly reduced - copying and stamps - mainly due to the sterling efforts of the Secretary to encourage people to receive newsletters via email.

Overall there is a slight surplus of income over expenditure for the year which means that we continue to have a healthy bank balance.

BRIDPORT and DISTRICT ALLOTMENTS SOCIETY

Annual Statement 1 September 2013 to 31 August 2014

	2014	2013
Income		
Subscriptions current year		
Direct paid to BADAS	64.00	52.00
Burton Bradstock	66.00	54.00
Paid via Bridport Town Council	254.00	276.00
	384.00	382.00
Total Income	384.00	382.00
Expenditure		
Stationery	12.85	66.20
Stamps	35.26	58.80
Photocopying	139.07	157.56
Refreshments for meetings	25.45	31.65
Speakers Fees & Raffle Prizes	60.00	110.00
Donations to Beekeepers	100.00	
Total Expenditure	372.63	424.21
Surplus /Deficit	11.37	-42.21
Balances		
Cash at bank 31 August	766.62	752.02
Petty cash	9.77	13.00
	776.39	765.02
Increase/decrease in funds	11.37	-42.21
Number of members		
Paid up	192	191
Member paid in advance for 2012		
Local Food Links - free membership	1	1

Mandy Rathbone/Honorary Treasurer & Membership Secretary
1st September 2014

Election of officers, those elected were:

Chairman	Colin Sparkes.
Membership/treasurer	Mandy Rathbone.
Correspondence Secretary	Lynne Atkinson.
Minutes Secretary	Brian Atkinson.
Committee member	Mary Keens Deputy-Minutes taker.
Committee member	Roger Pollock.

There are thus two vacancies for committee members.

Charles Wild is willing to continue to produce our newsletter and is thanked for his services.

Membership fees: to remain at £2.00 as recommended by the Treasurer.

AOB:

- Thefts, including produce, have been reported at Flaxhayes. The gate is reported to have been left open on several occasions. It was agreed that it is important to ensure that the gate is locked when leaving the site and leaving it open for someone else to lock can lead to it not being locked at all. It was pointed out that it is difficult to unlock from the inside. Increased care needs to be taken by all users.
- A report was received concerning a vagrant found asleep in a greenhouse - found similarly in community orchard greenhouse on the following evening.
- Use of email is increasingly helpful in communicating with members. For instance a shed advertised in this way was taken within one hour. The secretary will email members regarding security.
- The society's offer of inspecting plots has been declined by Daryl. It was suggested that we could supply a list of plots that we consider not to be properly maintained, but this would be hampered by the lack of plot numbers in some locations. We should request that the numbers are re-instated where missing.
- An email from Groves to the gardening club was discussed. Groves suggest that their new till system has encountered problems in allocating club discounts and this would be solved if the club were to supply a list of

current members' details. Although this has not been put to BADAS it was decided that this was neither practical nor desirable.

- It was confirmed that Pine View allotment holders could be BADAS members and membership forms were provided.
- It was asked if Symondsbury still had allotments on A35 at rear of old London Inn. Chairman will investigate.
- Are yellow ladybirds native or invasive species?
- Leek moth is now prevalent.
- Are orange slugs harmful? Chairman suggests that they are not as destructive as the smaller varieties - preferring matter that is rotting rather than live
- Provisional date of the December meeting is Thursday 11th December 2014 subject to the room being available. We will have a guest speaker, a raffle and refreshments - all members are invited.

Meeting closed 8:05pm