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Update from the Chair

Where we are with COVID 19

COVID is still with us and likely to affect our lives for a few months yet. We continue to follow the guidelines set out by the National Allotment Society (NAS). In addition, before making any changes to the way that we operate, for example opening the shop or the community area, we will need to consider the implications for volunteers and what we can reasonably expect people to do during this time.



The Committee continues to meet to discuss Society and site issues via Zoom calls (I didn't know what they were until this year!). We have some leeway about the timing of this year's AGM but we are looking at what options are available to hold it as planned. We'll keep you posted on that one.

However, rent collection will be managed a bit differently this year and you will receive a letter in September explaining the different ways you will be able to pay.

In the meantime, a quick reminder of where we are:

- The shop remains closed but we will review that on the 5th October. The Click and collect remains in place – please contact Peter Clarke on beas.shopmanager@outlook.com or ring 07547198289 if you need anything
- Toilets remain closed
- Please continue to observe the social distancing and hygiene guidelines
- Plot inspections will commence in September 2020. As always, please let us know if you have any ongoing difficulties that we should be aware of. You can contact the Site Manager, John Pitcher on beas.sitemanager@outlook.com

Please call this number for emergencies or enquiries

07547 198289



Find us on social media :

beas.secretary@outlook.com

www.bournemoutheastallotmentsociety.co.uk

www.facebook.com/lingdaleplots

Twitter: @lingdaleplots

We have missed, and I know many of you have, meeting up for a coffee and the general socialising around the shop, as well as the more organised events like the Open Morning. From a fund-raising point of view that has also had an impact on our finances but we are in a good position to weather that particular storm, at least for this year. We are grateful for those who have continued to support the shop through click and collect. We have also had some generous ad hoc donations as well as donations for the plants left by the Big Green Shed, which has been a great help.

For those of you on email we will send round updates on latest information from time to time. Those of you not on email, please keep an eye on the noticeboards, although we will write to you directly about anything you **must** know about (like the rent!).

The Newsletters continue to be sent to everyone 4 times a year – if you have any articles or suggestions for that please let us know.

And please, if you spot me (or any of the Committee) on the plots, just stop us and have a chat. It would be good to hear how you are coping with the current restrictions and any suggestions you have for us.

Linda Taylor (Chair)

Beas.chair@outlook.com 07881901729

To all of our Associate Members

We would like to thank you all for your continued support during these difficult times particularly those who have used our shop and the click & collect service. Your membership is important to us and we have always been grateful to those who volunteered for the shop and supported our social and charity events.

Renewal of your membership is due on 1st October and you will all receive a reminder by email or post shortly. We do hope you will continue your membership and take advantage of the membership benefits as the 'shut down' continues to be eased.

We are planning how to re-introduce (and expand on) a programme of social events and look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

Please do access our website for information and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Clare, the Associate Member Secretary, on beas.amsecretary@outlook.com.



National Allotment Society

South West Branch Annual general Meeting

The AGM on 4th August 2020 (via Zoom) was a time to try to revitalize the South West branch of the National Allotment Society and to this end, new officers and committee members were elected from across the region. The new Chair is extremely enthusiastic and I hope that we shall be able to improve communication with all the societies/associations in the SW, offer them good support and organize events that are more accessible to every part of the region. The first committee meeting will be held on 9th September to draw-up a broad 5 year strategy, with a more detailed plan for the first two years. Any ideas for events or support needed would be gratefully received.

The new committee comprises:

Chair:	Tim Callard	(Newton Abbott and District)
Vice Chair:	Ian Johnson	(Tiverton Allotment Association)
Secretary:	Lynda Clarke	(Bournemouth East Allotment Society)
Treasurer:	Mark Joynes	(Tiverton Allotment Association)
Committee:	Bill Ware	(West Moors Allotment Association)
	Neil Birrell	(Wareham)
	Lorraine Dillon	(Affiliated Member, St Mawes)
	Frances Laing	(Individual Member, Weston-Super-Mare)
	Neil Dixon	(NAS SW Representative, Plymouth)
	Alan Cavill	(NAS Mentor)



Lynda (Secretary)

Shop News

Firstly, a huge thank you to those who have supported our "Click & Collect/Deliver" service during lockdown and beyond. This has enabled us to keep you supplied and raised some funds for the society. Don't forget to email or call if there is anything that you need.

The committee has thought about the possibility of re-opening the shop, but consider that the legal requirements at this time are too onerous for us to manage with the volunteers that we have. We shall reconsider the position in October.

Recommendations

Those of you who listen to the BBC Radio Solent (no advertising here!) gardening programme on Sunday afternoons may have heard, on Sunday 2nd August, a discussion with one of the senior horticulturists from Hillier's near Romsey. He spoke about Slug Gone wool pellets, which are more environmentally friendly, and safer for other wild life, than slug pellets. We have stocked these in our shop for some time now after one of our members recommended them. Not only do they act as a very good deterrent to slugs & snails, but they can be dug in as a mulch round the plants. We now have some 10 litre tubs of these pellets at £13.75.

We also have a supply of alternative, organically approved pellets. In addition, we still have a special offer on liquid Growmore at £3 per litre instead of the usual £3.20. We also have some Maxicrop items, a Seaweed Plus plant food and a Moss Killer & Lawn Tonic. If you try these, please let us know what you think of them.

Going Plastic Free

In an attempt to reduce our use of plastic, we stock 3 sizes of Peat-Free Fibre pots, which can be planted complete with the contents and will rot away in the ground. I had hoped that we would stock some wooden plant labels, but the supplier ran out and could not get any more! If any of you see details of non-plastic items that we could stock, please let me know.



Seeds...

We have recently reviewed our seed stock and have reduced a number of varieties that have 2020 plant-by dates. These have been listed on the notice boards (updated 31/8/20) and some are still available.

We now have available the Kings seed catalogues and order forms for 2021. As the shop and community area are not accessible this year, please phone me on 07547 198289 or email me on beas.shopmanager@outlook.com to arrange to receive one. Alternatively, Kings Seeds have a list online with descriptions of all that they supply. Just follow this link - https://www.kingsseeds.com/kings/media/images/Banners/12095_Kings-online-complete-kings-seeds-mail-order-2020-catalogue.pdf to help you to decide which variety of any given vegetable/flower etc seed to choose. Those of you who receive BEAS communications electronically, will already have received the seed order form which lists those seeds that should be available this time. The potato order forms will also have come out attached to the same email, or you should have received a printed version with this edition of the newsletter.

...and Potatoes

You can now place your orders for seeds and potatoes for delivery early next year. Please either email or drop your seed/potato orders into the post box by 31st October (remembering to identify yourself by name and plot/phone number!) and return the catalogue to the box outside the shop for others to use. Payment for seeds will not be taken until you collect your order, but potatoes are

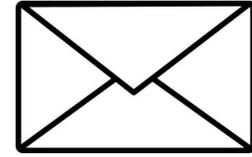
Don't forget that we have a dehydrator for hire, together with a copy of the Dehydrator Bible which contains many recipes for using dried food. This device uses a small electrical current to dry out fruit and veg so that it can be stored dry and used during the year. The hire charge is £5 a week, with a £10 deposit so, if you fancy a go, please email me.

on a payment with order basis. For any requirements from the shop, please email beas.shopmanager@outlook.com or phone the allotment phone on 07547 198289.

Have you received any.....?

UNSOLICITED SEEDS THROUGH THE POST

= BIO-SECURITY RISK



There was an item on BBC Radio 4. Saturday 1 August at 17.20 regarding this potential bio-hazard.

People in the UK & throughout the world are reporting receipt of unsolicited packets of seeds through the post; the packets originate from the Far East & Zambia according to the Customs Declaration(s). Items inside are declared as low-value – often jewellery & the speakers' packet was declared as "ear studs". On opening the packet(s) there are unidentified plant seeds but no indication as to what they are, why they have been sent to you etc.

By sending seeds marked as jewellery items etc the packets bypass the usual biological controls in each country.

Should you receive any packet such as this, you are advised NOT to plant them under any circumstances but to contact the UK Government Animal & Plant Health Department at:

www.planthealth.info@apha.gov.uk or Tel: 0300 1000 313 for advice. This department will identify and DNA analyse all seeds for pests, diseases &/or whether they are seeds of an invasive species.

We are also advised not to open the actual seed packet or throw seeds away as they may end up in landfill and possibly germinate.

Chris Moran— Plot 58A

We are brewing again!

The 'Drop the Anchor' brewery in Christchurch are brewing a bit more now as the lock down eases and we are occasionally getting a supply of spent grains again. If you spot them in the chippings bay, be quick! They tend to disappear almost instantly.

The brewery grains are popular as they are an excellent additive to the compost pile as they are packed with nitrogen. Because of this high nitrogen content, spent grains are considered an organic green product. When mixed with carbon-rich organic browns, they decompose into black loamy soil in a short period of time – great for the soil.

Everything that appears in our bays, from shed panels, compost bins and to the chippings is given to us. It still takes some effort for volunteers to collect them, turn up to take delivery and generally keep the area tidy so any donation you are willing to make for these items and service are very welcome. Donations can be left in the post box by the main gate, which is emptied regularly by the Treasurer.

Enrich your soil

Green manures

There are several types of green manure which can be planted now. The seeds are available on click and collect from the shop. These will grow over the winter months and can be dug into the soil in early spring. They help the structure of the soil and improve water retention, which is important on our sandy soil .

Field Beans - can be planted from September to November and left to overwinter— its roots penetrate & break up the soil. A nitrogen fixer.

Rye Grazing - can be planted until October -good at lifting the nitrates in the soil and releasing them slowly.

Winter Tares— can be planted in September—Good nitrogen fixer, weed suppression, prevents nutrients leaching overwinter.

The results are in ...

You were all entered for the **BEST PLOT** by default this year! Early in July the plots were independently judged by 3 separate couples (each from the same household I hasten to add) and the scores combined to find our winner.

The winners were Andy & Narelle Froude of Plot 38A. It is worth taking a look at their plot – the variety of crops, the layout and good housekeeping all show what worthy winners they are. When talking to Andy, I was, however, pleased to hear that he had as much trouble with black fly on his beans as many of us seemed to have this year.

Congratulations, Andy & Narelle and to our very deserving runners up.

- ⇒ Best Plot is plot 38A
- ⇒ 2nd is plot 5
- ⇒ 3rd is plot 84B

Congratulations also to the Best Newcomer on 82B and welcome to the world of allotmenting.



The **SCARECROW COMPETITION** has been well supported and it's been good to see them appearing across the plots; judged by one of our longest serving plottolders, John Sellick.

The winner is Lee Feetham on Plot 91A.

Runners up are Plot 57A and Plot 95.

All winners received vouchers to spend in the shop - click and collect of course!



Don't forget we still have our **PHOTOGRAPH COMPETITION**. What has tickled your fancy over the last few months? A funny shaped vegetable, the largest specimen, most prolific plant, tallest sunflower, most peas in a pod, most unusual plant container, or just the most beautiful flower – anything that has made you smile or given you joy. Submit your photo with a caption and your Plot number or Associate Member number by the 30th September 2020 to beas.photos2020@outlook.com

Please note, that by submitting a photograph you are giving BEAS permission to use it in their publications.

Reducing our water bills

As you can imagine, we have been using vast quantities of water this summer and an analysis of the last few years shows an upward trend in cost so, what should we do? Well, we can't stop watering, but we can reduce the amount of mains water that we use. Here are a few ideas:

If you have a shed, upright toolbox or even a sturdy greenhouse, ensure that you have at least one water butt and guttering. Most 6x4 sheds with an apex roof will take 2 or 3 butts if you use hose to join them.

If you haven't got a structure on which to attach guttering, how about a large barrel, pot or tank with a hole in the centre of the lid and, if you can't attach a tap, keep it low enough to dip. I found a range of ideas by following the link below, but there are many other sites.

<https://www.pinterest.com/laurinraven/rain-water-collection/>

Water in the evening or very early in the morning, so that the water has a chance to soak in and always aim at the roots, not the foliage.

Water really thoroughly, at least once a week, to encourage the roots to dig deep for a drink! Add 2 to 3 inches of mulch because this helps to retain the moisture in the ground, suppresses thirsty weeds and ensure that nutrients are released. Just a reminder, though – leave a gap around the stems of the plants or they will rot.

Finally, were you aware that different varieties of plants need different amounts of water and at different stages in their growing cycles? The NAS have a very useful list of crops and how to water them on their website. You can find this under Growing Advice/ Water Use on Allotments

<https://www.nsalg.org.uk/growing-advice/gardening-advice/water-use-on-allotments/#:~:text=The%20best%20time%20to%20water,deeper%20in%20search%20of%20moisture.>

Just a reminder – the water to the lidded butt system round both sites is turned off in October and not switched on again until sometime in March (depending on the weather), which is another good reason to harvest rain water on your plot, particularly if you tend to plant early in the year.

Site News

Unwanted items— If plot holders think that any item they wish to dispose of is suitable for selling in the shop then please contact the shop manager. If not required, then please do not leave it on the site and expect someone else to deal with it. Items that have been found left apparently abandoned include a water butt, a compost bin, 2 containers and bags of rubbish. Such items clutter up the seating area which makes it less available for members to use. However plants or items donated for members to purchase are welcome. Please make sure this is clearly labelled as such preferably with a suggested price.

Thank you to the potholders on the smaller site for keeping the recently instated seating area clear of unwanted items. Please remember that these areas are for the use of any members to take a break or have a socially distanced chat. If you can spare a few moments as you are passing to keep these areas tidy and weed free, it would be greatly appreciated.

Bonfires— Under Covid guidance bonfires are not allowed until further notice. Please continue to dispose of unwanted items responsibly.

Blight— There have been cases of blight on tomatoes and potatoes around the site recently. You may have seen notices on the notice board. Please be very vigilant for any signs of disease and remove the plants promptly as it can spread rapidly. Harvest any usable fruit immediately, perhaps to make green tomato chutney, and dispose of the plants. For potatoes, remove any foliage above ground. There is a chance that the tubers will not be affected if you act promptly.



TO FEED OR NOT TO FEED?

This is a question that has caused heated discussions on allotment sites across the country for many years and has sometimes led to real disputes between neighbouring tenants.



There is no doubt that foxes can be attractive looking creatures (particularly the cubs) and foxes are covered by wildlife protection laws. Indeed, deliberately killing a fox can lead to 6 months' imprisonment and/or a £5,000 fine per animal. Being hunters as well as scavengers, allotment sites are a great source of mice, voles and pigeons and with a railway line close by (ideal for nesting), there are always foxes on our site.

Knowing that they keep the mice population under control might appear, therefore, to be an advantage BUT they dig up beds and dig into compost bins searching for their prey, lie on crops and damage them and tear protective tunnels. Not so attractive and frustrating for the tenants who have spent out on netting and fleece and spent hours sowing, planting and nurturing their crops.

In common with other animals, foxes urinate to mark their territory and their faeces can be harmful. This will keep other foxes off that portion of ground, but the stench is strong and unpleasant and the maggot-infested remains of their meal are a health hazard.

Several things that we gardeners use on our plots are attractive to foxes e.g. egg shells, blood, fish and bone or bonemeal. In an attempt to keep the foxes off your plot, the use of these could be discontinued. Human hair, which has its own distinctive and dominant scent, has been suggested as a method of keeping them away, or the use of male urine as both of these things can lead them to believe that another fox has been there first. (Obviously urine would need to be collected discretely and is not without its health risks!) I have read that foxes can be spooked by their own reflection, thinking it is another fox, but this would mean the use of a reflective material and how does one decide where to place this? Chilli powder, garlic and pepper have been used successfully and also grated soap, but this would need to be reapplied after rain. Seems to me that one would need an awful lot for a full plot!

I don't think it would be possible to deter the foxes from our sites altogether, but we can help each other by not feeding them because, being easy pickings, they will always return to the same spot. It is tempting to feed them, particularly when they appear ill or very old but, being scavengers and hunters by nature, we simply make them lazy and increasingly unable to fend for themselves.

On balance, I think it is always better to let nature take its course and this would include leaving the foxes to find their own food!

TOP TIPS

From Rachel Feetham - Thank you!!

Nasturtiums are also known as poor mans capers. When the flowers are done, collect the green seed pods wash, dry and brine... can be used as capers!

In strawberry season, when making your jam split open vanilla pods, scrape out seeds, add both seeds and pods to the jam while cooking. When ready to pot up, remove the vanilla pods....makes delicious strawberry and vanilla jam.

To combat slugs and snails make your own slug buster—got the tip from Gardeners' World who visited a commercial Hosta grower.

Take a whole bulb of garlic chop it up a bit boil in a pint of water, allow to cool, strain, put in a sprayer and use as required. I spray once a week.

We love this 5 * accommodation for minibeasts spotted on the site. For budget accommodation over the autumn, you can just leave a pile of twigs or leaves.

Try out the no dig method on at least part of your plot. The undisturbed soil will leave places for pollinators such as solitary bees to overwinter. The female lays eggs in a nest with gathered pollen and nectar. Then she seals the nest which contains the eggs, During the winter months the eggs become larvae and eventually turn into young bees which feed on the pollen and nectar until they are ready to emerge. The bees lifecycle is short so the adults never sees their young.



Growing Raspberries

Raspberries are really easy; they grow well in our soil, they are healthy, containing antioxidants and vitamin C and are delicious in the recipe below or in preserves. They also freeze well.

Both Summer and Autumn varieties will grow in shady areas though fruit yield will be probably be higher in a sunny area. They are usually planted from bare root canes in the winter or early spring and it is a good idea to give your raspberries some support such as a frame or parallel wires. The support will make netting much easier as the raspberries ripen... so that you get some before the birds eat them all.

Pruning:

With **summer** fruiting varieties, cut back the old canes that have fruited directly after harvest, leave the new green first year canes to fruit the following year. With **autumn** fruiting varieties, cut all the old canes back to ground level in February.

The canes will propagate themselves by sending up new suckers, You will need to thin out the suckers or the older plants to avoid overcrowding which could lead to mould or fungal problems. But with minimal attention you will soon have an established patch which will replenish itself yearly and a glut of raspberries to enjoy.

Raspberry Sorbet

One of the delicious recipes from our BEAS cookbook.

Thank you to Andrew and Alison Dawson
Plot 103B

This is a favourite summer 'cool' pudding when served in equal parts with vanilla ice cream (either homemade or Cornish ice cream) in a cone!

Ingredients:

- Fresh raspberries, strawberries or blackcurrants
- Sugar
- Water



It can also be made from frozen raspberries (or other soft fruit)

Instructions:

1. Cook fruit and sieve to form puree.
2. Measure the volume of puree and leave in the fridge overnight.
3. Make the same quantity of sugar syrup as puree (syrup in ratio of 275ml/ ½ pint water to 225g/8oz sugar) by dissolving sugar in the water and then boil for 2 minutes over a medium heat.
4. Allow the syrup to cool.
5. Mix the equal quantities of puree to syrup and freeze in a lidded plastic container.
6. When frozen, cut the mixture into chunks and place in a food processor and mix until a thick smooth sorbet is formed.

Return to plastic container and freeze until required.

Notes: Great with chocolate brownies, or any pudding, or even Greek Yoghurt if you must!



Love your Allotment, Love your Food

The cookbook is available to order by click and collect—
it makes a great gift for Christmas.

