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Open Morning Success

After a glorious week of sunny weather, we started the day of the Open Morning with rain. However, it soon brightened up and by the time we opened at 10.00am all was good. We had taken a cautious approach and decided to run a smaller event this year with limited refreshments and no music. Our main aim was to say, 'we're back' and to give people an opportunity to get together but we also raised nearly



£1000 for the Society's funds so a huge thank you to everyone who came along.

John Rampley of 68B is a prolific home brewer and he decorated his shed and offered free beer tasting which many of you enjoyed. He had a collecting tin for University Hospitals Dorset NHS Charity and raised a fabulous £139 for them.

The Summer Raffle prizes were better than ever, with donations from several local attractions and vouchers from Stewarts Garden Centre.

We also had a visit from Dino the Dinosaur which the children loved – we hope he will come back again next year and show off his dancing skills – we will be back to normal by then (we hope!) with music, Bacon Baps, cakes and Site Tours!

So a huge thank you to everyone - all the people who helped us put on the event, those who donated produce, plants and prizes and, of course, those who came along on the day to support us.

We couldn't have done it without you!

Linda (Chair) BEAS

A Big Thank You to local attractions and businesses who supported us

Abbotsbury Swannery
Stewarts Garden Centre
Swanage Railway
Alpine Adventure Park
Lulworth Castle
Compton Acres
Jimmy's Coffee



Any enquiries,
please call

07766110660

or email



beas.secretary@outlook.com

Find us on social media :

www.bournemoutheastallotmentsociety.co.uk

www.facebook.com/lingdaleplots

[twitter: @lingdaleplots](https://twitter.com/lingdaleplots)

Winner of the Garden Art Competition

We were really pleased with the entries we had for our Garden Art Competition. Hopefully, you were able to view the entries at the Open Morning. We hope they inspired you with ideas that you can make for your garden or allotment. The very worthy winner was this fabulous entry from Plot 65DEF called Raspberry Ripples.

The detail was fabulous! It used allotment produce in the making of it, e.g. the sailors were made from runner beans and the sails dyed with Beetroot and Raspberries. Photographs of all the entries are in the Community area. A great big **Thank You** to all those who entered.



Come and join us in
The Big Green Shed
Lingdale Road, Southbourne, BH6 5LA



WORLD'S BIGGEST
**COFFEE
MORNING**
**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**

Saturday 2nd October 2021
Anytime between
10.00am and 12.00pm
Bring your family & Friends!

It's Rent Time!

RENT REMINDERS WILL BE SENT
OUT SHORTLY WITH INFOR-
MATION ON HOW TO PAY.

MANY OF YOU PAID BY BACS
LAST YEAR WHICH IS OUR PRE-
ferred METHOD – ANY TIME
FROM THE 1ST OCTOBER, BUT IT
MUST BE WITHIN 40 DAYS.

The COVID Story

Life is getting easier, and we have gradually been getting back to some of the things we had to stop because of lockdown. The shop has been open for a few months now although we are still observing the guidelines of masks, social distancing and using the hand sanitiser. The toilets are also open, and we are currently cleaning them 4 times a week – thank you to the helpers in the shop for this. Wheelbarrows are now back in place and Committee Meetings are at last being held face to face.

We have also re-opened the Community Area, so you can access this again for cups of tea/coffee, borrow a book or two and keep up to date with the notices on the boards. Your gate key will open the door but please remember to lock it again (and turn the lights off!) when you leave.

We would also be grateful if you would observe the following:

- ⇒ Use the hand sanitiser at the beginning and end of your visit
- ⇒ Please use your own cup or one of the disposable cups available if making tea/coffee
- ⇒ Wipe down the sides and anything you have touched with the disposable disinfectant wipes
- ⇒ Observe social distancing with those not in your own household

It is great that all the facilities are now available for everyone but please remember that COVID has not disappeared. We are still asking you not to attend the plots if either you, or a member of your household, is showing symptoms of COVID. While at the plots you should also continue to observe the **HANDS, FACE, SPACE, FRESH AIR** guidance and we would recommend hand sanitiser before and after you use the gate locks or any of the shared equipment. **Let's be safe!**

Shop News

Seeds, Glorious Seeds what shall I be growing?

Have you linked up with our Facebook page? If not, then please do. I will be putting information on there about flash sales, trial sales, and what's new in store. With some items I want to try, I may only have a few so it may be that once it is gone, it is gone. To link up with us, look for Bournemouth East Allotment Society.

With the season nearing the end, just a gentle reminder to pick up your **Kings Seed Catalogue and order form** from the shop. When finished with the catalogue, please let us have it back, as numbers are limited. If you look at Kings Seeds on their website, remember that the prices in our catalogues are discounted as we belong to the National Allotment Society.

If you are ordering **seed potatoes**, then pick up a form from the shop or go to the website at <http://www.bournemoutheastallotmentsociety.co.uk/index.php/shop> We order these from a completely different company, who also give us a great price. If you would like to order 1 kg of potatoes instead of the standard 2kg bag, it may be possible to arrange this but please let Annette (beas.shopmanager@outlook.com) know asap.

Please note.

This year I will NOT be ordering, Onions, Shallots, or Garlic from our normal supplier. We have to order at least 50 bags of each and do not sell enough to warrant this. I am looking to find stock elsewhere and am trying to work out an easier way to do it, which will make everyone happy (I hope!)

As you may have noticed, after lockdown the general cost of things has, and seems to be continuing to go up. If there are any seeds you wish to order, why not see if we have them in the shop already? I don't know yet what prices we will be charged for new stock and whether they will increase.

Last but no means least, I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has continued to support the shop and help me. I love to chat with you all, plus I am always learning, so thank you for that too.

Annette
Shop manager

Radio Fame!

Hope you all caught Annette our shop manager on *Radio Solent* back in July - the 'Clued Up' team followed a treasure hunt and found us. Annette got to talk about the Allotment Shop which she did brilliantly - talking about growing your own, the associate members and the cookbook. I am amazed they did find us - the clues were a bit obscure!

Thank you, Annette

Shop Opening Times for Autumn & Winter

As we approach the end of the season the shop opening times have changed for the Autumn and Winter. We closed on a Thursday from the end of August and the revised times are below

Tuesdays	10am - 11am (until the end of November)
Saturdays	9.30am - 12.30pm (until the end of September)
Sundays	10am – 12pm (until the end of November)

We re-open again in January 2022.

There is always a committee member 'on duty' in the shop, but we are always in need of additional ploholders to help. If you can spare a few hours and would like to join the rota in 2022 please let Annette, the Shop Manager know at beas.shopmanager@outlook.com

**Please remember,
DON'T forget,
We'll still be doing
Click & collect**

Please note that, even when we are closed during the winter, we are happy to continue with click and collect.

Just email your order to beas.shopmanager@outlook.com and Annette will arrange a time for collection

Site News—Health and Safety reminders and seasonal tips

- A reminder that the **water supply** to the fixed tanks will be turned-off in October and plot holders are encouraged to collect rain water from shed roofs in their own water butts. Fixed water tanks must be cleaned before they can be turned back on next Spring. Keep the lids on the water tanks fixed closed, especially when children are around.
- Please remember to **strim** plot edges abutting main paths and to check paths and fill in holes in order to avoid slips, trips or falls. When using machinery, please check paths before strimming to minimise risk of hazards such as flying debris and wear protective clothing. Keep the grass cut so that uneven surfaces are not hidden by long grass causing trips and falls, and fill in any holes.
- Clear any **metal hazards** or other unstable structures from your plot, especially if children are likely to be on your plot.
- **Bonfires** are permitted from 1st October to 31st March, please observe our good neighbour commitment of only lighting bonfires when wind conditions mean that they will not disturb neighbours.
- **Prune** trees to a height so that you can easily reach the top branches for picking; also make sure that they do not overhang paths.
- Replenish your soil with manure or fertiliser but remember to **take care of your back** when lifting: bend from the knees not the back and avoid twisting.
- Check that your **tetanus** inoculation is up to date.



Changes to the Site Team

Firstly, all of us at BEAS give a huge thank you to John and Geraldine Pitcher who stepped down in June. John, as Site Manager has put in an enormous amount of work to make the allotment site run so well over the years, which has meant we have been awarded 'Best Allotment Site' many times. Geraldine has kept everything running smoothly as Site team administrator. Both remain on the committee and active members of BEAS of course.

I joined the committee in December 2020, but didn't take on a specific job. When John stepped down it felt natural for me to fill the role. Andrew Dawson remains as Assistant Site Manager, ensuring a smooth transition. Since becoming Site Manager I've got to know more plot holders. My own plot of 17 years is on the small site. I work full time and have teenage children (who have grown up on the plots!) and like many of you, my allotment is a refuge as well as a place to grow food.

I'm open to feedback and ideas in how things could be improved regarding the site e.g. publishing the plot inspection dates, so do feel free to get in touch! If you'd like to offer occasional help with the myriad jobs that need doing, then please talk to any committee member - thank you!

Louisa, Site Manager, Plot 20

beas.sitemanager@outlook.com

Site News

Plot inspections

BEAS are trying to ensure that the allotments are a thriving place with all plots being cultivated and well managed. By going around regularly we try and make sure that this is happening. Most plots are fine; we should be very proud of our site.

Our Landlords, BCP Council, require that a minimum of 75% of the plot is cultivated. We have to ensure this is being complied with. We are also concerned with seeding weeds and plants, as these can spread onto neighbouring plots.

We check that trees don't grow too large and overhang neighbouring plots or paths, make sure there is no excessive rubbish, no hazardous materials brought onto site, structures without permission, etc, etc.

Initially we try to talk with plot holders, whenever possible; to discuss issues and solutions - rather than just rely on written communications but this will not always be practical.

There are over 200 plots to look at, so an inspection can take 3 to 4 hours. The results are summarised for discussion at the following committee meeting. The letters issued to plots requiring work are either a Letter of Concern or a formal 28-day improvement notice. We might also drop you a line as a reminder to trim/mow the pathway between plots.

Letters of Concern (LoC) (sent by email where possible) indicate the reason for the letter and asks if there are temporary reasons why the plot is in an unsatisfactory state. i.e. illness, absence or other temporary reason the plot cannot be attended. The date of the next plot inspection is now indicated so that the problems can be addressed in a timely manner. We also ask if help is needed.

A 28-day Improvement Notice will only be sent after an LoC has been given at the previous inspection and not enough action was taken as a result. It requires the plot holder to show a noticeable improvement of cultivation within 28 days where the plot must be weed free, clear of rubbish and look generally well-managed, which means tending the beds, removing the weeds and planting crops. These can be fruit, vegetables or flowers. If there is no sign of improvement, and no prior and substantive reasons have been received, then the plot holders' tenancy will be terminated.

Committee Members will be asked to look at plots where an Improvement Notice or a Termination is recommended as these can only be sent with their agreement.

We are inviting individual plot holders to join us on inspections to help ensure a balanced view of the condition of the plots identified as needing further attention.

Louisa, Site Manager

Wood sorrel

Last year I found broadleaf wood sorrel (*oxalis latifolia*) growing in my strawberry patch; this year it's popped up among the sweetcorn. It looks like clover but wood sorrel has distinct heart shaped leaves, whereas clover is rounded.



It might look like just another weed, but it's actually a tasty edible. The leaves taste like tangy apple peel - an easy way to liven up a salad and their flowers are edible too. You can also wilt the leaves gently; they'll lose some of the vivid green but none of the flavour. They have so much vitamin C that it was used to treat scurvy in the past. Like spinach/chard and other leafy greens, Wood sorrels contain oxalic acid so don't eat in large quantities.

Happy weeding!

Dates of Autumn plot inspections

Between 1st and 8th September
Between 7th and 11th October
Between 11th and 15th November

Autumn Days



Many of you may feel that we have just skipped summer this year! But here we are meandering into Autumn and the big tidy up of plots and – for those that are well organised – thinking of Spring and Potato and Seed orders.

Apparently, if you compare the last 20 years to the 20th century, Spring is arriving 8.4 days earlier than it used to. However, according to the Met Office figures autumn is also changing. The growing season for crops and plants in England is about a month longer than it was 50 years ago – so crops could continue to grow until later in the season. Maybe don't do that tidy up just yet!

The Woodland Trust's Nature's Calendar project in 2019 recorded the first ripe blackberry of the year as 6th August. Now that is early! There is concern that if hedgerow fruit ripens too early then this vital food source for animals will not be available later in the year to help them survive the winter.

There is no doubt that the weather patterns are changing and it is having an impact on the seasons and on nature. This is why the counts organised each year (using volunteers) of the coming and going of different species of birds, for example, or the numbers of flowers in bloom at particular times of year are so important. It helps us understand what the changes are and that Climate change is affecting our every day life.

In the meantime, we have enjoyed the first blackberry crumble of the season. Having invested in a thornless blackberry a couple of years ago, it is now covering the shed and coming into it's own with masses of blackberries this year. However, if you don't have one on the plot, blackberries are one of the easiest things to find in the hedgerows when you go for a walk. So don't forget to take a bowl with you, blackberries thrive in even the most difficult of spaces although the wild ones will have thorns – mind the scratches!

Linda (Plot95)

This is more than annoying

Recently we have experienced a few thefts on the main site, mainly in the area around the mini plots near the Big Green Shed. It is disappointing that Plotholders carefully grown produce is being taken for the use of others.

As a Committee we find this completely unacceptable and take these incidents very seriously.



All incidents are logged and the community police are very helpful. If we identify the culprit as a fellow plotholder, then the outcome will be immediate eviction.

Please help us by:

- Reporting every incident you identify to a Committee Member. It may only be a cabbage or two but collectively this can help identify a bigger picture that will be worth talking to the Community Police about
- If you see someone on a plot and you don't think they should be there, please talk to them if you feel comfortable doing so. If not then please log the date and time for future reference if needed.
- If you have a nature camera and spot anything unusual on them, please let a Committee Member know

Thank you for your help with this – we don't want another child disappointed because their pumpkin has been stolen.

Tips & interesting facts!

- ◇ Squash seeds saved for replanting will not be true to form if another type is growing within 60 metres (they will cross pollinate and end up as marrows)
- ◇ Hair – rotted down, 15.5lbs (about 7kg) produces 2.25lb (about 1kg) nitrogen
- ◇ Shredded newspaper will compost down when mixed with the general compost and adds nitrogen as well as retaining moisture
- ◇ In 1944 allotment holders were allowed 42lbs (19kg) of 'National Growmore' and a 14lb (6kg) bag cost 4/6d –(22.5p). 30lb (13.5kg) would 'base dress' an allotment and the remaining 12lb (5.5kg) would top dress the potatoes during the season



Thank you to Elizabeth on Plot 11A for sending in the lyrics to this song, reminding us of the goodness of our 'grow your own' harvest.

Cauliflowers fluffy

*Cauliflowers fluffy and cabbages green,
Strawberries sweeter than I've ever seen,
Beetroot purple and onions white;
All grow steadily day and night.*

*The apples are ripe, the plums are red,
Broad beans are sleeping in their blanket bed.*

*Blackberries juicy and rhubarb sour,
Marrows fattening hour by hour,
Gooseberries hairy and lettuces fat,
Radishes round and runner beans flat.*

*The apples are ripe, the plums are red,
Broad beans are sleeping in their blanket bed.*

*Orange carrots and turnips cream,
Reddening tomatoes that used to be green,
Brown potatoes in little heaps
Down in the darkness where the celery sleeps – Ssh!*

*The apples are ripe, the plums are red,
Broad beans are sleeping in their blanket bed – Yeah!*

Garden Waste, Re-cycling & Rubbish

We have decided to remove the Green Waste Bin from the Main Site. We trialed this as an added service (which we pay for) to help ploholders dispose of garden waste that cannot be easily composted. The reality is that there is limited capacity and most of the content could have been composted on site. So, unfortunately, when the contract ends in December the bin will be removed.

However, we would encourage you, as many people do, to have compost bins. Some are available from the shop or can be constructed from pallets and timber.

We also encourage people to re-cycle plastic pots and have a crate by the Big Green Shed where you can drop off or reclaim these plastic pots as you need them. **Note that, from September, there is also a similar crate on the small site by the seating area.**

If you have anything that you think might be of use to others, then we are very happy for you to leave that in either of these places too – if it hasn't been taken within 2 weeks then please remove it again and dispose of it in another way. Anything that has a clear value, you can always drop into the shop who will aim to get a donation for it for the benefit of the Society's funds.

But please, please, **DO NOT** leave plastic pots that are damaged or unusable or items that clearly belong in a skip! All this means is that a Committee Member or a willing volunteer has to spend their own time taking it to the rubbish tip as we have no other means of disposing of it.

Lets re-cycle where we can but please remember that all ploholders are responsible for removing their own rubbish from the site.

RECIPE

Raspberry Liqueur

This will be ready by Christmas and brings back all the taste of summer sunshine in the depths of winter! It's perfect for people who just have a few raspberries and don't really know what to do with them.

INGREDIENTS

70cl vodka, any type, cheapest is fine

250g caster sugar

About 500g raspberries



METHOD

1. Divide the vodka equally between 2 x 70cl bottles (you'll need one you drank earlier!), or 2 large mason jars.
2. Add half the sugar to each bottle and shake occasionally until dissolved.
3. Divide the raspberries equally between each jar OR just add raspberries as they ripen – just popping in one or two at a time is fine - until the bottles are full – add a touch of vodka if needed to make sure the raspberries stay covered.
4. Frozen raspberries work too, but fresh is better.
5. Shake when you pass.
6. After 2 months, strain the liqueur, and add sugar to your taste if needed.
7. Serve the liqueur over ice with a sprig of mint, or maybe mix with champagne for a Raspberry Royale!
8. The left over boozy raspberries are a tasty by product – you could add to porridge, or freeze as ice cubes, mix into flap-jacks or biscuits, or whizz up with some cream and make adult ice-cream.

Diary dates

1st October	Rent Due
2nd October	Macmillan Coffee Morning
30th October	Shop Closes (until January)
To be confirmed	AGM
11th December	Christmas Fair

Now is the time to prune **summer fruiting** raspberries. The fruit grows on the second year's growth so cut out any woody stems that have fruited this year and tie up the new stems ready for next years crop. Keep about 5 or 6 strong stems for each plant and cut out the smaller stems. For **autumn fruiting** raspberries – wait until February before cutting all the stems down to ground level.

Thinking of taking up a new hobby for Autumn? Invitation

One of our members, John Paley, is a keen 'table tennis' player and would like to invite others, of every level of experience, to join him at the Druitt Hall, Christchurch on Monday & Thursday afternoons.

Please call 07796416747 & speak with Sue or see our notice board for details.



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Only £7
for members
(RRP £8.95)

