

Inside this issue

Message from the Chair 1

Open Morning 2

Shop News 3

Defibrillator

Dahlias 4

A word from the
secretary

Garden Visit 5

Growing tips for early
summer 6

Garden Potion—
Horsetail tea

Site News 7

Recipe 8

Tips for growing rhubarb

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to the summer edition of our newsletter and a special welcome to new members who have joined us in recent weeks.

As I write this, we are eagerly looking forward to our

Open Morning on Saturday 22nd July and you can read more about this from Clare who is masterminding this again this year.

I just wanted to take this opportunity to ask all members to ensure that their plots and the surrounding areas are tidy, ready for the tours that take place during the Open Morning and for the site judging at the end of July/ beginning of August.

We hope to be able to remove the unsightly, but very necessary tape and notices on the front hedge and tidy the hedge a bit.

Unfortunately, it became the home for some very hairy caterpillars that had to be sprayed three times by the council because the hairs are painfully irritating to skin and airways.

Allotment Competition entrants are reminded that the second (and final) judging will take place between 24th & 29th July. Our Council Officer will then judge the best overall plot, from the two sites who have taken part this year, very soon afterwards.

Our partnership with Longbarrow Allotments is something that we value and that benefits both organisations. Equally important are our partnerships with other local community groups, including our schools and the pre-school. As part of the community strand of the Twynham Learning Trust's Excellence (Strategy) Plan, I have been in discussion with Stourfield Infant School regarding furthering our partnership. As many of you know, we regularly host visits of classes



Any enquiries,
please call



07766110660

or email

beas.secretary@outlook.com

www.bournemoutheastallotmentsociety.co.uk

www.facebook.com/lingdaleplots

to our site as part of their curriculum.

They have asked if we could provide a working group to tackle an overgrown raised bed that the children can't reach. It needs weeding, planting with shrubs that need little maintenance and covering with slate pieces. If anybody is willing to help with this, please contact me.

Finally, I am pleased to report that a number of members have shown an interest in our Harvest Celebration on Sunday 24th September. To be really effective we need quite a number so, if you are interested but haven't yet let us know you will be coming, please do so ASAP.

Thank you and happy gardening

Lynda Email: beas.chair@outlook.com, or mobile: 07734 401932

We are looking forward to our annual Open Morning from 10 am – 1pm. It's the main event of our year and is a great chance to get together with other ploholders, associate members and to share with visitors from our local area what allotmenting is all about.

It's a great family event with live music, activities and traditional family fun games for children, refreshments, tombola, bric-a-brac, books, plants, produce, second hand tools and lots more!

There will be the opportunity to have a guided tour around the allotment.

Our ever popular Grand Raffle draw will take place at 12:30—prizes include vouchers for family days out, bottles, chocolates and more. Raffle tickets are already on sale in the shop.

Donations of cakes, jams & chutneys (with ingredients listed), good quality tools, items for the raffle, tombola, bric-a-brac or book stalls are welcome in the shop or community area from now.

Donations of plants or produce are welcome in the community area on Friday 21st July from 5pm. Please be generous as our produce stall is always popular.

We look forward to seeing you!

Clare



Caterpillars!!

Some reports have been received of hairy brown caterpillars on some plots. They may be the same ones that infested our front hedge. Once hatched the moths are harmless, but please do not touch these caterpillars as they can cause severe inflammation of the skin.

For further information please refer to guidance on Royal Horticultural Society website:

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/biodiversity/brown-tail-moth>

Shop News

The shop continues to trade well during this warm weather and we are very grateful for all the donations of plants to sell on to members. Hilary has, as ever, been particularly generous in donating plants. This is especially helpful for new members who may only want a few items to try out and are not used to planting seeds, potting them on etc. Please consider, if you have anything to spare, dropping it into the shop when we are open so that we can sell it on to other members. However, please ensure that you put a label in it so that we know what we are selling. One quick tip is that you can make labels that are ideal for this by cutting up a plastic milk bottle into strips and writing with a permanent marker.



We are sincerely sorry for the longish period that we have been without compost. This was down to a problem with the haulage company that we used, despite the delivery earlier in the year being fine. We have sufficient supplies now and more will be delivered by the haulage company, who are currently storing it at their depot in Wimborne, after which we shall need to find a new supplier.

If you are purchasing supplies in the shop using the BACS payment method, please ensure that you make the payment within 48 hours, otherwise you are likely to forget and be chased by our Treasurer!

Don't forget our Seed Swap scheme that operates in the Community Area. There is a box that contains donated part packets of seeds and you are invited to deposit in there any spares that you have for others to try. Thanks to all for the donations so far received.

As ever, if there is anything that you think we could successfully stock please let me know at BEAS.shopmanager@outlook.com

Defibrillators

Thanks to a private donation, we have been able to buy the defibrillator and install it on the side of the Green Shed. Donations already received and, those in the future, will be used to service/maintain this one, and purchase one for the Small Site. This requires an electrical supply and a weatherproof cabinet, and thus not as simple as the existing one but we are determined to find a way.

Training in CPR and the use of the defibrillator is being arranged. A specialist trainer is offering to provide the training 'free of charge' and will supply all of the appropriate equipment and we are currently arranging a suitable venue and times and dates. The training will cost each member £20 – all of which will be donated to a Charity of the Trainer's choosing.

I would appreciate it if anyone wishing to take part in the training lets me know so that we can get an idea of how many are interested and organise the number of training sessions required.

David Taylor—Secretary



Parking

Out of courtesy to our neighbours on Lingdale Road please park only on 'our' side of the road.

Dahlias



For we dahlia growers, it is the start of a busy time, which will ensure we have lots of flowers later in the year.

Most will have planted out, now that the fear of frost has gone. There is no need to put lots of manure under the plants, a small scattering of fish, blood and bone and a good watering in should be sufficient for a good start.

Some “dos and don’ts” will allow you to make the best of your plants.

Don’t overwater, particularly when the plants are young. They should be encouraged to search for water. Remember a good root system now will give a better plant later on.

Whilst you can let the dahlia do its own thing, do pinch out the main stem when the plant is clearly growing well. You will delay first bloom a little but it will encourage the side shoots to grow and each will have a flower.

It is important to check your plants often for aphid attacks; dealing with a problem early is best.

If you use a liquid feed when watering, a balanced or high nitrogen feed is useful until the end of June. Thereafter use a high potash feed until early September which will give good colour, strong stems and better tubers.

Finally —lots to look forward to on my plot, with new varieties being tried, and the hope that there is a star amongst last years collarettes.

Best wishes

Bryan



Summer is coming

A Word from the Secretary



We’ve certainly enjoyed some very sunny and dry weather of late and so many plots are flourishing. It’s great to see a wide variety of crops, especially some early fruits, making an appearance. Ten of our plots have been entered into The Bournemouth Allotment Federation Competition and I’d like to wish everyone great success. The second round of judging will be at the end of July – so plenty of time to get everything into tip top order.

We have had an unexpected availability of a number of mini plots over recent months and that has allowed us to welcome several new members, all of whom are excited at getting an allotment plot after several years waiting. Despite that, our waiting list is getting even longer with so many local people wanting to grow their own fruit and veg and to join in an activity which has so many benefits.

Let’s consider ourselves fortunate to have a plot, put in the effort that our allotment needs and deserves and look forward to bumper crops later in the year. Good luck everyone – and enjoy.

David Taylor—Secretary

Garden Visit

Trip to Edmondsham Gardens



On 9th June 2023 a party of 20 made their way to the gardens in ideal weather. We were greeted with coffee, tea and biscuits and given a short history of the house and gardens by Julia Smith, the owner. This was followed by a group walk around the walled kitchen garden, led by Rachel, who was extremely informative, and answered numerous questions!



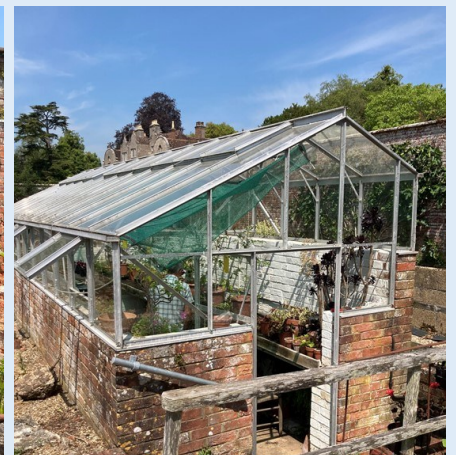
The gardens have been managed with a no dig system since 2003, and the mulch is home grown from leaf-mould, grass cuttings and compost laid up to 6" deep each year. The permanent beds are 3' wide with 2' footpaths between, with a mix of vegetable crops and flowers, there to attract beneficial insects.



Trenches or pits, the depth and twice the width of the pot, are dug for young plants, which are placed into the base of the hole. It is then filled with the contents of a whole watering can and the excavated soil/mulch used to backfill the hole, leaving the roots of the plant set down below soil level with a depression around it. This way, they only water once or twice a year!

No dig does NOT mean no work

We all learnt a lot, with many comments that some of what we saw we will try and incorporate in our plots.



Tuesday Chats

*Next coffee morning is on
20th June from 10 AM*



Just drop into the Big Green Shed to have a social break and a chat.

Members, associate members and former members all welcome.

Bacon Butties

Sunday Social

Next one is on 25th June!

Meet in the Big Green Shed (or just outside (in fine weather) for bacon butties, a hot drink and a bit of down time before you get digging!



Everyone welcome!

10 am –12 on the last Sunday of the month from April to October

Growers' tips for early summer

1. Hoe regularly, ideally on a dry day, to keep weeds under control
2. Water wisely, prioritising seeds and newly planted areas over established crops
3. Plant out in June to make the most of the long, hot, sunny days. A good method in hot, dry weather is to dig a hole and fill it with water 2 or 3 times, then settle the plant into the hole, firming the soil around it. Mulching around the plant will suppress weeds and reduce evaporation.
4. Keep an eye on your growing plants – for example, pinch out the side shoots of tomatoes, protect ripening fruit, stake tall plants, and thin the fruit on trees such as apples.

Keep sowing! Planting seeds every few weeks will ensure a continuous supply of lettuce, radish, spring onions, beetroot, etc.



Recipe - Horsetail Tea

Not for drinking!!!

This is a potion recipe which I found on www.nodighome.com

Horsetail is a natural fungicide and this potion can be used to treat downy mildew (among many other things) so I'm trying it on my grapevine this year as its been suffering from downy mildew for the past 2 years. Its nice to know the much maligned horsetail on our plots has some uses! Due to its high silica content you can also use handfuls of it to scrub pans too, just like the Ancient Greeks did.

- ⇒ 2 cups of chopped horsetail
- ⇒ 10 cups of water

Bring to the boil, reduce the heat and simmer for 30 minutes with the lid on. Leave to cool overnight – you may want to pop it outside as it isn't the nicest of smells and can make the kitchen smell a bit peculiar, not quite what you need first thing in the morning!

- Strain through a sieve or colander lined with muslin and pour into labelled bottles.
- Store in a cool place for about a month.
- Pour any leftover potion into a compost heap.

To use as a foliar spray or soil feed, dilute 1 part horsetail 'tea' to 4 parts water.



SITE NEWS

WATER—Most vegetable plants benefit from watering when weather conditions are dry, particularly if it is also windy. However, little and often can be counterproductive. It encourages the roots to stay near the surface.

The best way to water is to give the plants a good watering and once any surface water has sunk in, go round and water again a few minutes later.

The ideal time to water is first thing in the morning.

For large plants, the use of a lemonade bottle, without the cap, cut in half and 'planted' down to the roots can be an effective funnel. It can be put in the BCP recycling bin at the end of the season!



PADLOCKS:

Please note that some of the entry gate padlocks require the key to be turned through 180 degrees (rather than 90 degrees) before they will open. They will then need to be closed before removing your key. Please do not force them and please do not put WD40 or similar in the padlocks. It may appear to help, but it washes out the 'graphite' we periodically use, as recommended by our locksmith and ruins the padlock.

If there is a problem with a padlock, please go to the shop, if it is open, or ring a committee member - phone numbers are displayed on noticeboards by each gate.

WHEELBARROWS:

Please return the BEAS wheelbarrows to the appropriate gate. On the main site there should be 2 by the double main gates and 1 by the small gate. There should also be 1 by each gate on the small site. The barrows are placed there for the convenience of all members.

Plot inspections dates for 2023

Don't forget – if you have difficulty working your plot through illness or other reasons, or if you are on holiday and someone else is looking after your plot, please let the Site Manager know at beas.sitemanager@outlook.com

Dates of the plot inspections 2023

- ⇒ Between Mon 3 and Friday 7 July.
- ⇒ Between Mon 28 Aug and Friday 1 Sept.
- ⇒ Between Mon 2 and Friday 6 Oct.
- ⇒ Between Mon 13 and Friday 17 Nov.

NOT ON SITE PLEASE!



We've noticed quite a few house bricks appearing on the allotments recently – this is a reminder that our lease states that we aren't allowed to bring them on site.

Other things not allowed on site are glass, carpet, corrugated iron, tyres, breeze blocks, hardcore, gravel and topsoil. Although some of these might seem useful, they are all things which can be a safety issue or harm our soils, so should be removed from the plot please.

Recipe—Baked Rhubarb

Ingredients

A very simple list of ingredients for this recipe, although some people may like to add a bit of ginger or cardamon.

600g Rhubarb

100g sugar

1 orange (zest and juice)

Method

- Chop the rhubarb into little chunks (about 2cm long) into a bowl.
- Drizzle over the juice of the orange and toss well to cover all the chunks.
- Tip the rhubarb and juice onto a baking tray or shallow dish and shake until they are a single layer deep.
- Mix the orange zest with the sugar and sprinkle over the rhubarb, shake gently to cover the rhubarb.
- Cover with foil and bake for 15 mins, at 180°C or gas mark 6.
- Uncover, shake and bake for another 5 mins – test with a knife – the rhubarb should feel tender but not mushy.
- Goes well with a dollop of fresh cream, Greek yoghurt or vanilla ice-cream.

Tips for growing Rhubarb

- Plant in late autumn or in early spring.
- Best in full sun, but will tolerate partial shade.
- Allow plenty of space—it can grow up to 1 m (3 feet) tall and wide.
- Good drainage is essential, as rhubarb will rot if kept too wet.
- Plenty of compost, manure or mulch.
- Remove the whole flower stalk as soon as it appears, to prevent it weakening the plant.
- Be patient—don't harvest in the first year, and only lightly in the second year, by the third year the plant should be well established and you should get a good crop for up to 10 years from even just one plant.
- Harvest until July, after that the stalks tend to be a bit tough. Stems should be pulled rather than cut, to avoid leaving a stump that can rot. Always leave at least a couple of stalks for the plant for the following year



Allotment Cook Book

available in the shop or contact beas.shopmanager@outlook.com

£7 for members (RRP £8.95)

