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An Eventful Spring

Our growing season has got off to a good start this year although it has already been eventful, storms and high winds have caused a considerable amount of damage in a short space of time.

Most plot holders have managed to recover from the damage and the site is now looking good and well advanced for the growing season. Let's hope for more continued success (as last year) for this year's allotment competition.

We have had plenty of warmth in the sun which will help to heat up the soil and bring on the seedlings, however there have been a couple of late spring frosts which cause damage and very little rain over the past few weeks, so we still need to take care.

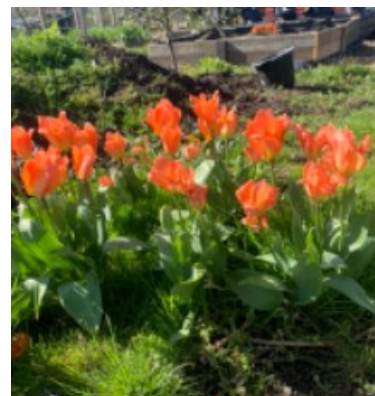
Our members are pleased to be able to meet in the shop and the community area and our committee is now able to regularly meet face to face again. Our social group is already organising a busy calendar of events for this year. In particular there is an exciting art project which will be running in May and June, and a garden trip planned for September

See inside this newsletter for more details or see our Social and Events page at [Calendar Of Events \(bournemoutheastallotmentsociety.co.uk\)](http://www.bournemoutheastallotmentsociety.co.uk) Our committee continues to strive to make the allotment site run smoothly for the benefit of all our members. However due to various health

issues and work commitments, at present not all of our committee members can devote as much time as they may wish to our society.

We are grateful for the support that volunteers give to helping in the shop and other activities and would welcome any further help.

If you have been considering offering your support, now is the time to contact us. Thank you.



Any enquiries,
please call

07766110660

or email



www.bournemoutheastallotmentsociety.co.uk

www.facebook.com/lingdaleplots

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

beas.secretary@outlook.com

NEW WEBSITE !

Our website has a new look! We have redesigned it and hope that you like the new style and find it easier to find your way around. There is still the same information about our site and the application forms to download if you want to apply for a plot or to put a structure on your plot. There is also more information and advice about managing your plot, updates and price lists for the shop as well as notices about social activities.



www.bournemoutheastallotmentsociety.co.uk

Please have a look: <https://www.bournemoutheastallotmentsociety.co.uk/>

and if you notice anything that you would like to see on there please do let us know at Beas.communications@outlook.com

Free ART WORKSHOPS

We have some excellent news! BEAS have been granted funding to run fun, free, and sociable events to learn about plants through art. Come and have an enjoyable time with other ploholders and local members of the community. This project offers a sociable opportunity to try out a few different ways of visually capturing the delights of growing and using plants. The sessions will be led by artist, Ilse Black. **There is absolutely no prior experience needed to take part and materials will be provided.**

We will be covering sketchbook journaling, cyanotype printing and making and using plant based dyes. We will also be offering family sessions during the half term break which will be **great fun for all the family**

All sessions will be running over May and June and are funded by the Nature, Art and Wellbeing Community Fund.

The Poster gives information on how to claim your place. Please drop your name and address into the shop or the post box.

This project is funded by the Nature, Art and Wellbeing Community Fund, a collaborative of; National Lottery Community Fund via Stepping into Nature, National Academy for Social Prescribing Fund via Thriving Communities Nature Buddies and Contain Outbreak Management Fund via Your Nature: Dorset Council Better Days, Coast and Greenspace Teams.

For more information please see website at [Stepping into Nature | Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty \(dorsetaonb.org.uk\)](http://Stepping into Nature | Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (dorsetaonb.org.uk))

Fun, Free & Sociable Events to learn about Plants through Art.
Funded by the Nature & Wellbeing Community Fund & sponsored by Bournemouth East Allotment Society
NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED

BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL AS SPACES ARE LIMITED EACH SESSION IS STAND-A-LONE SO THERE IS NO NEED TO COMMIT TO MORE THAN ONE SESSION AT A TIME.
Venue is the BIG GREEN SHED in the Community Area, 1 Lingdale Road, Southbourne, BH6 5LA

**** ALL SESSIONS RUN BEWTEEN 10.00AM & 1.00PM ****

10 May	Sketch Book Journalling Session 1 (a personalised record of your growing experience)
17 May	Cynotype printing (a popular Victorian blueprint photographic technique)
24 May	Make and use natural plant dyes
7 June	Sketchbook Journalling Session 2

***** ALL MATERIALS PROVIDED *****

HALF TERM FAMILY SESSIONS

31 MAY & 1 JUNE

To book a place please contact either Beas.SiteManager@outlook.com OR Beas.secretary@outlook.com OR drop an application into the Shop or the Post Box by the main gate. These posters can be found on our website or hard copies in the **BIG GREEN SHED (Shop/Community Area)**

Shop News

We have received some gardening tools as donations which are always useful especially to new members, so if any of you have some tucked away, not wanted.....

If you have a surplus of seedlings we are also happy to receive donations in the shop.

We also have the yellow Growbags this time, which are a little bit more expensive, but much better in size, and they seem to be popular although we are not sure if we will be able to get more of these.

Wanted urgently

BEAS SHOP MANAGER

This is an important and key role for our Society, normally run by a volunteer Member with a number of other volunteers who work the shop rota and help out when they can. The Shop Manager co-ordinates all the activity, deals with the ordering and pricing and ensures the shop runs smoothly throughout the year. It would be useful if they had some experience of spreadsheets but full training will be given.

We would like to find someone in the next few weeks so that they can be prepared to take over by the end of the year or sooner if possible.

If we are not able to find a volunteer, then the shop may close. This local and excellent facility for members would disappear. The subsidy to the running costs of the society would also end which means the rents could go up.

Please contact Linda Taylor for more information and a job description on Beas.chair@outlook.com or on 07766110660

ALLOTMENT COMPETITION Would you like to enter?

Bournemouth Allotment Federation Competition will be held again this year. Plots are judged in the last week in May when planting has taken place and again in July at the height of the growing season. Judges have a list of criteria and are looking for a well maintained and tidy plot but also signs of good use of the space and a wide variety of crops. All plot holders are encouraged to enter and we hope to maintain our record of winning the trophy for Best Allotment Site in Bournemouth for yet another year!

The entry forms and the criteria for the competition are on the web site at <https://www.bournemouthallotmentsociety.co.uk/> and hard copies will be available in the Community area. Everyone is invited to apply but we will also be identifying a 'TOP TEN' as we have in the past couple of years to apply by special invitation.

Completed entry forms should be handed into the shop or left in the post box by the main gate. -
Closing date for entries 15th May

Slug pellets From April 1st it became illegal to use or sell products containing metaldehyde in the uk - which includes slug pellets. This is due to the impact on wildlife e.g. hedgehogs. The shop now stocks compliant slug control products. Please check your sheds and dispose of any old slug pellets safely.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/outdoor-use-of-metaldehyde-to-be-banned-to-protect-wildlife>



Chemical free pest control measures include natural predators such as hedgehogs, birds and centipedes; also trap methods such as beer traps or any damp place such as a plank of wood that the slugs will shelter under during the day, then you can turn over the plank and destroy them! Finally there are barriers that the slugs do not like to cross such as sharp eggshells, pine needles, or copper.

Site News- reminders

New tenants

Reminder, new tenants are expected to dig the plot over within the first 3 months . If there are any problems please contact the site manager.

Sheds and structures

Permission should be obtained before putting up a shed or other structure—download a form from the website

Padlocks

Please do not oil the padlocks or apply WD 40 as this ruins them. We have a volunteer who maintains them with the appropriate graphite products. If you have a problem please contact the site manager.

Rubbish Disposal

All Members are reminded that any rubbish or unwanted plant material, soil, wood, plastics, bricks etc must be taken off site and disposed of by themselves and not dumped in any of the communal areas or on other plots.

Water supply for your plot

The mains water to the water butts is turned off in the autumn to protect the system from weather damage, principally frost, which can affect the float system, pipe-work and the butt itself. This should also prevent above ground and underground wastage of water which could remain undiscovered for some time.

During this winter break the butts should be emptied and any sand etc. in the bottom cleaned out. This must be carried out by the users, i.e. plot holders (not necessarily the plot holder on which the butt sits).

Water is turned back on in the spring. The precise timing is dependent on two factors, the weather, and the cleaning of the butts.

It is appreciated that sometimes water is needed for winter tolerant seedlings or plants when the mains supply is turned off. We strongly recommend that gutters and rainwater butts are installed to new and existing sheds to provide a useful water supply for the owners plot.

Water butts must have a tightly fitting lid, to reduce evaporation and to keep out contamination - and children! In the event of a drought order forcing us to turn off the mains water supply in the summer, a private rainwater supply could be very useful.



Nature areas

Our allotment site really makes a difference to the local environment, contributing to biodiversity and acting as a wildlife haven. We have 2 small areas which are set aside for wildflowers and nature and this year a group of plot-holders (and plot-holders children!) will start to look after them more actively. If you'd like to join them please email beas.sitemanager@outlook.com

Plot inspections are re-starting in March

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

This years plot inspections:

Between 27th April & 2nd May
Between 1st & 6th June
Between 6th & 11th July
Between 31st Aug & 5th Sept
Between 5th & 10th Oct
Between 16th & 21st November

We need to talk about peat.

Peatlands cover just 3% of the planet's surface but hold twice as much carbon as all the world's forests. When we extract peat to use on our allotments or gardens, we unlock those reserves of stored carbon. The drained peatlands immediately start releasing greenhouse gases, and when we spread it on an allotment, the carbon quickly turns into carbon dioxide, adding to greenhouse gas levels.

Peat takes 1000s of years to form, so when we drain and mine peatlands, we are also destroying the unique biodiversity of this environment.

Monty Don said: "Peat extraction does great environmental harm [and] it is simply untrue that there are no viable alternatives. It is time for all gardeners to change, adapt, be creative and accept that our gardens are inextricably connected to the wider environmental landscape."

Around 2/3 of peat sold in the UK is used domestically – on allotments and gardens. We don't NEED to use peat though - there are some really great peat-free composts available these days – and of course we've got plenty in the shop for you to try.

Let's have a thought for the future and stop using peat now.

RHS has some useful suggestions for alternatives: <https://www.rhs.org.uk/soil-composts-mulches/peat-free>

Monty Don also has some advice on peat: <https://www.homesandgardens.com/news/monty-don-warns-against-using-peat>

BAGGED COMPOST

Did you know that bagged compost can be stored almost indefinitely, BUT the longer it is stored, the more nutrients it loses. This also applies to peat free compost

The compost is at its best 4-6 months after it is blended, dependent on how it has been stored. Some nutrients can be replaced, by adding fertilisers, but how much?

SPRING TIPS

Spring is here! It's wonderful to walk around the site and see all the daffodils with their cheery faces, the plum blossom with its promise of summer fruit, and all those autumn sown onions and beans starting to really shoot up.

March/April are the most important months for sowing most vegetable seeds, either under cover or outdoors.

Indoors, early sowings include aubergines, beetroot, cabbages, cauliflower, chillies and tomatoes, then later sow beans, courgettes, cucumber & melons, kale and sweetcorn.

Planting directly outside, you can sow carrots, lettuce, parsnips and spinach from March, following on later with beetroot, broad beans, kale, & lettuces.

Successional sowing – a little bit every fortnight

or so – means you'll have a steady supply of crops like carrots, beetroot, lettuces, cabbages throughout the season.

Potatoes – first followed by second earlies, then main crop - should be planted, but they should be earthed up or covered with straw if there is a danger of frost which can damage growth above ground.

Cherry & Plum trees should be pruned when the flowers and leaves start to appear.

Keep the grass on the paths and edges short. Keep on top of the weeds! Hoe off annual weeds before they go to seed and dig out perennials, roots and all! Regular hoeing stops weeding becoming a lengthy chore.



Social Events

Our social group is working well planning events for our society to get together and enjoy some time exchanging tips or just chatting, in some cases also raising money for worthwhile local causes. They are also planning for the annual open morning and would like to run a Queens Jubilee lunch. Look out for more details on the noticeboards or website.

Thank you to everyone who helped and came along to the recent coffee morning which was held in aid of 'Friends of Bournemouth Eye Unit' £317 was raised. Another charity coffee morning is planned for later in the year.



Bacon Butties!

The first bacon butties morning went very well. Some plotholders enjoyed getting together for a chat and a tasty breakfast. This will continue on the last Sunday morning of each month. Thank you to the volunteer who ran this. If any member would like to help develop this by organising a meat free option, please contact beas.chair@outlook.com

Wisley

Important announcement!

We are planning a coach trip to the beautiful Royal Society of Horticulture garden in WISLEY this September (we get free entry for up to 53 plot holders with our insurance policy arranged through RHS). We just have to pay for the coach.

Further details to follow when arrangements have been finalised



Competition time!

Let's get children and grandchildren involved and have a great display in the summer!

The first judging of the great two-part Wellie boot competition has taken place. This was to choose the best decorated Wellie Boot

There were some very, very good entries and it was difficult to make a choice but the winner was from Plot 51A - well done!!

The second part of the competition is for the best 'planted' Wellie Boot and will be judged in June. It's up to you to decide what you want to plant in it.

Entry is just 50p and even if you have not entered the first part of the competition, entries for the second part are still open. Just come into the shop and register your entry.



School visit



On Wednesday 23rd March 2022, throughout the day, we welcomed 4 Yr 1 Classes from Stourfield Infants School, approximately 120 Students. Each Class named after a Bird!

The Spring weather was perfect to enjoy a nature based walk around the Allotment Site.

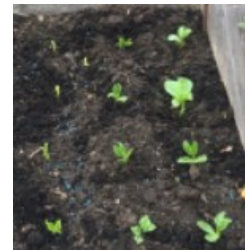
We were able to meet several friendly Plot Holders along the way, who were met with lots of interesting questions to answer! Thank you to those Plot Holders who stopped and even dug up worms to show our young Growers of the Future!



We looked for signs of vegetables, fruits and herbs growing, insects and how to help look after the environment. The importance of a healthy diet and a whole list of favourite fruits and vegetables were shared together!

We ended our visit by each Student planting a bean to take home with them. They will learn how to help it grow and to eat the beans! (Hopefully!)

It was a very memorable day and we hope to continue these Community links with Schools in the Future!

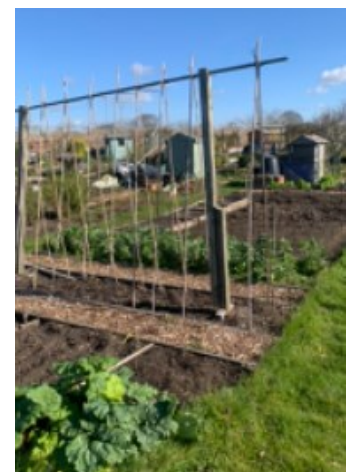


What do you grow?

With prices increasing and availability of some produce in question many plot holders are looking to their plots to provide the majority of their fruit and veg needs.

Here are some tips from our members on what they consider when deciding what to plant to get the most out of your plot.

- ◆ Plant food that you want to eat, there is no point wasting space on crops that are not popular in your household.
- ◆ Consider how much space you have and plant accordingly, some crops use a lot more space than others for the yield
- ◆ Plant crops that are more expensive to buy (especially organic)
- ◆ Plant different varieties of a crop as they will mature at different rates
- ◆ Plant little and often (as mentioned previously) successional sowing will help to extend your harvest
- ◆ Use cold frames and other protection to encourage early growth or to extend the growing season
- ◆ Plant crops that will store easily or that you can preserve easily
- ◆ It's worth spending time and effort to protect from pests so that you can get the best result



Eat your weeds!

Lots of weeds are edible – after all a weed is just a plant in the wrong place!

Here's a few to try this spring, that I always find on my plot:

1. Young dandelion leaves add a tangy flavour to salads (the best ones are at the middle of the rosette)
2. Wood sorrel (*oxalis sp*), added to salads, the leaves taste like green apple peel
3. Fat hen / Lambs quarters (*chenopodium album*) – basically a feral cousin of spinach, and can be cooked and eaten in the same way – plants no taller than your knee taste best
4. Chickweed (*stellaria media*) with its tiny leaves and little white flowers is a tender addition to salads, just add the whole stem as the leaves are tiny

How many do you have on your plot and which is which? Can you match to the pictures below?
(answers below)

A



B



C



D



As with any 'foraging' – if you are eating something you haven't planted yourself, you should ensure you have positively identified it before consumption. Plant ID apps are not 100% reliable for this.

Easy lavender shortbread biscuits

These are a simple shortbread recipe but adding in a hint of lavender gives them a delicious fragrant flavour. You can also try making them with rosemary, or do let us know if you have other ideas.

Ingredients

300g plain flour
200g softened butter
100g caster sugar
1 tsp dried lavender flowers

Method

Pre-heat oven to 160°C or gas mark 3, and line a 9" cake tin.
For the dough, place all the shortbread ingredients into a bowl and mix until just coming together.
Tip out onto work bench and bring together into a dough.
Put the ball of dough into your lined cake tin and spread out evenly.
Bake for 15-20 minutes until lightly golden and set. Whilst still warm, gently remove from tin and mark out portions with a knife .

Allotment Cook Book,

some copies are still available **£7 for members (RRP £8.95)**

Contact beas.shopmanager@outlook.com

