

Inside this issue

Update from the chair	1
Covid update	2
Committee news	2
Shop News	3
Bee positive	4
Competition time	5
Summer veg	6
New members corner	7
Book review	8

As luck would have it ...

Who would have known it –

we struck it lucky having an allotment in these strange times. After an initial couple of days of panic and visions of the weeds being a mile high before this was over, we entered lockdown knowing that we could still exercise at our allotment.

Okay, those first couple of weeks were a little fraught as we worked out what we could and

could not do. Amid reports that some allotments across the country were closed (albeit temporarily) as Councils responded to complaints about parking, people being at the allotment too long, not social distancing and having bonfires, we (you!) have all been incredibly good and life settled down. Although some things have changed, our allotment life has carried on at BEAS and we have been able to enjoy the good weather and escape from home!

Closing the community area, shutting the shop, and having no access to the toilets has seemed a small price to pay to be able to work the plots. If nothing else, 'growing your own' limits the number of trips to supermarkets and braving one-way systems and a lack of understanding of what social distancing means!

Of course, there have been some people who have been unable to attend the allotments due to self-isolating or shielding and we send them our very best wishes to stay safe and well. They will also be glad to hear that the dreaded plot inspections have been suspended for the time being, but we do ask you to let us know if you have a short or long-term issue. We have been heartened by the offers of help to keep these plots tidy, ready for when people can return to the site. If you do need help, please ask.



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

For the first time in many years we are unable to have our annual Open Morning (or any other social events) which does have an impact on our fund raising. As you are aware, we rely on this fund raising and the revenue from the shop to supplement the society's income and maintain our aim to keep the rents affordable for all. So, if you see plants or produce for sale in the seating area, your donations will be very welcome.

However, thank you to those who are using our version of 'click and collect' which is a huge help and thank you to the Committee Members who are making this happen. As soon as we are permitted to have a 'gathering' we will enjoy getting everyone together again.

The plots have been busy as changes to work patterns and restricted travel have allowed more time for digging and growing. We all know the well recognised benefits of gardening to health and well-being and no more so than in the current circumstances. We have been blessed. Stay safe and well.

Linda Taylor, Chair

Covid19 – a reminder

Our landlord, BCP Council, advised us to use the National Allotment Society guidelines when interpreting what we can and cannot do.

The notice boards are updated with changes you need to know about. If you want to see the full version of NAS guidelines then visit <https://www.nsalg.org.uk/news/covid19-information/>

Key points are:

- Observe social distancing and do not gather in groups
- Wash hands regularly
- Use hand sanitiser before opening and closing gate locks
- Do not share tools
- If you take children on the plot, they must stay within your plot and not run around on communal areas or paths
- The shop and communal areas remain closed

COMMITTEE NEWS

The committee has continued to communicate regularly with each other to ensure that we are keeping abreast of all national and local developments and guidance. In fact we have even held a virtual meeting by email, the minutes of which will be available to read in the file in the community area when it re-opens. Did you know that the file is there and updated after every meeting?

Not surprisingly, perhaps, I have received lots more applications for plots and, at the time of writing, the waiting list stands at 103 applicants; by far the longest list among the self-managed sites in Bournemouth. Many are joining as Associate Members to stay in touch with the Society.

Just before lockdown, our BCP Council Officer (who is also the Contracts Manager) had almost reached the point of being able to negotiate the final site-specific details on our long awaited lease with us, but everything appears to have ground to a halt again in this remote world! I have just sent a further reminder to the Legal and Operations Manager at the National Allotment Society to send me her comments on the generic lease. Hopefully, working remotely will have given her more time to look at this. We persevere!

Thank you for all your enquiries about the well-being of your plot neighbours when they haven't been seen for some time. This gives me the chance, as Secretary, to check on their welfare, if we haven't already heard something from them. I hope that this is something that will continue into the future, post lockdown.

Finally, thank you for all the lovely messages to the committee and thanks for coping with the various complexities of managing the two sites in these unusual times; they are appreciated.

Shop News

We have had to learn and adapt to changing guidance and circumstances during this strange period.

We initially spent a few weeks without compost. Fortunately, we were then able to obtain 2 lorry loads within 8 days and were also able to initiate our "Click & Collect/Deliver" service. Now, at the time of writing, we have been fortunate to receive a third delivery. Our supplier is struggling to obtain supplies owing to the "unprecedented" (it's that word again!) demand that there has been from people fur-loughed trying to make the most of their time at home.

Many thanks to those of you who have supported your shop over the last few weeks, representing 110 out of our 214 managed plots, meaning that we are still able to raise much needed funds for the society. If you have not used our new service yet, why not give it a try?'

How to use BEAS shop click & collect/delivery service.

If you would like to order products from our shop please refer to the shop pages on our website. These are regularly updated to show items that are currently in stock. Then you can email the shop manager or call the BEAS phone 07547 198289 to arrange a mutually convenient collection/ delivery time . Electronic payment by BACS or Paypal is preferred but if this is not possible for you then please enquire when ordering. This service is available to ploholders and associate members.

We have received many appreciative messages from ploholders and would like to thank the shop team and volunteers who have worked hard to source items, and who have been so flexible in maintaining a service.

Plant Sales



If you have any excess plants you would like to donate to the Society, please leave them on the tables in the sitting area by the Big Green Shed. Please label them so we know what they are!

If you take any plants, please leave a donation in the post box by the main gate. In most cases a suggested donation will be indicated but we are very grateful for all your contributions.

With your help we will try and keep this going throughout the growing season.

Thank you

Deliveries! - A delivery to the shop arrived at 18:32 on 12th May. Someone helpfully opened the gate to a delivery person with goods that had been ordered for the shop and signed for them but then failed to inform anyone! The instruction was clearly written on the box for the driver to contact the shop manager in advance to obtain access. We appreciate the fact that the goods were not returned to the depot, but that left some £320 worth of goods sat on the concrete outside the shop. Fortunately, while checking the website later that evening, we found the delivery record and managed to retrieve the goods to safety.

LBS, our supplier, is taking this up with the delivery company yet again, but if anyone is in that position in future **PLEASE would you contact the shop manager at once**, using the details on the Notice Board inside the gate.

WE NEED YOU!

The end of this year will see some changes in the Committee. Lyn & Peter Clarke, after many years of hard work and effort in the roles of Secretary and Shop Manager, will be standing aside. This is a loss to the society, and we are incredibly grateful and thankful for the time they have spent on our behalf, but they will continue to be part of our allotment community. However, this does mean that we will be looking for new committee members and/or additional helpers to support the Committee and BEAS. In particular, we would welcome volunteers who have good administrative and computer skills.

Have a think about it and give Linda Taylor a ring on 07881901729 if you would like to find out more.

Bee Positive

World Bee Day is celebrated annually on 20 May. The aim is to raise awareness of the importance of protecting and preserving bees and other pollinators. We can all do our bit on our plots and it is encouraging that early studies are indicating that the reduced number of cars on the roads during lockdown has been beneficial for bees. The lower levels of pollution make it easier for bees to find pollen at shorter distances as the scent is not masked by pollutants, this enables them to rear more young. Fewer cars on the road can also help bees as there are fewer collisions with cars! Apparently this is a significant number usually.



While highway staff are on reduced hours due to coronavirus there has been reduced mowing along roadsides which has also extended the pollination period for wildflowers.

On our plots, wildflowers can bring many advantages for us as well as for bees. Anything that is growing where we don't want it to be can be considered a weed but sometimes they are a pretty filler (like cornflowers and marigolds) for our allotment, growing between the crops and keeping the bees happy so it is good to leave them where we can and enjoy them. The trick is to get rid of the seed heads when they appear so we can control just how far they spread! Everybody is happy – the bees, you, your fellow plot holders and more importantly the Site Manager!!

Flowers that can be guilty of spreading their seeds far and wide can be considered weeds but not always – they just need to be controlled. Here are (just) a few that our hungry pollinators enjoy – there are plenty more for you to find.

Ivy

And who would have thought that ivy is one of the best sources of late season nectar as it flowers in the autumn, sometimes into winter. So to help the bees don't prune ivy too early or you will be depriving them at a time when little else is available

Blackberry

The blackberry is a great source of food; the blossom season is longer and hardier than many plants and is a favourite pollen source for the bees. Leaving the flowers to bloom as they want means more blackberries too – and more jars of jam!

Borage



Borage is one of the best loved bee herbs. A good herb to plant by the strawberries to encourage the pollinators in the hope of a better harvest. Borage

flowers are pretty in salads and drinks, while the seeds can make an oil that is excellent in home-made skincare products.

Rosemary

Rosemary is just as important to bees as it is in the kitchen, with this bushy herb celebrating the spring with delicate blue flowers. Try not to cut it back until after the flowering has finished, letting the pollen starved bees have a feast.

Dandelions

Dandelions are a casualty of lawn mowing but have a huge value to winged insects desperate for food after the winter. Remember that spraying these cheery weeds can cause contamination to bees who can pass it on to the hive or nest. A good call would be to mow them down after they flower but before they seed.



Lavender

Lavender is loved by bees – but some are more bee friendly than others so always check which are the best varieties. It flowers from May to July so it is excellent for filling the 'pollen gap' in high summer.

Competition time!

Let's have a bit of fun

As the normal allotment competition involving the other Bournemouth Allotment Sites has been cancelled this year, we have decided to do a more light-hearted and fun version (and that we can do with our necessary social distancing head on!)

There will be 3 competitions – all with vouchers for the shop as prizes.

Best Plot

You will all be entered by default! We will judge this the first week in July. The criteria will be kept simple, such as: neatness of plot, variety and health of crops, hazard free, weed free, general housekeeping and design of the plot.

Scarecrow Competition

Why not involve the kids and build a Scarecrow? Additional marks if you manage to do it just using gardening products. Put it up on your plot (or in your garden if you are an Associate Member) and send us a photograph. Your photograph will be your entry form.

Closing Date 31 July 2020.

Photograph Competition

What has tickled your fancy? Whether it is 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 by the **30th September 2020.**

That should keep us busy during the summer and we can all enjoy seeing the scarecrows on the site and the photographs from the photograph competition will be displayed in the Community area – we will be able to get back in there at some time!

Please submit your photographs to beas.photos2020@outlook.com clearly stating the competition and your Plot number or Associate Member number.

Winners will be announced two weeks after each closing date and will be published in the Newsletter and on noticeboards.

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

Our Newsletter: This newsletter is for all of our community to contribute to. We would love to hear of your successes (and failures); there is so much experience and expertise on our site that it would be good to share our knowledge.

Do you have a story to tell to accompany your competition entry? Have you tried something new? Maybe no dig method or a different type of crop Do you have any wildlife observations?

Please send items, news, snippets, articles or photographs to beas.communications@outlook.com

Summer veg

One of the more worthwhile types of vegetables to grow on your plot are the Mediterranean family of vegetables; they require very little effort and the home grown ones have so much more flavour than shop bought ones. The colourful ingredients of Mediterranean cooking such as tomatoes, peppers, aubergines and courgettes are versatile and a good source of antioxidants and vitamins.

They are easy to grow, allotmenters are all familiar with the glut of courgettes or tomatoes produced from just a few plants. It is ideal to plant them out in May or June after harvesting brassicas which were planted last year. With the warm weather we are experiencing we can expect to get good crops from peppers and aubergines too. All they need is plenty of good compost and plenty of water.

Courgettes in particular need plenty of space as they spread. Once they start to produce fruit keep picking as the more you pick the more they will produce.

Stake tomatoes to prevent them falling over and pinch out any side shoots.

Aubergines need plenty of warmth, so a cloche is a good idea.

Peppers—if you pick while they are green you will be more likely to get more fruit. If you leave them on the plant to turn red then the plant will not keep producing.

Trying something slightly more unusual

When it comes to growing fruit and veg, we all have our tried and tested varieties, but I always try to grow one new variety of something at home and another on the allotment.

Here are some suggestions that are all in the Kings catalogue and so possible to order through the shop for next year.

Aubergine

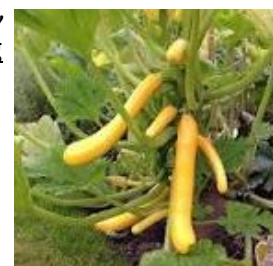
Clara F1 – a pure white variety. The family thought it hadn't ripened, but loved the taste! Kings say: Oval shaped and slightly ribbed on an erect plant. Medium early maturity.



Pinstripe F1- Striped purple and white fruits with silver foliage. Look great in a pot.

Courgette

Another one for your garden, or even a balcony is Shooting Star F1. First British climbing yellow courgette. Will grow well in a container but needs growing against a trellis or similar support and tying in to support the weight of the fruits. Decorative and productive.



Tomato

The jury is out on Honey Moon F1 which bears large pink fruits and claims to give an "explosion of flavour". It also gives good resistance against late blight.



Love your Allotment, Love your Food

A very versatile recipe using the glut of summer veg is Ratatouille. See the BEAS cookbook for a recipe. There are many variations on this dish all around the Mediterranean depending on the region.

Here are some regional variations on the standard recipe:

In Sicily: "Caponata" -also include celery, capers, green olives

The Basque region—"Piperade" - just peppers, tomatoes and herbs

In Morocco—"Zalouk" - just aubergine, tomatoes and spices

In Spain—"Pisto" - peppers, tomatoes and courgettes

Eastern Med—Aubergine caviar- just aubergine, garlic, lemon, salt.

Doing more home cooking?

Don't forget you can order a cook book through 'click and collect'

Only £7
for
members

**(RRP
£8.95)**



New Members' Corner

Early summer is when the days are longest and the growth is most vigorous. This is also true of weeds so June is a good time to make sure you keep on top of the weeds. By getting them early it is much easier to prevent them getting out of control and you will probably be able to prevent seeds spreading. A hoe is a very useful tool to cut off the weeds as they start to show. Even the most pernicious weeds can be weakened by persistent hoeing as the weeds don't get enough chance to get light and therefore energy so the roots will eventually die off. Most of the weeds that you pull out or chop off can be composted but there are a few that it is better not to put in your compost. (see below)

In order to suppress the weeds you can also mulch around your crops. This will also keep moisture in the soil so you won't have to water so often. After a wet spring we have already had an extended dry spell and at present no rain is forecast, so any water saving measures will be vital. Our site has sandy soil so as much compost and mulch as you can use will always benefit and help to retain moisture and the nutrients.

What to compost

Successful compost needs a variety of ingredients. It is ideal if you can layer green and brown material :

Green, nitrogen-rich material

- grass cuttings
- soft prunings
- annual plant and weed remains before they have set seed
- fruit and vegetable scraps
- old cut flowers

Brown, carbon-rich material

- cardboard (torn up)
- Newspaper and crunched up paper
- Straw

Harvesting

Early summer is the peak time for soft fruit. Keep watering fruit bushes at the roots to swell the fruit.

Strawberries can be propagated in summer. Just plant the runners to establish new plants for next year. Also remove any unwanted runners as this will help the plant retain strength. Move the strawberry plants to a new spot every 3—4— years.

The easiest way to harvest currants is to cut whole trusses to use immediately, or store in the fridge for a few days. Alternatively, just place trusses in bags and put into the freezer for later use. You can combine pruning with picking the fruit. In early summer prune new growth on currants back to two buds to keep plants compact.

Keep Planting

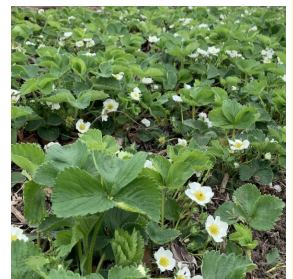
Don't forget that in June you can continue successional sowing of salad crops, beetroot, kohlrabi, lettuce and winter cabbage seeds.

What not to compost

It is best to avoid putting perennial weeds into your compost heap. With enough heat and time they will eventually break down but it is advisable to dispose of them elsewhere so as not to risk spreading them over your plot when you use the compost. The same applies to seeded weeds.

It is also important not to put diseased plants into your compost bin. Hard to compost perennial weeds commonly found on our site are:

- Bindweed
- Couch grass
- Mares tail
- Buttercups



Have you got time for a deckchair?



A deck chair is made for lounging in. A magazine, a cup of tea and you are all set for a quiet read, listening to the passing birds and enjoying the garden scene.

Deckchairs were first patented in 1886 and have been in fashion in one form or another ever since. We've all enjoyed the view of someone on the beach getting into a tangle as they try to put one up. They usually succeed eventually – amusing for us but frustrating for them. I was more amused to find out that there were originally 2 different models of the first deckchairs. One was the Waverley – good for ships and watching lawn tennis, and the Hygienic, a rocking chair, sold as a digestive aid, '*for those with sluggish and constipated bowels*'.

During this lockdown, I thought I would find more time for lots of things I have been meaning to get round to and lounging in a deckchair is one of them – it hasn't happened as often as I would have liked! There is no doubt that some of you deserve to relax a little – the plots are looking wonderful and seem to be much more productive this year. The sunny weather has helped and maybe a bit more TLC than usual.

On a practical front, with the lockdown easing a little, more people going back to work and perhaps less time for the plot, you might find this book a useful one to flick through while sipping your tea in that deckchair.

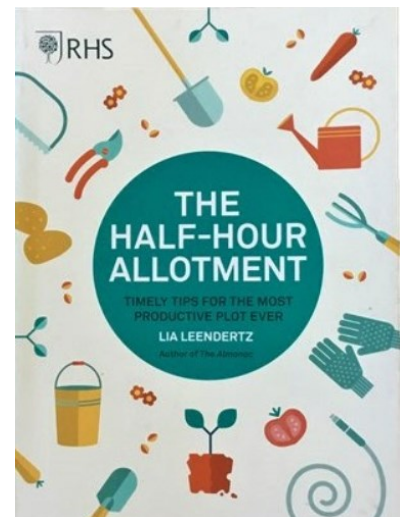
I was attracted by the title 'The Half Hour Allotment' and wanted to see how that works! This book provides a mixture of advice from Lia Leendertz (the author) and the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) and is great to dip in and out of. It does give good practical advice on how to apply the half-hour principle to produce salad and vegetables every day of the year. 30 minutes each weekday, a prioritised action plan, some tips on shortcuts with a bit of realism thrown in on what you can achieve. I love the photographs – always good to see what things should look like – and simple straightforward advice and ideas on taking on and keeping on top of your plot, growing the best varieties, and involving children in allotment life.

I suspect you may want to spend more than half an hour at the allotment at a time – at least 30 minutes can be taken up chatting to fellow plot holders! But a good and useful book to help with time management and one that I refer to often.

THE HALF-HOUR ALLOTMENT - timely tips for the most productive plot ever

Lia Leendertz

ISBN 978-0-7112-4410-8



Looking Forward

Please keep an eye on our social media, website and email feeds as we will let you know as soon as we are able to progress plans to re open at least some facilities on our site. We are hoping that by Autumn we may be able to hold some kind of socially distanced harvest festival and are discussing plans. If you are able to offer help, ideas or advice please let us know.

In the meantime keep growing and keep well.