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Comments from the Chair

It has been a relief to see the sun make a very necessary appearance. At times, I thought summer would never arrive. I have enjoyed meeting newer and more established members on the plots and in the shop. Do keep reminding me if I don't remember your name or, indeed, get it wrong! My memory is certainly deteriorating due to overwork.



Summer brings the Federation **Allotment Competition** (entry forms in the shop, community area and online).

Also in this edition is more information about our entry into the **Dorset Wildlife-Friendly Space** (we need your photographs please).

Our **Annual Open Morning** is fast approaching (for which we need lots of donations and help on the day). You will find articles on each of these events inside this issue, detailing how you can be involved.

We have somewhere in the region of 330 members/tenants, but events will only be successful, the shop able to be opened and the site well maintained, if everyone gets involved. We understand that the allotment is only one of many things we all do, but if everyone did just one thing (other than working their plot, of course), the load would be lightened for the dedicated few and we would enjoy greater success in all that we attempt. So, please consider what that little bit extra that you could give might be.

Thank you so much and wishing you a bountiful harvest,
Lynda

Any enquiries,
please call
07766110660
or email



beas.secretary@outlook.com

www.bournemoutheastallotmentsociety.co.uk

www.facebook.com/lingdaleplots

OPEN MORNING

20TH JULY

We are looking forward to our open morning which, apart from being an enjoyable community event, is our main fundraising event of the year, however it doesn't happen by itself so we need support from all our members. We rely entirely on our Members to provide the items we require for our stalls, Please see below for the stalls and the items that we need. Most of these can be left in the shop or community area in advance. Produce and cakes, the evening before or early on the day.

Volunteers are also needed to prepare things the evening before and early that morning and to staff the stalls. At least two people per stall are required to serve to allow for loo breaks etc and plenty of willing hands to shift tables and put up gazebos, starting at 8.00am. Obviously it all has to be put away again at the end. If you think that you can help in any way, please email me at beas.chair@outlook.com or phone, text, WhatsApp on 07734 401932.

How can we make it happen ?

Produce

This is a very popular stall so please give generously!
For example:
soft fruit,
rhubarb,
cabbage,
broccoli,
runner beans,
broad beans,
peas,
courgettes,
squashes,
radishes and lettuce,
tomatoes and cucumbers
beetroot,
potatoes.



Preserves

Homemade jams, chutneys and pickles are all very popular. Please label with ingredients used because of allergies.



Plant stall

Potted plants or seedlings - please label



Cakes

Homemade cakes, pies and quiches, tray bakes, sausage rolls and biscuits all go so fast! Please label with ingredients or state if gluten or dairy free.



Books and CDs

Good quality paperbacks, cookery books, guide books, gardening books and easy listening music.



Bric a brac

Only things that you might buy yourself please !

This is a popular stall, but we don't want to be having to dispose of things that nobody would want.

Tombola and raffle

We can use any bottles—drinks or other liquids, unwanted gifts (still in the wrapper), unused garden hand tools or gloves, or anything that you would be delighted to win!

Spread the word and invite your friends and family to our Open Morning. If you are able to display our poster at a shop or other venue near you, it is available on our website at https://sites.create-cdn.net/sitefiles/64/2/6/642639/Open_Day_2024.pdf

or there will be a limited number left in the community area.

An extra gazebo would be useful in case of rain. If you have a gazebo you could lend for the day please let us know.

We have previously been fortunate to have live music at our open morning, which was very much enjoyed by all present. If any of our members know musicians or a community choir who would be willing to provide some ambiance please let us know. By a combined effort we hope to make our Open Morning a great event for us and also for our wider community.



BEAS Bournemouth East Allotment Society
Lingdale Road Southbourne BH6 5LA
www.bournemoutheastallotmentsociety.co.uk
www.facebook.com/lingdaleplots

Open Morning

Saturday 20th July 2024
10:00am - 1:00pm

BACON BUTTIES
REFRESHMENTS
FRESH PRODUCE & PLANTS
GAMES & COMPETITIONS
BOOKS & BRIC-A-BRAC

Children free!
non-members
50p

Scarecrow Competition Alert!

Calling all creative gardeners and crafty minds! Get your straw, old clothes, and creativity ready!



Let's protect our crops and celebrate our community spirit. Our scarecrow competition is **family-friendly**, and it's a fantastic opportunity for kids to get involved.

How to Enter:

You have two options: entry forms available in the shop

Pre-Made Scarecrow: Create your scarecrow beforehand and bring it along to the open morning.

On-the-Spot Creation: Join our scarecrow-making activity stall during the open day. We'll provide materials to help you construct the most effective bird deterrent.

Purpose: Scarecrows not only protect crops but also add character to our allotment site. Let your imagination run wild! It can be a team effort. Families can work together to build their scarecrows. In previous years we have had memorable and quirky results.

Prizes await the most imaginative, quirky, and effective scarecrows.

Judging will take place after our open morning.

Open Morning Raffle

Tickets for the raffle are already on sale in the shop. Still only £1 a strip!

Shop News

Volunteers

I mentioned in the last Newsletter that we could only open when there are sufficient volunteers available and willing to help out. On a number of occasions recently there has only been the key-holder present and on one occasion we could not even find a key-holder available to open up. We desperately need more volunteers to come forward and help out, even if it is only occasionally, otherwise you will find that the shop is not open more often when you arrive.

Please speak to me or email to beas.shopmanager@outlook.com and we can discuss when you could assist me to “learn the ropes”.

Please also don't forget to drop in your spare plants, suitably labelled, for us to sell on to other members. As ever, if there is anything that you think we could successfully stock please let us know, bearing in mind that it needs to be something that sufficient customers would buy!

Seed swap

Don't forget that there is a seed swap box in the community area of the big green shed. If you have planted and still have packets with unused seeds, consider leaving them in the seed swap box for others to try. Or see what is in the box that you can try out. Now is a good time for second or third plantings for successional sowing to ensure continued crops or to replace crops that may have been eaten by slugs and snails during the extremely wet spring we have had.



National Allotments Week

As members of the National Allotment Society, we can all go onto their website to benefit from all the information and offers they provide.

The annual National Allotments Week runs from Monday 12th – Sunday 18th August and this year's theme is “Biodiversity”. There will be content on the NAS website from expert partners and ambassadors and a variety of related topics. The link to the relevant part of the website is: [National Allotments Week 2024 – The National Allotment Society – National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners Ltd \(nsalg.org.uk\)](https://www.nsalg.org.uk/national-allotments-week-2024)

Compost review

We have been experimenting with some different suppliers of compost so far this year, mostly local. However, it would be great to have some feedback as to what people think of each sort so that we don't end up purchasing something that is not performing satisfactorily.

If you have used any of the Oaktree compost, the Grow Bags or, from when it arrived at the end of May, the Melcourt Peat-Free compost (which is used and recommended by the RHS) and have an opinion on it then please do let me know when you see me, either in the shop or around the site.

Unfortunately, some of the Organic and Peat-Free composts are going up in price to get a decent quality, but we'll have to see how it grows!



Dorset Wildlife Friendly Awards



Working together, Dorset Wildlife Trust (DWT) and the National Allotment Society (NAS) Southwest are celebrating allotments that are taking action for nature and helping wildlife by issuing a certificate and plaque to any site that is a haven for wildlife.

We believe that the BEAS site would qualify. All we have to do is send in photos, taken on any part of either site, that match at least 6 of the criteria below:

Action/Feature	Shelter	Food	Water	Wider Environmental Benefits
Native Hedge	Green			
Trees and shrubs that flower and fruit	Green	Orange		
Wildflower meadow or long grass area	Green	Orange		
Nectar and pollen rich flowers		Orange		
Climbing Plants	Green	Orange		
Water available at different heights			Blue	
Pond or bucket pond, or bog garden	Green	Orange	Blue	
Water saving & rainwater harvesting	Green	Orange		Save rivers & wetlands
Log piles, tree stump or stone piles	Green	Orange		
Bee home or insect home	Green			
Homes for wildlife: bat box, bird box or hedgehog house	Green			
Using only peat free compost				Save heathlands & slow climate change
No chemicals including no slug pellets				Protect wildlife & reduce pollution
Compost heap, wormery or homemade liquid fertilizer	Green	Orange		Save heathlands & recycle nutrients
Upcycle & reuse materials rather than buy new				Reduce waste
You promote wildlife-friendly gardening in your community	Green	Orange		Increase & connect wildlife friendly spaces

We could also share any records that members have written, add photos that show dead seed heads or green manure, donating excess produce or second-hand tools etc.

We think that some plot holders may be able to meet these criteria simply on their own plot. If you think that you could, or if you could do this in your garden at home, you could apply for an individual, smaller plaque. To apply for this award please go to www.dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk/gardenscheme

Allotment Competition

This year the allotment competition will be open to all members as usual, however the guidelines have been simplified with broader categories and there will only be one judging in late June.

The main guidelines remain to showcase your plot, demonstrating good use of the space for growing a variety of fruit and veg that is well cared for and productive.

There is also a competition for the whole site, vying for best allotment site against the other sites in the Bournemouth Federation.

Care of the overall site is considered, but also the general state of all the plots so, even if you don't want to enter your plot individually in our own competition, your efforts will still contribute to the whole site entry.

These elements of competition are a great motivator to keep your plot well kept and tidy. You can also join in the working party (details here to the right) for a bit of community spirit while maintaining and improving our site.

Entry is free and entry forms for the competition are available from the shop, community area or on our website, here:



[https://sites.create-cdn.net/sitefiles/64/2/6/642639/Allotment Competition 2024.pdf](https://sites.create-cdn.net/sitefiles/64/2/6/642639/Allotment%20Competition%202024.pdf)

Plot inspections

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

HORSE TAIL/MARES TAIL



Horse Tail, also known as Mares Tail, is a weed prevalent on the majority of plots on the main site. Somehow it doesn't raise its head on the small site!

It spreads from even the smallest piece of root. So using a 'rotavator' or any mechanical cultivator will merely encourage it further. If you do use one, you will understand why it has been around for 60+ million years!

It also spreads from minute brown (i.e. soil coloured) spores from tiny fir cones on the Horse Tail, usually in late spring. So it is very important to get on top of them.

The roots can go down over 5', 1.5m, but digging them out as deep as you can will weaken the plant. If you are not able to dig them out, have a regime of regularly pulling them out or hoeing before they reach 75cm/3" tall.

Working Party!!

After the great success and achievement of the last working party, The next working party will take place on

**Sunday 4th August
10am—12 noon**

Come and join us to lend a hand together to tackle some jobs on the site that need a combined effort.

Please bring any tools that you are willing to use and meet us on site from 10 am. Please report in at the shop.



We look forward to seeing you there to make our site pleasant for all our members.



SPRING VISIT TO DEANS COURT WIMBORNE

Over 20 BEAS

Members, Associate Members and their families/friends spent the morning of 8th May at Deans Court. The house and gardens are not normally open to the public. We were able to take our dogs around.

We were treated to a short talk from the Head Gardener, followed by a presentation from the head kitchen gardener within his very large brick 'serpentine' walled garden containing several large 'poly tunnels,' areas of soft fruit, herbs, and similar varieties we grow on our plots. There did not appear to be any root vegetables. Principally, the kitchen garden is worked on a 'No Dig' principle and depends on volunteers to plant and maintain it. Unfortunately, last year their workforce was severely depleted. This year they have had the same weather problems we have, and everything was late. The intention is to supply produce for the café, and the owner's kitchen.

Allotment art mural

Some of our community are planning to 'vamp up' our storage container near the shop in order to give it a more attractive look to enhance our site. The plan is to paint an allotment and nature themed mural on the side of the container.



We aim to undertake this project over the summer and invite plot holders to come along and participate. We are fortunate to have an artist willing to guide us in this project and we also plan to create opportunities for families and children to take part.

Keep an eye on our social media and noticeboards for updates.

If you'd like to help prepare or paint, please get in touch: contact

beas.communications@outlook.com



Bacon Butties

Sunday Socials continue on the last Sunday of the month from April to October

in the big green shed from 10 am.

Take a break from digging for a bacon butty breakfast and a chat.

Sunday chat

During July and August the Sunday chat socials will not take place.

We will decide in September if there is enough interest to resume.



Children on the site

Children are hopefully future gardeners, but the site is not a playground.

Children are permitted on the site if accompanied and supervised by an adult at all times, and must not be allowed to stray on to other plots, nor cause an annoyance to other tenants. If a child needs to use the toilets, they must be accompanied by an adult and not just given a key.

Gate padlocks

You will have noticed that we have purchased a set of robust padlocks for all 4 gates to replace an assortment of different types previously used. In fact we have two sets which are changed over on a monthly basis. They are cleaned and lubricated each time they are switched over, so we hope they will be more reliable. One has already required considerable repair after being 'attacked'.

Recipe - Gooseberry Jam

One thing that makes allotmenting extra special is harvesting and enjoying crops that are not commonly so easily available on the supermarket shelves. One such item is gooseberries. These are coming into fruition imminently and can be used in many ways. It's fun making jam as the green gooseberries turn pink during the process! Here is a recipe for jam, and another tasty way to enjoy this tart, but delicious, fruit.



- 1kg gooseberries, topped and tailed

- juice of ½ lemon

- 1kg granulated sugar

Optional extras:

- Elderflower
- Ginger

Gooseberries are high in pectin so no extra is needed to help setting.

1. Sterilise jars.
2. Put a couple of small saucers in the fridge.
3. Put fruit into a preserving pan with 500ml water. Cook gently until the berries are soft but still hold their shape.
4. Add the sugar. Stir gently until the sugar has dissolved, then bring to the boil for about 10 minutes.
5. Test for setting — drop a small amount of the jam onto a cold saucer and if it 'wrinkles' the jam is ready to set.
6. Remove from the heat, allow to rest for 10 minutes, then put in jars and seal.
7. Make a few extra jars for the open morning!!!

Tips for a successful gooseberry harvest

There are a few varieties without thorns but, for most, remember to wear gloves and long sleeves for protections against the thorns. In spite of the effort required, it is well worth growing gooseberries.

Did you know that the name gooseberry is supposed to come from a tart sauce that used to be served with roast goose. The French have a slightly different idea and they call these berries *groseilles à maquereau*, meaning mackerel berries. In this case they served gooseberry sauce with mackerel. In any case, as a delicious relish they go particularly well with any oily or fatty fish or meat. To make the sauce just simmer gooseberries with a little sugar, salt and pepper, optional extras to try in the mix are mustard, a splash of white wine, a pinch of ground ginger, a knob of butter or a little cream to taste.

Already in June you can pick some of the small berries and leave the remaining ones for a later picking. This first crop is ideal for the savoury sauces. Also, by thinning out the berries, you will encourage the remaining berries to grow bigger for a later crop. For jam making it is also better to avoid over ripe fruit. To collect the last of the berries you can harvest a little more easily by placing a canvas, plastic tarp, or old sheets under and around the gooseberry bush. Shake the branches to dislodge ripe (or almost ripe) berries. The most ripe berries are the sweetest for desserts such as gooseberry fool or crumble.

Allotment Cook Book

available in the shop or
contact

beas.shopmanager@outlook.com

**£7 for members
(RRP £8.95)**

