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Happy New Year Everyone!

We had our last social event of the year in December and the weather was kind to us for the Christmas Fair. The bacon rolls and hot chestnuts were welcome, as was the mulled wine and mince pies.

Thank you to everyone who helped and those who came along - it was really good to have a last get together before Christmas. As a bonus we raised over £200 between the raffle and the tombola so that was a welcome contribution to our finances.

2021 was a good year – a wet one so the Treasurer has been happy with the water bill! – but it became even better when we won the Trophy for the Best Allotment Site in Bournemouth. A good result as we have retained it now since 2016.



We held a Coffee morning in October and enjoyed delicious home made cakes and a chat, while raising funds for MacMillan Cancer Support. The heavy rain didn't keep you away and we raised a very welcome £340.

Looking forward to 2022, we hope to have a social committee in place from January who will organise a few things for the next 12 months. With any luck we will have one or two talks and activities in the Community area that will be

fun but also informative. So watch this space and we'll let you have a calendar of events as soon as we can.

We would also like to make stronger links with the local community and have been contacted by the Rainbow Project who are running a local initiative to get people to grow more produce in their gardens. [cont/.....](#)

Find us on social media :

beas.secretary@outlook.com

www.bournemoutheastallotmentsociety.co.uk

www.facebook.com/lingdaleplots

Twitter: @lingdaleplots

Please call this number for
emergencies or enquiries

07547 198289



..../cont In the last year they have funded 30 raised beds which people now have in their gardens on the Beaufort Estate behind the allotments. They are also involved in some projects with the local schools and have asked if any of our plotholders would be willing to help. If you are interested in sparing a few hours, then please contact me for more details.

We are looking at the practicalities of supporting the food bank and the local Soup Kitchen, Hope for Food. One of our tenants cooks for them once a week and it could be a good way to donate excess produce which most of us have from time to time.

Improving facilities across the site is always a priority and we are currently exploring funding opportunities for a defibrillator on site. Something we hope



will never be used but could prove life-saving if needed.

As always, I want to say a huge thank you to our willing band of volunteers, who we rely on to help us run the shop and the site – we can't do it without you. If anyone would like to find out more about the sort of help we need, both on a regular and ad-hoc basis, just give me a call.

In the meantime, I would like to wish you all a very happy (and productive!) New Year on the plots.

With very best wishes

A Volunteer Vacancy Site Maintenance Co-ordinator

There are regular maintenance jobs but also things that come up on an ad-hoc basis. We have people willing to do the jobs but need someone who can co-ordinate the volunteers and get involved when necessary. Basically, someone who keeps an eye on what needs to be done and when so that we keep up with the maintenance across the site.

If you think you can spare a few hours for this, please contact Linda at beas.chair@outlook.com

Allotment Competition 2021

We were pleased that the cross Bournemouth Allotment Competition was re-instated after a year's absence. Our plots were judged by Longbarrow and the Best Plot overall (of the 3 allotment sites involved) and the Best Allotment Site in Bournemouth were judged by Ed Alexander from BCP Council, who also sponsored the prizes.

The judging is based on variety of crops, condition of the plot and workmanship and each plot is looked at twice, in May and July. So congratulations to the winners and to everyone for the hard work involved.

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| 1 st Place | Dave & Linda Taylor | Plot 95 |
| 2 nd Place | Paul & Brigitte Duffy | Plot 5 |
| 3 rd Place | Andy & Narelle Froude | Plot 38A & 80B |
| 4 th Place | David & Pat Shelton | Plot 94B |

Our Best Newcomers this year were Simon Pennell & James Hughes of 92D

Best Allotment Site in Bournemouth

2016

2017

2018

2019

2020

And now

2021



And, of course, we are the **BEST ALLOTMENT SITE IN BOURNEMOUTH** for the 6th year running.

Shop News

Firstly, I would like to thank everyone for their continued support with the shop. I have enjoyed the lovely chats I've had with those who have popped in, and with the wonderful volunteers helping me by working in the shop. This year has been a huge learning curve for me as shop manager, I might even have got a few things right - LOL! But I would like to ask you if there is anything you would like to see being sold in the shop, which we do not yet have. I will be starting a NEW wish list ready for the new year so please let me know.

The shop is now closed for the winter period, BUT! If there is anything you wish to buy, then please email me at:- beas.shopmanager@outlook.com We can then work out a time that suits us both to pick up and pay either cash, cheque, or preferably BACS.

I will be letting everyone know once their seeds and potato seedlings are ready for collection.

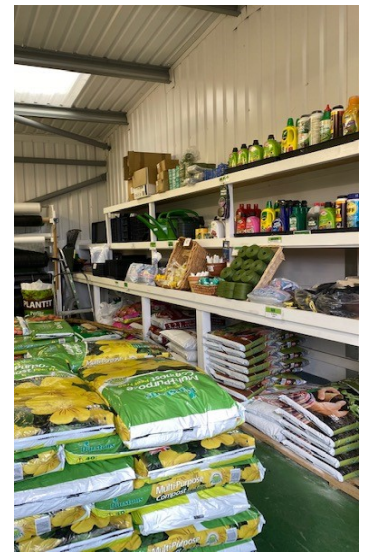
Please would you contact me (via my email address) if you can spare a couple of hours a month to help in the shop. The opening hours for 2022 are below.

All it leaves, is for me to wish everyone a wonderful New Year.

Annette (Shop Manager)

Shop Opening Times 2022

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Tuesday 10.00am – 11.00am | 11 th January to 22 nd November |
| Thursday 2.00pm – 3.00pm | 3 rd March to 25 th August |
| Saturday 10.00am – 12.00pm | 5 th March to 27 th August |
| Sunday 10.00am – 12.00pm | 16 th January to 27 th November |



A Warm Welcome to our New Members

Wow, it's been a busy time on the 'Member' front since the last Newsletter:

- 7 members have 'downsized' to a smaller plot
- 6 have 'upgraded' to a larger plot or changed plots
- 15 plots have become vacant with people leaving the society
- 21 plots were let to new tenants – a total of 38 new members

In the previous 10 months we had just 2 vacant plots to let and 2 tenancy changes, so the number of changes this year has meant a lot of paperwork! It has also meant, of course, a lot of plot inspections and surveys, sizing and re-sizing, re-definition of pathways, sheds to move, rubbish to get rid of, unwanted trees to 'cut down or up-root' and dispose of. Many thanks to the Site Team in particular, but also others who have assisted during this very busy time.

So, a very warm welcome to all our new members. We do hope that you are enjoying your first few weeks on your plots – we can see that a great deal of progress has already been made. There is some planting that can be done during the Autumn and Winter months but much is preparation and planning, looking forward to the next growing season. I do hope you will join in our social and charity events and get to know some of the more 'experienced' members. You might just bump into one or two of them in the communal area making some Bovril

Our waiting list has reduced a little as a result of these changes but still remains at 166 – unfortunately a long wait for some. Allotments are more popular in our area than ever but, of course, if eager would-be allotmenters don't join the waiting list they will never get to the top of it! Hopefully our new members will vouch that it is worth the wait.

David Taylor, Secretary

Report on the 2021 AGM

We didn't have a large gathering at the AGM but we did have enough to have a couple of interesting debates. But first things first, the old Committee stood down and the new Committee were voted in. We are now a group of 8 as John and Geraldine Pitcher decided that, after several years on the Committee, they would like to have a well deserved break. They have done a lot of work for the society in that time, both in terms of managing the plots and the site maintenance and they were a part of the project team that refurbished the Big Green Shed. So many thanks to them and lets hope the break is a short one. Thanks also go to Sarah D'Eath who spent a year as a co-opted member.

The Committee recommended that we have an addition to our bye laws limiting invasive plants. Of course it is up to the membership and after consid-

ering the advice from the National Allotment Society and discussing the comments received from members, the new by-law was voted on and accepted. The new bye-law is outlined below this report and a copy of the full bye-laws is on the website.

There were no changes to any of our policies this year and they were re-adopted by the AGM as currently written. Copies of all our policies are available in the shop and on our website.

A question was also raised by a member about bonfires and whether we should ban them completely in light of the COP26 and environmental issues. This was fully debated but it was felt that what we would save on not having bonfires would be outweighed by additional trips to the tip, and the difficulties it would give those with no transport. This issue will not be taken any further for the moment but it is a good time to remind those who do have bonfires that we must be mindful of our neighbours and follow the guidelines on our notice boards about bonfires.

The Treasurer and the Secretary have reported separately in this newsletter about the finance and the membership and you will have seen their reports in the AGM papers. Overall we feel we had a good year and we are still the best allotment site in Bournemouth!

New Addition to the By-laws

4.2.4 Invasive plants such as bamboo, all types of willow and fast growing conifers (including Christmas trees) are not permitted. If the invasive plants are not removed by the tenant then the tenancy will be terminated and plants removed at cost to the tenant (see clause 9.4.3 Termination of Tenancy)

Your New Committee for 2022

| | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| Chair | Linda Taylor | Plot 95 | 07881901729 | Beas.chair@outlook.com |
| Society Secretary | David Taylor | Plot 95 | 07766110660 | Beas.secretary@outlook.com |
| Treasurer | Hilary Sullivan | Plot 1 | 07837733709 | Beas.treasurer@outlook.com |
| Site Manager | Louisa Lindsey-Clark | Plot 20A | 07855117530 | Beas.louisa@outlook.com |
| Shop Manager | Annette Hawksworth | Plot 96B | 07795159822 | Beas.shopmanager@outlook.com |
| Assistant Site Manager | Andrew Dawson | Plot 103B | 07572469663 | Beas.asstsite manager@outlook.com |
| Communications Co-ordinator | Susannah Atif | Plot 56 | 07701079965 | Beas.communications@outlook.com |
| Community Links Co-ordinator | Clare McCarty-Brooker | Plot 58B | 07967145602 | Beas.clare@outlook.com |

We have vacancies for co-opted members if you are interested in joining us—please contact Linda on 07881901729 or email beas.chair@outlook.com

My Life as a Treasurer (so far!)

On the 3 May 1911 a Frederick and Herbert Moser of Sway sold six and a half acres to the Borough of Bournemouth for £6000. Part of the agreement for the sale was that part of it would be used for the cultivation of allotments. I have yet to establish when the allotments were first cultivated but the first map I have found was published in 1924 and shows the allotments were already in existence.



Our grateful thanks should go to the original allotmenters, Mr E C Chandler, the original secretary and seven others who formed the Bournemouth East Allotment Society Limited and registered it with the Friendly Society (now the FCA) on the 13th November 1935, which was the start of us being a self managed site.

I took over as treasurer in 2005 and the earliest accounts for the Society I can find are for year ending 31st October 1991. This shows that we made a profit in the shop of £379 and collected rent of £805. We paid rent of £360 to the Council and with maintenance and repairs of £921 and other expenses we made a loss of £550 that year.

In the following 3 years, mainly due to changing the way we calculated the cost of stock at end of year and costs of clearing the site ready for the new amenities built in 2007 we made further losses. In 2007 our balance carried forward was only £6130. Currently it is £30,846. Therefore the difference between 2007 and 2021 (14 years) is £24,716 and we also have a reserve of £14,000.

So you can see that the Society is currently in a healthy financial position and we are building up a reserve fund to cover the cost of any general maintenance or major repairs or other improvements we might need to carry out in future years. Our accountants have recommended that our reserve should be higher than this but we are happy with the progress we are making. This has been

achieved through the income from shop profits and fund raising – we would still be in a loss making position if we relied solely on the rents collected so we are very grateful to the volunteers who make this happen.

It should be noted that the membership previously agreed that we could raise the rents annually by the rate of inflation although we assess each year whether we need to recommend any additional increases. With increased costs we can't rule this out in the future but our aim, as a Committee, is to keep the rents at an affordable level.

We have also been fortunate that, in 2005, the Council sold surplus land at North Bournemouth Allotment and allocated part of the revenue to us so we were able to have a new shop and storage, new fencing and a water supply, things we could never have afforded on our own.

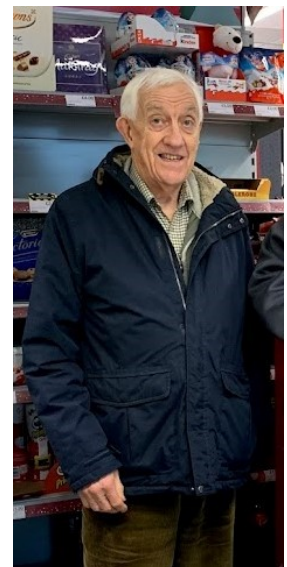
Committee volunteers are also key to our success. In 2012 Lynda Clarke joined the committee and remained for 8 years. She introduced policies to make sure we met current legislation e.g. Health and Safety, Data Protection etc which we are required to do.

We are fortunate, at the time of writing to have a strong committee, led by our Chair Person Linda Taylor and David Taylor our Secretary but we are always looking for new blood and new ideas to carry the Society forward. This is your Society so it is important that we have good representation from across both sites. If you would like to come along to a Committee Meeting as a guest to see what being a Committee Member is all about, just let us know.

Thank You!

This is a good opportunity to say a big thank you to Hilary for the many years he has spent as Treasurer and for keeping us in order financially.

We couldn't have done it without you, Hilary!



Seasonal tips—The allotment in winter

So far the winter has been mild but we can still expect some frosty weather in January and February. Here are a few tips overheard on the plots on how our plotholders protect their plants during winter.

Frost hardy plants

There are several crops which will survive well over the colder periods and can provide fresh produce throughout the winter months. Start planning now to plant crops that will survive next winter.

- Brussels sprouts, kale, leeks, Savoy and other winter cabbages, parsnips, sprouting broccoli.
- Broad beans or early peas planted any time from November will survive the winter and start developing at the first sign of spring to get an extra early crop.

Protection from the frost

There are several things you can grow with no protection at all, but a bit of extra help is always useful for some and can speed up the growing season so you get an early start.

- Make good use of cold frames or even a raised bed with a temporary cover of a plastic sheet (for example).
- Use black plastic ground cover to exclude light and help prevent weeds from growing. This will also serve to warm up the ground and then when you are ready to plant out in the spring just plant through holes in the ground cover.
- Mulch is always good too, as it releases nutrients into the ground, helps suppress weeds and retains moisture
- Use bubble wrap, miniature cloches made from lemonade bottles or any other suitable protective covering you have available.

Wood chip

Woodchip is a useful ground cover, but fresh woodchip should not be put directly onto soil as it robs the soil of nitrogen as it decomposes. Stack the wood chip until well rotted and converted into dark humus peat like material

The smaller the wood chips the faster they break down. However, there is no need for accelerators as natural fungi do the job. When broken down worms will draw the decomposed woodchip into the soil and this will increase the water holding potential and improve soil structure.



Site news

Please remember to clean out water butts that you use before the water is switched back on. This is important not only for the general maintenance of the equipment but also to prevent spreading pests on your seedlings when you start to water in the spring.

Dates of Spring plot inspections

Between 13th and 18th January

Between 17th and 22nd February

Between 24th and 29th March

Between 28th April and 3rd April

Advice please?

One of our plotholders would like recommendations about what to spray for earwigs on apple trees? Please send any tips or advice to Beas.communications@outlook.com

Climate Change – what can we do?

I am sure the COP26 Conference made us all think about how we could contribute to addressing the climate change issue. Sometimes we feel that our personal contribution would be so small that it wouldn't count. However, combining many small drops soon make a puddle and then a pool and before we know it we have a lake that makes a significant difference! We would like to highlight something in each edition of the newsletter that could support the environment, whether it is ideas on recycling or re-using or doing something different. To start us off we have a contribution from Gemma on Plot 32B. Let us have your ideas and we will publish them here. Email beas.chair@outlook.com

Hügelkultur - Part of the Solution?

We all understand the value of composting, at home and on site, to collect and recycle material that can add nutrients and water retentive organic material back to our plots. The bulkier waste seems like more of a problem. It takes up valuable space and is slow to break down. But what if we bury it?

Wikipedia tells us that "Hügelkultur is a horticultural technique where a mound constructed from decaying wood debris and other compostable biomass plant materials is later (or immediately) planted as a raised bed. Adopted by permaculture advocates, it is suggested the technique helps to improve soil fertility, water retention, and soil warming, thus benefiting plants grown on or near such mounds."

Trench composting is widely used on allotments. Where bean crops are planned, for example, many people will dig a trench a few months in advance and layer up weeds and vegetable waste, which is then buried before planting. Sticks and rotting wood can also be added to this, as in Hügelkultur, to help deal with woody waste that takes longer to decompose, therefore extending the period over which new nutrients are added.

These are centuries old techniques and have many benefits for the eco-conscious allotmenter. Burning waste has been the traditional way for many people to deal with excess debris that accumulates on our plots each year, but many are concerned with the release of excess carbon into the atmosphere. However if bonfires are banned it may mean that some tenants decide to deal with waste by taking extra trips to the dump to dispose of it, burning petrol instead.

The benefits mentioned above, are practical considerations and of obvious value to those want to try these methods. Additionally, there is the advantage to the environment of sequestering carbon. The organic "waste" that has been produced by our plants, exists because they have worked hard over the year to gather up carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. This natural biological process is the means by which our planet became suitable for the evolution of life as we know it.

The disadvantages would be the inconvenience of the time taken to learn and implement a new technique, allocation of space and maybe the potential of later digging up pieces that are not fully composted. For me the pros definitely outweigh the cons, and although it may seem like a drop in the ocean in the grand scheme of things, I prefer to feel like I am a small part of the solution.

Gemma, Plot 32B

This is an idea that takes trench composting a bit further and may not be suitable, in its pure form, for all plots (or Plot holders!), but this link gives more information about how it could be used practically and some more thoughts on the pros and cons. <https://www.gardenmyths.com/hugelkultur-gardening-hugelkultur-raised-beds/>



On site as elsewhere—please remember to be extremely vigilant about COVID-19 precautions

HANDS FACE SPACE

RECIPE

If you grow herbs on your allotment, you may usually use them in savoury dishes but here is different use of your fennel seeds to make delicious fragrant biscuits.

INGREDIENTS

- ♦ 50g Caster sugar,
- ♦ 100g Unsalted butter, softened
- ♦ 150g Plain flour
- ♦ 1 Unwaxed lemon, finely grated zest
- ♦ ½ tsp Fennel seeds, toasted

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Put the sugar and butter in a mixing bowl and cream together until pale and fluffy.
2. Sieve the flour with a pinch of salt and mix with the butter and sugar.
3. Gently mix in the lemon zest and the fennel seeds to form a soft dough.
4. wrap in clingfilm and chill for 2 hours.
5. Preheat the oven to 170°C/gas 3.
6. Lightly flour the working surface and roll out the dough to about 5mm thick. Cut out rounds using a 4 cm cookie cutter
7. Bake for 15–20 minutes or until pale golden. They will become crisp on cooling.

They will keep in an airtight container for up to 4 days.

For variety try using rosemary instead of the fennel seeds.



Allotment Cook Book,

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

Contact beas.shopmanager@outlook.com



Thank you to Andrew of Plot 103B for sending in this reminder of pre fast food days

Eating in the 50s

1. Pasta was not eaten
2. Curry was a surname
3. A takeaway was a mathematical problem
4. Pizza was something to do with a leaning tower
5. Crisps were plain, the only choice we had was whether to put the salt on or not
6. Rice was only eaten as a milk pudding
7. A Big Mac was what we wore when it was raining
8. Brown bread was something only poor people ate
9. Oil was for lubricating, fat was for cooking
10. Tea was made in a teapot and never green
11. Sugar enjoyed a good press in those days, and was regarded as being white gold. Cubed sugar was regarded as posh
12. Fish didn't have fingers
13. Eating raw fish was called poverty, not sushi
14. None of us had ever heard of yoghurt
15. Healthy food consisted of anything edible
16. People who didn't peel potatoes were regarded as lazy
17. Indian restaurants were only found in India
18. Cooking outside was called camping
19. Seaweed was not a recognised food
20. "Kebab" was not even a word, never mind a food
21. Prunes were medicinal
22. Surprisingly muesli was readily available and it was called cattle feed
23. Water came out of the tap. If someone had suggested bottling it and charging more than petrol for it, they would have become a laughing stock!
24. And the things that we never had on our table in