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Any enquiries,  
please call

**07766110660**

or email

[beas.secretary@outlook.com](mailto:beas.secretary@outlook.com)



*Wishing all our members a very Happy Christmas  
and an excellent growing year for 2023!*

**MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR**

2022 has proven to be an eventful year with many changes. Among the positives has been getting to know all the new members we have welcomed, but this has been counterbalanced by sad losses reported over the year. In addition, family and work circumstances have meant that a number of familiar faces have had to give up their plots while others have down-sized to make things more manageable.

We have been pleased to embark on new initiatives for our community; this is an aspect that we would love to develop further, so do let us know if you have any bright ideas.

After a good run of retaining the Federation Allotment trophy for the Best Site, we lost out to North Bournemouth this year. However, we were pleased to let them enjoy their win—the first one in 15 years! N.B. we aim to regain the title next year.

**NEWS FROM THE SW REGION**

Our Chair has stood down as Secretary for the SW and taken the role of Chair.

Further talks via Zoom are:

**Wednesday 11th**

**January: Quality Compost**  
by Rod Weston (King of Composting!)

**Wednesday 22nd**

**February: Grounded Community**—Michael French (Charity Co-ordinator ) will talk about the work of this organisation that started in Boscombe



[www.bournemoutheastallotmentsociety.co.uk](http://www.bournemoutheastallotmentsociety.co.uk)

[www.facebook.com/lingdaleplots](https://www.facebook.com/lingdaleplots)

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

# Report on the 2022 AGM

We were pleased to see 25 of our Members attend the AGM on a very cold Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December.

As is always the case, following the Chair's welcome and opening words, the old Committee stood down and the new Committee was voted in. We are now a group of 10 as John and Geraldine Pitcher have joined the former group of 8.

A list of the new Committee and our contact details will shortly be on the noticeboards, on the Website and are shown in this newsletter.

The Members approved the minutes of the last AGM and then received the Secretary's Report and the Treasurer's Report. The Annual Accounts were accepted by the members and everyone was pleased to hear that the Treasurer is not recommending an increase in rents – yet. The reports will shortly be available to view on the website.

Both the Secretary and Treasurer emphasised strongly the importance of members continuing to support the shop, the social events and the open morning. It is the income from these sources, and the generous donations we receive from Members, which enable us to keep the rents as low as they are. They also stressed the need for more involvement from the Membership in taking roles, or preparing to take roles, on the Committee. None of us are getting any younger and some have been on the Committee for a long time. New blood is required to keep the Society vibrant, compliant and viable. Please let me know if you have any

particular skills or interest in a committee role. We would love to hear from you.

As always, we are very dependant on our volunteers to help in the shop and at the various events – as well as helping to maintain the site, doing the odd repairs and in helping those who need it. We are very grateful for the help we receive from both Members and Associate Members, some of whom play an important part in running and maintaining the site.

The Members approved some minor amendments to the Finance and Health & Safety Policies and accepted that no changes were necessary to the IT Policy. All policy documents are available to view on our website or on request to the Secretary.

Our congratulations to the winners of our Annual Allotment Competition – details were in the last Newsletter. Unfortunately, none of the winners were at the AGM to receive their trophies.

We are looking forward to an exciting 2023 with several initiatives and projects in the pipeline as well as a full social schedule, including a return of the 'Bacon Butty Sundays'. More about the social events in the Spring.

It just remains for me to say thank you to those who attended the AGM, those who were unable to attend but sent apologies and to all our Members who actively support our Society during the year AND to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful, prosperous and healthy New Year.

**David Taylor**  
Secretary, BEAS

## Committee for 2023

|                                     |                              |           |             |                                   |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Chair</b>                        | <b>Lynda Clarke</b>          | Plot 101  | 07734401932 | Beas.chair@outlook.com            |
| <b>Society Secretary</b>            | <b>David Taylor</b>          | Plot 95   | 07766110660 | Beas.secretary@outlook.com        |
| <b>Treasurer</b>                    | <b>Hilary Sullivan</b>       | Plot 1    | 07837733709 | Beas.treasurer@outlook.com        |
| <b>Site Manager</b>                 | <b>Louisa Lindsey-Clark</b>  | Plot 20A  | 07855117530 | Beas.louisa@outlook.com           |
| <b>Shop Manager</b>                 | <b>Peter Clarke</b>          | Plot 101  | 07528410775 | Beas.shopmanager@outlook.com      |
| <b>Assistant Site Manager</b>       | <b>Andrew Dawson</b>         | Plot 103B | 07572469663 | Beas.asstsite manager@outlook.com |
| <b>Communications Co-ordinator</b>  | <b>Susannah Atif</b>         | Plot 56   | 07701079965 | Beas.communications@outlook.com   |
| <b>Community Links Co-ordinator</b> | <b>Clare McCarty-Brooker</b> | Plot 58B  | 07967145602 | Beas.clare@outlook.com            |
| <b>Committee Member</b>             | <b>John Pitcher</b>          | Plot 39   | 07813312613 | Beas.johnP@outlook.com            |
| <b>Committee Member</b>             | <b>Geraldine Pitcher</b>     | Plot 39   |             | Beas.geraldine@outlook.com        |

## Shop News

Firstly, many thanks to all of you who have supported the shop this year, helping us raise over £1,600 profit which helps us offset our rental payments. Without this we might all have to pay another £15 per annum for a full plot.



collected. If you have not already done so, please contact me on 07528 410775 or email [beas.shopmanager@outlook.com](mailto:beas.shopmanager@outlook.com) to make arrangements to do so. I shall be re-stocking the racks in the shop over the closed period so that, if you have not pre-ordered, you can come and make your selection in the New Year.

The shop is now closed for the winter. We shall re-open on Sunday 22nd January and expect the seed potatoes some time in the following week, so they should be sorted and available for collection on the 29th January. The delivery date is very dependent on the weather, so please watch our website for any changes to the collection date. Potatoes should be collected promptly; they don't keep well in the cold.

We have already received our seed order for this year and most of the pre-orders have been

If you are unable to make it to the shop during our opening hours, then don't forget that we still have our "Click & Collect/Deliver" service available. This is something that we started during the first lockdown in 2020 and has proved of benefit to many members. You can order by phone or email, pay by online transfer and arrange to either collect the items at a mutually convenient time or have them delivered to your plot.

As ever, if there is anything that you think we could successfully stock please let us know and we'll try to source it for you.

## CHRISTMAS SOCIAL



This was held on Saturday 3rd December 2022, on a rather chilly morning! It was a great morning and we would like to thank the good number of you who came along! It was particularly good to see several Associate Members and a few who are on our Plot Waiting List. It was great to catch up with members of the 'Art in Nature' group who along with others, formed a weekly art group using the Shed this year (see more updates on this group on the next page).



We enjoyed roasted chestnuts, mulled wine, hot drinks and mince pies! Further details to follow but the longer term plan is to successfully secure at least one defibrillator on site. This social event was the start to our fundraising to make this happen.

Thank you to those who generously supported our Christmas raffle and the many 'helpers' for their time and efforts!



Please look out for further BEAS Social events during 2023! It's a great opportunity to meet others!

## Art and activities in the Big Green Shed

Throughout the last year there have been several very successful events on our site. One inspiring development is the opportunity for members to express the inspiration they get from being in nature during artistic and creative sessions. See below the hand written celebration of art at BEAS Allotments Open Day. Subsequent to this, the art group has continued to meet regularly. There will be a break over Christmas and while it is cold in the Big Green Shed, but keep an eye on social media and the noticeboard for sessions in the new year.



### Celebration of Art at BEAS Allotments Open Day, July 2022

*On 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2022 we celebrated the Art we've been doing in the Big Green Shed*

*People were invited to draw on a long piece of paper. Children and adults added images of insects, produce, flowers, weather, gardeners and even flower pot men.*

*The inspiration was a free course promoted by the BEAS Allotments and led by local artist Lisa Black.*

*She instructed us on techniques such as using plant dye, cyanotype prints and journaling.*

*We recommend you look out for more brilliant free courses in the Big Green Shed.*



### Spotted on the plots:

Found on his way to the main road, some passers by managed to coax this hedgehog back to our site. Once he got back inside the gate he ran off at great speed and here he is just about to disappear under the container by the shop! This is great news for our plots as I'm sure he will have a great feast on caterpillars and slugs.

Did you know that a group of hedgehogs is known as a 'prickle'?!

# An Exciting New Addition to our Social Calendar for 2023

Following on from our own allotment cook book, to celebrate the diversity of our large membership, and to create a greater sense of community, one of our members has suggested an international meal next year.

The concept is for members to prepare a dish from their family's country of origin (or region in the UK) to contribute to a buffet lunch. It would be brilliant, but not essential, if at least one of the ingredients could have been grown on their plot and so this is early notice to sow the required seed in the spring! The committee love this creative idea and hope that many will offer to cook and even more will come to eat and socialise.

There will be more details in future communications, but it's not too early to express your willingness to take part to our Chair on [chair.beas@outlook.com](mailto:chair.beas@outlook.com) or on 07734 401932.

We would like this to be our biggest social event yet.



## Allotment Cook Book

available in the shop or contact

[beas.shopmanager@outlook.com](mailto:beas.shopmanager@outlook.com)

**£7 for members (RRP £8.95)**

## The King of the Onions!!



Earlier this year David (aka Dog Fox Francis) on plot 80AA achieved success and admiration for his magnificent crop of onions.

He has now amazed all his plot neighbours with more giant produce...

He's now the Red Cabbage King!

*Well done David.*



Perhaps the allotment calendar tips shown on this page will help the rest of us compete!

## ALLOTMENT CALENDAR

Hoe, hoe, hoe those pesky little weeds, all year!!!

### JANUARY

- ⇒ Plan your plot. Buy any seeds
- ⇒ Dig bean trenches, if possible
- ⇒ Finish harvesting cabbages, carrots, sprouts, parsnips etc.
- ⇒ Check any protected veg and ventilate, on sunny days!
- ⇒ Start chitting potatoes
- ⇒ Clean tools
- ⇒ Tidy shed/greenhouse
- ⇒ Prune fruit trees (Plum in February)
- ⇒ Sow indoors broad beans, carrots, onions, tomatoes.

### FEBRUARY

*DON'T PLANT OUT TOO EARLY!*

- ⇒ Sow, broad beans, carrots, chard, leeks, lettuce, onion, parsnips, peas, radishes, spinach, turnips.
- ⇒ Plant out early potatoes (if ground is sufficiently warm), onion sets, fruit trees & bushes

### MARCH

- ⇒ Sow, as February plus, beetroot, broccoli, cabbages, kale, sprouts

## Dahlias



You may have noticed a blaze of colour at the rear of the main allotment site during the last few months.

The dahlias there are the main attraction and are the pride and joy of Bryan Madders who

has grown them for many years and is a National Dahlia Society judge.

As well as growing for pleasure he has been trying to introduce new varieties from seed collected from his plants, with some success over the years. He is particularly pleased with a red collarette type named after his daughter Melanie Louise which has not only won a first prize at the national show at



Wisley but has for the first time been included in the society's classification guide, providing not only a first for him, but for this allotment.

More seedlings are on the way, with some optimism that they will be good enough to provide more pleasure in the future.



## SPENT COFFEE GROUNDS

You may have noticed giant bags of coffee grounds in the chipping bay opposite the Big Green Shed. There is a wealth of conflicting information on the Web about the use of coffee grounds in gardening. Cutting through it all, these are the conclusions!

Useful in compost, when mixed with other 'ingredients'. Contains nitrogen and other beneficial elements. Has a roughly neutral pH. Compost worms appear to love it, but worms in the soil don't like it neat.

The spent grounds will bind together like clay soil and act as a barrier to water and smother the ground. Also may still contain caffeine which appears to stunt seedlings growth. Useful if wanting to apply neat as a mulch to suppress weeds where the ground is 'resting'. Not recommended around trees/bushes as they starve the roots of water and nutrients.

Unfortunately, doesn't appear to deter slugs. Could be attractive, but poisonous, to dogs.



## WINTER JOBS

### BOUNDARY PATHS

Plot Holders with plots that are next to the external boundaries of the site must ensure that there is a clear path of at least 300mm/2ft at all times. The path **MUST** be clear of sheds, brambles, plants, bushes, compost bins, rubbish, wheelbarrows etc. to provide a clear access. This is a requirement of our Landlords, the Council.

An incident occurred in November 2022, and access was required, but we were not easily able to respond to the Council's requests as the path was blocked in a number of places.

If your plot borders an external boundary, please take some time this winter to ensure that the 2ft (60cm) clearance for access is maintained. Some existing sheds and compost heaps have historically been sited too close to the boundary, and we normally ask for these to be moved when a plot changes hands. However, please be aware that the council may require them to be moved for access to maintain/replace the fence/wall at any point.

**GRASS PATHS AROUND PLOTS** - It is your responsibility to maintain the grass paths around your plot. The grass must be regularly cut, and is a job to be shared with your neighbours. The paths must also be kept weed free and trimmed along the edge. The side access paths should be 300mm/2ft wide, but many seem to creep into the plot. The winter is a good time to straighten up the edges - the Site Manager can remark the boundaries if needed. Just ask!

A kindly volunteer cuts the main drives, but the 300mm/2ft edges to the drive, as well as side paths are individual plot holders responsibility.

**Putting grass turves** in the ruts in the drive is helpful, but please don't put bonfire ash, gravel or the like on the grass drives because it prevents the grass from re-growing next spring.

**Access to the Site in Winter** - When the weather is very wet, please avoid taking vehicles onto the site as the grass paths very quickly become damaged with deep ruts. Main gates are locked if paths are water-logged.

**Keys**—the Big Green Shed remains accessible to all members even when the shop is closed during the winter. Your key to the main gate also opens the door to the community area where you can shelter or make a hot drink.

### TREES

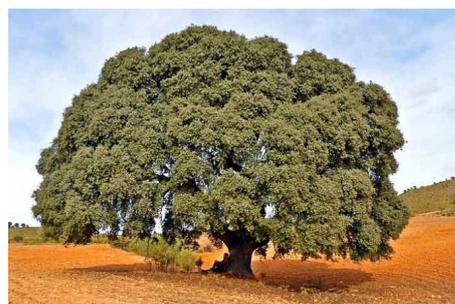
Trees on plots must be fruit bearing, and growing on dwarf rootstock. There are a number of trees that are shading the crops on adjacent plots, and overhanging some paths.

Generally it is expected that any tree is pruned, at least annually, and kept below 3m/10ft in height. Spring is the best time to prune most fruit trees.

Please look out for self set **Holm Oak** trees (also called 'holly leaved oak' / *Quercus Ilex*), as we have spotted a number around the site recently.

They should be removed – dug out - as they grow to an enormous evergreen dome more than 20m tall!

If you are in any doubt as to what a tree or bush on your plot might be, please email a photo and we'll try to help.



### 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](mailto:beas.sitemanager@outlook.com)

Dates of the 8 plot inspections 2023

- ⇒ Between Mon 6 and Friday 13 Feb
- ⇒ Between Mon 13 and Friday 17 March
- ⇒ Between Mon 17 and Friday 21 April
- ⇒ Between Mon 29 May and Friday 2 June
- ⇒ 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

# RECIPES—ROAST PUMPKIN AND SPINACH LAYER

A delicious allotment treat fit for a festive table.



- 750 g pumpkin or butternut squash peeled, deseeded and cut into 1cm slices
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 500 g spinach
- 1 tbsp butter
- Grated nutmeg
- 6 fresh lasagne sheets
- 100 g parmesan cheese

## 1 Roast Pumpkin

Heat oven to 200c  
Coat the pumpkin ( or squash)  
in oil and season  
roast until tender

## 2 Make tomato sauce

soften onion in the oil  
add celery and garlic  
cook for one minute  
add tomato and sugar leave to simmer  
season to taste

### For the tomato sauce

- 1 medium onion chopped
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 celery stick chopped
- 2 garlic cloves chopped
- 1 can tomatoes
- 1tsp sugar

## 3 Cook spinach

wilt spinach gently in covered pan for about 4 minutes  
chop spinach and add butter, season with salt pepper and  
grated nutmeg

## 4 Make Bechamel sauce

bring the milk to the boil with peppercorns , onion and Bay  
leaf, strain and set aside

in another pan put flour and butter heat gently then add the  
milk whisking all the time until you have a thick smooth  
sauce

### For the Bechamel sauce

- 500 ml milk
- pepper corns
- 1/2 onion
- 1 bay leaf
- 50 g plain flour
- 50 g butter

## 5 Assemble the lasagne

in a large baking dish put a layer of pumpkin followed by a  
layer of tomato sauce, lay sheets of lasagne on top, then a  
layer of bechamel followed by a scattering of spinach and  
half the cheese, continue layering and finish with a final  
layer of bechamel sauce, then sprinkle the remaining cheese  
over the top and bake for 40 mins or until golden and  
bubbling

An excellent accompaniment to this dish is :

## SWEET POTATO AND ORANGE MASH WITH SAGE BUTTER DRIZZLE

- 4 sweet potatoes cut into chunks
- 1 tsp olive oil
- 1 tbsp orange juice

Pinch orange zest

- 1 tbsp. butter
- 4 sage leaves chopped

Boil potatoes until tender, drain, mash with oil,  
orange juice and zest. Add seasoning. Melt butter  
with sage until it foams and bubbles. Small brown  
spots will appear in the butter. Pour over mash  
and serve.