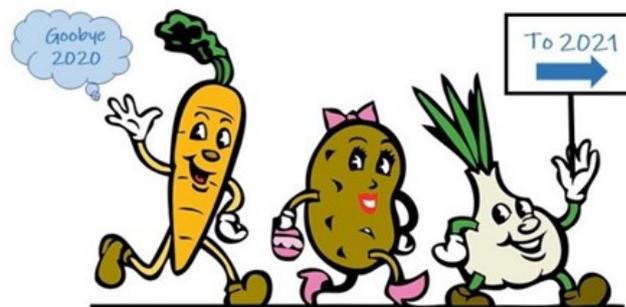


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A Happy New Year

We will all have had our own reflections of 2020 as it came to an end but 'What a strange year' seems to be one of the most common comments to be heard!



'We have been so lucky' is another comment I hear frequently around the plots and there is no doubt we have. If we ignore the lack of toilets and the limited socialising, we have been able to dig, plant, grow and harvest pretty much as normal. The weather was kind to us most of the year and our plots have benefited from some extra attention.

I think everyone adapted well to the different circumstances and we are grateful for those who have continued to buy from the shop using the Click and Collect system. The maintenance still needed to be done and thanks to the volunteers who have continued to support us with that, particularly Ray Chilcott who keeps the driveway grass cut and looking tidy.

Our latest new experience was the AGM held via Zoom (something else we have all become more familiar with!) I hope those who attended found it beneficial and we were able to move business forward and vote in the Committee for 2020/2021. As we work our way through 2021 I am sure things will start to return to something resembling 'normal' and we will be able to meet face to face again. We will also resurrect our plans, put on hold this year, for a dedicated Social Committee.

As I write, we are now in Tier 4 so we may have to defer our plans to re-open the shop at the end of January but we will keep you posted.

Continued on P2/.....

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

...../continued from P1

We did not have the usual opportunity for questions from the floor at this year's AGM. However, if there is anything that you would like to raise with the Committee, please just let me know and I will make sure that it is discussed and that you receive a reply. My contact details are below.

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to wish you a very happy new year for 2021 and hope you continue to stay safe and well.

Linda Taylor - Chair
beas.chair@outlook.com
07881901729

Let's say Thank You to

As you are all aware, Lynda and Peter Clarke stood down from the Committee this year after 10 years and 9 years respectively. They have both been very familiar faces to you over the years. Lynda would have been one of the first people you would have met as a new plot holder when you 'signed up' as she has managed our (ever growing!) waiting lists and tenancies. As well as being the face of the Society, she has been brilliant at making sure we are administratively sound and have up to date policies and procedures in place.

I am sure you have all appreciated Peter's time as Shop Manager and being able to have a local supply of those essential items for the plot. We have certainly been grateful for the many hours spent ordering stock, arranging deliveries, organising the shop volunteers and, in the past year, running the successful click and collect service.

We can't underestimate the time and effort that Lynda and Peter have volunteered to the society over the years and the contribution they have made. So a huge thank you to both of them on behalf of the Committee and all the Members of BEAS.



Happy New Year to all our Members and Associate Members. As many of you already know, Lynda Clarke has stepped down as our Secretary after

many years of loyal service and I would like to take this opportunity to thank her, on everyone's behalf, for all she has done for our Society.

It falls to me, as Lynda's replacement, to build on what she has established and to maintain the reputation of BEAS as a well organised and structured Society. The Secretary's email address remains the same and my phone number is published on the list of Committee Members so if you have any ideas or suggestions to enable us to further improve what we do, I would be pleased to hear from you. I look forward to working with our new Committee and all of our members in 2021 and beyond and am particularly keen to see the shop (communal area and toilets) re-open, our social events restart and the community spirit we all enjoyed before Covid struck to re-emerge with a new energy. Did I mention Covid? Sorry, I was determined not to.

Keep safe, keep healthy and keep smiling.

Dave Taylor

Let's welcome back

The Committee welcomes Louisa Lyndsey Clark (20A) and Andrew Dawson (85A & 103B) this year. Both are returning committee members so should know what they are letting themselves in for!

This brings our team of Committee Members back to 10 and we look forward to working together in managing the Society during 2021 which, we hope, will see us returning to some of our 'normal' activities across the site

Louisa is a long-standing member of BEAS. Having an allotment is in her blood – both her grandparents and her parents had allotments so it was always a family thing and one that she wanted to continue. Louisa was on the committee for a couple of years until the birth of her second child in 2007. Life was, understandably, a bit hectic at that time so she stepped away for a while. However, Louisa's passion for the allotment is still there and she now feels she has the time to contribute a bit more to the Society through being a committee member again.

Louisa runs a Theatre Group which visits local schools. However, she was quick to point out she leaves the acting to her husband (and co plot-holder) while she makes the props and costumes. Louisa is particularly interested in encouraging families and children to be part of allotment life. Her favourite thing to grow is asparagus and that she is a dab hand at making rhubarb wine.

Andrew, for personal reasons, had some time out from the Committee last year but we are very glad to see him back as part of the team. However, many of you will know that he continued to support the Society as Assistant Site Manager and advisor on health and safety issues so he was never far away!





And a new Committee Member

Welcome to Sarah D'Eath who has been voted in as a co-opted Committee Member. Many of you will know Sarah as she has been a plot holder for 14 years and is co-author of the BEAS Cook Book. We have chatted to (nagged!) her on numerous occasions about joining the Committee and she has finally given in! Welcome, Sarah

Shop News

GOODBYE from Pete

"Since I took over as Shop Manager from Joan Richards, at the end of 2013, I have striven to provide the service and items that you, as members, need in order to maintain your plots and grow the fruit & veg that we all love. It has been a privilege to do so. I must give my sincere thanks to those who have volunteered to help out in the shop, especially on cold, wet days when we have had few customers; also my thanks to the willing few who have turned out on Sunday mornings to help unload our compost deliveries – we couldn't do it without you and I trust that you will all continue to assist in the future as I hand over to Annette.

This strange year has seen the introduction of our "Click & Collect/Deliver" service while the shop has been closed. Thanks to all who have used this service which has contributed to the £1,264 profit to the society funds this year, only about £300 less than last year. I am fortunate in being retired and therefore available most days to provide for your needs. Please be patient with Annette as she takes over as she is still working and may not be able to be quite so prompt!

We have decided, given the amount of wastage this year, that we shall not be buying any further onions, shallots or garlic for sale in the spring. We still have plenty in the shop, for autumn planting, so if you were planning to get some in the spring I suggest that you order now and get them in the ground.

Thank you all again and I shall continue to see you around the site.

Peter"



and HELLO from Annette

"Hello everyone, my name is Annette, and I will be taking over from Peter, and running the shop as from the New Year.

I am sure that I will have some rather large shoes to fill, with all that Peter (as well as the rest of the committee) has done to keep going, especially with the many challenges this year has thrown at us all.

I am very excited to be running the shop, and hope that you will all be a little patient with me as there are many strings which I will need to learn about.

If I am not in the shop then most weekends you will find me on my plot(96b).

I look forward to meeting you when we are able to open the shop, and wish you all a Happy New Year .

Best wishes

Annette Hawksworth

Associate Members

Associate members are welcome to use our click and collect service. Please do access our website for information and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Clare, the Associate Member Secretary, on beas.amsecretary@outlook.com.

The shop will re-open as soon as Covid –19 safety permits

Getting ready for 2021

January can be a quietish month although on the good days we can be doing a bit of maintenance around the plot and thinking about what and where we are going to grow our crops this year. As we get into February, we need to do a bit more planning and 'doing'. With spring around the corner, this is the ideal time to prepare your allotment for the growing season to come. So here are just a few jobs for February and March to get you started!



Sow Broad Beans

We planted broad beans in the autumn and they are already growing well.

However, if you plant them later, now is a good time to sow them indoors. Sow in deep pots or modules and place in a cool, frost free location. An unheated greenhouse or cold frame is perfect.

Harvest the last Kale Leaves:

I love the winter-hardy Kale and in February you can still find new side shoots which can be cropped for a few weeks before the plant goes to seed.

Pick Mizuna or sow some now!

If you sowed mizuna, rocket and winter lettuce in the autumn it should be ready now. If you didn't you can sow some in February in the greenhouse – they should do well in the low-light and cool weather conditions.

Prepare beds for sowing

This is the most important job in February, before sowing begins in the spring. Digging now helps you to aerate, drain and warm the soil and you can add plenty of homemade compost or composted manure. An alternative is to cover the beds in organic matter and cover in plastic for a few weeks to reduce weeds and warm the soil.

Plant Rhubarb

Now is a good time to plant rhubarb. An open position where plenty of compost has been dug into the soil is best. Plant the crowns so that the buds are level with the soil surface and water well. Let new plants establish for 2 years before harvesting.

Autumn Raspberries need Pruning

Prune old canes hard back to the ground to allow new shoots to come through between them without being damaged. This is also the time to plant new canes.

Weed your plot

As we reach March it is a busy time on the allotment – the days are lengthening and getting warmer, and the growing season is just beginning. Weeding is an important job in early spring. If you get on top of it now, it will save a lot of work later in the year. So dig out problem weeds, especially the perennial weeds. Hoe regularly to get rid of the annual weed seedlings.

Encourage early crops

Cover beds with cloches or black plastic to warm the soil for early sowings. Cover a row or two of your strawberries with cloches to try for an early crop. You can force rhubarb too by covering it with an upturned bin or bucket.

Sow Seeds

Spring is a time of new beginnings and there is nothing better than seeing your seeds begin to grow. So start by sowing beetroot, broad beans, salads and Swiss chard – they can all go into well-prepared soil. If the soil is warm enough you can also make early sowings of carrots, peas, spinach and radishes. Aubergines, chillies, peppers and tomatoes can all be started off under cover.

Get Planting

And don't forget, March is the last month for planting out bare-root fruit trees and bushes as well as bare root strawberry runners, asparagus crowns, garlic, shallots and onion sets.

Who said that winter is a quiet time at the allotment! Enjoy a prosperous (and better) 2021 and a fabulous growing season.

The results are in ...

PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

RESULTS



Thank you to all those who entered the Photo Competition.

We asked for photos of anything that made you smile over the summer, whether it was a funny shaped vegetable, tallest sunflower or the most peas in a pod.

The winner was Pauline Atkinson of Plot 62D with 'Almost Human'. We have also published a couple of the others that we received, and all will be put up in the Community area when we are open.



An alternative use for sprouts



In 2014 a guy called Stuart Kettle came up with an idea for raising money for charity. He pushed a sprout all the way up Mount Snowden with his nose! It took 5 days and he used up 20 sprouts in the process. Well done him but I think I would rather eat the sprouts – and I hate sprouts! However, if you want to beat the Guinness World Record for eating sprouts you will have to eat more than 31 sprouts in 1 minute.

We retain the trophy for the best site !!!

(By default)

Unfortunately due to COVID-19 restrictions, the annual competition for the best allotment site in Bournemouth did not happen in the summer.

As Bournemouth East Allotment Society has won the trophy for the past four years running we have retained the trophy this year by default!

We are very happy to count that as five years as winners. Let's make the most of the mild winter that we have enjoyed so far to get ready to keep our reputation in 2021



Christmas Raffle

The AGM may have been different this year but we still had a raffle!



Thanks to those who donated prizes and bought tickets.

The winners are below:

Doreen of Plot 80A

Decanter of Whisky

Peter of Plot 42A

Giant Teddy Bear (sorry Peter!!)

Sara of Plot 45B

Prosecco & Champagne Glasses

Steve & Lisa of 82B

Robin Cooks Apron & Tea Towel

Helen of 25AA

Mr & Mrs Christmas Mugs & Chocolates

Site news — This is not the first time we have mentioned water!



A shortage of water is not something we generally have a problem with in this country. In fact on the 3rd October 2020 we had the wettest day for UK-wide rainfall since records began in 1891! The down-pour followed in the wake of Storm Alex and an average of 1.24" of rain fell

across the entire UK, according to Met office researchers. The deluge, apparently, was greater than the capacity of Loch Ness – the largest lake in the UK by volume.

However, all this water has to be collected and re-distributed for us to use during our dry spells – and that costs money! Our water bill has steadily gone up year on year, not just because of an increase in charges but largely to greater usage – we are using a larger volume of water. This is probably down to the drier summer months and more activity on the plots.

We continue to subsidise this with profit from the shop and other fund raising activities but would ask everyone to be mindful of even the small things they can do to help reduce the water bill.

While planning for your allotment this year, it could be a good time to think about how to better conserve and use water. These are tips that have been published before but if you can add to them, please let us know.

AND DON'T FORGET

The Water Tanks are turned off at the moment, as they always are in the winter, and this is the time they should be cleaned. Please talk to your fellow plot holders who share the water tank you use and agree whose turn it is to clean it this year. The Site Manager will turn them on again around April (weather dependent) but only once they have all been cleaned.

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

HANDS FACE SPACE

- ⇒ Water allotments in the morning as it gives plants a good supply of water to face the heat of the day.
- ⇒ Add plenty of organic matter to the soil to improve its structure and help retain moisture
- ⇒ If you have a shed or greenhouse on site add a bit of guttering and a water butt to collect rainwater. Even a small tank could make a big difference.
- ⇒ Simply leave watering cans or a few pots to collect rainwater – every little helps!
- ⇒ Mulch, mulch and mulch again. Loose mulch such as bark chippings, prevents evaporation from the soil surface and helps suppress water-thieving weeds from growing. Mulches can also add valuable nutrients to the soil at the same time.
- ⇒ Check the weather forecast. If it's going to rain then don't waste water (and time!) watering the plot.
- ⇒ Avoid over watering. The RHS rule of thumb is that for plants to keep growing they need 24ltrs per sq metre (5.2 gallons per 10sq ft) every 7-10 days



No Dig Roots

The no dig method is a surprisingly easy way of growing root vegetables.

There are two main problems with growing roots; one is unsuitable soil and the other is pests. The no dig method can help to combat both of these.

Roots, especially carrots, tend to fork or twist when they meet compacted or stony soil. With no dig you can layer mounds of mulch on the soil so it will not be compacted and will not contain stones. Shorter and rounder varieties are less prone to forking. The variety pictured on the right is Paris Market from Kings seeds and they say it is “perfect for growing in shallow tubs or troughs. “



In order to keep the carrot fly off, if you pile the mulch high enough then the carrot fly will be deterred as it does not fly higher than 30 centimetres above the ground. A few stakes around your mulched patch can support a barrier.

An even easier method is to fill some crates or any container with mulch and compost and plant root vegetables directly into these. They will be high enough to keep the pests off and they hold the mulch and compost well yet have good drainage.

Plant in early spring then thin them out when the seedlings are a couple of inches high and make sure to keep them well watered once the roots start to swell. They like to be in full sun but if they dry out they will split and become woody.

How have your parsnips been?



Look up how to grow parsnips and everyone says its easy, little maintenance and they can be left in the ground until you are ready to use them. Sounds good but they have been a problem to me for years. No matter how much I dug the bed and removed all the stones & other debris, I couldn't grow a straight

parsnip to save my life. And I like my parsnips straight!

But look at these beauties – all Little Gems from the site shop! No great secret – I grew these in my new raised bed full of fresh compost. To be fair even with good quality compost there can still be a lot of un-composted material – bits of wood and so on. So, well worth sieving it and getting rid of anything that might tempt your young parsnips to branch out into many different directions.

Now, where's the BEAS Cookbook.....

TIPS FOR GROWING PARSNIPS

Sow: From March to May, sow 3 seeds at 6" intervals in rows 12" apart

Grow: Parsnips like an open, sunny site and a deep, light soil. Keep weed free and the soil evenly moist to avoid roots splitting

Canker: Parsnip canker is an orange, brown or purple coloured rot. It starts at the top of the root and is commonly caused by drought, over-rich soil or damage to the crown

Harvest: The roots are ready to lift in late summer or autumn but can be left in the ground as late as February the next year – sorts the storage problem!

RECIPE—ROSTI CAKES

These rosti cakes turned out really well. You can substitute any root vegetable you like which is great at this time of year for doing something different with celeriac, turnip and/or parsnip. They also freeze well so a good one for doubling up with – you just need to let them defrost and then reheat. They make a nice lunch with a poached egg on top!

INGREDIENTS

1 small swede, peeled
1 small sweet potato scrubbed
1 small carrot peeled
1 small parsnip peeled
1 small onion, peeled (optional)
3 cloves of garlic, crushed
A little oil
2 large eggs
Sea salt and freshly ground pepper to taste



INSTRUCTIONS

Preheat the oven at gas mark 4/180C.

Wipe some oil (sparingly) over a baking tray.

Finely grate the root vegetables and the onion (if using) into a large bowl, lined with a clean tea towel. Gather up the corners of the tea towel and squeeze as much liquid out of the vegetables as you can – best to do this bit over the sink!

Put all the squeezed vegetables into the bowl and mix together with the beaten eggs and salt and pepper to taste.

Place a scone cutter or crumpet ring (about 3 1/2"/8cm across) onto the baking tray and spoon in enough mixture to fill it about 1/2" thick. Gently press down on the mixture with the back of a spoon and lift the cutter away. Repeat until you have used up all the mixture. Either spray or brush some oil on top of the rosti (sparingly)

Place in the oven and cook for about 40 minutes. After 20 minutes turn them over carefully so as to brown each side of the rosti.

You can serve straight from the oven. To freeze, allow to cool and place a small square of baking paper between each rosti – this makes them easier to separate if you only want to take one or two at a time from the freezer. Allow to defrost before re-heating.

Don't forget, if you are looking for a gift for friends or family our cook book is a good option – and lets them know the pleasures of having an allotment.

AVAILABLE FROM THE SHOP NOW £7 for members (RRP £8.95)



Contact beas.shopmanager@outlook.com

**Love your Allotment,
Love your Food**

