

## COMMUNITY ALLOTMENT

Over the winter the allotment volunteers have been keeping the plots tidy and weed free during the monthly meetings. A couple of people who live nearby have, this year, used the polytunnel to grow winter salad crops and this looks to have been successful.

The weekly meetings will start again around the end of March depending upon the weather. The planting plan for this season has been devised and the necessary seeds purchased – all the members 50p refreshment money adds up over the year and the Community Allotment is largely self-funding, including the “rent” to the council for our three plots.

In May & June this year Bridport will be hosting its first ever Season of Heritage, led by the soon-to-reopen Museum, with a series of events and activities and both the allotment and the orchard will be involved. We have set aside an area of the new allotment plot to sow some flax. This will be the type that would have been grown extensively in Bridport for use in the rope and net industry. With any luck it will be in flower some time during late spring for people to come and see what the raw material looked like before being processed.

The orchard is also hoping to host an outdoor talk entitled “Discover Farming” presented by George Streatfeild. Plans are afoot to have a display of old farm machinery plus examples of netting used in farming and gardening and we may even have some livestock! The allotmenters will provide a pop-up tea shop for this event which always goes down well. The provisional date for this is Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May but look out for further details in the local press nearer the time.

In August the Allotment shall again hold an Open Afternoon which has proved very popular in past years and which is generously supported by the public.

The main focus in the early spring will be to finish preparing the plot we took on last year. Our friends from the Memory Café have made a real success of their vegetable patch so we're hoping to bring the whole plot up to their excellent standard.

Jenn Baker  
Community Allotment Co-ordinator