

Dear Editor . . .

Readers' letters

Please write to Forum Focus if there is something you'd like to comment on or share with other readers.

Email your letter, which should be as brief as possible, to: editor@forumfocus.co.uk. Alternatively, you can call 01258 459346 or deliver your letter to: Forum Focus, c/o Colin's

Community Club, 49 Damory Street, Blandford DT11 7HD.

Please mark your letter 'for publication' and remember to include your address, which will not be used in full. Forum Focus reserves the right to shorten or edit letters in the interests of clarity, brevity and style.

Badger cull not working

I REALLY must take issue with George Hosford (November issue). His comments about bovine TB are not only misleading but inaccurate. The pilot cull areas are certainly not showing a reduction.

The veterinary profession has recently stated 'The prevalence in cattle is no lower than it was before culling, despite killing and removing 1,879 badgers in Gloucestershire and 1,777 in Somerset. A total of 3,656 badgers have been killed with no perceivable disease control benefits'.

To say that cattle must have contracted the disease because of the hot summer grass levels is perverse since the Btb bacteria is killed by UV light is a very short

time, therefore the opposite effect to that claimed by him. We really must stick to scientific fact and understand that this is a disease of cattle made worse by poor biosecurity in farming and a test that is only 80% effective at best, leaving infected cattle in the herd to pass it on.

Suzanne Aldous, Bere Regis

Roads: we can do more

ONE of my main priorities as Blandford's County Councillor has been to address the state of our roads.

Over the last 16 months a lot has been done to improve the roads in town, including the main resurface work going up West Street, Whitecliff Mill Street and Park Road, followed by nearly 40 roads being surface-dressed

all around the Central ward area. In addition, large parts of the town's roads have been patched to bring them back up to standard.

Although this is good news, more can be done - more will be done. Please could I ask all residents to contact me straight away if you come across any blocked gullies, potholes or any issues which you feel I need to be aware of?

I'm keen to make sure Blandford gets our fair share of the extra £1.4 million funding for road maintenance from the County Council.

Byron Quayle
Councillor for Blandford Forum Division
(m) 07843 616 343
byron.quayle@dorsetcc.gov.uk

An act of kindness

THANK you to the gentleman who came to my rescue, I was with my carer in Tesco on the afternoon of October 11 when I was having difficulties at the checkout.

My payment card would not work. I was about to ask the Tesco staff to put my goods back on the shelf when this kind gentleman came forward and paid for my shopping.

He did not want any fuss. Thank you once again.

Desmond Wyndson-Cowley
(disabled)
Winterborne Whitechurch.

A taste of the good life

DOES the price of raspberries, runner beans and rhubarb leave you reeling? Rent a quarter-size allotment plot at Lamperds Field for very little per annum (see website blandfordallotments.com for details).

Plant two rows of raspberry canes, one summer fruiting, the other autumn fruiting and you can eat raspberries every day from July to October.

A row of runner beans with their gorgeous blossoms of scarlet, salmon or white reaching for the sky, and delighting the bees, will eventually delight your palate as you eat your beans.

A couple of crowns of rhubarb will make rhubarb and custard an almost daily staple and stock your freezer for winter.

Courgettes are a winner! So easy to grow, and they can be cooked in a multitude of ways, even in cakes! Perpetual spinach is just that; it grows all year and cooks in just a few minutes.

Then to grace your home, plant a row of flowers. Sweet Williams or gladioli or dahlias.

Start NOW! Spring is a bit late to get started. Dig your plot (much better than a gym workout), apply fertilizer and plant your raspberries. Nothing to lose and instead of reeling, you will be relishing.

See you at the allotments!

A happy lady Lamperd's Field plot holder
(Name & address supplied)



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CAN I just say a big thank you to Councillor Nocturin Lacey-Clarke for his help in getting the small footbridge repaired at the back of Nightingale Court?

I went to see him in his shop and mentioned how it was in a poor condition. After coming back from my holiday, lo and behold, it was a new covering, looking very safe and presentable. Thank you, Noc.

Thanks also to the new owner of the site who did a very good job of fixing the bridge and to other users who sought and contributed to its repair, including the Disability Action Group.

Carol Verney
East Street, Blandford