

Home care firm's local support

HOME care company Bluebird Care has launched two new initiatives to support services for older people in Blandford.

The Ferndown-based provider, which offers a realistic alternative to residential care through short- and long-stay visits and overnight and live-in support from care professionals, is sponsoring a free community event to celebrate services for older people and has offered a community grant of £250 to a local charity or community group in the town or surrounding villages.

Masen Naidoo, managing director, said: "We want to support groups and charities that work to improve the quality of life for older people. The over 65-year-olds play an important part in our society. Not only have they contributed to the development of civic life, but they also add greatly to the economy and give hundreds of hours of voluntary time to community groups."

The community event takes place on Monday, November 12, at the Corn Exchange, Blandford, where more than 20 organisations have been offered a free table to display promotional material.

The grant scheme for a project which improves the quality of life for older residents remains open for applications until Friday, November 2.

Charities and groups interested in having a stand at the community event or applying for the community grant should email michaelautonconsultancy@gmail.com or phone Michael Auton on 07862 253514.



Judith Potts with her trophy as top allotment keeper at Lamperd's Field with (left to right) treasurer John Harding, chairman Ian Ricketts and committee members Ken Pearce, Diane Mawer, Ann Edwards and Pat Richardson of the Blandford Allotment Society.

Allotment move remains 'several years away'

BLANDFORD allotment holders were told at their AGM in the Corn Exchange that any relocation of the Lamperd's Field plots could be some years in the future.

Their town council representative Harold Galpin said there were no plans to relocate the allotments for the foreseeable future, and even though talks are ongoing, nothing will happen for several years.

Allotment holders will not lose out as they will be allocated like-for-like plots according to details already agreed between the council and allotment society committee.

He confirmed that the town council was exploring the possibility of acquiring the Elizabeth Road allotment site from North Dorset District Council.

More than 50 Blandford allotment holders attended the meeting at which chairman Ian Ricketts thanked everyone on the committee for their hard work and commitment throughout a tough growing year.

"We missed out spring and went straight from winter to summer in one day!" he said. "Plot holders were tired of watering - most yields of crops were down, except for the good old courgettes that seem to grow whatever the weather."

Treasurer John Harding said they were concerned that the summer water bill might be double or triple the cost of last year, but there was concern that after such a difficult summer, some tenants might not renew. The council have been kept up to date with our concerns about any possible shortfall."

He said rental payments this year showed a seven per cent increase, but there were now three empty plots at Elizabeth Road, and at Lamperd's Field, where all plots were filled a year ago, 13 are now vacant.

Judging for the best plot was done by Dave Miles, and the winner for the second year running at Lamperd's Field was announced as Judith Potts, with Barry Gould the winner at Elizabeth Road and Darren Adams winner with the best small plot.

Those happy to continue as committee members were re-elected en bloc, and Virginia Barnard was elected as the new webmaster to succeed Pat Richardson and Craig Whelan.

Information, including how to apply for an allotment, can be found on the website at blandfordallotments.com.

November 2018

NEWS in BRIEF

GROUNDSMAN Mike Holloway, who has during the last six-and-a-half years transformed the grounds at Woodhouse Gardens in Blandford to a beautiful, peaceful place, was wished a healthy and happy future by Blandford Town Council when he retired last month.

AUTHOR and broadcaster Kate Adie opened the Mackrell Charity's 2018/19 series of history lectures on the theme of Powers, Dominions and Dynasties at The Old School, Sturminster Marshall, with a talk 'Take me to your leader - a correspondent's experience'.



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SPETISBURY'S harvest supper in the village hall, with entertainment by Spetisbury Occasional Radio Enthusiasts and a collection of gifts for the Blandford Food Bank, was followed by a harvest festival service the next morning in St John's Church.

The village's Apple Day kept the apple press busy. Everyone who brought apples went home with their containers filled.

Cider, apple pancakes, mulled juice, apple cake and toffee apples were all in demand at the event hosted by Marcia's Farm shop, which sold farm produce and provided light lunches. Proceeds were divided between conservation organisations.