Dunchurch Allotment Association



By Paul Sanders

The recent scarecrow festival day held at Dunchurch Allotments was a great success. Many allotment holders made scarecrows to celebrate the founding of Dunchurch Allotment Association ten years ago. Families from the village were invited to find the scarecrows by exploring the allotment site and recording as many named figures as they could. Most popular were characters from films such as Captain Jack Barrow, Harry Pothead and 'May the Fork be with you' Darth Vader. There was also a local connection, with Guy Forks looking particularly threatening. Visitors were invited to partake of refreshments whilst splat the spud and the potato shy were popular with the kids.

The Allotment Association sees itself as being an integral part of village life and participates actively in relevant events. This year two of our members took up the challenge of growing all the flowers for the village hanging baskets, a task that was both demanding and caused some unease with the responsibility. As I look out of my window now in mid-October, I have to thank Tony and Simon for the still flourishing blooms in my basket.

For the past couple of years, the allotments association has processed the





Above: 'May the Fork be with you' Darth Vader,
Right: Captain Jack Barrow

village grass clippings which are carefully composted again by Tony. The resulting compost will eventually be used to mulch around the fruit trees in the orchard.

If you have friends with an allotment, you may well be the recipient of the excess fruit and veg as plot holders attempt to off load their bumper crop into your grateful hands. At Dunchurch Allotments much of the excess fruit and veg is also collected by member Bharat who delivers it to a local food charity. This summer large quantities of beans were given away along with giant marrows and large juicy tomatoes.



Bug hotels enthusiatically created by children at the Family Funday

The successful village Family Funday saw the Association in attendance but this time working with families making bug hotels. The sight of young people frantically hammering canes into cans was a joy to behold. We expect to see a profusion of pollinators take to the air in Dunchurch next spring.

www.dunchurchallotments.org.uk



A few more scarecrows: Scary Mary, Nurse Gladys, Guy Forks, Burrowing Bill, Harry Pothead, Babak