



# NEWSLETTER

## THANK GOODNESS WE HAVE HAD OUR ALLOTMENTS!

The last few months have been very stressful and strange...un presented in fact! But having the advantage to go to your allotment and enjoy the outdoors without putting yourself and others at risk, has been a joy.

The current crisis has led to a huge increase in demand for Allotment plots, not only in Birmingham, but across the country, and long may that last. If you are a new plot holder reading this...WELCOME to the world of allotments.

SADLY, the we have had to cancel all of our meetings, social events, competitions and the Annual Show.

However, this has given our Show Secretary time to review the Annual Show. Many thanks to all Associations who replied to his questionnaire with some excellent ideas and thoughts. A report has been compiled and sent out to Executive members for consideration.

Recently, we have reluctantly decided to cancel our 2021 Annual Show, due to the uncertainty of what the new year will bring. However, all is not lost. Two smaller events to take place on Bordesley Green Allotments and Uplands Allotments will go ahead should Covid-19 conditions allow. So, you should still plan for Showing in the New Year

## Flo Pickering Up-date

As with everything the progress of the Flo Pickering funded repairs has been adversely affected by the virus. However, some progress has been made. Applications for work were received from Associations and a list compiled. The Landscape Engineers responsible for organising the repairs have made site visits to some sites on the list this month. Unfortunately, they won't be able to carry works out for all sites on the list. If your site is on the list but hasn't had a visit, then your work will be carried over to next year when we will be pushing once more for works to be carried out.

## Dates for your diary

Executive meetings are held at the Guild Guide Headquarters, Trefoil House, Brownsea Drive, B1 1QL  
Meetings starts at 7 p.m.

**Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic all meetings have been cancelled.**

The BDAC Executive are still keeping in touch through letters and emails and our work continues on.

We will inform Secretaries of any changes

## In this edition:

**Page two: Heritage project up date**

**Page three and four: News from Allotment Sites**

The BDAC would like to thank **The National Allotment Society** for all their support and guidance throughout the Spring and Summer.

I know that quite a few Associations enjoy the benefits of Association membership including free personal insurance for plot holders. Their web site is well worth visiting <https://www.nsalg.org.uk>

## Birmingham Allotment Associations Wanted For Heritage Project!

Birmingham based arts & heritage organisation '[General Public](#)' have approached BDAC about a project that would explore the heritage of allotments and their importance within Birmingham (in particular, memories and stories of allotment holders).

They wish to work with BDAC and Allotment Associations on a heritage project that will involve creating an archive of stories from the past that will be a lasting testament to the importance of allotments in Birmingham.

It would inspire, engage and encourage local people to learn about allotments, their history and their place in the city today

They are aiming to secure funding from the Heritage Lottery Foundation to make the project happen.

As Birmingham has 113 allotment sites and nearly 7,000 plots, they think it's something that the Heritage Lottery Fund would be really interested in.

They would like to see what allotment associations across the city are interested in been involved. To help shape the project development process, they are looking for answers or feedback to the following three questions:

- Are you an allotment association that might like to be involved?
- Can you tell us a great story about your allotment site?
- Who would make a great interviewee on your site and why?

This would really help us develop the bid.

Please email [generalpublicprojects@gmail.com](mailto:generalpublicprojects@gmail.com) or BDAC.

Or phone Chris on 07792 736125.



*This appeal was sent out in the March edition. There is still time for you to consider how you could contribute. Chris has informed us that the National Lottery Heritage Fund, NLHF, has made some encouraging comments about the project however they have stopped their funds streams at the moment. Despite that, he is still working to develop ideas and will apply as soon as this situation improves.*

## Resurrecting failing allotment sites

Dave Taylor is a BDAC Executive member that specialises in saving Allotment sites that are on a downward spiral. He hates to see under used sites when he knows that there is demand in an area. By sheer hard work and commitment, he has turned around several sites in Birmingham. Long Meadow Crescent Allotments in Shard End and Shaftesbury Road in Sheldon have both, recently, benefitted from his enthusiasm, he has turned them from almost derelict sites to thriving communities with active Associations. His latest project, his last, will be Hall Hayes Road Allotments in Shard End. The site has suffered a lot of vandalism, the toilet block has been repeatedly damaged. Work has started, he has begun clearing the site and has repaired the toilet block so is ready to start letting plots. Rightly so his work has been celebrated in an article in Kitchen Garden Magazine. To find out more you can see a video on YouTube filmed in 2019 as he started to tackle the Shaftesbury Road Site.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D0dkZgFVWUw>



## Foodbank Donations

The BDAC is aware that many Allotment Associations across the city are generously donating spare fruit and vegetables to Food Banks so that they can support others. Allotments are well placed to be proactive in their communities, we are used to supporting one another on our sites and know the benefits of a sharing community. So, let's celebrate what we do!





## News from Cofton Road Allotment Association

Cofton Road have been busy during lockdown turning wooden pallets into useful items for community use.

Here are some photos that show off their talent and hard work. Very Impressive.



### Rents 2020

Bernie, our Allotment Officer, has sent guidelines to Associations to make the taking of rents safe during this time. It will be a Rent Month like no other, with plot holders and Secretaries alike wearing their masks, using hand sanitizers and maintain a two-metre social distance. Here's hoping that it will be a "one off" and next October we will be back to something approaching normal.

**GOOD LUCK and KEEP SAFE**

### NEW WEBSITE

Thanks to Mark Hanson's hard work we have changed our web site provider. Most of the old Website has moved across.

Many thanks Mark.

Sadly, he has decided to step down from the Executive, over the past few years he has made a great contribution to our organisation, been a valued member of the Show Committee, and our Minutes Secretary not to forget Quiz Master. We all wish him well in the future.

### To contact the BDAC

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**For lots of information visit our Website**

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