



NEWSLETTER

Keeping plot holders in touch with Allotment issues

June 2018

BDAC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our meeting was held at Bordesley Green Allotments on the 19th May. Many thanks to all those who attended despite the clash with the Royal Wedding and the F.A. Cup!

At the meeting your Officers for the next year will be:

Chairman: Clive Birch

Secretary: Barbara Smith

Assistant Secretary: Anne Murphy

Treasurer: Dave Rawlings

Assistant Treasurer: Dave Hubball

Minutes Secretary: Mark Hanson

Len Tubbs and Wendy Loder were re-elected onto the Executive for the next three years, and we officially welcomed Darren Rainbird and Stuart Guest on to the Executive. That leaves two spare spaces for anyone who would like to join us.

If you are interested in joining us why not come along to a meeting as an observer.

Feeling Lucky?

The BDAC will be holding a raffle each day of the Annual Show in the MAC to be held on August Bank Holiday this year.

The three lucky prize winners will get a Years Free Allotment Rent!

To enter, plot holders just have to visit the show, in person, and buy a ticket!

So, come on down to the Show this August, better still enter some flowers, fruit and Vegetables. Schedules are with your Secretaries and still available from the Show Secretary, Derek Cullen.

DATES TO REMEMBER

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

Monday June 4th

Monday July 2nd

Monday August 6th

Monday September 3rd

If you wish to attend any meeting as an observer please contact Chairman Clive Birch

Go to Page 4 for Allotment Site events

We need you!

The BDAC has vacancies for Advisors and Executive members. Have you got experience of being an Association Officer? Do you have a good knowledge of the Allotment rules? Would you be happy to give advice to other Associations? If the answer to these questions is "YES" please get in touch. E-mail bdac.allotments@gmail.com or contact Clive Birch

SHOW UPDATE

Each site has copies of the schedule, if you want more copies please contact the Show Secretary: Derek Cullen on 0121 384 7715 and he will be happy to let you have some more.

Many thanks to those Associations that have donated £10 or more to the Show fund after the request in the last Newsletter. Special thanks to Westfields Allotments in Harborne who have sponsored our Children's' Activity to the tune of £100!

We still need to raise more so please consider sponsoring a Class or donating £10. All cheques to be written to the BDAC Show Account. These can be handed in to any executive member or Advisor or sent in the post to Barbara Smith, 137, Black Haynes Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham B29 4RE. If you have any questions please contact the BDAC using the contacts on page 4.

We need your help in informing plot holders about the Show Raffle (see page 1) We will be sending posters out to sites and hope that Associations will tell plot holders about their chance to win a Year's free rent!

Associations can have a stall to promote their sites. If you are interested contact the BDAC by e-mail: bdac.allotments@gmail.com or phone Derek Cullen on the above phone no.

SITE COMPETITION FORMS

Clive will be sending out site competition forms. By the time that you read this they may already be with Associations. If you think that your plot is good enough to be the Best Plot in Birmingham then talk to your Secretary and ask if you can be entered. Sites can enter two plots for this.

If you are new to Allotment gardening and have a brilliant plot already you should consider entering the Flo Pickering Competition to find the Best Newcomer in Birmingham.

If you think your site is the Best in Birmingham or made more progress than any other site there is a competition for you too!

The completed forms need to be into Clive by 30th June so don't delay.

IN IT TO WIN IT!

We are aware that some sites do not have the contact details for the BDAC Advisors. If you are one of these please let us know and we can send out the details.

Longmeadow Crescent Allotments

Held a very successful re-opening celebration on the 12th of May this year and raised several hundreds of pounds for the new Association. The Lord Mayor attended the celebrations and brought with her a

City of Birmingham Achievement Shield
as a reward for the Association.

It was a site with many problems and few plot holders. Due to lots of hard work the situation is very different. Plot lettings are on the up. Lots of new plot holders and a new Association!

The future looks bright for Long Meadow.

A Person walked into a doctor's surgery with parsnips coming out of their ears, radishes stuck up their nostrils. The Doctor asked "What is your problem?" The patient said, "How can I eat more sensibly?"



Flash Floods

Many sites are now mopping up after the flash flooding that occurred at the end of May. Nikki has sent out advice to plot holders on what to do if crops come in contact with flood water.

WATER PLUS

The problems with water billing have mostly been resolved. Many thanks for your patience and paying of bills. If you are paying full price for your waste water you could try filling in the **Non-return to Sewer** form that Nikki has sent out in e-mail messages. If you would like a copy contact the **BDAC e-mail address** and request one to be sent.

DATA PROTECTION CHANGES

Nikki has sent out new guideline to Site Secretaries. It is important that they are read carefully. The BDAC will also send out information to Site Secretaries giving information about what personal data we hold, who holds it and why. As with Secretaries we will not give out any personal data to a third party without permission.

WYCHBURY ROAD ALLOTMENTS

September 2017 saw the revitalisation of the Wychbury Road allotments in Bartley Green commence after Birmingham City Council used Section 106 funding from the sale of the adjacent land.

Wychbury Road was a classic situation of a tired site with no investment in the site or infrastructure, however, following 4 months of intensive activity, the site can be held up as a prime example of what can be achieved.

The achievements include new roads, a car park, (including a designated disabled bay) a toilet, though a chemical one, is better than no toilet at all, 10 purposely constructed raised gardening beds for people who are less able to manage a normal allotment plot on a paved area together with a sun shelter.

Though only a small site of 47 allotments, the site experienced difficulty in letting the plots prior to the revitalization works, only just over 50% of the plots had tenants, now there are only 3 vacant plots.

If there is an understanding from this, it has to be that if Birmingham City Council can support the allotment sites, then the people from the community will support the sites, and this can only ensure the long-term future of allotments in Birmingham and a cohesive community. *Phil Zajlic, Chairman*



The next Newsletter will be out in September so please send us any news, recipes, jokes, stories etc that you would like to include by the end of August.



News from Thornbridge Avenue Allotments.

On Saturday 12th May we held our Spring Fayre which comprised of thousands of bedding and basket plants being sold, a raffle, refreshments and Hog roast.

Our Summer Fayre with a World War 1 theme is on 12th August and our Christmas Fayre is being held on 1st December.

We have recently totally refurbished and fitted out our kitchen which is now open for breakfast every Saturday and Sunday. We have many bookings for our Community room which can hold up to 35 people at a cost of £20.

We also hold regular Council meetings and our local schools and support groups use our facility on a regular basis.

Any more info, please contact me on 07951 730884

Andy Poyner

DON'T FORGET, MAKE A DATE

BIRMINGHAM ALLOTMENTS ANNUAL FRUIT, FLOWER AND VEGETABLE SHOW!

On August Bank Holiday
AT THE MIDLANDS ART CENTRE.

As well as the Flower and Vegetable competition there will be a Children's Growing Activity sponsored by Westfields Allotments, The National Allotments Stall, Allotments Information and advice stall and Allotment Associations Stall.

-If you are interested in having an Association stall to promote your site please contact the BDAC using the contacts below.



To contact the BDAC

e-mail bdac.allotments@gmail.com

Phone: Chairman, Clive Birch on 0121 354 1512,

Secretary, Barbara Smith 07746062410

We have Website: bdacallotments.co.uk, join us on Facebook page BDAC Allotments

and also, Twitter [@BDAC_allotments](https://twitter.com/BDAC_allotments)