



Birmingham and District Allotment Confederation

NEWSLETTER

Keeping plot holders in touch with Allotment issues

June 2019

BDAC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our meeting was held at Bordesley Green Allotments on the 1st June. Many thanks to all those who attended.

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

Show Secretary: Derek Cullen

We still have two spare spaces for anyone who would like to join us on the Executive

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

DATES TO REMEMBER

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

Meetings start at 7 p.m.

Trefoil House: Monday June 3rd

May Lane: Monday July 1st

Northleigh Allotments: Monday August 5th

Trefoil House: Monday September 2nd

If you wish to attend any meeting as an observer please contact Chairman Clive Birch (*contact details on page 4*)

Annual Allotment Show August 24th to 26th. At the Midlands Art Centre in Cannon Hill Park. Prize giving on 25th at 3pm. Free entry.

Feeling Lucky? Want a chance to have your rent paid for you by us?

For the second year running 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 FREE ALLOTMENT RENT FOR NEXT YEAR!

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 they are also available to download from the web site.

WALSALL ROAD ALLOTMENTS

Congratulations go to Walsall Road Allotments for their brilliant and well organised campaign to save the site from the Bulldozers. You can now settle back down on your plots and look forward to a bountiful growing year.

Robert, the Allotment cat, can now rest easy!

OUR ALLOTMENT SITES ARE IMPORTANT THE COUNCIL NOW KNOW HOW MUCH WE CARE ABOUT THEM, thanks to this campaign.



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 by emailing clivebirch@blueyonder.co.uk

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.

There are a number of ways that you can support the Show:

- Sponsor a particular Show class by donating prize money and get recognition of your sponsorship.
- Donate £10 or more to the Show account and we will recognise your contribution in the Show Hall
- Donate a prize for the raffle or tombola
- Spare some time to help as a volunteer steward on one of the days
- Promote the Show on your site, encourage fellow plot holders to come down and visit.
- Advertise the special RENT RAFFLE

*NOTE: 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.*

New for this year! We want to encourage plot holders that grow vegetables or fruit that are usually grown in different parts of the world, to join with us to make a display in the MAC of Crops across the World: If you know someone who grows such a crop and they are interested in promoting different crops, please ask them to contact the BDAC by e-mail: bdac.allotments@gmail.com or phone Derek Cullen on the above phone number, so that we can celebrate the wide range of produce that Allotments grow across Birmingham.

There will be space for Sites to Advertise spare plots, you can come down and we will add your posters to our displays, you could have a stall and display your produce. Come and join in with us, you will be most welcome.

SITE COMPETITION FORMS

Clive will be sending out site competition forms. By the time that you read this they will 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!

Show Funding for 2020 Appeal

The Show committee is already exploring how to raise monies to cover the cost of the 2020 Show and hopefully into the future. We have explored several ideas. Grants tend to be given to Associations for physical equipment such as meeting huts or strimmers, it is relatively easy to demonstrate such items will provide a community with real benefits but it is harder to gain grants for Show or event expenses. Whilst we are very pleased to receive the cheques that are kindly donated by Associations and the income raised by our Social event and raffles, they do not raise enough on their own. If the show is to continue to demonstrate to the general public the very real benefits of having an Allotment, to a new generation, then we need to raise much more. So, a plea goes out from Derek Cullen and the Show committee, if you believe in the show continuing to exist we need your help. We need someone to join the committee who has experience in getting sponsorship. If you know of anyone who could help us secure the future of the show we will be very grateful. **The Show takes a lot of work and commitment, the Show Committee are more than happy to give of their time and energy but need an expert fundraiser to join and advise them. ITS IT YOU? Please contact either Derek Cullen (0121 384 7715) or the BDAC**

bdac.allotments@gmail.com

Many thanks

The Site competition judges will be visiting site in the first two weeks of July. We will try our best to let you know when judging on your site has been completed so that entrants can start digging up their crops!

Water Challenges

As Water Plus insist in charging site for full return to sewerage charges, rather than the 25% deal with Severn Trent, Associations have had to deal with an increase in actual water costs. This is leading to challenges in paying bills, as we are at the same time, experiencing lower than average rainfall. It even more important that we conserve and use our water effectively. All plot holders need to harvest water from structures.

Many thanks go to **Bleak Hill Allotments** who passed out detailed information to their plot holders about watering regimes. The information is from The National Allotment Association so we know that it is reliable. Don't waste your water on the following crops as they do not need much and for some, watering is a waste of time and money.

Carrots – never water , it will lower the yield

Potatoes – water only when the flowers have just opened, but otherwise there should be enough moisture in the soil to sustain the plants

Parsnips – watering doesn't benefit the crop

Jerusalem artichoke – never water, otherwise you encourage the formation of leaves and not tubers

Rosemary and Thyme – woody herbs which can withstand dry seasons

Beetroot – don't over water as this will increase leaf size not root size, but don't allow the soil to dry out completely

Brussels sprouts – established plants will only require watering during exceptionally dry weather

Kohlrabi – the root system of this is plant is well developed for sourcing water and so can withstand very dry seasons

Onions – after the plant has been established, they require little watering and never after mid-July as this will delay ripening

For further information you can use this link

<https://www.nsalg.org.uk/growing-advice/gardening-advice/gardening-in-drought/>

PLOT HOLDERS ENJOY A NIGHT OUT!

An enjoyable time was had by all!

Many thanks to Mark Hanson of the BDAC Executive who turned out to be a brilliant Quiz master. He promised that the Quiz would not be difficult but have an emphasis on fun, and that's how it turned out. Many thanks to **Moor Green Allotments** who hosted the event in their Club House and generously waived any fees. Everyone who attended had a great time and the evening had a wonderful friendly atmosphere. We managed to raise in excess of £120 towards the cost of the Show.





South Yardley Allotments Society has successfully applied for two grants from Awards for All! We obtained £6500 in 2015 for a composting toilet for the Wharfland site (the first toilet on the site in its 110-year history) This year we obtained £5422 for a 16ft by 12 ft meeting shed. One of the criteria for Awards For All is Bringing Communities Together and the Meeting shed allows the many different nationalities and cultures represented on the site to meet together for social events or just to share a cup of tea. *South Yardley Allotments Association*

The BDAC thinks that Birmingham City Council is very fortunate to have such hard working and committed Associations raising monies to improve the Councils own assets.

Repairs under the Flo Pickering Fund.

There continues to be a frustratingly slow pace of progress in getting fence repairs, road repairs and toilets in to the sites that desperately need them. The BDAC will once again be meeting the engineers from the Landscape Practise Group, who are responsible for drawing up the jobs , seeking contactors and monitoring works. We will be pressing for the LPG to make more progress. Clive Birch is collating to bids for works to be done. If you need fence or road repairs, or a toilet on your site please contact the BDAC and we will look at adding you to our list.

Coney Green Drive Allotments Open Day

Saturday 29th June

10am -3pm

Coney Green Drive Allotments will be holding an open day on Saturday 29th June. We will be open from 10am to 3pm and there will be a tombola, children's activity, refreshments and a chance to look around.

We have been lucky enough to receive a grant from The Mayor's Community Weekend fund; which will help make the day even more special.

You will find us off Coney Green Drive; our entrance is on The Mill Walk opposite The Conservative Club (B31 4HL)

Join us!

#WMCommunity

Calling all growers of unusual veg and fruit.

The BDAC would dearly like to make a display of non-standard vegetables and fruit that are grown on Allotment sites and make it a central attraction to visitors. If you grow vegetables that come from exotic places we would love to hear from you. All we would ask is that you bring an example of your veg to the show in August together with a sheet explaining what it is and how it is used in cooking. We think it will make for an interesting and eye-catching display and gives a chance for growers to demonstrate what a huge range of produce are grown on Birmingham's Allotment plots, a chance to educate visitors.

To contact the BDAC :

Phone: Chairman, Clive Birch on 0121 354 1512

Secretary, Barbara Smith 07746062410

Assistant Secretary Anne Murphy 0121 449 7340

Show secretary Derek Cullen 0121 384 7715

We have a Website www.bdacallotments.co.uk

Join us on our Facebook page- [BDAC Allotments](#) and Twitter!- [@BDAC_allotments](#)

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