

Birmingham and District Allotment Confederation



NEWSLETTER

Keeping our members, Birmingham's plot holders, in touch with each other

As September appears, the busiest time on the Allotment is drawing to a close. Flowers, fruit and vegetables have grown and are now being harvested. I trust it has been a good season for you. In the newsletter this time you will find all the Site and Show Competition results, an update of the works now scheduled to start using Flo Pickering monies, an update on Water Plus and news of events to come, also what some Associations have been doing during the Summer months.

SITE COMPETITION RESULTS 2018

CLIFF JONES For the Best Plot in Birmingham
1st S. Acton of Wheelers Lane
2nd E. Roberts of The Hill
3rd W Toddington of Coventry Road

THE THORPE TROPHY for the Best Site
1st The Hill
2nd Manor House
3rd Thornbridge Avenue

FLO PICKERING TROPHY
 for the Best Newcomer to Allotment Gardening:
1st Miss T Krywicznanin of Bleak Hill
2nd Eric Day of Lower Tinkers Farm
3rd C Breakspeare of Newhall Allotments

THE FRANK CARTER TROPHY for the Best Managed site
1st Longmeadow Crescent
2nd Lower Tinkers Farm
3rd Quinton Allotments

THE ROBINS TROPHY for the Most Improved
1st Walmley Ash
2nd Longmeadow Crescent

Flo Pickering Fund Works

Finally, some progress, after months of pushing for action. During the Summer the BDAC was invited by the Council to visit sites that have requested maintenance work on fences, roads or toilets under the Flo Pickering Fund. *The fund is created through an agreement between the BDAC and the City Council, that ensures a percentage of any monies gained, by Birmingham city Council, through the sale of Allotment land has to be spent on Allotments.* A further meeting was held at King Heath Park between the Landscape Practice group of the Council, who are responsible for managing the works, the Allotment Officer and the BDAC to agree that works should commence.

The good news is that the sites concerned have been told of their successful applications and that work is now being planned and actioned.

FREE RENT WINNERS!

Congratulations go to: Brian Sheridan of Westbourne Road- Guinea Gardens, Isobel Thompson of Lower Tinkers Farm Allotments and Roy Addis of May Lane Allotments whose rent will be paid by the BDAC as winners of our Show Big Raffle!



Successful grant application to the National Lottery Community Fund



We are delighted to have been awarded £9956 to improve the amenities to our site. The funding will be used to:

- Install security fencing along the boundary with the Botanical Gardens
- Remove all the snowberry in one corner of the bothy garden and install hardstanding for a new more secure shed
- Take down all the fallen or dead trees in the nature reserve.
- Buy a new hedge cutter

ANNUAL FLOWER, FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SHOW 2019

For the second year we held our Annual Show at the Midlands Art Centre. Well done to those who entered and created such a spectacular display, making it such an enjoyable popular public event. And a big thank you goes to Derek Cullen and his Show team who worked tirelessly to ensure everything went smoothly providing an opportunity to portray Allotments in Birmingham in a positive way.

The team would like to specially thank the following people who volunteered their time: Penny Moore from Coney Green Allotments and Linda Coates from Clunbury Road, who designed and resourced the fantastic "Mr Grasshead" activity for children, which became a popular draw, Also, Saiqa Sultan and her family, Imaan Ahmed and Eisa Ahmed, together with John and Jo Spencer, Cheryl Butler and her family from Thornbridge Avenue Allotments, all of who were brilliant at engaging with the public, especially with families, making for an entertaining space in the foyer, that in turn, led to the high footfall numbers recorded in the Main Hall.

Many thanks also to Raymond Hung (Lower Tinkers Farm), Mark Rooney (Moor Green) and Tony (Walsall Road) for donating unusual vegetables for our eye-catching Foyer display. This drew many comments from the visitors many of whom were surprised at the variety of vegetables that we can grow on Allotments in this country. We were particularly pleased with the numbers of plot enquires that came through our Advice desk, proving that the Show is an excellent advert for our Allotment sites.

SHOW RESULTS 2019

Birmingham & District Allotment Show 2019



Winners Table

Position	Exhibitor	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	Points
1	Terry Pullen	19	4	3	0	78
2	William Henry	12	9	8	0	76
3	Stewart Freeth	5	6	5	0	32
4	Derek Cullen	2	7	2	0	22
5	Sam Percival	3	2	6	0	19
6	James Christie	3	3	0	0	15
7	Mick Merrill	3	3	0	0	15
8	Barbara Smith	3	2	0	0	13
9	Rosaline Marshall	2	3	0	0	12
10	Mark Hanson	2	1	2	0	10
11	Leslie Whittaker	2	0	3	0	9
12	Alex Percival	2	0	0	0	6
13	John Birch	1	1	1	0	6
14	Alan Wheale	1	0	1	0	4
15	Tom Percival	0	2	0	0	4
16	Geraldine Smith	0	2	0	0	4
17	David Wray	1	0	0	0	3
18	Yolanda Davis	0	1	1	0	3
19	Dave Hubball	0	1	0	0	2
20	Penny Moore	0	0	2	0	2
21	Michael Fenwick	0	0	1	0	1
22	Justine Lattimer	0	0	1	0	1



Site Classes Results

Class1A For a Display of Flowers, Fruit and Vegetables, the winner was **Thornbridge Avenue** who were presented with the John Jauzemis Memorial trophy and a cheque for £80, Second was Ward End Gardeners who received a cheque for £60.

Class 1B The Novice Class, the winner was **May Lane Association** who were presented with The Chris Brown Challenge Plate and a cheque for £40.

Class 2 The Display of Twenty Vegetables
The winner was **Lower Tinkers Farm** who were presented with the A.H. Cooper Trophy and a cheque for £100.

Class2A Collection of Cut Flowers, the winner was **May Lane Allotments** who got The Alderman Lionel Wood Challenge Trophy and £80, 2nd Thornbridge Avenue.



ALLOTMENT SUPPORTING CHARITIES

Allotments sites all over Birmingham support charities through fund raising events and donations of surplus vegetables to foodbanks and homeless kitchen such as the Fireside charity. The sites who go 'the extra mile' should be proud of the work that they do to benefit those in need.

The BDAC want to especially thank Paul Rooney from Moor green Allotments who not only arranges donations of vegetables from Moor Green to the B30 Food Bank but also helped us make good use of the Show vegetables at the close of the event by collecting and transporting them to the Foodbank. Many thanks Paul.

We have received this kind acknowledgement :

Hi Paul,

Wow, have you surpassed yourself. The veg we received today is all quite extraordinary. Thank you so much. As always, we will ensure that it goes to clients who would not be able to buy such foodstuffs. Please can you pass on our genuine thanks to the Birmingham and District Allotment Association for donating their show winning veg.

Kind regards

Nicola Human

B30 Foodbank Management Team

Supporting each other

We have had requests from members that we publicise your events.

They would love to attend neighbouring allotment events to support their neighbours.

We are only too happy to do so.

So, if your site is organising an event let us know by email, we will put your event on our website, Facebook page and on our Twitter account and in our newsletter.

LOWER TINKERS FARM ENTRANCE IMPROVEMENT

For some time, the Association had been concerned about the neglected plot at the entrance to the site so they have decided to act. In the absence of a plot holder they decided to clear the plot and install Flower beds, making an attractive entrance and giving the whole site a better feel. As the public walks past the entrance instead of overgrown weeds there is now a tidy plot with colourful flowers. Many plot holders have commented on how much better the site now feels. Well done to those who worked on this project.



Have you made improvements to your plot or site? If so let us know and your effort can go in the next newsletter out in December 2019

(Thank you, Lower Tinkers Farm Allotments, for offering to run a raffle at rent taking time. The proceeds of which you are going to donate to the BDAC show account. The BDAC is very grateful.)

LOOKING FORWARD TO NEXT YEARS SHOW IN 2020

The BDAC is already planning for next year's Show. We need to raise approximately £1 for every plot holder in Birmingham. A considerable amount, so the planning starts now. We are happy to announce that **Cheryl Butler from Thornbridge Avenue Allotments**, who was an invaluable help during this year's show has been so impressed that she has volunteered to help us run fundraising events. She has lots of ideas including 50-50 lottery, quiz evenings and other fund-raising events. Her contacts email is greenfingers@blueyonder.co.uk phone 07549821373 please contact her, if like us you believe that the Show should continue to reflect all that is good about allotments.

One of the BDAC's aims is to promote Allotments in the aim to attract the plot holders for the future. The Show is central to this and the number of plot referrals that we gained during the weekend is a pleasing reward for our efforts. We are very thankful for all the Association who have backed us by donating cash or practical support. The success of our Show depends upon Associations continued support and participation. The more that Associations work together the more that we can achieve.

DATES TO REMEMBER

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

Monday October 7th
Monday November 4th
Monday December 2nd

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

HALF YEARLY MEETING 2018

All plot holders are invited to our Half Yearly Meeting to be held at Bordesley Green Allotments on Saturday 16th November starting at 2.00p.m.

The meeting is an opportunity for Associations and plot holders to discuss allotment issues with the BDAC. If anyone has Agenda items they would like to put forward please contact our Chairman-Clive Birch.

Refreshments provided

OCTOBER RENTS 2018

Rent time is once again upon us. It is important that if Associations have any worries or queries about taking rents, that they contact one of their BDAC Advisors, who have many years of rent collecting experience between them and are happy to support Associations should they need it.

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 or contact Clive Birch

The National Society

We were very appreciative of the attendance at our Show of the National Allotment Society. The Society works hard to represent Allotments at National level.

Liz Bunting, the Legal and Operations manager came to talk with us, also Marketing and Mentor co-ordinator Di Appleyard. The National Stall was manned throughout by representative Tom Terrence.

At the moment, Liz Bunting is working on behalf of member Allotment sites across the country in order to resolve the many issues that have arose after Water Plus has taken over the billing of Allotment sites.

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

To contact the BDAC

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We have a Website www.bdacallotments.co.uk

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