



BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT ALLOTMENT CONFEDERATION

NEWSLETTER

At the time of writing this newsletter the Midlands is going through a wet time with Allotment sites all over Birmingham showing signs of standing water. Here's hoping that the rest of the year's weather settles down and we have a good growing season.

The BDAC is busy organising for the upcoming Show in August and competitions running in July. Secretaries will shortly be getting the application forms for the Site Competitions and the Show schedules are now on the website for download.

Derek Cullen will post out Show Schedules to plot holders that have exhibited in the past, these should arrive during March and April. For those who want to exhibit for the first time, the Schedules are in two parts, part one is for Associations, part two is for individual plot holders. You can download these from the web site or email cullen.derek.j@gmail.com

requesting a copy through the post, please give your postal address and allotment site.

Note Schedules are no longer sent out to every site, as the cost is now prohibitive, sent out on request only.

IF YOU ARE PROUD OF YOUR SITE AND WHAT YOUR ASSOCIATION HAS ACHIEVED OR PROUD OF YOUR OWN PLOT, THEN OUR COMPETITIONS GIVE YOU THE CHANCE TO GET SOME REWARD AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK.

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.

Monday March 2th
Monday April 6th
Monday May 11th (at May Lane Allotments Kings Heath B14 4AG)
Monday June 1st (at Long Meadow Allotments Shard End B34 6NJ)

AGM Saturday May 23rd at Bordesley Green Allotments B9 5PD

If you wish to attend any meeting as an observer please contact Clive Birch see page 4 for contacts

National Allotments Week August 11th to August 18th

In this edition:

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Page 6: News from Bordesley Green. Children's Art Competition details.

Uplands Allotments

Have been busy clearing their site and car park of leaves ready for the new season. They are keen to know of anyone who would like to have a spare plot on their site. Plot requests can go through the bdac.allotments@gmail.com

Flo Pickering Up-date

Last year several sites across the city had maintenance works carried out using monies from this fund. Secretaries have submitted further requests for repairs to fences, roads or installations of toilets where no toilet exists. We will be working hard to ensure these requests will be actioned this year.

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 or BDAC.

Or phone Chris on 07792 736125.



Children's drawing competition-New for this year!

We are currently working with Brian Sheridan in order to create a children's drawing competition to encourage awareness of wildlife on our plots. This is for our younger generation, on Allotments, giving them the opportunity to join in and get creative. **For more details parents please go to page 7.**

CALLING ALL PLOTHOLDERS! WE NEED YOU!

Please consider entering the Birmingham Annual Show at the MAC, the Show Secretary is prepared, ready and waiting for show entries.

JOIN IN THE FUN!

And it's open for everyone not just old men in caps, though they are more than welcome too!

You should know that there are Children's competitions alongside the Adult ones. *In 2018 the Best exhibit in Show was awarded to one of our Young Grower Exhibitors*

IF YOU WOULD LIKE US TO COME TO YOUR SITE AND EXPLAIN WHAT IS INVOLVED WE WOULD BE VERY HAPPY TO DO

Contact either the Show Secretary Derek Cullen on 0121 384 7715 Or BDAC Secretary, Barbara Smith using the following e-mail address: bdac.allotments@gmail.com

FUNDRAISING FOR THE SHOW

Every year we ask for sponsorship for the Annual Show and are very grateful for all the continued support from Associations and plot holders across the city. We rely on your generous donations. If Associations or individuals are able to donate this year please do you if you consider that it is important to keep the Show running as a showcase for Allotments. As usual we will publicise your donations prominently on one of our displays. There are other ways to support us too! We also need donations of raffle prizes and volunteer stewards.

Many thanks

Please send donations to Barbara Smith, 137 Black Haynes Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham B29 4RE or to Derek Cullen, 70 Marsh Lane Erdington, B23 6PJ or hand in to your local BDAC Executive Officer.

BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT ALLOTMENTS CONFEDERATION
CORDIALLY INVITES ALL BIRMINGHAM PLOT HOLDERS TO OUR..

**QUIZ
NIGHT**

AT PYPE HAYES GOLF COURSE

B76 1EW

ON

WEDNESDAY 25TH MARCH

STARTING AT 7.00p.m.TIL LATE.

Entry fee £2 a head

Bar

**The quiz profits will go towards funding the
Annual Allotment show in the MAC**

**YOU WONT NEED TO BE A MASTERMIND TO
HAVE FUN!**

COMING UP.....

BINGO NIGHT AT AYLESFORD

HALL,

**116 Bradley Road,
Shard End, Birmingham
B34 7RJ.**

SATURDAY APRIL 25TH

And a

**QUIZ AT THORNBRIDGE
AVENUE ALLOTMENTS,
Beeches Road B42 2PT
on SATURDAY 4TH JULY**

*more details will be sent out to Site Secretaries closer to
these dates.*

WALSALL ROAD ALLOTMENTS WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME YOU TO OUR EVENTS

:
Spring Sale on May 9th, 12.00 – 15.00.
Plants, cakes, jams, craft. Book signing by Nick Mays, the author of Robert the Allotment Cat. In aid of cats' vet fund.

Summer Fair on August 22nd. 12.00 – 15.00. in aid of charity (yet to be decided)
Postcode B42 1TZ



Walmley Ash band of volunteers

WALMLEY ASH VOLUNTEERING DAY

On the 9th & 23rd of November we hosted our second group of teenage volunteers from the National Citizen Service. Despite the rain they had a brief walk around the site and we explained what we would like to achieve from their visit. It was agreed that they would help us to clear the overgrown hedge stretching from the Site Hut enabling us to clear an area for a second bay to hold wood chippings and to reinstate the flower border.

Members of the Committee arrived on site at 11:00 ready to help out.

After a quick reminder on what was planned, the eight volunteers equipped themselves with gardening tools and started work on the border, whilst Graham and Peter the other members of the committee tackled the area for the second bay. Thankfully the rain held off and the temperature was pleasantly mild and by lunchtime, the border and new bay were knocked into shape.

After lunch the NCS set to planting daffodils and perennial plants.

Thanks to the hard work of both the NCS teenagers and Committee we can now see the border and have an area cleared ready to create the new bay.

It was another very successful and satisfying day.

BIG THANKS to all the NCS team and Graham, Peter, Jennie, Lynne, Alan, Bev, Stan and Ann. Thanks also go to Robin and Jeff for providing hot drinks and cakes for all involved.

More pictures of the event are available on our website <https://walmleyashallotment.co.uk/gallery>

More information on the National Citizen Service can be found at. <https://www.ncsyas.co.uk/what-is-ncs>

Web links

If any Association would like the BDAC website to have a link to their own web site, please email your web address to Executive member, Mark Hanson using the following address: markhansonbdac@gmail.com. And he will install the link for you.

From time to time we have prospective plot holders visit our site and make plot requests the link will help you publicise your site.

To contact the BDAC

Chairman: Clive Birch phone 0121 354 1512
e-mail: clivebirch@blueyonder.co.uk

Secretary: Barbara Smith phone 07746062410
e-mail bdac.allotments@gmail.com

Assistant Secretary: Anne Murphy phone 0121 449 7340 e-mail: annemurphy47@hotmail.co.uk

For lots of information visit our Website
www.bdacallotments.co.uk

Join us on our Facebook page- BDAC Allotments
Follow us on Twitter!- @BDAC_allotments

THE NATIONAL ALLOTMENT SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020

Those of you that are members will have received your invite and voting forms for the AGM to be held in Leeds on June 6th. If you wish Derek Cullen of the BDAC Executive to carry your proxy vote please contact Derek on 0121 384 7715 email: cullen.derek.j@gmail.com

Masterclasses at Moor Green Allotments 2020

Our program of Masterclasses will recommence in March and will as far as possible be on the 2nd Saturday of the month.

We gather together from 10.00am in the clubhouse/pavilion for tea/coffee and informal conversation before a 10.30 start.

A typical morning has 2 parts. The advertised topic of the day, which will include practical demonstration and site walk as weather permits; and an open Q&A/discussion time. The opening conversations will often determine the sequence at any given meeting.

A monthly actions guide will be available, and sharing of experience is encouraged. We expect both experienced and novice plot holders to be at these meetings, including regulars. Presenters are confident that there will be practical benefits for all who attend.

The RHS Magazine 'The Garden' & 'Which Gardening' are used as references for best current practice.

Proposed Program

14th March: Winter pruning established/neglected Apples & Pears. I have permission of a plot holder to use their trees for a worked example. We will also visit the trees grafted in 2019.

11th April: Your Soil & How to Manage It. We had a lot of interest last year in "No Dig" gardening. We will continue to explore the benefits and difficulties of the practice. Annual & Perennial weeds, seed beds & soil temperature.

9th May: Fruit Trees & Bushes. Chiefly but not exclusively Apples & Pears. Actions to take before during and after flowering. Pollination, Pests & Diseases.

13th June: Your Soil & How to Manage It. Watering as it affects different plants. Weeds, waste & composting. Continuity & rotation.

11th July: Q&A Open meeting

August: No Meeting

12th September: Harvesting & Preserving. Jams & Pickles. Bring & exchange recipes using unusual ingredients.

10th October: Final meeting of the year. Winter work. Site hygiene & Bonfires. Triumphs and disappointments. Record keeping & Planning.

Moseley and District Allotments Holders Association Limited

The BDAC can forward any enquiries that you may have about these classes email bdac.allotment@gmail.com

Bordesley Green Allotments are in the heart of the community, on a daily basis, committee members are working alongside different organisations and community projects this has led to great links and support for local people.

Current community partners include West Midlands Police and the local PCSO, Bordesley Green Primary School, Somerville Primary School, Home Schooling groups, New Roots Allotment project, Alderman Bowen Day Centre's walking group, Hall Moor School 6th form and HBVC – Heart of Birmingham Vocational College students. The most recent links have been made with the Active Well Being Society, Run Birmingham and two local health centres who have supported the allotment with a recent litter pick. This green space within Bordesley Green is vibrant and full of activity thanks to the volunteers from the committee.

Bordesley Green Allotment VE Day.

An open day has been arranged for **Tuesday 5th May**, the day will be focused on the '**Dig for Victory**' campaign, there will be a vintage tea room where you can call in for a cup of tea and a slice of cake, There will be the History of 'Dig For Victory' and growing sustainable food sources during the war and how we can learn from this in modern times, with an opportunity to look around the allotment and talk to plot holders. *Should be a great day out!*

Children's Art Exhibition

Task: create a children's art competition on the theme of "Insects and Allotments"

Who for: Birmingham District Allotments Confederation (BDAC)

When: The BDAC Vegetable Show in September 2020.

Purpose:

To engage with young people, their parents and society in the management of and the social and ecological benefits of allotments.

To raise awareness of the global extinction of many forms of insect life and the consequences of this upon allotments and global food production.

The Subject

Any insect(s) found on an allotment plot.

Entry requirements:

All children under the age of 11 years whose parents work an allotment in the city of Birmingham. The art can be in any media except photography and video

All entries (1 per child and named) should be created on A4 paper.

Entry Date:

01/03/2020 until 15/07/2020

All Entries

Must have Name, Age, Address Printed on back of the artwork.

It is recommended artwork is posted in A4 envelope and the artwork is supported by stiff card to protect the artwork from damage in the post.

Postal address for entries:

BDAC Insects and Allotments Art Project, 70, Marsh Lane, Erdington, Birmingham, B23 6PJ

Outcomes

There will be no entry costs

All A4 paper entries will be exhibited in the BDAC exhibition space and if required available to collect post exhibition.

A JPEG image of each entry will be placed (for a duration of 3 months post exhibition?) for viewing on the BDAC website.

All entries will be judged by an independent panel. All entries reaching the final cut will be exhibited as above.

Prizes will be awarded to 1st, 2nd, & 3rd places.

Prizes will be award at the Birmingham Allotment Show at 3.00pm Sunday 30th August 2020. Photographs of the winners and their art will appear on the BDAC website for a duration of 3 months.

The BDAC will also (within a brief but reasonable time frame) explore (but give no guarantee) the possibilities of some other venue, community project or art institution exhibiting the paper entries after the BDAC show is completed.

MANY THANKS GO TO ALL THOSE ASSOCIATIONS WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THIS NEWSLETTER

WALSALL ROAD ALLOTMENTS

MOOR GREEN ALLOTMENTS

WALMLEY ASH

BORDESLEY GREEN

UPLANDS