



NEWSLETTER

Season's Greetings to all our members.

Another growing season completed and Allotment Plots resting until the Spring. I am taking the time to plan for next year. My personal challenge will be to grow the longest bean and enter it in next year's Annual Show. So, when planning your crops for next year why not plan in entering our Show! *Barbara Smith Secretary BDAC*

John Singleton

Our thoughts are with John Singleton's family at this time as he sadly passed away recently. His funeral will take place on the 5th December at St Peters Church in Harborne starting at 12.30 p.m.

John was the head of Singletons Nurseries and has supported Birmingham" Allotments and the Annual Show for many years. He will be missed.

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 January 6th
Monday February 3th
Monday March 2th

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

PUBLICISING YOUR EVENTS

If you let us know in advance of any events you are holding we can get the message out to sites. It has been suggested to us that plot holders would like to attend any event in their area and that it would be good to support neighbouring Associations so please let us know what you are doing so that we can support you!

DONT FORGET THE CHRISTMAS GET TOGETHER AT KINGS HEATH PARK ON THE 18TH SEE YOU THERE FOR THE MINCE PIES.

Florence Pickering Works

At last progress! For a long time, the BDAC has been pushing for the Council to begin using the Florence Pickering Fund (FPF) to make improvements to fences, roads and install toilets in sites. For those of you that are not aware, when

Allotment land is sold a portion of the money raised has to be spent on allotments. This a because of an agreement between the BDAC and Birmingham City Council. This money is held by BCC and is called The Florence Pickering Fund. The Council has held the fund for a long time and because of BDAC pressure is now actively spending it on Allotment Sites across the City. Making improvements to fence security, roads and installing toilets where none exist.

We are now starting to take more requests for work using this fund, so if your site needs some repairs please contact us and we will help you apply.

Half Yearly Meeting

Thank you for all those who were able to spare the time to attend the meeting at Bordesley Green. The meeting is a great way to enable communication between Association and the BDAC giving you the opportunity to tell us what needs to be done and what concerns you have.



All Site Secretaries



Come and share a bit of festive cheer



Mince Pies, tea and coffee

Wednesday, 18th December 2019

11 am to 12.30 pm

Kings Heath Park House

Ground floor

Kings Heath Park

Birmingham B14 7TQ

Bernie

A LITTLE BIT OF CHRISTMAS CHEER

How does Rudolph know that it's Christmas?

A: He looks at his calend*eer*

LOWER TINKERS FARM MAKE SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS

Lower Tinkers Farm have used monies raised this year to purchase fence paling extension pieces, and in November has a work party to install them. They identified areas on the perimeter of the site that people were getting access. Hopefully this will deter more would be thieves.



Also, their eagle-eyed Secretary, Chris Hughes, spotted a substantial steel gate destined for the tip. With permission it was re-located to Lower Tinkers and is being installed in front of the store shed to add another layer of security.

NEW COUNCILLOR FOR ALLOTMENTS

We have welcomed a new Councillor to our Allotment team. Cabinet member Councillor John O'Shea. John made an informal visit to our Annual Show in August and expressed a wish to do all that he could to support Allotments.

WELL DONE MICK MERRILL

Well done to Mick Merrill of our Executive who has been awarded the honour of Life Vice-President of the National Society in recognition of all the work that he has carried for the National Society.

LINKS WITH THE NATIONAL SOCIETY

The BDAC feels that it is important to create links with Associations and groups outside of Birmingham. We have in the past always worked closely with the National Society and value their support. We send representatives to the Area 5 meetings of the National Society, including the National A.G.M. and invite their representatives to our events.

The National Society employs a legal expert who seeks to protect Allotments at the national level including working with government. Plot holders can become individual members or Association members. The cost of Association membership is considerably cheaper!

This involves Associations applying for membership on behalf of their member plot holders.

There are benefits of membership, notably free personal insurance and a discounted seed scheme. Membership is worth thinking about.

The BDAC are going to join the National in June 2020 at the Gardener's World Event at where we will be promoting Birmingham's Allotments.

They are always on the lookout for volunteers at the Show, in return for a session talking to the public about Allotments and answering queries, volunteers get free entry to the exhibition. Quite a good deal! Also worth thinking about!

QUIZ EVENT AND FUND RAISING

Cheryl Butler has been recently co-opted on to the BDAC Executive with responsibility for fundraising. The executive is committed to the continuation of the Annual Show as we think that it is a vital tool for publicising Birmingham Allotments, encouraging high standards of cultivation and a chance for Associations to come together. It is a challenge to raise the monies needed to put on the show. Cheryl has a number of ideas that she hopes will appeal to plot holders and help us to raise the funds for next year's show.

WE WANT TO APPEAL FOR ASSOCIATION SUPPORT IN THIS, WE GREATLY APPRECIATE ALL WHO, IN THE PAST, HAVE GIVEN GENEROUSLY TO THE CAUSE.

Web links

If any Association would like a link to their website in the BDAC website 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**

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