

Walmley Ash Allotment Association Newsletter

V6

GAZEBO

Work commenced in March on the area where our Gazebo will be and the extension to car park space.



Due to the lockdown work has been halted. Hopefully when we are all able to socialize again and the Gazebo is in place, we can have a get together.

ASSOCIATE MEMBER

As agreed at the AGM and introduced into our WAAA Constitution each plot can now nominate a secondary person as an Associate Member based on the following terms:-

Associate members: A spouse, partner, son, or daughter etc. that actively takes part in the cultivation of a named members plot and will have voting rights and the right to be a member of the Committee but to be limited to one associate member per plot.

If you wish to nominate a second person for your plot then please email waaasec@gmail.com your plot number, named person and if possible their email address. Alternatively post the details into the site letterbox.

Council Maintenance

We are not sure when or if we will be getting any visits from the BCC to cut the grass. If you can help to keep the grass walkways cut then please do.

WATER and TOILETS

The toilets have been locked on recommendation and guidance from the NAS and BCC. Water to site is still on.

STRAW and CHIPPINGS

Delivery of straw and chippings is on hold until the COVID-19 lockdown is removed.

The price for a wheelbarrow of straw, manure or chippings is 50p.

Alternatively you can pay a yearly subscription of £10 if you have a full plot, £5 if you have a half plot or £2.50 for a quarter plot.

WOODCHIP USES

Anyone wishing to check what can be done with wood chippings might like to have a look at this webpage

<https://learningandyearning.com/wood-chips>

BDAC COMPETITIONS

We were hoping to re-enter some of the below competitions again but this years show has been cancelled so maybe we can try next year.



The Most Improved Site,
The Best Managed Site in
Birmingham,
The Best Plot in Birmingham,
The Best newcomer.

You can find more details about the competitions on the BDAC website. <http://www.bdacallotments.co.uk>

HEALTH & SAFETY

The path to the Spinney has been damaged due to the work that started on the Gazebo area. This will be sorted out once work recommences.

In the meantime, please mind where you walk. Please ensure you are following the WAAA safety guidelines.

GRASS BY SPINNEY

The area around the spinney gate has now had its first few mowing's and is looking better than it has done for many years.



PLOT VACANCIES

We currently have a waiting list for plot vacancies. We do encourage you to let us know, in confidence, if you are unable to tend to your plot for any reason or are struggling to maintain all of it. We can then endeavor to help keep your plot in some order until such time as you can return or alternatively decide to surrender the tenancy. Where possible we will try and cover them over.

PLOT NUMBERS

Everyone should be displaying their plot number. There are many different styles available or you can of course make your own.



This will help us all to know which plots are being cultivated. It also helps our new members find their way around.

Thank you to those who have already displayed your number.

HIDDEN CAMERAS

The use of hidden cameras is proving to be a useful deterrent.

We have had no incidents reported since they were introduced.

THE SPINNEY

Unfortunately, we have seen some recent misuse of the Spinney. The Spinney is only to be used for non-compositable material. Do not dispose of netting, weed suppressant or any material that is not going to rot down naturally.

FUTURE PROJECTS AND FUNDING

The following is a project we are running with that all need to be externally funded. They are things we are aiming to achieve to improve the site.

Project 1 – Funding from Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council’s Community Grant Programme and Sutton Coldfield Charitable Trust.

Communal gazebo, raised beds and extension to parking area.

We are pleased to say we have been awarded funding for the purchase and installation of a communal gazebo along with raised beds on Plot 8.

Work on clearing the area started in March but due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation work has been suspended.

This will be Funded by Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council’s Community Grant Programme.



Sutton Coldfield Charitable Trust has awarded us the additional funds for the ground works.



REFURBISHMENT OF THE TOILETS.

Good news is that funding for this has also been agreed from Sutton Coldfield Charitable Trust. Work was due to start in April but has been put on hold due to the current COVID-19 situation.

MORE OF THE FLO!!

The Flo Pickering Fund is a fund set up to help allotments throughout the city. The revenue is from the sale and development of allotments. So every time an allotment is sold off the money is supposed to go to the upkeep of remaining allotments. Particularly roads, fences and asbestos removal.

The BDAC (Birmingham & District Allotments Committee) has been trying for years to get some of this money released. After a protracted battle they have now got approval to carry out work on all sites that have requested it.

We have put in a new application for extra fencing along the Ashurst Road boundary and some hard surfacing by the straw and wood chip bays.

AND FINALLY, something light

All things bright and beautiful.

All things bright and beautiful
All creatures great and small
All things wise and wonderful
The Lord God made them all.

But what they never mention
Though gardeners know it's true
Is when he made the good things
He made the bad ones too.

All things spray and swatatable
Disasters great and small
All things paraquatatable
The Lord God made them all.

The green fly on the roses
The maggots in the peas
Parched months that need our hoses
He also gave us these.

The fungus on the onions
The clubroot on the greens
The slugs that eat the lettuce
And chew the aubergines.

The drought that kills the fuchsias
The frost that nips the buds
The rain that drowns the seedlings
The blight that hits the spuds.

The midges and mosquitoes
The nettles and the weeds
The pigeons on the seedlings
The sparrows on the seeds.

The fly that gets the carrots
The wasp that eats the plums
How black the gardeners' outlook
Though green may be their thumbs.

But still we gardeners labour
Midst vegetables and flowers
And pray what hits the neighbours
Will somehow bypass ours.

COMEDY GARDENING

A retired cable jointer went viral after planting something unusual in his garden following the lockdown.

Watch the video at <https://youtu.be/TcQpZSB1ZJE>

"The best way to garden is to put on a wide-brimmed straw hat and some old clothes. And with a hoe in one hand and a cold drink in the other, tell somebody else where to dig."
- Texas Bix Bender, Don't Throw in the Trowel

"A weed is a plant that has mastered every survival skill except for learning how to grow in rows."
- Doug Larson

"Gardening requires lots of water - most of it in the form of perspiration."
- Lou Erickson