



BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT ALLOTMENT CONFEDERATION

NEWSLETTER

KEEPING PLOT HOLDERS IN TOUCH

March 2018

THE NEW SEASON BEGINS

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Executive meetings held at The Girl Guide Head Quarters, Trefoil House, Brownsea Drive, B1 1QL unless otherwise stated

Monday 9th April at Northleigh Allotments B8 2QH

Monday 30th April

Monday 4th June

If you wish to attend a meeting as an observer please contact the Chairman, Clive Birch 0121 354 1512, e-mail:

clivebirch@blueyonder.co.uk

Saturday 19th May 2018

BDAC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Bordesley Allotments B9 5PD starting at 2.00.p.m.

Hopefully by the time this newsletter arrives on site Spring will finally be sprung! We have had a long and cold winter, looking on the bright side that should mean less pests to trouble us through the Summer...here's hoping!

The BDAC has not been resting through January and February. The Show Committee has been busy producing the Show Schedules that you should all be in receipt of. **Please consider entering the show this Summer because it is FUN!** If you need more schedules they are available for download from our web site. Or contact the Show Secretary, Derek Cullen by e-mail: bdac.show.sec@gmail.com or phone: 0121 384 7715

We have also been in meetings with the Allotments Officer and Officers from the Landscape Practice Group. They will be visiting five more sites to arrange for works to be carried out using the Flo Pickering Fund.

CHANGES TO THE SHOW SCHEDULE

New for this year **B.D.A.C Youth Challenge**

Open to any Young Gardeners aged 15 to 18 years related to a Plot Holder. All exhibits must be grown on an allotment plot by the exhibitor. Class 39 - Best grown and displayed vegetable and Class 40- Best grown and displayed flower.

NEWS FROM FALCON LODGE ALLOTMENTS

Well done Falcon Lodge! The Association have been busy throughout the Winter refurbishing their site shop. The works included a new roof, re-decoration and new shelving.

They approached a local Municipal Charity who donated enough for the new roof and the materials to refurbish the interior and carried out the interior work themselves. So now that it has been completed it is available for the community to rent for meetings and workshops. The shop is fully stocked and trading well, already.

Not wanting to rest they are now starting their next project which is to tidy up some land adjacent to their allotments for the use of the local nature. They are hoping to attract hedgehogs, insects and birds and to encourage the local community to get involved in developing the Nature Area. WELL DONE FALCON LODGE!

REMEMBER YOU CAN GET MORE NEWS ON OUR WEB SITE AND FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER!

WANT TO IMPROVE YOUR GROWING SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE?

MOOR GREEN ALLOTMENTS ARE HOSTING A SERIES OF MASTER CLASSES FOR ALLOTMENTEERS!

The events will be held in their Pavilion from 10.00a.m until 12.00 noon, and will include practical demonstrations where possible and the opportunity to ask questions of their resident horticulturalist - Robert (Oz) Osborn.

The courses for 2018 are as follows:

March 10th	'Introduction to grafting'
April 14th	'Growing for Showing'
May 12th	'Trained fruit trees'
June 9th	'Crop rotation'
July 14th	'Display of produce' Show off your produce at the BDAC show
September	Produce show.
October 14th	'Overwintering crops'

If you want to reserve a place please contact Maxine Smith by text on 07989380544 or e-mail Max@system-uk.com. If you have any questions to put to Oz send them beforehand to Maxine.

FUNDRAISING ALLOTMENT NEWS

Well done Greenleigh Allotments! They have a collection box in aid of St Mary's Hospice. Up to date they have raised £840 for this excellent cause.

Also, Cofton Road Allotments who have raised £117 for the Macmillan charity by having a Coffee Morning. And a further £400 through car boot sales of unwanted household bric-a-brac and donated vegetables.

Want to promote your Site? Then join us at the MAC in August. The BDAC want to invite Associations to have a stall at the Annual Show to promote their site. If you are interested please contact Barbara Smith for further information. E-mail bdac.allotments@gmail.com or phone 07746062410

The National Allotment Society AGM is in June this year. Members wishing to attend need to return the delegate form, sent out with the members magazine, to Head Office by **Tuesday 3 April**, if you cannot attend and wish to appoint a proxy Executive Member Mick Merrill will be happy to collect these, please contact him on 07980779745 or post the forms to: 37, Dwyer House, St Georges Ave., Erdington. B23 6UF

WE NEED SPONSORSHIP FOR OUR SHOW! *Please help*

THE ANNUAL SHOW IS AN EVENT THAT PROMOTES ALLOTMENT GARDENING

It is important for all of us that we attract new plot holders every year to ensure the future of Birmingham's Allotments. The Annual Show is an opportunity to advertise how wonderful allotment gardening can be. The Show has costs and we want to encourage Allotment Associations to support us with the costs incurred.

We ask that Associations consider sponsoring the Show by donating £10 to the BDAC.

In return for your support we will ensure that your site's name is prominently displayed in the MAC. Your £10 will go a long way to help us promote your site and all the other sites in Birmingham.

To contact us about this please e-mail bdac.allotments@gmail.com or phone Barbara Smith on 07746062410.

Many thanks

HERE'S LOOKING FORWARD TO A SUCCESSFUL GROWING YEAR