

Birmingham & District Allotment Confederation

Annual Allotment Show 2017 Report

I can say without fear of contradiction we have had the best show and the best weather in a long time.

The success is in no small part to the volunteers who turned up and worked their socks off. There were also visitors who came for a day and stopped for three. The volunteers are too many to name - to them I say thank you very much.

I must thank the show committee team who for the last six months worked with one aim - a successful show - so to Barbara, Anne, Peter, Dave and Mick, THANKS. Such an amazing result would not have been achieved without you - THANKS AGAIN.

Thursday: bright morning, ground damp from overnight rain, but the construction of the show site went like a dream thanks to the contractors Crest Marquees and Birmingham Events being on time and a bunch of real nice guys.

Special thanks to Robert Wilkinson for his sponsorship and the loan of the big top caravan which proved to be a remarkable success with the kids' activities.

Apart from the main show Marquee we had:

- Keith Henderson running his Help for hero's charity stall
- Lower Tinkers Farm Allotments promoting their site and allotment life
- The Allotment Information Centre where prospective plot holders could locate a site, obtain contact details, tel no, post code etc, and any other information they needed
- An Information Centre for Exhibiting for those interested societies and individuals in how to enter our show. The object was to raise the show profile information on how to grow for shows, and how show growing benefits growing generally.

The N.S.A.L.G. also had a display in the main show tent, and West Midlands rep Tom Terrence and Di Appleyard (the NSALG Marketing and Mentor coordinator) were present with a lot of helpful information on how we can improve the show from a marketing perspective. The display included a raft of information leaflets for the allotment world in general.

These information centres proved to a remarkable success and were over-run at times.

We had two tombola stands: a Chocolate Tombola run by Anne, and a General Tombola run by Mark. Both of these had completely sold out by close of show. St Johns Ambulance had an incident-free weekend and their volunteers spent the time revising procedures.

The catering tent did a brisk trade the whole weekend thanks to Joe, Peter & John Whittacker with some assistance from Anne.

The main show tent looked amazing on Saturday morning before judging. Watch Mick Poultney's You Tube video -it is better than any description I can give and covers all the exhibits, but I must say the exhibits stood up remarkably well to the hot weather.

The presentation of all the awards was on Sunday afternoon. The duties of master of ceremony were carried out by Chris Smith and our guest presenters were Councillor Carl Rice, Alderman Brenda Clarke, Jeff Cole, Life Vice- President BDAC Josie Coey and Joe Brown.

On Saturday, the Show Committee met and decided that because class 1B had no award and as it was the brain child of the late Chris Brown it would be appropriate to renamed 1B "The Chris Ann Brown Challenge Plate" (Joe has confirmed the name of the trophy after discussing it with the family) for Novice Display of Flowers, Fruit and Vegetables, the winner to keep the plate.

Joe Brown was asked to present the first award to the Hill Allotments. He also presented the display awards to Thornbridge Avenue and Lower Tinkers Farm. Jeff Cole is reported to have said afterwards it was the best presentation he has been to in a long, long time.

We closed the show at 4pm on Monday when the exhibitors had removed what they wanted. Everything else was sold off by two ladies who volunteered at short notice, Janet Spencer & Yvonne Brookes. They did a superb job. As that was taking place, we dismantled everything. By 6pm it was all over, sold up and cleared up.

Tuesday morning Birmingham Events and Crest Marquees cleared their equipment, Robert Wilkinson was moving his fair off to the next location and the park was back to normal.

WELL DONE TO EVERYONE INVOLVED.

B.D.A.C Show Secretary