



# NEWSLETTER

## Season's Greetings from the BDAC

**We wish everyone a safe Merry Christmas and an increasingly Covid-19 free, 2021.**

**Associations across the city should be proud of the job that they have done in providing a safe haven for plot holders.**



### Web site up date

During the last month both myself and our Show Secretary, Derek Cullen, have been 'up-skilling' by means of a Website training manual! We have been making changes to the website to hopefully develop it a little more. It is still a work in progress, we are learning as we go. Please go and visit and let us have your constructive feedback. New pages will include one for sites to advertise vacant plots and another for plot holders and Associations to share what they are doing on their site. Many thanks for those of you who answered the plea for photos, you may find some familiar pictures on the web site, we will always need some more. In particular, Derek is on the lookout for an aerial picture of a site to go as the header picture. So, if you can donate any please email them to me using [bdac.allotments@gmail.com](mailto:bdac.allotments@gmail.com)

Barbara Smith, Secretary BDAC

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.

**Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic all meetings have been cancelled.**

The BDAC Executive are still keeping in touch through letters and emails and our work continues on.

We will inform Secretaries of any changes

### In this edition:

**Page two: Heritage project up date**

**Page three and four: News from Allotment Sites**

## Facebook page



Last year Mark Hanson set up a new Facebook account for us. Since then, over one hundred people have signed up to the page. It is working really well. Lots of posts showing what you have been growing and some asking for advice. It's great to see.

Our page book page is "BDAC Birmingham Allotments" the link is <https://www.facebook.com/groups/674161326681373>

The BDAC would like to thank **The National Allotment Society** for all their support and guidance throughout the Spring and Summer.

I know that quite a few Associations enjoy the benefits of Association membership including free personal insurance for plot holders. Their web site is well worth visiting <https://www.nsalg.org.uk>

## 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](mailto:generalpublicprojects@gmail.com) or BDAC.

Or phone Chris on 07792 736125.



*This appeal was sent out in the March edition. There is still time for you to consider how you could contribute. Chris has informed us that the National Lottery Heritage Fund, NLHF, has made some encouraging comments about the project however they have stopped their funds streams at the moment. Despite that, he is still working to develop ideas and will apply as soon as this situation improves.*

## **Walmley Ash Allotment Community Project 2019/2020**

In 2019 a project was launched to develop a plot of land which had become overgrown and neglected for some years.

The project would involve clearing and levelling the ground to provide an area for the construction of a number of raised beds and the purchase of a 6-metre x 3-metre gazebo.

The finished project would provide a meeting area for plot holders, a classroom for the local primary school children who visit and also teenagers from the National Citizens scheme who come to carry out volunteer work. The raised beds will provide opportunities for vulnerable and disabled groups to visit and use the site in a safe environment.

The project was funded by generous grants from the Sutton Town Council and the Sutton Coldfield Charitable Trust.

With the uncertainty and restrictions imposed on the country by Covid19 there were occasions when we did not know when or if our project would go ahead or if we would be able to even start it. In addition, although we had been told we did not need planning permission BCC changed their minds and we had to make a planning application which took four months to get final approval which was finally granted in August 2020 further delayed the project. As a result, the costs of materials had increased and together with the unforeseen cost of the planning application an additional £1000 was added to the final cost.

Our association together with donations from our plot holders helped towards the final bill.

Working with our contractors who had their own problems and by following Government and BDAC advice we managed to overcome the challenges and the project was finally completed in September 2020.

With the generous grants from the Sutton Town Council and Sutton Charitable Trust we have managed to provide a superb facility which will allow us to have more on site activities and community events and a covered meeting area. The benefits on our mental and physical wellbeing on having or visiting an allotment are more relevant than ever in these uncertain times.

Walmley Ash Allotment Association



### Avian Flu

The government is advising that anyone who has chickens should improve their biosecurity due to increasing numbers of outbreaks of Avian Flu in England. To find out more you could follow this link.

[https://www.gov.uk/government/news/avian-influenza-bird-flu-national-prevention-zone-declared?fbclid=IwAR0FJgRqNtc1g\\_nT-WP0M0iBE2EuqttzECT5N0SrOAatBBR3GJWJkz3LkLQ](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/avian-influenza-bird-flu-national-prevention-zone-declared?fbclid=IwAR0FJgRqNtc1g_nT-WP0M0iBE2EuqttzECT5N0SrOAatBBR3GJWJkz3LkLQ)

( One epidemic is enough!)

### To contact the BDAC

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And finally, as the first vaccine has been approved many thanks to all those who have worked tirelessly to get us out of our restrictions and also all those who have put their own health on the line to help us battle the virus and “Keep us carrying on”

With some level of confidence, we can welcome in...

# A Happy 2021