



# NEWSLETTER

## Season's Greetings from the BDAC



**We wish everyone a safe Merry Christmas and A Happier New Year**

2021 has been a busy year for the BDAC. We have been pleased to be able to stage a Vegetable Show and once again run plot and site competitions. Things have slowly returned to normal during the Summer but as we have come to expect, Winter sees a return of the virus numbers. So please have a great Christmas Season whilst keeping safe.

It has been heartening to see the continued requests for allotment plots come through our email and see new people embrace the "Grow it Yourself" culture. If you are new to Allotment Gardening. Welcome!

### GOODBYE to Executive Members

Sadly, this year Anne Murphy our Assistant Secretary has resigned from the BDAC Executive due to ill health. As well as being Secretary of Warstock Lane she also supported Pembroke Croft and Eastern Road all of whom are managed directly by the Allotment Office as they have no Association on site. She was a member of our Show Committee responsible for organising fundraising.

Anne's hard work excellent advice will be very much missed.

We have also received the resignation of long-time Executive member Wendy Loder from the Brambles Allotments. Wendy also has resigned due to ill health. Wendy was Secretary of the Brambles Allotments for many years and contributed to Executive decision making over many years. We are very sorry to see her leave.

If you are an experienced Association Officer, or have been in the past and are interested in being either an Advisor or an Executive Member please get in touch. We are in need of people with sensible good advice and a willingness to share it.

Barbara Smith, Secretary BDAC

### 2022 Dates for your diary

Executive meetings will be held at Bordesley Green Allotments B9 5PD  
Meetings start at 7pm

**(As long as there are no restrictions on meetings due to Covid)**

Monday January 10<sup>th</sup>

Monday February 7<sup>th</sup>

Monday March 7<sup>th</sup>

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# THE BIRMINGHAM ALLOTMENT PROJECT

Photos of Bordesley Green Allotments & Uffculme Allotments, Kings Heath, 1975.  
Image Credit: Will Thust/Four Corners Archive



# WOTTA LOTTA CULTURE!



\*The project tagline **WOTTA LOTTA CULTURE!** is taken from a Birmingham Evening Mail article (Monday 26 August 1996) about Uplands allotments in Handsworth: "The Brum allotment where world-wide friendship grows and grows. **WOTTA LOTTA CULTURE** (...that's multi-culture and horticulture!)".

An exciting new project by General Public exploring the heritage of allotments in Birmingham from the 1960s to the present day.



Thanks to National Lottery players



GENERAL PUBLIC .ORG.UK

THE BIRMINGHAM ALLOTMENT PROJECT .CO.UK

The Heritage Project has started in earnest, Chris Poolman has begun recording the stories of Allotmenters. The first person to relate their memories was Josie Coey a life time member of the BDAC serving on the Executive for many years and friend of Florence Pickering. There is still time to sign up to either help as a volunteer or to tell your stories. Electronic copies of the flyer have already been sent out to Associations and paper copies can be requested by Associations or individuals from the project leader, Chris Poolman. He is looking for stories right across the city.

Chris's contacts are:-

email: [generalpublicprojects@gmail.com](mailto:generalpublicprojects@gmail.com)

Post: 69 Station Road B14 7SS

Call/text Chris at 07792736125

The Project will finish in a major Exhibition at the Library of Birmingham in Autumn 2023.

He has set up a web site. <https://www.thebirminghamallotmentproject.co.uk/> that is well worth visiting for updates on how the project is developing.

## Its Official!. Allotments are just as productive as commercial farms, whilst also promoting bio diversity!

University of Sussex worked with Allotmenters from Brighton and Hove. The researchers calculated that an average of £380 worth of produce per grower was thanks to insect pollination, with berries being the most attractive crop to pollinators. Over the two-year period, the volunteers recorded over 2000 pollinating insects visiting their crops. Bees were the most common group of pollinating visitors accounting for 43% of all flower visits. Surprisingly, flies were also important visitors, accounting for 34% of insect visits.

To read the full article about Dr Beth Nicholls' work go to the British Ecological Society's web page <https://www.britishecologicalsociety.org/city-allotments-match-farming-productivity-per-square-metre/>.

### 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!)

### New Management Agreements

In the New Year the BDAC will begin the process of working with Associations and Birmingham City Council to draw up new Management Agreements. For those of you that are not aware these agreements are legally binding and set out the responsibilities of the Association and the Council in the joint managing of the Allotments in Birmingham

We are aware of some of your concerns about the present Agreement but would welcome your thoughts on what you would like to see in the new agreements. We will be contacting Committees in the new year.

### To contact the BDAC

**Chairman: Clive Birch**  
phone 0121 354 1512  
e-mail:  
[clivebirch@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:clivebirch@blueyonder.co.uk)

**Secretary:**  
**Barbara Smith**  
phone 07746062410  
e-mail :  
[bdac.allotments@gmail.com](mailto:bdac.allotments@gmail.com)

**For lots of information**  
**visit our Website**  
[www.bdacallotments.co.uk](http://www.bdacallotments.co.uk)

**Follow us on Twitter**  
[@BDAC\\_allotments](https://twitter.com/BDAC_allotments)

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

Wishing you a  
**Happy New Year**  
**2021!**

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

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>

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