



# NEWSLETTER

## A New Growing year Begins!

For me March is a lovely time, weather getting warmer, plot holders venturing out once again on to their plots and the Allotment Communities across Birmingham come alive once more. 2022 will be a particularly exciting time for Birmingham as we invite the World (literally!) to come here and experience the city.

### .working on A New Agreement

Over the Winter the BDAC has been holding consultation meetings with Associations in an effort to make sure that the future Management Agreements with Birmingham City Council properly support Associations in to the future. A work party of volunteers are working with the National Allotment Society to look at our options. They will report to Associations in the Summer, intending to produce a document that explains clearly the pros and cons of our options enabling Associations to decide what they want. Minutes of meetings will be posted in the BDAC website for your information.

## Dates for your diary

Executive meetings are held at Bordesley Green Allotments Meetings starts at 7 p.m.  
 Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May  
 Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June  
 Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July  
 Monday 1<sup>st</sup> August

If you wish to attend any meeting as an observer please contact  
 Clive Birch

### AGM Saturday May 22nd at Bordesley Green Allotments

National Allotments Week  
 August 11<sup>th</sup> to August 18<sup>th</sup>

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Nominations are invited for BDAC Officer positions and Executive members for voting at BDAC Annual General Meeting **Saturday May 22<sup>nd</sup> May** Bordesley Green Allotments starting 2pm. Send nominations to Clive Birch, prior to the meeting, they also will be accepted on the day.

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## SHOW NEWS

The Schedules for the **Annual Birmingham Allotment Fruit, Flower & Vegetable Competition** are now available for download from the BDAC website. It will be held on the weekend of 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> August at Bordesley Green Allotments.

Derek Cullen wants to welcome new entrants, so the schedule has lots of classes just for plot holders who are novice exhibitors. It has never been easier to start and join in the fun. Each class has prize monies attached.

As usual Associations have group classes. For more details, please go to page 4.

**SO SPREAD THE NEWS AND ENTER THE SHOW**

Go to the website to download **SITE COMPETITION ENTRY FORMS** the BDAC judges will go around site in July to find the Best Site, The Best plot holder and celebrate all the hard work of Associations.



Robert the Cat has written a book!

Robert is one of the resident cats on Walsall Road Allotments. The Association has a partnership with The Cats Protection League and has kindly taken on some cats that couldn't be found a home. Robert is famous for his campaign to keep the site open when the Council wished to close and relocate it is for the Commonwealth Games.

The Association fund raise so that they can properly care for the cats on site, this includes visits to the vets for check-ups and treatment. As you can imagine they need to raise quite a sum annually to cover the costs. In order to help Robert and his furry friends, with a little help he has written a book about all the cats on the site and the life they lead. All the proceeds from the sale of the book will go to the upkeep of Robert's fellow cats. The book can be purchased from Amazon for £5.99 (paperback) or £2.39 (kindle edition.)

If you are interested in reading a copy here is the link.

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B082RCSV1N/ref=dp-kindle-redirect?\\_encoding=UTF8&btkr=1](https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B082RCSV1N/ref=dp-kindle-redirect?_encoding=UTF8&btkr=1)

**REMEMBER ....  
TO ENTER THE BDAC  
SHOW AND SITE  
COMPETITIONS DETAILS  
ON OUR WEBSITE**

#### **Court Oak Road Allotments in Quinton**

would like to welcome all at their Open Day and Plant Sale, on **Sunday the 15th of May**, 1-4 pm. The BDAC is intending to have a stall it will be good to see you there.

#### **Water Saving Project on Boulevard Allotments**



We've been working on a water saving project to go with some much-needed safe storage , a project we started last year.

We had a grant from Sutton on Coldfield Council for this.

As is usual, everyone with a shed has a water butt, but to increase our capacity in the last few years we've put 1000 litre tanks on two of the community sheds as well. The latest project needed some work as the safer storage was flat roofed. One of our talented plot holders made a water catchment sloping roof on the new storage container.

We added another 1000 litre tank.

All our big tanks are now full, no surprise!

Ruth Tough, Site Sec., Boulevard Allotments

## **Message from our Chairman**

### **FUTURE MANAGEMENT OF BIRMINGHAM ALLOTMENTS**

Firstly, thank you to all who attended the meetings at Court Lane, Moor Green and Bordesley arranged to discuss the management of allotments in the City. The contributions you made was most welcome.

The outcome is a Working Party of **10 volunteers** from several sites and Barbara Smith as minuting secretary. The working party is operating independently of the BDAC, we will be kept updated. The working party has already met and begun the process of finding the way forward in this essential work. Also there has been a zoom meeting with members of the National Allotment Society representatives: Liz Bunting – Legal and Operative Manager, Tom Terrance – West Midland Regional Representative and Colin Bedford – West Midlands Mentor. This working party has much to do and we trust to your supporting these volunteers.

The working party is receiving excellent support receiving advice, guidance and information. When conclusions are reached on the management of allotments all management committees will be involved in deciding which option[s] could be the way to go.

### **FLORENCE PICKERING FUND UPDATE**

There remains outstanding work on 30 sites which requested work within the time frame. In order to decide on the next group all sites will be visited by BDAC Exec members and will aim to prioritise the work. This will take 2-3 weeks.

You will be advised of the list of sites for the next tranche of work plus subsequent groups. I apologise for this long delay; the original contractor withdrew! I do think the wait has been most excessive. Thank you for your patience.

Clive Birch

## **CALLING ALL PLOTHOLDERS!**

**Please consider entering the Birmingham Annual Show at Bordesley Green Allotments on, the Show Secretary is prepared, ready and waiting for show entries.**

### **JOIN IN THE FUN!**

And it's open for all plot holders and you don't need to be an expert. This year for the first time there will be a **Novice Section**. Derek Cullen, our Show Secretary wants to encourage new exhibitors to our show. You can get more information from our website [bdacallotments@co.uk](mailto:bdacallotments@co.uk) go to the show pages and download information. Also, all Associations will be sent electronic copies of all Show information.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE US TO COME TO YOUR SITE AND EXPLAIN WHAT IS INVOLVED, WE WOULD BE VERY HAPPY TO BE INVITED JUST CONTACT DEREK.

**Calling all children and grandchildren of plot holders! There are classes especially for you to enter and prizes too!**

Contact either the Show Secretary Derek Cullen on 0121 384 7715 Or BDAC Secretary, Barbara Smith using the following e-mail address: [bdac.allotments@gmail.com](mailto:bdac.allotments@gmail.com)

### Web links

If any Association would like a link to their website in the BDAC website please email your web address to us at **bdac.allotments@gmail.com** and our new Web manager Clive Fenn will insert the link for you. **From time to time, we have prospective plot holders visit our site and make plot requests the link will help you publicise your site.**

Clive is working to keep the site up to date with relevant information. If you have any requests for items to be included please get in touch.

### To contact the BDAC

**Chairman:** Clive Birch phone 0121 354 1512 e-mail: clivebirch@blueyonder.co.uk

**Secretary:** Barbara Smith phone 07746062410 e-mail bdac.allotments@gmail.com

**For lots of information visit our Website**  
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