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MONTHLY ROUNDUP

BIRMINGHAM & DISTRICT ALLOTMENTS COOPERATIVE

Birmingham & District Allotment Confederation : 2024 Issue 3

AGM Special

This month's issue is focused solely on the recent AGM. It is not an official record of the event just some observations and comments. Contact us at monthlyrounup@bdacallotments.co.uk if you want to comment.

BDAC AGM – 23rd March 2023

Firstly, a huge thank you to everyone who took time out to attend the AGM. Apologies to those who were having to stand due to shortage of chairs, we hope the delicious food provided was some compensation. Our appreciation to Vickie and Robert at Longmeadow Crescent for that.

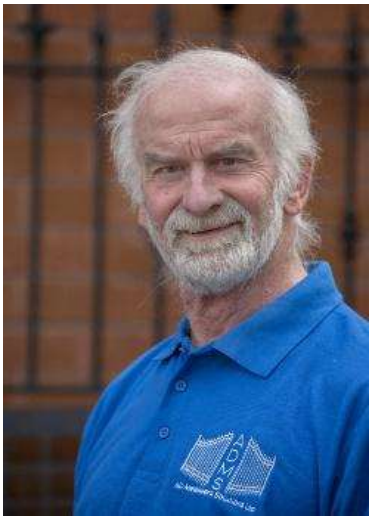
Attendance was way beyond expectations. A total of 162 people turned up, over two thirds of Birmingham sites were represented, and a good, democratic, discussion took place on the proposals put forward by your Executive.

A second huge thank you for the support given to your Executive's proposals. As a result of the voting BDAC can now move forward as an incorporated body, secure in the knowledge that an overwhelming majority of members fully support our plans to make Birmingham Allotments great again.

As promised, Associations will be kept fully updated on developments in our negotiations with BCC. Our Monthly Bulletin, Website and Email contact listings will all be overworked in the coming months. On behalf of the full Executive,

thank you once again.

David Read
(BDAC Chairman).



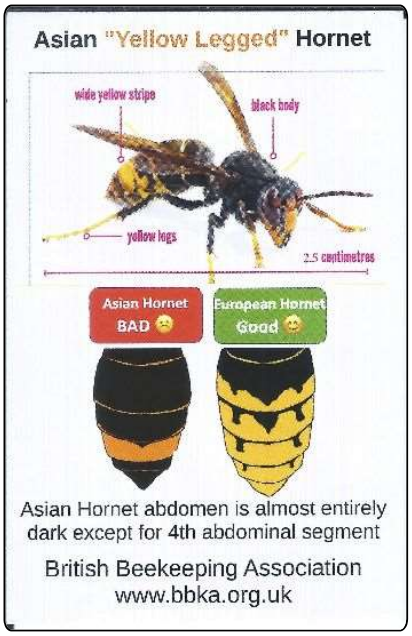
David, in addition to having agreed to take on the role as our Chair, is part of the team that run Ward End Gardeners Association. WEGA is a group of 5 allotments, Blackpit Lane, Fairholme Road, Lime Tree Road, Northleigh Road and Saint Margarets Road totalling approximately 200 plots.

Together with Hester Blewit, our newly elected Secretary, and other hard working committee members WEGA has raised £36,000 this year in grants, 2 x £10,000 from STWA Community Fund and Hodge Hill Neighbourhood Network Scheme, and another £6,000 which was their share of a partnership application with Heart of England Vocational College (disabled people 16-25),

Amongst the recent innovations introduced by BDAC is a voucher scheme. Initially introduced to reward people who take part in the two allotment surveys. They are currently available in £10 and £50 values. They can be used for purchase in any allotment shop or towards the cost of next year's rent. The exact details of how the system will work have yet to be finalised but basically once an association provides proof of a legitimate voucher the money will be transferred to the account. Details of all the winners announced at the AGM can be seen on our website.

Contribute to the Monthly Roundup and receive a £10 Voucher

The first person to be rewarded for contributing to the Monthly Roundup is Julian Caruana who last month wrote about weed killers. At the AGM he told us about another threat to our native bees.



What is the Asian Hornet? It is an invasive, non-native, voracious apex predator! It predates on a wide variety of beneficial; insects inc pollinators such as butterflies, hoverflies, social wasps and all types of bees, particularly honey bees. Honey bees offer an easy source of food as they live in large static colonies. One Asian Hornet can take 30-50 honey bees per day and, like honey bees, they share the source of any food found, resulting in a nest of hornets killing up to 100,000 honey bees in a year. On the continent entire apiaries have been wiped out resulting in poor pollination of crops and a commensurate fall in crop yields.

To read more and find out how you can help click here

BDAC are running a competition to replace the old Confederation logo with one for the new Cooperative. You don't need to be a great artist or a graphic designer. A picture of a few lines on a piece of paper which could then become the basis for the logo might be sufficient to win you one of the prizes, So get thinking and doodling or as the rain inevitably comes down turn on your computer and get going.

Exec' Update

At the AGM we said a fond farewell to a couple of Executive members who had many years of valuable experience serving our confederation. Peter Thomas, will be greatly missed, for his quiet reasoned contributions and his tea making and biscuits. Dave Rawlings our ex-treasurer and life member, will continue to support Yvonne, our new treasurer as we migrate from a paper based records to an online system.

Introducing the Executive for 2024 -25

Chair	David Read	Ward End
Secretary	Hester Blewitt	Ward End
Treasurer	Yvonne Brookes	Pereira Road
	Cheryl Butler	Thornbridge Avenue
	Clive Fenn	Birches Green
	Stuart Guest	Tennal Lane
	Andrew Large	Court Oak Road
	Kate Martin Smith	West Heath
	Kerry McGahey	West Heath
	Dave Reece	Gospel Lane
	Len Tubbs	The Brambles
	Tony Webb	Thornbridge Avenue
	Ross White	Harborne Lane
	John Whittaker	The Leys
	Keith Yardley	Station Road

For help and advice contact your local exec member either via or website or email secretary@bdacallotments.co.uk

ANNUAL SHOW 2024

The annual show will take place on Saturday 17th August, the venue at Bordesley Green will open for staging of exhibits between 9.00am and 8.00pm on Friday 16th August, the room will close at 8.00pm so ensure you arrive in good time to set up and be ready to leave by this time. The pavilion will open from 8.00am to 8.45am on Saturday for last minute staging, all exhibits need to be in place and ready for judging which will commence from 9.00am onwards when all exhibitors will need to vacate the pavilion. The show will open after judging complete, usually around 12.00 pm with a presentation at 4.30pm with the show closing at 5.00 pm, only exhibitors will be allowed to remain to remove any wanted items, the room will be cleared from 5.30pm. Please note ; Entries are primarily for tenants of Birmingham City Council allotment sites, plot-holders from private sites may be considered for entering at the discretion of the show committee depending how space prevails however the Show Committee reserve the right not to award trophies to non Birmingham City Council plot-holders. Schedules will be made available very shortly.

RHS are planning to visit Birmingham

If you're not familiar with the RHS, it's the UK's leading gardening charity that's been going since 1804. It aims to enrich everyone's life through plants, and make the UK a greener and more beautiful place. Focussing on the science – including

research - art and practice of horticulture, it is active in campaigns like Greening Great Britain and organises education and community programmes.

Every year a group from the RHS Fruit, Vegetable and Herb committee carry out some allotment visits. Last year it was Cardiff and Child's Hill Allotments in North London. This year they want to visit Birmingham and have asked the BDAC to help them find a selection of sites to visit from the **21st to the 23rd June (Friday to Sunday).**

The group is usually around 6 people consisting of committee members, members of staff and students who take a walk round sites with plotholders, answer questions and share experiences with their hosts. They usually split into groups so they can visit more sites. On the evening of Friday 21st and Saturday 22nd, they can hold Question and Answer sessions in the evening. In Birmingham, 2 of our sites with sizable meeting rooms will be able to host these – enabling many more people from sites that don't get a visit to be involved.

So if people on your site would like to meet face-to-face some of the leading lights in horticulture, this is your opportunity to quiz them about your plans, achievements and failures!

Of the RHS Fruit, Veg & Herb Committee group visiting us (David Allison, Jim Arbury, Vicki Cooke, Nick Dunn, Gerry Edwards and Barry Newman), they all have different areas of expertise and experience. For a start, 3 have allotments themselves. and all of them have expertise in growing fruit, vegetables and herbs. Three are specialists in growing and advising on fruit, two are vegetable specialists who have also Chaired the National Vegetable Society. Two particularly advise on organic methods, two are exhibition gardeners, two are exhibition judges – one also being a Britain in Bloom judge - one is an apple expert and another is a beekeeper!

For more information, go to - https://www.rhs.org.uk/plants/plantsmanship/rhs-plant-committees

If you would like a visit click here

Find out more on their website

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