Please forward or share with as many plotholders as possible.

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MONTHLY ROUNDUP

BDAC

Serving Birmingham's Allotments

Birmingham & District Allotment Cooperative : 2025 Issue 3

every site full
every plot cultivated

Hopefully, people involved in Birmingham Allotments would not want to argue with this, my personal vision. In this issue we take a look at how some sites are tackling this challenge. From the smallest to one of the biggest there are individuals and associations who share this vision and with the support of BDAC are trying to achieve it.

But here are some things you could be doing. Perhaps looking forward to your plot ou your site being recognised as one of the **"Best in Brum"**

On The Plot

At home our conservatory has been given over to a couple of months of seed rearing.
Sweet peppers, tomatoes, cucumbers, aubergines, celery, salads and globe artichokes are few of the things that will be taking their place on the shelves.

On the plot it is still too wet and cold on most sites to get the ground ready for crops like broad beans, carrots, parsnips, beetroot, onions, lettuces, radish, peas, spinach, summer cabbage, salad leaves, leeks, Swiss chard, kohl rabi, turnip and summer cauliflower.

Every time I go to my plot I remind myself that I really must get on and take a bit of growth off the apple tree or it will soon be too late. Likewise, it will soon be too late to plant bare rooted fruit trees and bushes.

Allotment shops have now got their stocks of onions, shallots and potatoes. If your site does not have a shop you can always check out the online site details of associations near you to find a shop near you.

A shared vision

Birmingham's smallest site with only 6 plots, is situated behind unmarked gates on the **Chester Road**, in Pype Hayes. Following the death of some plotholders, half of them are now over grown with brambles but with the help of BDAC Executive members they hope to turn that round. Having posted on local Facebook groups a sign has gone up telling local residents that they are there and open. The council are unable to afford the cost of the usual allotment sign but with the help of a local charity they hope to address this.

(Ed: I had lived in Erdington almost all my life and had no idea it was there next but one to a busy shop)

The number shown is the BDAC Mobile but can be changed. If your site would like one the current cost is £14:00 for a 4ft x 2ft vinyl banner. Other sizes available. Contact the webmaster@bdacallotments.co.uk.

Bordesley Green Allotments, home of the BDAC AGM, is one of the largest in the city. Already the base to "New Roots Allotments", negotiations are taking place between NHS, the BCC and other interested parties about a "Social Prescribing" initiative bringing back into cultivation plots that had been set aside. BDAC are looking forward to bringing you exciting news in the next edition.

Much of the work has grown out of the survey undertaken by Dr Jon Bloomfield, of Birmingham University and David Draycott which showed that Birmingham Allotments were playing a major role in sustaining the mental health of Birmingham residents. You can download the report from our website

Tell us about what your site is doing or how it is spreading the news and win £10.00 to be spent at an allotment shop.

This month's Youtube suggestion comes from **Bells Sports Field Allotments** where one of their members has been sharing video shorts from NettlesandPetals.https://www.youtube.com/@Nettlesandpetals Lots of tips from this professional veg grower.

The sense of isolation that many feel extends to site officers, committee members and secretaries who on a regular basis are trying to run sites, deal with complaints and disputes, and feel that the BCC does not care.Emails go unanswered for months or disappear into the ether forever. BDAC is here to support all allotment tenants. We need to know what your problems are and although we do not claim to be able to solve all of them we will be in a better position to support you. Currently the secretary has had contact with 86% of sites, either through visits or telephone conversations. Feel free to make that 100%.

WE ARE STRONGER TOGETHER

Let us know the issues that concern you most

Training sessions are being planned on topics submitted by associations and will be circulated in the near future.

Flooding on Birmingham Allotments

Thank you to all of those who took the time to respond to the Flooding Survey. A copy of the findings can be downloaded from our website. There were over 30 responses with the major cause being a high water table. However, a number of sites reported flooded streams due to lack of maintenance. Download the report here and let us have your comments..

If you have a view or a question on any allotment issue let the secretary know or join in the chat on Facebook. The next meeting of the Exec' is on March15, 2025 . A full list of meetings and the AGM and Half Yearly Meeting is now available on our website in the section About Us. Exec Meetings are open to all plotholders although they may not be able to speak. The secretary should be given 14 days notice if wish to attend.

Site Competitions

Twenty Twenty-five sees the return of the site competitions. The events committee are at work finalising the criteria and a new schedule.
Look out for more details on our Facebook group and website

If you think you could help the team drop us a line. secretary@bdacallotments.co.uk

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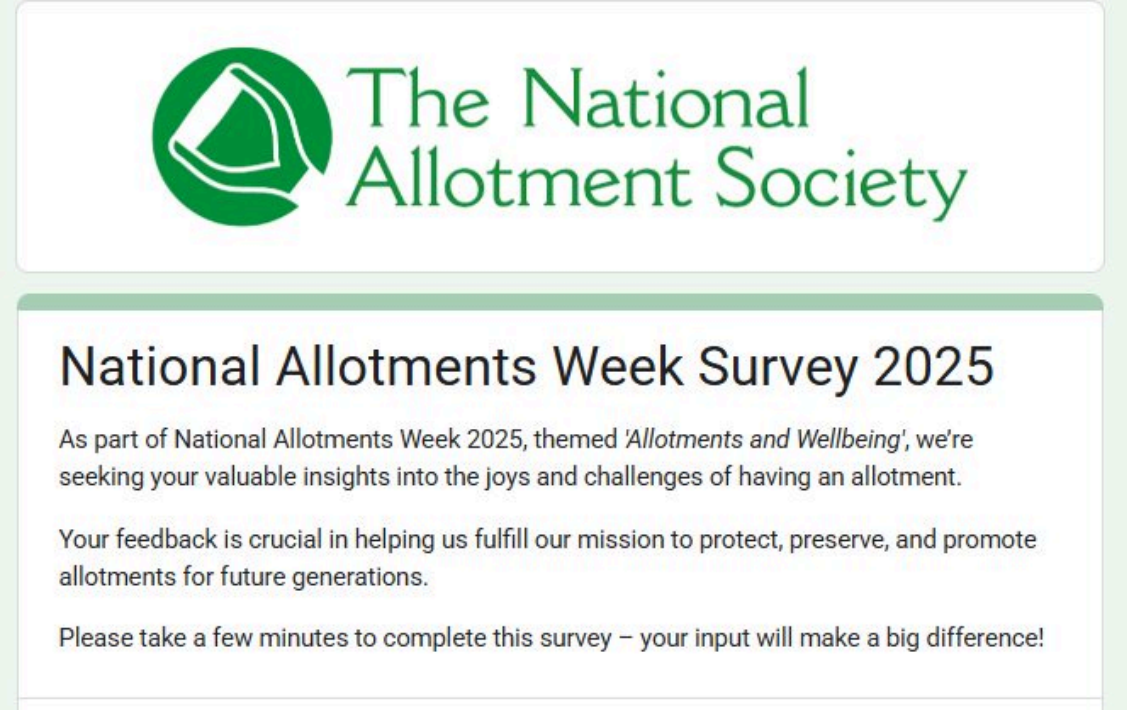

👉 Please take the survey and share your thoughts:Click Here

Next Issue

In next month's issue we take a look at a site where successful bids are helping them grow the community.
If you have a success story you'd be willing to share let me know.
webmaster@bdacallotments.co.uk

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