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MONTHLY ROUNDUP

BDAC

Serving Birmingham's Allotments

Birmingham & District Allotment Cooperative : 2025 November Issue 9

On The Plot

The soil on many allotments is now too wet to go on so for most people the time for planting has stopped and people are thinking about next year. For some this means digging their plots whilst others will be covering them in either cardboard or weed membrane.
The temperature in our polytunnels dipped below 0 Celsius so inside we will be thinking about using fleece. Although the weather forecast suggests it will be getting a tad warmer.

Allotments and Urban Garden Histories with JC Niala is a episode in the series BBC Gardeners' World Magazine Podcasts. By chance I came upon it whilst on my way to Stratford-Upon-Avon. Although I did spend a bit of

time shouting at the speaker with such comments as “THAT’S NOT TRUE” I did enjoy it and may have learnt something about the history of allotments. One thing I learnt is that Oxford is not like Birmingham in more ways than I could imagine!

Watch it on Youtube

I wish I knew this before I got my allotment

If you are new to the allotment experience then I recommend this video from a relative newcomer sharing what she has learnt over the past few years. A few lessons even for the experienced plotholder

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=91hMzQrf1A8

Half - Yearly Meeting

The Half-Yearly Meeting is a chance for association members to learn directly from the officers what has been going on since the AGM and the opportunity to ask questions and make suggestions. It is not formally minuted but a slightly extended report can be found here. Anybody concerned about the accuracy can contact the webmaster@bdacallotments.co.uk with corrections or suggestions.

High on the list of things to talk about was the Executive’s response to proposed rule changes and linked with that the Tenancy Agreement. Details of the response to the rule changes can be found on our website < Click here >

Following the Treasurer's report to see the balance sheet < Click here > discussion turned to the failure of the BCC to adequately fund BDAC. The funding has not changed since 2014 although the workload and the costs have greatly increased. Executive members, like allotment association committee members and officers are volunteers who receive no financial reward.

It seemed that the majority of people present felt a small fee of £1.00 or similar might be acceptable. Something that the Executive will give further consideration.

After a pause for refreshments the meeting resumed with Site Competition prize-giving.

Site Competitions

This year saw a return of the site competitions. Although the format had changed and the criteria for the Best Site had changed to more relevant topics such as water harvesting and community action both the quantity and quality of entrants was high. In the next few months we are hoping to bring you more details and photos of the winners and their plots.

Manor House Lane swept the board in the plot competition winning both Best Newcomer and Best Plot.

Vasuki and Virginia winners of Best Plot and Best Newcomer trophies,

Best site was Court Lane. Luke Davison is seen here alongside Robin Russell, who judged 2 out 3 competitions

A big thank you to Robin who not only judged 2 competitions but also advised on a number of issues such as the criteria.

[For the complete results click here]

NEXT YEAR WILL SEE THE RETURN OF THE MOST IMPROVED SITE COMPETITION. START TAKING PHOTOS NOW TO SHOW HOW FAR YOU CAN IMPROVE IN A FEW MONTHS.

Would you be willing to give up a few hours each month to help other plotholders across Birmingham?

BDAC are looking for a few more tenants willing to get involved in moving Birmingham's allotments forward.

No experience needed.

Learn more here

Talk to an Exec member at the Half yearly.

Be Part of the Conversation

Join the BDAC Allotments Facebook group to discuss anything that are affects you and other plot holders

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The Editor would like to apologise for the lateness of this issue this is due to spending too much time on his plot and having another holiday whilst the sun was shining. Plus the software I use deciding apparently I need AI to support me in what I though was a simple task.

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