Please forward and share with as many plotholders as possible

MONTHLY ROUNDUP

BDAC

Serving Birmingham's Allotments

Birmingham & District Allotment Cooperative 2026 August Issue 13

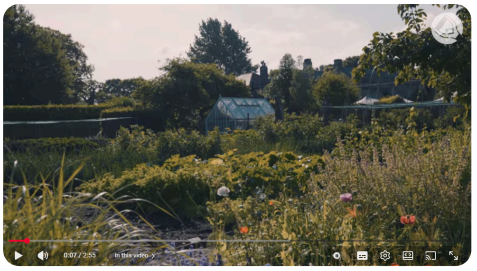
On The Plot

Many will have returned from holiday to find their crops dead and even the weeds struggling to survive. Even those fortunate enough to have someone do the watering will have returned to bolted lettuce and tomatoes suffering from heat stroke. On one internet allotment group subscribers were saying they waited till November before taking a break but this is not an option for many. The hot weather has, I would guess, also taken a toll on the Community aspect of sites, with people rushing down in the morning or evening to do some watering and not sticking around for tea and chat.
We have started planting again and with plenty of care we have radishes carrots and a few salad leaves breaking through. One of my winter projects will be to further investigate self-watering pots and keeping my polytunnel cool.

So here are some ideas for what to plant now. (suggested by the RHS)

- You can sow fast-maturing salad crops such as summer lettuce, radish, rocket, sorrel, chicory and fennel.
- Continue to sow spring cabbage, turnips, **mizuna and mibuna**, **Chinese cabbage**, **pak choi** and overwintering onions .
- If rain is forecast, sow green manures such as crimson clover and Italian ryegrass to act as a soil improver and to cover bare areas. When dug in, they conserve nutrients and improve soil texture.

When plums and cherries have stopped fruiting you can begin pruning.



National Allotment Week

August 10 to 16th 2026

Your site may have been one of a handful in Birmingham that celebrated this event but with such a small number of sites taking up NAS membership it is extremely likely that the event passed unnoticed.
The theme was "Grow to Learn - Lifelong lessons from the allotment"

"Sonia Gallagher, national secretary and general manager at the National Allotment Society, said: “Allotments have always been places of growth in every sense of the word. They help people grow food, but they also help people grow in confidence, resilience, knowledge and friendship."

As part of their project they produced a number of videos including this one.
NAS More than just a plot v2

NAS and BDAC are passionate about ensuring that allotments regain their important role in supporting communities and individuals.

GROW WELL : EAT WELL : LIVE WELL

The Future

Although life on many sites continues to tick over as it has done for many years, others are frustrated by the slow speed of change. Although the Council may have another reorganisation of its officers and may even appoint an additional allotment officer. The reality is that a Management Agreement which is not fit for purpose continues in place and

the un-enforced rules place burdens on volunteers who had not signed up for.

Neighbouring towns and cities repeatedly seem to offer a package which is cheaper and operates in the best interests of tenants. Elsewhere in the country sites are trusted to control their budgets rather than receiving a small contribution towards expenses such as water, that clearly outstrip the money returned to them. Hours of volunteer work mean nothing and pass unrewarded. If you have experience of allotments elsewhere in the country that for any reason seem to be more efficient than your current way of doing things the Executive would love to hear from you. Don't delay contact us with your suggestions.

Email Us Now!

THE ALLOTMENT SURVEY

This year BDAC will again be helping Dr Jon Bloomfield and David Draycott undertaken what is the largest and most insightful allotment survey in the country. Last time over 900 people took part but this is only about 13% of Birmingham plotholders. This year work has begun on offering the survey in more languages. If you think you could help by asking plotholders on your site to take part or would be to help in any other way let us know.

To read the results of the previous survey click below.

A Neglected Asset

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Roots to Fruits offer courses in many aspects of horticulture

Find out more

Garden Organic | The Heritage Seed Library

The Heritage Seed Library (HSL) maintains the national collection of heritage vegetables and aims to conserve

www.gardenorganic.org.uk

Find out more

Site Competitions

The number of sites participating this year increased and judging took place over two weekends

A big thankyou goes out to our three judges, Robin, Mike and Chris, who many of you had the opportunity to meet and chat with.

Robin Russel is the Midland Branch Chairman of the National Vegetable Association and the following weekend was on their show garden at the Rutland Flower Show which although only in its second year seems to have had a line-up to challenge Malvern

Find out more

1797 Three Counties

Malvern Autumn Show

HEREFORDSHIRE WESTONS CIDER MAKERS 1880

Friday 25 - Sunday 27 September 2026

Three Counties Showground, Malvern, Worcestershire, WR13 6NW

The Executive

This year Yvonne Brookes left the post of Treasurer at the AGM. Yvonne will continue to serve the cooperative in a number of ways. A number of new people accepted the invitation to play a role on the Executive but the list is not closed. If you would like to join us, even just to see what happens, then contact secretary@bdacallotments.co.uk

Name	Site/Association
David Read (Chair)	Ward End
Hester Blewitt (Secretary)	Ward End
Steve Wise (Treasurer)	Beaumont Road
Yvonne Brookes	Pereira Rd
Cheryl Butler	Thornbridge
Clive Fenn	Birches Green
Mohammed Ibrahim	Ward End
Amina Daham	Bordesley Green
Ash Hussain	Manor House Lane
Mark Jackson	Billesley
Len Tubbs	The Brambles
Angus Young	Eastern Road
Mark Linley	Walkers Heath

If you would like to see what is involved you can come along to any Exec' meeting and observe.

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