

August  
2010

Issue Number 83

*Got anything to include in  
the Newsletter??  
Call Ade or Nikki on  
0121 303 3038*

Produced by the Allotments Team



Please display on Notice Boards or circulate amongst ploholders

## WHERE HAVE WE BEEN?!

Many of you may have been wondering where the Allotments Newsletter has disappeared to over recent months.

This year has already been particularly demanding for the Allotments Team with many changes of internal procedures involving the incorporation of new systems and working practices, in addition to coping with a reduced staff resource. The Parks Service has also been reduced and restructured which has meant every Officer having to apply for jobs within the new structure. All of the Allotments Team were successful in retaining their posts.

Much of the year has been spent working out of boxes as further refurbishment was undertaken at Edgbaston Reservoir which necessitated the regular dismantling and reassembly of offices. That will occur again in September when, hopefully (!), the final works are completed.

In recent weeks, a new enquiry system has been introduced. Some of you who have dialled 303 3038 will have found yourself connected to a call centre. Direct calls can now be made to the Allotments Team on 303 3182 (303 3038, 464 0414 and 464 0443 are now routed to the Call Centre)

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## EVENTS

We know that many sites have been busy this Summer organising events and open days on their sites. Well done to all of you for your hard work, and good luck to any sites who have events in the pipeline.

Some events that you can still catch are:

**21 August 2010**

**Birches Green** (off Tyburn Road, Erdington) —Summer Fun Day—Start 11am

**Manor House Lane** (off Ollerton Road) - Open Day

**29 August 2010**

**Moor Green** (off Holders Lane, Moseley) - Annual Show

**4 September 2010**

**Hay Green** (Private Allots, off High Heath Close, Bournville) - Open Day 10am-12 noon

**5 September 2010**

**Newhall Allotments** (off Coleshill Road, Sutton Coldfield) - Annual Show—Start 11am

**BIRMINGHAM GARDENERS SHOW - 4-5 SEPTEMBER 2010** Starts 10am

**KINGS HEATH PARK**

Tickets: Advanced—£5.50, Concessions £3.50, Family ticket £14 (advance only) **TICKETLINE 303 2323**  
Tickets: On the Day—Adult £8.50, Concessions £5.50

*If you still have an event coming up, let Nikki or Adrian know as soon as possible!*

## “Sowing New Seeds” Needs You!

Ryton Organic Garden are running a three year project, 'Sowing New Seeds' led by Garden Organic and funded by the Big Lottery Fund's Local Fund Scheme. Its aim is to support gardeners, allotment holders, schools and community enterprises in the Midlands to access, manage and grow exotic crops that are not traditionally grown in the UK.

Throughout the project, the project will be collecting information, stories and any interesting varieties from allotments throughout the Midlands and making these more available more widely through a series of community events, factsheets and grower guides.

Initially Ryton are interested in making contact with allotment groups and growers throughout the Midlands. Groups or individuals that may be interested in taking part, or have any events or meetings that would be a good way of publicising the project can contact

Anton Rosenfeld either by email:

[arosenfeld@gardenorganic.org.uk](mailto:arosenfeld@gardenorganic.org.uk)

or call **02476217716**.

Leaflets are available via the Allotments Team

## COURT LANE ALLOTMENTS GOES FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

We have been contacted by the folks over at Court Lane Allotments, who wanted to tell us all about their site! The Erdington based site has developed immensely over that past few years, with lettings at an all time high, and attracting 2 schools to grow in the Community Garden. The site have successfully constructed raised beds, which are being enjoyed by the local special needs school.

The site also gained success in Erdington's entry for 'Britain in Bloom' and scooped a silver medal for their efforts.

They have a fully stocked store which is open to all sites at weekends, and regularly have events on the site, not just for their ploholders.

Julie Trahearn from the site says ' We are looking to put our site on the map! This year we hope to host courses for new allotmentees, where they can learn all the skills they need to get stuck in to their plot. We hope we can open these to all ploholders across the City, and draw from the experience of Birmingham's allotment holders to make the course a success'.

If you think you could help with the course, why not send your details to Nikki or Adrian in the Allotments Team who will pass on your details, or check out Court Lane's fabulous website at:

[www.courtlaneallotments.com](http://www.courtlaneallotments.com)

## VOLCANIC ROCK DUST

You may have seen the product advertised in an earlier Newsletter. It is derived from igneous rock and provides many of the base materials essential to vigorous plant growth.

Mick Commander, Secretary at Hatchford Vale (Coventry Road) Allotments is able to supply stock at competitive prices. For details call 07960 960902

Fed up with slugs eating all your plants and vegetables? **Slugwall** is an alternative to pellets and pesticides and is a 5cm wide copper binding available in 15, 25 and 50 metre lengths. It can be cut with normal scissors and nailed to timber around raised beds or any other part of the garden.

Contact Steve Beckett on 07989 092232

Or email: [steviebee1@hotmail.com](mailto:steviebee1@hotmail.com)

## WROOT WATER LTD

Wroot Water supplies barrels and water butts for allotments as well as irrigation systems, polytunnels and other horticultural products.

For information:

Phone 01302 771881

Fax 01302 771884

Email: [info@wrootwater.com](mailto:info@wrootwater.com)

Web: [www.wrootwater.com](http://www.wrootwater.com)

## BDAC WEBSITE

The BDAC website has had a makeover that would make Gok Wan blush!

Why not take a look at:  
[www.bdacallotments.co.uk](http://www.bdacallotments.co.uk)

# WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Yes, we know the Newsletter's have been a bit rare this year, but we want to get back to our usual circulation level!

**So we need you!** Tell us what is happening on your site—have you obtained funding for a project?

Are you holding any fundraising events? Have you got any photos you would like to share with other ploholders across the City?

If the answer is **YES**, then please send them to: [allotments@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:allotments@birmingham.gov.uk) or write to us at 115 Reservoir Road, Ladywood, B16 9EE (sorry, no personal visits unless you have an appointment!)