



BAACIO Newsletter – October 2026

BAACIO Newsletter - October 2026

Welcome to your quarterly newsletter - designed to be clear, engaging, and easy to read whether viewed online or pinned to the Hub noticeboard.

Welcome, Plot Holders & Friends

If you have news, photos, wildlife sightings, or updates you'd like to share, please email the BAACIO inbox. Your contributions help make each edition richer and more connected.

Admin Updates

- Invoices will be issued this November - please keep an eye on your email.
 - Payments are accepted via bank transfer or cheque only this year
 - If you do not wish to renew your plot, please notify us early so we can offer it to someone on the waiting list.
 - Some administrative tasks will be outsourced; further details will follow.
 - Secretarial post still vacant, if interested email us for further information.
 - Updated terms and conditions and a new members guidebook available on the website
-

The Hub - Autumn Season

Sales have slowed recently, preparations for next year are underway. Plant orders will be placed in October, including potatoes, onions, garlic. Full update once order confirmed.

Prices for 2027 will be confirmed once orders are placed.

Community Activities & Working Parties & Volunteers

Volunteers - Volunteers have contributed over 900 hours so far this year - thank you for your dedication. External volunteers such as Good Gym visited the site to carry out some on site tasks and Aviva Volunteers have also offered help with onsite jobs. We have been approached by other groups and we are exploring these.

Working party season has begun. Join the WhatsApp group for guided sessions or take on self-managed tasks. It's a great way to meet fellow plot holders and support the site. Any questions just ask the Hub team.

Site Works & Improvements

Recent and upcoming works include:

- **Completed** : strim of boundary hedges ; Polytunnel improvements funded by the Micklegate Ward grant ; Grass cutting and hedge trimming; felling cherry tree 140A; bon fire site clean-up; nature reserve clean up; piggery levelling hard core; notice boards up.
 - **Pending** : Wind sock installation ; tree pruning ; drainage works planned for Plot 62 (temporary access restrictions may apply); clearing branches plot 140B; clearing plot 101 for letting; weeding common areas; fix gate to nature reserve; nature reserve tidy up.
-

Finance Snapshot (Jan-Sept 2026)

- Finances are on target for year-end. Estimated exp £4k to year end, estimated reserve fund £5k. Next years budget being planned if you have comments pls email us
 - Water bill credit has now been fully used.
 - Hub stock value: cost value £3,975 ; Estimated Hub sales: £6,000-£8,000
-

Wildlife Wonders

We continue to prioritise wildlife-friendly practices across the site. Visit the BAACIO website for seasonal advice and biodiversity updates.

- Around 65 ducks have visited the site this year. Bats also spotted.
- Member bees produced their first batch of *Silky Honey*, with a jar presented to Queen Camilla. Honey is available for £7 per pot, see notice board for details
- Working with Yorkshire Wildlife Trust to explore Great Crested Newt project support

If you spot interesting wildlife on your plot, please share your sightings.

Community Noticeboard

- Join our Facebook group as our old Facebook page will be shut down soon – Facebook Group QR code available in the Hub.
- Instagram account also to be shut down by year end due to lack of interaction
- New noticeboards installed by the shop and racecourse entrance.

- If you want to plant swap, seed swap, supplier share then let us know
- Water will be turned off in October till March to avoid freezing pipes
- Site Gate as winter approaches please follow gates closing guidance
- Water Butts pls keep lids on when not in use and keep your hedges trimmed back
- Old mobile phone – do you have an old phone you could donate to the charity to be used as our contact phone, needs to have email , FB and WhatsApp functionality
- Racecourse road restrictions – did these cause access problems for you if so let us know
- Member request if you are looking to donate pls consider - St Leonard's Hospice
- Big thanks to York Saw Mill who donates the wood we have on site, any money from tools sold in the shop are donated to the Saw Mill as a contribution for their donations. If you are having a clear out donate your old tools to the shop and they will sell them on.
- Please keep us updated of your email to ensure you receive all updates

Award winners will be announced at the next AGM. Categories include:

- Brunton Cup - 1st, 2nd, 3rd
- Highly Commendable
- Best Newcomer

Prizes are Hub vouchers this year, valid for 12 months.

♥ Good News Corner

Have a positive story to share? A plot transformation, a helpful neighbour, or a memorable wildlife encounter? Send it in - we'd love to feature it.

Next Edition & key dates

The next newsletter will be published in January 2027.

AGM 2027 – dates to be issued early next year (possibly 11th or 18th March)

Trustee meetings in 2026 – November 24th

This newsletter is emailed to all plot holders, associated members. A hard copy is available at the shop or seating area and also on our website.

If you don't wish to receive it, please email Bustardthorpeallotments@gmail.com

Subject - remove from newsletter mailing.

Thank you for being part of the BAACIO Community

Bustardthorpe Allotments Association Charitable Incorporated Organisation (BAACIO)

Bishopthorpe Road, York, North Yorkshire, YO23 2QA

Registered Charity No: 1211930