

Bulletin

May 2026

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Are you missing out on membership benefits?

The Bath Allotments Association (BAA) was established in 1970s as a not-for-profit organisation to support allotment holders and leisure growers in our area. BAA serves as a collective voice for allotment and leisure gardeners, liaising with councils to manage plots, securing funding for site improvements, combating plot neglect and lobbying for the provision and protection of allotments and growing spaces. Lots of the work involved goes on behind the scenes with our dedicated, volunteer officers and site representatives attending numerous meetings, keeping abreast of development proposals and changing legislation, drafting documentation, responding to requests for information and promoting the interests of our members. I am sure you will agree that these benefits alone justify the annual membership fee (which currently remains at just £6.50 per annum) but there are also loads of other benefits that we thought were worth a reminder in case you are missing out.

- The Trading Hut (TH) offers a wide range of horticultural products at cost price. The article below provides much more detail but if you haven't visited yet and seen what is on offer, you are certainly missing out



Trading Hut

The Trading Hut will be open from 10.00-12.00 on Saturday 2nd, 16th and 30th May and fortnightly after that.

Upcoming Events

Getting underway with planting? Why not sign up for one of our workshops to get some tips from experienced growers and to learn something new. Workshops are free and open to Bath Allotments Association (BAA) members only.

See the side panels below for what's on in the next month or so. A full list of forthcoming events can be found on our [website](#).

Plot visit

Jackie and Andy invite fellow growers to join them on Jackie's plot (Plot 38 on the Lyncombe Hill Farm site) on 31st May from 11.00-12.30 to discuss regenerative growing practices, biodiversity and much more. The Lyncombe Hill Farm site is at the back of Alexandra Park so you can take in the lovely view of the City or treat yourself to a coffee from the Choux Box at the same time. Just let us know you are coming by registering [here](#)

BATH ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION



- Several local Garden Centres offer discounts to our members – just download your membership card to your phone*. Prior Park Garden Centre offers a 4% discount and the Urban Garden and Gardenalia offer 10% on full price horticultural items.
- The Bath Allotments Association is an affiliate member of the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) and members can apply to our [Secretary](#) to borrow our discounted entry card.
The card provides 50% off entry for up to two people to any of the [RHS Gardens](#). The card can be used unlimited times but excludes Flower Shows and Glow events.
- Did you know that membership comes with public liability insurance for your plot. This type of insurance, often called third party insurance, is designed to provide liability protection to member plot-holders and leisure gardeners accused of accidentally causing injury on their plots. Hopefully, you will never need it but good to know it is in place!
- The Association offers a full programme of workshops and events most of which are free to members. You can learn something new, hear expert guest speakers at our AGM or become a prize-winner at the Annual Flower and Produce Show.
- Members can apply for small grants to help with improvements to their site. In the recent past BAA has helped with pond-building, deer-fencing, installation of leaf bays, restoration of communal sheds, rubbish clearance and much, much more. The application process is straightforward, and the forms can be accessed [here](#).
- Use your membership to keep up to date with the latest advice on good growing practices, plants sales and relevant events through our newsletters and website.
- Meet up with like-minded growers and enjoy being part of a friendly, local community by coming along to some of the events held by BAA and its partner organisation or by joining regenerative growing and biodiversity WhatsApp groups

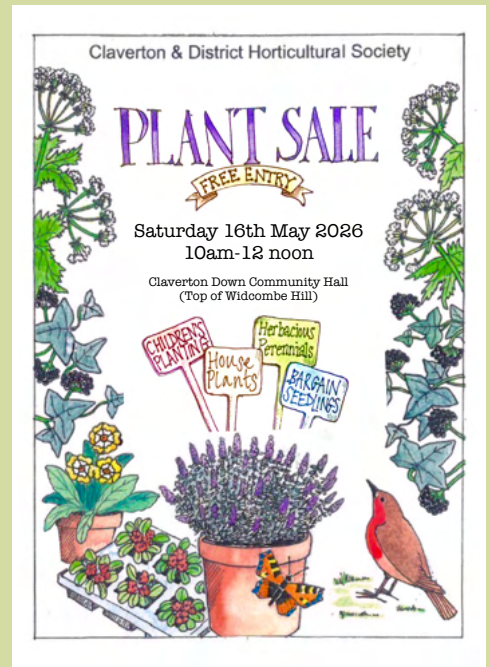
*Can't find your digital membership card that came with the welcome email when you renewed or joined? No problem, login to www.membermojo.co.uk using your email address for BAA membership and you can view your card. Any problems email membership@banes-allotments.org.uk.

Not yet a member? [JOIN HERE](#)

Tackling Pests and Diseases Without Resorting to Chemicals

Carol Stone will be holding another of her popular workshops on 6th June. We will let you know when details have been finalised.

CDHS Plant Sale on 16th May 10-12.00 noon



Date for your diary

The Annual Flower and Produce Show, held in conjunction with Claverton Down Horticultural Society (CDHS), will be held on Saturday 5th September 2026

Revisiting the Trading Hut

One of the key benefits of Bath Allotments Association membership is access to the Trading Hut. In existence for almost 20 years, the Trading Hut is a venture initially co-funded by Bath Allotments Association and Bath Organic Group and is run by volunteers.



View inside
the Trading
Hut

The concept of the Trading Hut is to offer members easy access to cheap supplies that allotmenters and leisure gardeners typically require. As the picture shows it's housed in a big container located at the entrance to the Lower Common West allotment site and is open every second Saturday morning throughout the year.

The Trading Hut buys stock at wholesale prices and, apart from a very small mark up to fund running costs, sells to members at effectively cost price, and typically at a huge discount to what you would pay in a garden centre. The full stock list, of over 70 different items, and prices can be found [HERE](#), but comprises various fertilisers, netting and fleece, canes, hoops and connectors, ground cover fabric and pins, trays and pots, string and labels and much, much more.

As well as general supplies the Trading Hut gives members easy access to the Kings Seeds' allotments discount. In August Kings Seeds catalogues are distributed to members who can buy seeds at 50% discount to normal prices, with seeds delivered in January.

The Trading Hut also supplies onion sets, garlic, shallots and broad beans in the Autumn and onion sets, garlic, shallots and various varieties of seed potatoes in the Spring. These are available at a fraction of the cost of commercial suppliers. A kilogram of Trading Hut seed potatoes this year was £1.50, compared with commercial suppliers' prices in the range of £4-5.

We often quote that one visit to The Trading Hut will recoup your £6.50 annual Bath Allotments Association membership.

If you haven't made use of The Trading Hut, drop in on a Saturday morning and see what you're missing.



Growing Green: Bath
Organic Group Open
Day 16th May 2.00-5.00
p.m. LCW



Lots to enjoy at the Bath Organic Group Open Day – cream teas, pizza, street food as well as tours and nature walks, stalls and plant sales. Bring family and friends and why not make a cake in the shape of a fruit or vegetable! There will be PRIZES for the best cakes!

It's All in the History: Why Understanding Your Allotment Site's Legal Status Matters

When I first investigated protecting allotment sites, I quickly realised just how complicated it can be. At first glance, it seems reasonable to assume that if your allotment has been around for decades or even longer, surely it must be protected under the Allotments Acts? Unfortunately, the reality is far more nuanced. The Allotments Acts 1925 only applies to land that a local authority, in our case the Council or a Parish Council, has formally purchased or appropriated as land for use as allotments.

Being marked on a map, or having been in use for many years, does not automatically confer statutory protection. Even long-established plots can be at risk if their legal history isn't clear. Historical records are invaluable in the checking process. Land Registry searches (currently £14) will reveal whether the Council holds the land freehold or leasehold, but ownership alone isn't enough.

Understanding why and when the land was acquired is also critical. Council committee minutes held in local archives, can reveal whether a site was purchased specifically for allotments. In some cases sites were acquired for alternative purposes, such as a burial grounds. If so, even if the site has been in use as allotments for decades, it is still classed as "temporary" and is not protected under the Allotments Acts. Sites in this category are more vulnerable and, sadly, some have been lost nationally for this reason over the years.

Leasehold sites add another layer of complexity. If the Land Registry shows the site is held under leasehold, it's essential to obtain a copy of the lease. In my recent research into my own site, Claremont, which is run by the Council, I was surprised to find out it was not freehold, but leasehold. I am now trying to locate a copy of the lease. Privately owned sites, even ones held on long leases are much more vulnerable, as we have witnessed at Combe Down. Allotment sites handed over to Housing Associations such as Curo, along with the Council Housing estates, have an even more ambiguous status.

Even if the statutory status of a site is uncertain or it is « temporary », other legislation can provide important protections. The Planning Acts and the Localism Act 2011 can be used to safeguard allotments from development. We are awaiting the publication of the Draft Local Plan to see if the Council has taken heed of the Association's submissions.

Understanding the history and legal status of your allotment site is more than an academic exercise — it is a vital step in safeguarding these cherished community spaces. Every plot has a story and uncovering that story is key to ensuring these green spaces continue to thrive for generations to come. Please contact me if you would be interested to research your site.

Jacky Wilkinson

Planning Officer, Bath Allotments Association

Jackywilkinson99@gmail.com



Bath Allotments Association Grant Funding Brings New Life to LCE Shed

The communal shed on Lower Common East was falling into disrepair but thanks to funding from the Water My Plot grant, it is now looking spick and span and ready for use.



Is there a project that you would like to see up and running on your site? Have a look at our [Small Projects Scheme](#) to see if the Association might be able to help.

Spotlight on Bay Tree Allotments



Top: View from Bay Tree Allotments Bottom: One of the Bay Tree plots

Bay Tree Allotment Community Group (BTACG) oversees a private green space that has served the local community for nearly a century. Located between Walcot Parish and the Lambridge boundary, near Hampton View and Bay Tree Road, the site is home to 34 plots of varying sizes and has pleasant views towards Little Solsbury Hill.

The site does not have access to mains water; however, we have springs that, for most of the year, provide most of our water needs. We are pleased to have secured funding from local ward councillors to purchase water tanks and a pump, enabling us to harvest water more effectively from the natural spring running through the land. We are grateful for that support. We have also been improving pathways and access routes across the site.

We continue to clear overgrown areas to increase the number of available plots, including additional micro plots. Our plans include setting aside areas for rewilding and habitat enhancement, with native wildflowers, hedgerows, and a wildlife pond. These efforts are intended to support both wildlife and the wider community for years to come. To get in touch email Colin at baytreeallotments@gmail.com

BTACG Committee



Bath in Bloom

Following the success of some of our members in last year's competition, why not enter your allotment or garden. Entries need to be in by June 7th 2026. More details [here](#).

Badminton Flower Show

Some members may be interested in the RHS Flower Show which is coming to Badminton from 8th-12th July 2026. You can find more details [here](#).

Our Recent Activities

Phase 2 of the Water My Plot Project

Our bid for funding from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) fund for [Phase 2 of our Water My Plot project](#) has been shortlisted. We await the final decision which we expect in the next few weeks. Our thanks go to Jacky Wilkinson, our Planning Officer, who led the bid, and all those who have provided support. Fingers crossed. We will update you when the outcome is known

The New to Growing Workshop 2

April's workshop run by Carol Stone on the Mendip Garden site on 11th April was the second of her 'New to Growing' sessions and, on this occasion, she was ably assisted by Guy Bardoe. Carol and Guy discussed a broad range of topics including no-dig-gardening methods; how to feed the soil as well as plants; how to attract pollinators and natural pest controllers; what to sow and when as well as giving tips on how to let nature do the work and easy growing methods. The workshop was well attended and participants said how much they had enjoyed the session and learned. Carol's next workshop 'Tackling Pest and Diseases Without Resorting to Chemicals' will be on 6th June. See our website for full details.



Guy giving advice at the recent 'New to Growing' workshop

BOG Workshop of Growing Under Cover

The theme of April's Bath Organic Group's workshop was 'Growing Under Cover'. BAA members are welcome to join these monthly sessions. May's session is replaced with the Growing Green Open Day, but the workshop will be back in June covering [Crop Maintenance and Pests](#).

Small Projects Getting Underway

The Association has recently approved applications for small project funding for pond plants and pond liner on the Bloomfield and Lower Common East sites and a rainwater collection station at the King George's Road site. We will report on progress in due course.



National Allotments Week

National Allotments Week is an annual initiative by the National Allotments Society to raise awareness of allotments and their role in helping people live healthier lifestyles, grow their food, develop friendships, and bolster communities.

This year it will run from **10-16 August 2026**, and the chosen theme is **"Grow to Learn."**

We are well under way in planning an allotment walking trail with activities for both adults and children included at some of our sites. Our events are planned for the weekend 15th and 16th August. We will update you.

Committee Meetings

Held at 6.30 p.m. at Sydney Gardens Pavillion on 23/07/2026 and 22/10/2026

These are where officers and site reps meet to discuss current issues and forthcoming plans. Members are most welcome to come along to any of these meetings. If you are interested just let us know you are coming by emailing info@banes-allotments.org.uk or you can ask your site rep to raise any issues you have.