

Bulletin

March 2026

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Funding Success

We are pleased to report that the Moorfields site has been awarded £600 from the Ward Councillors Empowerment Fund (WCEF) to help with site clearance. Our thanks to local councillors, and Jess David in particular, for their support. You can read more about efforts to improve the Moorfields site below.



A large space being returned to productive growing after clearance of debris and rubbish on the Moorfields site



Trading Hut

The Trading Hut will be open from 10.00-12.00 on Saturday 14th March and 28th March 2026 and fortnightly after that.

Upcoming Events

Gearing up for this year's growing season? 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. If you are not yet a member, you can [sign up here](#). Annual membership only costs £6.50 – less than the price of two cups of coffee!

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](#).

Helping New Growers

One of the biggest complaints we receive from members concerns abandoned plots. Part of the problem is that new, eager gardeners often take on plots but find that they lack the time, energy and experience to undertake the necessary work. It is easy to feel overwhelmed and give up. Unfortunately, this causes problems for neighbouring plots and can be the start of a cycle of abandonment. Weeds and brambles establish themselves, plots become increasingly hard-to-let, turnover increases and once productive growing spaces gradually turn into overgrown jungles.

The Association is working hard to try and break this cycle through a series of initiative, one of which involves setting up micro-plots. Micro-plots are small growing spaces, typically created by sub-dividing hard-to-let plots. The plots are offered to those who are at the top of their site waiting list and are new to growing. Taking on a micro-plot provides the opportunity to gain some experience and make a realistic assessment of potential challenges before taking on a larger plot. The Association provides some of the basics such as ground cover, mulch and access to tools but, more importantly the advice and support needed to get new growers off to a good start.

You can find out more about our micro-plots [here](#).



Two very happy micro-plotters. Marcus and Jodie in front of their new micro-plot on Lower Common East



Regenerative Growing Workshop



Sarah's demonstration plot at Bloomfield Allotments site

Thanks to Sarah Hargreaves for the image

14th March 13.30-15.00
Regenerative Growing – the lazy gardeners' way.

Want healthier crops, fewer weeds and better harvests with less digging, watering and weeding? Join John and Sarah at the Bloomfield site to find out how. This is a free, members-only event. You can get further details and [register here](#).

Spotlight on the Moorfields Site

The brush-cutter has been buzzing up at Moorfields. Guy Bardoe, a contractor working for the BAA, has just spent 3 tough days hacking and clearing three over-grown and derelict plots. These plots were identified as hard to let by the Council and it was not difficult to see why. Just the removal of approximately 2 tonnes of rubbish was a logistical challenge! Now they are cleared and can be used productively. Lost rental will also come back to the Council.

The work was funded by Councillor Jess David's Councillor Empowerment Fund and organised by the Bath Allotments Association as part of our *WatermyPlot* 3 year project. Thankyou Jess!



Moorfields allotments is a peaceful secluded site which sits enclosed on two sides by houses and on the third by the Moorlands Junior School. It is accessed only by a modest gate off Moorfields Road.



Top: Picture of Moorlands site. Bottom: entrance to Moorfields site

Our site rep at Moorfields is Kerry Rogers on Plot 18A. She does a great job and is a key part of our [Biodiversity group](#).
Jacky Wilkinson

If you know someone who would like an allotment plot get them to apply through the [Council link](#). There is some availability on a few sites.



Another Popular Workshop

Carol Stone is running the second of her New to Growing workshops on **11th April** from 10.00 to 12.00. The location will be confirmed nearer the date. Her workshop is designed for those who have just taken on plots and covers all the basics. Her last workshop for those New to Growing proved popular and provided lots of [great advice](#). Find out more about her forthcoming workshop [here](#)



Friend or foe? Look out for details of a forthcoming workshop on pests in next month's newsletter.

Thanks to Sarah Hargreaves for the image

Workshops are free, Bath Allotments Association members-only events.

Our Recent Workshops

It has been a busy start to the growing season with workshops on Composting, Pond Building and Seed Sowing to start us off.

The Composting Workshop was held on Sunday 22 February on the Bloomfield Allotments site gave those attending plenty of food for thought.



From left to right – a sample of compostable material, members attending the workshop, Alex Montgomery of Generation Soil leading the Composting session

On Sunday 22 February, Alex from [Generation Soil](#) hosted an inspiring soil health and compost workshop on the Bloomfield site. Alex explored the ripple effect of regenerative growing practices, from healthy soil to strong roots, resilient plants and fewer pests to inspire why composting is so important.

The session also covered practical composting tips, including balancing green and brown materials, moisture and airflow, and the reassurance that most compost problems can be easily fixed. And new for many, attendees were introduced to bokashi composting, a fast, fermentation-based method using microbe-rich bran (which the Trading Hut hopes to stock soon), as well as the benefits of worm composting for producing high-quality compost. We even tried “soil listening”, comparing a plot at the start of its regenerative journey (quiet soil) with a more established regenerative site - where you could hear it was alive with squiggly underground sounds.

Do check out the [Generation Soil](#) site for more details. Book onto our regenerative session in March for more soil and planting ideas.

Erica Draisey



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 planning to celebrate the event by devising an allotment walking trail around some of our sites but would love any suggestions you might have.

The BOG Workshop on Sowing Seeds

The weather warmed up for our session at BOG on Saturday 21st February. A mixture of BOG and BAA members were given top tips for growing seeds from Dan and Len provided us all with a welcome cup of tea.

Top tips:

Always, always read the seed packets - they tell you everything you need to know!

- Some seeds store better than others - carrots and parsnips don't last well but tomatoes do.
- Sow your seeds 3x depth according to size of the seed. So this means tiny seeds like celeriac sow on the surface and broadbeans at a depth of 3cm.
- Try to keep seeds at a constant temperature.
- If you want to bring plants on early use root trainers for larger seeds and modules or trays for smaller seeds - available from the Trading Hut.
- Use a peat free compost - available from the Trading Hut.
- Fill the containers 5mm from top, water then plant seeds, top up with compost and water again.
- Water small pots regularly but don't swamp, larger pots water weekly. Bottom watering is preferable as you don't damage the stems or leaves.
- If your seedlings are looking straggly run your hands over the top of them to simulate outdoor conditions - wind - to strengthen them up. (I gave my tomatoes a gentle brush with my hand as soon as I got home.)

Seed saving

Tomatoes are easy but plants pollinated by wind and insects are a bit hit and miss. If you don't mind a bit of variety, then do save your own seeds.

Don't try to store seeds from hybrid plants - you won't necessarily get the same plant the following year.

Collect seeds from the strongest plants which display the characteristics you are looking to grow the following year.

Thanks Dan, for an informative talk. We all went away with some useful tips. *Erica Draisey.*



Below :Mark checks out Jenny's morning work. Left : Dan enjoys well tea and cake after his talk. Thanks Dan.



Bath Organic Group Workshops

BAA members are invited to join the Bath Organic Group (BOG) workshops free of charge.

The next BOG workshop is on 21st March, and the topic is Soil Preparation and Feeding. If you would like to attend, please [RSVP here.](#)

Committee Meetings

Held at 6.30 p.m. at Sydney Gardens Pavillion on 21/04/2026, 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.

Welcome to a new site representative

We are delighted to welcome Jacquai Holcombe as the BAA site representative for Ring Common. The site rep role on this site has been vacant for a while since Peter Cray stepped down after many years of service. So, a big thank you to Jacquai and to Peter, her predecessor.

Many people will recognise Jacquai from her role as Manager of the Shaw Trust shop on George Street. Jacquai has worked her plot on Ring Common since March 2021 but she has been a keen gardener from an early age picking up skills from her Mum, Dad and Grandad. Jacquai is on Plot 14B if members on Ring Common want to say hello.



Jacquai Holcombe joins our team.

We still have vacancies for reps on Brookfield Park, Fairfield Park, Fairfield Valley and Foxhill. Interested? You can find out what is involved [here](#). It isn't too onerous and you would be making an important contribution to our growing community in Bath.

BATH ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION



Share@Repair
Bear Flat Repair Cafe
GARDENING SPECIAL!

- Garden tool maintenance**
sharpening, sanding, oiling
- Garden tool "bring and take"**
swap spares and get something new
- Seed and seedling swap**
Giving you a head start this Spring

18 April 2026 | 9:30 to 12:30
Bruton Community Hall

Do you have gardening tools or equipment in need of some TLC. Why not take them along to the Share@Repair Gardening Special event on 18th April