

Bulletin

September 2026

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Are you daunted by the size of your plot? Is it all getting too much? Take a look at our advice.



A typical large plot, riddled with bindweed and housing a shed in need of serious repairs, that was offered to a new tenant. Despite valiant efforts it has proved too much for a single person, new to growing, to manage. Let's avoid setting up enthusiastic plot holders to fail.

My plot is just too big.

Traditional allotment plots were intended to feed a family for a full year in a hungry, war-torn time. In today's world we want to grow our own food for different reasons. Those pressing commitments we all have often affect our ability to run a large plot. Whether you are a newcomer who has overestimated your ability to cultivate a large plot or a long-standing grower whose circumstances have changed but who still wants to grow, there are solutions.



Trading Hut

The Trading Hut will be open from
10.00-12.00 on 12th and 26th
September

The Trading Hut will also be on the Bath Allotments Association stall at the Annual Produce Show. We won't be selling anything at the show but do come along, say hello and see what the Trading Hut is stocking this autumn.

2nd September: Closing date for entries to Annual Produce Show

The Annual Flower and Produce Show held in conjunction with Claverton Down Horticultural Society is now open for entries. You can enter the show online by clicking [here](#). The deadline for entries is 11.59 p.m. on Wednesday 2nd September. Or you can bring an [entry form](#) to Claverton Down Community Hall between 6-8 p.m. on Wednesday 2nd September.

Why not give it a go this year!

If you are on a big plot (which could be anything from 100 to 250 square metres) you could [ask the Council](#) to consider dividing it. The Council recognises that there needs to be a wider range of plot sizes to suit changing needs. The decision will depend on the suitability of the plot (e.g. where sheds and fruit trees are positioned) and the proportion of small plots on the site already.

Can I take a break and let the plot to a friend?

No. Plot-holders are the *primary tenants* of the Council and have no rights to hand on or sublet the plot to someone else. This is contrary to the rules and unfair to people waiting on the list. However, you can have a co-worker. See below.

Can I share the plot and so reduce the work?

Yes. Although the tenancy can only be held by one person, lots of plot-holders naturally share the work with their partners, family and friends. However, these sharers have no rights to take over the plot from you. If you want their work to be recognised, you must register them as co-workers. They then become a registered partner, registered coworker or registered spouse under [the Rules Part A. 5\(4\)](#).

I'm a spouse, or coworker- do I automatically get the allotment when the tenant leaves?

No. You must be registered (see above). Once registered the rules currently state that you must have been a coworker for 3 years, but the Council confirms that, in practice, the qualifying period is as long as the waiting time of the person who is at the top of the waiting list. This will vary from site to site. Also please note the tenant must formally resign the tenancy. At that point you must apply yourself to be given the tenancy. The applicable section of the rules can be found [here](#). The Association has asked the Council whether it will consider introducing joint tenancies, which are common in other places, as a way of making things easier.

I'm on the waiting list but I only want a small plot.

Can I refuse a plot that is too big?

The Association considers that it is perfectly sensible to [tell the Council](#) that you only want a small plot. It's a waste of everyone's time if you accept a large plot that you know you can't sustain.



5th September 2026: The
Annual Flower and Produce
Show held in conjunction
with Claverton Down
Horticultural Society – their
82nd Show!!

Join us from 2 p.m. at the
Claverton Down Community Hall
and Marquee for a fun afternoon
for all the family.

Enjoy the wonderful displays of
flowers, fruit, vegetables, cakes,
bread, jams, wines and so much
more. Relax with tea and cake or
enjoy some of the varied
activities on offer. Full details
[here](#).



*Display of squashes at last year's
show*

I am ill and can't cope at present.

Please let the Council know as soon as possible. Talk to your [BAA Site Rep](#). All conversations will be confidential. It may be possible to enlist help while you are incapacitated. The Council does not automatically tell the Association when people are in need, so you will need to [contact us](#). The Association cannot directly contact a plot holder unless they are a BAA member, although the Council will pass on messages if requested.

I am new to growing. I don't know if I can keep up a full-size plot.

The National Allotment Association offers some advice of how to get started and [deal with a neglected plot](#) but if that still seems too much, please tell the Council you only want a small plot to begin with. It should be possible to move to a bigger plot when you are more experienced and feel able to cope. Alternatively, you could consider joining the Association's [microplot project](#). These are very small plots where people on the waiting list can begin to learn about growing, get to be familiar with the site and meet the other growers. This is a stepping stone, not a permanent plot, but they are popular. You will need to be a member of the Association, and you will stay on the waiting list until you are offered your own plot. There is more information on our microplots initiative on our website or contact [Maria](#) to find out more

We are about to launch a short questionnaire to elicit your views on the future for allotments. We will be asking for your opinions on preferred plot sizes, current allotment rules, services and facilities, allotment management and lots more. All responses will be anonymous. We do hope you will find time to complete the short survey when it is sent out. It will help us to establish priorities and will inform our meetings with the Council.



Learn at the Farm

Bath City Farm is excited to announce a new programme of seasonal heritage craft, permaculture and wellness workshops.

Learn at the Farm brings together expert teachers, materials sourced from the farm and its wonderful community to give you access to new skills, inspiration and experiences.

Every booking supports the farm. Just click [this link](#) and scroll down to explore what is on offer for autumn and winter.

Spotlight on Corston View



Corston View allotments at Odd Down

The Corston View site has an interesting history. From the 1940/50's onwards there was an allotment site on private land behind Bloomfield Drive. In the late nineteen eighties, when the interest in allotments was declining, Bath Council bought the land to extend the elderly persons' dwellings in Corston View. This project subsequently failed due to the land being found to be unsuitable for building. In 2010 local councillors proposed the site be returned to allotments due to an increase in the popularity of food growing. Local residents were delighted with the restoration of the site and the 18 allotments were quickly snapped up. Not surprisingly, there is currently a waiting list of around 2 years for a plot on this site.

The site has hedging of trees on 3 sides which is necessary due to the high winds that occur at this elevated location on Odd Down. The views though are magnificent across to Kelston Hill and Bristol. We have a varied community on the site with at least 3 allotmenters from around the globe growing alongside born and bred Odd Downers! One of our plot-holders had an allotment here when the site was in private ownership and has continued with a plot since the site was reopened in 2011!

Hilary Sheppard

Our site reps at Corston View are [Hilary Sheppard and Ron White](#). A very big thank you to them for everything they do.



Allotment Cats

Did you know that pictures of cats are now all the rage on social media? Cat images consistently outperform human selfies, generate billions of views and launch viral sensations. So, to keep up with the times the Association offers you its own feline stars.



This is Ted inspecting plots on Bloomfield

If you have your own allotment cat photo please [share it with us](#).

Bath in Bloom Awards

Entries into the allotment category of this year's competition were well up on last year and we are delighted to announce that our microplot members and Sarah Hargreaves, on the Bloomfield site, were among the winners. Many congratulations to the winners and all who took part.



Lesley showing the judges her plot

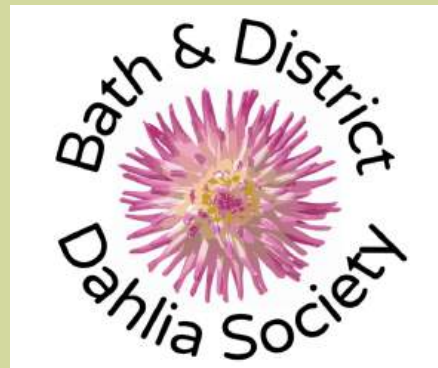


Bloomfield micro-plotters receiving a Silver award at the Bath in Bloom 2026 award ceremony on 27th August



Dahlia Show on 5th
September

The newly formed [Dahlia Society for Bath & District](#) and will be holding its first Dahlia Show in **The Urban Garden in Marlborough Buildings on Saturday 5th September.**



Recent Events and Activities

Bath Allotment Growers Open Days and Trails 15th & 16th August

To raise public awareness of allotments in Bath we have created two self-guided walking trails between some of our lovely sites – one to the north of the river and one to the south. You can download the trails [here](#). The trails can be followed at any time but we combined the launch of our trails with the celebration of National Allotments Week by opening some sites to visitors.



Left: Making a mini bug hotel on Bloomfield. Right: Making plant brew and compost teas on Lyncombe Hill Farm

Our brilliant volunteers offered site tours, provided refreshment and laid on a range of activities for all the family. Despite it being a rather hot weekend, the events proved popular with both adults and children and produced some very positive feedback.

The weekend's events provided the opportunity for members to look at sites they hadn't visited and to talk to fellow growers but it also raised the profile of allotments with the general public. As allotment land comes under increasing pressure from developers and other land users, it is important that the public are aware of, and understand the importance of, these wonderful green growing spaces.



A huge vote of thanks to Philip Jansseune of Walker Jansseune who came to our rescue to produce posters and leaflets in an impossibly short time frame. His 'vegetable people' were so eye-catching that I am sure we will be seeing them again. Thanks Philip.