

Bulletin

January/February

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Getting Ready for Growing in 2026

Although signs of Spring are on the way, it is good to remember that February is mainly a month for prepping rather than growing. Hopefully, members have collected their seed and potato orders from the Trading Hut and are beginning to make plans for the growing season. The National Allotment Society has some good tips on how to prepare your soil and garden sustainably for the rest of the year. Take a look at their advice [here](#).



Volunteers helping to bag up this year's potato orders



Trading Hut

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

Many thanks to all those who helped on 'potato day'. If you haven't already done so, please collect your seed potato order from the Trading Hut at the earliest opportunity.



Don't forget to start chitting!

Our New Bid for Funding

As many members will know, we are following on from our successful Water My Plot initiative by bidding for a second round of funds from the local Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). CIL is a planning charge levied by Local Authorities in England and Wales to raise funds from new building and infrastructure developments. The money raised is used to support local community projects. You can find details of our bid [here](#). The aim of the Phase 2 bid is to support the more efficient use of existing allotments by:

- increasing the numbers of people able to grow food by running smaller plots, rescuing hard-to-let plots and creating new plots.
- reducing wastage of plots caused by high-rate first-time failures by running microplots for first timers.
- Improving the quality, sustainability and biodiversity of the sites through better water capture and usage and wildlife initiatives.

Fingers crossed that we are successful.



Pictures of some of the many water butts we supplied to members at a heavily discounted price thanks to Phase 1 of the Water My Plot initiative.



Supporting biodiversity and encouraging pollinators as part of the first phase of the Water My Plot project



Dates for your Diary

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.

Heads-up on forthcoming workshops

After a very successful series of workshops last year, Carol Stone has agreed to run more workshops for BAA members in 2026. Venues and full details will be advertised nearer the time but topics to be covered include:
7th March and 11th April – New to Growing 1 & 2– covering all the basics and answering questions from new growers.
9th May – Pests: friends or foes
6th June – Tinctures and feeds
19th September – Unusual vegetables and autumn planting.

Workshops in February 2026

We are planning a full programme of workshops with lots of hands-on experiences and practical advice.

Workshops are free members-only events, and you can see the full list of what is planned by scrolling through the [Events page](#) on our website. If there are workshops you would like us to run, please let us have your suggestions by emailing info@banesallotments.org.uk.

To get the year off to a good start there are several events running in February.

Composting Workshop – Sunday 22 February 2026 from 14:00-15:30 on *Bloomfield Allotments site*

We're delighted to invite allotment growers in Bath to a hands-on composting workshop led by Alex Montgomery of Generation Soil — specialists in regenerative soil health and living compost systems. You can find full details and register for the event [here](#). Places are limited so book early.

Pond Building Workshop – Sunday 22nd February 2026 from 11.00 – 1.00 at *Claremont Allotments site*

Sheila Gundry from Frogline will be leading a pond building session with members of the Claremont community. Growers from other sites are most welcome to join Claremont plot-holders to find out how to build their own ponds, why it's so important to have sources of water on allotments and what else we can do to support wildlife on our plots and sites. You can find full details and register for the event [here](#).

Seed swap - 28 February from 11:00-12.00 at Bath Organic Group (BOG) on *Lower Common West site*

Come along with your spare seeds - vegetables and flowers - to swap for something you forgot to order or try something new.

Don't forget, you can also buy a range of vegetable Kings Seeds from the Trading Hut at half retail price. Why not pop along to the Trading Hut on the same morning.



BOG Workshops

We are delighted to share the news that the Bath Organic Group (BOG), located on the Lower Common West site, will be offering BAA members the opportunity to attend their monthly workshops. These will take place at 11.00 a.m. on the third Saturday of each month. The topics covered are listed below. If you are interested in attending the session on 21st February you can register [here](#) or visit our events page for other sessions.

Dates and topics

21st Feb: Seeds and sowing

21st March: Soil pre-preparation and feeding

18th April: Growing under Cover

16th May: Composting

20th June: Crop maintenance and pests

Have you installed your water butt?

We've noticed that there are a number of water butts "resting" on allotment sites. If you need a hand or want to find out how to install them, we have several site reps willing to lead practical sessions to share their knowledge and expertise. Let us know if you are interested by emailing info@banes-allotments.org.uk

Workshop in March 2026

Carol Stone will be running a full programme of her popular workshops during the year starting with the New to Growing workshops on 7th March and 11th April. The venue will be announced nearer the date. Carol's March workshop will cover the first principles of organic, no-dig, pesticide-free and nature-friendly approaches to growing and the benefits of these approaches. It will also look at basic tool, techniques for clearing the ground and planning what to grow. For further details and to register for the March event [click here](#).

Welcome to new site reps

We are delighted to welcome two new Allotments Association reps on the Eastfield site, Natasha and Vinnie.



Eastfield Allotments are in Weston on Eastfield Avenue towards the rear of Brookfield Park. There are 23 plots on this site and the waiting list is around 2 years. The site has been without a Bath Association rep for quite a while, so we are very grateful to Natasha and Vinnie for agreeing to share the role.

We still have vacancies for reps on Brookfield Park, Fairfield Park, Fairfield Valley, Foxhill and Ring Common. 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.



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. Just email us at info@banes-allotments.org.uk