

# Bulletin

October 2025

## Latest News

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*Super squashes at this year's annual flower and produce show hosted by Claverton Down Horticultural Society. See the update on Bath Allotments Association activities below for full details*



## Resources:

For tips on what to do in October and much more, look at our website.

Click [here](#)

## Trading Hut

The Trading Hut will be open as usual from 10.00-12.00 on 11th and 25th October 2025. We have red and yellow onion sets and broad beans. Garlic and shallots are expected soon, we will let members know when they arrive.

If you haven't done so already, you can collect your King's Seeds Catalogue but don't forget to get your [potato and seed orders](#) in by **25<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

## Bath in Bloom Successes

We are delighted to announce that the 2005 Bath in Bloom award ceremony held in the Roper Theatre featured several Bath Allotments Association members this year. Chris Pearce, our site representative on the Combe Down site, received the Gold Award in the Allotments and Kitchen Garden category, Dave Angell on the Lower Common East site received Gold for Private Winners as well as becoming the overall Private Champion and Mike Duckett received an award for the micro-plots on the Claremont site. Chris commented that "Bath in Bloom is a truly inspiring organisation. Having now experienced it firsthand, I only wish I had entered in previous years. It's made me realise just how fortunate I have been to have an allotment and be part of such a vibrant community."

We hope this encourages more members to enter next year's competition.



## Membership Renewals

The Bath Allotment Association new membership year starts on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2025 and runs through to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2026. Many thanks to everyone who has renewed their membership and a big welcome to those who have just joined.

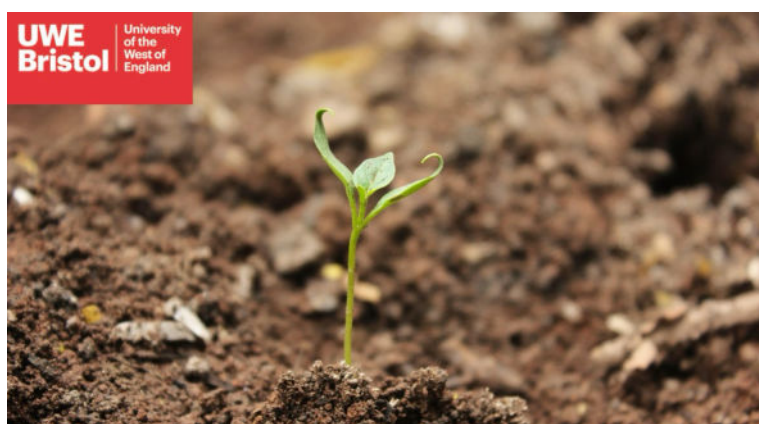
If you have joined or renewed, you should have received a 'thank you' email with a downloadable version of your 25/26 membership card included. If you didn't get the email have a look in your junk email box (just in case!) and if you still can't find it, email [membership@banes-allotments.org.uk](mailto:membership@banes-allotments.org.uk) and we will resend.

*Left: Chris Pearce with Bharat Pankhania receiving awards. Bharat was not only acting in his role as Mayor but was also a winner in his own right in the large gardens category.*

*Right Michael Duckett receives award for Microplots on Claremont site.*

## Please help by completing our survey

We are hoping as many members as possible will participate in our survey into plot-holders views on regenerative growing. Full details below. Your help will be much appreciated. The link to [the survey is here](#) or scan the QR code below. It is very important to find out how we can best provide you with information on regenerative growing. The information will be used by Joseph to create materials and to target the most appropriate media.



### Take Part in the Future of Allotment Growing!

We want to hear from Bath allotment growers.

Help us understand your views on regenerative growing. Your input will shape new, accessible resources to support our community of growers.



To take the survey,  
scan the QR code:



Part of an MSc Science Communication project with UWE Bristol & Bath Allotment Association  
Please contact: [joseph2.yeadon@live.uwe.ac.uk](mailto:joseph2.yeadon@live.uwe.ac.uk) if you require more information



## Make your views known about the new “Local Plan”

BCNES Council has just published its Local Plan Options, and its consultation process starts on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. The papers relating to this are now available [online](#). It is important we make sure that the value of our allotment sites is recognised and they are protected so please take a look and let our planning officer have your views by emailing: [planning@banes-allotments.org.uk](mailto:planning@banes-allotments.org.uk)



## Update on Microplots

The Association has let a further 10 Microplots to those new to growing on Bloomfield and Larkhall Allotments

Following the success of Microplots on Monksdale, Claremont and LCE and LCW, the Association has taken on the tenancy of hard to let plots on Bloomfield and Larkhall Allotments. With a lot of hard work and enthusiasm, BAA members, Chris Walters and Sarah Hargreaves, have transformed 66A into 3 Microplots ready for new tenants. Due to high demand Bath Allotments Association also took on 35A2 and 60B2 on the Bloomfield site for Microplots. The new tenants have made a great start covering their plots with cardboard and mulch and muck and marking out paths. Similarly, Jon Walker along with the 4 tenants on Larkhall have marked out their microplots and are getting them into shape for cultivation next spring.

It's great to be able to offer those on the waiting list a first step on their growing journey. More microplots will be available shortly to those on the waiting lists at Claremont.

Erica Draisey



Microplots under preparation on the Larkhall site



## Quiz Question of the Month

Remember that haircut!!

What is Mullet Gardening?

Find the answer [here](#)



*Left: Compost Heap Right: A Dead Hedge. Both good alternatives to burning*

## Remind Yourself of the Rules on Bonfires

While bonfires are allowed on Bath Allotments sites between 1<sup>st</sup> October and 31<sup>st</sup> March, plot holders are asked to be careful about what they burn and be considerate of other tenants. You can find the full set of rules about bonfires in B&NES Council allotments tenancy agreement [here](#).

But instead of burning, why not consider alternatives which are better for the environment such as composting or creating a dead hedge.



## AGM

18<sup>th</sup> November 2025  
at Museum of Bath at  
Work. 6.30p.m. for  
tea and cakes prior to  
a prompt 7.00 p.m.  
start

## Water Butts and Manure



*Water Butts used to capture rainwater*

We are expecting an additional delivery of water butts shortly. These represent exceptional value because the cost is, in part, subsidised by the Association. If you are interested in purchasing water butts, please contact [info@banes-allotments.org.uk](mailto:info@banes-allotments.org.uk).

For those who have water butts already but have yet to connect to a rainwater supply, look out for our forthcoming workshops which will give practical, hands-on advice on how to go about it. This is perfect job for the winter months in preparation for next year's main growing season.

### Plus, the Trading Hut is trialling sales of manure

When Charlie Love ordered a bulk delivery of bagged manure from Muck and Mulch in September, he wasn't expecting his total supply to be sold out in a matter of hours. The demand was much greater than any of us had anticipated so the Trading Hut is exploring the best way to facilitate further deliveries. If there is sufficient demand, it might be more efficient to get Muck and Mulch to deliver to other accessible sites as well as to the Trading Hut. Charlie has asked those interested in purchasing manure to email him with details, including which site they are on so that we can explore the possibilities.



Look out for our forthcoming workshops on how to connect your water butts to capture rainwater

## Updates on the Associations Activities and Projects

### A Fun Afternoon at the Annual Flower and Produce Show

Again, this year we joined with the Claverton Down Horticultural Society (CDHS) for the Annual Flower and Produce Show. This was CDHS's 81<sup>st</sup> show. The weather was kind, if a little windy, and Bath Allotment Association members featured large among the winners.



*Ryan Myles with his prize-winning parsnips*



Did you know you  
can report  
allotment site  
issues to the  
BGNES Council  
using its '[Fix My  
Street](#)' portal





*Anthony Morgan wins first prize for his lovely chard*



*Michael Gallagher also bags a first with his perfect array of tomatoes*

Other prize winners included Charlie Love for his squashes, Jacqueline Burrows for her onions and squashes, Jessica Jewitt for her Zinnias and Dahlias and Judith Jordan for her raspberry jam and blackberry liqueur. If you won in any of the categories we haven't mentioned, please do let us know so we can give you a shout in our next newsletter.



## WhatsApp Groups

Does your site have a WhatsApp group? Contact your [site rep](#) to find out. If not, why not consider creating one?



## Finding Out about Regenerative Growing



John Ingham leads a workshop on regenerative growing. Thanks to Anu Anand for the use of her plot

### What is regenerative growing?

This was the widely asked question that John Ingham set out to answer on Saturday 13 September 2025 on Lower Common East Allotments. Thank you to Anu Anand (plot 134 ) who kindly hosted us.

John described the complex relationship between plants and fungi in the soil bio domes i.e. how the microbes and fungi around the plant roots interact with the plants. The relevance of this to ordinary growers like us is being more understood. It affects the nutritional value of food and influences the amount of carbon held (sequestered) in the soil.

He also explained the key principles of regenerative growing and simple steps growers can take to implement regenerative approaches on their plots.



If you missed our last two workshops, why not think about joining the upcoming events at Alice Park Community Garden on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September. Carol Stone is leading the event on how to “Grow More Food with Polycultures and Intercropping’ You can find more details [here](#)

The basic principles are:

1. Minimum soil disturbance
2. Keep all surfaces covered with either mulches or plants. This stops leaching of beneficial elements from the soil and stops overheating of the soil. The plants could be legumes (peas, beans etc), perennials (such as perennial cabbages, sorrels), catch crops (ie radishes, green manures).
3. Grow a wide variety of crops. Allow flowering and self-seeding, as this supports biodiversity. He also advised that inter planting crops works well to maintain soil health as well as helping to control pests (known as companion planting).

For full details follow this link.

## What to Grow in the Autumn and Winter

A group of BAA members from across the City met at the Urban Garden to discuss what to grow on your plot in the autumn and winter months and why it's important to have ground cover at this time of year. Carol shared with us examples of the vegetables we could grow to eat this autumn - including brassicas, salad leaves, Japanese leaf, spinach, winter radishes and what to plant now for the spring - legumes including broad beans, peas and onion family favourites - garlic, onions and shallots, many of which are available at the Trading Hut now. Carol also talked through the different green manures we could sow and how we should select which ones would be best for our individual plots. We all left enthused to get on to our plots before the days shortened in October.

Thanks to the Trading Hut sponsorship of this event.



A selection of seeds recommended by Carol at her recent course