

Bulletin

November 2025

Latest News

- Our Bid for Phase 2 of WaterMyPlot
- Encouraging Wildlife on your Site: Pond Life
- A sad end to a long history of allotments at Combe Down
- Glorious muck!
- AGM and Bath Allotment Association vacancies



Another delivery of water butts awaiting collection by members



Resources:

For tips on what to do in November 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 8th and 22nd November 2025. This will be the last opening until the New Year.

We will open in January 2026 for collection of seed orders, and we expect seed potatoes to arrive in February 2026. So, November is the last chance to buy garlic, shallots and onions which can still be planted now for a crop in the Spring.

Our Bid for Funds for Phase 2 of WaterMyPlot

In 2023 the Bath Allotments team bid successfully for funds from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) that developers pay to local authorities to invest in local infrastructure and facilities. We were awarded £14k from the CIL pot to which we added our own funds and volunteer hours to launch the WatermyPlot (WmP) initiative. The project has been very successful in delivering its aims which focus on rain-water capture and use, regenerative growing, encouraging biodiversity and improving allotment provision by bringing hard-to-let plots back into cultivation. We have reported on progress in our previous newsletters and there are more details of successful initiatives in news items below.

We are now bidding for a second year of funding to keep up the good work. The Council is consulting members of the local community about which projects they favour, so **we need you to make your voice heard in support of our bid**. Our bid is small in comparison to some of the others but is wide in its coverage and we add in matched funding and loads of volunteer hours. **You can show your support by casting your vote here: <https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/cil-funding-applications-consultation>**. You can support more than one project. The consultation ends at 5 p.m. on **Friday 7th November so please get your vote in before the deadline**.



Micro-plots at Bloomfield – one of our WmP initiatives to bring hard-to-let-plots back in to use and to give those on the waiting list a chance to get experience of growing before taking on a bigger plot



Membership Data

If you are a new joiner who has paid online using the “Stripe” facility, can you **please check that you have completed our membership form**. If you don’t provide us with site information (or indicate you are a leisure gardener) we can’t send you relevant information or put site reps in touch with you. You can check your membership data by signing in to membershipmojo.co.uk and clicking on the Bath Allotments Association link. No password is needed – just the email address you use for your Bath Allotment Association membership. It will help us enormously if you check that your membership data is accurate and complete.

Encouraging helpful wildlife on your site:

Pond life

Bath Allotments Association Biodiversity Group is undertaking a number of projects on allotments to encourage biodiversity. All projects are undertaken by volunteer plot-holders largely on their own plots. Their activities include education on the use of chemicals such as slug pellets and weed killers; provision of hibernacula, bug hotels, to encourage insects /pollinators and the creation of a few small ponds, like the one on King George's Road illustrated below. If you want to have a go at installing a pond, take a look at our top tips.



Tips for your small pond*

- Fill it with rainwater, tap water has chemicals that may inhibit growth.
- You don't have to keep it full, some animals benefit from varying water levels.
- Make sure there is a shallow edge so creatures can get in and out.
- No fish! They eat invertebrates and tadpoles
- Choose native pond plants.
- Don't move frogspawn, it can spread disease
- If you have a solid fence around your pond site leave gaps to encourage migration.
- Be patient – a pond takes time to settle

*Adapted from [bbc.com/future/article/2024023](https://www.bbc.com/future/article/2024023)

Some benefits of small ponds

- Supports pollinators – bees, hoverflies and beneficial insects like ladybirds.
- Provides stepping stones for species to spread.
- Will add to biodiversity within weeks of setting up.

Species to look out for include:

- Common frog.
- Smooth newt.
- Water beetles.
- Diving beetles.
- Dragonfly nymphs
- Caddisfly larvae.
- Dragonflies.
- Not to mention birds and bats.



Sara standing by her pond on the Moorfields site. The pond was built with the help of growers on Moorfields and Bloomfield

A sad end to a long allotment history at Combe Down

Sadly, all the tenants have now been evicted from this 130-year-old allotment site. The Council has supported us very positively by officially listing the site as an Asset of Community Value and we are ready to act should the private landowner try to sell. We continue to fight to save the site, and we hope members can help too by engaging with the Council's consultation on its new Local plan. The proposal is to designate the Combe Down site as a Local Green Space. Your supportive comments could make all the difference.

How to Submit Your Comment

1. Visit <https://bathnesplaces.co.uk/localplan>
2. Select "Resident", enter your postcode (name/address not required), and click Submit
3. Navigate to:
 - Development and Management Policy
 - Healthy and Vibrant Communities
 - Local Green Spaces
 - Additional Evidence and Update on Two Previously Rejected Nominations
4. Scroll to the bottom of the page and enter your feedback in support of Combe Down Allotments.

What You Could Say

Feel free to mention:

- How the site supports your **wellbeing, walking, or food growing**
- Its **educational value** for local children
- Its **historic and environmental importance**
- That it's now an **Asset of Community Value**, and deserves protection as a Local Green Space
- This designation would not conflict with the future of the quarry



Top: Aerial view of the CD site
Bottom: Dawn over CD site in Feb 24

Glorious Muck

A big thanks to Charlie and all those who helped organise the recent deliveries of manure from Muck and Mulch to various sites. The demand was much higher than anticipated and sorting out deliveries, payments and collection a bit of a logistical nightmare. Well done for making it happen



Well done Ros at Moorfields for finding a novel way of transporting her delivery of manure

BATH ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

As CropDrop draws to a close for another year, a very big thank you to all those who have made it such a success.



A final CropDrop from the Combe Down site – a quiet but very symbolic moment in our community's history.

AGM

Don't forget the AGM is on 18th November at the Museum of Bath at Work. Arrivals from 6.30 p.m. for tea and cake prior to a prompt 7.00 p.m. start. Our guest speaker this year is Kate Collyns, from Grow.Green. Kate is based at Hartley Farm in Winsley, a triple award-winning organic market. She will be sharing practical tips for organic growing on our allotments. You can find minutes of last year's AGM [here](#) and details of our Constitution (with a proposed minor change) [here](#)

Vacancies

We elect officers and site reps at our AGM and we have several vacancies that we need to fill. Please consider lending a hand. Roles can be shared and don't demand too much time. We are particularly interested in finding someone who can help on the social media front.

Communication Role

We are looking for a volunteer to take on the maintenance of the digital and social media presence for BAA to promote its goals and aims and support effective communication with members and the wider growing community.

Key activities

Web-site maintenance and communicating with BAA members by:

- Writing and publishing accessible web content
- Creating and maintaining social media platforms
- Promoting and marketing BAA

Time requirement for the role

Two hours a week (approximately) excluding meetings.
One day a month to prepare and attend meetings: monthly officer/project meetings, quarterly committee meetings, AGM
Contact Maria on info@banes-allotments.org.uk if you are interested in finding out more.



Vacancies for Site Reps

Do you have a little bit of time to spare? Why not join our friendly team.

We have vacancies for site reps on the following sites:

- Brookfield Park
- Eastfield Avenue
- Fairfield Valley
- Fairfield Park
- Foxhill
- Ring Common

You can find full details of what is involved [here](#). If you would like to find out more contact info@banes-allotments.org.uk

Plus, we are always looking to expand the team of helpers at the Trading Hut. Interested?
Contact tradinghut@banes-allotments.org.uk