

Bulletin

April 2026

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What a Load of Rubbish!



Left: Long grass masks rubbish that needs to be cleared before growing can take place on a plot at the Eastfield site



Right: Some of the rubbish that was found

Taking on a new plot is always a challenge, but some new plot-holders are facing an additional hurdle because they are required by the Council to clear inherited debris from their new plot. Natascha and Vinnie's experience at the Eastfield site is a case in point. When they took over their plot the long grass looked like it would be a struggle to remove but they hadn't reckoned with the hidden stone, wood and assorted junk that needed to be cleared before they could prepare the soil and start growing. They put in lots of work piling up debris, but they were stuck with how to get rid of it. Fortunately, two of the Association's officers stepped in to help with the offer a small van to take the things to the tip. After lots of effort the plot was cleared and ready for growing but it was a big ask.



Trading Hut

The Trading Hut will be open from 10.00-12.00 on Saturday 25th April 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](#).

Where has the woodchip gone?

There do not appear to have been the usual deliveries of woodchip to sites this year. The Association is chasing things up with the Council. We will let you know when we get a response.

Maria and Andrew delivered three van loads of junk to the tip and took one vanload of wood and pallets to the Monksdale site for reuse.



Maria and Andrew's van loaded up for one of several trips to the tip.

When Fiona and Jen graduated from a micro-plot to their own larger plot they faced similar problems. Again, Maria and Andrew came to the rescue so a very big thank you to them for their exceptional help.



Before and after rubbish clearance

The Association has been in discussion with the Council about ways of ameliorating the problem, but no easy solutions have presented themselves. Deposit schemes and exit inspections are considered too labour intensive and expensive by the Council. This is a problem we would like to prevent rather than trying to pick up the pieces after the event.

If you have any suggestions, please let us know by getting in touch via info@banes-allotments.org.uk

BATH ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

Bath Organic Group (BOG) Workshop: Growing Under Cover

Saturday 18th April 11.00-12.00
Lower Common West site

Members of Bath Allotments Association are welcome to join Bath Organic Group for this event. Just let them know you are coming by registering [here](#)

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 2026

Trialling Bokashi

In response to requests from our members, the Trading Hut is now stocking Bokashi bran for a trial period. Bokashi is a Japanese, anaerobic (air-free) composting method that uses specialized microbial bran to ferment kitchen waste, including meat and dairy, into nutrient-dense soil amendment in roughly two weeks. It is a fast, compact system that works by pickling waste in a sealed container, reducing odours and waste-to-landfill. You just need a bucket with a lid and a tap to drain off liquid

How Bokashi Works

- **The Process:** Food scraps are placed in a special Bokashi bucket, sprinkled with inoculated "bran" (bacteria/sawdust), and pressed down to remove air.
- **Fermentation:** The "Effective Micro-organisms" in the bran ferment the food, preventing decay and foul odours
- **Drainage:** A tap on the bucket is used to drain off "Bokashi tea" (liquid waste) every few days, which can be diluted as a nutrient-rich fertilizer.
- **Final Step:** After 2-3 weeks of fermentation, the pickled waste is buried in the soil or added to a compost bin, where it breaks down rapidly.

A big bag of Bokashi bran costs £5 from the Trading Hut. Why not have a go and let us know how you get on.



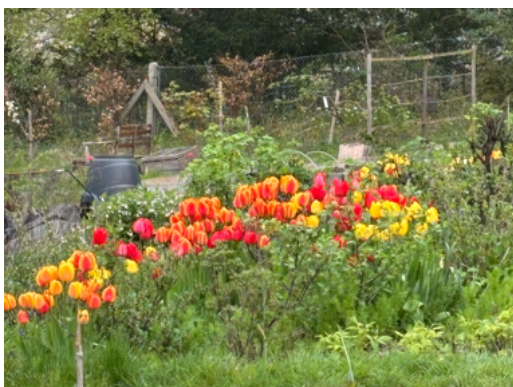
Spotlight on the Lyncombe Hill Farm Site

The Lyncombe Hill Farm site is situated at the back of Alexandra Park and backs on to Lyncombe Hill Fields and Beechen Cliff School. It is a steeply sloping site with 56 plots and a two-year waiting list. Although the gradient of the site presents challenges, this is more than made up for by the beautiful views across Lyncombe Vale towards Prior Park and Bathwick fields. Thanks to the initiative of our site rep, Steve Marshall, some hard-to-let plots have been turned into a community orchard. Steve is on Plot 35 so if you are on the site do say hello.



The Outlook from the Lyncombe Hill Farm site

There is no direct vehicle access to the site, although there is parking in Alexandra Park, and any deliveries of manure or compost need to be lugged down the hill plus there are the usual issues with badgers, deer, squirrels and slow filling water troughs. That said, nothing beats sitting on an allotment bench in this tranquil environment on a summer's evening with a cold drink in hand.



Tulips add a splash of colour on the Lyncombe Hill Farm site

Jackie Cosgrove is hosting a visit to her plot 38 LHF on 31st May 11.00- 12.00. Jackie is a great grower who likes to experiment with perennials and using regenerative growing techniques. So why not come along and see.



Committee Meetings

Held at 6.30 p.m. at Sydney Gardens Pavillion on 30/04/2026*, 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.

*7.00 pm start on this occasion only

Book Recommendation

Sarah Hargreaves, who recently hosted our Regenerative Growing workshop on the Bloomfield site, strongly recommends reading Gaia's garden. It is a classic guide to ecological gardening, or urban permaculture, for people with limited growing space.

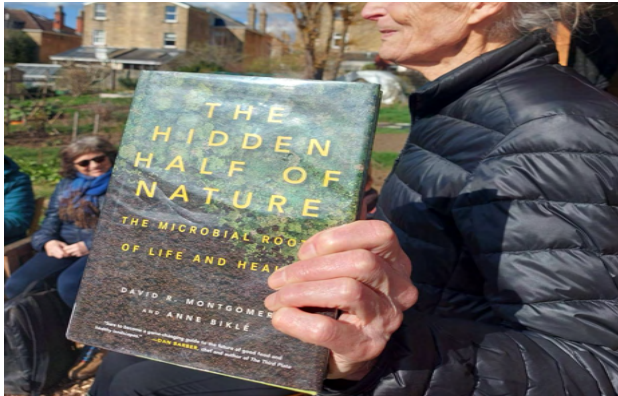


Sarah with a copy of Gaia's garden

Our Recent Workshops

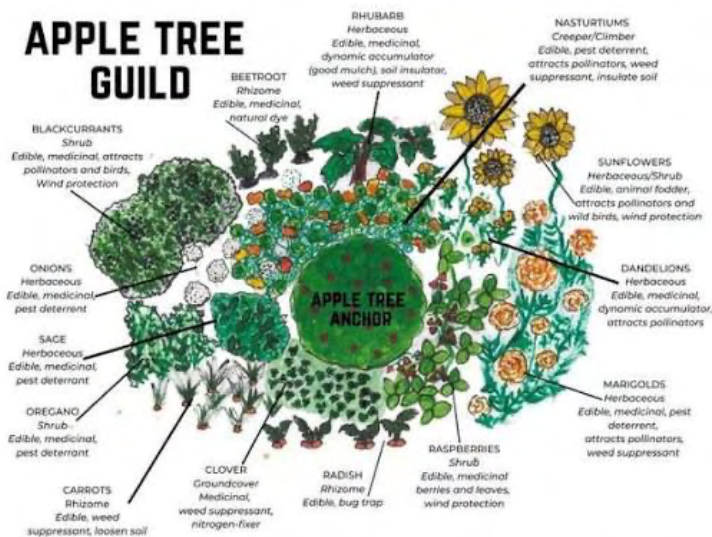
The Regenerative Growing get together was held on 15th March 2026

There's always something new to learn! The clouds finally gave way to a glorious sunny day which just made this well attended gathering at Bloomfield Allotments all the more fun. Sarah Hargreaves (plot 34a) was host and she and John Ingham gave a great presentation on the why and wherefores of this mysterious thing called regenerative growing. John urged us to read more on the science of soil microorganisms and how important they are.



Suggested reading from John

Sarah showed us how she is doing it and introduced us to the concept of Plant Guilds, which is essentially growing plants and trees that like each other (as illustrated in the Apple Tree Guild below)



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 well under way in planning an allotment walking trail with activities for both adults and children included at some of our sites. Our events are planned for the weekend 15th and 16th August. We will update you.



Carol Stone's recent Workshop underway on the Mendip Gardens site

Thank you to both for a very informative event. If you want to know more, join our regenerative growing WhatsApp group. (Email me at jacky.wilkinson99@gmail.com)