

Bulletin

June 2026

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Grant Funding Success

We are delighted to announce that our bid to Bath and North East Somerset Council for grant funding from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) has been successful. CIL is a planning charge payable on new building developments which is earmarked for spending on projects that benefit the community. The Association has been awarded 19.5k which we will top up from our own funds. Other community projects benefitting from CIL monies this year are a sensory garden at Oldfield School, a football cage at Royal Victoria Park and pedestrian safety improvements at Lambridge. You can find more details about CIL projects [here](#).



Trading Hut

The Trading Hut will be open from 10.00-12.00 on Saturday 6th and 20th June and fortnightly after that.

Upcoming Events

The recent hot weather has, once again, emphasised the impact that climate change is having on growing. Why not sign up for one of our open events or workshops to get some tips from experienced growers on ways in which we can adapt our cultivation practices to become more resilient. Workshops are free and open to Bath Allotments Association (BAA) members only.

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](#).

Workshop: Reducing Pests and Diseases 6th June 14.00-16.00

Carol Stone will be holding another of her popular workshops, this time focusing on environmentally friendly ways to reduce pests and diseases. The workshop will be held on the Ring Common site – meet at the Cow Lane entrance. The event is free to BAA members but please book. [You can book here](#).

Phase 1 of the WaterMyPlot project; What we achieved.

The Bath Allotments Association team launched its first successful bid for CIL funding in 2024 when we were awarded £14k. Our Phase 1 bid focused on promoting more sustainable growing practices by reducing reliance on mains water through rainwater and spring water harvesting; encouraging the adoption of regenerative growing practices and drought-resistant planting; and fostering biodiversity. We are pleased to report that we made good progress on all three fronts as illustrated by some of the highlighted initiatives below.

Rainwater Harvesting

Lots of members have benefitted from our roll out of subsidised water butts. You will be able to spot our orange water butts on most sites, but we have also facilitated the building of multiple structures that allow rainwater to be captured and stored in large, recycled industrial bulk containers (IBCs). We also have some projects underway to pump spring water on to sites.



BOG Workshop 20th June

11.00-12.30 LCW site: Crop Maintenance and Dealing with Pests

Members of the Association are welcome to join Bath Organic Group for their June workshop which will cover Crop Maintenance and Pests. Just let them know you are coming by registering [here](#).

Bath in Bloom Competition: Closing date 7th June

Did you know that the Bath in Bloom competition has a category for allotments as well as community gardens. Last year some of our members were among the winners. Why not enter your plot this year. You can find full details [here](#)

Regenerative Growing

The Association used the Phase 1 WmP grant to get the regenerative growing message out there. We have held many workshops and events that have explored regenerative issues including composting, planting perennial and more drought-resistant crops, making feeds and tinctures, using sustainable methods to reduce pests and diseases to name but a few. We have also set up WhatsApp groups where members can share experiences and held several 'Open Plot' events so we can see for ourselves how others have moved to regenerative approaches.



Left: Members join Alex Montgomery of Generation Soil at one of our composting workshops

If you are interested in joining our Regenerative Growing WhatsApp group, contact Jacky Wilkinson by emailing planning@banes-allotments.org.uk

If you are interested in joining our Biodiversity/Wildlife WhatsApp group, contact Erica Draisey by emailing chairman@banes-allotments.org.uk



Dates for your Diary

Mikron Theatre Group performance
'Wensleydale Whey' 18th July

Beechen Cliff Methodist Church, Bruton Avenue, Bath BA2 from 13.00 to 15.00. This is a "pay what you can" event. Refreshments available. No need to book.

National Allotment Week: 12th to 18th August

Our walking trails around of some of Bath's Allotments Sites are planned for the weekend of 17th and 18th August

Wednesday 2nd September

Closing Date for entries for the Annual Flower and Produce Show. Entry details [here](#)

Saturday 5th September 2.00 to 5.00 p.m.

Annual Flower and Produce Show

Fostering Biodiversity

With funding from the Phase 1 WmP grant we have been able to kick start a variety of projects that are helping wildlife and pollinators to flourish in our growing spaces.

We have:

- assisted with pond-building and bee keeping on many sites including Bloomfield Road, Claremont, King George's Road, Moorfields and Monksdale;
- partnered with Bioblitz to audit the wildlife on some of our sites
- showed groups how to build hibernacula (bug hotels) to encourage helpful insects
- helped members manage more crop destructive wildlife using environmentally friendly techniques for example by producing tinctures and feeds to improve plant resilience
- created wildlife friendly areas and introduced signage to stop accidental strimming
- started a WhatsApp group where interested parties can share ideas and experiences



Left: New signage for wildlife areas

Below: Pond building on Bloomfield Allotments site. The first frogs arrived soon after completion and new pond plants have now been planted thanks to small projects grant from the Association.



Creating a wildlife area on the Bloomfield site, using a repurposed chicken coop roof as a structure for water capture to IBCs. 2000 litres of water was collected over the winter

Phase 2 of the Water My Plot Project

We are delighted to have been awarded £19.5k to continue with the good work undertaken in Phase 1. Our thanks go to Jacky Wilkinson, our Planning Officer, who led the bid, and all those who have provided support.

In this second phase our focus will remain on improving the quality, sustainability and biodiversity of sites through better water capture and usage and wildlife initiatives. However, we will also be redoubling our efforts to make our allotment sites as efficient as possible. We aim to increase the number of people able to grow food by:

- offering, and assisting with, smaller plots;
- rescuing hard-to-let plots;
- creating new plots.

We are also working to reduce the wastage on plots caused by high turnover and subsequent plot neglect between lets.

Our initiatives include the provision of micro-plots, providing help and advice on rubbish clearance, tree pruning, deer fencing, structures to harvest rainwater, providing ground cover to suppress weeds on neglected plots and much, much more.

Micro-plots are small growing areas on hard-to-let plots that the Association has brought back in to use. These are offered to those on the allotments waiting list who want to hone their skills and gain experience of growing before they are offered a larger plot.

We are keen to get more projects underway and involve members so, if there is a project you think would benefit plot holders on your site or the wider growing community, please get in touch by emailing info@banes-allotments.org.uk.

Below: Microplots taking shape on the Claremont site



Tim Smit, Founder of the Eden Project in Cornwall, has focused his Chelsea Flower Show garden on food production and recommends 'digging up asphalt' and growing more of one's own food.

You can find the full article [here](#)

CropDrop will be starting up again soon

CropDrop coordinates the redistribution of fruit and vegetables from bountiful allotments and growers. Volunteers transport this untapped resource to charity projects that provide food, helping to alleviate food poverty across the Bath & North East Somerset Area. The Bloomfield, Claremont, Larkhall, Lower Common East, Lower Common West and Monksdale sites are all involved but this year we have lost the wonderful contributions from the Combe Down site. If you feel that you could help organise contributions from your site, please get in touch with Maria by emailing info@banes-allotments.org.uk

Spotlight on Bloomfield Road Site



Sunset over Bloomfield Allotments

Bloomfield Allotments were established as Council allotments in 1923. During the Second World War the neighbouring land, that is now Bloomfield Green, was also converted into allotments as part of the 'Dig for Victory' campaign. Originally all the plots on the site were of the standard size, 10 rods or 250 square metres, which was thought to be enough to feed a family. Today there is a mix of sizes from recently introduced microplots through to the four remaining full plots. There are now 158 plots in total.

We are fortunate to have a community orchard, a beehive, [Sarah Hargreaves' regenerative growing demonstration plot](#), a designated wildlife area and numerous ponds. These together with the hedges and trees on the edge of the site provide a real haven for birds, pollinators, bats and amphibians as well as numerous mammals.

Bloomfield Growers share surplus crops with Southdown Community Pantry and regularly host talks and workshops as well as sharing plants and seedlings and expertise via the site WhatsApp group.

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BATH ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

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Gardening

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LEARN TO PROPAGATE SEEDS, TAKE CUTTINGS

CARE FOR SOIL, MAKE COMPOST

IDENTIFY PLANTS, PESTS, POLLINATORS, DISEASES

Recent Activities

Bath Organic Group's Growing Green Open Day

BOG held its annual open day on 16th May and BAA joined in with its stall. The event was well attended and provided plenty of opportunity for a chat with current, and potential new, members. As usual BOG offered informative tours and tempted visitors with a range of delicious home-made food and drink including pizzas from its oven.

Open Plot Event on the Lyncombe Hill Farm site hosted by Jackie Cosgrave and ably assisted by Andy Rhodes on 31st May



Jackie on her plot at the Lyncombe Hill Farm site with her self-seeded 'salad bar' to her left.

A big thank you to Jackie, with her able assistant Andy, for opening her plot to us. She introduced us to her self-seeded, chard and spinach salad bar, her experiments with green manures and homemade feeds and her Hügeltkultur. Don't know what Hügeltkultur is? Some of us didn't! You can find out more [here](#). We all learned a lot.

Are you experimenting with different approaches on your plot? Why not host an open event to share your ideas? Interested? Contact Erica on chairman@banes-allotments.org.uk



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Andy feeds a robin from his hand on the LHF site