

Bisley Allotments



The Chestergate Allotments are leased to the Parish Council from the Ancient Charities of Bisley. Many allotment holders keep chickens and have polytunnels for growing tomatoes and other more vulnerable vegetables.

There are now over 50 allotments plots being worked: many by families and one by Stroud Valleys Project for vulnerable adults. Mike Banyard was the longest standing allotment grower. He took over his father's allotment in the early 1950s, and died, still tending his plot, in 2014. His family gave a donation to the allotment in Mike's memory. Now only one plot holder has a plot that is the original historical size.

The allotment holders hold a well -attended annual "Get- Together" during National Allotments Week in August at which ideas and issues are discussed. As a result of discussions we have a regular mowing contract, and a compost loo that was generously funded by the Charity of the Ancient Parish of Bisley, the Parish Council and Bisley Community Composting Scheme. Recently growing for food *and* nature has become hugely important for all allotment holders who, in the context of the Parish Council's Climate and Ecological Emergency Declaration of 2019 help wildlife with small ponds, wildflower

areas, and pollinating plants. The Parish Council ban on pesticides clearly helps. Individual plot holders regularly monitor wildlife on their allotment. Records show we have smooth newts, grass snakes, slow worms, bumblebees, mining bees, ivy bees, hedgehogs, foxes, and a variety of butterflies, orchids and other wildflowers on the site. In 2024 a detailed wildflower survey will take place. Three moth surveys on the allotments site have been done in 2022-23, with notable moth species identified. We thank Tony Perry, and those supportive plot holders who helped, for his dedication to this that has helped the Allotments achieve recognition on the Butterfly Conservations "wild space" website. The allotments can be found at <https://wild-spaces.co.uk/wild-space/?wildSpace=21600568&wildSpaceType=community-space>

The allotments are a key link in Bisley's wildlife corridors. Many plot holders use the freely available peat free community compost to facilitate "No-Dig" gardening. "No Dig" Growing not only enhances biodiversity in the soil but produces wonderful vegetables.

An organic synergy now between the Chestergate Allotments initiatives - free community compost, 'growing your own', helping wildlife, and the 'fruit for free' from the community orchard - seems to suggest that a small metaphor for what a sustainable community economy might look like, has emerged over the years.

Coded Lock: The main gate, compost loo and Allotment Holders Hut has a coded lock. If by any chance any allotment tenant has not got the code please could they contact Lesley, Allotment Warden.

If you want to maintain good health and mental wellbeing, meet other people, grow your own fruit and vegetables, rent an allotment. For ideas on growing potatoes see [Stroud Potato Day](#). To do "No-Dig" gardening see <https://www.gardenorganic.org.uk/expert-advice/garden-management/soil/the-nodig-method>

And videos by Charles Dowding and <https://www.charlesdowding.co.uk/get-started>

Rent is £15 a year per allotment from September to September.

Contact Lesley Greene
Allotment Warden

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[Eastcombe](#) and [Oakridge Allotment information](#)

The [Bisley Community Composting Scheme](#) (BCCS) is a members-only scheme that takes garden waste, composts it in large bins and makes it available to members as soil conditioner (unsieved) or, for a small donation, as sieved and bagged green compost. BCCS is located, along with Bisley allotments and the community orchard, at the edge of the village on the Stroud Road.

Community Orchard of local Gloucestershire fruit trees accessible by a stile and footpath at the main Allotment gate. [A History Of Bisley Community Orchard\(PDF\)](#)

For more information on orchards and orchard conservation see the [Orchard Network](#) website.

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