

Bisley Community Composting Scheme CIC Annual Report  
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July 2018 – June 2019

BCCS continues to be a successful and well-respected community scheme. This year we raised our membership fee from £25 p.a. to £30 p.a. This has not impacted on annual membership that remains steady at 150 members. BCCS's membership continues to be unaffected by Stroud District Council's green waste collection scheme.

The Directors took a decision to write to adjoining Parishes to inform them that, as from next year we are limiting membership to our Parish. This will affect approximately 20 households but we hope will encourage adjoining Parishes to set up their own community composting schemes.

BCCS continues to sieve and bag its peat free soil conditioner /compost. Demand, and income from this resource, has increased. Many gardeners extol the good quality of our peat free medium. BCCS continues to supply sieved and bagged compost to the Vale Community Hospital (Dursley) Allotment "Gardening on Prescription" project.

BCCS 's peat-free sieved compost also supplies Edible Stroud's raised beds at Stroud railway station. A large number of the Stroud Permaculture Group have collected our free unsieved compost as it is a valuable peat free source of mulch. Bisley's Chestergate Allotment holders are ongoing beneficiaries of our unsieved compost, thus fulfilling one of our original key aims for the scheme. A National Allotment Society survey in 2016 showed that only 1% of allotments produced their own compost.

BCCS's new native species hedge is growing strongly and attracts a variety of farmland birds. Slow worms, grass snakes, and hedgehogs, live in and around the site.

The results of our research project, that started in 2017-18, “What effect does BCCS have on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions?” will be available in summer 2019.

BCCS has raised additional grant funds (see accounts) to create a Compost Loo on site. This is partly for Allotment Holders and partly for visitors. We heard that the lack of a facility was an inhibiting factor to some workshops.

In 2018 we hosted visits from The Hereford Allotment Society and the Market Harborough “Hot Composters”. These were large groups of experienced composters and allotment holders both of whom travelled some distance to visit our scheme.

Two BCCS Directors are Garden Organic Master Composters. They run workshops both on site and for various other local groups. To encourage Home Composting BCCS have set up a Home Composting Demonstration area to show how easy it is to compost at home.

BCCS’s Demonstration Beds are growing insect attractant plants throughout 2019 as part of a Garden Organic experiment, and a potato growing experiment in deep mulch.

The Directors of the company changed in 2018-19: Steve Trinder resigned and Peter Richardson joined the company.