

## **Bisley Community Composting Scheme CIC Annual Report July 2016 – June 2017**

BCCS continues to be a successful and well-respected community scheme, with a 2016-17 membership of 140. Stroud District Council initiated its own green waste collection scheme in 2016 but BCCS's membership appeared unaffected, remaining as high as in previous years.

BCCS continues to sieve and bag its peat free compost, and demand is good. BCCS supplied the Vale Community Hospital (Dursley) Allotment gardening for health and wellbeing project with both unsieved and sieved compost. The compost was to help fill their c30 raised beds, to be gardened for referrals from local surgeries in a new 'Gardening on Prescription' scheme. BCCS's partnership with 'Stroud in Bloom' continued with a supply of unsieved compost for the 2017 event. BCCS also provided peat-free sieved compost and leaf mould for Edible Stroud's raised beds on Stroud railway station in Spring 2017. Unsieved compost and leaf mould continues to be a much-valued free resource for Bisley's Chestergate Allotment holders.

The Environment Agency confirmed that BCCS is allowed take mushroom compost from a local project that grows oyster mushrooms from coffee waste.

BCCS planted a new length of indigenous hedgerow trees to enhance the site and attract more wildlife.

GreenMec generously trained up three more certificated shredding operators throughout the year.

BCCS continued to develop its educational activities. BCCS hosted a workshop on "Life in the Soil" as part of the 2016 Stroud Festival of Nature, and contributed to a well-attended composting display at the Whiteway Village Fete in September 2016. Bisley Community Composting Scheme nears the top of the hierarchy for reducing waste and is a model for a circular economy so was invited to make a key presentation in the Stroud Valley's Showcase for sustainable projects in September 2016. BCCS hosted a visit from Leominster Town Council and representatives from its local allotment groups to demonstrate the values of community composting. BCCS made a presentation on community composting to the Blockley Allotments Association. .

During the year BCCS hosted two workshops for pupils from Severn Vale Academy Primary School (Stroud), and provided unsieved compost for the new raised beds in their school garden. BCCS also hosted and led what has become an annual workshop with the horticulture students from Thomas Keble School, again supported by a representative from Gloucestershire County Council Waste Minimisation Programme.

Two Directors continue work as "Master Composters".

There has been no change in the Directors of the company.