

## **Bisley Community Composting Scheme**

### **CIC 09114883 Annual Report: July 2022 – June 2023**

BCCS continues to be a successful and well-respected community scheme and recognised as a good local example of the circular economy.

We now run our membership annual renewal cycle from June to June. The annual membership fee is now £35, good value for the all-year round service we provide.

Bisley's Allotment holders remain key beneficiaries of the unsieved compost, thus fulfilling one of our original aims for the scheme. We have been unable to sieve compost in the second half of the year but demand for unsieved compost remains high. Our reliable shredding team means we have a regular supply of "browns" (shreddings) to add to the compost system. Some members and allotment holders also take the shreddings.

BCCS Directors continue to support Bisley's Climate Action Network (BisCAN) with campaigns for peat-free composts, improving life in the soil, and supporting those who "grow their own".

Our scheme received spontaneous applause at a Stroud Valleys Project seminar on soil this year. We have continued to support those wishing to set up community composting schemes especially in the neighbouring Brimscombe and Thrupp community, meeting their 'champions', giving advice on best sites, planning applications, and lending our educational materials for their stalls at their village festivals. We continue to respond to many email enquiries.

Our workshops for community, school and scouts' groups continue. International Composting Awareness Week in May again attracted Nailsworth scouts and beavers and were very successful.

We continue to work with the Gloucestershire County Council Master Composting scheme, promoting home composting on site and with visits to schools. Our demonstration area showing various home compost bins continues to be an excellent attraction, and we have started an experiment composting bindweed led by Sue Bradley.

We continue to participate in the development of the national "Composting in the Community" Network, that is likely to be a national profile-raising force under the aegis of Social Farms and Gardens.

Peter Richardson stepped down as a Director and we thank him for five years of great service and help. We very much welcome a new Director Susan Bradley, an allotment holder and gardening writer. She will make an excellent addition to our team of Directors.

Thanks go to our part-time worker James Whitestone whose enthusiasm and increasingly useful knowledge is much appreciated, and to our shredding team Ian and Sid. Due to the unexpected death of Alan Evans our bin moving and sieving that he provided has been severely interrupted, and we have no sieved compost. Before he died Alan's suggested new helpers who have machines and we have started to work with them. We are developing good working relationships for moving materials that bode well for the future, but we still have to explore how to revive our sieving systems. Huge thanks are due to all the Directors who have stepped in to help and support one Director affected by the loss of Alan.

BCCS continues to provide a regular, committed and voluntary service to the community, the environment, growing food, and to the wider educational understanding of compost, through eighteen years of inspirational work.