

Bisley Community Composting Scheme CIC Annual Report

July 2017 – June 2018

BCCS continues to be a successful and well-respected **community** scheme, with our annual membership remaining steady at **150 members**. BCCS's membership has been unaffected by the introduction of Stroud District Council's green waste collection scheme.

BCCS continues to sieve and bag its **peat free soil conditioner /compost**. Demand, and income from this resource, is good. BCCS continues to supply the Vale Community Hospital (Dursley) Allotment "Gardening On Prescription" for health and wellbeing project with sieved compost. Our compost tops up their raised beds. BCCS's partnership with 'Stroud in Bloom' continued with a supply of unsieved compost for the 2017 event. BCCS has also provided a large amount of peat-free sieved compost and leaf mould for Edible Stroud's raised beds on Stroud railway station. Members of Stroud Permaculture Group increasingly collect our unsieved compost as it is a valuable peat free source of mulch. Bisley's Chestergate Allotment holders are ongoing beneficiaries of our unsieved compost, fulfilling one of our original aims of the scheme.

BCCS new length of indigenous hedgerow trees to enhance the site and attract more **wildlife** is growing well. We note, happily, a variety of birds are attracted to the site. Slow worms, grass snakes, and hedgehogs, live in and around the site.

BCCS initiated an important **research project** in 2017-18: "What effect does BCCS have on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions?" We are working with an independent researcher who will assess how much GHG BCCS

generates or reduces. The work commenced with a survey amongst members that realised a 68% response rate.

BCCS continued to develop its **Educational activities and Demonstrations**. BCCS hosted two workshops on “Life in the Soil” as part of the 2017 Stroud Festival of Nature, and provided, for the second year, a composting display at the Whiteway Village Fete in September 2017. BCCS provided a workshop in March 2018 for the horticulture students from Thomas Keble School, and provided more unsieved compost for the raised beds in Severn Vale Academy Primary School (Stroud) school garden. Two BCCS Directors are Garden Organic Master Composters, and have contributed to workshops across the County including Isbourne Primary School in the North Cotswolds and Woodchester Primary School in Stroud District. To celebrate International Compost Week in May 2018, BCCS installed a demonstration Comfrey Liquid Feed system. Attached to the side of the shed, it is a practical demonstration of the use of comfrey as a garden fertilizer and compost activator. BCCS also hosted a workshop for an international group of permaculture trainees, organised by Stroud Permaculture Group.

BCCS’s Demonstration Beds are growing edible lupin seeds throughout 2018 as part of a Garden Organic experiment.

BCCS achieved international publicity in 2018. An article describing BCCS in the National Allotment Society magazine was published summer 2017, and then submitted to the International Allotment Journal “Hyphen 63”. They accepted and published the article in the March 2018 edition.

Finally the Directors have agreed that, because the lack of a toilet facility on site has put off educational visits,

particularly from Primary schools, BCCS will make a contribution to a compost loo facility in the next financial year.

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