

## SURPLUS FOOD PROJECT UPDATE

There has been a brilliant initial response to the request for allotment holders to donate surplus produce to local organisations that provide food and meals for people who find it difficult to afford fresh food. The B&NES Allotments Association has been working with Transition Bath and B&NES Council to collect and distribute surplus crops. Particular thanks to those who are spearheading the project: Lyn Barnham Sam Rudd and Fiona Bell. Sincere thanks also to all our members who have contributed fruit and vegetables to this very worthwhile project. Collections started last week at the Bloomfield, Lower Common East and Monksdale allotments sites and, hopefully, more sites are set to follow.

At **Lower Common East** a table was set up on Friday behind the communal shed so it was out of sight and, importantly for such a hot weekend, in the shade. Plastic bags were donated by various people and handily there is a tap at the end of the shed, which meant that leaves such as kale were sprinkled with water and remained fresh until pick up on Sunday night by Jenny and Jerry Smith.

The first haul included courgettes (as you'd expect) potatoes, tomatoes, French and runner beans, herbs, cucumbers, Victoria and yellow plumbs - three plastic trays pretty much full.

The produce was gratefully received by Weston Hub where they serve soup to around 15 people. The second place was Mercy in Action which is a food bank for people suffering food poverty.



Contributions donated at the  
LCE site

At the **Bloomfield site**, 38kg of crops were collected, including courgettes (and few that were heading towards marrow) and a lovely mix of potatoes, beans, fennel, plums, pattypan squash, kohlrabi, cucumbers, rhubarb, and much more. It's been a lovely collaborative effort, aided by a local resident who was not at all fazed by a knock on her door to ask if we could have the big wooden crate from her front garden. It now makes an excellent collection point near the car parking area.

The Bloomfield crops went to the Bath Area Play Project (BAPP).



Contributions donated at  
the Bloomfield site

At the **Monksdale site**, allotment holders fill the boxes with lots of lovely fresh veg and this all went out in food parcels on Monday. They are collecting each weekend and boxes are already in position. In addition to veg they are also happy to take any fruit or herbs.



Contributions from the Monksdale site

**Collection points from this weekend:**

**Bloomfield:** by the gate to the car parking area

**Lower Common East:** by the communal shed in the middle

**Monksdale:** by the community orchard noticeboard, Coronation Avenue end of site

(Lyncombe Hill Farm, Canal Gardens and Fairfield Valley may follow)

**If you have a courgette glut, or your beans are in overdrive, please drop them at the collection point. Potatoes, onions, whatever is good to eat .... Let's keep it going to the end of the season!**

You may also be interested to know that Fiona Bell who is a key player in the project was on Emma Britton's BBC Bristol radio show at 7.25am on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

She also passes on the message that if any of you want any surplus previously single-use plastic bags she is part of a group collecting them in Saltford for all the extra food deliveries that have been going on during lockdown (see <https://www.facebook.com/SCACOMM> 11th August post)

They folded 565 plastic bags very neatly on Monday evening and are passing them on to any projects that can use them. If this might be of help to your groups then get in touch via:

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