

The Trading Hut

(B&NES Allotment Association & Bath Organic Group)

“The Trading Hut” is a non-profit making unincorporated association run on behalf of B&NES Allotment Association and Bath Organic Group. The Trading Hut was established in 2008 by B&NES Allotment Association and Bath Organic Group who jointly funded its setup. The funding for the setup was repaid to both organisations within two years.

The Trading Hut operates from a site adjacent to the Lower Common West Allotments. Entrance on the Upper Bristol Road, opposite the Hop Pole Inn; the nearest Post Code is BA1 3AR. A small rent is paid to BANES Council each year for the site.

The Trading Hut purchases garden supplies and materials, including seeds and plants, at wholesale prices and sells these only to members of the B&NES Allotment Association and Bath Organic Group. The purchasing is co-ordinated by the Purchasing Officer of the Trading Hut. Supplies are priced with a nominal 10% mark-up to run and allow improvements to be made to the Trading Hut. The turnover of the Trading Hut is far below the threshold for VAT and the Government Company Tax Manual (Para 40575) states that small profits made by allotment associations and redistributed to members are not liable for tax. Any excess funds at the end of the year are available to the B&NES Allotment Association and Bath Organic Group for project use and are currently administered by B&NES Allotment Associations Small Projects process.

The Trading Hut is open on specified Saturdays throughout the year, typically bi-weekly, co-ordinated by the Sales Officer.

The Trading Hut holds a Metro Bank community bank account (which has no bank charges), currently being:

Metro Bank
Account name: The Trading Hut
Account Number: 33517132
Sort Code: 23-05-80

The Purchasing Officer and the Treasurer are joint signatories on this account, and both hold debit cards and have access to online banking. Single signatures only are required for purchases and withdrawals. Any changes to the account holders and/or changes to the banking requirements require both signatures.

The Trading Hut runs under the auspices of the B&NES Allotment Association, following the Association’s constitution, and appointments of Officers require the approval of the Association’s Committee. The accounts are examined annually in mid-October, as part of the preparation for the B&NES Allotment Association Annual General Meeting.

The Trading Hut is run by volunteers drawn from B&NES Allotment Association and Bath Organic Group. Current key volunteer positions are:

Sales Officer: Anne Love (appointed June 2017)

Purchasing Officer: Charles Love (appointed June 2017)

Treasurer: Erica Draisey (appointed May 2020)

Communications from the Trading Hut are by email, to B&NES Allotment Association members and Bath Organic Group. The Trading Hut also has a webpage on the B&NES Allotment Association website: <http://banes-allotments.org.uk/trading-hut/>

Contacts for The Trading Hut are via the B&NES Allotment Association and Bath Organic Group websites i.e. <http://banes-allotments.org.uk/> and <http://bathorganicgroup.org.uk/>. The email contact is: tradinghut@banes-allotments.org.uk