

Get Growing Garden Trail 2016

The 6th annual Get Growing Garden Trail took place over the weekend of 4 & 5 June 2016. The Trail is a weekend when productive gardens which are not normally open to the public open their gates to visitors. This year we had 29 sites taking part, ranging from veg beds set up on a former bandstand in a public park, to commercial veg box growers; from a miniature orchard planted on a neglected corner of public land, to a project which is reclaiming a neglected historic walled garden; from Bramble Farm, where families came together to collectively raise animals for food on the Dundry Slopes, to expansive Community and Care Farms.

This year we had 2 new participants – The Old Library, Eastville and Leigh Court Farm – but we also had The Community Farm returning to the Trail after a few years' absence.

We offered led walks for the first time this year (the free walk around the Incredible Edible Urban Food Trail sold out, but we didn't attract enough visitors to run the £10 led foraging walk in North Bristol).

Trail participants 2016

Andy's Haven	Let's Grow Community Garden & Allotment
Blaise Community Garden	Metford Road Community Orchard
Bramble Farm Community Smallholding	Patchwork Community Gardening Group
The Community Farm	Dean Lane Orchard
Easton Community Garden	Redland Green Allotments
The Old Library, Eastville	St George Park Community Garden
Elm Tree Farm	Sims Hill Shared Harvest
Feed Bristol	Stoke Lane Community Garden
Fishponds Community Orchard	Sustainable Westbury-on-Trym
The Golden Hill Community Garden	Totterdown Sprouting
GREENS Community Garden & Roundhouse (HHEAG)	The Trinity Garden
Hengrove & Whitchurch Community Orchard	University of Bristol Botanic Garden
Horfield Organic Community Orchard	Upper Horfield Community Garden Club
Lawrence Weston Community Farm	Windmill Hill City Farm
Leigh Court Farm	Woodcroft Community Orchard

Survey results

- Of the 29 groups which took part in the Trail this year:
 - 12 completed the survey (one on behalf of 2 sister sites near to each other)
 - 9 supplied information about visitor numbers (one on behalf of 2 projects with a shared site)
 - 3 had no visitors specifically for the Trail (although they had visitors for other reasons)
 - 3 supplied no information
- The bulk of visitors came from within each site's postcode area (i.e. visitors tend to be locals), but Blaise Community Garden in particular attracted visitors from a wide area (postcodes recorded as 'other' are from outside Bristol)
- There was a roughly equal split between Male & Female visitors, with some bias towards Female visitors (41%M 59%F)
- The Trail does not attract visitors in the 15–24 age bracket. Most Trail-goers were in the 25–64 age brackets, with quite a lot of visitors bringing their children with them (130 children recorded across 11 of the sites)
- There was no clear trend in the answer to "Is this your first visit to this garden?" with Horfield Organic Community Orchard attracting a lot of repeat visitors and conversely Blaise Community Garden attracting a lot of new visitors – overall, visitors surveyed split 50:50 between first visitors and repeat visitors

- There were at least 399 first visits to participating projects
- “Do you already grow some of your own fruit & veg?”
Of the visitors surveyed, roughly a third were *not* already growing their own fruit & veg
- There were at least 238 visits from people not currently growing their own fruit & veg

Areas of deprivation in the city

The Bristol Public Health Team identifies its target areas of highest deprivation/need within the city as:

Avonmouth Avonmouth and Lawrence Weston Neighbourhood Partnership area takes in Lawrence Weston Community Farm

Hartcliffe Dundry View Neighbourhood Partnership area takes in GREENS Community Garden (HHEAG)

Filwood Filwood, Knowle and Windmill Hill Neighbourhood Partnership area takes in Andy's Haven, Bramble Farm Community Smallholding, Let's Grow Community Garden & Allotment and Totterdown Sprouting

Lawrence Hill and **Ashley** Ashley, Easton and Lawrence Hill Neighbourhood Partnership area takes in Easton Community Garden and The Trinity Garden

Lockleaze Horfield and Lockleaze Neighbourhood Partnership area takes in The Old Library Eastville and Sims Hill Shared Harvest

Southmead Henbury, Brentry and Southmead Neighbourhood Partnership area takes in Blaise Community Garden

11 out of the 29 participating groups are in target Neighbourhood Partnership areas.

Photography

9 volunteer photographers documented the Trail openings at 19 of the participating gardens and the Incredible Edible walk. We have made these available for everyone to use in our Flickr library: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/bristolfoodnetwork/collections/72157669444533945/>