Turning Point at Elder Stubbs

Bhandari Close Allotments

The exceptionally long, hot, and dry summer of 2026 has provided a unique backdrop for activity at the Bhandari Close allotments.

With thanks to all our volunteers, Turning Point clients, family members, and other helpful Bhandari close allotment holders we managed to keep all our produce watered and cared for throughout the summer drought.





The prolonged dry weather created new challenges and learning opportunities throughout the growing season. Regular watering, mulching, crop maintenance, and site management sessions encouraged teamwork, responsibility, and problem-solving. Our members worked together to protect and sustain growing areas, and poly tunnels. Developing practical and creative skills to collect and store water.







Our Regular tidying and maintenance sessions have provided structure, routine, and meaningful activity throughout the summer months. These sessions have been particularly valuable for individuals who may feel less comfortable in formal group settings, allowing people to engage at their own pace while remaining connected to the wider recovery community.





We begin each Monday morning session with a therapeutic check-in, giving members a safe space to discuss life's challenges, share recovery experiences, and offer mutual support. These conversations strengthen connection, build resilience, and help individuals maintain focus on their recovery journey from substance misuse before starting work on the allotment.



The memorial tree planting area has continued to provide a space for reflection and remembrance. Ongoing care of the tree and surrounding environment has reinforced a sense of ownership and stewardship, while offering participants an opportunity to acknowledge important milestones and experiences in their recovery journeys.

The allotment has continued to be a welcoming, stigma-free environment where clients at all stages of recovery can contribute, learn, and build positive relationships. The visible progress achieved despite the difficult weather conditions has generated a strong sense of achievement among participants. Harvesting vegetables, herbs, and flowers, while maintaining communal spaces through one of the driest summers in recent years, has demonstrated resilience, commitment, and collective effort.





As a flexible and accessible community project, the allotment continues to support recovery through practical activity, connection with nature, the sharing of skills and lived experience, and the opportunities that come from working together through the changing seasons. We look forward to further collaborations with Old Friends Mushroom Farm later this year with planned culinary mushroom cultivation days. Our hope is to create an ongoing interest in all things fungi with a view to growing and supplying our local charitable cafes with seasonal and exciting allotment grown oyster, shiitake, portobello mushrooms.










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