



BISHOP'S CASTLE COMMUNITY SEED BANK:

A New Year for the Seed Bank

Just a brief despatch from the Seed Bank team to say happy new year, and if one of your resolutions is to learn a new skill, connect more with nature or become more engaged in the community, then seed saving might just be the thing to tick your boxes!

The Bishop's Castle Community Food Resilience Strategy is being finalised and seed saving is an important part of it, because food security is National security and there is no food security without seed.

This year, seed will be available via the seed bank at the Farmer's Market from February (3rd Saturday of each month, 9am-1pm), but expect pop ups, seed and plant swaps and training sessions.

READ ON for updates, info on training opportunities, both in-person and online.



OUR MISSION



BORROW



GROW



**SAVE &
SHARE**

**The Bishop's Castle
Community Seed Bank is a
resource for local food
resilience and skill sharing.**



SEEDING RESILIENCE: RESEARCH IN ACTION

Reflecting on the experience of seed scarcity during the pandemic (thus, the creation of our own seed bank) I have started a research project partnering with Sussex University and the Gaia Foundation's Seed Sovereignty programme. The aim is to reflect on the pandemic experience as an example of a 'shock' to the food system which impacted seed and seed producers.

This is a subject of great importance in the UK to citizens and policy makers alike - Research has shown that our food system is vulnerable to crisis, but seed is often forgotten when we look at the food system. This is a gap that makes us all the more at risk in terms of food security, considering how few small scale commercial seed producers we have.

Access to seed is one thing, but the skills to grow them is an additional consideration.

This research will feed into DEFRA as advice for the National Food Strategy.

“Food is ‘macro’: people see and relate to food, but seed is ‘micro’ and has become invisible. But so are atoms. Both are absolutely elemental to our existence.”

- Daphne Du Cros



SEED STEWARDS WANTED!

The seed bank has a great diversity of seeds but needs help to multiply them.

In particular, we have a wide range of interesting beans, tomatoes and peas to grow for seed.

Please get in touch if you could be a Seed Steward and take on the sacred task of nurturing a variety to build up and secure our stocks.

Email: Daphne@littlewoodbatch.co.uk

RESOURCES: EASY WINS FOR BEGINNERS

We have developed Downloadable Seed Saving 'postcards' for easy reference

- [Lettuce](#)
- [Tomatoes](#)
- [Peas](#)
- [Beans](#)
- [Sweet Peppers and Chillies](#)

ALLOTMENT LIFE & SURPLUS VEG APPEAL:

Could you 'Grow a Row' for the Seed Bank or the Food Bank this year? Now is the time to plan!

Lots of seed can be grown in Allotment spaces simply by selecting varieties that don't readily cross or coordinating with your neighbours to grow different species. Could you be an allotment seed steward?

The Food Bank is always looking for donations of fresh vegetables. If you have surplus this season, please consider sharing. Opening Hours are:

Tuesdays - 10 to 11.30am
Thursdays - 2.30 to 4pm

Seed Saving Resources

ONLINE SEED SAVER TRAINING FOR 2026

Garden Organic is hosting a number of online seed saving training sessions (left). These are great for beginners, refreshers and planning how to integrate seed saving into your garden this year. Book online through Garden Organic Events.

Garden Organic also runs the Shropshire Master Composters programme and will be working with Little Woodbatch to deliver training this season. Watch this space for dates.

Year-Long Seed Production Training

A COMPREHENSIVE TRAINING IN SEED POLITICS, PRACTICE, AND PRODUCTION



The Gaia Foundation Seed Sovereignty Programme's 2026 'Year Long Seed Training' course is now open to expressions of interest.

As a course graduate, you'll have the skills and expertise you need to produce excellent quality seed to sell or share within your community.

Send an email to seedsovereignty@gaionet.org to express your interest in receiving an application form in the new year.

The training is delivered through online webinars and in-person site visits, featuring incredible guests and opportunities to build your seed networks.

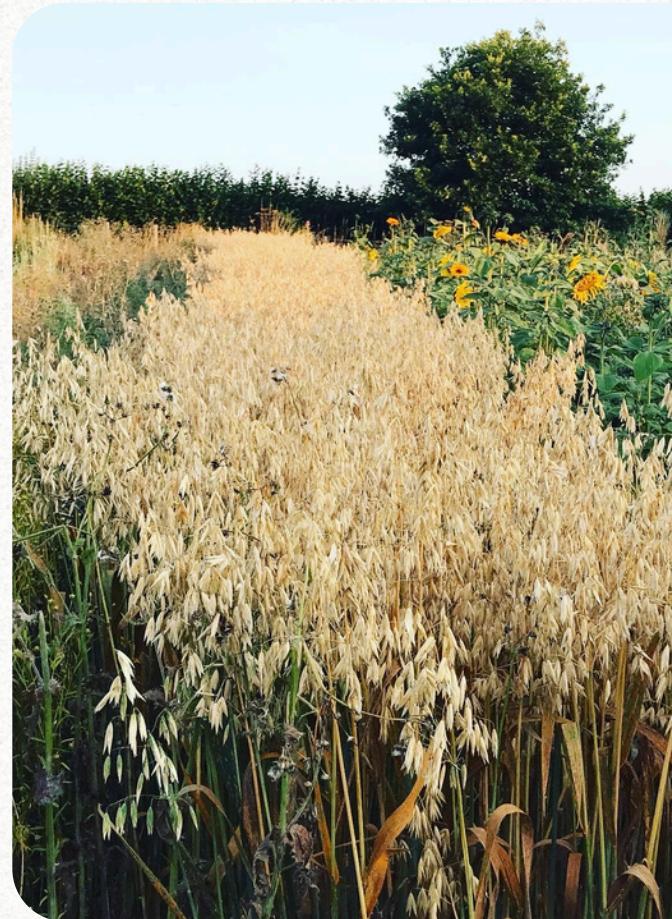
IN-PERSON SEED SAVING TRAINING

Join us at Little Woodbatch for a two part seed saving training taking place in March.

Seed Saving 101 will take place on Sunday March 1st and March 15th 10am - 1pm. This will cover the basics of seed saving, why it is crucial that we save seed, planning your garden to integrate seed crops, documenting, harvesting, processing and storing.

This is being delivered in partnership with Shropshire Good Food Partnership for the Bishop's Castle Food Resilience Strategy under Food Forward BC.

To sign up, please contact daphne@littlewoodbatch.co.uk



Additional Links: Online courses at your own pace or reading resources



Vital Seeds



Gaia Foundation Seed Sovereignty Course



Real Seeds





WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Along with working at the seed bank table on market days, our volunteers also get together to harvest and process seeds. In the winter months, you might find our crew gathered around a table with a pint or two in the back of the pub to pack and label seeds.

If you have the time and inclination to help out for any of these activities please let us know by contacting
mikejwatkins@hotmail.co.uk

Over the winter we will be developing a directory of what the seed bank has available so that members can browse and plan their gardens for the year ahead. Visit: www.littlewoodbatch.co.uk

Thank you for supporting the Bishop's Castle Community Seed Bank: The Seed Bank is an initiative of Food Forward BC, the Action Group driving our Community Food Resilience Strategy, a part of the BC Climate Action Plan.

Additional Links: Online courses at your own pace or reading resources



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IN OTHER NEWS



Shropshire Organic GardenerS POTATO DAY

Saturday 7th February 2026

9.30am – 2pm

Free Entry

CAFES
Breakfast, light
lunches and
homemade cakes,
hot drinks
(cash payments
only)

Wattlesborough Village Hall
SY5 9DX

On the Shrewsbury-Welshpool Road

TOOLS FOR SELF **A458 – Parking available (one-way**
System in place)

RELIANCE
Refurbished
secondhand
gardening tools
and more!

48 Potato Varieties

(25 are organic)

25p a tuber

(10p/tuber for SOGs members)

Cash and cheques ONLY for the seed potatoes

PRODUCE FOR
SALE
"Callum's Herbs"
"Greenacres"

Other Interesting
Stalls and Expert
Advice :
Master
Composters,
Welsh Seed Bank,
Gaia Foundation
Seed Sovereignty

Display
Shropshire
Wildlife Trust,
Shropshire
Biochar Project,
Bills Potato
Display

For
more info:
click logo
Or Tel: Ian 01743
353811

BRIGHTER BLOOMS

*Seeds, bare root and potted fruit trees and bushes,
rhubarb crowns, strawberry plants, onions, shallots and
garlic. Card payments accepted at Potato Day*

OR You Can Pre-order from:

<https://www.growvegandfruit.co.uk/>

