



Residents' Panel June 2026 Summary

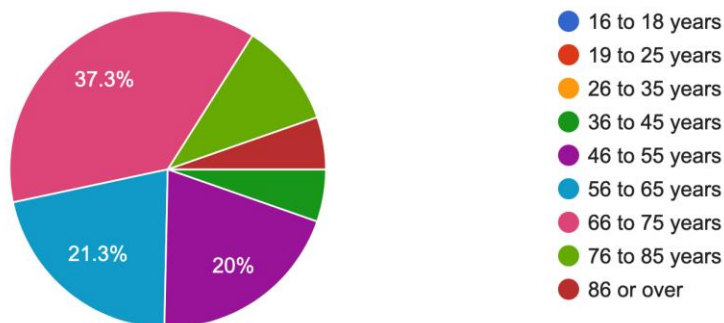
This survey was launched on 19 June 2026 and distributed to the panel consisting of 111 people.

Summaries to all questions can be found below.

75 people responded to this survey of which 41 were women, 32 men with 2 participants choosing not to disclose their gender.

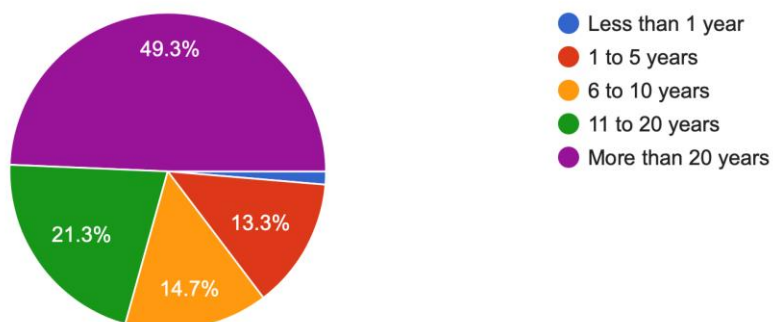
How old are you?

75 responses



How long have you lived in Bradford on Avon?

75 responses



Panellists are evenly spread across the town.



Section 1 - Garden Wildlife

Bradford on Avon recognises there is a climate and ecological emergency. The loss of biodiversity and wildlife over the last decades have been devastating, but we can make a difference.

Our gardens, big and small, together account for a significant area of greenspace, especially in urban areas and can provide important opportunities to support wildlife to flourish such as water, food and shelter.

We hope to improve the understanding of how valuable our gardens are and to encourage greater connectivity, by developing a Green and Dark Corridors Policy in our update of the Bradford on Avon Neighbourhood Plan.

The efforts you make in your garden/outdoor space are so valuable we would like you to answer the questions below to help map green spots across the town.

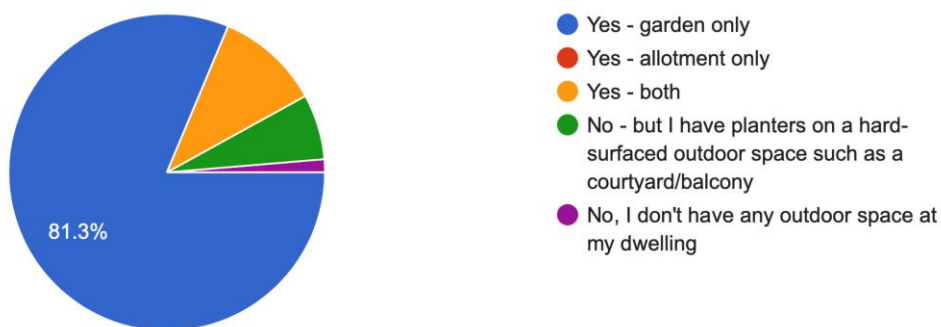
This will be useful data to start a Rewild Garden project, similar to the successful and well-researched Freshford Nature Chain project.

More information about rewilding and biodiversity can be found here: www.naturechain.co.uk/garden-for-wildlife.

1. Do you have a garden (including shared) and/or allotment?

Do you have a garden (including shared) and/or allotment?

75 responses



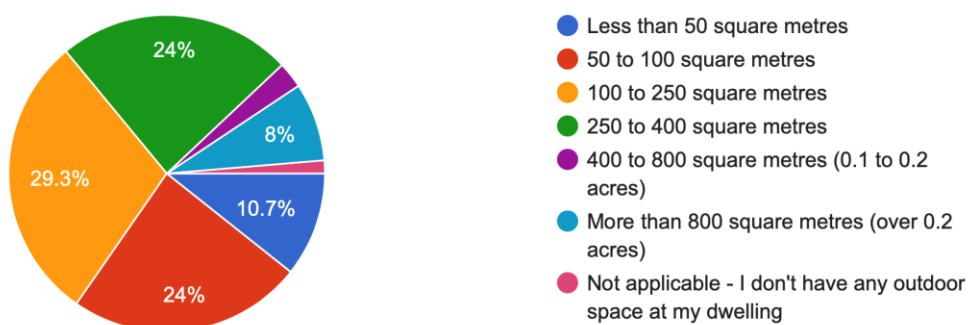


2. If yes, approximately how big is your outdoor space? Provide a combined amount if you have a garden/courtyard and allotment.

If it helps, for reference, the size of a tennis court is 260 square metres

If yes, approximately how big is your outdoor space? Provide a combined amount if you have a garden/courtyard and allotment.

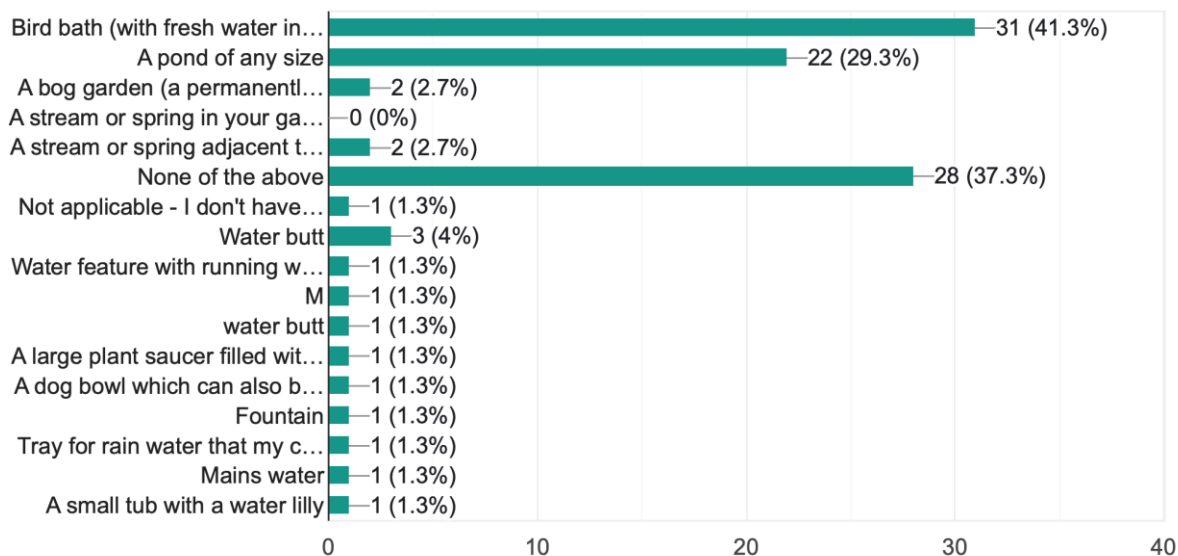
75 responses



3. Which of the following sources of water do you have in your garden/allotment?

Which of the following sources of water do you have in your garden/allotment? (select all that apply)

75 responses





4. Do you select plants for your outdoor space which provide food for wildlife?

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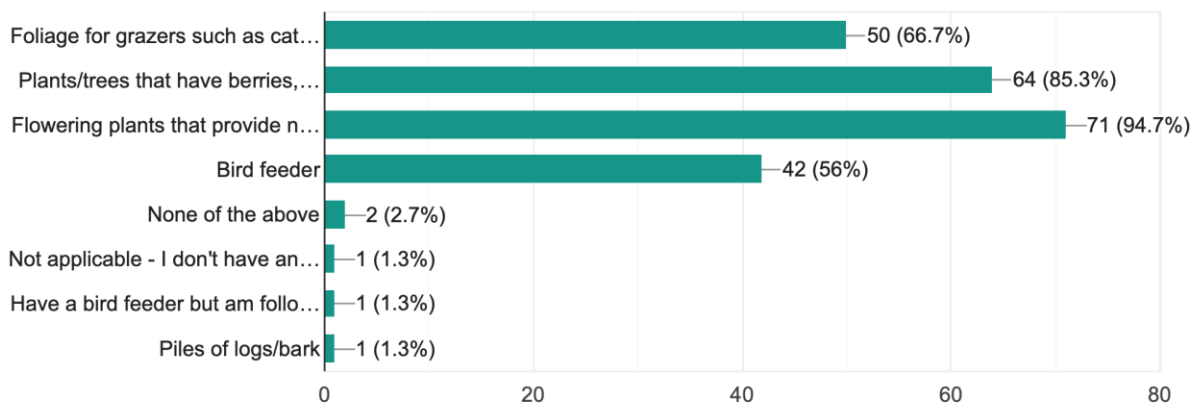
75 responses



5. Which of the following food sources do you have in your outdoor space?

Which of the following food sources do you have in your outdoor space? (select all that apply)

75 responses

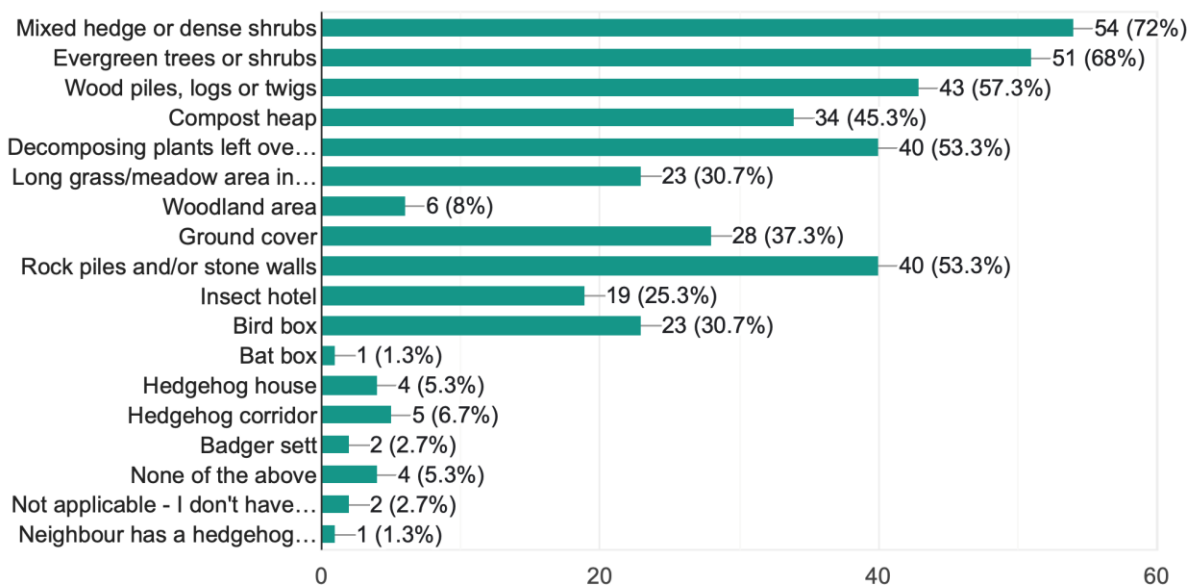




6. Which of the following forms of shelter does your outdoor space provide for wildlife?

Which of the following forms of shelter does your outdoor space provide for wildlife? (select all that apply)

75 responses



7. Are you aware of any wildlife regularly nesting/living in your outdoor space? If yes, please provide detail.

There were 49 responses to this question. 4 of which said they were not aware of any wildlife regularly living in their outdoor space.

Numbers after items indicate the number of respondents that listed them, if more than 1.

General birds (17)

Wood pigeons (10)

Squirrels (9)

Blackbirds (8)

Blue tit (7)

Rodents (7)

Robins (6)



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Badger (6)

Hedgehog (5)

Slow worms (5)

Frogs (5)

Fox (4)

General insects (4)

Great tit (4)

Common newts (3)

Toads (3)

Deer (3)

Rabbits (2)

Butterflies (2)

Bees (3)

Wren (2)

Starlings (2)

Sparrows (2)

Tawny owl

Long tailed tit

Coal tit

Goldfinch

Dunnock

Crows

Magpies

House martins

Heron

Ducks

Grass snake

Snails

Solitary bees

Moths



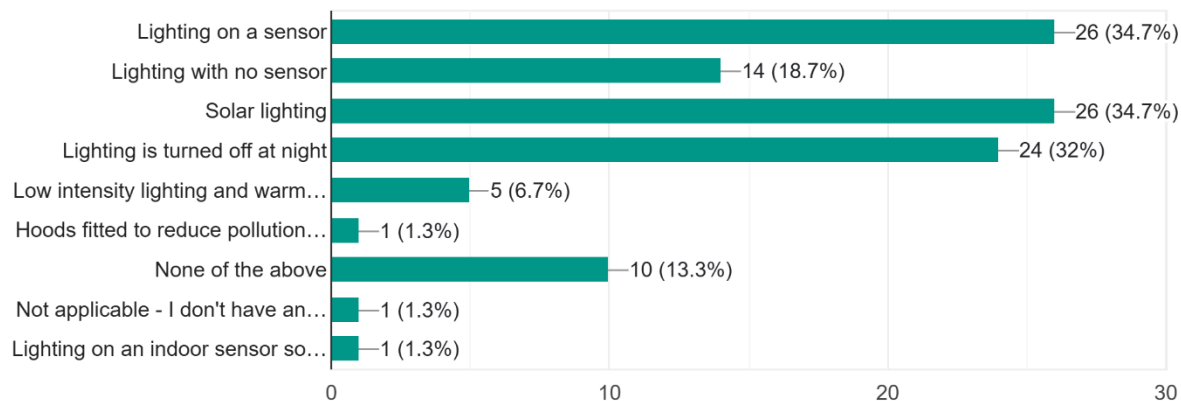
Dragon/damsel flies

Bats

8. What sort of outdoor lighting do you have and how is it used.

What sort of outdoor lighting do you have and how is it used (select all that apply)

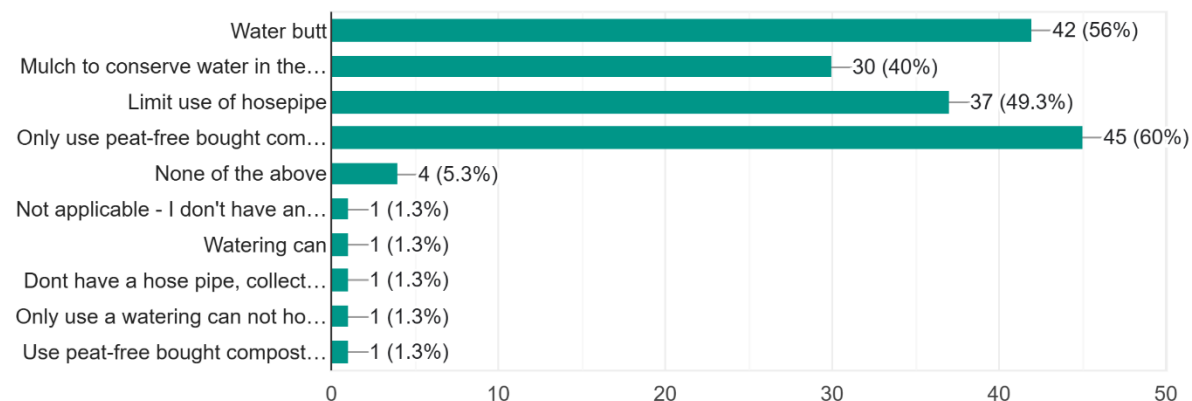
75 responses



9. What, if any, of the following soil and water conservation measures, do you use in your outdoor space?

What, if any, of the following soil and water conservation measures, do you use in your outdoor space? (select all that apply)

75 responses

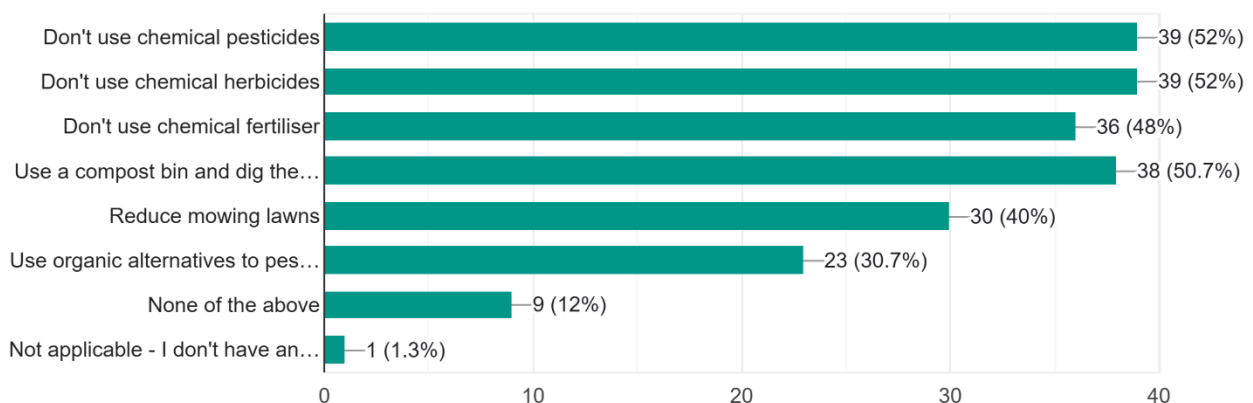




10. Which of the following organic practices have you implemented in your outdoor space?

Which of the following organic practices have you implemented in your outdoor space? (select all that apply)

75 responses



11. Which of the following wildlife visitors do you see in your outdoor space?

There were 75 responses to this question. Respondents were given a list of species as well as the option to add additional species.

Hedgehog	15	Shrews	7	Honey bees	62	Newts	7
Badger	17	Greenfinch	22	Butterflies	69	Grass snakes	5
Bats	41	Goldfinch	27	Ladybirds	70	Slow worms	23
Fox	28	House sparrows	53	Dragonflies	42	Slugs and snails	66
Grey Squirrel	37	Blackbirds	65	Frogs	21	I don't see any wildlife	0
Voles/mice	20	Owls	8	Toads	20	Not applicable	1



Additional answers were:

Cats, jays, roe deer, bumblebees, hoverflies, ants, mason bees, moths, sparrowhawk, rats, pigeons, nuthatch, woodpecker, coal tits, wood pigeon, robins, magpies, owls heard but not seen.

12. Have you noticed the absence of specific wildlife in recent years that previously visited your outdoor space regularly? If yes, please provide details.

36 people responded to this question.

9 people said they had not noticed an absence of any specific species.

Others noted the following:

Small birds/songbirds (fewer) (5)

Hedgehog (4)

Starlings (4)

Sparrows (4)

Badger (3)

Thrush (3)

Swifts (2)

Slow worms (fewer) (2)

Frogs (2)

Finches (2)

Butterflies (fewer) (2)

Newts

Green woodpecker

Woodpecker

Jay

Chaffinch

Great tits

Blackcaps

Hoverflies



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Ladybirds

Muntjac

13. Do you have anything else you'd like to share about your outdoor space?

22 responses.

Comments included:

“I would like the council to plant trees on the grass verges on Culver Road.”

“I replaced standard lawn turf with wildflower turf and it's been a huge success. Drought tolerant, lots of cover, successional food source for different species. And low maintenance.”

“Keep it as wild as I can.”

“Not having used any chemical pesticides or insecticides for over a decade there's a huge increase in ladybirds and fewer blackfly and greenfly”

“swift box built into house wall”

“Too many seagulls”

“Very limited to what kind of tree I am allowed to plant.”

“We adjoin allotments so it's a fantastic wildlife corridor.”

“We don't own a cat, but our garden is a thoroughfare for all those in the neighbourhood, which may have had an impact on the blue tits not nesting this year”

“We had a moth survey done (overnight moth trap) by a local expert about 5 years ago. He identified over 100 species and said it was the best total in Wiltshire he had had. Though we have bats flying at night, before our roof was repaired we had a bat survey and no evidence of a roost inside was found.”

“We have hedgehog holes in the fence but haven't see one since we moved here 8 years ago.”

“We live near Westbury Gardens, which provide another source of food for the birds in our garden.”

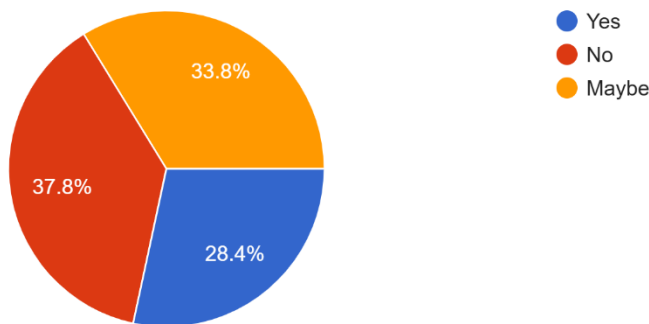
14. To help us map the wildlife-friendly spaces across the town, please provide ideally a [What3Words](#) location for your outdoor space(s). Alternatively, please provide your postcode.

Responses to this question are redacted for internal use only.



15. Would you be interested in more events and information to help you rewild your outdoor space?

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74 responses



Section 2

Volunteering

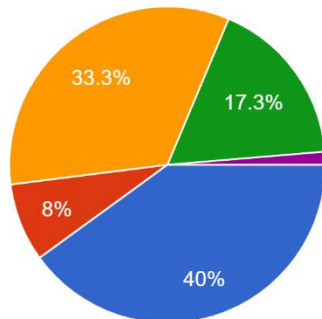
There are lots of volunteering opportunities available in Bradford on Avon but not all groups know how to connect with potential volunteers and vice versa. We'd like to know if you volunteer and how you might go about looking for opportunities to support local groups.

1. Do you volunteer with a local organisation?



Do you volunteer with a local organisation?

75 responses



- Yes - on a regular basis
- Yes - on an adhoc basis
- Not currently - but I've volunteered in the past
- No - I've never done any volunteering
- I'm too old.

2. If you answered Yes to the previous question, which organisation(s) do you volunteer with?

Climate Friendly Bradford on Avon (3)
Community Emergency Volunteers (3)
Bradford Town FC (2)
BOA Rotary Club (2)
Wiltshire Music Centre (2)
Clean Up Bradford-on-Avon (2)
Trowbridge Talking News (2)
U3a (2)
Men's shed (2)
Wiltshire Wildlife Trust
Railway Station garden
Before CLUB was started did Church Street
Off the record
Water polo
Helped an elderly resident during Covid
Quakers
Avonleigh Organic vegetable farm
BOA Lions
BOA Cricket coaching



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Bearfield Church coffee morning

TIC

NESTA heat pump promotion

Trowbridge Music Festival

Summer Reading Challenge

Repair Cafe

Mighty Girls

Home Library Service

Retirement community Board of Management

Library

Local shop

Preservation Trust

BoA Business

Fitzmaurice Trust

Lorry watch

Bearfield Church

Holy Trinity church

Cubs

School

Bradfordians Dramatic Society

R.L.S.A

Helping with art products

Woolly allotment association

BOA Boat club

Moulton Trust (The Hall)

Wiltshire Mind

Bath Women's Fund

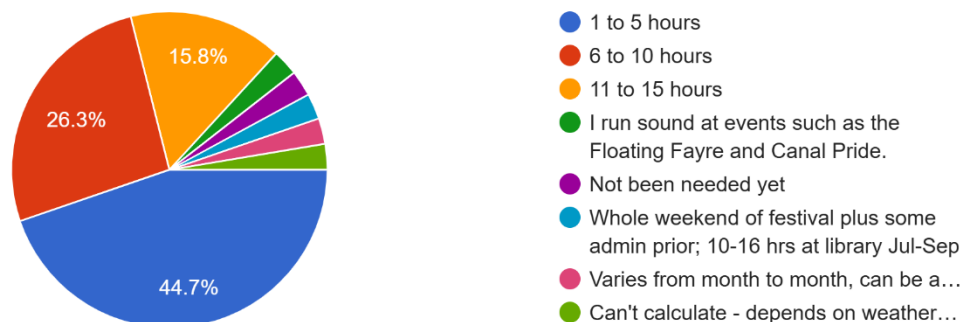
Floaty Boat



3. If you answered Yes, approximately how many hours in total do you volunteer for each month?

If you answered Yes, approximately how many hours in total do you volunteer for each month?

38 responses



4. If you answered Yes, what's the main reason for why you volunteer - what benefits do you experience from volunteering?

37 people responded to this question.

To give back/contribute to society/community (10)

Enjoy meeting other people/the camaraderie (10)

Helping people (6)

Concern to tackle climate change (3)

To share/keep up skills (3)

Feeling useful (2)

Like a tidy town (2)



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Seeing/filling a need (2)

Get out in nature and improve our shared environment.

Christian duty.

Pleased that people enjoy what we offer.

I want them to keep going; I enjoy them.

To try something new.

Purpose to the week.

To support the organisations for which I volunteer.

Interest, fulfilment.

Learning.

I have always done volunteer work as did my mother before me it was an integral part of my upbringing. I feel it is important to support the local community and the volunteering I do now is to assist the partially, generally elderly, community who are often neglected.

The group provides a great 'service' to the town in terms of providing regular quality theatre.

I think everyone should do some voluntary work if capable.

Making things better.

Lack of others willing to do so these days, since Covid.

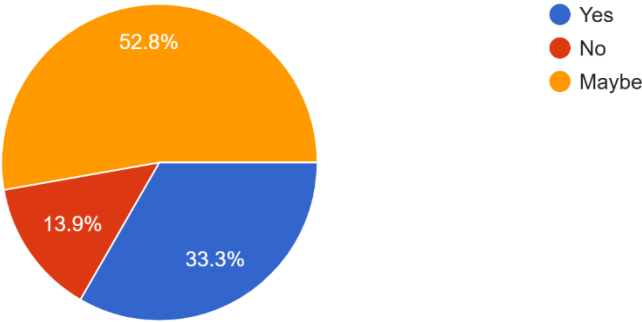
Our u3a is a brilliant organisation to bring people who are no longer in full time work together. I enjoy our u3a and have started many new groups.

- 5. If you answered No - you're not currently or have never volunteered - would you be interested in volunteering if the right opportunity came up at the right time?**



If you answered No - you're not currently or have never volunteered - would you be interested in volunteering if the right opportunity came up at the right time?

36 responses

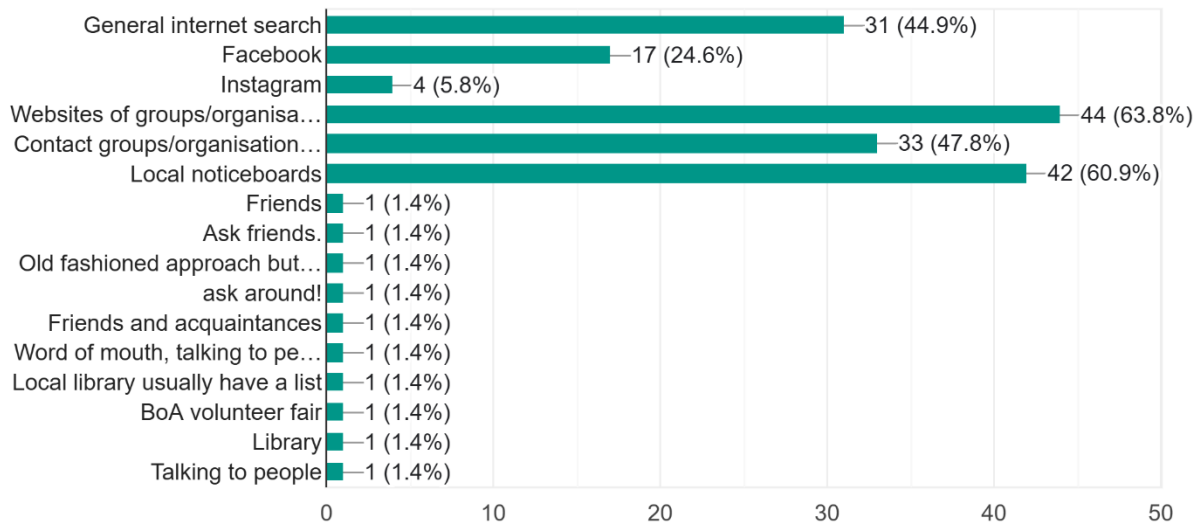


6. If you wanted to find a volunteering opportunity, where would you look to find information?



If you wanted to find a volunteering opportunity, where would you look to find information? (select all that apply)

69 responses

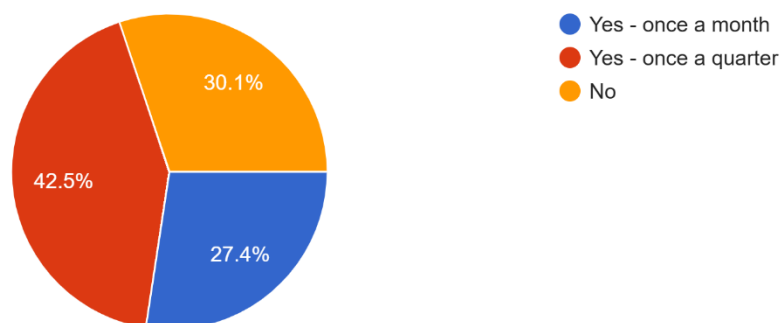


Note: A total of 7 people who selected 'other', said they would find information by talking to people.

7. Do you think a regular email bulletin with information about regular and ad hoc volunteering opportunities would be of interest to you?

Do you think a regular email bulletin with information about regular and ad hoc volunteering opportunities would be of interest to you?

73 responses





8. Do you have any other comments or suggestions about how volunteering opportunities in the town could be promoted?

21 people responded to this question. 2 people said they did not have any further comments.

The council notice board in the library should display a list of all volunteer organisations and a contact number and email address.

On the town council website/publications/Snippets/noticeboards (4

Have very clear descriptions of the roles, offer candidates the chance to speak with someone who currently fills the role.

I would like to volunteer again but don't know where to look to find local opportunities easily

Targeting people who work and making it easy for them to fit it into their schedules.

More advertising in the town

Is there a volunteering website? Leaflets where people are captive audiences eg doctors; cafes.

Where suitable perhaps have an Open Day where current volunteers can chat to visitors/potential volunteers in an informal and non pushy way.

I guess an alternative to social media. If you use social media you'll see adverts but if not, and you don't regularly come into the town centre you might not see any leaflets on notice boards. I think it also depends on the audience. I would think there are volunteers across age groups from secondary school age upwards so I think you probably need to adapt the advertising of volunteering opportunities to different age groups.

email

Through St Laurence School, youth clubs, sports groups etc. The younger people are introduced to the idea, the more likely they are to continue it into adulthood as I did.

Notice board

The recent fair was good in that it mixed classes/things to buy with volunteering opportunities.

Concerning that people seem to have less time to volunteer these days than in the past?

Monthly BoA bulletin



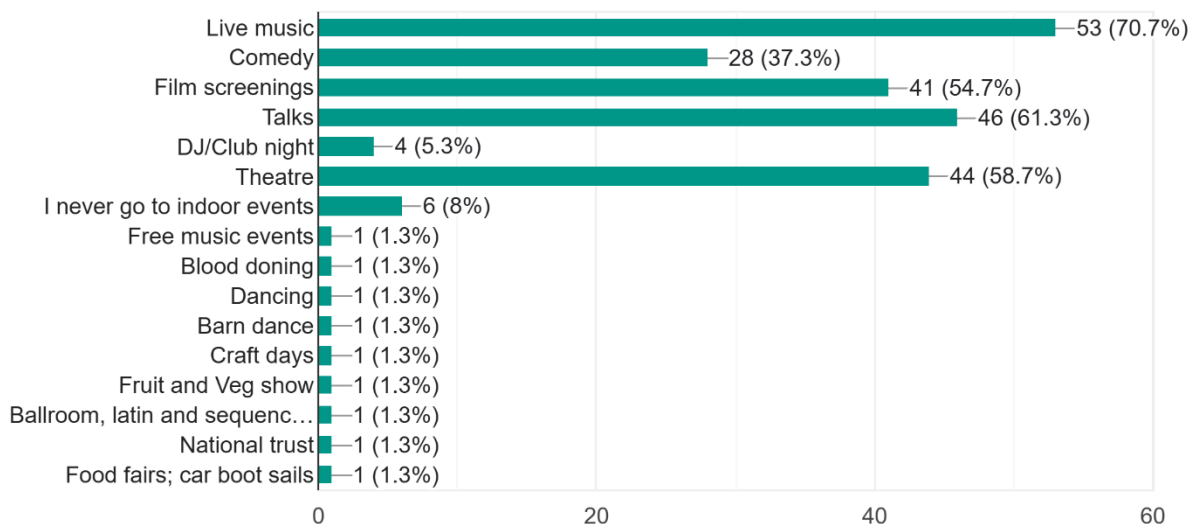
Section 3

St Margaret's Hall

St Margaret's Hall will soon be reopening and we're exploring ways to maximise its use. We'd like to hear about the types of events you attend and how you find out about them.

1. Which of the following types of indoor, ticketed events do you enjoy attending?

Which of the following types of indoor, ticketed events do you enjoy attending? (select all that apply)
75 responses

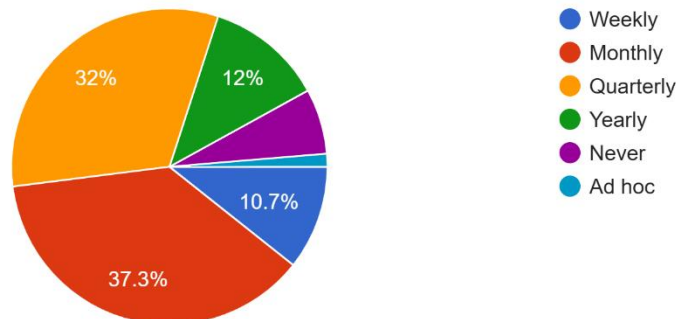


2. On average, how often do you attend such events?



On average, how often do you attend such events?

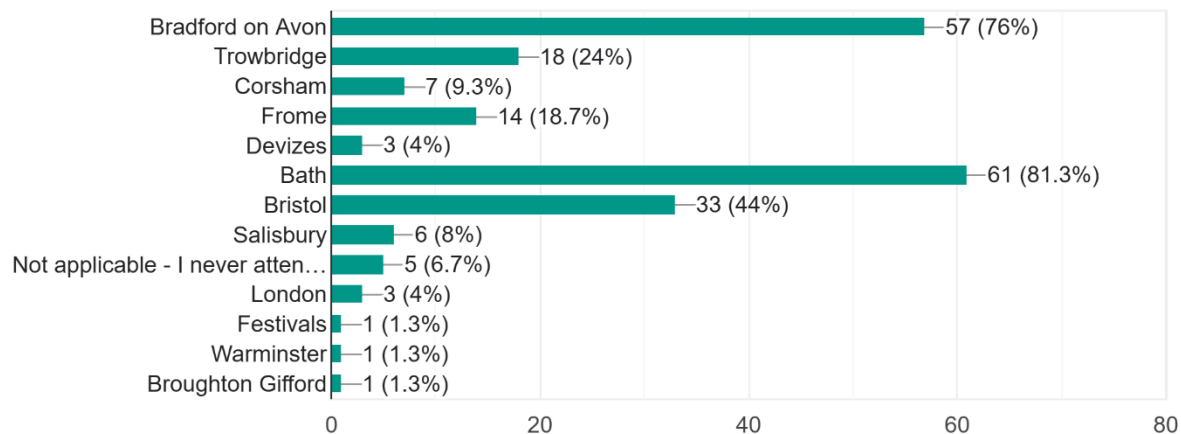
75 responses



3. In which towns/cities do you attend ticketed indoor events?

In which towns/cities do you attend ticketed indoor events? (select all that apply)

75 responses



4. Thinking about the question above - which venue(s) do you most frequently attend?

55 people responded to this question.

Wiltshire Music Centre (14)

The Forum, Bath (12)

Theatre Royal Bath (5)

Bath (5)

Bristol hippodrome (4)



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Theatre (3)

Cheese and Grain, Frome (3)

Places in BoA (3)

St Margaret's Hall (3)

United Church, BoA (2)

Tithe barn (2)

Komedia (2)

Bristol Beacon (2)

O2 academy (2)

Bristol

Bradford town FC

London

Broughton Gifford

Cinema

Concerts

Bath Everyman

The Pump, Trowbridge

Design West

Little Theatre

Bath Abbey

Cinema in Frome

theatres in Bath

Holy Trinity, BoA

West Barn

Bristol Electric

Prospect, Bristol

Trowbridge

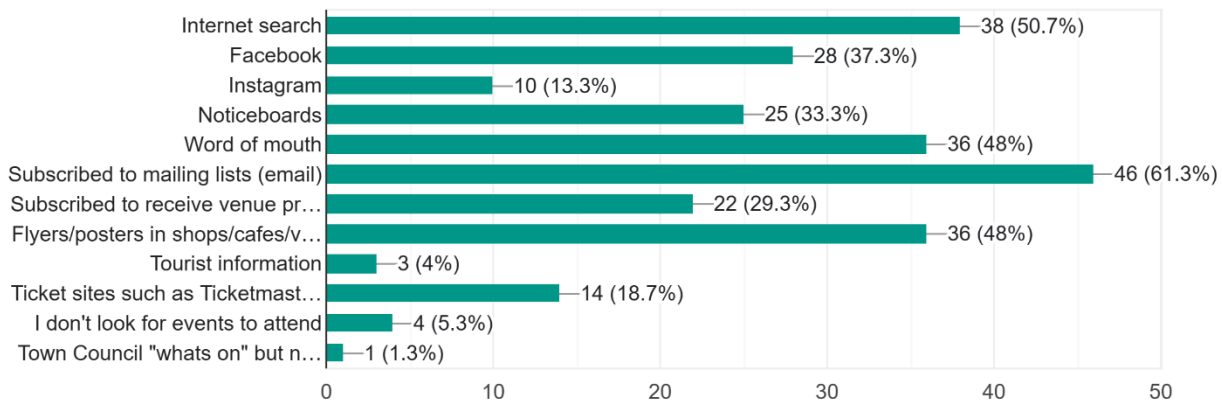
Chapel Arts, Bath



5. How do you find out about events?

How do you find out about events? (select all that apply)

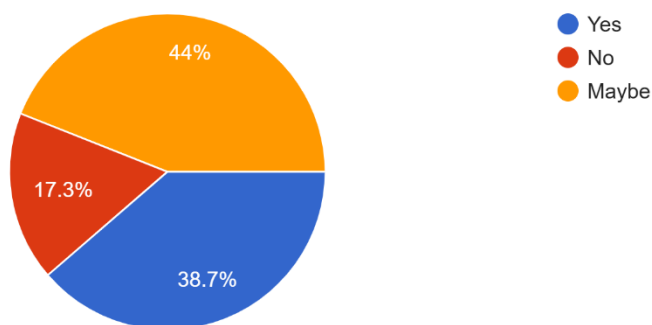
75 responses



6. If you had to plan a private or public event, would you consider hiring St Margaret's Hall?

If you had to plan a private or public event, would you consider hiring St Margaret's Hall?

75 responses



7. Please give a reason for your previous answer.

56 people responded to this question and the answers have been grouped according to their previous answer of Yes, No or Maybe.

Reasons given for 'Yes' response

Centrally located (10)

Easy car parking (7)

Well serviced/good facilities – inc lighting/catering/seating (7)



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Good size space (4)

Already using it for reception for German Twinning visitors from Norden end July 2026

Hired it for a team of American Morris Men in 2017.

Used it for my wedding reception

I've hired the hall out twice in the last 10yrs for family weddings, Central location with railway station and car parking, I now use the football club since the hall has been closed.

I did book St Margarets for a private event, but it was in May 2020 and therefore couldn't happen. As secretary of the Bradfordians, St Margarets Hall is extremely important to us and we are very keen to get back in there for productions starting later this year.

Accessible.

It a really good venue

comfortable

local option

Have done previously

We are keen to hold our u3a monthly meetings there.

I certainly would consider using it as a promoter of live events, but would prefer a smaller venue to operate from as most of the music I promote tends to have a smaller following.

It would have to be a big private event to book it. It's a great venue

Local and cost effective

Reasons given for 'maybe' response

Would it be a good fit for cost, scale, and facilities?

Central location (5)

Depends on cost (8)

Would depend on space needed (3)

Depends on facilities needed (2)

Depends on what type of event I was planning (2)

Depends on alternatives (2)

Can't think of any events I'm planning for the future

The hall is good and people could travel by train, but parking is an issue.

I am currently struggling with mobility issues



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Depends on availability

If the event was of the right scale and nature then yes. In practice I cannot think of a reason why I would hire a venue of that size.

it is a great venue so I would be happy to hire in the right circumstances.

I don't often get involved with planning events, as I'm not an outgoing person.

Have hired before for a party

Reasons given for 'no' response

Cost compared to other venues in town. I also dislike the add ons!

Too impersonal

Too big

I can't imagine what I would need to hire it for. It's a bit like a school hall, great for community function but has a lot of competition from hotels for family gatherings or celebrations etc. Maybe it could host more youth events as they are undeserved locally and generally don't need a lot of parking etc.

I think it is expensive and hard to book for events (one past experience!)

Red tape

Expense and too big

The racked seating is too uncomfortable, it's only suitable for people with short legs

It's been closed for a long time

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