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The Biodynamic Land Trust
stewarding farmland for a living, working countryside



Happy cows and stunning views at Baile Geamhraidh, one of our Associate Farms

Welcome to our summer 2026 newsletter

An update on Gabriel's role with the BDLT

Many of you will have heard that our director and Land Project Manager, Gabriel Kaye, suffered a stroke in February. We are pleased to share that Gabriel is making good progress and continuing with her rehabilitation and therapy but after careful consideration, she has decided to resign from her role with the Biodynamic Land Trust to focus on her recovery.

Gabriel has been an integral part of the Trust from an early stage. We are incredibly grateful for her hard work, energy and unwavering commitment over the years, and for the deep knowledge, wisdom and vision she brought to the organisation.

At the beginning of this year, we welcomed Louise Southwell as Land Projects Development Officer and Liz Parks as Communications and Engagement Officer. In light of Gabriel's resignation, they have taken on additional responsibilities within their roles and are working together to deliver the Trust's current strategy and continue building on the strong foundations that Gabriel helped create.

We wish Gabriel every success with her continued recovery and will continue to hold her in our thoughts as she focuses on regaining her health.

News from the Biodynamic Land Trust

Invitation: Growing Together event and AGM

We're delighted to invite you to **Growing Together**, the Biodynamic Land Trust's annual AGM and community gathering which is being held this year at Hawkwood, near Stroud.

We want to stress that this is **a day for everyone in our network** – farmers, members, supporters or those who are curious about what we do. Whether you've been involved with the Trust for years, have recently discovered our work, or are simply interested in the future of farming, land and community, we'd love you to join us.

While the day will include our Annual General Meeting, we'll be keeping the formal business as brief as possible. The real focus is on bringing people together to connect, share ideas, hear inspiring speakers and reflect on where we've come from and where we're heading next.

We're delighted to welcome two fantastic guest speakers: **Dan Smith**, Nuffield Scholar, tenant farmer, consultant and regenerative systems designer, and **Anna Jones**, rural affairs journalist and broadcaster, best known for her work on *Countryfile* and *Farming Today*. They will explore themes around connecting communities and farms, food systems, and the future of land stewardship.

There will also be plenty of opportunities to catch up with old friends, meet new people, hear updates on the Trust's work, exchange ideas, and enjoy a delicious sit-down lunch together.

We hope you'll join us for what promises to be an inspiring and enjoyable day of learning, conversation and connection. Find out more and book a place [here](#).

Seeking the next steward for Backsbottom Farm

We're delighted to announce that we are now actively looking for a tenant for **Backsbottom Farm**, in Lancashire, one of the Trust's Associate Farms. This marks an important milestone in the farm's journey towards becoming part of the Trust's family of farms and securing its future for generations to come.

Finding the right person to take on the stewardship of this remarkable place is crucial. We're looking for someone who can build on its rich legacy while helping the farm flourish both as a resilient rural enterprise and as a place with strong connections to its local community.

Nestled in the beautiful Roeburn Valley on the edge of the Forest of Bowland National Landscape, Backsbottom is a farm of extraordinary ecological richness.

Ancient woodland, species-rich meadows, recovering blanket bog, traditional orchards with around 250 apple varieties, a forest garden and decades of thoughtful land management make it a truly special place.

For more than forty years, Rod and Jane Everett have cared for the 100-hectare farm with vision and dedication, creating an organic, permaculture-inspired holding that has become a centre for learning, ecological restoration and community connection. As they prepare to step back and gift the farm into the Biodynamic Land Trust, we are seeking someone who will continue this work with imagination, commitment and respect for all that has already been established.

Could you help us find the right person? We'd be hugely grateful if you could share the tenancy opportunity across your networks. If you know someone with the experience, passion and commitment to steward this extraordinary farm, we'd love to hear from them. Further information about the tenancy and how to apply can be found in the [vacancy advertisement](#).

As this process moves forward we will likely look to make a share issue to help raise the funds needed to secure the farm's future so please keep an eye out for updates later in the year. We will keep you posted.

Could you help us get more funding (at no cost)?

We've recently joined the easyfundraising.org.uk platform where participating retailers give the Trust a small donation every time someone makes an online purchase. Please consider signing up to [our profile](#) to support us if you are doing any online shopping.





2026 farm visits

This summer, we've been delighted to spend time visiting more of the of the farms in the Biodynamic Land Trust family, seeing first-hand the abundant, biodiverse landscapes that biodynamic farming can create. It has been inspiring to hear about the positive impact these farms are having on both nature and their local communities.

At **St Giles Farm**, in the New Forest, we saw how biodynamic approaches to stocking density have resulted in noticeably abundant, species-rich pastures. It was also exciting to hear about the progress Claudia and Eden have made in bringing new farmers onto parts of the site and to see their newly-created ponds that are already enhancing biodiversity.

More recently, we travelled to Scotland to visit two of our Associate Farms. At **Forres Friends of Field and Woodland**, on the Moray coast, we explored the beautiful 40-acre site and met around 20 of the charity's volunteers, including a mother and son who were visiting from Dornach, Switzerland. We also visited nearby **Mandala Gardens**, a thriving Demeter-certified biodynamic market garden that supplies around 60 vegetable boxes each week to the local community.

Crossing to the west coast, we visited **Leob Croft**, a 40-acre site on the Isle of Mull, before finishing our journey at **Baile Geamhraidh** on the Isle of Lismore. There we saw a flourishing biodynamic vegetable and herb garden alongside a small herd of cattle, demonstrating another inspiring approach to stewarding the land.

We're hugely grateful to the farmers, landowners, volunteers and everyone who welcomed us so generously and shared their knowledge, stories and time. Visiting these special places has strengthened our understanding of the work happening across the Trust's network, and we're looking forward to building on these relationships in the years ahead.

Later this summer, we'll complete our annual visits with trips to **Springham Farm** and **Brambletye Fields**, at **Tablehurst Farm**, in Sussex, where we look forward to seeing how biodynamic farming is helping these farms remain resilient through this summer's challenging weather.

Biodynamics at Groundswell

It was a pleasure to share a stand with our friends at the **Biodynamic Association** at this year's Groundswell Festival. Now in its tenth year, the event welcomed more than 10,000 farmers, growers, researchers, land managers and others interested in regenerative agriculture, making it one of the UK's largest gatherings dedicated to the future of farming.

Alongside the many conversations at our stand, we had the opportunity to attend several inspiring talks, including a fascinating session on biodynamics at farm scale led by Gala Bailey-Barker of **Plaw Hatch Farm** and Annette Mueller of **Fattoria La Vialla** in Italy.

Our stand proved to be a real conversation starter thanks to the biodynamic stirring kit kindly brought by Nottinghamshire biodynamic farmer **Jo Bradley** and the beautiful flow form, generously loaned by **Simon Charter** of Ebb and Flow. Both sparked curiosity throughout the two days, prompting conversations with experienced biodynamic practitioners as well as many people discovering biodynamics for the first time.

It was hugely encouraging to see such interest in biodynamic farming and to meet so many people keen to learn more about the role it can play in creating healthy, resilient farms, landscapes and communities.

Events, courses and workshops

Biodynamic Preparation Workshop with Vincent Masson



September 17 and 18



Emerson College, Forest Row, East Sussex RH18 5JX

Join biodynamic practitioner Vincent Masson for an immersive workshop exploring the practice, purpose and living qualities of biodynamic preparations. Over 1.5 days of teaching, participants will explore the making, handling and use of preparations, deepening their understanding of their role in soil fertility and land stewardship. Book [here](#).

The Organic Growers Gathering



September 26 and 27



Sandy Lane Farm, Oxfordshire, OX9 2LA

The Organic Growers Gathering is organised by growers for growers. From small-scale fruit, vegetable, herb, and flower growers to land workers, crafters, and purveyors of folk music. The aim is to network, skill share, build community, discover, and learn from one another, whilst strengthening ecological land-based and farming networks for a more resilient, ethical, and organic food system. More information [here](#)

Biodynamic Land Trust's AGM and Family of Farms event



October 3

📍 Hawkwood, Painswick Old Road, Stroud, GL6 7QW

As mentioned at the start of this newsletter, we're looking forward to welcoming you to our annual gathering where we can update everyone on news from the BDLT and connect with our farmers and supporters. Book tickets [here](#).

Lilly Kolisko Conference & Biodynamic Association AGM

📅 October 18

📍 Rudolf Steiner House, London, NW1 6XT

Join the Biodynamic Association to mark the 50th anniversary of Lilly Kolisko's death and celebrate her remarkable contribution to biodynamics, anthroposophical medicine and homoeopathy. The event will explore Kolisko's pioneering research into potentisation and her work to investigate the forces underlying biodynamic preparations. This gathering is aimed at biodynamic farmers and growers, homoeopaths, pharmacists and anyone interested in understanding the role and action of potentised preparations. The Biodynamic Association AGM will follow. Book a place [here](#).

Wales Real Food and Farming Conference

📅 November 18 and 19

📍 National Botanic Garden of Wales, Llanarthne, Carmarthen, Carmarthenshire, SA32 8HG

Established to explore sustainable food and farming, bringing together farmers and other food businesses, environmentalists and people involved in public health, food education, food sovereignty and social justice. Its aim is to open conversations and take positive steps about the future of food. More information [here](#)

GET IN TOUCH

Want to submit something to the newsletter? We are going to increase the frequency of our newsletters to once a quarter. If you have something to say in the form of a blog, poem, case study, short film or want to promote events or opportunities please get in touch. Contact comms@biodynamiclandtrust.org.uk

Donate!

Thank you for your support - we are greater than the sum of our parts.

All donations help support our work and the development and capacity of the organisation.

Opportunities for shares are also available. Please get in touch -

comms@biodynamiclandtrust.org.uk

From all at the Biodynamic Land Trust



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This is the contacts list for the Biodynamic Land Trust. You may be a member, donor or a newsletter subscriber who has registered an interest in our work securing land for biodynamic organic farms land for generations to come.

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