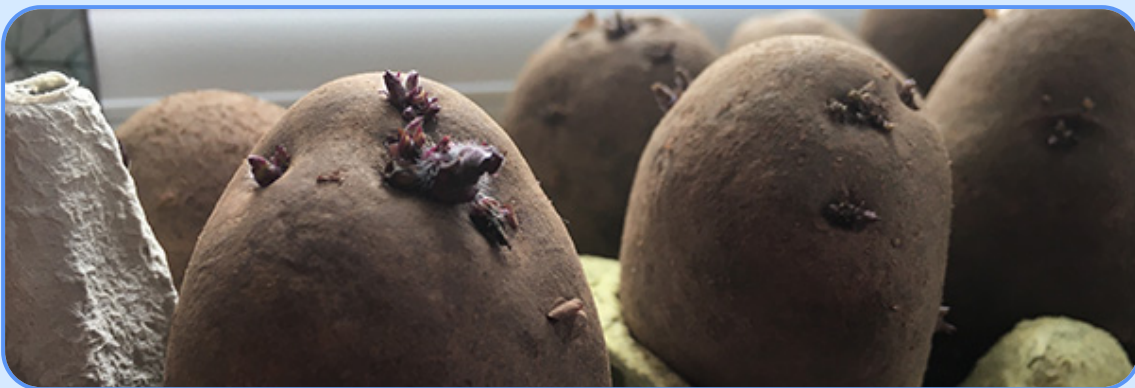


February's Newsletter

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Ενημερωτικό Δελτίο Φεβρουαρίου - Februári hírlével - Biuletyn lutowy -
Buletinul informativ din februarie - Информационный бюллетень за февраль -
Şubat Ayı Bülteni - Лютий інформаційний бюлетень

We hope this newsletter finds you well and a warm welcome to our new plot holders.

Rob's plot twist: Get ahead before the weeds do!



This is traditionally the time of year when I find myself in a bit of a panic. The slog through the long and frankly depressing month of January is finally over but the allotment is typically a quagmire, where the last vestiges of last year's crops are just about hanging on, and the thought of this year's crop is like the proverbial pair of old shoes in the understairs cupboard i.e. buried under a mountain of other stuff.

So why the panic? It's all to do with seeds. Last year I didn't get my backside in gear early enough for the seed potatoes. I ended up sowing my cucumbers later than normal (and fate decided to bestow terrible germination on me too) and my favourite variety of tomato was out of stock.

So this year I'm all over it. The seed order is in, my seed potatoes are chitting on the windowsill behind me, I've applied a generous amount of lime to this year's brassica beds, and the pelleted chicken manure is replenished and ready to go.

All I need now is the weather.

If you're anything like me, you will have noticed a few weeds appear on your plot over the winter. They never stop, do they? And, if you're anything like me, you'll look at the weeds and the sodden ground in which they are swimming, and

think: "I'll sort them out tomorrow". The problem is that tomorrow soon becomes March or even April and you find yourself spending hours clearing your plot rather than cultivating it and enjoying it. I guess I'm urging you (and me) to keep on top of things over the next month before the weeds become rampant and your enthusiasm wanes.

Happy allotmenting, folks!



First work party of the year is a success!

A massive thank you to everyone that joined us for our first work party of the year on Sunday 1st February.

Despite the weather, we achieved so much and had a good laugh along the way! We split into three main teams - levelling the lower road and filling in some of the deep tyre tracks; secured metal fences to our back perimeter; and moved back the wood chip to allow space for the last of the wood pile to be burned before April.

On top of that, an enormous bag of rubbish was cleared and Peter even started a living hedge at the back.

Didn't take that long and we all headed back for some well earned hot drinks and some lovely homemade cakes provided by Miriam and Joan.

Just amazing and we can't thank you enough 🙏

Looking forward to what this fabulous community will achieve at our next one on Sunday 8th March, 10am-12pm.

Don't worry if you can't make Sunday mornings - if you want to do anything during the week or a Saturday just email us at poverestallotments@gmail.com

And don't forget, if you can't make the work parties, your £20 is still a way to support our site and is just as appreciated as attending.



Roads closed until further notice

Our roads are completely flooded - **NO MORE VEHICLES ON SITE** until further notice please.

Despite our best efforts repairing sections last week the weather has really taken its toll. In order for our roads to dry out and not get churned up any more please do not bring any vehicles on site until further notice.

Traffic cones have been put out - please do not move them 🙏

Many thanks for your cooperation and here's hoping the sun arrives soon!!

Please help us to increase the Biodiversity of our Allotments by completing this short and confidential online survey! [Click here to start](#)

Biodiversity Group's Corner - What to look out for during February



Redwings

The Redwing is one of the most iconic and recognisable birds to land in the UK for winter. It's our smallest thrush species and migrates here from Scandinavia

and Iceland towards the end of September, though a few pairs also nest in the UK too. It mostly eats berries including, hawthorn, holly and rowan but will also eat earthworms. All of which can be found on our Allotment site. Redwings live a nomadic lifestyle, moving from place to place as food runs out!



Catkins

The image above shows Hazel Catkins. Hazel, Alder, Silver Birch, White Willow and Pedunculate Oak are amongst other native trees that bear catkins. Catkins have an important role in spreading tree seeds and show us that spring is on the way. Catkins allow the tree to reproduce. Catkins enable female flowers to be pollinated when pollen from male flowers is blown by the wind. Male catkins drop off after releasing pollen, whereas female catkins collect pollen and then release the seeds.

Catkins flowering (on Alder, Pendunculate Oak, and Silver Birch trees) is one of the wildlife events volunteers record for **Nature's calendar**. An important project that helps track the effects of weather and climate change. This biological record dates back to 1736! See the Woodland Trust's website for more details at <https://naturescalendar.woodlandtrust.org.uk/what-we-record-and-why/>



Common Frog

Our most well-known amphibian, the common frog is a regular visitor to garden ponds across the country, where they feast on slugs and snails. In winter, they hibernate in pond mud or under log piles.

Frogspawn appears in ponds from January onwards, depending on the weather and the region (the Southwest usually has the first sightings). By March, you should be able to spot frogspawn in ponds across the UK. Frogspawn is also an event that can be recorded on **Nature's Calendar**.



This month I'll be mainly sharing...

Those 2 plastic chairs but now some blue water piping and grow bags!

In-between our sharing shed and Community hub are some blue water pipes - excellent for making covers for raised beds and some felt grow bags are next to the infamous chairs.

Please be careful if you take anything as there is broken glass and rubbish close by.

If you put anything in the shed for sharing and it doesn't get taken within a month, the item will need to be taken back and recycled at one of our local [recycling centres](#) such as Waldo Road when it re-opens or Churchfields Road, Beckenham.

As always, please make sure you proudly display your plot number on your plot and the padlock numbers are facing up when you leave. 🙏

Thank you for your continued support

Rob, Lesley, Graham, Rachel, Arun, Ester, Natalia and Bob

Work Party Schedule 2026

During the week:

Plot Clearance and cut communal area grass and paths, cut/shred branches pile behind manure bay - contact poverestallotments@gmail.com to arrange times and machine/tool use.

March: Sunday, 8th March, 10am-12pm:

Drain clearance and cut/shred branches behind manure and wood chip bay.
Garage clearance. Plot clearance

July: Sunday, 12th July, 10-12pm:

Drain clearance and cut/shred branches behind manure and wood chip bay. Plot clearance

September: Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th, 10am to 12pm:

Perimeter fence clearing/tree pruning

November: Sunday 15th, 10am to 12pm:

Drain clearance, machines cleaned and drained

Event Diary 2026

April: Sunday 19th April, 3pm-5pm:

New season get-together (including seed swap)

September: Sunday 6th, 11am to 2pm:

AGM and BBQ

October: Sunday 18th, 12pm-2pm:

End of Season/International food celebration

December: Sunday 13th, 3pm to 5pm:

Christmas drinks, mince pies and cake

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