

March's Newsletter

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Ενημερωτικό δελτίο Μαρτίου - Biuletyn marcowy - Мартовская рассылка -
Márciusi hírlevél - Newsletterul din martie - Mart bülteni - Березневий бюлетень

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



Chairman's chat

As the sun starts making a more regular appearance, it's been great to see our community spirit shining through after such an exceptionally wet winter.

Thanks to everyone who joined the January working party — the roads were looking fantastic. Unfortunately, the constant rain since has taken its toll, especially at the northern end of the site. We're planning another small, ad hoc working party soon to lay fresh planings in the worst areas. Watch this space.

The main roads are now open again, but please only bring your car on site if essential. To help us manage access, we've installed a bright yellow folding bollard by the manure bay. It's much easier to use than the old cones and will only be in place when needed.

We know everyone is eager to get plots ready for the growing season. If you genuinely need vehicle access while the bollard is up, just email poverestallotments@gmail.com and we'll do our best to help.



March Work Party Fun!

Huge thanks to everyone who joined last Sunday's Work Party — what a team! We powered through the rubbish bag, fixed up the fence, cleared the garage, and even sorted out the pruning pile over the septic tank. Incredible effort all round.

Your energy and good humour made it feel more like a community get-together than hard work 🙌

And of course, big appreciation to Denis McCarthy and his wife Julia for handing out the teas and coffees; to Miriam O'Connell and Joan Vine for the delicious homemade treats – along with Padma's infamous lemon biscuits. You kept us all going!

Next up: New Season Get-Together on **Sunday 19th April, 3–5pm**. More details soon – no work involved 😊



Bromley Council and members of Bromley Allotments and Leisure Garden Limited (BALGL) will be visiting our lovely site for an inspection in early July. We don't have the exact date yet, but it will take place on a weekday evening.

As our landlords, they'll be checking how the site is managed and making sure we're meeting their terms and conditions. To help us put our best foot forward, it would be great if everyone could take a moment to look over their plots and tidy anything that shouldn't be there — things like storage of items that's deemed to be for business use, excess materials, or general rubbish. If we get in touch about your plot, please know it's simply to make sure we're all meeting the same standards and presenting the site at its best.

We're a fantastic community of growers, and we want that to shine through during their visit.



St Christopher's Open Garden 2026

St Christopher's Hospice have been in touch. They will be running their annual Open Garden on the 23rd of May this year between 10am and 1pm. They are reaching out to invite us all but also to ask if anyone would like to supply them with plants as it would be much appreciated. The event is held in the grounds of Caritas House in Orpington. Everyone is invited to attend, view their gardens, grab a cuppa and a roll and pick up some great plants all in aid of the hospice.

Please email Suzy Tookey at communityfundraising@stchristophers.org.uk



Not sure what to do with your tree prunings?

How about this from our Biodiversity Group.

You could recycle them in a **Hügelkultur**. Pronounced Hoo-gul-culture meaning hill culture or hill mound. A sustainable, organic method of gardening that mimics the natural decomposition of the forest floor often seen in Permaculture designs.

You can create a traditional hugel mound or build one within a raised bed. The bed or mound act as a sponge to hold water, reduce the need for irrigation, self-fertilize as the wood decomposes, and extend the growing season by warming the soil. Other advantages are reduced soil compaction and carbon sequestration. Once a year a top layer of compost or manure is added. No additional fertilizers should be necessary.

The 1st or bottom layer is made up of woody materials, first larger logs and then branches and smaller twigs. The 2nd layer nitrogen rich materials that kick-start the composting process e.g. fresh grass clippings, leaves, coffee grounds, leaf mould, straw, cardboard. The 3rd layer is compostable food waste, pulled plants, wet cardboard, rotting straw. Finally, a top layer of soil is added. Click the links to find out more.

<https://www.permaculture.co.uk/articles/the-many-benefits-of-hugelkultur/>

<https://seag.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/hugelkulturguide.jpg>

As always, please keep your speed down when driving on our site to protect the roads; please don't park blocking a road or in front of the wood chip and manure bays; 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.

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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