

April's Newsletter

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

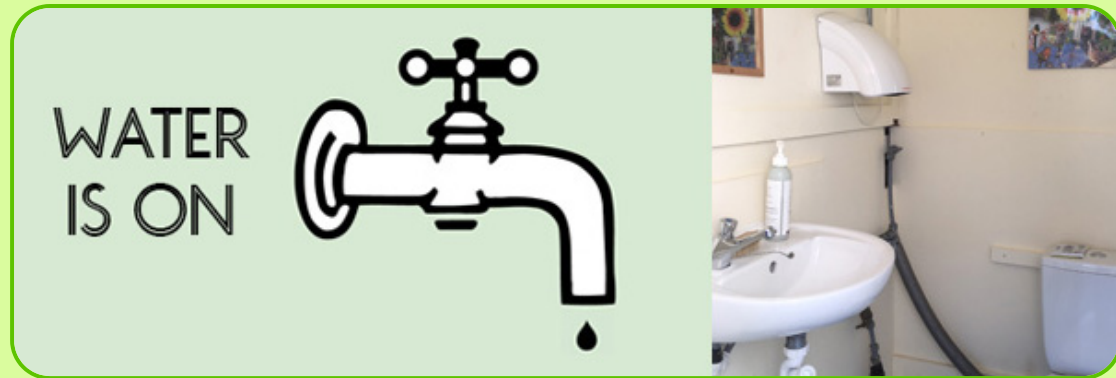


Chairman's chat

That big yellow thing in the sky has been a welcome sight in recent weeks, so much so that the waterlogged clay on my plot has been baked into something akin to concrete. There must be a sweet spot in the spring where the ground is neither too wet nor too dry, and every year I seem to miss it! It also means some of the ruts in the roads around the site have become difficult to level out, so if you intend to drive onto the site, please drive slowly and carefully.

Seed sowing is in full swing in my house. Not only am I sowing vegetable seeds and 'clogging up window sills everywhere' (© Mrs Winkley) but my 18 year old daughter seems to have caught the bug too and is now trying her hand at a range of annual flowers that might, if I ask her nicely, make some interesting companion planting on my plot or in the polytunnel.

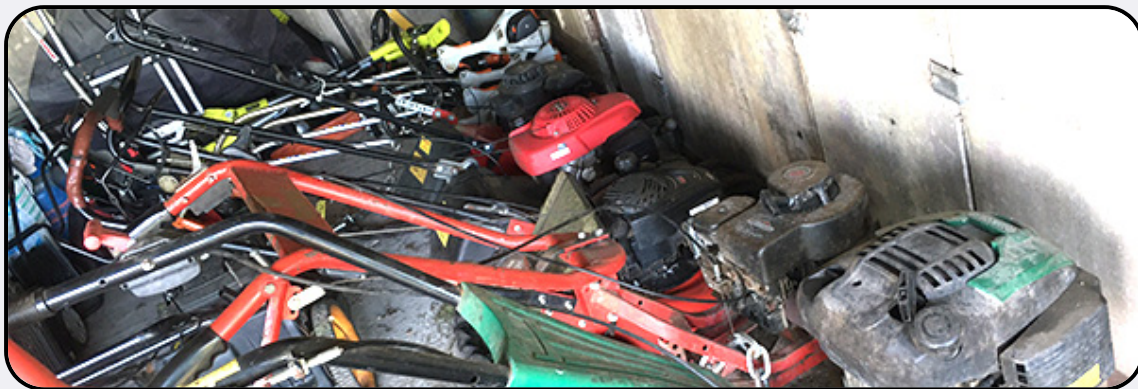
As with all planting endeavours on my plot, I always end up with far too many plants and I never have the heart to just toss them on to the compost heap. I know I'll have too many tomato plants this year and I also know some of you will be thinking you've left it too late to sow anything. Spoiler: you still have ample time to sow most seeds. But if you do have spare plants and seeds, or actually want to ask if other ploholders have spares, please use our Facebook page to advertise your spares or make a request. It is a great way to diversify the number of different varieties of tomatoes, peppers, brassicas etc. that you're growing on your plot. It's good to share.



Water is on and the toilets are open!

The toilets are open and the tanks should be full. We are aware of at least one tank (number 11) that needs a replacement lid, but can you all be vigilant and let us know if any are leaking/overflowing or not working by emailing us the tank number on top of the lid to poverestallotments@gmail.com. Water is our most expensive and precious commodity; please use it wisely and collect as much rainwater as you can with water butts especially as this is the best water ... not just because its free 😊

The toilets get cleaned once a week, but like you have done each year, can you help us by keeping them clean after using them. 🙏



Community Hub opening times

Our Community Hub is now open **every Sunday, 10am-12pm** until the end of October for all mowers, strimmers and rotovators.

Usual donations apply - see the noticeboard but it's £3 for a strimmer, £4 for a mower and £6 for a rotavators. Something new for this year – we will be asking you to enter your name, plot number and sign our book for each machine you borrow.

If you need any machines outside these times please email us at poverestallotments@gmail.com and we will try to accommodate.



City Nature Challenge 2026: Greater London

The City Nature Challenge are asking people to take a closer look at nature in London to find and identify wildlife on your doorstep between 24th April and 27th April 2026.

Families, and community groups across London are invited to look for nature in their gardens, parks, public spaces or homes. Every photo helps in this amazing worldwide effort to record as much wildlife as possible over four days! Anyone can join in the challenge, wherever you are in Greater London.

[Click this link for details.](#)

An up-to-date Species Alert Poster has just been put up on our allotment noticeboard. It would be much appreciated if you report your sightings of any of the wildlife listed, using the QR code.



This month I'll be mainly sharing...

3 lovely wicker baskets!

Each month I'll be sharing what's available for anyone to take from our sharing shed. The rules are simple, place anything that can be re-used in our sharing shed for others to take and make use of - recycling at its best.

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 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, 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, move last remaining wood at side of manure bay to back of site - 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

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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