

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2023 and a special welcome from all of us to our new plot holders this year .

As the growing season gets underway, here are a few little reminders for the year ahead:

**1. Plot numbers!**

Please make sure your plot numbers are displayed clearly on your plots. Apart from being a fun thing to create, they are extremely helpful for your committee when we do our site walks, and it is part of your plot tenancy agreement. If you don't remember your number just email us and we can let you know.

**2. Cars on site**

We all need to bring our cars on site every so often; so can we make sure you park your vehicle in one of the car parking areas or over enough on the site roads so that other cars can easily pass. See our map on the noticeboard for the car parking areas.

**3. Paths between plots**

It is our shared responsibility to cut the grass on the paths between and around your plots and generally keep them clear. Walking around the site is a great experience, very calming and good for your wellbeing – and a good way to meet and see what other plot holders are growing, and this maintenance makes that possible.

**4. Plot security**

We recommend you do not keep any valuables (tools etc) on your plots or in sheds. We also strongly recommend you do not lock any shed . Whilst we can all do our best to stop break ins (locking the gate behind you, checking any perimeter fences near your plots and reporting any holes etc) sadly they do happen and usually result in shed doors that are locked being broken off or damaged to get inside.

**5. Plot privacy**

Whilst we do encourage plot holders to walk around the site and enjoy it; plots are basically private land and each plot must be respected as such. Please don't go on anyone else's plot without prior permission or let children play on other people's plots. If you do spot others not on their own plots and you are not comfortable reminding them to not do so, please just either email us or speak with a committee member direct.

**6. Fly tipping on site**

We did really well last year with minimal rubbish being left around our site so it would be appreciated that we keep this up. Any rubbish on your plot is your responsibility and you must dispose/recycle it yourself at a local recycling centre like Waldo Road, Bromley.

**7. Water tanks**

As you may have seen on our Facebook Group ( Just search Poverest Allotments) we are challenging ourselves to try and use less water this year and promoting the use of water butts and other methods of watering like trickle systems. Water is a precious resource and an expensive one. Can we make sure all lids of our tanks are shut after use and please report any

leaks or overflowing as soon as you can either by email or letting a member of your committee know.

8. **Foxes**

Please do not feed the foxes. They can be a friend of our site by eating mice, rats and even slugs but if they get a better offer, they unfortunately become more of a pest than friend.

9. **Working Parties**

Through the year we will be asking as many of you as you can to join us on tasks like road maintenance, perimeter fence repairing/trimming, community shed repairs/painting etc. Watch this space!

10. **Talks**

Once our community shed is in a better condition, we will be organising events such as RHS/Horticultural talks inside. Again, watch this space for details.

11. **Biodiversity**

The London Borough of Bromley's biodiversity [plan](#) 2021 to 2026 aims to promote coordinated action for conserving, protecting and enhancing biodiversity at a local level. Biodiversity can simply be defined as the variety of life on earth in all its various forms. Our allotments are a critical part of the urban landscape for biodiversity. Joan Vine (plot 69a) has agreed to be the advocate for biodiversity for our allotment site and will be collecting data, for example sightings of specific species and act as a liaison between plot holders, LB Bromley (idverde) and your committee on biodiversity issues. Joan can be contacted at: [joanvine1@mac.com](mailto:joanvine1@mac.com) To kick things off, you may notice several clearly marked survey tiles on or around plots. Please do not move them. If you do not want to have one of these tiles on or near your plot, please let Joan or one of your committee know as soon as possible.

Above all else, a big thank you from your committee for your help and support on the above matters and here's to bumper crops!

Take care

Sam, Bill, Rob, John, Graham, Denis and Bob