

NEWSLETTER - June 2023

A warm welcome to our June Newsletter and especially our new plot holders.

A few things to cover this month:

1. Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) is on Saturday 5th August at 10.30am, with weather permitting, a BBQ straight after. The minutes from our last AGM are held on our [website](#) but should you wish a copy to be emailed to you let us know. If you have any specific questions, then it would be helpful if you emailed them to us the week before so we can answer them in full on the day. A full agenda will be emailed out the week before as well.

The BBQ will be very informal and just a great way for us all to chat afterwards and enjoy any food and drink you bring with you. Our esteemed Chairman will be on cooking duty, but it would be great for any volunteers to come forward to help us. The event will be held outside our community shed like last year, but if the weather is against us, it will be held inside and the BBQ sadly cancelled.

2. As mentioned in our last Newsletter and on our Facebook Group, we are trying to rely less on our water tanks so we will be keeping you informed of our monthly consumption and compare it with last years to see if we can use less by the end of the year. We've not had a great start thanks to a couple of leaks found after switching the water back on. However, we now have a weekly water tank check being done and along with your help we should catch any issues quickly. In May we used 18,920 gallons. Last year we used 27,940 gallons which is a fantastic start despite the leaks!

3. Speaking of water tanks, please make sure you close them (preferably without slamming) when you walk away from them. This sounds like overkill, but accidents do happen, and no one wants to be liable for anything horrendous happening. We added reminder signs on the underside of some of the tank's lids, but it was disappointing to see one such sign had been torn off. Any plot holder found doing this will be served a termination notice as these signs are for all our safety.

4. If you are bringing your car onto our site, please keep your speed down to 3mph at all times. Apart from the obvious safety reasons, this also helps protect our road surface and stops it spreading onto plots.

5. We have experienced a couple of break ins so far this year, so can we all do our bit to help prevent any more. Please close the gates after coming in or out making sure the combination of the padlocks are fully mixed up.

6. The next 'weed walk' will be the week beginning 19th June. For those who have received the first of the three weed letters and haven't been in touch, kindly arrange for your plots to be put in order to avoid your second letter. Please remember that it was agreed at our last AGM that weed letters have a cumulative effect irrespective of which year they are issued. So after 2 letters, a plot holder will receive a final 30 day notice to leave. We will always let you know in advance when the next weed walk will be and we are here to help if we can, so always contact us before things get too much.

7. Can all dog owners keep their dogs on a lead whilst on our site. This was agreed at our last AGM where we had a vote on as to whether dogs were allowed on site. It was agreed that they could as long as they were kept on a lead.

8. Also discussed at great length at our last AGM was the supervision of children on our site. We welcome all youngsters who are potentially the next generation of growers, but we won't tolerate

children playing on other peoples plots and causing damage. Termination notices will be served if parents do not adhere to this.

9. We've had a delivery of Farmyard Manure and Compost (peat free) and both are £4.50 a bag and available from our community shed on Sundays, between 10am and 12 noon.

10. Biodiversity matters - Thank you so much if you have been looking out for reptiles and other wildlife. Just an update on the Reptile Survey we are conducting with idverde. So far, 3 slow worms have been discovered under the survey tiles and other plot holders have reported another 6. There have also been 2 viviparous lizards reported. Great news!

idverde is keen to be made aware of sightings of several species. Kindly see our notice board for a poster providing details including how to report sightings.

If you prefer you can post your sightings on our [Poverest Allotment Facebook Group](#), and Joan will report them to idverde with hers.

If you would like to read the Bromley Biodiversity Plan that recommends best practice guidance for protecting and enhancing biodiversity in the Borough, including on allotments follow this link <https://www.bromley.gov.uk/biodiversity>

See you at the AGM!

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