

## NEWSLETTER - July 2023

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

A few things to cover this month:

1. **Our Annual General Meeting (AGM)** is now on Saturday 26th August at 10am, 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. **We held a Committee meeting on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> July** and the minutes from that meeting will be posted on our noticeboard and website [here](#). A few action points from that meeting to make you aware of:

Lesley Adnett (plot 31B) has been appointed as Deputy Membership Secretary and will be primarily looking after weed letters and new plot holder introductions.

As of writing, we have 6 vacant plots and currently no waiting list – which is unusual. If you know of anyone in the area looking for a plot, or you would like to take on another, please get in touch by email at: [poverestallotments@gmail.com](mailto:poverestallotments@gmail.com)

Main gate padlock chain has been extended – please let us know whether that has improved or made worse it's operation.

The lower gate will be realigned as currently it is somewhat awkward to enter and leave by.

The manure bay has been cleared of woodchip to allow for deliveries to made in it and signs have been ordered to make it clear which is which.

The perimeter hedges and fences around our site will not be cut back until the bird nesting season has totally finished. A working party has been put in diary for Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September to do the cutting back. We hope as many of you as possible can join us to help out. Refreshments will be provided etc. In the meantime, should any stray brambles stick out into the road please help us by cutting them back taking care as you do as they are quite prickly!

We are looking into our First Aid responsibilities. We have several First Aid kits (in our community shed and committee member own sheds) and we are looking into a defibrillator box for the outside wall and perhaps an external first aid kit for all to use if necessary. However, in most cases you should just dial 999 or use this handy St John's Ambulance app for your phone: [Free Mobile First Aid Apps - St John Ambulance | St John Ambulance \(sja.org.uk\)](https://www.sja.org.uk)

**3. June's water usage figures are in.** We used 12,980 gallons. This time last year we used 32,115 gallons so a significant difference! Obviously, the weather for this June hasn't been as hot but it's still a great start and with the help of all us using water butts and some very creative ways of water retention/keeping weeds down, as well as water trickle systems; we can really help keep the costs of this precious resource down.

We urge you to take a moment to walk round our site and take inspiration from what some ploholders are up to in this respect.

**4. Communal paths between plots** – please make sure all communal paths around your plot are clear to allow access in-between.

**5. Please make sure any grassy areas on your plot are kept in check** and cut accordingly. It is not acceptable to have parts of your plot with high grass that will blow seeds onto neighbouring plots.

**6. Biodiversity update** I was invited to attend the recent Allotment Committee meeting to provide an update. Several matters were discussed and agreed to help promote and enhance local biodiversity. Kindly see the minutes from the meeting for full details.

A Sharing Shed is to be sited to the left of the Community Shed. Plot holders can donate unwanted garden tools and small pieces of equipment for shared use.

Poverest Allotments, and an adjacent meadow, is being considered for recognition as a site of importance for nature conservation (SINC). This is because we have a good range of wildlife habitats, such as areas of scrub and our perimeter hedges. Being awarded as a SINC would be beneficial as we should receive help to enhance and protect wildlife, and the allotments should have a high level of protection within the Borough's planning system.

The area behind the Community Shed has been allocated for wildlife habitat development.

Thanks to everyone contributing to the reptile survey and any other citizen science projects. The information I have compiled from data shared will be forwarded to Idverde in November.

It's National Allotment week from 7<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup> August 2023. This year's theme is the Soil Health. See the National Allotment Society's website for more information <https://www.nsalg.org.uk/news-events-campaigns/national-allotments-week/#:~:text=National%20Allotments%20Week%202023%20will,Allotment%20and%20Leisure%20Gardeners%20Ltd>

Please read the alert poster on the noticeboard about Asian Hornets to help protect our native species.

**See you at the AGM!**

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