

April Newsletter, Kwietniowy biuletyn, Апрельский информационный бюллетень, Квітневий інформаційний бюлетень, Бюлетин за месец април,

Welcome to our April newsletter and a warm welcome to any new plotholders!

April Working Party!

This month we gathered together to pick up litter from our site. A big thank you to those who came along and made short work of it!



Our next working party is Saturday May 12th, and for a change we will be meeting up from 3pm-4pm to clear the water drain and gully at the bottom of our site. This is so important to keep clear as it helps us all with the water drainage from our site. It's very easy to get involved and is for everyone; all we ask is for you to wear gloves and appropriate footwear. There's the usual free refreshments and snacks to boot!

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible weather permitting of course!

Fly-tipping

Speaking of litter and rubbish, sadly there have been a couple of occasions recently where some of us have been dumping rubbish on others plots. Whilst very rare, this is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. If you see anyone doing this, please report them to any of your committee. Tenancies will be terminated immediately. We will add this as a topic for discussion at our next AGM as we are sure, if we all put our heads together, we can stop this happening.

Diseased tree overhanging middle road wood chip area – update



Firstly, many thanks to the plolders bringing this to our attention. The Council was advised immediately, and we sent out an email and a post on our Facebook Group to stop anyone using the wood chip and potentially spreading the disease. The Council have replied, albeit a touch vague:

Thank you for the photos and information. This boundary line was surveyed last week and there are a number of jobs raised to sever ivy and to deadwood trees that overhang the allotments which are in hand to be completed by the contractor.

State changed to: In progress

For now, please do not use the wood chip and please stop anyone you might see trying to use it until we get a definitive reply/action from the Council.

Water tank update

You have informed us of at least two water tanks on our site which had clogged valves and were either filling very slowly or overflowing. These have now been fixed and a big thank you to Bill and John for sorting these out for us. To make things slightly easier to report any issues, each tank has been allocated a number and those are shown on the map on our noticeboard. We have a working party lined up to have all the tank lids, renovated, painted, signs added along with numbers to make it even easier to identify.

Parking

As our season finally gets underway and more of us are on site, can we please ask you to be mindful of the limited amount of dedicated parking areas we have and if possible, only bring cars on site when it's absolutely essential. The spaces are clearly marked on the map on our noticeboard and our website. The area in front of the wood chip and manure bays at the front gates is for loading/unloading only and is not to be used for parking. By doing so stops the delivery of manure and wood chips to our site which we all enjoy for free unlike most allotment sites in the borough.

Parking on others plots is not acceptable unless you have their permission – this is particularly important up the middle road in front of plot 31A and 32A. The current owners have expressed a wish for people not to park on the grass at the front of their plots.



Road repairs

Whilst the weather has improved, we are still battling with drainage and road conditions at the bottom corner of our site. A temporary 'drain gulley' has been dug but please keep your speed down to 3mph as this saves what we do have in terms of road surfaces. We have a working party weekend to improve the road surfaces and will hire a digger and dumper and extra road surfaces all that week to help.

Sharing shed update

Once we have a few more dry days this will be painted and be ready for use. Committee member Graham has done an amazing job and will also be fitting shelves and tops inside soon.

Weed letters.

We have put back doing the first weed walk of the year to give you extra time to get your plots tidy and all the grass levels down, due to the very wet start to the year. We will be starting the first weed walk on the 4th May so please make sure that grass levels are under control, you have started to get your plots ready for the growing season and all rubbish piles are removed from the site.

Scout Trip

On Thursday 23rd May the 9th Orpington scouts will be visiting the site to learn about growing and looking after plants, they will be working on plot 46a with Silvi whose plot it is and will have appropriate staff to accompany them. There will also be members of the committee there to make sure the children stay under control.

But I think you will all agree that is a great thing for us to have children coming to our allotments to learn about growing their own food instead of them thinking it just comes from the supermarket.

Biodiversity Update

It was warm enough one day last week for someone to come across a lizard while they were working on their plot. The Amphibian and Reptile Conversation [ARC-trust.org](https://www.arc-trust.org) provides information about the best way to help these creatures. As do the Woodland Trust at <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/animals/reptiles-and-amphibians/common-lizard>

Hopefully there will be many more sunny days ahead and so a chance to spot our native reptiles and other creatures.

Take care and enjoy your plots!

Bill, Lesley, John, Rob, Graham, Denis, Bob

Working Party Diary 2024

May 4th

Saturday, 3pm-4pm

Water drain clearance

June 8th

Saturday, 10am-12noon

Water tank lid maintenance and painting

July 13th and 14th

Saturday and Sunday, 10am-12noon
Road works

August 3rd

Saturday, 10am-12noon
Water drain clearance

September 28th and 29th

Saturday and Sunday, 10am-12noon
Perimeter fence pruning

November 2nd

Saturday 10am-12noon
Water drain clearance

Events Calendar 2024**May 4th**

Thursday
9th Orpington Scouts Visit

September 14th

Saturday, 11am-2pm
Annual General Meeting (AGM) and BBQ

October 26th

Saturday, 12noon-5pm
International food and end of season natter

December 14th

Saturday, 3pm-5pm
Christmas drinks, mince pies and cake