

# Allotment Updates Feb 2026

## Allotment Lease Reviews

- It is coming up to the time that we renew, and issue new leases, and we have begun the individual plot review process. We hope to make this as smooth as possible and will be offering groups a mix of digital and in-person chats. We will be in touch with your main allotment contact person directly.
- We will also be sending out evaluation forms to be completed by all allotment members. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us at [communityallotments@lauristonfarm.org](mailto:communityallotments@lauristonfarm.org)

## Sheds & Allotment Clean-Up

- We aim to keep the allotments tidy for the enjoyment of the whole community - with only essential growing supplies being stored in the sheds and on plots. However, things do accumulate over time.
- Join us at **10:30 am on Saturday the 21<sup>st</sup> of February** for an allotment "spring cleaning". Soup will be provided at around 12:30.
- Please send at least one representative from your plot to help tidy your designated space. Please also note that we will not hire a skip on the day and members should take any rubbish from their own plot or shed space away with them as per our community guidelines.
- **RSVP** by writing to [communityallotments@lauristonfarm.org](mailto:communityallotments@lauristonfarm.org) so that we can have a rough idea of numbers for lunch.

## Polycrub/ Shared Greenhouse

- Following popular demand from plot holders last year for a shared greenhouse space, we are pleased to let you know that the farm has been successful in securing funding for a polycrub at the allotments. The materials have already arrived as you may have seen near the entrance, and we hope to begin construction this month.
- This is not going to be a space for plots to grow their own indoor crops - although this may come later. We envision it as a shared space for collective propagation - growing seedlings of key crops to provide to all allotment holders.
- This space will be managed together, we are looking for a group of people who would be able to commit to growing, caring for and distributing the seedlings in the tunnel. This group would also be involved in mapping out the interior layout. If you are interested in supporting with this, please email us at [communityallotments@lauristonfarm.org](mailto:communityallotments@lauristonfarm.org) and we'll set up a meeting.

## Chicken Co-op

- Another frequently requested item by allotment holders has been the idea of a chicken co-op - similar to the one at the Granton Community Garden. We would like to explore the feasibility of setting one up at our allotments and to better understand the level of interest and capacity across our community.
- In order to set one up here, we would need a dedicated group of people who would be able to commit to a weekly rota to look after the chickens and their space.
- Initial assistance would be required from the group to help build the structure as well as making a small financial contribution towards the upkeep of the chickens. This would be in return for a regular supply of eggs for the chicken co-op members. If this sounds like you, please register your interest by writing to [hannah@lauristonfarm.org](mailto:hannah@lauristonfarm.org)

## Community Tattie Project

- The big tattie patch (near the Lauriston Farm Road) is back again this year. The Tattie Project was launched in 2025 to trial a new model of *Community Supported Growing* focused on building resilient local food systems (where local communities can source food from local farms, relying on local support and exchange networks) as a sustainable pathway to mitigating the effects of climate, financial and other shocks.
- Last year the project produced over 1000kg of potatoes and brought together several local organisations - including Community Renewal; Spartans; Drylaw Neighbourhood centre, among others - who collectively invested in the planting and care of the crops in return for a harvest that went back into their communities, pantries and meals across North Edinburgh. (You can read more about the project and its outcomes by following the link [here](#) or by visiting our farm website).
- Our new 2026 tattie patch will diversify to include several bean varieties as well as hosting our "History of Wheat" demonstration area. If your organisation would be interested in participating write to us at [communityallotments@lauristonfarm.org](mailto:communityallotments@lauristonfarm.org)

## Other new communal areas

- New shared beds: as you may have noticed, we created a new rhubarb and raspberry patch next to the Silverknowes golf course gate. This rhubarb will not be ready to harvest until 2027 however, you can carry on harvesting from the original bed near shed 1. We will continue to create new shared growing spaces across the year.
- Pond area development: the allotments are rich in wildlife - being home a vibrant non-human community that enhances our own growing activities. To continue to support this ecosystem, we are re-developing the pond area with additional habitats and food for wildlife.
- We will also be expanding the area to include a new therapeutic ("Flourish") plot as a space where people can reflect, relax and mindfully connect with themselves and the land. With the help of allotment growers, community groups and volunteers, we hope to co-create a space that will include a medicinal herb, sensory and arts and crafts garden. If you would like to get involved, please write to [hannah@lauristonfarm.org](mailto:hannah@lauristonfarm.org)

## Seeds Sharing

- Each year we open our “seed kist” to share seeds (that have either been donated to us or that we have saved ourselves from the farm) with the whole community. Join us this Valentines Day **(at 10-11:30am on Saturday the 14th of February)** to share a love of seeds. You can donate seeds to the Kist for others or take away seeds to help you get started with your own growing this season.
- If you are looking to buy your own seeds or for more information about seed saving and why seed sovereignty is important, you may find the following [information sheet](#) helpful. Further guidance is offered at our seed saving workshops scheduled across the growing season.
- We have many other lovely events planned throughout the year and we will continue to update you regularly about allotment socials and other activities. You can also stay informed by [signing up to the farm newsletter](#).

## Compost & Top Soil

- The first delivery of compost and topsoil will be made on the first week of March and thereafter on:
  - First week of May
  - First week of July and
  - Last week of October
- We encourage growers to use this compost equitably, being mindful that everyone in the community gets their share, and remembering that established beds only require a light top up of compost once a year.
- The best kind of compost is ‘homemade’ and we further encourage all allotment holders to make their own and to develop a composting plan for their plot. We will provide guidance and offer support to growers throughout the year on how create and maintain simple compost bays on their plots.