



Best Greenhouses UK 2026

Composited off the Internet

By Gareth Richards

A greenhouse is the upgrade that pays you back every season. Start tomatoes, chillies and cucumbers weeks earlier, harden off in safety, overwinter tender plants, and keep growing salads long after the outdoor beds have packed up. The trick on an allotment is choosing one that copes with an exposed, sometimes unattended site, and fits whatever your society allows.

## 6 Greenhouses Compared

| Type                      | Best for                     | Glazing             | Price | Buy         |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|-------|-------------|
| Mini grow-house           | Tiny plots, seedlings        | PE cover            | ~£30  | Check price |
| Walk-in Polytunnel        | Max growing space , low cost | PE cover            | ~£70  | Check price |
| Aluminium + polycarbonate | Best all-rounder             | Polycarbonate       | ~£190 | Check price |
| Aluminium + glass         | Looks + light                | Horticultural glass | ~£350 | Check price |
| Wooden frame              | Traditional plots            | Glass/poly          | ~£450 | Check price |
| Lean-to                   | Against a shed or wall       | Polycarbonate       | ~£150 | Check price |

What size do you need?

Bigger than you think. Everyone fills a greenhouse in the first season and wishes they'd gone one size up. A 6x4ft is the sensible minimum for a plot: room for staging down one side and grow-bags down the other. If your society allows it and you've the space, 6x8ft gives you a proper working aisle and room to overwinter pots. Check your tenancy agreement first, because some sites cap greenhouse size or ban glass outright.

Glass or polycarbonate?

On an allotment, polycarbonate usually wins. It doesn't shatter, which matters on a site where footballs, foxes and the odd break-in happen, and twin-wall polycarbonate holds heat better than single glazing. Glass lets in more light and looks the part, but a single cracked pane on an exposed plot is a recurring headache. If your site has had break-ins, polycarbonate is the safer money.

Anchor it or lose it

The number one greenhouse failure on allotments is wind, not cold. A light aluminium frame will cartwheel across the site in the first gale if it isn't bolted down. Concrete the base or fit proper ground anchors, and it's the single most important thing you'll do.

Getting more from it

Most plots have no power, so heating is about trapping what the sun gives you. That is also the limit of it: an unheated greenhouse in February sits near freezing, which is why a lot of people start seed at home in a grow tent for vegetables and only move plants out here from April. A roll of bubble wrap insulation on the inside of the frame buys you a few degrees on frosty nights, and a paraffin or a small greenhouse heater keeps the frost off tender seedlings in early spring. Add staging to double your growing levels, and an automatic vent opener so it doesn't cook on a hot day when you're not there.

## Pro Tip

Put the greenhouse where it gets morning sun and some afternoon shade if you can, and run the ridge roughly east to west. And leave the door end away from the prevailing wind, so you're not fighting it every time you go in.

Pair it with a decent shed for storage and a watering system so it doesn't dry out mid-week, and you've got a proper little growing set-up.

## How to Contact the Editor

If you have comments or you know I have given wrong advice then please contact me by email at

[gareth.richards@yeovil-allotments-association.co.uk](mailto:gareth.richards@yeovil-allotments-association.co.uk)

If you have something to contribute or have a say on allotment life, then please use my email to send your contributions.

I am going to process the magazine issue once a month, so if there are comments you would like to make they can be answered in future editions.

I would like to add that most of the articles are taken off the web and some well known gardening and allotments magazines have been read in the making of our magazine content.

We also have our own website at :

[www.yeovil-allotments-association.co.uk](http://www.yeovil-allotments-association.co.uk)

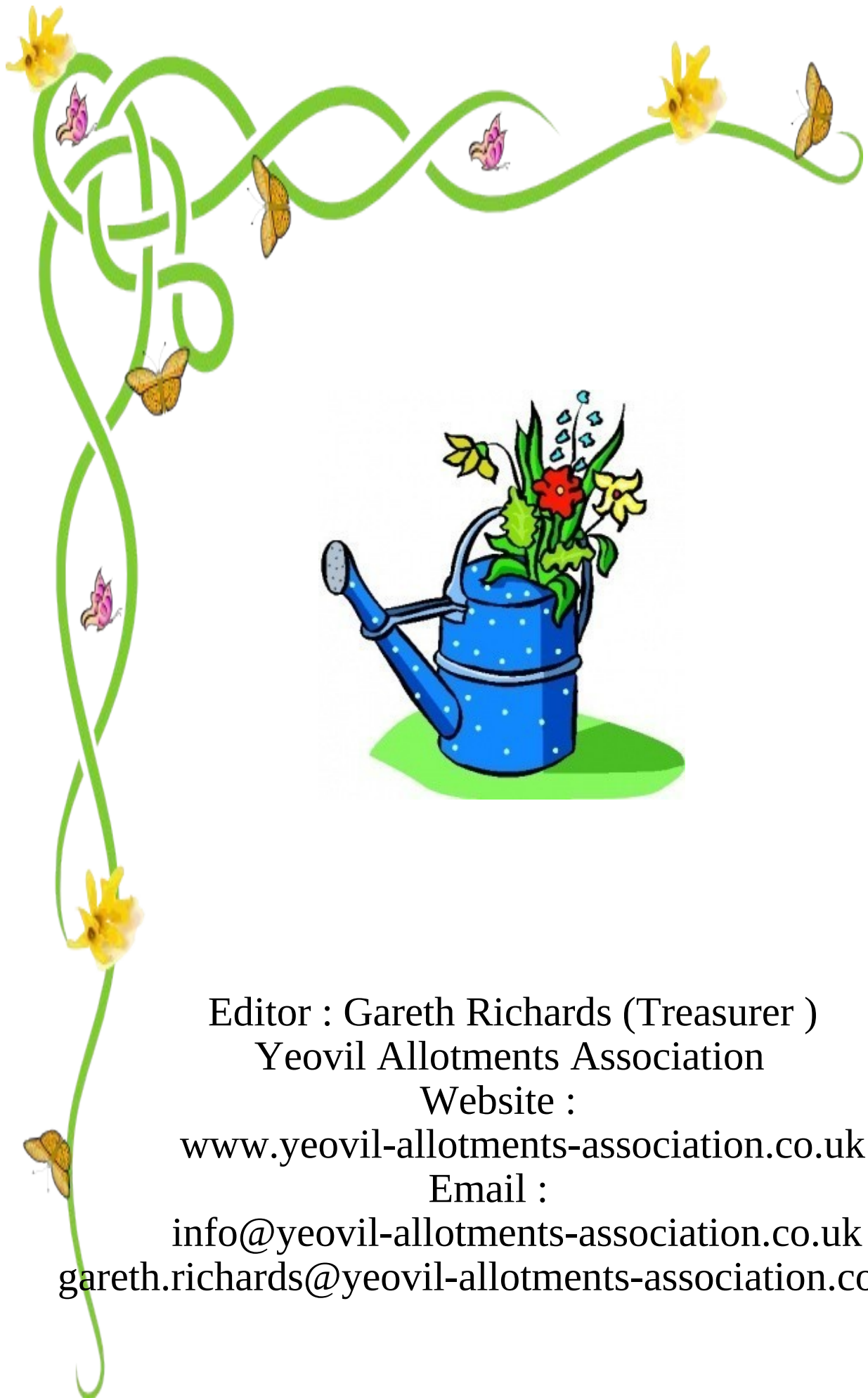
where you can find this magazine as well as a catalogue

Happy Allotmenting and best wishes,

Gareth Richards

Treasurer

Eliz Flats, Plot 14



Editor : Gareth Richards (Treasurer )

Yeovil Allotments Association

Website :

[www.yeovil-allotments-association.co.uk](http://www.yeovil-allotments-association.co.uk)

Email :

[info@yeovil-allotments-association.co.uk](mailto:info@yeovil-allotments-association.co.uk)

[gareth.richards@yeovil-allotments-association.co.uk](mailto:gareth.richards@yeovil-allotments-association.co.uk)