



Allotments Newsletter

Welcome to the 2005 NHDC Allotments Newsletter!

The last twelve months has seen continued growth in interest for allotment gardening across the district. Waiting lists of keen prospective gardeners now exist on eight of the twelve sites managed by the District Council. With this in mind, tenants thinking of giving up their allotment are requested to contact Allotment Administration as soon as possible so as not to disappoint prospective new allotment gardeners with unnecessary delay and whilst the plot is in a presentable condition.

What a load of rubbish!

With the majority of sites approaching full occupancy there are no vacant plots or communal areas for allotment waste. It also makes the sites unsightly and encourages vermin. Removal of rubbish is increasingly expensive and the limited maintenance budgets available could be better spent elsewhere on improvements to the sites. All green waste should be composted on the allotment plot and

Leaflets are available from Allotment Administration to help. If any ironmongery, sheds or other non-compostable waste needs to be removed tenants should contact the Grounds Services section on 01462 474635.

NHDC Allotments Strategy

The District Council has constructed an Allotments Strategy that brings together promotion, maintenance and long term investment in allotment provision for the District. It is presently in draft form for consultation with interested parties. It will form the basis of allotment provision for the future.

Allotment Associations

Baldock Allotment Association has a store and sometimes arranges excursions.

Tel. Mick Camp 01462 893418

Hitchin Allotment Association has a strimmer available for members.

Tel. Pam Canning 01462 712983

Letchworth District Gardeners Association caters for all gardeners, has a store at Norton Allotments and arranges talks.

Tel. Maureen Hersee 01462 742475

Site Representatives

Baldock	Clothall Rd	Martin Luker	01462 892464
Baldock	North Rd	Mick Camp	01462 893418
Hitchin	Burford Way	David Mather	01462 625253
Hitchin	Old Hale Way	Martin Alexander	01462 440845
Hitchin	Pirton Rd	Vacant	
Hitchin	Ransoms	Ellie Clarke	01462 431338
Letchworth	Hillbrow	Vacant	
Letchworth	Norton	Gordon Whitfield	01462 630448
Letchworth	Pryor Way	Annie Burcombe	01462 632447
Letchworth	Radburn	George Dear	01462 679115
Letchworth	Runnalow	David Squire	01462 646975
Letchworth	Wilbury	Roy Butt	01462 677123

Parks & Countryside Team wishes all allotment gardeners a successful growing year

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National Allotments Week

Each year in August National Allotment Week co-ordinated by the National Association of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners promotes the awareness and

Baldock Allotments

A discretionary grant from Baldock Area Committee to Baldock Allotment Association has led to the re-rotation of a number of vacant plots to encourage new allotment gardeners to the North Road site.

Hitchin Allotments

'Best Kept Allotment 2004' organised by Hitchin Allotment Association in partnership with the Parks & Countryside Development Team, overall winner was Mr Cyril Page for his plot at Old Hale Way.

A grant application by Hitchin Allotment Association to the Allotment Regeneration

Letchworth Allotments

The Tanglewood Trophy for the best kept allotment in Letchworth organised by the Letchworth District Gardeners Association was awarded to Mr Tommy Cox for his plot at the Norton site.

Leaf it out!

The depositing of leaves during the autumn on various allotment sites by the Street Cleansing and Grounds Maintenance Contractors was stopped this year. The reasons for this is that on many sites previous years leaves had not been used and had become infested with weeds and vermin. Additionally these piles of leaves were blocking car parks and becoming a problem. Various sites had asked for these piles to be moved around the site or disposed of completely, which is an additional expense to the Council. In order to tidy up the sites and to reduce costs this annual practice has had to cease.

availability of allotments with a range of events and activities.

If any tenants or Associations have any ideas and would like to take part, please contact the Parks & Countryside team on 01462 474369.

A community woodland is being planted at North Road site on a section of unused allotments. Previous planting of an arable weed meadow and orchard of local fruit tree varieties will enhance the community and biodiversity value of the site.

Initiative (which was only open to community groups) for the repair to the roadways at Old Hale Way site was unsuccessful.

However, Grounds Services has used the spoil from nearby roadworks to cover the car park area, which had become increasingly waterlogged.

The roadway at Runnalow Allotments has had a makeover with road scrapings from works elsewhere in the town.

It's too big!

If you find your full size allotment plot is becoming too big to handle, then why not consider downsizing to a half plot at half price, Allotment Administration can make the change.

NHDC contacts –

Stella Mansell –

Allotment Administration – 01462 474253

Stephen Sears –

Parks & Open Spaces Officer – 01462 474369

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