



Allotments Newsletter

Welcome to the 2007 NHDC Allotments Newsletter!

The last twelve months has seen continuing strong demand for allotment plots across the district. Waiting lists are being kept under control with initiatives such as more frequent cultivation checks to speed up changeover of tenants and allocation of 5-pole plots rather than 10. NHDC currently serves over 100 more allotment gardeners than 2 years ago.

NHDC Allotments Strategy

The North Hertfordshire District Council Allotments Strategy is now drawing dividends with over £35,000 of investment in much needed improvements at Old Hale Way. Roadways have been rebuilt, fencing replaced, new gates, new water standpipes to improve availability and as always, rubbish removal.

Waiting Lists

What do you mean waiting list, that plot is so rough it must be vacant?

Well no, it may well be uncultivated (about 5% of plots are at any one time) but all plots are tenanted. Non-cultivation is a nuisance to neighbouring tenants and unfair to prospective tenants on waiting lists keen to get started.

It may be that the tenant is suffering a period of illness or family trauma or may just have lost interest. That is why regular cultivation checks are made during the season. Non-performing tenants are contacted as to their intentions and asked to cultivate their plots by a certain date.

Then what?

A proportion of non-performing tenants will respond by declaring they wish to continue or wish to relinquish their plot. The plots of those who do not respond are inspected again.

If found still to be uncultivated, the tenants are informed that their allotment agreement has been cancelled and the plot is re-let.

Similarly, if a plot fails a cultivation check on two consecutive occasions.

This process is irrespective of the annual rental period.

Before



After



National Allotments Week 2007
will be 13th – 19 August

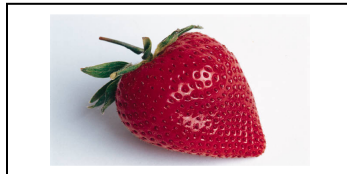
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Runnalow Allotments

A group of Runnalow tenants have requested the possibility of a devolved maintenance grant similar to the arrangement already in existence at the Baldock sites.

On the 13th February 2007 Jeff Barber of the Allotments Regeneration Initiative gave a

Offices on the advantages and pitfalls of self - management of allotment sites.



'Best Kept Allotments 2006'

Organised by Hitchin Allotment Association and Baldock Allotment Association in partnership with NHDC Parks & Countryside Development Team.

Overall winner for Hitchin was Mr Maurice Howe for his plot at Old Hale Way.

Overall winner for Baldock were the Overton family for their plot at North Rd

Allotment Associations

Baldock Allotment & Leisure Gardeners Association has a store and sometimes arranges excursions.
Tel. Mick Camp 01462 893418

Hitchin Allotment Association has a strimmer available for members.
Tel. Roger Sandy 01462 455907

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

Burford Allotments

During March 2006, NHDC Grounds Management Team ploughed and rotovated an area of ground at Burford Way not cultivated for many years. 12 new tenants from the waiting list took up the challenge immediately. A 'Get to know the Neighbours' evening was held in June to welcome allotment gardeners old and new. The site has just received a 'new' gate and fencing as well as a combination padlock for security. NHDC Hitchin Area Committee is supporting the site by funding preparation of more unused plots.

Site Representatives

Baldock	Clothall Rd	Martin Luker	01462 892464
Baldock	North Rd	Mick Camp	01462 893418
Hitchin	Burford Way	Vacant	
Hitchin	Old Hale Way	Martin Alexander	01462 440845
Hitchin	Pirton Rd	Steven Webster	01462 431390
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	Vacant	
Letchworth	Wilbury	Roy Butt	01462 677123

NHDC contacts:

Telephone: Customer Service Centre on 01462 474000
E-mail: Service@north-herts.gov.uk
Parks & Open Spaces Officer - Stephen Sears 01462 474369

Fees & Charges

Council Members decide the levels of allotment rents on an annual basis. This year's rental charges should accompany this newsletter.

Don't forget that half price concessions are available to the over 60's, unemployed, full-time students over 18, those on Income Support and those receiving disability benefit. Contact the Customer Service Centre for more details.