



Allotments Newsletter

Welcome to the 2008 NHDC Allotments Newsletter!

Once again the last twelve months has seen continuing strong demand for allotment plots across the district.

There are presently 680 allotment plots in the urban areas of Hitchin, Baldock and Letchworth managed by NHDC.

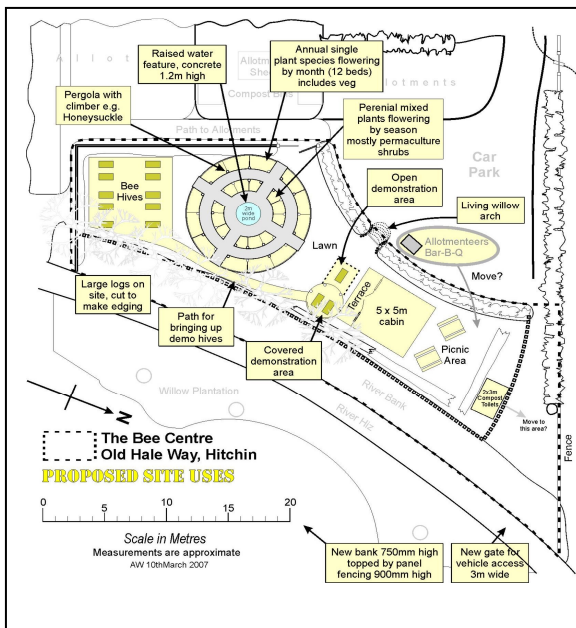
About half of current tenants have been allotment gardeners for less than 4 years.

Maintenance Works

Throughout the Autumn of 2007 extensive maintenance works took place on most sites with fencing replacements, new gates, new padlocks, new water standpipes and roadway repairs.

As always, extensive resources were used in yet more rubbish removal!

The major proportion of the rubbish was green waste. There is no need for this, green waste should be composted on tenant's individual plots utilising composting equipment such as displayed below obtainable from local garden centres. Any pernicious weeds should be stored in a plastic sack until unrecognisable and then added to the compost bin.



Old Hale Way

The Hitchin Bee Centre "Buzzworks" continues to take shape. Members have completed stage 1 with the construction of their Bee equipment shed and Bee lawn. Group leader Robin Dartington recently presented the project to Hitchin Area Committee for support and is also working towards a WREN (Landfill Tax Scheme) to raise funds for stage 2 – Community Bee Garden, Discovery Centre and plant nursery. The Hitchin Bee Centre Association can be contacted on tel. 01462 450707.

HURRY! LIMITED STOCKS AVAILABLE

BARGAIN BINS

The Recycle Now Home Composting Campaign is a government funded scheme to encourage people to reduce the amount of organic waste sent to landfill.

So how is it possible to sell bins at such low prices? Buying in large volumes direct from manufacturers lets Recycle Now offer the bins for less. In addition to this, Recycle Now subsidises the cost of the bins and free home delivery. This means that customers can purchase a standard 300l black compost bin for only £10 when the regular price is £50.00! Free home delivery is also included in this reduced price, so hurry and order yours today as stocks are limited!

<p>Compost Converter (220ltr)</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H90cm x D74cm • Strong, sturdy construction • Sliding hatch for easy access to compost • No assembly required • 100% recycled material <p>ONLY £8.00 FREE DELIVERY <small>(Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price £60.00)</small></p>	<p>Compost Converter (330ltr)</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H100cm x D80cm • Strong, sturdy construction • Sliding hatch for easy access to compost • No assembly required • 100% recycled material <p>ONLY £10.00 FREE DELIVERY <small>(Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price £20.00)</small></p>
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Buy a kitchen caddy for only £2 when you buy a bin* (Regular price £5)

ORDER YOUR BIN ONLINE AT www.recyclenow.com/compost OR CALL 0845 077 0757 QUOTING REFERENCE HER04 YOU CAN NOW ORDER YOUR ACCESSORIES ONLINE TOO!

2007 saw the transfer of Allotment Administration from Leisure Services to the Customer Service Centre. The CSC currently deals with 6-10 communications concerning allotment provision every day.

National Allotments Week 2008
11th – 17 August

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Downsizing

Tenants may not be aware, but if your plot is becoming too large for your purposes or too big to maintain, why not down size to a smaller plot or take on a co-worker from the waiting list?

Half plots are half the work and half the cost. Allotment Administration can help with this at any time of year.

Vandalism

Sadly, anti-social behaviour or wanton vandalism occurs on all of the sites from time to time. Incidents should be reported to the Police and/or the NHDC Anti-social Behaviour Officer.

It should be noted that NHDC Insurance does not cover private possessions on allotment sites and this includes crops, tools and sheds.

'Best Kept Allotments 2007'

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

Overall winner for Hitchin was Mr Tom Stewart for his plot at Old Hale Way.

Overall winner for Baldock and awarded the Basil Bryant Cup for his plot at North Rd was Frank Conway.

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.

Tel. Maureen Hersee 01462 742475



Following on from their success in creating special raised allotment beds at North Road, for those with disabilities, Herts Young Offenders Team have created children's mini-allotments at Norton.

Site Representatives

Baldock	Clothall Rd	Martin Luker	01462 892464
Baldock	North Rd	Mick Camp	01462 893418
Hitchin	Burford Way	Eddie Arnold	01462 442524
Hitchin	Old Hale Way	Martin Alexander	01462 440845
Hitchin	Pirton Rd	Steven Webster	01462 431390
Hitchin	Ransoms	Max Summerhayes	01462 431292
Letchworth	Hillbrow	Closed	
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 –

Allotment Administration – 01462 474253

Stephen Sears – Parks & Open Spaces Officer – 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 Allotment Administration for more details.

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