



Allotments Newsletter

Welcome to the 2009 NHDC Allotments Newsletter!

Demand remains strong for allotment plots across the North Herts district.

There are presently 715 allotment plots in the urban areas of Hitchin, Baldock and Letchworth managed by NHDC.

About one third of current tenants have joined the allotment gardening community this last year alone!



Old Hale Way

The second phase of "Buzzworks" is now taking place with the construction of the Community Bee Garden, Discovery Centre and plant nursery. WREN (Landfill Tax Scheme) provided a grant of £25,000 towards the project.

'Buzzworks' also took the bronze prize in the 'Kitchen Garden Magazine' national competition to find the best community project on an allotment site. (Featured in the January 2009 edition)

'Buzzworks' also took the 'Great & Green' prize in the Comet Newspaper local community awards.

Robin Dartington of 'Buzzworks' can be contacted on tel. 01462 450707.

Maintenance Works

Throughout the Autumn of 2008 extensive maintenance works took place on a number of sites.

With new fencing, gates and footpath at Ransoms.

New fencing, gates and new water standpipes at Wilbury.

Other items included removal of asbestos, rubbish clearance and water pipe repairs.

Please report leaking taps or underground water faults as these can waste considerable amounts of water if left unchecked.

Not just fruit and veg!

Ashley and Susan have made a success of growing dye plants such as madder, weld and woad on their allotment at Ransoms in Hitchin. After trial and tribulation, they are now achieving a spectrum of dyes to use on wool, silk and cotton complimenting their other hobby of spinning.

For further information contact the North Herts Guild of Spinners, Weavers & Dyers.



The Woad plant

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Co-workers

Tenants may not be aware, but if you have others helping on your plot, they should be recorded as a co-worker. They then have first refusal on your plot should you wish to give up allotmenting. Otherwise the plot will be allocated to the next person on the waiting list. Contact Allotment Administration to update your records

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 2008'

Organised by Hitchin Allotment Association and Baldock Allotment & Leisure Gardeners Association in partnership with NHDC Parks & Countryside.

Overall winner for Hitchin was Mr Fred Huckle 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 Conwav.

Allotment Associations

Baldock Allotment & Leisure Gardeners Association has a store and machinery for lending to members.
Tel. Mick Camp 01462 893418

Hitchin Allotment Association
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

Hope 2008

Volunteers from local church groups under the banner of Hope 2008 carried out some improvements at Burford Way with the laying of a gravel pathway, cutting back encroaching vegetation, rubbish removal and painting of the gates.

National Allotments Week 2009

10 – 16th August

Young Offenders Team

Following on from their success in creating children's raised allotment beds at Norton, Herts Young Offenders Team have created some more at Wilbury. A waiting list is already in operation.

Site Representatives

Baldock	Clothall Rd	Restricted data	
Baldock	North Rd	Mick Camp	01462 893418
Hitchin	Burford Way	Restricted data	
Hitchin	Old Hale Way	Martin Alexander	01462 440845
Hitchin	Pirton Rd	Steven Webster	01462 431390
Hitchin	Ransoms	Restricted data	
Letchworth	Hillbrow	Closed	
Letchworth	Norton	Gordon Whitfield	01462 630448
Letchworth	Pryor Way	Annie Burcombe	01462 632447
Letchworth	Radburn	Clive Collins	01462 676732
Letchworth	Runnalow	Vacant	
Letchworth	Wilbury	Roy Butt	01462 677123

NHDC contacts –

Allotment Administration – 01462 474831
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.