



# Hertford Town Council

## Allotment Newsletter - Autumn 2024



HERTFORD TOWN COUNCIL

### WELCOME ...

to the Autumn edition of Hertford Town Council's quarterly Allotment Newsletter.

Our aim is to keep you up to date with new developments and share tips on keeping your allotment in good condition.

The Council is also looking forward to hearing from tenants about your allotment news and successes!



### Hertford 2030—Have your say...

Please scan the QR code below or click on the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/N3HSTML> to share your thoughts in our quick survey. Tell us what is important to you and help Hertford Town Council reach our environmental goals by 2030.



### Website and Email Addresses

Allotment notices, information and invoices will be sent via email. Please email: [allotments@hertford.gov.uk](mailto:allotments@hertford.gov.uk) if you change your email address, phone number or home address, or if you haven't received emails from us lately.

Our website [www.hertford.gov.uk/services/allotments/](http://www.hertford.gov.uk/services/allotments/) contains links to the site plans, structures application form and links to useful websites.

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2024 had a very wet start, and has continued to be a mixed season weather wise. We hope that after the late start, you have had fruitful harvests.

### Update on Allotment Improvements

Wyld Edges ran two workshops at allotments on Sunday 29 September with one session in the morning at Hertingfordbury and another at Cromwell Road allotments in the afternoon. The workshops were about the permaculture method of cultivating allotments. A session run by Hertfordshire and Middlesex Wildlife Trust took place on 6th October at Cromwell Road allotments. This session talked about the various wildlife found on the allotments and what can be done to encourage pollinators and other beneficial wildlife.

The recycling area at the Cromwell Road site will be carried out later in the year outside of peak growing season.

Officers have asked the contractors that removed a large tree branch from the castle grounds to deliver the woodchips to Cromwell Road allotments. This has been delivered to the community plot opposite the bee garden, so please help yourself to woodchips.

Officers will be undertaking an accessibility audit of allotment sites later in the year and improvements will be made as necessary.

Changes have been made to the Town Council website: [www.hertford.gov.uk](http://www.hertford.gov.uk). The plans of the allotment gardens are available to download and a number of useful links are provided for tenants. Applications for structures (shed/greenhouses) are now online, which we hope make it easier for tenants. The printable forms will still be available if requested.

### Rent Increase 2025

The invoices for 2025 will be sent out via email over the next few months. The rent for 2025 will be going up to £7 per pole per annum. Invoices can be paid via BACs or by card either in person at Hertford Castle or over the phone. Details will be on your invoice.

### Competition Winners

Congratulations to the following people who won this year's allotment competition:

#### Best Wildlife Habitat

Gary J for his bug hotel with predator proof hedgehog entrance and wildlife pond.

Gill P and Sarah W's family were runners up.



#### Best Barrow Display

Kay G for her display of squashes and other produce and for recycling last year's scarecrow!

Kayla W and John F's entries were highly commended.

Thank you to everyone who entered this year's competition.

The Council will be considering options for next year's competition. Further details will be sent out next year.





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HERTFORD TOWN COUNCIL

## Lovely Grub Garden

### Community Engagement

Members of the Committee showed LGG presence at the Environment Climate Hope event at All Saints Church on 21st September, promoting the garden as an opportunity to belong to a gardening project and growing organic produce with a sustainable approach.

We hope to gain interest from residents who have some free time to commit to regular volunteering and ultimately take an interest in the continued running of the project. On reflection, over this past season in order to make the best use of the space at the Lovely Grub Garden, we do need the ongoing support of more volunteers. Disappointingly, there hasn't been the expected interest from visitors to the garden event in May, or from approaches to social prescribers.

Good news is Terri has started her young gardener sessions. "Little Green Thumbs", which is off to a steady start.



### Garden Activity

The garden remains open for regular summer sessions, on Fridays 3-5pm; first Sunday and third Saturday in the month also 3-5pm.



The garden is proving to be a mini-wildlife paradise. The frog pond may be a bit small though, and we are considering making a larger pond. Adult slow worms have been found in the compost bins, baby slow worms in the raised beds, along with the occasional frog, unusual butterflies and caterpillars.

## North Road Plot Holders Group

### Recent Activities

It has been a somewhat difficult growing year so far. A major challenge for our members has been the abundance of slugs due to the mild winter and cool damp spring. The number of these pests and the destruction they can cause, has tested the resolve of the most committed organic plotholders! Our members' WhatsApp group has been very active in sharing experiences and offering tips. In order to increase the number of frogs and toads, slugs natural predators, we are having a competition to create the best frog/toad house.

We have recently created a wildflower area, with a pond, in our communal area. From being a bare patch of land just a few months ago, it has been transformed into a stunning mass of colour, and the pond is already occupied by young frogs and newts. Our monthly work mornings continue to be well attended, allowing us to maintain the site. We have recently gone for a more natural, rather than manicured look in our orchard.



We have purchased another electric mower and electric strimmer and in order to cope with charging these from our batteries, we are now adding a small wind turbine alongside our solar panels.

Congratulations to our Secretary Pam, who won the Hertford in Bloom first prize in the allotment category!

## Mudlarks Community Garden

Well! That was the wettest start to the summer in the last eight years I've been at Mudlarks. Having no sun or warmth had a big impact on propagation, and seedlings were slow to appear. Slugs and snails seemed bigger than ever and the use of lambs' wool and coffee grounds couldn't defeat them. To add to our woes, the rabbits are on the increase and have now made their way into our vegetable plots.

As the summer holidays began we welcomed the summer scheme students and for the first time we hosted the Playwaze children. We welcome SEN children to provide them with activities over the long break, and provide respite for parents/carers. We welcomed 4 staff to help over the summer: Anna, Cameron, Iwan and Alfie.

We had our open allotments on the 14th July, for which the weather was really kind. We made our traditional ploughman's using salad and new potatoes from the allotments.

The annual rounders match this year was hosted by Fanhams Hall. Due to the incredibly wet weather we had to make our own entertainment, so we had a beetle drive and a quiz which always brings out the competitive spirit and a great evening was had by all.

After many a wet day, we have finally managed to send the cafe some amazing vegetables and flowers for the tables. We now have a produce bench out side our main gate at the allotments which is proving to be very popular.

We are delighted to be involved in the Castle Greenspace project, and the clearance of plants by the Castle walls has really opened up the beds and the views of the walls. We are looking forward to starting the new tender work, and eventually to replanting in the beds to enhance the beauty of the castle grounds. We have worked in the castle grounds for about 14 years, and have long wanted to be able to improve all the beds, so we are very excited about the future of the castle grounds.



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# Give Hertford's Hedgehogs a Helping Hand!



Yes, there are still some hedgehogs like me in Hertford!



But we need help to get into more gardens to find enough food and shelter to thrive

George- rescued and released in Hertford



## If you love them, let them in! Make a HEDGEHOG HIGHWAY:

Hedgehogs can't burrow under our fences or climb over them, they can't even climb tall steps. Make a 13cm by 13cm hole in or under your fence. Ask your neighbours to do the same, linking your gardens to surrounding areas. Please record this on [www.hedgehogstreet.org/](http://www.hedgehogstreet.org/) Need help? Want a hedgehog highway sign? Contact us: [krahertford@gmail.com](mailto:krahertford@gmail.com) Can't link your back garden?- make your front garden a hedgehog haven with the tips below instead. **No garden?** See if you can do any of these things in a nearby green space or at your school, community centre or where you work.



**Put out a dish of water.** Hedgehogs get thirsty too, a dish of water can be a **life saver**. Hedgehogs need access to fresh water all year round- some hedgehogs even wake up during the winter to have a drink.



**Put out food.** If you can afford to, they like kitten biscuits or tinned cat or dog food (not fish). (You can make a feeding station to stop cats stealing it!) *Remember no milk or bread.* And always **put water out too.**



**Let it grow, let it grow, let it grow!** The insects, slugs and snails that hedgehogs eat, can't thrive on paving and plastic grass, so please try to minimise these. Leave a patch to grow wild, or plant anything you like, just please avoid slug pellets as these can kill hedgehogs.



**Make a home for a hedgehog.** A safe place to hibernate and have babies: A compost heap, log pile or a custom-built hedgehog house.



**Why not spy on your hedgehogs?** You can make a see-through feeding station using a clear plastic box or even get a camera!

Please **share pictures** of your hedgehog friendly garden improvements and any visiting hedgehogs! [krahertford@gmail.com](mailto:krahertford@gmail.com) or on our Facebook.

**Worried about a sick or injured hedgehog?** Contact the British Hedgehog Preservation Society on 01584 890801. [www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk/](http://www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk/)

Many thanks from the Kingsmead Residents Association Committee. [www.krahertford.org](http://www.krahertford.org)