

HERTFORD TOWN COUNCIL ALLOTMENT NEWSLETTER

Spring 2024

WELCOME ...

to the spring edition of Hertford Town Council's quarterly allotment newsletter

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

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



Allotment Survey

Please [click here](#) to complete the survey. Closing date is 9/4/24

April is a busy month on the allotments.

Tasks include tidying up plots, soil preparation, weed removal and sowing of seeds. Whilst undertaking these and other jobs please think about the environment and the wildlife on the sites:

HELP THE PLANET - REPAIR, REUSE, RECYCLE!

In July 2023, the Town Council declared a Climate Emergency, in response to current thinking about the changing climate and how this will affect everyone. The Council is committed to reducing Hertford's carbon footprint, with the help of residents.

One brilliant way to do this is by reducing the amount of waste we produce – this diminishes the need for raw materials, saves energy and fossil fuels, and diverts materials away from landfills and incinerators.

Five tips to reduce waste

1. **Compost!** Lots of advice on how to compost garden waste from the Royal Horticultural Society here: [Composting / RHS Gardening](#). You can even use old plant waste on your paths!
2. **Make something new from something old** – can you reuse that old bucket as a plant pot? Or use that apple tree pruning to make hedging or plant supports?
3. **Advertise** usable items you don't need on your Allotment Social Media group or noticeboard, or Freecycle.
4. **Repair rather than replace** – consider taking items to Hertford Heath's Repair shop or setting up your own.
5. **Make weed soup fertiliser:** fill a bucket with water and weeds not suitable for compost. Cover and leave to rot down into a 'weed soup'. This works particularly well for tough weeds such as brambles. Once rotted down, use the rich liquid fertiliser for your crops or to add to compost.

Allotments Officer Retires

After 22 years in the post, Hertford Town Council Allotments Office Suzie Viitmaa retired at the end of March. We thank Suzie for her many years of service and wish her all the best in her retirement.

Jo Paxton will be undertaking the administration for the allotments. If you need to contact Jo please email allotments@Hertford.gov.uk



North Road's Resident Peacocks

North Road Plottolders' Group

Contractors working on behalf of Network Rail clearing the ditch on the eastern boundary spotted Kingfishers whilst working, so keep an eye out for them.

Preparation of the wildflower area continues with planting scheduled for Spring. They are also looking to add further solar panels for charging electric mowers and strimmers.

Winner of Best Scarecrow Competition



Marie Thompson won the Hertford Best Scarecrow competition with her collection of all 5 Spice Girls.

New Rules Banning Pesticides from April 2025

The Council has published new rules for plot holders for the use of pesticides and herbicides which you should have received by email.

A copy is also available on our website but if you would like a paper copy please let us know.

Royal Horticultural Society's advice on organic gardening on their website: [Organic Gardening/RHS Gardening](#)

Mudlarks Community Garden

A 2,500 ltr water tank was installed by the shed, which will contribute to saving mains water. This was great fun to get into the allotments. It has had trellis put round it so it blends in with the environment, and the rainwater will be well used on the vegetable plots this year.

Mudlarks were delighted to be able to join the Lord Lieutenant and councillors in planting the tree at Herford Castle for the King's coronation. We have added care of the tree and watering to our jobs list, and will ensure that it thrives!

More information about Mudlarks can be found on their website: mudlarksgarden.org.uk

News from the Lovely Grub Garden



Over the winter, the garden continued to be open for regular sessions, on Fridays 11 to 1pm; the first Sunday and third Saturday in the month also 11 to 1pm. Unfortunately, wet and windy weather caused some damage to the polytunnel, which was repaired but may need to be replaced later in the year.

Volunteers are still required - To get involved in this lively Community Garden, visit their Facebook page: [Facebook.com/groups/lovelygrub.garden.hertford](https://www.facebook.com/groups/lovelygrub.garden.hertford) Or email: lovelygrub.hertford@gmail.com