

Allotment Newsletter Winter 2020



Keeping you up-to-date with the latest news and handy tips for looking after your allotment garden in Stevenage.

Welcome to the latest issue of the Allotment Newsletter. It has been a busy year, with the allotment management handed back to the council, software system updates and the upcoming appointment of a dedicated Business Support Officer for allotments. Not to mention, managing the impacts of Covid-19. Thank you for your continued support during this unprecedented time.



Key contact details:

Email: allotments@stevenage.gov.uk

Tel: 01438 242323

Important notice - 2021 rent

For a number of years we have invoiced allotment rents in December for the period 1 January - 31 December the following year. However, invoices for January - December 2021 will be issued in February. The invoices will include an increase in rental charges.

Like the majority of local authorities up and down the country, the financial impact of Covid-19 has created difficulties, and we are reviewing fees and charges across all services.

Allotments is one of our services that has always been heavily subsidised, and we felt it fairest to look at charges for services that do not benefit all residents.

Since the allotment administration was returned to the council in December 2019, we have had to invest in an upgrade to the software used. We are currently recruiting for a dedicated Allotment Support Officer, and this has incurred additional costs for the management of our allotments.

It is broadly recognised that the allotments, and plot holders, benefit from a much higher level of support and on-site provision than many of our Hertfordshire neighbours.

Our sites benefit from:

- secure boundaries
- good water supply throughout the sites
- toilet facilities to many sites
- car parking to a majority of sites.

We trust that you will understand, and support, the need for the above changes. Further information will be provided after Christmas.



Cultivating Christmas Quiz

Just for fun, we have put this little quiz together for you to have a go at.
(*Answers provided below)

1. What Christmas plant often grows high up on the branches of a host tree?
2. What effect does frost have on parsnips and some other veg?
3. Who made Christmas trees popular in England?
4. What are 'nobby greens' otherwise known as in England?
5. Allotments were traditionally measured in rods, poles or perches. Which is biggest?

**1)Mistletoe 2)It makes them taste sweeter
3)Prince Albert 4)Brussel sprouts 5)They are
all the same - 5 metres.*

Looking after your plot

The majority of our allotment holders take much pride in their sites and keep them clean and tidy. This is a reminder that any waste generated from your plot is your responsibility to dispose of. It is important to keep your site free from any unnecessary items, including ensuring you are not using your site to store items not intended to support your allotment. You have a duty of care to ensure your waste is disposed of responsibly and keep the sites looking clean and green for all to enjoy.



Why did Father Christmas work three allotment plots?

So he can ho, ho, ho!



Handing plots back

If you're thinking of handing back all or some of your plot, we have a long waiting list of people keen to get started. So please let us know at your earliest convenience so we can reallocate it.

Wishing you and your families a very merry Christmas. Happy gardening!

You are receiving this newsletter as it provides useful information, tips and updates on allotment matters in Stevenage. However if you no longer wish to receive these newsletters in the future, please email us: allotments@stevenage.gov.uk