

Compost Corner

'Our Garden Away From Home'



It all started when the family were watching a programme about green waste and composting Adel tells me, and became a journey which to their great surprise resulted in a first prize for 'Best Effort' as newcomers to Melrose Allotments.

Adel, Andras and their two children Danuta and Nandor began growing strawberries in pots, and reminisced on how they grew veggies in the ground, growing up in Hungary. They felt it was timely to harness the interest being shown by their 4 and 6 yr olds, teach them about how compost was formed and integral to growing nutritional food in a healthy environment. Since they were not able to dig up the garden of their rented accommodation, Adel looked up 'how to rent a garden for vegetables' on the internet and came up with allotments in Herts.

She was surprised to get started so quickly, from an enquiry made in January '17, to digging the allotment in April. Despite it looking very green (with weeds), they hit the ground running and rented a rotovator for a weekend. It was a bit expensive, but within two days the whole plot was dug, saving time, and they could get things in the ground straight away.

The children loved spending every Sunday there, and had jobs to do helping with the planting, watering, and weeding, and learning to identify the weeds from the seedlings. All unwanted greenery was put onto the compost pile. They especially loved collecting worms for the pile having learned that it was worm activity (burrowing though, eating and excreting the greenery) that helped create rich compost – food for plants.

It has never been a problem to get the children involved, Adel explains, they love learning about growing vegetables and fruits, not to mention harvesting and eating them! They are very proud of what they have achieved, and notice the difference in taste between home grown and shop bought sweetcorn. Not one opportunity for learning is wasted, even the snow during January was explained as acting like a blanket to protect what was still in the ground including all the creatures. Of course, they already knew what snow was good for!

The next project is to make space on the window sills to begin growing the seedlings for this year like onion, garlic and tomatoes. Adel says they are still eating their stored potatoes and carrots from last year, and invites me to come see how they store their carrots in sand, which keeps them totally fresh.

Now they are getting requests from work colleagues and their families to look after the allotment when they go on holiday, or to just

come visit and see what is happening. Partner Andras who works in construction finds that watering the plants after a long day is a very relaxing antidote.... I'm sure the worms gratefully agree as they munch through all the uncooked, uneaten Christmas Brussel sprouts in green bins and on compost piles in and around Borehamwood.


Anne Nicodemus



Danuta



Nandor and Danuta



EBRA Chairman: Andy Lewis
 chairman.ebra@gmail.com
 Mobile: 07930 637 673

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ELSTREE & BOREHAMWOOD
RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
Started in 2013

Open to all residents in Elstree and Borehamwood.

Our mission is to safeguard and promote the interests and views of local residents on matters concerning the community e.g. housing, infrastructure, local environment, social facilities and amenities in the area.

CURRENT ISSUES INCLUDE:

- Local Plan Consultation • Planning • Community Matters

NEXT MEETINGS:

Tues: 20th March & 15th May 2018 - arrive at 7.50pm
 (meeting is from 8pm to 9.30pm prompt)

WHERE:

St Teresa's Parish Centre (next to St Teresa's church)
 Near: 291 Shenley Road, WD6 1TG

*£6 annual household membership or £2 entrance fee.
 Free parking at rear of church & free refreshments available.*