

# Compost Corner



## Town Council Allotments

Elstree and Borehamwood Town Council manages three allotment sites – at Melrose Avenue, Borehamwood, Allum Lane, Elstree and our newest site at Stapleton Road, Borehamwood, which opened in 2017. We also maintain the cemeteries at All Saints Church in Borehamwood and St Nicholas Church in Elstree.

Allotments have been around for centuries, perhaps dating back to Anglo Saxon times. However, they really came to prominence as a result of industrialisation and the rapid growth of towns and cities in the 19th century.

By the late 1940s there were over 1.5 million allotment sites encouraged by the wartime “Dig for Victory” campaign and post war rationing.

People rent allotments for a whole variety of reasons. The food they grow costs less, tastes better and is fresher and healthier than at the supermarket. Plot holders said in a survey that their love of allotment gardening stems from the fresh air, the home grown produce, the health and exercise benefits and the opportunity to meet like-minded people.

Allotments are also essential habitats for wildlife and cultivating an allotment benefits biodiversity. In fact a one square metre patch of land can support hundreds of visible species.

This summer has been one of the hottest and driest on record which has brought challenges to allotment holders and wildlife alike.



At a number of the sites we manage we have left some areas uncut to encourage wildlife.

We have also encouraged allotment holders to take part in this summer’s Big Butterfly Count – a nationwide survey of the health of the nation’s butterfly and moth populations as these insects are great indicators of a healthy environment.

### Melrose Avenue

As part of this year’s Civic Festival we held an open day at the site to explain the benefits of renting an allotment to prospective tenants.



### Allum Lane

We have six beehives at this site, managed by Andreas Thiaka, who as well as being an allotment holder is also a licensed beekeeper.

Bees are a great addition to any allotment site as they play a vital role in pollinating plants and fruit crops. Having beehives nearby leads to higher yields and better quality produce.

### Stapleton Road

As with all our sites, Stapleton Road is a real haven for wildlife. This August, one of our plot holders, Jack was surprised and delighted to find that a pheasant had chosen to lay her eggs amongst his crop of carrots!

*Will Goddard*  
Town Council Groundsman



**We have a small number of vacancies at our sites. If you would like to find out more about renting an allotment plot please call: 020 8207 1382 or email: [admin@elstreeborehamwood-tc.gov.uk](mailto:admin@elstreeborehamwood-tc.gov.uk)**