

Hempland Lane-Heworth Allotment Association



Autumn Newsletter 2017



Hot from the Hut!

Committee Members

Name		Plot
Ellen Bradbury	Committee Member	9
David Brinklow	Site Secretary and Treasurer	14
Nigel Collinson	Secretary	66
Gayle Enion-Farrington	Chair and Publicity Officer	34,35
Lisa Tindale	Committee Member	59b
Lorraine Wood	Shop Manager	64
Dave Wood	Shop Manager	64
Julian Ayres	Committee Member	43b
Ann-Marie Knowles	Committee Member	16
Available !	Easy Access Plots Rep Would You Like to Represent this Area?	?
Jean Pulleyn	Committee Member	81
Ray Walker	Committee Member	26
Mark Farrington	Website Administrator (not part of the committee)	35

Would you like to represent the Easy Access Plots? If so please speak to a committee member

Future Management of Council Allotment sites in York

You should all been in receipt of a letter from Dave Meigh at the council this week, informing us that there is a meeting with Nigel Ayre, Executive member for Culture, Leisure & Tourism Councillor on 25th September (or his stand in, if he is still suspended!).

Rents would go up by 20% in 2018 if the Council stay in control. The rents for 2018 have not been discussed by the Trustees. It is suggested that the current software is not 100% suitable for purpose, there is a problem if a plot is split into two the system will not let it be re amalgamated again. David reiterated again he has not had any contact from the Trustees whatsoever.

There are lots still to be sorted including maintenance contracts & as a site/Association we need to decide what we need. As a committee, we are deciding on your behalf what jobs need doing on our site (ie hedge cutting, path maintenance, fences, water mgt etc). We will contact the Trustees with a list of items we want, so that they know where we are, but instead of relying on this charity, we have decided to work with the payback team on key tasks.

Huge Thank you to all that attend our Summer Fair - Grand total raised was £272.57

ALLOTMENT SHOP - Is open every Sunday 10am-12noon until mid - late October 2017. Hot Drinks are also on sale, with proceeds going towards fundraising the easy access area.

SHOP

In addition to the fresh produce, plants, seeds, fertilizers, canes and netting etc that the shop sells, we currently have a large amount of second hand tools, going for bargain prices!!!!

Please also remember to support your shop and you can also donate and excess produce from your plot, directly to the shop, so that it can be sold on Sundays between 10-12noon. Fruit, Veg and seedlings are always wanted. Did you know that the spare beds on the easy access plots (waiting to be refurbished) are currently being managed by the committee and friends, so that we can sow / plant spare seeds and plants from the shop and then sell the produce to association members on a Sunday.

Our Chairperson Gayle, has also been busy over the Summer and soon our 2 gates near the Shop will be refurbished to be more suitable to open, if anyone has any mobility challenges / wheelchair and pushchair users (which are being paid for by City of York Council and we already have the money in the bank, as Gayle agreed to project manage it, as they could not spare anyone). The work aims to be completed by the end of September 2017 (please be patient during this time). She is also liaising with York's Probation Service Team to get local offenders to work more regularly on our site (as they used to do a number of years ago, as more recently with the path laying last year). With the City of York Council distancing themselves from us a bit, we need to build up such links ourselves. Hope you have seen their work so far on the easy access area and they are now starting to help with empty plots, chippings bay and soon will look at fencing projects. They will be on the site wearing HiViz jackets most Sundays and sometimes in the week. Please make them feel welcome.

Future dates for your Diary

Sunday Morning Café - open every Sunday until October 10-12 noon

Strimming Weekend 23rd and 24th September 2017 10am - 2pm each day (wildlife area)

Fun Autumn Show Sunday 24th September 2017 12noon - 3pm (at Shop)

You should all know about this now as extra notices had been put up advertising the show. Extra forms were now available in the shop & Nigel had a supply in his van. Entry form is now available on the website as a download document, so there are no excuses - come and join in. Submission date for entries would be Sunday 17/9/17. Exhibits to be in place by 11 o'clock on the 24th so that judging can take place. Robin Gomersall & Stephen Parry to judge the entries.

We will have a BBQ the same as at the Summer Fete and we have a new bigger & better BBQ so there will be more capacity for cooking. The BBQ will be from 12-3 with people to bring their own food to cook, we will provide bread buns, sauces & the like. Due to some suggestions from attendees at the Summer Fete, there will be a "Donation Box" near the BBQ on the day to help cover some of the costs.

Harrogate Autumn Show 15th - 17th September 2017, At the Great Yorkshire Showground, Harrogate, HG2 8NZ

Harrogate Spring Show 26th - 29th April 2018 info from info@flowershow.org.uk

Edible York - St Nicks Autumn Fair and Apple Day - 14 October 2017, 11:00am to 3:00pm

Seeds update from Nigel

We all buy too many seeds, it is a plot holders "hobby hazard" I think. Well about ten days ago I opened a packet of Spinach seed that was dated 2009. Thinking I had nothing to lose I planted several trays & lo & behold about 90% germination! They are growing on for a couple of weeks & will then be planted out so as to overwinter, value for money or what?

Talking of seeds, you will be pleased to know the Kings 2018 seed catalogue has now arrived. For those of you who have used Kings Seeds you will know what great value they are and to say the least they are very keenly priced.

As with last year Nigel (Plot 66) will be coordinating our orders for our site. The catalogue is only available to Hempland Lane Allotment Association members, just another benefit of our excellent value for money £5 annual membership fee. Don't worry if you are currently not a member you can still join at the shop on a Sunday morning or indeed get an application form from Nigel.

The deadline for orders this year is **Saturday 4/11/17** so you have plenty of time to browse the catalogue & make your choices for 2018. Please ensure your completed order forms are back to Nigel by the above date along with appropriate payment (including postage - see order form) either by cash or cheque. Please make your cheques payable to Hempland Allotment Association. Don't be afraid to try something new for 2018 as well as planning to use old favourites.

Here are a few suggestions I may be trying.

Beetroot *Forono* a half long stump rooted type. Said to produce large roots which store well & are excellent for slicing & pickling. Value £0.85 for 275 seeds

Pumpkin *Goosebumps* one of my favourite things to grow but I have not come across this variety before. A warty skinned pumpkin so very decorative to look at & would be fun for children to grow 6 seeds £1.20

Pepper *Volante Hot Red F1* a very decorative looking plant from the picture so would make a good house plant? £1.80 for 8 seeds will need bottom heat to germinate.

To sow now! **Sow these undercover** endive and Florence fennel up to this weekend, lettuce (late August sowings to overwinter as small plants), claytonia, oriental leaves, salad rocket and true spinach.

August is fantastic for sowing salad rocket, oriental leaves and spinach. Sow by this w/e in order to have vigorous harvests through autumn, sow later in month for smaller plants in autumn that may overwinter more strongly.

- chervil - coriander - dill - land cress - wild rocket - spinach by mid August for autumn cropping, any salads in mid August for planting September and to grow under a cloche,
- Spinach - spring onion - spring cabbage late August for overwintering small.

Sow outside same as undercover but approximately a week earlier

September Sow undercover

- *For outdoor planting to crop in autumn/winter* lambs lettuce, mizuna, salad rocket,
- *For outdoor planting to overwinter small, in early September* sow lettuce, spinach, chervil, coriander, dill.
- *For undercover planting* sow in early to mid September all salads (includes spinach, chard mustards, kale etc which you can grow large for cooking), spring onion.

Of course all outdoor sowing at this time of year can be a bit more "hit & miss". Try & use at least some of your plot during the Autumn & Winter months, as I have said before you pay for your plot all year so get full use out of it. A few cloches, some fleece or cold frames can extend the seasons considerably.

Look out now for spring bulbs arriving in the likes of Deans Garden Centre, The Range, B&Q & in catalogues. A few bulbs here & there on your plot will lift your spirits in late winter & early spring and could last for several seasons, go on treat yourself!

How to grow potatoes indoors for Christmas harvests

Now is the time to be considering growing some spuds in pots ready for your Christmas lunch ... did I mention Christmas aaahhh!!!

1. Use a container at least 30cm (1ft) deep and wide, with drainage holes in the base (specialist potato-growing containers are also available but why would you buy one?).
2. Add a layer of potting compost or garden soil mixed with garden compost or well-rotted manure. A layer 10cm (4in) thick is sufficient for 30cm (1ft) deep pots, but larger containers can be half-filled.
3. Plant one to three tubers per pot, each with about 30cm (1ft) of space, and cover with 15cm (6in) of compost or soil.
4. As the foliage develops, earth up the potatoes with further compost or soil until the container is full to within 5cm (2in) of the top. Leave a lip to aid watering.
5. Keep well-watered and feed with a general-purpose liquid fertilizer.
6. Ensure the greenhouse or cold frame remains frost-free as the season progresses, as potato foliage would be damaged by frost.
7. The foliage will yellow and die down in late autumn and can then be removed and composted.
8. Tubers can be left in their pots in compost (kept fairly dry) until needed at Christmas.

Marrow and Tomato Chutney - Thank you Amy Tuxworth

3lbs Marrows
1lb ripe tomatoes
2 onions peeled
2 garlic cloves, skinned
2 tsp black peppercorns
2 tsp all spice
2 tbs salt
2 tsp ground ginger
1.5 lbs sugar
1.25 pints of cider vinegar

Pell the marrow, remove seeds and cut flesh into $\frac{1}{2}$ inch chunks. Skin and roughly chop tomatoes and roughly chop the onions and garlic.

Finely crush peppercorns and allspice with pestle and mortar.

Put all the ingredients in a large saucepan. Heat gently stirring until sugar has dissolved. Bring to the boil and boil steadily, stirring occasionally to prevent sticking, for about 50 minutes or until reduced by heat (but not liquid).

Cool Slightly, then pot, cover and seal.

Tomato Chutney

4 cups (1 litre) coarsely chopped tomatoes (5 to 6 medium/large tomatoes)
2 medium to large, ripe peppers, diced
1-2 medium apples, pears or Asian pears, peeled and diced
1 jalapeno or other hot pepper, diced (optional)
1 medium red onion, diced
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup (120 ml) cider or red wine vinegar
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup (60 ml) sugar
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup (60 ml) brown sugar
 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt
 $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon ginger
 $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon allspice

Instructions:

Chop it all up, throw it in pan. bring to boil, simmer for an hour stirring often.



Ingredients for alcoholic lollies!

1l dry cider
tsp lemon juice
100ml apple juice
150g pack brambles
Bramble/Blackberry
1 tbsp Crème de Cassis
4 tbsp caster sugar

Method

Put the blackberries, in a small pan with 2 tbsp caster sugar and 50ml water. Simmer gently for 10 minutes until the blackberries have softened and collapsed. Pour through a sieve into a jug, pressing all the juices out of the berries with the back of a spoon. Stir in the cassis. Divide the blackberry syrup between the lolly moulds and put in the freezer.

Meanwhile, put the cider in a pan over a medium heat and bubble for 5-10 minutes until the cider has reduced to 425ml. Add 2 tbsp caster sugar and stir to dissolve. Add the apple juice and lemon juice then stir and leave to cool. Once cooled pour into the lolly moulds leaving 1/2 cm at the top for the lollies to expand as they freeze. Return to the freezer for 1 hr until the mixture is solid enough to hold a lolly stick upright. Push each stick 3/4 of the way into the mixture and freeze for another 6-8 hrs until completely solid.

To unmold the lollies, dip the mould in hot water for 10 seconds and pull firmly on the lolly sticks to remove. Either serve immediately or wrap individually in baking parchment and store in the freezer in airtight freezer bags. The lollies are best served as soon as possible but they will keep in the freezer for a couple of weeks. Association Membership Benefits If you are a plot holder, then please consider joining in the fun and become a member of the allotment association. It only costs £5 per year and this entitles you to a 10% discount on all garden related items at both Vertigrow and Deans Garden Centre. Renewals were due in January 2017 but you can still join now at the Shop on a Sunday 10am - 12noon. If you would to make use of our composting toilet whilst on your plot, please purchase a key from the shop for only £5. Keys for the perimeter gates are also available from the shop. Please do not get a key cut from someone else as they are the property of the council and we must track who has a copy. All you need to give is £5 for refundable deposit to the shop.

Gentle reminder - Hosepipes - please read your tenancy agreements. Hose Pipes can only be used to fill up water butts. Not to water your entire plot direct from the hose pipe.

Skips - we aim to have a landfill skip for Half Term week in October 2017.

If you would like to write something for the next newsletter, please email it to gayle.farrington@btinternet.com, by mid July.