

Hempland Lane-Heworth Allotment Association



Autumn Newsletter 2018



Hot from the Hut!

Committee Members

Name		Plot
Julian Ayres	Committee Member	43b
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
Moira Grainger	Committee Member	93a
Kevin Holland	Committee Member	44
Jean Pulleyn	Committee Member	81
Lisa Tindale	Committee Member	59b
Lisa Maunder-Wood	Committee Member	95
Lorraine Wood	Shop Manager	64
Dave Wood	Shop Manager	64
Available !	Easy Access Plots Rep Would You Like to Represent this Area?	?
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

SHOP

Please be advised that the shop will no longer be selling potatoes to chit and grow, as year on year, we have sold less and cannot buy in all the varieties that everyone wishes to try. With this in mind, the KINGS seed order needs to be in to the Shop or Nigel by 4th November 2018, so why don't you take this opportunity to order some potatoes through them at great prices! Catalogues and order forms are available from the shop on a Sunday or from Nigel Plot 66

Autumn Show September 2018

Our 2018 Fun Show (see Kevin's report). I would like to say a big thank you to all those who took part & made it so enjoyable & "fun". The children's entries were fabulous and all entrants went away with a small prize, thanks to nigelthegardener (Plot65) for donating these.

Also many congratulations to Garry Rudd Plot55 judged as best overall plot on our site & to Liz Smithson & Janet Campey Plot80A judged as best newcomers on our site.

"Value your allotment"

A pointless statement you may think but consider this ... at the time of writing 1/10/18 there are **six hundred & forty eight** people on the waiting lists for the 16 sites controlled by YACIO in York!!!

So do you value your allotment ... the wonderful feeling & achievement of growing your own whether it is a humble radish or bed of asparagus? Yes its hard work fighting back the ground elder, nettles, mare's tail, the mice, the rats & the pigeons. But that free dose of fresh air, that lung full of fresh manure when it arrives, the

song of the Robin & the “chats” to your plot neighbours. The banter over the big squash, or the failed potatoes, and of course the weather.

Making new friends, talking about it will be better next year & of course visiting our shop on a Sunday morning. Joining in and having a welcome cuppa & a piece of cake, it all helps to make your plot all worthwhile.

Sadly we have had some plot holders evicted recently as they haven't valued their plots. And in football terms players have to play well to keep their places in the team, well we all need to do the same as there are now 53 people on our sites waiting list waiting to come off the subs bench!

So value & really enjoy your plot that goes for all of us!!!

Future dates for your Diary

Our next Annual General Meeting

AGM is booked for Monday 28th January 2019 7.30pm start at a new venue to us! Burnholme Club. Hope you can be there. Free Buffet and cash bar and hot drinks available. Please let a member of the committee know, if you wish to bring anything for the cold buffet (not obligatory). Agenda items to Nigel plot 66 or nigelthegardener@hotmail.com by 10th January 2019.

Skips – we aim to have a landfill skip for Half Term week in October 2018. Please use sensibly!

Some upcoming talks at Askham Bryan Gardening Club

Tuesday 16 October 2018

Memories of my father - Caroline Smith talks about Geoffrey Smith and his work at Harlow Carr

Tuesday 13 November 2018

Old site, new gardens - An illustrated talk by Alison Pringle Curator York Museum Gardens

Tuesday 11 December 2018

Gardening for wildlife - A talk by Andy Rayner RSPB Aire Valley Learning officer

How I learned to dig no-dig gardening

As previously recounted, our little gang from Hempland allotments went along on a dark January evening to hear the wise words of Charles Dowding, the acclaimed innovator of the no-dig gardening method. Over the next few weeks I gave it quite a bit of thought, and in the end this seemed to be the year to give it a try.

I've got to say overall results were good. My fruit and vegetable crops thrived, especially all types of beans and garden peas. One of the few exceptions was the first sowing of lettuce and spinach, which resulted in slow germination and much smaller plants than usual. I don't know why lettuce and spinach were different to everything else unless perhaps it was that more compost was needed. You do need an awful lot of home-made compost with no-dig. At any rate, I was much more successful second time around with the lettuce in a sunnier position which could well have had something to do with it.

Given the endless hot summer days of 2018, I was glad that at least digging was off the agenda. That still left the endless hours with watering cans in hand, roaming around my plot, wondering when the rains would finally come. Well eventually all things come to an end and I'm sure us gardeners remember clearly our sigh of relief when the first real rain came at last. It brought with it golden sunsets lighting up the trees and beautiful rainbows in single and doubles.

Now that summer had turned to autumn there are some wonderful crops of berries ready to pick. Sweet pea, marigold and nasturtium flowers are clinging on to summer as the Jerusalem artichokes come into flower.

I've made large amounts of bramble jam and green tomato chutney this year and I expect many readers have been just as busy with the jam-jars as me .

All in all it's been a bountiful year on the plot. And when someone with much more gardening experience than me asks the secret of growing such excellent garden peas, you know you've done something right. I hope that you've all had a good year too.

Lisa Tindale, - Early October 2018 - Committee Member – Plot 59b

Update from Nigel the Gardener

In the winter 2017 newsletter I wrote a little article comparing some Kings Seeds prices for Association Members against the “normal” Kings Seeds catalogue (you can still see that newsletter on our website). It was a prompt for our plot holders (Hemland Association Members) to order your 2018 seeds from the members catalogues to make excellent savings.

Using the same seeds please see below the 2018 savings you can make even though seed prices have increased.

Kings Members Catalogue	Kings Internet Catalogue	D T Brown	Mr Fothergill's	Dobies
Parsnip Gladiator F1	Parsnip Gladiator F1	Parsnip Gladiator F1	Parsnip Gladiator F1	Parsnip Gladiator F1
500 seeds £1.10	500 seeds £1.85	300 seeds £2.49	200 seeds £2.35	350 seeds £2.99
Parsnip Tender & True	Parsnip Tender & True	Parsnip Tender & True	Parsnip Tender & True	Parsnip Tender & True
800 seeds £0.75	800 seeds £1.20	450 seeds £0.99	500 seeds £1.80	600 seeds £1.49
Broad Bean	Broad Bean	Broad Bean	Broad Bean	Broad Bean
Bunyards Exhibition	Bunyards Exhibition	Bunyards Exhibition	Bunyards Exhibition	Dreadnought
50 seeds £0.95	50 seeds £1.55	65 seeds £2.29	50 seeds £2.75	65 seeds £2.19
Broad Bean Karmazyn	Broad Bean Karmazyn	Broad Bean Red Epicure	Broad Bean Karmazyn	Broad Bean Karmazyn
45 seeds £1.00	45 seeds £1.65	65 seeds £2.69	50 seeds £2.75	40 seeds £2.19
Courgette	Courgette	Courgette	Courgette	Courgette
All Green Bush	All Green Bush	Long Green Bush 4	All Green Bush	Zucchini F1
25 seeds £0.90	25 seeds £1.45	25 seeds £0.99	20 seeds £1.80	15 seeds £1.79
Leeks Below Zero F1	Leeks Below Zero F1	Leeks Below Zero F1	Leeks Below Zero F1	Leeks Below Zero F1
75 seeds £1.50	100 seeds £2.50	50 seeds £2.79	50 seeds £2.25	50 seeds £2.49
Leeks Mussleburgh	Leeks Mussleburgh	Leeks Mussleburgh	Leeks Mussleburgh	Leeks Mussleburgh
425 seeds £0.75	425 seeds £1.20	500 seeds £1.49	500 seeds £2.10	300 seeds £1.49
Radish Poloeza	Radish Poloeza	Radish Scarlet Globe	Radish Poloeza	Radish Sparkler 3
1000 seeds £0.90	1000 seeds £1.45	1000 seeds £1.49	500 seeds £2.15	500 seeds £1.49
Runner Bean Lady Di	Runner Bean Lady Di	Runner Bean Lady Di	Runner Bean Lady Di	Runner Bean Enorma
45 seeds £1.50	45 seeds £2.45	40 seeds £3.09	45 seeds £3.55	65 seeds £2.49
Runner Bean Celebration	Runner Bean Celebration	Runner Bean Celebration	Runner Bean Celebration	Runner Bean Celebration
40 seeds £1.55	40 seeds £2.55	40 seeds £3.09	40 seeds £3.55	35 seeds £2.99
£10.90	£17.85	£21.04	£25.05	£21.60

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Note a couple of the examples are the nearest variety to make a fair comparison. On these 10 packets of seeds alone the savings are excellent:-

Compared with Kings Internet Catalogue £6.95 Compared with Dobies £10.70

Compared with D T Browns £10.14 Compared with Mr Fothergill's £14.15

The same 10 packets of seeds last year through the member's scheme would have cost you £10.20 so this shows a modest increase of only 70p.

Also if you take into account the number of seeds in each packet the value generally is even better. The parsnips & radishes in particular show marked differences. Some of the other companies do have some packets with more seeds in but at a heavy differential price wise.

So this being the case, seriously consider placing an order through our association via the shop on a Sunday morning 10:00-12:00 noon or through Nigel (Plot66) our seed coordinator. **Orders must be with Nigel by SUNDAY 3rd NOVEMBER at the very latest.** The shop will remain on a Sunday morning until 3/11/18 for you to return your orders.

KINGS SEED ORDERS 2018 for your plot in 2019!

To all Hempland Allotment Association Members (currently on £5 per year to join), the new Kings Seed Catalogue is now available.

As you know the seeds are excellent value for money (see above) & your purchases all help our Association Funds. You can get your catalogue from the shop on a Sunday morning or from Nigel on Plot 66 (our Association Membership Secretary). The deadline for completed order forms (along with your payment) to be returned is SUNDAY 4th NOVEMBER.

Any cheques should be made payable Hempland Allotment Association. *Please return your catalogue with your completed form so that it can be used by other members.*

Have a good look at the vegetable seeds but also the selection of flower seeds & various sundries. Choose your seeds to enter our 2019 Autumn Show!!!

Any questions please see Nigel

Note, as Gayle has already emailed and stated about, from spring 2019 we have reluctantly decided not to stock seed potatoes. Our sales of potato sets have gradually declined over recent years and we have had to throw away a lot of our stock. So, there is good selection of sets available in the Kings catalogue from first earlies, second earlies & main crop varieties. All the varieties are in either 2kg (4.5lbs) or 2.5kg (5.5lbs) nets are priced at £5 each or take advantage of the potato collections to gain a good discount.

Club together with fellow plot holders, so then you can try different varieties & "split" bags with each other. You could then compare results & see what variety grows best on your plot. One of the collections features 3 types of disease resistant spuds: - *Vales Sovereign, Setanta & Cara* ... go on give it a go!

Seriously consider growing a few flowers on your plot in 2019 to attract bees & other beneficial insects.

Also some splashes of colour will lift your spirits when you arrive on your plot & should put a smile on your face. Marigolds are a good old fashioned plant, which are easy to grow & usually once a few go to seed you should have plenty coming up for years to come.

A couple to consider are *Durango Mixed* (early flowering) & *Mr Majestic* with very attractive red & yellow petals. And of course Sweet Peas are always a winner so choose scented varieties if possible, and give your senses a lovely treat.

YORKSHIRE ALLOTMENTS AND GARDENS FEDERATION

It is almost time for this year's A G M, for those of you that attended last year's event you will remember that a decision was taken to move the date forward a little as we had been plagued with bad weather for a few years, I particularly remember thick fog at Scarborough, and thought a slightly earlier date may help

delegate numbers. Therefore, this year's meeting will be held on Saturday October 20th with coffee at 10.00 AM.

It seems several years since we held the meeting in South Yorkshire but this year we have a venue in Rotherham as follows;

The Phoenix Sports & Social Club, Pavilion Lane, (Off Bawtry Rd) Brinsworth, Rotherham, S60 5PA.

We are fortunate to have a repeat visit from Mr. David Allinson of the National Vegetable Society to entertain us. We have also invited Mrs Bunting, the N A S Legal Advisor and Business Manager to join us once again. There will be the usual buffet lunch, a raffle, bring along suitable prizes, and don't forget requests for the Yorkshire Cup. - **Tony Heeson Secretary.**

Nigel Collinson - Hempland Lane Allotment Association Membership Secretary - Plot 66

Using Mexican marigolds to control ground elder.

I read in an excellent book 'Moon Gardening' by R.J. Harris that Mexican marigolds, *Tagetes minuta*, can be used to control ground elder and bindweed, so this year we decided to try them out. This marigold has leaves that look similar to the yellow and orange flowered tagetes that are used for bedding plants, and they smell the same when crushed, but there the similarity ends. Mexican marigolds grow quite tall, up to 6 feet. The flowers are tiny and not worth waiting for. The theory is that the secretions from their roots spread through the soil for up to 3 feet each way and stop the weeds growing.

We bought some seeds from Sarah Raven and grew them like all other half hardy annuals, starting the seeds off in a propagator in March then putting the plants out into the plot after the last frosts in May. They were planted out next to the soft fruit bushes and a big patch of ground elder next to a fence.

The good news is that they seemed to work, there's still some ground elder but nothing like as much as there is in parts where we didn't put the Mexican marigolds. Apparently in South America they use the leaves as a herb, calling it Black Mint. It's meant to have a flavour of apples, but we haven't had a taste yet!

Kevin (Committee Member) and Karel Holland Plot 44.

New community space grants update

We applied to a fund run by Jewson's for a grant to help us create a new community space in the easy access area, but weren't successful. This new space will include permanent seating and a barbeque area, and will be used for our Sunday refreshments as well as the summer fair and autumn show. At the end of August 2018 we submitted an application to the National Lottery Awards for All scheme. We should know by the middle of November if we've been successful.

Update on no-dig experiment

In the last newsletter I told you about our experiment with no-dig beds, using spent hops topped with composted manure topped with shop-bought potting compost. We are pleased to report that it's been a great success! In one bed we had maincrop peas and summer cabbages. Both seemed to enjoy the water that the hops held, we had a bumper crop of peas and one of the cabbages weighed in at 4 kilos trimmed weight! It had hardly any core and made great coleslaws.

In the other no-dig bed we grew celeriac, sweetcorn, cucumbers under the sweetcorn, parsnips and swedes. All did really well, despite the very hot and dry summer. Before we went on holiday in the summer we gave the whole bed a good soak using 4 gallons of water per square yard. That was a lot of trips with the watering cans! 10 days later we expected to see lots of wilted plants, as York had seen full sun, high temperatures,

and no rain every day. To our delight not one plant had wilted, in fact they had put on a lot of growth. The hops at the bottom of the bed must have acted as a sponge.

We've had just two issues using no-dig: Because the ground is pretty soft the sweetcorn blew over with the high winds we had in August, but still gave a good crop of cobs. Next year we'll stake them early. The other issue is that the birds delight in digging away at the edges of the bed. To stop them we netted the bed until the plants got too tall, then put some boards up at the edge.

Weeds were easy to pull out during the growing season. As we clear the crops by cutting them off at ground level we are adding a good 6 inches of well-rotted compost from our bins to the beds. Because they need so much compost, and the issues with the looseness of the soil, we're not convinced that no-dig beds will suit brassicas like caulis, broccoli, spuds, and sprouts. Hence part of our plot will still be done the good old way.
Kevin (Committee Member) and Karel Holland Plot 44.

2018 Produce show report

The sun shone, the weather was hot, and there were a lot of great entries for our second produce show on 2nd September. Some of the entries were outstanding, especially the entries for children's garden in a tray class, a Viking longboat made from a courgette, and an incredible ice mound studded with herbs in the herb class. Thanks to everybody who came, everybody who entered, and everybody who helped to make it a success. The winner of the best plot was Gary Rudd, plot 55, and the winner of biggest improvement on a plot by a new plot holder in 2018 was Liz Smithson, Plot 80A. Both will be presented with certificates at our AGM at Burnholme Social Club on 28th January 2019. A selection of photographs are on our website. Here's the list of winning ploholders:

Class	1st	2nd	Class	1st	2nd
Three potatoes on a plate	27	9	Most unusual pumpkin or squash	60B	68F
Most unusual vegetable	44	80A	Largest marrow	34	38
Tallest sunflower	80A	40	Five carrots on a plate	9	9
Most unusual container	68F	64	Best recycling idea	65	59A
Longest bean	65	59B	Selection of salad leaves	59B	
Five beetroot on a plate	59B	14	Five tomatoes on a plate	60B	9
Best overall plot	55	44	Heaviest vegetable	60B	44
Plot with most variety of plants	108		Mixed vegetables	59B	42B
Largest apple	44	46	Dahlias in a vase	41	62
Sweet peas in a container	62	14	Collection of herbs	42B	18
Three garlic bulbs	34		Best garden in a tray (children)	60B	9
Most original photos	27	59	Biggest improvement by a new ploholder	80A	27
Mixed tied flower bouquet	44	59B			

By Kevin Holland – Committee Member - Plot 44

PLUM CAKE

150 g caster sugar
115 g butter, softened
140 g plain flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
2 eggs
1 pinch salt
12 plums, pitted and halved
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1-2 tablespoons sugar for sprinkling



Preheat oven to 180 C / gas 4

Beat butter and sugar with electric whisk until fluffy. Mix flour and baking powder and sift into creamed mixture. Beat in eggs and salt, mix well.

Put mixture into tin lined with baking parchment (either 26 cm round or 25 x 20 cm oblong). Top with plums (cut side up) and sprinkle with cinnamon and sugar.

Bake for approx 50 mins until skewer comes out clean. Cool to room temperature, sprinkle with icing sugar to finish.

By Ellen Bradbury - Committee Member - Plot 9

If you would like to write something for the next newsletter, please email it to gayle.farrington@btinternet.com, by mid January 2019.