

Hempland Lane-Heworth Allotment Association



Autumn Newsletter 2019



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 and Hempland Haven plots rep	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
Mark Farrington	Website Administrator (not part of the committee)	35

Update on the York Community Pride awards 2019



7 members of the committee attended the awards night on Thursday 17th October 2019 at York Racecourse. It was a very emotional night, with some inspirational people being recognized by the community. We may not have won the award last night, but becoming a finalist was a fantastic achievement.



The following day our celebrations continued as we discovered that Hempland Lane Allotments has been chosen to benefit from the next round of the Co-op Local Community Fund. The funding round opens on 27 October 2019 and closes on 24 October 2020. During this funding phase, Co-op Members will be able to choose us as their local cause. Every time a member buys selected own-brand products and services at a Co-Op shop, 1% of the money they spend goes to local causes in their community. If you want to help, please join the Co-op and choose our cause. You can join for £1 online at <https://membership.coop.co.uk/new-registration>. We will circulate any more information when we get it. This fundraising is to fund sun and rain shelters within Hempland Haven, repairs to the shed and shop, and general site repairs and improvements. Please encourage everyone to sign up.

Kind regards

Gayle Enion-Farrington (Chair)

Volunteers required for the tea / coffee and cake Sunday mornings.

Can you help between 9.30am-12.00 noon on a Sunday morning? We need regular volunteers between February-October each year, when the allotment shop is open. Our Sunday mornings in 2019 raised over £1200! So we need more volunteers **and a co-ordinator**. Jean has done a fantastic job co-ordinating the mornings so far and managing the seamless transfer to Hempland Haven, but would like to step down from

the running of it from October 2019. It is felt that the new replacement "Co-ordinator" volunteer would need to coordinate the rota using an internet doodle poll or similar app, for all volunteers to have access to the rota. To actively work Sunday mornings themselves, and to promote and recruit even more volunteers, to ensure that Hempland Haven refreshment area is always staffed each Sunday morning. The more volunteers, the less Sundays each person has to do! Anyone in the community can be involved in this, from allotment tenants, local dog walkers, to members of the local community who wish to join in and support us. If any volunteers do not have their Food hygiene level 2 certificate, then the allotment association committee are willing to fund an on-line training course for you. Please liaise with Jean on the Sunday mornings or email her on Jean.pulley@btinternet.com, for more information on the refreshment volunteer role and the refreshment co-ordinator volunteer role. Over the winter months please email Gayle Enion-Farrington, chairperson on Gayle.farrington@btinternet.com for more information.

Summer Fair

We had an amazing summer fair this year, some pictures are available on our website, so please take a look, if you haven't done already. Thankyou to all those that helped, manned stalls and to those that attended we hope you all enjoyed the day as much as we did. The final figure is in and we raised a whopping £2354.03. This amount covers the materials that we purchased to get ARCUS (courtesy of Sainsbury's Monks Cross) to do our final week of building and finish off our amazing Community Project, with BBQs, storage and seating. Special thanks also go to Kevin Holland who did our National Lottery application and got us the £9,999 and project managed the build, the Community Payback team who worked so hard every week, and Sainsbury's Monks Cross team who have been incredible throughout the summer months.

Our 3rd Autumn "Fun" Show held on Sunday 1st September 2019

Well first of all we were once again very lucky & we had a decent day weather-wise.

The show was started three years ago and was sponsored by nigelthegardener from Plot66. As is obvious from the title the emphasis is on fun, enjoyment & of course some friendly rivalry. For those of you that didn't participate, if we hold a show again in 2020 please come along and support us even if you don't enter anything!

We had some quality, interesting & of course funny entries in several of the classes. For just a flavour we had some lovely potatoes in class 1, Nick Mansell (Plot22) entered some enormous beetroot the variety *Barbabetola di Chioggia* I believe. Kevin & Karel Holland from Plot44 had some blue sweet corn which many people commented on as well as their winning Celtuce.

Nigel had a mixed tray display of slightly more unusual vegetables including Japanese Burdock, Various Chillies, Globe Artichoke, red "popping" sweet corn & unusual beans. The only real disappointment was that we only had one children's entry in the five classes for children ... come on you parents get the children involved. Congratulations to all our class winners & many thanks for making the time & effort to join in. Anyway many congratulations to Dave & Kim Parry on Plot54 for winning the prize for the best overall plot on our site!!! The award for best newcomers to our site went to mother & son Elaine & Ian Hardcastle on Plot106A.

For both these classes you don't even need to enter as the judges go all round the site to look at plots. There are a panel of three who go around independently & then get together to compare notes & come to a decision. We will decide at our AGM (Monday 3rd February 2020) if we are going to hold a show again next year. Also as plot holders you can have input to what classes you would like to see on our schedule. Nigel Plot 66

Value your plot.

We have mentioned before the value of being in possession of either a half or full allotment. It seems it may be even more so in the current climate.

Some plot holders have been on sites 30 years plus & longer whilst others have only joined the joy & heartache of “plotting” much more recently! As of 14/10/19 (information from the YACIO website) we at Hempland now have a waiting list of 71 people. The total number of people waiting against the 16 sites that YACIO now administer is 1118.

So, it is definitely the time to “value your plot”; because if you don’t there are plenty of potential “plotters” waiting in the wings who will.

If for whatever reason you are intending to give up your plot this winter could please inform YACIO as soon as possible on 07746 268588 or email contact@yorkallotments.org or via Twitter @York_Allotments. If you do this, it then gives our Site Secretary David Brinklow an excellent opportunity to re-let the plot promptly. Remember please to leave your plot in a tidy state & remove any old rubbish & your possessions before leaving. Also, if you have either a gate key or a toilet key or indeed both, if you hand them in at our shop you will receive £5 refunds for each key.

(The information below is an extract from the current YACIO newsletter, in case you missed it)

Dear Tenants,

It’s now two years since YACIO took over running the allotments from the City Council. We hope you’ll agree that there’s been an improvement during this time. The priority has been to improve basic services, for example, we’ve increased the frequency of grass cutting. Behind the scenes there’s been a lot of work to streamline administrative systems to make it quicker and easier to let vacant plots and deal with those that are neglected. Perhaps most importantly, we’ve also honoured our undertaking not to increase rents. We can confirm the cost of plots will remain unchanged for 2020. There’s a lot more we’d like to do. Over the next year we’ll be looking further at how we can simplify and standardise administration, support and develop allotments associations and improve the condition of sites and the facilities provided. Some of the things we’d like to do may require fundraising. It’s important to remember that the only income we currently have is that from rents. YACIO is a membership led charitable organisation. To help us develop our plans, we’d like to hear from plot holders (everyone with a plot is a member of YACIO) on how you think the allotments should be improved. We’ll be having our AGM and Members Day in the spring, but in the meantime we’d be pleased to hear your views.

Tony Chalcraft – Chair of Trustees

Clary sage, an amazing flower – Karel Holland, plot 45B

A lot of people have been asking what the flowers are that I planted on either side of the Haven entrance. They are *salvia viridis*, also known as clary sage or painted sage. They are easy to grow hardy annuals that readily self sow. Kings seeds have them in the catalogue as Clary, 95p a packet if you get them from our allotment association.

Success in growing brassicas - Kevin and Karel Holland, plots 44 and 45B

For the last few years we’ve had great success in growing brassicas, especially cabbages, Brussel sprouts, and cauliflowers. Before that we had big problems with club root, which I’m sure many of you have on your plot too. We tried several methods without success: putting rhubarb leaves in the planting hole had no effect at all. Watering the soil with Jeyes Fluid just made the plot smell like a public toilet! Delaying planting until the plants were in 8 inch pots took over our back garden and patio, and the club root still got the autumn and winter brassicas.

So what's the secret? Here's our method:

- 1) In Autumn, we sow green manure into where we are going to grow our brassicas. We use a mix of winter tares and ryegrass, there's still just enough time to get these sown into raked soil.
- 2) In early February, dig in the green manure then sprinkle lime onto the soil, about 0.5kg per square metre.
- 3) Starting from the third week in February, the sprout and summer cabbage seeds are sown into trays of small modules in a cold greenhouse, three seeds per module, pricked out after germination to leave one in each module. Autumn and Winter brassicas are sown in the same way the first week in April.
- 4) In early March hoe plenty of home made compost and chicken manure pellets into the surface of the brassica bed soil. Brassicas are very hungry plants, and need plenty of food.
- 5) In the middle of March the first sowing of seeds are potted up into 2 inch modules, then hardened off outside. Put fleece over if frost is forecast.
- 6) At the end of March, two weeks before planting out, hoe Perlka into the soil. This is special fertiliser that adds lime and nitrogen, increases the microbial activity in the soil, and creates a soil microflora that suppresses club root. All of these are essential for good brassicas. You only need a very small amount of Perlka, a 25Kg sack will last for years! You can get it from <https://www.medwynsofanglesey.co.uk/>
More information on it is available here: <https://www.lefroyvalley.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/Perlka-General-Information.pdf>
- 7) The second week in April hoe any weeds off the soil, then tread it down, Brassicas hate loose soil.
- 8) Use a trowel to dig a small hole where you want to put each brassica plant. Always use the spacing advised on the seed packet, brassicas need space to grow.
- 9) Dust lime into the hole, fill with bought potting compost such as Arthur Bowers Multipurpose, and put the plant into the hole. Make sure that you firm it in well. If you pull on a leaf, then the leaf should tear and not pull the plant out.
- 10) Dust more lime in a circle around the planting hole, making sure you don't get any on the leaves.
- 11) Once you've planted everything out, water in the plants. Use ½ to 1 gallon for every plant. This sounds a lot, but this will stop you having to water the plants again for a long time.
- 12) Cover the plants with fleece for a couple of weeks. Then take it off, but make sure you cover all plants immediately with butterfly proof netting.
- 13) You can now leave the plants to grow on. Hoe to keep weeds down. Don't water the plants unless they are wilting, and then add ½ gallon per plant. Keep checking the plants for caterpillars, squashing them and the eggs if you find any.

Here's a photo of a Lodero red cabbage that we grew this year using our method:



The humble radish!

From memory, over 60 years ago this was one of the first seeds as a child that my dad let me sow & grow!

Many garden writers & publications advocate using radishes to capture children's interest in vegetable gardening. The obvious reason is the swift germination & ease of growing which helps to keep children interested as they can virtually see them grow on a daily basis. One thing you never seem

to see commented on is how many of these budding gardeners in the say three to ten year age bracket actually eat the radishes that they grow? I would hazard a guess that you are looking at 5% if you are lucky. I will readily admit that I was in the 95% that didn't eat them.

How things change. 60 plus years on and I love radishes as does Pam. I am now at the other end of the spectrum getting my three & half year old granddaughter Ivy to sow them ... but eat them NO!

I have to say I have done well this year with successional sowings from early spring to early autumn. I have sown a lot of them in the old wheelbarrows I have acquired on my plot; they have been easy to keep an eye on & to keep watered when required. Regular harvesting helps the crops keep coming along with regular sowings every ten to fourteen days in short rows, 2foot maximum.

Also don't forget your winter radishes Black Spanish Round for crisp tasty flesh that you can use in your winter salads (yes we do eat them in winter!!!). Also the Mooli type (Daikon) which give great value long white roots of which at least half grows above ground level making it an interesting vegetable to grow. A "novelty" variety if you like is Munchen Bier which quickly produces flowers which produce seed pods which you need to use when they are crisp & green. They are excellent in salads, which will give them a bit of "kick" or great in a stir-fry.

And finally if you can remember the original illustrations for Peter Rabbit showed him with Radishes & NOT carrots. See the children's cartoon "Peter Rabbit – The best way to eat a Radish". Nigel Plot 66

Do names sell seeds & plants, here are a few to ponder:-

Hostas "Wogan" & "Elvis Lives"

Roses "Princess Di" & "Rambling Rector"

Beans "Lazy Housewife" & "Birds Egg No3"

Verbena "Peaches & Cream", Wallflowers "Persian Carpet"

Sweet Pea "Memorial Flight", "Winston Churchill" & "Anniversary"

Potatoes "Jazzy", "Duke of York" & "Pink Gypsy"

Chillies "Pot Black Hot", "Vampire" & "Cherry Bomb"

Gooseberry "Hero of the Nile", "King of Trumps" & "Woodpecker"

Tomato "Honey Moon", "Sungold" & "Gardeners Delight"

Zinnia "Pop Art" & "Jazzy Mixture"

These are just a few examples of thousands of marketing naming. Ones named after famous people are always popular, the Hosta "Elvis Lives" is a constant best seller. I am sure sub consciously we have all bought varieties simply because of its name, clever marketing as they say. I bought two varieties of heritage beans this year simply because of the varietal name "Carters Polish" because we visited Poland earlier this year "Madeira Maroon" because I like the colour maroon! We have all fallen for it & most likely will continue to so ...hopefully ha-ha Nigel Plot 66

WINTER SALE – 25% off all fertilisers!

Feeding your plants is the secret to getting good crops from your plot. As they grow, your plants take nutrients out of the soil, so you need to add something back every year to maintain the fertility. In the good old days of horse and carts, the Victorian gardeners would work a full barrowload of composted manure into every square yard, every year. Fresh manure should be left a full 12 months to rot down before digging in. Home-made compost is excellent for feeding the soil, but you can never make enough. So, to maintain the fertility of your soil you should use ready-made bagged fertilisers, giving you healthier plants and higher crop yields.

There are plenty of different fertilisers available, many of which we stock in the shop. To help you get the best from your plot next year, and decide which fertiliser is best for you, there is an offer for all allotment association members between now and 23rd December.

As the final celebration of our 100th year, up to 23rd December you can get 25% off the price of any bag of fertiliser. The shop itself is now closed until the spring, but if you want to take advantage of this amazing offer just see Nigel on plot 65 or Kevin on plot 44. Here are some examples of what's on offer. Items with an (O) are organic. Get in quick whilst stocks last, as once it's gone, it's gone!

<i>Fertiliser</i>	<i>Size</i>	<i>What to use it for</i>	<i>When to apply and how much</i>	<i>Normal shop price</i>	<i>Typical garden centre price</i>	<i>Sale price</i>
Lime (O)	1kg	Helps all plants to be healthy and sturdy, improves yield. Especially good for brassicas, helps to control club root.	Autumn. Dig 0.5kg per m ² into soil, then scatter 0.5kg per m ² onto surface. Don't add at the same time as manure.	£2.75	£5	£2.10
Lime (O)	25kg			£15.00	£20.00	£11.25
Potash	1kg	Improves health and yield for fruit trees, soft fruit, tomatoes, flowers	Early spring. Hoe 20g per m ² into surface of moist soil.	£3.50	£5.50	£2.60
Potash	25kg			£35.00	£40.00	£26.20
Blood, fish & bone (O)	1kg	General purpose slow release feed for all crops, encourages strong growth, improves health and yield	Early spring and summer. Hoe 70g per m ² into surface of moist soil. Reapply every 6 weeks.	£2.20	£5.00	£1.65
Blood, fish & bone (O)	25kg			£15.00	£25.00	£11.25
Chicken manure pellets (O)	10kg	General purpose feed for all crops, encourages strong growth, improves yield and soil structure	Autumn and spring to prepare beds, then 4 weeks after planting. Hoe 100-300g per m ² into surface of moist soil. Reapply every 6 weeks.	£6.50	£13.00	£4.90
Chicken manure pellets (O)	25kg			£14.00	£18.00	£10.50
Potato fertiliser	1kg	Slow release feed for potatoes, improves yield	Spring. Dig in 150g per m ² before planting. Can also use to top dress after planting	£2.50	£6.00	£1.85
Potato fertiliser	25kg			£20.00	£25.00	£15.00
Onion fertiliser	1kg	Slow release feed for onions, shallots & garlic	Autumn. Dig in 70-100g per m ² . Top dress established plants with 35-70g per m ²	£3.00	£6.00	£2.25
Growmore	1kg	General purpose feed for all plants. Improves yield	Spring and summer. Dig in 140g per m ² 10 days before planting/sowing. Then hoe in 70g per m ² every 4 weeks	£2.20	£4.00	£1.65
Growmore	25kg			£15.00	£25	£11.25

To Autumn - John Keats

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun
Conspiring with him how to load and bless
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eves run;
To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees,
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;
To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells
With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,
And still more, later flowers for the bees,
Until they think warm days will never cease,
For Summer has o'er-brimm'd their clammy cells.
Where are the songs of Spring? Ay, where are they?
Think not of them, thou hast thy music too,—
While barred clouds bloom the soft-dying day,
And touch the stubble-plains with rosy hue;
Then in a wailful choir the small gnats mourn
Among the river shallows, borne aloft
Or sinking as the light wind lives or dies;
And full-grown lambs loud bleat from hilly bourn;
Hedge-cricket sing; and now with treble soft
The red-breast whistles from a garden-croft;
And gathering swallows twitter in the skies.



Skips

Are no longer being provided by YACIO, so any skips that do come to the site are paid for out of our own association funds. We already pay for skips when needed, but please be mindful about how much is placed into a skip. Think reuse, recycle and reduce!

Lately people have been having fires and upsetting the local residence as they are not adhering to YACIO guidelines. Why don't you take advantage of Bonfire nights! And have a fire on your plot on 2nd, 5th & 9th November 2019, when we know local public bonfires are already taking place.



KINGS SEED ORDERS 2019 for your plot in 2020!

To all Hempland Allotment Association Members (£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 10th NOVEMBER 2019**.

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 2020 Autumn Show!!!

Future date for your Diary

Our next Annual General Meeting

AGM is booked for Monday 3rd February 2020 7.30pm start at Burnholme Club. Hope you can be there. This year we are doing a Bring and Share Buffet and a 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 26th January 2020.

Beetroot and Apple Potato cakes

- 2 large potatoes cooked and grated
- 1 beetroot cooked and coarsely grated
- 1 Bramley apple peeled cored and coarsely grated
- 40g grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 small onion finely chopped
- 1 tsp vegetable stock powder
- 3 tbsp plain flour
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- Salt and pepper to taste



Mix all ingredients together, form into balls, then either bake in the oven for 20-30 mins at 180 degrees or squash flat and fry until golden brown. You can also add a beaten egg which tends to hold the mixture together better.

Goes well with a dill yoghurt dip.

Provided by Ellen Bradbury

Yorkshire Wensleydale & Cranberries and Apple Cake

Ingredients

- 150g/5oz butter
- 175g/6oz golden caster sugar
- 2 eggs - beaten
- 2 tbsp milk
- 175g/6oz self raising flour - sieved
- 2 apples - peeled, cored & sliced
- 125g/4oz Yorkshire Wensleydale & Cranberries - crumbled
- 1 tbsp Demerara Sugar



Method

1. Step 1. Preheat the oven to 170°C / 325°F / gas mark
2. Step 2. Grease a 20cm (8") spring-form cake tin.
3. Step 3. Cream together the butter and sugar. Add the eggs one at a time, beat in the milk and flour. Fold in $\frac{3}{4}$ of apples and crumble over the Yorkshire Wensleydale & Cranberries cheese.
4. Step 4. Spoon the mixture into a tin.
5. Step 5. Arrange the rest of the apple on top and sprinkle with Demerara sugar.
6. Step 6. Bake for 55 minutes until risen and golden brown. Leave to cool in the tin.

A very tasty autumnal cake!

If you would like to write something for the next newsletter, please email it to gayle.farrington@btinternet.com, by mid January 2020.