

Hempland Lane-Heworth Allotment Association



Autumn Newsletter 2022

Hot from the Hut!

Committee Members

Name		Plot
Julian Ayres	Committee Member (Hempland Haven Rep)	67A & 67B
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
George Hughes	Committee Member	108
Vacancy	Committee Member	
Vacancy	Committee Member (Hempland Haven Rep)	
Lisa Tindale	Committee Member	59b
Vacancy	Committee Member	
Lorraine Wood	Shop Manager	64
Dave Wood	Shop Manager	64
Mark Farrington	Website Administrator (not part of the committee)	35

Update from Gayle, Chairperson

Thankyou to everyone who join us for the Big Jubilee Lunch in the Haven.

It started with our usual coffee morning at 10am and merged into a 'Bring Your Own' BBQ lunch and refreshments, enjoyed by all. We even had some interesting visitors!

Join our committee - We need you!

As most of you are aware we have a thriving & active Hempland Allotments Association backed up by your own elected committee. Due to various circumstances we now find ourselves with three vacancies on our committee. So the question is would you like to join us? We are a friendly bunch so you need have no worries on that front. What will it involve I hear you asking?

Well, we have roughly five or six committee meetings

a year along with our Annual General Meeting which is usually held in February. Our meetings are currently held in the Burnholme Club so it is very local & sociable. Meetings are generally held on a Monday evening & last for a couple of hours with possibly a "social hour" after the meeting. They commence at 19:30, through to about 21:30.

We produce a newsletter four times a year, all the committee are encouraged to have input to this. General help on site, possible assistance with the shop, with the wildlife area, with Sunday morning refreshments & other bits as and when required. You can get involved in all these activities even if you are not on our committee.



If you would like to join us or just get more information please contact me Gayle Enion-Farrington on Mob 07568 051387 or email gayle.farrington@btinternet.com. Your input, ideas & suggestions are always gratefully appreciated! You can also offer to do a project, like tidying up an area without actually join the committee if this is more of an interest to you.

The current update from the Community Payback Team is that they are not returning. Therefore I ask you all to continue looking after, not only your plot, but also the surrounding area of your plot and any public areas nearby. The contractors have done a sterling job over the Spring and Summer months cutting the grass footpaths and hedgerows, which is paid for by YACIO, but we will need your support throughout the autumn and winter months. Please do contact anyone on the committee, if you can help.

Gayle Enion-Farrington, Plot 34

Autumn 'Fun' show

At our committee meeting on 15/8/22, we had much discussion with regards to our proposed forthcoming Autumn "Fun" Show.

We have reluctantly decided to only have the following classes this year.

Best Plot on site 1st, 2nd & 3rd automatic entry.

Best Newcomers plot 1st, 2nd & 3rd again automatic entry.

Best plot sign (number) originality to be considered.

Scarecrow Competition, Remember the theme "Queens" Drag, POP, Royalty

We have taken the decision to limit this year's show having taken into account feedback received from various plot holders in recent days. The general consensus has been because of the very difficult growing conditions we have experienced over recent weeks with the heat waves and lack of any substantial rain that crops have suffered very much.

We (up to the committee meeting) had only had one enquiry to enter anything in the show. Notices have been up around the site and information has been on our website for several weeks. So reluctantly we have taken this sensible decision. Also with the forthcoming hosepipe ban (*NOT THAT YOU CAN USE A HOSEPIPE ON YOUR PLOT FOR WATERING!) and with not being able to have fires we didn't feel it was responsible to have a BBQ on the day neither.

We will have our tea/coffee/cake between 10am-12noon on the 4th of September as usual. The winners of the various classes will be announced on that morning in The Haven so do come along and support us.

We will hopefully have our normal "Fun" show in 2023, it's up to you the plot holders to support us. Note you can use a hosepipe to fill up your water butt & then use the water from there using a watering can. That way the water goes where it is needed & is not just wasted. See your allotment tenancy agreement for full details.

"Happiness" used to be a cigar called Hamlet (for those who remember the advert!) obviously politically incorrect nowadays. So now "Happiness" is having your own allotment!

My three best value crops to space occupied would be 1/ Rhubarb, once established a crown can give great results for many years. The rewards for a good mulch of well rotted manure or homemade compost are tremendous. A can of water on a regular basis if it is as dry & as warm has it has been

this summer will also be well received by your plant. Varieties to choose from are growing by the year but I would suggest trying *Glaskins Perpetual*, *Champagne* or *Fulton's Strawberry Surprise*. Dwarf French Beans can provide a big crop from a few plants in a small space or indeed a container from a large plant pot to an old sink or wheelbarrow. Some good homemade compost will be fine or commercial peat-free compost will be good as well.

Sow in modules to save on compost, the root trainer modules are very good & will last for years (available from our shop). Varieties to try are *Safari (Stringless)*, *Purple Queen (Stringless)* & *Fandango* ...but there are many choices!

Beetroot - try *Crosbys Egyptian* a very reliable variety & can easily be multi sown in modules. Despite the name this is an old American Heirloom variety. Beetroot is now one of the so called "super foods" & a great source of foliate and potassium.

Although very traditionally pickled to enjoy with salads it is indeed a lovely warm vegetable especially when roasted in the oven with other root vegetables. And as soup well my favourite barring Jerusalem artichoke soup!

Did you know there are over 40 species of ladybird in the UK!

We are always being urged to try something different from the usual spuds, beetroot, lettuce & cabbages. As you are all well aware there is a fantastic choice of alternatives so my suggestion to try next time around is *Scorzonera*.

It is basically a perennial and originates from Southern Europe & Siberia so it has to be rugged. It produces long dark coloured roots which are quite thin; the sap can be sticky so they are better boiled before they are peeled.

In their second year the petals from the flowers can be used in salads & the seeds can be collected for future use. The seeds are not unlike marigolds to sow they appreciate conditions similar to carrots so that they produce long straight roots, and they generally do pretty well in a "no dig" patch. They are not the fastest germinators so a few radishes here & there in the row acts like a marker. Watering when particularly dry will have its benefits.

So go on give them a try & remember we stock the seeds in our site shop!

Nigel Plot 66

I know its August & we are experiencing our second heat wave in close succession but, as gardeners, plotters we are always asked what you want for Christmas by friends & particularly family members, So just whilst you are sheltering from the sun enjoying a cup of tea & a slice of cake give it some thought now! Whether it is a new pair of gardening gloves, that label marking pen you have always wanted, some particular plants such as a special rose? I love gardening books & have already "earmarked" three ready to give the details out to my son & daughter.

If you are lucky enough to be asked, if you have a few ideas ready it will still be a surprise & it can make their shopping easier ... just a thought!!!

Nigel Plot 66

PROCRASTINATION OR THE THEFT OF TIME

Why is it that I so rarely do what I go to my allotment intending to do?

Yesterday, for example, I was quite firmly set on tying up the tomatoes. What I actually did was to start pruning my summer raspberries - a task quickly abandoned when I realised I had no idea what I was doing. Fortunately for next years' crop it then rained, so I went home to watch Monty Don pruning his canes, which were well behaved and looked nothing like mine. This was consequently of no help at all.

In books and on TV everything is so straightforward. The growing season proceeds in an orderly fashion, and there are jobs for the weekend, handed down magisterially. On my plot everything needs doing at once and tasks are forced upon me by wilting plants, rampaging pigeons or out of control squashes. It is so difficult to set priorities. Should I concentrate on getting the weeds under control, producing decent compost, or on actually getting to grips with the plants? It seems impossible to do it all in a thorough and timely manner without a troupe of whiskered and waistcoated Victorian under gardeners - which I haven't got to hand. I suspect Monty Don might have, hidden away behind the potting shed while the cameras are pointing at his cute and handsome dogs...

Another difficulty is that Hemplands Lane appears to be in some sort of time warp. I plan to be home for 12, then hear the Minster clock strike once. Where has the morning gone? And more importantly, what evidence is there to show it was there at all? Time certainly didn't do this when I was at work, and it doesn't do it at home when I'm doing housework. A strictly local mutation to the laws of physics is the only possible explanation.

I do try. I write lists of things needing attention. I even number them in order of importance. Then I don't much fancy doing any of them and I do something else entirely, like pulling up old pea plants. Hardly urgent. Or even particularly important. Just fun and what I feel like doing at the time... Or I decide to dig over the now empty onion bed, but find it needs dynamite, not a spade, so after sending shock waves up my arm and leg I retreat wounded and water the runner beans instead...

Often wildlife diverts my morning plans. Turning the compost heap has to be abandoned when a nest of tiny pink rats is uncovered. Or emergency anti pigeon netting needs erecting at the eleventh hour to save the newly emergent pea plants. Occasionally the weather forecast intervenes and hatches (or at least chairs) have to be battened down and chrysanthemums re-staked.

Sometimes the diversion is very pleasant, such as a kind person dropping round with a few spare plants. Obviously it would be rude not to down tools and chat, and then the plants have to be immediately dug in, even if they actually look very happy and, loving their pots, could easily be left for the rest of the week.

But perhaps there is something inherently satisfying in pottering about. This is, after all, a hobby, done for pleasure and simply for the joy of growing things. I know that my plot could be better managed if I used my time efficiently. It could most certainly be tidier and more orderly, with straighter rows and infinitely less wobbly constructions. My shed could hardly be less workmanlike - there is a place for nothing and anything is in it. Yet my inefficient plot gives me great satisfaction as it is, and whatever I chose to do there, it seems time well spent to me.

Alison England Plot 49

HOW TO MAKE A DEADWOOD HEDGE

What's a deadwood hedge, you may ask!

Well it's a nifty way to put those woody pruning's to good use and to create a habitat for insects and beetles as well as a rich feeding ground for small mammals such as hedgehogs. Even a small hedge can be of great value to insects, fungi, mosses and lichens.

Birds will also feed on the insects that make their home in the old wood.

HOW TO DO IT - Start by gathering a bundle of straight branches or poles roughly equal length.

Push these into the ground in two parallel lines with each branch roughly a foot apart.

Then simply pile in your fallen branches, twigs, grass cuttings, bindweed and so on. As the debris rots down you can just pile more stuff on top. And that's all there is to it!

It all starts off dead, but soon miraculously the hedge will be brimming with life.

I'm delighted to say that as you wander around our site you can see these hedges appearing everywhere, so why not give it a go.

Lisa Tindale Plot 59b

KNOW YOUR EDIBLE FLOWERS

Why not celebrate the rewards of the season and try something tasty with your allotment grown flowers?

Here's how to make your summer dishes blossom with your favourite floral masterpieces -

LAVENDER is delicately sweet. Try lavender and apple jelly, lavender and lemon drizzle cake or lavender flapjacks.

NASTURTIUMS are bitter-tasting so introduce them to some sweeter leaves in a salad, or try them in a creamy potato salad.

MARIGOLDS have a citrus-like flavour and work well anywhere that you'd use lemon zest. Also great in salads.

BORAGE is a perfect garnish for your summer glass of Pimms or can be used as an addition to fruit salad.

MARJORAM flowers are a milder version of the herb and are lovely teamed with the same things - carrots, eggs, tomatoes or courgettes.

Put flowers on your plate as well as on the table !

Lisa Tindale Plot 59b

YOUR SHOP NEEDS YOU

Can you spare 3 hours on a Sunday morning? Do you want to get to know your fellow allotmenters?

Volunteers wanted to run the allotment shop once a month. The shop runs from the end of Plot 64.

If you are interested just see me on my plot.

Lorraine Wood, Allotment Shop Manager, Plot 64

Autumn show and scarecrow competition

Waste for land fill

If you have a large quantity of land fill waste on your plot, please let the Site Secretary (David Brinklow) know on davidbrinklow@yahoo.com He should be able to arrange for it to be collected by the YACIO man with a van (trailer). Green waste should either be composted or put in your green bin at home.

KINGS SEEDS NEW CATALOGUE is now available for Association Members.

For us to receive the maximum discounts as an Association the deadline for orders this year will be **SUNDAY 6th of November**. Catalogues and order forms are now available from your membership secretary Nigel Collinson on plot66. This service alone is well worth the annual £5 fee to be a member of our association.

The catalogue has an extensive list of both flower & vegetable seeds at very competitive prices. With inflation like to reach over 13% in the coming months it is even more important to "grow your own".

The benefits of having an allotment are very well documented so make sure you use yours to the full.

As you will also see from our notice boards our waiting list for plots now exceeds well over 200!

As usual Kings Catalogue is comprehensive in its descriptions & instructions so go ahead & get your order in early for 2023.

Nigel plot66

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