

Hempland Lane-Heworth Allotment Association



Autumn/Winter Newsletter 2013

Hot from the Hut!

Committee Members

Name		Plot
Ellen Bradbury	Committee Member	9
David Brinklow	Site Secretary and Treasurer	14
Phil Copley	Secretary	89
Gayle Enion-Farrington	Chair and Publicity Officer	34,35
Ulrike Manara	Minutes Secretary	40
Lisa Tindale	Committee Member	59b
Lorraine Wood	Shop Manager	64
Dave Wood	Shop Manager	65
Ann-Marie Knowles	Committee Member	16
Available !	Easy Access Plots Rep	?
Nigel Collinson	Committee Member	65
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

There are currently 10 empty plots, but 10 on the waiting list, so these will be quickly snatched up. If you are intending not to continue with your plot next year, please let Judith Ward, City of York Council and David Brinklow, Site Secretary know as soon as possible, so that we can arrange an efficient exchange to new tenants. If you know anyone who wishes to have a plot see David Brinklow.

VOLUNTEERING SUNDAYS - 2nd Sunday in every month started in May 2013 and were trialled up until September with very little success. We also held a strimming weekend over 28th and 29th September 2013 for the wildlife weekend, which was advertised in the Summer newsletter and reminders sent out via email, along with information on the Allotment Watch marking scheme. Apart from 1 allotment member, the whole wildlife area was tackled by the committee and the council. The Volunteering Sundays was auctioned due to comments raised at the AGM in January 2013 and we would very much like to discuss this again at the next AGM, as to if you wish it to continue and if so ideas on how it may work better.

York Archaeological Trust have been running a Heritage Lottery funded project called Plotting the Past which aimed to record what may have been present on allotment sites in York. As part of this project a survey of allotment sheds was carried out and a picture of the interior of our shop was published in the national journal Current Archaeology for October 2013. The piece formed part of an article by Chris Catling, the journals contributing editor entitled "From the trowel's edge ..."

News from the Chairperson

What a great summer. Apart from being overrun by caterpillars on the brassicas, we have had a very successful summer growing all varieties of fruit, vegetables and salads. Our Pumpkins and Marrows, did tend to take over by the end of the season. So what should we all be doing now? Take advantage of the dry days before the winter arrives by carrying out a few of the suggestions below:

Fruit / vegetables.

- Prune raspberries and blackberries. Cut back late fruiting varieties to ground level. On early fruiting varieties cut only the canes that have fruited this year, tying in the new shoots which will produce fruit next year.
- Plant new fruit trees/bushes now in a sunny position and keep watered.
- Winter prune apples and pear trees and soft fruit bushes including red currant and gooseberries. The larger branches of these needs to be removed in order to open up the centres of growth. These fruits tend to produce too many branches and shoots in the middle of the plants where they cross and block out the sunlight, thus inviting disease. Cut out all branches which are dead or diseased, and any that cross or grow inwards, thus allowing air to circulate and the sun to reach the ripening fruit. On fruit bushes you can also shorten the longer remaining branches by about a third to allow easier fruit picking.
- To help ensure a good crop of gooseberries and other soft fruits protect the bushes with netting right through the winter. This will discourage birds, especially bullfinches, from picking out the buds during the dormant season.
- Finish harvesting such greenhouse crops as tomatoes, peppers and cucumbers.
- Plant garlic in pots or directly outside.
- Sow crops such as winter lettuce, hardy peas and broad beans.
- Prepare soil for next year's crops.
- Harvesting other vegetables when ready before any possible risk of, dare I say it? , yes - frost damage!
- Old rhubarb clumps can be split between now and January. Dig up whole clumps and pull / chop into smaller portions with one or more buds at the top and a few roots at the base, discarding the oldest central portion of the clump. Re - plant the healthy outer portions in a sunny position, digging manure / compost deeply into the soil and placing the buds just below the soil level.
- Tools and equipment - clean and overhaul.

A word of warning. It may not be a good idea to use last years seed compost, as the fertilisers break down and the chemicals produced can harm seedlings. Use up any old compost as a soil conditioner in the garden.

Don't forget that cuppa - perhaps whilst you are studying the 2014 Kings Seed Catalogue obtained from the allotment shop, whilst in the comfort of your favourite armchair. We needs all orders in by 30th October 2013.

Remember to turn your clocks back one hour as British Summer Time ends at 2.00am on Sunday 27th October 2013.

Finally, just an update on our expecting our first child. Less than 3 months to go now. AGM is planned for Tuesday 14th January 2013 and I aim to be chairing it, baby is due 17th January 2014. If baby decides to enter this world early, as in all great performances, the meeting will still go on and one of the committee will stand in and chair.

Gayle Enion-Farrington, Chairperson

Technology



MailChimp

Allotment database and MailChimp system. I can confirm that we have 74 members and 10 associates on the database that receive mail messages. Should you wish to get a message to all allotmentees via this system, please email gayle.farrington@btinternet.com and it can be sent to everyone on the database.

For latest newsletter and diary information please visit www.hempland-lane-allotments.com

Allotment Watch



Gayle Enion-Farrington and David Brinklow have started up Allotment Watch with the local police. Hope you have now seen the emails, signs and posters about it. For this to work, we need all plot holders to have their eyes and ears on alert, when passing through the site.

Any incidences **MUST** be reported to the police and Gayle. In a nutshell, the more incidences that the police are made aware of, the more resources that will be allocated to our area. They may also be able to see a pattern and catch whoever is doing these mindless attacks of vandalism.

Sunday 15th September 2013 saw the first allotment surgery by police and tool marking event. It was a great success and many of you brought along your tools.

Do not worry if you missed it as there are 2 more allotment surgery dates by the police (outside the allotment shop) on Sunday 20th October and Sunday 17th November 2013 between 10.30 - 11.30am

For more information please contact PCSO Katie Richards:
katie.richards@northyorkshire.pnn.police.uk

Summer Fete 2013 was a huge success on



Sunday 28th July 2013, 10am - 2pm and

it was great to see such a variety of scarecrow entries.

Strimming Weekend & Giant Vegetable competition was held on 28th & 29th September 2013



Giant Vegetable Competition Results

Pumpkin - Gerry Agar stole the show winning 1st and 2nd Prize with 36kg and 23kg respectively.

Marrow - Gayle Enion-Farrington came 1st with 7kg and Lorraine Wood 2nd with 5.5kg

1st prize winners were given a £5 voucher to spend in the shop and 2nd prize winners were given a £3 voucher to spend in the shop. If you fancy joining in on the fun, why don't you start thinking now what you could do to achieve some heavy weights. It is also not the length of growing time, as Gerry admits that he was late to plant his pumpkins. Well done to all who entered.



ALLOTMENT SHOP - will close on Sunday 20th October 2013 and will aim re-open in February 2014 once the Kings seed stock, inc potatoes and onion sets are delivered.



Skips will be delivered Friday 19th October 2013 and removed on 28th October 2013. Please fill them sensibly.

Next AGM Tuesday 14th January 2013 at 7.30pm - more details to follow nearer the time.

Enjoy the Autumn and Winter and let's hope it is not too cold and wet. If you are interested in what to do with your excess fruit and veg, there are some more recipes detailed on our website.