

Hempland Lane-Heworth Allotment Association



Newsletter
January to March 2011

Hot from the Hut!



Introducing the Committee

Name		Plot
Vacant	Site Manager	
Ellen Bradbury		9
David Brinklow	Site Secretary and Treasurer	14
Phil Copley	Secretary	89
Gayle Enion-Farrington	Chair and Publicity Officer	34,35
Elaine Kenyon		33
Ulrike Manara	Minutes Secretary	40
Lisa Tindale		59b
Lorraine Wood	Shop Manager	64
Dave Wood		65
Trevor Day	Easy Access Plots Rep	68D+E, 67K
Nigel Collinson		65
Chris Lee		88A
Mark Farrington	Website Administrator (not part of the committee)	35

Vacancy - Site Manager

Do you have time as dawn breaks and dusk falls? We are looking for a Site Manager, or a number of people, to job share this volunteering role. At the AGM Gerry Agar resigned from this post and we are finding him hard to replace. It is temporarily being done by Mark Farrington,

but this is a short term solution. At the AGM plot holders also had the option of purchasing a key for the padlocks to the gates. So if you need to be on the site very early or late at night, then you will be able to purchase a key from the shop from February 2011.

If you are regularly on your plot early or late - could you help with locking the gates on a more permanent basis? If interested please speak to any of the committee. Our next meeting is week commencing 7th Feb 2011 and we would like to resolve this vacancy.

Change in Security Arrangements

Until the Site Manager role is resolved, please be advised that the gates will be unlocked no later than 8am and locked at night, around 5.30pm or when it is dark.

Aiming to gets **SKIPS - General and Green** in **April 2011** - just awaiting confirmation from the council on delivery dates.

Car Parking

Parking is at a premium on our allotment site so please park your carefully and be considerate to others. **DO NOT** park any cars in front of the Chippings, Manure Bay and Skips.

The AGM was held on 11th January 2011 at 7.30pm at Heworth Golf Club. It was advertised on the website and a newsletter was issued in December to remind everyone. Attendees were considerably less this year - approx 25- 30 and it was agreed that a contributing factor was poor communication about the date of the AGM. It seems that some didn't get their newsletter via email, as their email address was slightly incorrect, or their SPAM filter was activated and prevented it getting through. It was also on the website, but many agreed they hadn't checked the website and none of the paper versions of the newsletters were distributed, mainly down to poor weather and for this the committee apologises. As a learning point and to ensure that this never happens again, all newsletters in the future can be collected from the shop on a Sunday. If you still wish for your newsletter to be emailed please can you give the shop your correct email address and ensure that your handwriting is clear, as this appears to be the main stumbling block. (If you didn't get a newsletter in December 2010 via email then it is likely that your address is slightly wrong and we need it again).

The newsletter will always be on the website, along with all previous editions for those who are happy to surf and by special request we are more than happy to hand deliver newsletters to those that would like them. For this service please give your name and full address Phil Copley (Secretary) or to the shop in order that we can update our hand delivery database.

Dates for your Diary

Allotment shop plans to re-open on Sunday 13th February 2011. 10am - 12noon (so long as the delivery of seed potatoes and onion sets arrive). It will be open throughout the year until autumn. Lorraine and Dave Wood

do a great job, but there is the odd Sunday when personal commitments come first. If you can spare 2 hours on a Sunday, we are looking for volunteers to help man the shop. Please give your name and contact details to Lorraine and Dave at the shop, so they can create a list of volunteers.

Greener Communication

Please let us have your e-mail address if you have one: this provides an easy and cost-effective way to contact members.

Membership Cards

New membership cards are now available in the New Year. You can renew your association membership with a payment of £3. They can be purchased from the allotment shop every Sunday (during spring, summer and early autumn). You must be an associate member in order to buy items from the shop, collect Manure and chippings (with a donation) and get a 10% discount from all gardening purchases at Deans & Vertigrow (please show your card before you pay at the till).

Dog fouling

If you see this occurring on site, please inform the Dog Warden office on Tel: 01904 551513 or 551530.

Allotment Website

We have had over 1730 visits to our website. If you haven't had a look - please log on and enjoy surfing!

www.hempland-lane-allotments.co.uk

Anti-social behaviour, vandalism and theft

Please report any incidents to the police on 0845 60 60 247 and get an incident number. This helps with police monitoring of events on site and could help if we need any action to be taken, such as extra patrols, meetings with police officers, etc.

Rats



Over the winter we have had a huge surge of rat problems on our site and now the snow has gone you can clearly see the damaged that they have caused. At the AGM David Brinklow took a list of plot numbers that have been affected and have reported it to the allotment officer for action. If you were not there to report issues on your plot, then you can either inform David Brinklow, inform the Shop when it opens or contact the Allotments Officer yourself direct on Tel: 01904 553399

Review of 2010, by Gayle Enion-Farrington, Chairperson

2010 was a mixed year with some great spring and summer months for growing and then an extremely harsh autumn and winter. I think 2011 will make our members more cautious on what can be grown and how early we plant, but time will tell.

Our **Summer Fete** on SUNDAY 18th July 2010, was a great success and gets bigger each year. This year we raised £136 with a tombola, and sales of produce, jams and pickles, houseplants and strawberries. The money is not the main outcome; it is more about getting our allotment community together.

This year we have also partnered with **Hempland Primary School** and got involved in various school projects around the site, whereby the children have been looking at how food is grown. We also participated in their Summer fete and raised £100, £50 of which went to the association and £50 went to the school. (next year we may look at buying a stall, rather than contributing 50% of our profits, due to our success).

Big thanks to Gerry and Elaine who helped me man the stall.

We also raised another £50 at the Hempland Car Boot Sale later in the year by selling our produce, Jams and Chutneys.

I'd like to say a big THANKYOU TO ALL THAT HELPED with our **Strimming Weekend of the Wildlife area** on 18th & 19th September 2010 unfortunately the BBQ did not happen due to terrible weather conditions, but we still went ahead with the annual giant veg competition and congratulations to everyone who entered.

Throughout the year we have promoted and supported many local events at Deans Garden Centre including:

Compost Awareness Week with York Rotters in May.

Organic Gardening Show on 4th September.

Christmas Demonstration Event 1st December

Christmas Activities Day 4th December

Our **Allotment Website** is growing from strength to strength and we have had over 1662 visits to our website. If you haven't had a look - please log on and enjoy surfing!
www.hempland-lane-allotments.co.uk

I'd like to thank Nick Mansell for his article on the Diary of a Beekeeper and if anyone else would like to put an article in the newsletter or have pictures etc please email them to Gayle Enion-Farrington, via the website.

