

Hempland Lane-Heworth Allotment Association



Spring / Summer 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 all those who attended our AGM in February 2022. As you can see we currently have vacancies on our committee and would relish the chance to accept interested plot holders to join our happy and welcoming committee. But don't take it from me, see Nigel article below for a more detailed brief on the role of a committee member.



You can also volunteer and help with one off projects without even being a member of the team. At the AGM we thanked Erich Kadow, for designing information signs for our site. The first one is up at our Community Orchard site in front of our allotment shop. Thanks are now owed to Dave Wood who has been a very busy bee, making the bee signs to create a trail through the site, so that visitors can find the wildlife area and get to see our allotment site. We discovered, during lockdown that so many people use Hempland Lane Allotments as a cut through but didn't know how to find our wildlife area, or even realised



that we have nearly 180 plots! (including some half plots). More signs will be added soon to the wildlife area and noticeboards.

There are currently no signs of the Community Payback Team returning, even though we have left many messages. 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 near by. We do have contractors booked each month (over the spring / Summer), to cut the grass and tend to hedgerows, which is paid for by YACIO.

Gayle Enion-Farrington, Plot 34

SUNDAY MORNING REFRESHMENTS AT HEMPLAND HAVEN REMINDER

We are now open, but are still on the hunt for volunteers to commit to a rota and provide the hands on serving of refreshments on a Sunday morning. Pam who has regularly provided 2 and 3 cakes is willing to continue with this, but we need offers of additional cake baking to manage the demand. We are also very happy to cover the cost of your ingredients / costs of baking as the we are mindful of the increasing costs with food and energy usage. If you wish to volunteer to be part of our Sunday mornings, please speak to Moira Grainger or Pam /Nigel.

Please remember that if you are an association member and have an Allotment gate key (available from the shop or Nigel) there is nothing stopping you taking a flask/drink and organising your own small gathering so that you can catch up with friends and family (outside of our Sunday mornings). You could even have a BBQ! To access the BBQ equipment and shelves etc please contact a committee member to get the code for the store shed and please ensure you tidy up after yourselves. Please note the spray painted bees on the paving slabs within the Haven. These are to remind all users (who are not tenants of the raised beds) to remain on the community side of the site and not to step over the bees, into the raised beds area.

FROGLIFE UPDATE

A big thankyou to Darren Starkey TOAD Project Manager and George Hughes (committee member) along with a few volunteers who have transformed the wildlife area. We hope to see much more pondlife and insects in the coming years, but as you can see it is already thriving.



The willow hurdle barrier is to help keep dogs and children out of the pond. Did you know that a single drop of flea treatment on a dogs coat can wipe out over a 2metre square area of pondlife!!

Wild seed sowing at the Wildlife area

On a windy wet April afternoon, with the valuable help of some volunteers, the two classes of year 2 from Hempland Primary School we sowed some seeds in the wildflower area. The energetic seed scattering and raking didn't finish with any accidents but rather a very efficient and educational session by all. Everyone had lots of fun, despite the weather, and Daphne Brinklow did a little talk about the site before it became a wildlife area and how she helped to create it. Hopefully the seedlings will grow this summer and can be appreciated by all wildlife, including the humans!.

George Hughes Plot 108

Join our committee

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 have a fairly standard agenda of items to discuss plus extra topics as they present themselves. Besides the meetings what else am I likely to be asked to do? When we hold events like our Summer Fair or our autumn "fun show" so help on those days setting up, organising on the day, possibly judging & just general help.

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 this has wetted your appetite to join us or just get more information please contact our chairperson Gayle Enion-Farrington on Mob 07568 051387 or email gayle.farrington@btinternet.com & let her know of your interest. Your input, ideas & suggestions are always gratefully appreciated!
Nigel Collinson, Plot66

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

Plant Donations wanted for a Bee Friendly Sale please.

Calling all growers & allotment holders at Hempland! Dunnington GIG is helping to organise two community fundraisers (for the Disasters Emergency Committee appeal and St Nicholas Church's repairs): a Bee Friendly Trail is to be held on 23rd & 24th of July and a preparatory crafts/plants sale on the 9th of July. With regards to the plants, the focus is on pollinator-friendly flowers please - there is an easy search tool for checking if a plant qualifies called Flower Finder at <https://beekind.bumblebeeconservation.org/home.php> .

If you could grow pollinator-friendly flowers to be donated for our sale, we'd love to hear from you to arrange delivery/collection in time to price things up. You can e-mail us on DunningtonGIG@gmail.com Hope you can help.

Juliet Pearce, Dunnington Green Initiatives Group (GIG)

Table Top Sale held on 17/4/22 at Hempland Lane Allotments.

Well firstly I would like to say a big "thank you" to the weather gods as we were blessed with perfect Easter Sunday conditions for our table top sale!

Thank you very much to everybody who helped & contributed to what was a very enjoyable event & successful event. In no particular order thanks to all the stall holders, all that booked turned up & I think all made "a couple of bob". David B for collecting the tables from the church and returning them & for Daphne travelling back from Leeds & actually returning back there after helping.

Thanks to Chris Lickiss & Carol Rush for overseeing the refreshments in The Haven, & to Pam for setting it all up, & clearing it all away at the end. Cakes were provided by Sheila Granger, Ellen Bradbury, Jill Boswell, Moira Grainger, Lisa Tindale (cheese scones) & Pam Williams. Lisa T did a great job on the bunting putting it up & taking it down & returning it to Gayle & also her photographic skills on the day - see our website!

Sterling work to from Lorraine & Pauline, on the Tombola, which was well supported, & to Dave Wood for his "shop sales" today. If I have missed anybody out, I do apologise & here is the breakdown of the funds raised towards the Ukrainian funds.

11 table fees @ £10.00 = £110.00

"Donation" from Jean Pulleyn = £7.00

"Donation" from Lorraine Wood from her lovely beading sales £25.00

Profit from the Tombola Stall £91.20

A tremendous "donation" from her sales by Alison England Plot49A £51.00

"Donation" from Gayle £3.00

Profit from the Tea/Coffee & Cake (after expenses) £113.40

Making a total of £400.60

David B arranged for the money to be donated. I hope will agree it was well worth the effort. It was great weather but it was so nice to see people smiling & chatting at our allotments & several people asked "when is the next event"?

Nigel Collinson, Plot 66

Grow your own tea

It seems to me that the best presents to receive are often those that are most unexpected.

For example, this Christmas I received a little cardboard box and when I unwrapped it, inside was a Grow Your Own Herbal Tea kit, which certainly counts as unexpected !

Inside were four types of tea seeds - chamomile, peppermint, lemon balm and lemon bergamot. There was also material to grow them in and some good-looking instructions. All I have to do now is wait for the warmer weather before I start growing.

Also included in the box were some simple brewing recipes once the things are grown and some good suggestions for other uses. For example, rubbing lemon balm leaves directly on the skin acts as a natural repellent for biting insects. All the herbs are 100% organic and if grown in the garden they attract many beneficial insects.



So come those beautiful days of summer you may see me on my plot sipping a relaxing allotment-grown tea while watching the bees and butterflies pollinate the seeds for the next year!

It'll make a change from PG Tips, that's for sure !

Lisa Tindale, Plot 59b

Snippets from Nigel plot66 from various sources:-

With the ongoing difficulties with Covid & the other very sad things that are happening especially in Ukraine ...87% of people questioned said gardens, allotments & general green spaces benefit peoples state of mind! We have said for many years' pre-Brexit, pre-Covid & pre-Ukraine that in our case allotments help enormously both physically & mentally!

Don't forget your fruit bushes growing in containers now keep them well watered & give them a top dressing of well-rotted manure or homemade compost as well as some chicken pellets or blood fish & bone ... incidentally both are available from our allotment shop.

Who is your favourite "Gardening Expert"? Mine is the national No Dig guru Charles Dowding, I have 11 of his books. So, let us know who yours is and why. Do us a book review or a profile of your favourite for our next newsletter & let others know.

Here we are in the lovely month of May and so far we are having nice weather ...

It has been really good seeing lots of people coming back to enjoy a cuppa and a piece of cake since we started doing the coffee mornings again, quite a few new faces as well ..

It's great to see everyone again sitting round and having a natter.

Ken and myself had the Covid a few weeks ago and that knocked us off our feet for a while, but we are both ok now so the allotment is coming back to life as well as us. We are deciding on where to plant everything this year. I want to plant more rows of peas, as they were really good last year. The cauliflowers were a disaster!!

I have started to prepare some veg and flowers etc in the greenhouse but I am no Percy Thrower so it's touch and go with success 🍷

I need to make some changes to the garden as well as we have removed some old bushes that had gone crazy. Unfortunately my lovely new puppy Lucy has designs of her own and keeps digging holes for us - Bless her x

It is amazing how many people still do not know where our Wildlife Area is. I met a lady just the other day who walks her dog round the allotments regularly and had no idea it was there. And people have asked me about the " bee signs ".

The Wildlife Area is looking good now and the new fence certainly seems to be keeping the dogs out. Hope you all have a good summer and enjoy your allotment

Moira Grainger Plot 93a

Date for your diary

Sunday 5th June 2022 10am-2pm, Big Jubilee Lunch in the Haven at Hempland Lane Allotments. Starting at 10am with a coffee morning and merging into a 'Bring Your Own' BBQ lunch and refreshments. More information to follow so look out in Facebook or the posters around our site.



Ukrainian Borshch (beetroot soup)

This can be made either with meat or without depending on whether you want a vegetarian version. It uses plenty of allotment produce, and the quantities of each are infinitely variable so I won't give exact measurements. I usually make a huge panful (I do it in a pressure cooker) as it is even better on the second (or third!) day.

Ingredients:

stewing beef (if used)
chopped onion
carrots (chopped)
cabbage (shredded)
cooked beetroot - diced
bay leaf
dash of vinegar
pinch of sugar
little tomato puree
stock - either beef or vegetable
flat leaf parsley
soured cream to serve



Put meat (if using), onion, carrots, cabbage and bay leaf in large pan, cover with water and simmer until all cooked. Add cooked beetroot, vinegar, sugar, tomato puree and stock and simmer again. The soup should be a deep red colour. Serve in bowls with a dollop of soured cream and chopped parsley and enjoy!

Ellen Bradbury, Plot 9

What do Hempland Lane Allotments mean to me?

When I met David Brinklow for the first time & signed up for plot65B on 16/3/2008 I was not aware of the journey it would take me on! So 14 years later what are my thoughts on my allotment journey so far?

By the 28th of May 2008 I had acquired the full plot as the father & son on the other half "gave up" almost immediately, so for the grand sum of £41.25 per year I had a full plot! In January 2014 I moved onto plot66 & later that year as plot65 was empty with no takers Pam my other half took that one on. How times change, as only a few years ago, our waiting lists were virtually none existent. I can't really put into words the amount of pleasure my allotments have given me. It goes without saying the physical exercise is great & the mental wellbeing is enormous. The fruit & vegetables that are produced are in a way a bonus, the icing on the cake. The early season taste of your first new salad potatoes, the first few sticks of Rhubarb or the crunch of your first radish of the season are all just delightful.

Yes you face challenges such as pesky pigeons, slugs, squirrels, mice, ground elder, bindweed & the like, but it's all part of allotment life. Every season you learn something new especially that every season is different both production wise & weather-wise.

Our site has many other benefits least of all the friendships I have made, which has been even more important in recent Covid times. The friendly smiles, banter over the late frosts, or the bright sunshine, or the chilly winds. The free advice that is available & the new ideas & suggestions people have are always encouraging.

What is special about Hempland allotments, who really knows but here are a few suggestions to mull over. We manage to provide a steady supply of chippings, manure & used pallets for Association members. We have an active, hardworking & friendly association committee. We have on site car parking, toilet facility & a well-stocked allotment shop for plot holders. We more recently have provided a plant stall which we try to keep well stocked for people.

We have run summer & autumn shows, scarecrow competitions, best plot signs & more recently tea/coffee & cake in The Haven on a Sunday morning. The Haven has been developed into a community area with raised beds for used by those slightly less able amongst us. We also have a seating area under a recently newly provided gazebo. There is also a BBQ, & storage facilities in The Haven.

Our wildlife area is continuing its development, with more to come in the coming weeks & months. A walk round the allotments is enjoyed by many people, plot holders, dog walkers, friends & visitors. Again here many friendships have blossomed over the years, walking & talking is obviously good for you.

We have regularly updated notice boards trying to keep people up to date with current information and events. We also have our own website full of information as well.

So I can sum up my allotment experience as so far having been very enjoyable & I hope it continues to be so. Yes there will be failures with some crops but just put aside any disappointment, smile & get on with it! If a blackbird "nicks" a blackcurrant or a strawberry you are just sharing your piece of earth with nature, put a positive spin on it.

I wish you all continued "happy plotting"

Nigel Collinson Plot 66

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