

Hempland Lane-Heworth Allotment Association

Newsletter Spring 2009



Hot from the Hut!

2009 events

Summer and Autumn may seem a long way off, but you might like to make a note of these allotment events in your diary, and hope for good weather for them too!

On SATURDAY 11th July 2009, 12-4pm, the association is planning a summer fete, with barbecue (bring your own items to sizzle). There will be a tombola, and sales of produce, jams and pickles, houseplants and a plant swap.

The weekend of 26th-27th SEPTEMBER 2009 will be our strimming and raking time on the wetland wildlife area, followed by a barbecue.

You're Invited to a



Following the success of our pumpkin competition last year, we will be judging the **HEAVIEST GIANT VEGETABLE** on the Sunday. There will be prizes for the biggest monsters in each category. Pumpkin seeds are available **FREE** at the shop, but any veg will be eligible:

marrows, carrots, beetroot, potatoes, onions, the choice is yours!

Shop Talk

The shop is open again every Sunday morning from 10am to 12noon freshly-stocked for the new gardening season. Seed potatoes, onion and shallot setts, seeds, lime and fertilizers, canes and Enviromesh and more are available at really good prices. If you haven't done so already, you can renew your association membership on payment of £3 at the shop.

Please let us have your e-mail address if you have one: this provides an easy and cost-effective way to contact members. Don't forget to collect your membership card, which entitles you to 10% off gardening purchases at Dean's Garden Centre (please show your card before you pay at the till). If you can spare one Sunday morning to help at the shop, this would be very welcome. Please see Lorraine for details. This year our insurers, Bluefin, are offering members of the national allotment society NSALG a good deal on house and car insurance: ask for a leaflet at the shop.

Fruit tree planting

At the AGM in January, it was agreed to plant fruit trees in the area in front of the shop in memory of 3 of our members who died last year: Dennis Brewster, Ken Newton and Mick Tasker. Their families have given their approval and the trees will be planted soon in time to grow during the spring and summer.



We have received this note from Mick Tasker's widow and daughter:

On behalf of my mum and myself I would like to thank all allotment holders and friends who supported my dad throughout his illness until his untimely death. I know he was overcome by the kindness and support that everybody showed him. We would like to say a special thank you to everybody who took the time to pay their respects at his funeral and to Gerry, Daphne and David who have been amazing.

As a tribute to him we have decided to keep the allotment going. I know dad will be in God's garden looking down and telling us "You don't do it that way!" so any advice and encouragement will be gratefully received.

Anne and Leisa.



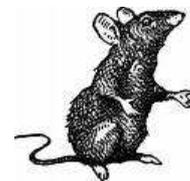
Earthworm survey

This is a national survey organised by the OPAL Soil Centre to build up a picture of soil quality and earthworms across the country. It is easy to take part: further details may be obtained from Sarah West, OPAL Community Scientist for Yorkshire and Humberside at opalproject@york.ac.uk or ring 01904 434577. You can get a survey pack with easy-to-follow instructions and an earthworm identification guide, then you can enter your results onto an interactive map on the OPAL website www.OPALexplorenature.org. Sounds intriguing...

Skip dates for 2009



We have asked for skips for both green and general landfill waste to be on site in spring: 9th-20th April and autumn: 16th-26th October.



Rats

If you know where rats are nesting on or near your plot, you can have them removed free of charge by contacting the Allotments Officer on 553399.

Allotment Website!

Just to let you all know that we are currently designing a website for our allotment site. Does anyone have any pictures of how the site used to look (for our history page) and does anyone have any other images or information that they think would be suitable for our website.

Pictures, information and articles can be emailed to Gayle Enion-Farrington, Publicity Officer, hemplandlane@allingtondrive.fsnet.co.uk or delivered to 1 Allington Drive, Heworth

Carry on composting!

Most of us are keen composters: it makes sense to recycle all your green and woody plant waste on your plot, keeping the levels of soil quality and quantity high. If you need advice and help with any aspect of composting, York Rotters will be only too pleased to help. They run short courses locally too and can be contacted via the St .Nicholas Fields website www.stnicksfields.org.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.

Slugs

Metaldehyde, the chemical in some slug control products, might soon be banned under EC regulations. If you use slug pellets on your plot, please try and be sure that you use them safely. They are very toxic to frogs, toads, hedgehogs and birds, all of which would be only too happy to eat your nasty mollusc enemies for you if you give them a chance! There are lots of frogs around now, coming out from the wetland area where they have spent the winter.



Gates

Are locked by our site manager Gerry Agar at dusk. If you need to have your car in the car park after this, you will have to get a key to the gate padlock from the Allotment Office of City of York Council.

Dog fouling

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

Waste disposal

If you take waste to the James Street tip in a trailer or van, you now have to apply for a permit from the Council that allows you to do so 12 times in a year.

Association Committee Members for 2009

| Name | Plot no. |
|--|----------|
| Gerry Agar (Site Manager) | 39 |
| Ellen Bradbury | 9 |
| David & Daphne Brinklow (Treasurer and Secretary) | 14 |
| Rosalind & John Carey (Easy-access Plots Reps) | 67g |
| Phil Copley | 89 |
| Gayle Enion-Farrington (Publicity Officer) | 34,35 |
| Elaine Kenyon | 33 |
| Ulrike Manara (Minutes Secretary) | 40 |
| Nick Mansell (Chairman) | plot 22 |
| Lisa Tindale | plot 59b |
| Nicky Hoskins Turley | plot 56b |
| Lorraine & Dave Wood (Shop Manager) | plot 64 |

Please contact any member if you have any concerns or suggestions about allotment matters.

David Brinklow is also our Site Secretary, responsible for letting plots to new tenants and liaising with the City of York Council Allotments Office.