

Hempland Lane-Heworth Allotment Association



Newsletter
April to June 2011

Hot from the Hut!



Introducing the Committee

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
Trevor Day	Easy Access Plots Rep	68D+E, 67K
Nigel Collinson	Committee Member	65
Chris Lee	Committee Member	88A
Mark Farrington	Website Administrator (not part of the committee)	35

Change in Security Arrangements

Gentle reminder, from 1st May 2011 the site will become a locked permanently and you will need a key to gain vehicle access. Keys need to be purchased from the City of York council Allotment offices.

Allotments administrator

18 Back Swinegate, Swinegate Court, York
YO1 8ZD

Tel: (01904) 553433

email: allotments@york.gov.uk

Allotments officer

Tel: (01904) 553399

SKIPS - General and Green in April 2011

- Please look on the website or ask at the shop for exact dates. We are no longer promoting the dates in the newsletter as unfortunately the skips are being filled by none allotment holders.

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.

Dates for your Diary

Allotment shop is now open every Sunday 10am - 12noon 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.

Best Plot Awards for City Allotments

The best plot competition was re-launched a few years ago, after an interval of ten years, in recognition of the regeneration of York's allotment sites. Over 1,100 tenants now garden on York's 16 council-run

allotment sites, up from a low of only 600 in 2003.

The re-launched competition is a celebration of the skill, hard work and imagination that York's allotment gardeners put into their plots. Allotment tenants were all invited to nominate two plots which they considered to be productive, attractive and a credit to their allotment site. Nominated plots, which have been judged by a panel of allotment site secretaries, represent all types of allotment garden, from traditional vegetable plots to family gardens with raised beds, fruit and flowers.

There are four area prize winners who receive gardening tokens and traditional, locally-grown beanpoles, donated by the sponsors. Why don't you have a go this summer?

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 for £3. They can be purchased from the allotment shop every Sunday. 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).

Allotment Website

We have had over 1200 visits to our website. If you haven't had a look - please log on and enjoy surfing!

www.hemland-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.

Dates for your Diary

Before Easter the committee will meet to agree dates for 2011. As always we will be planning a **Summer Fete** with tombola, and sales of produce, jams and pickles, houseplants and strawberries. It's all about getting our allotment community together.

As with previous years we have partnered with **Hemland Primary School** and are continuing to get involved in various school projects around the site, whereby the children have been looking at how food is grown. Our next event is their **National Festival Circus & Summer Fair - Saturday 25th June 2011**. Any donations of produce, fresh or preserved will be greatly received. Please see Gayle Plots 34 & 35.

Supporting our Wildlife area

Did you know that you can help our Wildlife area by making your own plot wildlife friendly?

Wildlife has declined drastically in our countryside as farms have become more intensively managed over the years. As a result our gardens and allotments have become more important refuges for wildlife. There is a lot we can do to help attract wildlife to our garden. Many of the things we can do cost very little or nothing.

Creating a Wildlife Area



The creation of a wildlife garden, or a wildlife area in your allotment, will attract a diversity of wild creatures and go some way toward redressing the balance of human interference with nature, which has destroyed so many habitats in the countryside. Also, by helping hedgehogs, birds, bats, frogs and toads to survive the winter and providing places for them to raise their young, you will be rewarded by their helping to keep garden pests under control.

Your allotment could include several (or all) of the following features:



WOOD PILE: Hedgehogs might build a nest underneath and, if left undisturbed for some time, algae and mosses will cover it, attracting insects. They will, in turn, be fed on by larger garden creatures. The dark interior may also encourage slow worms (another predator of the slug) to seek shelter.



COMPOST HEAP: Birds will feed off the mini-beasts that congregate in a compost heap, as will hedgehogs and toads that may nest in it. A word of warning though before using the compost test the base and sides gently for sleeping wildlife.

HEDGES INSTEAD OF FENCES:

Flowering hedges provide flowers and fruits for wildlife, nesting places for birds and cover for hedgehogs, voles and shrews. They are also much more attractive than fences. Recommended hedging species: beech, holly (evergreen winter shelter for roosting birds), buckthorn, dog rose, hazel, goat willow, hawthorn, and berberis.

WILDFLOWERS & SUITABLE PLANTS:

Flowers provide nectar and pollen to feed insects such as butterflies, hoverflies and bees. Plant wildflowers from seed (it is illegal to



remove them from the wild). Wildflower seed packs will probably include: bird's foot trefoil, vetch, hawkweed, wild white clover, bluebell, broom, wild cornflower, hound's tongue, common knapweed, lady's smock and wild marjoram. Recommended garden plants: buddleia (attracts butterflies), scabious, ice plant, michaelmas daisy, phlox, sweet william, marigolds, sunflowers, ornamental grasses, wild irises, pyracantha, snowberry, hostas and cotoneaster.

WILD CORNER: Allow nettles and weeds to take over a corner of your allotment. They will provide privacy for small creatures and food for caterpillars.

ROCKERY: Toads, newts and female frogs usually spend winter on land, under rockery stones (or in a log pile). Recommended rock plants: aubretia, hardy geraniums, ivies, sedums, sempervivum and wild thyme.

MINI-POND/BOG: A small area of water attracts a multitude of creatures including frogs, toads, newts, diving beetles, water scorpions and thirsty hedgehogs. Choose an area away from trees (especially sycamore). One side of the pond should gradually slope to allow hedgehogs and other small wildlife an exit. Butyl rubber pond liners are recommended. Around at least one third of the pond perimeter should include a shelf that is only 5-6cms below the normal water level. Put stone-free soil on top of the shelf and introduce some native water plants. Recommended water plants: water milfoil, water starwort, miniature water lily, water soldiers (floating plant). If you don't want a pond, perhaps because of small children, an area of **BOG GARDEN** will provide an interesting drinking point for wildlife. Line a shallow depression in your chosen site with pond liner; fill two thirds with soil to hold water. Your bog garden could support: meadowsweet, loosestrifes, marsh marigold, ragged robin, cuckoo flower, cotton grass, bog pimpernel, creeping jenny & reeds.

HEDGEHOG, BIRD & BAT BOXES: Providing nesting boxes for hedgehogs, birds and bats



might encourage these creatures to reside in your allotment, though tenancy cannot be guaranteed! Place bird and bat boxes in trees with cover, preferably in the cover of foliage from a climbing plant, and well away from the reach of cats and other predators.

Hedgehog boxes should be sited in a quiet spot hidden by ground covering plants, low shrubs or tree branches. For more information please go to : -

- www.wildlife-gardening.co.uk and www.naturalengland.org.uk/advice/wildlifegardening/default.aspx

