

Hempland Lane-Heworth Allotment Association



Newsletter
Spring 2012

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 Website	88A
Mark Farrington	Administrator (not part of the committee)	35

News from the Chairperson

It was lovely to see so many of you at our Annual General Meeting on 17th January 2012, the committee have reviewed what was discussed and ideas put forward, and aim to address them all this year.

As always I am very lucky that my father-in-law comes to visit every 2 months and gives us a big push with our allotment. He has recently been and nearly our whole plot

is dug over, his nickname is the "human rotavator"!

I have selected the following general allotment tasks for the next few months, I hope this helps:-

April 2012

- Harvest early rhubarb
- Plant out broad beans and peas.
- Cover carrot plants with fleece or enviromesh (available from allotment shop) to deter carrot flies
- Plant onion sets (tiny bulbs that are ready to plant) by digging a shallow trench then putting the sets on to the ground at 10-15 cm intervals. Firm the soil around each one but leave the tip showing. Allow a hoe's width between the rows for easy weeding.
- Plant out the over wintering garlic and onions that I've been growing at home, so I didn't lose them this year with the snow and frost like last year!
- Plant main crop potatoes (I always do mine on Good Friday to

follow tradition, but it is not too late!).

- Sow herbs in pots. Also greenhouse crops such as tomatoes, aubergines, sweet peppers and cucumber and including climbing bean crops to be planted out later. On Bank holiday Monday I had so much planned for the allotment, but with the miserable weather I finished off the newsletter and filled the greenhouse with all of the above).
- Do keep checking for pests and diseases, especially amongst fruit and vegetables, treating accordingly. Sticky traps can be useful to control flying pests such as whitefly. Several of them could be hung amongst the foliage of such crops as cucumbers and tomatoes. Only use these in the greenhouse however as they will also attract beneficial insects such as ladybirds. French marigolds can be useful as companion plants to help keep some pests away.

May 2012

- The original stems of raspberry canes need to be cut down to ground level now with new shoots being tied in. Hardy tomatoes can be planted out and lettuce / mixed salad leaf seeds can be sown straight into the prepared ground or in an outside container. Remember to keep watering them regularly alongside any other new plants. Pinch off strawberry runners straight away, their growth will hold back fruit production.

June 2012

- Check apple trees for overcrowding, picking off excess fruits to help the natural thinning process called June drop.
- Put up supports for runner beans and climbing French beans.
- Sow salad leaves. If space is limited fill a large flower pot with compost and sow a few seeds of a cut - and - come - again variety e.g. "Bijou", "Catalogna" or Salad Bowl". Pick over weekly.
- Sow Spring onion, radish, pak choi, main crop carrots, peas, swedes, sweetcorn, French and runner beans, courgettes, squashes and pumpkins.
- Transplant leek and brassica seedlings.
- Use netting to protect growing soft fruit from birds.
- If space is limited on your allotment you can grow your own green salads and herbs in large pots / hanging baskets on a sunny patio. Choose compact and productive varieties and you can sow seeds directly into the pots outdoors this month. Sow further potfuls of leafy salads every two / three weeks for a continuous crop until late September.
- Aubergines can also be planted in tubs. Always use clean tubs / pots etc. In order to reduce the amount of possible contamination from soil - borne diseases.
- Harvest late rhubarb and strawberries.
- Sow Spring onion, radish, pak choi, main crop carrots, peas,

swedes, sweetcorn, French and runner beans, courgettes, squashes and pumpkins.

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- Harvest rhubarb and strawberries.

Enjoy this wonderful time of year, when your allotment starts to take shape. See you all on your plots.

Gayle Enion-Farrington, Chairperson

Dates for your Diary
Please keep these dates free!
More info to follow.....

Our **Summer Fete** will be on **Saturday 21st July 2012**. Stales will include tombola, and sales of produce, jams and pickles, and strawberries. We are also considering a scarecrow competition this year - what do you think? Please email us your thoughts on mail@hempland-lane-allotments.co.uk

Hempland Primary School Summer Fair - awaiting date and invite but likely to be in June 2012

Christmas Get together Saturday 30th November 2012 -likely to be at Heworth Golf Club (if available)

Our **Allotment Website** has now had over 2720 visits to our website. If you haven't had a look - please log on and enjoy surfing!
www.hempland-lane-allotments.co.uk

Articles for website

If you would like to put an article in the newsletter or have pictures etc please email them to publicity@hempland-lane-allotments.co.uk

Membership Cards - £3 each

If you haven't renewed your association membership yet, cards are available from the allotment shop in Sundays between 10am - 12noon.

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.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Anti-social behaviour, vandalism and theft Please report any incidents to the police on 0845 60 60 247 and get an incident number.



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 or inform the shop on a Sunday morning.

