

# Hempland Lane-Heworth Allotment Association



Spring / Summer Newsletter 2016



## Hot from the Hut!

### Committee Members

Name		Plot
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
Lisa Tindale	Committee Member	59b
Lorraine Wood	Shop Manager	64
Dave Wood	Shop Manager	64
Julian Ayres	Committee Member	43b
Ann-Marie Knowles	Committee Member	16
Available !	Easy Access Plots Rep	?
Jean Pulleyn	Committee Member	81
Mark Farrington	Website Administrator (not part of the committee)	35

Would you like to represent the Easy Access Plots? If so please speak to a committee member



### Dates for your Diary - Summer Fete 2016

This year it will be held on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2016, 10am - 2pm. A scarecrow competition will be run again, so start your preparations! This year the theme is THE BRAZILIAN OLYMPICS! Various other stall and fundraising suggestions were made including 'guess the weight of a sleeper'!

Join our annual Summer Fete in front of the allotment shop. This is a free event for all association members and the local community. Bringing our community together, sharing successes and failures of the season so far and friendship and laughter over a few drinks!

There will be a BBQ (bring your own items to sizzle and your favourite tippie). Salads and bread rolls will be provided. There will also be a tombola, and sales of produce, homemade jams, pickles and cakes, as well as the allotment shop. All proceeds raised on the day are put back into the maintenance of the allotment site, for the benefit of all.



All Welcome ☺



See you there and don't forget something to sizzle, sit on and your favourite tippie!

**ALLOTMENT SHOP - Now open every Sunday 10am-12noon. Hot Drinks are also on sale - Our website lists the latest shop stock and prices**

## Lock that gate!

Please make sure that, if there are no vehicles in the car park when you leave the site, you lock the gate. This makes it so much more difficult for thieves who might drive onto the car park and it also reduces the likelihood of fly-tipping which has been on the increase recently.

## New Easy Access Beds are still getting done

It's not too late to **sponsor a sleeper for £20**. We are replacing some of the raised beds on the Easy Access Plots so they will be safer and more pleasurable to use. Go have a look, some have been done and are in use.

The cost per bed is approximately £700. So we need 16 sleepers per bed so any sponsorship will be very gratefully received.

Pictures of the damaged bed in the middle that has been done this week ... a vast improvement.



## Association Membership Benefits

If you are a plot holder, then please consider joining in the fun and become a member of the allotment association. It only costs £5 per year and this entitles you to a 10% discount on all garden related items at both Vertigrow and Deans Garden Centre. Renewals were due in January 2016 but you can still join now at the Shop on a Sunday 10am - 12noon.

If you would to make use of our composting toilet whilst on your plot, please purchase a key from the shop for only £3. Keys for the perimeter gates are also available from the shop. Please do not get a key cut from someone else as they are the property of the council and we must track who has a copy. All you need to give is £5 for refundable deposit to the shop.

## WARNING - Xylella fastidiosa

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/491809/xylella-fastidiosa-impl-trade.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/491809/xylella-fastidiosa-impl-trade.pdf)

This link is also on the website to save you typing it all in.

### Technology



Allotment database and MailChimp system. Should you wish to get a message to all allotmentees via this system, please email [gayle.farrington@btinternet.com](mailto:gayle.farrington@btinternet.com) and it can be sent to everyone on the database. Please also email Gayle if you are not receiving allotment email notices, so that we can get you on our database or double check the spelling of your email address.



One Landfill skip will be delivered soon - in April. Please fill it sensibly, with only non-compostable items. To prevent non-allotment users filling up the skips, we will email you the dates, rather than advertising it on the notice board.

### Rats



If you know where rats are nesting on or near your plot, please contact Nigel on plot 66 or email [nigelthegardener@hotmail.com](mailto:nigelthegardener@hotmail.com) and we can help.

New to allotmenting or just need a helpful reminder? Have a look on our website at all Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter Newsletters in 2014 for a detailed guide on what to do for each month.

**Allotments play an important role, not only as a useful space for socialising, relaxation and of course cultivation, but also in providing a fantastic area for wildlife in an environment where habitat has shrunk and fragmented.**

Allotments may be the only wildlife habitat in urban areas. You can enhance the wildlife value of your allotment by making a few small changes to its management and design which can really bring your allotment to life. Being wildlife friendly also means using fewer chemicals, saving you money and helping the environment.

### **Provide a variety of habitats**



The greater the variety of habitats you provide on your allotment, the more wildlife you will attract, so try to provide both structural variety and different features at different times of year. Climbing plants on fences and walls make nesting and roosting sites for birds, and a haven for insects and small mammals. Plants such as honeysuckle are a good choice as they have nectar-rich flowers followed by fruit. Ivy is particularly valuable, as it is evergreen, providing resources for wildlife all year round.

Hedgerows are one of the most important habitats for wildlife and with correct management will support a good variety of birds, small mammals, insects and plants. Hedgerows also provide corridors along which wildlife can travel, which is particularly important in urban areas that may have very few wildlife habitats.

By leaving some grass margins of at least two metres on your allotment, you will provide a refuge for small mammals, reptiles and invertebrates. If possible, leave some areas uncut throughout the year, varying the areas left on a three year rotation to avoid the development of coarse grass and scrub.

A range of nest boxes with different sizes and entry holes will encourage different birds such as robins, tits and thrushes. Solitary bees will make use of bundles of hollow plant stems or paper straws or holes drilled into blocks of wood. Carefully positioned bat boxes offer an additional option for bats searching for a roost site.

### **Natural 'pest' control**



You can have a productive and attractive allotment without using chemical herbicides and pesticides, which damage the environment. Natural predators of species considered as pests can be encouraged by providing them with suitable habitat and food. Decaying plant material seethes with insects, worms, mites and other invertebrates. The addition of a compost heap to your allotment may provide a refuge and feeding area for insect and slug-eating creatures such as hedgehogs, birds, toads, grass snakes and slow-worms.

By making your own compost you will also be helping to protect our precious peatbogs and reduce pollution - as well as saving you money.

A pile of logs or dead wood in a shady corner will feed beetle larvae and shelter many other animals, including frogs, toads, hedgehogs and slow-worms. Sheets of corrugated iron laid down provide places for reptiles and amphibians to shelter and warm themselves.

Try companion planting to incorporate a variety of native plants and shrubs into your allotment, especially those of local provenance. Certain plants, mixed with fruit and vegetables, will add variety and support a wider range of wildlife. They can help to reduce damage by pests by attracting pest predators or by acting as hosts for beneficial insects such as ladybirds, lacewings and hoverflies, which all feed on aphids.

Try to use environmentally-friendly products where possible. The use of chemicals on your allotment should, if used at all, be kept to an absolute minimum.



### **Don't be too tidy**

You can provide year-round habitats for many species by avoiding the temptation to be too tidy on your allotment. Areas of grass left uncut and piles of leaves are all valuable shelters for amphibians, insects, spiders and small mammals, whilst hollow stems left over the winter provide homes for insect larvae and pupae. Try leaving some windfall fruit to provide a valuable autumn food supply for mammals, birds and insects.

Look again at the plants that you normally pull up as weeds - many of them are beautiful wildflowers and are very important food plants for butterflies and other insects. Allowing some plants to go to seed will provide food for seed-eating birds, whilst a patch of nettles (in a pot to stop them spreading) will be valuable for some beautiful butterflies such as the red admiral, peacock and comma.

Don't underestimate the wildlife value of allotments. Whilst individual allotments may be relatively small, together they form a patchwork across our landscape, linking urban green spaces with nature reserves and the wider countryside. Even disused allotments are valuable, so if there are any vacant plots on your allotment, perhaps you could consider laying them aside for wildlife?

GENERAL GARDEN RELATED QUESTIONS - Can you answer them without the INTERNET!!! - JUST FOR FUN

1/ The monkey puzzle tree originates from which country?

2/ The RHS flower show at Tatton Park is in which County?

3/ What is a Whip?

4/ Shepherds Purse is a type of what?

5 Snails don't you love them!

If you had a twelve foot sunflower & a snail climbed up 3 feet every day but slipped down 2 feet every night when he was asleep (bless him), how long would it take him to reach the top?

6/ Who composed "The flight of the Bumblebee"?

7/ What popular pudding is made from the root of the Cassava plant?

8/ What is the most common type of plant in the world?

9/ What is the popular name of the Antirrhinum?

10 / Oh dear, Giuseppe Russo, from Northampton grew a 30foot high Sunflower. What did he feed it on???

11/ Penstemons generally flourish and do better in what type of conditions?

12/ A Water Melon contains 6% sugar by weight, what % of water does it contain?

13/ A Tayberry is a cross between which two fruits?

14/ Nerines are closely related to which other plant?

15 / What sort of plant is a Truffle?