

Hempland Lane-Heworth Allotment Association



Spring Newsletter 2018 Hot from the Hut!

Committee Members

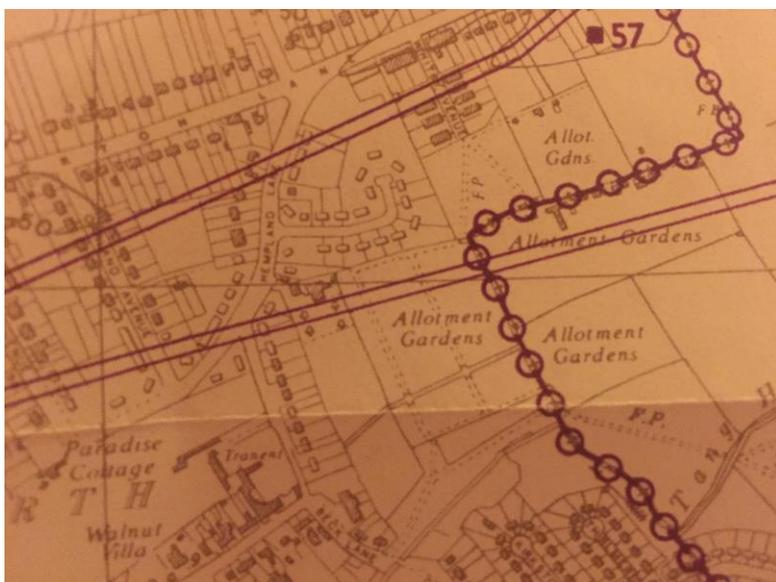
Name		Plot
Julian Ayres	Committee Member	43b
Ellen Bradbury	Committee Member	9
David Brinklow	Site Secretary and Treasurer	14
Nigel Collinson	Secretary	66
Gayle Enion-Farrington	Chair and Publicity Officer	34,35
Kevin Holland	Committee Member	44
Jean Pulleyn	Committee Member	81
Lisa Tindale	Committee Member	59b
Lisa Maunder-Wood	Committee Member	95
Lorraine Wood	Shop Manager	64
Dave Wood	Shop Manager	64
Available !	Easy Access Plots Rep Would You Like to Represent this Area?	?
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 as we are transforming it this year! To become a community area.

A history of Hempland Lane Allotments

Roman times

The roman road between Stamford Bridge and York is believed to run east to west across the north of our site, under plots 2, 3, 24, 25, 30, 31, 50 and 51. That could explain why plots 50 and 51 were under water in the wet summer of 2007! The area was cultivated in Roman times, as bits of Roman pot have been found.



Early cultivation

The site was probably the fields for the village of Heworth, which is anglo-saxon for 'high enclosure'. It is mentioned in the 1086 Domesday Book. It's probable that the fields were used to grow hemp, for use in making ropes. If you're lucky you might turn up pieces of mediaeval pottery when you cultivate your soil .

You might have found the broken stems or bowls of clay pipes when digging your plot. These would have been in the 'night soil' that was used to fertilise fields. In the days before flushing toilets, people used to throw broken pipes into their chamber pots, then deposit the contents in their outside 'composting' toilet. These were cleaned out when they were full, and the contents spread onto the fields as fertiliser. I found a 17th century dutch pipe bowl on our plot, number 44.

Foundation of the allotments in 1919.

At a meeting of the York Parks & Allotments Committee on 26th June 1919, a sub-committee was asked to '*make enquiries with regard to the suitability of a field at Heworth on the way to Osbaldwick*' for use as allotments. In those days an ancient track went from Hempland Lane to Osbaldwick right across our site, heading for the stepping stones where the bridge over the beck is at Applecroft Road, then down to Metcalfe Lane. The snicket next to plots 92, 93, 109 and 110 is the only bit left of that track.

On 25th September that same year the sub-committee reported that the field was '*admirably suited for allotment purposes*', and 6.088 acres were purchased on 16th October 1919 for £430 (over £100,000 today), using a loan from the Department of Health. This was part of a wider initiative to improve the health of the nation. The tenant of the field, Mrs Haw, was given £10 in compensation.

In December 1919 the committee decided that the turf in the field should be removed by hand, to provide work for the unemployed. A water supply was laid on in early 1920, and in December that year Hercules Fencing were awarded the contract to fence all the plots for £84-16-0. They must have taken some time to complete it, as in September 1921 compensation was given to the holders of plots 30 (6 shillings) and 33 (7 shillings) for damage due to trespassing cattle!

The site had a history of being wet. In 1921 the inhabitant of plot 29 was given half a years rent back due to the wet condition of his plot in 1920, and in 1924 it was reported that several vacant plots were in an unsatisfactory condition due to being waterlogged. In 1924, 64 plots were very badly cultivated, and 75 plots were only half cultivated. Back then the site was much larger, and included where the Whitby Avenue estate and the school are now.

In December 1924 the Hempland Lane Allotment Association was given permission to get the railway carriage that is now the shop.

Second world war.

In December 1939 the Committee complained that the residents of the new houses in the road to the north of the site, Hempland Drive, were dumping rubbish in the beck at the end of their gardens, blocking it. They must have carried on doing it, because there's no beck there now!

About 30 years ago the then tenant of plot 43 spotted a strange metal object when clearing his plot. He called the bomb disposal team, who identified it as a German butterfly bomb ! It was probably dropped in 1941 during a raid that hit houses in Heworth.

You will notice several compost bins made of curved corrugated iron. These were used to make Anderson air raid shelters during the war, and were lent to householders by the City Council. After the war finished the Council sold them off.

Later years

As the number of tenants declined, large parts of the site to the east and north east were sold off for housing, making the site the size that it is today. A former horse paddock was converted to be the wildlife area and plots 93 to 102.

Our birthday year

As 2019 is our 100th birthday, we plan to do something special to mark the occasion. More details will be provided nearer the time!

Kevin and Karel Holland, Plot 44

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 are due in January 2018 and the majority of people tend to join at the AGM so that they can get their card laminated. We are unable to laminate your card at the shop due to no electricity.

If you would like 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. Please lock the gates behind you (even when entering the site) to prevent people coming in without keys and then getting locked in. We need to improve our site security and we can all do our bit.

Another benefit of your association membership is inclusion in the new NSALG Allotmenters Liability Insurance. From 29 March 2018 all member plot-holders will get personal liability cover providing protection in the case of accidentally causing injury or damaging property. You would be protected for claims up to £50,000 both at your plot and also at allotment-related shows or events. Further details in an article in the NSALG Allotment magazine, available in the shop.

Community Payback Team

The procurement of the Pay Back Team has really improved how our site looks. They have been helping us on our site since the end of August 2017. They have been with us every Sunday bar one, from 09:30am-15:30pm, the numbers have varied from 2/4, 7/8 & some weeks up to 16 people! If you want to see the work that they have done, just walk around the site, or look on our facebook page, or pictures on our website.

We update our facebook page each week on their progress. If you are on facebook and want even more regular updates please join fb@HemplandLaneAllotments. It's also a great way to post / discuss / chat to like minded people about all things allotmenting. Regular communications will remain with email, newsletters and posters around the site. New signs have also been ordered for our composting and chippings bays, carparks and we have stencils if anyone wishes to spray paint their allotment number on their gate, as we have noticed that many do not have a number on their gate. Just let the Gayle know and she can get the Community Payback Team to do it.

Gayle Enion-Farrington
Plot 34
Committee - Chairperson

Raspberry

The name raspberry is said to come from a wine that was popular in the fifteenth century with a beautiful pink, rose colour called raspise. Although we always think of raspberries as being red, there are now white, yellow and even black varieties out there.

Ben Lomond is a high yielding blackcurrant with excellent flavour. For those who live in colder areas and frost pockets like us in the Vale of York, this is the blackcurrant that will deliver reliable yields year in and year out, cropping from late July or early August onwards.

Quince - *Cydonia oblonga* Serbian Gold Trivia

Native to the Middle East and Asia the quince is known as a symbol of love, marriage and fertility. Aphrodite, the Greek Goddess of love, was given this 'golden apple' by Paris, and in ancient Greece the fruit was often given as a gift at weddings.

It first appeared in England in the rather grand surroundings of the Tower of London, where Edward 1 ordered some to be planted.

Seed Tape.

I see some of the catalogues are claiming "seed tapes" to be new but as many of you will know they have been around before. They put new on things in the hope that they will sell more and indeed I think they do.

I have used them in the past as I did last year with both beetroot and parsnips. I will be using them again this year for Parsnips "*Hollow Crown*" from DT Browns. They are easy to use as long as you don't try and sow them on a particularly windy day. My system is to take out your drill, in my "no dig" system this is very easy, give the drill a good watering and then lay the tape in the drill and just either cut it or tear off the tape at the end of the drill.

You could if you were very efficient measure your drill and cut your seed tape to length before sowing! The big benefit is the seeds are pre-spaced on the tape so this saves the process of thinning which many gardeners both experienced and novice tend not to be too good at. A 6 meter tape has cost £1.99, so still plenty of parsnips for your money and it is always good to try something different. Once you have covered your seed tape, I use some decent compost, if we do get a dry spell it is worth just giving them a drop of water through a fine rose on your watering can. As with any parsnips please be patient as they are all slow to germinate but are a great a crop to grow.

Parsnips are always best sown from fresh seed. "Old" packets of parsnip seed are notorious for not germinating even if they are still in date. I have grown "old" seed of many vegetables with good success rates but I always purchase new parsnip seed each year whether seed tape or ordinary seed. And as with all your vegetables it is best to plan a little bit of staggered sowing to extend your season of harvesting, good luck.

Trying something new?

I was very kindly given a packet of Cucamelon *Melotria scabra* seeds for Christmas. Those who know me will tell you I like to try something different, some of you may have tried this one before but not myself. The overall description by Suttons is that they are "easy to grow", "vigorous climber or trailor" & "pest and drought resistant" ... this as they say ticks all the boxes!

Sow the seed in a propagator, using good quality compost either on a windowsill or in a greenhouse to germinate. When your seedlings are about 7cm (a couple of inches) high, prick them out into individual 4inch square pots (saves space on round pots). When the risk of frost has passed, for us could be about 8th of June, you can plant out in tubs or grow bags with the plants about a foot apart. Obviously alternatively you could grow them in a greenhouse or polytunnel to give extra protection.

Once the main growing shoot reaches about 8inches pinch this out to restrict the plants growing size. Also trim the lateral shoots when about 18inches. In theory from sowing to cropping could be as little as 12 weeks with favourable conditions. Harvest the tastes of cucumber with the strong hint of citrus, enjoy, I hope I do!!!

Nigel Collinson
Plot 66
Committee - Secretary

Dates for your Diary

Harrogate Spring Flower Show **26th-29th April 2018**. Contact 01423 546157

Summer Fete & Scarecrow competition (theme yet to be agreed) **Sunday 15th July 2018**
10am – 2pm (at Shop)

Fun Autumn Show Sunday 2nd September 2018 12noon – 2pm (at Shop)

Strimming Weekend 22nd and 23rd September 2018 10am – 2pm each day
(wildlife area)

[Proposed classes for our for next Autumn Show planned for Sunday 2nd September 2018](#)

- 1/ Potatoes on a plate, the same size (3)
- 2/ Your most unusual vegetable
- 3/ Tallest Sunflower
- 4/ Individual Sunflower with the most flower heads on it
- 5/ The most unusual container used to produce vegetables, let your creativity run wild on this one.
- 6/ Longest bean of any type or variety, Jean Pulleyn is defending her title!
- 7/ 5 Beetroot on a plate all the same variety or mixed but the same size.
- 8/ Best overall plot on the site. **NOTE** this will be judged you do not have to enter!!!
- 9/ This was very popular last year, the plot with the most varieties of vegetables, flowers, and weeds.
(Listed with names)
- 10/ Largest Apple
- 11/ Most Unusual Pumpkin or Squash (this year's show is earlier so this will test your skill!)
- 12/ Largest Marrow.
- 13 Carrots on a plate (5)
- 14/ Best recycling idea!
- 15/ Selection of Salad Leaves, minimum of 3 varieties but more will be better?
- 16/ Biggest improvement on a plot by a new plot holder in 2018
- 17/ 5 Tomatoes on a plate
- 18/ The heaviest vegetable (excluding marrow, squash & pumpkin)
- 19/ Mixed vegetables (minimum of three) – presentation up to you!
- 20/ Sweet Peas in a container (10 stems or more)
- 21/ Dahlias in a vase (minimum 5)
- 22/ Three Garlic bulbs, presented how you wish

- 23/ Collection of herbs artistically presented
- 24/ Mixed tied bouquet of flowers
- 25/ The most original photos from your own plot or from the Hempland site

For Children under 12 to enter:- no entry fee.

- A/ Best garden in a tray (standard size seed tray)
- B/ Any plant you have grown from seed yourself (not Mum or Dad!)
- C/ Best Creature made from fruit & vegetables from your parents plot
- D/ Mixture of wild flowers in Jam Jar
- E/ Using vegetables, herbs, leaves in a display using a soft toy in the middle

ONLY 50p per entry & some prizes & Rosettes will be awarded on the day!!! Please join in & make our second fun show a big success, thank you. Entry forms now available from our shop.

SPENT HOPS!

Thanks to an initial approach from Jean Barker , we are now getting a regular delivery of spent hops from York Brewery. They are for sale at £1 a bag, and are currently stored in the easy access area.

Please note that they are toxic to dogs if eaten.

Spent hops are an excellent source of humus. They don't contain much plant food, but are excellent for absorbing and holding moisture.



If used neat, they have several uses: mix a small amount with potting compost , or layer above the crocks in a clay pot to hold water ; mix into the soil when planting spuds, onions, leeks, peas & beans , courgettes, marrows, pumpkins & squashes. But don't use them fresh for root crops ; apply them as a deep mulch all year round to retain moisture, especially around fruit.

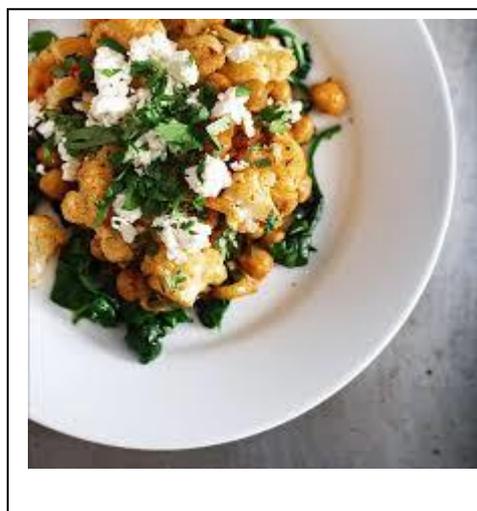
They have an unusual pong, a bit like a dog that hasn't been washed for a few months, but this soon goes away. They can also be added to your compost bin mixed with your other ingredients, or composted on their own with a small amount of something like chicken manure pellets mixed in. My 1940s book on manures says that they are as good as farmyard manure if mixed with fertiliser. It recommends saturating them with urine, but something like 6x chicken manure is easier to handle and doesn't smell quite as bad !

Kevin Holland
Plot 44
Committee

Roasted Cauliflower, Chickpeas and Harissa

Ingredients

- 1 head of cauliflower, in bite size florets
- 4 tablespoon of olive oil
- salt
- 1 teaspoon whole cumin seeds
- 1 large can of chickpeas, drained
- 1 red onion
- 3 tablespoons of Harissa paste
- ½ bunch of parsley
- ½ lemon
- block of feta cheese, crumbled



Instructions

Heat the oven to 200

Spread the cauliflower on a baking sheet and add the olive oil, ½ teaspoon of salt and the cumin seeds. Roast for 20mins. Then add the chickpeas and roast for a further 10mins

Meanwhile, heat the remaining olive oil and sauté the onion with a pinch of salt until soft and then add the harissa paste and a tablespoon of water

Add the onions to the cauliflower and chickpeas, stir through the lemon juice and chopped parsley

Top with feta and serve, perhaps on a bed of rocket or spinach or with naan breads and yoghurt

Quick Rhubarb Gin

Ingredients

1lb of rhubarb

250g granulated sugar

750ml gin

Instructions

Cut the rhubarb into ½ pieces and sprinkle with the sugar. Pop in a sealed container for about 3 days

1. Add the rhubarb sugar mix to the Gin including all the juice and leave for another 3-5days
2. Strain and drink!!
3. If its not sweet enough simply add some sugar syrup to the bottle, or some more granulated sugar and leave for a few days to dissolve



Lisa Maunder-Wood

Plot 95

Committee

In golden April weather,
In sun and wind and rain,
Let us fare forth and follow
Beneath the spring's first swallow
By budding break and heather
To the good brown soil again!
~Frederick Frye Rockwell, "Invitation,"
Around the Year in the Garden, 1913

With rake and seeds and sower,
And hoe and line and reel,
When the meadows shrill with "peeping"
And the old world wakes from sleeping,
Who wouldn't be a grower
That has any heart to feel?
~Frederick Frye Rockwell, "Invitation," *Around the Year in the Garden, 1913*

As March fast approaches, and snow & frost encroaches, We all get itchy fingers but patience is a virtue as winter sadly lingers, keep those seeds warm in their packets, And us warm in our jackets, The sun will soon be shining and those beans will be a climbing, and smiling faces all around will be talking tilth upon the ground, **Unknown 1897.**

More little gems?

Allotmenting requires a lot of water ... most of it in the form of perspiration!

Allotmenting is cheaper than the gym ... & if you are lucky you get something to eat!

Sow carrots in January and you will never have to eat carrots.

“Having an Allotment is soooooo exciting I went my plants!”

A weed is not just for Christmas, it's for Easter, May Day, Summer Holidays & if you have particularly strong ones autumn & they should see you through to Christmas again!!!

Nigel Collinson

Plot 66

Committee - Secretary

No Dig!

One evening in late January I went along to the Central Methodist Church in York to hear a talk by Charles Dowding, the acclaimed innovator of the no-dig gardening technique. Growing organically since 1983, and with success over many years of running gardening trials, his no-dig method aims for minimal disturbance of the soil. This allows natural organisms to thrive, increasing the soil's overall health. Digging your garden can break up the fungal threads in the soil, meaning your plants don't benefit from these helpful organisms. Healthy living soils are key in no-dig gardening.

To get started, lay cardboard on your raised bed etc and mulch with organic matter, then let the worms, micro-organisms and fungi mix the compost into the soil. No-dig is suitable for all types of soil and it isn't necessary to loosen the soil beforehand. Better to preserve the existing structure and soil life. Less weeding, less watering and generally less time needed, for growth at least as good if not better than conventional methods. While listening to Charles Downing talk, I thought about my ancestors, generations of hard-working farmers and market gardeners who worked the land. What would they have made of this way of producing their daily bread? I'm new to no-dig and I think I owe it them to find some answers for myself.

I've made a start. Cardboard saved is now in place on two of my raised beds. My compost heap and pile of well-rotted horse manure have provided enough to get me going, though I suspect I'll be needing a large amount of these over the coming weeks. It's now the third week in February and my plans are coming together on what I'd like to grow. The categories for our 2nd September Allotment Autumn Show will soon be decided, so perhaps an opportunity to try something new to earn one of those new-for-2018 coveted winners' rosettes.

Good luck to all my fellow no-diggers around the Hempland Lane site! Let's all give feedback at the end of the growing season. There's lots of general no-dig information online. Also, www.charlesdowding.co.uk is worth a look for useful advice and videos.

Lisa Tindale

Plot 59b

Committee

Technology



Heworth / Hempland Lane Allotment database and MailChimp system. Should you wish to get a message to all allotmenters via this system, please email 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. Don't forget our facebook page! For latest newsletter and diary information please visit www.hempland-lane-allotments.com

Attention all Allotment Holders and Dog Walkers

Ideas for our New Community Area / Easy Access Area Revamp

As discussed at the recent Hempland Lane Allotments AGM the rebuilding of the beds in our easy access area had continued in 2017 & 5 have now been fully refurbished but it is not a quick or a cheap process. 3 will be replaced in the centre in 2018.



The outside beds were sadly badly designed and are basically unlettable because they are rotting & are deemed unsafe. The committee have been trying to carefully utilise these beds during 2017 to grow crops to sell in the shop to raise additional funds.

Although the refurbished beds look great the rental income from them is very small (approx. £12 per annum). We only have fairly minimal use of the beds at present as well so what do we do?

The adjoining plot holders Robin Gommersall (Plot69A) & Nigel Collinson (Plot66) are in danger of the beds at the edge collapsing on to their plots. Nigel has concreted some posts in at his side to give the ailing fence some additional support.

It was agreed after some discussion at the AGM, that the outside beds could as a temporary measure be removed in 2018 and further discussion have come up with the idea of transforming it into a dedicated community area, where we can hold our coffee mornings, BBQs, events etc.

This would mean removing all the old & rotting timber but the mammoth task would be removing the soil & cobbles underneath. Some of the soil could be used to raise levels on some of the low plots on the site. This could be a project that could be undertaken by the Pay Back Team.

We are looking at grant applications and possibly creating some safer and smaller raised beds and storage areas.

These are the ideas that we have so far. What do you think?

Create a Community area that can be launched as we celebrate our 100 years.

A communal herb bed at the front of the site, which would disguise a pallet storage area underneath so store our BBQ and seating, tables etc. At the front of this the exterior wall, leading from the shop, could be made with a bespoke cage that is filled with the cobbles, that we already have under the raised beds.



Then from the inside view point, put large potted plants in pallet planters in front of the joins and pad locks of the cupboard doors so that it is not obvious that they are storage units.



A place where we can hold our Summer Fete, Autumn Shows etc. rather than using a car park, next to a composting toilet.

Built in BBQs



Also, does anyone have any old Hempland Lane Allotment photos and / or memorabilia? - if so please see Kevin Holland plot 44

If we do the What do people think??

Any other ideas would be great?

We really want your feedback and it will help with our grant application to demonstrate that we are consulting the allotment and dog walking community who use our site and to listen to your ideas too.

All feedback emailed to Gayle.farrington@btinternet.com or handed to a committee member or the shop on a Sunday morning, by Sunday 25th March 2018.

Seating Areas

Repurposed Wooden Pallet Sofa Plan

