

# Hempland Lane-Heworth Allotment Association



## Spring Newsletter 2023 Hot from the Hut!

### Committee Members

Name		Plot
Julian Ayres	Committee Member (Hempland Haven Rep)	67A & 67B
Ellen Bradbury	Committee Member	9
David Brinklow	Site Secretary and Treasurer	14
Nigel Collinson	Secretary	66
Alison England	Committee Member	49
Gayle Enion-Farrington	Chair and Publicity Officer	34, 35
Moira Grainger	Committee Member	93a
George Hughes	Committee Member	108
Vacancy	Committee Member (Hempland Haven Rep)	
Lisa Tindale	Committee Member	59b
Vacancy	Committee Member	
Lorraine Wood	Shop Manager	64
Dave Wood	Shop Manager	64
Mark Farrington	Website Administrator (not part of the committee)	35

There is still time to join Hempland Lane Allotment Association for 2023. Nigel our membership secretary has forms available and you can also get them from the shop on Sundays. The fee is £5 per person and the membership will run through until the 29<sup>th</sup> of February 2024.

### Dates for your diary

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2023 - Summer Fair** in the Haven at Hempland Lane Allotments 10am - 2pm. Starting at 10am with a coffee morning and merging into a 'Bring Your Own' BBQ lunch and refreshments from 12noon. There will also be a table top sale. If you would like a table please contact a member of the committee. More information to follow so look out in Facebook or the posters around our site

**National Allotments Week 2023 will run from 7<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup> of August.**

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023 - Autumn Show** in the Haven at Hempland Lane Allotments 10am - 2pm. Starting at 10am with a coffee morning and merging into a 'Bring Your Own' BBQ lunch and refreshments from 12noon.

There will be a produce show event and our **annual scarecrow competition** on the same day. The theme this year is **APPLES!** **Apple juicing event** - Bring all your apples on this day too and you can crop and press them on the day to create your own apple juice! We are hiring the apple press from St Nicks, who will also have a stall on the day.

You will also need to bring your own containers for the juice! More information to follow so look out in Facebook or the posters around our site

## SPRINGTIME 2023

What a pleasure it is to walk through the Wildlife Area at this time of year . The daffodils are looking lovely along with the crocus and snowdrops. With the weather being very changeable it is still muddy in certain areas, especially accessing the Playing Field. Hopefully it will improve soon, then we can all get on our Allotments and get planting. The Haven reopened on the 19th February 2023 and is very popular again. We managed to stay open all winter as people wanted to call in with their flask of coffee and sit down for a chat with friends. Everyone is welcome so if you are able to call in on a Sunday Morning between 10am and 12 noon please join us for a cuppa and some lovely home-made cakes and savouries. Also if you would like to help by doing some baking or helping on the Stall, I would be very grateful (your costs will be refunded).

Drinks 50p . Cake £1.00 Dogs welcome ( on a lead please ).

**Moira Grainger Plot 93a**



These words came from Karl Foerster (a German gardener & writer) but I am sure could be echoed by anybody with a garden or an allotment - "If I am ever re-born, I want to be a gardener again as there is too much to do in one lifetime".

Did you know ... Mares tail is not just for Christmas, it can be for life!

"The Grass People" sellers of grass seed, lawn fertilizers & wildflower seeds, have calculated that the average-sized garden of artificial turf would be the equivalent of 12,500 single-use plastic bottles or 950,000 plastic straws!

For full information go to: - <https://thegrasspeople.com/how-much-plastic-is-in-gardens>.

According to the British Carrot Growers Association - 75% of Britain's say they tuck into carrots on a regular basis. According to Nigel on plot66 75% of Carrot Root fly tuck into his carrots on a regular basis, he must do better in 2023.

### Survey Results

In our last newsletter there was a survey included with 20 questions about yourself & your plot on Hempland. Firstly, many thanks to those plot holders who took the time to complete the survey & return it to Nigel.

We had a draw at our AGM & Nikki Lowe plot42A was the lucky winner of the peat-free seed sowing compost which we hope she has success using.

Here is a quick resume of some of the most interesting answers in no particular order.

The overwhelming winner of the most popular fruit to grow was Raspberries with the odd nod towards Strawberries & Gooseberries.

When it came to the most popular vegetables that you grow (we asked for three) it was a very diverse picture Sweet Corn, Onions, Fennel, Cabbage, Beetroot, Garlic, Various Salads, Broad Beans, Peas, Rainbow Chard, Dwarf French Beans & Purple Sprouting Broccoli, the list goes on! Strangely enough no mention of potatoes?

One thing that was very encouraging & a universal answer was that everybody is making use of compost bins. It is without doubt one of the main fundamentals of having an allotment. The growth of the popularity of the no-dig system (see Nigel`s piece about plot66) has boosted interest in making more of your own compost.

We asked who would you like to meet to talk about gardening, it didn't have to be somebody famous or it could be people from the past. Again a regular theme was family members who had gardened; mine certainly would be my dad!

Of well-known people who were mentioned the answers included Geoff Hamilton, Carol Klein, Lawrence Hills, Sarah Raven, Charles Dowding & Percy Thrower.

What was listed of possibly the most difficult question to answer was what was the percentage of your plot that you actually cultivated & was productive during the past 12 months - "honesty answers please"! Well they ranged from 60% to 95%, so well done all of you.

Even if you didn't manage to complete the survey we hope the questions may be made you think about your plot a bit more?

### **Trying to go No Dig, Nigel plot66**

Spurred on by the survey question about cultivation & the inspirational No Dig videos produced by Charles Dowding I made a conscious decision to make a big effort on my plot66 in 2023.

At the turn of the year in January when things on the plot were pretty quiet I set on to make plot66 more productive. My first job was to sadly cut down my big Bay tree which was about 16feet high. With the best will in the world nobody can use that many bay leaves. I put some branches out at the front of my plot & had an aBay sale, buy one leaf get 100 free! As well as the mess the browning leaves made the light levels even in January immediately improved.

Whilst on light the next job was pruning & thinning the hedge which again has improved the light levels. I wanted to keep a number of brambles & also the Rosa Rugosa for the insects. I have a couple of trips to the tip taking some old rubbish even I can't recycle. Also a fair number of plant pots have been taken up to Vertigrow on Malton Road to be reused.

Dave Wood (plot64) had very kindly made me a potting bench which has been strategically placed next to the fence between plot65 & 66 so it can be reached & used from both sides. Storing pots & trays under it has freed up space & has helped with the ongoing "tidy up". A couple of pallets on their ends have been utilised as a "cane store", again keeping them tidy & in one place.

To the beds, I have put in place several small beds. I decided not to put edging around them just narrow paths between covered by cardboard & chippings. All the beds have been put in place to be used as a no dig system. Big sheets of plain cardboard have been placed on the undug soil & then large amounts of compost placed on top. Most of the compost has been homemade in my own bins supplemented with some really well rotted chippings & some of the really well rotted manure we have had delivered courtesy of Kevin from plot3.

These beds will be either planted or sown straight into with minimal soil disturbance. I know my main problem will be bindweed that will remerge shortly but I will try & keep it under control without disturbing the soil too much. In future the plan is to keep topping up with compost & not to dig them anymore. My beds on plot 65 at the shop end have now not been dug for 6 years & are working well; again the main weed problem is bindweed.

With less disturbance of the soil it certainly does improve the structure. I have found it has improved drainage & you need less watering. One noticeable difference is you do get less annual weed seeds germinating. Like all things gardening wise it takes patience & if I am still about I should see more noticeable improvements over the next couple of years.

I mentioned Charles Dowding at the top of this article; if you need more No Dig information just look him up. He has several excellent books on the subject available as well as YouTube pieces & courses via his website.

### **Nigel Collinson Plot 66**

As spring approaches, hopefully it warms up & the daylight hours increase, the sap in us "plotters" begins to rise as well. So may I wish all plot holders on Hempland a happy & successful season in 2023. Don't forget our shop is open every Sunday morning for your allotment needs. If Nigel plot66 or Dave & Lorraine plot64 are about we are happy to open the shop at anytime for you, just ask!

The importance of the garden in the lives of our ancestors has made it a place rich in tradition and superstition, as well as giving rise to a great store of practical wisdom. Favourite garden plants all had their special qualities - borage would give courage and happiness to those that ate it.

A spider tightening his web meant rain was on its way; a large crop of autumn berries a cold winter, but if onion skins were thin then the winter would be mild.

Sweet peas sown on St Patrick's Day (17th March) are said to produce larger more fragrant blooms.

### **Gardening Folklore**

A windy March foretells a fine May.

March winds and April showers  
Bring forth May flowers.

When you hear the cuckoo shout 'Tis time to plant  
your tatties out!

Talking of tatties, for a good crop of potatoes, it is  
suggested that they should be planted on a really  
stormy night.

Finally, when the beautiful summer roses bloom,  
folklore tells us to plant a clove of garlic near the  
rose bush to ward off the greenfly,  
without it affecting the rose's wonderful perfume.

An interesting & informative insight into the traditional gardening year of our forebears.

### **Lisa Tindale Plot 59b**



## The State of my Shed

One of the many things that thrilled me when I first got my allotment was that it had a shed. Admittedly it only had half a door and needed a coat of paint (or three) but it was still a proper shed. It was full of junk that had been left behind, but I imagined it with neat rows of shelves down the left side and my shiny, oiled tools suspended on the right. It would showcase my whole approach to my allotment - organised, methodical, professional.



Three years on and strangely I have never quite had the time to create this model of perfection. Searching fruitlessly for my ball of string the other day I was forced to accept that the shed does indeed accurately mirror my actual style - slipshod, muddled, ramshackle...

Happily, it seems that there are advantages to my slovenliness, and especially to never having emptied the shed out. The (many) times I can't immediately lay my hands on an essential item - my trowel, usually - are more than balanced by the occasions when the shed has magically supplied something I had no idea was there. Pigeon damage - need a net, urgently? Water container? Nails? All there, provided by the Previous Owner. My best find was a set of large black metal labels with plant names hand lettered in white. None of them match vegetables I actually grow, but they look the part, even if they are confusing to visitors. And occasionally to me too.

Naturally not everything in there follows William Morris' maxim of having only "that known to be useful or believed to be beautiful". I've also found 15-year-old seed packets, a nest of mice, and chemicals that Agatha Christie might have liked. But as gardeners we know how to take the rough with the smooth...

I did manage to botch a replacement for the missing half door. It now more or less keeps the rain out, though it wouldn't exactly daunt a hardened criminal. I followed the very sensible advice of a seasoned plot holder and didn't bother with a lock to save anyone the trouble of kicking the door in (for my door the work of two seconds). I'm pleased to report that it remains untouched, possibly because any potential thief would have no more luck finding my tools than I have. And it is wonderful not to have to ferry spades and forks backwards and forwards on my bike each visit.

There are so many uses for a shed. I tuck canes behind it. I try to climb things up it. Previous Owner fitted guttering and a water butt so the shed collects rainwater for me. It even acts as a marker - "mine's the plot with the odd pale green shed" (economical but probably ill-advised use of paint left over from my mother's garden furniture). Sadly, the one thing I most looked forward to - drinking my coffee out of the cold - I can't do. Getting both me and a chair in my shed is out of the question...given the state of it.

**Alison England Plot 49**

**Keeping the Haven tidy** - a big thankyou to Daphne Brinklow and Alan Henderson who are helping us to keep the Haven neat and tidy, as many of our tenants in this area are unable to weed the pathways. All tenants in this area are reminded not to leave gardening tools and equipment lying around the site. It must all be stored in the shed or on your raised bed, so that there are no tripping hazards left around the site.

## **RHUBARB & GINGER SYLLABUB**

**PREP.. 20mins - cook 5 mins**

**EASY - Serves 4**

A traditional creamy pudding with a delicious fruit Compote stirred through -a quick and indulgent dessert

400g Rhubarb ( cut into small cubes )  
Thumb sized piece of Ginger.  
( peeled & chopped)  
75g Caster Sugar  
100mls White Wine  
100g Mascarpone  
300mls Double Cream  
50g Icing Sugar  
2 pieces crystallised ginger finely chopped



### **Step 1**

Put the Rhubarb, root ginger, sugar & white wine in a pan. Bring to the boil and then simmer on a low heat for 4-5 minutes until the Rhubarb has softened.  
Remove from the heat and set aside to cool.

### **Step 2**

In another bowl whisk the Mascarpone, double cream and icing sugar to soft peaks. Remove 4Tbsp cooled Rhubarb and mash with a fork, then fold into the cream mixture.

### **Step 3**

Divide the rest of the poached rhubarb between 4 glasses, reserving a bit .  
Spoon over the cream mixture, then top with a few pieces of crystallised ginger and the rest of the rhubarb.  
Can be chilled for several hours before serving

**Moira Grainger Plot 93a**

If you would like to write something for the next newsletter, please email it to [gayle.farrington@btinternet.com](mailto:gayle.farrington@btinternet.com).