

Hempland Lane-Heworth Allotment Association



Summer Newsletter 2024

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

Dates for your diary



Sunday 7th July 2024 10am - 2pm - 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 Moira Grainger Plot 93a or at the Haven Sunday mornings 10-12noon.

Sunday 29th September 2024 10am - 2pm - 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. **Scarecrow theme** this year is WATER!



Man with a van - available to new plot holders

If you have any landfill waste please contact our site secretary David Brinklow - email with name, plot number and how much waste you have and where it is located on your plot (It needs to be in one place that can be easy to get to, as the man with a van may come when you are not present).

Gayle Enion-Farrington
Plot 34



Thank you for coming to our Grand opening of our new Sunday Café area on Sunday 5th May 2024 - a great time was had by all



Brambles over hanging footpaths



This year we are expected to benefit from a bumper crop of brambles. However please can you all ensure that your brambles are not overhanging onto any of the public footpaths outside your plot, which could injure passersby. Please think of all heights that could be walking by. Thankyou for your help in this matter.

Polite Notice

People are starting to leave rubbish and plastic pots behind the shop again. Please do not leave rubbish or unwanted items near the shop or anywhere else on the site as we are trying to keep it tidy. Please take them home or to the council tip.

Gayle Enion-Farrington
Plot 34
Committee - Chairperson

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 February 2024 and the majority of people joined at the AGM so that they can get their card laminated. But its never too late to join!

If you would like to make use of our composting toilet whilst on your plot, please purchase a key from the shop for only £5. 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.

GARDENING CLUBS

10% DISCOUNT IS GIVEN ON THE FOLLOWING PRODUCT GROUPS:

Houseplants	Fertilisers
Shrubs	Chemicals
Trees	Tools
Perennials	Hoses/Sprayers
Bedding	Hanging Baskets
Roses	Garden Sundries
Climbers	Planters/Covers
Conifers	Fish & Aquatic Plants
Fruit (plants)	Pond & Water Features
Herbs/Vegetable (plants)	Cut Flowers
Aquatics	Basket Plants (seedlings)
Vegetable Seeds	Xmas Trees (fresh)
Flower Seeds	Trays (propagation)
Bulbs	Outdoor Pots(terracotta/glazed)
Stoneware	Compost & Peat
Floral Art	



DISCOUNT IS NOT GIVEN ON THE FOLLOWING PRODUCT GROUPS:

Barbecues & Accessories	Christmas Goods
Gift Tokens	Greenhouses/Sheds/Summerhouses
Beekeeping	Outdoor Gifts
Furniture (inc. wooden)	Charcoal & Fuels
Turf	Delivery Charges
Books (inc. newspapers & gardening magazines)	Gifts & Cards
Stamps	Food & Drinks (inc. sweets, jams, drinks, ice creams, biscuits, hampers, eggs and fruit & vegetables)

Please note that you cannot use your discount alongside your Deans loyalty card.



10% discount at Vertigrow

PEAT-FREE COMPOST

We're all doing our best to go completely peat-free in our gardens and on our plots, and indeed will have to do so when the ban on the sale of bagged peat compost comes into force at the end of this year.

But I wonder if others, like me, are finding it difficult to source consistently good quality all-purpose peat-free compost. There's plenty available - in supermarkets as well as garden centres - at a wide range of prices, but the quality varies hugely even within the same brand. Some of it is so coarse as to be virtually unusable for sowing seeds, and you can't see what you're getting until you open the bag.

I've had terrible germination and growth rates this year in peat-free compost (Admittedly the weather may have something to do with this! But even indoors the results have been poor.) One of the main problems has been the infestation of fungus flies/gnats which seems to be a particular issue in peat-free - you can often see the little buggers there in the bags of compost. These tiny flies live in damp soil and attack the roots of seedlings leaving them weak and spindly. I've tried reduced watering and sticky yellow traps but nothing has got rid of them.

There's very good advice about using peat-free compost on the RHS website at <https://www.rhs.org.uk/soil-composts-mulches/using-peat-free-compost-for-seeds-and-cuttings> but despite following this advice I'm still not happy. So if anybody has any recommendations of brands which are consistently good quality (and not exorbitantly priced!) I'd be glad to hear them.

Ellen Bradbury Plot 9

Cutting your losses - things I've given up on

I was once advised by a market gardener to grow a bit of everything, then something is bound to work. But...with each season I seem to lose not just particular vegetables or fruits but whole groups of them from my planting plan.

I started out enthusiastically planting sprouts, for example, feeding them, netting them, staking them. The sad result for my labours was a few blown sprouts on leaning stalks. And we don't even like sprouts. So, I never repeated that exercise. The same was true of cabbages, alas. Tended, netted, fed - and they still had more holes than a doily. Pak choi? Fabulous for the first year, when the flea beetles were suspicious of foreign food, then decimated when they discovered the delights of a Chinese takeaway. In the end I gave up on brassicas altogether. Me and greens, in the words of my late grandmother, just didn't get on. Flea beetles also meant I had to put a stop to growing rocket. But this time they recognised and ate the rocket straight away and I didn't get even one year's grace. I like alliums, and we use a lot of them in cooking. At first all was well, and I actually got to take home some pretty useful onions, leeks and garlic. The honeymoon period was not to last. Rust and rot, leek moth and for added insult a bout of bolting soon took the edge off growing them.

Broad beans, by contrast, proved surprisingly easy to grow. They weren't too fussy about being properly hardened off and nothing seemed to eat them. The only problem was that neither did we - or at least not in the quantities I produced. So while they aren't on the banned list I'm definitely under orders to reduce the amount. This is typical, given that they are relatively easy to germinate and to

grow, and of course the seeds are nice and big and easy to sow. The temptation unfortunately is to get flushed with success and cover half the allotment with them.

Sometimes disease is the deadening hand - quite literally. I never cease to be amazed by the variety of blights and plagues that have found their forever home on the site. It has been an education in all the things I have previously heard mentioned but never experienced. Tulip fire - previously never seen it, now know why flower growers live in dread of it. Tomato blight - yep, it is as devastating as people say it is. This year something awful is efficiently and methodically killing off my summer raspberries, a clump at a time.

Accordingly, my King's catalogue list seems to get shorter every year. But then the phrase "Jack of all trades, master of none" comes comfortingly to mind. With a shorter range of crops to contend with there is a chance - remote admittedly - that in some dim but rosy future I will develop some expertise with the select few crops that remain. It's a sort of natural selection, I tell myself, and the fruit and vegetables left standing are the ones that:

- Do reasonably well without ludicrous efforts on my part, possibly up to giving CPR, all madly disproportionate to their actual value (or taste).
- We enjoy eating and will therefore make full use of without *any* moaning.
- If by some miracle I produce a surplus, they will be an acceptable gift, not one from which people back hastily away (courgettes).

In the end you really can't beat experience, and in mine cutting your losses can be no bad thing.

Alison England, Plot 49a

Quotes

Plant and our spouse plants with you: weed and you weed alone (Jean- Jacques Rousseau)

A weed is a plant that has mastered every survival skill except for learning how to grow in rows (Doug Larson)

Housework is for people who don't know how to garden (Unknown)

What is an AGM?

The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Award of Garden Merit (AGM) is given to plants that perform reliably in the garden. The plants are trialled, usually at an RHS garden, and judged by a forum of horticultural "experts".

At each review plants have their AGM status either confirmed or removed. The AGM list currently contains more than 7500 plants! For more information you can visit www.rhs.org.uk/plants/trials-awards.

Did you know?

Runner Bean pods contain phytohaemagglutinin (that's easy for you to say!) which causes nausea and vomiting if eaten uncooked. French Beans can also have this effect, so it is always best to cook them before consumption.

Did you know?

Dahlias were first brought into the UK as a food crop for their edible tubers. On the other hand Runner Beans were first introduced as an ornamental climber, producing scarlet red flowers all up the stem, hence its common name scarlet runner.

How things change, on an allotment 99% of plotters would not consider using those plants that way round nowadays. If you have eaten Dahlia Tubers please let us know and give us your feedback. Did you know this one I certainly didn't!

A shitake mushrooms distinctive taste includes umami! This is the fifth taste characteristic besides sweet, salty, bitter and sour, and is a typical feature of protein rich foods such as meat, pulses and some mushrooms. Otherwise, it is only encountered in monosodium glutamate that has been added to food.

A Pest to watch out for make a change from "Slug Watch".

This time of year is the time when the adult vine weevil beetles are emerging and are looking for host plants to lay their eggs. As Vine Weevils don't fly you can often see them crawling up greenhouse glass, or on cold frames or on polytunnel walls. They are easily recognisable by their dark grey/black body and long nose.

A tell-tale sign that you have vine weevils about is notching seen on the edges of leaves. It is the cream-coloured grubs however that causes the most damage by eating the roots off many plants. They are especially fond of those grown in pots, the most popular including strawberries, Hostas, primulas, rhubarb and Heucherella. Keep an eye out for the adult beetles and if you find them the best way is to squash them.

If you see a plant collapse and it comes out of its compost easily, if it still has some roots left, wash off the remaining compost; make sure there are no grubs left in the root. Then re-pot the plant into some clean peat-free general compost and the plant should recover.

If you empty the old compost out of the pot onto an outside bed, if there are any of the "C" shaped grubs in there the robins will be you friend for life (if they aren't already!) as they love them to eat!

RAISED BEDS

There has been much written both for and against raised beds and will continue to be so. Several years ago I purchased two large raised beds when Homebase closed its doors. From memory they were reduced from £130 to about £50, a real bargain. I have made some great compost in them mainly from well rotted horse manure left for about two years! This spring I decided after emptying one of them I would try an experiment of using fresh horse manure to make an outside naturally heated raised bed.

I started filling at one end & then thought I would split it in two, it is large enough and make one half into a Hugel Bed. So that is what I have done filling the bottom with old logs & dead brambles just like the forest floor. There are branches, pruning's and lots of decaying material layered up. Nearer the top I have put some manure, grass clippings, homemade compost and topped it off with three bags of peat-free compost.

I got on top of it and trod it down, gave it a good watering and planted it up, so far so good. As it settles more I will keep topping up with more of my homemade compost.

For more on the Hugel method visit www.wildhomesteading.com/hugelkuttur-beds

Nigel Collinson plot 66

Car Parking

Please be advised that the two onsite parking areas should only be used by plottolders when visiting your plot. Please park with consideration to others.

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.



AUTUMN SHOW

A gentle reminder about our annual fun show due to be held on Sunday 29th September 2024 this year. Now is the time to be thinking about what classes you might be entering. You can complete your entry forms anytime between now and the show and its only 50p an entry so have a go. The emphasis is on fun but if you can grow foot long carrots get them entered.

OUR AUTUMN "FUN" SHOW & BBQ IS NOW BOOKED FOR SUNDAY 29th SEPTEMBER 2024

Now is the time to be thinking about what classes you might be entering. You can complete your entry forms anytime between now and the show and its only 50p an entry so have a go. The emphasis is on fun but if you can grow foot long carrots get them entered. ONLY 50p per entry & some prizes & Rosettes will be awarded on the day!!! Classes for our Autumn Show planned for Sunday 29th September 2024 are as follows:

- 1/ Potatoes on a plate, the same size (3)
- 2/ The most unusual vegetable you grow!
- 3/ Tallest Sunflower
- 4/ Individual Sunflower with the most flower heads on it
- 5/ Your most unusual container used to produce vegetables, let your creativity run wild on this one.
- 6/ Longest bean of any type or variety.
- 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 class was very popular last year, the plot with the most varieties of vegetables, flowers, and weeds. (Listed with names)
- 10/ Three apples on a plate

11/ Most Unusual Pumpkin or Squash

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 2024, you are entered automatically!

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/ Mixed flowers in a vase (minimum 5)

22/ Three Onions, presented how you wish

23/ Collection of herbs artistically presented

24/ Mixed tied bouquet of flowers

25/ Best garden in a tray (standard size seed tray)

26/ Your most original photos taken on your own plot, or from the Hempland site.

27/ Autumn themed arts or craft item

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 your parents or guardian)

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 Prizes & prize cards will be awarded on the day!!! Please join in & make our third fun show a big success, thank you. Entry forms now available from our shop NOW

F/ Autumn themed arts or crafts item of your choice.

**ENTRY FORM ATTACHED, PLEASE COMPLETE & RETURN TO THE SHOP OR
ALTERNATIVELY HAND THEM TO ANY COMMITTEE MEMBER BY THE 28th SEPTEMBER
2024 PLEASE.**

PLEASE JOIN IN & COME ALONG & ENJOY THE EVENT!!!

Entry form on back page

BONFIRES

Following complaints to Environmental Protection about bonfire smoke from this and other allotment sites over the May bank holiday weekend, YACIO have developed a new policy for having bonfires. The policy stated here replaces any previous guidance about when you can have a bonfire and must be complied with by all plot holders with immediate effect.

Allowing a bonfire to cause a nuisance to neighbouring residents or other allotment tenants contravenes your allotment tenancy agreement. It may also be an offence under environmental protection law. If the Council's Environmental Protection Unit receive a complaint they issue an official warning. After a warning, further nuisance could lead to a court appearance and a fine of up to £5,000.

Please follow these rules for trouble free bonfires:

- Don't light a bonfire on a warm dry day or evening, as neighbouring residents may be sitting out in their garden or drying their washing
- Between Easter & October you should only have a fire when the weather is cold and grey, never have a fire when the weather is sunny and dry
- Don't burn your weeds - most can be composted or buried
- Only burn dry, woody garden waste that can't be composted
- Never use petrol, diesel, or oil to start or feed a fire
- Don't have a bonfire on a very windy day, or when the wind blows the smoke towards neighbouring houses
- Don't have a bonfire when it's raining, drizzling, or when the air is very damp
- Don't bring rubbish from home to burn on your plot
- Always make sure the fire is out before you leave

We hope you find this common-sense guidance useful. Please contact any member of the committee if you have any questions, or look at the website for guidance on alternatives to bonfires www.hempland-lane-allotments.co.uk



If you would like to write something for the next newsletter, please email it to gayle.farrington@btinternet.com,

Hempland Fun Show Sunday 29th September 2024 10:00-14:00

ENTRY FORM

NAME -

PLOT NUMBER

CLASSES ENTERED

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

ENTRY FEES PAID