

Hempland Lane-Heworth Allotment Association



Summer Newsletter 2014 Hot from the Hut!

Committee Members

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
Ann-Marie Knowles	Committee Member	16
Available !	Easy Access Plots Rep	?
Nigel Collinson	Committee Member	65
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 2014



This year it will be held on Sunday 13th July 2014, 10am - 2pm. A scarecrow competition will be run again, so start your preparations! This year the theme is Tour de France.

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. A representative from our local PCSO will be present to discuss Allotment Watch. 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!

Strimming Weekend 20th & 21st September 2014 - more details to follow nearer the time
- just keep the dates free for now ☺

Volunteering Sunday – 2nd Sunday each month, May to October

Please report to the Allotment Shop between the hours of 10am - 12noon, where two members of the committee will be there to welcome you. You can choose from a wide range of jobs that need to be done on the site. From planting seeds on the spare easy access plots (the produce of which will be sold in the allotment shop), to weeding, painting, ground clearing etc. Jobs ranging from 30 mins to 2 hours - whatever you can spare - still giving you time for your own plot. Associate Members also welcome to get an idea of what allotmenting is about.

Do you need to order any seeds?

Ordering using the Kings seed catalogue can bring big savings and is therefore recommended. All orders should be placed by October and a catalogue will be available at the shop for those who are interested.

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.

If you would to make full use of our composting toilet whilst on your plot, please purchase a key from the shop for only £3.

Come to the shop and meet our Police Community Support Officers on the following dates if you have any concerns or wish to discuss Allotment Watch. 27th July 2014, 24th August 2014 28th September 2014 and 26th October 2014 between 10.30am-11.30am.

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 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.



**ALLOTMENT SHOP - Is now open.
Sundays 10am - 12noon**

New to allotmenting? Here is a guide for the next three months

June

Flaming June should bring us a hot sunshine filled month with the risk of frost past and those in more northerly parts should be able to catch up with those in the south. We're also moving towards the longest day, June 21st being the summer solstice so there is plenty of daylight to let you get on with things. There is a lot to do in June but the rewards for our efforts are coming in the harvest.



Runner Bean Poles and beans starting up them at the beginning of June

Direct Sowing

In dry weather draw your drill and water it well prior to sowing and then just water with a fine rose after wards to settle the seeds in.

Successional sowing each fortnight of beetroot, french beans, early carrots, kohlrabi, early peas, lettuce, rocket, turnips, endive, radish, spring onions will give you a constant supply of salads and vegetables at their peak for your plate.

French and Runner Beans, Maincrop peas, Beetroot, Carrots, Turnips, Swedes, Cauliflowers, Chicory, Endive, Kohlrabi, Sweetcorn, Squash, Courgette and Marrows

Planting Out

If you follow my method of starting brassicas in pots, especially if you have clubroot, then it's time to plant out.

Broccoli, Calabrese, Brussels sprouts, Summer cabbage

Pot grown runner and dwarf beans should be safe to plant out now as the danger of frost should be past. Outdoor tomatoes can also go into their final position. Don't just move them straight from the greenhouse or they'll be checked. Use a cold frame to condition them or move them back into the house at night for a few days before they go into the big wide world.

Your leeks may well be ready now, about pencil thickness. I like to plant mine as a follow on to the early potatoes which will be up by the end of the month. When transplanting leeks don't follow the old advice of chopping the top foliage and roots back, it doesn't do any good.

Fruit

If we do get a prolonged dry spell, don't forget that that fruit bushes and trees need watering. Swelling apples and currants need water as much as leafy vegetables. Once again, give a good soaking rather than little sprinkles that encourage surface rooting.

In June apples have the "**June Drop**" where the tree drops excess fruit. After this it is worth thinning out if the branches are still overcrowded. Tie in blackberry canes as they grow and check netting, fruit cages etc have no access for the birds.

When you've had the last rhubarb, give them a good feed by mulching with well-rotted manure mixed with compost or an artificial like growmore to enable them to build strength for next year.

July

July is usually one of the hottest and driest months so a lot of time may be spent watering. You can reduce water loss and so save yourself some time. Mulching with a layer of organic matter will help preserve moisture but may encourage slugs so you will need to take action against them.

Another good method of preventing water loss is to hoe. This not only kills the weeds but breaks up the top of the soil stopping water from being drawn to the surface by capillary action and evaporating.

Direct Sowing

In dry weather draw your drill and water it well prior to sowing and then just water with a fine rose after to settle the seeds in.

In really hot spells you might need to water young seedlings early morning and late evening to keep them going.

Although the sowing season is coming to a close there are still things to sow in July

Spring Cabbage, Chicory, Chinese cabbage, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Peas, French Beans, Beetroot, Carrots, Radishes

Planting Out

If they've not gone out yet, it's time to plant out your leeks. Just dib a hole about 150mm 6" deep and drop the leek into the hole. Water it in and the job's done. Don't follow old advice about trimming the tops and roots, it has no beneficial effect and is probably harmful. You don't need to fill the holes with soil, enough will wash in with watering and rain. The reason you plant in a hole is to blanch the stem.

Brassicas from pots can go out as well: broccoli, calabrese, Brussel sprouts and cabbage

Green Manures

I like to follow on the first early potatoes with leeks but otherwise a green manure can avoid bare ground which is just going to grow weeds. Mustard is fast growing and is supposed to confuse the potato eel worm into breeding at the wrong time, hence a follow on to potatoes. **It is a brassica so don't use it if you suffer from club root.**

Another fast growing green manure crop you can use is French beans. Even if you have enough beans for the kitchen, the plant produces a fair amount of leaf and stem plus the roots, as with all legumes, have nodules containing bacteria that fix nitrogen from the atmosphere. .

Fruit

If we do get a prolonged dry spell, don't forget that that fruit bushes and trees need watering. Swelling apples and currants need water as much as leafy vegetables. Give a good soaking rather than little sprinkles that encourage surface rooting.

Finish thinning apples, pears and plums etc. if needed. It's the right time for summer pruning as well. Keep the base of trees weed and grass free, mulch to keep in moisture and add fertility with garden compost.

Pick soft fruits now assuming you've kept the birds away with netting or a cage and they've left you some. Don't forget to use strawberry runners to grow new plants and remove unwanted runners so the plants retain strength. Grub up and replace in another spot strawberries after 3 or 4 years cropping.

August

August with a little luck brings us the best of the summer weather but being the traditional holiday month it can be hard to keep on top of the vegetable plot with a fortnight away even if a neighbour can be persuaded to water as required



The sweetcorn is high and soon the cobs will be ripe and ready.

Direct Sowing

There are still quite a few things you should be sowing in August. Spring Cabbage and Chinese cabbage, which is a late crop as well as hardy lettuce.

Although we think of lettuce as a summer crop, it is a surprisingly hardy plant and under cloche and in the greenhouse can easily be available for a Boxing day salad rather than some tasteless import from sunnier climes.

Sow spring onions like White Lisbon winter hardy which will grow, albeit slowly, to add zing to that salad along with some fast growing radishes. Late spinach can be sown in August along with a last sowing of kohlrabi and turnips.

Planting Out

Plant out the savoy cabbages and cauliflowers to grow on for the earliest crop as well as hardy kales.

Fruit

If we do get a prolonged dry spell, don't forget that that fruit bushes and trees need watering. Swelling apples and currants need water as much as leafy vegetables. Give a good soaking rather than little sprinkles that encourage surface rooting.

It's the last chance for summer pruning. Watch out for over laden plums and damsons. If needed you can support branches by inserting a length of 2x1 notched at the top (like an old fashioned line prop) to support the branch or tie to the stem with robust twine.

Keep the base of trees weed and grass free, mulch to keep in moisture and add fertility with garden compost. Protect autumn raspberries now with netting from the birds before the fruits arrive and the birds eat them.

Strawberry mousse cake

This is a really pretty centre piece, perfect to serve as a dessert for a summer party or special meal.

Ingredients

For the *Génoise* sponge base

2 free-range eggs

50g/2oz caster sugar

15g/½oz unsalted butter, melted, plus extra for greasing

50g/2oz plain flour, sifted

For the strawberry mousse

1 x 135g/5oz packet strawberry jelly

450g/1lb strawberries

2 x 170g/6oz tins evaporated milk

To decorate

50g/2oz dark chocolate (or milk, if you prefer), chopped.

Preparation method

1. First make the sponge. Heat your oven to 180C/350F/Gas 4. Grease and line the base of a 23cm/9in springform tin.
2. Put the eggs and sugar in a heatproof bowl and place over a pan of simmering water (don't let the bowl touch the water). Use an electric whisk to whisk them together until thick, pale and moussey and doubled in volume. The mixture should hold a trail when you lift the beaters out of the mixture. Take off the heat.
3. Fold the melted butter gently into the egg mousse, then gently fold in the flour. Pour into the prepared tin and bake for 15-20 minutes, or until cooked and lightly golden-brown. Leave to cool completely, then remove the sponge from the tin and peel off the parchment paper.
4. Line the sides of the same tin with baking parchment, first snipping a line of little 'feet' along the base of the paper so it will fit snugly against the base. Put the sponge base back into the tin.
5. To make the mousse, break up the jelly and put in a pan with a tablespoon of water. Melt gently over a low heat until smooth. Remove from the heat and set aside. Purée 200g/7oz of the strawberries in a blender until smooth and pass through a sieve to remove the seeds. Hull the remaining strawberries and cut in half top-to-toe (or slice into three if large).
6. Using an electric whisk, or a free-standing mixer with a whisk attachment, whisk the evaporated milk for at least five minutes, or until it is thick, bubbly and doubled in volume. Gently fold in the liquid jelly, then fold in the strawberry purée.
7. Arrange the strawberry slices around the edge of the lined tin, cut side against the tin. Scatter any extra strawberries over the sponge.
8. Pour the strawberry mousse into the tin, levelling the top. It doesn't matter if the mousse doesn't quite cover the strawberries. Place in the fridge for at least two hours to set.
9. To decorate, melt the chocolate in a heatproof bowl over a pan of simmering water. Dip a few strawberries in the melted chocolate and leave to set.
10. Pour the remaining chocolate into a paper piping bag. Snip the end off the piping bag and drizzle lines of chocolate over the top of the mousse (alternatively use a piping bag with a fine plain nozzle attached). Place the chocolate dipped strawberries in the centre and serve.

Just for fun on a raining day - Allotment Quiz



Gardening, nature and countryside news, shopping, quizzes, comps, forum etc.

The Grow Your Own Quiz

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1. Moneymaker is a type of what?
2. What 'N' makes a good companion plant in the veg garden to act as a decoy and attract pests away from vegetable plants?
3. What plant is a well known natural fertiliser and can be grown to make a rich liquid feed?
4. The Honeyberry is a climbing fruit similar to blueberries. It is resistant to harsh weather. What region is it native?
5. Shirley, Poppet and Charlotte, which is the potato, which is the pea and which is the tomato? (1 point for all 3 correct)
6. 'Salad Bowl' is a type of lettuce. Is it a hearting or non-hearting variety?
7. What rhubarb type vegetable is known for its decorative leaves and can be planted amongst flowers in borders?
8. Kale, Cabbage, Pak Choi and Broccoli can all be classified as what type of vegetable?
9. Carrots, Garlic and Radishes all have something in common, what?
10. What colour is the flower on Bush Marrows?
11. If Rhubarb is 'forced' what is the result?
12. If a fruit tree is trained along horizontal lines, what is this known as?
13. Why should Quinces be stored separately from other fruits?
14. Black Mulberry bushes can reach a height of, 2-3 metres, 3-6 metres or 6-10 metres?
15. What were Kiwi fruits originally known as?
16. What is tip layering?
17. Dutch, Onion and Draw are types of what?
18. What is the watering can attachment on the spout known as?
19. For plants that resent root disturbance when being planted out what is suggested?
20. Cloches will protect plants from what?
21. Is mushroom compost alkaline or acidic?
22. French marigolds can be planted in the veg garden to attract what type of insect that will feed on aphids?
23. An inverted flower pot filled with dried grass and placed over a cane will attract what type of insect away from plants?
24. Name the veg garden enemy. Hedgehog, Garden Spider, Centipede, Millipede
25. What is inter cropping?

Answers

1. Tomato
2. Nasturtium
3. Comfrey
4. Siberia
5. Non hearting
7. Swiss Chard
8. Brassicas
9. All have very low Nitrogen fertilizer requirements
10. Yellow
11. By 'forcing' the rhubarb by excluding light the plant will produce smaller, tender, pink stems.
12. Espalier
13. They have a strong aroma, which can contaminate the taste of other fruits
14. 6-10 metres
15. Chinese Gooseberries
16. Placing young stems from plants like the blackberry into the ground still attached to the parent plant. At the end of the season when the stem has grown roots it is cut away from the plant and a new young plant has been created that can be potted up and transplanted the following spring.
17. Garden Hoe Tools
18. Rose
19. Grow the seeds in biodegradable pots made from organic matter that can be planted with the plant into the ground. They will protect the young roots and as they grow they break through the decaying pot..
20. Snow/frost/ice
21. Alkaline, it can be used to reduce acidity of the soil
22. Hoverflies
23. Earwigs, the pot can then be removed from the garden.
24. Millipede
25. Growing slow growing and fast growing plants alongside each other to make good use of space eg. Sweetcorn and lettuce