

Hempland Lane-Heworth Allotment Association



Summer 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 Pulley	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 starting this year to include a community space.

Dates for your Diary

Sunday Morning Café - open every Sunday until October 10-12 noon and when weather is permitting during the winter.

Stall at Friends of Hempland School Summer Fete - Saturday 23rd June.

11.30am - 2pm

Please can all donations be labelled and bagged and given to Gayle (or left in her greenhouse at 1 Allington Drive) by 22nd June 6pm, or taken directly to the Allotment stall at the school on 23rd June between 10 - 10.30am, as there will not be facilities to do this on the day. This includes plants, new potatoes washed and bagged in 1lb weight, rhubarb sticks bundled in 1lb weight, bagged salad leaves, jams and other preserves, and any other produce washed and nicely presented ready to sell.

Summer Fete & Scarecrow competition: theme **Winnie the Pooh & Friends**

Sunday 15th July 2018 10am - 2pm in the shop area. The 2019 theme will be Romans to help celebrate our 100 years!

Fun Autumn Show Sunday 2nd September 2018 12noon - 2pm in the shop area. Official Prize Cards have been ordered!!

Strimming Weekend 22nd and 23rd September 2018 10am - 2pm each day in the wildlife area

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.hemland-lane-allotments.co.uk



Hempland Lane Allotments Association Membership Benefits

If you are a plot holder then please consider joining our 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. You can also get discounts on a range of items from the National Association of Allotment Gardeners (NSALG) scheme, including compost, holidays, entry to some gardens, and horticultural supplies. The shop has a copy of the full NSALG list and how to get the discounts. Another benefit of your association membership is inclusion in the new NSALG Allotmenters Liability Insurance. Since 29 March 2018 all member plot-holders 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 are in an article in the NSALG Allotment magazine, available in the shop.

Renewals for our association were due in January 2018, but it is not too late to join this year. Please see Nigel on plot 66 for an application form.

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.

Seed sowing experiment.

On the 10th of April on one of those very cold, chilly dull damp evenings I was fighting off the crowds in our allotment car park. Well two hardy dog walkers and a pair of Blackbirds. I seemed to be the only hardy allotmenteer about strangely enough.

Anyway, because the soil has been so wet and cold I have been sowing various seeds in modules so as to try and catch up a little bit when it dries up (I am writing this on 12/4/18). On this particular evening I thought I would try a little experiment on germination.

7 identical 6 cell trays were sowed with that good old standby favourite Beetroot *Boltardy*. They were sown in the following "composts" to see if one there would be any germination & two to see if the seeds grow away ok or will be stunted.

- 1/ Peat free recycled compost
- 2/ Pure spent hops
- 3/ Chippings (from our chippings bay)
- 4/ Sowing compost
- 5/ Peat free compost with sowing compost on top
- 6/ Builders sand &
- 7/ Peat based multi-purpose compost ... results to follow.

Well here is an update on 23/5/18 on this little "experiment". All the trays were grown outside & not under any protection. Germination & growth has been relatively good in 4 of the 7 trays, seeds were showing by 8/5/18 & the plants will be planted out this coming Bank Holiday weekend. Sadly no major surprises but in order of merit best to worst here goes:-

First, Sowing Compost as you would hopefully expect, it does what it says on the bag so the extra premium for this compost could be deemed to be "worth it".

Second, Peat based multi- purpose compost, nearly as good but slightly slower growth once germinated.

Third Peat free compost with sowing compost on top, worked well as it was the best of both worlds.

Fourth Peat free recycled compost again very similar but less healthy looking onward growth.

Fifth (just) Builders sand, a few straggly plants germinated but did not develop as obviously no nutrients available!

Joint Sixth & Seventh Pure spent hops & Chippings which both drew a blank with no germination whatsoever!

The plants as I say will be planted out this weekend (26th May) but will not be split up they will just be planted in blocks. As they develop the largest beetroot will be carefully removed from the bunch and the others allowed to grow on. I have used this method previously and it has proved successful so here`s hoping it will work again this season.

Spent hops

Just a reminder to plot holders that we have just had another delivery of spent hops. These are available from the shop on a Sunday morning or if you see Nigel on Plot 66 he will sort them for you. We are currently running an excellent offer of three large bags for £2, normally £1 per bag. The full bags are pretty heavy so if you need any help getting them to your plot Nigel will be happy to help.

The hops make an excellent mulch, soil conditioner or rot down really well when mixed in your compost heap. You can make excellent compost using mostly spent hops if you have a plastic composter. Just mix together spent hops with an activator such as chicken manure pellets or powder. Use a small handful of pellets for each full bag of hops. It will soon decompose, and you'll end up with a compost that is as good as farmyard manure.

Shop

We still have a good range of seeds available in our shop on a Sunday morning at competitive prices or again if you see Nigel he will be happy to open up the shop for any of your needs if you can't get down on a Sunday morning. See our website for a list of stock that is available including 6ft & 8ft canes for your runner beans, bags and tubs of pelleted chicken manure (very popular), plant labels, string, plant ties, lime (both large & small bags), blood, fish and bone, compost activator, slug tablets, tomato feed and rose fertilizer to name a few things.

We also have produce available on a Sunday morning, many thanks to all those who have donated items on a Sunday for us to sell it is much appreciated. We also usually have a range of plants, again thanks for your donations. If you haven't grown a certain crop or you have had a failure it's always worth a look just in case we have it. Also I have my plants out on a weekend so again also worth a look. Some of the profits from them go to the shop and some profits go to the Martin House Children's Hospice, and they are much cheaper than the local garden centres!

A big thank you to all those who kindly keep supporting our Sunday morning tea, coffee and cake "cafe". The funds raised are making a big difference to the work carried out on our site.

Nigel
Plot66

Committee

Community Payback Team & Communications

I hope you all agree that the continuation of the Payback Team has transformed our site. Now that we are in the summer months, as expected, we are likely to have just 1 team per week, but they can still continue to help individual plot holders as well as the site as a whole. Recently they have tidied up the car parking areas both inside and outside the gates. Please do use both these areas, as it helps to prevent further fly tipping or disposal of chippings outside the site.

We update our Facebook page each week on the progress made by the Payback team. If you are on Facebook and want even more regular updates than this newsletter please join fb@HemplandLaneAllotments. It's also a great way to post / discuss / chat to like-minded people about all things allotmenting. We also provide regular communications using email, newsletters and posters around the site.

General Data Protection Regulations and emails - It is not too late!!

You have probably been inundated with information and requests regarding the GDPR. Due to privacy changes coming into effect on the 25th May of this year we need to make changes to our email listing system. In summary the latest changes mean that we must remove all your email details from all our lists and allow you the choice to re-subscribe. As such on the 4th of May we will remove all details and unless you follow the link below AFTER this date you will not receive any more email communication from us. The direct link is below but you can also access the same link by following the "Contact Us" page within our web site.

<https://hempland-lane-allotments.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4da60f63419456dd91367cfb9&id=b3e95d43c4&e=f73e52e594>

Just to clarify you will NO LONGER get our emails and updates **unless you resubscribe**, this event is caused by changes within the law regard privacy (General Data Protection Regulation).

You can of course still access our website or facebook groups in order to keep in touch with what is happening on the site if you would rather not resubscribe.

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.



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

"Play in the dirt and call it having an allotment!" or as it was in March and April "Play in the water and call it having an allotment"



AUTUMN SHOW

A gentle reminder about our second annual fun show due to be held on Sunday 2nd September 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.

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.

Classes for our 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 & prize cards 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.

No dig and parsnip experiments

Last year: In June last year we made our first attempt at 'no dig'. We needed to get my squashes in, but the only bit of land we had available was full of weeds including nettles, horseradish, and horsetail. I put down a layer of thick cardboard and covered it with a 6 inch deep layer of strawy horse manure which I then drenched with water. I tried to dig out the oldest manure from the heap, but a lot of it was still quite fresh. You're not meant to use fresh manure, but I took a chance as I didn't have anything else to use. I then topped the manure with a one inch layer of shop bought composted manure. Each squash was planted into a small hole using extra shop bought manure.

The good news is that it worked! We got some good squashes off it, and this year the bed is easy to turn over with a good depth of friable soil. The only sign of the cardboard is the odd bit of Sellotape. This year the bed is being used for cut flowers. It took no time at all to pull out the odd weed.

This year: It's virtually impossible to make enough compost to turn the entire plot over to no dig. A full size plot would need at least 3 tonnes of compost - that's about three full skips worth. So this year we're experimenting using spent hops. I've made two long beds 3 foot across. I didn't use any cardboard this time, I just put down a 6 inch layer of spent hops, covered that with two inches of our home made compost, and topped that with two inches of shop bought compost.

Charles Dowding recommends starting crops in small modules then planting them out when young, as it gives them a good start and helps to stop damage from mice and birds. In one bed the transplanted peas and summer cabbages are doing well. The hops are acting as a sponge, despite the sunny weather there is still plenty of moisture under the surface. In the other bed I've got transplanted celeriac, sweetcorn, turnips, and parsnips. The parsnips are an experiment because I didn't sow them directly as normal due to the terrible spring weather. I sowed them into very small modules in the propagator. They germinated within a week, and I transplanted them straight into the no dig bed a week later before the true leaves appeared. So far they seem OK, I'll let you know how they get on!

Seed and potting compost

Since the demise of peat based composts we've struggled for years to find a compost for seeds and potting that doesn't cap, doesn't dry out too quickly, gives good growth, and isn't full of twigs, fibres, or household waste. The good news is that at last we've found one:

Sylvagrow Sustainable Growing Medium by Melcourt. This 100% peat free compost is used by the National Trust gardens, which is where we first saw it. You get a lot of compost in a 50 litre bag, and it gives the strongest root and top growth I've ever seen in seedlings. If you use it in seed modules the compost holds together well when you push out the modules. You can get it from Brunswick Organic Nursery in Bishopthorpe and from Rogers on the way into Pickering.

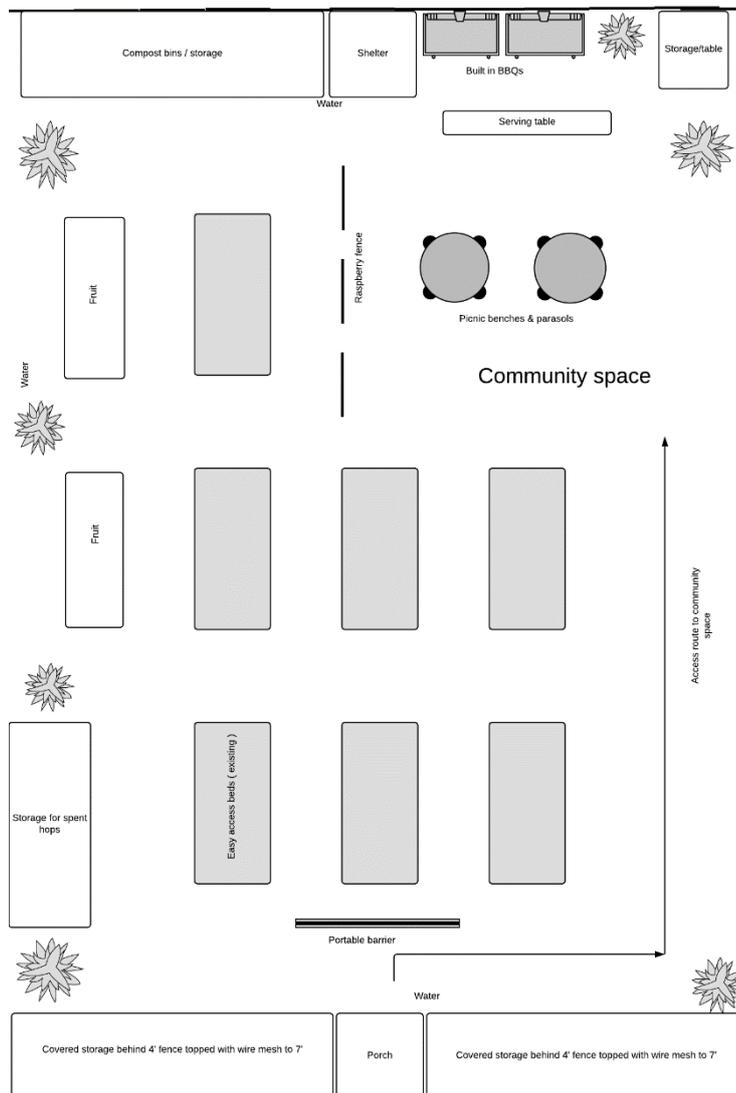
Kevin and Karel Holland
Plot 44
Committee

New community space

Following great feedback and input from plot holders and the local community, we've now finalised the design for adding a new community space into the easy access area. The design includes a serving table for the Sunday teas, round picnic benches with parasols to keep the sun and rain off, fixed barbeques, extra water points, community fruit beds, covered storage. The route to the community space will clearly marked, and the design includes fixed and temporary barriers to ensure the safety of the raised bed tenants.

All of the existing raised beds around the sides of the easy access area will be removed, as they are at the end of their life, and replaced with paving. Some of the soil from them will be used to fill the community fruit beds, the rest will be available to plot holders. The existing mature fruit trees will be moved into the orchard area in front of the shop. The shelter will be cleared so it can once again be used for its intended purpose, and all of the existing fencing around the area will be replaced. We're planning to use the resources from the Community Payback teams, but we need to raise over £10,000 to pay for the materials. We've already applied for funding from the Jewson's 'Building Better Communities' fund. On 31st May we will find out if we have made the shortlist, after that there's a public vote. If we get that far, then we will need you and all of your friends and family to vote for us! Details on how to vote will be made available in early June, the deadline is 20th June. The winners will be announced on 3rd July 2018.

We are also applying to the National Lottery Awards For All scheme, and should know by the end of September if we've been successful.



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

ASPARAGUS season is May and June and is always best cooked in season.

Recipe for asparagus cooked two ways.

Trim away any tough parts of the stems before steaming or simmering your asparagus in boiling water for 3-4 minutes or until just tender (or cooking and serve hot or cold, dressed with one of the following:



Soy, honey and sesame

2 tbsp dark soy sauce, 2 tbsp runny honey, 1 tbsp sesame seeds, squeeze of lemon or lime juice.

Return the cooked asparagus to the pan with the soy, honey, sesame seeds and juice and heat for a minute or so, swirling the juices around. Tip into shallow bowls to eat with bread.

Chilli, lemon and olive oil

Juice of 1 small lemon, half to one chilli, deseeded and finely chopped, 2 tbsp olive oil

Mix the ingredients together in a small bowl. Arrange the cooked asparagus on a platter, spoon over the dressing and sprinkle with sea salt.

Lisa Tindale
Committee

HOSEPIPES AND WATERING CROPS

A gentle reminder that hosepipes should only be used for filling water butts, and never to operate sprinklers or water your plants directly.

The best time to water crops is in the morning or the evening. It's better to give plants a good drenching once a week than just a sprinkling every day. It means more trips with the watering can, but your plants will thank you for it!



Who's Going to The Great Yorkshirehow? Hope to see you there x