

# Hempland Lane-Heworth Allotment Association



Summer Newsletter 2025  
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    |
| Moirra Grainger        | Committee Member                                  | 93a       |
| George Hughes          | Committee Member                                  | 108       |
| Vacancy                | Committee Member (Hempland Haven Rep)             |           |
| Vacancy                | Committee Member                                  |           |
| Richard Murgatroyd     | Committee Member                                  | 62        |
| 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 13<sup>th</sup> July 2025 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 **tabletop sale**. If you would like a table to sell items (£10 each), please contact Moirra Grainger Plot 93a or at the Haven Sunday mornings 10-12noon or Gayle on [gayle.farrington@btinternet.com](mailto:gayle.farrington@btinternet.com).

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2025 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** by popular demand will be **Heros and Villains** for September 2025.

**Can you help?** Dave and Lorraine Wood have managed our shop for decades, with little time off. Both need to have some surgery and will understandably need time to recover. We have volunteers for the next 2 weeks for help with the shop on Sundays 10-12 (although volunteers will need to be there by 9.30am), can you help us out for future Sundays. If we cannot get the cover, we will have return to Covid Time operations which will be the self-service stall and limited access (by appointment) to the shop content. This is not ideal over our growing period, so if you can spare 3 hours on a Sunday please contact Nigel on [nigelthegardener@hotmail.com](mailto:nigelthegardener@hotmail.com)



### **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**



A new bench has taken pride of place in the Haven. This bench is in memory of John Hicks and Lucy his loyal Lurcher, who sadly passed away, paid for by his family.

## **New to allotmenting? Or need inspiration? Here is a guide for the next three months**

**June - Included as it's been so dry some plot holders haven't been able to get a fork in the ground. Its still not too late!**

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Flaming June brought us a hot sunshine filled month! Now we have passed 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 (if you managed to plant between the rain in the earlier months).



**Runner Bean Poles and beans starting up**

### **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 has 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**

During these prolonged dry spells, don't forget 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, then surround with manure or mulch to retain the moisture.

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 (many are behind due to the dry weather). 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 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. Dig up and replace strawberries in another spot after 3 or 4 years cropping.

### August

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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 sown 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 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 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.

### **ISN'T IT SUPPOSED TO BE GOOD FOR US?**

I keep reading articles about how relaxing it is to grow things; how it is so good for us to Be In Nature and how the exercise it provides keeps us fit and healthy. Apparently, it promotes happy relationships, decreases stress, and saves you the expense of therapy...But does it? I beg to differ.

This spring I have lived in a permanent state of nervous debilitation. Will it ever rain? Will there be a frost? Is it safe to plant out "the tenders"? I wore out the screen on my phone endlessly checking every weather website, searching for cast-iron information about last frost dates, and peering at maps to see which "frost zone" York falls in. Last frost date 30<sup>th</sup> April. Or possibly 10<sup>th</sup> May. Both of which seemed far too early, and indeed my potatoes leaves had brown and crinkly edges after 15<sup>th</sup> May. Much fretting, almost sleepless nights. Why had I planted my sweetcorn out already, and how do you cover what is actually quite a large bed - with something like a duvet? Then an actual sleepless night when I had to get up at 3am because I'd forgotten to put the tomato plants back in the garage overnight. I don't call any of this healthy.

Nor does it have a beneficial effect on relationships. Family and friends, it seems, really can't see why it matters if there is a frost. Or indeed which variety of potatoes you should or should not have bought and when you should plant them. Strangely they are just not that interested - positively unsympathetic. They even have the temerity to suggest you get a sense of proportion, or counselling. Or that at the very least you should stop twittering on about your allotment. Not much harmony and mindfulness being created there.

Harmony with Nature? Don't get me started. Anger and fury at pigeons for eating my peas. Hatred of the mice who polished off my pea seedlings overnight - in the garage, which the cat is supposed to

keep an eye on. Despair last year at the endless rain and the slugs. Anxiety - back to my frost issues.... None of these emotions are what you might term soothing and life enhancing. I thought this was meant to be relaxing.

Then there is the question of the benefits to our physical health of having an allotment. Again, I might beg to differ from the cheery talk of healthy exercise in the fresh air. Leaving aside smoke from the odd bonfire, there are the matters of: sore knees from weeding, sore arms from lugging watering cans, scratches and splinters from brambles and thistles. Nettle rash. Insect bites. Back aches from wheelbarrowing manure. Sun burn. Having an allotment certainly affects most parts of your body, but not quite in the way they might have you believe.

The eminent gardener and writer Vita Sackville-West wrote how she broke "my nails, my purse and my heart" over the years in pursuit of her hobby. There speaks the true voice of experience. Having an allotment is many things, and "rewarding" is certainly one part of that. Of course, in lots of ways it is good for us, giving us healthier food, social interaction and potentially time away from any other stresses in our lives. But unless you are employing a gardener, and the weather is perfect, 100% restful and relaxing it is not!

**Alison England**  
**Plot 49a**

It's no too late to join or renew your 2025 Hempland Lane Allotment Association membership fee now! Nigel our membership secretary is ready to take payment. The fee is £5 per person and the membership will run through until the 28<sup>th</sup> of February 2026.

## **Strawberry and Gooseberry Jam**

### **Servings**

Makes 5-6 x 340g jars

### **Ingredients**

150-200g gooseberries, topped and tailed

1kg strawberries, hulled, large ones halved

750-1kg jam sugar with added pectin (the more sugar you use, the firmer the set of the jam)

15-20g unsalted butter (optional)

### **Directions**

Put the gooseberries in a saucepan with 100ml water.

Place on a low heat and cook gently until the gooseberries are tender but still holding their shape.

This should take 6-7 minutes, depending on their size and maturity.

Meanwhile, place the strawberries in a roomy, heavy-based pan or a preserving pan. The fruit should be no more than a third of the way up the pan to allow for a rapid rise when a rolling boil is reached. When the gooseberries are cooked, add to the strawberries. Put the preserving pan on a gentle heat and add the sugar.

Heat gently, stirring, until the sugar has fully dissolved.

Then increase the heat and bring the pan to a full rolling boil (i.e. when the surface is covered with a mass of foamy bubbles). Boil for 8-9 minutes, without stirring too much, until setting point is reached.

To check for setting point, drop a little jam onto a cold saucer, allow to cool for a minute then push gently with your fingertip.

If the jam crinkles, setting point has been reached. Remove the jam from the heat and, if the surface is scummy, add a knob of butter and keep stirring until the scum has dissolved. Pot into warm, sterilised jars and seal immediately.

Label when cold.

Unopened and stored in a cool, dry place, the jam will keep for up to a year.

Once opened, keep in the fridge or a cool larder and use within a few weeks.



### Car Parking

Please be advised that the two onsite parking areas should only be used by plotholders 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 14th September 2025 this year. Now is the time to be thinking about what classes you might be entering. You can complete your entry forms a month before 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 and giant veg do get them entered.

If you would like to write something for the next newsletter, please email it to

[gayle.farrington@btinternet.com](mailto:gayle.farrington@btinternet.com)

**YACIO** - are transferring to a new database system for allotment tenants. Please ensure that your personal details, including email address, is always correct, as they no longer post out paper invoices. Their email address is [contact@yorkallotments.org](mailto:contact@yorkallotments.org)



### Technology

Our database and MailChimp system. Should you wish to get a message to all allotmentees via this system, please email [gayle.farrington@btinternet.com](mailto: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. For latest newsletter and diary information please visit [www.hemland-lane-allotments.com](http://www.hemland-lane-allotments.com)