

Hempland Lane-Heworth Allotment Association



Winter 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	49a
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)	
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

Our next Association Annual General Meeting

We are pleased to announce that the next AGM is booked for Monday 19th February 2024. 7.30pm start at Burnholme Club. We hope you can be there. Everybody is welcome and we try and make the evening as enjoyable and informal as possible. If you have any items you would like to be discussed on the evening please let either myself or Nigel know and we can add them to the agenda.

Rather than our vast bring and share cold Buffet, we have opted for a Cheese & Biscuits, snacks and nibbles offering, as a trial for this year (provided by the committee). As so much has been left in previous years. Our usual cash bar and hot drinks will available from the Club. Arrive from 7.30pm, renew your association membership and enjoy some refreshments. Meeting will commence at 8pm. Agenda items to Nigel plot 66 or nigelthegardener@hotmail.com by 31st January 2024.

If you would like to be really well organised you can pay your 2024 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 28th of February 2025.

Join our committee - We need you!

As most of you are aware we have a thriving & active Hempland Allotments Association backed up by your own elected committee. Due to various circumstances we now find ourselves with three vacancies on our committee. So the question is would you like to join us? We are a friendly bunch so you need have no worries on that front. We have roughly five or six committee meetings a year along with our AGM. Meetings are currently held in the Burnholme Club so very local & sociable. Meetings are generally held on Monday evenings & last for a couple of hours with possibly some "social time" after the meeting. They commence at 19:30, through to 21:30.

We produce a newsletter three to four times a year, all the committee are encouraged to have input to this. General help on site, possible assistance with the shop, with the wildlife area, with Sunday morning refreshments & other bits as and when required. You can get involved in all these activities even if you are not on our committee.

If you would like to join us or just get more information please contact me Gayle Enion-Farrington on email gayle.farrington@btinternet.com. Your input, ideas & suggestions are always gratefully appreciated! You can also offer to do a project, like tidying up an area without actually join the committee if this is more of an interest to you.

Gayle Enion-Farrington, Plot 34

Our Autumn Show took place on Sunday 1st October 2023 and was a great success. Our theme this year was APPLES! Apple juicing took place

All winners are detailed below



<p>1 Best plot 1 Plot 44 2 Plot 26 3 Plot 54 Highly commended; 16, 29, 60A</p> <p>2 Best newcomer 1 Plot 75A 2 Plot 41B 3 Plot 3 Highly commended 2A</p> <p>3 Plot sign 1 Plot 3 2 Plot 107 3 Plot 42B</p> <p>4 Scarecrow Joint First - plot 43 Apple scarecrow device & plot 20a Adam and Eve Joint Second - plot 67m Apple man & plot 81 Isaac Newton 3rd plot 64 'pink lady' apple lady</p> <p>5 5 x potatoes 1 Plot 14 2 Plot 90</p>	<p>10 Longest runner bean 1 Plot 59B 2 Plot 81 3 Plot 90</p> <p>11 5 Carrots 1 Plot 14</p> <p>12 Mixed flowers 1 Plot 107A 2 Plot 16 3 Plot 49A</p> <p>13 Tallest sunflower 1 Plot 64 (11' 2'') 2 Plot 49A (8' 10'') 3 Plot 107B (8' 3'')</p> <p>14 Squash or pumpkin 1 Plot 106 2 Plot 64 and Plot 65 3 Plot 3 and Plot 42B</p> <p>15 5 beetroot 1 Plot 42B 2 Plot 14 16 painted eggs 1 Plot 107</p>
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<p>3 Plot 66</p> <p>6 Largest marrow 1 Plot 81 2 Plot 3 3 Plot 45A</p> <p>7 Plant grown in an unusual container 1 Plot 42B 2 Plot 59B and Plot 3 3 Plot 67A and Plot 107A</p> <p>8 Wildlife photo taken on a plot 1 Plot 42B 2 107B (2 photos) 3 Plot 59B</p> <p>9 Most unusual vegetable 1 Plot 93A 2 Cucumber - no plot no 3 Plot 66</p>	<p>17 Children's garden (no entries) 18 Largest cauliflower (no entries)</p> <p>19 Most varieties of plant on a plot 1. Plot 65</p> <p>20 Children's painting 1 Plot 35 (two paintings, joint first)</p> <p>21 Plant pot creation No entries</p> <p>22 3 Apples 1 Plot 90</p> <p>23 Misc A - fruit 1 Plot 66 2 Plot 66</p> <p>24 Misc B - vegetables 1 Plot 14 and Plot 66 2 Plot 42B and Plot 14 3 Plot 3</p>
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"In Brief"

Quote from Fiona Taylor, Chief Executive of Garden Organic - "I`m sure I am not alone in getting cross about artificial grass. This obsession with a block of lurid green in the name of "neatness" is nothing short of sickening. Not to mention the urgent requirement for us to nurture the life out of our soil, rather than to seal it in.

Did you know-I didn't!

Forest Green Rovers football club are the world's first carbon neutral club. This includes the clubs emissions, food waste and the ground under their boots that they actually play on. The club uses organic products to feed its pitch & never uses pesticides, herbicides, fungicides or growth regulators. It also plants corridors of wildflowers around the site to support pollinators and to encourage biodiversity.

On the pitch regular aeration, brushing the grass surface to create a healthy soil profile helps with disease management as well as mowing says head grounds man Nick Johnstone.

They also use a moisture metre to optimise water use. So they only water the pitch when they actually need to, and any water not taken up by the grass drains off and is pumped back into the irrigation tank to be recycled, and that also includes water from the toilets.

How impressive is all that and good lessons to be learnt on our allotments in vastly reducing waste.

Did you know?

A single ladybird can consume up to 50 aphids in a day, or around 5000 in its lifetime. Amazingly you never see them taking a breather so aphids must be easy to digest!!!

This made me smile from the letters page of the July edition of Kitchen Garden, surprise, surprise.

"It was my wife's 50th birthday last year and I made a list of things I could surprise her with like jewellery, clothes, perfume to be fair the usual stuff! In the end I got so stressed with it all, not knowing what to buy I decided to ask her. Do you know what she said?

Another compost bin please, she already has two! Is this normal? The editorial answer was "Yes that's perfectly normal Martin, but you may need counselling however ha-ha.

Blimey - There is much more to the world of wasps than our very conspicuous black & yellow common variety, with more than 7000 species in the UK of all shapes & sizes. Our common social wasp regularly builds nests around our sheds, gardens, allotments, compost bins and the like. They may host up to 10,000 individual wasps at their peak in the late summer.

Although you often see people wafting away at wasps they actually do a fantastic job in our fields, gardens & allotments! These mainly worker wasps spend much of their time catching insect prey to take back to the nest to feed the developing grubs.

Incredible statistic It is estimated that social wasps consume around 14 million Kg of insects in the UK, that's roughly the weight of 14,000 large vans, WOW!

I hope they consumed a fair few on my plot as I had a nest in one of Blackcurrant bushes, they didn't bother me whilst I was harvesting the fruit, carefully, Nigel.

Why would you want an allotment?

I am sure all of us who are lucky enough to have a half or whole allotment plot have mulled over this question many times!

Every newspaper, gardening or home living magazine, internet article or lifestyle website now extols the virtues of "growing your own". Obvious plusses which virtually go without saying are:-

- 1/ supply you & your family with fresh fruit & vegetables.
- 2/ save you money with the existing cost of living crisis continuing to bite
- 3/ grow your families favourite fruit & vegetables
- 4/ cut down on the air & travel miles of your produce
- 5 You will know where your produce has come from & hopefully you will have grown it organically & chemical free!
- 6/ grow what you want to eat. You wouldn't go to shop & buy Broad Beans if you don't like them so the same applies to your plot don't sow produce you don't like.

What you may consider minuses, at least to start with

- 1/ the initial outlay of 12 months allotment rent & also the payment of a deposit. NOTE the deposit is refundable if you decide to give up your plot provided it is handed back in reasonable condition.
- 2/ You may need to purchase some tools especially if you are new to allotmenting. NOTE always ask your local allotment association as they often have a few used tools for sale to get you going.
- 3/ Commitment, an allotment even if it is half a plot is certainly that! Consider the time you will need each week throughout the year for the upkeep of your plot. The average is suggested at 4 - 6 hours a week, more in the busy summer months.
- 4/ If you are allocated a messy plot (not unusual), the initial clearing can be a daunting task getting it ready to commence production. Consider various cultivation methods including the "No-Dig" system to save time & effort. If it is a weedy plot using a rotovator could just exacerbate the problem. For information on "No-Dig", look up Charles Dowding for some great advice.

You may not have considered other benefits such as being out in the fresh air at all times of the year, an allotment is not just for May to September. It will be good both for your physical and mental well-being. You should make new friends; "plotters" are generally a friendly and talkative bunch.

Never be afraid to ask for advice or a pointer in the right direction. Remember there is never a 100% way of doing things right or wrong, as long as something works for you that is fine!

Your local allotment association committee will always be happy to help. On Hempland we are always on hand on a Sunday when our shop is open for various sales of allotment goodies. If you have been lucky enough to have been allocated half a plot recently, welcome & we hope you enjoy it. If you are a seasoned "plotter" look out for our new plotters & make them feel very welcome.

Remember we were all new to gardening or allotments once over

Nigel plot66

These are what are considered to be some of the things that put people off gardening. In no particular order Slugs & Snails, Perennial weeds, Wasps, Rats, "Hard-work", time consumption, watering, failure & disappointment ... a strange mixture!

Nigel plot66

Putting on the style - what do our plots say about us?

One thing that is unmissable on any allotment site is the myriad of ways people develop and use a standard piece of land. I'm sure that when I was young there was more uniformity. By and large allotments were the domain of retired men, like my grandfather, and they had broadly similar ideas what an allotment was for - the growing of vegetables - and what it should look like. One or two of the more sentimental grew cutting flowers to take home for "the wife" (presumably their own) but generally the whole idea was to produce as many things to eat as possible in the most effective way. This led to lots of straight lines for easy hoeing and to equally regular and functional paths. Even the flowers were planted in rows - they weren't there to be decorative - and were generally stuck in an inconspicuous spot, half apologetically. Everyone owned at least one "string tied to two sticks" to ensure straight lines and uniform spacing.

I remember that vegetables tended towards the familiar English staples of legumes, root vegetables and brassicas. Anyone growing exotics like courgettes (rather than marrows) was viewed with suspicion, and sweetcorn came in tins. My grandad was a stranger to the concept of young and tender. He grew everything on his allotment until it was as big and tasteless as possible, thinking that was the best way to get value for money. It wasn't, in fact, as unknown to him my mother always threw half of it out as being too old and woody to cook.

These days, diversity is a beautiful thing. Plots are wonderfully eclectic, not only in the range of plants grown but in the way they are laid out. There are still plots where rows predominate but there are also bohemian plots, with riots of colourful flowers. Their paths meander, plants are dotted about seemingly at random and the whole thing looks rather beautiful. Others have features my grandad would have been perplexed by, such as ponds - he didn't want to encourage wildlife, he was at war with it. I also don't remember him having a seat outside - if he wanted to sit down he either retreated to his shed or went home. Growing was a serious business. I don't like to think what he would have made of my rose pergola, or hammocks.

It is interesting to see how the way we design and use our plots and what we grow now reflects our times and culture, as well as our personalities. More varieties of vegetables are available to buy and we are accustomed to a range of cuisines from around the world. We see outdoor spaces as leisure pursuits, and not just as ways of saving money and feeding our families. There is less pressure to do what our neighbours are doing, and perhaps a greater realisation that there are many ways of doing something, and they can all be right.

Alison England Plot 49a

Well I am guessing by now that most of you will be getting into the festive spirit (in more ways than one maybe 🤔🤔).

I feel that I have been a good start this week. The last Christmas cake is going in the oven tomorrow. The Haven has officially closed for the winter 🌨️ But we are still meeting on a Sunday morning and everyone is bringing their own flasks and I make a cake most Sundays. The Christmas special Coffee Morning was really good. We were lucky with the weather as it was fine and dry, but cold. It didn't seem to deter people from turning up and having a great time. We had Mulled wine 🍷 thanks to donations of bottles and my lovely Helen, who went to a lot of trouble to keep it warm for everyone.

We also had bottles of wine and Prosecco and loads of food. Savoury and cakes 🍰.

Thanks also to my lovely friends Kath and Jean who stayed to help all morning (I couldn't have done all that on my own!!) I made lots of money to send to my Charity "The Brooke Hospital for Horses and Donkeys (£147) 💕💕💕

I was asked so many times to please do another one soon ! So watch this space 😊

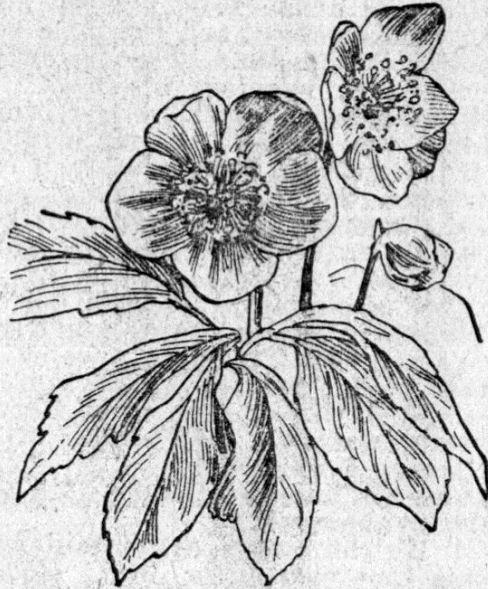
I wish you all a Very Merry Christmas 🎄🎅🎄 Moira

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

Thankyou for all your support this year and wish you a merry Christmas from all on Hempland Lane Allotment Association Committee. We leave you this year with this lovely newspaper article from 1923 about Christmas flowers.

OUTDOOR CHRISTMAS FLOWERS.

In a well-stocked garden it is possible to pick quite a fair posy of flowers on Christmas Day. Let us see which plants and shrubs may be expected to be in bloom then. We can always rely on the old yellow winter jasmine, especially if, as is usual, it is planted on a sunny house wall or garden fence; if sprigs are gathered and placed in bowls of sand kept moist they will provide an excellent Christmas Day room decoration. Then there is the Christmas rose itself; if a few weeks before Christmas a handlight is placed over the plant, the flowers will open pure and unsullied by the weather.



The pink buds and white flowers of the laurustinus can usually be gathered at this season, and one of the witch hazels, named hamamelis mollis, is at its best in December; the curiously twisted yellow blooms are fragrant. Possibly there will be a few blooms of the old red japonica (pyrus japonica) if the shrub is grown against a warm wall. If the garden contains winter-flowering pansies and wallflowers, and the weather is reasonably mild, a few of these may be expected to be open, and the gorgeous poppy anemones, if on a sunny, warm, sheltered border, are almost certain to have one or two flowers.

CHRISTMAS GREENHOUSE FLOWERS.

Anyone who possesses a small greenhouse that is slightly heated has no excuse for not having a profusion of Christmas flowers. There are the late chrysanthemums, of various colours, the perpetual-flowering carnations, Chinese primulas, winter geraniums, together with the earliest Roman hyacinths and paper-white narcissi. There are, of course, many others to be seen in a well-stocked hot-house, but these at any rate ought to be represented in the small greenhouse, for all are easily grown. The carnations ought now to be increased by means of cuttings. If these are made from the side-shoots at about the centre of the stem, and inserted in a box of sand which is covered with glass, they will form roots in a few weeks, and will develop into plants that will bloom next winter.