

Hempland Lane-Heworth Allotment Association



Newsletter Winter 2010 Hot from the Hut!



Introducing the Committee

Name		Plot
Gerry Agar	Site Manager	39
Ellen Bradbury		9
David Brinklow	Site Secretary and Treasurer	14
Phil Copley	Secretary	89
Gayle Enion-Farrington	Chair and Publicity Officer	34,35
Elaine Kenyon		33
Ulrike Manara	Minutes Secretary	40
Lisa Tindale		59b
Lorraine Wood	Shop Manager	64
Dave Wood		65
Trevor Day	Easy Access Plots Rep	68D+E, 67K
Nigel Collinson		65
Chris Lee		88A
Mark Farrington	Website Administrator (not part of the committee)	35

Hempland Allotment AGM at Heworth Golf Club on 11th Jan 2011 @ 7.30pm - ALL WELCOME

A BIG THANKYOU TO ALL THAT HELPED with our **Strimming Weekend of the Wildlife area on 18th & 19th September 2010**. We also raised £50. But the Annual BBQ did not happen due to terrible weather conditions



Here are the results of the giant veg competition and congratulations to everyone who entered.

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 1st December 2010, Dean's Garden Centre, York, 3pm - 8pm.
Christmas Demonstration Event - Gift ideas from tables arrangements to ideas winter colour containers and garden plants. In aid for St Leonard's Hospice

Saturday 4th December 2010, Dean's Garden Centre, York, 10am - 4pm.
Christmas Activities Day

Pumpkins

1 st	Dominic Been 53a	- 19.5 kg
2 nd	Martin Lee 16	- 18.5kg
3 rd	Marco Been 53a	- 18kg
4 th	Thomas Been 53a	- 17kg
5 th	Dave/Lorraine 64	- 11.5kg
6 th	Alex Knight 29b	- 7kg

A dominant performance by the Been family kids!! Many other giant vegetable results are on our website.

Membership Cards

New membership cards will be available in the New Year. You can renew your association membership with a payment of £3. They can be purchased at the AGM and from the allotment shop every Sunday (during spring, summer and early autumn). You must be an associate member in order to buy items from the shop, collect Manure and chippings (with a donation) and get a 10% discount from all gardening purchases at Deans & Vertigrow (please show your card before you pay at the till).

Car Parking

Parking is at a premium on our allotment site so please park your carefully and be considerate to others. DO NOT park any cars in front of the Chippings, Manure Bay and Skips.

Greener Communication

Please let us have your e-mail address if you have one: this provides an easy and cost-effective way to contact members. Don't forget to collect your membership card, which entitles you to 10% off gardening purchases at Dean's Garden Centre and Vertigrow.

Gates

Are locked by our Site Manager at dusk. If you need to have your car in the car park after this, you will have to get a key to the gate padlock from the Allotment Office of City of York Council.

Dog fouling

If you see this occurring on site, please inform the Dog Warden office on 551513 or 551530.



DIARY OF A BEEKEEPER

by Nick Mansell

I have always been fascinated by honey bees, not just because I enjoy eating their produce most days for breakfast but their whole ecology and importance to plant life and food production.

I had a regular supply of honey from an elderly beekeeping friend who would enthral me with the trials and tribulations of his hobby but never got round to trying it for myself.

That all changed last Christmas when my children bought me membership of the York Beekeepers Ass and a 7 week course in beekeeping held at the Yorkshire Farming Museum. I was committed.

In early July I felt ready to acquire my first colony of bees. Other beginners were purchasing ready made colonies from bee suppliers, paying up to £200 for a nucleus of a laying queen and five frames of bees.

My chance came one day when I heard of a swarm of bees that had appeared in a garden not far from where I live. They were mine if I wanted them and they were free provided I had a site and a hive to put them in. I had already considered the possibility of keeping them on my allotment and had obtained permission from the City Council Allotments Officer to do so provided I ticked all the requirements. Other beekeepers helped

me with parts for a hastily assembled hive and I had already purchased the other essentials such as a suit and veil, gloves and smoker. Having captured the swarm in a box I transferred them to my hive at the bottom of my plot and gave them a welcome meal of sugar syrup. They began foraging the next day. I then got the local bee inspector from FERA at Sand Hutton to give them an inspection and he declared them fit and healthy. They were only a small colony of about 5k bees when in the height of summer a single colony can reach 50k. I had to build them up quickly and since then have been inspecting and feeding them every week. Although small in number they could consume a litre of syrup every week.

Even though I have still not spotted the queen, I know she is there as the colony has about tripled in number. During the summer months worker bees only live for 6 weeks, the first 3 in the hive performing cleaning and feeding duties in the cells and second foraging for pollen and nectar. They will fly several kilometers to find suitable supplies but this hard work results in them dying of exhaustion at an early age. They have now built up about 5 frames of honey supply in the last 4 months but all this will be needed to sustain them through the winter. I have continued to feed them weekly which helps to keep the queen productive (she can lay up to 2k eggs a day).

Hempland allotments are an ideal environment for bees with an abundance of food from surrounding gardens, together with lime and horse chestnut trees by the beck. But equally important is the benefit to allotments by pollinating our peas and beans and all of our fruit

trees and bushes. They are harmless and docile unless provoked and should be welcomed as friends onto our site.

As winter approaches they will be clustering inside the hive and hibernating until Spring but must be strong a healthy to survive. Cold and damp is their enemy as they must maintain a temperature of 96 degrees to get through it. I have already detected the presence of the dreaded varoa mite which is partly blamed for the dramatic drop in numbers over recent years but if the treatment can control them to an acceptable level then you may see Hempland honey on sale in the site shop next year.

Allotment Website!!

We have had over 1600 visits to our website. If you haven't had a look - please log on and enjoy surfing!

www.hempland-lane-allotments.co.uk

If you would like to put an article in the newsletter just like above or have pictures etc please email them to Gayle Enion-Farrington, Chair Person and Publicity Officer via the website.

Anti-social behaviour, vandalism and theft

Please report any incidents to the police on 0845 60 60 247 and get an incident number. This helps with police monitoring of events on site and could help if we need any action to be taken, such as extra patrols, meetings with police officers, etc.



Rats

If you know where rats are nesting on or near your plot, you can have them removed free of charge by contacting the Allotments Officer on 553399.

