

Hempland Lane-Heworth Allotment Association



Winter Newsletter 2015 Hot from the Hut!



Committee Members

Name		Plot
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
Ulrike Manara	Minutes Secretary	40
Lisa Tindale	Committee Member	59b
Lorraine Wood	Shop Manager	64
Dave Wood	Shop Manager	64
Julian Ayres	Committee Member	43b
Ann-Marie Knowles	Committee Member	16
Available !	Easy Access Plots Rep	?
Jean Pulleyn	Committee Member	81
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

Lock that gate!

Please make sure that, if there are no vehicles in the car park when you leave the site, you lock the gate. This makes it so much more difficult for thieves who might drive onto the car park and it also reduces the likelihood of fly-tipping which has been on the increase recently.

New database system for York Allotments

A new database system is currently being installed at the Council for the Allotment management team. To ensure that they have the correct details could you contact them if your details have changed since the last bills were sent out in January 2015. If you have changed your name or address, or are now sharing an allotment, please let Darren Lovatt (Allotment Officer) know. He can be contacted at darren.lovatt@york.gov.uk or allotments@york.gov.uk by phone on 01904 553433.

Plot Rents

The Allotment Service of City of York Council has been charged with being self-financing within the next few years. This means that plot rents will be rising at above the rate of inflation again this year and for the next couple of years. Forewarned is forearmed!!!

Plot Rents for 2016

Plot size 0-75 sq yds	Full rent £22	Concession £13.25
Plot size 76-150 sq yds	Full rent £44	Concession £26.50
Plot size 151-300 sq yds	Full rent £88	Concession £53
Plot size 301-450 sq yds	Full rent £110	Concession £66

Dates for your Diary

AGM on Monday 11th January 2016 at 7.30pm - Heworth Golf Club, whilst enjoying a buffet!

A chance to renew your membership card (discount at Deans and Vertigrow). An opportunity to sponsor a sleeper! and meet fellow allotmenters.

ALLOTMENT SHOP - We aim re-open in February 2016 once the Kings seed stock, inc potatoes and onion sets are delivered.

Winter is approaching and our water on the allotment is starting to freeze. Please ensure that you have stored away any tools and hose pipes that you do not wish to be affected by the weather.



Seasonal review by Nigel on Plot 66

I think it has been a good season but as usual I have had ups and downs! I harvested a great crop of sweet corn yesterday 18/10 which has had to go in the freezer, the Fennel has been great as has the beetroot. The first of my parsnips were good (really want frost), all the lettuce has been fabulous as have the large amount of radishes we have eaten, the black winter ones are looking fine. The downs, none of my attempt at seakale germinated, some of the garlic was very small mainly I think due to lack of a cold winter to stimulate it. The onion rot on my plot has been bad this year, not sure if it's going to be worth continuing to grow it?

I have had many comments about my plot this year from "it looks busy", "how do you find anything?", why do you grow stuff "everywhere"! Answers to these three comments, the first one translated means it looks a mess!!! Secondly I can find things and I know what is growing where, I mean you can't miss the Jerusalem Artichokes they are about 10ft tall. The last comment about growing everywhere, on my paths, in containers, on my muck heaps is very simple £80 annual rent in 2015 I like to get my moneys worth, you pay for all of it so use all of it.

Recommendations for 2016 ... Enjoy your plot, I do. Grow all the things you like to eat, as I say to people, "Do you like Broad Beans? If they say No, well don't grow them then! Always be willing to try something new or a new variety. Now is a great time to be sowing some overwintering Broad Beans, try The Sutton if you don't want to be staking them or old favourite Aquadulce Claudia for a taller variety. One real surprise success during 2015 was a new beetroot called "Boldor" from T&M but it is in the Kings catalogue this year. I grew it in modules 4/5 seeds in each, when large enough I planted them out in clumps and basically left them to it. They produced some splendid beets which even though they were not thinned it seemed to make no difference. This is a golden variety and the tops when young are also excellent to eat, very similar to Swiss Chard.

The majority of my plot this season has been cultivated (or not!) under the Charles Dowding method of "No Dig". The crops have been really good even allowing for it being a good growing season so I will continue in this vein in 2016. A couple of tips to finish with, get your manure stacked and covered giving it ample time to rot down ready for use. Don't forget a small donation for the manure is always gratefully received. If you are growing any brassicas in 2016 don't forget they may well appreciate your soil having a dressing of lime to "sweeten" it. Our shop sells lime, if the shop is not open you are always welcome to call on me on my plot and I will gladly open the shop to serve you.

A big thank you to all the people who have bought plants, produce and various other bits off me during the past weeks. I will be sending £72.50 off shortly to the Martin House Children`s Hospice. Nigel

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. Renewals are due in January 2016 and the majority of people tend to join at the AGM so that they can get there card laminated. We are unable to laminate your card at the shop due to no electricity.

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.

Strimming Weekend took place on 26th & 27th September 2015 and was a great success.

In addition to committee members, a big thank you to Moira and Sheila



New Easy Access Beds are starting to take shape

As you will see on the notice board we are starting a **campaign to sponsor a sleeper for £20**. We are trying to replace some of the raised beds on the Easy Access Plots so they will be safer and more pleasurable to use. The more observant amongst you will see two of the beds have been replaced with new ones made with sleepers, the cost per bed is approximately £700. So we need 16 sleepers per bed so any sponsorship will be very gratefully received. We have, to date, had the promise of four sleepers being sponsored already, thank you very much!!!



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.

New to allotmenting or just need a helpful reminder? Have a look on our website at all Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter Newsletters in 2014 for a detailed guide on what to do for each month.

Happy Allotmenting and wishing you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all the Allotment Committee