

Hempland Lane-Heworth Allotment Association



Winter Newsletter 2017 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
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 Would You Like to Represent this Area?	?
Jean Pulleyn	Committee Member	81
Ray Walker	Committee Member	26
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

Our next Annual General Meeting

AGM is booked for Monday 22nd January 2018 7.30pm start at Heworth Golf Club. Hope you can be there. Free Buffet and cash bar and hot drinks available. Please let a member of the committee know, if you wish to bring anything for the cold buffet (not obligatory). Agenda items to Nigel plot 66 or nigelthegardener@hotmail.com by 10th January 2018.

3 months with our Community Payback Team

Such amazing progress has been made, since we partnered with the Community Payback Team Our site has been transformed, with clear, wide accessible paths, empty plots getting cleared and prepared to re-let. Help managing our wildlife, entrances and exists and Easy Access area.

We have been also able to key some individuals on their plots such as

Albert Lawrence plot 64 got a raised bed dug over and compost bays created out of pallets

Lucy Antwis plot 17b got a raised bed around her strawberries 🍓🍓

Amy Johnson plot 63 got a tree pruned, some beds dug over and mulch laid on the paths.

Lots of individual plots getting the benefit of the payback team today.

Back of 54 fenced off by pallets plus gates repaired as the team notice them or have been requested to help.

Plus many more.....

If you have the materials, the team are more than happy to help you, so please speak up and let them help you. In order to keep this relationship working we need to keep them busy

every week, so do not think that the task that you to do is too small or someone else is more worthy. Help us to maintain this great working relationship and speak to Gayle, email gayle'farrington@btinternet.com or facebook @ HemplandLaneAllotments to discuss what needs doing.

A big thank you to Travis Perkins (Foss Island) and Jewson (Clifton Moor) for donating pallets to our cause.

Our Chairperson Gayle, has also liaised with the Community Payback Team each Sunday and updated our facebook page each week. If you are on facebook and want even more regular updates please join [fb@HemplandLaneAllotments](https://www.facebook.com/HemplandLaneAllotments). Its also a great way to post / discuss / chat to like minded people about all things allotmenting. Regular communications will remain with email, newsletters and posters around the site.

A little later than planned but we now have 2 refurbished gates near the Shop which are more suitable to open, especially if anyone has any mobility challenges or are wheelchair / pushchair users. By the time this newsletter goes to print our chippings bay (next to the manure bay) should be completed and in operation (depending on temperatures to set the cement).

Old gardeners never die ... they just throw in the trowel! By Nigel plot 66

"One year's seed, 10 years weed ... if only it were so simple with all our vegetables! Everything we grow we should plant it, eat it or compost but please don't WASTE it. Well needless to say I am very pleased to see that Charles Dowding is coming to York to give a talk on "No Dig Gardening". I have been lucky enough to have met Charles once previously and I am hoping to go on one of his weekend courses in 2018.

I think this will be a very well attended event as although Charles does many talks he does not often get "up North!" As many people know I have adopted the "No Dig" method on my plot and it has proved very successful thus far.

Talk in York, no dig gardening 30th January 7.30pm
30th January 2018 @ 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm
Central Methodist Church St Saviourgate, St Saviourgate
York, YO18NQ United Kingdom

Cost £3 - £5

This event has been organised by St Nicks. We are very excited that Charles has accepted our invitation and is coming to York as part of his Northern tour. His methods synchronise nicely with the One Planet Living principles which St Nicks promotes, so we shall give him a warm welcome in York. And please help spread the word. Doors open from 7pm, refreshments are available. Charles explains and illustrates no dig gardening, and how it helps to grow more food with less effort, in a small space.

Waiting List

At present there are only a couple of lettable half plots but we have 41 people on our site waiting list who would like a plot, with only 12 spare. So this is a message to all of us make the best use of your plot that you can, if not others will!

Whilst the Shop is closed over the Winter

If you want to renew your Association Membership for 2018 after our shop has closed for the winter & before it opens again February, you can easily do so. Just see our Membership Secretary Nigel on Plot 66, he will have the forms, can take your money & arrange to provide you with a new laminated card for 2018.

Also while the shop is closed in the winter months if Association Members want to make a "donation" for either manure or chippings you can also give that to Nigel.

Please see the notices "POLITE REMINDER" that the manure is provided for Association Members & "donations can be given to any committee member or again Nigel will happily take your donations on Plot 66.

Thank you to those members who have taken advantage of the latest Kings Seed Catalogue and placed an order. As always the bigger our site order is the more discounts we get on our shop order. We do try to provide as wide a range of seeds as possible for our members to choose from in the spring when our shop re-opens. If there are any items you would like us to stock, please get in touch & we will try & oblige.

PLEASE SEE BELOW some of the forthcoming speakers at the Askham Bryan Gardening Club. All the talks are held at the college & commence at 19:30, for club members they are free but non-members its £5 on the door. The talks on vegetables & herbs could be of particular interest to "plotters".

Tuesday 5 December "The Drunken Gardener "

The latest illustrated talk by Doug Stewart

Tuesday 16 January "Gardening Tips and Unusual Garden Facts" An illustrated talk by Paul Robinson, the 'Laughing Gardener'

Tuesday 13 February "Recent Developments at Harlow Carr"

An illustrated talk by Paul Cook, Curator of RHS Garden Harlow Carr

Tuesday 20 March " Veg My Way"

An illustrated talk by David Metcalf from the National Vegetable Society

Tuesday 10 April "Gardening using Culinary Herbs"

A demonstration by Paul Turner from Garth Cottage Herbs

As we are very close to Christmas, here are a few suggestions of gardening presents you might want to put on your *"Santa's List"* this year!

An Annual Subscription to either "Grow your Own" or "Kitchen Garden" magazines. They primarily cover the growing of fruit, vegetables and herbs which must appeal to plotters everywhere? The big advantage of a subscription is a big saving on the monthly cover price and the many special offers you receive, not to mention the free seeds that come most months!

Books are still excellent value & of ongoing interest. A few subtle hints to family & loved ones can work a treat. Nigel has several favourite gardening books so difficult to give suggestions but was very happy to receive "Grow Your Own Veg" by Carol Klein. Carol is often seen on BBC Gardeners World alongside Monty Don. Any of Charles Dowdings books were very acceptable gifts, the No Dig guru.

If you still use a calendar, a good gardening one in the kitchen or indeed in your shed is a good standby.

To keep the smells at bay & make sure you don't waste anything that you can put in your compost heap (every plot should have a least a couple of heaps), a compost caddy or pot in your kitchen is a must. The Compost Caddy from The Organic Gardening Catalogue at £14.35 could be just the thing, & it's green! It has a carbon filter in the lid that will contain any odours.

Or finally something as simple as a new mug to enjoy your tea or coffee from! Many have entertaining words on them such as "How does your allotment grow" or "So many weeds so little Thyme".

Thinking of next Halloween!. Think ahead to 2018 & here is one for the children to grow. New from Kings a striking warty-skinned pumpkin "Goosebumps" could be just the thing. It should certainly catch their imagination, scary or what.

Here are some earthy wriggly facts about one of our favourite gardening friends:-
There are 27 species of earthworm in the UK.

Earthworms can process around 0.08 to 0.3g of soil per day, depending on the species. They are hermaphrodites i.e. they have both male & female reproductive organs.

When two earthworms mate, both transfer sperm to one another and grow egg cocoons in the clitellum, the engorged region close to the middle of a mature earthworm.

Earthworm eggs hatch in 8 to 20 weeks under favourable soil conditions & Earthworms can live for up to 10 years! And if you don't dig you don't disturb them & sadly for worms Blackbirds & Robins love them.

Information on Earthworms courtesy of Julie Moore, Kitchen Garden magazine

Food for thought for those plotters who don't or haven't taken advantage of purchasing their seeds via the Kings Seeds Members Catalogue this year.

Here are a few price comparisons !!!!!

Kings Members Catalogue	Kings Internet Catalogue
Parsnip Gladiator F1	Parsnip Gladiator F1
800 seeds £1.05	200 seeds £2.29
Parsnip Tender & True	Parsnip Tender & True
800 seeds £0.65	500 seeds £1.75
Broad Bean	Broad Bean

Bunyards Exhibition	Bunyards Exhibition
50 seeds £0.85	50 seeds £2.69
Broad Bean Karmazyn	Broad Bean Karmazyn
45 seeds £0.95	50 seeds £2.69
Courgette	Courgette
All Green Bush	All Green Bush
25 seeds £0.80	20 seeds £1.75
Leeks Below Zero F1	Leeks Below Zero F1
75 seeds £1.45	50 seeds £2.25
Leeks Mussleburgh	Leeks Mussleburgh
425 seeds £0.65	500 seeds £2.05
Radish Poloeza	Radish Poloeza
1000 seeds £0.85	500 seeds £2.15
Runner Bean Lady Di	Runner Bean Lady Di
45 seeds £1.45	45 seeds £3.49
Runner Bean Celebration	Runner Bean Celebration
40 seeds £1.50	40 seeds £3.49

On these 10 packets of seeds the savings are a massive £14.40!!! That's £10.20 as opposed to £24.60. You also get more seeds for your money overall, the radishes 50% more per packet for £1.30 less, great value or what.

Put a mental note in your 2018 calendar to make sure you order your seeds through our Association Membership scheme next year.

Dates for your Diary

AGM on Monday 22nd January 2018 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 2018 once the Kings seed stock, inc potatoes and onion sets are delivered. A huge thank you to Lorraine and David Wood for managing the Shop and Jean Pulleyn for serving refreshments. It has also been a great year for getting volunteers to help, to allow these lovely people to have a few Sundays off. If you would like to help next year, please speak to them directly. We have also been able to extend our earnings this year with the support of Nigel and Pam keeping the shop and refreshments open (out of season), when weather is kind, which so far has been most Sundays.

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.



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 2018 and the majority of people tend to join at the AGM so that they can get their 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 23rd & 24th September 2017 and was a huge success, along with our first "fun" Hempland Lane Allotment Show

We were very lucky in having perfect early autumn weather for the weekend, bright sunny warm with a very light breeze.

Your Association Committee work hard on your behalf to try and encourage people to join in on events like these and it is hoped that more people enter next year. Special thanks to Nigel Collinson Plot 66 "nigelthegardener", for organising and sponsoring the prizes, Robin Gomersall (Plot 69A) for his help with the judging, & Pam Williams (Plot 65) for providing some lovely cakes for the tea & coffee, along with the committee who helped on the day with BBQ, salads, shop etc.

For a detailed list of the entry classes and winners please see our website report or ask Gayle for a print out if you do not have internet access.

For those who attended and entered and joined in it did what it was intended to do that was to have fun!

There are many places where you can go to show vegetables and a lot of it is very serious stuff and some wonderful vegetables are on show. We want to keep the emphasis on "fun".

Due to the feedback being so good we are already planning to hold another one next year. So as to give plot holders as much advance notice as possible we have already pencilled in Sunday 2nd September 2018 for next year's show. This is about three weeks earlier as people felt

they would have more vegetables/flowers available then than later in September. So put the date on your 2018 calendar so you have no excuse for not joining in.

New Easy Access Beds are starting to take shape

Thanks to Nigel we have now completed 5 beds on the Easy Access area and it is hope that in 2018 we can get the payback team to help out more in this area.



Technology



Heworth / Hempland Lane Allotment database and MailChimp system. Should you wish to get a message to all allotmentees 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!

A delicious mulled wine recipe, taken from Jamie Oliver's website.

Ingredients

- 2 clementines
- 1 lemon
- 1 lime
- 200g caster sugar
- 6 whole cloves
- 1 cinnamon stick
- 3 fresh bay leaves
- 1 whole nutmeg, for grating
- 1 vanilla pod
- 2 star anise
- 2 bottles Chianti or other Italian red wine

Method

1. Peel large sections of peel from the clementines, lemon and lime.
2. Put the sugar in a large saucepan over a medium heat, add the pieces of peel and squeeze in the clementine juice.
3. Add the cloves, cinnamon stick, bay leaves and about 10 to 12 gratings of nutmeg. Halve the vanilla pod lengthways and add to the pan, then stir in just enough red wine to cover the sugar.
4. Let this simmer until the sugar has completely dissolved into the red wine, then bring to the boil. Keep on a rolling boil for about 4 to 5 minutes, or until you've got a beautiful thick syrup. This creates a wonderful flavour base by getting the sugar and spices to infuse and blend well with the wine. Make the hot syrup base first before adding the red wine, otherwise you'll burn off the alcohol.
5. When your syrup is ready, turn the heat down to low and add your star anise and the rest of the wine. Gently heat the wine and after around 5 minutes, when it's warm and delicious, ladle it into heatproof glasses and serve.

Enjoy Christmas in a glass. A favourite in our house. Submitted by Lisa Tindale

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

And hope to see you at our AGM on

Monday 22nd January 2018 at 7.30pm - Heworth Golf Club