

# Hempland Lane-Heworth Allotment Association



## Winter Newsletter 2019

### Hot from the Hut!

#### Committee Members

Name		Plot
Julian Ayres	Committee Member	43b
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
Moira Grainger	Committee Member	93a
Kevin Holland	Committee Member	44
Jean Pulleyn	Committee Member	81
Lisa Tindale	Committee Member	59b
Lisa Maunder-Wood	Committee Member	95
Lorraine Wood	Shop Manager	64
Dave Wood	Shop Manager	64
Available !	Easy Access Plots Rep Would You Like to Represent this Area?	?
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 (Please note change of date!)**

AGM is booked for Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2019 7.30pm start at Burnholme 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](mailto:nigelthegardener@hotmail.com) by 31st January 2019.

#### **SOIL**

**Do you need soil to raise your plot levels, or for raised beds? As you know we are now working on the Easy Access / new Community area and we have a LOT of soil to relocate somewhere! Or it will cost us a lot of money to get rid of which will be a waste of our lottery award.**

#### **Hempland Lane Allotments – new Community Space update**

##### **Lottery funding**

We were successful in getting an award of just under £10,000, the maximum amount available, from the National Lottery Awards for All fund. The total cost of transforming part of the Easy Access area into a new community space, and updating the facilities for the Easy Access ploholders, is about £14,000. We will continue to look for funding to make up the difference. If you'd like to help with fundraising, or make a donation, please contact any member of the committee.

##### **Help required**

If you have skills and experience in erecting fencing, laying paving, and bricklaying, and would like to be part of this community project, then please let us know.

### **Site safety**

Access to the beds in the easy access area will have to be restricted to ensure safety. Restricted areas will be clearly marked. There will be times when we have to restrict access to the area to ensure safety, such as if we have heavy machinery working in there. Thank you for your understanding.

### **Progress so far**

No doubt you've seen the brilliant work that the Payback teams have done to clear all the junk out of the easy access area and strip the derelict beds of rubbish, side planks, and top growth. The area already looks much tidier and less like a wilderness!

### **Waste disposal**

The rubbish was taken by the Payback teams to the area in front of the shop, ready to be loaded into a skip. Unfortunately, some plot holders thought it was ok to dump their own rubbish on the piles waiting to be removed. **Please do not do this!** If you see anyone dumping any rubbish anywhere, please ask them to stop and either take their rubbish back to their plot or to the council tip. This also includes leaving rubbish next to the shop.

### **Soil removal**

Although the Payback teams have made a good start to shift the soil, it would take months to shift all that's left by hand and prepare it for paving. Therefore, we are getting quotes to see if it is viable to get a contractor to use a mechanical digger and truck to remove all the soil and stone, digging out to the right depth ready for paving. To take all of the soil away in skips will be expensive, and it's too full of weed roots to sell, but the top soil could be used in your plot if you sift it. Please let Gayle or the payback team know if you want some.

### **Fencing**

Once the soil has all gone, we will make any necessary repairs to the entrance shelter, then erect a new 6' wooden fence at the front, using concrete posts and gravel boards. The side and far end fencing will be 4' high, put in after the paving has been done. These fences will be put up 6" or so inside the current fence. Adjacent plot holders can decide what they want to do with the current fencing at the side / end of their plots.

### **Water**

We plan is to put in an extra water point next to the far shelter.

### **Paving and fittings**

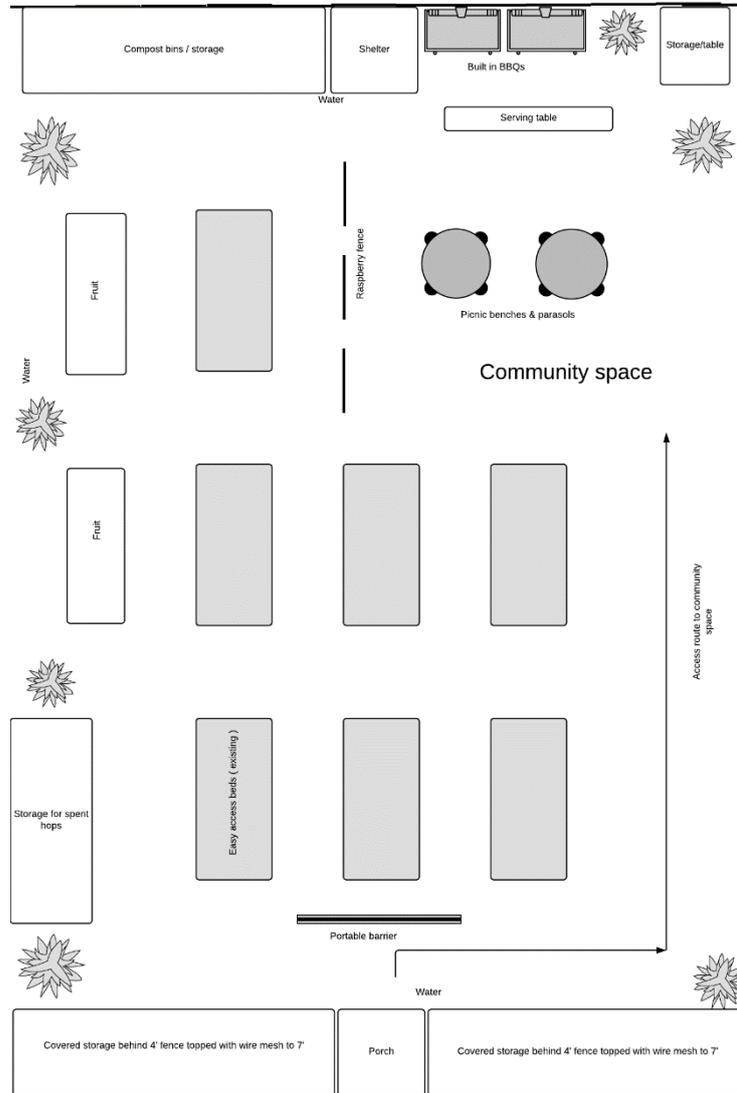
The priority is to pave the area to the right and far end, as this community space is where we will hold our summer fete and this year's 100th birthday events. The paving slabs will be the same as the existing ones, with a small border around the edge that we can use for annual flowers / scented plants.

The current compost bins will be removed. We are planning to get enough plastic composting 'Daleks' so that every plot holder in the area has their own, and also providing each of them with their own numbered space in a storage unit for things like pots and nets. This should help to avoid things being left lying around creating health and safety hazards. Subject to availability of funds, we will create 2 or 3 new raised beds on the left hand side. We will also look at some permanent seating and a barbeque area in the new community space.

Please contact myself or any other member of the committee at any time during the project if you have any questions, ideas, offers of help, or concerns.

**Kevin Holland**  
**Plot 44**

# Hempland Lane Allotments – new Community Space Plan



Fences to side and rear will be 4' high, topped with wire mesh to 7'

Hempland Lane Allotments easy access area and community space design V2. Not to scale. 25/05/18

## **Future dates for your Diary**

### **Our next Annual General Meeting**

AGM is booked for **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2019 7.30pm start at Burnholme 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](mailto:nigelthegardener@hotmail.com) by 31st January 2019.

At our AGM we will discuss more forthcoming events including our Centenary celebrations, summer fete, autumn show, strimming weekend and any other events that people may wish to have.

### **Skips**

As part of your annual rent, YACIO provide us with one landfill skip every year. Because we recognise that some plots have a lot of non-compostable rubbish, often left by previous tenants, in previous years your allotment association has paid for extra skips from the funds that we raise. You might be surprised to know that it costs us approx. £250 for every skip that we provide. Please use them wisely, only putting in things that cannot be reused or composted.

Donations towards the cost of the skips that we pay for can be made at the shop.

### **Whilst the Shop is closed over the Winter**

If you want to renew your Association Membership for 2019 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 2019.

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 or other committee members.

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.

### **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 2019 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 £5. 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.

## GARDENING CLUBS

### 10% DISCOUNT IS GIVEN ON THE FOLLOWING PRODUCT GROUPS:

Houseplants	Fertilisers
Shrubs	Chemicals
Trees	Tools
Perennials	Hoses/Sprayers
Bedding	Hanging Baskets
Roses	Garden Sundries
Climbers	Planters/Covers
Conifers	Fish & Aquatic Plants
Fruit (plants)	Pond & Water Features
Herbs/Vegetable (plants)	Cut Flowers
Aquatics	Basket Plants (seedlings)
Vegetable Seeds	Xmas Trees (fresh)
Flower Seeds	Trays (propagation)
Bulbs	Outdoor Pots(terracotta/glazed)
Stoneware	Compost & Peat
Floral Art	

### DISCOUNT IS NOT GIVEN ON THE FOLLOWING PRODUCT GROUPS:

Barbecues & Accessories	Christmas Goods
Gift Tokens	Greenhouses/Sheds/Summerhouses
Beekeeping	Outdoor Gifts
Furniture (inc. wooden)	Charcoal & Fuels
Turf	Delivery Charges
Books (inc. newspapers & gardening magazines)	Gifts & Cards
Stamps	Food & Drinks (inc. sweets, jams, drinks, ice creams, biscuits, hampers, eggs and fruit & vegetables)



10% discount at Vertigrow

**ALLOTMENT SHOP** - We aim re-open (Officially) in February 2019 once the Kings seed stock, inc 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 and will continue where possible.

## Update from Nigel

I have seen a van about recently which has the very catchy slogan on the side “Live life on the Veg”. As plot holders we are all (or should be) living a lot of our life on our vegetables, the ones we produce ourselves hopefully!

So we are now past the shortest day (daylight wise) so our own sap will start rising with the anticipation of another year on our plots. Many of you took advantage of the Kings Seed (members) catalogue back in October/November & placed orders via myself to be sent off to Kings. As we have mentioned several times Kings Seeds are excellent value for money compared to the prices charged by many other leading seed companies. By the time you are reading this hopefully you should have all received your respective seed orders. (They have all now either been collected or delivered before Christmas).

Another season ahead & as usual we will all get itchy fingers & feet. Our fingers are itching to get into those new seed packets & our feet itching to get back on the plots to get into action. I think it always pays to show a little bit of patience; sowing seeds too early can lead to disappointment and frustration when seeds refuse to germinate or rot in the ground. I sometimes get some funny looks when people say things like my early carrots haven't germinated yet, how are yours doing? Well they are nice & warm & snug, have you got them under fleece? No they are still in the packet!!!

Let's be honest we have all tried to start seeds too early over the years so hold fire as nature does a pretty useful job of catching up and balancing out over a season. So are we all going try at least one new vegetable or variety during 2019. The seed orders indicated a lot of tradition in the general seed choices with Beetroot *Boltardy*, Parsnip *Tender & True* & Runner Bean *Enorma* being very popular. Another old favourite Leek *Musselburgh* featured heavily on order sheets. It was nice to see one or two plot holders “breaking ranks” and ordering the likes of Carrots *Rubyprince*, Romanesco *Navona*, Celtuce & Dwarf French Beans *Mistik*. You might when walking to your plot see later in the season some Oriental vegetables like Wong Bok & Chinese Celery *Kintsai*!

As I am sure you already know we are not stocking potato sets this year so if you are growing spuds let us know how you get on & what varieties proved successful for you. Remember this is your newsletter so any plot holder or Associate Member can contribute articles, Gayle would love to hear from you. It could be a little piece on a show you have been to, a book you have read (that you received as a Christmas gift), a giant squash you have grown, a favourite recipe you use, a piece of gardening poetry the choices are endless. I will with my usual enthusiasm try one or two different varieties in 2019. One of my big success plants last year was my *Yard Long Beans*, previously i had struggled for success with them but growing them in my plastic tunnel seemed to do the trick – and of course a cracking summer of sunshine. This year I am trying a different *Yard Long Bean* called *Red Noodle* from MoreVeg Seeds [www.moreveg.co.uk](http://www.moreveg.co.uk). I am also trying a Runner Bean called *Achievement*, a red flowered variety, quite late cropping producing high yielding long smooth pods.

Another new one to me is Lettuce *Red Grenoble* said to be a beautiful lettuce with various shades of red, dark bronze & green. This I understand is an heirloom variety much championed by No Dig expert Charles Dowding, so it must have something about it!

**Allotment Rents** – By the time you read this newsletter you should all have received your 2019 rent invoices from YACIO. If for any reason you have not received your invoice please contact YACIO by Mob 07746 268588 or e-mail [contact@yorkallotments.org](mailto:contact@yorkallotments.org) secretary is Anna Pawlow. Or you can contact them by post at York Allotments, Popeshead Court Offices, Peter Lane, York YO1 8SU

Also if you have decided to “give up” your plot or indeed if you currently have a full plot and wish to reduce to half a plot can you please contact YACIO & let David Brinklow our Site Secretary know Mob 07812 069302 or 01904 421979 or e-mail [davidbrinklow@yahoo.com](mailto:davidbrinklow@yahoo.com) thank you.

**Waiting Lists** – as at 9/1/19 the 16 sites under the control of YACIO currently have a waiting list of 625 people & our site currently has 47 people waiting for a plot. So as you can see there is no let up of the numbers of people waiting for plots. So if you feel you are unable to cope or you have sadly lost interest please let us know as soon as possible so that another person from the waiting list can “get cracking” at the ideal time of the year.

**Potato Set orders from Kings Seeds.** I know several plot holders ordered potato sets along with your seeds; the order should be with me (Nigel) in January. As soon as they arrive I will contact you individually so that you can collect them from me at the allotment shop.

**Hemland Allotment Association Membership 2019.** Our annual fee is remaining at £5 for this year, representing excellent value. Thank you to those of you who have already renewed your memberships. I would just like to wish all plot holders old and new a happy and successful 2019. Remember our shop will be available again on a Sunday morning from 10:00-12:00 and if you have any queries please do not hesitate contact any of our committee who will be more than happy to help you!

**Nigel Plot 66**

## **The Joy of the Winter Picnic**

When you think about going on a picnic, the winter-time is by no means the obvious choice. But with fewer days needed working at the allotment at this time of year it's a good opportunity to look for alternative ways of enjoying the great outdoors.

With this in mind on a late December day, wintry but mild, my sister and I set off for our winter walk, complete with a portable picnic consisting of cheese and chutney sandwiches on crusty white bread, big wedges of Christmas fruit cake and a very welcome flask of hot chocolate, all stuffed somehow into a small backpack.

We parked up near the Millennium bridge as usual, pulled on our walking-boots from the back of the car and strode off into the wintry air. We soon came across people, many people with the same idea as us, out walking, with their children cycling alongside and their dogs off exploring in the hedgerows and down by the river's edge.

As we strolled along by the river bank past the majestic horse chestnut trees we watched as the Canada geese skimmed the gently flowing Ouse. It's hard to take your eyes off them when they're in flight or calling to each other in the cold air. But in the end the pull of lunch became too strong to ignore.

We found an empty bench overlooking the river which gave a good vantage point for everything that was going on.

And now at last for the picnic, one of life's simple pleasures. You're glad of everything you've brought along because everything does taste better outdoors. The ducks soon came bobbing and quacking but too late for them today, nothing left but just a few crumbs.

Take a breath, have a picnic, and enjoy every season of the year.

**Lisa Tindale, Plot 59b**

If you would like to write something for the next newsletter, please email it to [gayle.farrington@btinternet.com](mailto:gayle.farrington@btinternet.com), by mid March 2019.