Hempland Lane-Heworth Allotment Association



Autumn Newsletter 2026
Hot from the Hut!



Committee Members

Name		Plot
Ellen Bradbury	Site Secretary	9a
Nigel Collinson	Secretary	66
Alison England	Site Secretary	49
Gayle Enion-Farrington	Chair, Treasurer and Publicity Officer	34
Moira Grainger	Committee Member	93a
George Hughes	Committee Member	108
Kathleen Starkey	Committee Member	71a
Vacancy– co-opt at AGM	Committee Member	
Lorraine Wood	Shop Manager	64
Dave Wood	Shop Manager	64
Mark Farrington	Website Administrator (not part of the committee)	35

Dates for your diary

Our next Association Annual General Meeting

We are pleased to announce that the next **AGM and QUIZ** is booked for **Monday 1st February 2027**. 7.30pm start at Burnholme Club. Everybody is welcome and we try and make the evening as enjoyable and informal as possible. With that in mind, this year we are going to start the evening with a fun quiz (6 per team MAX – teams can be formed on the night), followed by a brief AGM. 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. Cheese & Biscuits, snacks and nibbles will be provided by the committee. Cash bar and hot drinks will be available from the Club. Agenda items to Nigel plot 66 or nigelthegardener@hotmail.com by 31st January 2027. If you would like to be organised you can pay your 2027 Hempland Lane Allotment Association membership fee now! Nigel our membership secretary is ready to take payment. The fee is £5 per person, per plot number and the membership will run through until the 28th of February 2028.

Gayle Enion-Farrington – Chairperson Plot 34

Site Secretaries - FAQ

Ellen and I have taken over as site secretaries from David Brinklow. David is a hard act to follow but we are doing our best. We are very grateful for all your support and of course for all the help and support we get from our association. We thought it might be helpful to go over some questions we have been asked, particularly if you are relatively new to the site.

What are site secretaries?

Good question! We are volunteers who help YACIO to manage our site. We show vacant plots to people on the waiting list, report any issues and generally let them know anything that will help them to run the site as smoothly as possible. There are site secretaries on all York sites.

What is the difference between YACIO and our association?
YACIO is the charitable trust that manages allotments on behalf of the council. They are: two part-time paid admin staff, and a group of trustees who are also volunteers. YACIO manages the legal side of lettings, issuing contracts to new tenants, sending out invoices for rents, and when necessary, terminating tenancies. They are also responsible for all the costs that go with running the site – water bills, tree maintenance, paying contractors to cut the site boundary hedges and grass, and so on... On our site we are fortunate in having a very active association. Committee members run the shop, run the Sunday refreshments, provide keys and seed catalogues, order manure and have an AGM and autumn show. And produce this newsletter!

Ah, hedges. Who is responsible for them?
As tenants we are all obliged to cut and maintain our own plot boundary hedges to a "winter height of 1.5 metres" (Tenancy Agreement)

What about trees?
Fruit trees are ok subject to certain restrictions regarding height, proximity to boundaries etc. but other trees should be kept well in check. Again, lots of useful info and guidance in the Tenants Handbook, and the contractual bit we all signed up to is in the Agreement.

Where do I find those?
Both are on the YACIO website. Things do change over time so if it's a while since you looked at the handbook it is definitely worth a read.

What about the waiting list?
Yep, it is long – currently there is a 4 year wait for a plot with us. We are doing our best – 30 people gone from the list by lettings/ no longer interested since we took over, but new people get added every month. Yes, painting the Forth Bridge does spring to mind! But it is great that people want plots, and very satisfying to let plots to excited new tenants. It is really helpful if people let YACIO know as soon as they decide to give up their plots. All the plots we have let so far have become very overgrown for various reasons and it would be great if we could do whatever we can to avoid that.

Is there any requirement from YACIO for how much of my plot should be cultivated?
Yes, there is. The Tenancy Agreement is quite clear - "The allotment must be well maintained with the majority used for growing crops". The handbook also has some really useful guidance on this. People can find their plots harder to manage as circumstances change. If you have got a full size plot and would like to downsize let us know. We can get full plots divided. Don't forget that there are raised beds on the Haven for people who through disability can't manage their full or half sized plots anymore.

Anything we can do to make your lives easier?
(ok, I made that one up – nobody has asked that!)
But it would be really helpful if you could put your plot number plus A or B where appropriate on the gate. It can be surprisingly hard to work out which plot is which.

How do we contact you?
Email sitesechempland@gmail.com and one of us will pick it up.
Alison and Ellen

Thank you to all who came to our **Annual Autumn 'Fun' Show** which took place on Sunday 13th September 2026. Lots of entries but few scarecrow entries this year for 'Summer of Sport' but we'll try again next year – Please do let us know of a theme that you would wish to take part in.

RESULTS – AUTUMN FUN SHOW 13th September 2026

FIRST PRIZE	SECOND PRIZE	THIRD PRIZE	CLASS
27/28 Erich Kadow	44 Kevin Holland	81 Jean Pulleyn	Best Plot (Automatic entry)
30a Tim Sellar	109 Mike & Sarah Armstrong	84A Mr & Mrs Taylor	Best newcomers plot (Automatic entry)
8B & Child first – 50B			Best Scarecrow (Summer of Sport Theme)
45A	34	64	3 root vegetables
27/28	30A	N/A	5 potatoes
106			3 courgettes
N/A			3 onions
31A	35		5 beans
92A	31A	9B	5 tomatoes
107	N/A	N/A	2 sweetcorn
30A	106	59B	Longest bean
N/A			Longest stick of rhubarb
35	64	50B	Largest marrow
Squash 82A Pumpkin 64	92A 106	82A	A squash or pumpkin
26A	27/28	92A	Any brassica
First equal 92A and 9B		106	Most unusual vegetables
31A	27/28	106	Plate of mixed vegetables
27/28	106	93A	3 apples
31A	106		Plate of edible berries
108	30A		Most unusual fruit
31A			Bunch of herbs
30A	49A	109	Bunch of mixed flowers
16 16	49A 9A		5 dahlia Flower in an unusual container
107			Children's garden on a tray
34 35			Children's painting or drawing, to include a tree, flower or plant. Children's potato print picture







Best Allotment Plot

1st Place Plot 27/28 2nd Place Plot 44 3rd Place Plot 81







Best Newcomer Plot

1st place 30a 2nd place 109 3rd place 84a







Success - our Wildlife area has been declared an Asset of Community Value

The Hempland Lane Allotments Community Wildlife area was created by volunteers from Hempland Lane Allotment Association in the year 2000. For over 25 years this Community Wildlife Area has supported the social recreation and wellbeing of the local community, and it has now been recognised, which gives it added protection. A huge thankyou to everyone who supported this application.

Gayle Enon-Farrington Plot 34

Potential Summer Evening BBQ for Plot Holders

Would plot holders be interested in a BBQ one summer evening? If so, please express your interest to committee members over the forthcoming months.

Rather than putting guidance here on jobs to do on your allotment – we urge you to look at YACIOs new website which has lots of resources. **York Allotments**

Can you help? Do you have any DIY, gardening or handy skills? Would you like to join a volunteer WhatsApp group for the Allotment Site. The plan is that the committee add tasks onto a WhatsApp group and you can pick and choose what task you wish to do, and in your own time, when it's convenient for you.
Are you in? If interested, please contact for further details.
gayle.farrington@btinternet.com



The HAVEN

Now that we have a WhatsApp working group, certain tasks will be carried out around the site but they are all being approved in advance. If you see something that needs doing, please do report it to the committee, rather than going onto anyone's plot or the Haven and doing it without consent. In the next few months work on the planting of a herb area will commence in the Haven. The sedum roofs will also be repaired on the storage sheds.

PLOT NUMBERS

Please can you help us with a project over this winter. When the weather is dark and grey and doesn't permit digging on our wonderful plots, please can you **be creative at home and make a NUMBERED sign for your allotment gate.**

We would like all plots numbered (as per your tenancy agreement) and indicating A. B or C if you have a section of a plot. This would make it much easier for our Site Secretaries Ellen Bradbury and Alison England and would help when we are judging best plot / Scarecrow competition. It would even help our newly formed Volunteer WhatsApp group to identify the location of work that needs to take place on our site.

If you would like to write something for the next newsletter, please email it to gayle.farrington@btinternet.com, by January 2027.

Technology

Our database and MailChimp system. Should you wish to get a message to all allotmenteers 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. For latest newsletter and diary information please visit www.hempland-lane-allotments.com