

Hempland Lane-Heworth Allotment Association



Spring Newsletter 2024 Hot from the Hut!

Committee Members

Name		Plot
Julian Ayres	Committee Member (Hempland Haven Rep)	67A & 67B
Ellen Bradbury	Committee Member	9
David Brinklow	Site Secretary and Treasurer	14
Nigel Collinson	Secretary	66
Alison England	Committee Member	49
Gayle Enion-Farrington	Chair and Publicity Officer	34, 35
Moira Grainger	Committee Member	93a
George Hughes	Committee Member	108
Vacancy	Committee Member (Hempland Haven Rep)	
Lisa Tindale	Committee Member	59b
Vacancy	Committee Member	
Lorraine Wood	Shop Manager	64
Dave Wood	Shop Manager	64
Mark Farrington	Website Administrator (not part of the committee)	35

Update from your Chairperson

There is still time to join Hempland Lane Allotment Association for 2024. Nigel our Membership Secretary has forms available and you can also get them from the shop on Sundays. The fee is £5 per person and the membership will run through until the 28th of February 2025.

Dates for your diary

Sunday 5th May 2024 10am - 2pm - The grand opening of the new facility situated in the Haven at Hempland Lane Allotments 10am - 2pm. Starting at 10am with a coffee morning and merging into a 'Bring Your Own' BBQ lunch and refreshments from 12noon.

Sunday 7th July 2024 10am - 2pm - Summer Fair in the Haven at Hempland Lane Allotments 10am - 2pm. Starting at 10am with a coffee morning and merging into a 'Bring Your Own' BBQ lunch and refreshments from 12noon. There will also be a **table top sale**. If you would like a table please contact a member of the committee. More information to follow so look out in Facebook or the posters around our site

Sunday 29th September 2024 10am - 2pm - Autumn Show in the Haven at Hempland Lane Allotments 10am - 2pm. Starting at 10am with a coffee morning and merging into a 'Bring Your Own' BBQ lunch and refreshments from 12noon. **Scarecrow theme** - please can we have your votes - would you like it to be

Water 2) **Olympics** or 3) **Eurovision** for September 2024? Please let Gayle know on gayle.farrington@btinternet.com no later than 31st May 2024, or answer the poll on our facebook page. Our next committee meeting will be held on 10th June 2024 and confirmation will be made in the Summer newsletter, following the meeting.

Man with a van - available to new plot holders

If you have any landfill waste please contact our site secretary David Brinklow - email with name, plot number and how much waste you have and where it is located on your plot (It needs to be in one place that can be easy to get to, as the man with a van may come when you are not present).

Gayle Enion-Farrington

Plot 34

Did you know?

- Vilnius the capital city of Lithuania is 62% covered in greenery! This makes it the greenest European capital and sadly it is a place I have never visited.
- Broccoli, Kale, Brussels Sprouts, Kohlrabi, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Romanesco and various sprouting greens are all variants of the same plant "Brassica oleracea", originally a wild weedy specimen ... so eat your greens!
- Celery can be quite tricky to grow successfully but it seems Joan Priednieks of Westonzoyland in Somerset (4 miles south of Bridgwater) didn't have any trouble at all! In 1998 she recorded the record for growing the world's tallest celery plant reaching 9ft tall, you could hide behind it, almost scary.

It's all in the eyes?

In the latter half of the 1800`s when times were hard, it was well documented that when potatoes were in short supply, they ate the potatoes but planted the peelings. As long as the peel had an "eye" on it to produce a new plant it could produce a half decent crop. I am sure lots of us will have experienced this with potatoes produced on our compost heaps from peelings!

We all seem to have busy lives nowadays and we have all read loads about the benefits of allotments and gardening. It can be difficult to find time for ourselves. So next time you put the kettle on or open your flask of hot water to make your drink, just take a few minutes to walk around your garden or allotment.

Don't take your mobile phone, smart watch or whatever and just for a few precious moments connect with your plants and nature. It will be very beneficial and you will want to do it more.

Sunflowers ...

If you walk around our lovely site in late summer and early autumn you will see the happy sight of various sunflowers basking in the sunshine. The botanical name for the sunflower is *helianthus* combining the Greek word "helios" (sun) & "anthus" (flower).

At the back end of the season you can leave the flower heads intact for the birds to feast on. Everybody likes to grow tall sunflowers and it certainly keeps young children entertained as the plants grow so fast in summer once they get going. Here is a staggering thought the tallest sunflower currently recorded reached 30ft & 1 inch in 2014. It was grown by Hans Peter Schiffer in Germany. There are many different varieties available, not all just tall ones, try "Teddy Bear" only reaching 2ft with lots of pom-pom shaped flowers. So this season give them a go & grow them & put a smile on people's faces.

Nigel Collinson

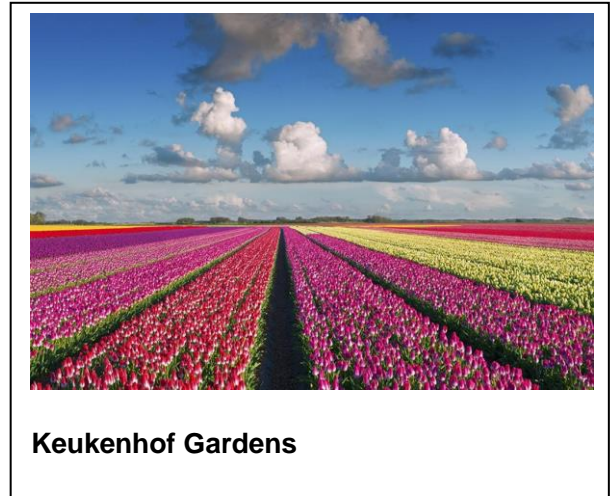
Plot66

Tulips

On a sunny February day recently I was delighted to see the green shoots of bulbs poking up out of the soil as I walked out into the garden. Among the shoots were the very recognisable leaves of tulip bulbs.

Tulips, as you may know, have a remarkable history that includes the Dutch Tulip Mania of the seventeenth century in which some bulbs went for crazy money thanks to financial speculators getting mixed up with the gardeners.

Causing great excitement among the tulip growers, some plants looked 'broken' which happens when the normal plain colour gets feathered in with another shade. Each specimen like this was original and so prices were driven up to crazy levels with people losing all sense of proportion.



The ruinous speculation in tulip bulbs became so serious that at last the Dutch government had to put a stop to it before any more damage was done to the Dutch economy.

Nowadays the most spectacular display of tulips is at the world-famous Keukenhof Gardens in Holland for a few weeks every year starting in mid-March. I have been to see it and there were fields and fields of tulips as far as the eye could see.

Lisa Tindale
Plot 59B

Hope Springs Eternal

Is there anything in gardening more exciting than Coming Back after Winter?

I know that some hardy souls - or keen newcomers - may never have gone away, but the softer ones amongst us (me, anyway) have been staying indoors while chomping at the bit for spring and warm weather. Or at any rate for the rain to stop for half an hour.

I love this time of year when everything lies before us and all is possible. I can visualise the rows of pristine vegetables as promised by the seed catalogues I've been thumbing. I do know, of course, from bitter experience that I will never actually grow anything that looks like that. In reality I will be battling disfiguring and downright dangerous flea beetles, slugs, frost - and then drought and pigeons and every plant disease known to the RHS. But for now, when all is hypothetical, I can imagine perfection.

Sowing seeds is both an encouragement of this vain daydreaming and a grim foretaste of the disasters ahead. On the one hand, in carefully controlled conditions (no mice or flea beetles in my attic - yet) the broad beans get off to a deceptively swift and smooth start. On the other hand, the

peas (in the same ideal location) don't germinate at all. I'm afraid the peas will prove to be a more reliable indicator of the way things are likely to go this year.

It is, of course, partly my own fault. I'm always so keen to get going that I sow seeds too early, and over-estimate just how warm the attic really is. Especially since I'm loathe to put the central heating on without actual symptoms of frostbite. My top tip and absolute saviour is the cheap electric propagator I treated myself to for Christmas. I have no idea why I didn't buy one before. It is the seed equivalent of an electric blanket, both inventions marking the pinnacle of human achievement (move aside moon landing) and without which life is unimaginable. And indeed, in the case of seeds in my attic, non-existent.

Early spring is also the time for planning where the pristine plants will be planted out on the plot, scientifically done in accordance with the principles of crop rotation and by poring over previous years plans. At which point I remember that I never stick to the plan so none of them are accurate, and I'll probably do the same this year, randomly putting in plants on a whim and wilfully planting onions in the bed carefully prepared for potatoes.

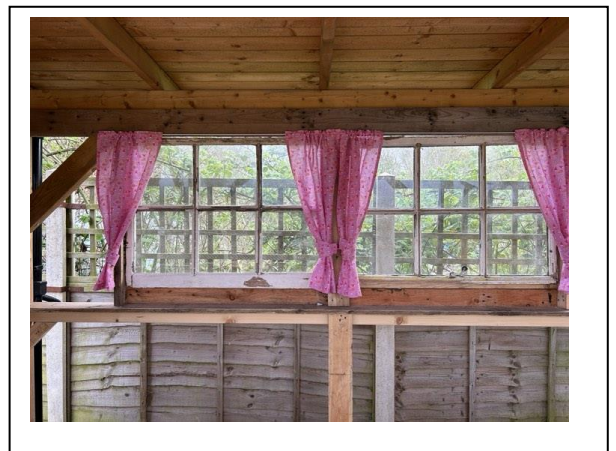
But still. Hope, in gardening and allotmenting, does spring eternal, firing up a positive frenzy of activity and enjoyment - or it might, if it ever stops raining.

Alison England
Plot 49A

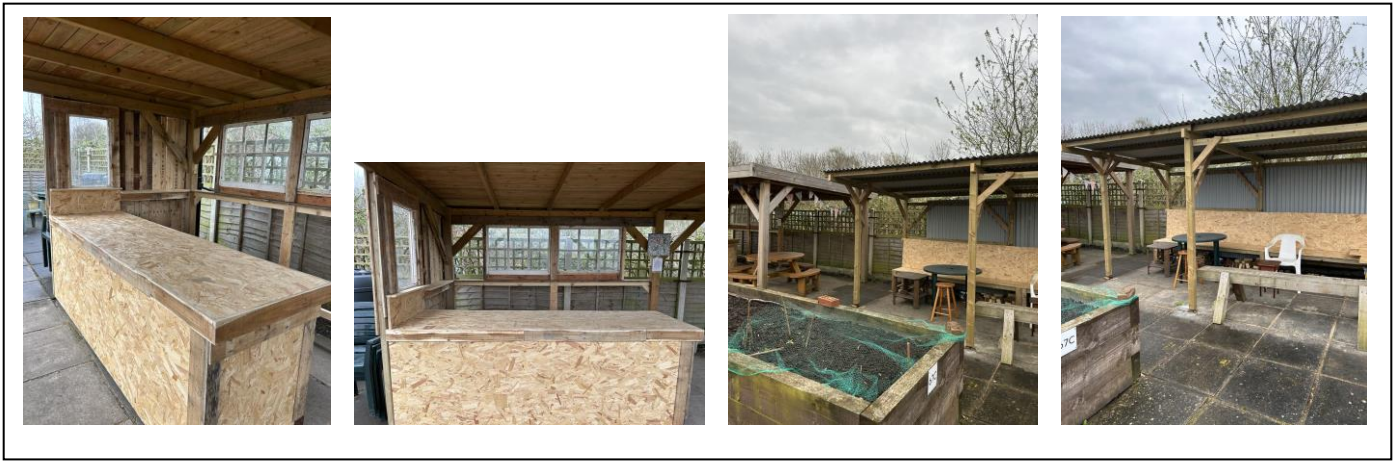
Sunday Meet Ups on the Haven

Apart from talking about the Wet Weather and the flooded Allotments and slippery Paths there has not been a lot of activity. I opened up the Sunday morning Coffee/Teas on 18th February 2024 and it was a slow start due to the cold wintery weather .. (Even though I had opened the Haven every Sunday morning during the winter months, and the hardy dog walkers and friends had turned up every week !)

Things have picked up considerably now and we are well on the way to having Two Gazebos. George has done an amazing job building the New one and making lots of alterations to the original.. We have one end blocked off so far, which makes it a lot warmer and less drafty. It all looks very rustic and it will look even better soon as Chris Lickiss is busy making curtains and Tablecloths and Kath Starkey is going to clean all the old paint off the windows and bring them back to basics ! So exciting !



The sun shining definitely makes a difference to people venturing out. Last Sunday was a much nicer day with the weather and we were very busy . It is such a lovely community get together.



If anyone has any small tables that are no use to them anymore please would you consider donating them to the Haven as I could do with a couple . Hope everyone is starting to think about planting seeds etc (not rice fields) 😊😊! I have not done anything yet as I haven't got a heated greenhouse and nowhere available in the house at the moment for storing seed trays. Let's hope we can all get on our Allotments soon when the weather is kinder to us . I notice that quite a few people have made a start and are using the manure up rapidly.

The grand opening of this new facility will be Sunday 5th May 10am - 2pm with BBQ at 12noon
All welcome

Moira Grainger
Plot 93a

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