

# Harlow Hill Allotment Association

## Autumn 2019 Newsletter

### HELLO PLOT HOLDERS & ASSOCIATED MEMBERS

It's been a good summer for vegetables and flowers, lots of warm sunshine and even if it's been on the dry side over all, there's been water enough in the allotment butts. However, it's also been a vintage year for hungry caterpillars and they have got to work on the local brassicas with devastating effect, reducing some formerly healthy sprouts plants to near skeletons. It also appears to have been a year when Victoria plums have done badly.



*Autumn flowers brighten a plot*

October is a useful month for allotment gardeners. It's a good time for tidying up the plot and the weather is still pleasant much of the time. The more you do in autumn, the less you have to do in spring. The remains of cropped vegetables can now be cleared away and put on the compost heap, and weeds too can be consigned to compost. Slugs love rotting damp vegetation, so transferring their habitat to the compost heap is a good organic way of reducing their numbers. For diggers (like me) it's now a good time to get on with it, maybe adding manure/fertiliser at the same time.

### HARVEST YOUR CROPS

Don't allow your allotment produce to rot. If you can't use it yourself, please place it in the yellow boxes by the Allotment Shop for the Waste Not, Want Not Project.

### ALLOTMENT SHOP - PLEASE NOTE CHANGED TIMES

From **5<sup>th</sup> October until 30<sup>th</sup> November**, the Allotment Shop will be open on Saturdays only from **11.00 to 12.00 noon**. The shop will then be closed for the winter and will re-open at the start of February. So stock up on composted manure (£4.50 a bag) and anything else you might need before it closes.

*Angela Dicken*

### SUN SMILES ON OPEN DAY

Sincere thanks to everyone who supported our successful open day on 3<sup>rd</sup> August and a nice warm day made it even better. Special thanks to all the helpers, plot holders who so generously contributed produce and brilliant baking. I was amazed by all the beautiful cakes and preserves which must have taken time and effort to prepare. I think we're getting a reputation as visitors seemed to head for the cake stall first.

It was good to show off our plots to our neighbours in the houses surrounding the allotment site and also to plot holders from other sites. We received lots of compliments. It was a lovely morning with very nice people.

The event raised £132.10 (£3.40 on the children's activities, £38.70 on the produce, and £90.00 on the cake stall). The plant sale on 18<sup>th</sup> May raised £169.50, so £150.00 has been donated to Harrogate Homeless Project and £150.00 to Horticap.

*Anne Ellis*

## SEED ORDER FOR NEXT YEAR

The catalogues for the Seed Order from Kings Seeds are now in the Allotment Shop.

For those of you who are new to this, through our membership of the National Allotment Society, we have the opportunity to order from Kings Seeds at reduced prices. If we send in a group order, we also make some additional funds for our allotment association.

All you have to do is choose what seeds you would like from the catalogue, complete the green form that's inside the catalogue and then return the form to me (74 Otley Road). You can pay into the Harlow Hill Allotment Association bank account (this is our preferred method if you can do this) or you can pay by cheque with your order. All the details are on the pink sheet on front of the catalogue. ***Please read the instructions carefully.*** You need to add £1.20 to your order for packaging.

Although you can order seed potatoes from Kings, we can buy some varieties more cheaply from Acorn Supplies where we get the shop stock from. A form for these seed potatoes is also in the catalogue.

The seeds are delivered towards the end of November and you can collect them from me. Seed potatoes from both Kings and Acorn are delivered in January.

If you order from both the Kings catalogue and from Acorn, you only need to do one bank transfer for both or send in one cheque.

The deadline for getting your order in to me is **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November**, so you have plenty of time to choose.

If you have any questions about the seed order, please don't hesitate to contact me. If you can't get to the Allotment Shop to collect a catalogue and would like one, please let me know and I'll arrange to get one to you.

Please support the seed order. *Angela Dicken (Tel: 505748 email: dicken.angela@hotmail.co.uk)*

## EDITOR'S TIP

If you like broad beans, I recommend putting Aquadulce Claudia on your seed order. Sow them out in the open in early to mid-October (which means those on this year's seed order are for sowing in October 2020, but if you shop around a bit, you may still be able to get some for this October). They'll "come up" before Christmas and the overwhelming odds are that they'll survive even a harsh winter. They should start to crop in mid-June (when little else does! -and that's a big bonus) and they are two to three weeks earlier than broad beans sown in the spring. They need little attention, and if they get blown over in spring, just leave them - they'll crop just as well.



*Keith Wadd*

## HARLOW HILL STRIKES GOLD AGAIN

The judges from Harrogate & District Allotment Federation gave Harlow Hill a Gold Award in the Harrogate in Bloom Awards and we were in the top three of the eight allotments in the district. Congratulations to Chris & Angela Dicken who were awarded top plot on our site (Plots 37A & 44B). Many thanks to our plot holders for their hard work in helping our Harlow Hill site to look good. The site judging took place during the last week of June (see last edition of the newsletter for feedback from the site judging).

## **HARROGATE & DISTRICT ALLOTMENT FEDERATION ANNUAL SHOW**

The 59<sup>th</sup> HDAF Annual Show in Valley Gardens on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August was a great success once again. The number of exhibits and exhibitors were up on last year, with 17 plot holders and associate members from Harlow Hill exhibiting. As always, there were some stunning flowers, enormous vegetables and beautiful cakes plus many lovely entries from the children too.

Congratulations to Angela Dicken who won the Margolis Trophy for most points in show from Harlow Hill; to Effie Wickens, who won the Harlow Hill Junior Cup and to Ruth Wickens, who shared the Society Trophy for Best Exhibit in Show in Cakes and Preserves with Sandra Griffiths from Oatlands Allotments. Ruth also shared the F Clark Sweet Peas Trophy for most points in Cakes and Preserves with Heather Adderley from North Outfall and Isobel Beard from Stonefall Allotments. There was individual success for several other Harlow Hill plot holders too.



Our Tombola Stall had an amazing day, raising £381. Many thanks to Chris Dicken, Richard Wriglesworth, Jennie Parfitt, Jane Royston and Mary Wright who helped with the stall on the day and many thanks to everyone who donated prizes.

Thanks to everyone who bought raffle tickets too. A list of raffle prize winners is in the Allotment Shop.

The weather was kind too, and many people came along to give their support and admire the exhibits. The profits from the Show enabled us to donate £750 to Henshaws Arts & Craft Centre.

*Angela Dicken*

## **PICNIC ON THE PLOT - 31<sup>st</sup> AUGUST**



What a day to choose for picnic on the plot! Instead of glorious sunshine like the previous year, the heavens opened and treated us to a thundery downpour, reducing picnic on the plot to picnic in the shop, sharing food and celebrating Jerry's (plot 29) retirement. Some intrepid potential future plot holders from the waiting list came to look round and were suitably impressed. We wish Jerry a long and happy retirement, and hope Picnic on the Plot has better weather next year as we get so few opportunities to meet up with other plot holders and have a chat.

*Anne Ellis*

## **WORK WEEKEND**

This will take place from 10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October and Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> October. Please come along if you can, and give some help. We will be hedge cutting, clearing the manure enclosure ready for a new hut and generally tidying the site.

## **WAITING LIST**

There is now a waiting list of thirty-four for a plot on Harlow Hill allotments. This is approximately a two year wait.

## NEW SECRETARY NEEDED

Anne Ellis, our secretary is standing down and we need someone to replace her after the AGM on 12th March. Anne has done a really good job as secretary for Harlow Hill Allotment Association. We are very sorry to lose her and pleased that she is staying on as a Committee member. To find out more about what the secretary's job involves, please feel welcome to contact Anne at [hhaasecretary@outlook.com](mailto:hhaasecretary@outlook.com)

## GARDENER'S QUESTION

“Why no moss on the allotment's paths and rides (when people's lawns at home are full of it)?” This was the question I asked in the last newsletter. I didn't get any answers, but this is my theory. On pavements beside roads, there's lots of moss where people don't walk such as under overhanging twigs, but no moss where they do walk (similar to the rolling stone gathering no moss). The same applies to where there's grass, such as the allotment paths - no moss because we walk on them. Furthermore, we don't mow them close. So if you want a good organic way of keeping your lawn at home fairly moss free, perhaps it might help if you walk on it frequently, don't mow it close, and encourage your (grand) kids to play football on it.

For inclusion in future newsletters, let us know of your allotment successes, allotment failures, learning experiences, or perhaps you might like to raise “a gardeners' question”.

*Keith Wadd*

## LEEK COMPETITION



Do you have a splendid leek crop this year? We are hoping for lots of entries for the Harry Newport trophy for the best leeks on site. All you have to do is to email the secretary: [hhaasecretary@outlook.com](mailto:hhaasecretary@outlook.com) with your name and plot number. The chairman will have a look at the plots of those plot holders who have put forward entries and the award will be presented at the AGM in March.

*Anne Ellis*

### Dates for your diary

WORK WEEKEND	Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> October & Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> October
DEADLINE FOR SEED ORDER	Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November
AGM 2020	Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> March
ALLOTMENT SHOP	Saturdays only 11.00 – 12.00 after 5 <sup>th</sup> October. Last opening date before winter - 30th November.