

HUNTLEY & PALMER'S ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

newsletter



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Chairman's Chatter

Firstly happy new year to you - I hope your plans for another season of growing are coming together.

News from Yorkshire of a scheme that sounds so sensible the only question to ask is why it has not happened before.

Hull City Council has agreed a policy that means that any empty land owned by the local authority will be mapped and publicised to be made available to local residents and community groups to temporarily cultivate food crops on the land.

The scheme came about after a very unfortunate incident. A resident had been growing food on a piece of public land adjacent to their home for many years and they'd distribute the produce to their neighbours, but they had to dismantle their patch and dig up their vegetables after someone new moved into the area and objected!

The scheme, the first citywide project of its kind in the UK, will allow community groups - including charities and small groups of neighbours to grow fruit and veg on suitable sites, in a bid to improve health and wellbeing, tackle the cost-of-living crisis and improve the local environment.

Incredible Edible, a network of more than 150 community growing groups, has drawn up campaign plans to oblige all local authorities to keep a register of public land suitable for vegetable and fruit-growing, which local groups could apply to access.

The “right to grow” campaign has cross-party support from Lords and MPs, with calls for the government to incorporate it into forthcoming levelling up legislation.

Richard Tredgett

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Annual H&P summer picnic 2023

On one of several days last summer described by the weather reporters as “the hottest day of the year so far” forty members gathered at the Culver Lane site for a big meet up, exchange of ideas and some friendly competition with prizes awarded for Best fruit or vegetable and Best box of six vegetables.

There were 17 entries in the best fruit or vegetable competition including fabulous examples of Courgette 'Tromboncino d'Albenga', giant beetroot and celeriac but the winner was a giant, immaculate cauliflower entered by Robert Thomson. There were three entries in the box of 6 vegetables and Peter Wynn was just pipped at the post by Robert Thomson - clearly the person to beat at the 2024 picnic.



At the end of the day people went home well fed and with ideas for new things to grow in future seasons.

Our thanks to everyone who came along and joined in the fun.

AGM - 17 April 2024

The 2024 H&P AGM will be Wed 17th April 2024 at 19:30 in the David Fuller Room at the Radstock Community Centre. Come along and have a say about the running of your Association.

Vacancy - secretary needed

After several years service John Laws is standing down as the H&PAA secretary and membership secretary. We are looking for a new volunteer to take on this role and support your organisation. Duties would include:

- Taking minutes at about four committee meetings a year, usually on a Wednesday evening at the allotment when weather allows or failing that by zoom
- Taking minutes at the annual AGM
- Keeping records of members so we can report membership subscriptions in the accounts and keep in touch with our members If you are interested please talk to Richard Tredgett.

The Mower



For ten years or so we have had at least one petrol mower available for allotment holders at Culver Lane to use to keep their paths trimmed. Over the past few years, the cost of repairing the mowers has increased considerably and is now at £200 plus petrol a year. This year we were able to recoup some of that cost by the donations totalling £75.00 kindly left in the box on the shed.

We would like our Culver Lane Members to decide what we do in 2024. I will be emailing out in the new year a quick survey, that will let us know how many people want to keep a communal petrol mower and if there are enough who do, how they would like to help raise more money to support it.

Going forward, there are several alternatives.

- Do away with the petrol mowers and keep the push along mechanical mowers, one in each shed, together with shears.
- Ask for a donation of £2.00 per use of the petrol mower, to cover more of the repair costs.

- To have a mower club, where only paid-up members of the club would have the combination to unlock the mower.

The membership fees could either be:

- A flat rate of £10.00 a season, which assumes twenty-two members.
- Could be variable according to the nominal part of the mower that was 'bought'.

In each case at the end of the season the money collected would be used to service and repair the machine. A decision could be made on the pricing needed for the following year.

For example:

<i>Mower Part</i>	<i>Price Per Year</i>	<i>Mower Part</i>	<i>Price Per Year</i>
Upper Handle	£12.50	Fuel Stabilizer	£5.00
Grass Box	£10.00	Spark Plug	£5.00
Front Wheels	£5.00	Air Filter	£7.50
Rear Roller	£5.00	Drive Cable	£7.50
Starter Motor	£5.00	Throttle Cable	£5.00
Battery	£5.00	Transmission Belt	£7.50
Engine	£25.00	Front Axle	£7.50
Fuel Tank	£20.00	Gear Box Assembly	£15.00
Petrol	£20.00	Switch Assembly	£5.00
Mower Blade	£15.00	Lower Handrail	£12.50
Throttle Cable	£10.00	Ignition Switch	£10.00
<i>Total Amount</i>	£220.00		
<i>Average Amount</i>	£10.00		

Julia Tredgett

Cookery Corner

Several people asked for the recipe for the parsnip and maple syrup cake entered in the produce competition at the summer picnic, and as you may still have parsnips, and like cake, here it is:

Parsnip & maple syrup cake

It has been a good season for squash so you might be wondering what to do with them all. Try this recipe for a hearty autumn warming recipe:

Ingredients

- 175g butter, plus extra for greasing
- 250g demerara sugar
- 100ml maple syrup
- 3 large eggs
- 250g self-raising flour
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 2 tsp mixed spice
- 250g parsnips, peeled and grated
- 1 medium eating apple, peeled, cored and grated
- 50g pecans, roughly chopped
- zest and juice 1 small orange
- icing sugar, to serve

For the filling

- 250g tub mascarpone
- 3-4 tbsp maple syrup

Method

Heat the oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4.

1. Grease 2 x 20cm sandwich tins and line the bases with baking parchment.
2. Melt butter, sugar and maple syrup in a pan over gentle heat, then cool slightly. Whisk the eggs into this mixture, then stir in the flour, baking powder and mixed spice, followed by the grated parsnip, apple, chopped pecans, orange zest and juice.
3. Divide between the tins, then bake for 25-30 mins until the tops spring back when pressed lightly.

4. Cool the cakes slightly in the tins before turning out onto wire racks to cool completely.
5. Just before serving, mix together the mascarpone and maple syrup. Spread over one cake and sandwich with the other. Dust with icing sugar just before serving.

With thanks to BBC good food website

Companion Planting

Companion planting is an alternative to growing our crops in long rows or large blocks of the same species and instead growing flowers and herbs amongst our vegetables and fruit using combinations which can be beneficial.

Certain combinations of plants can have different benefits:

1. *Aid pollination*
2. *Prevent diseases*
3. *Keep pests numbers down*
4. *Provide beneficial nutrients*
5. *Acting as sacrificial crops*
- 6) *Offering shade or beneficial soil conditions through their leaves and roots*

1. Plant flowers such as Sun flowers, Cosmos, Pot marigolds and poached eggplants, which have simple open structure where the nectar and pollen are easily accessible to pollinators such as bees. They will also attract hover flies, lacewings and parasitic wasps who's larvae will prey on pest populations.

2. Garlic is a known fungicide and traditionally grown beneath fruit and roses to prevent fungal disease such as blackspot. Also when made into a spray and sprayed on plants such as hostas is said to deter slugs and snails. Chives are said to deter scab on apple trees and strawberries less susceptible to fungal disease if borage is grown nearby. Certain plants have strong perfume which attract pests specific to them eg the carrot root fly is attracted by the smell of the carrot therefore if you plant the carrots alongside another strong smelling species which also has a pest attracted by smell eg onion root fly, the flies are confused by the two scents and both onions and carrots are protected.

3. Plants in the legume family, such as peas and beans can fix atmospheric nitrogen and store it in nodules on their roots, when they die the excess nitrogen is left in the soil to benefit subsequent crops. Comfrey can be turned into a tea and used as a liquid fertilizer or just chopped and laid on top of the soil, as it has such a high nitrogen content it does not pull nitrogen from the soil to help it decompose.

4. Some companion plants can be grown as sacrificial plants the assumption being that the pest will find them more attractive than the plant you want to keep, for example plant nasturtiums alongside your runner beans.

5. The three sisters. Plant Sweet Corn Climbing beans and Squash together, the sweet corn provides support for the climbing beans, climbing beans fix nitrogen into the soil and the squash provide large spreading leaves which create a living mulch reducing weeds and retaining moisture.

There are many more examples of companion planting than as shown above. It is a fact that these methods of gardening produces happier plants and provides better pest and disease control than monoculture. Not everything will work for everyone but as always suck it and see is a safe motto.

Sandra Christopherson

Huntley & Palmers Trading Shed

These potatoes, onions, shallots, peas, beans and garlic will be available when we reopen after our December break in January 2024 with Prebooked Timeslots for ordered potatoes. Onions, shallots, peas, beans, garlic and gardening supplies can be picked from the shelves by yourself. We have sent out order forms with this newsletter.

Come and join us or renew your membership £1.50 per year.

We will be stocking our best sellers again, as well as some new to us varieties suggested by our customers.

Potatoes	1kg - £1.10	3kg - £3.10
Type	Variety	Characteristics
<i>1st Earlies</i>	Red Duke of York	Deep red and more vigorous than Duke of York. Wonderful flavour. Good for chipping, baking, roasting and mashing.
	Foremost	Russet skin colour. Good scab resistance. Boils and bakes well.
	Arran Pilot	White Skin Colour. Very early with good flavour.
	Organic Colleen	High disease & pest resistance. White tuber. Bountiful early harvest.
<i>2nd Earlies</i>	Kestrel	Blue Eyes, Good disease resistance. Roasts and fries well.
<i>Main Crop</i>	Desiree	Red skin colour. Fairly waxy. High Yield. Drought resistant. Boil well. Bake well. Roast well. Chips well. Mash well.
	King Edward	Part red skin colouration. Good flavour. Boils and bakes well. Roasts well. Chips well. Mash well.
	Maris Piper	Uniform in shape and size. Good yield and flavour. Boils well. Good chipper. Roasts and bakes well. Mash well.
	Picasso	Stunning red eyes. Massive yields. Mild taste. Stores well. Some resistance to blight. Boils, bakes and roasts well.
	Organic Setanta	Good resistance to blight and common scab. Good taste.
<i>Salad</i>	Charlotte	Reliable, high yielding. Waxy long light-yellow tubers. Good flavour. Boils well.
	Jazzy	Small waxy new potatoes. Nutty flavour. High yielding.

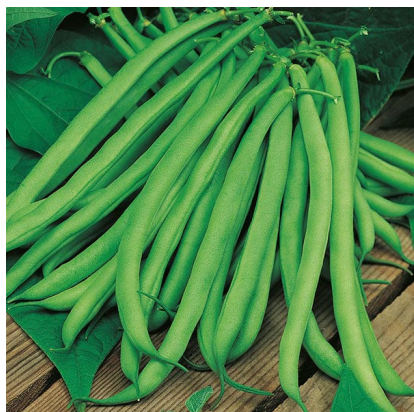
Onion Sets	250g - 70p	
	Stuttgarter Giant	A flat shaped yellow skinned set with good yield and keeping properties. Plant in February. RHS Award of Garden Merit.
	Sturon	A round onion which stores well and has high yields.
	Turbo	A glove shaped type with good yield and keeping properties. Slow to bolt and strong growing with golden yellow skin.
	Red Baron	A red skinned flat-round onion. Good in salads. Plant later. RHS Award of Garden Merit.
Shallots	500g - £1.70	
	Golden Gourmet	Yellow with a mild flavour. Good for pickling and can be planted from February onward. RHS Award of Garden Merit.
	Red Sun	Perfect for salads, mild with good storage characteristics.
Garlic	Price TBA for one clove	
	Cledor	Soft-neck. An improvement on an old French variety 'Rose du Var'. Produces round white bulbs with strong skin and great flavour. Harvest late Jun- Aug
	Flavor	Hard-neck. An Italian pink type, produced in France, that matures late July. Store well once opened.
	Picardy Wight	Traditionally smoked in France due to its longevity. It will keep to May the following year.
Price £2.50 for two cloves		
	Elephant	Elephant Garlic cloves produces big bulbs and big fat cloves. You grow it just like you would any regular garlic. Each clove at planting turns to around 4 cloves at harvesting.
125g - 70p		
<i>Peas</i>	Kelvedon Wonder	Thin-shelled pointed, narrow pods in pairs. Heavy yielding and of fine flavour. It is also resistant to mildew and suitable for March-July sowing. RHS Award of Garden Merit winner. Early variety
125g - Price 85p		
	Meteor	A very hardy, dwarf variety which will crop well even in exposed locations, also ideal for containers. One of the first to crop in the season with a superb flavour. Very versatile for spring and autumn sowings.

125g - £2.65		
<i>Beans</i>	Enorma Runner	Short-jointed plants producing an enormous crop of very long, smooth, slender beans of excellent shape and colour. RHS Award of Garden Merit winner.
45 Seeds - 60p		
	Blue Lake Climbing French Beans	Produces an abundant harvest of pencil-thin stringless green beans with a fine sweet flavour from early summer and then the last few pods can be left on the plant to dry for white haricot beans to store. An heirloom variety from 1885.
	Cosse Violette Climbing French Beans	A bean that thrives in warmer weather, when runner beans struggle to set and produce beans. Striking lavender flowers and purple veined leaves. Producing a heavy crop of beautiful deep purple tender and stringless pods which turn dark green on cooking. Pick regularly to produce crops from July to October. Protect from frost and provide support as for runner beans. Good for freezing.
	Sunshine Climbing French Beans	A warm sunshine loving bean that excels in production over runner beans that can fail to set and produce beans. An attractive variety producing stringless, reliable high-quality crops. The pods have a sweet mild flavour. Picking every few days will enable cropping to last from July to October. Good for freezing. Protect from frost and provide support as for runner beans.
	Blue Lake, Cosse Violette, Sunshine French Climbing Beans	An equal mix of these three varieties that look stunning growing together. Producing tender stringless pods from July to October with regular picking. Protect from frost and provide support as for runner beans. Good for freezing.
125g - Price 90p		
	Masterpiece Long Pod Broad Bean	Excellent length of pod and table quality. A fine green seeded broad bean and excellent for deep freezing. RHS Award of Garden Merit winner.
125g - Price £1.00		
	Aqua Dulce Broad Bean	A long podded, white-seeded tasty board bean that's early to mature. Recommended for autumn and winter sowings throughout the UK for the earliest crops the following spring and summer.

New Loose Climbing French Beans - Three Varieties

This year I am introducing three varieties of Climbing French Beans to be sold loose at a very good price. These beans are able to produce bean pods at higher temperatures than Runner Beans.

French Climbing Beans - Blue Lake 60p for 45 seeds



Suitable for warmer weather, when runner beans struggle to set and produce beans. This is a white seeded variety, popular for the flavour of its heavy crops of round stringless pods. Dried beans can be used as haricots. Pick regularly to extend the cropping season from July through to October. Protect from frost and provide support as for runner beans. Good for freezing. An heirloom variety from 1885.

French Climbing Beans - Sunshine 60p for 45 seeds



A warm sunshine loving bean that excels in production over runner beans that can fail to set and produce beans. An attractive variety producing stringless, reliable high-quality crops. The pods have a sweet mild flavour. Picking every few days will enable cropping to last from July to October. Good for freezing. Protect from frost and provide support as for runner beans.

French Climbing Beans - Cosse Violette 60p for 45 seeds



A bean that thrives in warmer weather, when runner beans struggle to set and produce beans. Striking lavender flowers and purple veined leaves. Producing a heavy crop of beautiful deep purple tender and stringless pods which turn dark green on cooking. Pick regularly to produce crops from July to October. Protect from frost and provide support as for runner beans. Good for freezing.

<p>French Climbing Bean Mix - Blue Lake, Cosse Violette, Sunshine</p> <p>60p for 45 seeds</p>	
	<p>An equal mix of these three varieties that look stunning growing together. Producing tender stringless pods from July to October with regular picking. Protect from frost and provide support as for runner beans. Good for freezing.</p>

New varieties of seeds in the shed this January

If there are other varieties that you would like to see in the shed, please let me know at handptradingshed@gmail.com Julia Tredgett

Name	Variety	Sow	25% Disc. Price
Cabbage	Chinese Cabbage Hilton	Mid May - Mid Jul	£1.30
Carrot	Volcano	Mid Mar - Mid Apr	£0.75
Fennel	Organic Florence Fennel	End Feb - Mid Jul	£2.25
Gourd	Ornamental - Inedible	Apr - Mid May	£0.75
Kale	Cottagers Kale	May-Jun	£2.60
Leek	Below Zero	Feb-Apr	£2.25
Melon	Rugoso Di Cosenza	Mar - May	£1.50
Pumpkin	Gold Speck	Apr - Jun	£3.00
Radish	Mooli	Mid May - Mid Jul	£1.85
Calendula	Pacific Mixed	Mid Mar - May & Aug -Sept	£0.65
Cosmos	Candifloss Mix	Mar - Mid May	£2.25
Sunflower	Wahoo	Mar - May	£1.85
Wild Flower Seeds	Winter Bird Feeding Mix	Mar to Late May & Late Aug - Sept	£2.25

Here are the varieties of seeds in the shed that you can buy for under a pound and are still in date.

Name	Variety	Sow	25% Discount Price
Broad Bean	The Sutton	Nov - July	£0.75
Dwarf French Bean	Borlotto Firetongue	Apr - June	£0.75
Dwarf French Bean	Safari (Kenyan Bean)	Apr - Mid July	£0.65
Beetroot	Globe 2	Apr - July	£0.75
Cabbage	Golden Acre - Primo (II)	Late Jan - Early Feb & Mar - Jun	£0.75
Cabbage	Greyhound	Late Jan - Early Feb & Mar - Jun	£0.45
Carrot	Autumn King 2	Mar - Jul	£0.65
Carrot	Volcano - New	Mid Mar - Mid Apr	£0.75
Celeriac	Monarch	Mar - Apr	£0.75
Cucumber	Telegraph Improved	Late Feb - May	£0.75
Gourd	Ornamental - Inedible - New	Apr - Mid May	£0.75
Kale	Black Magic	Mar - Jun	£0.75
Kohlrabi	Purple & White Vienna Mixed	Mar - Jul	£0.75
Leek	Musselburgh	Mar - Apr	£0.65
Marrow	F1 Sunstripe	Apr - May	£0.75
Marrow	F1 Tiger Cross	Apr - June	£0.75
Onion Spring	White Lisbon	Mar - May, Aug - Early Sep	£0.55
Parsnip	F1 Albion	Feb - May	£0.55
Parsnip	White Gem	Feb - May	£0.75

Peppers Sweet	Corno di toro rosso	Mar - May	£0.75
Spinach	F1 Amazon	Mar - Jun & Aug	£0.75
Squash Seeds	Crown Prince	April - May	£0.75
Swede	Invitation	Late Apr - Early Jun	£0.55
Sweet Corn	F1 Goldcrest	Late Mar - Late May	£0.75
Tomato	Indigo Rose The Black Tomato	Mid Feb - Apr	£0.75
Basil	Basil Bush	Mar - Jun	£0.75
Borage	Borage	Apr - Jun	£0.75
Dill	Dill	Mar - May	£0.75
Oregano	Oregano	Late Mar - May	£0.99
Parsley	Parsley Plain Leaved 2	Feb - Jul	£0.50
Thyme	Common Thyme	Apr - Early Jun	£0.45
Calendula	Pacific Mixed - New	Mid Mar - May & Aug - Sep	£0.65
Lobelia	Crystal Palace Blue - New	Late Jan - Apr	£0.75
