

Autumn 2024



NEWSLETTER

THE LATEST NEWS FROM YORK ALLOTMENTS



The results
are in!
See inside for
details

Best Overall Established Plot

BEST PLOT COMPETITION

Our annual best plot awards ceremony was hosted in Holgate allotments community orchard garden on Sunday, August 18th.

Chairman of YACIO Board, Tony Chalcraft, was joined by York MP Rachael Maskell to award prizes for best newcomer and established allotment plots.

Rachael praised allotment holders across the City for creating wonderful green spaces as well as for generating food sources which many allotments also share with their local communities: "Allotment holders should be proud of the spaces they create across the City which are often beautiful as well as productive."

Overall winner of best newcomer was Melanie Charles whilst best overall established plot was won by experienced gardeners, Paula and Paul Smith, for their lovely plot at New Lane Allotments.

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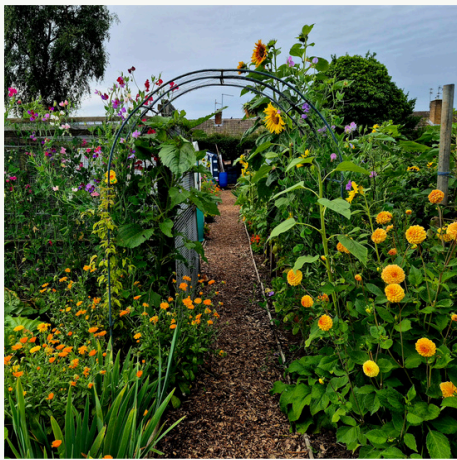
Melanie and Simon's plot at Green Lane



Paula Smith, winner of Best Overall Established Plot



Melanie and Simon with their Best Overall Newcomer Plot trophy



Paula's plot at New Lane

AND THE WINNERS ARE...

Best Overall Established Plot, **Paula Smith, New Lane**

Best Overall Newcomer Plot, **Melanie Charles and Simon Humpleby, Green Lane**

North Area Best Established Plot, **Elizabeth Parry, Hempland**

North Area Best Newcomer Plot, **Richard Pierce, Bootham Stray**

South Area Best Established Plot, **Herald Armer, Scarcroft**

South Area Best Newcomer Plot, **Melanie Paris and Eric Cargill, Hospital Fields**

East Area Best Established Plot, **Nick Ford, Low Moor**

East Area Best Newcomer Plot, **Kathleen Morar, Fulford Cross**

West Area Best Established Plot, **Paula Smith, New Lane**

West Area Best Newcomer Plot, **Melanie Charles and Simon Humpleby, Green Lane**



The award ceremony at Holgate Allotments Community Orchard

NEW FACES!

Please join us in giving a warm welcome to our two new administrators, Janet Devlin and Nick Smith.



Janet Devlin

Hi, I'm Janet, I've worked in finance and education for many years and when I'm not working, I'm outdoors either playing sport, walking or tending to my garden where I can enjoy the fresh air

and mentally reset. I have a small vegetable plot and enjoy growing fruit and vegetables there. I have been welcomed into my new role by lots of the team and look forward to meeting more of the community in the near future.

Hello, I'm Nick. I was originally a botanist, and worked in soft landscaping and turf care before a career in health-related industries. Having left regular work during the pandemic I've been occupied by several voluntary roles, and wasn't surprised to be working once more in other people's gardens. As well as my own garden and small pelargonium collection I also have an allotment in York, and an interest in old lawn mowers and lawn mowing. My woodworking hobby extends from restoring railway carriages to greenhouses. Working for YACIO and York's allotment holders is, therefore, a natural link with my horticultural interests.



Nick Smith

A NEW HUT FOR SCARCROFT

The old wooden hut was rotting. It had been re-roofed, partly re-clad and Mike Oldfield had hugely improved the inside with expert joinery, but it was over fifty years old. Over the years, the committee had put money aside for replacing it, but nobody on the committee could quite get their head around the complex issues of how to do it without collapsing from nervous exhaustion. I think it was the intrusion of rats and mice in large numbers a couple of winters ago that finally did it for me. I got a quotation for two containers from Universal in Manchester that looked possible. We raised some more money from donations and local Ward funding. It began to look as though it might be do-able...

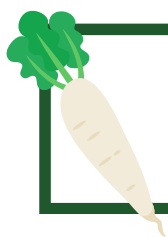
There's still lots of work to do tidying the site, sorting the inside of the shop and improving the open area we've created at the entrance to the shop, but we hope this will help the Association continue supplying gardeners with materials and holding social and educational events in the years to come. And we hope it might also be the start of new enthusiasms and gardening initiatives.

Graham Sanderson, Chair of Scarcroft and District Allotment Association



Graham outside the new Scarcroft Allotment hut

A big thank you from the trustees, Graham, for all your hard work on this project



GROWING MOOLI

Mooli, also known by its Japanese name diakon, is one of several oriental vegetables that grow best in late summer and autumn. In case you've never heard of mooli, it's a giant oriental radish. The roots, which grow half in and half out of the soil, have white skin and flesh and can reach 20cm or more in length. The leaves are similar to those of a turnip and like the turnip and 'ordinary' radish, mooli is a member of the cabbage or brassica family. To get the best from mooli wait until the days begin to shorten, start sooner and it may well run to seed rather than produce a root. Sow the large seeds several centimetres apart in shallow drills (lines) watering the bottom of the drill first if the weather is dry. Germination usually takes about a week after which the seedlings grow rapidly. Once well-established it's best to thin out the young plants to at least five centimetres apart to get good sized roots.

Mooli is a fairly easy crop to grow. Other than a little watering the only other care required is to fend off pigeons, avoid caterpillar attack and guard against cabbage root fly grubs mining the roots. All these can be kept at bay by fleece or similar barriers.

It's usually possible to continue harvesting into winter. However, when hard frost strikes, mooli, as the roots protrudes above the surface, is vulnerable to damage.

Either use it all up by Christmas or look to protect remaining plants with more fleece or perhaps straw. Watch out for slugs and rodents though, both will munch mooli later in the year.

For more allotment content, [check out our Plotlines blog on the website. This month's post is all about soil.](#)



CLEARING PATHWAYS

It's that time of year again when our brambles and hedges begin to creep out onto the access pathways. Many of us will have experienced the unpleasantness of wandering up a pathway and being attacked by a stray bramble or soaked by wet bushes - not to mention that wispy branch that tries to poke you in the eye. Please be reminded that our tenancy agreements demand of us that we keep our outside hedges trimmed on a regular basis to allow everyone free passage. Finally, let's all make sure we clear up the clippings afterwards to avoid trip hazards. Thank you everyone for your cooperation.

NEW INVOICING ARRANGEMENTS

We are pleased to let you know that we will be sending the annual rental invoices by email in 2025 instead of by post. Please make sure you have updated us if your contact details have changed so that your invoice is sent to you at the correct email address. If you have received this newsletter by post instead of email it means we do not have an email address on file for you and you will continue to receive your invoice by post. You can expect your annual invoice as usual in the first week of January so please do check your junk mail if you do not receive this.

Are your contact details correct?

Have you moved house, changed your email or phone number? Please let us know.



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