

# KASHS Newsletter

February 2023



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## KASHS EVENTS

AGM Wed 13 April

Knareborough Working Men's Club



We are giving you early notice of this event so you can put it in your diaries. We are planning another seed and plant swap, so if you are planting or sowing, please grow a bit extra for this event. Please attend if you can, not just to find out what we have done, but also what our plans are for the future. This year, for example, we will be negotiating our tenancy renewal with Knareborough Town Council. We desperately need a new, disabled access toilet, so intend to draw up a grant application.

We are also looking for new members to join the committee. Geoff Freeston will be stepping down, to pursue other community interests. Geoff has contributed massively to KASHS and will be greatly missed. We need fresh ideas, so if you would like to join us, please contact Rob Snow to discuss. Being a new KASHS member is not an obstacle.

## Skip

Our current tenancy agreement requires us to provide a skip. We are aware that last year some people were annoyed that the small skip filled up very quickly and was delivered on a day that wasn't convenient for working members. We will be getting another skip but, due to increasing costs, it will be a small one, to be delivered late one Friday.

As a committee, we feel that plot-holders should largely be responsible for the rubbish on their plots. Please be aware that the skip cannot be used for materials such as glass, asbestos, earth and weeds.

We shall be sending out an email nearer the time, giving more details and guidance as to what materials can and cannot go in the skip.

If you have problem with rubbish on your plot, please contact Rob Snow and we will try to resolve the issue.





Winter might not have been as severe as last year, but it has felt long. A bit of sun has brightened things up and hopefully will encourage you to come down to your plots and prepare for the growing season. Things have been happening in this quiet period. Progress has been made in some areas, but working with outside agencies has slowed developments in others.

### Storage

We have now begun upgrading the petrol tools that we use to carry out site maintenance, however the lack of secure storage has become an issue. Also, after the success of last years allotment shop, we would like to extend the service, but again we need better storage facilities.

After considering the options, we are exploring the possibility of acquiring a secure shipping container, so we applied to Knaresborough Town Council and were granted permission to put a shipping container near the car park. However, it was suggested that we also approach Harrogate Borough Council to confirm this decision. This is when it got complicated! We were told we would have to draw up architectural plans, fill in a most complicated form and pay a fee of £300! Luckily, Knaresborough Town Council, working with Town Clerk Angela and Hannah Goslow, have been in contact with HBC and if KTC apply as a council, there will be no cost or planning required. So we are working with them and hopefully progress will be made very soon.



### Security Camera

Sadly, we continue to have break-ins. Once again this has meant damage to sheds and our toilet.

We have now purchased a security camera, paid for from a Knaresborough Town Council grant, which will be installed in the next week or so. We are having to pay a small amount in IT costs, but we really do have to take action to try and reduce the risk of vandalism. Hopefully it will be useful in identifying culprits and deterring others. The camera is portable and will also be used to monitor what is put in the skip, when it arrives.

Regrettably, the toilet remains out of use. We realise this is a huge inconvenience for many and we are working towards replacing it ASAP. In the meantime, as soon as it is working, we will let you know.



Last year the allotment shop delivered high quality fertilisers, compost, canes and gloves at reasonable prices. The shop is run for the benefit of plot-holders, rather than as a profit making exercise.

After last years success, we want to provide this service again this year. However, we are very short of storage space and so do not want to over order, therefore, we plan to ask people to place an order. More on this later.



## Hedge Cutting

This year, we decided to get the hedge cut by professionals as, over the past 15 years, it has grown too thick and high for our tools to handle. We had to wait until January, as we wanted to minimise the effect on wildlife and for Health and Safety reasons, we had to apply to NYCC to close the path.



The day we started, the weather was appalling! Despite this, we had a team of helpers from KASHS who worked with Scotton Trees and reduced the time taken from three days to two, thus reducing the cost by a third. Many thanks go to Paul Escott, for organising the contractors and to Neil Crossley, John Evans, Geoff Freeston, John Whitehead, Richard Brewster and Rob Snow for braving the elements to help. Our landlord, Knaresborough Town Council, have agreed to pay for the work .

We now have a thick, contained hedge that provides security and a home for wildlife. People walking along the path have expressed their appreciation for the work, as it makes them feel safer.



We also now have the tools to maintain the hedge properly and will be working in the next week to reduce the width from our side. Please allow us access to the hedge by clearing away any material that is within a metre from the hedge.



## KASHS Website

Thanks to Simon Page for helping to set up a website for KASHS. We will be using website to improve communication with members and is a work in progress, Kirsty is working on its content. If there is something you would like to see on the site,

## Knaresborough Forest Park

Knaresborough Forest Park is a project that aims to create a special place, which would be part of the Knaresborough Forest and White Rose Forest, for local people of all ages to relax, play and get their green fingers busy planting trees and rewilding. It would provide a beautiful, tree-rich, natural parkland, which would be a protected haven for wildlife and provide educational opportunities for local youngsters, adults, voluntary groups, schools and visitors and would be owned by the community.

The land is currently in private hands and has an asking price of £405,000.

The Knaresborough Forest Park Appeal is asking people to pledge to buy shares, in order to gauge local interest. The pledge is not legally binding in any way and no money will be transferred at this time. All shareholders would become members of the parkland and have voting rights.

For more information, please copy and paste the web address below.

<https://www.knaresboroughforestpark.org/>

## Other News

Geoff Freeston will be linking up with a number of junior schools to bring small groups down to the site to learn about horticulture and allotments.

Knaresborough Horticultural Society are running their very successful Open Gardens Scheme and are looking for new gardens to show. They have asked KASHS if they have any members who live near the centre of town, who would be interested and prepared to open up their gardens. If you are interested please contact Rob Snow.

We have again committed ourselves to the FEVA Open Day on 13 August and will be asking members for ideas and contributions for the event.

Last year some of you will be aware that Gardener's World filmed a short clip of Maggie on her plot. Maggie tells us that they are now planning three more visits in 2023, but we don't have more information at the moment.

## Contacts

In order to help us continually improve the site, we would like to hear from you if you have any ideas or issues.

Please contact one of the committee members below.

Chair - Rob Snow

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