



KASHS Newsletter

June 2024

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Welcome to the summer edition of the KASHS newsletter!

Committee Changes

Firstly, we would like to tell you about some important changes to the committee.

Neil Crossley has stepped down as Treasurer and taken on the role of Site Manager. He has great practical skills in building gates, fences and other structures and is very hands on when it comes to strimming and cutting hedges. Neil will also manage the working party group, which maintains the site. Massive thanks to John Whitehead, Carolyn Roper, Dave Bolton and Stewart Housecroft for their continued support on Friday mornings. We still need more help, so if you are available, please get in touch with Neil (contact information at the end of this newsletter).

Stewart Housecroft has taken on the role of Treasurer. Last year we made the mistake of not putting up rents and as a consequence we do not have the funds to cope with any unexpected expenses. Stuart has great experience in finance and will help guide us towards financial stability.

Martin Atkinson is now our Membership Secretary and has been busy contacting people to take up plots on the main site, the triangle and on the Hawthorns. Welcome to our new plot holders Claire, Mark and Jamie!

This allows Kirsty Woodford to focus on her role as Secretary, which she does so well. She is in charge of publicity, designing newsletters, advertising special events and general administration.

The other committee members are also taking on and developing their roles in KASHS. Elsa Weihe is doing a great job of running the shop and still has some canes and fertiliser to sell. If you want some or have ideas about what we should be ordering, please contact her.

Maggie Boyd is our HDAF rep (more of that later).

Our latest committee member Dave Bolton has also been busy helping with the inspection process, busy with working parties and managing the Resurrected Bites plot (more on this later).

We are delighted that one of our newer members has come forward to express an interest in helping, but we are still looking for more help either by joining the committee or assisting with projects.. Please contact us if you would like to help.



Hawthorn Avenue

You may remember that last year, five of the six plots at the Hawthorn Avenue site were vacated and we were experiencing problems with the general management and up-keep of the site. We are delighted to report that our new plot holders on the site have pulled together to trim hedges, cut grass and clear rubbish. This has resulted in a huge improvement in the condition of the site, so a big shout out to all those who gave up their time to help!



Chairs Site Report

When the sun shines and you walk along Stockwell Road and down the main track, the site looks as good as it has been in ages.

The majority of plots are well maintained, hedges are good and fences secure. We have a functioning toilet, working cameras, a new turning circle wood chip store and a tidier pizza area. We are also making plans to deal with the main wood chip mountain and improve structures. We are looking at a new noticeboard and will be applying to the Council to fund this. Please if you have any ideas, tell us.

We are delighted to report that the inspections have turned up fewer



problems than normal. However, we did send out a number of emails to people, who we don't normally need to contact, regarding minor issues. If you do get an email, please respond ASAP, so we know you have got the message. If we don't get a reply, we are obliged to send out letters and this is something we really want to avoid, as most issues can be easily resolved with a friendly chat.

The main issues that affect people is bindweed. The bindweed is thriving in the wet weather and I got a whole wheel-barrowful just from the border area of my plot. On some plots, bindweed has been allowed to overwhelm otherwise productive fruit bushes, which appear to have been abandoned.

There is no easy answer to bindweed, it simply needs digging out. We



know it can be time consuming and challenging but it needs to be done. The most common reason for people contacting the committee is because they feel their plot is being adversely affected by their neighbours' bindweed, buttercups and perennial weeds.

The tenancy agreement clearly states that we must not allow our plots to be dominated by weeds. We are not expecting plots to be weed free, but if you do not come to your plot regularly at this time of year, they will take over. Members also should ensure their crops or weeds do not obstruct paths. Prune back brambles, roses, trees etc that impede the passing of wheelbarrows and particularly pushchairs.

On a few plots, the problem is non-cultivation. This seems to be because crops were put in and a combination of slugs, ants and pigeons have meant they have failed. It is so frustrating but please persist by replanting and covering up vegetables to keep out pigeons.

The exchange point is being well used. Neil has built a box in which to swap magazines and seeds. Please keep sharing but think about what you share. Advertise through the WhatsApp group and, if after a week it has not been taken, please take it away and dispose of it yourself.



Finally, the site speed limit is 5mph. Sadly, a number of individuals regularly exceed this, with little regard

for the safety of others. Some young families have plots right next to the road and children inevitably wander onto the track. For their sake, look at your speedo and keep to the limit.



Resurrected Bites

At the end of the AGM we had a talk from Polly Appleyard from Resurrected Bites. She outlined the work this group does in the Knaresborough and Harrogate district, to help those struggling with food poverty. I think all who attended were impressed by the scale of the work they do, helping those in need. One point she made was how challenging it is for organisations like theirs to attract food donations, as supermarkets are giving less and people who normally donate are also now struggling. While asking for our help, she suggested we appoint a....

AGM

Thanks to all who attended and sent apologies.

It was a well attended and constructive meeting, in which we outlined the progress made in terms of sheds, the toilet, camera, new gate and fence improvements. I appealed for members to step up as part of a self help group to enable the committee to improve the management of the site. Thankfully people have stepped up and responded and this has resulted in important changes to the committee.

....community champion to get things moving. 'Cometh the hour, cometh the man!' John Evans volunteered to take on the role of managing KASHS's contribution to Resurrected Bites and has contacted them to organised a system of collecting and delivering produce. There is not a lot of produce available at the moment, but Resurrected Bites have been grateful for the two deliveries we have made. As the year progresses, we want to expand the scale and regularity of our donations.



In addition to this, Robert and Cynthia Chandler have released a portion of their plot and we made the decision to devote it to growing charity produce for Resurrected Bites. A number of people have helped the development of the plot, either by digging (Nick Brown) or by providing seedlings.



Dave Bolton, Neil Crossley and John Whitehead and lots of other members have contributed to developing the plot. If you have any spare seedlings that you would like to donate, please contact a member of the committee.



HDAF

Harrogate and District
Allotment Federation
show is on

Sunday 18 August
11.00am – 4.00pm.

It is well worth a visit.
More importantly they
need entries. Contact
Rob snow or Maggie if
you want a paper show
schedule and entry form
(you can also find all the
details on line). For just
£4 per adult £2 per child
there are 80 classes to
enter, vegetables and
fruit, flowers, cakes and
preserves, novice
classes, photographs and
children's classes. You
have to have your
entries in by Thursday 8
August. There is a class
for everyone, such as the
cake , this year is
Summer Fruit Drizzle.

We are selling raffle
tickets to support this
event. It always has
super prizes and you
have a good chance of
winning. Maggie and
Rob Snow have tickets,
£1 a ticket or £5 for a
book of 5.

To see a really superb
local allotment , Pine
Street allotments in
Bilton have an Open Day
from 10.00am – 1.30am
on 30th July.



feva

Sunday 12th August

1.30 – 4.30

FEVA Open Day

This is a community event and as always, we ask all members to please get involved in some way.

The basic structure of the event remains the same, with a quiz trail round the site and visitors choosing their favourite plot,

Community Stars will once again run the café. There will be a KASHS plant and produce stall, as well as outside agencies, including Yorkshire Rotter's and the Cone Exchange.

We will need members to set up the site and put up and take down gazebos.

Stalls will need staffing and we will need volunteers to run activities for children and welcome visitors at the gate.

Plots should be in a good condition and if possible, we like plot holders to be on site to engage with visitors.



Congratulations to Maggie Boyd for her appearance on Gardener's world. She really showed how an allotment can make a difference to people's lives and that gardening is for all. KASHS was shown in a good light and many friends and relatives have commented on how nice the site looked. Well done Maggie!



As part of our membership to the Allotment Association, all are members can have access to their online magazine.

There are currently two good articles , 'Beat Pests the Eco Way' and 'Wake up your compost.' You can access the magazine by

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