



KASHS NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2024

Welcome to the Spring edition of the KASHS newsletter!

Thank goodness! One of the wettest Februarys is over and we can start to look forward to a new growing season!

A lot of KASHS members have been braving the cold and wet and have started to get their plots ready. If you are still hibernating, do try to get out and prepare for the season, before the weeds take over!

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AGM

Wednesday 17th April, Kirkgate Working Men's Club

Doors open at 7pm. Proceedings commence at 7.30pm

Free drink and packet of crisps for KASHS members!

Agenda and minutes of last year's meeting will follow nearer the time.

Last year we had a great turnout and the meeting went very smoothly. New members are particularly encouraged to come, not just to find out what has happened during the year, but to learn of our plans for the coming year and meet other plot holders.

The election of committee members and officers is an important part of proceedings. Rob Snow is willing to stand as Chair for another year and Kirsty Woodford and Neil Crossley are happy to stand again as Secretary and Treasurer, respectively.

Paul Escott is retiring from the committee after a number of years dealing with suppliers and helping with working parties. Beth Sarmiento is also planning to step down for a year, but hopes to return at a later date. We extend our most grateful thanks to them both and hope to welcome Beth back very soon.

The rest of the committee are prepared to stand for re-election and we have had two nominations for new members, Dave Bolton and Stewart Housecroft. However, we still urgently need more committee members to help with all aspects of KASHS management including, but not limited to site maintenance, website content and general administration. We are keen to recruit plot holders of all ages, to reflect the diversity of our membership. So, if you are interested in joining the committee and being involved in the future development of the site, please see contacts at the end of the newsletter.

This year, we hope to welcome an outside speaker to the meeting. We also plan to have a plant and seed exchange. In order for this to work, we really need all members to bring along any spare seeds and seedlings, to swap with other members, so please start sorting and sowing now!

In order to ensure the smooth running of the meeting, the aim of the AGM is to pass on information, rather than hold discussions or answer questions. However, if you wish to raise any issues or questions, we would like to hear from you.

Please get in touch via the contacts at the end of the newsletter.



Security

Once again, we have had a run of vandalism and damage on the site. We have been in contact with the police and they have offered the following advice. Individuals affected by vandalism should contact the police personally, as well as letting KASHS know.

It is important that you ring 101 to report the crime, as soon as you are aware of it. Then contact Rob or Kirsty, so we can check the camera's and gather evidence.

We have now installed a second camera and have plans to improve the fencing in areas of weakness. However, we are an easy target and cannot hope to have a totally secure site. One area that we simply *must* improve on is shutting the gate, as it is far too often left open at the end of the day. If in doubt, please shut the gate when you leave.



Toilet

We have been slower than we wanted in setting up the toilet for use and for this inconvenience we apologise. However, we are now putting in the finishing touches, such as a fan and lighting. If things go to plan, we will connect it to the water supply, so that we have a fully functioning sink and urinal.

After much debate, we have decided to put an easy-to-use lock on the toilet. If anyone would be willing to help by joining a rota to clean and maintain the toilet, we would be very grateful for the help.



Plot Inspections

We still have 50 people on the waiting list. Although most of the plots are well maintained and cared for, this is not always the case. The tenancy agreement is quite clear that tenants must use their plots productively to cultivate vegetables, fruit and flowers.

They should deal with weeds and it is their responsibility to remove all rubbish. Initial inspections start on Saturday 20th April. After this early inspection, if we have an issue, we will call or email, in the first instance. A further inspection will take place on Saturday 4th May and if the inspectors feel insufficient progress has been made, only then will we send out a formal letter.

Getting the balance right with inspections is really challenging. If we are too lenient, plots that could be used by those on the waiting list become unproductive, the site looks a mess and neighbouring plot holders become frustrated by the lack of action. If we are too rigid and draconian, the atmosphere on the site changes and people feel pressurised and victimised.

Communication is vital. If you have issues or concerns regarding inspections, or are struggling with your plot,
Please contact us, so as to avoid worry and confrontation.

Elsa's

Contact Details

Email:

elsawiehe@hotmail.com

Tel: 07718 996 319

The Shop

Many thanks to Elsa for her work organising the shop stock and sales! Our aim has been to bring wholesale prices and convenient collection, from the site shop, to all plot holders. The service is already proving popular and we are planning to place another order soon.

To browse the catalogue of available items, please hold the 'ctrl' key and click [here](#).

Please place your order with Elsa, no later than Sunday 17th March.

We are also hoping to strengthen our links with Freddie's Plant Stall, on Knaresborough Market. We hope to negotiate pre-ordering of plants and Saturday collection.... *Watch this space!*

Plans to improve the site

We are not a wealthy organisation and to improve the site, we have to apply for funds. North Yorkshire Council and Knaresborough Town Council have released money to pay for the new committee shed, the toilet and security cameras. We have used our own funds to maintain the site, dig up an old, out of place hedge and to improve the tools for the working parties. Thanks to Neil for erecting the camera pole and for putting up the speed limit signs.

To install new gates, repair fences, improve the water pipe system and develop a notice board will requires us to apply for grants. Unfortunately, this can be a slow and complicated process, but in the end, it will lead to a better site.



Speeding

Making sure that cars slow down, not only keeps the site safe, but helps maintain the road, so it was disappointing to see that one of the new signs had been damaged.

PLEASE SLOW DOWN!

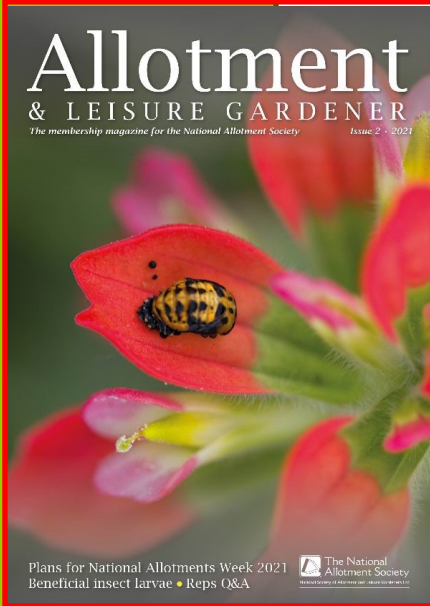


Looking ahead

We hope to have more social events to help foster community spirit. The pizza oven is available to all and if you plan to use it for a social event, just contact the committee, so that we can keep cars away.

A new venture we are planning is KASHS involvement in the Knaresborough Open Gardens even on 29th & 30th June... more details to come.

Once again, our Open Day is on the FEVA calendar in August and we will need the co-operation and participation of members to make it a success.



If you would like to read the current and future issues of the

National Allotment Society magazine,

hold down your 'ctrl' key and click [here](#)

Alternatively, visit;

<https://www.nsalg.org.uk/members-area>

Username: 1729334 ;

Password: S1043

We hope to see lots of you at the AGM and are looking forward to the new growing season!



Contacts

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