

KASHS Newslette

AUTUMN 2023

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

FEVA 1

Accessible Toilet 2

Bindweed 2

Working Party 2

Social Events 3

Bonfire 3

Shop 4

Rent Renewal 4

Speed Limit 4

Knaresborough in Bloom

Success! 5

Contacts 5

FEVA

This year's FEVA Open Day was, once again, a great success, despite the threat of rain.

The site looked good and finding a route to guide people round was easier than previous years, as there were fewer problem plots. The help of members in setting up gazebos and making the site look tidy was greatly appreciated and the response from our visitors was universally positive. We feel it is now one of the highlights of the FEVA calendar.

The presence of plot holders, engaging with visitors on their plots, made people feel welcome and helped them understand what is involved in maintaining a plot. There was a lot of discussion when it came to choosing a favourite plot and we will announce the winner at the AGM.

A variety of different activities kept our visitors busy. Carrie's vegetable animals were as popular

as ever and the children were delighted with their creations. The tea and cake stall was again run by Community Stars. They really enjoyed the day, which brings them much needed income and raises their profile in the community. A letter of thanks has been sent to Yorkshire Rotters, The Cone Exchange, Community Responders and Knaresborough Forest Park.

Thanks also go to Neil and Janice for running the Produce stall. We don't charge our visitors for entry, but we did manage to raise £120 from sales. We used £60 of this to buy a table for the vegetable animals and gave £60 to Knaresborough Forest Park, who were most grateful for the donation and for the opportunity to advertise their project.

We are already making plans for next years FEVA, which we hope will



be our best yet! We are looking for a local charity to support, preferably one connected to horticulture. If you have a suitable charity that you would like to nominate, please contact the committee.

Organising FEVA is quite an onerous task for the Committee, as there are so few of us. You could make a huge difference by sharing ideas and volunteering a little time to help next year. If you feel like you can offer help, ideas or can suggest community groups who might like to be involved, we would be *delighted* to hear from you!





Accessible Toilet

On 25 August our new accessible toilet was delivered. It looks lovely and fits nicely in the space. It cost over £7000 and the bulk of it was paid for by applying for commuted sums from North Yorkshire Council. Unfortunately, we had to pay over £1000 in VAT, as HMRC felt we were not worthy of exemption.

The opening of the toilet has been delayed, due to one or two teething problems. When it does open, it will require maintenance and there will be instructions on its use.

We are in the process of installing the ramp, putting in solar power and investigating the possibility of installing a urinal. Please be patient as we want to get it right before we use it.

We have donated the old toilet to Knaresborough Forest Park.

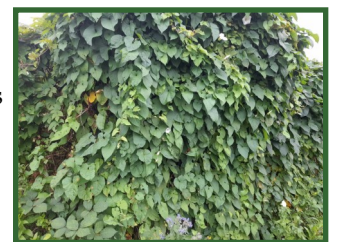
Bindweed



We are all aware of the nuisance that bindweed can cause and the Friday Working Party have been doing their best to remove as much of it from the hedges as possible.

This task is becoming increasingly difficult because some of the plot-holders bordering the hedge have failed to maintain a clear gap between their plot and the hedge and weeds and rubbish are now blocking the access. Please, if you could clear bindweed from your part of the hedge, that would be a great help. We do need access to trim the hedge. If this applies to you, please could you remove all items that are blocking access? We will be contacting individual members to point out what needs doing.

The recent damp, warm weather has meant that some plots are being overwhelmed by bindweed. One of the terms of the contract is to keep the plot free from pernicious weeds, as they not only stop cultivation on your plot, but spread to neighbouring plots. Please take swift action to remove as much bindweed as possible from your plot.



Saturday 7th October - Working Party

As you are aware, we are a self help scheme, which means we must come together to run and maintain our site. The Friday Working Party have been doing an amazing job of this for a number of years now, with very little help being required from members. Unfortunately, for a variety of reasons, the number of members has declined recently and we have many jobs that need doing across the site. The biggest job is hedge cutting, so, we are planning a Saturday Working Party. on the 8th October, to cut both sides of the hedges. We will need people to cut, brush and take material to the tip. Please can as many of you as possible make yourselves available to help?

Please email kirstyjaneWoodford@gmail.com to register your interest. Thank you!

Social Events

One of our targets for the year was to have more social events. The dreadful weather of July put a dampener on early events, but we were able to have the pizza oven used for a well-attended event. We also allowed the oven to be used by a member for a birthday party. We do want the pizza oven to be used, so if you would like to do so, please contact the committee and we will explain how to use it. We plan to fire up the pizza on Saturday 4 November (weather permitting) when we have our bonfire.

As a committee we want to make the site more family friendly. Thanks to Matt for organising a family event with lawn games, activities and even a sand pit to play in. We had a mixed turnout, but it was certainly positive for the first event of its kind and we are keen to build on its success over the next 12 months. If you have any suggestions on what events you would like to see, please don't hesitate to get in touch!



We are planning to have a bonfire on
Saturday 4 November

We are giving you plenty of notice, so that you can prepare for this. At the moment, when clearing raspberry canes, sunflower stalks etc., please store them on your plot and allow them to dry out. We will tell you nearer the time, where the bonfire will be.

Remember that the plot-holders contract sets a tree height limit of 3 metres. If you are planning to cut back your trees, the pruning could go on the bonfire.





We have a lovely new shed and great plans to expand what we sell. We currently have stocks of compost, fish blood and bone, lime, chicken manure, fleece, black covering and gloves.

If you need any of these items, please get in touch with Elsa 07718996319. We will be ordering large canes, as they always sell out, but would like to know what else people would like us to stock, eg. seed potatoes. Buying in bulk can result in great savings. Our aim is to provide a service to plot holders, which covers our costs, rather than make a profit. We will be in contact early in 2024 to find out what you want from the shop.

Rent Renewal

We will soon be sending out rent renewals. There will be a small increase this year, but many other allotment sites have increased their rents substantially, so the committee believe that the level of increase negotiated with our new landlords, Knaresborough Town Council, is fair and reasonable.

A small number of plot-holders have in the past benefitted from a discount to over 65 year olds, however, the committee feels that this cannot be sustained, if we are to keep rent at an affordable level for all. However, we would hate it if a member had to give up their plot because they could not afford their rent, so please contact Neil or Rob if you feel this applies to you. We will deal with any application with discretion and sensitivity.

This is always a good time to think about whether you are making good use of your plot. One or two members who have downsized their allotment have enjoyed being able to keep on top of their plot and find it less of a chore. If you feel like you would benefit from downsizing, please email either Rob or Kirsty (see contacts below).

Please communicate with us, as soon as possible, any change of address and any issues such as health difficulties that may make it challenging for you to maintain your plot.

We are here to help!



Speed limit

Most members take great care to keep to the 5mph site speed limit, but a minority do drive with excessive speed.

Please slow down !

Driving at 5 mph helps reduce the risk of accidents and keeps potholes to a minimum, which reduces maintenance time and expense.

Thank you!



We had a number of successes this year in the Knaresborough in Bloom Best Vegetable Garden section.

First prize went to Kirsty Woodford (15A)

Second prize went to John Whitehead (14A)

Third prize went to Maggie Boyd (7c)

New plot-holders, Richard Brewster and Ann English (Plot 24x), were highly commended and it was gratifying to see their efforts recognised, as their plot had been severely neglected prior to them taking over.



Congratulations to all!

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.

Rob Snow (Chair)

Tel: 07703631966 Email: robknares59@gmail.com

Kirsty Woodford (Membership Secretary)

Tel: 07949248578 Email: kirstyjaneWoodford@gmail.com

Neil Crossley (Treasurer)

Email: neilcrossley10@gmail.com