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KASHS Newsletter

Summer 2026

Welcome to the Summer Edition!

Summer is in full swing at KASHS, and there is plenty to report. This edition brings together news from the committee, site improvements, fundraising, FEVA preparations and important updates for the months ahead.



Community, inclusion and friendship at the heart of KASHS.

A word from the Chair

Taking on the role of Chair felt quite daunting at first, but with Rob's support as Vice Chair the changeover has been as smooth as possible. It is a great honour to serve as KASHS' first female Chair and to do so as a wheelchair user.

One of my main aims is to make allotmenteeing more accessible to everyone. We have already changed the KASHS application form so applicants can tell us about any additional needs. I would also like us to explore grant funding, including National Lottery funding, for timber for raised beds and paving to improve access around them.

Another concern is the shortage of allotment spaces. Knaresborough has seen a great deal of new housing and our waiting list continues to grow. I would like applicants to consider approaching the council too, so the demand for more allotment land and community gardens remains clear.

I also want to develop a strong, active committee. We need people who are willing to bring forward ideas and help make them happen. If you are interested, please ask about attending a committee meeting. With more than 100 plots, there are still many people I do not know, so please come and share your thoughts.

The allotments are looking colourful and welcoming through summer. Thank you to everyone who is keeping their own plot and the shared areas tidy - it makes a real difference to the whole site.



Yorkshire Water & site work

Important updates, practical jobs and plenty of teamwork

Yorkshire Water screen-filtering scheme

On 4 August, three Yorkshire Water representatives and Town Clerk Angela met a KASHS delegation of Maggie, Geoff and Rob. There are no detailed plans yet because Yorkshire Water is still waiting for information from its engineers. Angela will pass on further information as soon as it is received.

Most plots are not expected to be affected, although a small number will be. As soon as there is firm information, the committee will meet with the affected plot holders. Yorkshire Water has advised that there is no practical alternative to the scheme and that it is important for the wider Knaresborough community.

Timing, access and wildlife

The work is expected during winter 2027-28 and is likely to last around four to five months. Carrying it out over winter should reduce the impact on growers. Access through the main gate will be restricted and may sometimes be impossible for health and safety reasons, leaving pedestrian access via the cinder-path gate.

Repairs and improvements

Geoff Freeston raised concerns about the wildlife area and Yorkshire Water reassured us that disturbed areas would be properly restored. Yorkshire Water has also been invited to the April 2027 AGM to explain its plans and answer members' questions.

The committee is considering how best to approach compensation and repairs. Ideas include tarmacking the car park and road, replacing the main gate, possibly adding a pedestrian gate, improving the cinder-path gate and moving the water meter if necessary. We are also looking at whether the toilet could be moved and made flushable.

Working party - 1 August

The working party achieved most of its aims. The car park was tidied, Geoff removed bindweed from the wildlife area, paths were cleared, two badly affected bindweed areas were tackled and the communal bonfire area was weeded. John Whitehead also assembled the new wheelbarrow. Thank you to everyone who helped and to those who took the bags to the tip.



Yorkshire Water visit



Working-party clearance



Paths tidied



Members at work



New wheelbarrow



Helping one another

Yorkshire Water discussions and a selection of the jobs tackled around the site.

A little help from everyone

We know work and family commitments can make organised working parties difficult. Even so, wider involvement is essential. Please be proactive with smaller jobs around your plot or nearby shared areas, and help a neighbour when you can. Despite the shortage of rain, the site is looking tidy and members responded positively to the inspection. A final push will help us look our best for FEVA.

Macmillan, FEVA & summer socials

Fundraising, visitors and a chance to enjoy the allotments together

Macmillan Coffee Morning

A huge thank you to Jan Mitchell for organising KASHS' first Macmillan Coffee Morning. Those who had taken part in the working party certainly appreciated the refreshments, and thanks also go to everyone who supplied extra cakes and scones. It was a pleasant, sociable morning and a lovely chance to sit down together.

More than £200 raised

The morning raised £178.55, with a further £27 in Gift Aid - taking the total to more than £200 for Macmillan.

We are already planning ahead to next year, with the idea of holding a working party and coffee morning around two weeks before FEVA.

A push for FEVA

We hope to see as many KASHS members as possible during the FEVA afternoon, and please invite friends and neighbours too. Community Stars will run the refreshments, Martin House will have a stall aimed at gardeners, and Knaresborough Hedgehog Patrol will also be there.

Our produce stall has been very successful in recent years and some of the profits will be shared with St Michael's Hospice. Sue Snow is in charge of the stall. Fresh produce and cakes can be brought on the day. Cakes, scones, jams and chutneys can be taken to 3 Charlton Court the day before so they can be priced. Contact Sue or Rob if you need to deliver anything earlier.



Something for everyone

A quiz will guide visitors around the site and many enjoy stopping to chat with plot holders. There will also be face painting, youth activities and Carrie's vegetable animals. Unwanted produce for the vegetable animals can be left via the Exchange Point.

Curry night - 16 August

Speak to Maggie if you would like to join the curry night at Zolsha at 6.30pm. A table is being booked, so numbers are needed in advance. After a busy FEVA day, it should be a good opportunity to relax and socialise together.

Plots, rents & water

Key information for the end of summer and the autumn ahead

Plot renumbering

During the last week of August, the committee will begin renumbering all plots. The site has changed considerably over the past decade and the number of subdivided plots now makes some individual plots difficult to identify. New plot numbers will therefore be issued during the autumn.

Good news on rents

Rents will not be increased this year. This is partly due to better watering and water management. Members have been much more careful, particularly in spring when many made good use of water stored in butts.

Remeasuring and plot sizes

A number of plots will also be remeasured. If you would like your plot measured, please contact the committee. If you are considering reducing or increasing the size of your plot, this is the best time to raise it rather than waiting until the autumn changes are under way.

Please keep your details up to date

Make sure the committee has your current email address and telephone number. If you already know that you intend to give up your tenancy, please let the committee know sooner rather than later.

Plan now for water storage

With changing weather patterns bringing drier springs and the risk of summer drought, members are encouraged to take greater responsibility for storing and using water carefully. If possible, consider installing guttering, extra water butts or a larger IBC water tank so more rainfall can be captured when it arrives.

Rent notices

Rent notices will be sent out earlier this year. Please help the Treasurer by paying promptly so that unnecessary follow-up is avoided.

Quick reminders & contacts

Water

Store as much rainwater as you can and use it carefully during dry spells.

Plot changes

Speak to the committee now if you would like your plot remeasured, reduced or increased.

Contact details

Please check that your email address and telephone number are up to date.

Helping out

Small jobs, help for a neighbour and support at events all strengthen the KASHS community.

Thank you for supporting KASHS

Whether you join a working party, donate produce, help at FEVA, support a neighbour, share an idea or simply keep your own plot and surrounding area in good order, every contribution helps make the allotments a welcoming community space.

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