

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Looking back over 2025
- KASHS as a self-help scheme
- Committee roles and volunteers
- Water use and inspections
- Dates for your diary
- Shop, shed and contacts

KASHS Newsletter

Spring 2026

Welcome to the Spring Edition of the KASHS Newsletter!



As we look ahead to another growing season, it is good to reflect on the hard work, friendship, and community spirit that carried the site through the last few months. From preparing the new shed area and improving communal spaces, to pizza evenings, giant produce, Apple Day, autumn maintenance, the bonfire and our award celebrations, members once again showed what can be achieved when we work together.

In this issue we look back at some of those moments, then move on to important Spring information about the self-help scheme, committee roles, volunteering, water use, inspections, the shop and dates for your diary.

Many thanks,
Rob Snow – Chair

Looking back over the year

New shed and communal area

Members worked hard to clear the ground and prepare the base for the rebuilt shed and future communal polytunnel.

Socials

Pizza evenings and Apple Day brought members, families and visitors together and helped strengthen the community spirit on site.

Harvest highlights

From giant tromboncino squash to pumpkins and apples, the site produced some memorable displays of fruit and vegetables.

Autumn jobs

Bonfire preparations, hedge and site maintenance and general tidying all helped get the allotments ready for winter.

Practical demonstrations

On a damp and windy weekend, around 20 people attended Mike Prest's pruning demonstrations. We hope to bring Mike down to our site again in April, so please let Rob know what practical demonstrations members would like. Knaresborough Horticultural Society meets at St John's Hub at 7pm on the third Wednesday of every month.

Apple Day and social events

Thanks to Jan for organising Apple Day. The pressing went well and was enjoyed by all who attended. We hope the weather will allow us to organise more social events in 2026.

New shed and communal polytunnel

The site team has prepared the area for the new shed and polytunnel. The rebuilt shed will help us store tools and equipment more effectively, while the communal polytunnel will give members without greenhouses a place to propagate seeds and raise tender plants.

Photographs capture some of the hard work, harvest successes, and social moments of the past few months.



New shed



Pizza night



Giant tromboncino



Pumpkin harvest



Apple Day



Bonfire



Site maintenance



Water matters



Award celebration

KASHS Self-Help Scheme

Knaresborough Allotments is a self-help scheme. Members elect a committee, who let the site from Knaresborough Town Council (KTC), and administer, manage and maintain the site. KTC expects us to let the plots and ensure that those plots, and the rest of the site, are kept in good order, e.g. cutting the hedges, and keeping communal areas tidy.

At recent committee meetings, we have reviewed the structure of the committee to ensure that responsibilities are more evenly distributed, and members know who is responsible for different areas. We have created the role of Vice Chair, with Maggie Boyd offering to stand for Chair at the AGM and Rob Snow prepared to stand as Vice Chair to support the new Chair.

We are also looking for new committee members, as Rob Snow and Kirsty Woodford are planning to step down from their current roles. Please speak to a committee member if you would like to get involved.

Role	Person	Responsibility
Chair	Rob Snow	Overall management of KASHS, external contacts, FEVA leadership, newsletters and key correspondence.
Vice Chair	Maggie Boyd	Supports the Chair and can take on additional committee responsibilities.
Secretary	Kirsty Woodford	Member communications, newsletters, correspondence, and notices.
Treasurer	Stewart Housecroft	Accounts, finance and rent administration.
Membership Secretary	Tracey Kane	Letting plots, maintaining records and issuing agreements to new members.
Site Manager	Dave Bolton	Coordinates jobs such as hedge cutting, bonfires, cameras, grass cutting and shed maintenance.
Shop Manager	Elsa Weihe	Ordering stock, organising deliveries and sales, and working with the Treasurer on finances.
Inspections	Martin Atkinson	Planning the three yearly inspections and following up issues with the Chair.
Social Secretary	Jan Neale	Promoting Apple Day, pizza evenings and other social events.

Supporting the allotments

We continue to emphasise the self-help aspect of the KASHS scheme, and we see several members committed to this, helping with regular working parties on Fridays, larger working parties on weekends, collecting produce for Resurrected Bites, and contributing to the success of our FEVA open day.

Last year we listed several jobs that needed doing, such as waterproofing the sheds and maintaining the herb bed, and we were really pleased with the response. However, there are lots of members who do not contribute to the maintenance or running of KASHS. We are aware that working people with busy lives cannot always contribute to Friday

working parties and may find that some of the larger working parties are also not convenient. We are also aware that some members would find it difficult to undertake more physical tasks. To get round this we have identified a large range of tasks to suit all abilities and skills. We would like members to look at the table below and volunteer for a job that they feel most suits their skills and ability. The list is not exhaustive and if you can think of a task that would benefit the allotment, we would be pleased to let you contribute to KASHS in a way that suits you. The aim of the Scheme is not just to improve the site, but to enhance the spirit of collaboration and co-operation.

Tasks to volunteer for

- Spring working party to improve the road
- Summer clearance of bindweed under the hedges
- Litter pick of the boundary areas
- October working party to cut the hedges
- Help construct a flagged path between plots 10 and 11
- Cut grass in communal areas
- Maintain or build communal paths
- Paint or waterproof the committee sheds and toilet
- Clean the interior of the toilet
- Tidy around the rear of the toilet and committee sheds
- Look after the area around the pizza oven
- Take communal rubbish to the tip when required

FEVA and support roles

- Prepare the site by putting up gazebos and tables on the day
- Take down gazebos and tables afterwards
- Run a KASHS produce stall
- Make jams, chutneys, cakes or buns for the stall
- Run activities for FEVA visitors
- Help welcome visitors at the entrance
- Provide IT support or document printing
- Help maintain the cameras
- Help the Treasurer with auditing
- Help collection and deliver to Resurrected Bites
- Provide drinks and cakes for working parties

We are now in a position where we are unable to maintain the site and manage the Scheme with the few people who are volunteering, so please look at the list above and contact Rob Snow to offer your support.

Email: rob59knares@gmail.com Tel: 07703 631966.

We would also like to take the opportunity to thank a few members who repeatedly offer their time and support; we very much appreciate your help

Water Use

Last year the water bill was the largest we have ever had at over £1600. The drought was a major factor, but we also wasted water. Please continue to use water carefully, use mulches where possible, and harvest rainwater from sheds into water butts. Please do not use hosepipes to fill water butts. We do not yet have an exact date for turning the water on.

Shop

Elsa has placed the first order of the year and further orders will be placed across the growing season. If you place an order, please look out for requests for help unloading the delivery, as there can be up to fifty large bags of compost to put in the shed and the delivery driver will not assist with this. You can also help by paying for and collecting your order promptly.

Please plan what you need from future deliveries, as we are unable to accommodate late additions to the order.

Dates for your diary and spring notices

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>S</u> <u>Saturday 21st March 11.00 am</u> Litter Pick</p>	<p>Most litter comes from the Cinder Path and ends up under the hedge. Gloves will be provided and we will recycle bottles and cans where possible.</p>
<p><u>Friday 28th March 6.00 pm –9.00 pm</u> Fruit Tree Grafting Demonstration</p>	<p>Mike Prest will be giving practical demonstrations on grafting fruit trees.</p>
<p><u>Saturday 11th April 10.00 am</u> Plot Inspections</p>	<p>First of three annual inspections. Further inspections will take place in July and September.</p>
<p><u>Tuesday 29th April 7.30 pm</u> Annual General Meeting</p>	<p>AGM at Kirkgate Working Men's Club. Doors open at 7pm and the meeting starts at 7.30pm. Free drink for members, spare seeds available and a plant swap for any spare seedlings.</p>

Contacts

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