

Committee Members

June Scott (Chair)
Mick Nadin (Secretary)
Andrew Spence (Treasurer)
David Illingworth
David Woolveridge
John Tasker
David Knowles
Paul Flint
Jackie Nadin
Christine Walker



www.standrewsallotments.co.uk

NEWSLETTER - MAY 2024

WELCOME: to the second newsletter of 2024.

COMMITTEE: Our committee met on 17 April and there has been a small change to the committee. Andrew Whipp has resigned for personal reasons and two ladies who were already helping in the background have joined us.

SOCIAL EVENT: This **Saturday 11th May from 3pm onwards St. Andrew's Allotments will be holding a 'PICNIC ON THE GREEN'**. This is our first social event this year and will take place on the north-side grassed area (between the gate and toilet block) and all plot holders and their families are invited to join in a get-to-know-each-other party. So, please try to attend.

Please feel free to bring a chair or rug if you wish for sitting on as well as your picnic.

Your help with cakes, buns and sandwiches etc would be much appreciated.

June (Chair) is co-ordinating the event and our posters are already in place on our notice-boards. **June can be contacted on 07800924588.** We will be erecting gazebos for shelter and the food tables. Please contact June if you wish to contribute in any way.

(Just a reminder that if you are ordering compost / manure which will be delivered to the grassed area then wait till after next Saturday and put a sheet of plastic down first, if it's loose.)

VANDALISM: The site has once again suffered from needless vandalism with sheds and greenhouses damaged. The committee invited a police community support officer to attend our last meeting in order to see what we can legally do to dissuade vandals from attacking our property.

They suggested that we SHOULD:

- Report all acts of vandalism to the North Yorkshire police and this can be done by either ringing 101 or 'clicking' on their icon on their North Yorkshire Police website. The more we report, the more they will patrol.
- Place notices at all entry gates. You may have spotted that we have already made a start on this.
- Place notices around the perimeter fencing. We are on with this too.

- Ask plot holders to fit security lights. Many have done so already.
- Fit good locks to sheds as anything that slows vandalism is a good deterrent.
- Replace all broken glass immediately. Property in a poor state attracts further vandalism.
- Take photos of offenders if you can do so safely but on no account tackle them.

The committee have been repairing fencing around the site with help from plot holders to help tidy up the boundaries. This is an on-going project.

PLOT INSPECTIONS: Just to remind you that our plot inspections take place on the **LAST SATURDAY** of each month. It's pleasing to see that the inspection team have noted improvement in the state of plots during April, however, there are still one or two plots still not putting in the effort expected.

It should be noted that we lease the site from Harrogate Borough Council (N.Y.C. going forward) and must stick to their rules. So, most of the rules that you signed up for when taking on your plot are H.B.C. rules. A reminder of those rules are pinned to the north notice board.

Please keep your plot's surrounding paths clear of stones and soil and keep the grass paths mowed and tidy.

HDAF INSPECTIONS: The Harrogate District Allotment Federation (HDAF) inspects all sites under their jurisdiction and judge how each site is performing. This year's inspection at St. Andrew's will take place on **28th June**, so please make a note in your diary.

HDAF SHOW: The HDAF show will take place on **Sunday 18 August** at the pavilions in Valley Gardens and you are invited to compete with your own produce. The Inter-Site 2' x 2' mount theme this year is 'Over the Rainbow', ideas welcome. St. Andrew's will be looking after the cake stall, further details nearer the time.

Note: The Starbeck Show will take place **Saturday 17th August**. Remember, all profits made from both shows will be going to local charities so it's well worth taking part yourself. You never know, you may well end up with a silver cup or trophy for the mantelpiece.

ENVIRONMENT: The environment around our allotments is important to us all, so why not attract some insect eating creatures and put up a bird nesting box or Bat-box. Obviously, we need certain insects for pollination and so for the winter why not fit an insect 'hotel' to the side of the shed.

I've had a request to suggest that we should all make sure there are no hedgehogs curled up in grass prior to strimming or in the compost heap before forking it over.

Also, remember that the 'old' blue slug pellets are now banned and must not be used. Birds and hedgehogs can die if the pellets are eaten by these creatures.

WAITING LIST: Currently the list stands at 49.

This month's Tip:

Weeding in dry sunny conditions can be carried out using a hoe but in wet weather it's best to remove the weed completely using a fork or trowel otherwise the weed could re-strike and begin growing again.

Remember to bag your dandelion heads.

Once again, I hope that you found this newsletter informative and happy gardening.

Mick Nadin (Secretary)