

## Committee Members

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



## **NEWSLETTER – APRIL 2024**

**WELCOME:** Welcome to the first newsletter that we'll be trialling this season. Other Allotment associations in the district periodically send their plot holders information using this method so we'll give it a go and see if it works for St. Andrew's.

**COMMITTEE:** There's been a slight change in the committee structure following the AGM in February. David Brockhurst (past Secretary) has stood down from the day to day working of the Association but is remaining in the background to facilitate our website which he set up a few years ago. The day to day running of the St. Andrew's Allotment Association is now with myself, Mick Nadin, as Secretary. June Scott remains Chair with the Treasurer's position soon to be transferred to Andy Spence following Sarah Leng's decision to also step down.

**PLOT INSPECTIONS:** We'll be continuing our monthly plot inspections again this year to ensure that all plot-holders follow their Tenancy Agreement. Our plot inspections will take place on the **LAST SATURDAY** each month and the inspection team will take particular notice of surrounding pathways and edges as well as the condition of the plot itself. Please note that due to the time and effort needed, the committee will NOT be cutting the paths this year. The responsibility now rests once again with the plot-holders to trim their surrounding paths regularly and don't forget to keep your plot number visible. Some tools are available to borrow from St. Andrew's Allotment Association by arrangement contacting June Scott (plot 50), John Tasker (plot 7), Andrew Whipp (plot 41) or myself (plot 56B). A small contribution towards petrol is requested for any petrol driven devices.

**HDAF INSPECTIONS:** The Harrogate District Allotment Federation (HDAF) inspects all sites under their jurisdiction and judge how well each site is performing. This year's inspections will take place on **27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> June** and we can put forward 2 or 3 plots for the HDAF 'Best in district'. Judges this year will be Simon Collier, retired Head Gardener at Valley Gardens & Rob Snow, Chair, Knaresborough Allotments & Self-Help Scheme. Points will be awarded as follows: 50<59 Bronze; 60<74 Silver; 75<84 Silver Gilt; 85<100 Gold this is in-line with RHS Yorkshire in Bloom gradings.

**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 17<sup>th</sup> 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.

SOCIAL EVENTS: St. Andrew's Allotments will soon be holding a 'PICNIC ON THE GREEN'. This will take place on the north-side grassed area (between the gate and toilet block) on **Saturday 11 May from 3pm onwards**. Help with cakes, buns and sandwiches would be much appreciated, please bring items to share around. June (Chair) is co-ordinating the event and our posters are already in place on our notice-boards.

VANDALISM: Occasionally St. Andrew's Allotments experience acts of vandalism and some years are worse than others. Last year was particularly bad with many greenhouses smashed more than once. This cannot continue and so we are talking to the police about what measures we can take to alleviate this. I will be inviting further discussions with our local PC Support Officer in the future. In the unlikely event that you experience acts of vandalism please contact the police yourself but let us know too so that we can keep a record. Apparently, the more we inform the police, the more they can do for us, e.g. additional patrolling.

WAITING LIST: All that being said there's still a long waiting list of individuals wishing to 'give it a go' growing their own veg. Currently the list stands at around 45.

The wet weather recently has meant that many plots have standing water on them which has meant a late start to seed sowing but the warmer weather is here now so now's the time to get out there and turn the soil to dry it out and prevent those perennial weeds multiplying.

Tip: Dandelion flowers can still turn to seed after being plucked, so discard them into a closed bin.

I hope that you found this newsletter worthwhile and happy gardening.

Mick Nadin (Secretary)