



SCA
Sandal Community Association
SPRING NEWSLETTER

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Bigger and better Scarecrow Festival for 2016!



Last year's Scarecrow Festival was voted the best event ever organised by the Community Association and this year we're planning to make it even better, so make sure the dates are in your diary – Saturday and Sunday, September 17/18!

There's no special theme so entrants will again be able to give full rein to their imaginations. We had a wonderful variety of scarecrows last year, spread across much of Sandal. Closing date for entries is August 31. That might seem a long way off but we're giving you plenty of warning so that you can get to work on your ideas.

For 2016 we're aiming to have two scarecrow trails. The official start will be at 11am on the Saturday at St Helen's Church where there will be activities for youngsters, including scarecrow painting organised by Sandal Art Group. There will also be scarecrows on display at West Yorkshire Sports and Social Club and at Sandal Cricket Club where there will be a Saturday barbecue. Refreshments will also be available at the church where Sandal Fundraising Group for Wakefield Hospice will run a stall selling soft toys.

Sunday's activities will start at 12noon at West Yorkshire Sports and Social Club and the closing ceremony and announcement of results will take place at the club at 4pm, followed by a children's disco until 6pm. The cost will be £2 per child to help defray costs.

One of the scarecrow trails will start at St Helen's and end at the cricket club via Barnsley Road, Castle Road, South Drive, the castle, Manygates Lane and Pinfold Lane. The second will start and end at West Yorkshire Sports Club and will take in Sandal Hall Close, Walton Lane, and parts of Barnsley Road and the Mountbatten estate.

Entrants who are not on either of the trails will still have their scarecrows judged and will have the option of displaying them at the cricket club or sports club. We would also be delighted to hear from any residents on the trails who will not be taking part but would still be prepared to lend their front gardens for others to display scarecrows.

To enter all you need to do is to let us know your name and address, telephone number and email address, the name of your scarecrow and where it will be displayed. This information can be emailed to info@sandal.org.uk. A downloadable entry form will also be available on the Scarecrow Festival web page at http://sandal.org.uk/Scarecrow_Festival.php.



Sandal Brownies are already gearing up for the Festival

'Clean for the Queen' litter-pick hailed a great success

This year's annual SCA litter-pick was the best supported ever, part of the national 'Clean for the Queen' campaign. On just one Saturday morning in March a team of more than 25 volunteers collected about 60 bags of rubbish around Sandal.

The litter-pick, which started from West Yorkshire Sports and Social Club's car park, was timed to coincide with the special weekend during which an estimated 185,000 people across the country joined the effort to clear up Britain in time for the Queen's 90th birthday.

SCA committee member Roger Holmes, who organised the Sandal event, said: "We were delighted that so many people turned out this year, more than we've had at any of our litter-picks, which we've now run for about eight years. Everyone involved agreed it was a big success. Our thanks go to all the volunteers and to Wakefield Council's Street Scene Services who loaned us litter picks and also took away all the rubbish. Thanks, too, to West Yorkshire South Girl Guiding for lending extra litter picks."

If you are interested in future litter-picks or would like to become a more regular litter-pick volunteer, possibly for an area near where you live, contact Roger on 01924 240589 or email rs.holmes@btinternet.com.



From the chair

You good people of Sandal never cease to amaze me. Whenever I log onto Facebook (and I only look at the SCA page), read Keith's community column in the Wakefield Express or just keep my eyes open for local notices when walking round getting in my 10,000 steps a day, some individual or group is raising money for good causes.

The SCA committee wish to do our bit to support but don't like to presume our members want us to make donations directly from funds. For example, the raffle at our recent 'Highwayman' wine and cheese was in aid of the Sandal Fundraising Group for Wakefield Hospice, our teddy bear 'Scamp' will jump for charity later this year, hoping to break the record fundraising effort of 'Sallywag' last September, and we are always happy to publicise any local charity event to our members by email. Keep up the excellent work.

The last six months have seen the Association go from strength to strength. Sandal's first Scarecrow Festival proved an enormous success, the Christmas festivities at the 'new' school were a joy to behold, our events at the West Yorkshire Sports Club have been sell-outs, we had a record turnout for our recent annual litter-pick, membership numbers have increased and we have now more than 1000 'likes' on our Facebook page.

On the subject of the sports club, I was chatting to their chairman recently and the move, work on which was scheduled to start this Spring, appears to be delayed again, so the club will remain in Sandal for at least a few more years. We'll update you via Facebook and members' emails when we know more.

We've had a minor reshuffle of personnel. As Jean Chaplin is taking the lead role in our event organisation she has passed the treasurer's baton to Brian Lister who we have welcomed onto the committee. Whilst some events have become fixtures in the calendar, Jean is always looking for new ways to whet your appetites so please contact her on 257810 to discuss any ideas you may have.



Les Goddard, SCA Chairman

Yorkshire highwayman tells stories of his life of crime



It was a case of 'stand and deliver' when highwayman John 'Swift Nicks' Nevison galloped into the wine and cheese evening at West Yorkshire Sports and Social Club in March. Nevison (aka Paul Mackintosh) regaled members and visitors with stories of his 17th century life of crime in Yorkshire, including plenty of narrow escapes. He also gave people a close-up of the weapons he carried – flintlock pistols and mortuary sword.

Left: No, not the Three Musketeers! It's highwayman Nevison with SCA members Keith Souter and David Oughtibridge and chairman Les Goddard.

SCA members Sue Wood and Liz Helliwell, both of whom sit on the Friends of Sandal Castle committee, between them knitted 50 chocolate egg filled chicks – plus several bunnies – for sale at the Friends' Easter Sunday event at the visitor centre where there were various activities including egg-painting and egg-rolling and, of course, an Easter bonnet parade.



Would you like to help?

If you would like to join the committee and get directly involved in our work, including social events, planning, traffic issues and charity work, please contact us.

Call chairman Les Goddard on 01924 252282 or vice-chairman Ray Watson on 01924 257037.