

SCA Sandal Community Association SPRING NEWSLETTER

April | 2017

Get ready for our big event of the year!



REGISTRATIONS are now open for our two-day Sandal Scarecrow Festival which for 2017 looks like being better than ever with loads of added attractions. We really hope that you will help us top the previous total of 50 scarecrows.

Entries for this hugely popular event don't close until the end of August but early registration helps us with our planning. It doesn't mean you have to start building your scarecrow straight away, as long as it's ready for the festival weekend of September 23/24.

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 scarecrowreg@btinternet.com or you can complete your entry electronically by following the link at http://sandal.org.uk/Scarecrow_Festival.php. There will also be drop-off points at Sandal Library, Fortythree Café and The Spring for forms that have been completed by hand.

We expect there will be two scarecrow trails around Sandal but this will depend on the number of entries and where they are. People who are not on the trails can, as in past years, display their scarecrows at Sandal Cricket Club or West Yorkshire Sports and Social Club.

The weekend will begin at St Helen's Church where the official opening will take place. Refreshments will be served all day in the Emmaus Rooms where there will also be children's activities and stalls. There will be scarecrow decorations in the church and this year the vicar, the Rev Rupert Martin, is gearing his Sunday harvest festival to coincide with the scarecrow event.

On the Sunday the focus of the scarecrow festival will turn to West Yorkshire Sports and Social Club with more children's activities and a closing ceremony with the presentation of awards at 4pm. There will be both judges' and People's Choice awards with certificates for entries considered by the judges to be deserving of special mention. There will be a children's disco to follow the presentations. Tickets will go on sale in June.

Festival organiser Jean Chaplin said: "This is our third annual scarecrow festival and it's going to be great fun again. We're hoping lots of other local groups will get involved by running activities over the weekend. We would like to have more games for the children, like 'Throw a Scarecrow', and we need some local groups to help run those." If your community group wants more information, please contact Jean on 01924 257810.



Tommy the Tyke will help raise money for charity

LAST YEAR the SCA had 'Charlie' as its scarecrow mascot but this year we've become more ambitious with a specially-built young 'Tommy the Tyke' (cloth cap, braces and boots), who will help us promote the event around Sandal. He also has a pet border collie pup and there'll be a competition to guess the dog's name. Proceeds from this will go to Wakefield Riding for the Disabled Association which is based nearby at the Pennine Community Centre and which has been a keen supporter of our scarecrow festival. Tommy is pictured when he recently paid them a visit with his dog – and tried riding a horse for the first time!



Chairman's report

I THOUGHT I would take this opportunity to update you on a few issues we have been pursuing after they were raised by our members.

The Association committee had been considering planting a living Christmas tree rather than the annual cut tree for some time and this approach was endorsed by members at our AGM. There is an obvious environmental benefit and in the longer term there will be a cost saving, so we are negotiating with Wakefield District Housing and the Council with the aim of getting a tree planted this Spring.

Another issue raised by members was the location and condition of recreational benches in Sandal. We had a request to consider supplying a bench on Walton Lane, close to the raised flowerbed, to provide a more comfortable place for elderly residents to sit and rest. I had a site meeting with the Council's representative to agree the best location and I consulted with residents in the vicinity. This did, however, generate some negative reaction so this initiative is not being pursued.

On a much more positive note, we have renovated the Violet Moxon memorial bench at the bottom of Sandal Avenue, which was in a very poor state of repair. Our extensive efforts to trace the owners drew a blank. However, as two of our members kindly volunteered to refurbish the bench, we decided to proceed. I'm glad to say "Violet" is now back in place. Our volunteers (*pictured with your chairman*) have done such a magnificent job it will probably be another 49 years before she needs to be refurbished again. Our friends in the Gardening Club intend to complete the makeover of this little corner of Sandal.

Also, as you are probably aware, we earmarked the profits from the last two issues of our Sandal castle cards to purchase a bench for the dementia garden at Sandal Library. I'm happy to confirm this has been ordered and will be in place for the opening of the garden this Spring.

I'm delighted to report that our membership has increased by 50 households this year to well over 400. If you're not yet a member but would like to know more about the Association, please give me a call on 01924 252282.



More cards – and now we're planning a Sandal calendar



THE SCA is extending its ventures into publishing. We have produced a reprint of the immensely popular Sandal Skyscape greetings cards based on artwork by SCA member Roger Brown, chairman of Sandal Art Group. For more details and to place your order, email info@sandal.org.uk or call 01924 256644. Profits will go to future SCA projects.

The original Skyscape cards were our first project of this sort. We have since produced two sets each of five cards depicting different views of Sandal Castle which were a sell-out in aid of the community garden at Sandal Library.

We are also planning an Aspects of Sandal calendar for 2018 with each month showing a local scene. This will be published in time to go on sale at the Scarecrow Festival. Surely a great Christmas gift for family members who have moved away from Sandal!

Lucky 13 turned out for tenth annual litter-pick

THIRTEEN volunteers joined in our tenth annual spring litter-pick. At the end of the morning they had collected 25 bags of rubbish around Sandal. The event was again organised by SCA committee member Roger Holmes, who said: "I would like to thank everyone who turned up and also Wakefield Council's Street Scene services who loaned us litter-picks and have arranged to take the rubbish away. They deserve a special thank you."



Blimey O'Reilly

Forthcoming SCA events:

Wednesday, April 26: Visit to the Wakefield Council/Shanks recycling plant at South Kirkby. For more details and to book your place (subject to availability), call Jean Chaplin on 01924 257810.

Saturday, June 24: Open-air music evening at West Yorkshire Sports and Social Club with Irish folk group Blimey O'Reilly (*pictured*).

Wednesday, July 19: SCA annual general meeting, Sandal Cricket Club, 7.30pm. (Speaker to be arranged).