

## *Site Maintenance and Development*

The trustees have been as determined as ever to improve the infrastructure of all YACIO sites. We have worked tirelessly with our contractors in an endeavour to upgrade access, manage growth in public areas, clear neglected plots, improve water supply, repair gates and fences and provide specific items such as notice boards, bird and bug boxes and planters requested by associations and site secretaries. In addition, the trustees have been happy to provide part funding for a number of innovative projects (on the part of associations) aimed at making good use of previously unusable areas.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have helped to keep our sites tidy and accessible and those who have gone that extra mile in making improvements for us all to enjoy. Special thanks to Dave and Rich (our handymen) for being so responsive to requests for clearance and repair and judging by extensive feedback, for being so pleasant and good humoured. Thanks also to White Rose, our main contractor, for their contribution during our first four years. I think everyone is in agreement that the grass and hedge cutting has seen a great improvement as compared to previous arrangements. It is with some sadness that we say goodbye to White Rose (to whom we wish all the best for the future) at the end of this year, as we welcome our new contractor, Oliver's Gardens, who will be working with us from January 2022. If any of you have specific thoughts on maintenance issues, this is the time to bring them to our attention. I would also like to offer one final thank you to all plot holders who have taken the time to attend to their external boundaries keeping them trimmed and accessible for fellow plot holders. You are setting a good example for us all.

- Colin Smith, Trustee

## *Meet The Trustees: Lisa Turner*

I am Trustee and site secretary at Wiggington Terrace. I became a Trustee as I was concerned regarding the future of allotments and also wanted to ensure the smaller sites were represented.

I don't recall being very interested in gardening at an early age but enjoyed being outside running around in my grandparents' garden, climbing and picking the apples from the trees.

I became more interested in gardening when I got older.

Growing up in a house with only a small garden, I dreamt of a large garden with a big pond. However when I moved to York I got a house with another small garden, so when a friend asked me to help her with her allotment at Wiggington Terrace I jumped at the chance. I then applied for my own plot and got the one next to my friend. That was over 20 years ago and I am still there and now site secretary.

I like other sporting activities but find the allotment a place to de-stress even when you turn up and discover all your seedlings have been eaten down to the ground by pesky slugs and snails or blight has taken all your tomatoes. I wish I could talk slug and then perhaps could negotiate a deal where I grow a patch of their favourite leafy greens and they leave the rest alone but I am afraid that will never happen and they will continue to sample all my crops until they find the best. However that is just one of the challenges and I would be completely lost without my allotment and the pleasure it brings all year round.