



# Grass Cuttings

Newsletter of **S**ale **H**orticultural & **A**llotment **S**ociety  
April 2013

## Chairman's Report

Hi All

My calendar indicates spring has arrived; well it takes some believing of late! However certain trees are showing tinges of green and several bird species have started to collect for their nests. I hope the doom & gloom from the media people is wrong again.

I am pleased to report Trafford MBC has continued their investigations into our allotment drainage problems, water is now flowing all be it slowly. The engineers have now discovered a blockage, probably roots, in the main, nine-inch diameter drainpipe beneath a large Spruce tree on our boundary. TMBC plan to remove the blockage or lay a new pipe to bye pass the blockage. The Environment Agency (AE) also hopes to clear the open ditches in the fields beyond Glebelands Road to improve the water flow.

Reminding our members by e-mail of our Trading Hut opening times and what products are available has been a great success. Our range of seed potatoes have completely sold out, while we still have a few bags of shallots and onion sets available. Other products for sale include a range of fertilisers, particularly lawn care items, which will be needed when the lawns start to grow as the weather becomes warmer! Once again we will be holding our annual bedding plant sale, spare plant list and order forms are available in the Trading hut on Sunday mornings.

Most gardeners and plot holders have started to tidy up in preparation for planting so let us look forward to the rewards for our efforts.

Best regards  
Don Jackson

## Summary of AGM

The **Chairman** welcomed 21 members to the meeting. He regretted the extremely wet season of 2012 and outlined the efforts he had made to alleviate the problem of our flooded plots. He thanked the committee and helpers for their work in 2012. In particular he proposed that Alf Edwards, who retired as Trading Manager, become

### Committee contacts

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Elaine Watson Trading Hut 962 9684  
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David Taylor Equipment 973 0867  
Plot 27

Jane Lucas Newsletter 973 9704  
Plot 39a

**SHAS Website** <http://www.shas.org.uk/>

a life member of the society. This was unanimously carried.

He welcomed Elaine Watson to the committee.

The **Secretary** thanked Don Jackson for gaining Councillor Rigby's support in his negotiations with both Trafford BC and the Environment Agency over the extensive flooding.

There had been one talk during the year but the Pumpkin party did not have sufficient support this year.

The **Membership Secretary** thanked all who had paid their plot rentals early.

Plot rents had been increased by 5% in 2012 and were due to rise by another 5% in 2013. This had been passed on to plot-holders, making the rental 21p per square metre. We are now at the end of our five year price agreement with Trafford and we await notification of their future rental proposals which could be a significant increase.

He proposed that we keep the society membership fee the same in 2014.

He thanked Paul Howarth for helping to keep our website running smoothly.

The **Allotment Secretary** reported 9 plots had changed hands since the last AGM and the waiting list now stood at 24 with three plots unlettable due to flooding. Sadly, three plot-holders, Graham Hamner, Nigel Biss and Helen Blackburn had died during the year.

The **Treasurer** presented the annual accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012.

A new Auditor will need to be appointed.

### Election of Committee

All officers and committee members agreed to stand again and were voted nem con.

Elaine Watson was appointed as Trading Manager in place of Alf Edwards.

Don Jackson thanked members for their presence and declared the meeting closed at 8.30pm



### SHAS Website Reminder

For those of us who appreciate tips and advice on growing, please remember the SHAS website is a useful tool with links to other websites of horticultural interest. During the next few months we will be working on improving the "what's it for" section which will provide information on, and use

of, the various products available from the Trading Hut. We welcome input from SHAS members on features/information for the website.

### Community Plot News



'Pensioner versus plum tree' Roger Snowden goes into battle on the community plot

Our team of volunteers has been extremely busy on the community plot. The vines and soft fruit bushes have been pruned and now look very tidy and the diseased plum tree has almost been removed which has opened up the area considerably. Many thanks to all those involved for their time and effort.

### Trading Hut News

We have been very busy in the Trading Hut; the seed potatoes have been a roaring success. We still have stock of **red and white onion sets at 85p per 50 sets** and a few bags of **shallots at £1.35/bag**, so please come along and support us. We are desperately looking for volunteers to help in the Trading Hut. If you can spare an hour and a half on a Rota basis (one week in 5), please contact Elaine Watson.

Due to last year's poor summer, peat production and therefore availability has been reduced. We would like to offer from the Trading Hut peat-alternative compost and like to know if there are any plot holders willing to undertake a growing trial using this medium so that we can assess the feasibility of holding any stock. Please contact Elaine if interested.

### Roundup

Plot inspections will be held during April, June and September.

SHAS welcomes the following new plot holders:

Zoe Colman (Plot 11)  
Jill Ward (Plot 37c)  
Tatjana Kecojevic (Plot 40a)  
Debbie and Gary Stiles (Plot 41)  
Sue Daley (Plot 51A)

**A reminder from Trafford that fires on allotments are not permitted from 1 April – 1 October.**