



Grass Cuttings

Newsletter of Sale Horticultural & Allotment Society

April 2014

Chairman's Report

Hi All

Could I please bring you up to date with recent and present happenings at SHAS. You will recall it was reported in our last Grass Cuttings that Trafford Council had chosen to single out Allotments for excessive rent increase of over 50%, which is NOT comparable with charges for other recreational activities within the Borough.

Your SHAS Committee and Trafford Allotment Federation have taken exception to these very large rent increases and repeated our request for actual costs to substantiate TMBC's high charge. Our AGM on 4 March was very well attended with diverse subjects raised; some now need to be discussed in your committee.

Sylvia Steer our Secretary for over 10 years has retired and it was my great pleasure to thank her for her diligence and hard work on your behalf and to present her with items for her garden.

Our gardens and allotments are beginning to show activity responding to the Spring warmth which I hope will continue to at least Christmas!

We will be using the Probation Payback Scheme in April in an attempt to reclaim un-useable plots previously waterlogged, trim internal overhanging boundary trees, tidying our site and trimming external hedges that pose a danger to pedestrians; supervisors will be present with the workers.

Elaine and her Trading Hut helpers have been quite active on Sunday mornings plus the first Saturday in each month. As water costs continue to rise, can I repeat a request to collect rainwater from greenhouses/sheds; damaged wheelie bins are available for this purpose via TMBC, please ring Janet Long on 0161 921 5410 to arrange collection from Trafford Carrington Depot.

Best regards
Don Jackson

Summary of AGM

The **Chairman** welcomed 29 members to the meeting. He reflected on the 2013 growing season and the success of our allotments. Finally the problem of flooding on the site and along the Carlton Road boundary is improving and the Chairman thanked the work of Trafford MBC. He thanked the committee and helpers for their work in 2013. Finally special thanks were given to retiring Secretary Sylvia Steer who was presented with a gift as a token of appreciation for her many years of support and work of behalf of the Society.

The **Secretary** thanked Don Jackson for his work in resolving the flooding problems experienced by the Society. During the year the Society had enjoyed a presentation from Hugh Beggs about the Earth's orbit around the Sun and it's influence on our lives. The talk was enjoyable and well attended being held at the new Life Centre in Sale. As retiring Secretary, Sylvia

Committee contacts

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Elaine Watson Trading Hut 962 9684
Plot 43a

David Taylor Equipment 973 0867
Plot 27

Jane Lucas Newsletter 973 9704
Plot 39a

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

expressed warm thanks and recounted fond memories of her many years as a committee member.

The **Membership Secretary** thanked all who had paid their plot rentals early with some members opting for the new BACS payment method. 2013 saw the end of the Society's five year rent agreement with Trafford and as predicted Trafford increased allotment rents by 55%, whereby a standard plot (250sqm) rises from £50.00 to £78.00pa. To compensate, the Committee decided to spread this increase over two years, therefore this year's rental is set at £65 and a similar increase will be planned for next year. We have been informed that Trafford plan further increases for allotments however be reassured that SHAS will fight this trend on behalf of its members. The Membership Secretary proposed that we keep the society membership fee the same in 2015. He thanked Paul Howarth for helping to keep our website running smoothly.

The **Plot Secretary** reported 7 plots had changed hands since the last AGM and the waiting list now stands at 17 with one plot unlettable due to water logging. Sadly, one plot holder, Stuart Bailey died during the year.

The **Treasurer**, Peter Baggaley announced the appointment of a new Auditor for the Society, Jim Howling and thanked him for his assistance. The annual accounts were presented for the year ended 31st December 2013.

Election of Committee

All officers and committee members agreed to stand again and were voted nem con. Jane Lucas was appointed Secretary in place of Sylvia Steer. Don Jackson thanked members for their presence and declared the meeting closed at 8.30pm



"Best wishes and many thanks to Sylvia from all your fellow SHAS members."

Site Safety and Maintenance. South Manchester Police are offering free battery operated alarms for installing in sheds, please contact 0161 856 7530 if interested. Please remember to store tools away, any tools left out on plots encourages shed break-ins. Also a reminder from our maintenance team to keep paths free of stones, bricks and other debris which can cause expensive damage to site machinery. Reminder from Trafford, fires are not permitted between 1 April – 1 October.

A message from our Plot Secretary Louise Black.

"Spring is here I am excited of by all the possibilities for the new growing season. After a visit to Marlborough Road allotments in Flixton on their NGS open day, I was inspired by many of the plots which had a 3-6 foot flower border at the front of the plot giving the whole site a vibrant cheery look. The bright colours of the flower borders are also useful in encouraging bees to come along and do their job of pollinating crops. We have our own colourful borders on some plots already, including Ken and Roger on plot 20a and 19a joint winners of the



Colourful borders along the centre path from Grosvenor Road

best plot 2013, also Sue Taylor plot 31b and Tony Savage plot 27 are already showing bright signs of spring flowers. Mrs Baggaley plot 10 always has a beautiful display of flowers tucked amongst her veg.

Plot inspections will take place in April, June and September. Trafford council inspection takes place in June. Happy growing and let's hope for a productive year ahead and the weather is kind to us.

****Next inspection 23 April 2014****

Our local neighbours, **Glebelands City Growers** welcome visits to view their site contact by telephone 07788 723267 or <mailto:contacts@glebelandscitygrowers.co.uk>. They have also provided us with a selection of seeds which are available, free to SHAS members, from the Trading Hut.

Trading Hut News. 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.

SHAS Social. A summer 'bring your own' picnic is planned from Saturday 12th July from 2pm onwards. Further details will be posted on notices around the site.

SHAS - Brush with the Cheshire Set!

Some plot holders were recently invited to attend a photo-shoot held at SHAS allotments for Cheshire Life courtesy of Jacqui Brocklehurst (plot 4) who regularly contributes to the magazine.



Jacqui directing with the Cheshire Life Photographer

Look out for the article, which features the trials and tribulations of an allotment holder.

