

grass CUTTINGS

APR:2015

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Hello and welcome to our Spring edition of our 'Grass Cuttings' newsletter, hopefully we should now be seeing the results of our earlier preparation work in our gardens and allotments with planting.

ITV have been filming several times on our allotments for their new story line in Coronation Street which has been shown on TV a couple of times, the number of crew and equipment necessary to produce these episodes is most surprising. ITV activities have gone quiet at present but we will continue to add information on our website in the Events Section.

In January a stolen car crashed through our fence at the Glebelands Road end causing damage to our manure bay, the car was a right off and the three thieves did a runner across our allotments. The thieves have been identified and will be appearing in court, however the down side is that the car's insurance, Allianz Plc, to date will not accept responsibility; which seems wrong.

We held our AGM in March, which was reasonably well attended, each of your committee brought the attendees up to date and were re-elected. Sylvia and Mike Steer were made Life Members, several hard-working plot

holders were thanked and awarded Trading Hut vouchers.

I regret to have to report six allotment sheds were broken into on Easter Monday evening, equipment was stolen and the police have been informed. Also flooding returned to the Carlton Road side of our allotments, thankfully Trafford MBC have been down with their sucker lorry to remove some of the silt.

We are hoping to arrange a talk by David Metcalf a very experienced vegetable grower in the summer, date and venue will be advertised.

May I wish you a productive and enjoyable Spring and Summer.

Regards, Don Jackson



AGM SUMMARY

Don Jackson (Chair) welcomed those members present at the meeting and noted that our allotment site, which initially began in the early 1900s would be reaching an anniversary of around 115 years. After a successful growing year our site had been recognised by Trafford as the Most Improved Site, and Don thanked plot holders for their efforts and Roger and his team for keeping the paths in pristine condition. Our site also fought off stiff competition from other allotments and has been chosen as the back drop for a storyline on Coronation Street and filming is scheduled to continue until 19 June.

Jane Lucas (Secretary) thanked all the committee for their dedication in helping manage the site on members' behalf and special thanks were given to Steve Bingham for his work in upgrading the society's newsletter. During the year the society held a plant sale, featured twice on BBC radio and held an informal family and friends picnic in July.

Louise Black (Plots Secretary) reported that 13 plots had changed hand over the year, some people having to give up due to work, family commitments or health. The waiting list now stands at 15, with most people waiting less than one year for a plot.

Peter Baggaley (Treasurer) thanked Jim Howling for auditing the accounts. The annual accounts were presented for the year ended 31 December 2014.

Tony Turnbull (Membership Secretary) presented a summary report of SHAS members which total 160, 98 of which are active plot holders. Tony confirmed that Trafford's 2014 increase was being phased in over a two year period. It was proposed and agreed to keep the membership fee at the same rate of 2016.

Elaine Watson (Trading Hut Manger) reported a successful year and opening the Trading Hut on the first Saturday in the month has been well received and will continue. Elaine thanked all the volunteers who help in the Trading Hut.

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



SHAS Annual Plant Sale

Once again we will be holding our annual plant sale on Saturday 9 May. Our supplier, Halmans of Peover, provide us with a wide range of competitively priced, excellent quality bedding plants, hanging basket and planters. Please send your completed order

forms together with payment to: **Jonathan Richards**, 24 Carlton Road, Sale, by Sunday 2 May.

Alternatively, orders can be left in the Trading Hut which is open on Sunday morning from 10.30am until 12 noon. Orders will be ready for collection from the Trading Hut on 9 May between 11am until 12 noon.

The Trading Hut will also be open for sales of compost and fertiliser during this event.

EVENTS OF INTEREST IN THE LOCAL AREA

The following gardening events have been recommended by some of our members:

Arley Hall Garden Festival

20/21 June

National Garden Scheme

Gordon Cooke, 17 Poplar Grove Sale. 13 June
Southlands, Sandy Lane, Stretford. 11 July
Mossfield Allotments, Urmston. 19 July, 1~4.30pm

SHAS ANNUAL AWARDS

Congratulations to the following plot holders whose cultivating achievements were acknowledged during our annual AGM. For a well tended plot and abundance of crops – **Zoe Colman (Plot 11)** Two awards were presented for the most promising newcomers – **Steve and Wendy Bingham (part Plot 24b)** and **Joanne and Ian Widdall (Plot 33b)**

Special mention was given to **Peter Jackson** and **Sean Riley** who having recently acquired badly neglected plots have made a remarkable transformation and their plots now look ready for a promising growing season.



SHAS would like to extend a warm welcome to the following new plot holders: **Alan and Janet Wickham (Plot 33a)**, **Yvonne Lawrence (Plot 5b)**, **Tony Worthington (Plot 49a)** and **G. Wilkinson (Plot 2)**.

COMMITTEE CONTACTS

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Tony Turnbull Membership, Plot 21
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Peter Baggaley Treasurer, Plot 7
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Louise Black Plots, Plot 36
T 283 7415

Elaine Watson Trading Hut, Plot 43a
T 962 9684

David Taylor Equipment, Plot 27
T 973 0867

Jane Lucas Newsletter, Plot 39a
T 973 9704

SHAS Website
www.shas.org.uk



Seedling and Plant Share and Swap Initiative

Growing plants from seed is so satisfying, we coax, cajole and generally give them lots of TLC and then what? We end up with far too many than we can find home for. So, we've decided to help everybody overcome this perennial problem by having a plant swap table outside the Trading Hut during opening times. Bring along any excesses you may have, from Borlotti beans to succulent sweetcorn and swap for other plants you may not have been so successful with.

We have recently erected a few bird boxes on our site, courtesy of Elaine, via the wildlife reserve where she volunteers. Hopefully, we'll play host to a range of bird life (just not the pesky pigeons!) so we'd love to hear updates of the bird varieties you may spot in and around the site.