

grass CUTTINGS

APRIL 2023

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It is definitely good to see the end of March and the beginning of April — which for the moment is less wet and warmer than March, which means more of us being down on our plots.

With the onset of Spring you will have found the water on the site now turned back on and the Hoedown has been reopened.

You may have noticed the newly reformed but very empty manure bay by the Trading Hut. The remedial work has been sorted with a great deal of input and work by Andrew Rowley for which many thanks are due. As a result the cost to us has been minimal.

Coinciding with the completion of the work our supply of manure stopped. The stables in Little Ees Lane which had been supplying us have closed. We do not know why and had no notice of the closure. Unfortunately, unless they reopen it is very unlikely that any other source will be prepared to deliver to us. We are intending to try and identify where manure may be available for plot holders to be able to collect from. If you know of anywhere could you let us know — a note to me at chairman@shas.org.uk would be most welcome.

NEW PLOT HOLDERS

Welcome to our new plot holders. We wish you all a most enjoyable and productive allotment experience.

Neil Hodgson Plot 12 / Andy O'Toole Plot 21b
Deepti Gupta Plot 25a / Marissa Pepper Plot 51b
Nick Speight Plot 60b

SECURITY/SITE SAFETY REMINDER

As the nights are getting lighter and we spend more time on the plots, please make sure that when entering and leaving the site the gates are securely locked.

Please be mindful of potential hazards around the site and not allow young children to run about the site unsupervised. Other plot holders might be using strimmers and lawn mowers and have tools lying around their plots as they work — we do not want any accidents.

AGM 2023

7.30pm, Tuesday 25 April 2023
Salvation Army, Ashton Lane, Sale

You may have noticed that some of the exterior wood work on the Middle Shed, Hoedown and Trading Hut is looking fairly tired. We would prefer, if possible, to carry out the necessary repairs ourselves to limit the cost. Ideally we would like to be able to put together a small working party of members who can help with the work. If you can help please drop me a line at chairman@shas.org.uk. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Now to some dates for your calendar

1. We are returning to our normal AGM slot of March/April. You will have seen from a recent email that our AGM for this year will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 25 April 2023 at the Salvation Army, Ashton Lane, Sale.
2. Valerie Mulligan, our Social Secretary, has been busy arranging a number of talks and social activities for the year, the first being a talk by John Bebbington on Tuesday 2 May 2023 entitled 'A Year at the Allotment'. Further information can be found on the next page.

With best wishes for a good growing season and I hope to see as many of you as possible at the AGM.

Chris Abbott, Chairman

CUTTING OF THE GRASS PATHS

The cutting of the main grass paths around the site has once again restarted. If you have any plants and bushes which overhang the grass paths please cut them back. Pieces of wood, stones or bricks should also be cleared from paths as these can damage our mowers and remember that plot holders are required to maintain a tidy 0.5 metre (minimum) grass border around their plots.

TRADING HUT

The growing season is upon us and our Trading Hut is stocked with composts, growbags and a range of fertilisers all at very competitive prices. We're open 10.30am to 12noon on Sunday's (or it's the first Saturday of the month), dates are advertised on the gates. Why not call in and see what we sell. Stock lists and prices are on the SHAS website.



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SOCIAL EVENTS

'A YEAR ON THE ALLOTMENT'

Tuesday 2 May 2023 7.30pm

The Salvation Army Hall, Ashton Lane, Sale

An illustrated talk by John Bebbington, speaker North West Allotment Gardeners entitled 'A Year on the Allotment,' and how to get the best out of our planting/growing. This will be a 'Friends and Family' event. The charge will be £2 payable at the door (cash only) and includes refreshments.

Although the room is quite large fire regulations limit the size of the audience so please email me with your name and number in your party so that I have a record of numbers — we do not want to have to turn anybody away at the door!



SCARECROW COMPETITION

Saturday 1 July 2023

The theme for year's scarecrow competition will be **Royalty** which is a very wide brief so let your imagination run wild from *King Canute* to *Queen Nefertiti* or maybe the *King of the Jungle*. Be creative in any way you feel inspired to be, there are prizes to be won!

Scarecrows are to be erected by Friday 30 June.

Judging will be carried out by the same independent judge as last year and will take place on Saturday 1 July. As we did last year, prizes will be awarded the following weekend at the Allotment Picnic.

ALLOTMENT PICNIC

Sunday 9 July 2023

Just turn up with your own picnic at 2pm on the Community Plot by the middle path and enjoy a well deserved restful afternoon chatting with fellow plot holders.

G(L)UT BUSTER COOKERY BOOK

I have received about 20 recipes in total from different plot holders but not enough to make a book yet, so please while you are planting your seeds and looking forward to bumper harvests, spare a few minutes to look out 2 or 3 (or more) of your favourite recipes to email to me. They can be sweet or savoury dishes using any of the wonderful produce from your plot.

ILLUSTRATED TALK

Wednesday 20 September 7.30pm

An illustrated talk by Maureen Sawyer, BBC Gardener of the Year for the North of England. Further details will be circulated later in the year.

I am also arranging a visit to a local allotment/garden, further details of which will be circulated shortly. If you have ideas of anything that you would like me to organise for the society then please speak to me or email valeriemnne@gmail.com.

Happy gardening everyone.

COMMITTEE CONTACTS

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Kenneth Bostock Equipment, Plot 45

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Janet Cripps Newsletter, Plot 44

T 962 3277

SHAS Website www.shas.org.uk



PUMPKIN COMPETITION

A good one for children of all ages from 2 to 92 years old

While you are planting your seeds don't forget to plant a few pumpkins, not only delicious to eat in soups etc, but we will be looking for the fattest, the heaviest and the ugliest pumpkins.

No artistic skills or creativity needed just good growing weather and a little TLC.

The date of judging to be announced in a later edition of Grass Cuttings.

Valerie Mulligan, Social Secretary