

grass CUTTINGS

APR:2024

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I hope this finds everybody well and enjoying the longer evenings and warmer weather — even if we are still getting too much rain!

The Hoedown has now re-opened and the water is back on across the site.

I can see that many of you have been tempted out to work on your plots and getting early crops in the ground. Roger is already working away and the mower has been serviced so it can keep up with him.

Unfortunately for various reasons I am well behind the curve — so I am readying my plea in mitigation for the plot inspectors when they start up again later in the spring. I do have a more serious point to make — and I hope Louise and Rosemary do not mind me making it. After Dave Knight stepped down as the plot inspector last year, Louise and Rosemary stepped up and took over. Before their first inspection some concerned plot holders emailed their apologies as their plots were not in the condition they would have wished for. We try to make the system fair and one that takes account of the problems that life throws at us all, young and old and sometimes more than others.

Many thanks to those plot holders who have already put up signs identifying their plot number. If you haven't done yours yet, take a look at what others have done and see how creative these signs can be.

Unfortunately there is no permanent replacement source of horse manure to replace the stable on Little Ees Lane that has now closed. The land is subject to a planning application for a bungalow so it looks as if it has gone for good.

Still on the subject of manure, a friend of my wife has a number of alpacas and they, of course, produce regular 'poo'. My understanding is that this can be used as manure/fertiliser and unlike horse manure, does not need to 'mellow'. If you would like some drop me an email or text, contact details on the back page.

Valerie Mulligan has a social programme in place starting with a talk from Maureen Sawyer on 22 May — Top Ten Gardening Lessons — I already have it in my diary. Maureen is an interesting and very knowledgeable speaker. Next month we have our Plant/Seed Share, please give it your support.

Chris Abbott, Chairman

PLANT/SEED SHARE

Sunday 12 May 2024
10.30am to 1pm

A great opportunity to share spare plants, seedlings, seeds and cuttings with other plot holders. Even if you have nothing to bring you can still take something away. Everybody is welcome. Spend time with your plot neighbours, see what others are growing, ask questions and share knowledge.

All plants/seeds to be brought along by 11am please.

Plants (vegetables, flowers, house plants) must be labelled in some way to identify what they are.

Seeds (either full or part packets) should be in-date and labelled with the variety and sowing instructions.

Tea, coffee and cake will be available, so bring along your plants/seeds and join in.



TRADING HUT

The growing season is upon us and our Trading Hut is well stocked with composts, growbags and a range of fertilisers at very competitive prices. We are open 10.30am to 12noon on Sundays (or it's the first Saturday of the month), dates are advertised on the gates.

If you are new on the allotments and have not yet visited the Trading Hut, why not pop in and say hello to our lovely volunteers who are always happy to help. Stock lists and prices are on the SHAS website.

Please note that we can only take cash.

SECURITY/SITE SAFETY REMINDER

A reminder to ensure the gates are securely locked when entering and leaving the site at all times.

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.

NEW PLOT HOLDERS

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

David Beacham 15b / Sam Collymore 25a
Roxanne McDonald 37c / Kristen Vine 43b
Kasia Walker 56a / Wendy Whyatt 62a

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TOP TEN GARDENING LESSONS

Wednesday 22 May 2024 / 7.30pm

Salvation Army Hall, Ashton Lane, Sale

£2 including refreshments (£3 for non-SHAS members)

Maureen from Stretford returns by popular request to give an illustrated talk on 'The Top Ten Gardening Lessons'. Maureen is a very knowledgeable local speaker with a huge kitchen garden and years of experience to draw on and for us to benefit from. For those who missed Maureen last September this is a second chance to hear her talk.

This is a friends and family event and the charge, including refreshments, will be £2 on the door for SHAS members and £3 for non-SHAS members (cash only). If you would like to attend please email Valerie: valeriemnne@gmail.com with your name and the number in your party.



SCARECROW COMPETITION

A reminder that this year's theme is the Olympics so anything associated with that topic, no matter how quirky or obscure, is welcome. Judging will take place in July. The date to be circulated by email.

So let you and your children's imaginations run wild, throw conventionality to the wind and it could be you who wins this year!

ALLOTMENT PICNIC

Our usual friendly free and easy picnic will take place on the community plot in the middle of the site in July when the Scarecrow Competition Prizes will be presented. The date will be circulated by email.

PUMPKIN COMPETITION

And don't forget to include space on your plot for growing those all important prize winning pumpkins.



SURPLUS FOOD DONATIONS

The manager at the Hope Centre, Partington wrote thanking us for all the surplus food donations we made to them last summer. Her letter is below:

"The Hope Centre on Wood Lane would like to extend their thanks once again to the growers on the Grosvenor Road Allotments for their generous donations of fresh food for our community. Each month the Hope Centre distributes around £12,000 worth of food and essential items to people in need on our doorstep, and every item grown locally and given helps people to stay fed and healthy. This year we will also be investing heavily in teaching local people to cook fresh ingredients too,

as sometimes people declare they don't like food they've never tried because they don't know how to prepare it or how it tastes! If our local allotment holders would be kind enough to do the same this year, we'd welcome all donations and also love to hear about what you're growing and when it will be ready so that we can prepare recipes and shape our free cooking classes around locally grown produce. Thank you so much for your involvement and generosity to those in need."

Thanks again to everybody who donated their surplus vegetables. We would like to support the centre again this summer and will circulate details nearer the time.

COMMITTEE CONTACTS

Chris Abbott Chair, Plot 2
T 07521 490475
E chairman@shas.org.uk

Phil Gorman Treasurer, Plot 15
T 07982 723042
E treasurer@shas.org.uk

Jane Lucas Secretary, Plot 39a
T 973 9704
E secretary@shas.org.uk

Tony Turnbull Membership, Plot 21
T 283 0783
E memberships@shas.org.uk

Valerie Mulligan Social Secretary, Plot 8
E socialsecretary@shas.org.uk

Louise Black Plots, Plot 36
T 283 7415

Janet Cripps Newsletter, Plot 44
T 962 3277

SHAS Website www.shas.org.uk



CUTTING OF THE GRASS PATHS

The cutting of the main grass paths around the site has restarted. Please cut back any plants and bushes which overhang the grass paths. Pieces of wood, stones or bricks should be cleared from paths as these can damage our mower.

Your help is greatly appreciated as everyone will agree that Roger does an excellent job keeping the main grass paths well maintained.