



# Grass Cuttings



## Newsletter of Sale Horticultural & Allotment Society –August 2010

### Chairman's Report

Hello again Autumn is on us. We have had, how shall I put it, a different year starting with a prolonged very cold spell which killed some plants and about 6 Bay trees on our allotments, then a longish dry period and now a normal mixed wet spell but with a hose pipe ban only in the North West!! Staggering to say the least.

Growing wise it has been a very good year in our gardens and allotments. Fruit has been exceptional with bumper strawberries plenty of apples, pears, plums and now we have our Autumn Bliss raspberries.

Please bring any excess fruits to the Trading Hut on an opening Sunday morning or give to a committee member. We can either give away or add a little to our SHAS funds.

We missed out on TMB site awards this year but most of our allotments are in good well cultivated condition, however there are quite a few **badly maintained paths**, which, despite our requests are **not complying with our plot letting terms**, we want to avoid the **Health & Safety Issues**.

Our allotment waiting list continues to increase. Linda has however been able to split plots and re-let 3 plots this year.

Yet again I cannot close without on your behalf thanking all your committee for their time and hard work for our Society.

Best regards  
Don Jackson



**Litter picking May 2010**

Following earlier discussion within the Committee, Wednesday 19 May was chosen as a day to clean up the litter from the perimeter of the allotment site. Edna and Marjorie Carline and Brian Eyden turned up at 1030 and spent the next couple of hours removing various forms of litter from the base of the perimeter fencing and hedges along Grosvenor Road and the short stretch of Glebelands Road. They then picked up some

### **Committee Contact details**

Don Jackson	Chairman	973 5256
Email: <a href="mailto:chairman@shas.org.uk">chairman@shas.org.uk</a>		
Plot 50		
Sylvia Steer	Secretary	282 8664
Email: <a href="mailto:secretary@shas.org.uk">secretary@shas.org.uk</a>		
Plot 13		
Tony Turnbull	Membership	973 1946
Email: <a href="mailto:memberships@shas.org.uk">memberships@shas.org.uk</a>		
Plot 21		
Peter Baggaley	Treasurer	286 2681
Email: <a href="mailto:treasurer@shas.org.uk">treasurer@shas.org.uk</a>		
Plot 7		
Linda McLachlan	Allotments	962 2920
Plot 60a		
Alf Edwards	Trading Hut	282 0048
Plot 41		
David Taylor	Equipment	973 0867
Plot 27		
Website: <a href="http://www.shas.org.uk">www.shas.org.uk</a>		

small items of litter on the allotment site itself, as well as some bigger items (mainly plastic bags) from under the hedge near the equipment hut. All in all, four plastic bags of rubbish were collected and these were deposited next to the rubbish already present within the middle manure bay. Some of the litter removed was quite old, including the plastic bags from near the equipment shed, so to a certain extent the allotment site has been "cleaned" as a result. This little project was facilitated and helped by Mark Dale (Principal Manager, Community Safety Patrol Team) and David Dale (Local Environmental Officer), both of Trafford Council. Mark Dale provided details of the *Keep Britain Tidy* website and this organization provided rubbish bags and tabards, some of which we have kept for any future litter-picking days we might wish to organize. David Dale provided us with the loan of litter-pickers and was kind enough to deliver them and collect them himself. The Allotment members and Committee would, I am sure, like to thank Trafford Council for their support.

Brian Eyden 25<sup>th</sup> May 2010

### **New committee member**

Brian Eyden (pronounced as in the biblical garden) has just become a member of the Committee.

Brian and Freda Eyden have been allotment holders – plot 22A – since 2004. Brian talks of the allotment as having “rescued” him from work: up till then he had never really felt able to switch off from work, but getting a plot in 2004 changed all that. What he likes about allotments is the physical work in the open air, growing one’s own food and not having wrapping paper to throw away in the kitchen bin, and meeting lots of interesting and like-minded people.

Brian is from the brewing town of Burton upon Trent in Staffordshire and Freda is from Ayr in the west of Scotland, and they have been in Manchester since 1978. They immediately found it a friendly and approachable city with a wide range of cultural attractions, although it did take them over twenty years before they (Freda) started thinking about getting an allotment. Brian has just retired from a 30 year career as a scientist at the Christie Hospital, while Freda teaches at Woodheys Primary School where she is the Environmental Projects Co-ordinator, and not surprisingly she loves gardening at home and at school, and the allotment. Now Brian’s retired, he can spend more time on plot 22A, and he’s looking forward to making a contribution to the work of the Committee.

### Crop damage



Finding young seedlings and plants uprooted and scattered brought suspicion on youngsters playing football across the plot but the real culprits have been foxes! David Taylor found his leeks dug up by foxes attracted to the Bonemeal he had dug in. He found a fox ensnared in netting on a neighbouring plot and eventually managed to use a cane to control its head while cutting it free. Having reclaimed one big area of natural habitat for the Pathways plot do we need to conserve the one remaining wild area? What are your views?

### Congratulations!

There were just three awards from Trafford for our site this year.



**Highly Commended Certificate:**  
Pathways plot 9

#### Letters of commendation:

Andrew Yiasoumi plot 34  
Louise Black for her organic plot 36.

### Gardeners Evening

Trafford’s annual awards and certificates will be presented on

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September**

at the

**John Alker Club Flixton**

**7.15pm**

### Bay trees



Just one of the mature Bay trees on our plots which succumbed to the very cold spell. The trunk is split down its length. Fortunately it is sprouting from the base so there will still be a plentiful supply of leaves.

### Plant Sale

We were blessed with fine weather for the annual plant sale back in May. Unfortunately the address the driver had been given was Don’s private house resulting in a late arrival. Thank you to all the helpers who turned up early to meet the delivery at 8.30am!.

We made just under £200 for the society.

Thank you for your support.

### Plot Helpers’ Scheme

One member has taken up the offer of working part of a plot while waiting for their own. This seems to have worked quite well and I recommend it to other plot-holders who might need temporary assistance.

Our waiting list is in the mid twenties. The most recent plot-holder has been on the list since 2007!

### Eviction Procedure

The committee is revising the eviction procedure. As it stands, almost a whole season can elapse with the plot being unproductive and neglected while warning letters are sent. Plot inspections, at the moment three times a year, will probably be increased and a shorter time given for improvements to be made.

The up-dated procedure will be available for members to see when finalised by the committee.

### Jim Johnson

Due to advancing years, Jim gave up his plot in June after a long association with Shas. He worked with our previous chairman Jim Young. Never on the committee, Jim preferred to help in the background. As an engineer who served his apprenticeship with the Manchester Ship Canal Company, his help was always invaluable. He was always on hand to repair machinery, site plumbing, and also tackled wood working and fitting out the Hoe Down. He has our thanks.

### Happy Harvesting!