



# Grass Cuttings



## Newsletter of **Sale Horticultural & Allotment Society** –February 2007

### Chairman's Report

Dear members

We recently suffered severe storms with tree, shed and greenhouse damage; two members had their greenhouses almost totally destroyed, and unfortunately our SHAS insurance only covers our Trading and Equipment sheds and their contents plus Third party liability. Before and after the storms villains broke into several allotment sheds; thankfully only a few tools seemed to be missing or thrown about the plots. The police were informed on both occasions.

Our allotment plot reclamation is proceeding all be it slowly. Eventually we hope to be able to offer 3 useable half plots to help Linda reduce our lengthy waiting list.

I am pleased to report that Tony Turnbull has agreed to join your committee. We look forward to his input and help.

We continue to keep a Nature Diary in the "Hoe Down" to record any happenings. Dave Bancroft is regular diarist with his sightings. I have added 3 bird boxes near my plot hopefully to tempt some nesting.

I hope to have some compost from Trafford in the near future. This has been produced from leaves and from the contents of our green bins. Manure is still in short supply; it is being dropped at the Glebelands Rd end. Unfortunately we cannot predict when it will arrive hence we cannot arrange for some to be dropped in the centre path bay, I will keep trying to change the drop off place.

Sylvia has arranged a talk for members in April, so please watch out for the announcement further on in this newsletter..

This brings me conveniently to remind you that your AGM will be held in the "Hoe Down" this year at 7-30 pm on **Tuesday 13th March**. Please offer your services if you can help on the committee in anyway.

Best regards  
**Don Jackson**

### **Membership**

I take this opportunity to welcome all our new members who have joined our Society during 2006. You should have received your new membership cards and welcome packs. If any new members have not received either their membership cards or their welcome packs please let me know. Membership fees have been kept at the same level as last year, that is £4.50 for Full members and £4.00 for Concession members. Members with plots will have paid their subscriptions with their plot rents. For non-plot holders who wish to renew their membership, a notice for payment of subscriptions for 2007 should form part of this Newsletter. Membership fees are due on 1st January 2007. Any plot holders who have not received and paid their rental invoice, please contact me and I will reissue the same. I wish all members a good growing New Year.

**Ken Bostock**

### **Trading Hut News**

**Alf Edwards**

The Trading Hut is now open every Sunday morning from 10.30 to 12.00 noon.

We have in stock, seed potatoes, onion sets and shallots; also a fresh stock of composts, fertilisers and other seasonal goods. Our prices to members are very competitive compared with Wilkinsons and garden centres. Please call in one Sunday morning and browse.

### **Committee Contact Details**

Don Jackson Chairman 973 5256  
Email [chairman@shas.org.uk](mailto:chairman@shas.org.uk)

Sylvia Steer Secretary 282 8664  
Email [secretary@shas.org.uk](mailto:secretary@shas.org.uk)

Ken Bostock Memberships  
Email: [memberships@shas.org.uk](mailto:memberships@shas.org.uk)

Jonathan Richards Treasurer 286 2681  
Email: [treasurer@shas.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@shas.org.uk)

David Taylor Equipment 973 0867

Linda McLachlan Allotments 962 2920

Kevin Brooks Groundsman 962 3218

Alf Edwards Trading 282 0048

Website [www.shas.org.uk](http://www.shas.org.uk)

### **SHALLOTS**

**Red Sun** £1.00 400g

### **ONIONS**

**Turbo** 80p 500g

### **POTATOES**

**Arran Pilot** 70p kg

**Charlotte** 70p kg

**Desiree** 70p kg

**Cara** 80p kg

**On Sale now!**



### **Seed scheme**

Those of you who ordered your discount seeds from Kings and Marshalls should have them by now. Let's hope we have some good growing conditions soon.

If you have any seeds spare, why not take them along to the Trading Hut. If you've finished with your 2006 garden magazines but haven't the heart to send them for recycling just yet, why not donate them to The Hoe Down where they can be borrowed by fellow gardeners? There is plenty of seasonal advice to be had in them.

Who grew these sunflowers?

**Thank you Keith**

After many years as a plot-holder, Keith Jones is giving up his plot to have more freedom to spend time with his family. We all know how much time it takes to maintain a plot as good as Keith's. He has regularly been awarded certificates from Trafford.



In addition to that, his quiet beaver away in the Trading Hut may have gone unobserved by many of you but the committee appreciates how much time he has spent weighing out the fertilisers and composts into smaller bags for members to buy. The old weighing machine has now been replaced by an up to date model which is much easier to use.

*Please offer to help with this task if you can.*

**Newsletter delivery**

We are very grateful to all our members who deliver this newsletter to your door. If you would like to deliver to in your area, please tell Sylvia or Ken if you can take this on.

**Dates for your diary**

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March**    **AGM**  
   **7.30pm**  
   **The Hoe Down**

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May**    **PLANT SALE**

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> May**    **COFFEE & CAKE**  
   **The Hoe Down**  
   **11am-12 noon**



Come along the morning after the plant sale. There may still be plants to buy or you might bring plants to swop with other members.

**Plot holders**

**What to do now**

Having dug over your plot in Autumn....what? you didn't? then now's the time to do it! You can cover the earth with polythene or permeable membrane to kill the weeds, and this also has the effect of warming up the soil.

One of the first crops that can go in is **Shallots**. Then, if you like them, **Broad beans** can be sown straight into the soil. As with all the legumes, they like a trench of water-retaining compost to explore with their roots and the nitrogen forming nodules on those roots feed the soil in return.

Dig the trenches for **runner beans, peas, sweet peas** etc now and leave them open for some weeks to let the frosts kill off any bugs in the ground. Later, part-fill the trench with compost, growmore and bone meal and fork into the trench. The compost will help retain moisture for later in the year. Do NOT dig in any 'frosted ground' as this will take a long time to thaw out.

Lime can be spread over a section of the plot each year, but it might pay to do a PH test to see where this is necessary. Remember never to mix lime and manure as the resulting chemical reaction causes a loss of potency.

**Fruit trees** will benefit from a dressing of potash which helps flower and fruit formation.

Now is the time to prune the **Autumn raspberries** as they fruit on the current season's canes. Cut them back to ground level but if you cut some of the canes by half only they'll produce branches that fruit ahead of the rest, in June and July. After pruning, top dress the canes with compost to help preserve moisture.

**Rhubarb** can be forced to produce those delicate pink stalks by covering the plant with a bin to exclude light. The slugs will also enjoy the seclusion so take your usual steps to remove them. The plant is weakened by doing this so only do it to one clump at a time.

**Dahlias** are becoming fashionable again and the tubers can be set in damp compost in a light frost free place to begin their growth. Cuttings of the resulting shoots will give you more plants for this season.

**Potatoes** can be set to chit in a similar way on egg boxes.

Before the weather warms up **Seed sowing** can get underway in the greenhouse or on a light windowsill. Seed trays and pots should be scrubbed clean and good quality compost will make all the difference between success and failure. Don't be tempted to start indoors too early as the seedlings could grow very weak and leggy with poor light.

**Scarecrow Competition**



**Children only**

Dads! Now is the time to guard your favourite gardening trousers. The children are invited to make a scarecrow. Any type or size of scarecrow can be made with only minimal adult help please. Small prizes will be awarded to those taking part. A photo of the winning scarecrow and its maker will be published in a later newsletter. We hope the results will ward off all those pigeons which relish our greens throughout the year. **Entries will be judged on April 1<sup>st</sup>.**

Get your entry form with details from the Trading Hut.

**'SILVER GILT AT TATTON 2006'**

A talk with photographs by member

**Jacqui Brocklehurst**  
at  
**The Hoe Down**

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> April**  
**2.30pm**

Jacqui will tell us all about the ups and downs of planning, preparing and waiting for the judgement of her entry 'Eat My Garden' followed by the BBC coverage of her award of a Silver Gilt at the RHS show

# Sale Horticultural and Allotment Society

## Application for Society Membership

(Fee: £4.50, Over 60's £4.00)

New Member  Renewal  I am over 60  Plot Holder

Title (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Other) \_\_\_\_\_ Initials \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Card No. (if known) \_\_\_\_\_ Plot No(s). \_\_\_\_\_ (Where applicable)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. No. \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to Mr K. Bostock, 206, Dane Road, Sale M33 2LG with stamped addressed envelope

### For Official Use Only

Concession Member

Database Updated

Card No. Issued \_\_\_\_\_

Date Paid \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Paid £ \_\_\_\_\_

Fee received By (Initials) \_\_\_\_\_

# Sale Horticultural and Allotment Society

## Application for Society Membership

(Fee: £4.50, Over 60's £4.00)

New Member  Renewal  I am over 60  Plot Holder

Title (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Other) \_\_\_\_\_ Initials \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Card No. (if known) \_\_\_\_\_ Plot No(s). \_\_\_\_\_ (Where applicable)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. No. \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to Mr K. Bostock, 206, Dane Road, Sale M33 2LG with stamped addressed envelope

### For Official Use Only

Concession Member

Database Updated

Card No. Issued \_\_\_\_\_

Date Paid \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Paid £ \_\_\_\_\_

Fee received By (Initials) \_\_\_\_\_