

# grass CUTTINGS

## FEB:2022

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Autumn and our AGM now all seem a long time ago — no Omicron around then! Happily the year has turned and the days are that little bit longer. Omicron is hopefully past its best — but it seems to be leaving us in its own time.

With things being quiet on the growing front for the moment and therefore some time for planning and preparation, just some random thoughts from me.

For Covid reasons we have had to defer what would have been our normal committee meeting in January but we are still active.

The Society's Welcome Pack has been replaced by our new Allotment Handbook. You will have been emailed a copy and it is available on the website. I would like to commend it to you. It is comprehensive but not long — well worth a read. A lot of time and hard work has been put into this by Tony Turnbull, Janet Cripps and Steve Bingham — many thanks are due to them for this.

There is an update elsewhere on the Trading Hut position. We have received an encouraging response to our email for help both from prospective volunteers and managers — if you were thinking of responding but have not got round to it yet it is not too late to get in touch.

We have plans in place for the Trading Hut to reopen with the sale of seed potato and onion sets. We are confident that we will soon have longer term plans to share with you. It is a facility that we all value and intend to retain.

We have renewed our membership of the National Allotment Society (NAS). We pay a fee based on the number of plot holders (not members). This has prompted us to look at the benefits we are getting for both you the plot holder and us as a society generally. The members section of the NAS website ([www.nsalg.org.uk](http://www.nsalg.org.uk)) is worth a browse. You will need our login and password — please email me for the information ([chairman@shas.org.uk](mailto:chairman@shas.org.uk)). There are a few benefits that you may find worthwhile, namely: (i) plot holder insurance, (ii) the 40% discount from Kings Seeds when ordered via the NAS scheme. The catalogue is on their website and we can give you the details and instructions on how to place an order, and (iii) there is a quarterly magazine which is again on the NAS website digitally, or you can subscribe to a hard copy for £10.00. Nearer to home, did you know that if you're a member of Trafford Library you can access electronic magazines without cost via your membership? You may find it worth a look, there are a respectable number of gardening/growing magazines available.

In closing can I mention the 2022 AGM. This would normally be held in early March but given the levels of Covid that are still around we are minded to leave the AGM until the levels of infection are down to comfortable levels before we all meet up. Hopefully we will not have to wait too long and perhaps next year we can get back on track in March.

**Chris Abbott,**  
Chairman



### NEW PLOT HOLDERS

Welcome to Bryony Staples, who took over Plot 28b in November. We wish you a rewarding and productive allotment experience.

### THE GROSVENOR ROAD ALLOTMENTS HANDBOOK

We've recently undertaken a complete review and update of our 'Welcome Pack' which was issued to Members when they become plot holders. It has been renamed the 'Grosvenor Road Allotments Handbook' and contains information about how the Society works, what it provides, and guidance on what is expected from our plot holders.

You may have been a plot holder for many years, or you may be new to our allotments, but we do ask that you take some time to read the Handbook, as acceptable practices have changed over the years. The guidance in this Handbook supersedes any information given in previous versions of the Welcome Pack.

A copy of the Handbook has been emailed to all our members and we do hope you find it useful. If you haven't received a copy, or you have any comments please let the Committee know.



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## SOCIAL EVENTS

### Bees in your Garden or on your Plot

Friday 11 March 2022, 7.30pm  
Salvation Army Hall, Ashton Lane, Sale



As the dark days of covid and winter recede, we can hopefully look forward to a little more normality and as the summer approaches, you are doubtless thinking about how to improve the productivity and biodiversity of your plots and gardens as well as the wider environment. To this end we have been fortunate enough to book the entertaining and inspirational speaker George Pilkington, conservationist and environmentalist who appeared on TV last November, to talk to us about Solitary Bees — not honey bees but 'wild' bees that pollinate crops and flowers.

There may be a small charge to cover the speaker's fees and hall hire but all details will be advised by email a little closer to the date. He is likely to bring 'bee hotels' and other products for us to purchase which increase the numbers of pollinators in our gardens and plots. We do hope you'll be able to attend.

## SOCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE SUMMER

Dates to be advised in a future edition of Grass Cuttings

- **Scarecrow Competition.** No specific theme but points will be awarded for creativity and imagination
- **Family and Friends Picnic** — a very relaxed annual event

If you have ideas for other activities that we should consider arranging, please speak to me on Plot 8 or send an email to: [socialsecretary@shas.org.uk](mailto:socialsecretary@shas.org.uk)

Wishing you all happy ache-free digging and a fruitful year.

**Valerie Mulligan, Social Secretary**

## PLOT RENTALS AND MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2022

By now you should have received either an email or a letter asking you to pay your Plot Rental and/or Membership Fee for this year, and also asking you to check the details we hold about you. If you haven't received an email or letter, if you have any queries about the charges, or if any of your details need updating, please email me at [tonyturnbullxyz@hotmail.com](mailto:tonyturnbullxyz@hotmail.com) or call me on 0161 283 0783 as soon as possible.

Over half of you have already paid, so many thanks to you, and special thanks if you paid by Bank Transfer as it saves me a lot of time and I am sure it is also easier for you to make payments to SHAS once you have set it up as one of your payees.

Will plot holders please note that the final date for Plot Rental payments is 28 February 2022, as we must complete and send in our returns to Trafford Council by the end of March. Late payment may result in you losing your plot... so don't delay, please pay today!

Thanks again for your support, and here's to a productive 2022.

**Tony Turnbull,**  
Membership Secretary

## COMMITTEE CONTACTS

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**Louise Black** Plots, Plot 36  
T 283 7415

**Kenneth Bostock** Equipment, Plot 45  
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**Janet Cripps** Newsletter, Plot 44  
T 962 3277

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

## SEED POTATOES AND ONION/SHALLOT SETS

Subject to delivery from our suppliers, seed potatoes and onion sets will be on sale in the Trading Hut on Sunday 13 February from 10am to 12 noon. We will send out an email to everyone to either confirm this date or advise you of the revised date; you can also check on our website. We have held last year's prices, and the varieties on sale will be:

### POTATOES / Priced at £1 per kg bag

1st Earlies	Pentland Javelin
2nd Earlies	Charlotte
Main Crop	Desiree and Cara

### ONION SETS / Priced at £1 per 275g bag

Sturon (White)/Red Baron  
Golden Gourmet Shallots

## TRADING HUT UPDATE

Having received interest from some of our plot holders in filling Elaine's shoes as Trading Hut Manager, we are now in the process of working out how we manage the Trading Hut and opening dates going forward. It is our intention to keep the hut trading most weekends during the growing season. We will keep you updated and opening times will be posted on the gates and in the Trading Hut section of our website.