

# grass CUTTINGS

## FEB:2023

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Christmas/New Year period can be quiet for us gardeners so just a short piece from me this time. The days are starting to lengthen a little though and Spring will soon be with us.

The weather continues to be un-cooperative — snow on the ground as I write this, although I was able to prune my apple tree yesterday. We do seem to be experiencing more extremes of weather be that rain, sun or drought and we have certainly had more than our fair share of rain recently! Extremes seem to be more the norm — emphasised by the RHS 'levelling up' moving its' southern gooseberries and rhubarb to RHS Bridgewater and its' rhododendrons to Yorkshire.

Our final social event of last year was the Local History/ Allotments talk by Alan Morrison, Chairman of the local history society, on 15 November 2022 — thanks to Valerie Mulligan who came up with the idea and organised it. It was well attended and very well received. There seemed to be no end to Alan's local knowledge and it really brought home to us the complete transformation of this area. At the beginning of the 1900s Sale was starting to change from an

almost completely rural landscape of farms and allotments to where we are now. His photograph from the 1960s with a farmer walking his cows down Framingham Road definitely made me think.

Our Trading Hut will re-open in February for the selling of seed potatoes/onions and shallots. Opening dates for 2023 will be advertised on the gates.

May I remind you about the Society's Facebook page/group. There are now 23 members in the group — it will become more active as more of us get used to it.

Once we are clear of the cold weather and the water can be turned back on the Hoedown will reopen.

Please keep an eye out for notice of our AGM. We are reverting to a Spring meeting and will be looking at dates in April.

No more from me now — hope to see you all soon at our "green gym".

**Chris Abbott, Chairman**

### 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 12 February** from **10.30am to 12.30pm**.

We will email everyone to either confirm this date or advise you of the revised date; you can also check on our website.

Varieties on sale will be:

#### POTATOES

1st Earlies    Pentland Javelin  
2nd Earlies    Charlotte  
Main Crop    Desiree and Cara  
**All priced at £1.20 per kg bag**

#### ONION SETS

Sturon (White)  
Red Baron  
Golden Gourmet Shallots  
**All priced at £1.20 per 275g bag**



### KINGS SEEDS

It's a perfect time to start planning and buying vegetable and flower seeds. As part of our membership of the National Allotment Society we are able to purchase seeds from Kings Seeds discounted at around 40% of their normal website prices.

Our Seed Secretary Janet Cripps: [janetcripps@ntlworld.com](mailto:janetcripps@ntlworld.com) can supply you with login details where you can download the Members catalogue and place an order.

We have a limited number of paper catalogues available from the Trading Hut when we are open.

### SPARE SEED PACKETS

If anybody has spare packets of vegetable or flowers seeds which they are not going to make use of this season why not bring them along to the Trading Hut where other plot holders might be able to make use of them. **Call in when we're open.**

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## SOCIAL EVENTS

### Recipes, Recipes, Recipes

Perhaps I was a little optimistic in expecting an avalanche of recipes for the proposed G(L)ut Busting Allotment Cookery Book because only a few people replied. I know that everyone is very busy, or you may feel that your recipes would not be trendy enough, or that everyone already makes your favourites. Believe me they don't. I am desperately in need of many, many more recipes if this cookery book is to go ahead, so PLEASE email me [valeriemnne@gmail.com](mailto:valeriemnne@gmail.com) with all you have to offer.

### Forthcoming Events

#### Pumpkin Competition

When planning your crop rotations for this year please remember that you might want to enter our pumpkin event in the autumn, so do leave enough space for growing those great spreading monsters!

#### Trafford Allotment Sites Visit

I am hoping to arrange a visit to one or more other allotment sites in the area as the weather warms up, keep your eye on further editions of Grass Cuttings and your email inbox for updates.

As always if you've any ideas for future events please let me know.

**Valerie Mulligan, Social Secretary**

## PLOT RENTALS/MEMBERSHIP FEES 2023

By now you should have received either an email or a letter asking for your Plot Rental and/or Membership Fee for this year.

If you haven't, please email me at [tonyturnbullxyz@hotmail.com](mailto:tonyturnbullxyz@hotmail.com) or call me on 0161 283 0783 as soon as possible.

Will plot holders please note that the final date for Plot Rental payments is 28 February 2023, so that we can meet the deadline to send in our returns to Trafford Council. Late payment may result in you losing your plot... so don't delay, please pay today!

**Tony Turnbull, Membership Secretary**



## WHEELBARROWS

We have invested in a number of new wheelbarrows for use by plot holders. All are clearly identifiable and are marked with 'SHAS' in paint on the sides.

They will now be stored in the white storage building located almost centrally on the allotment site.

Model 2512 - think Christmas Day. Please ensure it is relocked after use with the combination facing outward.

**The wheelbarrows must be returned to the storage building after use so that other plot holders can make use of them.**

This storage building can also be used by plot holders to keep other items dry and safe. There is a light switch located just inside the door on the right.

## COMMITTEE CONTACTS

**Chris Abbott** Chair, Plot 2  
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**Valerie Mulligan** Social Secretary, Plot 8  
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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)



## SITE SAFETY

Please be mindful of potential hazards around the site and not let young children run about 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.

You may want to consider whether you leave expensive tools in sheds and greenhouses, we have had incidents in the past when items have been stolen. If it's not practical to take such items home, the white storage building near the middle gate can be used to store them.

When entering and leaving the site please make sure the gates are securely locked.

## MANURE

We have a plentiful supply of horse manure delivered to the bay at the side of the Trading Hut throughout the year. This is free for everybody. It's generally best to use well-rotted manure so why not pile up some bags on your plot, or empty them into a compost bin and in a few months' time you'll have a really useful source of manure for your veggies.