



# Grass Cuttings



## Newsletter of Sale Horticultural & Allotments Society – January 2009

### Chairman's Report

I hope you all had a very happy Christmas.

Looking back on 2008, congratulations to several of our plot holders who won recognition for their efforts from Trafford and SHAS.

Our newly planted external hedge is now beginning to grow and will eventually improve our security and assist our ecology efforts.

The new Trafford Pathways Project plot to help individuals with learning difficulties is now almost complete with its raised beds and paths. This area was both cleared and constructed by the probation service.

Our recent social happening, the BBQ and Pumpkin party was a great success being attended by members, their children and friends. A good time was had by all. Many photos can be seen on our web site. The talk by Hugh Beggs was interesting, though more people could have attended.

The Federation of Trafford Allotments has just been formed. Louise Black and I are on this committee. It is the Federation's intention to have representatives from the majority of the 33 allotment sites in the Trafford Borough. One of the main aims of the Federation is to try and obtain grants from the 'Local Food Lottery' organisation. We at SHAS have several project needs to improve the facilities on our Grosvenor Rd Site. Several plots were severely flooded during the summer, each of which require improved drainage and many tons of extra top soil. We are looking to improve the main pathways to assist vehicular traffic and walking by installing a system of special turf reinforcement mesh, but still retaining the grass.

Considering the environment, we have another project under review to harvest rainwater from our buildings, store and connect this water system to our existing irrigation system.

It will not be easy to obtain these grants but we should not ignore this current opportunity to improve our facilities, save money, plus better our allotment growing conditions. We will keep you updated with our efforts with the 'Local Food Lottery'.

As always I must on your behalf thank your hard working committee and our helpers for their work throughout 2008, and thank you for your support to the SHAS activities.

We are now at the start of 2009 and finally may I wish you all a Happy and good-growing New Year.

**Don Jackson**

Committee	Officers:	Contact details
Don Jackson Plot 50	Chairman email <a href="mailto:chairman@shas.org.uk">chairman@shas.org.uk</a>	973 5256
Sylvia Steer Plot 13	Secretary email <a href="mailto:secretary@shas.org.uk">secretary@shas.org.uk</a>	282 8664
Peter Baggaley Plot 7	Treasurer email: <a href="mailto:treasurer@shas.org.uk">treasurer@shas.org.uk</a>	962 5642
Tony Turnbull Plot 21	Membership email: <a href="mailto:membership@shas.org.uk">membership@shas.org.uk</a>	973 1946
Linda McLachlan Plot 60a	Plots	962 2920
Alf Edwards Plot 41	Trading Hut	282 0048
David Taylor Plot 27	Equipment	973 0867
Kevin Brooks Plot 38b	Grasscutting	962 3218
Website:	<a href="http://www.shas.org.uk">www.shas.org.uk</a>	

### SHAS Plot awards 2008

Vouchers were awarded to:

**Louise Black Plot 36:** 'Consistently Productive';

**Sarah Dook Plot 59b:** 'A Most Improved Newcomer'

**Jacqui Brocklehurst Plot 4:** 'Most Creative'

### Giant Sunflower Competition Winners



**Paul Starling plot 3:**  
Largest head (34cms diameter shown above)

**Jake Addelmann plot 15a:**  
Tallest sunflower

**Alf Edwards plot 41:**  
Best display of sunflowers



### Plots highly commended by Trafford In 2008

**plot 41 Alf Edwards,  
plot 48 Lionel Kay,  
plot 58 Peter Webster**

Congratulations! These are all great plots, well cared for, consistently productive and attractive!

# PUMPKIN PARTY!



On a bitterly cold night the hot soup and baked potatoes, the barbecued sausages and delicious biscuits and cakes were popular all round.

Children and adults dressed up and added to the spirit of the evening.

The children competed enthusiastically in sack, potato & spoon and space hopper races and plunged determinedly into icy water for apples.

## Heaviest pumpkin competition

Pumpkin 'Baby Oscar' was beaten (just about) by two other contenders and the winner, 'Percy', grown by **Jake and Sarah plot 15a**, won the day weighing a magnificent **22.5 kg**



Plan next year's pumpkins now! Can **you** break the record? Thank you to everyone for making the evening a happy event.

## Pathways Project

A lot of hard work by the **Trafford community service team** has resulted in a remarkable transformation in the southern corner of our site.

**Before;**



This involved the clearing of pernicious weeds and brambles, constructing sturdy raised beds, laying of access paths and building a shed. The photos show the result. We have a once derelict area productive again and there is something positive to see for the effort involved.

**After:**



## Trading Hut

I wish to express my thanks to our *two baggers*, Elaine and Tom.

They come into the hut throughout the season, to weigh and bag our products.

### Seed Potatoes and Onion Sets

Seed potatoes, onion and shallot sets have been ordered.

They should be delivered ready for sale on

**Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> February 2009**

Price details will be posted on our web site, gates and notice boards.

**Alf Edwards**

## KING'S SEEDS at a discount

Order your catalogue now from  
**Peter Baggaley**

Tel: 962 5642  
Last date for orders

February 16<sup>th</sup> 2009



## AGM Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March

**Towncroft Lodge  
7.30pm**

Nominations for officers and motions for the agenda to be received by the secretary by  
1<sup>st</sup> February 2009

## Manure

There is a vast quantity waiting to be taken to your plots/gardens: a great job for a frosty morning. Please take the empty bags to your own bin.

## Newsletter delivery

Some members have reported not receiving their newsletter until 'too late'. 19 volunteer members deliver to your door. If that member is away or ill, then your copy might be delayed. Nearly 50 of you have opted to have Grass Cuttings by email. This ensures you get your copy promptly and not only saves on time, but also paper and printing ink. If you wish to use this method please send your email address to

[membership@shas.org.uk](mailto:membership@shas.org.uk)

## Plot Helpers Scheme

Do you have a plot and fancy a bit of help?

Are you on the Waiting List and keen to get a taste of allotment life?

Then we may have an idea that will appeal to you.

We are hoping to set up a scheme whereby people on the waiting list will be able to help existing plot holders cultivate their plots.

We anticipate this could be of mutual benefit.

Purely voluntary, the scheme will be run on the following lines:

1. The plot holder would be expected to share some of the produce with their helper. There will be no payments involved.

2. Volunteers will retain their place on the waiting list but will not have any right to take over the plot if the present plot holder relinquishes it.

4. All volunteers will be Society members and therefore subject to the same rules as existing plot holders.

5. Helpers or plot holders will be able to discontinue the arrangement at any time if either wants to, by simply telling me - no reason required!

6. Volunteers will be loaned an allotment gate key, which must be returned if they stop helping. (returnable deposit will be payable)

If you would like to get more from your plot and are interested in this scheme, get more details by giving me a call,

**Linda McLachlan Tel: 962 2920.**

