



# Grass Cuttings



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

### Chairman's Report

Well we are now into 2010. How quick has the time passed from the Millennium to now. Most people were expecting change but we did not expect Two Wars, major financial worries, MPs cheating on their expenses and petrol going up to £5 a gallon

Despite global warming or alternatively, having normal regular cyclic weather changes, as a large number of people prefer to believe, SHAS had a good and productive year. The moderate weather has helped our gardens and allotments, most crops have flourished, our lawn mowers have been very active even into November.

Many people are trying to become fitter by eating healthier food. The demand for allotments continues to outstrip availability. There are now over 100,000 people on the UK allotment waiting lists and 10,000 in the NW.

Most of our plot holders are active, tending, planting and growing produce. Linda has occasionally had to remind some errant plot holders, emphasising that we have many eager gardeners on our waiting list itching to begin.

Our special "Pathways" plot is a credit to the supervisors and their helpers by growing flowers and a wide variety of vegetables and fruits. They now plan to expand a little further developing more of the hitherto poor unusable land with raised beds and a suitable greenhouse. It is also planned that the activity on this plot can assist the recovery or lifestyle of stroke victims.

Our Halloween party was a great success being attended by around 90 members and friends including many children. The weather could not have been better. Our many games/races /fancy dress and competitions were very well supported. The sun flower challenge and pumpkin carving display was excellent. Speaking of pumpkins, my family and I had a competition to grow the largest during the year. We learnt quite a few dos and don'ts as a result. Sylvia has asked me to put a few of these details on our web site. This will be entered in January.

As usual in my notes I must thank on your behalf your committee and all our helpers for continuing to make SHAS tick.

May I wish all members and family good health and a productive 2010.

Don Jackson

### **PUMPKIN PARTY 2009!**

The number and standard of carved Jack o' Lanterns was very impressive and they added a wonderful ambience to the event, glowing at the end of the gazebos throughout the evening.



### Committee Contact details

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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	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>	

Don excelled himself and put on an unforgettable display of seemingly inebriated carved pumpkins surrounded by empty bottles of whisky and gin. The innards strewn over the table showed the results of their excess. Don was the outright winner of the heaviest pumpkin competition with a massive **84lbs or 38kg!**



Want to know how to grow a giant pumpkin?  
Read Don's article on the website.

Some of the best carved pumpkins



## SHAS Plot awards 2009

Vouchers were awarded to  
Marj Baggaley Plot 9  
Mr & Mrs Savage Plot 59b  
Sylvia Fantom Plot 52b

## Trafford's Annual Allotment Competition

Highly Commended by Trafford in 2009 were:-

Marj Baggaley plot 9,  
David Taylor plot 27  
Louise Black plot 36  
Paul Howarth plot 37

all of whom received certificates.

Letters of commendation went to owners of plots 2, 13, 55b and 58b.

## Sunflower Competition

Paul Starling plot 3, again won the prize for the largest head, outdoing his own record by nearly 20cms with a huge 52cms diameter:  
Sarah Wilson, plot 15a, had the best display of sunflowers

## KING'S SEEDS at a discount

Get your catalogue now from  
**Peter Baggaley**

Tel: 962 5642  
Last date for orders

February 16<sup>th</sup> 2009



## AGM

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March

Townscroft Lodge

Glebelands Rd  
Ashton village

7.30pm

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

Come along and meet fellow members. Make your views known.

## From our membership Secretary:- Plot Rentals and Membership Renewals

It's that time of year again, and you should have received with this newsletter your renewal forms for SHAS Membership and Plot Rentals, as appropriate.

If you haven't received your forms, please call me on 0161 973 1946.

Will Plot Holders please note the **final date** for receipt of Rental Payment and signed Tenancy Agreements is **12th February 2010**. If you do not make payment by that date or contact me, we will assume you do not wish to renew, and we will allocate your plot to one of the 34 people on the Waiting List.....**So don't delay, reply today!!**

One final request, please ensure cheques are made out to SHAS, dated 2010 and signed.

Tony Turnbull

## SHAS Talk

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April

2.30pm  
St Mary's Church

Hugh Begg

'Hedges round Edges'

This talk is free for all members  
Bring a friend for £1

## SECURITY!

The middle gate is being wrongly secured by only wrapping the chain round. It is very simple to cut a chain with bolt cutters as recently happened,

**The correct way to lock our gates is to put the hasp of the padlock through the hole in the sliding handle of the gate before locking it with the key.**

**Push the padlock to the inside of the gate to make it less accessible.** It is not so easy to cut the hasp of the padlock through the gate.

## Trading Hut

Open for trading Sunday mornings starting

7<sup>th</sup> February.  
10.30-12noon

On Sale  
**Potatoes Onions Shallots**

Fertilisers are getting more costly but our prices are very competitive. New members please come along for supplies for your garden.

## New members

Our waiting list is once again over 30. With only one plot changing hands this year there will be a long wait.

Along with a membership form, new applicants receive a '**Can you manage an allotment plot?**' letter from Tony. This gives an idea of the amount of time and energy needed to maintain a plot. Young people need to consider whether they have the time; older people, the amount of energy!

Once again we ask any one who is not using their land to the full due perhaps to lack of time or energy, to consider giving up half or exchanging for a smaller plot.

Alternatively, contact Linda for the '**Plot Helpers Scheme**' outlined in our January 09 Grass Cuttings. No longer are there neglected plots on site, now we need to make sure that all are fully productive.

Previous newsletters can be read on our website [www.shas.org.uk](http://www.shas.org.uk) along with other useful information. Do make use of it.

## Butterfly bonus

As a final fling in 2009, there were some lovely warm days to enjoy in September. The Verbena Bonariensis provided late nectar for this Comma before its migration/hibernation.



Happy New Year!