



Grass Cuttings



Newsletter of **Sale Horticultural & Allotment Society** – January 2011

Chairman's Report

Well what a year! Exceptional blossom at the right time, wonderful crops of most vegetables and fruits, reasonably mild autumn, then what a turn round with prolonged arctic conditions, not a word from the Global Warming scare mongers and their computer generated predictions!!!

Back to the real world, most of our plot holders have been successful growing produce for their families and friends. We have even had some surplus vegetables and fruit to give away at our Sunday morning Trading Hut.

Our plot waiting list continues to grow. We have however been able to re-let a few more plots of late where plot holder's circumstances have changed, many thanks to them for letting us know.

The Trading hut has been quite active, Alf has added several items when requested, many thanks for your custom.

It is the time of year for me on your behalf to thank our committee and our volunteer helpers, three of our committee have been quite poorly but thankfully each is now making progress, our good wishes to them.

Just before Christmas I was contacted by Fiona, a lady who is researching the History of the Glebelands Rd and Grosvenor Rd area for a British Heritage Project regarding Food Growing activities during the last century. She has obtained several old maps dating back to the 1841 census, copies will be displayed in the Hoe Down for any historical notes.

I have information about our allotment land when it was sold to Ashton-on-Mersey Urban District Council in 1920. Fiona and I would welcome any additional historical information to assist this project, please contact me by phone or e-mail or enter your information on the note paper next to the old maps in the Hoe Down. Best regards for 2011 and let us hope for another productive year.

Don



If you were to go down to the allotment on the 30th May, you might have had a bit of a surprise.

Committee contacts

Don Jackson	Chairman	973 5256
chairman@shas.org.uk		
Plot 50		
Sylvia Steer	Secretary	282 8664
secretary@shas.org.uk		
Plot 13a		
Tony Turnbull	Membership	973 1946
memberships@shas.org.uk		
Plot 21		
Peter Baggaley	Treasurer	962 5642
treasurer@shas.org.uk		
Plot 7		
Linda McLachlan	Plots	962 2920
Plot 60a		
Alf Edwards	Trading Hut	282 0048
Plot 41		
David Taylor	Equipment	973 0867
Plot 27		

SHAS Website www.shas.org.uk

For Oliver Hawes married his fiancé Cathey Savage and took her to Plot 45 straight afterwards to take some photos.

The lovely green fruit trees made a stunning backdrop to the formal photographs and many thanks to Ken Bostock for lending them some tools for the purpose of brandishing!



Congratulations

to a very down-to-earth couple. May the roots of romance grow deep!

**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 forms for SHAS Membership and Plot Rentals for 2011, 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 **25th February 2011**. 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 25 people on the Waiting List.....**So don't delay, reply today!!**

One final request, please ensure cheques are made out to **SHAS**, dated **2011** and **signed**.

Tony Turnbull

From our Trading manager:-

**Trading Hut
open**

Sunday 6th February

10.30 to 12 noon

Come along and stock up on seed, compost, potash for your fruit bushes and trees, lime for the brassicas and your favourite general fertiliser organic or otherwise.

Also available in February:-

Seed potatoes

1st Earlies **Casablanca**

2nd Earlies **Charlotte**

Main crop **Pentland Squire
Desirée
Cara**

Onion sets

**Sturon
Red Baron**

Alf Edwards

From our Equipment Manager:-

Path Maintenance

David requests that you keep your paths clear of debris, weeds and stones. These damage the machines causing extra work and costs.

Well-kept paths set off your plot creating an initial impression of care or lack of it, and need to be regularly cut and edged, by hand if necessary.

Overhanging branches from fruit trees are also a hazard so please keep an eye on them but not literally.

Talking of fruit trees, the committee is a little concerned about the number and size of those on site. They should be on a dwarfing rootstock. Please prune your trees to a height that they can be easily harvested. They should not cast shade on your or your neighbours' plots to a degree that limits what other crops can be grown.



We also remind you that new sheds are limited to size 6'x4' and permission to erect a new one sought from the committee. Existing sheds should be well-maintained or removed.

AGM

Tuesday

8th March

Townscroft Lodge

7.30pm

Nominations for officers and motions for the agenda to be received by the secretary by 1st February 2011

**Please come along and support
your committee**

**From Pathways Project:-
Maggie Lavelle**

Happy New Year to everyone!

You may be aware that there was a lot of 'comings' and 'goings' on the Pathways Plot in 2010 and we are sorry if this caused any disruption.

We have been working in partnership with the Stroke Association and the Probation Team working towards making the Pathways plot accessible for service users who use wheelchairs. We hope to develop future community projects together and will keep you up to date with our plans.

Some of our plans at present include a wildlife project and we are leaving a small area of our allotment in its natural state to preserve and encourage wildlife.

Ideas at the moment are hedgehog and insect boxes and also bird boxes, a small area of wild flowers and bee and butterfly attracting plants and flowers.

As the area is naturally boggy in



places we aim to grow irises and other bog loving plants to attract frogs and dragonflies.

Any advice or suggestions from other allotment holders would be welcome.



Pumpkin Party

Cancelled due to illness, we were sorry not to be able to hold



the Pumpkin Party this year. If anyone would like to organise this event on 31st October 2011 it would help enormously. You don't need to be on the committee but would have its full cooperation and support.

A big thank you to our members who deliver your newsletter and membership forms etc at this time of year. It is a big saving on postage for the society. Later newsletters will be sent by email wherever possible.

And finally, Congratulations to plot-holders Andrew Yiasoumi plot 34, Lesley Enstone plot 29 and Helen Blackburn plot 60b for consistently good cultivation throughout 2010 noted on all three inspections. They each receive a £10 voucher to spend in the trading hut.