



Grass Cuttings



The Newsletter of **S**ale **H**orticultural & **A**llotment **S**ociety March 2005

Chairman's Report

Welcome to the SHAS 2nd Grass Cuttings Newsletter of 2005. We hope you enjoyed reading our January issue and noted the pictures of the newly decorated Amenity Building which is now available for social Cards, Crib and or Dominoes during afternoons or evenings. Coffee, tea, sugar and a calor gas heater are all provided just waiting to be used. There is a security light above the entrance for evening use. All we need now is someone to organise our first event. Anyone out there??

Our Trading Hut has had its spring clean thanks mainly to Sylvia and Mike Steer. We have reorganised the display of products and re-stocked most items. A full range of SEED POTATO varieties, ONIONS and SHALLOTS are now in stock. Our waiting list for allotment plots continues to grow, eighteen at the last count. This high demand for plots is very re-assuring for us but disappointing for the waiting applicants as it could be three years for the last names to wait. We are now trying to make sure all the plots are actively cultivated and boundary trees and hedges are being trimmed in an attempt to create extra land for cultivation into plots.

I understand from Ken Bostock, our membership secretary, that the majority of our members have paid their subscriptions. We would appreciate any outstanding subscriptions to be sent to him or paid when you next visit the Trading Hut.

Attached to this letter is this year's BEDDING PLANT ORDER LIST. We have been able to keep to **the same prices as last year**. Please hand your orders in, with payment, to a committee member or at the Trading Hut any Sunday before or on 3rd April. Plant orders can be collected on Saturday 7th May between 1.00pm and 3.30pm.

Finally, our AGM will take place at St Mary's Church Hall, Moss Lane Sale on Wednesday 6th April at 7.30 pm. We look forward to your attendance and let us all plan an enjoyable growing year in 2005.

Don Jackson

AGM

Wednesday 6th April

St Mary's Church Hall Sale

7.30 pm

We need your views on the proposed new constitution and priorities for 2005

Contact Details

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TRADING HUT OPEN EVERY SUNDAY



Tom Rain our first customer of 2005

Constitution

Some people groan at the very word, but it is the backbone of our society and therefore needs careful consideration.

The committee feels that the existing constitution does not suit the society as it works today and would like to simplify it and bring it in line with how we are able to function now.

We have reviewed the document, and together have come up with a structure we think is suitable. We are grateful to Dave Nunns of VCAT (Voluntary & Community Action Trafford) for his advice. The Allotment By-laws have also been reviewed. Copies of these documents are attached to this newsletter for your information. Please let the secretary know by 23rd March if you wish to offer amendments, (proposed and seconded) for discussion at the AGM.

Trading Hut News

It was good to see so many people at the first opening of the trading hut this year. It is lacking its festoons of spiders' webs and looks all the brighter for a lick of white paint. There are still a few items of old stock to be cleared. Make sure you visit us soon to buy what you want for your gardens and plots.

Organic fertilisers

Now is the time to use the slow-acting, organic fertilisers to prepare the soil for those first crops. **Calcified seaweed** is one which contains important trace elements, is beneficial to most crops except lime haters and can be used for your shallots and onions. There are still some bags in stock and there are leaflets in the hut explaining the use and rate of use, of all the fertilisers we stock.



Open for business

I have to apologise for the lack of a seed scheme with Kings this year due to a misunderstanding. As this was sorted out rather late in the day, it seems sensible to let everyone make their own arrangements for seeds this year.

Seed Swap

Thanks to Brian's article in the last newsletter, a few people have brought in their surplus seeds. A particularly interesting one is Yu Cha Gua or Fish Fin Melon. There are still a few left. Feel free to swap seeds on your visit to the Hut.

Welcome to new plot-holders

Congratulations on getting your plot and thank you for your patience. It is good to see keen gardeners who have already made a big impression on the plots they have taken over.

We are developing a 'welcome pack' for new members which we hope will set out all the information you might need, including facilities for members, use of equipment, rubbish removal, bonfire policy, sheds and greenhouse erection, stock list and plot inspections and awards. If you have any ideas for what else you would like to see included, please let a committee member know.

Meanwhile, long may your enthusiasm last and more power to your elbow. Go on put us all to shame!



Keith Jones and his trusty weighing machine

Thank you again to Keith for all the work he does bagging up on your behalf, using the trusty old weighing scales.

There is a full rota of helpers for the year. We are sad to lose the services of Hazel Read and Nina Burgess who have helped in the hut for many years, and glad to thank Brian King for offering his help. There is always a need for helpers on Sundays so please if you can spare an odd hour and a half, let us know and it will spread the load a little.

Sylvia Steer

ON SALE NOW

POTATOES : First earlies,
Second earlies
Main crop

SHALLOTS

ONIONS Stuttgarter

Treasurer

On the financial front, we started 2005 on a very sound footing with a positive cash and bank balance! Almost all memberships and plot rentals for 2005 have already been paid to Ken Bostock (yes, this is a gentle reminder to those who haven't!). Plans for this year's plant sale are well underway - prices the same as last year's. Please can members let the committee know what they would like to see cash spent on this year, whether it be on the plots or not. Many thanks and best regards.

Jonathan Richards