



# Grass Cuttings



## Newsletter of Sale Horticultural & Allotment Society – March 2006

### Chairman's Report

Could I bring you up to date with what has happened since our last Grass Cuttings. Our AGM took place on 15 March. I had a very pleasant task to welcome two new committee members, Linda McLachlan and Alf Edwards.

I am pleased to report that Linda has agreed to become our Allotment Secretary taking over from Sylvia. Many thanks to Sylvia for acting as Allotment Secretary when Nicola had to resign.

Brian Snelson agreed to help out with our Plant Sale on Saturday 6 May. He did say this year will be his last but offered to show the ropes to his successor? **May I take this opportunity to thank Brian sincerely for his many years of help to SHAS.**

**Helpers Needed!** We will be refurbishing each of our allotment watering points through the Spring. Please contact me when you can spare an hour. We also have a working party planned for 10th June starting 9-30am to tidy our site.

Best regards and let us all have an enjoyable growing year  
We look forward to seeing you at our functions and at our Trading Hut.

Don Jackson

### **Committee Contact Details**

Don Jackson – Chairman – 0161 973 5256  
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Sylvia Steer – Secretary – 0161 282 8664  
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David Taylor      Equipment      0161 973 0867

Linda McLachlan      Allotments      0161 962 2920

Kevin Brooks      Groundsman      0161 962 3218

Alf Edwards      0161 282 0048

Website: [www.shas.org.uk](http://www.shas.org.uk)

### **NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS**



#### **Linda McLachlan**

My name is Linda McLachlan and I took over plot 60a in the middle of last year. Since then I've lost count of how many bags of weeds have been moved along with several pieces of wood, numerous bricks and a couple of pieces of carpet! However, it is good exercise and I look forward to a good crop of fruit and vegetables this year. This is the first time I have had an allotment in Sale and everyone has been very helpful and encouraging. I look forward to meeting more people when we have better weather.

**Linda was elected to Allotment Secretary at the AGM**

#### **Alf Edwards**

Married with two grown up children, I was raised, educated and lived in Sale for over fifty years.

Margaret and I had an allotment plot in the 1970's. I was on the committee and became the Chairman of G.R.A.S.S (Grosvenor Road Allotment Society, Sale).

Pressure of work forced us to relinquish the plot; but retirement means that we can once again take up a much loved and missed way of life.

#### **Alf has taken on plot 41**



### **WAITING LIST**

As reported at the AGM, 13 plots have changed hands since last July. Even so, the waiting list still has eighteen people eager to start cultivating a plot. We are trying to maintain standards and be fair to everyone waiting so the state of plot cultivation will be recorded during inspections in April, June and September. If neglected for too long a period, or if no crops are being grown, warning letters are sent out. Please don't take this as a personal insult but try to let us know the reason for the neglect and when you expect things to improve. However we cannot justify allowing long neglected plots with such a waiting list.

### **PLANT SALE**

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May**

**Can you help?  
on Saturday morning  
8.30am to 12  
and/or 12 to 4pm**

## LET'S AIM HIGH!

The new plot holders have certainly made an impact on the site and their hard work, combined with the commitment of seasoned plot holders and the huge rubbish removal we undertook, has led to the whole site looking much better. Having been holders of the Best Allotments in Trafford award on several occasions, we fell far short of the award last year. **Please note paths should be straight and maintained at 1 metre's width. Unlet plots 63 and 9 should not be used as a place to dump rubbish.** We fully intend to get these back into cultivation this year so **please take your rubbish which is non-compostable to the local tip.** Come the inspection by Trafford's Janet Long in July, we are hoping for a brighter report. With a view to we would like to organise a

## WORK PARTY!



**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June 9.30am**

The object will be to clear the site of any unsightly superfluous 'stuff' particularly from

- the gully around the inner boundary
- the space between the Amenity building and the fence which needs clearing and planting
- the wild areas which need some taming including plot 63 and plot 9. Bring along your long handled pruners for a bramble attack!!

Linda has ideas on how we can make use of these uncultivable areas.

Notices will be posted nearer the time so do come along if you can. **Light refreshment will be provided.**

## ON THE SOCIAL SIDE

Why not join us for:



### Coffee, cake, cuttings and chat

The morning after the plant sale  
**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May**  
and  
**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June**  
At the Amenity building  
11am-12noon

## EVENTS & TALKS

I'm glad to say that we have a short programme of events and talks to interest members. The first one is a trip:

### HALMAN'S NURSERY

This popular trip has been arranged for

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April**

Guided tour of the machine shed and cropping floor.

Demonstration of how to plant a hanging basket and a chance to win it in a raffle.

A chance to buy many different types of plants and hanging baskets.

This tour lasts about 2 hours.

Make your own way to  
**Lower Peover**  
**on the B5081**

Halman's is on the left.

Arrive at 7.00pm

Please contact Sylvia 282 8664 if you would like to go.

The next is an evening talk by Margaret McCormack and concerns the conservation of wildlife in the local area

through the seasons. She will be illustrating her talk with slides.

### 'BEYOND THE GARDEN HEDGE'

a talk with slides by

**Margaret McCormack**

at

**St Mary's Church Hall**

On

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July**

**7.30pm**

And for the Autumn, an afternoon talk

### 'PERENNIAL' 'The Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Society'

a short talk by

**Marsha Wright**

about the work of the society

followed by a gardening quiz.

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup>**

**September**

**2.30pm**

the lounge  
**Salvation Army**  
**Ashton Lane**

## TRADING HUT NEWS NEW STOCK!

In addition to the usual stock, we have a new stock of

### Composts:

**J1 Seed, No.1, No.2, No.3**

These are loam based and contain increasing amounts of fertiliser to ensure a smooth transition for seedlings as you prick them out and pot on as they mature.

### Fertilisers:

**Maxicrop original.**

A liquid feed for growing crops

**Maxicrop Sequestered iron.**

A feed for yellowing camellias, azaleas, rhododendrons and lime hating plants.

## TRADING HUT STARS



\*\*\*\*\*Eve and Olga\*\*\*\*\*

Sunday morning at the trading hut has been a lively affair with all of the early potatoes and all main crop Desiree and Cara sold, along with the shallots.

### Still in stock we have

Main crop potatoes

**Golden Wonder**

Onions **Sturon**

Now is the time to spread the **slow release fertilisers, blood fish & bone, calcified seaweed, bonemeal, and potash**

There are articles advising on the use of these in the trading hut. It will become busier as the season gets underway so do stock up with all you need. Please let us know if you think we should supply something which isn't there.

Thanks to all members who have volunteered to be on the Sunday morning duty this year. You are all stars.

### AMENITY BUILDING COMPETITION

OK, it has all the amenities in it but as a name it's not too user friendly. We want it to become a focal point for our social activities. Can you think of a name for our Amenity Building? Please give your suggestions to Don Jackson. A £5 voucher is offered for the suggestion voted best by the committee.



## AGM NEWS

The chairman reviewed the year's activities including the hard work undertaken in the summer to reclaim poor plots, a successful plant sale and enjoyable Harvest Supper.

He acknowledged the need for more social events for non-plot members of the society. In response to a question from the floor, he regretted that the talk by WRAP about composting, booked under short notice, had not been available to the wider membership. He said steps would be taken to try to repeat the talk.

He thanked the treasurer and committee members for continuing to control the administration costs of the society.

**Membership** of the society in 2005 was 174. Mr Bostock urged members to encourage friends and neighbours to join if only for the opportunity to buy garden supplies at very reasonable prices.

**Acting allotment Secretary** reported that despite 13 plots having changed hands since July, the waiting list now stood at 18.

**The treasurer** warned plot holders that there was going to be a **substantial increase in the rent charged by Trafford next year**, as there had been no increase for the last three years. He thought there might be as much as 30% increase, which would inevitably be passed on to plot holders.

The audited accounts were accepted by the meeting.

### Elections

The serving officers and members of the committee were all willing to be re-elected.

Mrs Linda McLachlan was elected Allotment Secretary.

Mr Alf Edwards was elected as a committee member.

Members who serve the society in an ex officio capacity are

Mr K Jones, trading supplies,

Mr P Howarth, website,

Mr B Snelson, plant sale.

Mr Snelson regretted that this would be the last year he would organise the plant sale day.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks on behalf of members by Mr Snelson to Mr Jackson and the committee for their work over the year.

## PLANT SALE

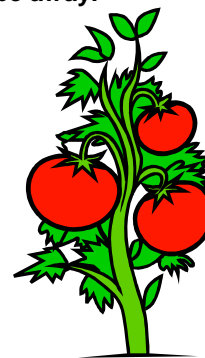
Our annual plant sale will be on

**Saturday May 6<sup>th</sup>**

A plant order form is attached to this newsletter.

For those who have not taken part before, these are nursery grown bedding plants, of good quality and at competitive prices, which are delivered to the trading hut gates on the morning of Saturday May 6<sup>th</sup>. We make up your orders in advance and you collect them between 1pm and 3.30pm that afternoon.

**The deadline for orders, Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April, cannot be exceeded. Please make your own arrangements for the plants to be collected and looked after if you will be away.**



### Tomatoes

The variety of Tomato cannot be guaranteed as growing conditions make their readiness for sale unreliable. However a suitable substitute of the same type is always sent.

### Surplus plants.

There is inevitably a small surplus of some plants, which will be sold off on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May. Call in at the coffee morning and see what's left.



**HAPPY GROWING!**