



Grass Cuttings



Newsletter of Sale Horticultural & Allotment Society –March 2007

Chairman's Report

Hello again,

Easter and Spring are just around the corner. We held the SHAS AGM earlier this month in "The Hoe Down" for the first time. Many thanks to all who came along. Sylvia has included a brief resume FYI.

Our Community service help is continuing the allotment regeneration which should help Linda to reduce her long allotment waiting list. Oh by the way a warm welcome to all our new members and allotment holders, we are seeing good progress, even so early in the growing season. Well done! However there are a few plots showing some neglect and lack of action—we will be having our first 2007 Plot inspection early in April. Your committee's target is to continue to strive for maximum use of all available land for cultivation by requesting that unused neglected timber and junk be removed and taken to Trafford MBC Tip. Most old carpets now banned by SHAS have been removed. Many thanks for your concern and help!!

To reduce SHAS expense, each male committee member has agreed to cut the Grass on our Main pathways. Please remember it is each allotment tenant's responsibility to cut the grass paths adjacent to their plots, see Linda's article for help if needed.

We hope soon to be able to have Compost available Ex Trafford MBC. This compost has been produced from your Green Bins and leaves collected in the Borough. When we obtain this compost it should be dropped off on the Top, Central and Bottom areas!!

Our Plant Sale order forms are attached to this Newsletter, please return your orders ASAP and please note the Plant collection Date Saturday May 12th on your calendar--Helpers are always needed.

Our Trading hut is now open every Sunday morning from 10.30 until 12 noon, please come along.

May I wish you all a productive and enjoyable growing season in your garden or allotment.

Best regards **Don Jackson**

New Committee Member



Tony Turnbull
Plot 21

I am now in my third season of 'allotmenting' at Grosvenor Road - the culmination of a long held ambition - and a long wait! I am really enjoying the exercise,

the friendly support of the other plot holders, and - of course - the home-grown produce. I look forward to doing my bit to help the committee in its work to make SHAS even better.

New Helpers

Tom Rain has volunteered to do the bagging up in the Trading Hut. In return he asks not to be called the bagger-upper but something more respectful.

'Fertiliser Facilitator' has been suggested. Are there any more ideas? Bear in mind we are very grateful to Tom and don't want to lose him!

Committee Contact details

Don Jackson Chairman 973 5256
Email chairman@shas.org.uk

Sylvia Steer Secretary 282 8664
Email secretary@shas.org.uk

Ken Bostock Membership
Email: memberships@shas.org.uk

Jonathan Richards Treasurer 286 2681
Email: treasurer@shas.org.uk

Linda McLachlan Allotments 962 2920

David Taylor Equipment 973 0867

Kevin Brooks Grasscutting 962 3218

Alf Edward Trading Hut 282 0048

Tony Turnbull

Website www.shas.org.uk



Tom Rain

We are also grateful to **Elaine Watson** who, in response to our last newsletter, has offered to help with the bagging up and also delivery of the newsletter.

PLANT SALE

Saturday 12th May

Can you help?

On Saturday morning
8.30am to 12noon
and/or 12 to 4pm



Helpers needed to unload
and
sort the delivery of plants
and make up the orders.

PLANT SALE

Our annual plant sale will be on

Saturday 12th May

An order form is attached to this newsletter. Halman's Nursery delivers these bedding plants to the Trading Hut gates early on the morning of Saturday May 12th. They are plants of good quality and at competitive prices.

We make up your orders in advance and you collect them between 1pm and 3pm that afternoon.

The deadline for handing in your order form and payment is Sunday 6th May and this cannot be exceeded!

If you will be away, please make your own arrangements for the plants to be collected and looked after until you return.

Tomatoes

These come from a separate supplier and the variety cannot be guaranteed at the time of ordering. 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 on Sunday 13th May. Call in at the Hoe Down and see what's on offer.

Sunday 13th May
COFFEE & CAKE



**The Hoe Down
11am-12 noon**

Come along the morning after the plant sale. There may still be plants to buy or you might bring plants to swop with other members.

AGM NEWS

This was the first AGM to be held in The Hoe Down. In reviewing the year's activities, Don Jackson, the chairman, said we continued to try to improve the workings of SHAS. He regretted the absence of a summer newsletter. The purchase of a colour printer would make us self reliant in the printing of the newsletter in future when necessary.

Other expenses incurred in trying to improve the allotment site were largely due to using the services of a contractor for grass cutting. The committee decided to purchase a good mower and strimmer and to undertake the cutting of the main paths themselves to reduce this considerable cost.

He thanked Keith Jones for his long service in the trading hut and announced that Alf Edwards had agreed to take on the organisation of Trading for the society.

The awards and buffet evening held for members in October was again subsidised by the society. Talks had been held during the year, but our social side is still lacking and we would try to address that aspect for members in the coming year.

He was pleased that the raised beds were being used very successfully.

He welcomed Tony Turnbull to the committee and thanked members for their work over the year which had resulted in us gaining an award for the most improved site in Trafford

The **Membership** secretary, Ken Bostock, reported a drop in membership in 2006 which had been 164, 10 fewer than 2005. He encouraged members to recruit others to take advantage of the competitive prices for supplies in the Trading Hut.

The **Allotment** secretary, Linda McLachlan, reported that 13 plots had changed hands during the year. The high demand for plots had given us a waiting list of 30 in September, at which point the committee decided to close the list. It will be re-opened when it gets below 20.

The team clearing the wild areas had achieved a great deal and it was hoped that further land would be available soon for letting.

Carpets are not to be used on plots and also any complaints should be given to a committee member in writing rather than verbally to avoid misunderstanding.

The **Treasurer**, Jonathan Richards said that the considerable outlay on paying a contractor to cut the main paths could not be sustained and a rota of committee members would undertake the task using the machinery bought this year at a cost of £500. The use of this machinery is to be limited to the committee to try to avoid the expense of repairs. Plot-holders are responsible for their own side paths but can have these cut by Kevin Brooks at a charge of £2. The audited accounts were accepted by the meeting.

Elections

The serving officers and members of the committee were all willing to be re-elected. Mr Alf Edwards was confirmed as Trading Hut manager. Mr Tony Turnbull was confirmed as a committee member.

Members who serve the society in an ex officio capacity are

Mr T Rain and Ms E Watson trading supplies.

Mr P Howarth web site.

AOB

The appearance of rats was causing concern following the clearance of the wild areas. It was decided to **ask all plot-holders to clear their plots of superfluous rubbish to avoid giving shelter to vermin and the committee would monitor any reports of sightings.**

'SILVER GILT AT TATTON 2006'

A talk with photographs by member

Jacqui Brocklehurst
at

The Hoe Down

Tuesday 24th April
2.30pm



Please let Sylvia know if you intend to come as numbers may have to be limited

Scarecrow Competition! Entries will be judged on April 1st



Children only

Bring your scarecrows along to The Hoe Down. There will be a small prize for every entrant!

Fresh Horse manure

The stables on Little Ees Lane off Glebelands Road, has **ready bagged** horse manure free to collect. If you need a key to the gate please contact Sylvia. If Kay is there, introduce yourself from SHAS and help yourself. The manure, being fresh **must be stacked or composted** until the autumn. If put on fresh the ammonia will burn your plants. It will be a power of good in your compost heap, however, heating it up and killing off weed seeds. You might also build a hot-bed by digging a pit and filling it with the

manure. Cover it with a deep layer of soil. Here you can grow on your seedlings and later melons, and cucumbers, especially with a frame over it.

Allotments

Last year Trafford awarded the Grosvenor Road site the prize for 'Most improved allotment site' in the Borough. This was very encouraging and we are looking at ways to improve even more.

Plot holders can really help by keeping the small grass paths between plots **cut and edged**. (This is not an optional extra but forms part of your tenancy agreement with the Society) If, however, you feel unable to do this please see Kevin Brooks (plot 38) who has offered to trim people's paths for £2.

The other way you can help is by getting rid of the things on your plot which 'may come in handy'.

They rarely do. If they have been there for years the odds are you are never going to use them. So have a plot spring-clean, a trip to the tip and squeeze an extra crop or some flowers on the land you have regained!

There has been a prolonged effort to clear two of the very overgrown areas and put them back in to cultivation. They will soon be ready for re-let and help decrease our still very long waiting list.

The first plot inspection of the year is scheduled for the beginning of April. So sharpen the spade, pick up the pruners, lift the hoe and give your gardening muscles a workout. You know you enjoy it really!

Linda McLachlan –
Allotment Secretary



Trading Hut

The **Trading Hut** is open every Sunday morning during March, April, May and June.

We have been busy already and have sold out of onion sets and some varieties of seed potato. We have just a few kilos of potatoes and packs of shallots left (*and thenthat's shallot!*).

Now is the time to feed the soil: -

Potash is essential for all crops. It enables plants to withstand disease and adverse weather. It also accentuates flavour and colour. Potash is released by Potassium Nitrate, Sulphate of Potash, poultry manure and bone meal.

Nitrogen is necessary to start and sustain plant growth. Nitrates are released by Sulphate of Ammonia, fish meal and dried blood.

Phosphates are important for root development and bringing plants to maturity. Phosphates are present in bone meal and superphosphates.

All the above fertilizers are on sale in the trading hut at really low prices.

Alf Edwards –
Trading Hut Manager



Looking good



Spring is here!

Sale Horticultural & Allotment Society

Annual Plant Sale Saturday 12th May 2007

The Society is holding its annual plant sale of good quality bedding plants at very competitive prices

To order your plants, complete the attached form and send it together with your cheque made payable to

“Sale Horticultural & Allotment Society” or “SHAS”

to: Mrs S. Steer 18 Priory Rd Sale Cheshire M33 2BR

Alternatively, you can pay by cash or cheque any Sunday morning at the Trading Hut between 10:30am and 12 noon.

The Trading Hut is located at the entrance opposite Ashton Park Bowling Green on Grosvenor Road.

All orders MUST be received no later than 12 noon on Sunday 6th May 2007.

Your orders will be ready and can be collected from the Trading Hut Grosvenor Road between 1pm and 3.30pm on Saturday 12th May 2006

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Complete this section and retain this sheet for your own records:

Plant(s)	Quantity	Value
Total Paid, by Cash/Cheque (delete as appropriate)		£

Sale Horticultural & Allotment Society – Annual Plant Sale 2007

Plants Description	Plants per Tray	Unit Cost	Order Quantity	Total Value
ALYSSUM / Mixed	20	£1.90		
ALYSSUM / White	20	£1.90		
ANTIRRHINUM / Mixed Colours	12	£1.90		
ASTER / Mixed Colours	12	£1.90		
BEGONIA / Mixed	6	£1.90		
FUCHSIA / Trailing	Single 9cm pot	£1.20		
FUCHSIA / Upright	Single 9cm pot	£1.20		
GAZANIA / Daybreak Mixed	6	£1.90		
GERANIUM / Mixed Colours	6	£2.90		
GERANIUM / Trailing Ivy Leaf	Single 10cm pot	£1.20		
GERANIUM / Upright	Single 9cm pot	£1.30		
GODETIA / Azalea Flowered Mixed	12	£1.90		
IMPATIENS / Mixed Colours	6	£1.90		
LOBELIA / Blue (Trailing)	20	£1.90		
LOBELIA / Cambridge Blue (Light Blue Bush)	20	£1.90		
LOBELIA / Crystal Palace (Dark Blue Bush)	20	£1.90		
MARIGOLD / French Mixed	12	£1.90		
MESEMBRYANTHEMUM / Mixed	12	£1.90		
NEMESIA / Carnival Mixed	12	£1.90		
NICOTIANA / Mixed	6	£1.90		
PANSY / Mixed	12	£1.90		
PETUNIA / Mixed	12	£1.90		
PETUNIA SURFINIA / Trailing Petunia	Single 9cm pot	£1.30		
SWEET PEA / Spencer Mixed (approx. 12 plants per pot)	Single 9cm pot	£1.00		
SWEET WILLIAM / Roundabout Mixed	12	£1.90		
TAGETES / Mixed	12	£1.90		
BASKET PLANTS / Mixed plants for baskets or planters	1 tray of 6 plants	£3.20		
10" PLANTED HANGING POT	Ea	£9.50		
12" PLANTED WICKER BASKET	Ea	£11.00		
8" PLANTED PATIO TUB	Ea	£4.00		
18" LONG PLANTED TROUGH	Ea	£9.00		
TOMATOES : ALICANTE	Single	£0.80		
GARDENERS DELIGHT (miniature)	Single	£0.80		
RED ALERT (miniature)	Single	£0.80		
MONEYMAKER	Single	£0.80		
ROMA	Single	£0.80		
PLUM	Single	£0.80		
SHIRLEY	Single	£0.80		
Total Value of Order (to accompany this order form)				
Name		Address		

Make cheques payable to: "Sale Horticultural & Allotment Society" or "SHAS" and send to:

Mrs S. Steer, 18 Priory Rd, Sale, Cheshire M33 2BR

Or pay by cash/cheque in the Trading Hut Sunday mornings between now and 6th May 10.30am-12 noon