



Grass Cuttings



Newsletter of Sale Horticultural & Allotment Society –March 2008

Chairman's Report

Hello again, I wanted to bring you up to date following our AGM held at our Hoe Down on 11th March 08.

Overall SHAS continues to make progress; our accounts are in a reasonable position. We still have a waiting list for allotments as demand remains strong. Linda has managed to let 9 Plots to new tenants as a result of previous plot holders deciding that they were unable to continue looking after their allotments. We will be having our next Plot inspection in April to again check Health & Safety standards of Sheds/Greenhouses/Storage areas and to review several part-neglected plots.

Our Trading hut is fully stocked and open each Sunday morning 10.30am – Noon.

Your committee has changed. Jonathan has resigned as Treasurer and I am pleased to advise that Peter Baggaley was elected as our New Treasurer. Our Membership Secretary, Ken Bostock, also resigned. Tony Turnbull was elected as Membership Secretary. May I on your behalf thank both Jonathan and Ken for their work for SHAS over the past 5 years and thank Peter and Tony for agreeing to replace them. All other committee members agreed to continue and were re-elected. The turn out by members was disappointing. In an attempt to increase attendance we will consider other venue options for next year.

Attached to this edition of our Grass Cuttings you will find a membership renewal form **for non plot holders** which was omitted from our January newsletter. Sorry! Also attached is your Plant Sale order form. Please note the Collection Day Saturday 17th May starting 12.00 noon. We also plan to have a selection of Tomato plants available from the Trading Hut on Sunday mornings starting 27th April.

A Compost Clinic run by Fairfield Compost on Sunday 30th March will start at 10.30 am at the Hoe Down.

Our next talk by John Steedman on the subject of Plot Plants will be held at the Townscroft Lodge on Wednesday 16th April at 7.00 pm and NOT in The Hoe Down as previously stated.

Best wishes
Don Jackson

Committee Contact details

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Plot 13

Peter Baggaley Treasurer 962 5642
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Plot 7

Tony Turnbull Membership 973 1946
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Plot 21

Linda McLachlan Allotments 962 2920
Plot 60a

Alf Edwards Trading Hut 282 0048
Plot 41

David Taylor Equipment 973 0867
Plot 27

Kevin Brooks Grasscutting 962 3218
Plot 38

Jonathan Richards
Ken Bostock
Website : www.shas.org.uk

Plant Sale Saturday May 17th.

We are offering a wider variety of plants this year
An order form is attached to this newsletter.



Halman's Nursery delivers the bedding plants to the Trading Hut gates early on the morning of Saturday 17th May. They are plants of good quality and at competitive prices.

We make up your orders in advance and you collect them between 12 noon and 3pm that afternoon.

The deadline for handing in your order form and payment is Sunday 4th May.

If you will be away on Saturday 17th May, please make your own arrangements for the plants to be collected and looked after until you return.

Surplus plants

There is usually a small surplus of some plants which will be sold on Sunday 18th May. Call in and see what's on offer.

Can you help?

to unload and sort the delivery of plants and make up the orders? Please let any committee member know if you can help for just half an hour or so between 9.30 am to 12noon and/or 12noon to 3pm. It will be much appreciated.

**Up and coming events
Please get up and come
along!**

**Sunday 30th March
Fairfield Compost**

Find out all you ever wanted to
know about this eco friendly
concern
at

**The Hoe Down
10.30am**

Change of Venue!!

Now open to a larger audience

'POT PLANTS'

A talk by

**John Steedman
at
Townscroft
Lodge**

**Wednesday
16th April**

7.00pm

Get your ticket from the Trading
Hut



Townscroft Lodge is at the
corner of Glebelands Rd with
Church Lane in Ashton

Welcome to new members

If you are new to the society and waiting for a plot or a keen home gardener, please make the most of your membership. Make yourself known at the trading hut on Sunday mornings between 10.30 and 12 noon. You can pay your membership there, buy products for your own garden, get advice, book for the talks and hand in your plant order form.

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 28th October 2.30pm

Hugh Begg

will give a talk entitled

'Hedges for Edges'

At St Mary's Church lounge

More details in the next newsletter.

To be confirmed:-

Friday 20th June social evening

'Strawberry Fayre' on site.

Friday October 31st

'Pumpkin Party'

on site

Details to follow.

Allotment News

Once again there has been severe flooding of several plots. The only way to alleviate this is to raise the level of the plots and to this end we are supplying as much manure, chippings and leaves as possible. Now it's up to you!

Ironically we have been without stand pipe water for some time. This should be remedied by early April. We must insist that no hose pipe is left unattended and that sprinklers, if used at all, should be made as efficient as possible.

We welcome the fact that several young families have taken on plots and urge that children should be carefully supervised to avoid trespass on to other plots.

Although some glass and many unsafe structures have been removed from plots following our appeal, some remain and are a hazard to the general safety of members on site.

Please act before the next

**Plot Inspection on Monday
14th April.**



We were delighted to receive the award of 'Most improved site in Trafford' in 2006; even more delighted with 'Best Site in Sale' in 2007 despite the atrocious weather.

What does 2008 hold in store?

Trading Hut

At the AGM Alf thanked all the volunteers who sell stock each Sunday and **Elaine Watson** and **Tom Rain** who bag up the stock regularly.

Alf is keeping prices at a very competitive level and there will be a reduction of some older items.

Sylvia apologises to all the volunteers who serve in the trading hut on Sundays whose letters of appreciation were inadvertently not included with the new rota last month. Your help is invaluable.

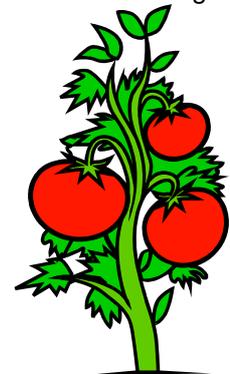
If any new members could spare 1½ hours on the occasional Sunday morning please let Sylvia or Alf know. Two people are on together and all the stock is labelled. The maths isn't too difficult, and Alf is usually on hand to check.

It's also a nice way to get to know people!

At the plant Sale the trading hut will be open until 3pm so you will also be able to buy gro-bags and plant food as well as other items on Saturday 16th as well as Sunday 17th May.

Tomato Plants

We have decided to sell tomato plants separately from the plant sale this year. They are generally too leggy if still in small pots by May so we will be selling them on



Sunday morning April 27th

from the trading hut along with

**tomato fertiliser
and
gro-bags.**

Change of officers

Jonathan served as treasurer since January 2004 when he stepped in to put the society finances on a stable footing. Since then, as well as keeping the books straight, he has managed the Plant Sale orders, organised quizzes and bingo at the Gala Evenings, organised the Trading Hut before Alf became trading manager, and also edited several issues of 'Grass Cuttings'

Ken became Membership Secretary in 2003. He worked hard on the insulation and painting of The Hoe Down, the protective boxes for the stand pipes, mowed paths, pruned trees, erected the lighting for the Pumpkin Party in addition to measuring all the plots calculating the rentals and issuing memberships.

We are grateful that Ken and Jonathan will remain on the committee.

New Treasurer **Peter Baggaley**, Plot 8, introduces himself:

Marj and I have held a plot at the Grosvenor Road site since the late 70's, with a young family and other commitments competing in the battle against the dandelions.

Now retired with the time to concentrate on the latter, I decided that it was time to do a bit to help with the running of SHAS and succumbed to Don's gentle persuasions to take up the position of treasurer - a daunting task following Jonathan's admirable term of office in that position.

Thank you to Peter for taking on the **Seed Scheme** this year.

As part of our membership of the NSALG (National Association of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners) we can order vegetable and flower seeds from Kings at a considerable discount. Notices will be posted in December/January to order your catalogue.

Spring Sowing

Make sure trays and pots are clean, use good quality **seed compost** on sale in the Trading Hut and available in large or small quantities.

Don't be too keen to sow early unless you can give the seedlings warmth and light. If they grow too quickly with inadequate light, they will become 'leggy' and collapse from fungal disease and you'll have to start again.

You will need to thin out crowded seedlings. This means removing any touching seedlings and throwing them away! Very difficult! So don't sow too thickly in the first place!



When the 'true leaves', the ones after the first seed leaves, appear, give them more space.

These larger seedlings need 'pricking out'. I use an old table fork to ease them apart before re planting them in fresh compost in wider spacing so they can grow on un-checked.

Later, grow them on in **potting compost** which contains more food, and gradually accustom them to cooler conditions.

A tip heard on Gardeners' Question Time: **Parsnip seeds** which are notoriously erratic to germinate, should be put in the fridge for a week before sowing. And talking of seeds...Are you all entering our

Giant Sunflower Competition?



If you plan to enter this fun competition watch out for details and guard those seedlings from slugs.

Sunflower seed heads offer valuable food for birds if the squirrels don't get there first. They might even divert attention from your Sweet Corn cobs which suffer

from squirrel damage every year now it seems.

In October we hope to hold another **Pumpkin Party** so get sowing your giant pumpkins and squash seeds!

Children and gardening

Most people can remember when they first became interested in gardening. As a child, I remember 'rescuing' a wilted forget-me-not thrown on the compost heap. The garden was full of them, but I nurtured it with a little water and that was all it took to get me hooked. I was reminded of this when my granddaughter took my hand and led me down her garden path saying she had something special to show me. Solemnly she pointed out a flourishing Mare's Tail. Needless to say it was admired respectfully. She has since helped plant and dig up potatoes, picked dandelion flowers from the paths on the allotment and planted the bulbs in the memorial hedge.

Hedge Work party

It is good to see the memorial hedge breaking into leaf along Grosvenor Rd. If you have a part of it along your plot please let us know of any gaps or failures as we have spare plants to put in.

We will be having a few work parties to plant a hedge along another of our boundaries starting on Saturday 29th March. Please arrive at The Hoe Down at 10 am with spade and fork!



Make your voice heard

Trip to Trentham Gardens

If any one is interested in going here in August/September please register your interest in the Trading Hut where you may read literature about what it has to offer.

Sale Horticultural & Allotment Society – Annual Plant Sale 2008

| Order Quantity | Plants Description | Plants per Tray | Cost per tray/pot | Total Value |
|--|--|------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| | AGERATUM blue | 6 | £1.95 | |
| | ALYSSUM White | 12 | £1.95 | |
| | ANTIRRHINUM Mixed Colours | 12 | £1.95 | |
| | ASTER Mixed | 12 | £1.95 | |
| | BEGONIA Mixed | 6 | £1.95 | |
| | CHRYSANTHEMUM gold plate | 6 | £1.95 | |
| | CINERARIA silver dust | 6 | £1.95 | |
| | COSMOS sonata mixed | 6 | £1.95 | |
| | DAHLIA Figaro mixed | 6 | £1.95 | |
| | GAZANIA Daybreak Mixed | 6 | £1.95 | |
| | GERANIUM Mixed | 6 | £2.90 | |
| | GODETIA Azalea Flowered Mixed | 12 | £1.95 | |
| | IMPATIENS Mixed | 6 | £1.95 | |
| | LOBELIA Blue (Trailing) | 20 | £1.95 | |
| | LOBELIA Crystal Palace (Dark Blue Bush) | 20 | £1.95 | |
| | MARIGOLD French Mixed | 12 | £1.95 | |
| | MESEMBRYANTHEMUM Mixed | 12 | £1.95 | |
| | NEMESIA Carnival Mixed | 12 | £1.95 | |
| | NICOTIANA Mixed | 6 | £1.95 | |
| | PANSY Mixed | 12 | £1.95 | |
| | PETUNIA Mixed | 12 | £1.95 | |
| | SALVIA Red | 6 | £1.95 | |
| | STOCK ten week mixed | 12 | £1.95 | |
| | SWEET WILLIAM Roundabout Mixed | 12 | £1.95 | |
| | TAGETES Mixed | 12 | £1.95 | |
| | MIXED PLANTS for baskets or planters | tray of 6 plants | £3.20 | |
| BASKET & PATIO PLANTS in 9cm or 10cm pots | | | | |
| | BIDENS yellow vigorous trailing | 1 | £1.00 | |
| | CONVOLVULOUS delicate clear blue flowers, trailing silvery foliage | 1 | £1.00 | |
| | DIASCIA apricot or orange | 1 | £1.00 | |
| | GERANIUM Trailing Ivy Leaf | 1 | £1.20 | |
| | GERANIUM Upright | 1 | £1.00 | |
| | NEPETA silver grey variegated foliage trailing habit | 1 | £1.00 | |
| | PETUNIA SURFINIA Trailing | 1 | £1.30 | |
| | SWEET PEA Spencer Mixed (approx. 12 plants per pot) | 1 | £1.00 | |
| | 10" PLANTED HANGING POT | Each | £9.50 | |
| | 12" PLANTED WICKER BASKET | Each | £11.00 | |
| | 8" PLANTED PATIO TUB | Each | £4.00 | |
| | 10 " FUCHSIA HANGING BASKET | Each | £10.00 | |

Total number and value of order (to accompany this order form)

Make cheques payable to 'Sale Horticultural & Allotment Society' and send to
Mrs S. Steer, 18 Priory Rd Sale M33 2BR
 or pay by cash/cheque in the Trading Hut Sunday mornings 10.30am-12noon.
Last date for orders is Sunday 4th May

Name:

Address:

Tel: