



# Grass Cuttings



## Newsletter of Sale Horticultural & Allotment Society –March 2010

### Chairman's Report

Well after that cold spell of many weeks, some of us can remember the most recent cold periods in 1947 & 1965 another period of climate change! However we can now see real green shoots. I have even cut my lawns. Our Trading Hut has been quite busy over the past Sunday mornings. Alf is considering opening on an occasional Saturday - dates to be advised.

We still have a few seed potatoes, onion sets and shallots. Fertilisers and various composts are in stock. We held the SHAS AGM on 9 March attended by 17 members. All committee members were re-elected, plus I am please to advise you we have a new committee member Brian Eyden, who with 2 lady members present at the AGM volunteered to tidy up our site and hedges, many thanks to them.

You may recall we have been attempting to renew our lease with Trafford, I am pleased to advise that a draft 10 year lease including our and Trafford's wishes has now been agreed.

No doubt Sylvia will be mentioning our next Social event, a talk by Hugh Begg on Tuesday 20 April 2-30 pm at St Mary's Church Hall, subject "Hedges round Edges". Our bedding plant list accompanies this Grass Cuttings and it is also on our Web site [www.shas.org.uk](http://www.shas.org.uk). Could we please have your plant orders and payments before 2<sup>nd</sup> May!!

May I wish you all a good & productive growing year.

Don Jackson



Here's dedication for you!

Some of your committee turning up at The Hoe Down on a cold Saturday morning. for the January meeting.

**Brrrrrr!!**



### **Committee Contact details**

Don Jackson	Chairman	973 5256
<a href="mailto:chairman@shas.org.uk">chairman@shas.org.uk</a>		
Plot 50		
Sylvia Steer	Secretary	282 8664
<a href="mailto:secretary@shas.org.uk">secretary@shas.org.uk</a>		
Plot 13		
Peter Baggaley	Treasurer	962 5642
<a href="mailto:treasurer@shas.org.uk">treasurer@shas.org.uk</a>		
Plot 7		
Tony Turnbull	Membership	973 1946
<a href="mailto:memberships@shas.org.uk">memberships@shas.org.uk</a>		
Plot 21		
Linda McLachlan	Allotments	962 2920
Plot 60a		
Alf Edwards	Trading Hut	282 0048
Plot 41		
Website		<a href="http://www.shas.org.uk">www.shas.org.uk</a>

### **Welcome to new committee member Brian Eyden plot 22a.**

Brian has offered to keep an eye on the tidiness of the site and its hedges. Here he is years ago in a work party clearing rubbish from alongside The Hoe Down before the memorial hedge was planted....



And talking of hedges, why not come along on....

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April**

**at 2.30pm**

**in St Mary's Church lounge  
44 Moss Lane, Ashton on Mersey**

**Hugh Begg**

will give a talk

**'Hedges round Edges'**

This talk is **free** for all members  
Friends welcome for £1

## AGM NEWS

The AGM was held at Townscroft Lodge on Tuesday 9th March.

### Chairman

**Don Jackson** reported a year of continued progress despite setbacks. We had suffered vandalism and theft but this was occurring throughout the Borough. We were always trying to improve the security of the site but costs of self locking gates had proved too much.

We had finally agreed a new lease with Trafford BC. Allotmenting was still very popular and land was being put aside by the National Trust and railway companies.

In answer to a query from the floor into the number of members holding two plots, Mrs McLachlan, plot secretary, advised that this had arisen from the unusual shapes and sizes of some plots and only affected five people.

### Membership secretary

**Tony Turnbull**, reported a membership of 175, an increase of 23 members in 2009. This was due to our requirement for people on the waiting list to become members of SHAS.

Membership comprised:

78 Full, 79 Concession (over 60 years), 12 Life members (retired long term committee members) and 6 Complimentary

(Council/councillors/other).

Income from membership Fees in 2009 was £688.00 which included some 2010 advance payments)

Membership fees are set by SHAS and spent on primarily social and communications purposes:

Grass Cuttings, Website, Halloween Night, talks and trips, Plant sales and Trading Hut.

These are activities which benefit ALL members whether they are plot holders or not.

He proposed that the membership fees be kept the same for 2011

### Plot Rentals

Rent for the site is set by Trafford, and although we have managed to kept charges at the same level for 2008, 2009 and 2010, we are facing increased charges of about 15% from Trafford over the next three years.

Mr Turnbull thanked everyone who had paid the year's fees promptly.

### Allotment Secretary

**Linda McLachlan** reported that nationwide there were 100,000

people waiting for a plot! In the 12 months since the last AGM only two small plots had changed hands, both due to increased work commitments. Our waiting list still stood at roughly 25 and the expected wait was two and a half years.

Mrs McLachlan appealed for release of land from large plots by people who feel they have too much and also promoted the helper scheme which works on a temporary basis for mutual benefit of plot holder and waiting plot holder alike.

With the current demand for plots, members were reminded of their obligations under the Tenancy agreement to maintain their plots in good productive order and to maintain the one metre wide paths bordering their plot. To try to ensure these terms the committee would carry out three inspections a year, the first of which would be in April.

Linda thanked everyone who had once again helped to make the Halloween Party such a success.

### Trading Secretary

**Alf Edwards** report was read in his absence by Mr Jackson.

Those he thanked were Sylvia Steer for organising the rota of volunteers, all those volunteers for their service in the trading Hut, and Elaine Watson and Tom Rain who had once again bagged up and labelled the bulk stock. The Trading Hut could not function without their assistance.

He reported an increase in the cost of much stock due largely to the weak pound, but we would continue to pass on the benefit of wholesale bulk buying to our members.

He announced the possibility of opening on one or two Saturday afternoons and maybe an evening or two in early summer when demand would be at its highest. Dates and times would be advertised.

### Treasurer

**Peter Baggaley** presented the audited accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009.

These accounts are available to members on request.

He reported a Bank Balance of £6007 compared with £4299 in 2008. This included an insurance settlement for stolen machinery and damage.

He reported that as a result of insurance claims arising from the thefts, our excess had risen from £100 to £500.

£330 had been spent on Gazebos The Pumpkin Party had cost £59.

Trading Sales were £1372.00

### Appointment of Officers

All officers, being willing to stand again were re-elected.

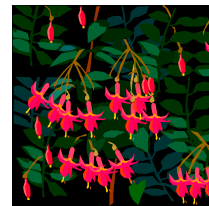
### Election of committee members

In addition to the serving members who agreed to stand again, Mr Brian Eyden was proposed by Mr Jackson and all were elected by the meeting.

### AOB

In response to a question regarding the litter problem along the fence on Grosvenor Rd, it was agreed this could be tackled by members and gloves would be provided for volunteers.

## Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> May SHAS Annual Sale of bedding plants.



The plants are of good quality from our regular local supplier,

**Les Halman of Lower Peover.**

Please fill in the order form sent with this newsletter and send it with payment to the address shown, or hand it in at the Trading Hut

**before the deadline  
Sunday 2nd May**

You may wish to make a record of your order and the date!

**Collect your order between 11am and 1pm on Saturday morning 15<sup>th</sup> May.**

If you will be away on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> May, please make your own arrangements for the plants to be collected and looked after until you return.

### Surplus plants

There is usually a surplus of some plants which will be sold on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May. Call in at the Trading Hut and see what's on offer and of course buy your grow bags, potting compost and plant food at the same time.