

grass CUTTINGS

MAY 2021

NEW CHAIRMAN AND SHAS UPDATE

As mentioned in the last edition of Grass Cuttings, although Committee meetings are not actually being held in person, we have been working together via email/telephone to discuss the AGM and election of a new Chairman. The Committee is therefore very pleased to report the following actions which have been agreed:

- 1 That the AGM be postponed until September or October 2021
- 2 That Chris Abbott be appointed as Acting Chairman with immediate effect, to continue until the next AGM, when a Chairman will be formally elected by the membership
- 3 That Phil Gorman be appointed as Acting Vice-Chairman with immediate effect, to work with Chris Abbott until the next AGM. Prior to the AGM the Committee to decide whether to propose the continuation of this role.

It has also been agreed that at the next AGM, the Committee will propose that Don Jackson is made a Life Member of SHAS in acknowledgement of his work over many years as Chairman.

The Committee is planning to hold a meeting in person after 17 May when further restrictions around social gatherings are relaxed. We've a number of things to discuss and it will provide the opportunity for our new Chairman Chris to start getting to grips with the role.

A FEW WORDS FROM OUR NEW ACTING CHAIRMAN

I am delighted to step up and take on the role of Acting Chairman pending the formal AGM later in the year. With no 'normal' meetings of the Committee having been possible since my committee co-option, I am very much looking forward to properly meeting all the Committee members and to working with them in developing their ideas and plans for SHAS — and perhaps also finding out what they might have in store for me.

**Chris Abbott,
Acting Chairman**



// TRADING HUT NEWS

The sale of our seed potatoes and red and white onions went exceptionally well this year — everything sold out on the first day we opened. Never happened before! Thanks to all members who came down and bought potatoes and onions, and many apologies to those who couldn't get what they wanted. It really is difficult to gauge what demand will be. We used the Trading Hut and the Hoedown to serve members and I hope everyone will agree that these arrangements worked very well, there was less queuing so it's quite possible we'll consider doing the same again next year. Unfortunately I did have a disaster with the shallots and had none to sell this year — they were all rotten, which the supplier blamed on bad weather.

The Trading Hut remains open every Sunday in the month, apart from the first weekend of each month when it opens on a Saturday — dates are published on the gates.

Orders should be made by email with pre-payment by bank transfer. However, if any member finds ordering and paying on-line difficult, I am happy to deal with normal cash sales. Some members are ordering by email but paying in cash on the day and this seems to be working well. Hopefully by June/July, the Trading Hut will get back to normal, but obviously we'll let you all know when the time is right.

I do want to thank members who have been buying from the Trading Hut for their patience and understanding. Our supplier is doing his best to get products to us despite a number of problems i.e. poor potato crops, flooding, canes stuck in the Suez Canal, firms with no plastic bags or tubs to put products in, no Coir available, the list goes on... So at times I do not know what will be arriving but at present most things are available.

Thank you for your support. **Elaine Watson, Trading Hut Manager**

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// SOCIAL EVENTS

I am new to the role of SHAS Social Secretary. You may remember I was elected at the 2020 AGM, just before the whole country went into lockdown so social events haven't really been big in our lives up until now! Going forward though, I'd really like to hear members suggestions of what you'd like to do/have organised. eg. ideas for other social activities, talks on allotment related subjects, wildlife, maybe you know of interesting speakers, do please let me know.

Family and Friends Picnic

It's very much hoped that this year we will be able to hold our annual 'Family and Friends Picnic'. We haven't set a date at the moment, (need to wait and see how relaxation of Covid restrictions are progressing during the coming weeks), but it's likely that it'll be held on a Sunday at the end of June/beginning of July, ensuring that it doesn't clash with the Ashton on Mersey Picnic in the Park.

For those who haven't been to one of our picnic's before, it's a very informal affair; just bring your own chairs and picnic and pitch up with other allotmenters for a fun afternoon of socialising and a well-deserved rest from the labours of tending your plot! We usually start to meet up around 2pm and everybody is welcome. As soon as the date is set we'll send out an email to everybody so please look out for it as it would be great to see you all there.

Valerie Mulligan, Social Secretary

// NEW PLOT HOLDERS

Over the past few months a number of new plot holders have been welcomed onto the allotment site. We wish them all a very happy, rewarding and productive allotment experience.

Plot 19b Zen Ashton / Plot 26 Carole Marshall
Plot 48 Hilary Shorthouse / Plot 54b David Miller
Plot 61b Kyle Evans

// GRASS PATHS

The cutting of the grass paths has once again restarted. Can all plot holders please cut back any plants overhanging the paths which might get in the way of the mower, and maintain a tidy 0.5 metre (minimum) border around their plots. Any stones, bricks, or pieces of wood should also be cleared from paths around your plot as these can damage the mowers. Your help is greatly appreciated, as I'm sure everyone will agree, our grass paths are always very well maintained. Thank you.



COMMITTEE CONTACTS

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Kenneth Bostock Equipment, Plot 46

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Janet Cripps Newsletter, Plot 44

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SHAS Website www.shas.org.uk grass



FREE TO A GOOD HOME

There's a quantity of used plant pots of various sizes available.

You can collect when the Trading Hut is open.

// SHAS ANNUAL PLANT SALE

Unfortunately we've been unable to organise the Plant Sale this year, but we should get back on track in 2022.

// SITE SECURITY

Please can everybody lock the gates when entering the site, even if you think you'll only be there for a few minutes. And always remember to lock the gates when leaving. **Thank you.**