



Grass Cuttings

Newsletter of **S**ale **H**orticultural & **A**llotment **S**ociety
October 2013

Chairman's Message

Hello again,
How our summer has flown! It has been exceptional for growing all crops including weeds. Last year several crops needed extra sowings for success, to the contrary, this year we have had good results with vegetables and fruit with friends and family welcoming any excess.

Our community plot, no 30, was started last year and is beginning to show results. We have had a few unwanted pests that we hope to eradicate for next year and the heavy pruning of the vines should show improvements next year. Many thanks to Leslie Enstone and Roger Snowden, plus others, for their help

Our drainage problem along the Carlton Road side of our allotments has continued and a blockage has now been found, TMBC and the Environment Agency (EA) have both been involved. A lack of funds and excavating plant has held up progress, however over the past few days a diverting ditch with pipework should be installed by TMBC.

At the last Trafford Allotment Watch quarterly meeting, we were given a talk by Cliff Norton of Viridor Transforming Waste detailing their reclaiming method from our Green Bin contents to "Revive multi-purpose compost", which can be purchased from their Sharston Road refuse depot, I will be testing this compost over the winter in my greenhouse.

However, it's not all positives this year. SHAS and other Trafford allotment sites have been experiencing theft of produce, both inside and by outsiders is suspected! TMBC Finance Dept have given warning of a 50% rent increase for 2014 which is not customer friendly to rate payers.

Regretfully, Sylvia who has been our Secretary for several years has tendered her resignation from the committee at the end of 2013. Sylvia has decided to reduce her activities and have a well-earned rest, many, many thanks Sylvia!

As always in my little update of SHAS I must thank you and our hard working committee and helpers for their work supporting SHAS particular thanks go to our new officer, Elaine our Trading Hut Secretary.

Best Regards, Don Jackson

Committee contacts

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Plot 43a

David Taylor Equipment 973 0867
Plot 27

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Plot 39a

SHAS Website <http://www.shas.org.uk/>

'All the Fun of the Orbit'

A talk by

Hugh Beggs

Tuesday 1st October at 2.30pm

A lighthearted look at how our lives are affected in many different ways by Earth's orbit around the Sun

Venue: The Life Centre
235 Washway Road
Sale M33 7YT

(Corner of Washway Road/Raglan Road, parking at rear)

Admission: Free to Members, £1.00 for guests

Congratulations

Following Trafford's inspection of all the borough allotments, the following SHAS Plot holders were awarded Highly Commended:

Plot 19a - Roger Snowden
Plot 9 - Maggie Lavelle Pathways South

The following SHAS Plot holders received Letters of Commendation:

Plot 11 - Ken Plews
Plot 20a - Zoe Colman
Plot 38a - Dave Knight

Well done to everybody, it's good to see SHAS feature in the results.

Trading Hut News

Your support for Trading Hut supplies has been very welcome. Thank you to Paul Stirling for all his help baggig-up throughout the year.

Not only has the Trading Hut provided members with a regular supply of fertilisers, stock of onion sets, potatoes and a place to exchange gardening tips, this summer it has been home to a nesting robin who did not take kindly to being disturbed on a Sunday morning. Elaine reported by late summer the robin family had successfully vacated their residence.

The sales of **white onions (90p/300grammes)** and **garlic 50p/bulb** have been proving very popular, so if you haven't bought any yet, hurry stock is going fast! The Trading Hut will continue to opening on the following dates, between 10am and 12 noon.

Sunday – 22 September
Sunday – 29 September
Sunday – 13 October
Sunday – 27 October

We will reopen early spring next year and following a general canvassing of some plot holders we plan to open the Trading Hut on the first Saturday of each month and then each subsequent Sunday. Exact dates will be announced at the beginning of 2014.

Sadly one of our long serving volunteers, Eve Norris passed away during the summer and our thoughts are with her family. Several other volunteers are unable to continue helping in the Trading Hut next year and with this in mind we're **sending out a plea** for extra volunteers for either the Saturday or Sunday opening. Volunteering is on a rota basis, not every week, possible four or five times over the year. The more volunteers we have the better, so if

you're able to spare an hour and a half please contact **Elaine on 962 9684**.

Watering Clarification

We have enjoyed a wonderfully hot summer this year and crops have definitely been in need of watering. There has in the past been some confusion regarding the use of hosepipes, so the committee would just like to clarify that while sprinklers are not allowed, handheld hosepipes are acceptable but these should not be left unattended, i.e. 'stuck up a tree'. Plot holders should consider other people's access to the taps and keep watering to essential crops.

Community Plot



Our community plot continues to flourish. Produce is available for plot holders and in return we ask that you make an honesty contribution to the Trading Hut, proceeds will be used by the society for the maintenance and upkeep the equipment.

"A future vintage perhaps?" vines on the Community Plot Sept 13

Membership News

Welcome to all new members. Two plots have changed hands since our last newsletter:

Plot 26 – Jane Murphy
Plat 57a – Mark Holt

Path Maintenance

Now that the rainy season is insight, could we please remind members to be considerate about bringing vehicles on to the pathways to avoid further damage, vehicles should not be driven on to the allotment unless there is a medical reason that this is necessary.

Keeping the paths tidy and debris free makes the site not only safe but creates a caring and welcoming impression of our allotment.

Autumn and winter feed for path care is available from the Trading Hut to replenish lost nutrients

*"Sunflowers" – SHAS
Allotments Sept 13*

