

# grass CUTTINGS

OCT:2014

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

**Hello again...** It's time to bring you up to date with some of the happenings in SHAS. What a summer we have had! Good vegetable and fruit crops, plus continual excessive growth by weeds and slugs.

Back to crops, if any members have excesses, please bring them to the Trading Hut during opening times as we have a contact with an organisation for the needy.

I am pleased to advise you that SHAS was awarded the Most Improved Allotment site in Trafford at the recent Trafford Allotment Federation Open Day held at Sale Waterside on 30 August. Thanks and congratulations to our members.

During our latest plot inspection we noticed overhanging trees and bushes on paths of several allotments that are becoming both dangerous and hindering the work by your helpers, please help by trimming and tidying your pathways.

At the Glebelands Road end we now have plenty of wood chippings which are ideal for pathways and particularly useful at discouraging slug movements. Regretfully

some plot holders have been dumping their rubbish in our manure and leaf mould bays rather than taking their rubbish to Trafford's disposal site. **Please stop!**

We have hosted Radio Manchester recently on two Saturday mornings arranged by our talented horticulturist and member Jackie Brocklehurst which have given SHAS extra kudos, the last one included an item on wildlife on allotments which happen to coincide with an unexpected appearance of a weasel/mink near the Hoe Down.

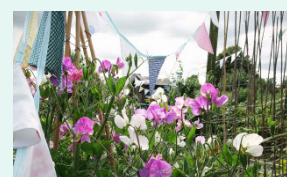
I regret we have had reports of thieving of produce from our allotments, hence your committee requests due diligence when locking our gates to try and eliminate crop theft.

As normal in my last few words I want to thank, on your behalf, our committee, our several helpers both in the trading hut and Rodger our grass-cutting-king and finally pass on your good wishes to our past Secretary Sylvia Steer and Mike who have decided give up their plot after many years to concentrate on their other interests.

**Best wishes to all, Don**

## SHAS SUMMER SOCIAL

On Sunday 13 July there was an opportunity for members and their families and friends to get together at the allotment to share food, drinks and banter. The afternoon was given a continental atmosphere by Helen Rich who played a selection of popular French music on her accordion. With the sun shining it was a relaxing afternoon and one that we plan to repeat next year.



## BBC RADIO MANCHESTER VISIT SHAS

On what was possibly the wettest Saturday morning in July, BBC Radio Manchester was invited to broadcast from our allotment. Jacqui Brocklehurst has a regular gardening slot on a mid-morning show and on this occasion she was joined by fellow allotmenteer, Harry, from Salford. Between them, they fielded questions via telephone phone-ins and live from SHAS members. Both Don Jackson and Stephen Bingham had lively conversations with the radio presenter Phil Trow. It was all good fun and a great opportunity to see a broadcast in action. A second visit from the BBC in September, focused on wildlife on the allotment.

SHAS plot holder, Stephen Bingham (**Plot 24b**) manages an internet blog, writing about life as a plot holder and showcasing stunning photography. Steve has invited SHAS members to view his blog which can be accessed via <http://plot24b.tumblr.com>



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## AWARDS FOR SHAS

Following the annual judging of Trafford Allotments, we are delighted to announce that SHAS received the award for the 'Most Improved Site'.

This is fantastic news and is testament to the enthusiasm of plot holders and the continuous dedication of our team of volunteers who work hard to maintain the site.

The competition is tough, there are many excellent allotments throughout Trafford, so a pat on the back is well deserved. Our Chair, Don, was presented with the trophy and certificate during Trafford Allotment Roadshow, held at Sale Waterside during August and both are proudly on display in the Trading Hut.

Individual plots were also judged and the following SHAS members were awarded as follows:



### HIGHLY COMMENDED

Plot 19a Roger Snowden  
Plot 27 David Taylor

### LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Plot 9 Maggie Lavelle  
Plot 17a Andy Blacker  
Plot 11 Zoe Colman  
Plot 37a Paul Howarth  
Plot 48 L. J. Kay  
Plot 59a Chris Conway  
Plot 20a Ken Plews

**Congratulations to all.**

## COMMITTEE CONTACTS

**Don Jackson** Chairman, Plot 50  
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**David Taylor** Equipment, Plot 27  
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**Jane Lucas** Newsletter, Plot 39a  
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**SHAS Website**  
[www.shas.org.uk](http://www.shas.org.uk)

## TRADING HUT

The Trading Hut will be open on the following dates during October:

**Saturday 4 October**

**Sunday 19 October**

So, there's still time to purchase your Japanese Winter Onion sets at 85p/250g. Autumn and winter feed for path care is available to replenish lost nutrients.

