



grass CUTTINGS

OCT:2019

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Hello again, how our summer has flown by! Our allotments and gardens have certainly appreciated the ideal conditions to produce most vegetables and fruits. The only exception seems to be some varieties of plums which were attacked by an unwanted moth!

Our lawns and grass pathways are still growing at quite a rate. Some of our allotments are not up to scratch including mine 😊. I will be giving up half of mine in 2020.

I know Louise has written to some plot holders should they want to downsize, or even go onto our waiting list while their health improves. We still have 12 people on Tony's waiting list so the demand for allotments remains high.

Wood chippings are available but some have conifer bits in. They are to be found in our compounds at the path ends, and at the Glebelands Road end.

Please check if the chippings contain conifer bits and if so, only use on the internal pathways. The Glebelands Road end only contains Ash and Sycamore which is ideal as a mulch to keep weeds down.

As always I must thank, on your behalf, our committee members and all our helpers as without them we would not function.

I am retiring as Chairman after next year and I understand I have a replacement in the wonderful Peter Jackson (no relation). Please continue to support him as you have with me.

I hope you and your families continue to enjoy your gardening and may I take this opportunity to wish you and your families a wonderful festive season.

**Regards,
Don Jackson**



ALLOTMENT PICNIC

The annual allotment picnic was held on Sunday 30 June. The weather was cloudy and sunny – and it didn't rain! It was well attended by about 25 plot holders and friends. We set up picnic chairs and tables on the grass by the middle gate and shared lots of convivial conversation and laughs. We even shared a few glasses of home-grown, home-made drinks! A good time was had by all.



ASHTON ON MERSEY 'VILLAGE IN BLOOM'

The SHAS Committee were pleased to contribute bedding plants from our annual plant sale to the value of £50, to the Ashton on Mersey 'Village in Bloom' committee. If you've been in the village over the



summer, you'll have seen how the shopkeepers, local organisations and volunteers have done a brilliant job in producing all manner of visually beautiful floral planters. Judging took place on 13 July and results will be announced in November.

NEW PLOT HOLDERS

Welcome to our new plot holders, we wish them a rewarding and productive allotment experience.

Plot 28b Tom Hughes

Plot 62b Joe Fielder

BUSY BEES NURSERY

Some of you will have noticed excited groups of young children on the plot from time to time. For the last two years, groups of up to 12 boys and girls at a time have come from a nearby pre-school and used the beds on the community plot to grow vegetables and flowers.

They all had turns at digging, planting and watering. They weren't so keen on weeding! Whilst on the site they had great fun looking at the trees and vegetables and trying to guess what they were. They looked for insects under stones and on leaves, and listened to the baby birds in the bird box near the bottom gate. The children all loved their visits. One of them said 'I thought we were going to the park but this is better.'



TRADING HUT

The Trading Hut is now closed. Thanks go to all the volunteers who have helped out during the year, without you we wouldn't be able to open. We re-open in February 2020.

COMMITTEE CONTACTS

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SHAS Website www.shas.org.uk



Michael Knight has contacted us regarding a community seed swapping website he has recently set up. Its purpose is to facilitate the swapping and exchange of heritage/ open pollinated seeds (not hybrids). It aims to promote the practice of seed saving in Great Britain in much the same way as 'face to face' seed swaps do but doing it online instead.

To find out more about how this scheme works, visit the free to use website:

www.seedswap.org.uk

FIRES AT THE ALLOTMENT

From 1 October to 31 March fires **are** allowed on the site. These should be attended at all times and please remember to be considerate to our neighbours by avoiding burning wet wood or plant material which causes excessive smoke. Your co-operation is much appreciated.

