



# grass CUTTINGS

## OCT:2020

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Well where do I start, in these present virus times not one of us has ever experienced these limiting conditions, the plus points are we tend to be more family active and enjoying the fresh air, our gardens and allotments.

Fortunately our summer and autumn weather has been warmer and dryer than normal and most vegetables and fruits have been good. I have had an exceptional Bramley baking apple crop which has been enjoyed by our family, friends and neighbours, our blackbirds will also be arriving in November for their daily feasting.

Most of our allotments are being well tended. I have decided to limit my activities to fruit trees and feeding the birds outside my shed.

We are still awaiting our lease renewal documents,

as Trafford are still trying to find out who remains at Amey, their latest administration company! As you can imagine I am chunnering under my breath! Another happening is that we are having boundary identification problems with a neighbour on Carlton Road plus unproven damage accusations, again this is a Trafford problem to settle!

Alas we are not allowed to hold meetings due to 'The Virus' rules – fortunately, some of our committee members continue to work on our behalf, I give your thanks to them.

I regret the content of most of my piece is not good, but this seems to be life at present, let us hope times will soon improve.

**Best regards to all,  
Don Jackson, Chairman**

### // ROBINS

Nine robins fledged from the two nests built under the counter of the Trading Hut earlier in the year. One brood had five chicks and the other had four. Mum was very busy! Will they be back? Probably, but we won't know until Elaine reopens the Trading Hut next spring!



### // TRADING HUT NEWS

The Trading Hut is now closed. We hope that members liked the pre-order/payment system used this year which has enabled the Trading Hut to open most weekends since the main lockdown restrictions were lifted in May. **Big thanks again to Elaine, Peter Jackson and Tony Turnbull for all their hard work in making this happen.** The over wintering onion sets and garlic flew out of the door in September. Let's hope we get a good crop! Seed potatoes and onion sets have been ordered for next year and the Trading Hut hopes to reopen in early February. How it will operate next year is anybody's guess at the moment, but we'll keep members informed.

### VOLUNTEERS

Thanks go to all our Trading Hut volunteers whether you managed to do a shift or not! At this stage, we can't say whether the Trading Hut will return to normal operations next year. If anybody would like to volunteer their time, or perhaps you've decided now is the time to give it up, please let Elaine know. A rota is normally produced around December but with the current situation it's going to be put on hold for a while, and Elaine will let you know as soon as possible when help is required.

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### // FIRES AT THE ALLOTMENT

Fires are allowed on site from 1 October to 31 March. Please be mindful of our neighbours and avoid burning wet wood or plant material which causes excessive smoke. **Don't let fires burn for long periods of time or leave them unattended.** Your co-operation is much appreciated.

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### // THE HIDEAWAY, PARTINGTON SURPLUS FOOD DONATIONS

Thank you to all the members who left surplus food donations during August for The Hideaway in Partington. Peter has received a thank you letter from the manager, Ruth.

*'Thank you so much to everyone who has donated surplus produce to our community. Every item donated has been used by those in need in the community and it has made a huge difference to many people. Thank you sincerely for all your support. Going forward we are looking to open a community shop which will distribute food in the community both very cheap and free so anything that you may be able to do to support that once we're up and running would be hugely appreciated. Once again thank you for your help and support.'*

**Peter Jackson, Plot 15A**

### // SHAS ALLOTMENT INSURANCE

At this year's Annual General Meeting, we were asked about the insurance cover we have to protect plot holders, members, buildings and equipment. Here is a brief summary, which looks at two of the main areas of risk covered by our allotment insurance: Public Liability / Theft and Damage

#### Public Liability

You tend to your plot carefully and ensure that it is safe, but there are lots of potential hazards on an allotment site, ranging from fallen bean poles on your plot or rakes left on communal paths to weed killer in your shed, and if somebody has an accident because of something to do with your plot, they might sue you. Even if they entered the site without permission, they could still sue you or the Society if they were hurt or their property was damaged. Public liability insurance protects the policy holders against the cost of claims made against them by members of the public for incidents that occur on the allotment site, covering the cost of compensation for personal injury, loss of or damage to property

SHAS has Public Liability insurance for the Members of the Society named in the policy schedule. The named Members are the individual plot holders — the Tenants — who are responsible for paying the annual plot rental. The insurance also covers any person, such as a joint plot holder, family or friend, who is on the allotment site at the request of a Member of the Society named in the insurance policy.

In the event of a claim, our policy provides Public Liability insurance cover of up to £5,000,000 for any one claim, and Legal Defence costs and expenses up to £250,000.

### COMMITTEE CONTACTS

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**SHAS Website** [www.shas.org.uk](http://www.shas.org.uk)

#### Theft and Damage

Plot holders should always be vigilant, as our plots can be a target for vandals and thieves. Allotments are especially vulnerable to theft and damage as they tend to be in relatively secluded, out of the way spots.

The SHAS insurance policy covers damage to our communal buildings, such as the Trading Hut and the Hoe Down, and covers theft of SHAS equipment such as its lawnmowers; however it does not cover damage to plot holders' sheds or greenhouses nor theft of their equipment. If you feel that you want cover, then you should ask your household insurance provider about the possibility of extending your policy to cover the buildings and/or your equipment on your plot.

The full insurance policy is available to view on line at [www.shas.org.uk/Documents](http://www.shas.org.uk/Documents), which you should refer to for full details and clarification of the exact cover.

**Tony Turnbull, Membership Secretary**