



# grass CUTTINGS

OCT:2022

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT/AGM SUMMARY

For most of us, with the weather being warm and kind, the year has been a good one. Apples in particular have done well with help from the good weather around blossom time. My wife is also happy, but for different reasons — for the first year ever I have had almost complete failure with growing courgettes so, for once, she was not able to complain about being swamped with courgettes in the kitchen!

We held our 2022 AGM on 4 October 2022 — thank you to those of you who came. I have noted below a few points for the benefit of those who were unable to attend:-

// Membership remains stable with 135 members at the end of 2021. Plot rental fees will remain at their current levels for next year. Members agreed that membership fees would remain unchanged in 2023 at £4.50 for full members and £4 for concession members. 13 plots have changed hands since the last AGM and the waiting list currently stands at 16. The annual accounts for the year ending 2021 had been circulated and noted a healthy bank balance.

// The Trading Hut has now closed for the year. Thank you all for supporting it. This was the first season since Elaine stepped down as Manager. Many thanks are due to our dedicated band of volunteers who have all done so much throughout the season, in all weathers, to continue the success of the Trading Hut. Particular thanks are due to Randel Barrows and Peter Jackson who joined Janet Cripps and myself to make up a small team of keyholders.

// At last year's AGM the possibility of setting up some type of social media was discussed, so during the year Dave Knight together with Andy Slim have been working to set up a Facebook page. This is a private group by invitation only and will be moderated by Dave Knight. This is to be an add on to our usual ways of keeping in touch ie. website/email/Grass Cuttings. Details on how to join can be found further on.

// We have bought a couple of new wheelbarrows as most of the old ones were broken beyond repair. We will purchase a couple more next year and store them undercover in the white shed in the centre of the site, which now has a new digital lock. The wheelbarrows will be distinctively marked to ensure they can be identified as SHAS property. Plot holders will be free to use them for a session and then return for use by others.

// The Committee was re-elected — except for Jane Leicester who asked to stand down after eight years on the committee. Having recently been elected as a Green Party Councillor for the Trafford Hale Central Ward there is a need for her to rationalise her time, which is completely understandable. We are grateful for her contribution over the last 8 years.

// On the subject of local councillors, we have asked our Trafford councillors to look into the delay in Trafford dealing with our lease renewal. The last twelve months has seen no progress. We hope for some news in the reasonably near future.

// We have our last social event of the year on 15 November 2022. It promises to be an interesting insight into the history of allotments in Ashton and Sale. Please do save the date and come to support it. Details further on in Grass Cuttings.

Our society is run by volunteers who should never be taken for granted or forgotten. We are fortunate that those who have time to offer are prepared to help us. In particular thanks are due to:

- Roger Snowden — as always he does an enormous amount to maintain the site as a whole. I hope his new mower — arrival later than hoped — is going to make his life easier.
- To Stephen Bingham for converting our basic text contributions for Grass Cuttings to the polished document you read.
- To Paul Howarth who maintains the website for us.
- Last but by no means least, there is the Committee who have supported me and the Society through the year. Their contribution goes way beyond turning up at our regular meetings.

Next year we intend to return to our normal AGM timing in March/April. We considered leaving it at the back end of the season but since there was no strong call to do this we shall revert back to a Spring meeting, which is better for other reasons and would mean that we do not have to think about changing our constitution.

This is the final edition of Grass Cuttings for the year. I hope you all continue to enjoy your plots and may I wish you and your families a good festive season.

**Chris Abbott, Chairman**

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## SHAS ANNUAL AWARDS

Congratulations to the following people who were awarded Trading Hut vouchers at the AGM:

**Gary Stiles Plot 41** — who has maintained a high-yielding and well-tended plot over many years.

**Rosemary Budd Plot 19b, Graham Perkins Plot 32a, Martin and Julie Edmundson Plot 46b** — new plot holders who have all taken on neglected and overgrown plots and made a remarkable transformation into productive spaces.

**Louise Virabi and Janice Plot 27** — existing plot holders who moved to a new plot and made a very fruitful growing space and used different methods for preserving their produce to ensure winter food and no waste.

## KINGS SEEDS

As part of our membership of the National Allotment Society we are able to purchase seeds from Kings Seeds discounted at around 40% of their normal website prices.

You can view and download a pdf copy of the Members Catalogue at: <https://nsalg.kingsseeds.com/nsalg-catalogue>

To set up an account please contact our Seed Secretary Janet Cripps: [janetcripps@ntlworld.com](mailto:janetcripps@ntlworld.com)



## NEW PLOT HOLDERS

Welcome to **Martin and Julie Edmundson Plot 46b**. We wish you a rewarding and productive allotment experience.



## TRADING HUT NEWS

Our Trading Hut is now closed. Many thanks to all our volunteers who helped out and also to all the members who came down and bought items throughout the year, without your support we would not be able to operate. The Trading Hut continues to be a place where people can come to ask for advice and share gardening tips. Peat-free compost proved very popular this year, as did the extra-large tomato planters — which we will definitely stock more of next season. Once again the over wintering onion sets and garlic sold out during September. Our 'free to a good home' proved popular and looking to the future we would like to develop more plant and seed swops.

Seed potatoes, onion sets and shallots are on order and the Trading Hut will reopen in February 2023. Details nearer the time.

## SHAS FACEBOOK GROUP



Following discussions about a SHAS social media presence at the 2021 AGM, a decision has been taken to launch a private Facebook group to discuss allotment related topics. The group is open to SHAS members and plot holders only.

The group can be found here:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/567772464776187>  
or via the SHAS website [www.shas.org.uk](http://www.shas.org.uk).

Click the Join button on the group, accept the rules of the group and provide your SHAS membership/plot number. The Administrator will then admit you to the group.

Any queries please contact via [facebook@shas.org.uk](mailto:facebook@shas.org.uk)



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## SOCIAL EVENTS

### History of Allotments in Ashton and Sale Tuesday 15 November 7.30pm

Although it is the end of the growing season and possibly time to put your allotment to bed, we have one more social activity this year and that is a talk on 'The History of Allotments and Allotment Gardening in Ashton and Sale' by Alan Morrison, Chairman of the Ashton and Sale History Society. This will take place at the Salvation Army Hall.

This is a family and friends event costing £2 each payable at the door (cash only) including refreshments. As Alan has needed to do a great deal of research for this talk it would be nice to have a good turnout.

### Cookery Book

It is planned to create a G(L)UT Busting cookery book of all your favourite recipes for using up the beautiful allotment produce we grow.

In order to do this please email me: [valeriemnne@gmail.com](mailto:valeriemnne@gmail.com) with your family favourite recipes, but be aware of any copyright issues which might be associated with your recipe and make some changes to ingredients or wording of method. I would like to work on creating the book during the quieter allotment months, so would appreciate your contributions as soon as possible. It is hoped that the book will be on sale at a minimal cost in time for next year's bumper harvest.

### Advance Warning on Pumpkins

There will be a pumpkin competition next autumn so please keep an eye on Grass Cuttings and your email inbox for details.

**Valerie Mulligan,**  
Social Secretary

## SURPLUS FOOD DONATIONS

Thanks to all the members who left surplus food donations during August for The Hideaway in Partington. Peter Jackson who kindly delivered the donations, received a thank you letter from their manager, Ruth.

*'I'd like to extend a massive thank you to all from the allotments who have contributed donations of fresh food to the Hope Centre this year. Every bit has been welcomed by the community and used to support households who are struggling with the cost of living at the moment. We've combined many of the donations with recipe cards and preparation suggestions and know of lots of families who have for the first time made their own soups, tried and enjoyed vegetables they didn't know the name of and been able to prepare fresh, healthy meals for their children. Thank you so much to everyone's generosity and kindness.'*

Ruth Lancey  
Hope Centre, Partington

## COMMITTEE CONTACTS

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



## BONFIRES

Fires are allowed from 1 October to 31 March.

The Council has received numerous complaints from neighbours of allotment sites in the past so we would remind everybody that in the best interests of plot holders and neighbours you adhere to the rules which are laid out in our Handbook and if you decide it is necessary to have a bonfire:

- // Only burn dry material, to avoid creating excessive amounts of smoke.
- // Do not light bonfires if the wind will blow smoke over the surrounding houses.
- // Keep the duration of the bonfire to a minimum.
- // Bonfires must be attended at all times while lit.
- // Ensure that bonfires are completely dead before being left unattended.