



# Grass Cuttings



## Newsletter of **S**ale **H**orticultural & **A**llotment **S**ociety September 2011

### Chairman's Report

Hello again. Another growing season is nearly over. Most vegetables, fruit and flowers appear to have been successful particularly beetroot, strawberries, apples and plums each despite the mixed weather. No doubt some of us are planning for 2012. I have just ordered a few items for autumn planting.

As you are aware Trafford MBC, like most public sectors, are having to cut back their spending. This will affect SHAS in mainly two ways. Allotment plot rents are increasing and our water supply will be charged per usage, which eventually will be added to each plot-holder's annual rent! With this in mind we must become frugal in our watering habits, conserving more rainwater off our greenhouses and sheds. I am hoping to obtain some rejected wheely bins from Trafford. With a tap fitted they will make good rainwater collectors.

Our last talk given by Pat Coulburn on The Walkden Gardens on 23rd June was very well received.

We are pleased to advise that two lady members have offered to organise our Pumpkin Party on Saturday 29th October. Many thanks to them and to Jane Lucas who has agreed to join your committee.

You may have seen in the press that the MP Mr Pickles appears to be trying to cause problems for allotments. The NSALG is closely watching any developments!

In closing, I have to inform you that two of our members have died this year. Ray Besso, one of our Life members and more recently Linda McLachlan our Allotment Secretary a most hard working and humorous member of your committee, who is sadly missed.

I look forward to seeing you and your family at the Pumpkin Party on 29 October.

Don Jackson

### Committee contacts

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Tony Turnbull <a href="mailto:memberships@shas.org.uk">memberships@shas.org.uk</a> Plot 21	Membership	973 1946
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Louise Black Plot 36	Plots	283 7415
Alf Edwards Plot 41	Trading Hut	282 0048
David Taylor Plot 27	Equipment	973 0867

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

## Pumpkin Party

### The Hoe Down Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October 6pm

Home made soup, hot dogs, baked potato, and cake, soft drinks (bring your own wine or beer)



### Prizes!

Heaviest home grown pumpkin,  
Fancy dress,  
Jack o' lanterns,  
Guess the name of the pumpkin,  
Races.  
Plot awards.



*Entry is strictly by ticket only. We must restrict the entry to 80 so get your tickets early.*

Adult £2 child £1.50

Family ticket of 2 adults 2 children £6.00.

Tickets available from the Trading Hut on Sunday mornings.

### AUTUMN ONIONS SETS NOW IN STOCK

**Senshyu** A Japanese variety giving a good crop of mild flavoured round straw-coloured onions, over-winters well.

**Electric** Lovely, red-skinned onions with an elongated shape and gorgeous red-ringed flesh. Maturing in early summer, perfect in salads and stir-fries, over-winters well.

**Compare Prices:** Marshall's 100 sets for £3.95

Unwins 100 sets for £3.75

**Ours: 500g approx. 100 sets £2!**

## Allotment news

There has been a marked turnover of plots in recent months and we welcome all members who have waited so long to become plot-holders. There are now 93 plots at Grosvenor Road.

### Cause for concern

If you cannot reach the top of your fruit trees without using a ladder, are they not too tall and are they not casting shade over other crops on your plot or your neighbours' plots?

When buying trees for your plot please ensure they are on a **dwarfing rootstock**. This means they will not grow too large and will leave space for other crops to thrive. If you have stone fruit such as Cherry, Plum or Damson, prune them back in summer. Summer pruning lessens the chance of disease entering the exposed cuts. Apples and pears can also be pruned back in summer to restrict their growth.

After the September inspection we will be writing to plot-holders whose trees are, getting too big for the plot and its neighbours. Please do what you can to reduce their size now.

### Virus and diseases

If you are new to a plot it is better not to accept cuttings of bush fruit from existing plot-holders however kindly meant.

It is better to buy fresh stock from a reputable source to avoid big bud and other debilitating diseases.



## Theft

A wheelbarrow and watering can have been stolen from Plot 16b.

To avoid the attention of 'sneak thieves', please ensure you lock the gate when you leave the site.

Marking your tools may help deter theft. Stolen items should be reported to a member of the committee and entered in the book in the Trading Hut.

## Sunflower alley

Plot 3's splendid row of sunflowers grown by Paul Starling from very cheap packets of seed!



A feast for squirrels and birds!



Our thanks go to Paul for taking on the bagging of fertilisers etc. for the Trading Hut.

This colourful display of cosmos greets members entering the middle gate and is thanks to Roger Snowden.



Having taken on his plot in April, Roger has kindly agreed to help in the Trading Hut.

## Delamere The story of a wooded ridge

A talk by  
Hugh Begg

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November  
2.30pm  
St Mary's Church

*Free to all members.  
Bring a friend for £1*

Old Trafford Amateur Gardeners' Society  
presents

## APPLE DAY

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2011  
12-3pm



Try some freshly pressed apple juice and taste some of the many locally grown apple varieties.

Visit our community "orchard 49" see how the fruit trees are growing.



Browse around our allotments, enjoy delicious, home made refreshments and try your luck on the raffle. *All Welcome!*

**Scymour Grove Allotments**

off Kings rd, next to primary school, Warwick court  
Old Trafford  
M160JG

Local Food



## Linda McLachlan

Linda, who died on July 5th, came to SHAS in 2005, joining the committee, and becoming plot secretary at the AGM of 2006. Her wry sense of humour enlivened our meetings considerably. Later that year we won 'The Most Improved Site in Trafford' award largely due to her determination in weeding out reluctant tenants and ruthless pursuit of rubbish.

The Pumpkin Party took off in 2007 because of her enthusiasm. Her own plot was a credit to her with its mixture of vegetables, fruit and flowers. Because of all she was and all she gave, she is badly missed.