

grass CUTTINGS

AUG:2024

CHAIR'S REPORT

Hi everyone, I hope you are all well. Firstly, I would like to say thank you to everyone who has welcomed me into my role as Acting Chair. I'd like to again extend my thanks to Chris Abbott on behalf of the Committee and members for all his work over the last few years. I was co-opted onto the committee by Chris, shortly after the site was vandalised in 2022 and have since been able to see first hand the hard work that goes into being part of the Committee and Chair, so I am well aware that these are big shoes to (temporarily!) fill. Since being part of the Committee, I have taken the joint role of Plot Inspector along with Rosemary, a role I will continue to fulfil.

I'd like to thank everyone who came along to the Plant and Seed Share in May which was an enormous success. A huge thanks to Hilary, Janet and Rosemary along with support from Valerie, for making it such a great community event, I really hope it will continue next year.

On the 1st of July, I met with Bob Rothwell, the Trafford Allotments Officer on site. Bob was very complimentary of our site and its upkeep; a huge thanks to our plot holders and in particular thanks to Roger Snowden who voluntarily supports a huge part of maintenance on site.

PLANT/SEED SHARE

We began this summer's social calendar on a sunny Sunday 12 May with a Seed and Plant Share. Many plot holders donated surplus plants and were able to take away something that they had not tried before, or had not yet planted. We hope to repeat this very successful sociable 'something for nothing' event next year.



COMMITTEE

Thank you for all the interest shown in being part of the Committee. We are still speaking to interested parties and will update the membership in due course.

You will be pleased to hear that Bob is as keen as we are to manage the boundary hedge and together we have put the wheels in motion to have this done as soon as possible. Following your feedback, Bob has also helped raise issues concerning dangerous trees with the Highways Agency, as well as providing advice on how to manage trees on and surrounding the site more effectively, which I will update you on as soon as I am able, so thank you for your patience on this.

I also attended the listening event ran by Trafford Council regarding their Allotment Strategy on 18 July — another is to follow later in the year which will enable me to give you a more comprehensive update on the Council's long term allotment strategy, but there is a large focus on sustainability, recycling, composting and community.

Finally, we have procured some lawn games for our social events. I know you will, but please ensure these are looked after and used respectfully.

If you do have anything you would like to discuss with me please reach out at: chairman@shas.org.uk.

Louise Virabi,
Acting Chair



TRADING HUT

The Trading Hut will be closed throughout August, but if during that time you want to buy something please contact Janet Cripps at janetcripps@ntlworld.com.

We re-open on Saturday 7 September when, subject to delivery, we will be selling:

SENSHYU JAPANESE AUTUMN PLANTING ONION SETS
£1.20 for 275g

THERMIDROME WHITE GARLIC
50p per bulb

We have invested in a contactless card machine which will give members the option of paying by cash or card for Trading Hut purchases. We hope to have this operational for when we re-open in September.

The Trading Hut's last opening day this growing season will be Sunday 29 September.

SCARECROW COMPETITION

Thank you to everyone who entered what is now an annual event on Grosvenor Road Allotments.

This year's theme was The Olympics and we had 8 wonderful entries. As usual the standard was very high and people's creativity, skill and ingenuity shone through so if you can, make time to wander round the site before the rain has had time to do its' worst, and hopefully it will inspire you to enter next year's competition.

1ST PLACE / EN PAR

Anne Wemys and Ian Smith Plot 13b

A very shady character in the sunglasses! I'm not sure if golf is an Olympic sport, but if not it should be now. This scarecrow is securely planted and ready to **TEE OFF**. The judge liked the inspired use of the tees to create the scary hair on the beady eyed golf ball heads to the irons. The Olympic medal was recycled watch or clock cogs and the flowers in the planted up golf bag were a perfect finishing touch. His creators deserve a trip to the 19th hole.

2ND PLACE / JIM NAST

Sue Taylor Plot 31b

A very creative use of your handy apple tree to attach the rings for Jim to exhibit a flow of gymnastic moves and somersaults in the breeze! The use of recycled allotment materials such as gardening gloves, hat and bailer twine gave him a horticultural air too on an Olympic themed plot! He certainly isn't **NAST** i.

3RD PLACE / PEPENITA BAD-MINT-ON

Elizabeth McCullough Plot 18b

This lady is very well planted, and isn't going miss her serve with firmly attached racquet and shuttle cock, her stare will out psych the opposition. The judge liked the use of the mop head covered in tights to give a well-shaped and realistically coloured face with securely attached features and the flesh toned limbs. The inspired use of a shredded dish cloth to create her hair added to the overall effect.



Para Olympic Swimmer



Jina the Gymnast



Going for Gold



Javelin Janice



Brian the Boxer

Thank you to everybody who joined in. Next year's theme will be announced in the Spring edition of Grass Cuttings.

MAUREEN SAWYER TALK

22 May 2024

Another informative and inspirational illustrated talk entitled 'Top Ten Gardening Lessons 'or 'Gardening Lessons I wish I had Known Earlier', from Maureen Sawyer. This is the second time we have had the pleasure of hearing Maureen speak. If you missed her this time, by popular request, she may be making a return visit with another talk next Spring. Details to be circulated.

For those who did not attend this talk, here is some of her advice:

Feed the soil not the plant.

A 'no dig policy' builds up soil fertility over time while digging brings weeds up to the surface.

Raised beds help you to adapt the ph of the soil and for it to warm up quickly enabling earlier planting.

When potting up plants move onto a pot the next size up, NOT one that is too big.

Use companion planting to deter pests and encourage pollinators.

All herbs have a beneficial effect eg. Chives deter aphids. Tagetes, especially Naughty Marietta, repels white fly. Oregano and Lemon Balm benefit all crops.

Garlic, rich in phosphorous and potassium when cooked to a pulp and diluted 10-1 will deter slugs if used to water over hosta leaves.

In a year a spider eats 200 times its weight in insects.

One lacewing can consume 200 aphids in a week.

Centipedes eat many pests.

All pesticide sprays harm more bees and butterflies than other pests.

Her recommended reading is books by Bob Flowerdew, Charles Dawdrey and Carol Klein.

APPLE DAY

15 September 2024

Looks like the weather conditions have suited apple trees and there may be a glut of fruit this year. As there are only so many apple pies, crumbles and tarts that one can eat, it is proposed that we make apple juice. This beats anything you can buy in the shops and it freezes well. If you wish to participate start saving clean plastic milk bottles to take away your juice. We have the loan of one fruit press, but if any plot holder has one that they would be prepared to loan, that would help. Further details of arrangements and requirements will be sent out closer to the date.



ANNUAL PICNIC

Sunday 14 July turned out to be another rather dull and damp day, though surprisingly not actually raining! There was a good turnout of new and established plot holders to share food, drinks and tales horticultural and otherwise under the trees on the community plot. The SHAS gazebo was in situ, as was a sail provided by Louise to protect us from the sun — or the rain! This is a good opportunity to meet and get to know people from other areas of the site in a relaxed way. If you weren't able to join us in 2024 then we look forward to seeing you next year.



WATER

The allotments are on a water meter, please make sure that water taps are turned off properly and do not allow the water butts to overflow. Also, please ensure that the water butts do not become contaminated in any way with weed killer, fertiliser or other chemicals you might be using on your plot. Contamination might occur if you dip watering cans which contain such substances into the water butts. Thank you.

COFFEE MORNINGS

A new and informal way to meet and chat with other plot holders at the Hoe Down where you can have a brew and a chat, sharing your successes, commiserating your failures and seek/offer advice.

These are planned to take place on a regular basis on mornings when the Trading Hut is open. Our first was Sunday 30 June — it rained! Just drop in, there is no charge and biscuits are provided!

The next one will be in September, date to be confirmed.



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TREES

Thank you to everyone who raised questions regarding trees and hedges on site. The Committee are currently discussing the maintenance of some of the overhanging trees on the boundary at the back of the allotment site with a qualified tree surgeon.

In regard to trees on individual plots, it is the responsibility of the plot holder to maintain these and we would remind you that you are only permitted to cut or trim trees that are on your plot.

Tree branches on your plot should not hang over pathways or surrounding plots. If there are any tree branches which overhang your plot from a neighbouring plot, please discuss this with your neighbour directly, or with a member of the Committee.

For any trees which form part of the site boundary please discuss this with the Committee first, to ensure boundaries are not compromised and residential neighbours are informed where applicable.

Over the past few weeks we have been made aware that several plot holders would like pruning or removing of trees on their plot. The tree surgeon we are currently in discussion with would be happy to quote for work on individual plots.

Joel at **TreeHub Tree and Garden Services** can be reached either via his Facebook page (search the business name) or on **07798 663929**.

If you are looking to have work completed on a tree and would like to get in touch with other plot holders looking to do the same in order to share costs, please post your interest on our Facebook group (SHAS — Sale Horticultural and Allotment Society) or, if you do not have Facebook and are happy for me to share your contact details with other interested plot holders, please email Louise Virabi at chairman@shas.org.uk.

A reminder that we are not insured for the use of chainsaws by plot holders on site.

PUMPKIN COMPETITION

13 October 2024

Possibly a difficult one this year with the weather we are having, but this competition will go ahead. You may enter more than one pumpkin but each one may only be entered in one category: HEAVIEST, FATTEST, SMALLEST and UGLIEST.

Judging will take place at 11am and children are invited to dress in Hallowe'en costumes and bring their own decorated or carved pumpkin, but this aspect of the day is none competitive.



COMMITTEE CONTACTS

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NEW PLOT HOLDERS

Welcome to our new plot holders. We wish you all a most enjoyable and productive allotment experience.

Catherine Blazier / Plot 23b
Faye Ellis / Plot 55b
Steve Quinn / Plot 33b
Matt Shrimpton / Plot 50

GRASS

Whilst we are extremely fortunate that Roger Snowden manages the main communal grass paths, please remember it is the responsibility of plot holders to maintain their own 0.5m wide path between plots by cutting the grass on these paths.

DOGS

Whilst dogs are and will remain welcome on the allotment, we would ask that you keep them on leads at all times. We do know that the vast majority of dog owners already do this, however there have been reports of dogs running onto other plots as well as defecating on plots and pathways.