

S.H.A.G.S. SUMMER 2020 NEWSLETTER

Our unusual weather has disturbed the seasons this year almost as much as Corona virus has completely changed our everyday life. Our allotments have proven to be a haven for so many ploholders and our sites are looking at their absolute best with prolific crops of vegetables, fruit and flowers, many seem to be 4 to 6 weeks ahead of normal. On my own plot my pumpkins have outgrown the bed and all turned orange last week – it's still a long way until Halloween !

The lockdown has caused a few problems within the Society, mainly that it has not been possible to have a proper committee meeting since March and we have had to postpone our AGM. Harpenden Town Council cancelled their annual inspection this year, just when our sites were looking their best.

We have had to cancel this year's annual Awards Evening, but the judging team carried out their socially distant visit to all our sites and have made their decisions. Congratulations to all the prizewinners for their hard work and it is very encouraging that many new ploholders feature in this year's listing.

SHAGS Allotment Awards 2020

Gold				Bronze			
AB	34	Jane & Roger	White	AB	26, 28	Trevor	Crome
AB	85	Richard	Upton	AB	52	Jeanette	Gooding
HR	3	Jim	Green	CF	2,4	Pam	Clarke
HR	10,11	Marcia and Roger	Dorey	CF	15	Andrew & Diana	Godden
SA	5,8B,9	Chris	Wilson	CF	16,24	Gillian & Kevin	Smyth
TS	19, 39	Amanda	Hutson	CF	17	Lester & Sally	Ferguson
				CF	21	Nuri & Nicola	Wyeth
				CL	3,5	Dominic	Houlihan
Silver				HR	2	John	Keith
AB	11, 70, 71, 73, 79	Sandra & Peter	Oldfield	HR	5,7	Emma	Reilly
CF	1,3,5	Kevin	Burton	HR	6	Jonathan	Slade
CF	13	Paula	Higgins	HR	21	Clare	Calle
CF	22	Keith	Davison	HR	22	Louise	Crosby
HR	1	Peter	Baikie	PH	14	Nicola Scrivener & Peter Mann	
HR	12	Janet	Barton	PH	29A, 33	David	Cox
HR	14	Amanda	Booth	PH	38, 39B, 40	David	Anderson
HR	19	Matt & Catherine	Johnson	PH	54,55	Mike	Cobley
HR	34	David	Cooper	PH	56, 58	Lisa	Lyons-Montgomery
PH	26B, 135,136A	Geoff	Bateman	PH	81, 83	Scott	Smith
PH	32, 34	Derek & Kathryn	Sanders	PH	91	Gillian	Davies
SA	2,12, 13,14	Debbie Lyons and	Peter Jewell	PH	95, 96	Anne & Philip	Davis
TS	3,5	John	Jones	PH	97A	Errol	Moody
				PH	137	Mike & Liz	Stratton
Well Done				SA	6,7	Mike	Fitz
AB	2	Duncan	Mackinnon	SA	10	Peter	Loveland
AB	43	Phil	Burford	TS	13	Michael	Beck
AB	47	Mark James & Win	Walker	TS	29, 41	Sarah	Perryman
AB	55	Jessica	Harwood	TS	30	John	Myres
AB	68	Catherine	Davies	TS	46, 48, 49	Janice	Vassie
AB	84A	Geoff	Peasland				
CL	34	John	Molson				
PH	15	Mary	Taylor				
PH	27A	Jacqueline	Pinkney				
PH	88	Rachel	Andrew				
SA	15	Noel	Whittle				
TS	16	Noelle	Roberts				

Overall Winner - Chairman's Shield

Chris Wilson

Most Attractive Plot - Percy Bradbury Cup

Eva Yalden

Best Newcomer - Derek Green Tankard

Nicola Scrivener and Peter Mann

Best Site - George Turner Cup

Sibley Avenue

Our shop has continued working as best as possible, working on pre orders, service direct to car boots, then as restrictions eased the shop re opened fully with a one way system, restrictions on numbers and more recently the use of masks. We had to carry out a risk assessment to satisfy the Council on the building, our practices and handling products and the highest risk appeared to be cash handling. This resulted in a two till system where cash received on one Sunday was held separately until the following week and the previous week's takings became the change/float for the current Sunday. We also instigated payment direct to the bank. For only 2 hours per week it is not practical to run an EPOS system to take card payments due to the cost of the machine and a suitable phone connection.

Sadly, we have lost our Shop Manager, when Roger Gillett was found on 2nd August collapsed at home after suffering a major stroke. He remains in hospital, but the prospects are not good. Our thoughts are with his son and daughter at this hard time.

This puts the Society in a difficult position and we urgently need someone who could take over the role. Roger has always looked after the stock control, ordering in supplies regularly, managing the deliveries, paying in the weekly takings and paying the shop bills. The annual order for seed potatoes and 2021 seeds has already been placed. There is a rota of volunteers for looking after the till on Sunday mornings. We experimented early in the season with a coffee machine, but Roger was not over enthusiastic. It could attract more customers with the right coffee and the right equipment, so there is scope for 'widening the shopping experience' and catching some passing trade ?

There are also other vacancies waiting to be filled within the Committee.

Peter Hicks has tendered his resignation as Secretary and did not intend to stand for re election at this year's AGM.

Jim Machin is seeking to relinquish the role as Database Manager and also Lettings Manager. Our database has the details of our 400+ members and this information is updated to provide information on rent renewals, wayleave payments.

Lettings Manager co ordinates new applications for plots, managing the waiting list, preparing ploholders letting agreements and making a quarterly return to HTC.

Chris Overton is standing down from the job of Machinery Manager. The task entails looking after the routine maintenance of our 60 items of machinery, mowers, rotovators, strimmers and co-ordinating with site reps and our maintenance contractor for annual servicing requirements and purchasing new equipment.

Keith Davison has reluctantly decided to retire as Churchfield's site rep, so that he can spend more time on his own plot. Not enough Gold awards eh Keith ?

If you feel that you could help in one of these roles call down to the shop on a Sunday for a chat, or contact direct Peter, Jim, Chris or Keith and get first hand the details of the job.

LATE NEWS

The hedges are due to be cut in the next 2 weeks. Please make sure there is access if ploholders have 'expanded' onto headland pathways.

PHOTO COMPETITION LAST CHANCE

Finally, we are grateful to everyone who has submitted a photograph for the photo competition. The competition closing date for entries is 12th September 2020 and we would very much like more plot holders to enter. Each plot holder is allowed to enter one photograph. The details of the competition and how to submit a photograph are on the website under the heading "Photo Competition 2020".

Mike