



## Newsletter – Spring-Summer 2025

### Chairman's message

Dear Fellow Members Of SHAS,

As chairman of a society numbering several hundred members, I find it hard to believe that I am having to write this letter. It is yet another appeal for volunteers which I sincerely hope will not go unheeded as the administration of the society is in danger.

Our treasurer Dolly, after several difficult years in the job, is anxious to resign. Paul Smith, distribution manager, is prepared to do the job for another year before retiring and needs an assistant who could be trained to take over. We also need a larger team of shop helpers. We do not have a maintenance manager. Our president John Jackson has been fulfilling this role temporarily, but we need a replacement and some dedicated volunteers to maintain the site. We do not have a health and safety officer. We also need a volunteer to manage the hall bookings, a lucrative source of income. If a large number of volunteers came forward it would mean that we could spread the load, sharing roles and making the jobs less onerous.

We are grateful to those people who have turned up on the last Saturday of each month and to those of you who respond to last-minute requests for help, but we are desperately in need of people prepared to make a long-term commitment.

If we do not have volunteers the simple solution will be to outsource these jobs. This will mean that the cost of this will be reflected in future membership fees which will increase considerably, but it will be a fairer system where each member will contribute to the running of the society, not in time and effort but via your wallets.

Chris Seaman

### Important Treasurer Update

As most of you know, I have been the Treasurer of this Society twice now. Firstly from 2009 through to 2014 and this time from 2020. However, I now need to step down and let new blood help propel this society into the future with new ideas and processes.

I am very proud to have been instrumental in clearing up massive water debts, FCA filings, audits, the implementation of sound accounting practices and many other projects, while ensuring that our rent bills have not gone up for 2 successive years.

As we are obliged by law to have a Treasurer, we urgently need someone to step up and take over my role as Treasurer. Please note that if we cannot secure a replacement, we will be forced to look outside the society for someone to maintain our accounts, which will most certainly incur an increase in our rents next year.

If you or anyone you know can help, please contact Dolly in accounts ASAP to avoid incurring additional costs of employing an outside agency. Finally, I would like to thank all of you for your support over the years.

*Dolly Munroe*

**Fun day**

**13<sup>th</sup> September 2025**



*All donations (bric a bra), intention of manning a stall and all offers to help will be much appreciated. Please pop into the office for further information*

### KEY CONTACTS

**Christopher Seaman - Chairperson**

*chairperson@spahillallotments.org.uk*

**Steve Tullett - Hon. Secretary**

*secretary@spahillallotments.org.uk*

**Dolly Munroe - Hon. Treasurer**

*finance@spahillallotments.org.uk*

**Paul Smith - Distribution Manager**

*distribution@spahillallotments.org.uk*

**General enquiries** *contact@spahillallotments.org.uk*

## What to do in the allotment in April and May

Most vegetable seeds can be sown this month. Tender crops like courgettes, outdoor cucumbers and beans should all be started at home or in the greenhouse if you are lucky enough to have one.

Parsnips should be sown directly as soon as soil conditions allow. Use cloches as the seeds need a constant temperature to germinate and can take up to four weeks.

Brussels Sprout seeds should be sown early in the month under glass. It's essential to provide shade for the seedlings, and don't expose them to heat or they will become stunted.

Mulch around your fruit trees with well-rotted manure or straw mulch.

### Hall facility

SHAS would like to improve the hall facility and increase the number of bookings.

We tend to restrict bookings to weekends at the moment, but we do have a church group one Tuesday a month.

We need a dedicated manager to control the bookings, prepare the hall and show ground, meet and greet customers and advertise the hall facility.

Ideally this would be run by a manager helped with a small team of people to take care of the grounds and cleaning of the hall and kitchen as well as oversee the opening and locking up after the booking.

Anyone interested can talk to Paul Smith in the Distribution Centre or on site at Plot 340.

### A brief description of the tasks involved for SHAS Distribution Centre

Following a good year for the Distribution Centre, we are now looking for a new manager to improve things further.

This would involve running the centre, including stock control and purchasing as well as looking for new products and promotion of the centre to our members.

The shop is open to customers on Saturdays and Sundays between 10.00 am and 12.00.

If you are interested in volunteering for this, please call in and talk to Paul in the centre or around the site at Plot 340.



### Theft

Unfortunately, thefts are continuing to occur. Please report any incidents to the office

## PLOT INSPECTIONS 2025

Please be prepared for this year's plot inspection, starting from late April. Keep an eye out on the gates around the site for the notices that will be put up nearer the date reminding you of what is expected from you to pass the inspection.

## FOOD IN OUR HANDS

Save the date!

Saturday 26th April

London

RALLY TO FIX THE FOOD SYSTEM

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| When?                       | Where?  |
| Saturday April 26th         | Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens, London, SE11 5HL         |
| Gathering to march at 1pm   | Then marching to DEFRA offices, via the Home Office |
| Food and speeches from 12pm |   |