

grass CUTTINGS

FEB:2025

CHAIR'S REPORT

Happy new year everyone! What a cold and wet new year it's been! Thank you to everyone that has sent over photos and emails regarding flooding and water logging on site. I have compiled and forwarded these concerns to the council to seek their advice on how we can protect our plots in the future. If your plot has been impacted, please feel free to take photographs or detail the concerns and I will send them onto the council.

While we prepare for the upcoming AGM I would urge any plot holders that have any topics of discussion to forward these to the committee in advance of the AGM so that we can endeavour to answer as many points as possible on the night — if you have not seen

the email yet please check your inboxes. I would also like to remind members that all communication (unless agreed on a case-by-case basis) is sent via email. Should you wish to update your email address with us please let us know as soon as possible.

Now the weather is beginning to improve, I hope to see some of you on the plot in the next few weeks — as always, if there are any concerns or anything I or the rest of the committee can help with please do not hesitate to reach out.

Thanks,
Louise Virabi, Acting Chair



PLOT RENTAL PAYMENTS FOR 2025

It's that time of year when we must collect the plot rentals. My thank to the many of you who have already paid — the first payment arrived in the SHAS Bank Account within 5 minutes of me sending out the emails! If you have already paid, you don't need to read any further. But, if you haven't paid yet, please read on as there are important deadlines coming up. Plottolders should have received an email from tonyturnbullxyz@hotmail.com on Saturday 12 January. If you can't find it in your Inbox, please check your Junk Mail box, and if you still can't find it, please email me as soon as possible, giving your current email address.

We have a very tight schedule to get all our plots rented out and collect the rent, so that we can send all the rent plus details of our plottolders to Trafford Council by the end of March, to comply with the terms of our lease. Therefore, if you don't intend to renew your tenancy, we need to know by the end of January so that we can find new tenants, and if you wish to keep your plot, the deadline for receipt of payments is Friday 28 February, after which we will start looking for somebody to take over the plot... so, don't delay, please either tell us that you are giving up your plot, or pay your rent, as soon as possible!

On a personal note, after about 20 years on the SHAS Committee, and 17 years as the Membership Secretary and collector of your subs, I will be standing down at the AGM in April. So, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody who has supported me over the years, and helped to make this a generally enjoyable time, but I am now keenly looking forward to being able to spend a few more years concentrating on my plot without having to think about Committee business! Thanks for all your support, and here's to some better weather and a productive 2025 for all of us.

Tony Turnbull, Membership Secretary

TRADING HUT VOLUNTEERS

If anybody is able to volunteer a couple of hours of their time to help in the Trading Hut please contact Janet: janetcripps@ntlworld.com. We work on a rota so you would only need to volunteer about one week in every four or five. You don't need any specific skills, just an enthusiasm to help out.

KINGS SEEDS

It's a perfect time to start planning and buying vegetable and flower 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. Our Seed Secretary Janet Cripps: janetcripps@ntlworld.com can supply you with login details where you can download the Members catalogue and place an order. We have a limited number of paper catalogues available from the Trading Hut when we are open.



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SOCIAL SECRETARY REPORT

After a mixed response to some of last years' social events, partly weather related I am announcing dates for this years' calendar well in advance. The Picnic is always very popular and well attended but please note that the Scarecrow Competition and Picnic will be held in June this year.

April

Another talk from **Maureen Sawyer**, a local organic gardener. Date to be announced.

May 11 10.30~12.00 / Seed and plant Swap at the Hoe Down

This event was held for the first time last year and proved very popular as not only did surplus plants and unused seeds find good homes, but along with the refreshments, the information exchange between plot holders about successes, failures and methods of cultivation was equally valuable. So please come along, even if you have nothing to donate there will still be someone's surplus for you to take away.

June 21 / Scarecrow Competition

We had some terrific entries last year so with plenty of warning about this year's theme Nursery Rhymes, you will have time to get the creative juices flowing to create a masterpiece of creativity and ingenuity. **GOOD LUCK** everyone.

June 29 2~4pm / Allotment Picnic

Always a very popular and well attended event when plot holders have the chance to get the know one another perhaps from the opposite end of the site or a member who digs at dawn. A good opportunity to exchange growing tips or bemoan failures!

September 14 10.30~12.00 / Coffee and Tool Exchange

Another event which we tried last year for the first time. Just bring along any unwanted garden tools, gardening books, surplus pots or anything garden or allotment related that is cluttering up your garage or shed and give it a new home with another plot holder. Again you do not need to bring something in order to take a 'trophy' away with you. We are trying to reduce landfill and save money.

October 19 10.30~12.00 / Pumpkin Competition

The categories will be the same as in previous years, the heaviest, the fattest, the smallest and the ugliest. The weather conditions last year made for a very poor summer and there were only 2 pumpkins entered in total, therefore if this is event does not receive more support in 2025 I shall take it that this is not the type of event that is of interest to a large enough group of members to make the competition viable and make this the last one.

Apple Day Date to be announced

After a thorough drenching on last year's Apple Day I have decided not only to hold this event later in the year when the apples will be softer but also organise things differently and much better. So if you have an early fruiting apple variety we will try to arrange labelled apple storage in the 'middle shed' for all who need it. Keep an eye on Grass Cuttings for further details.

If there is any other event that you would like me to organise for the association then please contact me.
Valerie Mulligan (Plot 8)

COMMITTEE CONTACTS

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SEED POTATO/ONION SETS

Subject to delivery from our suppliers, seed potatoes and onion sets will be on sale in the Trading Hut on Sunday 9 February from 10.30am to 12.30pm. We will email everyone to either confirm this date or advise you of the revised date; you can also check on our website.

Varieties on sale will be:

POTATOES / All priced at £1.40 per kg bag

1st Earlies: Pentland Javelin
2nd Earlies: Charlotte
Main Crop: Desiree, Cara, Orla

ONION SETS / All priced at £1.40 per 275g bag

Sturon (White)
Red Baron
Golden Gourmet Shallots

NEW PLOT HOLDERS

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

**Ann Weymss Plot 12 / Nick Plunkett Plot 15a
Shen Jiawen Plot 24 / Nick Websells Plot 40**