

grass CUTTINGS

NOV:2025



CHAIR'S REPORT

I can't believe while typing this we've entered November already and that for me at least, the growing season is nearly over. I know some of you are still tending to winter veg — fingers crossed for a good harvest.

I'm happy to inform you that through our recent recruitment drive we have two new co-opted committee members. Matt Shrimpton who you may be already aware of via our 'Allotment News' and Jayne Slim. We're really excited to have both Matt and Jayne on board; thank you both for volunteering. We are still looking for people to join the committee though so if you are interested to know more please visit our website www.shas.org.uk or email me for further details

On the note of volunteering, I'd like to thank everyone who volunteers their time to the running of SHAS. Whether that be members of the committee, trading hut managers and volunteers, the practical task group, coffee morning and tool swap volunteers, the members who cut the grass and help tidy up communal areas, setting up and supporting social events and those that carry out all the 'unseen' tasks, thank you. Without such a supportive and strong membership, the site would not function as smoothly as it does.

The committee have been busy working on a number of items over the last few weeks. Aside from recruitment,

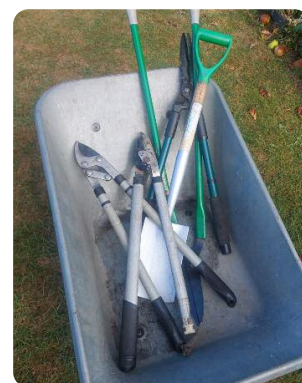
we've been looking at policies, improving the new website (thank you Tina), looking at funding pots and thanks to a member introduction; investigating new manure sources! If there is anything you would like to see the committee doing more of, or an idea for site improvement please don't hesitate to get in touch.

I'd also like to touch on GDPR and what that means for us as a site. As a volunteer organisation, we have a responsibility to hold personal data securely and accurately — in order to ensure we are GDPR compliant, please ensure that if your details have changed you inform us at membership@shas.org.uk — this includes phone numbers, address etc. This allows us to keep our details accurate, up to date and delete any information we no longer need to hold. It also ensures that if we need to contact you, we can! Please bear in mind that this also means we cannot share information or discuss personal information regarding plot holders with other members.

To close out, it's that time of year where the committee are planning for the AGM (Yes — already!) so keep your eyes peeled.

Have a great end to 2025.

Louise Virabi, Chair



TOOL SWAP AND COFFEE MORNING

The weather on 14 September was kind to us when we held our second Tool Swap. Although we were not over run with 'customers', those who came along found something useful to take away from various tools to compost bins and even a pair of gardening clogs! A successful event and profitable both for those people who saved money taking items away, and those who gained more space in their shed or garage with the 'disposal' of surplus equipment to good homes. Thanks to everybody who contributed and thanks to Ann for bringing homemade biscuits.

NEW PLOT HOLDERS

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

Matt Arbidans / Plot 34
Denise Gaston / Plot 15b
Catherine Irvine / Plot 23b
Sara Sanchez / Plot 25a
Anca Vranciu / Plot 16a

TRADING HUT

The Trading Hut is now closed for the winter season. Many thanks to all our volunteers who helped during the year offloading deliveries, manning the hut on a Sunday morning and keeping the shelves stocked. We will reopen in February 2026 when seed potatoes, onion sets and shallots will be on sale.

If you would like to volunteer to help out next year please contact Janet Cripps: trading@shas.org.uk We work on a rota so you would only need to volunteer about one week in every five or six. You don't need any specific skills, just an enthusiasm to help.



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HAVE YOU NOTICED WHAT OUR PRACTICAL TASK GROUP HAS DONE RECENTLY?

Site maintenance tasks often go unnoticed, but they are essential. Over the last 3 months members of the Practical Task Group have completed a range of tasks, some gentle others more energetic.

You might not have noticed weeding of the Hoe Down paving, or the cleaning of a spill on the paving. Apples have been picked (with plot holders' permission), making them available at a Sunday Social and delivered to a local food bank. Tools were sharpened for the Tool Swap. More energetic tasks have been bringing two neglected plots into a better condition which involved removing brambles, shrubs, dead trees, cutting the hedge and improving its security. The Glebelands Road end manure bays have been cleared of dumped vegetation, brambles, nettles, bindweed and litter.

You might not feel up to wielding a pickaxe but how about helping with smaller tasks or taking rubbish generated by these tasks to the tip or putting in your green bin? It all helps.

Can you volunteer to help? Email allotments@shas.org.uk include your mobile number.



FLOODING ISSUE — INFORMATION NEEDED

We are in discussion with Trafford Council about the flooding on part of our site. They have visited site and a drainage engineer has indicated they will conduct some site investigation 'when resource allows'. To help this investigation do you have any records, dates or photographs, of any flooding on your plot? Similarly can you recall any memories of historical flooding, describe the extent/direction of the flooding, likely dates and if the flooding has changed over time? Can you remember any previous flooding investigations, when was this and any idea where information about this might be? Did the boundary ditch running behind the white wheelbarrow shed ever have running water? When? Flowing in which direction? All snippets of information welcome.

Please send any information to allotments@shas.org.uk. We will collate and make this available to Trafford Council. There is no guarantee the flooding issue can be sorted but we can at least help inform an investigation.

COMMITTEE CONTACTS

Louise Virabi Chair, Plot 27
E chairman@shas.org.uk

Phil Gorman Treasurer
E treasurer@shas.org.uk

Tina Cooper Secretary, Plot 28a
E secretary@shas.org.uk

Bernadette Miller Membership, Plot 54b
E membership@shas.org.uk

Rosemary Budd Plot Manager, Plot 19b
E allotments@shas.org.uk

Valerie Mulligan Social Secretary, Plot 8
E socialsecretary@shas.org.uk

Janet Cripps Trading Hut and Newsletter, Plot 44b
E trading@shas.org.uk

Louise Virabi Social Media
E facebook@shas.org.uk

SHAS Website
www.shas.org.uk



KINGS SEEDS

The winter months are the perfect time to start planning what to grow next year. Our membership of the National Allotment Society entitles plot holders to purchase seeds and plants from Kings Seeds discounted up to 40% of their normal website prices. Please contact our Seed Secretary Janet Cripps: tradinghut@shas.org.uk to set up an account where you can view/download the members catalogue and order online.



BURNING RUBBISH

Fires are allowed from 1 October to 31 March

We remind everybody that in the best interests of plot holders and neighbours, you adhere to the rules which are laid out in our Handbook and if you decide it is really necessary to have a bonfire:

- Only burn dry material, to avoid creating excessive amounts of smoke
- Do not light bonfires if the wind will blow smoke over the surrounding houses
- Keep the duration of the bonfire to a minimum
- Bonfires must be attended at all times while lit
- Ensure that bonfires are completely dead before being left unattended

We do not want to receive complaints from neighbouring properties.