



grass CUTTINGS

JAN: 2026

CHAIR'S REPORT

First off, a belated Happy New Year from myself and the rest of the committee. It's been a cold start for sure and I'm sure you're all looking forward to things warming up.

As usual, over the quietest growing months the committee have been busy. We have the AGM coming up, we've submitted a grant application, have co-opted a new committee member: Anne Wemyss – welcome. Reviewed signage and pathways on site and have begun to make changes to policies, document storage and security. We'll update you with details at the AGM.

Rent invoices have also been sent out along with 12 months notice of the councils rent increase (please refer to your invoice email for details).

As always, please reach out with any questions, concerns or suggestions for our wonderful site and I hope to see you all soon.

Louise Virabi, Chair

AGM DATE AND DETAILS

This year's AGM will be held on Tuesday 24 March at 7.30pm at St Mary's Church, Moss Lane, Sale.

In accordance with our election process, you will have received by email the Election Notice and Nomination Form for Election to the Committee, together with a request for agenda items. If you have not received this information please contact secretary@shas.org.uk

For those unable to attend the meeting in person there is the option to join the meeting online.

SOCIAL MORNINGS

Our twice monthly Social mornings restart on Sunday 22 March from 10.30am to 12noon in the Hoe Down.

If you have recently taken on a plot (and even if you've had a plot for ages), and haven't been to one of our Social's before, do come along for coffee and biscuits with fellow plot holders. It's a great way to meet others on the site and share gardening experiences.

Social mornings will be held on the 1st Saturday and the 3rd Sunday of the month from March to September. Everybody is welcome. Dates will be advertised on the gate and our website.

PLOT RENTAL PAYMENTS 2026

By now you should have received your plot rental invoice for the upcoming growing season. Due to tight return deadlines given by Trafford Council, we ask that you make your BACS payments by Friday 27 February 2026.

If for any reason you are unable to pay the plot rental invoice by this date please contact: membership@shas.org.uk

Have you decided not to continue with the plot since receiving the plot rental invoice? If so, please let me know on membership@shas.org.uk so the plot can be offered to others on our waiting list.

Bernadette Miller, Membership Secretary

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 15 February from 10.30am to 12.30pm. We will confirm the date by email.

Varieties on sale will be:

POTATOES

All priced at £1.60 per kg bag
1st Earlies: Pentland Javelin
2nd Earlies: Charlotte
Main Crop: Desiree / Cara

ONION SETS

All priced at £1.60 per 275g bag
Sturon (White)
Red Baron
Golden Gourmet Shallots



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KINGS SEEDS

Don't forget that 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 Janet our Seed Secretary: tradinghut@shas.org.uk to set up an account where you can view/download the members catalogue and order online.



PLOT SIGNS

We would like to see all plots showing a plot number sign of some sort. If you haven't got one yet, please look around for something to use (it doesn't need to be fancy) and get a sign in place before the start of the growing season.

FLOODING REMINDER

As mentioned in the November 2025 edition of Grass Cuttings, any information on plot flooding now or historically should be sent to allotments@shas.org.uk. This will help discussions with Trafford to try and identify why some areas are more prone to flooding.

SECURITY

For the security of plot holders and equipment, gates should always be locked on entering and leaving the allotment site.

BURNING RUBBISH

Fires are allowed from 1 October to 31 March

If you are unable to dispose of green waste in your compost bin or council green bin and decide it is necessary to have a bonfire, please adhere to the rules which are laid out in our Handbook:

- 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

COMMITTEE CONTACTS

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

Phil Gorman Treasurer
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Tina Cooper Secretary, Plot 28a
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Bernadette Miller Membership, Plot 54b
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Rosemary Budd Plot Manager, Plot 19b
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Valerie Mulligan Social Secretary, Plot 8
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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



DOGS ON SITE

If you bring your dog onto the allotment site please keep them on a lead at all times. The vast majority of dog owners already do this, however there have been incidences of dogs running onto other plots as well as defecating on plots and pathways.