



The Wheelbarrow

www.granvilleparkallotments.org.uk

Spring 2019

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Dates for your diary

- **Spring Tea Party =7th April**
- **Plant Sale = 12th May**
- **Open Day & Summer Show = 18th August**
- **The first Sunday in the month Committee meeting (11am)**

Committee Notices

Welcome to our new plotholders.

We would like to thank Elaine & John (Plot 6) for organising the manure deliveries. Our first event of the year is the Annual Teaparty on the 7th April. After this event we will be having a team effort at the annual job of repairing any damage to the paths. Please come along, socialize and support the ground.

The plant sale will be on May 12th and the Open Day & Summer Show on 18th August. At all events prior to the show we will be collecting donations for the tombola. We are looking for additional volunteers to join our show committee—see page 5. We need more help to keep this successful event running and financing our community.

Please see the plan of paths produced by the Secretary Chris. (Plot 34) This aims to clarify which path's plotholders have responsibility for maintaining. A copy of this plan is on Page 5. Please keep all

paths level and free of debris.

This year are bringing back our own plot competition. There will be some new categories—see page 5 for details.

Join in our Sunflower competition—see page 4.

We do not have any further updates on the road parking consultations, but will keep you updated as we are informed.



Spring Tea-Party

On the Sunday 7th April at 12.00 we will be hosting a Tea Party for our plotholders, their families and supporters. Tea and Coffee will be provided and we welcome donations of cakes and other baked goods. Come along and meet your fellow plotholders. If you are new it is a great opportunity to ask questions, get hints and tips and make new friends. As always, we will not be charging at this event, but we would like to ask that you bring along a small donation for the tombola at the show if possible—see page 3. Meet in the site hut.. After the Teaparty from 13.00 onwards we be looking for volunteers to help us complete the annual path maintenance. This will not be longer than a hour—please show support!



It won't be long until the Spring appears!

We have had the cold spell. Snow has been and gone and in a few weeks the sun will appear, the ground will warm up and those seeds can get started! That is the theory anyway! If you are new to growing starting most seeds at end of March-May is early enough in Manchester! Don't be in too much of a rush to get going as seedlings kept indoors struggle quickly with lack of heat and too much heat. However, it won't be long till potatoes and onions can go in! Spend the time now on preparing your growing areas, sorting compost, tidying paths and general maintenance. From April onwards it is go, go, go.....

Ideas and inspiration— seed sowing & recycling

It's getting to that time of the year — seed sowing time !! Although we may have numerous seed trays and pots, why not try upcycling some materials that we all have to hand at home?

There are many other items that can be re-used, such as, yoghurt pots, pots that contained dips/ sauces as well as paper coffee cups. Be inspired and use some of those items that are already to hand in your home.



Toilet rolls and kitchen rolls make great seedling starters. The seedlings can be transplanted, roll and will decompose.



Plastic bakery hinged containers can be repurposed as mini propagators.



Egg cartons can be used to germinate seeds.



Fruit and veg containers from your weekly shop are useful too. Some already have drainage holes. Try sowing peas or spring onions.



The Book Worm—Together—'Our Community Cookbook'

The Hubb community kitchen was formed following the Grenfell tower disaster at the Al-Manaar Muslim Cultural Heritage Centre where women worked together to cook meals for the community. The recipes come from a vast array of different cultures, are budget friendly and all the profits from sales go to The Royal Foundation of The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and The Duke and Duchess of Sussex. Whilst not directly allotment related, the book contains some really interesting recipes to use up your veggies. Currently selling for £ 9.99 on Amazon. Why not support a good cause and try cooking something new?



Tasty Delights—TURKISH GREEN BEANS WITH OLIVE OIL by Fatma (plot x)

This is a dish widely made in the south and west of Turkey in the summer. It is usually served cold as a side dish though we do enjoy it in the winter as well, served hot and usually with some boiled rice or bulgar wheat.

Ingredients:

Olive oil
1 medium onion chopped
2-3 cloves of Garlic crushed
3 medium sized tomatoes chopped (if available use a variety which will give a nice red colour when cooked, if not add some tomato paste)
Tomato paste 1 tbs
500gr of green beans chopped into 1 inch
Salt
1 tsp sugar



Method:

- Heat the olive oil on medium heat
- Add the chopped onion and brown a little
- Add the tomatoes and garlic whilst stirring and cook a little making sure you stir occasionally
- At this point if you want to you can add some tomato paste. I would usually add 1 tbs
- Add the green beans, some salt, 1 tsp of sugar and water and simmer until beans are cooked

Do you have any recipes you could share?

Let us know!

Bring and buy plant sale

On the 12th May there will be a bring and buy sale. Bring along your excess plants and buy what you need. 10.00-12.00 in the site hut. Coffee & Tea provided. If you are new this is a good way to buy plants, particularly if you don't have a suitable greenhouse to start off seeds. You can also buy supplies from our shop at the event.



Top up your spring plant supplies in the sale.



August Show Family Open Day & Show

This year the show is on Sunday 18th August; entries to be laid out by 12pm with the gates opening to the public at 2pm. Following on from previous years plottolders are allowed to enter 2 entries per class in the vegetable section. Full details about how to enter the show will be in the summer newsletter. More information about the show rules and previous results are available on our website www.granvilleparkallotments.org.uk.

We will require help setting up for the show. Please look out for notices of times for this via email and social media. Many hands do indeed make light work and we need your support. We welcome donations for the veg/fruit stalls and cakes/preserves on the day. In advance, we will be collecting tombola and hamper donations. We will be requiring support from members to 'run' the stalls from 2pm on the day. Join the subcommittee to get involved— see page 5.

Trafford Allotment Competition

The annual Trafford give members an opportunity to win prizes including 'best allotment', 'best flowerbed' and 'best onion bed'. You are judged against other plots throughout all of Trafford. The Trafford competition recognises improvement and plots are awarded a graded scheme, for example 'highly commended' and 'commended' as well as ranking the 1st, 2nd and 3rd best allotments in the borough. Our plottolders have previously ranked highly in this competition. If this is your sort of thing then see the website at www.granvilleparkallotments.org.uk for more information.



Granville Park Plottolders have enjoyed much success in competitions for many years.

Getting involved—The Open Day & Show Committee



We are looking for additional volunteers to get involved in organising this year's Open Day & Show. We anticipate about 4 meetings between April and August.

Please see Page 5 for more details.

Cultivation

Rule 12 of the Bylaws states "Every member shall keep his/her allotment free from weeds and well manured and otherwise maintain it in a proper state of cultivation to the satisfaction of The Committee". We wish to support members in enjoying their allotments. We are looking that Plottolders are clearly working the plot, using the land and making progress. By mid Spring we do expect members to have cleared, or be clearing the ground, in preparation for planting from late spring onwards. We ask that you do not leave large areas of your plot uncultivated. If you are having difficulty preparing for the upcoming growing season please speak to Chris (Plot 34) ASAP. If you have recently taken on a plot and are under the 3 month trial procedure you should have a good idea of what is expected. Please ask for any advice and support you require. This is a friendly and supportive site.



"But make no mistake: the weeds will win; nature bats last" ~Robert M. Pyle

Ground maintenance

As mentioned earlier the first ground maintenance event will be after the Spring Tea Party on at 7th April. The Teaparty will finish around 13.00 so we will be taking 30 minutes or so afterwards to try and sort the annual damage to the paths. This requires a good few people so please stay around and help. Bring a rake and some gloves. Throughout the year we will be hosting a few ground maintenance events when we require a good group of people. You will be kept informed about these. We are very grateful to our current volunteers who help with maintenance and organisation, however we need additional help. There are simple jobs that you can get involved with that can be completed at any time. You don't need to attend meetings! Get involved—we need YOUR support!



Tallest Sunflower Competition

After last year's successful effort, would you like to enter Granville Park's Tallest Sunflower Competition? Plants will be provided at the Plant Sale. Judged early September. We will be planting Mongolian Giant Sunflowers—be aware these can grow VERY tall and will require staking.



Show donations—ahead of time!

We will be collecting show donations ahead of time once again. Do you have items left over from Christmas that are looking for a new home? We are looking to collect donations that can be used for the tombola at the show. We will be collecting food items like chocolates/wine closer to the time, but will take e.g. toiletries, children's games, household gadgets and other suitable items at any time. Donations for the tombola should be new.

You can drop off donations with Denise (Plot 9) or leave them in the hut. You can also bring items along to the Spring Teaparty and Plant Sale. Further information about the show can be found on our website at www.granvilleparkallotments.org.uk

Empty jam jars are also required for the show. You can leave these in the site hut at any time.

The show is our only fundraiser—please support the ground!

Buy from us and save money!

On the ground we buy in a number of essential supplies and offer these for discount prices from our storage container. Opening times for the shop are 10.00-11.00 before the committee meetings on the 1st Sunday of each month (except Jan). Don't forget with us there are no transport issues (long canes are a pain in your car and we only stock good quality supplies). Please see the website for a full list of supplies and their bargain prices. We have potato and onion fertilisers. Granville has produced some compost maker. Please speak to either Anthony (Plot 4) or Denise (Plot 9)

*B&Q prices - Feb 2019—update below



Product	Our Prices (£)	B&Q (£)*	Saving!
Garden cane (8ft—heavy weight)	0.45 per cane (buy the no. you wish)	0.54 per cane (much thinner quality)	9% and no transport issues!
Growmore	£0.75 per kg	1.95 per Kg	63%
Perlite	£0.20 per litre	0.99 per litre	80%
Chicken Manure Pellets	£5.50 per 8kg	14.10 per 10kg	51%

Product	Application rate	£ Price (per kg)	£ (if pre packed)	What is it?	Organic	Used for
Fertilisers – concentrated sources of plant nutrients. Used to improve plant growth and crop yields.						
Organic pelleted chicken manure	See pack		5.50 (8kg)	Chicken manure – good source of nitrogen, potassium and phosphorus. Not as concentrated as Growmore.	Y	A good general fertiliser for adding to the soil in the spring before planting - good for most crops, but don't use around acid loving plants like blueberries
Bone Meal	2-4oz/sq yard	0.55		Ground up animal bones. Smaller amount of nitrogen and higher phosphates.	y	Promotes root growth. Add to the soil before planting or sprinkle around existing plants. Good for flowering plants.

Our pricelist also has a brief guide to each product. Look in the noticeboard section of the website.

Granville Park Allotments Annual Competition

This year we will be re-vamping the Granville Park Allotments Annual Competition.

There will be prizes for:

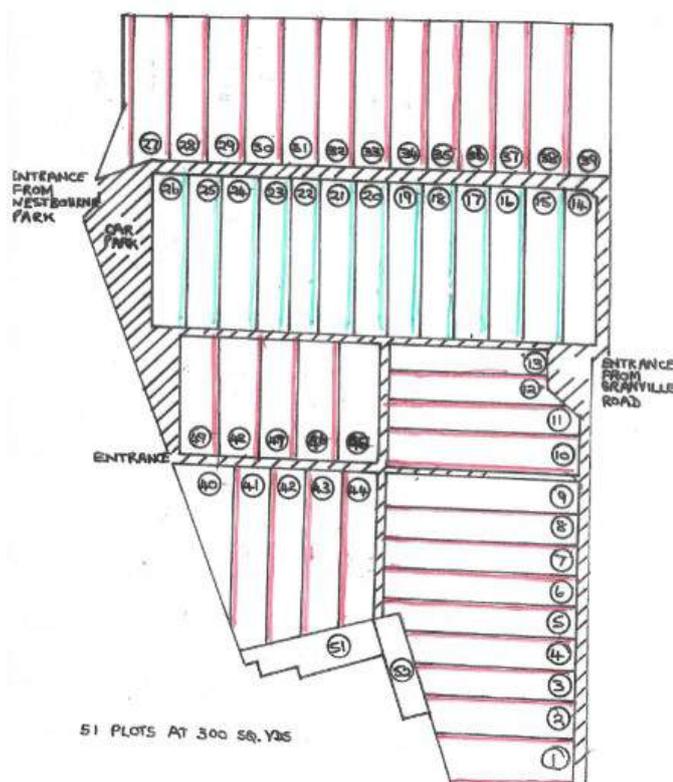
- *Best Full Plot
- *Best Half Plot
- *Best Full Plot Flower Border
- *Best Half Plot Flower Border
- *Best Onion bed
- *Children's Gardening Award
- *Most Improved Plot
- *Environmental Award

It's all a bit of fun! Get involved!

Judging will take place in early July.



Plan of paths



After some confusion for which paths plotholders are responsible to maintain we have produced the image to in guidance.

Please ensure paths are kept tidy, accessible, level and safe.

If you have any queries please speak to the Secretary, Chris (Plot 34)

Show & Open Day Feedback

The Show & Open Day on August 18th 2019.

Why is the day important?

Not only is it a fun and great community event, the day is essential for funding the maintenance of the ground. This alone is the reason why only £5 ground rent is added to the plot rent in the annual fees. If we can fundraise enough money to complete essential jobs—we don't have to charge members extra money—pretty simple!



You can feedback about the show in a quick 5 minute survey at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/K6WL9QH>

Alternatively, please email comments to granville-parkallotments.org.uk or speak to any member of the committee.

Would you be willing to join the new show committee?

This won't involve regular meetings, arduous tasks or fixed commitment, but is a fun way to get involved and support the voluntary running of the ground and our community. Speak to Heather/Steve (Plot 47) or email: granvilleparkallotments@gmail.com

Tasks may include:

- *Advertising/promotion.*
- *Logistics/organising the efficiency of the event.*
- *Creative/crafting tasks.*
- *Delivering flyers.*
- *Preparing stalls or produce for the day e.g baking, jam-making, crafting, producing fun & games etc.*

Refreshments provided at meetings—great to get away from the kids for an hour or two!

Feature: Weed—Herb Robert



Herb Robert (*Geranium robertianum*), is known by many names including Bachelor's Buttons, Granny-thread-the-needle, Stinking Robert, Robin redbreast, Bloodwork & Pink pinafores. It is a native member of the geranium family.

Whilst not an unattractive wild plant, it explosively casts it's seeds up to several metres away so spreads well and can germinate in places you don't wish it to be. Like any other weed (plant) it will compete with your veggie crops for light and nutrients before setting seed and spreading. It is a sprawling plant so it can cover quite a reasonable area quickly. It's pretty bright pink flowers don't really make up for the smell which is said to be like mouse urine in large enough quantities!



However, around the site at Granville Park there are some quite established patches of Herb Robert including near the Oak Grove entrance in the borders of the ground. As a native wild plant it provides habitats for many insects. However, very close to your growing areas it can cause issues.

Controlling Herb Robert.

Herb Robert does not root deeply so is easily controlled by digging, hoeing or mulching (no dig). Hoe seedlings on a dry day and they will die in the heat. The plant will bloom right through from spring into autumn. It isn't fussy on soil type, but likes shady positions un undergrowth and thrives around rocks/walls/paving slabs. Therefore, watch around those paths near to your plot as the seeds can reach your main cultivation areas if they spread.



seedling

Free from the Sky by Denise (Plot 9)

Fresh treated mains water isn't all that great for our plants on the allotment. Before it reaches our taps it is treated, purified and stored. When it finally does reach us, our fruits and vegetables don't much care for it. So why not use a natural resource which comes to us free from the sky? Rainwater.

Last year was my first year on Granville Park Allotments, when Paul and I took on Plot 9. Facing many enjoyable challenges, growing vegetables for the first time in large quantities, one of the biggest challenges was watering.



This is what we did

Every roof surface that you have on your plot is a potential source of water. If you have a greenhouse or shed, you can attach guttering to one or more of the roof edges and have rainwater delivered directly into a butt.

We decided to use one of the black wheelie bins that Trafford Council provide for our waste. It was a bin that had a wheel missing. We attached a pipe and tap to the butt so that we could drain water when needed.

Don't forget
Trafford Council
provide broken
wheely bins for
use as water butts!

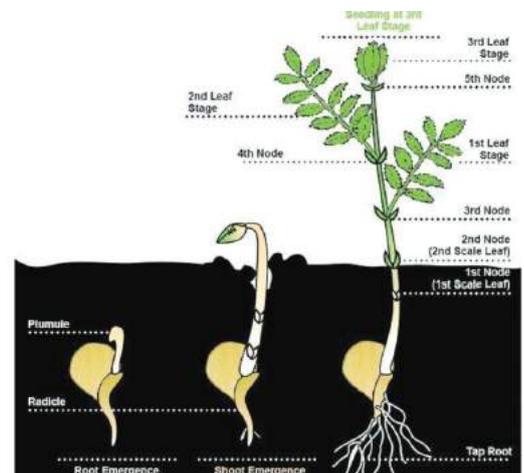
Feature— Growing Chickpeas by Fatma (Plot x)

Chickpeas are grown similar to beans. I sow dried chickpeas, which you can get from any supermarket. Do what you would do with your beans. Sow 1 chickpea each into small pots. Once germinated, wait for the plant to grow to a size you can handle and then plant outdoors after the risk of frost has passed. I usually wait until June before planting outside. Tie to a small cane to give support. Plant will grow to about 40cm in height. White flowers will appear followed by small pods. Wait for the pods to be full before picking. There is usually 1 pea per pod. Sometimes you'll get 2 per pod. Plants are relatively hardy but the yield depends on the weather. My best crop so far was last year. We had so many chickpeas, that we even dried some to use later.

Largest producers of chickpeas
India
Myanmar
Pakistan
Turkey
Ethiopia
Russia
Granville Park Allotments



Early chickpeas grown in 2017. Picture also shows some flowers on the plant. Unlike beans, chickpeas usually grow at the same time. Once its time to pick, you can usually remove the plant as a whole.



Meet the Plotholder— Denise Hobbs (Plot 9)

How long have you had an allotment?

15 months

Can you give us your best tip or something new you learnt this year?

Learned one thousand and one things and still learning!!!! My top tip would be, if you are new to allotmenting, do a little, very often and enjoy. Use the knowledge of your fellow plot holders and keep on top of those pesky weeds.

What do you grow on your plot?

Our first year on the plot meant that we needed to clear the plot of the knee high weeds and prep the soil for planting. So October to February we were digging and weeding.

So in our first year we managed to grow tomatoes, onions, potatoes, cauliflowers, peas and beans, kale, sweetcorn, courgettes, celery, marrows, squash, as well as an array of herbs. All the crops were healthy and we had an abundant harvest. We planted young fruit trees for future fruit.

What is your favourite thing about having an allotment?

It was great to socialise and chat to fellow plot holders. The veg that we grew was amazing from ground to table. I think my favourite thing was the corn on the cob this year. I was really surprised how easy it was to grow and the taste is amazing.

Having a constant supply of onions and loads of sweet peppers was superb

What had been your best success last year?

I think the fact that we actually managed to plant up at least half the allotment, build a shed, greenhouse and seating area (thanks to Paul, my partner) was success in itself as I never thought for one minute we would manage this much. The plot is primed and ready to go for this coming season. Can't wait !!

What have you found most challenging?

From a "newbie" point of view, it would be the initial plot clearance and then keeping on top of weeding throughout.



Plot 9 Spring 2018 when Denise took the plot over



Plot 9 in Summer 2018



Shed, greenhouse & seating area.



Early 2019. Plot 9 ready for planting in spring

If you would like to be featured in a 'meet the plotholder' article please contact speak to a member of the committee or email granvilleparkallotments@gmail.com

Feature—Whitefly

What are Whiteflies?

Whiteflies are very small flies that feed on the underside of plant leaves. They are from the family 'Aleyrodidae' which contains more than 1500 species. Interestingly, the flies are not actually white in colour. They are usually marked or mottled grey or black, but they are covered by a fine wax powder which gives a floury appearance hence looking white in colour.

Whitefly suck up the sap of plants which can affect their growth. The saliva of the fly itself can block the internal tubing of the plant, but the main problem is that the plants can then become more susceptible to mold infections. The whitefly can sometimes directly transmit viruses in a similar way to aphids or greenfly, particularly in tomato and bean crops.

How can you control Whitefly?

Generally whiteflies don't cause significant issues unless their populations grow large so keeping them in check is important! Many whitefly populations are resistant to pesticides. Even if you are happy to use these chemicals they may not be very effective. In a greenhouse the best option is to check weekly the underside of leaves. At the first signs of whitefly wash the underside of leaves using water. This will reduce the population. Remove dead leaves or leaves that have been eaten by the flies. Avoid screening all entrances to greenhouses. The whitefly can enter, but their slightly large predators cannot! A number of predators are great at controlling whitefly, particularly lacewings, ladybirds and predatory wasps. Encourage these to your plot by having areas of flowering plants. Companion planting with basil, nasturtium, zinnas, mint & calendula is said to be effective.

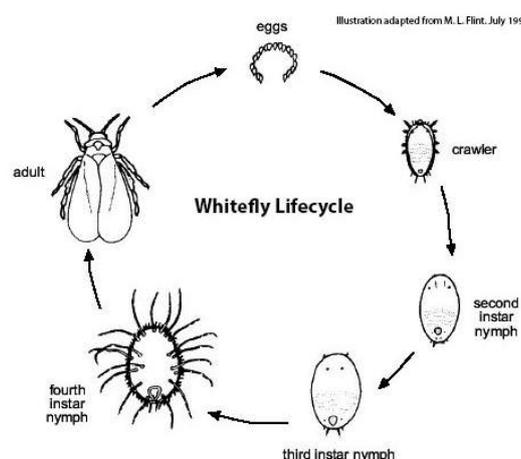
Fine meshing like Enviromesh should be fine enough to protect outdoor crops. The green debris netting is not. Whitefly can become a problem on overwintering brassicas if the winter is mild. Keep removing affected leaves to prevent the fly overwintering.



Whitefly, their eggs and faeces on the underside of a leaf



A bad whitefly infestation!



Expensive, but fine netting!

Reminders



Don't forget...

No fires on the ground from 30th April.



Get involved—come along to the Spring Tea-party. Help out at a working party and volunteer at the Show



Secure your plants against the winds. Net brassicas to protect from pigeons.



No sprinklers and do not use a hosepipe for more than half an hour; respecting other plotholders



Number your plot



Maintain the paths around your plot. Please see the guide on this or speak to a committee member



All guests you bring onto the site, including children, are the responsibility of the tenant. No unattended children are allowed on the site.



Visit our website at www.granvilleparkallotments.org.uk for guides to various aspects of allotmenting, details of events, important notices, info about our history and interesting photos.

Granville Park Allotments

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Granville Park Allotments

Search...

Vacancies
March 4, 2018 12:45 pm

4th March 2018
We currently have no vacant plots and there are 4 people on our waiting list.

Check the [Trafford Council](#) website to see if there are plots available at other grounds or [contact](#) our secretary to join our waiting list.

Newsletters
December 3, 2017 2:25 pm

The [Winter newsletter for 2017](#) is now