

Humphrey Park

allotment news

Issue 2 March 2008



Committee

Chair: Plot 50a

Noelle Ryder – 0161 865 8501

Vice Chair: Plot 20

Roy Dixon – 0161 865 4368

Treasurer: Plot 18

Arthur Corlett – 0161 748 9205

Secretary: Plot 57

Felicity Clarke – 0161 865 5307

Dennis Humphries

– 0161 865 2269

*Committee members
(see list in Pavilion)*

Site Security/ Allotment Watch

Crimes should be reported to the Police by ringing 872 5050, ask for the "Pad Desk" if you do not require the police to visit.

All other calls use the same number and ask for Trafford AOR. Post code M41 9PL.

It is **important** that all crimes, however insignificant, are reported as Greater Manchester Police believe there is little crime committed on allotments due to them not being informed when things do happen.

Humphrey Park Allotments Association Ltd

Compost Clinic

There will be a compost clinic on Saturday 29th March courtesy of Fairfield Compost, **watch the noticeboard for further details.**

Fences and Boundaries

Please remember to leave a space of approximately 3 feet at the back of your allotment to allow our neighbours access to maintain their fences or walls that back onto the allotments.

Please do not place or store anything against our neighbour's boundaries, as it is their responsibility to maintain their boundary and keep them secure.

For security reasons it is vital that we keep all the boundaries around the allotment wall maintained to avoid any unwelcome visitors. If you are aware of any gaps on the boundary or backing onto your plot please let one of the committee members know.

Fly tipping

There have been a number of instances of fly tipping recently. Plots 2 to 8, which we hope to cultivate this year, have had a chest freezer, pushchair, rubble and numerous other items dumped on them. It can only be assumed that some of this has occurred because the gates have been left open or unlocked. It is imperative that the gates are closed/locked **EVERY TIME** you enter or leave the site.

Changed address or phone no?

Let one of the committee members know as soon as possible or email us at the address below.

Email

If you are on email and not already on the distribution list let us know as this cuts down on administration and postage costs, see above for details.

News

New Plot Holders

Joseph – Plot 11

Paul – Plot 17

Richard – Plot 27

Pat and Jill – 34a

Bernard – Plot 37

Donn – Plot 54

Larry – Plot 58

Simone and family – Plot 59a

Jane and family – Plot 59b

Welcome to you all!

Improved Toilet Facilities!

Although there are no separate ladies facilities at present, the Allotment Society has received a **grant for improving** the toilet facilities. Work is under way to replace the roof on the ladies toilet and work will start shortly to install a Cess Pool in the car park area to the right of the Pavilion. Trafford BC has kindly supplied the sanitary ware.

Only fit for ducks – scenes from the plot in late January !!



email: Humphreypark.allotments@ntlworld.com



what's new?

Recommended websites:

Recycling

<http://www.freecycle.org/groups/unitedkingdom/>

Anything you want to get rid of or need to find is on this website, sometimes for free!

www.myswap.co.uk and www.swapz.co.uk

Compost

www.fairfieldcompost.co.uk

<http://www.doctorgreenfingers.co.uk> All round good site covering everything you need to know with a "Jobs to do monthly" section.

Sheds

Everyone who has a shed or greenhouse or wishes to place one on their plot is required to complete an authorisation form, please see a committee member. Sheds must be no larger than 4ft by 6ft and preferably painted green. Please remember that if you are placing it near to a fence or wall to allow 3 feet between you and your neighbour and to try and line it up with any existing structures they may have ie avoid blocking the outlook from their garden.

Plot getting too much for you?

If you are struggling to keep your plot in order have you thought of **downsizing**? For example if you have a full plot it could be split into two.

Some plots were in a pretty poor state at the end of last season and whilst we appreciate that last summer could have been better, it is the responsibility of each plotholder to keep their plots in a reasonable state.

Please remember the committee has the power to serve notice to those who ignore requests to improve their plots. There is a growing waiting list for plots that Dennis Humphries is co-ordinating in his newly formed role as Lettings Officer.

Insurance:

Public Liability Insurance is currently being arranged and will cover visitors to the plots. **Please note this does not cover individual plot holders.**

Site Shop:

A variety of items are available to purchase on Thursday and Sunday mornings – they include slug pellets, ground cover and fertilisers – list in the pavilion. See Roy Dixon or a committee member.

Straw For Sale

£1.50 per bale see Roy or Ken Dixon

Dates For your Diary

Fairfield Compost visit Saturday 29th March

Seymour Grove Allotments Open Day Sat 5th April 10-4pm

HPAA Committee Meeting Sunday 6th April 2008

HPAA Committee Meeting Sunday 1st June 2008

HPAA Committee Meeting Sunday 27th July 2008

BBQ and Annual Show Saturday 9th or 16th August 2008

Gardeners Evening 10th September 2008, John Alker Club

Annual General Meeting Sunday 12th October 2008

Bonfire Night Sat 1st or Sun 2nd November 2008

HPAA Committee Meeting Sunday 30th November 2008

Fund-raising ideas:

■ Car Boot and Plant Sale

■ Jams and chutneys
(start saving your jars!)

■ Herbs and Plants

■ Produce and Rhubarb Sale

(if you have any spare plants let a member of the committee know)

■ Plant Tombola

Please tell us if you have any other ideas or suggestions

website: geocities.com/humphreyparkallotments

■ Bedding plant sale.

As well as using a supplier we hope to grow some of our own plants for re-sale so if you have any extra seedlings or plants please let one of the committee members know.

■ Do you know anyone

who has a greenhouse they no longer require, we would be happy to take it off their hands? The same applies to paving stones and flags.

■ Also does anyone have

any spare greenhouse space either at home or on the site to help 'bring on' our home-grown seedlings?

what's new?

Companion planting

is a method of planting different plants together so one plant can improve the growth of another. This is achieved by using a plant with strong defenses to boost the weakness found in other plants, or by attracting the pests away from the main crop.

cont'd →

Contributed by Arthur Stanley

Scent and Camouflage Some plants produce scents or chemicals to protect themselves from pests, these can be useful if placed next to a plant that cannot defend itself from a pest attracted by its own scent.

For example the Carrot Root Fly is attracted to the smell of Carrots especially when the leaves are crushed during thinning. To stop the Root Fly from finding the Carrots place a smellier plant near the Carrots e.g. onion or garlic.

Use a 'Honey pot'

To protect the plant you could use a sacrificial plant, ie. Slugs love Lettuce, but they love Marigolds more, so use Marigolds as a border to any bed where slugs can be a problem. And there is the bonus that they look very attractive!!

Fertilizer mixing guide

	Nutrients				Nutrients				
	Parts by weight				Parts by weight				
	Inorganic				Organic				
Crops	Sulphate of Ammonia	Superphosphate of Lime	Sulphate of Potash	Application rate	Hoof and horn	Bonemeal	Highland Rock Potash	Application rate	Remarks
Brassicas	2	3	2	3oz/sq yd (90g/sq m)	3	2½	9	2oz/sq yd (60g/sq m)	Ideal for brussels, calabrese, cauliflower, summer/ autumn and winter cabbage, savoys and broccoli.
Early potatoes	5	8	3	4oz/sq yd (120g/sq m)	8	7	14	2-4oz/sq yd (60-120g/sq m)	Apply four weeks before planting.
Maincrop potatoes	3	4	2	5oz/sq yd (150g/sq m)	5	3½	9	3-4oz/sq yd (90-120g/sq m)	Apply three to four weeks before planting.
Pulse crops	1	3	2	2oz/sq yd (60g/sq m)	1½	2½	9	1-2oz/sq yd (30-60g/sq m)	Suitable for broad beans, dwarf French beans, peas and runner beans. Apply a few weeks before sowing or planting.
Root crops	1	4	2	4oz/sq yd (120g/sq m)	1½	3½	9	2-4oz/sq yd (60-120g/sq m)	Beetroot, carrots, parsnips etc all do well in this mixture.
Tomatoes	2	3	2	2-4oz/sq yd (60-120g/sq m)	3	2½	9	2-3oz/sq yd (60-90g/sq m)	Use as a base dressing to border soil. Also use the inorganic as a top dressing at 1oz (30g) per plant every 7-10 days from the time the fruits start to swell.
General garden use	3	7	2	2-4oz/sq yd (60-120g/sq m)	8	9	9	2-3oz/sq yd (60-90g/sq m)	Use as a base dressing around the garden.

Other Methods

Companion planting is not restricted to removing the threat of pests, there are also other benefits gained by using certain plants. Peas will build up nodules of Nitrogen on their roots, and when the plant has died the Nitrogen is left to enrich your soil. On an even more subtle level than this, Green Manure or even Leaf Mould can also be looked at as a form of Companion Planting.

Making Allies

Marigolds are also very good at attracting Hoverflies, and Hoverfly Larvae like to eat Aphids, in fact your average Hoverfly Larvae will eat around 800 Aphids before it pupates. Ladybirds are also very good at eating Aphids so attract them with plants like Dill and Fennel.

Volunteers still needed

Working parties for general tidying up.

Working parties for toilet refurbishments.

Working parties to help clear four overgrown plots.

Jam and Chutney making parties!

If you can offer help please contact any of the members named above.

Other fund-raising ideas: Please tell us if you have any other ideas or suggestions

- Car Boot and Plant Sale
- Jams and chutneys (start saving your jars!)
- Herbs and Plants
- Produce and Rhubarb Sale (if you have any spare plants let a member of the committee know)
- Plant Tombola