Although we've not waited quite sixty years for an on site toilet, it has seemed an age. However, we are pleased to confirm our toilet facility has now been installed and its housing built.

The toilet comes with its own lock and the Council are to provide a separate box to house the door key before we're ready for an official 'opening'.

We will all be able to open this box using the same key for the site gates.

There is still a bit of a work that we need to do - level the ground at the entrance, cover/bark the ground around the building, and fence it in using some of the pallets we’d kept aside.

As the installation took longer than expected, the plan for the communal plot this year is simply to strim then cover the left hand side. That will keep the area tidy and we can look at preparing for planting next year.

We hope to get some of this work done over **9-10 June**, so if you’ve any time to spare that weekend, then your help will be very much welcomed.

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### Plot inspections

The Committee have recently carried out the next set of inspections and it’s thumbs up all round! It’s obvious that everyone has been working hard on their individual plots, and it’s wonderful to see. Walking round the site is also a great way to get ideas from other plot-holders - if you’ve not done so recently, it’s highly recommended!

Hopefully everyone’s hard work will be rewarded by a wonderful summer of perfect growing weather and a bountiful harvest.

### Banner Open Day

Trinley Brae once again participated in the Banner Open Day, with a stall of our now renowned home baking, plants for house and garden, as well as some fresh produce, including lots of lovely rhubarb.

As in previous years, our stall attracted a lot of interest, not just in the baking but in allotment gardening too.

£84.10 was raised for our Association funds, so a big thank you to everyone who donated or helped on the day.

### Wildlife garden

Thanks to everyone who was able to give some time to clearing out the deadwood and weeding the wildlife plot over April’s communal weekend.

This year Alastair is planning to sow flower seeds direct on his plot and then transfer the seedlings to the wildlife garden as the season progresses.

There’s still a bit more weeding and tidying to be done in the wildlife garden, so if you have some free time, or if you have flower seeds and/or growing space to spare on your plot, please let Alastair know.

### Trinley tips

Trinley Tip #2 was spotted recently on Plot 17 - how to use up spare garden hose. Kath and Kelvin have cut lengths of hose pipe to form home made hoops for supporting fleece and net covers.

And if you’re thinking that these hoops would just flop down even before the hint of a Trinley gale hit, the insertion of lengths of cane at either end of the hose provides shape as well as a ground anchor for each hoop.

Using different lengths of cane means that the height of the hoops can be adjusted to suit whichever crop is in need of protection.

### Short back and sides

The new, lighter, easier-to-use communal strimmer will soon be available on site and demonstrations on how to use it will be given.

Until we have a secure place to house it, Stewart & Morag, Plot 3, have kindly offered to store it in their shed.

If you’d like to borrow it, perhaps for giving those pesky grass paths a good old trim, please contact Morag to arrange a convenient time for uplift and return.

Email: stewmo45@talktalk.net
Mobile: 07910 632805
### Allotment prizes

Details will soon be available on entering for this year’s Glasgow Allotment Prizes. These are:

The **St Mungo Trophy**, awarded annually by Land & Environmental Services to an individual plot holder in recognition of good gardening practice. This is open to any plot holder. The prize for **Best Newcomer**, an award for which our very own Plot 3 gained a Highly Commended a couple of seasons ago. Applicants must be within the first two seasons of working their plot.

Unfortunately, there are restrictions on the number of entries for each prize per site. So if lots of us want to enter, then we would need to come to a decision on which plots to put forward. If you are interested in applying for either prize, please let the Committee know. The closing date for both prizes is **6th July**.

### Have your say

Glasgow Allotments Forum are arranging three meetings in June and July with the aim of ensuring that the views of Glasgow plot holders are brought to the attention of the Council and the wider community.

**June 7th Langside Halls (Shawlands Cross) from 7pm - 9pm**

This meeting will finalise the Evaluation report of the Heritage Project and agree the next steps forward - how can all sites in Glasgow get involved and use this project to improve our allotments.

(Heritage Project info at [www.gah.org.uk](http://www.gah.org.uk))

**June 13th Langside Halls (Shawlands Cross) from 7pm - 9pm**

All the political parties in the Council have been invited to meet plot holders and hear their aspirations and concerns at this meeting and there will be presentations from selected sites. Following this, GAF are keen that each allotment site prepares a presentation showing how that site contributes to the Council agenda, (local community, recycling, biodiversity, social inclusion), and what they need to reach full potential. Each Councillor would be circulated with presentations from sites in their area.

**July 3rd Woodside Halls Glenapp St (near St George’s Cross) 7-9pm**

Glasgow Allotment Forum meeting

The focus for particular discussion will be:

(i) co-operation & collaboration with Land & Environmental Services Officers in respect of the Glasgow Allotment Strategy.

(ii) the newly announced Scottish Government funding package [http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2012/05/fundingboost17052012](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2012/05/fundingboost17052012)

GAF are keen that the Council and individual sites work together to ensure Glasgow allotments benefit from this package.

If you’d like to attend, or have views that you’d like to have raised, please let one of the Committee know.

### SAGS newsletter

The latest newsletter can be viewed at: [http://www.sags.org.uk/docs/NewsLetters/April2012.pdf](http://www.sags.org.uk/docs/NewsLetters/April2012.pdf)

### Change of address

From Wednesday 6th June 2012, Robert Watson, our Allotments Officer, along with his section of Land & Environmental Services, will be relocating to a new office address: 231 George Street, Glasgow, G1 1RX . From 6th June all correspondence should be sent to this address.

His email will remain unchanged:

Email: robert.watson@glasgow.gov.uk

### Garden talks at Pollok

These talks are given monthly throughout the year by country park garden staff and guest speakers. They are held in the Visitor Centre in the Old Stable Courtyard. Next in the series are:

**Sunday 10th June, 1-3pm**

*Outdoor Fruit*

**Sunday 8th July, 1-3pm**

*Allotments*

**Sunday 12th August, 1-3pm**

*Is it a tree? Is it a shrub? Who cares?*

### Friend or foe - would you like to know?

If you are worried about an insect you’ve found on your plot, or are interested in finding out more, Glasgow Museums insect specialist will be happy to help.

You can arrange an appointment in person or you can take your specimen into Kelvingrove or the Glasgow Museums Resource Centre, marked for her attention. Alternatively, you can send digital photographs to the e-mail address below. However, submitting real specimens is more likely to result in a more specific diagnosis.

Details of how specimens should be sealed and labelled are given on the noticeboard poster, along with information on how details of your insect will be used, shared, stored and ‘owned’.

For more information, contact: **Jeanne Robinson, Curator of Entomology**, Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, Argyle Street, Glasgow G3 8AG or Glasgow Museums Resource Centre, 200 Woodhead Road, Nitshill, Glasgow G53 7NN. Tel: 0141 276 9551 or 769 357; email: jeanne.robinson@glasgowlife.org.uk.

### Allotment training

Would you like some training or do you know someone else who would? GAF are running a five-week course in July at their model allotment at Bellahouston. [http://www.glasgowallotmentsforum.org.uk/News/tabid/74/ID/14/Training-for-new-plotholders-and-people-on-the-waiting-list.aspx](http://www.glasgowallotmentsforum.org.uk/News/tabid/74/ID/14/Training-for-new-plotholders-and-people-on-the-waiting-list.aspx)

### Allotments Conference 2012

The Annual Scottish Allotments Conference is on Saturday June 16th 2012 in the Victoria Halls, Dunblane. The Conference is free but donations of £10 for the catering would be welcome on the day. If anyone is interested in attending, please contact Heather (Plot 4) for more details. The programme is viewable at [http://www.sags.org.uk/Conference2012/ConferenceProgramme.pdf](http://www.sags.org.uk/Conference2012/ConferenceProgramme.pdf)
The competition is off to a great start - Matilda, Plot 28, has returned with a new look and has been joined by Polly-Esther, a highland-flinging lass from down under on Plot 6, a fine specimen of a chappie on the Nursery’s plot and a new member of the family on Plot 17.

It’s not too late to join in! Closing date for entries is **Sunday 15th July**. Notification of entry should be emailed to our Secretary, confirming the scarecrow’s name, plot number and ideally including a photo.

Ballot papers will then be circulated by email to all plotholders. A voting box will be set up on the communal plot for the casting of votes. Voting will be open until the 29th July, after which votes will be counted - it’s a first past the post system - and the winner will be ‘crowned’ **TBA Scarecrow of the Year** the following weekend.

**Sting in the tail**

One of our most persistent perennial pests at Trinley Brae is **horsetail Equisetum Arvense**. Left alone it quickly crowds out other welcome growth and easily spreads to neighbouring plots. In spring it sends up its first growth - brownish shoots with a cone at their tip which produces spores. Lots of spores. Later, the second, ferny green growth appears and this stays put until winter. Its roots go deep into the soil - up to five feet - so unless you have a lot of time to spare, digging it all out isn’t really feasible.

But all is not lost, here are some tips:

**Use weed killer**: the tough, waxy coating makes it resistant to many weed killers, so you need to bruise/break individual stems before spraying or applying by hand (make sure you wear appropriate protective wear at all times). More than one application is likely to be needed.

**Hoe frequently**: try to tackle it early in the season before it gets beyond 3 inches high. Hoe up to an inch under the surface, and clean your hoe before using it elsewhere on your plot. Keep hoeing and eventually the food supply to the roots will be used up. Let it get bigger than this and it will start to store food in the roots again.

**Keep it out of your compost bin**

If you’ve found another way to tame this pest, please let us know.

**Trees for free**

Those of you who have been plotholders for some time may have noticed that the tree line along the perimeter fence (along Knightswood Road) has been diminishing. Some of our lovely trees have been dying back over the past couple of seasons and there are obvious gaps in the foliage. We’re not entirely sure what is causing this - it has been suggested that road salt may have had an influence. Whatever the reason, there are gaps in an area that serves both as a wildlife habitat and a security cordon around our allotment site.

There is an opportunity to address those gaps, by applying for ‘free trees’ as part of the Woodland Trust’s Jubilee Wood programme. They are offering packs of trees for planting on land that people in the area can enjoy and benefit from. They are keen that lots of people get involved.

There is full information on their website (details below).

We’d love to hear what you think. The committee all believe it would be beneficial for the whole site and are in favour of applying. However, it would only be successful if enough people were supportive and willing to help with the planting.

The deadline for applications this year is 5th October, although it might close earlier than that due to popularity. Decisions would be notified mid October, with delivery around 5th November.

If there was enough support, then delivery would tie in with our annual bonfire and we could make a really special event of it.

Please have a look at the website and let us know what you think:

http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/en/jubilee-woods/what-you-can-do/communitys/community-tree-packs/Pages/information.aspx#.T7ygxty0z5A

**Committee 2012**

Committee meetings will be notified in advance.

If you have any suggestions or issues you’d like to raise or discuss, please let us know.

You can speak to any member of the committee or send an email:

Tommy can be contacted at: tbachair@hotmail.co.uk

Sarah can be contacted at: tbasecretary@hotmail.co.uk

**Rhubarb, rhubarb**

There’s a lot of lovely rhubarb about right now, and if you are struggling for recipe ideas after countless crumble variations, then for inspiration go to:

http://www.rhubarbinfocom/recipes

Breads, biscuit bars, pickles, pies, chutneys, salads, soups, drinks and crisps, cookies, cakes, savoury dishes, as well as ideas on how to freeze it - there’s a wonderful world of rhubarb recipes to explore!

**Your carrots are safe....**

The Trinley Bunnies have left the plots, but enjoyed being part of the treasure hunt and hope to come back next year. Thanks to all, big and small, who helped eat the treasure.