



Who we are:

The Gaskell Garden Project is a grassroots permaculture project that aims to establish creative, accessible and sustainable spaces so that food can be shared, ideas can be celebrated, and actions can become realities. We are guided by the 3 permaculture principles of Earth Care; People Care and Fair Share and we achieve this through our community growing spaces and pay-as-you-feel café. Members join on an equal basis and have the opportunity to participate in whatever capacity they wish whilst also maintaining the opportunity develop new skills, and connect more people and groups to the wider community.

How we started

Founded in 2014 by a group of friends, The Gaskell Garden project sought to create spaces where social injustice and environmental justice could combine forces to take on pressing issues that surrounded their lives. The project took its name from their beloved friends James and Alex Gaskell who tragically lost their lives while enjoying their honeymoon trip in India after a highly celebrated wedding. The project continues to this day keeping the memories of James and Alex in our hearts and the inspiration they gave us in life.

At GGP's beginning the focus was on creating a space where the Manchester community and people seeking refuge with active asylum cases could connect and simultaneously creative evidence of community integration to support asylum cases. Since the beginning those early members have been granted citizenship.

The individuals that are drawn to the garden are diverse, and some want to develop skills in gardening and permaculture, for others it is a positive approach of activism and for many of us it was a way to connect and make friends, whilst being outdoors in nature. We are a collective with diverse mental health and neurodivergences. Ensuring we attract variety and make this space accessible to as many different people with different skills and interests means we are constantly learning and able to adapt the project to reflect the people who are a part of it.

Code of conduct

1. Everyone is equal

- a. This connects to a permaculture principle of 'Fair Share'. We uphold that everyone should be treated equitably, and regardless of knowledge, age, ethnicity, sexuality, gender and experience. We all can be leaders, to share knowledge and teach each other and support one another. Members being aware of this will ensure that we continue to hold each other accountable for power imbalances, and equal distribution of access, decision making and resources.

2. Treat each other, yourself and surroundings with respect.

- a. This connects to the permaculture principal **Earth Care**. We must above act with respect, when it is to each other we do this through active listening, checking in, empowering each other's choices and curiosities. With yourself, it is owning your capacity to engage and take on responsibilities, being able to communicate it or ask for support, and know when to take time out if needed, and who to ask if you've taken on project related duties that need passing on. In regards to the surroundings, it is to leave our green spaces better than we find them, to also garden and work with active respect to the land. When we practice all of these aspects we are taking **responsibility** for our existence, and this approach as an antidote to the damages of capitalism.

3. Clear and open communication

- a. This connects to the permaculture principle of **People care**. When we approach communication between each other to be clear an open we are approaching it in a manor where it can be questioned, acknowledged, and gives voice to multiple members of the group, which will give the opportunity for no voices to be silenced.

Safeguarding and complaints:

Commitment to Safe Spaces:

The Gaskell Garden Project is committed to our core value of inclusivity and will take a zero tolerance approach to language or behaviour that is racist, sexist, homophobic, threatening or violent, that could cause offense to a volunteer/visitor/member with a disability as well as any other individual that feels harassed, bullied or discriminated against.

The Gaskell Garden Project is committed to creating a safe, open-minded, inclusive and welcoming environment, in which members can volunteer, take part and participate in an atmosphere of respect and tolerance.

This policy is applicable to our whole Project, whether an individual or a volunteer/member/Board Member/Director within the Gaskell Garden Project.

The Gaskell Garden Project believes all volunteers and members should be free from intimidation or harassment, resulting from prejudice or discrimination on the grounds of age, disability, marital or maternity/paternity status, race, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, gender identity, trans status, socio-economic status, or ideology or culture, or any other form of distinction.

For any complaints and reporting any incidents towards the breaching of yours and others safety please read our safe spaces policy that outlines the complaints procedure and protocol. This document is in the bio on the Whatsapp chats.

You can also email : ggpwellbeing@gmail.com

Board and directors

As a Community Interest Company we have registered directors of the project with a board made up of members. The board meets once every two months, or more depending on the need and these are open to any members. We believe in a non-hierarchical autonomous way towards running the project. In GGP, leadership and autonomy is encouraged to empower everyone within the project to make decisions and work together respectfully. As a project we have certain individuals down to coordinate certain areas, but all members are fluid and involved in multiple areas of interest and these roles are always up for change. We support each other through collective effort sharing tasks, encouraging strengths and positively challenging one another to learn new things

Projects

The Spiral Garden- Plattfields



Our community garden in Platt Fields park is the main growing site and home to the spiral permaculture garden. We have regular gardening session days on Sundays 12-4pm . The garden is a HQ space where we experiment with permaculture design methods and adapt them to an urban environment. During the different seasons the activities vary. From seed sewing, wood work, managing growing food and harvesting. The garden is an open regular space to be practical and be around others outdoors,

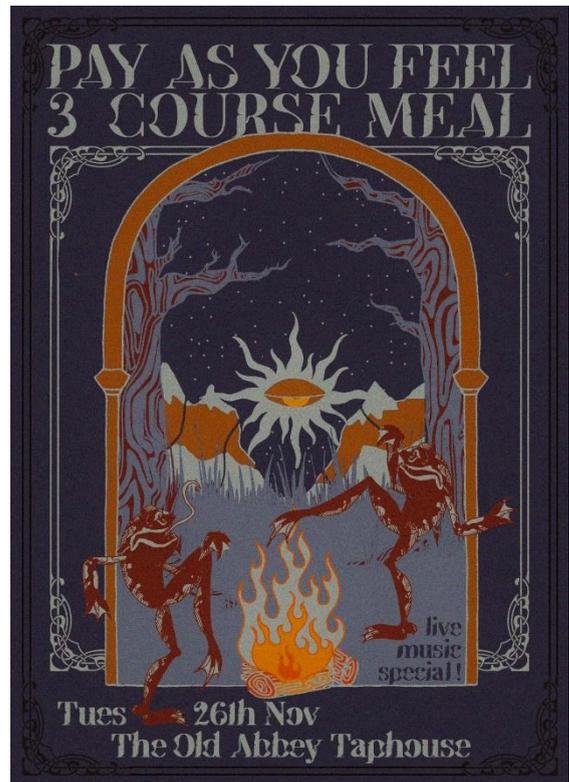
sharing skills and food together. We now have a poly tunnel so it is the main safe space for seedlings across the sites.

The Paddock

Is seen as the nursery of the sites, with a mini orchard and new pond being made, it is aiming to be a new green space to bulk grow produce for our Pay As You Feel meals and increase the habitats for local wildlife. It is located at the bottom of Plattfields park.

The Spiral Garden Café

The café is an integral part of GGP. Drawing on the surplus food collected from the Food Justice Network, and food grown in the spiral garden, it is cooked by a volunteer lead café on a pay as you basis. The café is known for its three course meals at The old Abbey Tap house. Gathering people together to feast from food grown in the garden or Surplus saved before it goes to landfill. Our cafe loves collaborating with other local grassroots projects and causes and our pop up events, maintaining our ethos of the importance of equal access to healthy food by continuing the Pay as you Feel donations. Food is a necessity in everyone's lives, maintaining a consistent space where equal access to healthy food is possible demonstrates the flaws within the food system. These are also integral fundraisers for us to purchase materials for our gardens, and we have been connecting them to old seasonal festivals to ensure we have quarterly events to top up our resources.



Parakeet Pathway



The Slip road Project "Parakeet Parkway" is the biggest project yet! Three years ago MCC (Manchester City Council) approached GGP to work alongside Hulme residents transforming a 260m strip of disused road into a community green space. The land runs parallel to Arnott Crescent and Princess Parkway, and it is one of the most congested roads in Manchester.

It was being used as a bike path (route 6) and walkway, as well as a fly tip site. Conversations with the Hulme community are consistent and always ongoing. The Aquarius Centre, a community space for 50 years (21, Eden close, M156AX) is an integral part of this project. As a community project we are conscious to not project our ideas and ensure this is a bottom up process towards transforming this space, drawing on the assets and skills already existing within the local area. Hulme has experienced drastic and traumatic re-development that saw the destruction of green spaces and didn't fit the needs of the community.

This project will transform an abandoned concrete slip road that runs alongside Manchester's busiest and most polluted road, into a dynamic and thriving green pathway that provides environmental protection to the local housing estate

This protects the patch of land in Hulme from development, and provides us all with the opportunity to experiment with sustainable and environmentally conscious design ideas in an urban space. It will certainly be a statement with 26,000 people driving past it everyday!!

Recently we have been awarded £40,000 of funding from Manchester City Councils Green Spaces Fund. This grant enables us to work over the course of one year to design, build and construct the dynamic green pathway that GGP and the Hulme residents envision. With opportunities to run and attend various permaculture design and gardening workshops. Within the funding we are collaborating with local artists and residents to have free skill share workshops, where we pay the workshop leader to run sessions. With many of the sessions making and crafting things to be installed on the Parakeet pathway.

Events and festivals

Freedom Matters and other events have been how GGP has financed itself and other grassroots causes. Our events are as diverse as the people that have been involved in GGP. Parties, dances, three course meal feasts, exhibitions, art auctions, music, immersive performances, film festivals, clothes sales and much, much more. We are hoping for more regular events that continue to draw on the skills and talents of all members and supply accessible fun spaces for everyone!

Festivals

Festivals are an exciting way for GGP crew to share the new skills learnt, designing new workshops to take to festivals. They are a great place to not only celebrate all you have learnt, but also meet more of the wider UK community practicing permaculture, forming new networks and learning even more... while having a dance too! These usually take a team of 6 with a driver.

Membership

Becoming a member is really important, there is no joining fee! We are a member lead organisation so in order for each member to have an equal say in how the project is run we need you to sign up as a member. This also gives us important information about your

accessibility needs, and emergency contacts and covers you under our insurance. You must be a member for at least 1 month before, as well as attend sessions regularly, before having any voting rights at meetings and AGMs. Membership form is a google doc in bio of the chats. We delete personal data after 2 years, or in-activity of a year.

Key Contacts

The best way to keep in the loop is through our Whatsapp community chats. We have a new volunteers chat where you can then join each breakout group chat which appeals to your interests. In the bio's of these chats are all the key documents, and member form.

General email: thegaskellgardenproject@gmail.com

Finances/invoices: financeparakeet@gmail.com

Wellbeing & complaints: ggpwellbeing@gmail.com