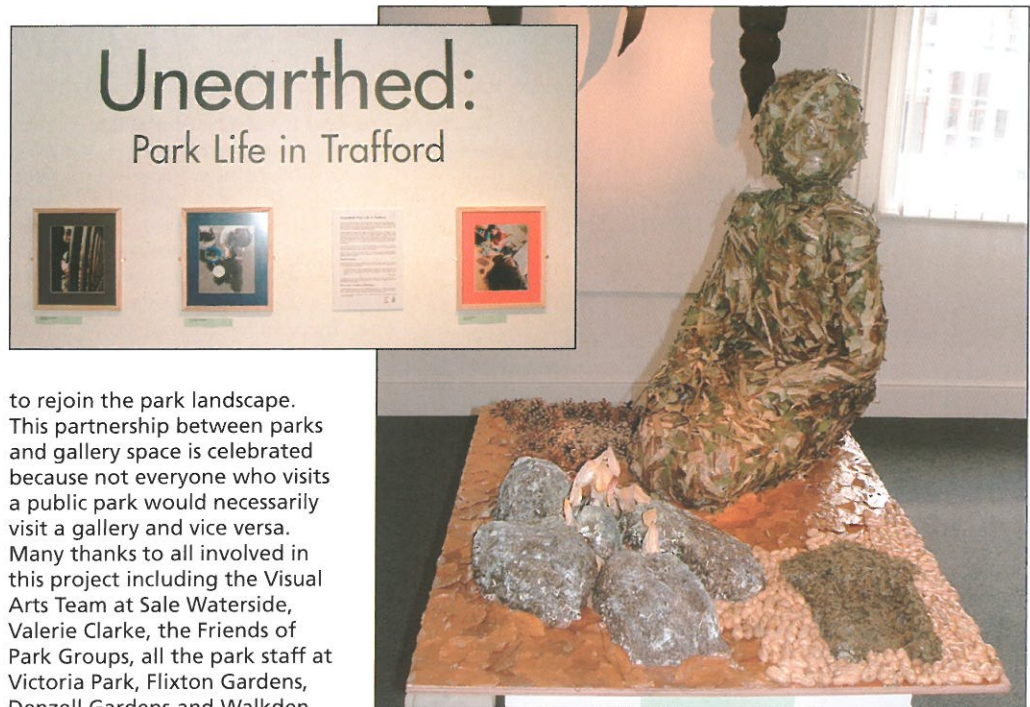


Unearthed: Park Life in Trafford

A special partnership between the Visual Arts team and Parks & Countryside has given rise to a ground breaking creative arts project.

Renowned Trafford based artist Valerie Clarke teamed up with friends of the park groups to make enchanting sculptures that portrayed how parks are used and valued by the community. Valerie worked with the friends using found park materials from to create these beautiful works. The finished pieces went on display at Sale Waterside gallery in autumn 2005 and many people enjoyed these wonderful works, there were accompanied by heritage park photographs exhibited by the local studies centre.

The sculptures were taken back to the parks where they were born and installed so that they can be enjoyed by all visitors and naturally decompose



to rejoin the park landscape. This partnership between parks and gallery space is celebrated because not everyone who visits a public park would necessarily visit a gallery and vice versa. Many thanks to all involved in this project including the Visual Arts Team at Sale Waterside, Valerie Clarke, the Friends of Park Groups, all the park staff at Victoria Park, Flixton Gardens, Denzell Gardens and Walkden Gardens.

● *Unearthed, Valerie Clarke's Sculpture*

Allotment Judging and Gardeners Evening 05

Every year around July depending on the weather, all the allotments in Trafford are inspected and judged for various categories. Best Site, Runner up Best Site, Best Plot, Runner up Best Plot, Most improved site, Best Site in Sale, Altrincham, Stretford and Urmston and Environmental Award. In addition to this certificates are awarded for Very Highly and Highly commended plots.

Last year was especially difficult for allotment holders, at the beginning of the year the weather conditions fluctuated greatly. The weather became very mild and then a very cold period

with late frosts, which knocked back and ruined a lot of early crops. It was a credit to all tenants whose plots were judged. It is really hard work trying to keep weeds at bay and allotments looking neat and tidy. It is especially rewarding for the site representatives to keep their sites running smoothly.

Judging started on the 4th July 05, at the end of the judging 13 allotments were judged to be of a Very High Standard. Frank Aston from G M R Radio had the unenviable job of deciding whose plot was going to be the overall Best Plot in the Borough and runner up Best Plot in the Borough. 22 tenants

were Highly Commended and 90 tenants received letters commending them on their efforts.

Trafford held its Annual Gardeners Evening at G H Carnal Center on the 7th September 2005. The evening was hosted by Deputy Mayor of Trafford, Councillor Mrs Viv Ward. The evening commenced with the presentation of trophies and certificates, followed by Guest Speaker Julie White giving a talk on "Herbs, Myths Legends and Modern Day Terminology", the evening ended with our ever popular Gardeners Question Time. Over 180 people attended the evening and was enjoyed by all.



● *Trafford's award winning allotments*