

Farmhouse Partners and Resource Ideas

Part of the process of creating a vision for the farmhouse is building a network of partners and interested parties. We do not want to repeat what is happening in the community but to support and cooperate with other people and groups to expand possibilities and create avenues of collaboration and mutual support. The following are a selection of topics groups and ideas we are working with.

Stonemason Woodwork Slating

The rebuilding of the farmhouse would operate as a training project on building skills. We have been in conversation with training projects on stone masonry, who would be interested in working on the building as part of their apprentice training. We have a local roofer who has been helping and advising on the roof of the farmhouse and is also interested in the idea of the project as a way of engaging local kids and young people in taking on some of the responsibility of the work needing done.

Galgael

Our sister project has been supportive of the garden and the farmhouse from the beginning and are keen to share carpentry skills and widen their training in boat building and furniture to include building and construction work. The farmhouse could also serve as a live project for those in academic training in various craft skills.

Glasgow University science festival

The connection of the sciences with gardening is very important and opens opportunities for many activities to do with growing, water filtration, soil testing, wind and solar power and much more in and out of the garden. Our building would become part of an experimentation lab where we can connect the elements of science within a variety of interests.

Seed banks and swaps

A seedbank stores seeds as a source for planting in case seed reserves elsewhere are destroyed. It is a type of gene bank. The seeds stored may be food crops, or those of rare species to protect biodiversity. Many useful plants that were developed over centuries are now no longer used for commercial agricultural production and are becoming rare. Storing seeds also guards against catastrophic events like natural disasters, outbreaks of disease, or war. Seed swaps encourage frequent reuse and sharing of seeds. Only a limited part of the world's biodiversity is stored we can help that to expand.



Archive: Community archive



So much of what happens in communities is forgotten about, local history, campaigns, events, where things are, where and how we can learn from the past experience of others. The knowledge gained from the forming of a group, place, community event in the past can help those starting on their own venture. A place to collect and find out about these things is an important asset in encouraging community participation.

Where we talk: Village square (Discussion space)

There are many interesting avenues of change around the city. There are groups, campaigns, projects and activities, working in the common good, but many of them are invisible to a lot of people. The "Village Square" will act as a forum where we can just meet up and talk to each other. There will also be hands on workshops on model making, mapping, meetings, discussions, talks, films. Groups working in the communities will be invited to exhibit, what they do. Groups from out with the community will be invited to share and swap knowledge, share ideas, organisational skills and build solidarity with each other.

Transport: Bike workshop hire

More and more people are using bikes. As well as organising bike repair workshops, we need to look at practicalities around areas like Govan not only in facilities for bike repair and hire but storage of bikes for people who live three stairs up in a small flat, local cycle lanes and the bike as a vehicle for light haulage and small businesses is a development we will look at. Supporting local DIY initiatives such as Unity bike project.



**Connecting
what we eat
with
how we live**

Food: Fife Diet Manifesto

The Fife Diet is developing a new food manifesto for Scotland as a contribution to the food and drink policy framework. The aims of the new food manifesto are to:

- 1) Connect the way we grow, produce, distribute and consume our food with our climate change targets
- 2) To connect the environmental policy framework to our health and well-being initiatives.
- 3) To look afresh at the values that underpin how we organise our food economy.

We have a food market monopolised by a handful of companies and health and nutrition targets that we're struggling to meet. These ideas are all about creating more joined up thinking in how we grow, consume and distribute our food and a more diverse economic model. It's also about creating some real urgency about the real problems we face in our health and in our environmental challenges in Scotland. We suffer from operating in a society of silos: where the crops in our fields and the food on our plates are completely disconnected.



Food security sharing

The closer our young people get to the food they eat the healthier they will be. Being concerned about the sell by date is no criterion for health and well-being. The rise in diabetes and obesity connected to eating processed food is particularly worrying in the young. The organisation of the garden makes us more aware and sensitive of the elements, of the weather, the seasons, what we eat, when we eat it, and when we need to do things. How we creatively engage young people in the importance of what they eat is a major challenge but one that will lead them to many more open doors of adventure and possibilities. Food security is the knowledge and right to be able to feed ourselves

DIY: Tinkering school

How do we make tools for the job. How does a mother buying a new buggy check out the quality of engineering in its construction before purchasing. Can we make it rather than buy it. Stripping things down to see how they work. Repairing things and improving their functionality. Maintenance. Basic electronics, working with computers, code knitting. Using junk creatively in hands-on, engagement-based learning for youngsters and oldsters.

Computers: Electron club

Open Source Technology, is computer technology that is free. It is quite possible to pick up an old computer that nobody wants, because, it lacks the memory to handle new proprietary software, (that's the stuff you pay for every time it is updated) and run the machine on open source software. So you have a free computer, a free operating system and hundreds of programs that you can install free. Not only that in open source you can learn how to build programs and tailor your computer to your needs. There are many free programs that can be downloaded Firefox for instance. To change and create programs a certain amount of code knitting needs to be learned. We will be encouraging and building with Open Source technology as part of a Farmhouse project.

Open Street Map

Open Street Map is also part of the Open Source community. The OSM is involved in creating a free map of the world. A map created by thousands of developers (open for all to learn) A map that includes things that other maps do not. Your own community and the things you find important. You can also help map refugee camps in Africa or helping to build a map for earthquake torn Haiti that aid workers can use. This project has the added plus that computer work is only part of it. To find out where things are we need to be out in the community wandering and speaking to people to collect the data that will make our map our own.



Architecture planning

Today the relationship to what is being built is usually between the architect and the client rather than the people who will live in or use the building. So many of our social ills are exacerbated around bad architecture and planning. Architecture is a social subject and should not be left completely to the fancy of the professional. Our building will encourage an interest in architecture, not only so folk can better assess the impact of planning on their community but how we can better appreciate the beauty and intricacies of the buildings we spend half of our lives in.

Local economics

Local business and ways of working. How we think about and find work is becoming important as jobs disappear and unemployment safety nets and assets disappear along with them. Understanding the basic economics of the day to day, using the collective strength of our money and resources in value systems that are meaningful, understandable, effective and workable is something folk already learn in the garden. The value of work in real terms rather than financial value. Feeding ourselves while educating ourselves makes more economic sense than spending what we do not have in the supermarket. Barefoot economics is using the value system of the community in the day to day rather than the market and a way of understanding the wider aspects of the economy.

Dinner nights

Each week at the Pearce Institute a community dinner is held. Here we do not only learn to feed each other, but also to look at an economic strategy to do it cheaply, but also to maintain a high nutritional value, use food from the garden, improve organisational skills, discuss relevant community issues, topics, and encourage participation in every aspect of the evening.



Precarious Workers group

A Glasgow based group of precarious workers that organise together with a mix of self help and mutual aid to improve the conditions of their work and their lives. In this time of growing instability it is important we act to keep control of our lives and move towards the future we want. The group also aim to spread information about workers rights and the problems that we face in their own words.

Unity

The Unity Centre supporting asylum seekers is run by a collective of about twelve volunteers. We share responsibility for keeping the centre open between us. New volunteers work alongside more experienced volunteers so they pick up information as they go. We also organise 'induction days' where the more experienced volunteers run through the different procedures we have developed to deal with the work that we do. You do not need to have any experience of asylum or refugee issues to help at the Unity Centre. Unity are supporters and users of the garden