

Elder Farm Garden update 18 April 2013

JR Adam & Sons a local Scrap Merchants in Govan have very kindly offered to loan us 3 containers to use for storage and workshop space, on condition that we give them back when the building is completed. The containers will be damaged, but we should be able to adapt them to our needs and will be very useful. But we need to find a haulage company who will be able to deliver due to the need for a hiab. We also have identified a haulage company which will give us reduced rates to deliver the containers to the garden but it will still cost around £130

Friends of Elder Park Members Christine Brunton (Treasurer FOEP); Margo Phillips (FOEP) popped in to the garden. Raymond Sutton came down to visit the garden and has offered to get the light outside the south gate lit to aid security and also has approved our perimeter plan if we send him a map with weedkiller free zones marked. He kindly sent in a hiab to take the residue polycarbonate away. Residue polycarbonate? Read on....

Mr Stone and co from St Constantine's came in to use some polycarbonate and ended up taking a couple of saws to the burnt greenhouse frame one Saturday afternoon. We decided to use some funding to hire a chainsaw, but then the incomparable Daniel cycled in. Within an hour he had removed two sections of frame, while we head-hunted landsman Chris from Total Ground Care Clydebank. His still saw had broken down so we hired him another for a week, in return for his assistance in cutting up the joints of burnt wood and plastic. By Dinner Night time, Daniel, Chris and Stevie had got half of the burnt roof joists down and, Daniel and Stevie came back in the next day to finish the job. Vitals were bought to keep them going and Tommy cooked up a delicious storm. Chris came back with grass plugs and cuttings

On Saturday the young uns came in and helped Daniel to build a treehouse, which is part finished, and on Sunday and Monday, sowed wild flower seed with Rosa around the garden especially in the orchard. We also gave wild flower seed to Morgan who with Lucy and David have again produced some lovely painted slates

Rosa and Tommy have been watering, weeding and hoeing around the garden. The fruit bed has been dug over and topped with a layer of compost, compost has been added to beds and the heap is greatly reduced. The young team Rosa and Stevie have adopted a space and sown sunflowers, sweetpeas, carrots, lettuce, spicy salad, lettuce, coriander, chives, peppers, radish, thyme, red cabbage and cauliflower, kale seedlings. Several soft fruit cuttings from last year have taken and a planter has been adopted for new cuttings

Schools are back this week and we hope to get news from Govan Campus as to whether the students will manage to come up with a design for Shearers Bee Garden in the near future. We may need a hand from the Payback Team to ready the site for the planting which will hopefully start in May. We have already kind of booked a couple of weeks with them, so shall try to use it wisely. And we hope to get some manure from Pollock Park and compost from Blochairn

Uprights in the greenhouse need scraping down before being topped off for climbing plants, and the boxes need a top up. A couple of big tyres have been moved to the orchard and planted

Bob and Ian painted a brilliant sign on the metal topping the wall Elder Farm Garden which looks fantastic, and we have had a number of visitors popping in to give a hand or say hallo, including John Glancy who helped Stevie finish off putting polycarbonate walls and a door onto the old bottle greenhouse frame which should keep the tomatoes happy

Now that all is calm, Stevie has decided that all the polycarbonate has to go and has started to attack the remaining melt. This will mean digging, moving, rebuilding, replanting – hey that is our speciality :)