

Elder Farm Garden update 24 April 2013

We have been working hard to get a good crop of free food growing for the community last year and already have sown many seeds vegetable and flowering for the birds and bees in an attempt to attract the community's attention and to feed everyone

Already the young team have taken over some of the planters, and sown seed

And we have some new members who are already taking an interest and providing huge support to the group

Our young team have been creating beautiful artworks but have also been having fun in our new treehouse, which is not yet complete but they are enjoying to help Daniel and co build it

And then we have been moving that old hardcore round the block again as we empty and refill ginormous tyres to create space and provide bedding for plants

It looks like we may have 11 tyre beds for cucumber and zucchini to expand and grow some fruit for us

Stevie has brought in a plethora of canes and fruit bushes which have mostly been planted together with our own cuttings which have taken in a well manured spot in the corner of the garden beside the camomile lawn which has also taken

We think we will use the spaces between bushes this year for kale and cabbage if they will allow us - the manure may be a problem in which case we have loads of seeding potatoes to plant

We are planting peas and beans where last years taters grew and cabbage cauliflower and broccoli where the beans were

Having created new boxes where the old greenhouse used to be we hope to grow corn beans and tomatoes here

And we have resuscitated the old plastic bottle greenhouse frame with poly carbonate sheeting on the sides plus a door, thanks to John G and Stevie, which will also have tomatoes

The carrots are being grown in the black boxes as are currently the cauliflower and cabbage seedlings , and we are also using tyres to sow seeds

Inspired by Carol Klein who favours the use of gravel, we invested in a ton and are using that to protect our seeds and hopefully keep in the moisture while warming the surface too

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We pulled out the old bath earlier in the year and have wondered if this was the source of the wee pests which nibbled our greens to bits, but have just split a small keg in half and put our water lilly in there - this we will keep an eye on

If the holes come back we will fill it up with soil and just keep it wet enough for the lilly to grow

But getting rid of the plastic has been a great boon to us this season even though we have had to dismantle some of the bedding to do it - well we just will end up building better and it keeps us strong

First the payback team came in a removed a heap that we were sending piece by piece to the city dump, then the boys took off the roof parts and LES sent a hiab around to pick that heap up. We now have another two heaps quite the size of the first two and are hoping that LES will send the hiab around for us again and that is it done dusted

We kind of gave up on the recycling for a while, we would put out the blue bin and it was never cleared

We gave a lot of our metal to the Payback Team as thanks for their splendid help and still have a sack of tins to recycle. But we may have enough seedlings to offer for donations but lost many small pots in the fire. One idea is to repot the seedlings into tins cans and old crisp packets - we shall see

So that is about it - the garden is coming on nicely, we have many friends, the community seems to like us and God is sending in the rain and sun in what seems to be the correct doses :)

O and we have finally got an address and postcode 1019 Govan Road G51 4AA

now to build a letter box :)

We hope to see you all very soon