

Elder Farm Community Vision

To save an important B-Listed building, gifted, for their welfare, to the People of Govan by Isabella Elder, to honour that Deed of Gift and bring that building back into use for the benefit of the community, while teaching transferable skills and supporting eco friendly options



1. Starting Point

Elder Farm, lies on Govan Road, G51 4AA. The last of the original Fairfield Farm Steading buildings, part of an 1886 Deed of Gift to the People of Govan, now derelict, dilapidated, and fenced off from the grounds of Elder Park, due to the decayed and dangerous condition of the roof, stonework and inner floors, the building is an eyesore and hazard to the local and greater community of Govan and Glasgow.



Care of the building lies with Land and Environmental Services and Glasgow City Properties, who do the best they can to create barriers and shutter up windows and doors, in an attempt to protect local youth from misadventure. However, the determined will always find a way in, aiming for the roof and interior, often causing further damage in the process. Inner floors are collapsing, water ingress has weakened the structure of the roof and stonework, and disaster threatens.

Voluntary workers on what was once the Linthouse Elderpark Govan Urban Planters (LEGUP) site, and is now the Elder Farm Community Garden, grow free food for the community, encouraging the public to take an interest and participate. The goal is to create an alternative, environmentally friendly, recreational, interesting, educational space and bring visitors back to the Elderpark. Apart from lack of electricity and running water which is felt in the garden, and lack of toilets, felt both in garden and park, volunteers have been drawn by events, to the serious condition of the building. Visitors to the garden remember better days, and lament the building's dilapidation. The history, potential, skills and knowledge community members have to offer, nurture a belief that action through the community could bring this building usefully back to life.

2. Beginnings

Fairfield Steadings, local grounds and outbuildings were originally used by Govan Burgh, Parks Department for garden nurseries, greenhouses, public convenience, parks works, storage and keeper lodgings. Over time, Govan Parish merged with the Glasgow City, Parks became Land and Environmental Services(LES) and LES moved park works from Elder Farm to Bellahouston, leaving the site sealed off for years longer than the stipulated single week as per the Elder Deed of Gift conditions. The site was an eyesore, rubbish tip and local haunt until the Community Volunteer Gardeners arrived. Members tend beds and planters growing food for bees and the community. Their presence has greatly reduced vandalism and attempts to access the roof and building.

Various groups have attempted to restore the building, including a £2.5m museum / healthy living community project, evolved from the £167,000 awarded to Linthouse Housing Association to upgrade the building. This project was rejected by the community, who viewed it as a corporate threat to the conditions of the Elder Deed of Gift. It was felt that the money could be wiser spent for Govan, specifically targeted by the EU as an area that required funds to improve the local economy, but where 90% of wages paid on projects funded by EU money, were paid to workers out with a Govan postcode, who no doubt spent those wages out with the Govan economy, ie Lothian. At this time, it is hoped that the restoration of this building will, at the least, give skills and work experience to local unemployed workers, especially with the expectation of plenty of National Trust works in the pipe line in order to improve the carbon footprint of National Trust assets or properties

Fairfield Farmhouse Heritage Trust was set up in January 2011. Over a thousand leaflets were delivered to every close, to ensure the whole community was invited to the first AGM in the Pearce Institute. Around eighty members attended, fifty five joined the Trust. A draft constitution was hurriedly reviewed and pushed through. Fourteen members were elected to a management committee, and the first committee meeting was held at the end of the month. However the group failed to deliver the promised repairs and was dissolved January 2013. A new group Elder Farm Community Trust are determined to learn, move on and deliver a positive result

3. Common Good *(In an age of austerity, there is no better time to take note of what we have)*

Elder Farm and Elder Park, were gifted to the people of Govan to allay conditions of environmental poverty, which weighed heavy on families flocking in from the Highlands and Islands and neighbouring countryside, with all their skills and abilities to support the heavy industries, which in turn supported the city and its merchants, making Glasgow one of the richest cities in Europe

Elder Farm is not currently registered a Common Good Asset. Gifts to the people and / or the City are not registered by default as a Common Good Asset, which seems to go against the grain of those five hundred years of Scottish Law which have upheld philanthropic actions, especially those set out to allay conditions of poverty, intending that Common Good Assets and all profit engendered by those Assets, namely the Common Good Fund, should be used for the continued benefit of the Community in general.

Currently, the City Council use [Glasgow City Common Good Funds](#) to wine and dine visiting dignitaries, an issue which causes some concern to a few Scottish Citizens.



The screenshot shows the Glasgow City Council website. The main heading is "Welcome to Glasgow". Below this is a navigation menu with links for LIVING, WORKING, VISITING, ABOUT, YOUR COUNCIL, REPORT, PAY, APPLY, GLASGOW 2014, and NEWS. A search bar is also visible. The page content is titled "Common Good Fund" and includes a sub-heading "Explanation of what the Common Good Fund is and what it does". The text states: "The Common Good Fund primarily meets the cost of civic ceremonies and hospitality to distinguished visitors to the City." and "The principal heritable assets of the Common Good Fund are its various properties throughout the City."

4. Core Ethos

At the heart of the project lies a determination

- to remain faithful to the Community, to the principles of the Common Good and the original Deed of Gift.
- to ensure that all fund raising, and building works incorporate education, sustainable solutions, and community involvement
- to provide work for local small trade and the unemployed
- to provide training in sustainable solutions for woodwork, brickwork, stone masonry, roofing and slating
- to deliver a vibrant community facility which will always be an asset to the community, and not a burden

5. Fairfield Farmhouse Trust Diary Progress Notes 2011

Before a full assessment of structure, essential works, and salvageable materials could be made, it was clear that a major repair to the roof, to stem rain seepage and dry out building timbers and masonry, was necessary. With absolute permission from Glasgow City Council's CEO, a dedicated group set to, and made the West Pavilion watertight within six months. The remaining roof was all but sealed off, with slate stacked in readiness for the next stage when storms stopped work, damaging some of the repair work. A month later, the West Pavilion roof was destroyed by fire. In effect, weather and vandals set the project back to minus one.

Fairfield Farmhouse Trust Diary

- **January 2011**- Inaugural meeting of the Fairfield Farmhouse Community Trust held in the Pearce Institute. Around 80 or so community members attended. 55 people joined the trust and 14 people were elected to the management committee. The trust's draft constitution was reviewed and agreed. The first committee meeting was held at the end of the month.
- **February 2011**- Roger Curtis from Historic Scotland agrees to be co-opted onto the committee to advise on the technical aspects of the renovation. Meeting held with John Gair from GCC to discuss possible scheme of works. GCC agrees to make £10,000 available to repair roof on main building. Trust volunteers to work on roof repairs for East and West pavilions. Two further committee meetings held. /...

- **March 2011**- Trust writes to GCC CEO to ask for permission to proceed with renovation and re-instatement of building. Trust receives favourable response naming Diane Walker as the new point of contact. Further committee meeting held.
- **April 2011** - City Building gain access to main building to start that building roof repair. No work was completed however as asbestos was discovered. GCC reported that they would arrange for safe disposal however cost would be offset against £10,000 set aside for roof repair. Further committee meeting held.
- **May 2011** - Trust reps hold meeting with Diane Walker to discuss Trust's renovation proposals and ideas for managing the building when complete. Meeting goes well and Diane agrees to draft more formal legal agreement for the parties to consider.
- **June 2011** -Local businessman donates money and the Trust invests in building materials, tools and safety equipment. Volunteers begin work on East Pavilion. Renovation sub-committee satisfied that as asbestos is confined to main building it is safe to proceed with temporary roof repair on pavilions. Further committee meeting held.
- **July 2011** -Bad weather starts to hamper volunteer's efforts. Renovation team insist that roof should only be accessed when it is completely dry. Volunteer safety considered paramount above all else.
- **August 2011**- Bad weather continues to limit access to roof. Volunteers turn their attention instead to inside the pavilions. Tonnes of rubble and debris are hand barrowed from inside building. Trust reps meet Diane Walker to review draft agreement between GCC and Trust. GCC contractor Reigart successfully removes and disposes of asbestos.
- **September 2011**- Decision is made to suspend work on East Pavilion due to overall condition of roof towards wall of main building. Scaffold is erected internally to act as prop and prevent risk of collapse. Work begins on West pavilion roof. Guest speakers invited to address committee to provide advice and assistance.
- **October 2011**- Bad weather again limits safe access to roof. North and West pitches boarded and felted. Garden area at the front building cleared.
- **November 2011** - Temporary repair on West Pavilion roof completed. Temporary polycarbonate windows fitted to allow LEG-UP volunteers to shelter and prepare food during winter. Committee meets again to try and finalise proposals for the Trust's legal identity.
- **December 2011** - Decision is made to suspend further roof work until Spring to ensure safety of volunteers. Storms hit at the end of the month. Damage caused to felted area on south pitch (front facing) of East Pavilion leaving board exposed.

Reflection

In considering a new approach, there seemed to be two choices :

- Secure the site, and risk failure, since intruders are so easily able to make a point of entry
- Enlist the support of the wider community.

Questions arose ie :

- How to get the community to care enough about the project and accept ownership?
- What kind of resources would the community like to find in the buildings?
- How to remain faithful to the conditions of the Deed of Gift, the original purpose of the Gift when the conditions of the Deed of Gift disallows commerce in any form
- What sustainable solutions are available to deliver an economical space, that will not fail from high running costs
- Will this support further understanding of the community's role in a sustainable and environmentally positive future as being taught in schools
- **January 2013** – In an effort to kick start the project, the Fairfield Farm Trust and LEGUP were both officially dissolved and Common Good Glasgow formed. Fairfield Farm was renamed upon advice from within the community Elder Farm to connect with Elder Park and allow the community to map the site
- **February 2013** – A Way Forward meeting was held with some interesting and useful notes . /...

- **May 2013** – Communications and discussions seem to revolve around three options
 - option 1 – to invite local tradesmen to partner up and upgrade the building together with community reps
 - option 2 – to invite local tradesmen to join in partnership and instruct apprentices
 - option 3 – to offer the building as working experience to colleges teaching sustainable building practices

6. Sustenance for Body, Mind and Spirit

We do not wish to forget the origins of the garden project which was to provide free food to a community struggling with unemployment, health and financial issues and relationships. We also offer a vital connection to where our food comes from and an opportunity to experience organic food fresh from the field and the positive effects of gardening, namely a closer engagement with nature. Many families do not have the time or resources to take on an allotment, even if one queues were shorter. Coming by when the sun is out and when there is suddenly time available seems to be something the community enjoys to do. Meanwhile, engaging with Nature, enjoying good food are an important part of Healthy Living, and endorse current teachings in local schools which may work to reduce costs to the public purse and NHS.

Working in a free space such as the garden with heaps of things to do for all strengths, can help release pressures from daily burdens, especially those which seem to have no solution, offering set tasks to turn thoughts aside, at least for a while. Testing out theories, making decisions daily, and taking on huge apparently insurmountable tasks in small bites can help build confidence, resolution and insight

For centuries, the Scots have proudly upheld a tradition of high educational standards, based on a rich and diverse cultural heritage, encompassing history, family, humility, honour, humour, compassion, vision, reason and a healthy fear of the Almighty. Scottish Universities have spawned some of the great thinkers of the 18th century in Frances Hutcheson, David Hume and Adam Smith, not to mention revolutionary leaders in science, such as James Watt, James Hutton and William Thompson. A wealth of inspirational figures past and present, have come and gone, some merit a Wiki-mention for their accomplishments, while others pass unnoticed, out-with the Nation's ken and proudly so.

Patrick Geddes, (1854-1932) a biologist, socialist, conservationist and town planner for the city of Edinburgh, inspired the people of Edinburgh to take community action and make the necessary changes to improve the quality of their lives. He firmly believed that gardens and green spaces were fundamental, in encouraging communities to take responsibility for their own lives and environment, produce their own food, and engage in healthy outdoor activity. He led the way in encouraging communities to take over empty derelict spaces and grow food and blooms, by moving his family to a desolate neighbourhood in the Old Town, and fixing up his own home and surroundings. This project aspires to nurture a code of belonging, ownership and responsibility within the community <http://www.nls.uk/learning-zone/politics-and-society/patrick-geddes>

Geddes also believed in learning by doing. He felt that actively engaging with projects to explore food, habitats, design, transport, and heating and living spaces, added to the experience of community gardening for many who may never have had a green space to work in on their doorstep could only have a positive effect on the community. Like Geddes, we believe hands on experience will help students in their studies, encourage outdoor pursuits, banish fear and strengthen self confidence, resourcefulness and health

7. Garden Report

The garden group has taken on the orchard, the south / park facing (front) and the Govan Road (back) gardens, clearing out several layers of rubbish, and filling several sacks with rusty cans, plastic and glass bottles, broken glass, wrappers, knives, the odd handbag and empty purse or wallet. The area is currently neither lit nor monitored with CCTV. A park flood light which might also hold CCTV is as yet unconnected to any power. Considering used needles, broken glass, and rubbish found in and around the area, power to some lighting and a community camera might well be welcome.

A tradition has been established amongst the local youth over the past twenty years, to climb onto the roof and sit on the chimney, and / or access the interior, despite a various barriers, including briar, vandal grease and manure. Footholds in the wall, over hanging limbs, a neighbouring container, and a high fence all assist unwarranted entry. The council have agreed that our presence has been an improvement to the neighbourhood, and thanks to the

Community Payback Team the garden usually looks very nice.

City Properties have shuttered building doors and windows with steel, fitted a temporary roof to the West Pavilion, and some installed permanent fencing, to hinder access, but a derelict building will always attract investigation, and we are forced to lock gates when not present which has added to the challenge to come in over the wall often causing further damage, around the main gate especially.

Meanwhile, hard work over the years has allowed us to grow free food and maintain a welcome connection with nature, which seems to be generally appreciated by visitors, many of whom were previously unaware of the garden because it is often closed, due to lack of members able to donate time. We have lost members over the past year, due to new conditions laid down by the employment agencies. Despite not being able to find work, many have been asked to complete tasks which have eaten into ability to give time to the garden, tasks which are supposed to increase confidence and self worth but have the opposite effect as they face prejudice, ignorance, and rejection over and over again, reliving with every application past sorrows and pain. Also Glasgow is an exciting city with a huge choice of activities and events. City people like to do city things. From time to time new members get in touch and give us support



when they can and many of our younger members have been a pleasure to work with as they lend a cheery, enthusiastic hand to the digging, building, watering, sowing and artworks. Some members do not go along with organic principles and chose to leave, but generally most guests and members take home food (much of which is donated to local community dinners), paintings, pots, seeds, compost and plants for their landings or back greens, while others have brought us plants, pots and tools. We also benefit from advice from the odd professional gardener with much appreciation. The bees were loudly humming all summer long which seems to have been good for the crops especially the

cucumbers and marrows and we shall be sewing some of our own seed this year.

One of the new second hand containers, kindly lent to the group by John Adams Scrap Merchants George V Docks for workshop, storage and meeting space, was used as an art club, before vandals broke in and had a smashing time. We have cleaned it up and left it open but hope to turn it back into space for artworks this year

Generally apart from running off the rain water, kicking over water butts, and theft of a few useful tools, damage has been minimal, and only helped us to make something new happen. Tools have been returned to us, more tools added, but it depresses members. We have invited some of the young team to set up a committee to see if they have any solutions, and hope to reach out more this year through school eco groups but we all know the real solution is to simply get the building fixed and find funding to pay team leaders and youth workers to run workshops or allow current projects to use the site.

A new layout of planters and tyres gives scope for tennis, badminton, roller skating, safe cycling, and model cars. Communicating with local schools has encouraged mutual support as we try to learn more about nature, the environment and especially this year, food for bees. We were delighted in our plethora of bees last year with a widening variety of flora and fauna, including parents and young people popping in for a chat, and staying to help in the garden



Negatives :

Sadly we have no toilet facilities to allow our guests to stay longer, but we hope to address that with the upgraded building.

We do not have running water or electricity either but hope to resolve this soon

We have to lock the site when a member is not present due to the dangerous condition of the building which only engages young people in a silly war because we are actively challenging their ability to access the property and explore. We need more key holders who are not afraid to keep the gates open longer and community groups to help manage this great space with huge potential. We are inviting local groups to consider how the space could work to their advantage, but again, the real solution lies in getting the building fixed

8. Resources

Considering our resources, we find that :

- We have a large space with huge potential, which belongs to the community.
- We have the support of neighbouring enterprise and local industry.
- We have the support of local schools, and the Land and Environmental Services, in the works we already do in the garden and their good wishes and support for our endeavours.
- We have the support of the Government who is keen for communities to take the initiative and is ready to guide groups along the way.
- We have Money Matters to help us work out the legal stuff
- We have a body of people who are able to help with the build and follow instruction, a number of whom have a wealth of experience and ability
- We have a wonderful versatile community many of whom may be keen to share skills and knowledge for the interest and benefit of everyone if they had a safe space to work in

The goal is to work in partnership with Job Seekers and qualified professionals to deliver a safe and useful upgrade, and provide training and work experience wherever possible, in skills directly transferable to work and home, ie :

- Stone masonry
- Woodwork
- Slating
- Sustainable Technology

Currently we are inviting the community to consider the outcome of the project.

Many other projects (ie Pearce Institute) are deeply in debt and are not able to offer cheap or free space for community use

We hope to correctly assess the funding but also to provide solutions to use of energy ie heating / lighting, staffing, and maintenance of the project in order to provide a debt free site to benefit the community and provide free resources to the community

Options currently being considered are :

1. An Eco Centre offering
 - Explorations into Sustainable Solutions concerning the developing project and beyond
 - Workshops, Professional Training and Work Experience as the project develops and also around Glasgow and beyond
 - Kitchen Café Space for healthy communal cooking and culture shares supported by the garden and gardening group
 - An Amateur Arts and Crafts Suite – for the benefit of those who love to perform and those who love to support the performances, discussing communal and global issues
Outdoor decking could double as a stage and gallery for outdoor productions
 - Workshop Space for those who like to explore engines or work with wood, even build furniture for Garden and Café, or scenery for a Production

- A Space offering Affordable Therapy for the community
- Showers and Locker Space for local football teams
- Public Facilities – the only thing the people of Govan have persistently asked for (apart from a footbridge to Partick and paid jobs) and never got

New wings built on pre-existing footprint using sustainable, ecological, attractive and fun solutions would reasonably accommodate many of these ideas

2. A Catering College specialising in healthy eating and organic produce
3. A Building College specialising in sustainable technologies
4. A Healthy Living Community Centre offering café & facilities plus museum of local history ie ship building

A survey was sent out at the end of last year to the community through the local schools and libraries

While the library venture did not turn out so well the school response was magnificent and we got over 1,000 responses ticking the eco community box (and toilets) back from over 3,500 sent out

After this we received a copy of the conditions of the Elder Deed of Gift which were allegedly destroyed in a fire in the Mitchell library

The document reads as such :

"I have expended considerable sums of money in enclosing the said lands with a suitable iron railing and also in the erection of suitable buildings thereon for the purpose of a Keeper's house plant houses band stand and waiting rooms and also in the formation of carriage ways and walks planting of trees and shrubs: And whereas my object in effecting the said purchase was to provide a suitable public park and recreation ground for the inhabitants of the Burgh of Govan in the immediate neighbourhood of which my husband carried on the business of an Engineer and Shipbuilder and in the welfare of which he ever manifested a deep interest: And now seeing that it is proper that these present should be granted in manner underwritten for the purpose of vesting the said lands and whole premises (all which are hereinafter referred to as the park in the Commissioners of the Burgh of Govan and of setting forth generally the condition under which the same are to be held: Therefore I hereby depose to and in favour of Alexander Campbell etc etc (*named Commissioners of the Burgh*) and their successors in office heritably and irredeemably. In the first place All and Whole that plot or area of ground containing eighteen acres one roof four poles and seven tenth parts of a pole imperial measure be the same more or less Bounded as follows etc etc (*description of land and also removal of claims from parties previously in ownership or tenancy*)

First

The Park shall in affectionate remembrance of my said husband and also of his father the late David Elder be termed and in all time coming bear the name of the Elder Park

Secondly

It shall at no time and in no circumstances be competent for the said Commissioners of their foresaids to alienate or give out on lease any portion of the Park

Thirdly

The Park shall be occupied and possessed as a public park principally for the use and enjoyment of the inhabitants of the said Burgh in the way of healthful recreation by music and amusements and for no other uses or purposes whatever

Fourthly

Notwithstanding the preceding article it shall be competent to the said Commissioners to erect upon the east side of the Park a public reading room or museum and hall for the use of the inhabitants of Govan

Fifthly

No games shall at anytime be allowed to be played on any portion of the Park

Sixthly

The park shall at all times be kept and maintained by the said Commissioners in the like good order and condition in which it is at the date hereof

Sevently

Having reference to my desire to secure for the inhabitants of the Burgh healthful recreation no drains unless

required for sanitary purposes connected with the park itself and no thoroughfares through the park shall be permitted nor shall any gates be opened at any places other than those at which gates have already been erected

Eighthly

If at any time the Commissioners shall for the purpose of effecting any necessary work in the course of the year deem it proper to close the park wholly or partially for a few days either consecutively or otherwise but not exceeding seven days in the whole unless from the nature of the work a longer time is necessary they shall be entitled to do so

Ninthly

It shall be incumbent on the Commissioners to provide a good band of music in the Park twice a week in summer that is from thirtieth April to thirtieth September in each year and in winter at such times as they may find suitable. Further but subject to such regulations as to situation and time as the Commissioners may from time to time deem proper other bands of music may be allowed to play in the Park

Tenthly

The park shall be used and occupied in accordance with the Bye Laws and Regulation hereto annexed. But it shall be competent to the said Commissioners and their forebears from time to time to frame and publish such new or other regulations and byelaws for the proper use and protection of the park as they may consider necessary.

Eleventhly

During my life no such regulations and byelaws shall have any binding effect unless confirmed by me and by the Secretary of State in terms of the Public Parks (Scotland) Act 1878 and after my death no such regulation and byelaws shall have any binding effect unless and until confirmed by the Secretary of State moreover it shall not be competent to the said Commissioners by any such regulation and byelaws to be made by them to alter or interfere with any of the fundamental conditions herein before set forth. and I consent to registration hereof for preservation.

In Witness Whereof these presents consisting of this and the five preceding pages the first page whereof is impressed with a stamp denoting a duty of ten shillings all written by etc etc (named witnesses and signatories)

9. Support - Sincere thanks went to the following people who have supported us again and again

- **John Adams & Sons, George V Docks for the loan of two wonderful containers**
- **BAE Workers Union** – for all their support and donations
- **Blochairn Fruit Market** for their free **compost**
- **B & Q** for their compost
- **City Properties** for their support
- **Community Payback Team** – for their support and sympathy and hard work
- **The Community Police Helen St Govan** for their patience, sympathy, support and advice
- **Scott Crambe at Cruden Construction.** Scott arranged for a large donation of construction timber leftover from a local housing development he was managing.
- **John Roddie of JC Decaux.** John arranged for several pallets of recycled polycarbonate sheeting to be donated.
- **Dobbies Braehead** for their plants and compost
- **E bay** for cheap seed and easy delivery of stuff in general
- **Pete and Rachel of Evergreen Tree Surgeons Govan** for loads of leaves, chippings and logs and help in transport and a whole lot more
- **Facebook** – for helping us get the word out
- **Galgael** for support, magic and really pushing the boat out for us when needed
- **Andrew Galt of Galt Transport Ltd** for bringing those containers into the garden without a scratch for free
- **Scottish Water** for their free compost

Support continued ...

- **Diane Walker and Fiona McKinnon of GCC.** Diane has been supportive of the Trust's aims and has helped develop our relationship with GCC.
- **Govan Fire Brigade** for putting out the fires
- **Govan High School** for their support and wonderful designs
- **Roger Curtis of Historic Scotland.** Roger regularly visited the site to provide advice and support. He also arranged for three donations of building materials.
- **Jimdo.com & Facebook** for free websites
- **LES Dawsholm** for tools and kindness
- **LES Polmadie** for their help in recycling
- **LES Shieldhall** for tools, kindness, help and support especially for removing melted plastic and burnt materials
- **Martin Plant Hire** for their support
- **Every one at Quick Tyre** for their support
- **The Preshal** for letting us use their facilities and giving us water
- **Pollock Park** for their super manure
- **The Red Shop** for being so close
- **The Reform Club** for their water
- **Riverside Primary School** for their interest and enthusiasm for everything
- **William K Scott - Dairy Farmers in Barrhead** for wonderful manure
- **Shearer Candles** for their Bee Garden Project and candles
- **Strathclyde Police** for support and advice
- **St Saviours Primary School** for their energy, designs and work on the bee garden
- **St Constantine's Primary School** for their support
- **Ibrox Primary School** for their support
- **Moss Park Primary School** for their support
- **Lourdes Secondary School** for their support
- **Trinity High Secondary School** for their support
- **Govan High School** for their support
- **Renfrew High Secondary School** for their support
- **Sunny Govan Radio** – For telling the community we exist
- **Chris Wright and Team of Total Groundcare Clydebank**– for bravely agreeing to cut up the burnt polycarbonate and wood frame of the fire-bombed greenhouse into manageable pieces; hours of mowing, strimming and hedge trimming and bags of grass clippings and other great stuff
- **Neil at Unity Bike Shop** for all his free hard work fixing up and selling second hand bikes for peanuts
- **Abbi and Tom at Urban Roots** for advice and support
- **The Vital Spark** for letting us use their facilities
- **Weirs Garage** for fixing things

10. Built Environment

Architecture in Greater Govan is an interesting discussion between the old, older and very very new. Our building is old and we hope to incorporate both old and new technologies to arrive at a happy and pleasing solution which will continue to be enjoyed by visitors and community members for many many years to come.

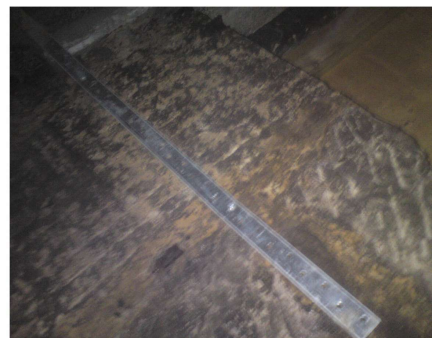
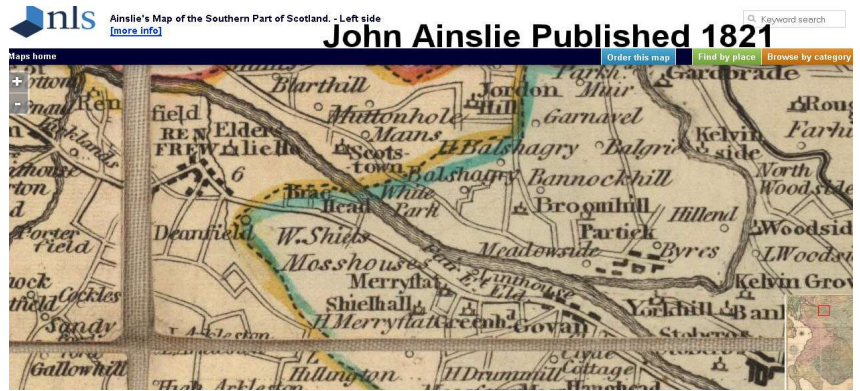
The local buildings are mostly tenements, without gardens or sheds to hammer and build, and practice skills which lead to employment and sometimes innovative invention. There are many listed uses of a garden shed, from office to sound studio, computer design to mechanical workshop and gardeners retreat.

11. History

The house was formerly part of the Fairfield Estate, much of which has been famously turned over to industry and ship building. An Ainslie map of Southern Scotland printed in 1821, seems to list the Elders as residing at Fairfield (Fair Et. Eld.) <http://maps.nls.uk/joins/649.html>

Old ordinance maps, currently being scoured for clues as to the history of the building and land, clearly show changes have been made to Fairfield Farm / Steadings property over time. Buildings and extensions have been built and demolished.

Some stone found in the West Pavilion has tooling generally believed to be found in window or door surrounds, but are here found in the body of the wall, suggesting that this quality stone originally came from another source. The quality and size implies a building of some substance and value. Stones with similar dressing can be found in the Govan Napier Gravings Docks, which were built late 19th century, and in the body of the Linthouse Italian Portico, originally part of Linthouse Mansion, built in 1791. The Portico was raised in Elder Park in 1931. A suggestion has been made that the Pavilions may have been added by Lady Elder around 1884, since they do not seem to be present in ordinance maps before that time, which means that Linthouse Mansion, which was still standing in 1890, is unlikely to be the source



Stone found around the site, possibly from the chimney stack, or some demolished wing and also within the fabric of the West Pavilion, has some tooling which seems have been intricately designed, surely for some special purpose and not merely to accept render, as is otherwise proposed.

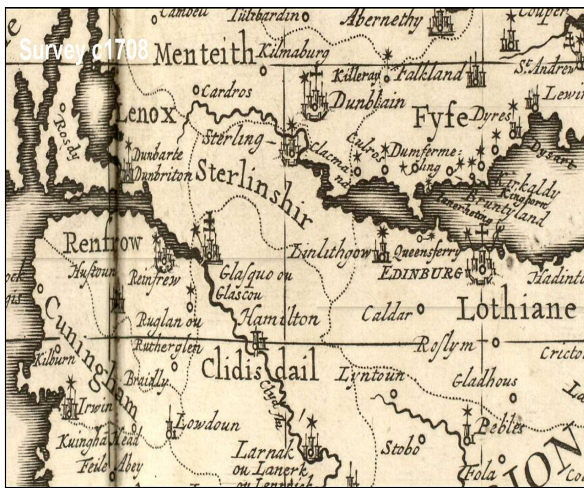
The farmhouse bears a close resemblance to Holmfauldhead House, found in this drawing dated 1804. Could it have been drawn after that building's upgrade? Fairfield pavilions bear a close resemblance to those found in this picture of Holmfauldhead, as do the dormer windows and arched porch.

The Royal Regatta Catalogue Vol 3 p 112 suggests that



the Rowan family was busy building / upgrading their estate from date of purchase 1759 to Rowan senior's demise in 1855. Fairfield Steading Drawings 1884 plans, currently to be found in the Mitchell Library Archives Department, may describe an upgrade or planned upgrade to provide waiting rooms and conveniences for park users. On page 113 the Regatta author James Dalrymple Duncan seems to suggest Holmfauldhead was still standing in 1897 and so unlikely to be the source of the stone. Was Fairfield designed to imitate Holmfauldhead? Did stone to upgrade Fairfield Farm come from the same source as stone to build Linthouse.

There were at least two castle ruins in the area - Inch Castle and Kelly Castle. Owners of each property were



seemingly intricately intertwined with astute Govan business men and their families, many of whom seem to have been keen on construction and/or property upgrades in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, among them some astute business men.



The Royal Regatta Catalogue Vol 3 p 112 suggests that the Rowan family was busy building / upgrading their estate from date of purchase 1759

to Rowan senior's demise in 1855.

The Royal Regatta Catalogue Vol 3 page 112 names Katharine Hutton Rowan as sole surviving heir to the Rowan name. She marries Patrick Francis Connal who takes the Rowan name. It seems that part of Holmfauldhead grounds may have been incorporated into the park.

Minute of Agreement between Katharine Hutton Connal-Rowan of Holmfauldhead Govan, Proprietor of the Greater Portion of the lands of Holmfauldhead which belonged to the deceased George Rowan of Holmfauldhead, with consent of her husband Patrick Francis Connal Rowan of Meiklewood of the first part, said Isabella Ure or Elder, who has recently acquired the Park called Crossfauld containing 6 acres 2 roods 3 falls of land on the Southside of the Turnpike Road from Govan to Renfrew – being part of said George Rowan's 6/3 land in the westend of Meikle Govan in Parish of Govan of the second part, agreeing the the proportions of the brown Feu duties for the lands of Holmfauldhead for relief of which the said Isabella Ure or Elder is liable to the first party under disp. dated 22 Dec 1801 by George Rowan to John Cumming of Fairfield shall be & the same is fixed with £4 per annum payable as therein mentioned. Dated 5 July 6, 11 & 27 Aug and Sep 1884.

Royal Regatta Catalogue Vol 3 page 112 & note 1, also states that Mrs Katharine Rowan Hutton is now married to the author James Dalrymple Duncan PF Connal Rowan being deceased, and is still the propriatrix in 1897

George Rountree states that : "Holmfauldhead Farm buildings survived in Elder Park until the late 1990s by being used for the storage of Glasgow City Council Parks Department equipment." so it is unlikely that stone was taken from Holmfauldhead to build the pavilions

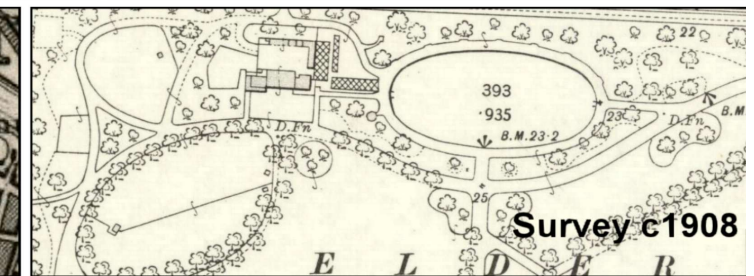
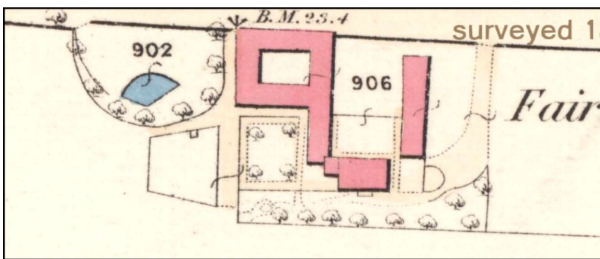
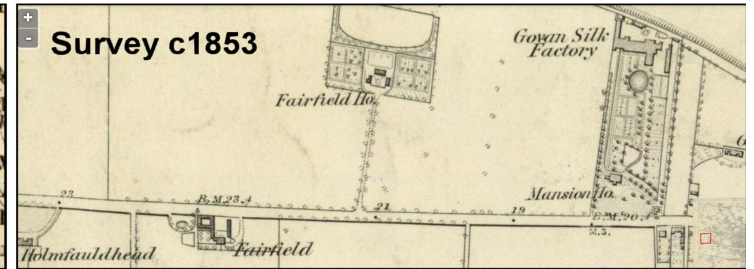
http://www.govanremgroup.org.uk/content_pages/historyhome1a.html

Fairfield Farm History According to Brian McQuade

“The land at Fairfield Farmhouse (as part of Govan) originally belonged to the Kingdom of the Britons of Strathclyde. By 1034, Govan and the Strathclyde area had been united (under Duncan 1) to the Scottish/Pictish kingdom of Alba to form what we today call Scotland. In 1136, Govan became a Prebend (associated church) of Glasgow Cathedral and king David 1 granted the area to the cathedral’s Archbishops who rented the land out to various tenants.

The first named occupiers of the Fairfield area were the Rowan family who leased it in 1520. During the early 1600s King James VI of Scotland sold the land to the same family who retained control of it until 1720 when the Oswald’s bought it from John Rowan. The Oswald’s then adjoined it to their holding of Shieldhall. Simpson mentions that a Mr. Alex. Thomson rented Fairfield farmhouse and its steading in the early 1800s. Both Fairfield and Shieldhall were sold as one lot in 1837 to a Mr. Johnson, who was the MP for Kilmarnock.

The earliest map on which the farmhouse appears (as part of a complex of buildings) is a map surveyed c 1816 where it is entitled Fairfield Farm, which was acquired by Randolph, Elder & Co. The southern Elderpark side,



which still contains the farm, was bought by Elder’s widow in 1883 as a gift to the people of Govan. It remains so to this day. Ref : Simpson, A History of Govan, 1987, pp.8; 10; 11; 12; 15; 21; 33; 35, 64”

Interestingly maps drawn up after 1566 seem to show an increasing importance in Renfrew possibly as a religious centre, In the Pont Timothy map, a building possibly Govan Old, is also shown, as is Paisley Abbey together with

this special place, which is found nestled in the corner where the Clyde meets the Cathcart Waters, now Renfrew Golf Course. Could there have been another religious centre or was it merely a port?

St Andrews, Glasgow, Edinburgh have more or less the same markings. The site is referred to as Roiifrau and Reynfhraw – dedicated to the wife of a king? One Queen of Scotland revered to this day is St Margaret for her charitable nature and deeds. Her bones were interred at Dunfermline Abbey, with the kings, but seem to have been misplaced over the years, after being disinterred for safe keeping during the Scottish Reformation.

<http://www.geni.com/people/Saint-Margaret-of-Scotland/600000009432315864>

http://spreadjesus.org/st_margaret-of-scotland-queen-of-scotland.html#.UknS-H95Twe

12. Summary

In the process of doing and failing, the importance of building a network of partners and interested parties is made abundantly clear. We do not want to repeat our past mistakes but wish to cooperate with other peoples and groups to explore, expand on existing possibilities, and create avenues of collaboration in mutual support.

- Experience in the garden has given us a direction as to the kind of approach we intend to take, creating a space to provide a diverse range of knowledge, experience and skill sets which can be immediately transferred and adapted, creatively to many aspects of day-to-day living, in the workplace and in the community
- Continuing work in the garden has been an effective means for dialogue with local business, workers and community members and creates mutual respect and understanding
- Unemployment in Govan has been an issue for a very long time. Projects asking for volunteers to work for free in this community may be viewed with suspicion / ridicule, or simply ignored
- Tired of charity, many wonder if the government has truly worked out comparative cost of keeping a potential workforce on the shelf, ticking over on benefits with declining health and all that entails in NHS costs, with that of spending funds to create jobs, or taking less to employ more, as costs escalate alongside wages, too often taking with them sufficient time to defectively use our resources to keep costs low, along with economic stability.
- Billions of EU money specifically targeted to regenerate the Govan economy, have funded projects which had a workforce of less than 10% with a Govan postcode. Some folk cannot help but wonder how can paying wages to one area regenerate an economy in another
- Because local projects employed so few if any local workers, common place responsibility to the community in performing small tasks to reduce the inconveniences of implementation, ie clearing snow from paths already badly encumbered by building works, becomes impossible to uphold, because paid workers are trapped in homes too far away to reach the site in the bad weather conditions and so the local community suffer bad falls, increasing cost to local NHS services
- Furthermore issues around the carbon footprint, surely demand employers contracted for costly projects should be spending funds to ensure a local workforce is suitably trained
- Surely local labour on any project will be more likely to commit to that project, since they will have to deal with the results
- How to measure the true cost of any project

Never has any community member **ever** disagreed with the notion that all effort should be made to ensure funds support local labour. Most generally agreed that while x% of the community are unemployed, by rights, y% of workers in any major project with relevant postcodes should be trained to process that work – which would ensure good training for unemployed workers and / or give locals at least an edge to swapping out to find work, or a fresh start. Recent experience has shown that it may be hard to find local workers with good enough health to work, although some would argue that a paid job would be a cure for many Govan ailments

- Meanwhile the Garden provides some respite from unemployment and other problems for those interested, with added future potential to explore energy, mechanics, and / or woodwork without upsetting the neighbours
- The climate is right, TV design teams are supporting sustainable eco solutions, the light is green