

## Garden Report 27 Feb 13

### 1) Power to the Bees and a Fresh Start

We have been very very busy recently, building beds around the garden to :

α) Feed the Bees

β) Provide a space for all those weeds we like but dont really want seeding into the vegetable patches

χ) Provide something for the public to enjoy

δ) Advertise the presence of the garden – it is amazing that after 3 years loads of people don;t seem to know we are here – in a way having a secret garden is nice, but we would love more members in the community to enjoy it too

ε) Recycle the burned tyres

φ) Make a Fresh Start



### 2) Since the fire we have been filling two dustbins regularly every week with detritus from the fire.



α) LES have been very kind but one bin was rejected. Polycarbonate cinders were everywhere. And although we shovelled a lot of the nasty stuff into the bottom of beds, edged with tyres and bits of melted polycarb we cant shift, there was still a lot of coke left.



So we tried the bin, But some eejit

left the lid off overnight, letting in the rain and making the bin very heavy. Back came the bin and we shovelled the contents ++ loads more into 3 gigantic tyres, kindly provided by Quick Shift Tyres, Clydebrae St, which the Community Payback Team have kindly topped up with manure and compost.

β) Heaps of manure, compost and topsoil from beds closest to the fire - in case they also were polluted with burnoff – have been shovelled onto quantities of coke, in tyre beds, edged in places by melted polycarbonate we can't shift. These beds are not for foodstuffs.



χ) Instead we aim to plant nectar rich plants, and may the bees be happy with that. Cotoneasters dug up from the orchard area have already been planted – here's hoping they don't notice the coke 2ft down, and grow well, providing flowers & winter berries for the birds.

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- δ) Some of the heavier wood has been strapped together, and held in place with angle brackets. These should hold the remainder of the manure and compost and should be free from contamination so we **can** grow foodstuffs here. Perhaps tomatoes, beans, hops, maybe even grapes.
- ε) All in all we hope the burned frame will mellow into a pergolic space, with nectar rich plants clambering all over. Some of the plastic still refuses to come off but the Mighty Galgael figure they will be able to smash it off with their hammers
- φ) This week we have not needed to put out the bins, they are almost empty – yaay!
- γ) AND, we have clearer out a lot more stuff thanks to the Payback Team who took it all away in their nice truck to the dump, together with some scrap metal which they use for Xmas.
- η) Most of the tyres in the frie were hardly damaged, possibly because they were filled with soil and rocks. They have been recycled to the orchard to hold some of the tons of: horse manure, kindly donated and delivered by Pollock Park; cow manure, kindly donated by Scott Dairies and delivered by the Great Galgael; compost, all 20 tons, donated and delivered by Scottish Water, for a very fair fee; and our own compost, for brambles, roses, honeysuckle, thistle and more, to wallow and thrive pleasing we hope, everyone.
- ι) Another new bed in the orchard, may be filled with meadow flowers, and a cold frame which holds tyres into which Sky, Chloe, Karly, Lucy, TJ and Kiera set seed, after a busy afternoon filling and carting barrows, and then kindly labelled the tyres to remind us, when we have forgotten, what is growing there



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- 3) Gavin and the Payback Team got into the front garden and gave it a good rake, and the magnificent David - who has been very busy barrowing leaves, compost and manure into new beds, which Sky, Kiera, Chloe and Thomas later sowed with bluebell, sweet woodruff and wild garlic - planted daffodils near the front gate in the outside garden last month, along with Neil. Neil, as a bonus, put his trusty still saw to work on our behalf - many thanks to all
- 4) We made a bed in the outside garden for jerusalem artichokes, honeysuckle and no doubt other stuff including plants we like but do not necessarily want to rampage around the vegetable patch, but which we hope will bring a smile to passers by **and** feed our friends the guineapigs
  - α) Since dog walkers use this area, it would be nice to try a worm bin here for dog poop
  - β) These days, in the main, rubbish previously chucked over the fence into the outside garden, tends to end up in the upturned traffic island cone – also thrown into the garden a good while back and upended for that purpose.
  - χ) So maybe dog walkers will use a worm bin if it is provided, and if we provide compostible bin bags too.
- 5) Last year many plants were eaten alive. Tiny holes appeared in leaves but with no slime trails we wondered if bugs were being attracted by the plethora of nasturtiums or stagnant water in the bath. We plan to move nasturtiums to new beds this year, & have replaced the bath with - you guessed it – compost & manure - hoping it will prove to be a great home for the rhubarb.
- 6) And now thanks to the Payback Team, we finally have time to dig over the beds again, plant tiny fruit cuttings that seem to have rooted, and hope that the compost and manure will make everything grow wonderfully and smell great. With luck all the new beds will fill with sweet smelling wonderous plants to feed bees and birds, **and** draw admiration / interest to the site.
- 7) We got a lot of hi in the sky apple pie hopes for a great year. Hope that we get the right seeds in at the right time in the right place, hope we provide free good food to the community, hope the community find us and appreciate the space, hope that they will recognise the potential of redeveloping an historic building for the community, by the community and give us support / signatures / ideas / approval.

