

Welcome to Elder Farm Community Garden

1 Who are we?

- i. We are a voluntary group who grow free food for the community
- ii. We try to take on board organic and permaculture theories and put them into practice,
- iii. We are generally not experts, and are always ready to learn from nature and our fellows.
- iv. We are ready to share what we do know with our fellows, when we are able.
- v. Each of us brings valuable input and insight to the experience
- vi. We value everyone's ideas and opinions but will always try to steer towards using organic and sustainable solutions when we can
- vii. The derelict building in the grounds is dangerous, the roof is rotten and the stonework is not fully stable. Anyone within 3 meters risks injury which is why a fence has been raised. No one should go into that area without full consent from City Properties
- viii. All Minors under the age of 16 should be accompanied by an adult
- ix. Anti social behaviour is not welcome and the police are on hand if bad behaviour continues

2 Social Groups

- i. Everyone is welcome to come down and help out in the garden with weeding, digging, watering, building, sorting, tidying, sweeping, feeding, event management, pr, admin, etc.
- ii. Social Groups are invited to use the garden space to read, play, relax, dance
- iii. Minors must be accompanied by a responsible adult
- iv. There is an area which can be used to play tennis / play a ball against the wall, and another for young people to safely use bicycles etc.
- v. Families are encouraged to use the space for family events, and can make arrangements within reason for the garden to be open and closed.
- vi. We ask anyone using the garden to respect the neighbours and keep noise down etc
- vii. We ask anyone using the space to respect the garden, fellow visitors and those who work in it
- viii. Folk are reminded that we are not insured, that they are responsible for their own safety and the safety of family and friends and are asked to use common sense
- ix. Anyone wishing to use the space should contact elderfarm.govan@gmail.com or 07708760225

3 Member Stuff

- i. All members who wish to invest in a key are required to conform with agreed policies and practices
- ii. New members brings new experience and ideas and that is good
- iii. We have been in the past, decimated by an inherent generic life force tendency to establish a hierarchy or pecking order, in a society ravaged by unemployment, addiction, manipulation, and lack of self and / or mutual respect / real love, and are trying to find ways to overcome this.
- iv. The Elder Farm Community Project is the sole boss and don't we forget it
- v. There are no bosses, just folk with a combined wide life experience, with much to teach and much to learn, some of whom have a wee bitty clearer understanding of what is going on because they have been around the project longer, and are always ready to try something new to improve.

4 Conflict and Resolution

- i. We do not tolerate any form of bullying behaviour
- ii. Jokers should be careful not to play too rough in case they are asked to leave and / or police are called because their pranks are viewed to be bad or bullying behaviour
- iii. While we recognise that disagreement is inevitable, we try to ensure conflict is resolved as best we may
- iv. We try to discourage idle gossip / discrimination through gossip.
- v. We recognise that we are mostly all imperfect beings in a pretty nice world each with stresses and troubles of our own.
- vi. We understand that it is not always possible to leave troubles at the gate.
- vii. We understand that arguments and misunderstanding will happen, but ask members to learn from the experience in how to communicate in a more positive way, and recognise that everyone has a right to use the garden, and we should all learn how to get along in order to ensure that there is a positive outcome.
- viii. We should try to resolve issues fairly but should not get manipulated or drawn in – we are not trained counsellors or trained social workers, or even baby sitters
- ix. We recognise that we are a community and that we are here to allow the garden to work it's magic.

5 Contact and Communications

- i. Anyone wishing to be kept up to date etc should make sure contact details are added to the relative contact group list (Members should consider whether a contact tree would be useful)
- ii. Please try to pass on messages and new info to other garden workers – you may be the only person to see this person and they may not have email or text
- iii. We will try to have a book or board for members to communicate events and communications
- iv. Members on a contact list who begin to feel overwhelmed by communications ie email or text should ask to be removed / arrange an alternative method – (ie join the Facebook group)

6

7 Growing Stuff - Planters and Beds

- i. We have a number of planters and raised beds in the garden
- ii. In general we use a rotational system planting potatoes with manure, beans and peas where potatoes have grown and cabbage and greens after that
- iii. Anyone who wants to claim a space to grow their own plants should let us know
- iv. Tools are available in the containers and should be used with caution and respect

8 Compost

- i. We generally get a delivery of manure from Pollock Park, but have needed to import from William Scott Dairies in Barrhead before with the help of Galgael
- ii. We may be able to get free compost from Linwood via Scottish Hydro, and pay for delivery, or buy compost from GP Blantyre (c £10 per ton plus delivery)
- iii. We get deliveries of grass clippings, leaves, wood chip, and kitchen organic waste when we can
- iv. We make compost using layers of leaves, green materials ie weeds, nettles, ash, kitchen waste, rock dust and manure – our current methods rely more on decomposition of materials to good organic material

- v. We are trying to use wood core beds where we can, the larger the better – taking the idea from permaculture “Hugel Kraft” works – placing a solid wood core in each bed should reduce need to water or feed plants – moisture and nutrients are provided as the wood breaks down. The core is covered with layers of various organic materials, grass clippings, manure, vegetable matter, leaves, rock dust etc. The larger the core the longer the effect – a large tree trunk could equal years and years plus
- vi. We would like to try creating some Hugel beds (Hugel mean huge) – the larger the core the longer the effect. Many Hugel beds start out around 6' high and reduce height over time collapsing in on itself allowing more compost to be added to the top.
- vii. Chop and drop where ever possible - The general idea is that nutrients taken up by weeds and plants are returned immediately to the soil

9 Seed and plants

- i. We do collect and buy seed, but you are welcome to bring your own
- ii. Seed collected from good plants sown and grown on site may adapt better to local conditions
- iii. If you do sow seed please let us know where, in order to avoid complications
- iv. it is quite hard to mark seed as weather, birds and / or humans tend to eradicate labels
- v. In some cases sowing seed in the smaller tyres bordering beds works, but the birds do eat seedlings. Growing seed and seedlings under cover helps. Nets, hoops and fleece available
- vi. The pigeons seem to favour brassica plants. Planting through plants like phacelia may help prevent them eating leaves – but the birds do seem to be keeping the plants free from slugs, so we suggest you do not cover plants for too long.
- vii. If you see plants failing please do try to save them. If this means watering, moving or cutting etc please do it and try let folk know what you have done and why.
- viii. Mistakes happen. We all make them. We all should try to avoid arguments over them and move on
- ix. Mistakes made with a good heart are often serendipitous and teach us new things

10 Food, Records & Reports

- i. Food in the garden is given free to visitors or workers or to food kitchens in the community
- ii. Please log food /plants grown and gifts going out and coming in
- iii. We should try to log all activity including people visiting the garden if we can, but many garden centres and community hubs have trouble with this feeling that it falls outwith normal behaviour and may be viewed by visitors as being invasive so if anyone has any better ideas please feel free to add them.
- iv. Photographic evidence is a good way to document successes and failures and daily like. Photos can be uploaded to albums on Facebook Elder Farm Group sites or emailed to elderfarm.govan@gmail.com . If you would like to help further on this please let us know
- v. Sometimes writing is hard – illegible / hands are wet and dirty perhaps a map would be useful .. again ideas / working solutions welcome

11 Keeping it Tidy / Not Wasting our Resources

- i. Generally garden tools are kept in the red container and other tools in the green container
- ii. Food and mugs etc are kept in the smaller strong box because it seems to be the only mouse /

- squirrel free zone we have
- iii. Please try to keep containers and strong box tidy. It is easier to find stuff when things are tidy.
- iv. Containers have leaks. Electrical hardware, cement bags, etc should be covered for protection
- v. Please wind hoses neatly and avoid damage with kinks
- vi. Please put tools away nicely
- vii. We can often recycle nails and screws so please don't leave them lying on the ground
- viii. A little WD40 may help to restore rusty items as may heating and placing in cold water to retemper
- ix. We are always looking for volunteers to sort out bucket of nails and screws

12 Safety

- i. People using the site are responsible for their own safety and are asked to use common sense
- ii. Minors and dogs require to be supervised by an adult
- iii. In the middle of the site is a dangerous building. The roof supports have been greatly weakened and the inner floor is collapsing – rain water leaking into the building has made the wood rotten and the council removed asbestos last year which further weakened the structure.
- iv. We are trying to get the building fixed in the meantime there is a fence around the property and no one should enter this area
- v. The garden should be locked if no one is present for public safety
- vi. In the event of a serious emergency please meet on the grass at the main gate, Govan Road
- vii. Please let folk know when you are in and out of the garden so we know who to look for
- viii. There is a First Aid Kit and Fire Hydrant in the red container
- ix. The First Aid Kit holds antihistamine cream for emergencies.
- x. Some people are allergic to bites. Apparently rubbing cream into the bite en route to hospital helps
- xi. All members should know where the First Aid Kit and Fire Hydrant are
- xii. Sharp objects chucked into the bin causes injuries when the bin men try to lift them
- xiii. All broken glass and other sharp items should be put into a container first so that the bin men to prevent injury. Unbroken bottles and jars should be recycled.
- xiv. Please try not to bring glass onto the site – at some point it will be broken
- xv. Nails and screws lying around damage feet, paws and tyres, please pick them up and store them safely
- xvi. Please watch out for old / rusty nails and screws when using old wood - If you can remove them please do so carefully and put the item in a container
- xvii. Please make sure tools, hoses and extending cords are safe and will not harm other gardeners or visitors
- xviii. We recommend you protect your hands with gloves when using garden teas, weeding and handling debris
- xix. Fires for cooking etc should always be supervised or extinguished. Please do not burn large fires around plants, the sparks damage the leaves.
- xx. Fire ash should be sieved to prevent nails etc from polluting the compost heaps
- xxi. Please don't just pile on all the wood you can find – do leave some for another day / project

13 Water Using It Not Wasting It

- i. There is no drinking water on site so we recommend folk bring water with them when they come down
- ii. We do collect rainwater, however since the fire we have lost a large amount of roof space and sometimes need to fill water containers from a stand pipe.
- iii. When using the stand pipe and hose, please make sure the public cannot trip
- iv. Please don't leave water taps running
- v. Water from containers can be used to wash hands / boil wash mugs etc with common sense
- vi. There is hand soap at the water container
- vii. Please do not pollute water sources
- viii. Take water from the water container do not take dirt to the container

14 Water & Organic Project

- i. Please try to use rainwater for the plants.
- ii. A lot of work has been put in to dig organic matter into the soil, so please do not over water the plants in order to help them develop a decent rooting system
- iii. Plants will put out roots where the water is. If the water is at the surface they will put roots out at the surface but if encouraged to look for water elsewhere plants will put out deeper roots and pick up more nutrients / keep healthier
- iv. Plants which only have roots at the surface may die in a heat wave, because the surface loses water fastest in the summer from wind and heat evaporation. Plants which have deeper roots are hardier
- v. If plants do not pick up the necessary nutrients to thrive, not only will they have less nutrients to feed our systems, so we need to eat more, but also may have weaker cell systems and break down faster from diseases
- vi. Fleece, polytunnel netting, gravel and wood chip all help to keep the moisture in
- vii. We aspire to experiment with recycling and sustainable energy projects and hope that they will make us think harder about how we use the planet's resources
- viii. We believe that organic food when properly grown, not only taste's better but has more nutrition and so we need less
- ix. We have continued to have bad luck with tomatoes but still have not added any calcium to soils. Calcium helps the plant take up the water. Apparently – for want of aggregate which may be costly rock dust ie smashed up rocks, shells, plaster even cement dust will do

15 Wildlife

- i. This is an organic garden, chemicals should be avoided
- ii. We have an agreement with LES Shieldhall Raymond Sutton that our boundaries are kept weed killer free on condition that we maintain them, so rubbish collection and weeding expeditions are required from time to time
- iii. There are heaps of rubbish wood around the garden which have been left on purpose for the wildlife – birds, ladybirds, hedgehogs etc and these should not be used for making fires
Generally wood for fires is left either in the wood sheds or under the leylandii to keep it dry
- iv. We like birds coming to the garden. Apart from it being nice having them around, they provide lime and also eat the slugs and bugs.

- v. If you are having a biscuit please don't forget to share We still have not built a bird table that won't blow down, or let food get wet. Maybe we will find the time to build one this year
- vi. We have also bent down willow in the orchard to gain more light and provide a thicket for birds which they seem to approve of
- vii. **Local Residents** : spiders, lady birds, foxes, mice, rats, snails, slugs, worms, seagulls, magpies, wood pigeons, chaffinch, robins, wrens, blue tits, and great tits.
- viii. **Visitors spotted:** tree creeper in June and last year a pair of gold finches visited for a few weeks. We think they were feeding on the thistle seed, so are trying to grow thistles in friendly spaces in case they return
- ix. Foxes, mice and rats visit or live in the garden, it's a challenge - ideas to stop them digging around and trampling plants are welcome – ie mark bed edges with barriers / cover seed with gravel.
- x. We don't mind dogs but would rather they didn't trample on the crops or fight
- xi. Please record new visitors / inhabitants

16 Artworks

- i. We like to encourage positive graffiti and artworks Currently art is being directed onto broken slates found around the garden, larger slate (12" plus) should be kept for the building project
- ii. There are paints in the container. Please don't let the young people help themselves to paint because they tend to overload and waste it and we don't have much in the way of funding. Generally squeeze a little of each chosen colour out on a pallet / slate / plate and more when asked.
- iii. Recycling art projects are to be encouraged- ie mosaics etc
- iv. We try to discourage people labelling the garden with their names and will paint over negative graffiti
- v. We have been given a couple of second hand containers.
- vi. The blue container doubles as a meeting space in poor weather and art club
- vii. Groups using the space are asked to keep it tidy ready for the next group / meeting
- viii. The young team are invited to start up group workshops and join the committee

17 Foodstuffs and Cooking

- i. We do recommend you wash hands before eating.
- ii. Please don't keep food or mugs in the container – mice can access this container easily
- iii. Please clean pots / pans / plates / mugs before leaving or let someone know if you take them home to clean
- iv. There is usually a boiling pot to sterilise your mugs spoons etc after washing
- v. If the hot pot / kettle is boiling, please be sensible, and turn it off
- vi. If you don't know how to switch it off please ask someone or tell someone the kettle is boiling
- vii. Please check gas is off when you go into / leave the container