

## Friends of Granton Castle Walled Garden – Emergency Update Meeting

11<sup>th</sup> January 2-4pm

North Edinburgh Arts Studio 2

Present Graeme, Isla, Gillean, Linda and Kirsty  
Apologies Mariana, Liz, Ellie, Ally B and Jonathan

**1 Minute from Last meeting** Dec 7<sup>th</sup> approved for circulation

**2 Matters arising** – Mushroom Trust Correspondence. Isla to process forms and return with bank details for receipt of funds.

**3 Walled Garden Visit 11<sup>th</sup> January** 11-12.30 – Graeme, Ellie and Kirsty visited with EDI representatives Denise and Alasdair.

Garden visit was really valuable and greatly appreciated by group members, as it allowed them to assess its current condition and begin planning possible activities for the spring and summer, involving local people and associate group members: helping with informed decision making for the walled garden's future design and use.

- Major health and safety issues with walls, glasshouses, outbuildings (asbestos roofing) and fuel storage pit.
- Overgrown scrubby areas needing cleared of birch and ash saplings, buddleia, brambles and willow herb. Ivy to be removed, walls picked and pointed with lime mortar (replacing modern cement repairs where necessary) ~ £40 per m<sup>2</sup>
- Repair work being undertaken on listed doocot – reslating roof and reflooring as timbers rotten, but will not be open for use.
- Lean-to historic glasshouse condemned and due for demolition – brickwork base, boilerhouse walls and chimney to remain.
- Freestanding 1920's glasshouse to be deglazed but timber retained as possible to salvage
- Large sycamores needing felled (except one which could be left as dead standing trunk – insect and woodpecker habitat in rotten heartwood) Would have to be done before the end of Feb 2017 to have timber milled by forestry commission and stored for seasoning by end of March/April in a specific manner as described by furniture makers at Botanic's show. Could then be used for furniture making in the winter and spring of 2018.
- Heritage fruit trees, including productive 'Grenadier' mother tree, have been severely pruned winter 2015. Most of the fruiting wood removed therefore loss of expected ~70-100kg of fruit in autumn of 2017.

**Outcome** – Plenty of good photographs taken by Graeme and Ellie for comparison with 2003 and 2013/2014 images. Useful for next Friends Group meeting and presentation to new members who haven't visited the walled garden before. Entry to the garden by visitors likely to be very limited at first to specific areas which are safe.

**Action** – follow up meeting with Denise Havard at Madelvic House on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2pm  
KS to discuss progress on the planning application, how health and safety issues are to be resolved, timescales, the phasing of access to various parts of the garden and the agenda points brought up today, and circulate to those wishing to attend before forwarding to Denise.

Graeme, Ellie, Linda, Gillean, Jonathan and Isla? so far.

**4 EDI Meeting at Madelvic House 7<sup>th</sup> Dec** – Ellie, Graeme, John G and Kirsty attended. New access position and possible access date end of March circulated to committee at the time. Historic Environment Scotland new listing plan highlighting B-listed walls and findings from the

Scotland's Urban Past archaeology day raised with EDI.

Feedback with bullet points from Denise and added notes circulated for discussion.

**Outcome** - Follow up first walled garden visit planned for 22<sup>nd</sup> December to look at new access position and health and safety issues for Friends Group public liability insurance.

**Action** – see point 3 above

**5 Horticultural Workstream** – flowchart circulated to committee for feedback (so far positive)

Formative list of trial plants for herb and fruity products providing sustainable income. Methods suitable for our circumstances and ethos.

Possible grafting project at end of January beginning of Feb from the 'mother' tree (today's garden visit confirmed there is suitable healthy scion material)

**Outcome** – so far Kirsty, Isla, Ellie, Jonathan, Tom K and Ally B involved with this heading.

Many tasks to be prioritised and delegated to involve more group members.

**Action** – KS to follow up sustainable nursery project with Madelvic Hub Group and Leonie Alexander of RBGE. Supplies, space and timescale discussed with Leonie who may be able to help.

**6 Workstream Headings** – follow on from facilitated meeting led by John G in Nov 2016.

Nothing through from John G as yet so have begun the process with a spreadsheet type table with all the headings and a monthly timetable of possible events.

Denise has requested a timetable of activities and events the Friends Group would like to carry out inside the walled garden under the temporary license agreement.

**Outcome** – Kirsty has drawn together some initial ideas for circulation to the committee for feedback. Business Plan, Funding and Group Governance needing much more work.

**Action** – KS to complete as far as possible and tidy up format next Monday before EDI meeting and circulate. Everyone can then fill in more detail as the headings and tasks are refined.

**7 Any Other Business**

Many interesting events, consultations and local meetings of relevance this month.

17<sup>th</sup> Jan 12-2 Food For Thought Forum meeting at Muirhouse Millennium Centre

17<sup>th</sup> Jan 5.30-9 Mypark Scotland Crowdfunding Training invite

27<sup>th</sup> Jan morning – Cyrenians farm visit invite – Humble Holdings Kirknewton.

30<sup>th</sup> Jan Power of Food festival AGM invite

22<sup>nd</sup> Feb – Greenspaces and Openspace in North West Locality – Community Plan 2017-2020, week long exhibition at NEArts and evening community consultation event.

22<sup>nd</sup> Feb – Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens – National gathering, Dunkeld  
Visit to market garden at RBGE nursery being arranged, date and time tbc

KS Sessional work to begin again for ~12 weeks, admin for FG and practical support at community gardens to build on existing local skills base and involvement.

Practical events to share seasonal horticultural skills and provide useful plants for the walled garden in the future: details of venues and times to be forwarded when completed eg willow weaving, soft fruit pruning and hardwood cuttings, plants for free – splitting herbaceous perennials, propagation

from saved local seed.

It was agreed that we should seek advice on the preparation of a Business Plan, perhaps kicking off with a workshop in February or March.

AGM planning needed for end of February beginning of March. It would be good to involve our network of associate groups, new members and local individuals more.

Next Friends Group Meeting 26<sup>th</sup> January, 6-8pm Royston Wardie Community Centre