

**Well hello my dearies,**

*I have been harassed and harangued to get this to the Newsletter. That editor takes no account of my age or arthritic fingers. I'm also having to use a magnifying glass to do this as my eye sight is getting worse and my swollen ankles are no better, but I just push on and never complain.*

*So Prince William is finally getting married. Well the Royal family certainly have kept solicitors in business with the rest of the TEAM so I can only cross my fingers that this one will work. Although I don't expect it to be a WHITE wedding, even his father admitted that they have been practicing for too long, what a thing to say in public, but then he has no shame himself. I can admit that although never having been married myself, I have had plenty of practice myself in my day.*

*Anyway enough of this, it is a brand NEW Year and although poverty stricken we will no doubt have a jolly good time. I have been preparing for this down turn in the economy for some time, so the remainder of the Christmas turkey will come out of the freezer and do me through the year, the same with my Christmas pudding, I only had half of it, so I wrapped it in an old sock under the bed, so it will be fine and mature this year.*

*What was that snow and ice like? I was a prisoner in this flat for weeks on end !It was Baltic as well and my hottie was never far away. Thankfully I had the cupboards well stocked up and all at the old VAT prices too.*

*I worry though, that all you young students are going to be skint soon, so I have suggested that we hold a make do and mend class in Offshore whilst I model at the life drawing class. You never know what to do with you hands when doing a sitting, so I could teach you all how to be fashionable on a penny.*

*For 2011 I wish the following -*

*No student fees*

*No removing my bus pass*

*No reduction in my fuel allowance.*

*Not being sent out to work for a 3 month stint or my pension will be stopped*

*Not being robbed as the police force gets cut ..... if I am robbed I hope*

*there will still be some nurses left to help me.*

*I'm not a great one for the festivities, I have no family to speak of, and most of my acquaintances are all dead and buried now so it was a quiet time for me, but I hope you all had a fine time.*

*On that note I wish you all well for the year ahead, and who knows I have heard rumours that GOW are thinking on letting me do a Christmas broadcast next year, so keep you ears peeled to the gramophone.*

*Yer auld neighbour*

***The Spinster of this parish.***

## **GOW Monthly Meeting Dates**

**Back-court Clean up:**  
Sun, 6th Feb ~ 2:00 PM  
Sun, 6th Mar ~ 2:00 PM  
Sun, 3rd Apr ~ 2:00 PM

**Meeting @ Offshore:**  
Mon 7th Feb ~ 6:30 PM  
Mon, 7th Mar ~ 6:30 PM  
Mon, 4th Apr ~ 6:30 PM



[www.gowcommunity.org.uk](http://www.gowcommunity.org.uk)

[gowcommunity@gmail.com](mailto:gowcommunity@gmail.com)

**Anti Social Behaviour**  
**0800 027 3901**

**Graffiti - Fly Tipping**  
**0800 027 7027**

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# GOW Community Newsletter January 2011

## Welcome to 2011, the Tenth year of GOW triangle



Congratulations one and all on surviving a bitter frosty December and another (white) Christmas. a very Happy New Year to one and all!

During 2011 GOW Triangle – the project which was established to transform our backcourt from a dumping ground for rubbish to a garden and recreation area – reaches its 10 year anniversary. Thanks to all who have worked in so many different ways over the years to help create an area to be proud of.

For those of you who are recent residents and who may not know how filthy and unkempt this area was 10 years ago the story is on the GOW website. However New Year is a time to look forward and to plan for the coming spring and summer.

New ideas and practical energy from any residents who would like to be involved are all most welcome. Please get in touch (contacts on back page) or come along to the regular monthly meetings or the back garden clear-ups.

The can recycling initiative has taken another step forward with the granting of planning permission to create a secure covered area for our customised bicycle and mobile can crusher. Work has already started and the project will be completed by 31 March.

From previous Newsletters you will know that the cherry tree in the centre of the backcourt died over a year ago and soon will be cut down for safety reasons. We intend to retain the trunk of this tree as a focal point and in time this may be carved and sculpted. Also the proposal to increase the raised bed vegetable patch created over a year ago are included in this edition.



Finally I wonder if we could muster up a group to apply for funding for alternative energy and effective insulation for the community? If you would like to be involved please get in touch

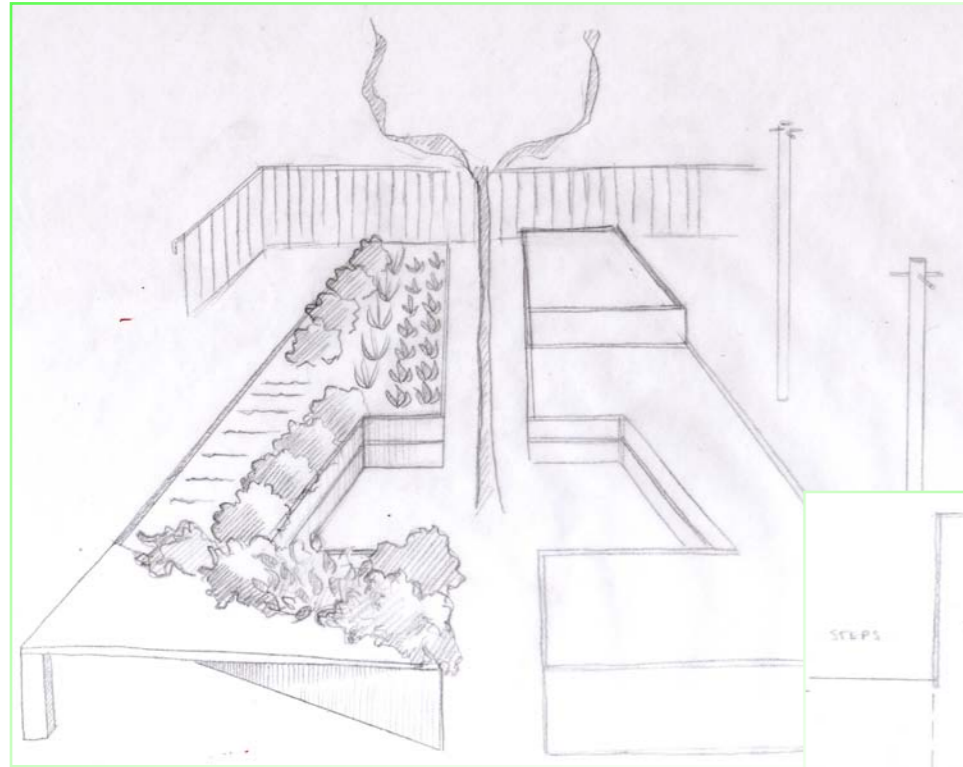
Editor

## The Winter Fair

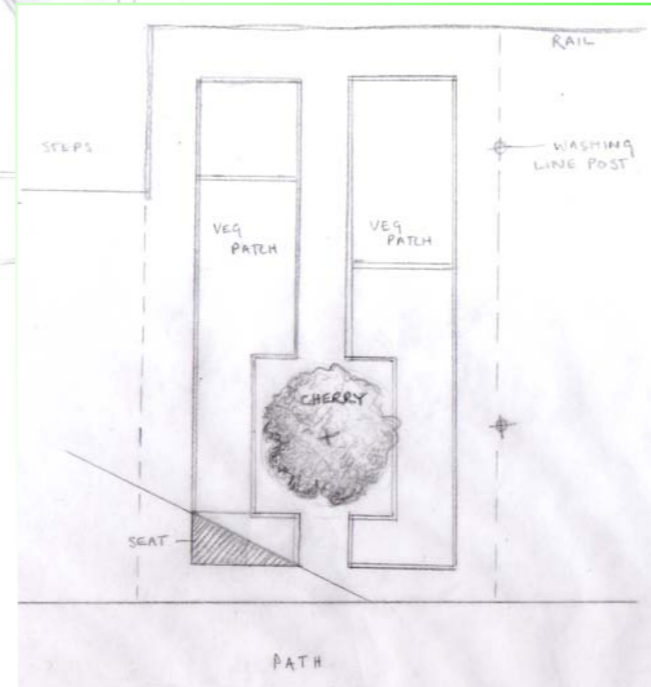
On 27th November just before the big snow fall we held our annual Winter Fare in the backcourt. This event is in partnership with St Silas Church on Park Road and despite the cold was another successful afternoon. Our wee shop raised £146 by selling second hand “treasures” although the Piano kindly donated by Albert Adams and worth about £100 remains unsold (budding pianists please note!)



## Consultation Proposal to increase the size of raised beds



The demand for allotments cannot be met in Glasgow or in most parts of the country so we are lucky in GOW to have our own communal raised bed in the backcourt for growing salads, vegetables and herbs. Flo has been looking at ways of increasing the capacity of our veg patch and here she has sketched out her proposals for increasing the size of the raised beds.



## What do you think?

Please let us know if you are in favour of this proposal or not or if you have reservations or alternative suggestions before work begins in the springtime.

## Woodlands Community Development Trust

A Community Clean up event is planned for this coming Saturday, 22nd January. The Community Clean up in partnership with the local community, Clean Glasgow, Glasgow Community and Safety Services & Land and Environmental Services and Woodlands Community Development Trust, will be tidying up the Community Garden and local area. If you have a couple of hours to spare, come along and help clean up your community.

### Community Clean Up Event

Date: 22nd January  
Time: 10.30am to 12.30pm  
Site Location: West Princess Street Community Garden

### Please wear suitable clothing.

Children under 16 require adult supervision.  
For information contact: Yusuf on 07791729662  
Email: David.Walker3@glasgow.gov.uk

## Murder Most Fowl!

Back in October residents of the GOW were lucky enough to catch a rare sighting of a sparrowhawk snatching a pigeon in the backcourt.



## GOW residents see round the New School

On 4th October nine of us from GOW met at 6.30 at the City Building site office which is a porta cabin at the far end of the site (entry on Kelvin Way)

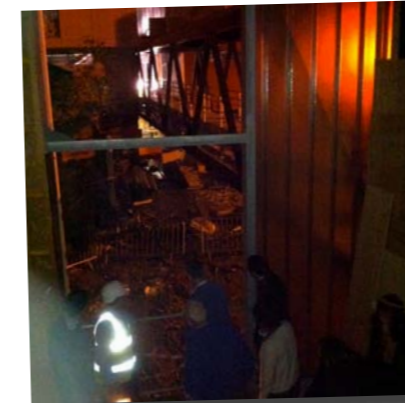
David McEwan, the Site Manager, welcomed us and showed us round the school site. As well as having a feel for the new school we were given lots of information about the building. There was an opportunity to ask about the impact that it would have when it was complete and operating the electrics had not been installed at that point the overcast and rainy evening and the growing darkness meant it was conducted by torchlight!

The buildings are on track for completion in April and they are now wind and water tight. The New Hillhead Primary school will have two separate blocks.

The school block (both primary and 3 nursery classes) is in the park itself with entry for pupils from Kelvin way. This building will have an assembly hall and some staff room and office space surrounded by two floors of large and airy classrooms each with a full windowed wall.

This is very attractive feature from inside particularly facing the river. More of the trees along the river bank were due to be removed after our visit so as to increase the amount of natural light. As well as a playground area opening from the assembly hall there is an intention to construct decking and a platform out over the river Kelvin.

There is some playground space both in front of that building and outside the classrooms on the river side.



The glass bridge connects the school building to what is called the "Community Building" (separate because of that strange old dilapidated house in Westbank Lane which the council tried in vain to purchase but in the end had to "build around"). The new owners of the old building have now applied for planning permission for conversion to flats.

The community block on Otago Street is on a grander scale than the school building and will house administration, the office of the head teacher, dining and gym halls, library and heating plant plus the basement car park for teaching staff. It is also built with the understanding that it will be a community resource in addition to its school function.

There is another playground enclosed by a wall which opens out on the Gibson Street side. This will be for mainly lunchtime use.

David McEwan has offered GOW residents another school tour on Monday 7 February now that the building is closer to its finish date and the walls and internal structures are in place. If you would like to be included please let us know.

The school is due to be ready for opening in April 2011

*UNITE Building*  
*In the first week of February we will finally say goodbye to the Unite building's scaffolding!!*