

CCF2658 LOST GARDEN OF PENICUIK *report*

Progress in February 2014

See all our reports to CCF at www.lostgarden.co.uk/ccf

PENICUIK COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST Social Enterprise of the Year 2013

Our 2014 **organic seed potatoes** arrived from the top Scottish grower on January 31 and are now being sold every week at Saturday Open House. Hopefully we'll recoup the cost in sales before we even plant our own! Last year's potato plots are being tidied up and prepared for this year's vegetable crops and a herbaceous border has been started which will become magnificent in due course. The last of the **terrace trees** are also being removed. We'll soon be at the disconcerting stage of maximum clearance but then we will be able to grow what we want and recover the garden's character. During this month, the **polytunnel frame** is being constructed. It is huge! Preparatory work to restore the West Conservatory has also begun. We've received some **refurbished garden tools** from Saughton Prison, who also took away some of our burned and damaged ones to restore to full working order.

The **cargo bike** (actually a trike) has arrived all the way from our twin town in the south of France, L'Isle sur la Sorgue. It is on display each Saturday at the Town Hall and has carried its 100kg payload without difficulty through the streets of Penicuik to the Penycioe Press **storerooms** in Bridge Street where it is garaged between appearances.

In the lower Lost Garden, some **more felling** has taken place with more promised and we now nearly have one quadrant cleared of trees, if not yet of stumps. In the meantime, the wildlife pond at the foot of the West Ramp has refilled with the rain we've had.

Supporters working the Garden

Our **crèche**-using volunteers continue their good work. New volunteers have started, including an expert from the Royal Botanic Garden who will give spare time to help us grow in the polytunnel, build and supervise a large raised bed in the remains of the old flower house (where our 2012 carrot trials were so unimpressive). He's negotiating with Midlothian Council for the Lost Garden to play a vital part in conserving seed and plant material from an area of ancient Scottish woodland which will be lost in the recently-permitted opencast coal project. As always the Tiphereth Peregrines are out in all weathers, pulling up more stumps, digging, and moving slabs to where they're needed. International helpers this month are Rosy McLean from Shetland, David Apache from Czech Republic, Ashleigh Westphal and Nat Weir-Wakely from Winnipeg and Marc Gotthardt from Essen. All five have worked hard in sun wind and rain to put up the massive lean-to polytunnel frame, aided by volunteer Edinburgh teenager Felix Macarthur who first came on the January walk tour.

Lost Garden Climate Challenge Spending

The new cargo bike's interbank transfer payment took place. Access equipment was purchased for the Garden, and tools and wood for the erection of the polytunnel structure, anchored to the existing wall.

Includes material prepared for Penicuik Town Crier in Dec 2013 & Jan 2014 Inserted by Roger Kelly 01968 677854 07726 862850



Upper Lost Garden in February



A volunteer takes the Cargo



International helpers build the polytunnel -and come in from the rain!



The 48 foot long lean-to polytunnel structure complete -the newly laid path within it is made from unwanted slabs collected from well-wishers