

Greyfriars Community Project Newsletter

Giving Sanctuary, Providing Support, Developing Skills

September 2009

Project Update

As Summer passes and the city gets back to normal we have started to see how the changes we have made to the project have evolved our outlook. We now



have more opportunities to develop better relationships and give more ownership of the project to our service users.

We have had a busy summer. We opened up our new textiles project, added two more days to the woodwork, re-introduced an informal health surgery, opened up our Café to Narcotics Anonymous, had 3 craft stalls in the Grassmarket, ran a bakery pilot, were featured in Greener View Magazine and have around 20 new volunteers recruited from among our service users. It seems that our available services have grown three fold over that past 6 months.

Herb Garden



It is now difficult for anyone visiting the graveyard to not notice our flourishing herb garden. There are three seemingly overgrowing plots of land and the starts of a wild flower garden. We have also been recently running workshops for BUPA and the Rock Trust attempting to help people of all ages learn the important benefits of getting out and doing a bit of gardening. We are hoping in the autumn to establish a fifth herb bed which will contain dyers herbs, linking it more closely with the textiles. For more information email: herbgarden@greyfriarskirk.com

GRoW

Our woodwork shop has recently taken on a new enterprise manager, Tommy Steel. With his expertise in both joinery and working with vulnerable adults he is a



huge asset to the project and his appointment has enabled us to open up the workshop 10am-4pm 4 days a week. We now see between 10 and 20 volunteers a day learning woodworking skills and creating a new line of clocks, candle holders, wine racks, stools, coffee tables and clocks. We are now searching for outlets to sell some of the products made in the workshop as well as being open for commission work; all of the proceeds going back into keeping the workshop open. For more information or to get a copy of our latest catalogue email: grow@greyfriarskirk.com

Grassroots

With our recent award of £10,000 to develop our arts activities over the next year, Grassroots has become more active. We have brought in new sessional workers to offer new skills training and maintain the group, making sure it is offered at least once every week. We have also incorporated one 'Herb-roots' session each month where Jocelyn comes up from the herb garden to teach the group how to make traditional remedies like lip balm, sleep pillows, tea and many more. We are still looking for artists to come in and lead workshops. We maintain that everyone has something to offer and try to encourage our volunteers to discover what that is. For more information contact Josiah our field worker and he will provide more information about what we are looking for.

New Developments



We have recently launched our textiles project teaching volunteers traditional skills in sewing, weaving, knitting and crochet. We finally have our

Victorian loom working and are weaving our first bit of fabric on it as this newsletter goes to press. We hope to be opening a second day in the workshop in the very near future. Over the next few weeks we are hoping to work with EUS to develop a gardening and literacy program as well as a pick and cook course in partnership with Whitmuir Organic Farm in West Linton.

At the end of October we will have a harvest Ceilidh in Greyfriars Kirk, celebrating the life and work of this project and hopefully launching the new Charity bringing together all of the groups involved with the project under one umbrella.

About GCP

The Greyfriars Community Project (GCP) has been developing over the last 5 years as a partnership between Greyfriars Tollbooth & Highland Kirk and the Grassmarket Mission; both are committed to being alongside the most vulnerable and marginalised members of our community. The GCP vision is to get alongside people who are poor, marginalised, excluded, homeless, unemployed, struggling with addiction or mental illness. More than the traditional 'hand-out' of a soup kitchen, we want to give people a 'hand-up' through developing social enterprises, training and skills development and building people's confidence and self esteem. We believe that all our citizens deserve to reach their potential and enjoy success.

We are on a search for potential outlets for our herbal products as well as our woodwork. If you have any interest in this or know anywhere that might be interested in helping us with this please let us know.

Opening Hours

<i>Monday</i>	Drop-in: 19.00 – 21.00
	Woodwork: 10.00 – 17.00
	Textiles: 17.00 – 19.00
<i>Tuesday</i>	Drop-in: 18.00 – 19.00
	Woodwork: 10.00 – 17.00
<i>Wednesday</i>	Drop-in: 13.00 – 16.00
	Woodwork: 10.00 – 17.00
	Health Surgery: 14.30 – 15.00
<i>Thursday</i>	Gardening: 13.00 – 16.00
	Narcotics Anonymous: 18.30 – 19.00
<i>Friday</i>	Drop-in: 13.00 – 16.00
	Woodwork: 10.00 – 17.00
	Art Group: 14.00 – 16.00
<i>Saturday</i>	Oasis Drop-in: 21.00 – 22.30
	Narcotics Anonymous: 17.30 – 19.00

Find out more or Get involved

To keep up to date with whats going on check out our blog at <http://gcpnews.worspress.com> or follow us on twitter @GCP_Edinburgh. For any information on the wider project, or to discuss how you can get involved in our work, feel free to contact Josiah Lockhart our field worker on:

0131 225 3626 or josiah@grassmarketmission.org

We are located up Wardens Close at the east end of the Grassmarket. Our address is

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