

20 Years of the Hidden Gardens

the hidden gardens



















#### MEMORIES OF THE HIDDEN GARDENS

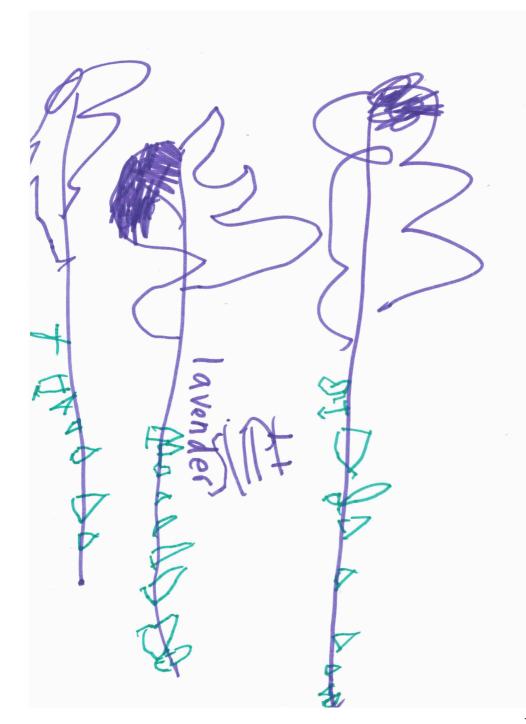
Recorded during our 20th Anniversary Get Together June 2023

Gardening volunteers, Mens Group and Advisory Group members!

- Starting back (volunteering) after Covid
- Gardening & meeting people
- Glass panel making with Mens group and storytelling with Dan
- When I moved to Glasgow from The Highlands I missed my garden. When I found The Hidden Gardens I thought, "I'm home"
- A walking meditation with a Buddhist monk around the water feature and to the Gingko tree
- The people. The bird song. The changes in the season. The smell of the tomatoes
- I have lots of lovely memories like sitting talking with lovely ladies. Coming here as a volunteer gives me the best memories every time inner peace, satisfied I've done something with natural things. Best memory visit to Glasgow science centre with volunteers made me feel very self confident. When someone took my photo at Glasgow Science Centre and it was on the front page of the community almanac.
- Helping on the plant stall at our open days selling plants
- The healing through growing plants and connnecting with life in forms of birds volunteering is a blissful experience

- Meeting all of the wonderful people volunteers & staff
- Learning a lot from staff and volunteers
- I had no idea that listening to cello music could be so relaxing!
- Today (21/6/23) I walked through the gardens just after a heavy downpour. The lovely smell of herbs was incredible
- Being harassed by a baby robin
- A storyteller under the gingko enchanting a group of young children with her folk tales
- When we managed to get back into the gardens after lockdown, catching up with everyone again
- All of my little achievements because of The Hidden Gardens
- Remembering how I learnt to use a drill to make compost bins
- The blaze of new colour every time I volunteer
- My late mother in law helping Paula and I prune at a volunteer session after New Year
- My mum visiting and doing Tai chi on the lawn together
- The absolute peace of mind whilst volunteering
- Realising The Hidden Gardens and amazing opportunity as a volunteer
- 20 years ago I used to bring my kids here and now so lucky to be involved through volunteering. An urban haven



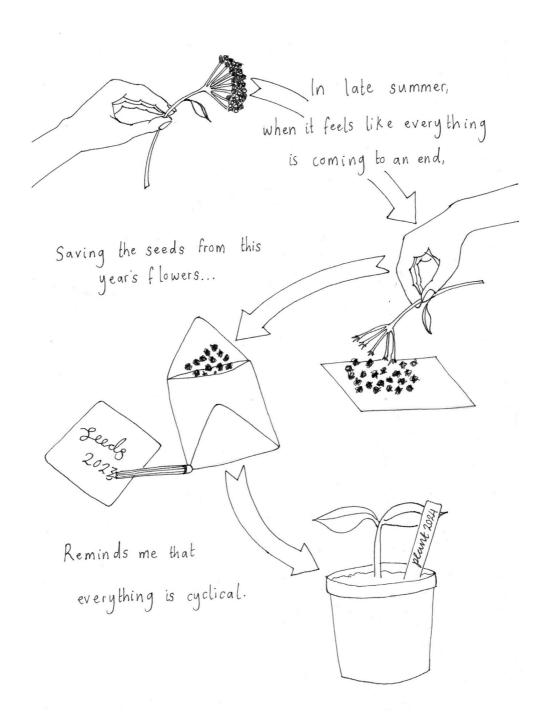


THE HIDDEN GARDEN FLOWERS Helleborus Niger Dog Rose Daffodil F Schinacea N Micotiana G Gladiole A alstromera R Rose D Digitales E Enyrgium N Mepeta

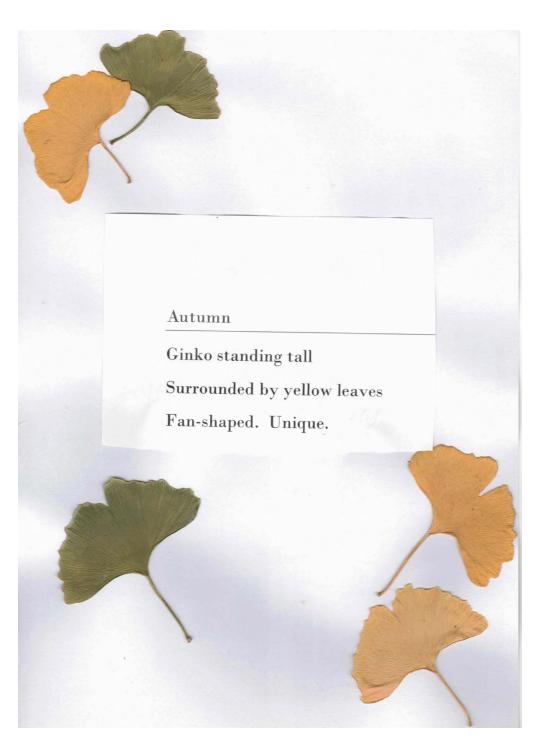


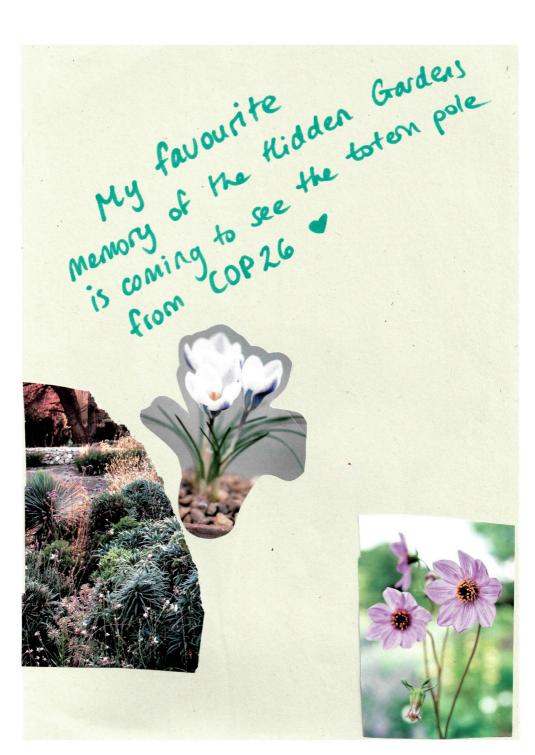


I've been visiting the Hidden Gardens for five years and I've enjoyed watching reach out. some dead the flowers mornished on the lawn about citizen sois









It she greatest place.
In the world.

It the people.

You meet in such a Calm.

Place.

1<sub>Am</sub>





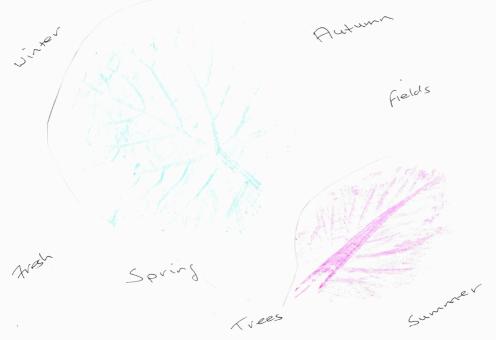
# Prize Sankal

- Hidden crarden in a great place for me to reconnect with the nealing and nurishing part of the universe. I am an immigrant and the space and gardening means that space and gardening means that I can grow roots in a new country
- 2. Seeig due geng Robins wander on due own seminded me of me daughters, who are way daughters due wigs en trusing to spread due wigs en
- 3- Worving with the group of volunteels is my favouriesty.
- n my fanoutie part is sure herb garden, where I see the natures sounds in abundance.

volunteering at Hy has made me nore confident and aux tip towards my new home, ie, Scotiand

I am very fond of gardening and Trying to grow things in a different Crying to grow mallonging. Has dingular helped me a lot.





#### AFTER THE DAFFODILS

After the glow of the daffodil's ascent, rows of tulips look to the sun, foxgloves and lilies join the event, as a bee winds a reconnaissance run.

At end of the way, a chimney stands, an industrial relic, reaching the ether, The Works' abandoned and left a wasteland, grime and destitution, darkened the air.

Now, new branches hug the bQrick wall, clouds of pink petals with tendrils climb, a gathering of herbs populate the soil, lavender, rosemary, healing with thyme.

The trail winds down to a secluded glade, was once a station of noise and distress.

The leafy surround, lends sanctuary and shade, a place of sanctity, the bustling now at rest.

Allan H 04.09.23





#### **HIDDEN GARDENS**

My personal view on hidden gardens means a lot to me. I have started volunteering with hidden gardens since September 2022 until now.

Hidden gardens became like a family to me. This opportunity to volunteer has made me more confident in my social area, learned about gardening skills and managed to do some of my own skills at home. Every Tuesdays I would be so keen to come and help. The other volunteers that work on that day I get along with and share our skills together. I believe as a community we all became very close. The staff at hidden gardens are very supportive and some had their jobs lost has put a whole in my heart. Furthermore, hidden gardens is the gem of southside Glasgow. Throughout my experience I have learnt many things I'm so disappointed that there is no volunteer opportunities due to funding.

Aishah

Hidden garden volunteer Sep 2022 - Sep 2023





. The Hidgen worders is a live of creativity and social activity In the heart of a busy bustling area. The surrounding districts are blocky built up and full of shops, traffic and roise. It it is the least of an industrial and . Gardene is an oasts of nature in the heart of an industrial and · I always feel a sense of peace when entering the gorden.

All tention drops as I walk around it. . There are so many activities it is difficult to shape out a foundate. I really enjoy Thi CH! Tai Chie But being part of the Mers Group is very important to me. We do take part in art projects, executive without and cookery. We currently have an exhibition of art work pipacilitated by the Solone Centre. " I become interested in poetry since I started to volunteer. I also took post in a filming course and consquently made a film about my poems, one of which was displayed in the science Center. . My favorette part is a seat tucked surroundy in a secluded area near the shed. I bring my guttar with me and play to the trees. I gother a bot of Inspiration have here and have written a CD called 'Allan and Sally, play musk from the Hidden Gardens. . I was made redundand fire years ago and I reated badly to it.
I became a volunteer and it changed my life. It was as than my the lates I had become a different and more calm and settled Darson. . There learned a lot about myself that I was not aware of. Of course the gardening and various projects have offered a wealth of interest. bit have become more confident and I think a more positive person.



#### **AWAKEN**

Cold light, songs awake, good morning silent slumber, arise, breathe, create.
Wind fleets fast, bright air, clouds breezing, day time thunder, ether high, prepare.
Cool blue cruising skies, fresh breath, breathing deeper, clear space, to Earth dive.











### WAYS TO WELLBEING in The Hidden Gardens



- 1. LOOK, TOUCH, SMELL
  - use your senses to explore the gardens - Look closely at nature
- 2. FIND A QUIET SPOT

   listen to the birds
  in the wildlife area
- 3. WALK SLOWLY AROUND the GARDENS.
  - Visit every part
  - then walk round the gardens again in the other direction
- 4. DISCOVER YOUR FAVOURITE SPACE
  - sit on a rock, a seat or on the grass
  - Come back + Visit in spring, summer, Autumn + Winter



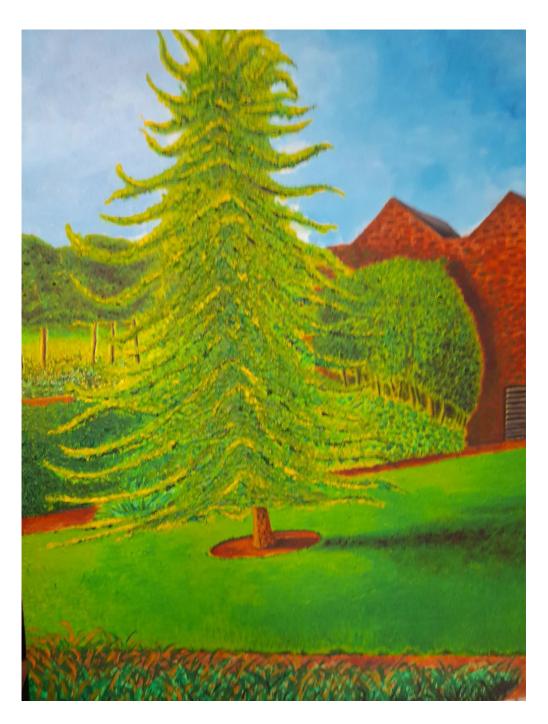
- 5. BRING A PICNIC
- 6. LIE ON THE LAWN
  - lie in the long grass during 'NO Maw, May!
  - Watch the clouds
  - Watch the bees and Nature all around you
- 7. JOIN A GROUP at The Hidden Gardens
  - meet new people
  - learn something new
- 8. GET ACTIVE
  - walk to the Hidden Gardens from your home



## The Hidden Gardens Zine

Here are some questions you can use to help make your zine page, or make your own!

Green space - quiet and tranquil surroundings frenching
Watching the young robins dot around the garden
What is your favourite thing to do here?
How did you come to be involved, working or volunteering here?  Loved the space and knew these volunteers to volunteer.
What is your favourite part of the gardens?  County and  How does working or volunteering here help you?  Slows me down / calms my mud /
What have you learned during your time working or volunteering? In the post could leave things were as full at points but the gardens is constant a seasons, change and the flowers still grow.



## SUNFLOWER SONG (Forever the Mid-Summers Day)

Golden sunflower soaring high, honey-lemon waves, petal the blue sky, orange warm, spreads safe the new day, a call for all children, "Come out and play". Round and round, dance the circle of light. Ring 'a' ring the bells of mid-summers delight. All things bright, all colourful, angels sing, a time for celebration, embrace the child within. Towering sunflower, anoint the celestial feast. Spread the gift of life, a new world of Love and Peace. Shine forever warming, always giving, forever true. The children are the key: revive, re-live, dance a song for you. Alas the night returns, we rest, we sleep, we may pray. Hearts a-glow, smile sweet dreams, remembering the special day. Sunflower settles an orange evenings sky, a last display. Breath deep, safe and sound, Forever the long mid-summers' day.



#### The Hidden Gardens Zine

Here are some questions you can use to help make your zine page, or make your own!

What does the Hidden Gardens mean to you? It has helped me alot in many ways good for peace of What is your favourite memory here? Volunteering

What is your favourite thing to do here? Water has a

How did you come to be involved, working or volunteering here? *volunteering* 

What is your favourite part of the gardens? seeing lots of flavers and plants

How does working or volunteering here help you? Helps my day go by and for health issues

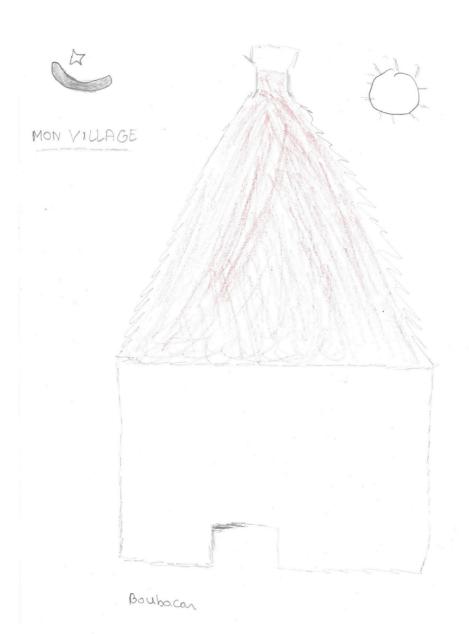
What have you learned during your time working or volunteering? Communication Skills











## THE HIDDEN GARDENS

I moved to Glasgow in September 2019, for a Masters in Creative Writing and to work, and it was not always easy. Really, I had hoped to build a new life by moving here but the first two years, while not without fun, were turbulent; not least because of the pandemic. By the summer of 2021, nearly two years into life in Glasgow, I was considering my future. Something was stalling; something not working.

During this same summer I attended The Hidden Gardens for the occasional volunteering session, and enjoyed it a great deal, and volunteered as much as possible over the next weeks and months. By the time I joined the weekly volunteering in the springtime of 22, it felt like life in Glasgow was, at long last, really starting to click. Life was proving rich and interesting and fulfilling and I was making good friends, some of whom I had met at the Hidden Gardens and continue to see regularly. The chance to volunteer each week was a similarly enriching and pleasurable addition to the working week, and simply to spend some time looking after the natural environment. I began to understand the cliché that you can feel rich by spending time in, caring for, and enjoying the natural world, and trees, and wildlife. During the summer of that year I ensured to find a little guiet moment each session to stand

among trees and enjoy the consistently warm weather and sunshine.

In this sense I feel gratitude towards the Hidden Gardens for what it has given me following a difficult period, and I know I am far from the only one with these sentiments. It is the gift that keeps on giving and for a relatively small and tucked away space, it quietly goes about its day and makes a huge and positive difference all over the local community. It is emblematic of what a rich, vibrant, and diverse place Govanhill is to live. It is very easy to fall in love with.

So I really feel like I owe the gardens a lot. Good work, good friends, time in nature, another social world, events, skills. It has also given me a new appreciation and understanding of the natural world, and the greenspaces that are so important to the city of Glasgow, and it unique character. Life in Glasgow was not easy for those first 18 months, or two years, but the gardens feels the moment where everything began to change for the better. It made all the difference, and it continues to do so; I continue to enjoy volunteering, learning, working, and meeting some fantastic people. And I am sure this is the case for so many who get to enjoy visiting and working and the gardens, and makes it a very special place for many.



The Hidden Gardens with all its



beautiful flowers.

... that can be pressed and





cards.

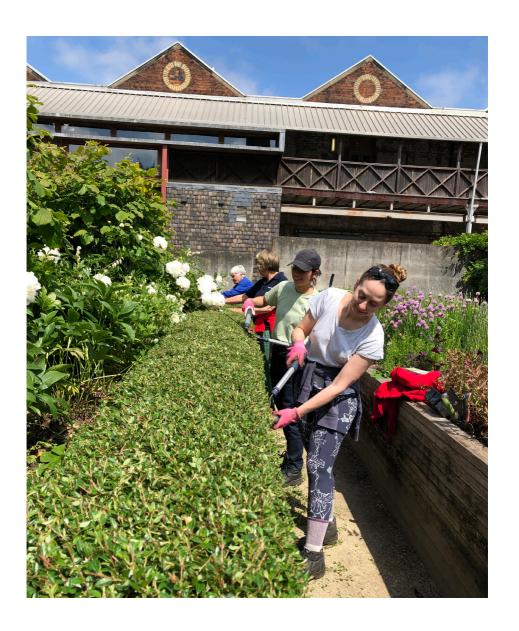
...To make the most lovely flower

A unique place for gathering, learning, wildlife, horticulture, culture, art and community and so much more. My favourite space in Glasgow.











POTTING ON SEEDLINGS IN

THE GREENHOUSE SURROUNDED

BY PLANTS AND THE SMEUS OF SOIL

Leafy
Energy Agriculture compost Youthful







## MESSAGE FROM THE HIDDEN GARDENS TRUST

The Hidden Garden has gone way beyond what we ever thought would be possible standing amongst the ruins of the old tramway platforms all those years ago. It has grown and matured to become an entity in its own right, a treasured and unique space with its own 'Sense of Place' and direction.

In fact, as Trustees we are no longer its true owners rather we are merely its custodians. Today, it is the community who have real ownership over it. Going forward as the wheel of life inevitably turns, as it must, the garden will pass on to the next generation of users. Many of whom, because they have known it from childhood will have even greater ownership over it. What more can we ask for than that.

Dave Mitchell, Trustee



## **Funded by**





