



HOME GROWN EXCHANGE MARKET



NEWS LETTER

August 2012

What was This for That?

This for That, a home-grown exchange market took place on Saturday the 28th July as part of the Harvest event at the Grey Friars garden in the Merchant City. The Hidden Gardens Culture Kitchen was hosting Glasgow Harvest 2012 this year as part of the Merchant City Festival and supported by NVA. This for That was organised by Alex Wilde and Annechein Meier, an artist collaboration called A Growing Exchange.

It was a **hugely successful event**, particularly since it was the first time it had been organised on this scale. Everyone had a great time and felt it was a very enjoyable experience, was a great atmosphere and had a lot of fun. Being part of a bigger event attracted a wider audience of almost 800 people and gave the atmosphere a good buzz. There was a constant flow of people and stallholders were so busy most of them didn't see much apart from their own stall. The central location of the market and being linked to the Merchant City Festival also helped.



Twelve organisations had a stall at the market to which they brought a wide range of home grown and home made produce including elderflower cordial, planters, baking, seeds, seedlings, gardening aprons, freshly roasted and made coffee, herbs infused in oil and vinegar amongst other things.

Hidden Gardens, Urban Roots, Stitch Up, SAGE, Glasgow Wood Recycling Project, Love Milton, Neilston Development Trust, Locavore, Dennistoun Diggers, Woodlands Community Garden, Grow Green and Glasgow Allotment Forum



Each organisation had a handmade sign to advertise their stall and **promote their organisation**. People felt it was a good opportunity to advertise their organisation and make new connections with other organisations.

“As a new community garden, it was really great to meet other groups doing the same thing and to get some ideas and inspiration for what we could be growing next year.”
Neilston Development Trust



People enjoyed that fact that there was **no money involved** and that it promoted an alternative system of exchange. The bartering was a learning process and not all stallholders came away with things they really needed though overall they felt as an organisation they had benefited. There were quite a few people who were just popping in to the event and didn't have anything to exchange, some people took the small items on offer at the information tables and others got creative swapping things for training, advice and weeding pledges.

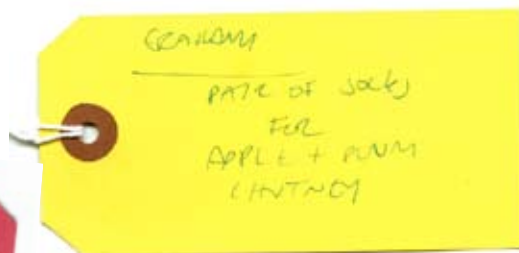
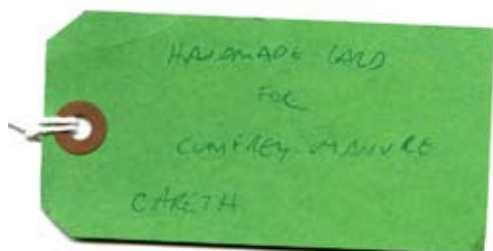


“In the current climate when we are constantly faced with doom and gloom, it was so nice to have a day where everyone was smiling, chatting and being positive. Very uplifting!”
Dennistoun Diggers



What we exchanged

Some of the exchanges that were recorded were:
Potato salad for a headband
Courgette cake for sage plant and rosemary and garlic oil
Beetroot for a recipe book
Seeds for rock dust
Hard work for everlasting onions, tomato plant and potatoes
Lavendar shortbread for mint tea and tomatoes
Parsley for a smoothie
Pair of socks for apple and plum chutney



"We swapped our coffee in exchange for homemade rhubarb jam, Turkish delight, tomato plants to a wooden plant box. There was a great buzz about and everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves and yes the sun came out. We would love to be included in the next This for That."

Till next year?

Although it was quite a bit of investment from organisations to take part, in terms of preparation and staff and volunteers on the day people were keen to take part in any future exchange markets.

I would be great to see the exchange market continue as a regular event and for the stallholders to use their experience to improve it and take ownership of it. There could also be other projects and events throughout the year that promote exchange, encourage skills swaps and develop bartering techniques.



Keep in touch

See more photos of the the event at www.hiddengardens.org.uk and if you have any photos or recipes you want to share sent them to glasgowharvest@thehiddengardens.org.uk.

For more information about A Growing Exchange visit www.agrowingexchange.com

