

KING HENRY'S WALK
garden

Annual Report 2019



Friends of King Henry's Walk Garden

Registered Charity no **1173019**

Trustees

Philomine Wales (Chair)
Annabel Goulding (Treasurer/Vice Chair)
Fiona Kirk (Secretary)
Angela MacGuire
David Harrison
Jenny Morgan
Nicola Freshwater
Amanda Hall (in attendance)

Management committee

Philomine Wales (Chair)
Annabel Goulding (Treasurer/Vice Chair)
Fiona Kirk (Secretary)
Andy Parkinson
Angela MacGuire
David Harrison
Elizabeth Ward
Jenny Morgan
Peter Clarke
Suzanne Brayley

Address

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Facebook: King Henry's Walk Garden

Twitter: @khwgarden

Instagram: [instagram.com/khwgarden](https://www.instagram.com/khwgarden)

Cover images are from last year's 10th Anniversary Party, and the three Annual Events

Chair's Report

Welcome and Overview

2018 has been a great year for the garden, which has continued to flourish and go from strength to strength. We have enjoyed a year of relative stability, allowing the day to day activities to carry on, as well as achieving a number of improvements to the garden's infrastructure.

Being chosen at the end of the year by the RHS to be the location for the Duchess of Cambridge to launch her proposal for her 'Back to Nature' garden design for the Chelsea Flower show was a great tribute to all of the commitment and hard work put in by you, the members.

People

The make-up of both the Trustee and the Management Committee have remained stable over the year.

We are very sorry that Angi MacGuire has made the decision to step down from the management committee at the end of the year, and as a Trustee as of the AGM. I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for all her contributions over the time she has served on the committee, and especially for the organising of the 'Get-Togethers', always I know much appreciated.

The other Trustees and Members of the Management Committee have confirmed that they are willing to stand for re-election in 2019. However we are also always looking for new members to join both committees, as well as help in non-committee roles.

For those who may not know, the members of the Management Committee take on a number of different roles to ensure the smooth running of the garden. These include, and in no particular order: The Greenhouse Team, The Bee Team, Fruit Tree Care Team, organising our workshops, and masterminding the annual events, organising the Duty rota, publishing the quarterly News Letter and monthly Bulletin, organising the monthly work days, as well as overseeing maintenance, finances, and membership, organising manure for plots, keeping the clay oven running, and much else.

All of the committee members are volunteers and do all of the above, and more, in their spare time. They are all brilliant and the garden could not function without their dedication. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all for the great work they do, and also the many other volunteers, who help make the garden what it is, and my apologies to those not named in person.

Again especial thanks to Andy Parkinson, for his huge dedication and enthusiasm in ensuring the infrastructure of the garden remains in good shape, organising teams of volunteers to perform Herculean tasks. Thanks also are due to Alison Fell who works with Jenny Morgan in the greenhouse to produce plants for sale and for the garden, the Fruit tree team (Becky and Peter), Judith Palmer who manages KHWG's social media presence, and Clare Jeapes who ensures all the garden's bird feeders are kept filled. Last but by no means least, Nicola and Andy for continuing to run the workdays, always with a delicious cake bake-off, and to all those regulars who regularly turn up in all weathers, to ensure the garden is looking its best.

The Garden - Infrastructure

In 2018 we needed to concentrate on necessary repairs and upgrades to the hut. As at last year's AGM, the sedum had been taken off the hut roof, prior to remedial work to repair the leaks. This involved installing a new membrane over the whole roof, and then reinstating the sedum. The intention was then to decorate the hut, and repair the water damage.

Unfortunately in the autumn it was clear that the roof was sagging, and further remedial work has been needed. This has been carried out February – March of 2019.

The main focus in 2019 will be to complete the decorations and minor repairs to the hut; to carry out work to the pond decking and balustrades; and some works to improve accessibility around the garden

Education

The Garden Classroom (TGC) continued to run their excellent programme of learning outside the classroom, holding a total of 96 half-day educational sessions for local primary school children at KHWG.

Their Secret Garden Theatre Project added another 14 sessions, and 10 'Little Explorers Out and About' sessions.

So TGC delivered a total of 120 sessions in the garden. As well as being hugely enjoyed by the participants, these also all help to bring new families into the garden.

Informal visits from nursery and preschool groups included Minik Kardes Day Nursery on Balls Pond Road who also held their annual picnic with their families at KHWG.

The Children's House School also now bring groups to the garden on a regular basis

The preschool group connected with St Paul's Steiner School organised an early evening lantern walk through the woodland for St Martin in November.

Workshops Our workshops were as ever well attended, and covered a range of garden and ecologically related topics, including seed sowing and planting, fermenting, Shibori Indigo dyeing, and a Cyanotype Sunprint session as our Chelsea Fringe event. We also instigated a number of Drawing and Painting sessions, and facilitated yoga sessions.

Events

We enjoyed great weather for all three of our annual fund raising events, all of which were well attended. As well as making money to run the garden, and being a lot of fun, these events bring many new faces to the garden. Do encourage friends and family to come this year. Dates are on the website.

We also held a fundraising opening for the National Gardens Scheme and we took part in London Open Garden Squares Weekend. Each year we also participate in the Green Flag Award scheme, and in Islington In Bloom, and In Bloom – 'It's Your Neighbourhood'

In July the Mildmay Pensioners once again enjoyed the annual Strawberry Tea.

Membership

Membership remained stable, with all 76 plots in use (2 plot holders resigned their plots in the autumn due to relocations), and 106 key holders. Our plot holders include 2 schools, 2 churches,

with 6 containers tended by TGC as part of their education programme. KHWG retained 1 plot for the bees.

Objectives

We set ourselves the following objectives to achieve in 2018:

- To continue to establish more and better contacts with other local community gardens and similar organisations.

Some options have been explored but no specific relationship has been established. The aim is to share skills and knowledge, as well as to publicise the garden.

- To further develop the methodology for monitoring wildlife and biodiversity.

A second Bio Blitz was carried out in May. It was agreed that this should become a regular part of the annual calendar

- To commission an accessibility review to improve experiencing the garden for everyone. When items need replacing, then accessibility should be considered.

The survey has been done and the report has been received.

The objectives we've set for 2019 are as follows:

- To review and improve KHWG's sustainability:
 - To use best environmental options when making all purchases, and for all garden activities
 - Each of the garden teams (Bees, greenhouse, trees, maintenance etc) to review best practice for their area
- Disability access – carry out recommendations of the report within an agreed budget, and as far as possible.
- Foster relationships with other Islington community gardens and gardening groups

Philomine Wales

Chair

March 2019

King Henry's Walk Garden - Annual income and expense accounts

Registered Charity 1173019

For the period from 1 January to 31 December 2018

	£	£
INCOME		<u>18,919.72</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Running costs:		
Administration	1,537.05	
Bees	1,482.04	
Events	2,376.54	
Maintenance General	1,406.53	
Bird Food	327.40	
Manure/compost	325.42	
Community Projects	1,542.30	
Plants	43.74	
Security	111.50	
10th Anniversary Commemoration	431.14	
Tools	123.18	
Website Hosting & Development	50.30	
Workshops	<u>830.35</u>	
Total running costs		10,587.49
Total capital items		11,841.30
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		<u>22,428.79</u>
NET EXPENDITURE		<u>(3,509.07)</u>
Bank balance brought forward on 1 January		39,028.45
Bank balance as at 31 December		38,284.84
Creditor at 31 December		1,025.70
Paypal balance at 31 December		11.33
Margin		(0.16)

Reserves Policy

The Garden's policy is to maintain reserves at a level sufficient to enable normal activities to continue for a period of up to 12 months should a shortfall in income occur and also to take account of contingencies that may arise.

	Current Year	Previous Year	Increase / (decrease)	%
Unrestricted Funds Reserves	12,270	30,780	(18,510)	-60.1
Designated Funds				
- building/site fund	20,000	10,000	10,000	100
- development fund	5,000			
Total Funds	37,270	40,780	(3,509)	-8.6

The Garden should hold in reserve up to 10 months' general operating costs, which equates to £10,000 for the year. This would allow the opportunity to continue activities while identifying ways in which further funds might be raised. Additional reserves at the level of general maintenance costs for 2 years (£5,000) should be retained to cover unforeseen needs over that period. Current reserves equal £12,270, which represents a deficit of £2,730.

Designated funds will be used as follows

- I. Accessibility improvements £5,000 Spring/Summer 2019
- II. Replacement of pond bridge, railings and decking £20,000 Summer 2019

Additional funds will be needed to meet costs that are not part of planned maintenance work

The reserves will be monitored during the year at the monthly management committee and biannual trustee board meetings. In addition the policy will be reviewed annually as part of the financial accounting and budgeting processes.

2018 in summary

Number of plots allocated at 31 Dec 2018: 74 (2 vacant due to members moving away)

Number of key holders at 31 Dec 2018: 106 + 2 bicycle planter holders

Number on waiting list at 31 Dec 2018: 15

Seasonal events

	No of attendees	Net takings
Summer	450+	£1,364
Autumn	280+	£2,054
Winter	470+	£2,206
TOTAL	1,200+	£5,624

Workshops

Number held: 7 workshops + 6 Art sessions

Total attendees: 75 (approx)

Overall profit/loss: £151.00

Volunteer hours worked (estimated)

Committee 3,750 (*estimated on the basis of 5 committee members working an average of 10 hours per week; 5 committee members working an average of 5 hours per week*)

Weekend openings 500 (*estimate of duty rota plus one off openings*)

Events 480

Workshops 40

Volunteer workdays 360

TOTAL 5,130 (Approx)

Grant funding

£1,600 grant was received from Islington LIF funding to run Little Explorers in association with TGC