

KING HENRY'S WALK
garden

Annual Report 2020



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 – until March 2019
David Harrison
Jenny Morgan
Nicola Freshwater
Amanda Hall – from March 2019

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
Laurie Evans – from March 2019
Kirsty Slarke – from March 2019

Address

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Facebook: King Henry's Walk Garden

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Instagram: @khwgarden

Cover images are of HRH Duchess of Cambridge's visit January 2019, and our three Annual Events

Chair's Report

Welcome and Overview

2019 was another great year for the garden, starting with the visit from the Duchess of Cambridge to launch her proposal for a 'Back to Nature' garden design for the Chelsea Flower show.

The year continued with our more regular day to day activities, the three annual events, workdays, workshops, the greenhouse, and bees. The Garden Classroom (TGC) continuing to be a strong presence in the garden. We have also continued with a number of improvements to the garden's infrastructure.

People

The make-up of both the Trustee and the Management Committee have remained stable over the year. At the last AGM, Angi MacGuire stepped down as a Trustee, and we welcomed Amanda Hall back as a trustee, and Laurie Evans and Kirsty Slarke to the management committee. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Angi for her contributions as a Trustee over the years.

All current Trustees and Members of the Management Committee have confirmed that they are willing to stand for re-election in 2020. We are always looking for new members to join both committees, as well as any help in non-committee roles, so please do get in touch if you are able to.

Last year we listed the range of different roles the members of the Management Committee (and other garden members) take on, to ensure the smooth running of the garden. It is worth repeating. It's an impressive amount of work. We have some specialist teams, working in the Greenhouse, caring for the bees, fruit tree maintenance, organising our workshops, and masterminding the annual events. Also 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. The bridge and decking are now looking brilliant, with new balustrading being next project. I must also thank our local councillors, and especially Jenny Kay, for supporting us with this work.

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 Bee team (Andy, Fiona, Hannah and Laura) whose hard work looks after the bees, providing honey for sale and much more, 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 also to all those regulars who regularly turn up in all weathers, to ensure the garden is looking its best.

Infrastructure and Maintenance

The remedial work to support the sagging hut roof was completed at the beginning of 2019. We then started to tackle the big project of rebuilding the bridge, and replacing the decking, both of which needed attention after 10 years. This is now in progress with the bridge and decking replaced with more long term and sustainable construction.

The main focus for the rest of 2020 will be to complete the pond balustrades, some works to improve accessibility around the garden, and to refurbish the hut over the summer (see also the detailed budgets noted in the reserves policy towards the end of this report)

Education

The Garden Classroom ran the following activities at the garden

118 half-day educational sessions (including 6 for science teachers)

14 Secret Garden Theatre Project

8 Little Explorers Out and About

3.5 training days for facilitators and volunteers

Weekly visits were organised by Minik Kardes Day Nursery and The Children's House School.

The preschool group connected with St Paul's Steiner School held an early evening lantern walk through the woodland for St Martin in November. The school organised lantern walks and puppet shows for nursery groups on 2 evenings at this time.

Workshops

Our workshops were as ever well attended, this year covering a range of garden and ecologically related topics, including Drawing and Painting in the garden, Natural Fermentation, Herbal teas, and making Linocut Greeting Cards.

We also ran a number of open events – our garden Bird Watch in January with Islington Parks Ranger, Fiona Cardy-MacKenzie, what has become our annual Bio Blitz, when we did an audit of all the species found in the garden. Look out for this year's Blitz on 14th June. And a craft afternoon (tree decoration) event prior to the Winter Fair

Our Chelsea Fringe event was a Scented Flower and Herbal Ice Creams session with Kitty Travers, which proved to be hugely popular

Annual 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

In July we held our ever popular annual Strawberry Tea for the Pensioners Group from Mildmay Community Centre.

Membership

Membership remained stable, with 75 plots taken and 107 key holders at the end of February 2020. Our plot holders include a school and 2 churches, with 6 containers tended by TGC as part of their education programme with older children from Samuel Rhodes School. KHWG retained 1 plot for the bees.

Objectives

We set ourselves the following objectives to achieve in 2019:

- 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, workshops 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

The objectives we've set for 2020 are as follows:

- Disability Access. To start to implement the DDA Report's recommendations, by categorising items into:
 - those which could be done immediately and independently of other projects, and action these
 - those that would be included within other projects currently being undertaken, or as part of cyclical maintenance
- Local community. To build on links with other community gardens, and other local groups.
- Develop a plan for annual and cyclical maintenance
- Sustainability. Continue to review all garden projects to ensure the best environmental outcomes (reduce, reuse, recycle)

Philomine Wales

Chair

March 2020

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

Registered Charity 1173019

for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2019

	£	£
INCOME		<u>18,590.17</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Running costs:		
Administration	1,619.46	
Bees	1,069.11	
Events	2,692.33	
Maintenance General	628.85	
Oven Costs / Supplies	9.15	
Bird Food	345.90	
Manure/compost	379.00	
Community Projects	196.44	
Plants	75.78	
Security	40.00	
Grants	1,600.00	
Building Hire	33.30	
Tools	33.16	
Website Hosting & Development	320.63	
Workshops	682.14	
Total running costs		9,725.25
Total capital items		4,157.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		<u>13,882.25</u>
NET INCOME		<u>4,707.92</u>
Bank balance brought forward on 1 January		38,284.84
Bank balances as at 31 December		<u>43,004.09</u>
Paypal balance brought forward on 1 January		11.33
Paypal balance at 31 December		<u>0.00</u>

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	15,501	12,270	3,231	26.3%
Designated Funds				
- building/site fund	20,000	20,000	0	
- development fund	7,500	5,000	2,500	50%
Total Funds	43,001	37,270	5,731	15.3%

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 £15,474 which represents a surplus of £501.

Designated funds will be used as follows

- I. Replacement of pond bridge, railings and decking £7,500 Winter 2019/20
- II. Accessibility improvements including gate £5,000 Spring/Summer 2020
- III. Replacement of benches around circular planter £2,500 Summer 2020
- IV. Renovation of hut £2,500 Summer 2020
- V. Renovation of greenhouse £2,500 Autumn/Winter 2020
- VI. Resurfacing of paths and replacement of plot edgings £7,500 Winter 2020/21

Additional funds will be needed to meet costs which 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.

2019 in summary

Number of plots allocated at 31 December 2019: 75 (1 remains vacant for the bees)
Number of key holders at 31 December 2019: 105 (including 2 bicycle planter holders)
Number on waiting list at 31 December 2019: 19

Seasonal events

	No of visitors	Net takings
Summer Fete	343	£1,361
Autumn Show	247	£1,812
Winter Fair	660	£2,383
TOTAL	1,250	£5,556

Affiliated events

Open Garden Squares (Sunday) 82 visitors, £94 net takings
National Gardens Scheme 120 visitors, £84 net takings

Awards

Islington in Bloom: Best Community Garden award, Pattenden Award (for wild life)
Green Flag: Qualified (Mystery Shop)
RHS Its your Neighbourhood: Outstanding

Workshops

Number held: 4 workshops, 3 art sessions, 3 open access (free) events
Total attendees: 51 (workshops), 14 (art sessions) 45 (approx.) (open access events)
Approx. overall profit/loss: £180.00 (workshops, art sessions)

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 (Approx) 5,130

Grant funding

£1,680 grant was received from Islington Local Initiatives Fund to run Little Explorers in association with The Garden Classroom