

*Welcome... to the eleventh edition of the King Henry's Walk Garden Newsletter*

The endless rain may have got us down, but now that the sun has come out, so have the gardeners and we're busy with people tidying up their plots or just relaxing in the open air. The garden loved all the rain, and everything has been growing at a rate of knots (including, unfortunately, the weeds). This was good too for the wildflower seeds that were sown on our guerrilla gardening day on 14th April – there are lots of little green shoots appearing in the tree pits in the streets surrounding KHWG. If there's one outside your house, perhaps you could keep watering it now that the weather has changed.

We have moved outside the confines of the garden again for our Chelsea Fringe project. Working in partner-

ship with other local organisations, we've created pop-up gardens – groups of recycling bags filled with lots of lovely plants – dotted around the local area. Unfortunately we've suffered from plant thefts, but we're persevering and inviting people to help replant where bags have been depleted. Lots of support and appreciation received from passers-by, and via the web and twitter.

Come and join us on Sunday 3rd June for the Diamond Jubilee Big Lunch – all members and friends welcome. We hope to have a screen on which to watch the river pageant, and there will be prizes for the best dressed king and queen (kids) and the silliest hat (adults). Bring a dish to share, and have fun!



## BEE UPDATE

Ian Bailey reports that our four colonies of bees survived the winter in good condition. The bees are strong and healthy, although one colony's population is lagging slightly behind the others. The first inspection of the hives after the winter took place in February and weekly inspections now take place to make sure the bees continue to be healthy and have enough food. Ian explained that when the weather was so warm in March the bees started gathering nectar from the flowers already blooming in the garden. The warm weather and new supply of honey prompted the queen bee to start laying eggs relatively early. But after cold weather throughout April the bees, now with more mouths to feed, could have been in danger of running out of food as they do not leave the hive in temperatures below 10 degrees C. If this happens the beekeeper will feed sugar syrup to the bees so that they don't go short. Of course now that the warm weather has returned the bees can be seen gathering nectar around the garden.

•Ian Bailey regularly leads a 6 week Introduction to Bee-keeping course on Thursday evenings at KHWG, which many members have already enjoyed. The next course starts on 14 June (see website)



Marnie Rose and Nicola Freshwater of KHWG (both in red) are given their award by Dame Fiona Reynolds of the National Trust

## Another award for KHWG!

I'm very pleased to announce that the Friends of King Henry's Walk Garden have won the Green Space Guardians category in the National Trust's first Octavia Hill Awards. For more information, see <http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/get-involved/competitions-and-offers/octavia-hill-awards/view-page/item773873/>.

Very many thanks to everyone who contributes to making the garden such a continuing success.

*Nicola Freshwater*

# KHWG full of the joys at Spring Event

**O**n a seriously sunny Spring day on 24th March the King Henry's Walk Garden Spring event drew crowds of over 500 and raised the amazing amount of £1000. This annual highlight in the calendar was thanks to the efforts of many fantastic Garden volunteers who helped on the day with the variety of activities. The tea tent was filled with delicious cakes and this year the added attraction of filled pittas made by local Turkish ladies. Outside in the sunshine, as the lunches were consumed, there was entertainment

*It was lovely to receive such positive comments from both regular and first-time visitors*

from "Can you dig it?" an award-winning comedy song-writing duo whose apt songs about allotments and their love for Alan Titchmarsh brought a smile to all around. The family atmosphere was enhanced by the token system used as payment for the crafts and entertainment on offer for all. Children were engrossed with egggy craft activities, a puppet show, a woodland Bug Hunt and enjoyed meeting the Easter Bunny who worked tirelessly to greet all the young visitors. Enthusiastic members manned the



Clockwise from above: the Easter bunny; the children enjoy the craft stall; watching the puppet show; Can You Dig It? entertain in the sunshine.

Hoopla, Croquet, Drop a Penny and Catch a Veg stalls which were popular and very entertaining. The plant, craft and fresh produce stalls were ever present and filled with local and home-grown items. The day was a resounding success and it was lovely to receive such positive comments from the visitors, both regular and first-timers who came in their droves to make this a real standout day of the year for all at King Henry's Walk Garden.

## Volunteer work sessions *update*

We were very lucky that May's volunteer session took place on the first sunny Saturday for weeks. Caroline weeded and mulched some of the fruit trees, and then helped Becky out with composting (pictured). Andy carried on working on the new clay oven, getting it ready for the second layer of clay to go on, while Nicola, Clare and new volunteer Marie concentrated on weeding, trimming back hedges and sweeping paths. Why not come along to our next volunteer session on Saturday 2nd June, 9am to 12? It's a good way to get a better understanding of how the garden is run,



and also to get to know your fellow garden users better. We will be working hard to make the garden beautiful for the Jubilee Lunch the next day, and the summer fete and Open Garden Squares the following weekend.



## Forthcoming events

**KING HENRY'S WALK GARDEN**

# SUMMER FETE

Come and join us at London's best community garden to celebrate summer with a fabulous fete!

**SATURDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**  
**12-4PM FREE ENTRY**

- \* Coconut Shy \* Tombola
- \* Treasure Hunt \* Plant Stall
- \* Crafts Stall \* Games & crafts for children
- \* Delicious home-made food
- \* Pimm's Bar \* Ice-cream

We are also open for...

**OPEN GARDEN SQUARES WEEKEND**  
9<sup>TH</sup> – 10<sup>TH</sup> June, 10AM – 5PM, Free entry

PLANT SALE \* LUNCHES & TEAS \* PIMM'S BAR

@KHWGarden King Henry's Walk Garden www.khwgarden.org.uk

## EVENTS UPDATE

Gardeners are definitely foodies. Which explains why our cooking demonstrations and food workshops are always popular with friends of KHWG. Next on the menu is Louise Bloor's Fragrant Food on Sunday 24th June at 1.30. Louise, who created the Fragrant Supper Club, is going to share some secrets for using edible essential oils which have made the supper club such a big success. If you're busy at weekends why not come along to an evening demonstration by chef Rosie Sykes on Monday 2nd July at 6.30? Rosie, who in a previous life was the Guardian's Kitchen Doctor, will give you ideas for making really tasty dishes out of the vegetables that we grow in our plots. Bob Gilbert will be taking us on a ramble round KHWG on Wednesday 11th July at 7.00pm as we forage for plants that are edible and have other uses. Then Kitty Travers will be back for her third ice cream masterclass on Tuesday 14th August at 7.00pm. Tom Moggach, author of The Urban Kitchen Garden is going to be suggesting some new, exciting vegetables for you to taste and then grow on Saturday 15th September at 1.30. Rosie Sykes completes our programme for foodies with some new ideas for festive treats on Saturday 17th November at 1.30. All these events tend to get booked up well in advance so do make a booking on [rsvp@khwgarden.org.uk](mailto:rsvp@khwgarden.org.uk) or phone 07901 931018 if you'd like to come along. There is more information about all sessions on the website.



MEET  
THE  
PLOT  
MATES

### LOUISE NORTON: PLOT 51

I don't have any outdoor space at home. I work full time as well as running a social enterprise supporting a community of photographers in Africa so having a beautiful garden to visit has radically changed the quality of my life. I really enjoy having a coffee in the garden before work, watching the birds, the beautiful flowers and slowly walking around the garden taking inspiration from my fellow gardeners.

I'm new to gardening so I'm discovering the joy of growing your first ever vegetables to eat. I'm growing the easy ones - radish, spring onion and lettuce. I love cooking so my dream is to have garlic, onions and chillies hanging up ready to cook. I like the idea of a little Italian garden in north London and I'm trying different varieties of herbs - I'm particularly fond of 'finissimo' basil! If only we had the Italian climate!

I'm quite a shy person so the volunteering around the garden has been a great way to meet people. I've met so many different lovely people, especially our more senior residents who visit the garden, people who I never would have met before. After nearly 20 years of living in London my local north London community has just got a little bit bigger.

# The Garden Classroom



[WWW.THEGARDENCLASSROOM.ORG.UK](http://WWW.THEGARDENCLASSROOM.ORG.UK)

The Garden Classroom ([www.thegardenclassroom.org.uk](http://www.thegardenclassroom.org.uk)) is King Henry's Walk Garden's award-winning home-grown education arm. Now in its 4th year TGC is venturing into new and exciting curriculum areas delivering high quality workshops at KHWG and beyond.

Learning outside the classroom activities such as science and food growing for local school pupils have been the main activities of the organisation to date including Global Growers funded by Local Food Lottery (see update from Project Manager Rohan Knox).

After a very successful World Book Week literacy and drama pilot in March, TGC is now offering a running programme of literacy and drama education sessions looking closely at the Wonderful World of Trees, Bees and Butterflies and classic stories such as The Enormous Turnip, Jack & The Beanstalk, and The Selfish Giant. To celebrate the olympiad, The Tempest is also on offer this year too.

We'd like to thank our funders, Islington Community Chest, the Local Initiatives Fund (LBI), The William Kendall Charity and the City Bridge Trust amongst others. Without their support this ground-breaking urban nature education project would not be available to local children.

It has been an incredibly busy year for TGC and supported by a dedicated team of volunteers TGC now operates from 3 different sites in Islington: KHWG, Whittington Park and Gillespie Park and we are looking at a possible new venue in the south of the borough for 2013.

In May TGC ventured into neighbouring Hackney and we now have a new classroom using the old bowling green pavilion in Clissold Park.

Onwards!

*Marnie Rose, The Garden Classroom*

SOME COMMENTS FROM LOCAL TEACHERS:

“ *The teaching in the garden provides the inspiration that children need to bring class work alive*

WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO COMING BACK!

## Outstanding workshop

Fantastic to do learning outside the classroom, lovely environment

*It was great for the children to learn outside in an open and beautiful environment*

”

## Global growers

*by Rohan Knox*

2012 has been a hive of activity for the project with the eight participant schools delivering the “global” lesson pack in classes in the spring term, followed by growing in the last month. The global lessons explore issues such as farming, animal welfare, natural resource use and fair trade to give pupils a grounding in the social and environmental impacts of the journey of our food before they start to grow their own.

Now the growing has begun, each school has been provided with seeds, tools, training and lesson plans to embed growing in class time with pupils monitoring both individual seed growth in class and the development of the “class crop”. The project workshops have also kicked off and have included pupils designing campaigns for school, farm visits to Kent and visits from local businesses such as the Farm Direct box scheme.

In the garden the project is creating

a “school garden” growing the same crops as participants’ schools, a “Pizza Plot” growing toppings for a pizza for workshops taking place in the garden in July and an ornamental plot with purple beans and carrots and rainbow chard. The greenhouse has also been starting off all sorts of seeds as well as creating demonstration experimental planting for teachers in a range of containers. The project is also growing wheat with a hope to get some KHWG flour in the autumn!

Finally, the next Global Grower workshops for pupils to take place at the garden are a week of “Bees Please Me” sessions at the end of May with Ian Bailey, bee keeper, to explore the wonder of bees and their essential role in the creation of food.

I am based in the office so do come and say hello and happy to answer any questions about the project. Finally, please do follow us on twitter: @GlobalGrowersUK.

“ *Fantastic! Really well organised and thought out*  
*The whole session was very good, exciting and fun and brought the story to life*

FANTASTIC TO DO LEARNING OUTSIDE  
THE CLASSROOM, LOVELY ENVIRONMENT

*Thank you for an excellent session. We all had a fantastic time and the children developed a superb understanding of the story*

”



The spring was a wonderful time to observe wildlife in the garden and in the woodland. With no leaves yet on the trees a great variety of birds could be seen in the hedges around the garden (blue tits, great tits); in the old tree beyond our back wall (greater spotted woodpecker (pictured); jays); on the bird-feeders (goldfinches, greenfinches); and generally around the garden (blackbirds, robins, house sparrows, dunnocks). They can often be watched at a short distance for some time and give much pleasure. Certainly anyone doing a few moments' weeding will soon be joined by a friendly robin gathering grubs for its young. Newt tadpoles appeared in the pond and the males have now developed their spots and slightly crinkled back. Frogs were seen spawning in the pond but there is no sign of tadpoles; they are likely to have been eaten by hungry newt tadpoles which emerge earlier.

RECIPE



Pineapple slices with mint sugar

Mint is growing vigorously in the garden and pineapples can be bought cheaply from London's street markets. Try this lovely, refreshing and healthy dessert!

INGREDIENTS:

1 pineapple; large handful of fresh mint; granulated sugar

Cut off the outer layer of the pineapple; cut it in half lengthways; then cut very thin semi-circular slices with a sharp knife. Chop mint very finely and mix with enough granulated sugar to allow for it to be sprinkled easily in a thin layer on top of each slice. Arrange the slices on a plate, spread out like a fan. Serve on small plates with a knife and fork.

Sharing skills hits the right note



One of the things that make KHWG such a special place is the diverse skills and talents its members bring. Members of the newly formed KHWG craft group met on the first sunny Sunday afternoon for ages to share their skills amongst themselves and with children visiting the garden. Fabric birds and pretty bookmarks were just some of the

beautiful projects undertaken.

Jenny Morgan, plothead and singer, hosted a singing workshop on another Sunday afternoon in May, welcoming everyone "from the terrified to the confident as I believe everyone can sing". The group started with exercises to relax the face muscles and by the end of the session were singing confidently in harmony.



TOP: the children were thrilled with the beautiful things they made, including small fabric birds, centre; RIGHT: Jenny Morgan gets everyone singing with gusto.

Finally – a call to anyone who would like to contribute to the newsletter. Maybe you have a gardening tip or recipe you would like to share with us? Email [khwg@khwgarden.org.uk](mailto:khwg@khwgarden.org.uk) or post suggestions through the letterbox. Thank you.