



## **Annual Report 2010**

# **Friends of King Henry's Walk Garden**

Registered Charity no 1134481

## **Trustees**

Nicola Freshwater  
Amanda Hall  
Leonie Johnson  
Marnie Rose  
Felicity Swaffer

## **Management committee**

Nicola Freshwater (Chair)  
Marnie Rose (Vice Chair)  
Amanda Hall (Secretary)  
Felicity Swaffer (Treasurer)  
Leonie Johnson (Membership Secretary)  
Maria Luniw  
Rosey Lyall  
Kate Orange  
Andy Parkinson  
Elizabeth Ward

## **Bank**

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## **Address**

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## **Telephone**

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## **Website**

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[info@khwgarden.org.uk](mailto:info@khwgarden.org.uk)

## **Chair's Report**

2010 has been a highly significant and successful year in the development of King Henry's Walk Garden.

On 4 January 2010 Islington Council granted the Friends of King Henry's Walk Garden a 50 year lease of the site, at a peppercorn rent, so the long-term future of the garden is now secure. On 13 January 2010 a new constitution was adopted by members at an Extraordinary General Meeting: the final milestone in the process of becoming a registered charity, which took place on 24 February 2010.

### **Education**

The charitable objectives assigned to the Friends by the Charity Commission focus predominantly on the educational role of the garden, particularly in relation to young people. We are very pleased with the way that our partnership with the social enterprise, The Garden Classroom, has enabled these objectives to be achieved. From January to July 2010, children from seven local schools have enjoyed educational sessions at King Henry's Walk Garden that are linked to the national curriculum and the subjects they are studying in their classrooms. Schools involved include St Jude's & St Paul's, St Paul's Steiner, Highbury Quadrant, New North Community, Lubavitch, Newington Green and St Scholastica. 83 sessions took place in that period, delivering a total of 1,356 individual educational experiences. The autumn programme is now under way and bookings are going well.

Education for adults has not been neglected either, and as ever the garden has been busy with regular talks and workshops, open to the general public, covering topics as diverse as seed sowing, propagation, icecream making, botanical drawing, flower arranging, and raw cookery. Special thanks should go to Rosey Lyall for masterminding this programme and also doing the vital job of finding grant money so that we can continue to provide these events at heavily subsidised rates so that they are available to all.

Thanks also to David Gething for running his popular monthly wine club, which has been successful in introducing some new faces to the garden, and to Faye Zubaidi and Becky Tabram whose fortnightly art club from April till September provides yet another way to enjoy the garden and raises funds for us into the bargain.

### **Events**

Our main seasonal events of the year have been very successful, and once again the weather has been (fairly) kind. Attendances were just over 400 for the spring herb celebration, 569 visitors to the summer fete and Open Garden Squares weekend (435 on Saturday and 134 on Sunday), and 234 visitors to the autumn flower and produce show. We couldn't run these events without the help of all the volunteers who plan and organise them, and turn up on the day to set up, man stalls, serve teas, make pizza, provide first aid cover – the list is endless. So many thanks to everyone who has helped out.

And we're all looking forward now to December's craft fair.

### **Membership**

Plots are all currently allocated, with 25 applicants on the waiting list. Those plots that appear to be neglected have recently been sent reminders by Leonie Johnson, Membership Secretary, at the request of the committee, and we will ensure that all plots are regularly monitored. We also currently have 26 keyholder members.

## **Building extension**

All regular visitors to the garden will have noticed that in May work was carried out to almost double the size of the meeting room. This has been hugely beneficial as we can now accommodate a whole class of children at one time, and has also meant that workshops that take up quite a bit of space, such as botanical drawing, can now be carried out much more comfortably indoors, rather than under a shelter outside. The extension work was carried out in just over two weeks, at a cost of £28,000 (£18,000 donated by Tesco and £10,000 by Islington Greenspace).

## **Awards**

We are very pleased that the high standards we are proud of at King Henry's Walk Garden were recognised in the London in Bloom awards 2010 when we won the Community Garden category for the second time (previously in 2008). We also entered the RHS It's Your Neighbourhood award for the first time and were awarded Level 5 – Outstanding (the highest award possible!). King Henry's Walk Garden was also included as part of the Newington Green entry into the Urban Community category, which won a Silver Gilt award. We were also awarded a Green Pennant for the third year running.

## **Publicity**

Publicity for the garden has been very positive, and BBC Gardener's World finally returned in September to do some filming to follow up on how the garden has developed since they first visited in February 2007, when it was a snowy, derelict site. The garden has also been mentioned on BBC Radio London, and our fame has even reached as far as Japan, with a double-page spread in the April issue of Plus 1 Living, a lifestyle magazine focusing on London Open Garden Squares weekend in 2009.

## **The future**

We intend to continue to build on the successes of King Henry's Walk Garden and to maintain the high standards that we've set ourselves from the outset. It is important to us that the garden should be seen as a resource for the whole community, and we will focus on reaching those sections of the community who are either unaware of the garden or who think it is not for them. We will also strive to ensure that we strike a comfortable balance between the garden as a vibrant centre of activity that will draw people in, and as a peaceful place for relaxation and enjoyment of nature.

We plan to hold our next AGM in March 2011, which will enable us to present the 2010 accounts soon after they have been prepared, and to carry on with holding AGMs in or around March in subsequent years.

## **Nicola Freshwater**

Chair

# Treasurer's Report

## **King Henry's Walk Garden Accounts Summary 2009**

Balance brought forward at 1 Jan 2009    £10,889.05

### Income

Grants	£27,190.00	76%
Events	£5,864.00	16%
Building hire	£1,220.00	3%
Subscriptions	£890.00	3%
Donations	£244.00	1%
Other	£164.00	0%
Interest	£22.00	0%

TOTAL                                    £35,594.00

### Expenditure

Education	£12,926.00	49%
Capital Items	£7,471.00	28%
Publicity	£1,542.00	6%
Maintenance	£1,261.00	5%
Security	£1,236.00	5%
Administration	£956.00	4%
Plants	£789.00	3%
Utilities	£304.00	1%
Tools	£42.00	0%

TOTAL                                    £26,527.00

Balance brought forward at 1 Jan 2010    £19,956.62

*These accounts have been independently scrutinised by an accountant.*