

KING HENRY'S WALK
garden

Annual Report 2011



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)
Liz Cook
Debby Lawrence
Maria Luniw
Rosey Lyall
Angela Macguire
Andy Parkinson
Elizabeth Ward

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Chair's Report

As we have decided this year to bring forward the date of the Annual General Meeting so that the annual report can cover the whole of the preceding year in full, including the accounts, there will be a bit of overlap in this report with the annual report that was circulated in October 2010.

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.

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. Nineteen talks and workshops were held in 2010 and were attended by about 300 people. We are reviewing the charges for workshops in 2011 with the aim of ensuring that we cover costs wherever possible so that we become less dependent on grant funding which will become harder to find, while still ensuring that we keep charges as low as possible, and offer concessionary rates where appropriate in order to comply with our belief that the activities at King Henry's Walk Garden should be open to all.

Thanks are due 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.

Red Cross first aid training was provided for 10 garden members, paid for by the Friends of King Henry's Walk Garden in return for a commitment to help with providing first aid cover for our events.

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), 234 visitors to the autumn flower and produce show, and 350 at the Christmas craft fair in December. 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.

We also held events specifically for local community groups, including barbecues for Minik Kardes nursery school and Family Action, and visits by organisations such as the Archway

Growers and the De Beauvoir Gardeners. These events were attended in all by about 175 people.

Membership

Most plots are allocated, with two currently on offer to applicants, leaving 14 names still on the waiting list. We also currently have 15 keyholder members, but membership renewal reminders have only recently been sent out.

We have put in place a system for monitoring neglected plots and reminding ploholders that if they cannot maintain their plots they may have to be reallocated. However we will always try to treat people fairly and take their personal circumstances into account where appropriate.

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 November 5 saw the second appearance of KHWG on BBC Gardener's World, which 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

The committee have been working on developing a five year plan for the garden. The main points that we hope to achieve by 2016 are:

- to ensure that everyone in the catchment area is aware of KHWG;
- to attract a more diverse range of garden users to reflect the local community better;
- to encourage greater use of the garden, particularly through partnerships with other organisations;
- to become as financially self-supporting as possible.

We will 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. We will 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.

Nicola Freshwater

Chair

March 2011

Treasurer's Report

King Henry's Walk Garden Accounts Summary 2010

Balance brought forward at 1 Jan 2010 £19,956.62

Income

Grants	£37,970.00	73%
Events	£7,314.00	14%
Building hire	£2,938.00	6%
Subscriptions	£2,330.00	4%
Donations	£140.00	0%
Other	£1,671.00	3%
Interest	£33.00	0%

TOTAL £52,396.00

Expenditure

Education	£9,559.00	18%
Capital Items	£36,416.00	68%
Publicity	£1,411.00	3%
Maintenance	£575.00	1%
Security	£1,520.00	3%
Administration	£1,854.00	4%
Plants	£130.00	0%
Utilities	£443.00	1%
Tools	£302.00	1%

TOTAL £53,290.00

Balance brought forward at 1 Jan 2011 £19,062.24

Of this total £17,765 (80%) are unrestricted funds.

Of this total, £5,000 is retained as a reserve fund.

These accounts are in the process of being independently scrutinised by an accountant.

Felicity Swaffer

Treasurer

March 2011