

KING HENRY'S WALK
garden

Annual Report 2013



Friends of King Henry's Walk Garden

Registered Charity no 1134481

Trustees

Nicola Freshwater (Chair)
Amanda Hall (Secretary)
Marnie Rose
Felicity Swaffer (Treasurer)

Management committee

Nicola Freshwater (Chair)
Marnie Rose (Vice Chair)
Amanda Hall (Secretary)
Felicity Swaffer (Treasurer)
Susan Whitehead (Membership Secretary)
Helen Ainsworth
Kate Basham
Liz Cook
Rhodri Davies
Rosey Lyall
Angela MacGuire
Jenny Morgan
Andy Parkinson
Elizabeth Ward

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Chair's Report

2012 was another great year for KHWG, exemplified by the receipt of two national awards: we won the Green Space Guardians category in the first ever National Trust Octavia Hill Awards, and were also honoured with an RHS It's Your Neighbourhood National Certificate of Distinction, presented at the Britain in Bloom finals in Guernsey. While the core role of KHWG is as a focus for the local community, it's great to get this recognition from the wider world.

Education

The Garden Classroom, our education partner led by Marnie Rose, has also been going from strength to strength, as shown by their being named Best Innovator at the Awards for Outstanding Contribution to Learning Outside the Classroom 2012.

169 workshops were delivered at the garden in 2012 (representing £3,230 of income to KHWG), which can be broken down into approximately 4,000 individual educational experiences, the highest number since TGC's creation in 2008. The Global Growers programme, now in its second year, which is funded by the Local Food Lottery, looks at food growing, sustainability and education, while TGC also runs science, and literacy and drama workshops, with projects designed around the KHWG bees and woodland, and inspired by World Book Week. Over the year TGC has worked (using KHWG as a base) with schools including the following: St Jude's & St Paul's, Highbury Quadrant, Newington Green, Canonbury, William Tyndale, Rotherfield, Thornhill, St Joan of Arc, St Matthias, De Beauvoir, Grasmere, Princess May, Ashmount and Pakeman, and also delivers workshops at other venues in Islington and Hackney.

Education for adults is equally important, and the garden has been busy with regular talks and workshops, open to the general public, covering topics ranging from seed sowing and propagation to container gardening, perfumery, singing and cookery. Twenty-one courses were held in 2012 and were attended by over 200 people. Feedback is sought at the end of every session, and this has been overwhelmingly positive, with many participants scoring every element of the course as 'very good'. Despite this, it was harder than in previous years to fill the courses, and a couple had to be cancelled due to lack of bookings. This may have been due to the general economic climate, but we will continue to monitor the workshop programme to ensure that we are providing sessions that people want, and can afford, to attend. Any losses on the educational programme are covered by profits from our fundraising events.

David Gething's monthly wine club remains popular as ever, and we are very pleased that this will be carrying on in 2013.

Events

Our main events of the year have been very successful, and once again the weather has been kind, with the spring event in March taking place on what was one of the hottest days of the year! Attendances were good and profits healthy. The new clay oven, designed and built by Andy Parkinson with help from volunteers, has proved to be a great attraction. I'd like to thank everyone who helps out and makes it possible for us to put on these events which draw so many people into the garden and provide a core part of our fundraising.

Angi MacGuire has set up a programme of Get-togethers, aimed at the over-55s, which is designed to bring older isolated residents to the garden, working in partnership with AgeUK, and sourced over £4,000 of funding from Islington Giving for the project, which is a significant achievement and we hope will be of great benefit for local people.

Membership

Susan Whitehead has had a very successful first year as Membership Secretary and has been working hard to bring us all up to scratch. We hope that you will appreciate Susan's efforts to streamline the renewal process, and she will report on progress in more detail at the AGM, by when the renewals should all have been completed.

During the course of the year we decided to extend our catchment area into Hackney, as we were uncomfortable that residents living very near the garden were excluded from applying for a plot, and it will be interesting to see the effect on the waiting list in the future.

Committee

I'm very pleased that all of the committee will be continuing in their roles in 2013. We are lucky to have so many people who are prepared to put in the time and commitment necessary to run a project like this, and I know we are the envy of many voluntary groups who can only dream of having a committee of 14!

Publicity

Publicity for the garden has been good, with coverage of our events in the local press, and Rosey Lyall has been working hard to ensure we are taking full advantage of social media such as Twitter and Facebook.

Objectives

We set ourselves the following objectives to achieve in 2012:

- to recruit 50 new keyholder members—over 100 new keyholders were signed up.
- to raise £3,000 from the main seasonal events—target exceeded by £733.
- to get feedback from garden users by means of a survey—an online survey was organised in March, and feedback received was extremely positive.
- to work more closely with other local organisations to spread the influence of KHWG beyond the confines of the garden itself—KHWG Get-togethers for the over-55s are currently being organised with AgeUK; the 2012 Chelsea Fringe project was organised with the Newington Traders Association, the Newington Green Action Group, and in close contact with the De Beauvoir Gardeners.

The objectives we've set for 2013 are as follows:

- to encourage wider participation by garden members by getting at least one non-committee member to help with the organisation of each of the main seasonal events;
- to raise £3,000 from the main seasonal events (although the figure remains the same, we are not having a public spring event as in previous years, so this will be more of a challenge);
- to run a minimum of five events targeted specifically at young families;
- to increase the percentage attendance at workshops.

The main points that we hope to achieve by 2016 remain:

- 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 are all extremely proud that the garden is continuing to flourish, and feel confident that it will continue to do so for many years to come.

Nicola Freshwater

Chair

February 2013

Treasurer's Report

King Henry's Walk Garden Accounts Summary 2012

Balance brought forward at 1 Jan 2012 £31,590.23

Income

TOTAL £21,611.87

Expenditure

Running costs:

Administration	£3,348
Education & Events	£5,633
Maintenance	£169
Other	£1,135
Outreach	£1,868
Plants	£128
Publicity	£990
Security	£465
Tools	£278
Utilities	£583

Total running costs £14,597.43

Total capital items £1,585

Total expenditure £16,182.35

Net income £5,429.52

Balance brought forward at 1 Jan 2013 £37,019.75

Of this total, £10,000 is retained as a reserve fund.

These accounts are shortly to be submitted for independent scrutiny by an accountant.

Felicity Swaffer

Treasurer

February 2013

2012 in summary

Number of plots allocated at 14 Feb 2013: 74

Number of key holders at 14 Feb 2013: 136

Number on waiting list at 14 Feb 2013: 16

Seasonal events

	No of attendees	Profit/loss
Spring	480	+£795
Summer	523	+£1,146
Autumn	400	+£798
Winter	550	+£994
TOTAL	1,953	+£3,733

Workshops

Total attendees: 240

Overall profit/loss: -£253

Volunteer hours worked (estimated)

Committee	5,460	<i>(estimated on the basis of 7 committee members working an average of 10 hours per week; 7 committee members working an average of 5 hours per week)</i>
Weekend openings	576	
Events	400	
Workshops	80	
Volunteer days	252	
TOTAL	6,768	

Grant funding received

Community festival grant: £350 for autumn show

Islington Council: £650 for 2011 winter event

Islington Gardeners: £83.95 for wildflower seed

Islington Giving: £2,095 towards programme of new activities on Sunday afternoons for isolated older residents (instalment 1)

Metropolitan Public Gardens Association: £200 for woodland bench

TOTAL £3,378.95