

KING HENRY'S WALK
garden

Annual Report 2014



Friends of King Henry's Walk Garden

Registered Charity no 1134481

Trustees

Nicola Freshwater (Chair)
Amanda Hall (Secretary)
Lee Wadey (Treasurer)
Rhodri Davies
Marnie Rose

Management committee

Nicola Freshwater (Chair)
Marnie Rose (Vice Chair)
Amanda Hall (Secretary)
Lee Wadey (Treasurer)
Annabel Goulding (Membership Secretary)
Helen Ainsworth
Kate Basham
Liz Cook
Rosey Lyall
Angela MacGuire
Jenny Morgan
Andy Parkinson
Elizabeth Ward
Michael Woolley

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Chair's Report

Despite 2013's cold, late spring and wet summer, it was still a great year for KHWG. The RHS named us as one of their Champion of Champions, in recognition of the consistently high standards we achieve in their It's Your Neighbourhood awards. KHWG won the Community Garden category in the Islington in Bloom awards and—most gratifyingly—was awarded the prize for most wildlife-friendly entry for the second year running.

Education

The Garden Classroom, our education partner led by Marnie Rose, has continued to run vibrant and exciting programmes at KHWG to provide local schoolchildren with the experience of learning outside the classroom.

64 workshops were delivered at the garden in 2013, which can be broken down into approximately 1,536 individual educational experiences.¹ Sessions covered literacy, numeracy and science, and the Global Growers programme, funded by the Local Food Lottery, looked at food growing and sustainability.

Plotholder Viv Rowdon and her fellow actor Amy Williamson ran a very popular Secret Garden Theatre project over a week that got local children involved in putting on their own production, and they hope to repeat this in 2014. As in 2013, KHWG will subsidise some places in order to ensure that children are able to attend who otherwise would not be able to afford it.

Education for adults remains a core part of activities at the garden, and following a slightly disappointing year in 2012, I am pleased to say that attendance at workshops was up from about 66% to about 75%. Rosey Lyall has worked hard on our workshop programme for several years now, and this improvement is thanks to her efforts. For 2014 Liz Cook is taking on this responsibility and is already looking into ways to improve percentage attendance even further, through booking management processes and publicity. We will continue to subsidise the workshop programme with profits from our fundraising events, so that costs can be kept reasonable. Although we are charging more for workshops in 2014, they still remain very cheap in relation to commercially-run courses.

Numbers attending David Gething's monthly wine club seem to be on the increase, and many sessions in 2013 were fully booked. We are very pleased that he will be carrying on in 2014.

Events

Last year I reported that our spring event had taken place on one of the hottest days of the year. In 2013, at our Members' and Membership Day in March, we were cooking pizzas in the snow! As most of our main events are aimed to draw in as many people as possible from the local area, we thought it would be good to have one event that is aimed primarily at bringing our members together, and anyone who is interested in joining the garden. Community spirit was warm despite the weather, and we will repeat this event in 2014.

The Great Garden Bake-Off in May, a Chelsea Fringe event, was popular and the competitions attracted many enthusiastic home bakers. Although not intended primarily as a fundraising event it was actually quite successful at this too, and has contributed to our overall profits from events in 2013.

Attendances at the summer and winter events were amazing, and fundraising from these and the autumn event was very successful. We are always grateful to the volunteers who put their time into planning and staffing these events, as none of this would be possible without them.

¹ Figures given in the 2013 annual report were incorrect as they showed the total number of TGC workshops delivered across all sites. Figures for KHWG were similar to those in this report.

The community project of Get-togethers, aimed at isolated elderly local residents and run by Angi MacGuire, succeeded in bringing new users to the garden and was very much enjoyed by those who attended. KHWG will continue to fund this programme on a monthly basis in 2014, as it has so far not been possible to source external funding, and we believe it is just the thing that we should be supporting.

Membership

Annabel Goulding took over as Membership Secretary in spring 2013 and has been dealing with the job quietly and efficiently. Currently we are part-way through the renewals process which means that some plots are likely to come up for re-allocation, but the increase in numbers on the waiting list from 16 this time last year to 29 this year suggests that the extension of the catchment area has had some effect on this.

Committee

Felicity Swaffer, our Treasurer for over three years, resigned in June to go travelling with her partner Jo—they were both last heard of having a great time in Athens. We were very pleased to welcome Lee Wadey as our new Treasurer. As an accountant and previous winner of Best Container Plot, Lee is admirably qualified for the role. Rhodri Davies stood down from the management committee due to the demands of becoming a new father, but has joined the trustees, where his experience working for the Charities Aid Foundation has been invaluable. We were also pleased to welcome Michael Woolley to the committee—his hands-on help with volunteering has been very useful, and he made a great St Nicholas at the Winter Fair!

We are lucky to have a great bunch of committee members, many of whom have now been involved for some time, and all of whom make a significant contribution in their own way.

Objectives

We set ourselves the following objectives to achieve in 2013:

- 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—*succeeded in two out of four events*;
- to raise £3,000 from the main seasonal events—*figure exceeded by more than £2,000*;
- to run a minimum of five events targeted specifically at young families—*missed target due to resignation of committee member who had planned to run these events*;
- to increase the percentage attendance at workshops—*attendance raised from 66% to 75%*.

The objectives we've set for 2014 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 £4,500 from the main seasonal events;
- to increase income from building hire to £600;
- to further 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 2014

Treasurer's Report

King Henry's Walk Garden Accounts Summary 2013

Balance brought forward at 1 Jan 2013 £37,019.75

<u>Income</u>	£	£
TOTAL		<u>19,396.38</u>

Expenditure

Running costs:

Administration	2,564.03	
Bees	338.90	
Building hire	35.00	
Education & Events	4,497.37	
Maintenance (general)	-	
Maintenance (major works)	-	
Miscellaneous	423.28	
Other	-	
Outreach	2,375.00	
Plants	113.60	
Publicity	1,175.00	
Sales	1,030.00	
Security	967.65	
Tools	-	
Utilities	620.87	
Workshops	<u>1,473.80</u>	
Total running costs		15,614.50
Total capital items		<u>8,170.44</u>
Total expenditure		<u>23,784.94</u>
Net income		<u>(4,388.56)</u>

Balance brought forward at 1 Jan 2014 £32,631.19

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

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

Lee Wadey

Treasurer

February 2014

2013 in summary

Number of plots allocated at 14 Feb 2014: 76 (all)

Number of key holders at 14 Feb 2014: 103

Number on waiting list at 14 Feb 2014: 29

Seasonal events

	No of attendees	Profit/loss
Spring	200 ²	+£700.09
Summer	822	+£1,934.22
Autumn	300	+£861.56
Winter	<u>571</u>	<u>+£1,605.87</u>
TOTAL	<u>1,893</u>	<u>+£5,101.74</u>

Workshops

Total attendees: 255

Overall profit/loss: -£274.80

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	68	
Volunteer days	252	
TOTAL	6,756	

Grant funding received

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

Islington BC Local Initiatives Fund: £200 for event

TOTAL £2,295

² Estimated due to counter failure.