



Annual report and accounts for the year ended 7<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

# Trustees' report

This year the trustees have taken it in turn to chair our monthly meetings. The charity has been able to build on the successes of previous years. Funding from Awards For All has enabled to us to make significant progress towards one of our ambitions, that of enabling us to do outreach work with local community groups.

Volunteering continues to be our strength. We should like to thank everyone for their efforts in continuing to make the garden a success. In recognition of the volunteer efforts we are proud to announce that we have won a Royal Horticultural Society and London in Bloom Neighbourhood Award at Level 4, Thriving.

We were grateful to receive donations in memory of Fiona Dickie and hope to use these funds to build a more permanent and bespoke fruit cage. We received funding from a corporate event, with staff from City & Guilds helping us make a camomile lawn, at the top of the garden. One of our younger volunteers, Josh, has involved his local group of Geocachers in the garden, who have refelted and created a chalkboard on the blue shed and positioned an upturned tree stump at the top of the garden, which we hope will attract beetles into the garden. We are very grateful to them all for their efforts and hope to continue to build on these special community relationships in the coming years.

Our Apple Day and Wassailing events continue to be regular features of the Streatham scene. The temporary greenhouse and restored cold frame lights continued to allow us to grow many more vegetables undercover and extend the growing season, by bringing on seedlings early in the year. We were also able to offer some of the covered space to Streatham Common Co Operative (SCCoOp), so they could bring on plants for their plant sale. We continued to explore options for creating a learning resource space in a disused building on site and in partnership with SCCoOp and Lambeth Council, matched funding was secured after our year end, from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Work to convert the shed site is scheduled to be completed by mid January 2018.

Trustees and staff from SCCoOp attended a one day First Aid Course offered by the British Red Cross, at Streatham Library, this has helped build our confidence in working with some of our regular volunteers with additional needs.

We very much look forward to being able to make the garden more productive and accessible to all in the community, in the coming year, with the help and support of all our volunteers.

Trustees Streatham Common Community Garden.

## **Our Charitable Purposes and Public Benefit**

This year saw the continued success of our learner plots. We made significant progress towards our aim of getting more community groups involved in the Community Garden. This years groups included; Spires, the local charity for homeless people; Mencap; The Library Elders; residents from the Albert Carr Estate, who are looking at developing a community site on their estate; Crown Lane Primary School. We continued offering a series of monthly workshops. Many of the coldframes were put into working order in time for the growing season and we continue to seek funding to fully restore these. We continued to be open to the public on Wednesdays and Sundays throughout the year and opened some Saturdays to accommodate a local group of Geocachers. We ran and attended several successful community events throughout the year. The trustees are therefore satisfied the charity has met its obligations for charitable purposes and public benefit.

# **Trustees for the year 2016-2017**

Margaret (Maggie) Charnley Kathryn (Kate) Daly Angela Jones Peter Noy John Rhodes Guy Roberts Andrew Simpson

A third of trustees are required to stand down each year by rotation. This year John Rhodes and Andrew Simpson will step down. Andrew will be standing for re election.

The board of Trustees would like to thank John for all the work he has put in over the years. We have benefitted from his engineering expertise, from building a greenhouse, to restoring the coldframes. He has raised the Community Garden's profile on Streatham Common and greatly increased our sales of produce at the gate. He has shown great enthusiasm for the project. We very much hope to see him and his wife Dot back in the Community Garden in the future.

The board of Trustees would also like to thank Ruth Arnott for all the work she has done in setting up and running our Learner Plots this year and developing our programme of workshops and the outreach work with the local community groups.

The Board of Trustees have had expressions of interest from Jill Seymour and Dr Penny Fletcher in wishing to join the Board.

# **Events held in the Community Garden**







Apple Day; Attendees brought with them many apples for crushing and much juice was sampled, with enough left to make some cider for next years wassailing event. Spare fruit was also shared with Hawkes Cidery based in South London, in return for a small donation.

Wassailing; this year included a beautifully turned traditional wassail cup specially made for us by trustee and wood turner Peter Noy. The cup was created from wood felled from the orchard, to make way for the new fruit trees. The community sang traditional songs led by local musicians and the orchard was blessed for a bountiful harvest.

Palace of Fun; The Community Garden took part in this annual nationwide event held at Streatham Library. We demonstrated growing micro greens in upcycled food containers.

Bug Hunt; planned and delivered by Dr Penny Fletcher and her colleagues from the Royal Society of Biology, this event was well attended by families. At least 48 species were identified and data logged, to include Harlequin Ladybirds and Dock Shield Bugs, Coreus Marginatus, which were found on the globe artichokes. A new bug house, designed and built by volunteer Trustee Peter Noy, was also installed on the fruit garden wall

The Volunteer BBQ was well attended. Volunteers brought and shared homemade chutney, cakes, curries and breads, as well as, preparing fresh salads from Community Garden produce. The Rookery Café kindly donated a Bakewell Pudding.

Monthly workshops, from sowing seeds, to taking cutting and making compost, were this year run by Ruth Arnott, a professional gardener, with funds secured from Awards for All.

#### School Visits:-

#### <u>Dunraven Secondary School</u>

An enthusiastic group of year 10 students joined us for a one day programme of events as part of their work experience week. The students edged and tidied all of our paths, weeded our, dug over and weeded our perennial plot. At the request of some of the students, Nick & Rory from SCCoOp offered an impromptu talk about their careers in horticulture.

### Cavendish Lodge Nursery School

The pre school students joined us weekly throughout the year. They sowed seeds, planted out, used magnifying glasses to identify different garden bugs, made model kites and sampled the different fruit and vegetables that we have grown. A series of weekly events were all well planned, organized and delivered by volunteer trustees Angela Jones and Guy Roberts.

## Events attended within the wider community

# SCCoOp Christmas Fair, The Rookery

A selection of produce for sale, we made and sold Christmas decorations using material sourced from the garden, recruiting volunteers.

### Kite Day, Streatham Common

A selection of plants and produce for sale, and recruiting volunteers.

# Fun Palace, Streatham Library

As part of a Lambeth Borough wide event, combining art and science we had young people planting micro greens in upcycled plastic food containers.

# <u>Doggy Splash Day, Paddling Pool, Streatham Common</u>

We promoted our garden events and made visitors aware of who we are and what we do.

## **Volunteering**







98 Volunteers 2,462 Volunteer hours

Volunteering continues to be core to our everyday activity – sowing, planting, weeding, digging and watering. There were also volunteer roles in supporting events, building projects, workshops and produce stalls. We have had 98 volunteers offering 2,462 hours over the year, an average of 25 hours each, which are in addition to the volunteer trustee hours, spent administering the garden.

A big thank you to all our volunteers and volunteer trustees without whom the Community Garden would not be what it is today, a place where people can meet in the fresh air, connect with nature and grow, harvest and eat fresh local produce.

#### **Donations**

We would like to thank:-

Family and friends of the late Fiona Dickie who very generously and kindly donated monies to the garden in memory of her.

Trees for Cities for introducing City and Guilds who paid for and planted out a beautiful camomile lawn at the top of the garden.

Our young volunteer, Josh, who with friends from the local Geocaching group restored our blue shed and planted an upturned tree root to attract beetles at the top of the garden as well as carrying out many other tasks, with plenty of enthusiasm.

## **Growing Programme**



We continue to grow a wide range of vegetables and fruits. This year we harvested kiwi fruits for the first time and built a cage around the fan trained cherry tree to help keep the squirrels out. In partnership with Sustain and the London Seedbank we grew crops of peas and tomatoes purely to harvest the seed. Whilst some of our pea seeds were attacked by moth larvae (Cydia nigricans) we were able to offer plenty of tomato seeds to the seed bank. We have already started off our peas early this year, with the help of students from Cavendish Lodge Nursery, and will fleece the crop in the hope of deterring the moths from next years seed harvest.

## **Built Heritage**



We are still trying to raise funds to completely restore the two heritage coldframes and the greenhouse and can announce that after our year end, a joint bid for matched funding with Streatham Common Co Operative and Lambeth Council to convert an existing concrete building on site into a learning space was successfully won.

#### **Finance**

Our reserves at the end of the year are £6,651 this will be used in grant applications where matched funding is required, in for example capital projects.

Income generated	d this year:	Expenses reimbursed to trustees:-
Grants	£9,995	Seven trustees were reimbursed for expenses to cover the cost
Donations	£1,992	of events, repairs and maintenance, printing and publicity
Corporates	£ 642	totaling £1,291.66 and two trustees donated their expenses
Sales of Produce	£ 786	totaling £525.58.
Subscriptions	£ 80	

Spending of £10,736 included ongoing payments of £6,794 for running our Learner Plot programme.

## **Learner Plots and Training Programme**







Now in it's fourth year the Learner Plot programme attracted a number of local community groups, Spires, Mencap, Library Elders, Residents from Albert Carr Estate, Crown Lane Primary School all of whom have successfully sowed, raised, grown on and harvested an impressive amount of vegetables over the year including amongst others, sweet corn, beans, cucumbers, courgettes, beetroot and strawberries.

This year we continued with a series of monthly workshops, which were professionally led, thanks to funding from Awards for All, by Ruth Arnott. These included seed sowing, companion planting and beneficial insects, taking cuttings, harvesting seed and growing winter vegetables. The workshops continue to attract new people to the garden.

We continue to seek funding for next year enabling us to continue and further develop the training programme, reaching out to more community groups so they may have a plot and learn to grow their own produce.

### **Fundraising Activity**

We were grateful for some sizeable donations and received a grant from Awards for All. We continued to generate income by sales of surplus plants and produce. Our Gift Aid registration was confirmed, and our first claim was submitted at the end of our financial year and we can confirm we are in now in receipt of these monies.

We also planted several Quince trees with funding received last year from the Streatham Society in memory of Brian Bloice and with additional funding this year from the Friends of Streatham Common in memory of George Tuson.

We are registered with Easy Fundraising, so when supporters shop online a percentage of their purchase spend is donated to the Streatham Common Community Garden, at no extra cost to the customer. Supporters can sign up for this free service at https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk.

We have been exploring funding options from a number of grant giving bodies. We will be exploring further opportunities for joint activities and funding in the future. We would like to formally report that we did not incur any expenditure on organising fundraising events, did not pay any external fundraiser, or incur any other fundraising expenditure.

Streatham Commom Community Garden				
Registered Charity No 1154156				
Accounts for year ending 7th October 2017				
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	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	to 7/10/16
Receipts				
Grants	25	9,970	9,995	1,366
Sales	786	,	786	538
Donations	1,992		1,992	1,563
Subscriptions	80		80	100
Corporate Events	642		642	
Bank Interest				
Gross Income	3,525	9,970	13,495	3,567
Payments Payments				
Restricted Grants		6,734	6,734	1,688
Seeds Plants Garden Supplies	1,365	3,	1,365	180
Stolen Cash	48		48	
Equipment Maintenance	807		807	
Volunteer Expenses	112		112	
Events	1,520		1,520	269
Insurance	87		87	103
Postage	9		9	
Website Hosting	55		55	45
Annual reports			-	32
Total Payments	4,003	6,734	10,736	2,317
Gross Income Less Total Payments	(478)	3,236	2,758	1,250
Transfer between funds	(170)	3,233		2,200
Cash Funds at 7/10/16	7,129		7,129	5,879
Cash Funds at 7/10/17	6,651	3,236	9,887	7,129
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Bank Balance at 7/10/17	6,631	3,236	9,867	7,081
Petty Cash at 7/10/17	20		20	48
	6,651	3,236	9,887	7,129

The Streatham Common Community Garden should like to thank the following organisations for their support:



