

A small tree icon with a hand as its trunk, positioned above the word 'Streatham'.

Streatham Common Community Garden



**Annual report and accounts for the year ended
7th October 2018.**

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 and London Community Foundation's Lambeth Community Fund have enabled us to continue to work with local community groups, in our Learner Plot programme attracting 19 users.

Volunteering continues to be our strength. We would 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 after our year end, we have won Lambeth In Bloom and received £100 prize money.

We were pleased to receive a grant from Thrane Almhouse Relief in Need Charity and will be publishing a cookbook with volunteer recipes showcasing fruits and vegetables they had grown in the Garden. One of our younger volunteers, Josh, has involved his local group of Geocachers in the garden, who have removed the privet hedge from outside the Training Room, where we hope to plant some more fruit trees. We are very grateful to them all for their efforts and hope to continue to build on this special community relationship 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 also took advantage of the offer of free plants from Myatts Field and entered some of vegetables into their Harvest Festival.

We successfully converted a concrete shed in the garden into a Training Room with funds from Heritage Lottery Fund, Lambeth Council and ourselves. We have run a series of homework classes, flower arranging workshops and SCCoOp have used the space for the Cascade/Stream Garden Project. In the New Year we hope to be running a series of theoretical and practical gardening sessions.

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 year's groups included; Streatham Drop in Centre for Refugees and Asylum Seekers, Library Older Peoples Group, Spire Homeless Charity Staff and Service Users. 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, SCCoOp's Forest Ranger and Streatham Drop in Centre's Homework Club. 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 2017-2018

Margaret (Maggie) Charnley
Kathryn (Kate) Daly
Penny Fletcher
Angela Jones
Peter Noy
Guy Roberts
Jill Seymour
Andrew Simpson

A third of trustees are required to stand down each year by rotation. This year Andrew, Angela and Kate will step down. Angela and Kate are standing again for re election.

Andrew Simpson has decided to step down as a trustee of the Community Garden this year, after serving since 2012, when the garden was first set up. Andrew's environmental background was really helpful, especially in the early days, when along with others, he was able to push forward some early initiatives. Andrew worked very hard to get Lambeth Building College to put up the arbour in the fruit garden, an area which is still regularly enjoyed by volunteers at tea time on sunny days. Andrew was also able to co-ordinate with some of the council officers in the early days and also enjoyed links with The Streatham Society and was therefore able to help with some of the historical aspects of the garden. We all hope Andrew will still continue to visit and work with us and that his recent operation on his hand continues to improve.

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 with the local community groups as well as designing and collecting recipes for our Recipe Book.

The trustees were saddened to hear that Bridged Hall passed away on 17th September 2018. Bridged was instrumental in establishing Streatham Common Community Garden, as one of the community activists who identified and acted on local desires for a growing space. She was also key in securing funding for new trees in the orchard and fruit garden. We will remember her contribution and passion for Streatham.

The Board of Trustees would welcome expressions of interest from others in joining us to further our charitable aims.

Events held in the Community Garden



Hedge Laying

A great day was had and we successfully laid half of our edible hedge located between the learner plots and the orchard, after our year end we completed the other half too.

Wassail

This annual event proved ever more popular with volunteers blessing the trees for a bountiful harvest.

Apple Day; Attendees brought with them many apples for crushing and much juice was sampled, with enough left to fill a small apple store.

Bug Hunt; planned and delivered by Dr Penny Fletcher, 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 Picnic was well attended. Volunteers brought and shared homemade chutney, cakes, curries and breads, as well as, preparing fresh salads from Community Garden produce.

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

School Visits:-

Dunraven Secondary School

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 and dug over 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 was for sale, we made and sold Christmas decorations using material sourced from the garden, and recruited volunteers.

Kite Day, Streatham Common

This event was put back to later in the year, but we were able to put up a display board to encourage more volunteers to join us and showcase the excellent work we have all been doing.

Doggy Splash Day, Paddling Pool, Streatham Common

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

Volunteering



85 Volunteers

2,980 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 85 volunteers offering 2,980 hours over the year, which are in addition to the volunteer trustee hours, spent administering the garden.

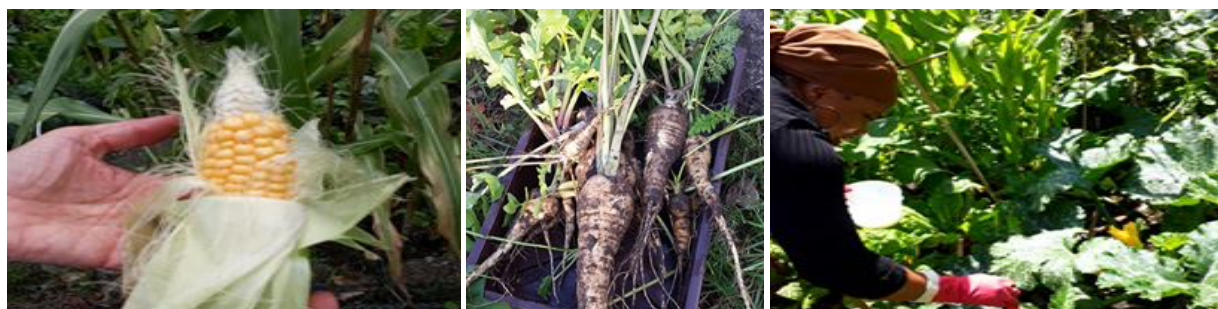
A big thank you to all our volunteers and volunteer trustees without whom the Community Garden would not be what it is today, a place where people can meet in the fresh air, connect with nature and grow, harvest and eat fresh local produce.

Donations

We would like to thank:-

Our young volunteer, Josh, who with friends from the local Geocaching group removed privet from up by the training room, re felted the shed roof, installed water butts to facilitate watering over the long hot dry summer, 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 planted an apricot and peach tree and built a cage around them to keep off the winter rains as well as to help keep the squirrels out. In partnership with Sustain and the London Freedom Seedbank we grew crops of peas, tomatoes and chillies purely to harvest the seed. Whilst our peas this year suffered from the dry summer, we were able to offer plenty of tomato and chilli seeds to the seed bank.

Built Heritage



We are still trying to raise funds to completely restore the two heritage coldframes and the greenhouse. A joint bid for matched funding to HLF with Streatham Common Co Operative and Lambeth Council last year, enabled us to finally convert an existing concrete building on site into a Training Room.

Finance

Our reserves at the end of the year are £7,599 this will be used in grant applications where matched funding is required, in for example capital projects.

Income generated this year:

Grants	£5,495
Donations	£1,665
Gift Aid	£ 317
Sales of Produce	£ 677
Subscriptions	£ 95

Expenses reimbursed to trustees:-

Two trustees were reimbursed for expenses to cover the cost of events, repairs and maintenance, printing and publicity totaling £997,16 and two trustees donated their expenses totaling £853.78.

Spending of £11,247 included ongoing payments of £7,812 for running our Learner Plot programme.

Learner Plots and Training Programme



Luca Migliore



Brixton Bugle

Now in its fifth year the Learner Plot programme attracted a number of local community groups, Streatham Drop in Centre for Refugees and Asylum Seekers, Streatham Library Older Peoples Group, Spires Homeless Charity Staff and Service Users. 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 also received funding from Thrale Almhouse Relief in Need Charity to publish a cook book with recipes collected from our volunteers.

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 London Community Foundation's Lambeth Community Fund. We continued to generate income by sales of surplus plants, produce and by running events.

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.easypundraising.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.

