

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

Streatham Common Community Garden



**Annual report and accounts for the year ended
7th October 2019.**

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 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 were proud to have won Lambeth In Bloom 2018 and received £100 prize money.

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.

The Training room has raised valuable funds and has been hired to run a series of homework classes, flower arranging and macrame workshops and SCCoOp have used the space for the Stream Garden Project. We continue to encourage the hiring out of the room for garden themed events and now also have a ramp, to facilitate wheel chair access. The garden was also hired out to a film production company for an overnight shoot.

We should like to thank The Streatham Common Co Operative (SCCoOp) who kindly donated funds to build two raised beds, which were constructed by the local social enterprise PROGRESS and filled with compost donated by Veolia.

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, corporate volunteers, 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 (Part of year)
Guy Roberts
Anna Savage
Jill Seymour

A third of trustees are required to stand down each year by rotation. This year Guy Roberts, Jill Seymour and Penny Fletcher will step down. Guy, Jill and Penny are standing again for re election.

The board of trustees would like to thank Peter Noy. Peter decided to step down as a trustee of the Community Garden this year, after serving since 2015. Peter's practical skills have proved invaluable over the years from building bugs hotels, fruit cages and supervising the construction of the Training Room, to turning beautiful wooden dibbers, carrot and parsnip pens and our Wassail cup, as well as all the blackboard signs in constant use throughout the garden. He continues to craft items for the garden to sell, to raise valuable funds, to help us continue our work.

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 running our ever popular Christmas Wreath making workshops.

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 planted more whips to fill the gaps.

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 & Craft a Bug; with funding this year from the Mayor of London we ran two events planned and delivered by Dr Penny Fletcher and professional willow weaver Julie Gurr, these events were well attended by families. These events attracted many new visitors, both families and individuals some of whom came back to help out in the garden too.

Know Your Weeds; led by Roy Vickery from the South London Botanic Institute, volunteers learned of the folklore of our native plant species, growing here in the garden.

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. Our new Pizza Oven was also fired up and volunteers were shown how to make delicious pizzas.

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. Kate Daly one of our trustees also ran a tool maintenance and sharpening workshop, edible flower workshop and know your soil workshop which were very well received.

Group 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 from SCCoOp offered an impromptu talk about his career 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.

Incredible Edible LEAP

A social enterprise to getting Lambeth Residents with young families to eat healthy food and live a healthier lifestyle joined us for an afternoon tour of the garden and lunch cooked on wood fire pizza oven.

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



82 Volunteers 2,724 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 82 volunteers offering 2,724 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:-

Streatham Common Co Operative for the construction of the raised beds, 1,600 litre water butts and a ramp allowing wheelchair access into the Training Room.

Veolia for donating 5,000 litres of compost for the raised beds.

Our visitors and volunteers for their monetary, as well as time donations.

Growing Programme



We continue to grow a wide range of vegetables and fruits. This year we harvested our first fruits from the apricot and peach trees with the cage around them having successfully kept off the winter rains as well as keeping out the squirrels. Our new fruit cage, purchased with monies raised from the friends and family of the late Fiona Dickie, helped keep the birds and squirrels off our currants, apples and pears. The brassica cage built and planted up in part by corporate volunteers from Reclaiming Agency successfully kept the cabbage white butterflies off our brassica crops this year. Corporate Volunteers from Gemserve, tidied up and the areas around the mulberry tree and planted out the thornless blackcurrants as well as removing privet hedges to open up the space around the Training Room. In partnership with Sustain and the London Freedom Seedbank we grew crops of purple French beans, and tomatoes purely to harvest the seed. Our beans and tomatoes both cropped well, but some of the bean seed was attacked by beetles and the tomatoes didn't fully ripen.

Built Heritage



We are trying to raise funds to completely restore the greenhouse, as the current temporary structure is failing. We are also looking at replacing the unused Hazchem Store adjacent to the Training Room, with a small greenhouse to enable us to raise vegetable plants early in the year. As this site has power to it, we hope to have heated propagators, timed irrigation and automatic ventilation.

Finance

Our reserves at the end of the year are £8,192 this will be used in grant applications where matched funding is required, in for example capital projects.

<u>Income generated this year:</u>		<u>Expenses reimbursed to trustees:-</u>
Grants	£11,263	Four trustees were reimbursed for expenses to cover the cost of events, repairs and maintenance, printing and publicity for £4,351. Two trustees donated expenses totaling £415.05.
Donations	£ 738	
Sales of Produce	£ 3,375	
Subscriptions	£ 90	

Spending of £12,650 included ongoing payments of £10,622 for running our Learner Plot programme.

Learner Plots and Training Programme



Now in its sixth 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, growing winter vegetables and green manures. 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 and Streatham Common Co Operative. We continued to generate income by sales of surplus plants, produce, running events, hiring out the Training Room and sales of our gardeners cook book and Peter Noys' beautifully crafted dibbers and pens.

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>.

Amazon Smile <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1154156-0>

Co Op Good Causes <https://membership.coop.co.uk/new-registraion>
<https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/37045>

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 Common Community
Garden
Registered Charity No 1154156
Accounts for year ending 7th
October 2019

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	to 7/10/18
<u>Receipts</u>				
Grants		11,263	11,263	5,495
Sales	3,375		3,375	677
Donations	738		738	1,665
Subscriptions	90		90	95
Events	1,128		1,128	710
Prize Monies	100		100	-
Gift Aid			-	316.76
Gross Income	5,431	11,263	16,694	8,959
<u>Payments</u>				
Restricted Grants		10,622	10,622	7,412
Seeds Plants Garden Supplies	1,515		1,515	728
Equipment Maintenance	61		61	2,096
Volunteer Expenses	72		72	67
Events	209		209	793
Insurance	104		104	87
Postage	6		6	13
Website Hosting	62		62	50
Total Payments	2,028	10,622	12,650	11,247
Gross Income Less Total Payments	3,403	641	4,044	(2,288)
Transfer between funds	(1,215)	1,214		
Cash Funds at 7/10/18	6,004	1575	7,579	9,887
Cash Funds at 7/10/19	8,192	3,430	11,622	7,579
Bank Balance at 7/10/19	8,192	3,430	11,622	7,579
Petty Cash at 7/10/19			-	
	8,192	3,430	11,622	7,579

