



Streatham
Common
Community
Garden



**Annual report and accounts for the year ended
7th October 2020.**

Trustees' report

This year the trustees have taken it in turn to chair our monthly meetings. The charity has been able to rise to the challenges posed by the Covid 19 virus to build on the successes of previous years. Funding from Lambeth Community Foundation has enabled us to continue to work with local community groups, through our Learner Plot programme.

Volunteering continues to be our strength. We would like to thank everyone for their efforts in continuing to make the garden a success. Vegetable starter kits were delivered to participants in this year's Learner Plot programme and tutorials on how to start growing vegetables held online. Once the rules were relaxed, a booking system to manage social distancing in the garden, was successfully put in place to allow participants on site.

Our Wreath Making and Wassailing events continue to be regular features of the Streatham scene. The raised beds allowed us to grow many more vegetables and proved very popular with our volunteers who find it difficult to garden at ground level.

The Education room has not been able to be hired as much as would have liked, but SCCoOp staff were able to make use of it to give them more space for social distancing. We continue to encourage the hiring out of the room for garden themed events and have a ramp, to facilitate wheel chair access.

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 we hope to make 2021, our 10th Anniversary, the best year yet.

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, Spires Homeless Charity Staff and Service Users. We continued offering a series of monthly workshops to those taking on a learner plot, these were delivered on site or via social media. The new raised beds were put into working order in time for the growing season and further funding from the Co Operative Society should see us have a further two beds put into productive use in the coming year. Excluding Coronavirus lockdown we continued to be open on Wednesdays and Sundays throughout the year. Since lockdown we have not been able to open the garden to casual visitors, but throughout the lockdown period we supported people to grow from home and opened the garden to learner plotters as soon as the lifting of the restrictions allowed. The trustees are therefore satisfied the charity has met its obligations for charitable purposes and public benefit.

Trustees for the year 2019-2020

Margaret (Maggie) Charnley

Kathryn (Kate) Daly

Penny Fletcher

Angela Jones

Guy Roberts

Anna Savage

Jill Seymour

A third of trustees are required to stand down each year by rotation. This year Anna, Angela and Maggie all are standing again for re election.

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 Plot programme this year and adapting it to Covid 19 restrictions to allow us to continue to work 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



Wassail; this year the Brixton Tatterjacks entertained us in the orchard and up in the yard with their Morris Dancing, as we blessed the trees for a fruitful and plentiful harvest.

Wreath Making; Ruth ran a very popular series of workshops this year with attendees making sustainable willow Christmas wreaths, decorated with locally sourced seasonal materials to include ivy and teasel.

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 Lambeth Community Foundation.

Group Visits:-



Due to Covid 19 Government restrictions put in place, we were not able to invite community groups for day visits. As soon as the restrictions are lifted, we will be ready to welcome back visitors to the garden.

Sustain; with funding from Sustain, and the use of their Harvestometer we were able to provide the local foodbank at St Margaret's Church on Barcombe Avenue, with £200 of fresh seasonal produce.

Events attended within the wider community



Rookery Farmers Market: we opened our stall outside the yard at the first Farmers Market of this year selling produce to include mulberries and redcurrants as well as many vegetable and herb plants.

Volunteering



84 Volunteers

1,661 Volunteer hours

Volunteering continues to be core to our everyday activity – sowing, planting, weeding, digging and watering. To meet with Government Guidelines during Covid 19 we introduced a booking system for volunteers, to help with social distancing in the garden, as well as introducing an effective track and trace system. There were also volunteer roles in supporting events, building projects, workshops and produce stalls. We have had ?? volunteers offering ?? 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, which this year in particular, has been more important than ever.

Donations



We would like to thank:-

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 fruits from the apricot and peach trees with the cage around them having successfully kept off the winter rains so prevent peach leaf curl, as well as keeping out the squirrels who found our fig tree. Our 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 kept the cabbage white butterflies off our brassica crops again this year. In partnership with Sustain and the London Freedom Seedbank we grew crops of Purple Ukraine and Stone Ridge tomatoes purely to harvest the seed.

Built Heritage



At the time of writing this report we are pleased to announce that SCCoOp applied for and received some funding from The Heritage Lottery Fund, which will see the Lean to Greenhouse being replaced by a more permanent structure. We would like to thank SCCoOp for sourcing this funding and for their efforts in preparing the site ready for the new greenhouse for us, which we hope to have up and running ready for the forthcoming growing season. We should also like to thank John Rhodes for having built us a temporary structure, that has proved to be invaluable in helping us to grow produce and raise funds for the garden. New roofing material has been sourced for the Hazchem Shed up by the Training Room, and the two raised beds below the privet hedge will hopefully be brought back into productive use, once made safe again, in time for next year.

Finance

Our reserves at the end of the year are £10,459 this will be used in grant applications where matched funding is required, in for example capital projects.

Income generated this year:

Grants	£ 6,391
Donations	£ 851
Sales of Produce	£ 2,400
Subscriptions	£ 90

Expenses reimbursed to trustees:-

Three trustees were reimbursed for expenses to cover the cost of events, repairs and maintenance, printing and publicity for £675.
Five trustees donated expenses totaling £517.

Spending of £8,947 included ongoing payments of £7,485 for running our Learner Plot programme.

Learner Plots and Training Programme



Now in its seventh 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 was particularly challenging because of the Coronavirus restrictions that came into force soon after the learner plotters we recruited. We continued however with a series of monthly workshops, which were professionally led, thanks to funding from Lambeth Community Foundation, by Ruth Arnott. During the early months these were delivered online and each participant with a growing box enabling them to start their seedlings at their own homes, using gardens, balconies or windowsills. With the use of social media, learners shared experiences and worked well together, returning to the garden safely, when restrictions were eased. Workshops delivered at the garden and online, 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 Lambeth Community Foundation, The CoOperative Society, Sustain/Capital Growth and Incredible Edible Lambeth. 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 would also like to thank our volunteer Michael for recommending we apply for funding from a family trust, and can confirm that our application has been successful allowing us to continue running the garden over the next year.

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>

CoOperative Society <https://www.coop.co.uk/membership>

DONR - text giving [Text SCCG to 70085](https://www.donr.org.uk)

We have updated our website

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 2020					
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	to 7/10/19	Variance £
Receipts					
Grants		6,391	6,391	11,263	(4,872)
Sales	1,027		1,027	3,375	(2,349)
Donations	851		851	738	113
Subscriptions	90		90	90	0
Events	1,373		1,373	1,128	245
Prizes			-	100	(100)
Gift Aid	387		387	0	387
Gross Income	3,728	6,391	10,119	16,694	(6,576)
Payments					
Restricted Grants		7,485	7,485	10,622	(3,137)
Seeds Plants Garden Supplies	814		814	1,515	(700)
Equipment Maintenance	113		113	61	52
Volunteer Expenses	216		216	72	144
Events	111		111	209	(98)
Insurance	97		97	104	(7)
Postage	25		25	6	19
Website Hosting	86		86	62	24
Total Payments	1,462	7,485	8,947	12,650	(3,703)
Gross Income Less Total Payments	2,266	(1,095)	1,171	4,044	
Transfer between funds					
Cash Funds at 7/10/19	8,193	3,430	11,623	7,579	
Cash Funds at 7/10/20	10,459	2,335	12,794	11,623	
Bank Balance at 7/10/20	10,459	2,335	12,794	7,579	5,216
Petty Cash at 7/10/20			-		0
Total Cash Balance	10,459	2,335	12,794	7,579	5,216

