



ANNUAL REPORT 2016



Main Sites

Loris Garden

Loris Road
W6 7QA

Godolphin Garden

Godolphin Road
W12 8JF

Ravenscourt Park

Paddenswick Road Entrance
W6 0UL

Phoenix School Farm

Bloemfontein Road
W12 7DB



Partner Sites & Schools

Normand Park
Marcus Garvey Park
Queens Park Gardens
Wormholt Park
Wormwood Scrubs

Ark Franklin
Ark Brunel
Ark Swift
Ashburnham Primary School
Balby Primary School
Bevington Primary School
Brackenbury Primay School
Flora Garden Primary School
John Betts Primary School
King Soloman Academy
Lena Gardens
Malborough Primary School
Our Lady of the Victories
Phoenix Academy
Queens Park Primary School
Randolph Beresford Early Years Centre
Sullivan Primary School
St Charles Catholic Primary School
St Augustine's Catholic Primary School
St Mary's cCatholic Primary School
St Thomas' C of E Primary School

In total, over 150 volunteers enjoyed trips with us this during the course of the year, ranging from visits to Chenies Manor and College Lake Nature Reserve in Buckinghamshire to fruit-picking outings. This was made possible through grants from the Kensington & Chelsea Foundation and the Innovation Fund and through our continuing access to Westway Community Transport.

From the annual volunteer survey, verbal feedback and our own observation we know that involvement with HCGA is of significant importance to our volunteers in helping to improve their well-being and in giving them the opportunity to give something back to their local community and to make friends. These are the core aims of this charity. Accordingly, I would like to express my gratitude to all our supporters who help make this possible.

Looking to the future, one of our plans for 2017 would ideally be to replace our much-used glasshouses at Ravenscourt Park with two more state-of-the-art structures. I hope to be able to say more about this in next year's report.

In the meantime, I would like to thank our staff, our volunteers and my fellow trustees for everything they have done during the past year. However, I would like to thank two people in particular. The first is our new treasurer, Karen Wyatt, whose accountancy skills have further strengthened our board. The second is our new independent examiner, Clare Fuchs. Karen and Clare took a great deal of time behind the scenes during the last twelve months to represent our accounts as a document that fully brings out all of the work that we do. It is something that I would suggest that anyone who wants to know more about HCGA than is covered in this annual report pick up and read.

Simon Beale, January 2017



Get Out There!

The project, currently funded by London Community Foundation / Evening Standard Dispossessed Fund, continues to support volunteers in turning their lives around and for many this has proved life changing.

We continue to hold a weekly conservation volunteering work day on a Friday, working both locally and further afield with people at risk of homelessness and long term unemployed. Get Out There! volunteers continue to be referred to us from several health and homeless charities.

Sites worked on this year include: Wormwoods Scrubs, The Forest School area in Marcus Garvey Park, revamping flower beds on the White City Estate and bulb planting in nearby Wormholt Park, and further afield Cultivate London's Isleworth site, a willow plantation in Shepperton, and Cholesbury Common and College Lake in the Chilterns. The GOT! Team also undertake maintenance at the garden sites we manage.



Phoenix School Farm and Learning Zone



A highlight for the farm this year was creating a show garden at the RHS Hampton Court Flower Show winning a gold medal and 2 silver gills. The theme for the garden was Market Gardening in the 18th century. The garden was designed by 6th form students and their tutor Vanessa Hodder. Cath Knight, the farm manager, undertook to grow all the vegetables uses in the garden from seed –no mean feat! This major undertaking would not have been possible without the support of several local companies who helped with the logistics of building the garden, transport and PR. Thanks to Mitie, Taylor Woodrow, Quadron Iverde and the Salt Yard group. In addition to its own students, the farm received visits from many local schools, and working with the Food Explorers Trust, schools from Kensington and Chelsea. The site was also a venue for family and growing activities as part of the Big Green Local initiative in Wormholt and White City.

The twice-weekly volunteer sessions provide an opportunity for community involvement and without this help the project wouldn't be the award winning community resource it is. For several consecutive years the project has been judged outstanding in the RHS London in Bloom awards.

In September the school became part of the Futures Academy Trust and we are delighted that the value of the farm project has been recognised by the new leadership team. 2017 will mark the 10th year of the Farm and with support from the Big Lottery Celebrate fund we will be organising Spring and Autumn celebration events.

Schools Educational Programme

Our education work has expanded this year and we are now delivering weekly sessions in 16 schools, nurseries or children's centres on a weekly basis, running gardening clubs and delivering curriculum-linked lessons across four London boroughs.



Many other schools have also visited our sites for one-off sessions covering wildlife, food-growing or cooking. This year we have run several Continuing

Professional Development (CPD) sessions open to any individuals working in schools or nurseries. We have run bespoke training for the entire teaching staff of several local schools at the Glasshouses in Ravenscourt Park.

The horticulture course for adults with learning difficulties is now running for the fourth year, inspiring a new group of learners at the Glasshouses.

Family & Community Events

We ran free environmental play activities in the school holidays for local families and ran trips to the countryside, to Kew Gardens and took many local families fruit and veg picking. This was made possible with funding from BBC Children in Need. We ran community events on our sites such as an Apple Day, bulb planting and Christmas wreath making. We partnered with other local organisations in events such as Green Transport Day in White City with the H&F Urban Studies Centre and in family events in Normand Park with The Doorstep Library. To mark the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's birth local actor Chris Tranchell and friends gave a performance of Flowers and the Bard. Local Historian, Caroline McMillan gave a very informative walk and talk about the history of Ravenscourt Park.

Edible Askew Road Part of the Chelsea Fringe

We held a May Madness event on Starch Green and created a pop up farm in the city with animals from Surrey Docks City Farm which proved very popular. We were delighted once again to host the Askew Business Network summer event at the Glasshouses in recognition of their on-going support. At Christmas we held a very popular event which included switching on the lights on Starch Green, complete with entertainment from a fire juggler.

Grow Well

The Grow Well project runs on a weekly basis working with volunteers who need extra support in the morning session and carers in the afternoon. In the summer we held our annual summer tea party. This year Grow Well has been made possible through an exceptional grant from the City Bridge Trust to mark the twentieth anniversary of their grant giving programmes.

This autumn and winter we have partnered with Hammersmith United Charities to run several Grow Well sessions at Sycamore House in Shepherds Bush. Our regular Grow Well volunteers have enjoyed the beautiful gardens and Sycamore House residents are able to join in with the Grow Well activities. Thank you to HUC for letting us use their wonderful facilities.

Health and Wellbeing

Although our 2 year Plant a Seed –Grow Well programme offering training and support for NHS staff finished in March 2016 we have continued to be able to support health related projects. Occupational Therapists from Hammersmith and North West London Mental Health Trust used the glasshouses in Ravenscourt Park to conduct a research programme into the effectiveness of Eco Therapy in the treatment of patients with dementia.

CW+

HCGA were delighted to be asked to work in Chelsea and Westminster Hospital by the hospital's charity CW+ to deliver nature based activities to hospital patients. Since June 2016 we have been delivering weekly two hour sessions to patients in two care of older people wards. The overarching aim of the sessions is to improve social engagement and the garden and nature related activities are mostly delivered on a one-to-one basis at patients' bedsides. Activities have included making lavender bags, herb bouquets, pot pourri, herbal teas, scented hand oils and flower arranging.



Patients' reactions have been overwhelmingly positive with patients happy to be engaged in an interesting activity as well as having the chance to talk while doing so. Patients have enjoyed the connection with the physical senses, especially smell and touch. As we explain the task to them we talk a lot about the natural materials we are working with and that easily leads on to conversation, usually reminiscing about childhood, family and summers spent outside. The most popular activities tend to be the ones which use the herbs and flowers and it is obvious how patient's moods are lifted once interacting with these.

'I close my eyes and it smells like I am in my garden'.

Volunteers and Ambassadors

HCGA relies heavily on the work of our dedicated volunteers who once again have devoted many hours of hard work over the past year. Our weekly volunteer sessions at Ravenscourt Park Glasshouses and Phoenix School Farm maintain these sites which are then used by groups such as schools for the rest of the week. There are also monthly sessions at Loris Gardens. We have received the London in Bloom and Green Flag awards for all of our sites and once again the judges commented on the work of our volunteers.

Our Ambassadors have represented HCGA at a number of external events locally and continue to assist on many HCGA projects and events.



Many of our volunteers have mental or physical health issues and/or are long-term unemployed. We receive referrals from health professionals and other agencies and we now run volunteer inductions once a month to make sure we get to know the volunteer initially and then can place them in the right volunteering group for their particular needs and strengths. Volunteers have notched up 8,953 hours in 2016.

Special thanks to Hugh Faichney, David Hills and Eamon Kanés who volunteer as caretakers at our community gardens.

We have worked with over 300 corporate volunteers this year – that's over 1500 hours of volunteering! Volunteers have worked in local schools and parks as well as HCGA sites, transforming local green spaces. We are very grateful for the hard work of Universal, Dunnhumby, Land Securities, STEM Marketing, Bazaar Voice, IHG, Amey, Vertex Pharmaceuticals, Allegis, Arriva, Capco, Taylor Woodrow, BBC, HNWEL, Chugai Pharmaceutical and Lloyds bank. We charge companies and their support helps us maintain the continuity in our core programmes.

Big Green Local

The Big Green Local project was launched by HCGA in Spring 2014. The aim of the project is that residents, especially children, young people, families and the elderly will report an increased usage of open spaces and involvement in them. For the first time this year HCGA co-ordinated a 'Best Front Garden Competition' sponsored by the Housing Department and the prize winners were announced at the W12 Festival. This was held in Wormholt Park where we created a pop up garden re using many of the plants from the Hampton Court Flower Show exhibit. Throughout August and school holidays we ran family gardening sessions including seed sowing and jam and pickle making workshops. We have run trips for local residents to a 'pick your own' farm in Hertfordshire and the City Harvest Show at Capel Manor College in Enfield. In the autumn, at the request of the Friend of Wormholt Park, we co-ordinated the planting of thousands of spring bulbs in the park. This was a big undertaking and included a planting day for local residents and pupils from Wormholt Primary School, who were assisted by 2 teams of corporate volunteers from the BBC and Capco. We are eager to see the results of our efforts in the spring. This autumn we were able to harvest the first fruit from the orchard which was planted in the White City Estate in 2015.

One of our volunteers David Hills was awarded a Community Chest grant from the Big Local to organise 4 cycle rides and to commission Cycledlik to

run 2 bike maintenance sessions at community events.



New Initiatives

Queens Park Gardens

HCGA were delighted to have been awarded a contract by Queens Park Community Council (the first parish council in London) to increase community engagement in Queens Park Gardens which is a delightful park situated to the north of the Harrow Road. We were able to transfer many of our skills and expertise to this new site. We have introduced weekly volunteering session for local residents and also family growing and greening sessions during the school holidays in partnership with London Sports Trust and a trip fruit picking. We hosted 2 corporate workdays where staff from NJS Universal and Bazaar Voice who worked on improving the Rose Garden and award winning wildlife garden. We also coordinated a Best Front Garden competition and took part in the summer and winter festivals. We are also working in nearby Queen Park Primary school and are looking to encourage the school to make more use of the park though the provision of curriculum based materials.

Men in Sheds

Men in Sheds is a national initiative to encourage men who are isolated to get together. HCGA were able to provide a base and tools at the Godolphin Road Eco shed and with a small grant from the Community Champions project we have been able to start our own Men in Shed project which has evolved from the GOT project. We have purchased a stand so that men can fix their bikes and there has been interest in up cycling and woodwork.



With funding from the Kensington Foundation and Westway Community Transport project we have been able to undertake several additional trips for our volunteers and families. The Wednesday volunteers from Ravenscourt Park, visited Chenies Manor and Garden in Hertfordshire, 2 minibuses of families from Normand Park Community Gardening project went fruit picking and the Get Put There team were able to undertake some conservation projects in the countryside.



Community and School Gardening in Westminster

For a second year we supported families on the Fisherton Estate to grow their own food in a series of raised beds along Luton Street. We also worked with classes in nearby King Solomon Academy and Greenside Academy. Since September 2016 the school gardener programme has been extended to Queens Park Primary school.



Finance

April 2015 - March 2016

A grant from the Santander Foundation enabled us to spend time reviewing and updating the structure of our Accounts and SORP. Thanks to Clare Fuchs for her advice and support which has enabled us to produce a robust document reflecting the expansion of the charity's activities over the last three years. Our largest source of income was fee-based education work with schools and contracts to deliver health and well-being projects and training, which amounted to 54% of total income.

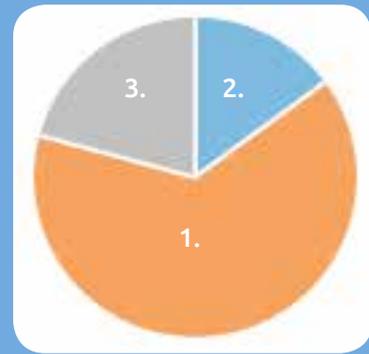
HCGA received grants from the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham totalling £35,000, which has been confirmed to March 2018. The expansion of our work into the neighbouring boroughs of Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster secured funding of £23,215.

The total income for the year was £266,204 (£242,783 in 2014/15) and expenditure was £248,588 (£241,933 in 2014/15). The net current assets of the organisation amounted to £70,728. Total funds were £118,292; the principle assets being the two Eco Sheds and the van.

The Association has leases until 2024 on both the Community Garden sites, and a 7 year lease on the Glasshouses in Ravenscourt Park which is currently being re-negotiated.

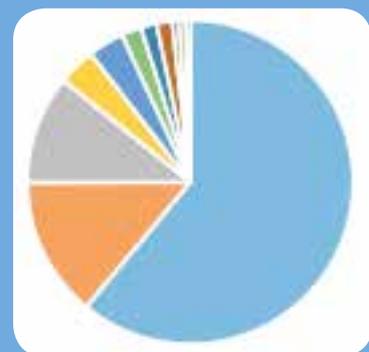
Reserves Policy: The Association has a reserves policy of 3 months running costs.

Income £266,204



1. Fee-based contracts
2. London Borough of Hammersmith
3. Other grants and donations

Expenditure £248,588



In descending order: staff costs, sessional fees, materials & maintenance, administration, project expenses, and events, depreciation, transport, volunteer expenses, conferences & training, Insurance, governance.

Funders

A huge thank you to all our funders and donors.

Download our full accounts from the Charity Commission website; www.charitycommission.gov.uk or by email or post from HCGA.



Partners and Supporters of HCGA 2016

Askew Business Network
Back on Track
BBC Sustainability Team
Big Local –Wormholt and White City
Bishop Creighton House
Broadway St Mungos
CW+ (Chelsea and Westminster Hospital)
Community Champions White City
Cultivate London
Cyledelik
Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens
Finlay Brewer Estate Agents
The Food Explorers
Friends of Marcus Garvey Park
Friends of Wormholt Park
Hammersmith United Charities
Hammersmith and Fulham Urban Studies Centre
Health Education North West London
Heaven Scent
Kensington and Chelsea Community Gardening Team
Laura Pearce Yoga Trainer
London Environmental Education Forum
London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham
London Borough of Westminster
London Grows - Sustain
London Parks and Garden Squares Trust
London Sports Trust
Mitie
Northfields Estate Agency
Northwest London Mental Health Trust
Paddington Development Trust
Parkview Centre for Health and Wellbeing
Philip Wooller Estate Agents

Quadron Iverde
Queen Park Community Council
Ravenscourt Residential
Read in the Park
Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea
Sobus
Soup For Lunch
St Vincent's Occupational Therapy Team
Taylor Woodrow
The Salt Yard Group
West London Zone
Westway Community Transport
White City Enterprise
White Noise

Team & Corporate Volunteers 2016

Allegis
Arriva
BBC
Chugia Pharma UK
Dunnhumby
HNWEL
IHG
Land Securities
Lloyds bank
Mitie
STEM Marketing
Taylor Woodrow
Universal
Vertex Pharmaceuticals

Amey
Bazaarvoice
Capco



Trustees

Simon Beale
Karen Wyatt
Moya O'Hara
Evangeline Karn
Karen Liebreich
Clare Ryland
Debbie Peters Mill
Bridget Hickley

Chair
Treasurer

Staff

Cathy Maund
Katie Shaw
Lynne Evans
Amy Chrisp
Kevin Bittan
Ewa Masutiak
Zoe Lyall
Liz Clark
Rose Cresser
Ulla Johnson
Emila Ochocka
Annie Walker
Frances Ward
Deborah Culmer
Katherine Locke

Director
Operations Manager
Operations Manager (Maternity Cover)
Plant A Seed Co-ordinator (to Feb 2016)
Get Out There! Co-ordinator
School and Community Gardener
School and Community Gardener
Sessional Worker
Admin Support (to Aug 2016)

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