



# ANNUAL REPORT 2017





# 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  
Queens Park Gardens  
Woodmans Mews Community Garden  
Wormwood Scrubs  
Ark Franklin  
Ark Brunel  
Ark Swift  
Ashburnham Primary School  
Barlby Primary School  
Bevington Primary School  
Brackenbury Primay School  
Flora Garden Primary School  
John Betts Primary School  
Larmenier and Sacred Heart RC Primary School  
Lena Gardens  
Little Owls Nursery School  
Marlborough Primary School  
Our Lady of the Victories  
Phoenix Academy  
Queens Park Primary School  
Randolph Beresford Early Years Centre  
Sulivan Primary School  
St Charles Catholic Primary School  
St Augustine's Catholic Primary School  
St Mary's Catholic Primary School  
St Stephen's Primary School  
St Thomas' C of E Primary School



# Chair's Report

Many people reading this will have been to see this year's production of "Jack and The Beanstalk" at Hammersmith's Lyric Theatre. If so, you'll remember that Jack, his mother and their friends devote their lives to growing vegetables beneath Hammersmith flyover. Whilst the characters in the pantomime are fictitious, their activities are not too far from some of the things that HCGA's staff and volunteers do in real life!

With that thought in mind, I am very pleased to report that 2017 has been another productive year for the Association.

At a strategic level we have contributed to LBHF's recently published report on measures to improve biodiversity in the borough and in many practical ways we have been working on the ground to improve the local environment. Our Get Out There! team has undertaken practical conservation in many sites across the borough including Wormwood Scrubs, our own community garden sites and at Flora Gardens and Sullivan schools' wildlife gardens.

We have also negotiated a contract to maintain the Rain Garden at Bridget Joyce Square in White City. We recently learned that the project has won the President's Award at the Landscape Institute. As such I'd like wholeheartedly to congratulate both the designers Robert Bray Associates and our local authority for having the vision to create this space. Through working in the area on a regular basis, HCGA brings a genuine interest in ensuring that the planting and trees are cared for.



The Rain Garden project was part of the Open House event last September. Phoenix School Farm and the Ravenscourt Glasshouses also participated in Open Garden Squares weekend last June. If you haven't yet had the opportunity to visit our sites, I'd therefore recommend that you put the date of this year's Open Garden Squares event, Saturday June 9th 2018, in your diary.

Meanwhile, our corporate volunteering programme goes from strength to strength. During the past year we have worked with 18 companies, and would like to thank all of them for their support. However, I must give a special mention here to the contribution from Mace, the contractor working on the redevelopment of the former BBC site. Mace very kindly donated staff and materials to replace the pergola at Phoenix School Farm, the pond and wildlife area at Loris Garden and to the Woodman's Mews Community Garden.

The last-mentioned garden is a new community garden that we 'discovered' in 2017. It is much in need of improvement and we are helping residents to achieve this. We held the first makeover day on 1st December and have more planned in 2018.

In addition to the enthusiasm and practical assistance that corporate teams give, the financial contribution that they make represents unrestricted income for us. This then helps to support our core programmes, all of which are focused on improving the health and well-being of socially isolated people living in our communities.

Everyone in west London has in some way been touched by the Grenfell tragedy last June. One of the roof top school gardens we work with in Westminster directly overlooks the site. In partnership with Urbanwise.London during the summer we organised some trips for families affected by the tragedy. We have also run some herbal well being sessions in local libraries.

Our schools programme continues to work with 22 schools across four boroughs. In addition to practical weekly sessions, we run a programme of both bespoke and general Continuing Professional Development sessions for teachers. Our sites at Ravenscourt Park and Phoenix Farm are inspirational settings to deliver training.



In 2017 we celebrated the Tenth Anniversary of Phoenix School Farm with two events. In the first half of the year, "Spring OnThe Farm" saw us host visits from three local primary schools with lots of hands on activities, including a pop up visit with animals from Surrey Docks Farm. Imperial College provided fun activities highlighting the importance of bees and other insects in pollination. In the autumn we then held a "Harvest Festival" and invited local residents to

sample produce grown on the farm. During the event Mike Baxter, the new Head Teacher at Phoenix Academy, also presented certificates to our volunteers in recognition of their contribution to the success of the project that were again recognised as outstanding in the RHS London in Bloom competition.

The summer playscheme which we run across all of our sites provides children and their families with the opportunity to connect with nature. Our programme of trips also gives them the chance to get out of the city for the day. I'd particularly like to thank BBC Children in Need (who currently fund the programme) and Kew Gardens Community Access Scheme. Together they have enabled us to arrange 120 visits by people and children who wouldn't otherwise be able to afford the cost of those visits.

During the year we said farewell to two long-standing members of staff, Ewa Matusiak and Frances Ward, both of whom had been working for HCGA for the past eight years. We welcomed Poppy Gagiatsou and Melina Cemerikic, who have joined us as school and community gardeners. It is always good to be able to offer opportunities for young people and we were pleased also to be able to welcome Khalid Ibrahim, a former pupil of Phoenix Academy, as an assistant play worker. We have also recruited

our first apprentice, Kristen Carter, whom we welcomed to the team in September. She is working two days per week and is part of the 'Work and Retrain As a Gardener Scheme'(WRAGS) run by the Women & Farm and Garden Association.

The beneficial effects of gardening for our volunteers are clear to see from the feedback that we receive from individuals. We are proud that we manage to keep our core programmes going from year to year to provide continuity and stability for our volunteers. This year the Grow Well project which supports both people with long term health conditions, including early dementia, and their carers has been funded by the CCG. The Men in Sheds Scheme, which we started in 2016 and which is an off shoot from our Get Out There project, is also going strongly. This scheme is based at the Eco Shed in Goldophin Garden and has provided opportunities for participants to meet together informally.

Last year we adopted the working name of "Health Community Gardening Activities". This has helped in expanding our work into neighbouring boroughs of Kensington and Chelsea, where we run a schools programme, and Westminster, where we have run a community gardening programme on the Fisherton estate, delivered a 10 week herbal programme in Church Street Library and run a series of green walks funded by Westminster Adult Education Service. It is great that we can share our skills and expertise with new groups, but like many other smaller charities securing longer term funding is a continuing challenge.

So what else will 2018 bring? Well, negotiations for a new, long-term lease of the Ravenscourt Park glasshouses are nearing a conclusion and I hope that we will be able to enter into this in early 2018. This should then serve as a springboard to allow us to progress our plans to re-built the glasshouses and expand our activities on that site.

Two of our trustees, Bridget Hinkley and Debbie Peters-Mill, are sadly both having to leave us because their lives are now taking them in different directions. Both will be missed, and I thank both for all that they have done for HCGA. However, I would also like to thank all our remaining trustees for giving up their time once again throughout 2017, and I would like to end by mentioning one trustee, Evangeline Karn, in particular. Evangeline had a special birthday this year and asked her friends to make donations to HCGA in lieu of gifts. Thank you, Evangeline, for your very generous contribution to HCGA and all that we do.

## Simon Beale, January 2018



# Get Out There! & Men in Sheds Project

The Get Out There! project, running since 2010, offers a weekly volunteer opportunity for long term unemployed older men. Volunteers undertake environmental conservation activities at both our community gardens and other conservations sites.

The project is based at Godolphin Road Garden and last year we were also able to use the facilities of the Eco Shed and the tools to establish a Men in Sheds project. This is a self-directed programme where men can meet informally and undertake woodworking, gardening and bike maintenance.

We were delighted when funding from the Community Champions programme was extended for a second year. We hosted visits from other groups looking to start up similar schemes and several members of the project also attended the Community Champions conference.



# Phoenix School Farm and Learning Zone

This year we celebrated the 10th Anniversary of this award-winning project. A grant from the Big Lottery Celebrate fund meant we were able to host Spring on the Farm, a day of activities when pupils from 3 local primary schools were able to visit the farm and take part in lots of hands-on activities including felt making and a pollination game which was led by the Opal team part of Imperial College. The highlight for the children was a visit from Surrey Docks City Mobile Farm.



Throughout the term the farm provided opportunities for learning outside the classroom for students from both Phoenix Academy and feeder primary schools. In the holiday periods we have run a series of grow, cook and eat activities including sessions for families affected by the Grenfell tragedy.

In the autumn we invited the local community to share our Harvest Celebrations which included sharing food made with farm produce: pumpkin soup, homemade pizza from the wood fired oven, carrot cake and

beetroot and chocolate cake. The reputation of the farm is international and in May we hosted a visit from a Chinese company who were sponsoring a garden at the Chelsea Flower Show who wanted to get ideas and inspiration for setting up a similar project.

Much of the infrastructure of the site, particularly the central pergola was in need of replacement. We were delighted when a team from Mace Construction, who are currently working on the refurbishment of the former BBC site, sent down a pro-bono team to undertake the work and they also provided all the materials. Later in the year they returned with an oak pizza table made by their apprentices.

The Salt Yard Restaurant group continues to support the project and hosted their annual pop up restaurant in June. The Farm project is also supported by the Flame Charity.

## Schools Educational Programme

We continued to deliver weekly school gardening session across 4 boroughs currently working in a total of 14 schools on a regular basis running curriculum linked lessons and gardening clubs. We also ran additional one-off sessions to other schools including advice on developing school grounds, encouraging wildlife and food growing. This year we have run a programme of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) sessions open to

any individuals working in schools or nurseries. We have hosted visits from the entire teaching staff of several local nurseries at the glasshouses in Ravenscourt Park. From here our volunteers who meet on Monday mornings are able to grow lots of starter plants for the schools we work with.

The horticultural course for adults with learning difficulties is now running for the fifth consecutive year, inspiring a new group of learners at the glasshouses.



## Family & Community Events

Our play activities ran throughout the school holidays and offered free outdoor, educational and fun activities to local families. In May we were very pleased to be awarded a grant from BBC Children in Need to fund the play activities for the next three years. As well as running activities in our gardens we also ran family trips to the countryside and to local attractions such as the Wetlands Centre.

We participated in local community events in Ravenscourt and Normand Parks and local Green Transport

Fairs. We ran seasonal community events such as a Lavender workshop, Pickling and Preserving Workshop and Christmas Wreath Making. We organised the annual May Madness event on Starch Green with the Askew Business Network and held the annual Christmas Light Switch-On with the help of Santa in December. We opened the Glasshouses in Ravenscourt Park and Phoenix School Farm as part of the London-wide Open Garden Squares Weekend and participated in other national events such as The Great Get Together and the Big Dig.



## Grow Well

We continue to run our popular Grow Well courses based mainly at Ravenscourt Park Glasshouses. These courses run in Spring, Summer and Autumn terms. There are morning sessions for individuals who need some extra support. Many of these clients are referred by the Stroke Association and the NHS West London Mental Health Trust Memory Clinic. The afternoon sessions are focused on carers, many of whom have come to us through the Carers Network.



This year the course is funded by the NHS Hammersmith and Fulham Clinical Commissioning Group. The courses offer gardening and health and wellbeing activities. They have included workshops on healthy eating, new activities such as making living willow structures, mindfulness and relaxation activities delivered by Back on Track and visits from a health trainer. Grow Well participants also planted boxes of herbs that were used in an exhibition by the London Brain Project highlighting the impact of dementia.

Outreach work has included promotional work at a Carers Rights Day event and at White City Community Centre and delivering sessions for Hammersmith United Charities and local occupational therapists. Hammersmith United Charities kindly offered to share their facilities at Sycamore House to run Grow Well sessions together with their residents during some of the coldest weather.

## Health and Wellbeing

Support for local health related projects has continued during the year. We have been very pleased to offer the use of Ravenscourt Park glasshouses to occupational therapists from West London Mental Health Trust to run their research based ecotherapy programmes for people living with dementia.

We have delivered herbal based sessions to these groups and have

also taken on two occupational therapy students on placement at both the Grow Well project and at sessions delivered at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, helping them to achieve their placement objectives.



## CW+

We have continued to run nature inspired activities in older people's wards at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital with their charity CW+ on Thursday mornings. These activities are designed to increase patients' social engagement by involving them in sensory rich activities that are delivered to patients at their bedsides.

Activities are structured to be attractive to the senses, mainly of sight, touch and smell, and to be seasonal and easily delivered using resources that can be carried on a tray to each patient.

Activities have included seasonal flower arrangements, herb bouquets, pot pourri, lavender bags, autumn leaf mobiles and nature inspired Christmas decorations. Both patients and staff have been delighted by the activities that have 'brought the outside inside'.

## Big Green Local

For the second year on behalf of the Wormholt and White City Big Local, a lottery funded neighbourhood initiative, we co-ordinated the Best Front Garden Competition and Josephine Lansiquot from Champlain House was a well-deserved winner. In Wormholt ward residents who have created a community garden at the end of Thorpbank Road were commended. The LBHF Housing Department sponsored the prizes for this event.



HCGA were on hand at the W12 Festival in Wormholt Park in July to offer gardening advice and sell plants. The Big Local also funded weekly twilight sessions for local families every Thursday night throughout the spring and summer and family gardening sessions in the school holidays with lots of opportunities for hands on muddy activities at Phoenix Farm.

Throughout the year we also arranged a number of trips for local residents, Pick Your Own Fruit at a farm in Hertfordshire is always popular and for some children is their first visit to the countryside. We have taken groups to Kew Gardens and the City

Harvest Festival Show at Capel Manor College in September. Students from Phoenix Academy potted up daffodil bulbs that were then given to local elders who attended the annual Christmas Lunch.

We also used our experience of running events to deliver a training session for local residents.

## Other Gardening Activities

In addition to our main site Godolphin and Loris Road Community Gardens and the Glasshouses in Ravenscourt Park we use our expertise and resources to support several other community gardening initiatives.

### Queens Park Community Gardens, Westminster

The second year of this contract has seen the establishment of a regular volunteer session on Thursday mornings. The group have created a wonderful perennial flower bed in the Rose garden. This year rather than awarding a couple of prizes in the Front Garden Competition we gave out certificates to all entrants, who were making an effort to improve the local neighbourhood. Over 150 certificates were awarded along with free plants. Promoting the event provided opportunities for contacting lots of local people.

We have also run a couple of corporate team days who helped clear an area ready for the establishment of a

community orchard in 2018. To promote this initiative we held an Apples and Pears Day in the autumn.



### Fisherton Estate Community Plots

HCGA runs regular gardening sessions at the Fisherton Estate Community Plots. Our expert gardeners give growing advice to the participants as well as seeds, plants and materials.

### Normand Park Community Plots

HCGA continues to run the weekly gardening sessions at Normand Park Community plots, a series of raised beds offering over 30 individual plots to local individuals, families and groups. In 2017 the plots continue to be oversubscribed and the weekly sessions are well attended. Our expert gardeners give growing advice to the participants as well as seeds, plants and materials. We also run children's activities on a monthly basis as many families tend to their plots on the way home from school.



# Volunteers and Ambassadors

Our dedicated volunteers have once again 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 key volunteers, 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 problems and are long-term unemployed. We receive referrals from health professionals and other agencies and we run volunteer introductions 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 8,547 hours in 2017. Special thanks to Hugh Faichney, David Hills and Eamon Kanés who volunteer as caretakers at our community gardens.

# Corporate Volunteering Programme



We have worked with 19 different companies this year on corporate volunteering days. We are very grateful to the volunteers who always approach the day with enthusiasm and work very hard to complete the tasks set for them. This year volunteers have worked at HCGA sites, including installing a new pond in Loris Gardens. They have also improved green spaces in local schools, nurseries, care homes and parks. Companies also give a donation which covers HCGA staff time and materials.

## New Initiatives in 2017

During the year we have increased our gardening on the White City Estate. For the housing office with a corporate team we created some growing beds in front of their offices, and ran some gardening sessions for the staff team. The idea being that local residents can help themselves to herbs etc.

We have also taken on a maintenance contract for the award winning Rain Garden in Bridget Joyce Square.

In addition to this new work, we have also undertaken a significant amount of maintenance at Loris Gardens, including tree pruning and refurbishment of the pond and wildlife area.



In October we were approached by the Department of Education to work with residents of Woodmans Mews in the north of the borough to restore their community garden which had long been neglected. We were really surprised to discover this hidden open space and to date have worked with the Department to submit some funding bids and have held the first of a series of corporate work days to make the site fit for purpose.



During the year for the first time we delivered a programme 'Discovering the Green City', a series of 10 guided walks on behalf of Westminster Adult Education service which included visits to the Geffrye Museum, Kensington Roof-top Gardens, the allotment in Regents Park and Kew Gardens.

*"Thank you for bringing us to this beautiful place, I can't wait to bring my husband. I can't describe how amazing this place is. Thank you, thank you."* – **Shammi**



Through this project we made links with Church Street Library and worked with the English as Additional Language classes to deliver a 10 week Herbs for Well-Being course, which was funded by the Church Street Regeneration Initiative. Both the walks programme and herbal workshops have been re-commissioned in 2018.



# Finance

April 2016 - March 2017

Our income was slightly lower this year reflecting the end of NHS-funded Plant a Seed project. Our largest source of income remains contracts to deliver school gardening and health-related programmes.

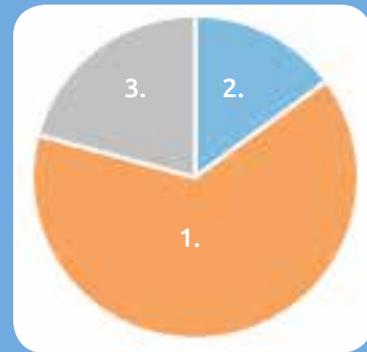
HCGA received grants from the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham totalling £35,000pa, which has been confirmed to March 2019. The expansion of our work into the neighbouring boroughs of Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster secured funding of £22,710.

Total income for the year was £207,496 (2015/16 £266,204) and expenditure was £203,948 (2015/16 £248,588). The net current assets of the Association were £78,785 and the total funds were 119,840, the principal assets being the 2 Eco Sheds and the van.

The Association has leases until 2024 on both the Community Garden sites, and a 25 year lease on the Glasshouses in Ravenscourt Park is currently being negotiated.

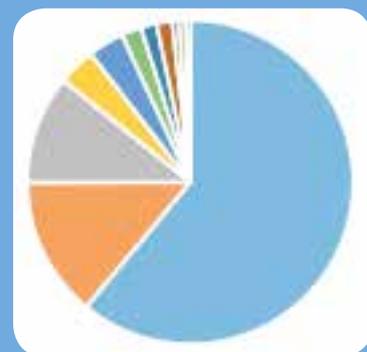
**Reserves Policy:** The Association has a reserves policy of 3 months running costs.

## Income £207,496



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

## Expenditure £203,948



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](http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk) or by email or post from HCGA.



# Partners and Supporters of HCGA 2017

Askew Business Network  
Back on Track  
Big Local –Wormholt and White City  
CW+ ( Chelsea and Westminster Hospital)  
Community Champions White City  
Cultivate London  
Cultivating Kensington and Chelsea  
Cyledelik  
Doorstep Library  
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  
Health Education North West London  
Imperial College  
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 Brain Project  
London Grows - Sustain  
London Parks and Garden Squares Trust  
London Sports Trust  
Northwest London Mental Health Trust  
Paddington Development Trust  
Philip Wooller Estate Agents  
QPR Community Trust  
Quadron Idverde  
Queens Park Community Council  
Ravenscourt Residential  
Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea

Sobus  
Soup For Lunch  
Taylor Woodrow  
The Salt Yard Group  
Urbanwise.London  
West London Zone  
Westminster Adult Education Service  
Westway Community Transport  
White City Enterprise  
White Noise

# Team & Corporate Volunteers 2017

Bird and Bird  
Dunhumby  
Education and Skills Funding Agency  
Experian  
GE  
Harrods  
IMG  
K2partnering  
Land Securities  
Legal and General  
Lloyds Bank  
Mace  
Marks and Spencer  
Portakabin  
Odds Checker  
RLB  
SOS International  
Taylor Woodrow  
Tideway  
Virgin



## Trustees

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

Chair  
Treasurer

(Resigned December 2017)

## Staff

Cathy Maund  
Katie Shaw  
Kevin Bittan  
Ewa Matusiak  
Zoe Lyall  
Liz Clark  
Rose Cresser  
Ulla Johnson  
Emila Ochocka  
Frances Ward  
Deborah Culmer  
Melina Cemerikic  
Poppy Gagiatsou  
Kristen Carter  
Khalid Ibrahim

Director  
Operations Manager  
Get Out There! Co-ordinator (to March 2017)  
School and Community Gardener (to July 2017)  
School and Community Gardener  
Sessional Community Gardener  
Sessional Community & Schools Gardener  
Sessional Community Gardener  
Sessional Community & Schools Gardener  
Sessional Community Garden (to July 2017)  
Sessional Schools Gardener  
Sessional Community Gardener  
Sessional Community & Schools Gardener  
WRAGS Apprentice  
Assistant Playworker

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