

STREATHAM COMMON COMMUNITY GARDEN

England & Wales · Charity number 1154156

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2013-10-09

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

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Activities

Objects: THE CHARITY'S OBJECTS OF THE CIO ARE:1. THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION FOR THE INHABITANTS OF STREATHAM COMMON AND ADJOINING NEIGHBOURHOODS IN PARTICULAR BY:A) PROVIDING A DEMONSTRATION OF AND TRAINING IN (ORGANIC) GARDENING / GROWING OF VEGETABLES;B) RUNNING AN (ORGANIC) GARDEN AND DEMONSTRATING (ORGANIC) GARDENING AND FOOD CULTIVATION METHODS WHICH INCLUDE HORTICULTURE, SELF SUFFICIENCY, LOCAL FOOD GROWING AND RECYCLING;C) MAINTAINING THE HISTORIC NATURE OF STREATHAM COMMON ROOKERY NURSERY GARDEN AND EDUCATING ABOUT ITS HERITAGE.2. THE PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION OF THE STREATHAM COMMON ROOKERY NURSERY GARDEN AND ITS STRUCTURES FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT WITH A VIEW TO PROMOTING THE CONSERVATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT MORE GENERALLY BY PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE CULTIVATION AND APPRECIATION OF FLORA AND FAUNA3. THE PROVISION AND MAINTENANCE OF A PUBLIC GARDEN FOR THE USE AND BENEFIT OF THE INHABITANTS OF THE STREATHAM COMMON AREA AND THE SURROUNDS AND VISITORS TO THE AREA (THE BENEFICIARIES) IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND WITH THE OBJECTS OF IMPROVING CONDITIONS OF LIFE FOR THE SAID BENEFICIARIES.

Activities: A full description of our activities is included in our annual report. Principally these are related to our educational object. Over the year we have held open volunteer garden sessions every week except winter when bi weekly) as a demonstration project and also a variety of workshops and events and seasonal

topical sessions. We continued a programme of learner beds with new participants

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Education/training, Environment/conservation/heritage, Economic/community Development/employment
- **Who:** Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Lambeth

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-10-07	£9,817	£8,747	-	-
2024-10-07	£13,852	£7,189	-	-
2023-10-07	£14,512	£14,804	-	-
2022-10-07	£10,180	£17,855	-	-
2021-10-07	£35,097	£13,159	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Adam Ewan Gibbs		2022-10-01
Barbara Booth		2021-08-01
Helen Elizabeth Swan		2024-09-01
Jovana Ristovski		2025-08-19
KATHRYN DALY		2013-05-19
Oliver David Holliday		2025-03-01
Robert Gareth Smithies		2025-11-25
Samantha Jane Elizabeth Johnston		2026-05-14
Stephanie Wing Yan Smith		2023-07-01

STREATHAM COMMON COMMUNITY GARDEN

England & Wales - Charity number 1154156

Accounts



Streatham
Common
Community
Garden



**Annual report and accounts for the year ended
7th October 2025.**

This report has been prepared by the Trustees of Streatham Common Community Garden, registered charity 1154156. It was agreed at the Trustees' meeting on 24th November 2025 and will be placed on our website, <https://streathamcommoncommunitygarden.org>.

The report covers the period 8th October 2024 to 7th October 2025.

Trustees' Report

Over the last year, we have achieved the following, further details are given in the body of this report:

- Creating a welcoming place for new volunteers and visitors.
- Managing the Learner Plotters' and the Little Growers' projects. The Learner Plotters' project continues to introduce new people to gardening and to unite people from different backgrounds through a common interest. The Little Growers' project offers children, from 6 to 9 years of age, the chance to grow their own healthy vegetables.
- Managing events throughout the year. These events aim to increase skills, bring the community together and to celebrate the diverse heritage of residents, including black history month and the volunteers' lunch.
- Growing a broad variety of fruit and vegetables on site.
- Supporting habitats that encourage birds and other wildlife including frogs and toads.
- Maintaining contact with our friends, colleagues and people interested in gardening through newsletters and regular updates on social media.
- Working with our colleagues from Streatham Common Cooperative (SCCoop) to maintain the site.

Working together we deliver something amazing that everyone can enjoy. We could not do this without our wonderful volunteers, and the following report pays testament to everyone's efforts. Thank you!

Trustees, Streatham Common Community Garden

Our Charitable Purposes and Public Benefit

Availability of the Garden

Apart from a short break for Christmas 2024 and in January 2025, we have opened each Wednesday and Sunday between 11am and 3pm.

Volunteers and Visitors

We continue to welcome volunteers and visitors to the Garden, showcasing a place that inspires people to garden and to enjoy nature.

Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers, we could not run the garden without you!

Some of our volunteers have been attending the garden regularly for many years, others come along for an occasional visit. We tailor tasks to the needs of the garden and to people's individual abilities. There is no pressure to attend every week, and people can stay for as little or for as long as they can.

In the year ending 7th October 2025 we had 110 volunteers offering a total of 2,745 hours.

This compares to the year ending 7th October 2024 when we had 112 volunteers offering 2,735 hours.

In considering these volunteer hours it is noted that:

- It does not include the Little Growers, which is a gardening activity for children.
- It does include the Learner Plotters who attended in the final months of 2024 and those with a plot in 2025. Plotters contribute to the overall maintenance of the garden.
- It excludes the paid for Community Gardener in both 2024 and 2025.
- It excludes Trustee hours off site, which are spent managing the garden.

When we look at the volunteer hours in a little more detail it gives us some interesting information, namely:

- Of the 110 volunteers, 39 people volunteered for less than four hours. The picture is similar in year to 7th October 2024, when there were 41 people who volunteered for less than four hours. There may be many reasons this. Such as, people came with a friend, they were visiting the area, or the garden just wasn't for them. But it suggests that there is more work for us to do to encourage people to return.
- There were ten people who volunteered for more than 75 hours. These were mainly Trustees but included two Plotters and one of our long-term dedicated volunteers. Huge thanks!

Education and training

As in previous years we have run the Learner Plotters' project and the Little Growers' project, supported by a Community Gardener who is on site on a Sunday.

Community Gardener

Catherine Birkett provided services to the end of November 2024. She decided not to renew her contract in 2025 to reclaim her Sundays and to relax!

Fabrice Boltho took up the role as Community Gardener on 9th February 2025. He will continue until the end of November 2025. Fabrice has been a firm favourite with Plotters and Little Growers. He has impressed everyone with his horticultural knowledge and has been such an asset. We hope that he will renew his contract in 2026.

Learner Plotters

Our Learner Plotters start in Spring and people can continue until the early months of the following year when they clear their plot for the next intake. People without a garden apply to have a small plot to develop their skills with guidance from the Community Gardener, through workshops or from more experienced Trustees.



In 2024 17 people signed up, albeit this number reduced to 15 people attending.

In 2025, we increased the size of the plots slightly, with 14 Plotters for most of the season. (One Plotter came for a short time but was replaced by a couple). Whilst there has been a drop off in attendance, post summer, generally people have maintained their plot and have been very positive about the experience. The group have worked well together, and we hope that people will continue to support the garden in some way after their participation in the programme ends.

Little Growers

The Little Growers project is attended by children between 6-9 years of age. They

meet every Sunday, from 12 noon to 1pm with a parent or carer. Each child has a section of a raised bed where they choose what to grow, how to look after their plants and to harvest their own crops.

In 2025, seven children attended along with their adult companions, and occasionally a brother or sister. The parents of two of the Little Growers have said that they would like to come back in 2026 as Plotters.

The parents have been very positive about the 2025 programme. Not only have the children enjoyed the time that they have spent in nature, but they have also had great growing success and made new friends.

Duke of Edinburgh Award Participants

Three Duke of Edinburgh Award participants volunteered at the garden during the Spring and Summer of 2025. We were particularly impressed by their enthusiasm, reliability and willingness to undertake tasks. All participants attended in accordance with our safeguarding policy requirements.

A Growing Hub and Wildlife

Every growing year presents new challenges. After a wet November and December 2024, the Spring and Summer of 2025 were exceptionally dry. We have therefore spent hours watering plants, and this is something for us to consider in the future as we adapt to climate changes.



Apples and quinces were abundant this year and we were fortunate not to be hit by tomato blight until October 2025. Other areas of note are:

- The 'no dig' gardening method, continues to be successful. Though we have used significant amounts of compost in ground cover we are addressing this, see below.
- The polytunnel was an asset when sowing seeds and providing cover for tender plants.
- Potatoes were a great success.
- The bed for medicinal plants is well established. We have also joined a collaborative natural dyes project run by *The Remakery* based in SE5.
- We continue to get good results from the world garden including the polytunnel for the growing of plants not normally seen in south London.
- Although robustly pruned, the fig tree has been quick growing and produced a lot of fruit.
- We reduced the area of the asparagus bed and introduced spaces for growing pumpkins and squashes of different varieties.
- We have extended the composting area and are now getting good results. We would like to do more on this and have submitted a bid to the National Garden Scheme for funding.

Maintenance of the Site

Unfortunately, our security was tested by a break in and a man who was sleeping at the garden. Working with SCCoop, the incidents were reported to the police, albeit there was no further action. Locks were replaced and we took actions to ensure that anything of value was secured, and people were not on site alone.

On a more positive note, we have purchased new furniture for the Education room to make better use of the space and to ensure it's a welcoming and attractive area for people to use. We hope those attending the AGM on 4th January will enjoy the enhanced space.

Events Held at the Community Garden

In addition to workshops included in the Learner Plotters project, we held events for volunteers and the wider community. These were –

Event	When	What we did.
Black History month	October 2024	Held just inside this reporting period. The story of sugar cane and cotton, plus a lunch to celebrate people's cultures and heritage.
Wreathmaking Workshops	November and December 2024	Four workshops, on making Christmas wreaths with natural materials.
Tree Pruning	January 2025	Workshop on winter hard wood pruning.
Outdoor Science Activities	April 2025	Celebrating the launch of a book written by a former Trustee, to give parents ideas for easy and fun activities to support their child's formal learning.
Volunteers lunch	June 2025	A bring and share lunch with Plotters, Little Growers and volunteers.
Natural Dye Workshop	July 2025	Two workshops on using natural dyes, as noted elsewhere in this report we hope in the future to use dye plants from the garden.
Tree Pruning	July 2025	Workshop on soft fruit pruning.
Apple Day	September 2025	A fun day of apple pressing and all things apples!

Please note that the Wassail event planned to follow the AGM on 5th January 2025 was cancelled. Extremely heavy rain meant the ground was too wet for Brixton Tatterjacks to perform safely.

All the events brought people into the garden to enjoy a very special place. They also provided skills, enhanced knowledge, recognised the contribution of our volunteers bringing our wonderful community together

Communications

Over the last year we have sent out regular newsletters. These keep our supporters up to date with what is happening in the garden as well as news about our partners.

We have also increased our social networking presence, with regular updates on Instagram and Facebook. These have been very successful, and we continue to grow following. Using a snapshot at the end of September 2025, our followers were Facebook 1.3K and Instagram 2.1K.

Working with Partners

We have continued to work positively with our partners and neighbours, Inkspot brewery, as well as representatives from Lambeth Council.

We would like to particularly thank Vicky Peet the manager of SCCoop with whom we have worked closely and who has given us particular support at the Wednesday sessions.

Considering the above, the Trustees are satisfied the charity has met its obligations for charitable purposes and for the public benefit. The remainder of the report considers Trustee appointments and the financial accounts



Trustees

As at year end (7th October 2025) the Trustees were as follows:

Adam Gibbs

Barbara Booth

Kate Daly

Katharine Samuel

Jill Seymour

Steph Smith

Helen Swan

Oliver Holliday (co-opted Trustee 1st March 2025)

Jo Ristovski (co-opted Trustee 19th August 2025)

Those who resigned during the year.

Anna Savage resigned as a Trustee on 22nd July 2025.

Changes for year 2025-2026.

Jill Seymour has noted her intention to resign with effect from 31st January 2026

Elections

In view of the resignation of Anna Savage and the intended resignation of Jill Seymour, no further Trustees will stand down this year.

Whilst not a requirement of the Constitution we will use the opportunity of the AGM on 4th January 2026 to formally elect the Coopted Trustees, Oliver Holliday and Jo Ristovski. At the time of writing we hope that an additional applicant will be stand for election at the AGM, details to be confirmed on the day.

We will also seek to confirm Adam Gibbs continuing in the role of Treasurer.

Finance Report

The final page of this report shows the full year statement of accounts for year ending 7th October 2025. These will be subject to approval by Members at the AGM on 4th January 2026.

Notes on the Financial Statement of Accounts

To confirm, the accounts show the full year position, on a cash accounting basis, as of 7th October 2025, based on money in the charity's bank accounts. Any income or expenditure passed through the bank account after this date are not included. The balance of money held is primarily unrestricted.

Overall, our financial position has improved by £1,070. Expenditure increased in 2024-25 compared to the previous year. A lot of this is due to investments in new equipment for the garden, such as tools for tree care and new storage for the education room, but there is also an increase in the cost of general supplies.

Restricted Funds

In 2025 the Learner Plotters' project and Little Growers' project (including the Community Gardeners) have been part funded by money received from City Bridge. Drawn from a three-year grant awarded in July 2023. This is lower than previous grants, so the garden is funding the difference from reserves.

Events

Paid events were a significant contribution to our overall income, showing an increase compared with last year, but with a much smaller increase in the associated costs. This category does not include regular donations or sales made during the event, but these also increase on days when large numbers of visitors are brought to the garden.

Sales and Donations

The previous year had an unusually high total for this category due to a very generous one-off donation. Therefore, this the decrease in donations this year represents a return to typical levels. One area that increased noticeably was donations through the Easy fundraising scheme, which is shown as a separate category.

Sales

Sales at the garden of fruit and vegetables as well as plants and event-specific things such as apple juice and pumpkins usually account for a smaller, but still significant, source of income for the garden. This year had a large decrease in this category, which continues the trend of previous years.

Other

Insurance costs have remained static, and the website supplier has not levied charges again this year. We opened a charity savings account in September which

allows the garden to earn interest on the amount in reserves, which will start to appear in the accounts next year.

The financial statement is in the two tables below.

Streatham Common Community Garden

Income & Expenditure

8/10/24 - 7/10/25

Year Ending 7/10/25

INCOME	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	TOTAL	Total Yr Ending 7/10/24	Difference 2024 & 2025
	£	£	Total £		
Grants (City Bridge & Higgidy)		5,090	5,090	7,945	-2,855
Sales	983		983	1,779	-796
Donations	1,030		1,030	2,241	-1,211
Events	2,607		2,607	1,818	789
Prizes	0		0	0	0
Easyfundraising	107		107	29	78
Gift Aid	0		0	0	0
Gross Income	4,727	5,090	9,817	13,812	-3,995

Payments	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	TOTAL	2024	Variance
	£	£	Total £		
Community Gardeners - City Bridge		5,523	5,523	4,864	659
Restricted Donations		0	0	0	0
Garden Supplies	759		759	529	230
Equipment	1,055		1,055	0	1,055
Maintenance	584		584	453	131
Volunteer Expenses	25		25	0	25
Events	801		801	771	30
Insurance	0		0	124	-124
Website Hosting	0		0	0	0
Total Payments	3,224	5,523	8,747	6,741	2,006

	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	TOTAL	2024	Variance
Gross Income Less Total Payments	1,503	-433	1,070	6,663	-5,593
Transfer between funds	0	0	0	0	
Cash Funds at 7/10/24	22,859	10,570	33,429		
Cash Funds at 7/10/25	24,362	10,137	34,499	33,429	
Petty Cash 7/10/25				15	0
Bank Balance at 7/10/25	24,362	10,137	34,499	33,414	1,070
Total Cash Balance	24,362	10,137	34,499	33,429	1,070

Streatham Common Community Garden

Balance sheet

For the year ended 07 October 2025

	07/10/2025	07/10/2024
Current assets:	£	£
Net Current Assets	34,499	33,429
Total Net Assets	34,499	33,429
The funds of the charity:		
Restricted funds	10,137	10,570
Unrestricted funds	24,362	22,859
Total charity funds	34,499	33,429

STREATHAM COMMON COMMUNITY GARDEN

England & Wales - Charity number 1154156

Accounts

The logo features a stylized tree with a circular canopy of green leaves, where the trunk is a hand holding the canopy.

Streatham
Common
Community
Garden



**Annual report and accounts for the year ended
7th October 2024.**

This report has been compiled by the Trustees of Streatham Common Community Garden, registered charity 1154156. It was agreed at the Trustee meeting on 4th November 2024 and will be placed on our website, <https://streathamcommoncommunitygarden.org>.

The report covers the period 8th October 2023 to 7th October 2024.

Trustees' Report

We hope that all our volunteers and visitors have got pleasure from the Community Garden and been inspired to grow plants, or just to spend more time in nature. Over the last year, we have achieved the following. Further details are given in the body of this report:

- Creating a welcoming place for new volunteers and visitors.
- Managing the Learner Plotters' and the Little Growers' projects. The Learner Plotters' project continues to introduce new people to gardening and to unite people from different backgrounds through a common interest. The Little Growers' project offers children, from 6 to 9 years of age, the chance to grow their own healthy vegetables.
- Managing events throughout the year. These include events to inform and to increase skills, including the tree pruning workshop. Those that bring the community together and celebrate the diverse heritage of residents, including black history month and the volunteers' lunch. As well as those that are just fun, such as Wassailing.
- Growing a broad variety of fruit and vegetables on site. From the common place such as potatoes to the unusual, for example medlars. Visitors are often fascinated by the range of plants we have and to learn how their supermarket produce grows. For example, asparagus is a frequent revelation to many!
- Supporting habitats that encourage birds and other wildlife including frogs and toads.
- Increasing our reach, through newsletters and regular updates on social media.
- Working with our colleagues from Streatham Common Cooperative (SCCoop) to maintain the site. This year we have made great use of the new polytunnel and expanded our composting facilities.

Over the last year our Trustee Board have shown that, even when our resources are stretched, by working together we can deliver something amazing that everyone can enjoy. We could not do this without our wonderful volunteers and the following report pays testament to everyone's efforts. Thank you!

Trustees, Streatham Common Community Garden

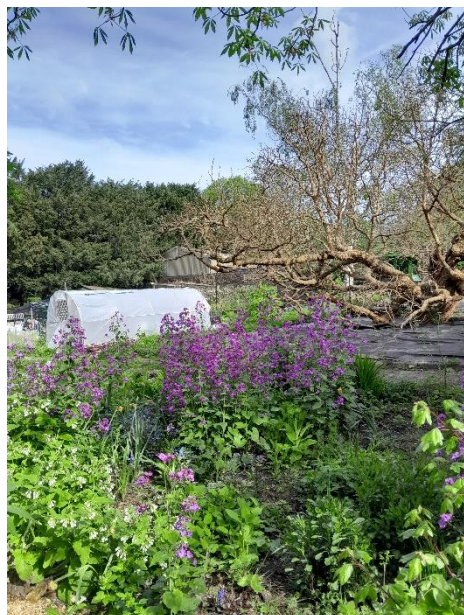
Our Charitable Purposes and Public Benefit

Availability of the Garden

Apart from a short break for Christmas 2023 and in January 2024, we have opened each Wednesday and Sunday between 11am and 3pm.

Volunteers and Visitors

We continue to welcome volunteers and visitors to the Garden, showcasing a place that inspires people to garden and to enjoy nature.



Our volunteers are core to our everyday activities of sowing, planting, weeding, digging, and watering. Some of our volunteers have been attending the garden regularly for many years, others come along during for an occasional visit or for a short period, e.g. during university holidays. We tailor volunteer tasks to the needs of the Garden and to people's individual abilities. There is no pressure to attend every week, and people can stay for as little or for as long as they can. This flexibility is significant in our ability to attract a broad range of people.

In the year ending 7th October 2024 we had 112 volunteers offering a total of 2,735 hours.

This compares to the year ending 7th October 2023 when we **had 117 volunteers offering 2,948 hours.**

The reduction of hours is primarily due to less Trustee time on site, because of personal issues unconnected with the Garden.

In considering these volunteer hours it is noted that:

- It does not include the Little Growers, which is a gardening activity for children and is discussed below.
- It does include the Learner Plotters, whose contribution supports the overall maintenance of the garden. More details are provided below.
- It excludes the paid for Community Gardener.
- It excludes Trustee hours which are spent managing the garden.

Education and training



As in previous years we have run the Learner Plotters' project and the Little Growers' project, supported by a Community Gardener who is on site on a Sunday.

Community Gardener

Patrick Mc Cabe was our Community Gardener up to the end of October 2023. He continued to provide cover in 2024, when Catherine took the occasional Sunday off, and he led a workshop, as below.

Catherine Birkett was appointed as the Community Gardener on 25th February 2024 and will provide services to the end of November 2024. Catherine is not going to renew her contract in 2025, as she looking forward to

relaxing on Sundays again!

We will begin recruitment for next year's Community Gardener by the end of 2024.

Learner Plotters

Our Learner Plotters (Plotters) start in Spring and people can continue until the early months of the following year when they clear their plot for the next intake. People without a garden apply to have a small plot for a year to develop their skills with guidance from a Community Gardener or from more experienced Trustees and volunteers at the garden. As well as on-site support, they are offered workshops and can participate in a WhatsApp group to share ideas and to create a community of interest.

In 2023 we had 18 participants, with some plots shared by two family members. Feedback from these Plotters suggested that the size of the plots should be increased. So, in 2024 we reduced the number of plots to 11, with 17 people signed up, albeit this number consolidated to 11 plots with 15 people attending. In 2024 the Plotters started on 7th April. This was a couple of weeks later than usual whilst we completed the recruitment for a Community Gardener. Looking forward we will aim have people on site from mid-March 2025.

Little Growers

The Little Growers project is attended by children between 6-9 years of age. They meet every Sunday, from 12 noon to 1pm with a parent or carer. Each child has a section of a raised bed where they choose what to grow, how to look after their plants and to harvest their own crops.

In 2024, eight children attended along with their adult companions, and occasionally a brother or sister.

Every Community Gardener offers something different to the Little Growers. This year, as well as workshops (e.g. flower prints, potting seedlings etc), tours around the garden and enjoying freshly cooked produce, each child maintained their own diary of what they did and achieved.

Duke of Edinburgh Award Participants

Three Duke of Edinburgh Award participants volunteered at the Garden during the Spring and Summer of 2024. We were particularly impressed by their enthusiasm, reliability and willingness to undertake tasks. All participants attended in accordance with our safeguarding policy requirements.

A Growing Hub and Wildlife

We have just completed our second year of using the 'no dig method' for our rotational beds. Whilst we still have a lot to learn, it has been successful. Potatoes, beetroots and various green beans have been particularly impressive! Other areas of note are:

- The new polytunnel, also see below, has been very useful in the sowing and care of tender plants.
- We have introduced a small patch showcasing medicinal plants.
- We continue to get good results from world garden including the polytunnel for the growing of plants not normally seen in south London.
- The small spaces garden demonstrates what people can do without a large growing area. This is something that we wish to build upon in the future.
- After a disappointing year in 2023, the mulberry tree was magnificent in 2024. Some produce was sold to our neighbours in the Inkspot Brewery as well as being enjoyed by volunteers and visitors.
- Although robustly pruned, the fig tree has been quick growing and produced a lot of fruit.



Every year presents challenges. This year the mix between periods of wet and warm weather meant that slugs and other predators were a particular problem. There was an occasion, (carrots), when a whole bed was eaten! We increasingly covered plants to successfully protect delicate seedlings. Whilst relatively late in the season, we also were hit by tomato

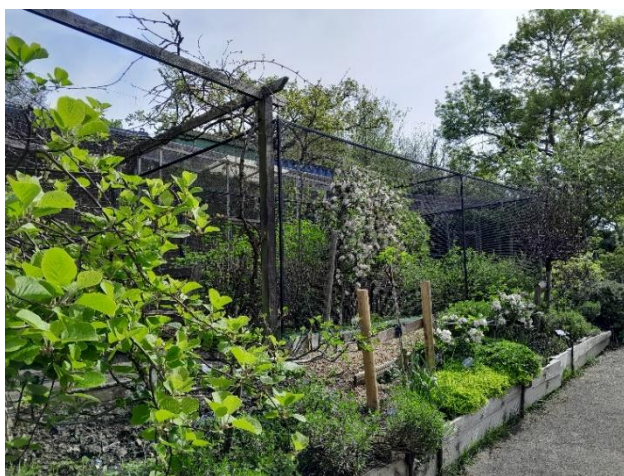
blight. A recurring problem.

We were delighted that the Community Garden was again awarded 'outstanding' in the RHS' London in Bloom assessments, with the awards on 3rd October 2024. It is so lovely to know that people external to the garden rate what we do so highly.

Maintenance of the Site

At the start of the year, we erected a large polytunnel for seedlings and tender plants. This was bought from the gift vouchers given by Incredible Edible in 2023, i.e. our prize for two awards; Abundant Growing of Edibles and Best Space for Encouraging Wildlife. Going forward there are things that we have learnt about using the polytunnel, particularly around the number of seeds sown and the need for ongoing care. In 2025, we also intend to introduce a dedicated potting area to the Garden.

Thanks to the work of volunteers and Trustees we have expanded the composting area with new bays to store garden waste. Our aim will be to produce more compost on site rather than buy in, which has been costly.



Due to wear and tear and water damage, some of the wooden boards that contain the herb garden, and the pagoda have degraded. The boards along the herb garden have been fixed and we have plans to revamp the pagoda area, (including a new vine) in 2025.

Events Held at the Community Garden

In addition to workshops included in the Learner Plotters project, we held more events than ever before for volunteers and the wider community. These were -

- Black History Month lunch in October 2023, i.e. 15th October 2023 just within this reporting period. (A further event will take place in October 2024 just outside this reporting period).
- Wreathmaking workshops in December 2023.
- Wassail attended by the Brixton Tatterjacks at the start of January 2024, to celebrate the New Year.
- Tree pruning workshop in February 2024, run by Patrick McCabe.
- Volunteers lunch July 2024. Our volunteers helped to organise, and everyone brought a dish to share and eat.
- Natural Dyes Workshop August 2024
- Apple Day September 2024.

Each event was successful, providing skills and enhancing knowledge, recognising the contribution of our volunteers or bringing the community together.

Communications

We have distributed more newsletters in the year up to 7th October 2024, than in previous years. These keep our supporters up to date with what is happening in the garden as well as news about our partners.

We have also increased our social networking presence, with regular updates on Instagram and Facebook, this has been useful in advertising events and was supportive in the recruitment of the Community Gardener.

Plans are afoot to survey volunteers and newsletter recipients. This aims to gain information about what they like about the garden, changes they'd like to see and whether there are any skills that they can contribute. We know that there are some talented people out there and we are keen to make connections. We hope that the results of the survey will be available early in 2025.

Working with Partners

We have continued to work positively with our partners and neighbours, Inkspot brewery, as well as representatives from Lambeth Council.

We would like to particularly thank Vicky Peet the manager of SCCoop with whom we have worked closely and who has given us particular support at the Wednesday sessions.

Considering the above, the Trustees are satisfied the charity has met its obligations for charitable purposes and for the public benefit. The remainder of the report considers Trustee appointments and financial accounts



Trustees for the year 2024-2025

Adam Gibbs

Anna Savage

Barbara Booth

Kate Daly

Katharine Samuel

Jill Seymour

Steph Smith

Helen Swan (Coopted Trustee September 2024)

Those who resigned during the year.

Giovanni Tivan relocated to Italy at the beginning of 2024 and resigned as a Trustee on 31st December 2023.

Elections

A third of trustees are required to stand down each year by rotation. This year the following will stand down and have indicated a wish for re-election:

- Adam Gibbs
- Katharine Samuel

We will also use the opportunity of the AGM to formally elect the Coopted Trustee (Helen Swan), albeit this is not a requirement of the Constitution.

We will also seek to confirm Adam Gibbs continuing in the role of Treasurer.

Finance Report

The final page of this report shows the full year statement of accounts for year ending 7th October 2024. These will be subject to approval by Members at the AGM on 5th January 2025.

Notes on the Financial Statement of Accounts

To confirm, the accounts show the full year position, on a cash accounting basis, as of 7th October 2024, that is money in the bank account. Any income or expenditure passed through the bank account after this date are not included, for example £240 of sales money was not banked by the 7th October cut-off date. The balance of money held is primarily unrestricted.

Overall, our financial position has improved by £6,663. Expenditure was less in year ending 7th October 2024 compared to the previous year, namely:

- In 2024 there was a slight delay in the recruitment of the Community Gardener.
- We restricted Community Gardener engagement to Sundays, Trustees providing support on Wednesdays.
- There was a slight reduction in Community Gardener hours compared to the previous year. This has not impacted on services.

Restricted Funds

In the final months of 2023, the Little Growers' project was funded by money that had been received by Higgidy (the food producer), this was the third and final year of this award.

In 2024 the Learner Plotters' project and Little Growers' project (including the Community Gardeners) have been funded by money received from City Bridge. Drawn from a three-year grant awarded in July 2023.

Events

Whilst the number of events increased this year, the income is slightly less than in 2023.

Reasons include:

- There was slightly less income from the Christmas fair in 2023, compared to the previous year.
- Income taken at Apple Day is under sales, i.e. purchase of plants and juice.
- We did not break even on the tree pruning workshop. The latter was on a donation basis and if repeated we will manage with a small charge. (The previous year this was delivered as part of the Community Gardener's contract).

Nonetheless, events are significant contribution to our overall income.

Donations

There was an increase in donations this year. A very generous one-off donation and more recently an anonymous monthly payroll contribution are significant in reaching the overall

total. We would like to extend our thanks to everyone who gives us a donation. We really appreciate people's generosity.

Gift Aid

Please note that whilst we have made an application for gift aid, covering the last two years, HMRC has not confirmed the payment by the date of this year's accounts. Money received will appear in next year's statement.

Sales

Sales at the garden of fruit and vegetables as well as plants remain important income. During 2024 fewer Trustees were able to be on site, particularly during the busy months of Spring and Summer. In this period, we had to concentrate our resources on the key purposes of the Garden focussing on growing, caring for our plants, and supporting volunteers. Sales therefore have dipped but we hope will increase in 2025.



Other

Insurance costs have increased, albeit in line with others in the insurance market. Whilst we contacted the website supplier, they have not levied charges again this year.

The financial statement is overleaf, it is over two pages.

Streatham Common Community Garden

Income & Expenditure

8/10/23 - 7/10/24

Year Ending 7/10/24

INCOME	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	TOTAL	Total Yr Ending 7/10/23	Difference 2023 & 2024
	£	£	Total £		
Grants (City Bridge & Higgidy)		7,945	7,945	8,030	-85
Unrestricted (Cavendish Lodge)			0	228	-228
Sales	1,779		1,779	3,066	-1,287
Donations	2,241		2,241	373	1,868
Subscriptions	40		40	60	-20
Events	1,818		1,818	2,045	-227
Prizes	0		0	0	0
Easy Funding & Amazon Smile	29		29	116	-88
Gift Aid	0		0	594	-594
Gross Income	5,907	7,945	13,852	14,512	-660

Payments	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	TOTAL	2023	Variance
	£	£	Total £		
Community Gardeners - City Bridge		4,864	4,864	10,694	-5,830
Community Gardeners- Higgidy		448	448	1,900	-1,452
Restricted Donations		0	0	0	0
Seeds Plants Garden Supplies	529		529	1,342	-813
Equipment Maintenance	453		453	369	84
Volunteer Expenses	0		0	18	-18
Events	771		771	385	386
Insurance	124		124	97	27
Website Hosting	0		0	0	0
					0
					0
Total Payments	1,877	5,312	7,189	14,804	-7,615

	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	TOTAL	2023	Variance
Gross Income Less Total Payments	4,029	2,633	6,663	-292	-6,955
Transfer between funds	0	0	0	0	
Cash Funds at 7/10/23	18,830	7,936	26,766		
Cash Funds at 7/10/24	22,859	10,570	33,429	26,766	6,663
Petty Cash 7/10/24	15		15	15	0
Bank Balance at 7/10/24	22,844	10,570	33,414	26,751	6,663
Total Cash Balance	22,859	10,570	33,429	26,766	6,663

Streatham Common Community Garden

Balance sheet

For the year ended 07 October 2024

	07/10/2024	07/10/2023
Current assets:	£	£
Net Current Assets	<u>33,429</u>	<u>26,766</u>
Total Net Assets	<u><u>33,429</u></u>	<u><u>26,766</u></u>
The funds of the charity:		
Restricted funds	10,570	7,936
Unrestricted funds	22,859	18,830
Total charity funds	<u><u>33,429</u></u>	<u><u>26,766</u></u>

STREATHAM COMMON COMMUNITY GARDEN

England & Wales - Charity number 1154156

Accounts

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

Streatham
Common
Community
Garden



**Annual report and accounts for the year ended
7th October 2023.**

This report has been compiled by the Trustees of Streatham Common Community Garden, registered charity 1154156. It was agreed at the Trustee meeting on 13th November 2023 and will be placed on our website, <https://streathamcommoncommunitygarden.org>.

The report covers the period 8th October 2022 to 7th October 2023.

Trustees' Report

This year has seen some changes on who manages the charity and who delivers our services.

Last year's report noted Maggie Charnley's intention to resign. She left the Board of Trustees in January 2023 after many years of valued service. This autumn Reece Owens also left the Board. We thank Reece for her expertise and hard work and hope that she and Maggie will keep in contact with us.

Three new Trustees joined the Board during June and July 2023 and are Steph Smith, Giovanni Tivan and Katharine Samuels. Each brings new and essential skills which will enhance our management of the charity. We also note, however, that sadly Giovanni will leave the Board at the end of the year, as described below.

Ruth Arnott, who had worked as the Project Coordinator/ Community Gardener for some years, advised us in January 2023 of her intention to terminate her contract. With Ruth's support we were able to engage a replacement, Poppy George, from March 2023. Poppy originally intended to work with us until 31st October 2023, but got a promotional role, leaving us at the end of August 2023. We are enormously grateful for Ruth's support during February 2023 in recruiting participants for the Learner Plotters' project, and to Poppy who worked alongside Patrick McCabe. Poppy provided support at the Wednesday sessions and Patrick on Sundays. Patrick also ran the highly successful Little Growers' project. A description of the Learner Plotters' and the Little Growers' projects are given later.

The garden has continued to welcome volunteers and visitors and to meet our main aims by the following, further details are given in the body of this report:

- Management of the Learner Plotters' and Little Growers' projects. The Learner Plotters' project continues to introduce new people to gardening and to unite people from different backgrounds through a common interest. The Little Growers' project offers children, from 6 to 9 years of age, the chance to grow their own healthy vegetables.
- Expanding the types of fruit and vegetables grown on site, through the introduction of the new 'world garden area', which also celebrates the diversity of our community.
- Being a welcoming place for new volunteers.
- Events, including a lunch for Black History Month, Apple Day, wreathmaking workshops and Wassail, that bring people to the garden for the first time and encourages them to spend time with others.

- Supporting habitats that encourage wildlife.
- Working with our colleagues from Streatham Common Cooperative (SCCoop) to maintain the site.

With the appointment of the new Trustees, we now have a planned schedule for newsletters and the use of other communication channels. These will help showcase what we do, and to bring more people into the Garden. Some of our other planned activities for the year ahead are noted at the close of this report. Sadly, this includes the recruitment of a Community Gardener. Patrick will not renew his contract next year. There are therefore personnel as well as funding challenges ahead but what the last year has shown is our ability to work together to deliver something amazing that everyone can enjoy.

Trustees, Streatham Common Community Garden

Our Charitable Purposes and Public Benefit

Availability of the Garden

We continue to open on Wednesdays and Sundays between 11am and 3pm. Unlike the summer of 2022, when extreme heat caused us to close on a couple of days, we remained open throughout the 2023 season.

Volunteers and Visitors

We welcome volunteers and visitors to the Garden, showcasing a place that inspires people to garden and to enjoy nature.

The Garden could not operate without our amazing volunteers. They continue to be core to our everyday activities of sowing, planting, weeding, digging, and watering. In the year ending 7th October 2023 **we had 117 volunteers offering 2,948 hours**. This is very similar to year ending October 2022 when we had had 118 volunteers offering 2,836 hours. (Please note that these hours include Learner Plotters for October 2022 to February 2023, plus the new intake from February 2023. They do not include Little Growers, the paid Community Gardeners or volunteer trustee hours which are spent administering the garden).

Some of our volunteers are long-term, including those who began with a learner plot and have remained committed to the Garden. The tasks that the volunteers undertake are tailored to the needs of the Garden and to people's individual abilities. There is no pressure to attend every week and people can stay for as little or for as long as they can. This flexibility is significant in our ability to attract a broad range of people and to welcome them back throughout the season.



Education and training

As in previous years we have supported the Learner Plotters' project, and we ran the Little Growers' project for a third year.

Our Learner Plotters start in spring and people can continue until the early months of the following year when they clear their plot for the next intake. People without a garden apply to have a small plot for a year to develop their skills with guidance from

the two community gardeners, one on Wednesdays and one on Sundays. As well as on-site support, they are offered workshops and can participate in a WhatsApp group to share ideas and to create a community of interest. In 2022/2023 we had 19 'Plotters' and from the spring of 2023 we had another 18 participants, some plots are shared by two family members.

To reflect funding, the Community Gardeners were contracted until 31st October 2023, just outside this reporting period. It is acknowledged that in previous years, Learner Plotters

have gained the ability to tend their plot unaided after this date and that numbers attending are much lower during the autumn and winter months. As noted previously, Poppy George left us at the end of August for opportunities elsewhere. The Trustees made the decision that it would be impractical to replace for Poppy for the period up to 31st October and that Trustees would support any Learner Plotters on Wednesdays, as needed.

During the summer, Poppy and Patrick sought feedback from the Learner Plotters on their experiences of the project. Some of their comments are as follows:

I really didn't know anything about gardening before starting with the learner plotters, so I am very happy to have grown some of my own food which I have thoroughly enjoyed cooking with. Particularly my courgettes and tomatoes.

The workshops have been great, but it has also been fantastic to have Poppy and Patrick in the garden on Wednesdays and Sundays to ask specific questions about my plot and share their wealth of knowledge. They have both been amazing.

The knowledge of both teachers has made all the difference between success and failure. Also, the shared knowledge of the volunteers is incredibly useful.

Just being able to be part of a wonderful team and learn so much about how we can easily grow produce, in what seasons and most of all being more confident and taking ownership found it was so good for my mental health as I don't have a green space, it means a lot to me.

In response to a question on potential areas for improvement, a respondent suggested longer opening hours, and another requested that the plots were bigger. Whilst we cannot amend our hours, the size of the individual plots will be increased next year.

The Little Growers project is attended by children between 6-9 years of age. They meet every Sunday, from 11am to 12pm with a parent/ carer, although there is some overspill as people are reluctant to leave. The project prioritises families living in flats who do not have



access to outside growing spaces. Each child has a section of a raised bed where they choose what to grow, how to look after their plants and to harvest their own crops.

The children are given seed starter packs to take home and grow on windowsills until the seedlings are ready for transplanting outside. In 2023, eleven children began and ten continued throughout the growing year, however most weeks up to a further three siblings joined them. Patrick McCabe ran the Little Growers' project, as well as supporting the Learner Plotters who

attended on a Sunday, see above. Patrick is a firm favourite with all the Little Growers, his skills and enthusiasm has meant that this is a very special project that undoubtedly enriches the Garden and entuses children to be involved in nature and gardening.



Our Little Growers learning about Paca Digestora

Four Duke of Edinburgh Award participants volunteered at the Garden during 2023. Initially three people, who were working towards bronze, and more recently someone working towards silver. All participants attended in accordance with our safeguarding policy requirements.

A Growing Hub and Wildlife

There have been some changes at the Garden on what we grow and how. We are now using a 'no dig method' for our rotational beds. We have had some fantastic results, and less weeding. Visitors will also note that we have areas dedicated to flowers to attract pollinators, a Christmas dinner bed for seasonal favourites, and our new polytunnel that houses our new world garden. This area showcases the growing of plants not normally seen in south London gardens, including gourds, tomatillos, bananas, and aubergines amongst others. This is a shared area, with a former Learner Plotter, Susanna, taking the lead.

In the remaining shared areas of the Garden, inevitably some plants liked this year's weather conditions and others struggled. Figs and quinces have been a huge success. Our peach tree, however, needs some tender loving care. Potatoes, beans, and beetroots remain reliable produce. We were doing well with tomatoes until blight hit, albeit very late in the season.

We were delighted that the Rookery was awarded Gold in the RHS London in Bloom assessment and within that we got 'outstanding'. Comments were made about our improvements in signage, the new world garden, and our ability to include local people in activities.

We have also received awards from Incredible Edible Lambeth for:

- Ivor Picardo Award for Abundant Growing of Edibles - Winner
- Best Space for Encouraging Wildlife – Highly Commendable

Please note, that notification of the Incredible Edible awards was received after the reporting period but relate to the 2023 season.

Maintenance of the Site

There have been no structural changes at the site. However, we continue to work with our colleagues at SCCoop to maintain the site, for example by the introduction of new compost bins, and ensuring that the Garden is secure.

Events Held at the Community Garden

In addition to workshops included in the Learner Plotters project, events that involved volunteers and the wider community included the following.

- Black History Month lunch in October 2022. As well learning about seed saving and how seeds were taken to other lands, as people were forcibly moved through slavery, we shared a lunch with dishes from around the world.
- Wreathmaking workshops in December 2022.
- Wassail attended by the Brixton Tatterjacks, to celebrate the New Year 2023.
- Tree pruning workshop in January 2023, run by Patrick.
- Hedge laying workshop in Spring 2023, organised by Reece, and supported by external facilitator.
- Apple Day returned in September 2023! This was a great success and brought new people into the garden.

In light of the above, the Trustees are satisfied the charity has met its obligations for charitable purposes and public benefit.

Apple Day 2023



Trustees for the year 2022-2023

Adam Gibbs

Anna Savage

Barbara Booth

Giovanni Tivan, Coopted Trustee July 2023 (please see note 1)

Kate Daly

Katherine Samuels, Coopted Trustee July 2023

Jill Seymour

Steph Smith, coopted Trustee July 2023

Those who resigned during the year.

Maggie Charnley, resigned January 2023

Ruth (Reece) Owens, resigned September 2023

Note 1 Giovanni Tivan will relocate to Italy at the beginning of 2024 and therefore will resign as a Trustee on 31st December 2023.

Elections

A third of trustees are required to stand down each year by rotation. This year the following will stand down and have indicated a wish for re-election:

Jill Seymour

Anna Savage

Kate Daly

We will also use the opportunity of the AGM to formally elect the two Coopted Trustees, who will continue into 2024, albeit this is not a requirement of the Constitution. They are Katharine Samuels and Steph Smith.

We will also seek to confirm Adam Gibbs continuing role as the Treasurer.

Finance Report

Donations

We would like to thank our visitors and volunteers for their monetary, as well as their time donations.

Fund raising

There has been a significant increase in the sale of plants and produce this year, with sales being made on Wednesdays and Sundays. As well as occasional visitors, we have people who purchase regularly and compliment the garden on the quality of the plants, fruit, and vegetables. Over £3,000 has been raised, an increase of over 15% on the previous year.



The Learner Plotters' project and Little Growers' project (including the Community Gardeners) were financed this year by money received from City Bridge and from Higgidy (the food producer), noting:

- An initial three-year grant from City Bridge expired in June 2023. However, we were successful in securing a further three-year grant of £5,090 per annum to run from July 2023.
- Money received from Higgidy was used to fund the third year of the Little Growers' project.

The Wreathmaking workshops were both popular and have significantly contributed to funding raising.

Comments on Full Year Accounts

These will be subject to approval, by members, at the AGM on 7th January 2024. To confirm, the accounts reflect the full year position, on a cash accounting basis, as of 7th October 2023, that is money within the bank account. Any income (for example, grant payments from City Bridge) or expenditure after this date is not included.

Overall, our financial position has not changed significantly since year ending 7th October 2022, seeing a £292 reduction. However, the balance between unrestricted and restricted reserves has changed. The amount held in unrestricted reserves has increased, now £18,830 (£14,558 in 2022) and the amount in restricted reserves has decreased, now £7,936, (£12,500 in 2022)

Community Gardener costs, include payments made to workers and related expenses.

Streatham Common Community Garden

Income & Payments

For the year ended 07 October 2023

INCOME

	£	£	£	£	£
	Yr Ending 7/10/23			Yr Ending 7/10/22	Variance 2022 & 2023
	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	TOTAL		
Grants (City Bridge & Higgidy)		8,030	8,030	5,000	3,030
Unrestricted (Cavendish Lodge)	228		228		228
Sales	3,066		3,066	2,652	414
Donations	373		373	915	-542
Subscriptions	60		60	75	-15
Events	2,045		2,045	1,538	507
Prizes	0		0		0
Easy Funding & Amazon Smile	116		116		116
Gift Aid	594		594		594
Gross Income	6,482	8,030	14,512	10,180	4,332

	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	TOTAL		
Payments					
Community Gardeners - City Bridge		10,694	10,694	15,384	-4,690
Community Gardeners- Higgidy		1,900	1,900		1,900
Restricted Donations		0	0	154	-154
Seeds Plants Garden Supplies	1,342		1,342	238	1,104
Equipment Maintenance	369		369	341	28
Volunteer Expenses	18		18	339	-321
Events	385		385	1,143	-759
Insurance	97		97	97	0
Postage	0		0		0
Website Hosting	0		0	159	-159
					0
					0
Total Payments	2,210	12,594	14,804	17,855	-3,051

	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	TOTAL	2022	Variance
Gross Income Less Total Payments	4,271	-4,564	-292	-7,675	-7,383
Transfer between funds	0	0	0		
Cash Funds at 7/10/22	14,558	12,500		27,058	
Cash Funds at 7/10/23	18,830	7,936	26,766		-292
Petty Cash 7/10/23	15		15	15	0
Bank Balance at 7/10/23	18,815	15,872	26,751	27,043	-292
Total Cash Balance	18,830	7,936	26,766	27,058	-292

Streatham Common Community Garden

Balance sheet

For the year ended 07 October 2023

	07/10/2023		07/10/2022	
	£	£	£	£
Current assets:				
Cash at banks and in hand	26,766		27,058	
Net Current Assets		26,766		27,058
Total Net Assets		26,766		27,058
The funds of the charity:				
Restricted funds	7,936		12,500	
Unrestricted funds	18,830		14,558	
Total charity funds		26,766		27,058

Notes to the Financial Statement

1 Accounting policies

The accounts reflect the full year position, on a cash accounting basis, as of 7th October 2023, that is money within the bank account. Any income (for example, grant payments from City Bridge) or expenditure after this date is not included.

2 Donations

Please note that last year income received from Easy Funding and Amazon Smile (the latter now defunct) were previously included in the Donations total but have now been shown on a separate line.

3 Events

Events in the current year accounted for £ 2,045. This is primarily the wreathmaking workshops and sales at 2022 Christmas fair.

4 Gift Aid

Please note that this covered more than one year, as allowable, and this level of income is not expected to repeat where claimed on an annual basis.

5 Restricted spending

Restricted spending relates to running our Learner Plot and Little Growers projects. In addition to the grants' income noted above, money to fund these projects had already been received outside this reporting cycle and was drawn from our restricted reserves during the year.

6 Seeds Plants Garden Supplies

There has been an increase in the money spent on seeds, plants, and garden supplies (includes compost) as well as equipment maintenance. In the year 2021-2022 some purchases of similar items were coded to Volunteer Expenses where a Trustee bought on behalf of the Garden.

Looking Forward

As well as continuing to welcome volunteers and visitors to the Garden, we are working to secure full year funding which will enable us to run the Learner Plotters' project and Little Growers' project without significantly drawing on our reserves. Albeit we recognise that the basis of the City Bridge award, see above, is that some match funding will be required. In addition, we will:

- Recruit a Community Gardener. This will be a priority and recruitment is scheduled for the start of 2024.
- Review the area we use for sales and houses the small greenhouse, including the installation of a new polytunnel. Those attending the AGM in January 2023 should already see significant progress in this area.
- Publish regular newsletters and improve our use of other communications, therefore increasing our reach and local engagement.
- Have a planned programme of workshops / activities throughout the year.
- Support new projects in the Garden such as the medicinal plants area being developed by a former Learner Plotter.
- Continue to work closely with our friends and colleagues from SCCoop, Friends of Streatham Common, Lambeth Council and like-minded groups in the area.



Report End

STREATHAM COMMON COMMUNITY GARDEN

England & Wales - Charity number 1154156

Accounts

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

Streatham
Common
Community
Garden



**Annual report and accounts for the year ended
7th October 2022.**

The following report covers the period 8th October 2021 to 7th October 2022.

Trustees' Report

We start with an update of some changes in Board membership. Sadly, we are saying goodbye to two of our long serving trustees. Guy Roberts resigned from the Board on 7th October 2022 but will continue to volunteer at the garden. Guy has worked incredibly hard as a trustee, providing financial support, ensuring good governance of the charity, and playing an active role in the maintenance and development of the garden. Maggie Charnley has given notice of her resignation from the date of the AGM, 8th January 2023. Maggie has been a Trustee since the opening of the garden and over recent years has played an active role in securing funding, managing policy matters and liaison with Lambeth Council. We will miss them both greatly and take this opportunity to say thank you.

Adam Gibbs has joined us in October as a co-opted Trustee and will stand for election at the AGM, as detailed below. We are currently recruiting for at least two further trustees to expand our capacity as a Board. Progress will be reported at the AGM.

In line with previous years, the Trustees have taken it in turn to chair our monthly meetings.

After two difficult years of Covid restrictions, the garden has gradually returned to welcoming volunteers and visitors. Whilst extreme weather conditions have created challenges, we were able to maintain the garden throughout the very hot and dry summer months, through the efforts of trustees and our volunteers.

We continue to work closely with our colleagues from SCCoop and welcomed Vicky Peet as the new SCCoop Manager. We look forward to a close and positive working relationship between the two groups.

The enthusiasm and dedication of our volunteers continues to be our strength. It has been particularly pleasing to welcome back long-standing volunteers and people who initially worked with the garden as learner plotters but have continued as volunteers. The Learner Plotter project, funded by City Bridge, continues to introduce new people to gardening and to unite people from different communities and backgrounds in a common interest. Year 2022, was also the second year of the Little Growers Club, using an award from Higgidy, the food manufacturer. The Little Growers Club offers children from 7 to 11 years the chance to grow and try their own healthy food. Both the children and their accompanying parents/ carers have gained knowledge and skills and built friendships. Their pleasure at being at the garden has been infectious.

Over the year, our Wreath-making and Wassailing events continue to be regular features of the Streatham scene. Expansion of the events programme is one of our aims for the year ahead, together with securing funding for future years, better communications and building capacity of our Trustee Board, so that we can continue to be a community resource for promoting food, gardening, sustainable living, good health, and positive community interaction.

Trustees, Streatham Common Community Garden

Our Charitable Purposes and Public Benefit

We continue to open on Wednesdays and Sundays between 11am and 3pm. We welcome volunteers and visitors to the garden, showcasing the site which has been restored over the last 11 years to a place that inspires people to garden and to enjoy nature.

In 2022, there were several changes at the site. The gate to the orchard was replaced, after this had been vandalised, a new tap was fitted providing easier access for watering, and several new compost bins were purchased.

As in previous years we have supported the Learner Plotter project and we ran the Little Growers Club for a second year.

Our Learner Plot projects start in spring and continue to the early months of the following year. People without a garden apply to have a small plot for a year with guidance from a community gardener. In 2021/22 we had 23 'plotters' and from the spring of 2022 we have another 19 participants. They will continue until February 2023.

Plotters attend workshops and receive support from two community gardeners; Ruth Arnott focuses on the Wednesday sessions and our Sunday gardener on the other day. Both community gardeners work on other days to recruit new plotters and maintain contact via WhatsApp and social media. Jane Sowerby provided support on Sundays until mid-November 2021, since February 2022 Patrick McCabe has supported both the Sunday learner plotters and the Little Growers Club. In September 2022, Ruth and Patrick sought feedback from the plotters and little growers on their experiences of the garden. Comments included the following:

"We've really enjoyed the sense of community and meeting other people in our neighbourhood who we might never have got the chance to encounter, and loads of people with really interesting local knowledge, and gardening knowledge. It makes us feel connected to our community but also having the chance to connect with nature and understanding where our food comes from and how hard it is to grow things."

And from one of our younger attendees:

"The best thing about today was digging potatoes" (gardener aged 7). Potatoes were very popular amongst our Little Growers!

Members of the Little Growers Club since April 2022 are children between 6-9 years of age. They meet every Sunday with their parents/ carer, from 11am to 12pm, although there is some overspill as people are reluctant to leave. The club prioritises families living in flats who do not have access to outside growing spaces. Each child has a section of a raised bed where they get to choose what to



grow, how to look after and harvest their own crops. The children are given seed starter packs to take home and grow on windowsills until the seedlings are ready for transplanting outside. In 2022, 10 children started and 9 have continued throughout the growing year, however most weeks another three siblings attend. All children are accompanied by a parent and / or a grandparent

The Trustees would like thank Ruth, Jane, and Patrick for their work and for making the garden such a special place for so many people.

Also, our thanks to Penny Fletcher for her continued support to the Little Growers Club. Penny was

a former Trustee and volunteer who moved away from London in 2021 but continues to help us remotely.

In addition to the above, since summer 2022 a group from South London Carers has regularly volunteered on a Wednesday, a church group spent a day at the garden late summer, and two Duke of Edinburgh Award participants have volunteered at the garden. Cavendish Lodge pre-school and nursery came to the garden for 19 weeks over spring and summer before the start of each Wednesday session.

The Trustees are therefore satisfied the charity has met its obligations for charitable purposes and public benefit.

Trustees for the year 2021-2022

Barbara Booth

Margaret (Maggie) Charnley

Kathryn (Kate) Daly

Adam Gibbs from October 2022 and subject to election, as below.

Ruth (Reece) Owens

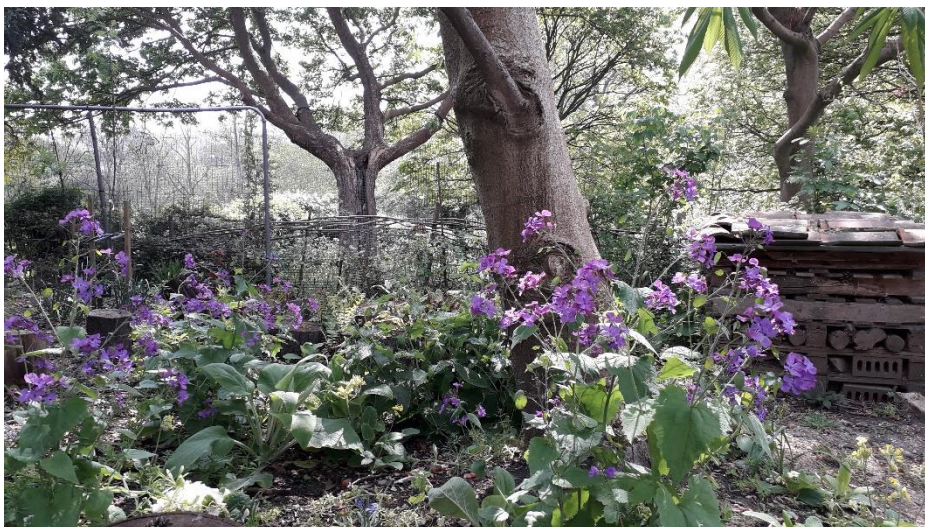
Guy Roberts

Anna Savage

Jill Seymour

A third of trustees are required to stand down each year by rotation. Guy Roberts left the Board in October and Maggie Charnley will resign on 8th January 2023. Adam Gibbs was co-opted as a Trustee part way through the year and his appointment will be subject to election at the January 2023 AGM.

At the time of preparing this report, the Board is working to recruit two, potentially three further Trustees. Progress will be reported to the AGM and if appropriate people put forward for election. By expanding Trustee capacity, we aim to ensure that we can continue to provide the management of exceptional services to our garden and to potentially expand the availability of the garden and the opportunities it offers to volunteers and visitors.





Volunteers

The garden could not operate without our amazing volunteers. They continue to be core to our everyday activities of sowing, planting, weeding, digging, and watering. In the year ending 7th October 2022 we had **118 volunteers offering 2,836 hours** over the year. These are in addition to the volunteer trustee hours which are spent administering the garden. Some of our volunteers are long-term, including those who began with a learner plot and have remained committed to the garden. Please also see below for a new project on small growing spaces. The tasks that the volunteers undertake are tailored to the needs of the garden and to people's individual abilities. There is no pressure to attend every week and people can stay for as little or for as long as they can. This flexibility is significant in our ability to attract a broad range of people and to welcome back people throughout the season.

(Note, in 2021/22 saw an increase in the numbers of +25 volunteers from the previous year, but an overall reduction of 112

hours over the year. The anniversary event of 10th October 2021 has not been included in the 2021/22 totals).

Events Held at the Community Garden

In addition to workshops included in the Learner Plotters project, events that involved volunteers and the wider community were as follows.

We started this reporting year with our 10th anniversary event, which was held on 10th October 2021. This was a chance to say a big thank you to everyone who has contributed to the garden over the years. We met up with old and current friends as well as being a chance for residents to find out about what we do and how to get involved. There were a range of activities; opportunities to make a flower garland crown, apple tasting, a chance to make a bird feeder, (using lots of peanut butter, toilet rolls and string), and we finished the day with Morris dancing from Brixton Tatterjacks. We enjoyed lots of donated food and pizzas from the ever-popular pizza oven. We also ran a plant sale and a raffle, which together with generous donations from visitors, helped us cover costs of running the event.

In December there were further wreathmaking workshops which continue to be very popular. Thanks again to Ruth Arnott for leading on these. We sold some of the excess wreathmaking kits at SCCoop's Christmas fair and offered teas and coffees to visitors.

In January, we welcomed in the new year with the Wassail event, with spirited dancing from Brixton Tatterjacks and some audience participation!

In April, we hosted a flower arranging event which was delivered by Rebecca Mays and in September we celebrated the growing year with pizza and lunch for plotters, volunteers, and little growers.

Growing Programme

After a mild winter and a dry spring, the summer of 2022 proved to be particularly tricky. For the first time, extreme heat led us to close the garden one Sunday. Trustees made the decision that with temperatures close to 40 degrees it was unsafe to encourage people to garden. Whilst initially we were able to water the garden using rainwater collected in our water butts, supplemented by hosepipes, water supplies were used up and followed by the current hose pipe ban. Restricted watering by hand has since been our only option.

Despite these challenges, we have successfully grown a broad range of fruits and vegetables. As well as an abundant harvest of potatoes and various beans, the figs, quinces, and mulberries did particularly well. For the first time in a few years, our tomatoes were not attacked by blight.

The asparagus bed continues to thrive, and we look forward to picking our first crop in 2023, we grew rats' tail radishes for the first time as well as different brassicas.

Three of our learner plotters from 2021 returned and used one of the raised beds to demonstrate growing in small spaces. This attracted a lot of attention and their tromboncino squash, shown in the picture below, was a particular delight for all our visitors.

We also began to work a small space to grow vegetables from the Indian sub-continent and Asia. In the coming year we will expand the diversity of vegetables grown in this area, including produce from in different parts of the world and drawing on the knowledge of our volunteers from many different communities and heritage.



Finance Report

Donations.

We would like to thank our visitors and volunteers for their monetary, as well as time donations.

Fund raising.

The Learner Plot project, (including the Sunday gardener) was financed this year by money received from City Bridge, a decision to award two years' funding had been made the previous year.

Similarly, this was year two of Little Growers Club, using an award from Higgidy (food producer). The award covers three years.

We continued to generate income by sales of surplus plants and produce. With the numbers of available trustees on site, it has sometimes been a challenge to sell produce every week. But, during the height of spring and summer, Sunday sales at the yard gate was a known feature with regulars coming along to see what was available to buy. Their feedback was very positive, and people were very generous.

Note, at the time of this report work is being undertaken to secure funds for the full year Learner Plot project 2022/23, progress will be advised at the AGM.

Comments on Full Year Accounts

These will be subject to approval, by members, at the AGM on 8th January 2023. Our thanks to Guy Roberts who has prepared the accounts for us.

Note 1. To confirm, the accounts reflect-the full year position, on a cash accounting basis, as of 7th October 2022, any income (for example grant payment from City Bridge) or expenditure after this date is not included.

Our reserves at the end of the year are up £2,834 over 2021, to £14,558; this will be used in grant applications where matched funding is required.

Income generated this year:

Grants	£ 5,000	(See note 1 , above)
Donations	£ 915	(Including money received from Easy Fund Raising, Amazon, PayPal and expenses incurred and donated by Trustees).
Sales of Produce	£ 2,652	
Subscriptions	£ 75	
Events	£ 1,538	(This is primarily the wreathmaking workshops and sales at 2021 Christmas fair)

Expenditure this year

Restricted spending of £15,384 relates to running our Learner Plot and Little Growers projects. In addition to the grants income of £5,000 noted above, money to fund these projects had already been received outside this reporting cycle and was drawn from our restricted reserves during the year. Also see note 1 above.

For clarity

Restricted funds include money received in previous years for specific purposes. These include money to be passed to SCCoop for their greenhouse project, (from Angela Jones' memorial fund and Hadley) the completion of renovation in the mulberry tree area, money from the Higgidy award, money from City Bridge for Learner Plotter project.

A copy of the full year accounts follows which are subject to approval, by members, at the AGM on 8th January 2023.

Streatham Common Community Garden

Registered Charity No 1154156

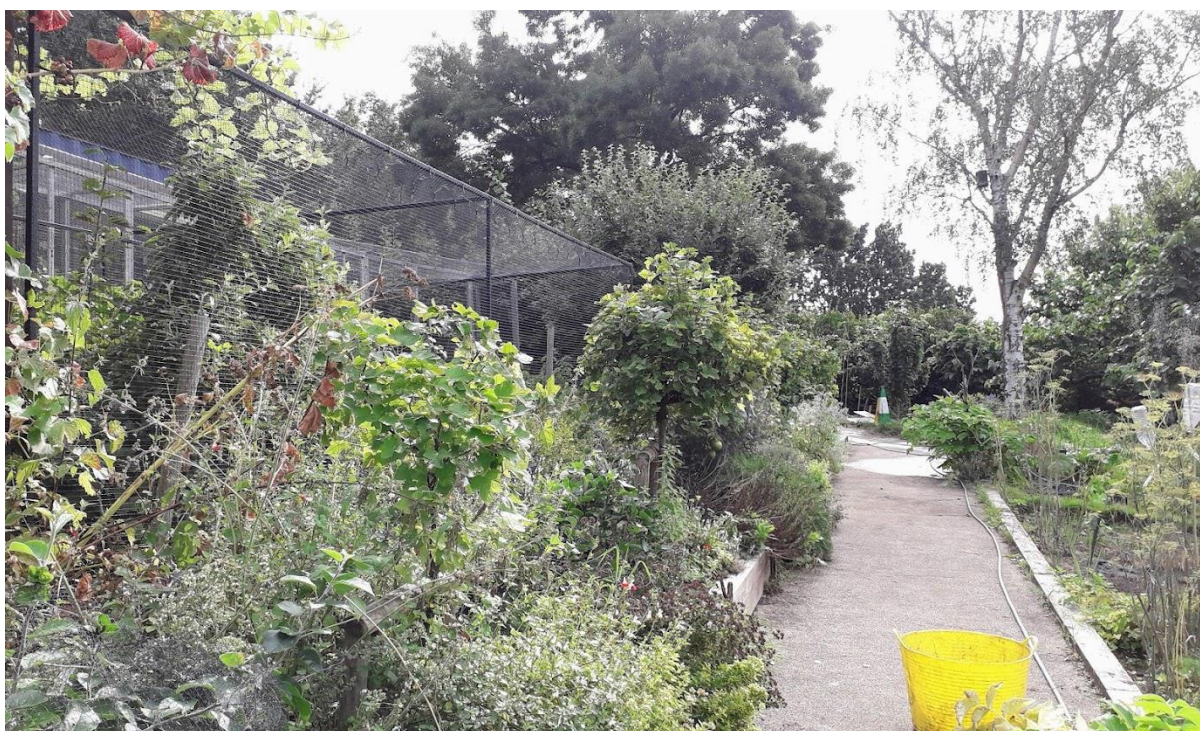
Accounts for year ending 7th October 2022

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	to 7/10/21	Variance £
Receipts					
Grants		5,000	5,000	24,779	(19,779)
Sales	2,652		2,652	1,286	1,366
Donations	886	29	915	7,536	(6,621)
Subscriptions	75		75	60	15
Events	1,538		1,538	1,436	102
Prizes			-		0
Gift Aid	-		-	-	0
Gross Income	5,151	5,029	10,180	35,097	(24,917)
Payments					
Restricted Grants		15,384	15,384	11,666	3,718
Restricted Donations		154	154	83	71
Seeds Plants Garden Supp	238		238	214	24
Equipment Maintenance	341		341	594	(253)
Volunteer Expenses	339		339	286	53
Events	1,143		1,143	158	985
Insurance	97		97	97	0
Postage			-	60	(60)
Website Hosting	159		159	-	159
Total Payments	2,317	15,538	17,855	13,158	4,697
Gross Income Less Total Pa	2,834	(10,509)	(7,675)	21,938	
Transfer between funds					
Cash Funds at 7/10/21	11,724	23,009	34,733	12,794	
Cash Funds at 7/10/22	14,558	12,500	27,058	34,732	
Bank Balance at 7/10/22	14,543	12,500	27,043	34,719	(7,676)
Petty Cash at 7/10/22	15		15	13	2
Total Cash Balance	14,558	12,500	27,058	34,732	(7,674)

Looking Forward

We will use the AGM on 8th January 2023 to discuss our ambitions for the year ahead. As well as continuing to welcome volunteers and visitors to the garden, we are working to secure full year funding for the Learner Plotter project. We hold sufficient funds in our restricted reserves for year 3 of the Little Growers Club. In addition, the Board have identified the need to:

- Increase the capacity of our Board of Trustees and senior volunteers.
- Re-visit how the garden and our activities deliver our core aims.
- Better celebrate the diversity of our volunteers and how we can reflect people's rich heritage at the garden, or through events.
- Improve the ways that we communicate and increase our reach.
- Better plan an events programme for the year ahead.
- Continue to work closely with our friends and colleagues from SCCoop, Friends of Streatham Common, Lambeth Council and like-minded groups in the area.



Report compiled by Trustees of Streatham Common Community Garden, registered charity 1154156, and agreed at the Trustee meeting 21st November 2022.

Report End

STREATHAM COMMON COMMUNITY GARDEN

England & Wales - Charity number 1154156

Accounts



Streatham
Common
Community
Garden



**Annual report and accounts for the year ended
7th October 2021.**

Trustees' report

We were extremely saddened at the death, after a short illness, of one of our much loved volunteer Trustees, Angela Jones. Angela had been involved with the garden since its inception and worked tirelessly both at the garden and behind the scenes, to ensure that the garden met its charitable aims, as well as being a welcoming and safe place for visitors and volunteers alike to enjoy. She will be sadly missed by everyone who knew her.

We are also saying goodbye to volunteer trustee Penny Fletcher, who is leaving us to start her own family outside of London. We thank her for all her contributions over the years, from Bug Hunts to Homework Clubs, for having established the Little Growers Club and maintaining our website and coordinating our monthly zoom meetings. We wish her all the very best for the future and look forward to welcoming her back to the garden in the future.

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 City Bridge Trust and a private family trust has enabled us to continue to work with local community groups, through our Learner Plot programme, which was expanded to include an additional professional Sunday gardener.

Volunteering continues to be our strength. We would like to thank everyone for their efforts in continuing to make the garden a success. Funding from Higgidy Pies, which relied on you, our supporters voting for us, raised funds to run a three year programme, The Little Growers Club. 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 event continues to be regular features of the Streatham scene. The raised beds allowed us to grow many more vegetables and fruits, and proved very popular with our volunteers, who find it difficult to garden at ground level, as well as with our Little Growers Club.

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 2022, 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, which this year saw an additional Sunday gardener, and the first year of our Little Growers Club. 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, 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 Wednesdays as well as Sundays. The new raised beds were put into working order in time for the growing season and further funding from Higgidy Family Kitchen. 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 2020-2021

Barbara Booth from 01/08/21

Margaret (Maggie) Charnley

Kathryn (Kate) Daly

Ruth (Reece) Owens from 01/08/21

Penny Fletcher

Angela Jones til May 2021

Guy Roberts

Anna Savage

Jill Seymour

A third of trustees are required to stand down each year by rotation. This year Angela Jones sadly died and Penny Fletcher is stepping down having moved away from the area. Barbara and Reece were co opted as Trustees part way through the year.

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



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, and Jane Sowerby, both professional gardeners, with funds secured from City Bridge Trust and a private family Trust.

Group Visits:-



Due to Covid 19 Government restrictions put in place, we had limited opportunity for community group visits. We did however welcome the Asylum Seekers and Refugee homework club over three Saturdays this summer.

We also hosted the wake for our much loved friend and trustee Angela Jones, thank you to the Rookery Café and Inkspot Brewery, who helped make the day special, for Angela's family and friends.

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



<u>2020</u> 84 Volunteers	1,661 Volunteer hours
<u>2021</u> 93 Volunteers	2,948 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 93 volunteers offering 2,948 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 again this year, has been more important than ever.

Donations



We would like to thank: -
Our visitors and volunteers for their monetary, as well as time donations.
Monies were also donated in memory of volunteer trustee Angela Jones.
A donation was also received from Hadley Developments.

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, 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

beans purely to harvest the seed, unfortunately these were harvested before having reached maturity.

New crops this year included asparagus in the lower anniversary bed and tea, wasabi, blueberries, lingonberries and cranberries in the upper anniversary bed which now contains ericaceous soil.

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. The old Hazchem shed has successfully been brought into use as our tool shed and the two raised beds now contain perennial crops.

Finance

Our reserves at the end of the year are up £1,265, over 2020, to £11,724; this will be used in grant applications where matched funding is required, in for example capital projects.

Income generated this year:

Grants	£ 24,779
cover the cost	
Donations	£ 2,429
publicity for £3,493.	
Sales of Produce	£ 1,286
Subscriptions	£ 60

Expenses reimbursed to trustees: -

Five trustees were reimbursed for expenses to
of events, repairs and maintenance, printing and
Three trustees donated expenses totaling £480.

Spending of £13,159 included ongoing payments of £11,750 for running our Learner Plot and Little Growers programme.

Learner Plots, Little Growers Club and Training Programme



Now in its eighth year the Learner Plot programme attracted a number of local community groups; Streatham Drop in Centre for Refugees and Asylum Seekers, 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. We were also pleased to have secured additional funding to allow us to take on additional professional gardener, Jane Sowerby, to run events and offer advice on a Sunday.

We are pleased to announce that we secured funding from Higgidy Family Kitchen, to run a Little Growers Club for three years. Our first year has been very successful and we look forward to the programme's continuing success.

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. 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 City Bridge Trust a private family trust and Awards 4 All, The CoOperative Society, Higgidy Pies, Hadley Developments. We continued to generate income by sales of surplus plants, produce, running events, hiring out the Training Room 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, allowing us to continue running the garden over the next year. We received funding from the National Lottery (Awards for All) to introduce ways to encourage more wildlife and enhance the small woodland area of the garden, which includes the mulberry tree.

We are also now able to take contactless payments and thank Numidia Ltd for their help in this.

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

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 Common Community Garden Registered Charity No 1154156 Accounts for year ending 7th October 2021					
	Unrestricted Funds£	Restricted Funds£	Total Funds£	to 7/10/20	Variance£
Receipts					
Grants		24,779	24,779	6,391	18,388
Sales	1,286		1,286	1,027	259
Donations	993	6,543	7,536	851	6,685
Subscriptions	60		60	90	(30)
Events	1,436		1,436	1,373	63
Prizes			-		0
Gift Aid	-		-	387	(387)
Gross Income	3,775	31,321	35,097	10,119	24,978
Payments					
Restricted Grants		11,666	11,666	7,485	4,181
Restricted Donations		83	83	-	83
Seeds Plants Garden Supplies	214		214	814	(600)
Equipment Maintenance	594		594	113	481
Volunteer Expenses	286		286	216	70
Events	158		158	111	47
Insurance	97		97	97	0
Postage	60		60	25	35
Website Hosting			-	86	(86)
Total Payments	1,409	11,750	13,159	8,947	4,212
Gross Income Less Total Payments	2,366	19,572	21,938	1,171	
Transfer between funds	(1,102)	1,102			
Cash Funds at 7/10/20	10,459	2,335	12,794	11,623	
Cash Funds at 7/10/21	11,724	23,009	34,732	12,794	
Bank Balance at 7/10/21	11,711	23,009	34,719	12,794	21,925
Petty Cash at 7/10/21	13		13	-	13
Total Cash Balance	11,724	23,009	34,732	12,794	21,938



