PLAYGROUND - ART AND ENVIRONMENT, CONNECTING PEOPLE

England & Wales · Charity number 1182093

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2019-02-18
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	112 Beauchamp Road Birmingham B13 0NL
Phone	01216040625
Email	play.ground@mail.com
Website	playground-cio.org

Activities

Objects: (1)To advance the arts, horticulture and ecology for the public benefit, through the provision for community participation, educational workshops and public displays.(2)To develop the capacity and skills of local communities to engage with nature through creative design, contribute to environmental rejuvenation, food sufficiency, wellbeing and employment.

Activities: PlayGROUND delivers art, design, horticultural, ecology projects and exhibitions to promote learning, appreciation, engagement and improvement of the natural environment. It works with communities, organisations and local authorities to promote sustainability, conservation, reclamation and the inclusion of nature in everyday living.

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Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Disability, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Animals, Environment/conservation/heritage, Economic/community Development/employment, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity, Recreation, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Birmingham City
- Coventry City
- Sandwell
- Solihull

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-04-05	£0	£234	-	-
2024-04-05	£630	£2,058	-	-
2023-04-05	£18,949	£17,464	-	-
2022-04-05	£21,103	£13,347	-	-
2021-04-05	£22,677	£14,497	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
ADAM ATKINS		2017-01-29
Dr Simon Bell		2019-11-15
Jennifer Parkinson		2020-08-30

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PLAYGROUND - ART AND ENVIRONMENT, CONNECTING PEOPLE

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PlayGROUND Art and Environment, Connecting People

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Changes in PlayGROUND's Circumstances

Due to the lack of ongoing project/core funding and organisational development when relying on small project grants, PlayGROUND decided to apply for medium term Lottery funding. We know that competition is tough, but due to a phone call, we are also aware that our application wasn't comprehensively read before being presented to the initial panel.

The application's failure to get through the first stage of the process and the procedure involved, led our artist/manager to reassess her role and due to necessity, find regular paid work. The lack of a fund raiser and project manager has had a huge impact on community engagement, and the future viability of PlayGROUND.

Maintenance and garden development is currently undertaken on a voluntary basis. Rich in biodiversity it provides much needed habitat to insects and wildlife. Its delightful features, flora, fauna, organic practice and produce, continue to contribute to the allotment and community well being.

Purple Globe Thistle (Echinops), sewn last year, attract solitary bees.

Ragwort is allowed to flourish, the Cinnabar moth caterpillars (Tyria jacobaeae) rely on the plant as their primary food source. Visitors are informed of its toxicity.

Soil Health

Front board slots have been installed on the compost bins. The metre square plus of decomposing material generates and maintains enough internal heat to accelerate the decomposition process, killing pathogens and weed seeds.

Transferring the soil from one bin to another aerates the soil and presents another opportunity to slowly rid the garden of inherited detritus.

Bramble roots have mostly decomposed. At last! a ready supply of free compost.

A mix of green manure, phacelia and will flowers cover soil to prevent moisture loss and boost fertility. Poly tunnel IBCs and shed water butts provided much needed water in an extremely dry summer.

Produce

Taking care of the soil and intermittent nurturing gave rise to a huge range of produce. Berry and nut trees planted around the perimeter of the garden for wildlife and human consumption bore fruit/seeds. Cherry, apple trees and a variety of regular fruit bushes gave a bumper harvest as well as the lesser known, pineapple guava (Feijoa sellowiana), Chilean guava (Ugni molinae), Himalayan honeysuckle (Leycesteria formosa) and cornelian cherry (Cornus mas).

We're big fans of perennials that grow themselves i.e. chard, kale, rhubarb, globe artichoke, jerusalem artichoke, horseradish, fennel, sorrel, lovage, and a host of herbs. Some wander round the garden from year to year, it's always a nice surprise to see an edible plant find a new location to thrive. Easy staples, onions, garlic, potatoes, beetroot, beans, sweet corn, tomatoes, crown prince and spaghetti squash, are grown between perennials and in the green house, along with aubergines, cucumbers and courgettes. Despite simple solutions to growing carrots in stony soil, we grow small quantities amongst other plants as they are a magnet for badgers on our site.

In the absence of creative projects, experimentation with new flower combinations feed interest and give rise to key features. Salix is harvested for structural supports, hazel planting requires a little more time.

Left - Perimeter planting sea buckthorn (Hippophae rhamnoides)
Right - Poly tunnel grown, pineapple guava (Feijoa sellowiana)

Watermelon - Petit Gris de Rennes

Top left - sweet corn (Zea mays), top right - cornelian cherry (Cornus mas). bottom left - Yin Yang beans (Phaseolus vulgaris), bottom right - cobnuts (Corylus avellana).

A bumper harvest of habaneros produced enough chillies to supply the neighbourhood for a year.

Cosmos (above - Cosmos bipinnatus 'Purity') are so easy to grow, and give a ready supply of cut flowers.

Maintaining and Developing the Garden

The garden will be maintained and developed by PlayGROUND's founders for the foreseeable future, regardless of funding. Like all gardens its a work in progress with enormous potential. Apart from its commitment to sustainable, organic practise and impact on the Greenaleigh Road Allotment site, it receives regular visits from families and individuals who volunteered and attended courses.

Though the future of PlayGROUND is uncertain, the garden will continue to support interested growers/creatives, and contribute a wide variety of edibles, particularly appreciated by those on tight budgets.

	Name	Signature	Date
Prepared by.....	P. Crummay	P. Crummay	18/02/2025
Trustee approval.....			

Annual Accounts April 2024 - 2025

Date	Item	Income	Expenditure	Balance
06/04/2025	Balance carried over			856
19/10/2024	Greenaleigh Road AA Annual fee	0	186	670
03/03/2025	Go Daddy Website (£47.93, paid June 25)	0	48	622
Total		0	234	-234
05/04/2025	Balance carried over	0	234	622

	Name	Signature	Date
Prepared by.....	P. Crummay	P. Crummay	07/03/2025
Trustee approval.....	J. Parkinson		

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Project - Celebrating Communities

Exploring life in the soil (above), Ink making workshop (top)

Celebrating Communities workshops took place during the Summer holidays, August 2023, thanks to funding from Birmingham City Council.

The first workshop explored life in the soil. Various samples were taken from around the garden, in addition to samples from the path, compost, wood chip and manure heaps. Fungi, mycorrhizal networks, nematodes, springtails, mites, insect larvae, worms, slugs, snails and many other soil dwellers were carefully examined and returned.

A second workshop explored biodiversity using DIY quadrats, made from string, pencils/sticks/bamboo. Unweeded strimmed areas of the garden, sometimes referred to as naturalised, were used for sampling. Daisies, dandelions and buttercups were identified by their leaves, along with other species traditionally thought of as common weeds. A wide range of grasses, and wild flowers i.e. sorrel, vetch, burnet, clover, speedwell and yellow rattle, were also found.

Natural ink making proved to be a very popular workshop. Walnut husks and oak apples (pre-soaked and boiled), tumeric, coffee, brambles and nettles, were trialed with readily available preservatives, fixatives and binders e.g. vinegar, alcohol, salt, gum arabic.

Home made inks were then used in the following two workshops to explore Fibonacci's numerical system and the shapes and patterns found in nature.

Everlasting Pierrot, Strawflower, genus - Rosa, petals grow in a distinct Fibonacci pattern. Unidentified insect

Soil Health

Trialing the no-dig method (top)
Dog vomit slime mould, Fuligo septica (above)

Though the inherited soil has been contaminated with plastics and debris from previous plot holders and pesticides have been used until recently to maintain allotment paths, the garden continues to be organically run for the benefit of nature and people.

This year, in addition to using green manures, we trialed a no-dig approach to manage the vegetable growing areas, with mixed success. In hindsight we probably fell into making one of the most common mistakes. Using wood chip and under composted organic matter, considerably increased the habitat for slugs, snails and a myriad of other insects and invertebrates. Waiting another year for sufficiently decomposed compost to become available would have helped reduce the slug feast, but in the long term increasing the soil biomass will greatly improve fertility.

Adding slots and boards to the compost bays has significantly increased the volume each bay can hold. Sufficient heat can now be maintained to optimise decomposition.

Produce

Fortunately, many of the edibles grown regularly were unaffected by the burgeoning slug population e.g. potatoes, onions, garlic, artichokes, beetroot, chard, squash, sweetcorn, endive and lambs lettuce. A wide variety of tomatoes were grown in the poly tunnel together with, aubergines, peppers, gourds, loofahs, pineapple and chilean guava.

Apple and cherry trees planted three years earlier produced abundant fruit. The hazel and cob nut trees will start bearing nuts in a year or two. Soft fruits bushes produced little fruit, despite mulching root development has been slow. Inherited blackberry and raspberry bushes put on their usual dazzling display of flowers and bountiful fruit.

Crown Prince pumpkins (left), Habanero chilli peppers (middle)
Romaine lettuce (right)

Poly tunnel tomatoes, self seeded potatoes and pumpkin (above)
Bottle gourds (top)

Maintaining and Developing the Garden

Dye and herb bed boundary, wood chip and brick lined path in progress

Horticulturist, Phil Stokes, vibrant perennial planting, now maintained by volunteers.

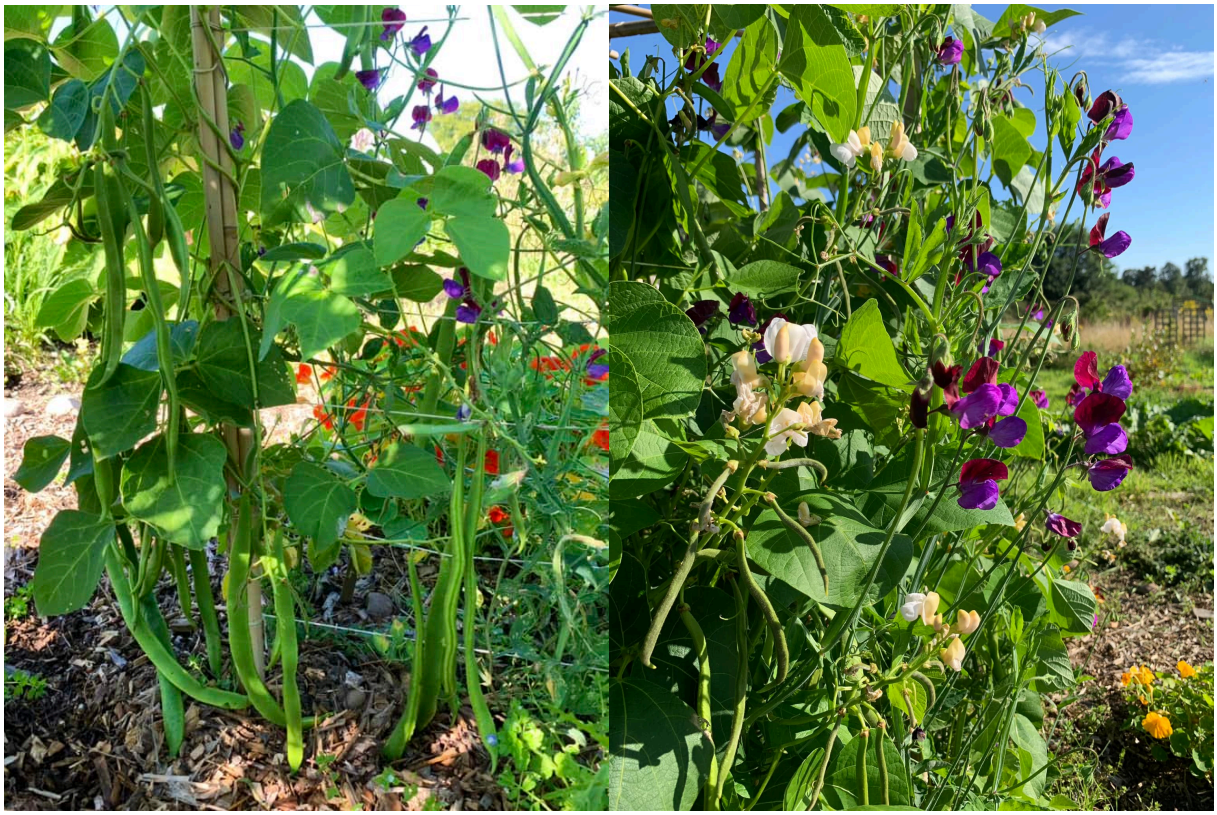
A small group of volunteers have done a magnificent job in maintaining the garden. The ornamental planting and infrastructure continue to be a work in progress.

Two quarter circular brick borders defining the herb and dye beds, on either side of the main path are slowly progressing, thanks to EH Smith Builders Merchants and B&Q for the brick donation. They encompass a thriving salt bush regularly nibbled by muntjac deer, and numerous herb and dye plants propagated/sourced from annual outings to The National Herb Centre.

Feature and hedgerow planting, require regular clearing and mulching. Inset wild flower sections surrounded by strimmed, naturalised grass, demand frequent weeding.

The garden layout evolves with nature, a few plants that are commonly considered invasive i.e. Scotch broom and buddleia have serendipitously taken up residence and are kept flourishing by regular pruning. PlayGROUND's ethos is to provide habitat for nature in coexistence with edibles and art materials for human consumption and creative endeavours.

Last year's brushwood cornered square filled with teddy bear sunflowers, entitled, Homage Leonora Carrington, has morphed into a Suprematist square of cosmos daisies. The Gourd Temple, has become a climbing frame for green beans and sweet peas.



The geodesic dome provides a climbing frame

Tendrils reach for the dome

Funding and Engagement

Between Winter 2022 - Spring 2023, PlayGROUND applied for two medium-term funding grants (3-5 years). Smaller project funding i.e. Celebrating Communities, didn't cover management or medium-term development and a disproportionate amount of time was being spent on applying for funding rather than engagement and delivery. Sadly, the two medium-term applications failed, one hadn't been read before representation to the initial panel and the other funder changed their priorities to support running costs. Its a consequence PlayGROUND's project manager was obliged to take up full-time work, resulting in no further funding applications being made.

Creative projects and engagement suffered due to lack of funding. Celebrating Communities, proved to be the only project that ran during the financial year. Seven adults, 13 children and five visiting participants attended the sessions.

Good company, fresh air and exercise, organically grown produce and creativity, continue to sustain five volunteers who maintain the garden and benefit from its produce. Edibles are regularly exchanged with other plot holders and distributed to people who drop in and live locally. Three schools benefitted from propagated mint, rosemary, pepper, tomato and raspberry plants.

PlayGROUND's lack of presence on site has effected the allotment community.
Three plot holder's that were introduced to the site through attending PlayGROUND's projects gave up this year. Lack of time and moving to an allotment closer to home were the main reasons given. However, an inability to provide prior levels of support and companionship were also acknowledged to have a bearing. Ideally, former plot holders and their families would have the opportunity to volunteer and benefit from the community garden produce but in the absence of supervision, visits are limited.

Nevertheless, volunteers have a strong commitment to maintaining the garden for the benefit of the wider community and founding purposes. Trustee support has been unanimous in maintaining the charity, albeit on a much reduced scale, in readiness for future opportunities and development.

	Name	Signature	Date
Prepared by.....	P. Crummay	P. Crummay	18/02/2025
Trustee approval.....	**J. Parkinson**	JCParkinson	**23/02/2025**

Annual Accounts April 2023 - 2024

Balance Carried over 2022-2023	£2,532
Income	
Project Income (B'ham City Council)	600
Bank Interest	30
Total	£630
Expenditure	
Project Manager/Artist Fees	1,213
Celebrating Communities - project materials	435
Allotment/plot annual fee x 3	330
AON Insurance	80
Total	£2,058
Balance Carried over 2023-2024	£1,104

	Name	Signature	Date
Prepared by.....	P. Crummay	P. Crummay	18/02/2025
Trustee approval.....	J. Parkinson	JCParkinson	23/02/2025

PLAYGROUND - ART AND ENVIRONMENT, CONNECTING PEOPLE

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PlayGROUND Art and Environment, Connecting People

Annual Report & Accounts

2021-2022

Charitable Incorporated Organisation No1182093

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Report

Mission

To advance the arts, horticulture and ecology for the public benefit, through the provision for community participation, educational workshops and public displays.
To develop the capacity and skills of local communities to engage with nature through creative design, contribute to environmental regeneration, food sufficiency, wellbeing and employment.

Strategic Aims

Greenaleigh Community Garden
Establishing a base to provide:

- a community resource for growing food, herbs, teas, and flowers
- a nursery for community planting e.g. gardens, local centre entrances/play areas and public green spaces
- an innovative space to experiment with growing and utilising natural materials for construction/design/craft/art works
- education, skills and training - to build on local horticultural/design/construction/art/craft expertise and support school/community education and training
- a development site for producing public art works, research, debate, raising awareness and promoting sustainable, regenerative communities.

Trustees

Adam Atkins - landscape architect and arboriculturist
Simon Bell - writer, publisher, retired senior lecturer at the School of Art and Design, Coventry University
John Little - Grass Roof Company partner, Green Roof Shelters director
Jennifer Parkinson - engineer, Greenaleigh Road Allotment plot holder, experienced food grower
Aimee Postle - business consultant, visiting lecturer at Birmingham City University, University of Wolverhampton
Phil Stokes - ecologist, horticulturist, Greenaleigh Road Allotment plot holder

Garden Open Sessions

Infrastructure

Kevin passes cut timber up to the roof

Completing construction of the poly tunnel was a huge achievement. It has extended the growing season and allowed open sessions and workshops to be held in wet weather. Perseverance in finding an ideal base solution paid off. Attaching the frame to timber on a slab base, raised the height of the poly tunnel and prevents rot. We're also proud of successfully devising a way of collecting rainwater from the poly tunnel and installing two 1,000 litre International Bulk Containers (IBC's) for storage.

Adding green roofs to the sheds allowed a wood storage and water harvesting section to be added to the back of the sheds. Green roofs not only look great, they help replace the green foot print occupied and moderate the temperature inside the sheds - extremely useful for storing vegetables and seeds.

None of this would have been possible without a great team of volunteers. Particular thanks to, Pat Harte who put a crew of plot holders together for the final stages of adding polythene to the poly tunnel, Louise Mitchell for being able to turn her hand to any job required, and the Peck family who did an amazing job of kickstarting the green roof project and helped solve the notoriously tricky poly tunnel water harvesting.

Selecting the best tool for the job

Shed with extended green roof for storage and water butts

Holly passes earth up to Aurora

Aurora and Iggy discus drill bits and screws

Planting

Harvested pumpkins and gourds

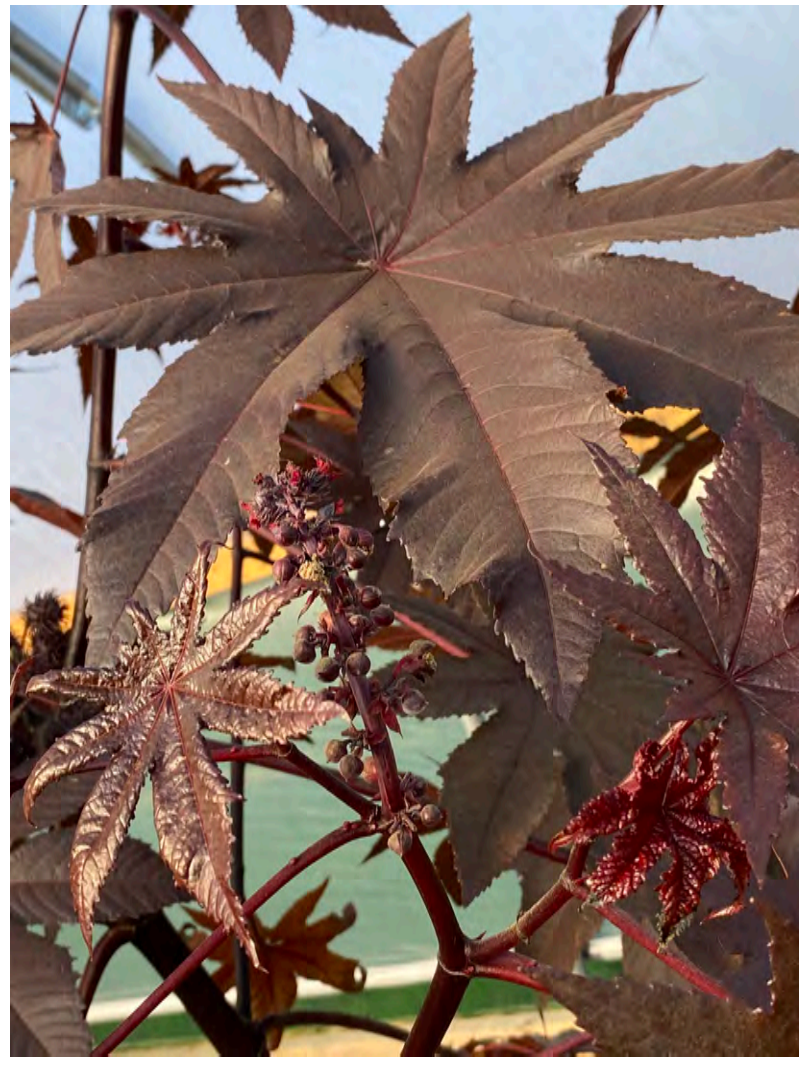
Edibles

James Phillips took charge of the edibles again this year. Bountiful crops of onions, garlic, beans, pumpkins, sweet corn, potatoes, tomatoes, tomatillo, chard and cavolo nero were available fo volunteers to take home or exchange with plot holders. Surplus potatoes, pumpkins and beans were delivered to the local food pantry. Crop rotation, composting and green manures ensured good yields and plenty of flowers for bees. Fruit bushes and trees planted last began to bear fruit.

Border

Additional border planting funded by the Severn Trent Community Fund included twisted hazel (Corylus avellana), guelder rose (Viburnum opulus), sea buckthorn (Hippophae rhamnoides), elderberry (Sambucus nigra) and walnut (Juglans regia). Supplementing a small self seeded wooded area, black berries and previously planted dog roses they will provide sustenance for wildlife and humans.

Angels/Devils Trumpet/Thorn apple/
Cornucopia (Datura meteloides)



Castor Oil/Bean (Ricinus communis)

Features

Larger than life structural planting adds a wow factor to any garden. Amongst many others, Horticulturist Phil Stokes supplied angels trumpets and castor oil/bean plants from his own collection. They were both planted inside and outside the poly tunnel within view of each other so that their growth could be compared. They flourished in both locations but the plants inside the polytunnel had a longer growing season. Globe thistles also made a striking display.

Living Art Works and Art Materials

R&D Fledgling Programme funding from the Arts Council National Lottery Projects Grant, to explore living art works and art materials, started with planting:

- mallow and hazel - grown for their stems,
- Bangladeshi bottle gourds - for their potential to hold water when dry,
- tomatillo to add to the collection of wild and other ornate seed heads, and
- a trip to the National Herb Garden to source herbs, and plants used for dyes and inks.

Dye plants purchased include woad (Isatis tinctoria), dyer's chamomile (Anthemis tinctoria), dyer's tickseed (Coreopsis tinctoria), dyer's weld (reseda Luteola) and madder (Rubia tinctorum).

Fledgling Programme

Workshops

Hazel with her completed wild flow chandelier

Thanks to funding from the Art Council National Lottery Project Grants we were able to host our first run of arts/craft/nature workshops. Five workshops, ten sessions, took place over the summer holidays. Initially the numbers were restricted to 25 places per workshop due to limited tool/material supplies but as the sessions progressed families and young people asked if they could bring other family members and friends. The roughly hewn space with hurriedly assembled palate tables and straw bale seating, surrounded by vegetables and areas of untamed wild growth, received much enthusiasm for engendering a sense of enjoyment and freedom. Combined with the activities and home baked refreshments we received tremendous overall feedback.

Plant finding mission

Many of the workshops started with a plant finding mission that allowed participants to explore the garden and unclaimed parts of the allotment site.

The photos below illustrate the engagement and wonderful work created during the workshops. Thanks to all the photographers who shared their work so generously.

Wildflower Chandeliers

Albi attaches a teasel

Siena and Lou selecting copper wire to secure poppy heads

Hazel's chandelier - hazel, pumpkin flowers, globe thistle, honesty, cotoneaster

Natural Dyes

Flower pounding and leaf bashing transfer of natural pigments to cloth

Rolling plants and fabric between newspaper to transfer pigment to cloth

Pigments transferred to cloth

Pumpkin, poppy and bindweed (Convolvulus) flowers

Allotment Combing for Curiosities

Natural and found objects - collected, displayed and examined under vintage enlarger lenses.

Recycled jars make excellent display containers

Perfect subjects for close-up/macro and time lapse photography

Collection of found and natural objects

Airborne seeds, extinguished flight

Rocket Pig/Dog - sculpture - unearthed tools, dried seed heads, string, wire

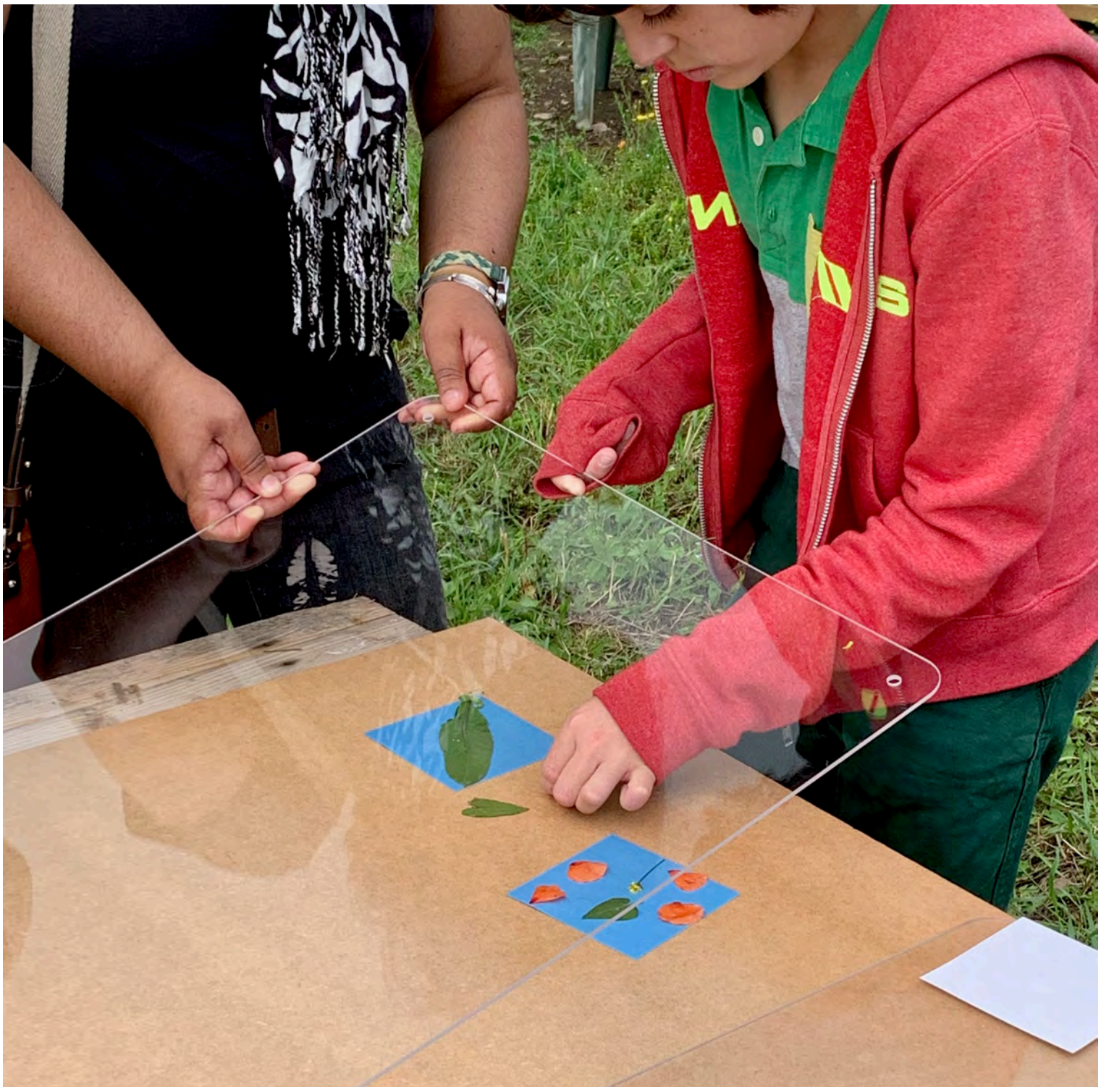
Cyanotypes

Leena and Jo use their phones to time the development process

Sienna and friend go it alone, confidence in the colour changes and process make timers redundant

Workshops were accompanied by factsheets and examples of works by artists using similar techniques. The cyanotype workshops also included a brief history, due the importance of the process in the development of photography. Sessions were designed to include all levels of access and interest so that participants could follow up references and explore the techniques introduced at home.

Cyanotype paper is sensitive to UVA radiation, a limited near ultraviolet and blue light spectrum, strongest in bright sunlight. Adjusting exposure times for a mix of cloud and sun became part of the fun. Arrangements were made on similar sized dummy paper before being swiftly transferred to exposed cyanotype paper. After timing the exposure it was transferred to a black bag and carried to the polytunnel for development and washing.



Freddie arranges petals and leaves on preprepared cyanotype paper

Preprepared lightweight cyanotype paper was used to familiarise the process, before progressing to more costly handmade watercolour paper, prepared with Ferric Ammonium Citrate and Potassium Ferricyanide. Despite the difference in exposure and development times, there were far fewer accidental over exposures.

Both papers resulted in stunning images, the preprepared lightweight paper lent a delicacy to the images, the heavier handmade paper produced rich tones with good definition and an attractive texture. It was a tough decision to choose a print for the Summer Exhibition & Barbecue poster.

Small preprepared cyanotype paper used for initial prints

Isla Hall - Cyanotype on handmade paper, selected for the Summer Exhibition & Barbecue poster

Scoring Supporting Structures

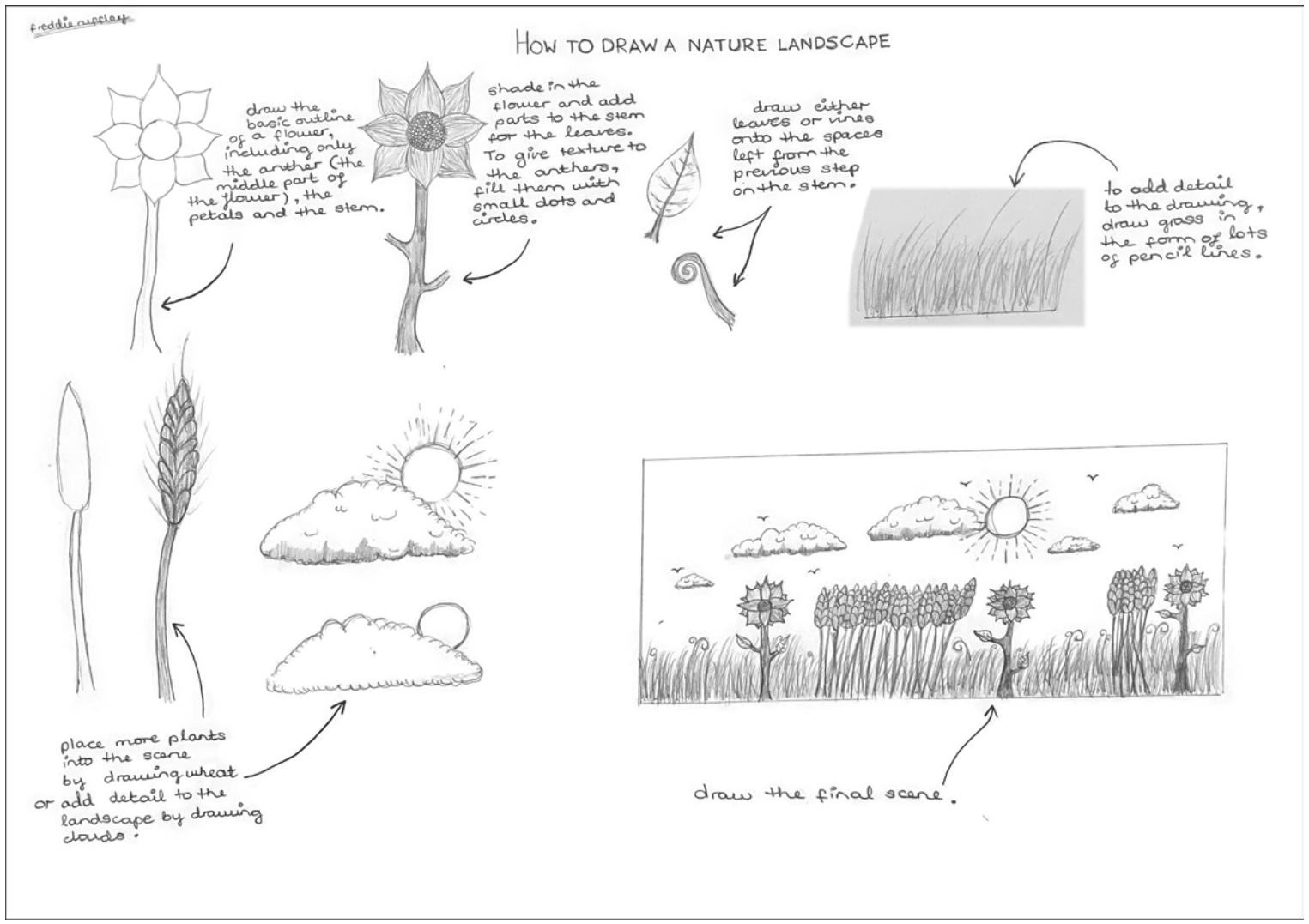
Geodesic Dome using two different lengths of bamboo, made up of six pentagons and ten triangles, ready for wire sound scores

Summer Exhibition and Barbecue

Great food, exhibits, botanical drawing activities, glorious weather and a steady stream of visitors made it a relaxing celebratory occasion

An opportunity to connect with local MP, Steve McCabe and Severn Trent Community Fund Officer, Sue Hayes

dO iT Book

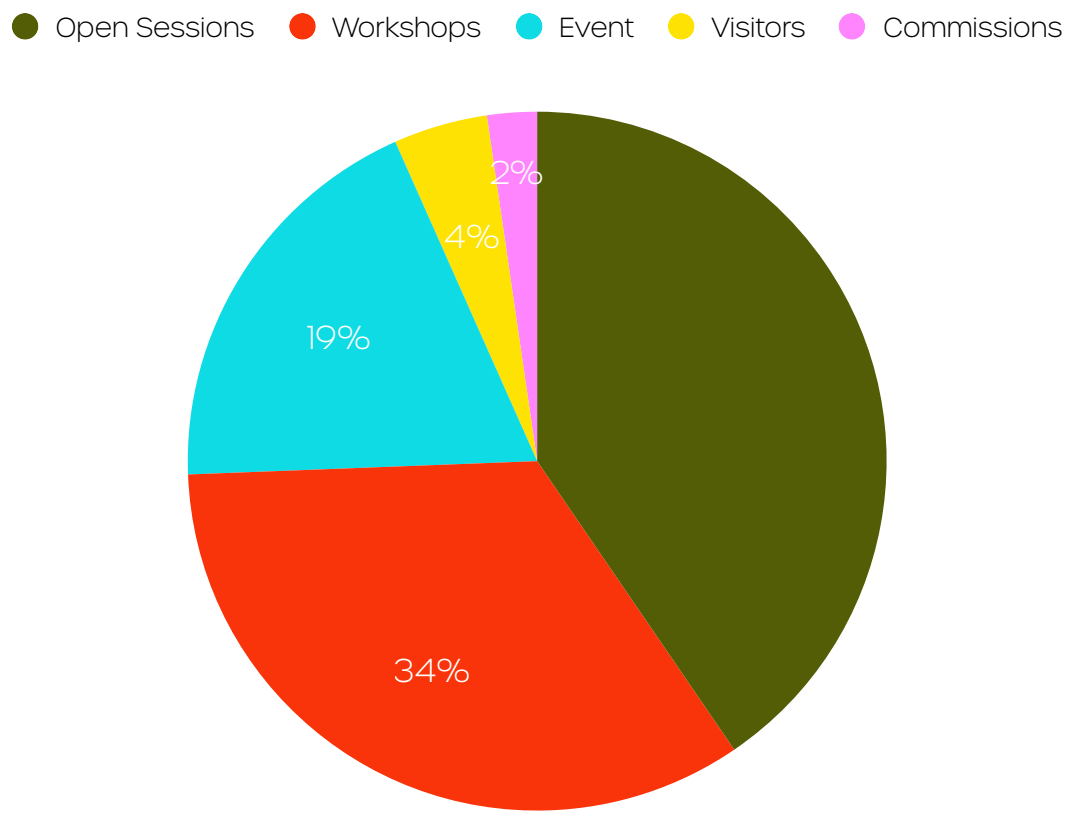


Freddie Ruffley - one of the children's instructions featured in the book

Drawing on associated artists and workshop creatives, commissions for the dO iT book are underway. A digital and handmade book will be made of the collated instructions for making art/performance with nature and will be available October 22.

Do It books have a global community following and radical history. The first book, a revolutionary call for protest and social change, produced by Jerry Rubins, late 1960's, was followed by a popular swell of artists books including Yoko Ono's subversive, whimsical book of instructions for art and life. In 1993, Hans-Ulrich Obrist (current artistic director at the Serpentine Galleries, London) and fellow artists instigated the idea of an exhibition of do—it-yourself descriptions and procedural instructions, mixing contributors of different generations and backgrounds, and at the same time reducing the carbon footprint of transporting exhibits. The instructions are, of course, tongue-in-cheek but like others our book aims to be an inspiring all inclusive collection to redress values and encourage creative work with nature.

Engagement



Volunteer/participant attendance

Open sessions ran Thursdays 10.30am-2.30pm and Saturdays 11.00-3.00pm for 40 session throughout the year. Volunteers clocked up total of 316 attended sessions, they applied and honed their skills, contributing to sustainable infrastructure and planting. More than half the volunteers attended five or more sessions.

Workshops held over the summer holidays were attended by 265 participants. Two thirds of the families and young people attending came to four or more sessions.

The Summer Exhibition & Barbecue following the workshops had an attendance of 148. Three quarters of the people who came attended the workshops, a quarter responded to posters, social media posts or were invited due to their interest/involvement as local community organisations and funders.

34 people who didn't attend other events visited the garden due to local/shared interest/ future collaboration.

One part time project manager, one part time horticulturist, 15 of the 22 Fledgling Programme artist/creative commissions and a child support worker were commissioned over the year.

Website and social media visits increased, our highest Facebook page reached 1,400 visits.

The demographic backgrounds of volunteers/participants/visitors varied widely. Shared interests, home education, acquiring new skills, mental health, well-being, fresh produce and great company were given as reasons for being involved.

Grants

- Birmingham Municipal Charities - budget carried over £176

  Project title - Greenaleigh Community Garden
  Funding - for two small potting sheds (sourced locally from Earlswood Garden & Landscape Centre), pond, volunteer refreshments. Received January 2020, spending from April 2020.
  Duration - unspecified
  Budget - reserved
  Status - pond outstanding otherwise complete.
  Remaining budget held in reserve until the best site, functionality, design and additional funds can be raised.

- Severn Trent Community Fund - budget carried over £7,823

  Project title - Greenaleigh Community Garden - Water Harvesting and Infrastructure
  Funding - for part-time Creative Project Manager and Horticulturalist, volunteer open sessions and training, polytunnel guttering, water storage, seating, raised beds, green shed roofs with integrated workshop cover and water harvesting features, border planting
  Duration - 12th October 2020 - 11th October 2021
  Budget - reserved.
  Status - project complete

- Arts Council National Lottery Project Grant - £14,409 (initial payment £12,923, second payment £1,486)

  Project title - The Fledgling Programme, includes:
  - Pilot Project Workshops, Event and dO iT Book Production
  - R&D 1, Growing Living Art/Materials
  - R&D 2, Developing Interactive Web Content

  Duration - 14th June 2021 - 30th October 2022
  Budget - reserved
  Status - project ongoing

Accounts

Summary
6th April 2021 - 5th April 2022

Full accounts are available on request, play.ground@mail.com

Running Costs/ Project	Opening Balance	Income	Spend Items £250 +	Total Spend	Closing Balance
PlayGround (running costs - unrestricted)	180			46	134
Birmingham Municipal Charities (grant restricted)	177			(Reserved for pond - awaiting location and additional funds)	177
Severn Trent (grant restricted)	7,823		4,458 Project Manager, Horticulturist 489 shed green roof lining, outlet, underlay, overlay 300 mitre saw	7,501	322
Arts Council National Lottery Project Grant (grant restricted)		12,923	4,778 Artists, Project Manager, Access Support	5,800	7,123
	£ 8,180	£ 12,923		£ 13,347	£ 7,756

Date 18/01/2023 Signed on behalf of all trustees

Annual Accounts

6th April 2022 - 5th April 2023

Running Costs/ Project	Project Divisions	Opening Balance	Paid In	Items £250 +	Total Spend	Closing Balance
PlayGround		134.11			0.00	134.11
Birmingham Municipal Charities (grant restricted)		176.85			145.00	31.85
Severn Trent (grant restricted)		322.89			319.25	3.64
Arts Council National Lottery Project Grant (grant restricted)	Fledgling Programme	3,403.50		£2,522.50 6 Artist Contributors £276.47 Lion Picture Framing Supplies Ltd. - materials/ tools £414.14 Marrutt - printer inks and paper	3,402.53	0.97
	R&D 1	3,520.00	21.40	£2,100.00 Manager/Artist £347.00 Horticulturalist	3,541.40	0
	R&D 2	1,525.00		£300 Artist	300.00	1,225
	Contingency	110.76			21.40	89.36
	Project Total	8,559.26	21.40		7,265.33	1,315.33

Annual Accounts

6th April 2022 - 5th April 2023

Running Costs/ Project	Project Divisions	Opening Balance	Paid In	Items £250 +	Total Spend	Closing Balance
Celebrating Communities (grant restricted)			9,735.00	4,563.95 Artist/Manager £2,189.50 3 Horticulturists £1,260 Workshops £460 Food, workshop £293.85 Rent	9,735.00	0
Total		9,193.11	9,756.40		17,464.58	£ 1,484.93

Annual Accounts

6th April 2022 - 5th April 2023

Trustee Payment

Project	Invoice/Payment Date	Total
Arts Council National Lottery Project Grant		
Pilot Project - Simon Bell (writer)	November 2022	600.00
R&D 1 - Phil Stokes (horticulturalist)	April 2022 - March 2023	347.50
Project Total		£ 947.50
Celebrating Communities		
Phil Stokes (horticulturalist)	May 2022 - November 2022	1,645.00
Project Total		£ 1,645.00
Total		£ 2,592.50

Donations In Kind

£937.80

Number of UK Volunteers

32

Voluntary Hours

1,248

PLAYGROUND - ART AND ENVIRONMENT, CONNECTING PEOPLE

England & Wales - Charity number 1182093

Accounts

PlayGROUND Art and Environment, Connecting People

Annual Report & Accounts

2021-2022

Charitable Incorporated Organisation No1182093

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Report

Mission

To advance the arts, horticulture and ecology for the public benefit, through the provision for community participation, educational workshops and public displays.
To develop the capacity and skills of local communities to engage with nature through creative design, contribute to environmental regeneration, food sufficiency, wellbeing and employment.

Strategic Aims

Greenaleigh Community Garden
Establishing a base to provide:

- a community resource for growing food, herbs, teas, and flowers
- a nursery for community planting e.g. gardens, local centre entrances/play areas and public green spaces
- an innovative space to experiment with growing and utilising natural materials for construction/design/craft/art works
- education, skills and training - to build on local horticultural/design/construction/art/craft expertise and support school/community education and training
- a development site for producing public art works, research, debate, raising awareness and promoting sustainable, regenerative communities.

Trustees

Adam Atkins - landscape architect and arboriculturist
Simon Bell - writer, publisher, retired senior lecturer at the School of Art and Design, Coventry University
John Little - Grass Roof Company partner, Green Roof Shelters director
Jennifer Parkinson - engineer, Greenaleigh Road Allotment plot holder, experienced food grower
Aimee Postle - business consultant, visiting lecturer at Birmingham City University, University of Wolverhampton
Phil Stokes - ecologist, horticulturist, Greenaleigh Road Allotment plot holder

Garden Open Sessions

Infrastructure

Kevin passes cut timber up to the roof

Completing construction of the poly tunnel was a huge achievement. It has extended the growing season and allowed open sessions and workshops to be held in wet weather. Perseverance in finding an ideal base solution paid off. Attaching the frame to timber on a slab base, raised the height of the poly tunnel and prevents rot. We're also proud of successfully devising a way of collecting rainwater from the poly tunnel and installing two 1,000 litre International Bulk Containers (IBC's) for storage.

Adding green roofs to the sheds allowed a wood storage and water harvesting section to be added to the back of the sheds. Green roofs not only look great, they help replace the green foot print occupied and moderate the temperature inside the sheds - extremely useful for storing vegetables and seeds.

None of this would have been possible without a great team of volunteers. Particular thanks to, Pat Harte who put a crew of plot holders together for the final stages of adding polythene to the poly tunnel, Louise Mitchell for being able to turn her hand to any job required, and the Peck family who did an amazing job of kickstarting the green roof project and helped solve the notoriously tricky poly tunnel water harvesting.

Selecting the best tool for the job

Shed with extended green roof for storage and water butts

Holly passes earth up to Aurora

Aurora and Iggy discus drill bits and screws

Planting

Harvested pumpkins and gourds

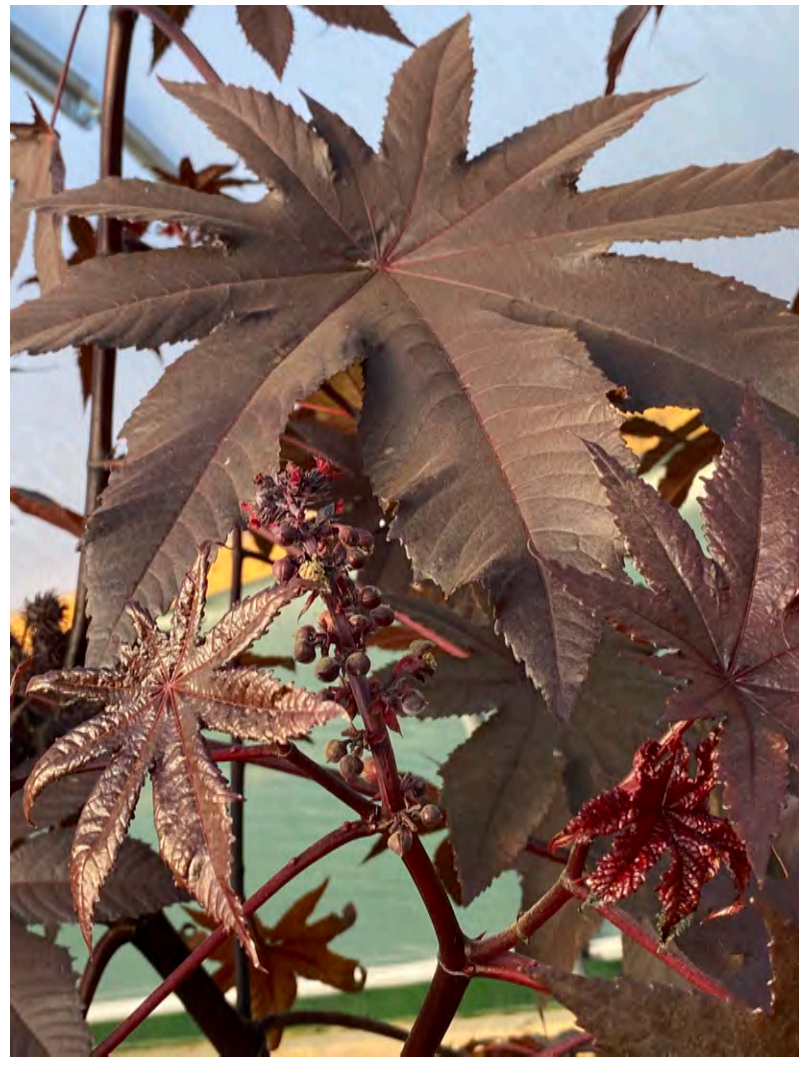
Edibles

James Phillips took charge of the edibles again this year. Bountiful crops of onions, garlic, beans, pumpkins, sweet corn, potatoes, tomatoes, tomatillo, chard and cavolo nero were available fo volunteers to take home or exchange with plot holders. Surplus potatoes, pumpkins and beans were delivered to the local food pantry. Crop rotation, composting and green manures ensured good yields and plenty of flowers for bees. Fruit bushes and trees planted last began to bear fruit.

Border

Additional border planting funded by the Severn Trent Community Fund included twisted hazel (Corylus avellana), guelder rose (Viburnum opulus), sea buckthorn (Hippophae rhamnoides), elderberry (Sambucus nigra) and walnut (Juglans regia). Supplementing a small self seeded wooded area, black berries and previously planted dog roses they will provide sustenance for wildlife and humans.

Angels/Devils Trumpet/Thorn apple/
Cornucopia (Datura meteloides)



Castor Oil/Bean (Ricinus communis)

Features

Larger than life structural planting adds a wow factor of any garden. Amongst many others, Horticulturist Phil Stokes supplied angels trumpets and castor oil/bean plants from his own collection. They were both planted inside and outside the poly tunnel within view of each other so that their growth could be compared. They flourished in both locations but the ones inside the poly tunnel had a far longer season. Globe thistles also made a striking display.

Living Art Works and Art Materials

R&D Fledgling Programme funding from the Arts Council National Lottery Projects Grant, to explore living art works and art materials, started with planting:

- mallow and hazel - grown for their stems,
- Bangladeshi bottle gourds - for their potential to hold water when dry,
- tomatillo to add to the collection of wild and other ornate seed heads, and
- a trip to the National Herb Garden to combine sourcing herbs with plants used for dyes and inks.

Dye plants purchased include woad (Isatis tinctoria), dyer's chamomile (Anthemis tinctoria), dyer's tickseed (Coreopsis tinctoria), dyer's weld (reseda Luteola) and madder (Rubia tinctorum).

Fledgling Programme

Workshops

Hazel with her completed wild flow chandelier

Thanks to funding from the Art Council National Lottery Project Grants we were able to host our first run of arts/craft/nature workshops. Five workshops, ten sessions, took place over the summer holidays. Initially the numbers were restricted to 25 places per workshop due to limited tool/material supplies but as the sessions progressed families and young people asked if they could bring other family members and friends. The roughly hewn space with hurriedly assembled palate tables and straw bale seating, surrounded by vegetables and areas of untamed wild growth, received much enthusiasm for engendering a sense of enjoyment and freedom. Combined with the activities and home baked refreshments we received tremendous overall feedback.

Plant finding mission

Many of the workshops started with a plant finding mission that allowed participants to explore the garden and unclaimed parts of the allotment site.

The photos below illustrate the engagement and wonderful work created during the workshops. Thanks to all the photographers who shared their work so generously.

Wildflower Chandeliers

Albi attaches a teasel

Siena and Lou selecting copper wire to secure poppy heads

Hazel's chandelier - hazel, pumpkin flowers, globe thistle, honesty, cotoneaster

Natural Dyes

Flower pounding and leaf bashing transfer of natural pigments to cloth

Rolling plants and fabric between newspaper to transfer pigment to cloth

Pigments transferred to cloth

Pumpkin, poppy and bindweed (Convolvulus) flowers

Allotment Combing for Curiosities

Natural and found objects - collected, displayed and examined under vintage enlarger lenses.

Recycled jars make excellent display containers

Perfect subjects for close-up/macro and time lapse photography

Collection of found and natural objects

Airborne seeds, extinguished flight

Rocket Pig/Dog - sculpture - unearthed tools, dried seed heads, string, wire

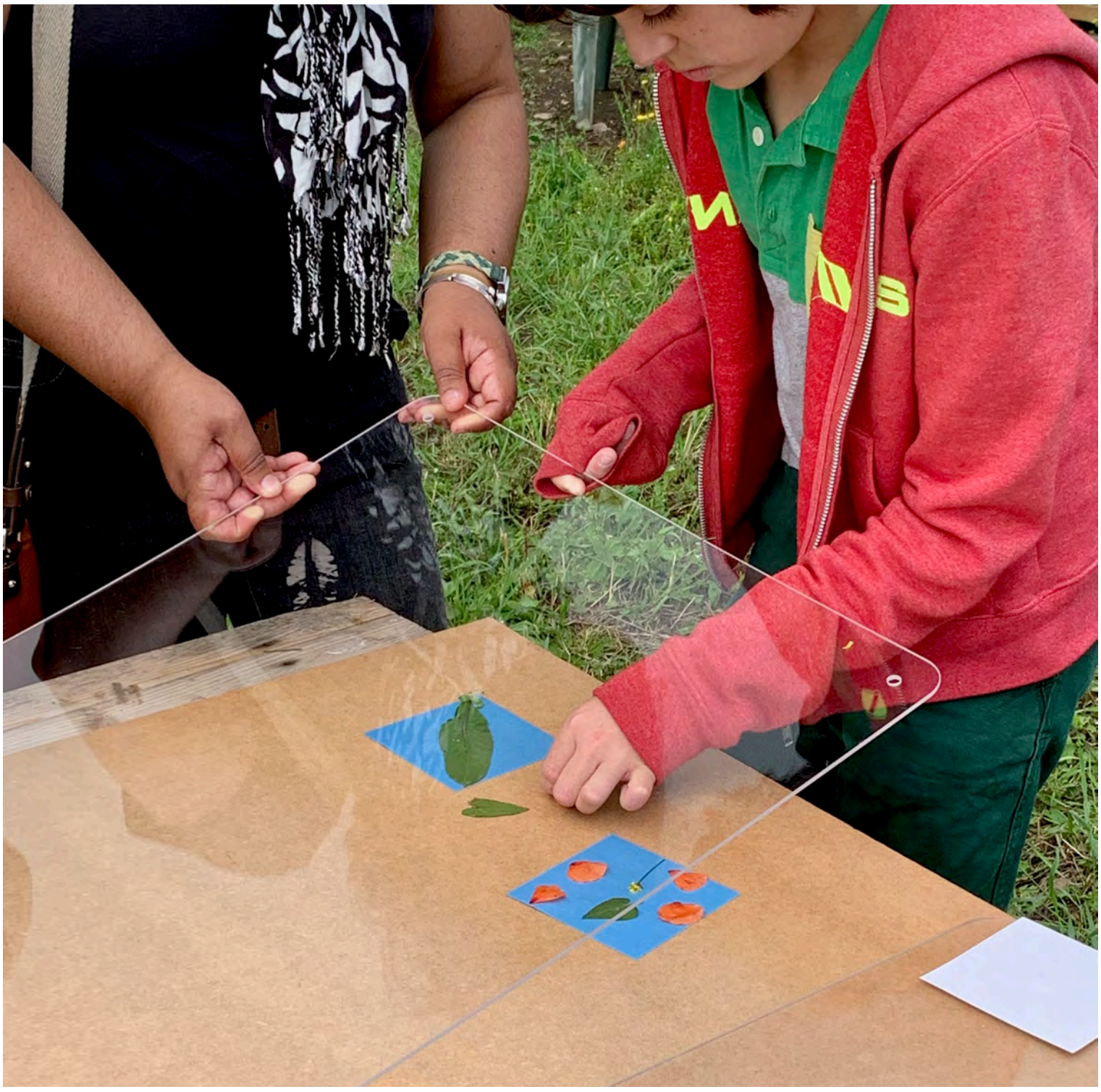
Cyanotypes

Leena and Jo use their phones to time the development process

Sienna and friend go it alone, confidence in the colour changes and process make timers redundant

Workshops were accompanied by factsheets and examples of works by artists using similar techniques. The cyanotype workshops also included a brief history due the importance of the process in the development of photography. Sessions were designed to include all levels of access and interest so that participants could follow up references and explore the techniques introduced at home.

Cyanotype paper is sensitive to UVA radiation, a limited near ultraviolet and blue light spectrum, strongest in bright sunlight. Adjusting exposure times for a mix of cloud and sun became part of the fun. Arrangements were made on similar sized dummy paper before being swiftly transferred to exposed cyanotype paper. After timing the exposure it was transferred to a black bag and carried to the poly tunnel for development and washing.



Freddie arranges petals and leaves on preprepared cyanotype paper

Preprepared lightweight cyanotype paper was used to familiarise the process, before progressing to more costly handmade watercolour paper, prepared with Ferric Ammonium Citrate and Potassium Ferricyanide. Despite the difference in exposure and development times, there were far fewer accidental over exposures.

Both papers resulted in stunning images, the preprepared lightweight paper lent a delicacy to the images, the heavier handmade paper produced rich tones with good definition and an attractive texture. It was a tough decision to choose a print for the Summer Exhibition & Barbecue poster.

Small preprepared cyanotype paper used for initial prints

Isla Hall - Cyanotype on handmade paper, selected for the Summer Exhibition & Barbecue poster

Scoring Supporting Structures

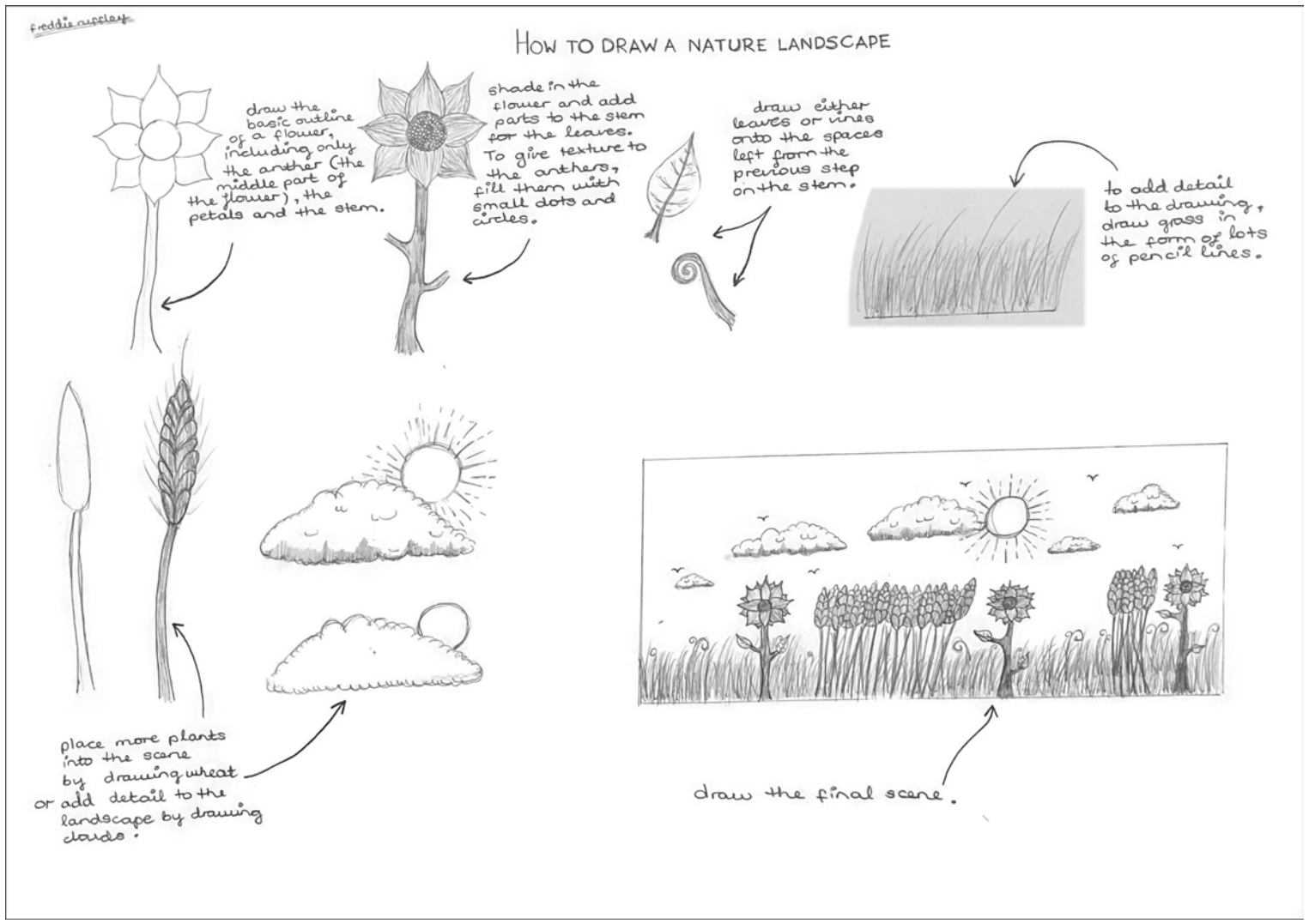
Geodesic Dome using two different lengths of bamboo, made up of six pentagons and ten triangles, ready for wire sound scores

Summer Exhibition and Barbecue

Great food, exhibits, botanical drawing activities, glorious weather and a steady stream of visitors made it a relaxing celebratory occasion

An opportunity connect with local MP, Steve McCabe and Severn Trent Community Fund Officer, Sue Hayes

dO iT Book

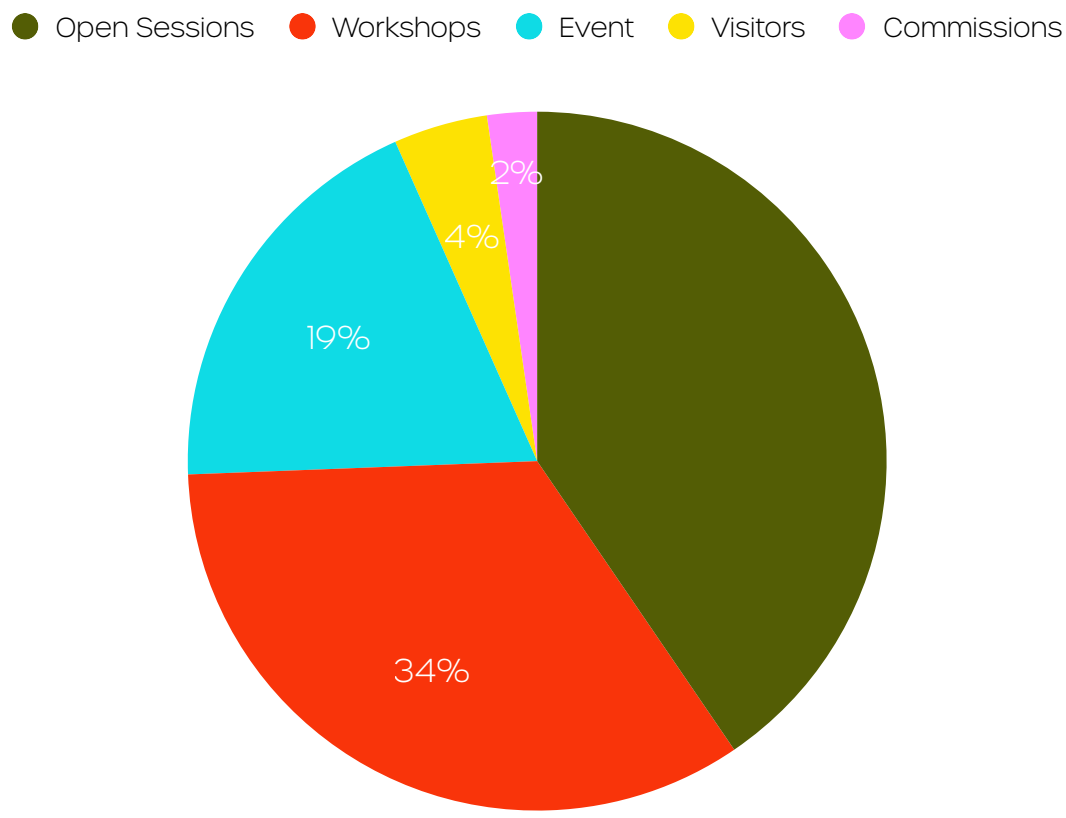


Freddie Ruffley - one of the children's instructions featured in the book

Drawing on associated artists and workshop creatives, commissions for the dO iT book are underway. A digital and handmade book will be made of the collated instructions for making art/performance with nature and will be available October 22.

Do It books have a global community following and radical history. The first book, a revolutionary call for protest and social change, produced by Jerry Rubins, late 1960's, was followed by a popular swell of artists books including Yoko Ono's subversive, whimsical book of instructions for art and life. In 1993, Hans-Ulrich Obrist (current artistic director at the Serpentine Galleries, London) and fellow artists instigated the idea of an exhibition of do—it-yourself descriptions and procedural instructions, mixing contributors of different generations and backgrounds, and at the same time reducing the carbon footprint of transporting exhibits. The instructions are, of course, tongue-in-cheek but like others our book aims to be an inspiring all inclusive collection to redress values and encourage creative work with nature.

Engagement



Volunteer/participant attendance

Open sessions ran Thursdays 10.30am-2.30pm and Saturdays 11.00-3.00pm for 40 session throughout the year. Volunteers clocked up total of 316 attended sessions, they applied and honed their skills, contributing to sustainable infrastructure and planting. More than half the volunteers attended five or more sessions.

Workshops held over the summer holidays were attended by 265 participants. Two thirds of the families and young people attending came to four or more sessions.

The Summer Exhibition & Barbecue following the workshops had an attendance of 148. Three quarters of the people who came attended the workshops, a quarter responded to posters, social media posts or were invited due to their interest/involvement as local community organisations and funders.

34 people who didn't attend other events visited the garden due to local/shared interest/ future collaboration.

One part time project manager, one part time horticulturist, 15 of the 22 Fledgling Programme artist/creative commissions and a child support worker were commissioned over the year.

Website and social media visits increased, our highest Facebook page reached 1,400 visits.

The demographic backgrounds of volunteers/participants/visitors varied widely. Shared interests, home education, acquiring new skills, mental health, well-being, fresh produce and great company were given as reasons for being involved.

Grants

- Birmingham Municipal Charities - budget carried over £176

  Project title - Greenaleigh Community Garden
  Funding - for two small potting sheds (sourced locally from Earlswood Garden & Landscape Centre), pond, volunteer refreshments. Received January 2020, spending from April 2020.
  Duration - unspecified
  Budget - reserved
  Status - pond outstanding otherwise complete.
  Remaining budget held in reserve until the best site, functionality, design and additional funds can be raised.

- Severn Trent Community Fund - budget carried over £7,823

  Project title - Greenaleigh Community Garden - Water Harvesting and Infrastructure
  Funding - for part-time Creative Project Manager and Horticulturalist, volunteer open sessions and training, polytunnel guttering, water storage, seating, raised beds, green shed roofs with integrated workshop cover and water harvesting features, border planting
  Duration - 12th October 2020 - 11th October 2021
  Budget - reserved.
  Status - project complete

- Arts Council National Lottery Project Grant - £14,409 (initial payment £12,923, second payment £1,486)

  Project title - The Fledgling Programme, includes:
  - Pilot Project Workshops, Event and dO iT Book Production
  - R&D 1, Growing Living Art/Materials
  - R&D 2, Developing Interactive Web Content

  Duration - 14th June 2021 - 30th October 2022
  Budget - reserved
  Status - project ongoing

Accounts

Summary
6th April 2020 - 5th April 2021

Full accounts are available on request, play.ground@mail.com

Running Costs/ Project	Opening Balance	Income	Spend Items £250 +	Total Spend	Closing Balance
PlayGround (running costs - unrestricted)	180			46	134
Birmingham Municipal Charities (grant restricted)	177			(Reserved for pond - awaiting location and additional funds)	177
Severn Trent (grant restricted)	7,823		4,458 Project Manager, Horticulturist 489 shed green roof lining, outlet, underlay, overlay 300 mitre saw	7,501	322
Arts Council National Lottery Project Grant (grant restricted)		12,923	4,778 Artists, Project Manager, Access Support	5,800	7,123
	£ 8,180	£ 12,923		£ 13,347	£ 7,756

Date 18/01/2023 Signed on behalf of all trustees

PLAYGROUND - ART AND ENVIRONMENT, CONNECTING PEOPLE

England & Wales - Charity number 1182093

Accounts

PlayGROUND Art and Environment, Connecting People

Annual Report & Accounts

2020-2021

Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Foundation Model Constitution

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Report

Mission

To advance the arts, horticulture and ecology for the public benefit, through the provision for community participation, educational workshops and public displays.

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Greenaleigh Community Garden

Establishing a base to provide:

- a community resource for growing food, herbs, teas, and flowers
- a nursery for community planting e.g. gardens, local centre entrances/play areas and public green spaces
- an innovative space to experiment with growing and utilising natural materials for construction/design/craft/art works
- education, skills and training - to build on local horticultural/design/construction/art/craft expertise and support school/community education and training
- a base for producing public art works, research, debate, raising awareness and developing a more sustainable, regenerative community.

Main Activities

Great strides have been made in engaging volunteers, fund raising and establishing the garden infrastructure.

Engagement

Thanks to funders a part-time, Creative Project Manager (15 hrs/week) and a Horticulturalist (7.5 hrs/week) were contracted for two consecutive six month periods, July to December 2020 and January to July 2021.

Covid-19 restrictions led to a boost in engagement. Occupying three plots, the garden allowed volunteers to observe social distancing guidance and provided a place to combat isolation, enjoy outdoor activity, transform the abandoned plots into a community garden and learn new horticultural and landscaping skills.

47 volunteers clocked up an inspiring average of 37 hours a week. Participation, word of mouth, Facebook and web-site pages led to three families, a group of young people and two individuals taking up plots on the Greenaleigh Road Allotment site.

Volunteers varied widely in age and demographic backgrounds. They included home schooled children and young people, participants with caring responsibilities, long term health conditions, and people who felt isolated from their community and would otherwise have been at work.

Infrastructure

Volunteers, trustees and contractors made light work of the infrastructure by sharing skills and humour.

Particular gratitude goes to young Bobby Crosbee, who wielded 3'x2' slabs to help lay the main path and shed base area for wheelchair access. Locally sourced potting sheds, delayed due to Covid-19, were finally delivered and erected, September 2020.

Up-cycled pallets were transformed into compost bins.

The poly-tunnel base proved tricky, a couple of false starts lent new meaning to 'level up, not down'. Success was achieved with the help of Bill's trusty Ferguson Plough, levelling the ground across the width and working with the gradient along the length. Slabs and oak sleepers finally won out to make a durable base to attach the frame.

Planting

Edible planting included three cherry trees and an apple tree. Two neglected apple trees, originally cordoned, have been pruned to bring them back to health. A variety of fruit bushes and rhubarb will be ready for harvesting next year. Other produce includes onions, garlic, beans, pumpkins, potatoes, tomatoes, tomatillo, chard and cavolo nero.

Encouraged by an exchange of recipes and culinary advice, volunteers and the local family centre, GBNFC at The Chinnbrook Centre, made good use of the produce. Non-hybrid seeds were collected and stored.

Apart from producing food for human consumption, garden management aims to improve habitat for wild life.. Hedge roses and hazel have been added to existing bramble, wild plum and other inherited border vegetation. Additional border planting will take place autumn/ spring 2021/22.

Soil fertility is maintained by using green manures and composting. Areas of the garden used for social gatherings and workshops are stimmed when necessary. Bramble suckers and some bind weed have been removed, for the time-being they are otherwise in their natural state.

Grants

- Birmingham Municipal Charities - £2,722
  Project title - Greenaleigh Community Garden
  Duration - unspecified
  Received January 2020, spending from April 2020. Restricted funding for two small potting sheds (sourced locally from Earlswood Garden & Landscape Centre), pond, volunteer refreshments.

- Awards For All - £9,975
  Project title - Greenaleigh Community Garden Set Up
  Duration - 1st July 2020 - 30th June 2021
  Restricted funding for: part-time Creative Project Manager and Horticulturalist, volunteer open sessions, plot rental, insurance (public liability, sheds and equipment), marketing, office materials, tools and gloves, plants, seeds and polytunnel (12ft x 35ft).

- Severn Trent Community Fund - £9,963
  Project title - Greenaleigh Community Garden - Water Harvesting and Infrastructure
  Duration - 12th October 2020 - 11th October 2021
  Restricted funding for: part-time Creative Project Manager and Horticulturalist, volunteer open sessions and training, polytunnel guttering, water storage, seating, raised beds, green shed roofs with integrated workshop cover and water harvesting features, border planting.

Trustees

Adam Atkins - landscape architect and arboriculturist

Simon Bell - writer, book publishing, retired senior lecturer at the School of Art and Design, Coventry University

John Little - Grass Roof Company partner, Green Roof Shelters director

Jennifer Parkinson - engineer, Greenaleigh Road Allotment plot holder, experienced food grower

Aimee Postle - business consultant, visiting lecturer at Birmingham City University, University of Wolverhampton

Phil Stokes - ecologist, horticulturist, Greenaleigh Road Allotment plot holder

Accounts

Summary

6th April 2020 - 5th April 2021

Full accounts are available on request, play.ground@mail.com

Running Costs/ Project	Opening Balance	Income	Items £250 +	Total Spend	Closing Balance
PlayGround	35	145 (Insurance, budget transfer from Awards For All)		0	180
Birmingham Municipal Charities (grant restricted)	2,722		£2,354.46 Potting Sheds	2,545	177
Awards For All (grant restricted)		9,957 -145 (budget transfer to PlayGROUND) -425 (end of project budget transfer)	£4,320 Project Manager £1,722 Horticulturalist £2,072 Polytunnel £425 End of Project Transfer	9,387 (9,957 including transfers)	0
Severn Trent (grant restricted)		9,963 425 (budget transfer from Awards For All)	£1,440 Project Manager £504 Horticulturalist £536 Sleepers	2,565	7,823
	£ 2,757	£ 19,920		£ 14,497	£ 8,180

Date 24/01/2022

Signed on behalf of all trustees J Parkinson