

Roots & Shoots

years of planting for the future



1982

Training young people to fulfil their potential
Environmental Education for All

2012



Planting for the future: 30 years

Linda Phillips, Director

This, our 30th anniversary year, has been a special one for Roots and Shoots, a culmination of the decades of dedicated hard work and commitment shown by all staff, trustees, volunteers and our many long term supporters.



It began with an Outstanding Grade 1 award after an OFSTED Inspection of our Foundation Learning programme. Subsequently, we have been included in a report on educational good practice for Ofsted's website. In the New Year's Honours List I was awarded the MBE for services to young people. This was presented to me by HM the Queen at Buckingham Palace, an occasion I will never forget. In April our organisation received the 'Growing Schools' award from the Botanic Gardens Education Network and the RHS in recognition of our excellent environmental education provision and the high horticultural standard of our site. The Ofsted Inspectors noted that one of our strengths as an organisation are the strong links we have with other London-wide organisations such as the London Gardens Network, the Conservation Foundation, Architecture Sans Frontières, as well as with local businesses and schools. You can see examples of this work in this Review. There are benefits for our young people with work experience but, with our combined professional expertise, we are also able to support such organisations with, for example, horticultural and wildlife/biodiversity advice, funding opportunities etc. This year we said goodbye to Matt Brownlee our Youth Employment Officer and Hayley Topley our Office Coordinator. They have both been with us for over three years and have put energy and commitment into their work to the benefit of Roots and Shoots. We wish them well in their new professional roles. In their place we welcome Paddy Smith (Youth Employment Officer) and Issy Okonta (Office Coordinator) who both began in October. There is continuity in 30 years of Roots and Shoots - the Walnut Tree, early trainees constantly returning, long term volunteers - and we are resolved to build upon our achievement and to strive to make our services to the community even better - to pay full regard to the faith our long term supporters have placed in us. I am hoping that fundraising efforts this year will bring to fruition our proposed development of the Wildlife Garden Study Centre (the last of the World War II Civil Defence buildings), and that a partnership with City of London Parks and Open Spaces will deliver horticultural apprenticeships for our students.

It is such a privilege to be Patron of Roots and Shoots. To see how the young trainees develop their potential under the caring direction of the dedicated staff is a genuine joy. Roots and Shoots is a place where once visited it is impossible not to return. Despite the financial climate Roots and Shoots manages to maintain its core values and is an integral part of the local community. It is truly my favourite place in Vauxhall and my congratulations go to all who have achieved so much this year.

Kate Hoey MP, Patron



nut to seedling to maturing tree: Indian Horse Chestnut

Linda with Bob Johnson, trainer, 1982





Ruth Mitchell, Education Co-ordinator



2012 has been another busy year. July leavers successfully moved on to further study, employment or apprenticeships. All achieved various City and Guilds qualifications across the Foundation Learning courses at Awards or Certificates level with two achieving Diplomas. We also had a full cohort of new trainees on the first day (they were so quiet!) and as always we add a few more along the way. Foundation Learning sits very well with our holistic provision. Our Ofsted grade clarified this and we have been selected as an Ofsted case study for Good Practice. We are also about to commence delivery of training for the Foundation Learning provision in a Wandsworth Secondary school. A group of young people will attend R&S on a weekly basis working towards vocational qualifications including our Enterprise Project 'Learn to Earn' module. This is an exciting development and we hope the course is a great success.

Roots can now deliver a wider range of provision including: 14-16 schools' provision run by Amanda Rew (now in its third year), the two year Foundation Learning for 16-18 years with a one year course up to age 24 (if stated), as well as the vocational strand of training in secondary schools. Our Foundation Learners can now progress into a supported Apprenticeship programme and hopefully onto a full Apprenticeship. Roots and Shoots is thus in a very strong position to develop important training/apprenticeship links (a need recognised nationally by government), for example with city parks. This is especially so as, from this year, our younger trainees can attend for two years.



Angela Barredo, Sarah Wilson, Paddy Smith, Jean Willmot, Alva Wilson



R & S worked closely with the Waterloo Community Development Group travelling with students to the Centre for Alternative Technology in Wales to train as Energy Assessors.



A big welcome to Paddy Smith who has taken over from Matt Brownlee. Paddy is busy developing school links and placement contacts. We now have a fantastic, enthusiastic and fun team on board and there are lots of new ideas being developed. Roots and Shoots' training is firmly bedded in, providing high quality, cost-effective provision and, of course, we never forget the most important reason for all this... *the young people who come through our doors.*

The City & Guilds Retail Skills course gives trainees the opportunity to explore all aspects of Retail, from visual merchandising to selling techniques, stock-taking and working effectively within a team. Having a shop on site (left) and attending local fairs (above right) helps the trainees to put what they are taught into practice and also provides a platform for them to make and sell work done with Sylvia Edwards on the Arts Award course at 'Spark Works'. All this helps to boost their confidence and social enterprise skills. Pressing, bottling and selling their own apple juice or raising plants from seed on to hanging baskets or sales tables are excellent 'source to shelf' process experiences.



Training for the future...

It was a busy year in the gardens, with a record number of students and plenty of work for them to do. The toughest job we did involved re-using a truck-load of the most substantial form of granite kerb stones you are likely to see. Moving them required imaginative use of levers and sack trolleys and there was enough of them to edge two very large new planting beds. I love the fact that some of the road markings are still visible on them! We diversified planting in our wildflower areas in Lambeth Walk Open Space, by including wild chicory and sunflowers in the grass maze, and grew a wider variety of plants in our nursery.

Greg Smith



We finally said goodbye to the 750 elm saplings that we grew on for the *Ulmus Londinium* project but then immediately embarked on helping Architecture Sans-Frontières to grow edible plants for Chelsea Flower Show - tough with such a poor spring. Their design, "Urban Green: Linking Ecosystems to Social Systems" won a silver Lindley medal, more due to their hard work and lovely design than the slightly bedraggled plants we grew! We also continued our work at Kennington Park, working with professionals on designing and planting a lovely new herbaceous bed and returning the walled garden: work which benefits a wide range of communities in north Lambeth and gives our trainees an experience of civil responsibility.

Caring for Lambeth's Open Spaces:

Lambeth Walk Open Space Wildlife Area



The Cellini Orchard: a new apple tree of our local variety is planted

Kennington Park



Once again our trainee gardeners did us proud with their hard work and enthusiasm. Of the sixteen students, one achieved a Diploma, four reached Certificate and five gained an Award. Klaud and Jake went on to work as apprentices for Quadron and are now both working full time as well as starting a level 2 course at Capel Manor. William and Charlie have returned to work to diploma level whilst we continue to support them to find apprenticeships. Emmanuel has also returned to do our retail course. Louis went on to work at the Olympics and is now in regular contact whilst applying for gardening and other jobs. Others are looking for jobs and apprenticeships, applying for other courses and hopefully continuing to progress in life. We wish you all well!

The 'Schools Link' gardening project continued with Amanda Rew delivering gardening training for pupils from Lilian Baylis Technology School using the allotment. From September 2012 Amanda works with two groups. Thank you Amanda and Lilian Baylis for all of your hard work!

And finally, as ever, thank you to the many people who have helped us keep our nursery and site ticking over: all our regular helpers, Paula and her trusty team of sweepers, Ian and our corporate CSV volunteers and all the other creative lovely people who help make Roots and Shoots such a unique space.

Environmental Education for the future.



Enter the Wildlife Garden to creep, duck, peer, enquire

All ages do this each year - not just the smaller ones (Dulwich Wood Nursery come every year) - and all are encouraged to open all senses, just as they might on a visit to a 'wild' nature reserve somewhere outside the city.

It might be to see at least five species of solitary bee happily nesting in the Trellick Bee Tower, microscopic life in pond water magnified over 2,000 times, planted roofs "in action" or just to experience the quiet and hidden corners deep within the informal, old and rambling mix of native and some quite exotic plants.



smell



taste



and at lunch time out in the meadows.....

run

LOOK

As well as guiding a range of groups around the site, David has also regularly taken Roots and Shoots' biodiversity further afield with fully illustrated lectures to schools, beekeepers, environmental and conservation groups, events and fairs. The "Taste of Beekeeping Courses" at Roots have continued to be fully booked.

David Perkins





1982 First tree planting: Linda

1989

1991

2006

2012

WALNUT

Chilean Myrtle *Santa Catalina Ironwood Tree* *Foxglove Tree* *Quince*

planting for the future: our trees

ENGLISH OAK

Strawberry Tree *Weeping White Mulberry*

Indian Horse Chestnut *Mimosa* *Himalayan Birch* *False Acacia* *Medlar*



Kate Hocy planting 1992

2005 2012

December 1999 planting: David/Walnut Tree Walk Primary/Mayor of Lambeth

ENGLISH APPLES

2006: flowers

2012: fruit



Biodiversity: ponds...

This was a difficult year for many animals in the gardens. The big pond, maturing and changing all the time has, of course, been full for most of the time. Its plants did very well (purple loosestrife, reedmace and figwort shown here) and the frogs had a bumper year. Gardening this autumn was a constant hopping around young frogs. The newts are ticking along, the slow worms and a very small population of toads are hanging on. There are large numbers of dragonfly nymphs of two species in the pond so there should be a big emergence next spring.



bees...

It was most difficult for invertebrates. The drought in early spring restricted early plant growth and nectar production and hampered the honey bees in particular (this has been a poor year for bees and pollination in many parts of the country). The early solitary bees didn't do too badly as the long periods of dry weather at least enabled them to get on and build nests. The flower bee, *Anthophora plumipes* (above left), was frequent on the rubble roof and in the meadows and the tawny mining bee, *Andrena fulva*, dug her nest holes in her usual place beneath *Geranium macrorrhizum* in the Wildlife Garden. The problems facing bees, beyond the weather, have been 'in the news' a lot in recent years and in May we hosted the London launch of Friends of the Earth's programme "The Bee Cause". It was a great day training for FoE members in how to promote the health of bees and pollinators in general in our gardens.

Butterflies and moths did very poorly with no burnet moths and very few small skippers. Grasshoppers also did less well, though Roesel's bush cricket was seen fairly frequently in Lambeth Walk Open Space.



trees...

"We were delighted to have our young elm trees looked after by Roots and Shoots. As experimental trees they couldn't have had a better start in life than spending their early days in such a great place and with such great care."
David Shreeve, Director, The Conservation Foundation.

Our collaboration with the Conservation Foundation for *Ulmus Londinium* was completed this year as the young elms were divided between other gardens such as Syon House and Lambeth Palace, to be grown on for the rest of the year. This freed up a lot of space in our nursery area. 50 children from Walnut Tree Walk Primary helped to carry 100 trees around to Lambeth Palace using our old Lambeth Walk market barrow. They were given a tour of the gardens there by Alistair Cook, Head Gardener. The first elms were handed out to the public in early November.





Friends and colleagues from the past and the present, gathered for our 30th Garden Party in July.



Apple Day, our most popular public event every year - loads of apples, daft games for all ages, hand pressed juice (this year, apple *Lord Lambourne*), a multitude of stalls and music (*Whittington Steel Band*), Winston Nzinga, storyteller, Corn Dolly making with Sonia of *the Lions Part* and the start of....

...the giant *Cornes Queene* for *the Lions Part's October Plenty* festival. Here she is at the *Globe Theatre* (top) before the parade to *Borough Market* for another *Apple Day*. The finale of *October Plenty* is to pull the *Queene* apart (all that work of Sarah's!) to throw her to the audience (bottom).

REEN PILKINGTON



scanning electron microscope image of a dragonfly's wing



Reen Pilkington worked with David on several ambitious art/science educational projects from 2002 - 2008. Her imaginative curiosity about the natural world and commitment to bringing this to children reinforced David's energies when it came to organising these bigger projects. Her contributions to the two "Lambeth's Living Waters" programmes with the associated film "Daphnia and Diatoms", the projects "Beastly Visions", "The Sounds of Spring" and "All Our Apple Days" with its grand film, were all crucial. We were honoured to hold a retrospective exhibition of her work in June (left). With her private view and the 30th Anniversary Garden Party this was the main event of the summer. We are all very sad to hear of her recent death.

monoprint by Sarah Wilson



Friends and volunteers

Friends of Roots and Shoots:

All money from Friends' subscriptions benefits the work of the charity. Every year this pays for the trainees' Christmas outing, (last year, ice skating at the Tower of London with lots of hot chocolate!) We also give £10 per trainee as a Christmas gift and provide a large 'Phillip-cooked' Christmas lunch in the hall. 'Friends money' has refurbished the shop, helped an ex-trainee with special clothing for her job and paid for the 30th birthday party, food and entertainment.

Roots and Shoots could not manage without our volunteers, both for regular activities and for particular projects, open days, or jobs requiring large teams. We have a weekly group including very long-term and faithful volunteers: *Brenda, Fan* (who also oversees the Friends of Roots and Shoots), *Christine, Kieran, Andrew* (bottom right), *Nikki, Cirio, Yolanda, Simon* on Tuesdays and *Paula* from the *Bede Centre* with *Nathan, Mafido and Lesley* on Thursdays.

Then we have wonderful and reliable volunteers such as *Lindsay Swan* (centre right) who constantly keeps a beady eye on our website and makes sure news is regularly broadcast, *Linsey Fryatt* continuing to help with the website, *Raymond Ali*, a trainee from the 1980's still guarding the Wildlife Garden on Open Days (lower right). Many thanks also to *Ian Carruthers* at CSV for organising large 'corporate volunteering' groups (Deloitte, OFCOM, NESTA, Discovery Channel, PCUBED). *Judy Ling Wong, Peggy, Maggie, Barry, Catey, Ellen, Marc, Val Stapleton and Martha* often 'chip in' generously. *Philip Moore and Alan Bezzant* care diligently for our honey bees. *A special thank you* this last year to *Aude* (top right) who regularly

arrives when David needs an extra gardening hand in the Wildlife Garden, to *Janine Hesse* from Germany (upper right) who visited as a key helper for Apple Day 2011 and Science Day 2012, to *David and Gayle* for help with apple pressing 2011 and finally to *Clive* (left, with his bees at Borough Market Apple Day) who, with Paul, brought skilled laying of the hawthorn hedge to the garden: all highly valued during and after David's illness. *Mary Jo* throughout.



This 30th anniversary year marks another important chapter in the story of Roots and Shoots. The Board of Trustees' mission has been to become an exemplar charity for our local community. There is no doubt that the 'Outstanding' award from OFSTED is a testimony to the hard work, dedication and quality of our staff team. It is also the result of teamwork and commitment by the Trustees to be the best. Their demand for excellence has ensured that the way in which Roots and Shoots is managed through its systems and procedures meets the highest standards. We feel we have achieved this and will continue to expect such standards for the future.

Ian Parker, Chair.

Our highly valued Trustees are: *Ann Bodkin, Graham Cocking, Glenda King, A. Michael Mitchell (Treasurer), Vic Wilmott, David Sawyer (right, still coming from Brighton every week to do the accounts).*

Arfa and Carlene, Catering Assistants

The facilities that we offer for visiting conferences and meetings combine fairly-priced, flexible, varied and well-equipped spaces in a beautiful environment managed with urban biodiversity in mind: unusual in a central London location. Delegate feedback is very complimentary, especially with regard to Phillip's food!

Our regular clients such as Post Adoption, The Green Register, the London Group of Plant Heritage, Catch 22, Christian Aid, THRIVE, CAFOD, The Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens, Action for Sustainability, WaterAid, Macmillan Cancer Support and local NHS services keep coming back to use our facilities and enjoy the comfort of the newly equipped Meeting Rooms and Hall as well as the gardens. New clients have since joined our list of regulars, amongst them Green Power Conferences, The London Community Foundation, Reset Development and Comic Relief. With plasma screen and PA system in the Hall, loop systems and digital projectors in both Meeting Rooms, with bread and cakes baked on site and hot or cold lunches prepared by our chef, *Phillip Costen*, it is possible to cater for all types of group.

The London Beekeepers Association and the Central Association of Beekeepers (*left*) continue to use the site for meetings and lectures - bees with a hall attached!

*Issy Okonta
Office Coordinator*

*Elsa Cole
Administration
Coordinator*

Linda Phillips MBE

The year to 31 March 2012 has been good financially. The loss of over £100,000 in the previous year has been followed by a surplus of nearly £2,000, quite a turnaround. This has been entirely due to an increase of £112,000 in income. Mainstream funding for our core education work increased by £70,000, and additional grants were received from the Sheepdrove Trust, The Walcot Foundation and John R Murray. Money at the bank at the year end increased a little to £213,000. Grant raising is never going to be easy but the prospect for the charity in the short to medium term has improved considerably over the last year.

Michael Mitchell, Treasurer.

Roots and Shoots

**Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 March 2012**

pk accountants
www.ppkgroup.com

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2012 Total funds £	2011 Total funds £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary income	2	279,129	103,468	382,597	258,385
Activities for generating funds	3	57,465	-	57,465	67,674
Investment income	4	356	-	356	447
Incoming resources from charitable activities					
Sales		5,030	-	5,030	4,513
Wildlife Garden		560	-	560	1,603
Other incoming resources		2,207	-	2,207	3,276
Total incoming resources		344,747	103,468	448,215	335,898
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Charitable activities					
Charitable activities	6	327,138	83,468	410,606	403,170
Governance costs	8	4,152	-	4,152	4,675
Other resources expended		-	31,531	31,531	31,531
Total resources expended		331,290	114,999	446,289	439,376
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES before transfers					
		13,457	(11,531)	1,926	(103,478)
Gross transfers between funds	15	20,000	(20,000)	-	-
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources		33,457	(31,531)	1,926	(103,478)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		214,787	916,727	1,131,514	1,234,992
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		248,244	885,196	1,133,440	1,131,514

This is an extract from the audited Roots and Shoots accounts. For a full copy please contact the Director

Roots and Shoots



Vocational training for
16+ in Horticulture, Life
Skills, Retail Skills.
Environmental Education
for schools and the wider
community.
Urban biodiversity,
sustainability and
conservation action.
Small conference/meeting/
training centre for hire.
Events and Exhibitions.

Root and Shoots provides vocational training for young people from the inner city, mainly from the London boroughs of Lambeth and Southwark. We aim to give them the skills and self-confidence that will equip them for work. Alongside this training we involve local schools and the wider community by maintaining our site as an important green space and environmental resource.

We value people. We encourage staff, trainees, volunteers and all others involved with us to work together, enabling us all to fulfil our potential.

Awards

Funding



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