

Grapes Hill Community Garden Group Annual Report 2022

The Trustees & Committee team are pleased to have seen another wonderful year for Grapes Hill Community Garden and report here on key happenings over 2022.



Key Roles in the Garden

2021 saw a lot of changes in Key Roles in the Garden and so did 2022. Holly Chantrill-Cheyette retired from her lottery funded role as Integration Officer & Volunteer Coordinator in September, and Becky Rolf from her role as Project Manager in February 2023. As of 2023 these vacancies then saw the introduction of Caroline Fernandez, as Outreach & Integration Co-ordinator and Charity Lamb as Assistant Gardener

Because we have an underspend in year 1 & year 2 of the 3-year Lottery funding, although having reached our official end of the project in Oct 2022, we were granted an extension to use this underspend. This enables us to continue to fund Jo Rice's role as Head Gardener and Volunteer, Group & Workshop leader. In addition to this, after a successful funding bid to the Love Norfolk grant fund, from the Norfolk Community Foundation (plus using GHCGG reserves) we are able to continue the role of outreach and Integration officer for another year. And after a successful Talent Fund bid, we were able to use this along with GHCGG reserves to fund the assistant gardener role.

Paid Officer Roles

- Becky Rolf - Project Manager (until Feb 2023)
- Holly Chantrill-Cheyette - Outreach and Integration officer (until Oct 2022)
- Jo Rice - Gardener, Volunteer & Group Leader, Events & Workshop Lead.
- Caroline Fernandez - Outreach and Integration Officer (From Feb 2023)
- Charity Lamb - Assistant Gardener (from Feb 2023)

Trustees

- Richard Bearman - Chair
- Fran Ellington - Founder and retired Secretary
- Patrick Goodall - Garden maintenance, sculptor and bench creator
- Wyn Hurst - Funding and administrative support
- Peter Ellington -Treasurer
- Jane Sayers - Hon. Trustee
- Anthony Preston - Hon. Trustee

Other Key Roles

- Ben St Ruth - Hon. Bookkeeper
- Jeremy Bartlett - Web Master

Sponsors

Many thanks to our ongoing business sponsors including David and Jill Watkinson, Triple Bottom Line Accounting Ltd and Rhino Greenhouses for their continued support, this is greatly appreciated and goes towards essential work in the garden. We also thank all those who help us spread the word about the garden, reach out to new audiences and keep people updated on what's going on; including: EDP, EEN and Triangle Norwich Magazine.

What we've achieved in 2022

The garden had a successful year in delivering all of its regular core events, workshops and volunteering days with lots of extras delivered too!

Volunteer days

Throughout 2022 our volunteers, on Wednesdays and Sundays, were brilliant as ever. As well as ongoing support from our regular volunteers we gained a few new regulars too. They have helped us keep on top of various tasks including weeding, watering and pruning. Some also helped to improve our water butt system and pathways and created a fabulous new sheltered area. Our volunteers have also been a great support at events, serving refreshments and welcoming new visitors to the garden. We are also very grateful to those on gate duty, who take turns making sure the gates are unlocked each day and closed at night. Three cheers to all our volunteers. We cannot thank you enough for all you do!

Events

The garden hosted not two, but three big community event days, seeing over 300 people attend across the three days:

Wild in the Garden; Sunday 1st May 2022

Our first event of 2022 took place on Sunday 1st May. We welcomed Wild Encounters, Filigree Face Painting, Substrata Wines, wildlife artists and more to the garden for a day of celebrating the natural world! 140 visitors attended, and we raised £110.77 from donations. There were a couple of other events in the city that had been cancelled for the last two years that would have attracted similar people so we may have lost some numbers to them. Lots of new faces to the garden.



Celebration of international Culture; 25th June 2022

A wonderful day in the garden with a co-hosted event with New Routes, welcoming over 200 people for a celebration of international culture, many of whom were new faces to the garden. With wonderful music from an array of musicians, tasty Lebanese street food, fantastic language taster sessions, information stalls by New Routes and MaNGOma, and craft stalls from artists from around the world, there was a lovely atmosphere to the day, and we look forward to working with New Routes to do this again next year. Thank you to all who made it so enjoyable!



Photos Jo Rice

Art in the Garden Saturday 24th September.

The Garden hosted its third event of the year all about connecting people through Art both visual and musical. There was an amazing line up of artists displaying their crafts, and musicians playing throughout the day. There was even a greenhouse take-over by our Artist in Residence - a very smart choice when the rains started! See our Facebook page for links to the artists who joined. The weather was quite a battle with visitors huddling under the events gazebo for much of the day to seek shelter and enjoy the even more atmospheric acoustics. The sunshine came out for the last hour in time for the Punch House Band and was a lovely energetic note to end on. Thank you for all who visited. We had 51 visitors to the garden during the event (82 including artists, musicians and volunteers).



Photo Jo Rice

Workshops

Throughout October to December we hosted 5 workshops funded by the National Lottery Community Fund: Lino Printing, Herbal Teas, Yoga and Winter Pruning were all full or near full in attendance, with excellent feedback left for each.

Saturday 21st May – Creative Writing Workshop with Donna

Saturday 28th May – Lino Printing Workshop with Haychley

Saturday 4th June – Yoga Workshop with Sue

November - Herbal Teas with Jo

Sunday 4th December - Winter Pruning

Other Events / Achievements

Across the year there were a number of other events and achievements to note.

- *Saturday 29th Jan 2022 Raised Bed Preparation and Induction Day*
- *Monday 9th May Garden Organic 100 Days Project Visit*
- *Wed 25th May Groundwork East completed new shelter over Margherita's memorial bench*
- *Sunday 19th June – Norfolk Green Care Network Visit*
- *Wed 3rd August Community Roots – A sequence of weekly workshops first started*

Community Roots Sessions

After the successful grant fund application to the Paul Bassham Trust, we started an evening project called Community Roots which ran for 25 sessions from Aug 2022 into Feb 2023. These were get-togethers for local residents held in the Garden (and in the upstairs room of the St Giles art shop over the winter) focusing on themed garden, sensory and connection activities to begin the sessions to help participants reconnect, followed by / combined with time to simply be together. The project aimed to:

- Combat fast-paced lifestyles and repair disconnection
- Build stronger relationships to nature and community
- Enhance the garden as a welcoming space and place of sanctuary
- Be self-sustaining; build confidence and leadership skills within the group for co-led sessions and project legacy
- Enrich and add to existing opportunities in the garden
- Between August and December 2022, we hosted eleven sessions:

1. *Patterns in Nature*
2. *Summer Quiz and Word Games*
3. *Sensory Map of the Garden*
4. *Nettle Cordage*
5. *Making Seed Paper*
6. *Weaving with sticks as looms*
7. *Winter Salads*
8. *Seed Saving*
9. *Herbal Teas*
10. *Autumn Quiz and games*
11. *Biophilic Design Talk*

The feedback from these sessions was very positive and understood to be a valued time to de-stress, relax, reflect, and reconnect in a positive way for many that attended. Some feedback from two of the workshops pre- and post-feedback is here:

Pre Session	Post session
Stressed and Tired	Inspired / learning
Existentially questioning and flummoxed	Inspired
Nervous/ Unsure	Relaxed, really informative and helpful
Little Shy But excited to learn	Very happy learning new stuff thanks
Pretty good, having a decent day	Really relaxing, calm and fun atmosphere feeling good
Feeling slightly fatigued and unsure	Feeling inspired and connected, loved learning and being inspired
Bit disconnected and tired	Informative session
Tired	Interested

Feeling a bit stressed after a busy work day	Revived. Excellent to find out about so many different leaves and that they grow here! (rather than just America / somewhere warmer)
Awkward and nervous	Happy and relaxed and way more educated, loved it!
A little bit scattered, tired	Super informative, felt joyous listening to people talk passionately about salad! Woo!
Bit fed up after a day at work. Feeling a bit like I've missed a lovely sunny day spending time inside.	Much more relaxed. Happy to have done something tactile, rather than purely computer-based! Lovely to meet everyone too. Thank you for a great session in a lovely setting
Warm/rushing.	Thoughtful
A bit stressed.	Inspired. Satisfied.
Apprehensive, foggy	Uplifted, determined, happy
Nervous + shy. Excited to try a new craft.	Proud of self for signing up.
	Calm + content. Comfortable being here. Glad I got to spend time outside + being creative.
	Happy to have learnt something new! Grateful for those who have attended and facilitated the session. A little less overwhelmed – it's nice to take time out of the negativity of the world. Thanks all
	I've been feeling very down lately, but much better after hearing of potential opportunities.

It would be great to make a funding application in 2023 to continue these sessions.



- [Sunday 21st August 2022 - Volunteer Picnic](#)
- [Dec 2022 - Successful Application to City of Sanctuary](#)
- [A Winter Quiz 2023](#)
- [Lino Print Workshop 2023](#)
- [24th January 2023 Memorial tree planting for Ieuan Davies](#)
- [7 Feb 2023 Garden of Sanctuary Award](#)

Garden of Sanctuary Award

We were proud to be presented with Norwich's first Garden of Sanctuary Award at a celebration event at Norwich Arts Centre. Fran Ellington accepted the award on behalf of Grapes Hill Community Garden. The award was given in recognition of our work and ongoing commitment to the City of Sanctuary vision of being a welcoming place of safety for all and proud to offer sanctuary to people fleeing violence and persecution. A video was shown about the garden, which was made by two young media students, Kumba and Mishal. This can be viewed on our website or via the link here: <https://youtu.be/4My39A0hgkE>

Fran also gave a short speech of thanks.(see photo below)



Outreach fayres/ group visits

We attended a number of fayres out of the garden both in person and online and attended other group spaces to share information about volunteering opportunities in the garden alongside events, workshops, raised beds to rent and more.

- *Wednesday 19th January 2022 – Voluntary Norfolk Virtual Fair*
- *Tuesday 22nd February 2022 – Visit to Notre Dame High School*
- *Thursday 5th May – Voluntary Norfolk Virtual Fair*
- *Tuesday 17th May – The Feed 'In Bloom' Talk*
- *Thursday 30th June – Refugee Support Fair Stall*
- *Thursday 4th August – Bishop's Garden Stall, Norfolk Green Care Festival*
- *Wednesday 12th Oct 9m-4pm at the Forum- Outreach work at maNGOma Volunteer fair*

Accounts

Grapes Hill Community Garden						
Income 2022						
	Total	TNLCF	Community Roots	NCF Grant	General	
Donations - non gift aided	680				680	
Bucket donations	132				132	
Raised bed rental	98				98	
Commission Amazon Smile	5				5	
CAF donations	59				59	
Voluntray Norfolk 100 Day challenge	300				300	
Interest Received	13				13	
Community Roots (Paul Bassham Trust)	1,200		1,200			
TNLCF Reaching Communities Project 10363630	9,375	9,375				
NCF Grant - Love Norfolk Fund	4,000			4,000		
TFJ JJM Fund - The Talent Fund	1,500				1,500	
Total income	17,362	9,375	1,200	4,000	2,787	

Grapes Hill Community Garden						
Expenditure and reserves 2022						
	17362	9375	1200	4000	2787	
		TNLCF	Community Roots	NCF Grant	General	
Income	17362	9375	1200	4000	2787	
Cost of Sales						
RC TNLCF Project Coordinator	3577	3577				
RC TNLCF Integration and Volunteer leader	4347	4347				
RC TNLCF Gardener	2406	2406				
RC TNLCF Community Events	435	435				
RC TNLCF Workshops and courses	375	375				
Community Roots Hours	500		500			
Community Roots Expenses	124		124			
Total	11764	11140	624	0	0	
Overheads						
Tools, plants and materials	450				450	
Web Hosting	107				107	
Computer Software	144				144	
Sundries	551				551	
Insurance	370				370	
Accountancy	120				120	
Training	30				30	
Depreciation Charge	6078				6078	
Total	7850	0	0	0	7850	
Operating surplus / - deficit for year	-2252	-1765	576	4000	-5063	
Balance b/fwd	65329	7599			57730	
Balance C/fwd	63077	5834	576	4000	52667	

Grapes Hill Community Garden			
Summary Accounts			
Income statement			
		2022	2021
		£	£
income		17362	14977
Expenditure		-13536	-12826
Depreciation		-6078	-6078
Surplus		-2252	-3927
Balance sheet			
		31.12.2022	31.12.2021
		£	£
Fixed assets		106073	106073
Depreciation		-58373	-52296
Net book value		47700	53777
Bank and cash		15377	11551
Total		63077	65328
Funds			
TNLCF		5834	7599
Community Roots		576	0
NCF Grant		4000	0
General		52667	58014
Total		63077	65613
Cash flow summary			
		2022	2021
		£	£
Bank at start		11551	9401
Grants in		16075	12500
Other income		1287	2477
Expenditure		-13536	-12826
Bank at end		15377	11551

Reflections

At our AGM 2022 we set out some aims to strengthen our outcomes based upon our charity objectives. We reflect below on successes

Charitable Objective/	Aim for 2022	Achieved
Charitable Objective: to provide a community garden;	We will be reviewing some of the planting areas to see if some of the mature planting needs replacing.	In progress and planning for 2023 now Assistant Gardener in place
	One of the vine support posts will be replaced	Removed, pending replacement?
	We are hoping to work with Groundwork East and provide a space for their volunteer sessions, who, if the project gets the go ahead will construct a permanent shelter over the memorial bench and storage area.	 <p>We are very grateful to the team at Groundwork East who, with Patrick's support</p>

		built this very useful shelter, although it proved difficult to get support from probation officers to actively engage with ex-offenders.
	Strengthening the volunteer days	Holly and Jo worked together to combine the volunteer days with extra project links and visits from groups with specific needs. This was also boosted by the 'Community Roots' sessions
	links to other projects as a learning space	Links were shared with relevant volunteers, but this could be improved for 2023 via more social media / newsletter links etc
Charitable Objective: Advance education for public benefit particularly around horticulture;	Providing more workshops	5 workshops were provided compared to the normal 3 planned for each year This was also boosted by the Community Roots sessions
	Strengthening the volunteer days	Holly and Jo worked together to combine the volunteer days with extra project links and visits from groups with specific needs, and structure the learning outcomes linked to horticulture around this
	links to other projects as an onwards learning space	Links were shared with relevant volunteers, but this could be improved for 2023 via more social media / newsletter links etc
TNL Funding Aim: aid in improving the health of its local community & Charitable Objective: Improve the condition of life of inhabitants.	Strengthen communications and outreach	Outreach greatly strengthened with other groups including refugee, asylum seeker and ethnic minority projects, youth projects and schools, educational and general volunteering community groups, vulnerable adult groups, and local gardening/interest networks. Total Outreach Project Links (whether direct activities or relationships built/awareness raised): 20+
	Strengthen the volunteer days.	Holly and Jo worked together to combine the volunteer days with extra project links and visits from groups with specific needs. This was also boosted by the community roots sessions.
TNL Funding Aim: Provide the local community a space to grow local food, learn new skills, and be part of a project;	Raise the profile of the Garden & Further encourage ownership in the community amongst local residents	Profile of the Garden raised via extensive outreach and external comms as documented elsewhere in this report; however, this could be improved further for 2023 Local ownership idea was touched on in the Community Roots project via the idea of

		<p>leading sessions and the hope to run this from the local community in time (although this is ownership of the sessions rather than the garden itself it is still fostering similar relationships)</p> <p>This needs further focus for 2023</p>
	<p>Trial a governance committee (a committee of interested supporters who might not want to get involved in the trustee committee meeting but wants to have more of a role in the decision making and ideas)</p>	<p>Not explored- focus for 2023</p>
	<p>Encourage more trustees to join the team!</p>	<p>Not focused on in 2022. New trustees potentially joining 2023.</p>
<p>TNL Funding Aim: Improve Integration and diversity;</p>	<p>Stronger links with refugee/ migrant communities</p>	<p>Achieved City of Sanctuary Status Dec 2022 (Awarded Feb 2023)</p> <p>Celebration of International Culture Event a huge success co-hosted with New Routes, aim to repeat this again in 2023</p> <p>Links and outreach work with: New Routes, ESOL, EmpowHER, maNGOmA, Wellbeing and Work for Refugee Integration, Norwich Asylum Seekers and Refugee Forum, Norwich International Youth Project</p>
	<p>Strengthening communications and outreach</p>	<p>As above</p>

What's the plan for 2023 ?

The Spring timetable dates will be confirmed and advertised very soon. Activities will include Origami, A talk on the Blue Zones principles, Natural Lotions-making workshop and a Spring Quiz and games.

The Community Roots sessions have been held indoors above Norwich Art Shop during the Winter months and take place fortnightly on Wednesdays from 5.30pm-7pm. There is limited space available at this venue, so places must be booked in advance by text message to Jo. By late May we shall return to holding these at Grapes Hill Garden from 5-6.30pm.

Nature in the garden in May, International Day of Culture Sunday June 25 th TBC. and a Summer event in the garden in July. Look out for other events and activities now being planned.