

# Friends of Windmill Allotments Annual Report 2007-8

**This is our third Annual Report in what was a challenging year. The backbone of the Friends group are the wonderful volunteers that keep the projects on site running smoothly**

**The Windmill Lodge Allotments Gardening group had the compensation of a balmy Autumn on site after the rained-off Spring. A big thank you to our volunteers Dorothy, Ken, Lizzie, Sue, Ben, Morgan, Roxanne, Fiona, Richard, Helen and Phil, who push the wheelchairs up from the residential home, accompanied by Mbuyisa the activities worker. They all help the residents to garden and keep the plot and raised bed alive and welcoming. Volunteers built the raised bed and the paving to allow wheelchairs a safe seating area. We also began a film on the allotments and a photographic archive of allotment history. If you have any old photographs from the site back over its lifetime, please see our Secretary.**



*Roxanne and Doris*



*Moira, Gilbert, Joan, Edward, Robert, Julia, Morgan, Mbuyisa, Ben, Helen, Ken*



*and goodbye from Robert*

## Activities

Telferscot school walked over from Balham on Tuesdays with staff who brought the curriculum alive through many aspects of allotment activity and shared it with the whole school throughout the year and at Harvest Festival. Parents volunteered to dig and underpin the school patch, with Victoria as coordinator. Sudbourne School have begun to clear a patch with their parent team, led by Dawn and Jenny.

## Schools

## Stalls

Rain at Abbeville Fete did not deter us!

Windmill Festival helped raise funds for the community plots.



## Campaign



We asked Councillors to consult with elderly gardeners on site about the proposed sale and redevelopment of the allotments, and followed it on October 4th 2007 with a well-attended evening consultation meeting. Supporters had the opportunity to set the record straight: allotments are local community resources; valuable, essential to wellbeing and worthy of protection now and for future generations.

In December/January 2008 Lambeth Council rejected the plan to buy the allotments. Provided they can keep within the cap of £10.5 million, they propose to develop the Tulse Hill complex based on the Council's Fenstanton and neighbouring sites. If they cannot fit within the cap, they say they will expand other schools. We welcome this initiative but remain alert!

*Councillors Peck and Prentice in discussion with the local community Robert, Ken and Fiona*



We spoke at many meetings in defence of the allotments. We travelled to Kendale Allotments to develop links that may one day become an integrated network of voices in the urban setting, speaking up for green issues.

We were delighted to discover Sydenham Garden, a therapeutic community that has gained a lot of funding. They provide specialist therapists and facilities for chronically sick and disabled people who grow more able through community horticulture. Having recently restored an old greenhouse, they are now going to build a communal training resource, and are about to rescue an allotment site.

We had support from local florists who donated plants for the Windmill Lodge project. We spoke at LVAC's AGM and the Lambeth Horticultural Society. We joined with the Boundary Site Users Group to call for the jobs and services on Brixton Hill to be valued and saved.

This year our newsletters were larger, more frequent and more colourful thanks to CCF funds. Inspired by Sydenham Garden's newsletter group, we aim to advertise for more volunteers to take on a variety of shared roles in our group, including the newsletter.

We held eleven meetings open to the public, far more than in the 2005 campaign. Two were specialist with staff from Windmill lodge and a local school. The development of the Friends group has given the allotments a voice and advocates: without these dedicated people, the allotments would not have been consulted over the site redevelopment plans. If the fight to save the allotments in an urban setting can be consistently won, there is hope for all sites under threat, if they work to be a community asset and bond together to keep these oases of calm and well being available for all.

*April snow covered a lot of digging yet to be done on the community plot.*



## Friends of Windmill Allotments Income and Expenditure 1st April 2007 - 31st March 2008

INCOMING RESOURCES	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2008 £	Total 2007 £
Grant	-	-	-	795.00
Subscriptions	177.00	-	177.00	125.00
Sales	90.29	-	90.29	92.95
Interest	-	-	-	0.23
<b>Total</b>	<b>267.29</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>267.29</b>	<b>1013.18</b>

RESOURCES EXPENDED	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2008 £	Total 2007 £
photocopying	9.45	1.89	11.34	3.71
office	14.43	15.92	30.35	7.97
publicity	-	469.00	469.00	83.50
post	-	-	-	42.84
capital expenditure	-	-	-	814.99
membership fee	62.50	-	62.50	10.00
telephone	-	-	-	0.50
stall hire	-	-	-	40.00
room hire	30.00	-	30.00	30.00
insurance	137.25	-	137.25	-
worthy groups	61.69	-	61.69	-
<b>Total expended</b>	<b>315.32</b>	<b>486.81</b>	<b>802.13</b>	<b>1033.51</b>

Surplus net incoming resources for the year (48.03)	486.81	(534.84)	(20.33)
Fund balances brought forward from 2007	264.31	702.04	966.35
Fund balances carried forward to 31st march 2008	<u>216.28</u>	<u>215.23</u>	<u>431.51</u>
	<u>BALANCE SHEET FOWAA as at March 31st 2008</u>		

CURRENT ASSETS	£
cash at bank	303.90
cash in hand	127.61
<b>Total</b>	<b>431.51</b>
represented by	
Unrestricted funds	216.28
Restricted fund	215.23
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>431.51</b>

Independently audited  
6/5/08

## *FUTURE PLANS*

We will continue to defend the allotment site and to encourage good management here. We will continue to lobby for lost allotments to be reopened and for wasted space to be brought into food production use.

This year we have been on many courses and learned a great deal from other groups. We will continue to build links.

For our work to continue with hard-to-reach community groups wishing to allotment garden, we will need some funding support. We will explore funding and registering as a Charity.

We appreciate and thank for the support received so far from Capital Community Foundation, LVAC, our Members and Volunteers, and Clearaprint, who so often gave us kind assistance.

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