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## **COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND ENGAGEMENT**

1. *Community engagement activities*
  - a. Three workshops for local community - Invertebrates, Climate Resilience and Bees.
  - b. Attended community event on Golden Lane Estate organised by Tempo to mark 10 years of volunteer time credits system.
  - c. Collaborated with Golden Lane Estate to both open to the public for London Open House festival on 10 September - hosted over 80 visitors.
  - d. Volunteers helped run the City BioBlitz workshop in Bunhill Fields and top scored with 1238 sightings.
  - e. Hosted young residents for information sessions - volunteers have been made honorary members of the Barbican Barn Owl Brigade and donation made to RSPB as thank you.
  - f. Received donation from local resident for use on garden projects - planning to use to modify bird hide roof.
  - g. Offering advice and support to local group who are developing a community garden at St Georges near Farringdon station
  - h. Developing strong relationship with the City's new Environmental Resilience Officer Ben Bishop. Common councillors invited to all garden workshops and some attended.
  - i. Both current Lady Mayoress, Felicity Lyons and previous Lady Mayoress, Hilary Russell, (for second time) visited in the autumn to see the police horses "trampling" the meadow.
  - j. Visits from both our local member of Parliament, Nikki Aitken, and also the prospective Labour candidate at the next election. She described the visit as "joyous".
  - k. Connection made with Pollinating London Together and the garden will host pollinating surveys this year. First took place on Monday 5 June.
  - l. Collaboration with Museum of Order of St John's who are organising a gardening group with one of the local schools and wish to include visits to the BWG.
  - m. Connection with Natural England's blue and green social prosccribing programme. Coordinator Laura Brown visited the Garden in April. Also connected with new outreach worker at local medical practice working in the same field.
  - n. Approached by Christine from Inner Temple garden to visit to share information about wildlife gardening.
  - o. Continued to network with our Garden Ambassador Kabir Kaul and attended his book launch last September. He visited over OGSW.
  - p. Participated in Big Garden Birdwatch and Big Butterfly Count.
  - q. Open Gardens weekend - 890 visited and raised over £270. Featured in the Evening Standard in lead to weekend; included in LPGT pre-event photography.
  - r. Collaboration with local group Friends of City Gardens to refresh the paths. Will also join with them for local Fortune Street fun days.
2. *Social and other media*
  - a. Twitter followers now at XX.
  - b. Instagram account launched - now have 273 followers
  - c. Website - updated monthly; 27 made contact through this channel in last 12 months.
  - d. Press - small feature in Times in March due to frog population; Evening Standard ahead of OG; regular articles on invertebrates in Barbican Life plus one on the involvement of local police horses in the Garden; Amanda Tuke, a columnist with the Birdwatcher visited to do a feature on the garden.
3. *New group members* - Lucy and Ryan (both local but from outside the Barbican Estate).
4. *Projects*
  - s. Successful application for funding from City of London Corporation for garden information boards.
  - t. Now in progress with design for first board complete and second/third in progress.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY**

1. *Environmental responsibility activities:*
  - a. *Ponds* - Oxygenating plants now doing well, benefiting pond life; *carex pendula* planted to provide habitat for insects;
  - b. *Wildlife plantings* - new plantings in herbaceous border focussed on early pollinators; 50 new saplings, all fruit bearing, to increase food for wildlife
  - u. *New infrastructure* - new log piles in the spinney; increased composting capacity (and use of new wool blankets as cover); extra bird baths over the heat wave and shallow bee baths; added mud lagoon from recycled ceramic sink to herbaceous border for pollinators; volunteers now carry sugar solutions in summer for distressed bees; hanging water bath for small birds.
  - c. *Other* - making our own fertiliser by soaking nettles in buckets
  - v. *External* - Now managing the tree pits on Fann St in an effort to improve the green corridor to Fortune St Park in Islington.
2. *Continuing efforts*
  - a. Water use - minimised hose pipe use over summer months. To extend pond life, added tap water to butts this year for first time and left for several weeks before use for nutrients to drop out.
  - b. Herbicide and pesticide free
  - c. Where we purchase rather than foraging, we buy from peat free nurseries
  - d. Weekly litter picks
3. *Wildlife*
  - a. *Biota count: Mammals XX; Amphibians XX; Birds XX; Invertebrates XX; Plants XX; Fungi XX*
  - b. *Notable sightings* - Dragonfly and damselfly larvae despite pond dryness over summer; new and diverse range of fungi; green woodpecker; Three nest boxes were used last nesting season, two by blue tits and one by great tit.
4. *Projects*
  - w. Modify roof of bird hide using a donation by local resident.
  - x. New rainwater capture - local contractor to build new awning with butts in compost area.

## **GARDENING ACHIEVEMENT**

1. *Rescue plantings* - Over 120 rescue and foraged plants added to garden, including in the herbaceous border, spinney, fernery and around ponds. In addition around 50 spent bulbs retrieved from around the City added to meadow, fernery and herbaceous border.
2. *Meadow*
  - c. 87 species now recorded (including grasses) compared with 34 in 2012.
  - d. New species this year - perennial sweet pea, wall rocket, fennel
  - e. Yellow rattle now firmly established in both NE and SW quarters
  - f. Snakehead fritillaries count at 22 this year and more spent bulbs planted
  - g. Wild marjoram, planted several years ago, has now taken
  - h. Acquired new scarification rakes - which we lend to FoCG
2. *Elsewhere in garden*
  - a. Coppicing in the spinney this year with hazel cuttings struck and watered in
  - b. Continuing efforts to create a "woodland floor" in the spinney and copse
  - c. Hedge along Bunyan ramp threaded to increase density
  - d. Donated tayberries added along the palisade
  - e. Winter tree work deferred to autumn so as to not disturb nesting
  - f. Wild primrose planted in fernery and around gate together with 300 mixed bulbs
  - g. Wild marjoram, sage, thyme, together with foraged winter heliotrope, alexanders and creeping ivy all added to herbaceous border. Seeds sown - borage, evening primrose and vipers bugloss together with foraged seed.