

# **E1 Community Gardeners**

## **Annual Report 2022**

### **Details of E1CG Activities 2021–22**

#### **1. 2021 Development and Administration**

##### **February 2021**

Founder members selected a type of organisation from Charity Commission models, undertook editing of constitution, type and finalisation.

##### **March 2021**

4 March E1CG adopted its constitution and agreed objects . Individual founder trustees/ founder members sign constitution.

E1CG adopted its formal constitution as an **unincorporated charitable members association** and agreed objects in March 2021.

The association developed a Membership Registration Form and began to circulate and enlist members from existing informal network.

##### **30 March**

E1CG held its first formal meeting at Deancross Street allotment garden.

##### **April 2021**

Opening Lloyds Bank account and setting up on-line banking facilities  
Drafting policies for Health and Safety and Equal Opportunities  
Fundraising: London Dock Community Fund – Small Grant application

##### **June 2021**

Preparation for plant sale  
Meeting at Woollen House garden

##### **July 2021**

Meeting at Stockholm House Community Rooms.

Meeting with Ken and Terry of Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park, on collaboration in St George's Gardens.

##### **August 2021**

Preparation of logo and publicity material for 1st garden tour;  
Organising E1CG garden tour;  
29 and 30 August - held 2 garden tours showing seven E1CG member gardens.  
Establishment of website: <https://e1cg.org/>

##### **September 2021**

Compilation of grant feedback reports of garden tours.  
Active recruitment of E1CG members.  
Fundraising: meeting at Cable Street Inn about a new grant. A grant application to Tower Hill Trust for tools and equipment to support shared resources for the association of gardens and gardeners – successful.

### **November 2021**

BBQ and informal meeting at Tarling West garden, including Tarling West residents about creating a garden on an unused piece of ground next to the estate owned by Transport for London

### **December 2021**

Scoping and liaison meeting with E1CG and LBTH Parks team about St George's Gardens

### **January 2022**

Social and catch up meeting in Wilton's Music Hall bar

### **April 2022**

Preparations for E1CG's first Annual General Meeting

## **2. Annual Account Statement for 2021 to 2022**

### **E1CG Treasurers accounts 19/04/2021- 15/04/2022**

#### **Income - Monies In:**

Grant	£500 London Dock* - 20/07/2021
Grant	£1850 Tower Hill Trust* - 10/02/2022
Memberships	£13.88
Sales -WEN stall:	£7.50

**Total Income:** 2,371.38

#### **Expenditure - Monies Out:**

##### **Publicity:**

Website domain	£66.84
Paper	£28.49
Ink	£17.99
Banners	£35.26
Banners	£127.31
Logo -Canva	£10.99

##### **Safety Equipment:**

Screwfix	£93.17
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Refreshments	£8.35
Refreshments	£19.55

##### **Insurance:**

Public Liability.	£99.31
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**Total spend:** £507.26

**Balance:** £1,864.12

\*Notes: restricted/ prescribed use of grant

### 3. Highlight of E1CG Activities

*Throughout the year E1CG members are :-*

- **experimenting** with and trying out new growing methods, for example the *hugelkultur* (building on log mounds) method, mushroom growing on wood chips, and various methods to compost food waste

- **sharing** gardening tips, larger equipment and tools, visiting each other's gardens, exchanging seeds and plants, lending a helping hand in each other's gardens and having a joke.

- **neighbours**

tidying up unloved spaces, helping neighbours new to gardening plant plants and create beds, encourage and show neighbours to garden

- **giving advice** to new E1CG members and other groups on creating a new urban garden

#### **Collaboration**

Developing and being part of collaborations with London Borough of Tower Hamlets, Transport for London, Eastend Homes, Tower Hamlets Community Homes, Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park, Swedenborg Partnership, Butterfly Conservation, RSPB, Historic Royal Palaces' Superbloom in The Tower of London, Historic Royal Palaces Community Access Scheme.

#### **Wider audiences**

Posting our photos and stories on E1CG **Instagram**

Developing and adding descriptions and photos to E1CG's **web site**

**Filming of E1CG** members by RSPB who were recording our E1CG story on why and how we are doing what we do.

Also expected, an article in RSPB's **UK wide monthly magazine**.

#### **2021**

##### **March**

E1CG volunteers relocated a defunct large raised bed from Cable Street to Tarling West Residents Garden and relocated a large shrub from the bed on Tarling West Estate.

##### **August**

29th and 30th - our 1st Annual Garden Tours took place over the bank holiday in August – visiting seven community gardens in the E1 area. The tours were a wonderful success achieving a much better than expected number of visitors, and provided an opportunity to communicate the existence of the association and circulate Membership Registration Forms and enlist new members from this wider local network. The tours were funded by a small grant from the London Dock Community Fund.

##### **September**

Southern Grove Community Centre, E3. Members of E1CG held a stall offering plants, vegetables and information about the association at the Women's Environmental Network (WEN) Autumn Gathering.

Additional activities were:

- recruiting and guiding new volunteers,
- making a home for bugs collecting “bedding” material for bugs and insects with local parents and children.

Clean-up of St. Georges Gardens. 6 volunteers helped out weeding, sweeping and pruning near the Mural in preparation for the March and Rally being held on Sunday 3 October commemorate the 85th anniversary of the Battle of Cable Street.

## October

Showing new volunteers the basics of gardening - a new volunteer, for example who had always wanted to mow grass, is given instruction on how to use a mower.

### Vaughan Way Garden Halloween

In late October Vaughan Way garden is transformed into a spooky **Halloween experience**. Ghosts, witches, skeletons and a giant spider web hanging among the trees and shrubs scare to the delight of hundreds of local children and adults alike.

## 2022

### January 2022

Moved very heavy seasoned railway sleepers into Deancross Street allotment and built raised beds for vegetable growing; heavy work!

Old sleepers were kindly donated by Network Rail/Murphy Construction.

### February 2022

- **Storm Eunice** caused some damage in our gardens, broken greenhouse windows, blasted delicate buds and plants, some where lots, broke the symbolic "S" off an old stump in the community orchard, Swedenborg Square Orchard;
- Sprucing up a members' woodland garden in Vaughan Way;
- Provided new growing patches to spare shrubs given to E1CG for free by St George the developer currently building the London Dock site, (formerly News International);
- Sharing an electric shredder, for lots of shredding of old branches in our gardens later used for mulching;
- Creation of bug hotels from fallen logs on the Tarling West Estate.

### March 2022

- Tidying and creating a new growing bed for a **vulnerable, elderly neighbour**

### Wider audiences

**Filming of E1CG** members by the **RSPB** who were recording our E1CG story on why and how we are doing what we do. Filming of E1CG members showing their gardens over two days.

Also expected an article in RSPB's UK wide monthly magazine.

### Superbloom in the Tower of London moat

- As E1CG, we were invited to plant in the Superbloom wildflower exhibition for the celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in the Tower of London moat. Several gardens received a donation of wildflower seeds from the Superbloom project.

### April 2022

**Lending a hand and a little experience** preparing and planting wildflowers in primary schools.

Cleaning bugs from box hedge at James Gair Memorial Garden.

Responding to questions for the **RSPB's** article about E1CG .