



Ham & Petersham

London in Bloom entry - July 2020



Like everyone the Covid-19 virus lockdown has caused our projects to slow down. Many of the 2020 plans are now planned for 2021.

Fortunately the daily walks allowed has enabled much to happen. Residents have walked with their litter pickers, ensured our troughs got replanted and watered. Email and Zoom calls & social media have kept us all enthused and engaged.

Section A - Horticulture

So far:

- Work at Ham Pond continued after the lockdown. Prior to lockdown the Pond received help from a local schools the scouts and SWLEN (South West London Environment Network). They have cut back vegetation, reduced the weeds to create manage views. Cut back the goat willow on the island.
- Ham Parade Market (HPM) together with the Council create d a new bed at Ham Cross. Planting up with cornus, snowdrops, daffodils. Also updated planting of the troughs on Ham Parade. Together with Ham & Petersham Assoc. (HPA). We have trialled planting around the tree grates. Unfortunately the Council does not have the funds to trial a resin base as suggested by last year's judge.
- HPA carried out additional marginal planting at Latchmere Brook. They also improved the surrounding paths. By using wood chippings. Approx 60hrs.
- A local resident has sponsored additional hanging baskets in Ham, to compliment those installed by the Council.
- HPA with Council funding, started work on a forgotten raised bed at St Richards Square . Two work days saw snowdrops, winter aconites, crocus, tulips and other native bulbs.
- Petersham Environment Trust installed a 4th trough to compliment the other 3 installed last year. All troughs have been planted by residents using propagation and growing from seed. St Thomas church has replanted their troughs
- Following on from last year's conversation with The Palm Centre , they 'dusted off' the National Heritage collection of Tracycarpus. The collection now has pride of place at the entrance.
- Pruning of the apple trees at Ham Library garden has commenced along with mulching. A light August pruning of the water shoots will take place.

Photos – A



Photos - A



Photos - A



Section B – Environment

So far:

- Friends of Ham Lands (FoHL) met the 2nd Saturday of the month. Their work concentrated on the South Lands clearing invading shrubs to improve butterfly & pollinator habitats. Also creating loggeries. Approx 360hrs.
- FoHL and HPA have carried out a litter pick session on 13 June and in July Himalayan Balsm removal with over 30 participants. The Great Spring clean up did take place. Approx 300hrs
- The 2017 toad & nature ponds in Ham Common Woods are now well established. Between March & April the annual volunteer Toad Patrol took place and reported reduced migration. It is hoped this is the penultimate year they migrate.
- Ham Library garden. During a session in March, volunteers pruning and mulching the apple trees. Started to revamp the beds. Watering and weeding has continued throughout lockdown. Approx 20hrs. There is an autumn seed swap sessions planned.
- Ham Pond group meet 1st Saturday of the month to litter pick. Residents continued to do this on their daily walks. Approx 330hrs
- Petersham Common Woods has continued work on their 25yr Management Plan . Creating woodland glades planting over 3500 native trees incl. blackthorn, rowan, hazel, god roses, crab apples. These glades have been under planted with over 6500 bulbs incl. native bluebells, red campion, wild garlic. Improving songbird habitat. Working with local schools, Duke of Edinburgh award students, HPA, Good Gym runners .

Photos - B



Photos - B



Photos - B



Section C – Community Participation

- So Far:
- All groups were working on strengthening community links. The use of Social Media has been keen in raising awareness to attract new people to participate.
- This has helped in attracting new people who live in the less privileged parts of Ham. The two St Richards Sq. project days are an example of raising awareness. Approx 40hrs
- FoHL worked with the Parks Dept to restore grasslands, clearing areas around struggling plants & trees. Paths have been widened and some areas opened up to create wildlife corridors. Prior to lockdown FoHL and Thames Landscape Strategy were discussing a closer working relationship. Approx
- Students from Malden Oaks and St Richards regularly use Ham Lands as a classroom. This is increasing awareness and the importance of pollinators. St Richards Primary are participants in the School Food Matters bee project. The delivery of their bees is delayed till next year. They have linked up with a local bee keeper.
- The Forest School and local scouts group are regular users of Ham Common Woods. Adhoc sessions took place. Approx 400hrs.
- Ham Lands is host to the 'Lock Jumps' which is a dedicated area for BMX jumps and shows the diversity of what the land is used for.
- Ham Pond has resumed the regular Saturday monthly work sessions . Approx 330hrs.
- The cricket club spent many hours Improving the cricket area on Ham Common including reseeding. The club has also hosted a summer camp . Approx 280hrs.

Photos – Section C



Photos - C



Photos – C



Update on Grey Court allotment

Grey Court allotment has been a vital facility for children of key workers. It became a focus on Fridays. Following on from Jacob's achievements last year, a 2nd student has achieved a notable award.

Oliver Barnard has won the City Harvest's Iris Goldsmith's 'Champion for Change' Award.

Criteria for this category included identifying solutions for tackling food waste, taking the initiative in their home, school or community, devising a method for change and putting innovation into practice.

Oliver, a regular at the Allotment since Year 7 and gets involved with many allotment activities involving sustainability and caring for the environment.

Judges were impressed to hear of Oliver's dedication and passion to increase awareness amongst his peers and how he is taking direct action to address food waste, food poverty and climate change. His zero waste chutney making: sourcing recycled materials, producing 75 jars, using up overripe vegetables and selling them to the public to raise awareness and £250 for the allotment. City Harvest is keen to help Oliver spread the word.

Food waste is a leading contributor to climate change. While 1/3 of all food produced is wasted a staggering 820 million people are hungry. City Harvest believes young people are the key to raising awareness of this issue to promote a sustainable future. The City Harvest Iris Goldsmith Awards celebrates young local heroes who are taking action and protecting the planet.

