

**GLOBAL
GENERATION**

PAPER GARDEN

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

2022-2023



Since April 2022 the Paper Garden has worked with over 1,800 local people. We have respond to the needs to the local communities through:

Donating over 250kg of fresh food.

Building the new community classroom with local people and through volunteer days

Providing outdoor education for six Primary Schools - Albion, St John's, St Joseph's, Alfred Salter, Peter Hills, and Redriff.

We have maintained relationships with the following Secondary Schools:

St Thomas The Apostle College, Compass, St Micheal's, City of London Academy, Kingsdale, St Olave's and St Saviour's Grammar, Ark Academy Walworth, Harris Academy Bermondsey.

Over the past year we have grown deeper relationships with:

Love North Southwark Food Pantry

Time and Talents

Surrey Docks Farm

Silwood Community Centre

Hawkstone TRA

Surrey Quays Shopping Centre

Roots and Shoots

Restorative Justice for All

Brunel Museum

NHS

TEDI London

Greenwich University

King's College University

University Arts London

Running our youth programmes two 2 evenings a week.

The Paper Gardens 2022 Transformation



The Paper Gardens 2022

Transformation

"If you stood here a few years ago, you would have seen a grey stretch of concrete with a bare metal frame. No growth, no nature, no life. Now it has been transformed into a peaceful, green space, full of vibrant colour. Climbing plants twine up the metal frame. The hugel mounds are bursting with biodiverse plants. The polytunnel is full of succulent fruit and veg. This is a place of creativity, fun and thoughtfulness. We need to protect and create more places like this and educate young people about caring for the environment. The environment is being destroyed by the people who could save it. The rich people, the people in power. Not the young people. But it is the young people's future that is in danger and the main focus of our government should be to secure young people's future and protect our ever-shrinking green world." Lotte



WILDLIFE GARDENING

Over the past year with visitors we have added to and developed in the garden:

Bird boxes

Bee boxes

A dead hedge from donated Christmas trees

A pond

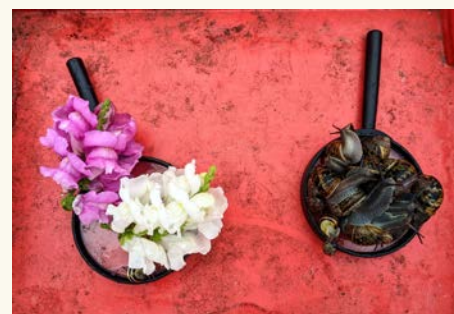
Log and woodchip piles

Hugel mounds

Pollinator plants

20 Oak trees and many native hedging plants

Vertical wires for climbing plants for animal food and cover



"I feel free and relaxed here and full of inspiration on gardening. This is such a wonderful place run by inspirational people. I feel very thankful to have this opportunity and experience here.

Thank you for having me here."

THE GENERATOR PROGRAMME

From February-December 2022, 35 young people from Southwark took part in the weekly Paper Garden Generator Programme, a youth leadership programme for ages 10-18.

At least 14 of these young people have access to Free School Meals, and 20 young people as BAME.

The young people were in two groups of 15, based on ages, and attended bi-weekly garden workshops.



Building the pizza oven



"As Generations we built things with wood and it was big the building the chunks we used clay/cement to put the wood into the walls to make the building. We also built a pizza oven with bricks and some clay made of straw, mud and lime."
Hassan

Commenting on the Canada Water Masterplan

Working with Universities on Climate Change Solutions

Campaigning Against Council Tree Removal (during nesting season) with Illuminate Rotherhithe



CAMPING

In August young people from Southwark embarked on an adventures to the New Forest and to Wilderness Wood, in Sussex.

In the New Forest 15 young people camped with other young people from Bristol, forming new friendships and connections in the middle of ancient protected woodland. This camp was run in collaboration with Black 2 Nature.

In Sussex 12 young people slept, explored and foraged through a 62 acres of chestnut coppice, beech, Scottish pine, douglas, cedar and giant sequoia woodland.

For most, it was their first camp with us; for some, it was their first camp at all. We all shared unique experiences with one another that brought laughs, tears, songs, stories and wonderful art.





"Thank you nature for letting us explore your ever growing forest, sleep within the shelter of your trees and play with your sticks and swing on your branches." Zak

"I love how beautiful the view is from here and I love the range of greenery and trees. Even though I really want to go home, part of me wants to stay. I don't like how noisy home is and I adore the quiet and more interesting side to the woods. I will miss this place and I know for a fact I won't forget it." Anna

GREEN AMBASSADORS

From February-December 2022, 35 young people from Southwark took part in the weekly Paper Garden Green Ambassador Programme, a youth leadership programme for ages 10-18 which enables young people to continue their journeys with Global Generation after completing the Generator Programme.

At least 6 of these young people have access to Free School Meals, and 18 young people as BAME.

The young people were split into two groups, based on ages, and attended bi-weekly garden, craft, cooking, social action, and mental health workshops.



SILWOOD ALPHABET GARDEN

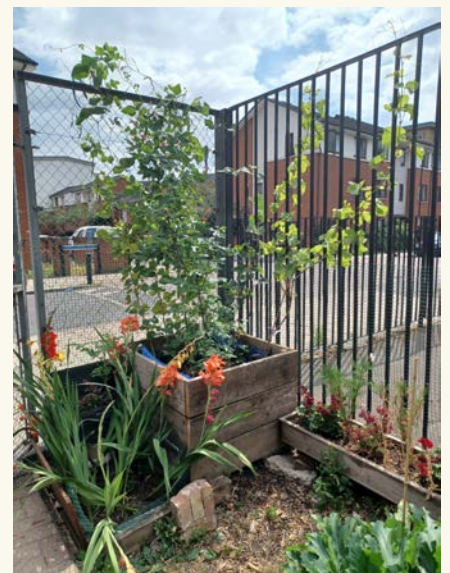


The Green Ambassadors voiced their desires to make more gardens like the Paper Garden in the local area. We connected with local community groups in the Silwood Estate including Oopsy Daisy Nursery and Silwood Youth Club. Together with our Green Ambassadors we worked hard to turn a disused lot on the Silwood Estate into what is now the Alphabet Garden and Creative Space that launched in October 2022. The Green Ambassadors helped by weeding and laying woodchip sourced from recently felled trees from Canada Water, allowing the soil slowly to become host to many more insects and provided damp, life-giving conditions for the micro and macro-organisms in the soil. The Green Ambassadors moved and fixed wood planters made of recycled scaffold boards into the garden for the Oopsy Daisy Nursery children to use as their vegetable beds. Since installing the beds, Oopsy Daisy Nursery have grown sweetcorn, strawberries, tomatoes, runner beans, chard, spinach, Bengali gourds, pumpkin, broccoli, herbs, and lots more. Lastly, the Green Ambassadors shifted soil into the garden and planted grapevines, apple trees, blueberries, and other perennials to help attract bees, bumblebees, moths, butterflies, and hoverflies.



"I can see the resemblance to the old Paper Garden. I wasn't there at the very beginning of the Alphabet Garden however the work that we did today is promising. Just like the Paper Garden, everyone's ideas and contributions are creating a welcoming community green space and I'm glad that we're able to bring that to the people that live around here. Hopefully we can spread more across Rotherhithe."

-Taliah, 16



CANADA WATER MASTERPLAN PARK DEVELOPMENT



The Green Ambassadors had the opportunity to help shape the planning applications for the new Park and Pavillion close to The Printworks in a consultation process with Townshend Landscape Architects. The young people were led by TLA around the perimeter of the site where the park will be built as well as receiving the full brief presentation of the park. The young people were honest and brave in voicing their opinions and ideas regarding the development of the park. The young people then created models and drawings of play spaces, wildlife areas, sculptures, water features, etc that could be incorporated based on the discussions and presentations in which they took part.



"I think the park should bring attention to humans and wildlife. It should allow wildlife to thrive in the park and for humans to enjoy. I believe that plants should be looked after. Grass is important. Water should be available to humans and animals. Denny, 12

YOUNG PEOPLE EDUCATION WORKSHOPS

Every week Bosco College students, including their ESOL group, has visited the Paper Garden. They have helped build the new garden, cooked lunch, grown food, and had fires.

Roots and Shoots SEND students have visited the garden for monthly workshops, helping transform the new space.

We hosted an month long Intern from Career Ready and two work experience placements in July.

Time and Talents holiday club have used the new garden for outside activities.

NHS Families and local families have visited the garden, watering, harvesting, and cooking together.





CARING FOR THE CHICKENS



The garden always acts a huge reminder to staff of the positive impact of plants and animals on young people who do not have access to green space.

"My favourite thing about the paper garden is probably the chickens. Every time I come they are the first thing I go to see. I got very excited when I first saw the chickens in the old garden. Another thing that I love about the garden are the flowers. They're all so colourful and pretty and there are so many of them. Overall I love the garden, it's calm and relaxing and just really nice."

Laura



TWILIGHT GARDENING WITH LOCAL PEOPLE AND KINGS COLLEGE

We hosted 6 evenings of gardening and dinner for local people and health researchers.

"Being in the Paper Garden made me feel connected to other women in the local area and empowered. And I planted a cabbage which is amazing and I have no garden! Thank you"



THE COMMUNITY CLASSROOM BUILD



"When I first joined the Paper Garden I felt very shy, but the more I came the more confidence I grew. I have grown to love the Paper Garden because it has made me a better person. I have learnt so many new skills."
Gerogie-Ryan



BUILDING THE CORDWOOD WALL...

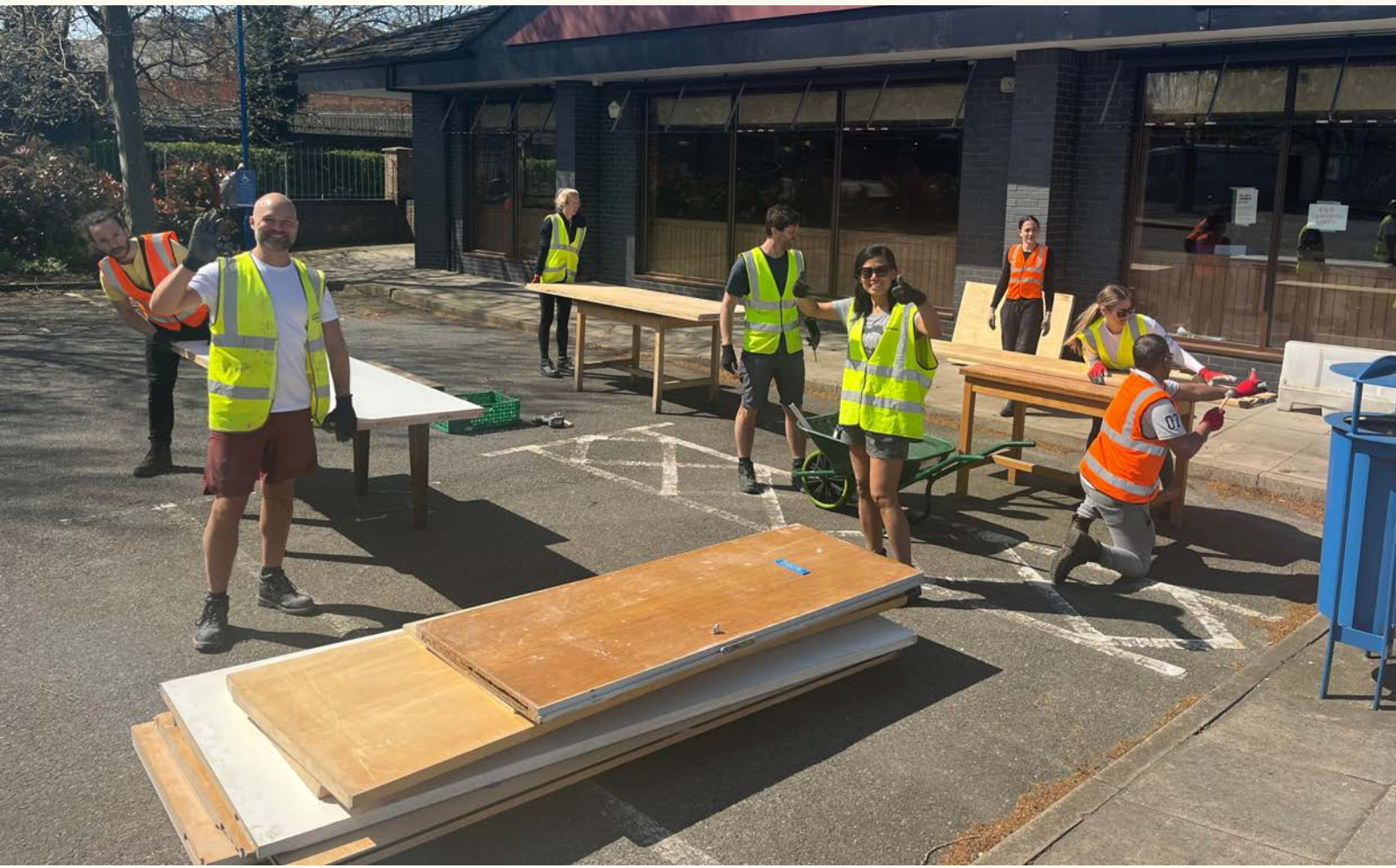
With our volunteers and young people we have been training people in cordwood construction. to make our two cordwood walls that frame the classroom space.



STRIPPING THE RECLAIMED DOORS...



In the classroom build we are making a floor out of reclaimed doors. We have been stripping all the iron mongery off these with our volunteers ready to lay in the classroom.



PAINTING THE CLASSROOM...

With our volunteers and young apprentices we have been priming, filling and painting the plywood walls in a bright patchwork of colours!



COMMUNITY GROWING GROUP

The Community Growing Programme has seen 14 members of the local community learning to grow food and develop a community garden. The group met once a month where they received training from Jack and Seth on an aspect of growing, maintained the community beds and enjoyed a communal meal.

10 out of the 14 members said this was their first experience of growing like this and 8 people don't have access to green space at home.

The training included seasonal planning, seed sowing, feeding and caring for the soil, the basics of compost and harvesting crops.

The training we provide includes tips in organising and growing communally, skills required to successfully run a community growing programme. This meant that the growers spent time each month self-organising; creating a seasonal growing plan and inputting on the development of the programme. Looking forward, the group will integrate further with Paper Garden's operations, getting involved with Saturday openings, community cooking and supporting with growing and maintenance of crops.



THE HARVEST

We have continued to grow for the local community.

With the polytunnel up and running, this year we have harvested over 250KG of produce.

We have been donating weekly harvests to the Love North Southwark Food Pantry. LNS provides food for Bermondsey and Rotherhithe residents 23-94 years old.

We are growing produce from difference places around the world and will be working with local people to find out what they would like to grow.

The harvest has been done by visitors to the garden as well as the staff team.



OPENING THE GARDEN CELEBATION

Attended by 200 people, the young people welcomed guests into the garden where they could weave natural bracelets and have their say in what to grow in the garden, eat pizza, build some of the walls, listen to the young people's performances and buy their natural products, and enjoy the garden space.



YES MAKE'S WORKSHOP



We've raised a combined total of £39,000 to build our workshop at the Paper Garden! That makes the build fully funded. Planning Permission has been submitted and we expect to receive permission to build the workshop in mid-June.

Once permission from Southwark Council is confirmed the workshop will be built from start to finish in 8 weeks, aiming to open our doors for community workshops, Generator sessions and local projects in September 2023!

Take a [look at our website here](#) or [our instagram here](#) to get a feel for the work that we do and the social and environmental impact this has. If you are interested in setting up a community build project, feel free to get in touch with Joel De Mowbray on joel@yesmake.co.uk.

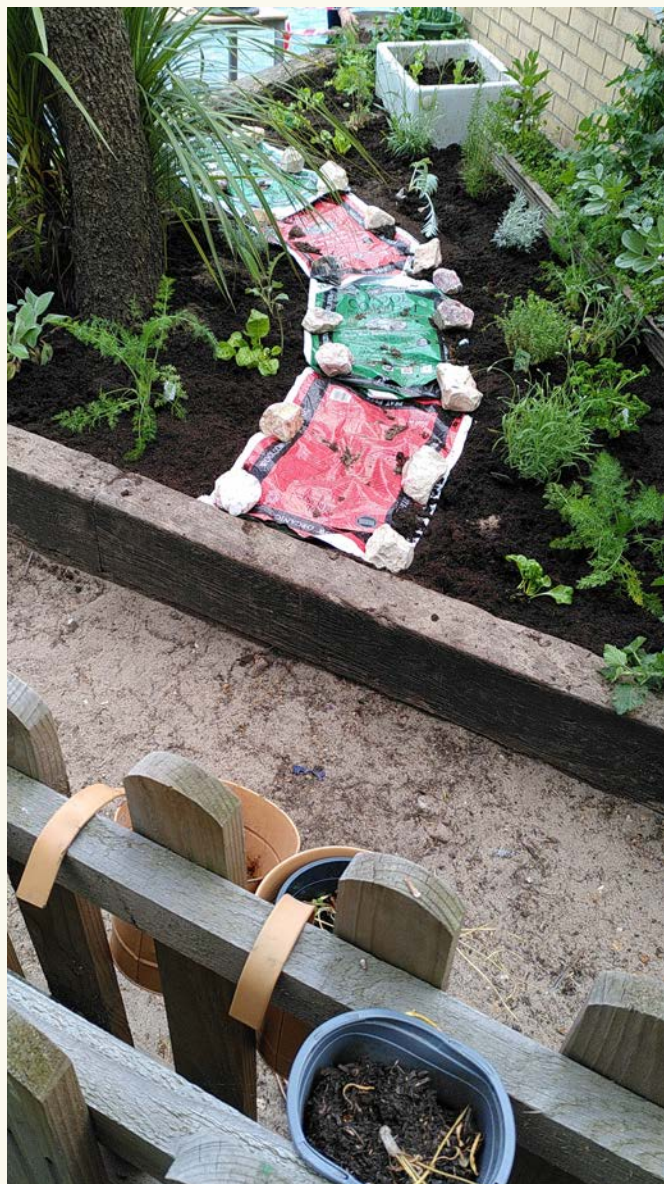


MAKE

REDRIFF PRIMARY SCHOOL GARDEN

One gardener works in Redriff every Friday. The nursery have their own contained gardening space, and older years have their sessions in Sue's Garden or the Wildlife Garden, as well as the new composting area and shed.

We've been working with Redriff since 2019, building different elements of their gardens and running sessions with every year group. The areas we started in were two beds beside the original garden site, 'Sue's Garden', but we have expanded by creating a nursery bed in 2022 and now a further bed in 2023. We've cleared some of the overgrowth in the Wildlife Garden and use it for regular Friday sessions. We have built a shed for gardening tools, and added several compost bays for green waste from our growing programme. In 2023 We're adding a polytunnel and another garden site, and rehabilitating many existing beds.



ALBION PRIMARY SCHOOL GARDEN

Our presence in Albion Primary School has increased in the 22/23 academic year with the start of Friday afternoon sessions as well as full days on Tuesdays. Children are selected by teachers and are involved with the aim of building community in the school and gaining confidence and communication skills.

The garden has been reworked with new mound beds created within the forest school herbs, medicinal plants and berries planted in the growing beds just outside the garden, working with the increasing shade from mature trees. Vegetable and leaf crops have been moved to new larger, sunnier beds in the playground, making it easier to keep watered. A closer bond has been formed with the school kitchen.

Global Generation's relationship with the school is going from strength to strength with plenty of room and desire for development.

“But why aren't there any baby chicks in this egg? ”. Year 4 pupil

"is that chicken poo or mud on my arm?". Year 3 pupil



ST JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL GARDEN

Since 2021 three small groups of children garden every Wednesday afternoon.

Activities included:

- cleaning and clearing the greenhouse,
- covering the soil with manure and weed fabric,
- emptying and sieving the compost
- clearing borders, planned seed sowing
- clearing the back of the allotment for our mini orchard,
- clearing the pond.
- collecting material for bug hotel,
- working on insects and pollinators in the garden,
- making comfrey feed,
- sowing early seeds,
- planting 2 apples, 2 pear trees,
- planting potato seeds,
- sowing wild flower seeds in borders.

Theoretical sessions with the older pupils include topics such as biodiversity, composting and recycling materials in the garden,



PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN THE PAPER GARDEN

Albion
Redriff
St John's
St Joseph's
Alfred Salter
Peter Hills



We have facilitated 60 primary school workshops, all helping create the new garden.

We have worked with every year group, from Year 1 to Year 6, in each one of our six partnered local schools. Activities are varied through the year, changing with the seasons but the education and experience has remained true to our practice at Paper Garden.

Working to incorporate the curriculum where possible, we used water as a prompt through the Summer, understanding the water cycle and the human-made infrastructure around our water needs. This leads us to water in plants, and what the different needs of a plant are in order to allow it to grow healthily.

The Autumn and Winter term, we deep dived into soil and what lies beneath our feet. This investigation was based around us creating our own soil on top of the concreted Paper Garden. Worms, compost and how soil bacteria supports our plants led us to important conversations around land rights with some of our older students.

Opportunity for the children to get their hands dirty is always met with joy and excitement. We have sown thousands of seeds for the Paper Garden and the schools we work with, harvested organically grown food, turned compost and built new growing beds. Each child leaves with an experience they could no access anywhere else and with knowledge they didn't realised they wanted to learn.



Young Gardeners

The Young Gardener programme ran through 2022 with two groups of children from local primary schools, Alfred Salter and Redriff.

The children were selected by their school's pastoral leads, identified as struggling with life within the standard classroom environment. The aim was to build their confidence, communication skills and improve engagement in their learning and wider school life.

40 workshops were delivered

40 children were involved



"I feel safe here, I think the chickens do too" - Maisie

"This is the best school activity, thanks!" - Franklyn

LOOKING FORWARD AT THE YEAR AHEAD

DEVELOPING A STRATEGY FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN THE PUBLIC REALM:

Over the next year working with British Land and Townshend to map out where the community can be involved in the development of the green spaces in the public realm.

SCHOOLS AND NURSERIES:

We are continuing to work with 6 local Primary Schools and 2 Nurseries.

GENERATORS:

40 new local young people are enrolled onto the year long programme.

GREEN AMBASSADORS;

30 graduated from the Generator Programme are working on greening local estates.

COMMUNITY GROUPS:

We will be working with the Afghan Society Refugees, Bosco, Time and Talents, Roots and Shoots SEN students.

THE CLASSROOM BUILD:

Continuing to work with corporate and community groups until the finishing of the build, then on the inside of the classroom.

KING'S COLLEGE LONDON:

3 x Twilight workshops with King's College researchers and researchers contributing to our community programmes through presentations and volunteering.

COMMUNITY GROW BEDS:

10 metres squared of growing space for local families to come and learn how to grow in monthly horticultural training workshops. They come and look after the beds in evenings and Saturdays.

SATURDAYS:

From April we are opening on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month for people to come and enjoy the garden.

COOKING WORKSHOPS;

On the open Saturdays we will be running cooking workshops for adults and families accessing food provision support locally and Free School Meals.

CELEBRATIONS:

Opening the Classroom June 2023
Winter Solstice December 2023

DESIGNING THE FRONT OF THE CLASSROOM:

Bench and planter project for young people in collaboration with Yes Make

SLIPPERS ESTATE GARDEN:

We will be working with Love North Southwark to create a low maintenance food growing garden for the nursery and local people.

HAWKSTONE ESTATE GARDEN:

We are working with the TRA to plant up the designs we did in 2022 with young people enrolled on our programmes.

