

# **BWGA Annual Report 2009**

## **presented at the AGM on 8th March 2010**

Bohemia Walled Garden Association  
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT  
**For the year ended 31st December 2009**

The Management Committee submit their annual report and financial statement for the Bohemia Walled Garden Association (BWGA) for the year ended 31st December 2009.

### **Background**

The Bohemia Walled Garden Association was formed in 2009 in order to bring the Victorian Walled Garden at Summerfields back into active use for horticulture and associated cultural and educational activities. The garden is owned by Hastings Borough Council (HBC) and is located within the Summerfields Woods Local Nature Reserve (LNR) but is not part of the LNR. The project is supported by the Friends of Summerfields Woods Local Nature Reserve.

### **Structure, Governance and Management**

The Bohemia Walled Garden Association has a Management Committee governed by the constitution adopted on 9th March 2009. Day-to-day management of the Association is vested in the members of the Management Committee, who must be elected and co-opted under the terms of the constitution. The Management Committee work as a team.

**Management Committee responsibilities** The members of the Management Committee are responsible for ensuring that the BWGA has an appropriate system of financial controls. They are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Association, for safeguarding the assets of the Association, and for taking reasonable steps to detect and prevent any financial irregularities. They are also responsible for the health and safety of volunteers working in the garden, for the health and safety of visitors to the garden, and for ensuring that the Association complies with relevant statutory legislation.

### **Achievements during 2009**

Negotiated a Tenancy at Will with HBC.

- Obtained a grant of £350 from the “British Trust for Conservation Volunteers” for the purchase of tools and £120 to help pay for insurance for volunteers working in the garden

- Obtained a grant from HBC for £500 which has enabled the purchase of Heras fencing to secure the garden where the wall has collapsed.
- Held an Open Day on 18th July 2009 which was attended by about 40 visitors.
- Gained support for the garden project from many individuals and groups including: Hastings Voluntary Action, Hastings Borough Council, Michael Foster MP for Hastings and Rye, Bohemia Village Voice, Friends of Summerfields Wood, HBC Ranger Service, Probation Service, Sussex Gardens Trust, Travis Perkins (donation of wheelbarrow)
- Explored sources of funding for repairs to the wall.
- Submitted to Hastings Borough Council a Risk Assessment & Method Statement for volunteer work in the garden.

\* Initiated Task Days: Sunday mornings from 10 until 12 noon. As of 14/2/10, there were 11 sessions.

\* Received & installed Heras fencing across damaged area of walling.

- With the help of volunteers, begun to clear the vegetation within the garden and on the walls.

\* Cleared damaged walls for builders' inspection.

- Drawn up a business plan for 2010.
- Published regular updates of progress in the Bohemia Village Voice.
- Set up an electronic system to communicate with members.
- Set up a website, <http://bohemiawga.weebly.com>.

\* Established an on-line public photo-gallery on Flickr

\* Included in website [www.1066/summerfields](http://www.1066/summerfields), with frequent updates (text & photos)

\* Created & updated an entry on East Sussex Community Information System (ESCI)

\* Listed in HVA Directory (2009)

### **Plans for 2010**

- Hold a fundraising event (8th May 2010) at the Park Road Methodist Church
  - Hold an Open Day in summer 2010 Continue to promote the Bohemia Walled Garden locally and regionally.
  - Complete negotiations with HBC for a long lease. .
  - Obtain quotations, let contract and begin wall repairs.
  - Secure grant funding for the repair of the walls.
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- Secure grant funding to trim overhanging trees and shrubs.
  - Implement trimming of overhanging trees and shrubs (winter 2010-11).
  - Continue basic renovation of the garden with the help of volunteers, including

- complete removal of vegetation from the walls
- removal of saplings, bramble roots and roots of perennial weeds to make the ground fit for horticulture
- installation of one or more water butts
- repair of the concrete shed to make it waterproof
- installation of a composting toilet.
  
- Plant some annual vegetable crops.
- Develop an outline ground plan for the garden.
- Review business plan, revise as appropriate, and develop detailed plans for 2011.
- \* Continue to pursue small fund raising opportunities \* Continue to liaise with Hastings Borough Council to secure improvements to paths leading to the garden.
- Thank you
- The BWGA Management Committee would like to thank all BWGA members, volunteers and partners for their support during 2009.

This report was approved by the Management Committee on ..... and signed on its behalf by:

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Chair + Treasurer + Secretary