



Moulsecomb Forest Garden and Wildlife Project Annual Report 2010

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During this period we have received funds and support from:

Brighton and Hove City Council
The Henry Smith Charity
Brighton and Hove Allotment Federation
Waitrose
Eleanor Hamilton Education Trust
Brighton Festival Fringe
02/Conservation Foundation
Brighton and Hove Food Partnership/Harvest
Brighton Community Compost Centre

Sussex Community Foundation
The Brad Phillips Charitable Trust
The YAPP Charitable Trust
Big Lemon Bus 'Give Something Back'
Brighton & Hove Community & Voluntary Sector Forum
Hollingdean Development Trust
Novas Scarman Children Can Do
East Sussex Archaeology and Museums Partnership



THE PROJECT

Moulsecoomb Forest Garden and Wildlife Project is a community food project based on 9 plots at the Moulsecoomb Place allotment site in Brighton. The project is situated on the north-east outskirts of the city between four housing estates: Bates, Hollingdean, Bevendean and Moulsecoomb, all identified as deprived neighbourhoods by Brighton & Hove City Council. The project offers horticultural, carpentry, woodland management, educational and social opportuni-

ties to all residents and school children in these surrounding built up urban areas. We are open to everyone two days a week, fifty weeks a year as well as running regular work sessions with other organisations throughout the year. Volunteers get to take home whatever vegetables are seasonally available.

But these aren't your run of the mill allotments. Along with plots growing organic fruit and vegetables, we have wildlife areas with a pond full of newts and frogs, a treehouse/ outdoor classroom, polytunnel, outdoor clay oven, Saxon roundhouse, turf sofa, compost loo and a social area with firepit and a kids space. There is also a forest garden, which recreates the different layers of a forest from tall fruit trees to fruit bushes and herbs. We also carry out work in the woods behind the project and have drawn up a detailed management plan now the woods have been included in the South Downs National Park.

We put on events such as pick and cook, as well as working in local schools running environment clubs and helping to improve school grounds. The project also plays an important role in being part of the social glue that binds communities together, with all types of people, young and old, school pupils to people with learning difficulties working together in a safe and pleasant environment.

AIMS

- Reduce anti social behaviour by involving excluded pupils and youth offenders in the running of the garden.
- Improve community health by offering free, organic and locally grown fruit and vegetables.
- Enhance skills and employability by offering practical based training and volunteering opportunities.
- Getting children involved in planting, growing and eating healthy food, and respecting nature and the environment.
- Creating and enhancing wildlife habitats, protecting bio-diversity including old fashioned vegetable varieties.
- Promoting sustainable lifestyles, by encouraging and educating people about composting and the benefits of organic gardening and locally produced food.



WARREN CARTER PROJECT MANAGER

We certainly hit the big time in October when we were one of the organisations featured in Channel 4's flagship 'The Secret Millionaire' programme (see page 10). Not only did we get a bonus cash windfall but the programme raised our profile significantly. But as our organisation grows, it's worthwhile reflecting on where the project is going. In October we held a strategy meeting with management committee members, long term volunteers and various partners to look at what was working, what wasn't and how we can improve our service. This was a great way of getting everyone together for a three hour brainstorm and although we are still working on the strategy document, some of the suggestions that came out of the meeting have already been implemented. For example, we now have a volunteer code on our website and which is sent to everyone who enquires, while we are working on making sure volunteers get the most out of their time with us.

Without our volunteers we would not be able to be anywhere near as effective as we are. On Tuesday we employ Daisy Brown (see page 8) as our volunteer co-coordinator but even then our attention is so focused on the school children we work with, the volunteers can feel neglected! Already we get longer term volunteers police checked and send them on a variety of courses such as child protection, first aid and management training. But there are gaps in provision and it is something we are working on.

At the beginning of the year we also complete-



Storytelling in the woods during the Brighton Festival Fringe



Planting outlawed peas with Moulsecoomb Primary School

ly re-drafted and updated all our policies and procedures. Harvest (see page 13) are now using these as a template for other community organisations in the city.

Our work with the schools continues to be our most important focus. Building supervisor Russell Pountney (see page 5) is continuing to work with the Alternative Centre for Education, Springboard Education and Patcham House. Environmental Project Worker Pat Beach (see page 6) continues with his one to one work with pupils referred to him and, while not employed by us, his work is an integral part of our organisation. As well as youth awards Pat can now give individual accreditation and this is something we will be expanding in the future.

Falmer High School became The Brighton Aldridge Community Academy (see page 15) in the summer and we have been busy establishing links at the new school to carry on our work with their pupils and run the proposed new growing area at the school. We have extended our work with the Alternative Centre for Education (see page 9) and some of their pupils have built their own individual raised beds and are busy planning and planting. As well as the regular lunchtime environment club we now run an after school club in the fantastic grounds at Moulsecoomb Primary (see page 11) and Daisy continues to tend the old Falmer school beds with produce going to the Bridge community centre café. We also have regular visits from Moulsecoomb Primary and other primary schools.

Listening to complaints that we only work with 'naughty kids' we ran a summer school for all children in the area (see page 11). This was a re-

Moulsecoomb Forest Garden and Wildlife Project

sounding success and we will be hoping to repeat this during future school holidays.

Much of our time is spent showing individuals and groups round the project and Harvest organised an event in the summer for the wide range of organisations involved with growing in the City. We spoke up for a proposed community food project that was facing opposition to their plans, re-assuring people that it would improve their neighbourhood immeasurably. We showed representatives from UNESCO around the garden and Moulsecoomb Primary as part of the city councils bid to become a bio-sphere reserve. Moulsecoomb Healthy Living Centre held a team building day and we have teamed up with Rock Corps who offer £30 music vouchers for 4 hour of volunteering. In November we hosted Mitzvah Day for Brighton's Jewish community which means 'Good Deed Day.' We have also become a community compost drop off point after a relaxation in the regulations regarding food waste.

Queensdown Woods, which are directly behind the project and our gateway into the South Downs National Park, have taken on an even greater role in our day to day work. We continue to improve access to the woods and carry out rubbish clearance while getting pupils to learn about woodland management such as coppicing. We have drawn up a detailed management plan which was distributed to councillors, interested parties and the new board of the National Park and is available to read on our website. We have cleared an area to enable us to host more events and this has opened up a fantastic new dimension



Our 'shed'

to the project. We can now cope with much larger numbers such as visits from Primary schools as well as being a calmer space for pupils for learn.

We held a very successful woodland open day where three hundred people learnt woodland skills, listened to talks on everything from community composting to bees, took part in children's activities went on woodland walks and of course made pizzas and cooked them in our outdoor clay oven. This oven was rebuilt and revamped over the winter to handle even more food. We also received a bursary to put on a children's event during the Brighton Festival Fringe and had a big bonfire, music, storytelling and star-gazing as part of the Councils 'White Night' festival. The woods are also now home to our first top box bee hive and we have also built a bee garden to make sure they don't go hungry.

Of course problems of funding are never far away. We continue to concentrate on smaller grants with a good success rate, and while guaranteed income from Harvest and schools helps us to plan ahead, we also generated nearly 30% of our income ourselves. Through Harvest we have run courses on fruit pruning, organic gardening for beginners and how to build a clay oven. We have also hired the garden out as a space for events such as team-building, but also have raised funds by running council events at the garden and hired the space for other organisations to use it to teach. Oh and having a fairy god mother in the guise of the Secret Millionaire waving a magic wand and presenting us with a £7,500 cheque really helped as well!



Long term volunteer and management committee member shows his City College Foundation Learning award off to his mum

RUSSELL POUNTNEY BUILDING SUPERVISOR

Another busy year at Forest Garden draws to an end and looking back we have achieved a lot, owed partly to a productive bunch of volunteers this year.

I have continued working with school groups from the Alternative Centre of Education, Patcham House, and Falmer School (now called BACA) and have also started working with Springboard a small school that work with students with particularly difficult behavioural needs. Alongside this, I work with our regular volunteers and adult volunteer groups from local universities and companies. I tend to get the adults to do the physically demanding work in larger groups, and work in a more structured manner with the young people in smaller groups so I can better teach the safe use of tools and achieve a better end result.



These are the main projects I have been working on over the last year:

* **Clay burner in shed.** After the theft of our wood burning stove, I designed an unstealable burner based on my pizza oven design with a metal hotplate and chimney. Mixing the clay adobe and plastering it on by hand works really well with children of all ages. The burner turned out really well and it has made the shed a very cosy retreat from the winter weather.

* **New pizza oven.** The old pizza oven had such a lot of use that, when it was damaged, I decided to rebuild instead of repairing so I could add some design improvements. We decided to run a weekend course for adults, which we built the base and large amount of the structure. I then



Little fairy up a tree

carried it through to completion with young people. This time we built the oven bigger with a larger door enabling us to have more cooking space and making it easier to light a fire. With the addition of a chimney a small fire can be kept a light at the back letting us cook for longer periods of time (sometimes we cook all day). Finally I built a corrugated tin roof to protect the oven from the elements. We use the oven for events and as a treat for our groups at the end of term.

* **Beehive and enclosure.** Our resident bee expert Vanessa has organised and implemented bee keeping as an interesting and educational wing of forest garden. With various groups we set to work clearing an area in the woods, landscaping a flat space and building a natural and secure enclosure using coppiced branches from the woodland. Vanessa built a bee friendly hive and managed to get us a swarm that have successfully settled into their new home. The hive has a clear viewing window and is proving to be really popular with our young people and visiting groups.

* **Thatch on round house.** After some initial training Pat and I set about thatching our slightly neglected round house with proper Norfolk reeds. It proved to be a difficult skill to master, in fact too difficult for our younger students. Pat has worked with his one on one young people on the thatch and with lots of hard work and perseverance it is nearly completed. It is a very beautiful



Making a mallet from coppiced wood

building giving us another really interesting educational tool and useful structure.

* **Carving and woodworking.** I have carried on teaching young people carving and woodworking skills, making among other things mallets and stools, and carving name signs and animals and insects on elm logs in the woods.

* **Shelter building and fire making.** Pat and I have run some really successful activity days building dens/shelters in the woods using natural materials in the woodland and teaching different fire lighting techniques with children aged 7 to 13.

* **Coppice polytunnel.** After three years of terrible tomato blight we decided to fight back by growing under plastic. For this we built a homemade polytunnel using coppiced ash poles lashed together with string covered with a huge sheet of PVC. It worked very well giving us a beautiful and bountiful crop of tomatoes of all shapes, colours and sizes.

* **Improving access.** We have carried on our work improving the access on site and in the woodland by clearing and widening the drove and building steps and hand rails.

* **Raised beds.** As a new initiative to improve soil and give ownership and responsibility to our young people I have been working with them to build their own individual raised beds from old scaffolding planks.

All in all a very productive year in which we have continued to prove we can work with large numbers of sometimes very difficult young people with excellent results, building positive relationships with young people and the local community.

PATRICK BEACH

ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT WORKER,
SUSSEX CENTRAL YMCA

My work is nature based accreditation and education through a therapeutic process. The process used is aimed at young people who experience difficulties in main stream education, with conditions such as ADHD, dyslexia and other special educational needs, these young people are often excluded from school and seen as difficult to engage.

With this process, the aim is working with the young person through a therapeutic model, building confidence, motivation and self esteem. Another key factor is the building of the relationship between the workers and the young person. The work begins as a one to one work, then gradually integrating into larger groups and team work.

Using environmental based activity provides a medium to work through which is broad and experiential including horticulture, conservation and woodland work, bushcraft, cooking skills, art, construction, woodworking and so on. The effect of being in a natural environment in itself has an immediate grounding effect, the recent research into Nature Deficit Disorder in young people and its consequent effect, underpins this.

Through this experience, opportunities are created for learning outcomes for young people, along with personnel development, as well as promoting an awareness of the environment and healthy living, particularly around food.

Moulsecomb Forest Garden Project provides a unique environment to deliver this work, a community project in the true sense of the word, a majority



Pat putting the thatched roof onto the roundhouse



of the young people we work with come from the Moulsecomb area. The staff and volunteers at the Forest Garden have a wide cross section of skills and experience for young people to tap into and the diverse social mix of the Forest Garden allows young people to experience and hear different views and opinions. This gives a wonderful opportunity for young people to interact with others from different backgrounds and for young people to contribute their own ideas, within the group.

Initially the process is exploratory, apart from ground rules, there is no set plan, the aim is to find what the young person can do, what they enjoy doing, to make the experience of any activity a positive one. A personnel record of the young person's achievements and progress is created, encouraging them to take part in the recording. As progress develops and the skill base increases, activities can be broken down into learning outcomes. These activities can be set, or young person led and sometimes learning comes incidentally, so it is necessary to be as flexible as possible to allow space for ideas to develop, and be ready to watch for the possibilities of a learning curve.

A good example of this was when we put in a hand rail along one of the garden pathways. The project gave way to a host of learning outcomes. For example, selected trees had to be taken from the surrounding woodland, so aspects around woodland management, tree identification, coppicing, pruning techniques, conservation, basic tree botany, safe use of appropriate tools, all became part of that process. Holes had to be dug for the posts, this also went off on a tangent, which began on soil profiles, because the ground was full of chalk and hard to dig; the question was why? We covered the geography of the local area and

the South Downs. Another interesting spin off was when one of the young people produced sparks, when the spade hit a piece of flint, this then led to a demonstration on how flint and steels work and an experiential delve into primitive technology and how our ancestors lived. The completion of the rail took a lot longer than expected!

In many cases this way of working has led to young people researching information to satisfy their own interest. This process overall, allows the young person to take ownership and responsibility within the project, which contributes to their self development.

The success of this approach is reflected during the school breaks, this October half term for example, all of the young people who attended during school time, also attended every day from Tuesday to Saturday in their own time.

The young people involved helped to prepare for the White Night Festival on the Saturday, which included finishing the hand rail! They also attended an Archaeology day with the East Sussex Archaeology and Museums Partnership in Moulsecomb Primary School, despite the rain and also spent a day working on a conservation project in Hodshrove Wood, Moulsecomb, planting trees and clearing brush.

Considering these are young people that are normally seen as difficult to engage, the success of this holistic approach speaks for itself.

At present we are working towards a recognised form of accreditation, using this process and we currently give youth awards which are linked to the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme.

Dean on compost toilet duty





Daisy and Moulsecomb Primary pupils planting potatoes

DAISY BROWN VOLUNTEER CO-ORDINATOR

I am a self employed gardener with eight years experience and various qualifications. My company name is GreenFingers and when I moved to Brighton four years ago I took on many private gardens. I'm passionate about gardening but was looking to take it in other directions, so was really pleased to find Moulsecomb Forest Garden in March 2009, where I volunteered for six months before becoming employed there. I have been working at the garden as Volunteer Coordinator for 14 months.

In this time my duties have included:

- * Greeting new people and introducing them to the project
- * Working with various groups; demonstrating and supervising
- * Cooking lunch for everybody using as much produce grown on site as possible
- * Requesting, designing and landscaping a 'bee garden' to accompany the new bee hive
- * Planting a herb garden
- * Helping with events at the project

I worked for several months with Warren and Pat at the vegetable beds at Falmer High School working with children from The Swan Centre, who have special educational needs. There is a polytunnel and 6 beds to grow vegetables. We also taught some woodland skills, used a compost area and sampled our vegetables prepared by The Bridge community cafe. Now Falmer

School is an academy the sessions have temporarily stopped, but I am keeping the area ticking over and giving the produce to The Bridge café until further plans are made.

I am running an afterschool environment club at Moulsecomb Primary. There is such a variety of outdoor features at the school that it's so easy to find interesting things to do with the children, aged 8-11. In the 4 sessions so far, we have mulched raspberries, made apple crumble and lavender ball Christmas presents and wreaths from Bay trees. Being able to cook and do arts and crafts means the quieter winter period won't be dull (or too cold!).

I'm aiming to get the children to:

- * Be interested in growing, preparing and eating food
- * Look at nature in a more creative way
- * Enjoy working outdoors
- * Continue the sessions and finish the year with a diary they are proud of, with notes, pictures, photos and anything else they find interesting
- * Respect the environment
- * Feel their opinions are important with the activities we do



Ready to tackle the bees

VANESSA TOURLE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, LONG TERM VOLUNTEER AND BEE KEEPER

The allotment has had its first year supporting a hive of bees. The bees came from a swarm collected in a cardboard box, then rehoused in the

Top Bar Hive. The Hive is designed to support a bee colony, simulating an environment that a swarm would choose if left to their own devices in the wild. The Top Bar is not about farming the bees and taking their honey but about helping to protect bees allowing them to keep most their harvest, which in turn gives the bees the best defence against cold winters and various diseases.

The hive was made from recycled floorboards and scraps of wood found in a skip, so had no financial cost. It has been a great educational tool due to there being a perspex window built into the hive, allowing children and adults a close up inspection of how a hive functions, learning about the benefit of bees to our environment. The allotment has also increased the number of bee friendly plants it has at the site enabling the bees to forage not only through out the summer but also on warm days in the cooler months of the year.

LISA SWAN

LOWER SCHOOL COORDINATOR, ALTERNATIVE CENTRE FOR EDUCATION (ACE)

A number of students from our school make use of the Forest Garden Project during their school week. Students at ACE often find it difficult to mix socially, particularly with adults that they do not know, and their behaviour can be difficult to manage.



Pupils' raised beds

SECRETS OF THE FOREST GARDEN

PART OF THE WHITE NIGHT FESTIVAL
SATURDAY 30TH OCTOBER 6-9PM

BONFIRE, STORYTELLING AND MUSIC
STAR GAZING & MOTH HUNTING

HOT FOOD AND DRINK FROM:
THE BRIGHTON AND HOVE FOOD PARTNERSHIP
AND TRAILER TRASHED

This event is FREE and happening at the Moulsecomb Forest Garden and Wildlife Project, Queensdown School Road, Brighton (directly behind Moulsecomb Train Station).

Please note the forest garden is on a steep slope and not suitable for wheelchairs or large buggies.

Walk to this event with Active East Brighton. The walk will be torch lit starting at 5.15pm at Wild Park Café. It will follow round the horseshoe and then proceed to the Forest Garden via a pick up at Moulsecomb Primary School.

For more info and directions:
079885 37951 / info@seedybusiness.org / www.seedybusiness.org



The Forest Garden hosted an event as part of Brighton's 'White Night Festival'

At the project staff are firm and clear with their instructions whilst also being very kind and flexible about tasks.

We have found our students respond well to this and after a nervous first few sessions, it often becomes the highlight of their week.

Students are taught specific skills related to gardening and woodwork and are encouraged to follow their own particular interest within the project. They are given responsibilities and ownership of areas which works wonders for their self esteem and motivation.

Flexibility is key to helping our students succeed and staff at the project have worked in different ways with various students, some attend in a group for a long session others can only manage a shorter amount of time and some students attend individually unsupported by school staff, this ensures maximum success for each individual. Some students even attend during their weekends and holidays to help out.



"Look at my pizza"

Eloise a year 7 student says "I love everything about it and everyone at the Project"

The project has also become a place where students can meet with school staff or other workers where they can talk and think in an environment that may be quieter than a busy school.

BRADLEY REBACK THE SECRET MILLIONAIRE

One of my fears when agreeing to be 'The Secret Millionaire' was a concern that I did not wish to just give money away for the sake of it. My previous career had been as a Charity Fundraiser and I have very complex thoughts and views on how and where charitable gifts should be made. I had no need to worry.

I love the Moulsecomb Forest Garden Project as it hit a chord with me. I never flourished at school and firmly believe that you don't have to flourish at school to flourish at life. The scheme does so much on a budget of only £30,000 a year. It is inspirational what they achieve. Hidden away is a tranquil and natural retreat where everyone is welcome, where anyone can find something and where your path of life can take on a new direction.

The project is so 'Out of the Box' the minute you walk up the path, your whole demeanor changes, and everyone around you makes you feel part of the same team, an equal team and a caring team. Giving money to the project was easy, and it's great to know that not one penny

will be wasted. As a business man and a former charity professional, I could see in an instant that supporting the Moulsecomb Forest Garden Project was a no brainer.

Money is one thing, but the place is so unique and special that I am also keen to give my time and support whenever practical. Being their Secret Millionaire, was my privilege, I was lucky.

AMYAS GILBERT CHAIR, MOULSECOOMB FOREST GARDEN

I've been a regular volunteer at the Forest Garden for almost three years now and became chair in November. I've picked up a lot of basic gardening skills, helped out with many small building jobs, and – most importantly for me – learnt a great deal about how a whole and healthy ecological system works. This is, after all, how the project runs in terms of growing food and managing its landscape. The knowledge of the people working and passing through has been instrumental for my own way of seeing the world, and will deeply influence what I do for the rest of my life.

Ultimately for me though, it's about the people. The mix you get at the Garden is incredible. Nowhere else have I been together with so many people of such different backgrounds, ages, and biscuit tea-dunking techniques. Everyone enjoys each other's company and is constantly learning from each other's stories and skills.

As far as food goes, this year I've brought a few things back to cook at home, especially lots of fresh salad, and bags and bags of basil from the polytunnel in the summer. But mostly, vegetables that get picked get cooked and eaten by



everyone on each workday. This year we've made a good habit of always cooking up a tasty meal with as much Forest Garden veg as possible, and have seriously cut down on the sausage and egg sandwiches (not that I didn't enjoy those..)

The other reason is that growing as much food as possible is not actually a priority. The project runs mainly for the kids. I've spent a lot of time helping with the lads who get referred to the Garden, and they're amazing. I hear horror stories about how they act in school, but these just don't fit with what I see at the Garden. Here they're mature, responsible, calm and concentrated (most of the time, but then again that goes for the adults too..). They get to spend their energy in fresh air, pick up skills they can see the value of, and get treated like real people.

For me personally, it's hard to summarise exactly how much I've learnt about what since I've been volunteering, because of how varied the workload and the projects are. What I can say for sure though, is that I've seen every single aim of the project being fulfilled in real-time, and I'm chuffed to have been a part of it.

LUCY RAYNER

COMMUNITY/SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT
WORKER MOULSECOOMB PRIMARY SCHOOL

It's been another busy year at Moulseccomb Primary School. The Year 4 lunchtime environment club, run by Warren, continues to be one of the most popular clubs and culminated in the Harvest Feast in September, where Year 5 pupils harvested, prepared and cooked their crops with the help of Simon Parker from the Food Partnership and a team of volunteers. The food was served up in the playground at the end of the day to fellow pupils and parents, and disappeared in record time. It was wonderful to see the range of food produced from the local community and how much it was enjoyed.

The Moulseccomb Forest Garden and Wildlife Project has been a key partner in these projects, as well as hosting various class visits to the allotments for Scavenger Hunts, Pick and Cook sessions and exploring the woods. The visits are always hugely enjoyed by pupils, staff and parents alike.

A new project is the afterschool gardening and environment club run by Daisy and volunteers



Weeding the orchard raspberry patch at Moulseccomb Primary School

from the MFGWP at Moulseccomb Primary, which the children are very enthusiastic about and are combining gardening with environmental art and cooking activities.

Moulseccomb Forest Garden and Wildlife Project is such a great local resource as well as a special place to visit, so thanks to Warren and all the other staff and volunteers who make it such a brilliant project.

WILDERNESS SUMMER CAMP

One consistent and valid criticism of our work is that it is only children who are misbehaving at secondary school who get to take part in our activities. To tackle this issue four children from Moulseccomb Primary met with a funder from Novas Scarman and put together a plan for a wilderness project during the summer holidays and we were successful in getting money to fund it.

We easily filled the maximum of 12 spaces –



Eating marshmallows around the campfire at the Wilderness Summer Camp

the majority attending were from Moulsecomb Primary, one boy was referred to us by his social worker and one came from Falmer High.

Working in the area for many years has helped us build up a relationship with the children – all them had visited the forest garden at least once during school trips or taken part in the weekly gardening club at the school.

We split the children into groups and built three dens in the woods, using material from the woods. During the building process, they learnt how to identify trees, plants, eco systems and how to increase bio diversity. The camps became the main focal point of the whole three days. They also learnt various bushcraft techniques, fire lighting, carving, knotwork and use of woodland tools. The children really enjoyed adding to the structures, putting on tarps on them when it rained, clearing brambles etc and building small fire pits.

Each day we would go back to the forest garden for a communal meal on the fire-pit, learning how to make fires in the process. Part of the grant money criteria was healthy eating and we bought food from a local farm shop to supplement the garden produce. The children tucked into local sausages, bacon and eggs; spent one of the days preparing and making pizzas in our outdoor clay oven. They ate local apples, picked raspberries, blackberries and white currants. Dug up potatoes and then made chips over the fire. Harvested salad and runner beans. There were no fizzy drinks just juices, smoothies, water or milk. Only on the last day did we allow marshmallows to be cooked around their own camp fires, using sycamore sticks to roast them on.

The children also learnt how to tie different knots, some went wooding and learnt how to make fires with flint. Some made mallets from harvested wood. Others learnt about bees and how they collect nectar and turn it into honey. Some helped with the gardening.

On the last day the children showed their parents and careers around their camps.

Money is tight for many, with large families on low or no income. Keeping the event completely free made sure that everyone who wanted to attend could. The majority of the children had no planned holiday during the school holiday. The event also strengthened our links with parents in the community.

We asked the children at the end of the last day what they liked and disliked, and making camps came top and that they liked everything, they only complaint that it wasn't long enough!

The event was a resounding success and we want to look for further funding to roll this out as a regular holiday activity for the children of Moulsecomb and the surrounding estates.



Digging potatoes for lunch during summer camp

MICHAELA ROSSMANN
VOLUNTEER DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATOR, PROJECT V, UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX STUDENTS UNION

We have long established links with the Moulsecomb Forest Garden and Wildlife Project (MFGWP) and we're always happy to try and get student volunteers involved in this project!

During the last year we have linked up in a vari-



ety of ways. Project V organised one-off volunteering opportunities during summer vacation with the MFGWP and we had 5 international students taking part in this opportunity. The feedback we got from them was really positive!

'It is a good way to engage in English culture. I enjoy doing wood-work! I now know lots of plants that I hadn't known the names before and I made new friends. That's a meaningful day!' - Chen

We also have more long term volunteers placed with the MFGWP and the volunteers involved in seem to really get a lot out from volunteering:

'I get a huge feeling of accomplishment after getting a job done. I have met lots of new people who are all very interesting and friendly. I feel a sense of calm and normality from being there as it is down to earth and away from stresses of the Uni. I am learning lots of new skills and gaining confidence in talking to people.' - Imogen

'It was nice, fun work and the people are great. It's a good way to interact with lots of different people, so it's good for communication skills and I enjoyed eating barbecued sausages and drinking lots of tea!' - Flora

Project V hopes that also in future we are able to work together for one off projects as well as more ongoing volunteering placements.

VIC BORRILL DIRECTOR, BRIGHTON & HOVE FOOD PARTNERSHIP

In 2009 the Brighton & Hove Food Partnership was awarded funding from The Big Lottery to run an urban growing project. Harvest Brighton & Hove is a partnership bringing together a broad range of organisations. The shared aim is to get people growing more of their own food – be that in their back gardens, on allotments or in new spaces such as public parks, areas of empty land around housing estates or container gardening on their balconies.

What Harvest aims to achieve:

- Increase the space available to grow food by working with the Council and other landowners in the city to get land which is not being used available for people who want to grow food.
- Improve access to local food by increasing the number of places that you can buy affordable locally grown food and creating more opportunities for people to get involved in growing projects.
- Increase the skills and confidence of local people in growing their own food by running training courses, sharing hints and tips via the website www.harvest-bh.org.uk and encouraging people to volunteer on growing projects.

Moulsecomb Forest Garden and Wildlife Project

- Develop guidance that supports food growing within the city. We want things in the city to change so that in the future its easier to set up projects like the Forest Garden.

Moulsecomb Forest Garden is one of the partners in Harvest bringing with them their vast experience and enthusiasm of growing in a community space. Some of the Big Lottery funding has been used by them to employ a gardener, Daisy, to work one day at week with Falmer School and more recently the Bridge Community Centre.

The Forest Garden has put on training courses as part of the Harvest programme including one where people came to learn how to build a clay oven. We put the oven to good use when the Forest Garden hosted the recent White Night's event – making mini calzones to serve with pumpkin soup and freshly pressed apple juice – all made with local grown food.

A key part of Harvest is about supporting new growing projects to set up and Moulsecomb Forest Garden have been generous with their time - sharing their experience and knowledge. They also hosted an event in the Garden for new groups to meet, share ideas and be inspired by the work of an established project. On a practical level they have allowed new projects to use their policies and procedures as templates to work from – this is really helpful as writing these can seem daunting when you are first starting.

Warren is a member of the Harvest Advisory Group where the project partners are able to share information, make suggestions and receive updates on what's going on. It was here that he first suggested a First Aid courses for volunteers on projects - relevant to the type of accidents that they



Basket weaving during our woodland open day

may encounter when working outside. This proved so popular that Harvest ran the course twice.

On behalf of the Food Partnership a big thank you to everyone at the Forest Garden for their large part in making the first year of Harvest Brighton & Hove a successful one.

BETH THOMAS-HANCOCK
STUDENT VOLUNTEERING MANAGER, ACTIVE STUDENT, UNIVERSITY OF BRIGHTON

Moulsecomb Forest Garden is a stone's throw from the Moulsecomb campus of the University of Brighton. It is a great project in the perfect location to enable our students to volunteer in their local community. Warren is happy for any student who wants to give their time to volunteer the opportunity to do so. He sees the value in working with anyone who is keen to volunteer some of their time, energy and skills with the project.

Warren allows students to participate in regular volunteering, where they will turn up at the same time each week on an ongoing basis, he takes on students who have chosen to do a community based placement as part of their degree which means that students volunteer for a fixed period of time, and he also sets up taster days of



Herb concoctions being made at our woodland open day

volunteering, where a group of students volunteer with the project for a day.

In addition to the flexibility and accessibility the project gives to students, what is so great about working with Warren and the team is the wonderful team spirit and supportive environment they have created (as well as the lovely food they provide!!) When I refer students to the garden, I know they will receive a warm welcome and will be supported in their volunteering.

Over the last year, Active Student has set up two taster days of volunteering where groups of students have helped out for the day in building beehives and assisting with the construction of a path around the project. This activity is a great opportunity for students to experience volunteering and to participate in a local project.

Active Student has placed a number of students in longer term volunteering this year who have selected the garden as their volunteering placement because they are studying environmental degrees. Volunteering with them provides students with an opportunity to increase their knowledge and gain practical experience of conservation. It's a chance to put theory into practice. The project provides a mutually beneficial opportunity for students and the organisation.

THE BRIGHTON ALDRIDGE COMMUNITY ACADEMY

Falmer High School closed in July and was replaced by the Brighton Aldridge Community Academy. We have established an ongoing



Hanging out in their woodland camps



"Look at my scavenger list"

dialogue with the new school and while some of our services have changed the Academy sponsor Rod Aldridge has visited us with the chair of his charitable foundation. We have met to help design the new allotments, orchard and sensory garden that are planned. We have also received funding through the Brighton and Hove Food Partnerships 'Harvest' Lottery bid to employ a gardener six hours a week at the school to increase food production and offer more opportunities to pupils. We have made written representations to those involved in the Academy to expand our work and turn the vegetable production into a business for pupils to run. While one to one work continues we are hoping to begin group work with selected students again in the New Year.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Duncan Graham-Cameron (Secretary)
 Amyas Gilbert (Chair)
 Vanessa Tourle (Treasurer)
 Michael Townsend
 Helen Gibbs
 Kevin McCarthy
 Giles Hippisley
 Neil Stammers
 Kate Morrison
 Nancy Walker
 Sophie Cullen
 Amelia Rose
 Patrick Beach
 Immogen Bell
 John Horsfield

Statement Of Financial Activities 31st March 2010

| | Notes | Unrestricted | Restricted | Total 2010 | 2009 |
|---|-------|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| <u>Incoming Resources</u> | | | | | |
| Incoming resources from generated funds: | | | | | |
| Voluntary income: donations | | 318 | | 318 | 650 |
| Activities for generating funds | | 9264 | | 9264 | 2440 |
| Investment Income | | 3 | | 3 | 43 |
| Incoming resources from charitable activities | 1 | 4169 | 18770 | 22939 | 23269 |
| Other incoming resources | | | | 0 | 0 |
| Total Incoming Resources | | 13754 | 18770 | 32524 | 26402 |
| <u>Resources expended</u> | | | | | |
| Costs of generating funds | | | | | |
| Costs of generating voluntary income | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Charitable activities: | | | | | |
| General Public Education | 2 | 547 | 1920 | 2467 | 2395 |
| Alternative Education for Young People | | 16850 | 16850 | 33700 | 24298 |
| Governance costs | 3 | 632 | 0 | 632 | 837 |
| Total resources expended | | 18029 | 18770 | 36799 | 27530 |
| Total Resources Expended | | 18029 | 18770 | 36799 | 27530 |
| Net Incoming/(Outgoing) Resources before transfers | | -4275 | 0 | -4275 | -1128 |
| Transfers between funds | | | | | |
| | | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Net Incoming/(Outgoing) Resources for the period | | -4275 | 0 | -4275 | -1128 |
| Fund Balances b/fwd 1/4/09 | | 4969 | 0 | 4969 | 6097 |
| Fund Balances c/fwd 31/3/10 | 8 | 694 | 0 | 694 | 4969 |

Please contact us if you want to see our full accounts or any of our policies and procedures.



Moulsecomb Forest Garden and Wildlife Project

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Registered company number: 4334389, Registered Charity number 1120073