



Hither Green Community Association (HGCA)
Annual Report 2011
(November 2010 – October 2011)

HGCA was established four years ago and was formally constituted only in 2009. Yet, HGCA's activities are already becoming favourite annual events in the community. A clear highlight this year being 'Hither Green Week' in May!

1. Activities and Events

During the past year, HGCA has co-ordinated the following activities:

Community Gardening and the Embankment Project: We have a beautiful community garden by the 225 Bus Stop on Springbank Road, which is now full of plants and flowers. This has transformed what was a previously littered and unsightly area. We have also been clearing the Station Embankment area (Platform 1/Springbank Road) of overgrown vegetation and litter. In the Spring, we won 250 bulbs from BigBulb, which we planted. Recently, we have had BTCV's help to monitor and manage the bio-diversity on the Embankment. We have been supporting the Hither Green Triangle Nature Reserve area and are also planning to work with FUSS to improve the Fernbrook Road Embankment. None of this could have been achieved without the hard work of over 20 local residents who have volunteered to give up their Saturdays over the past 12 months, during 7 volunteer sessions. Thank you!

Hither Green Week, 21st-29th May 2011: This was our third 'Hither Green Week' and was even bigger this year, with over 20 events taking place during the week enjoyed

by over 500 local people. These included: an Arts, Craft and Food Fayre; 70s Disco; Classical, choral and local professional music artists concerts; Comedy; Cheese, wine & poetry; Hither Green historical walks and film; Youth concert; Senior citizen's lunch; Teddy Bear's picnic; Short Film Fest; Quiz night; Open Gardens, plant & seed swap and more!! A grateful thanks to all the local volunteers, local groups and businesses who helped co-ordinate and put on these events.

Hither Green Signs: During HGCA's surveys with local residents, suggestions were made for signs that gave Hither Green a sense of identity and welcome. Several designs were put forward by local artists and the designs and locations were voted on by local residents. In October 2010, ten 'Welcome to Hither Green' signs were erected in Hither Green, with a launch by Joan Ruddock MP and a reception hosted by Cooper Locke Gallery.

Christmas Carols and Mince Pies: A crisp white snowfall prepared the way for HGCA's carol singing, joined by over 20 local residents along the way. Starting at the Clocktower and moving down Hither Green Lane, we were given a warm welcome of mince pies and mulled wine at St Swithun's to finish. HGCA also had a stall at the FUSS 2010 Christmas Fayre.

2. Representing Hither Green

HGCA plays a role in representing local residents' views on issues that affect the local community. Community views are sought through our surveys, emails, Open Meetings and conversations. During 2010/11 this included:

- St Mungo's: Quarterly meetings between HGCA Chair, Hither Green Lane Traders' Association Chair, Sgt David Laurie of the Met Police/SNT and St Mungo's to improve community relations.
- Local Police Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT): on local crime and safety issues.
- Lewisham Central Assembly: on priorities and general issues for Hither Green.
- L&Q Housing: on developments of The Spotted Cow and on Nightingale Grove.
- Hither Green Station: concerning accessibility at the Station.
- Lewisham Council and Councillors: eg. on pavements, empty shops.

Membership and publicity

HGCA has a newly designed website! www.ourhithergreen.com. We have also begun new e-Newsletters, which are now sent to nearly 400 local residents who have asked to be on our mailing list. This year, following requests by the community, we erected a new Noticeboard on Hither Green Lane/Beacon Road to accompany our Noticeboard by the Maythorne Cottages entrance to Hither Green Station for local community notices. Membership of HGCA is open to any resident or user of Hither Green. HGCA can be contacted via our email info@ourhithergreen.com or by posting a comment on our website. Hither Green events can also be followed now on Twitter @HGWeek.

HGCA Committee

HGCA is run entirely by local volunteers. This year's Committee was:

Jo Deverson (Chair), Clare Wohlgemuth (Secretary), Josie Foster (Treasurer), Richard Shaw, Juan Carlos Frietman, Adriane Thompson, Gareth Newton-Williams, Patience Musompa, Susan Lambert, Joanna Huxton and Jane Kustner.

The Committee meets 6-8 times a year to plan local events and to discuss community matters, feedback and queries. A very, very big thank you to all the Committee members for their hard work and commitment this year!

Many other local individuals have also volunteered their time this year to help organise and promote HGCA's activities. A huge thank you to them all!

Working with other local community groups and services

HGCA is keen to work with and promote other local community groups in its activities. HGCA also liaises closely with local public bodies and local businesses to improve Hither Green. During 2010/11, this included:

BTCV; FUSS; Hither Green Baptist Church; Hither Green Hall (cinema); Hither Green Lane Traders' Association and Cooper Locke Gallery; Jimmy Mizen Foundation and the Café of Good Hope; Lee Manor Society; Lewisham

Council and our local Councillors; 4th Lewisham South Scouts; Network Rail and Southeastern; local met Police team; St Mungo's; St Swithun's Church; Voluntary Action Lewisham.

Funding

This year, HGCA was successful in being awarded grants from:

- The Capital Communities Foundation Grassroots Grant: £1,283 for the Embankment and Garden Project
- Lewisham Central Localities Fund: £2,201.50 for Community Gardening and Clean Up
- Lewisham Central Localities Fund: £2,000 for Hither Green Week
- Lewisham Council: £1,000 for Hither Green Week

Local businesses, local groups, Churches, and individuals also kindly contributed pro bono support.

Thank you to all our donors for their support.

HGCA would like to thank all residents, local volunteers, local businesses, Lewisham Council and other supporters for their suggestion, contributions and support during 2010/11 to improve Hither Green as a place to live, work and visit.

Jo Deverson

HGCA Chair, October 2011

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