



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR



Wild Cat Wilderness (WCW) is a green space where the local community can explore nature, learn new outdoor skills and crafts.

During this year Wild Cat Wilderness... Organised over **90** community events and volunteer sessions; Forest schools for **2** primary and **3** nursery schools with on average **100** children attending each week; Seasonal events in conjunction with other groups, RSPB Garden Bird Watch, Big Lunch Picnic, Urban Harvest Festival, The Catford Arts Trail; Regular sessions with the Youth Offending Team; Programme of family activities during summer holidays; Weekly volunteering every Thursday; Family nature based activities once a month plus weekend volunteering; Volunteer sessions with the Good Gym volunteers; Harvested plums, blackberries and apples to make jams and chutneys; Prepared a new site for bee keeping.



RGTB is a founding partner of Lewisham Local, a collaborative whose mission is: *Connecting community through giving to grow local pride, fairness, equality and opportunity.* It aims to inspire local people and businesses to contribute more towards good causes in Lewisham.

In 2016, RGTB developed the Lewisham Local Community Contributor Card. This is a free card that recognises local volunteers and their contribution to our communities. Independent shops and businesses thank the volunteers by offering them deals through the card. By March 2017, **140** community organisations and **150** traders were taking part in the scheme, and the number of card-holders reached **2,000**.



Lewisham Connections

A partner of the Lewisham Connections consortium led by AgeUK, RGTB hosts one of the Lead Community Development Worker who works with colleagues on a preventative programme aimed at supporting vulnerable adults to improve their social integration and wellbeing. In 2016/17 the Connections team together supported **690** vulnerable adults, **301** clients through advice and guidance on community based services, and **55** groups on development plans to raise their capacity to provide community based services.

"The time bank is very important to me for friendship and doing things. Making connections with new people. Members like me help other people".

Connections referral



In May 2016 we started FoodCycle Lewisham as a franchise of FoodCycle, a national charity that runs volunteer-powered community projects across the UK - working to reduce food poverty and social isolation. The programme consists of providing a space where isolated local people on low incomes can come to enjoy a free warm meal once a week.

With over half our guests living alone and feeling lonely, for some of our guests, it's their biggest meal of the week. **59%** of our guests say that they worry they will run out of food often skip a meal, **45%** use a Foodbank and **68%** feel lonely. By March 17 the project had **425** registered volunteers and between May 16 and March 17, **1,022** meals were prepared from **1,017** kgs of surplus food. On average **30** isolated people came to the weekly meal, rising to over **40** in late 2017.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

Lewisham Local With an initial focus on giving opportunities (e.g. Student Volunteers Week) Lewisham Local will seek to 'step up and set out', building on achievements of the past year to expand and widen its initiatives and impact. Holding a strategic place within the Lewisham Local collaborative, and having initiated the Community Contributor Card, RGTB applied for 2 years funding from City Bridge Trust to host the Development Lead post. This position will help create greater coherence between the Lewisham Local Card and the wider aims of Lewisham Local.

Lewisham Community Toilets A need for a 'Community Toilets' scheme arose to provide good quality and accessible toilet facilities in Lewisham. The scheme aims to build on existing relationships with local facilities (e.g. libraries, cafés, leisure and cultural facilities) encouraging them to open their toilet facilities to members of the public, as a community contribution to Lewisham. The scheme hopes to be of benefit particularly to those who are ageing, have long-term conditions, and parents with young children.



In late 2016 an opportunity arose to occupy a community space in the new iconic and colourful building called **PLACE/Ladywell**. Accessible by public transport from all corners of Lewisham, this visible place has become a magnet attracting new people and colleagues from the community sector. This is helping develop relationships and ideas for collaborative work. It has added a new dimension to our work and energised the time bank in a significant way.



TWEETS

“My favourite thing to do is being at WCW. I love that my children are free there to practice being independent in a bounded yet un-manicured space, where they can learn simple outdoor crafts and skills and get to know new people.”

“The time bank offers the opportunity to meet people in ways that no other project does and quietly creates and connects people who wouldn't normally meet each other, valuing everyone. Everyone is valued equally and is seen as being able to contribute and without the ethos of being a charity that does things 'to' people or 'for' time'.

“I have met so many awesome people through time bank. The friendships I now have are from attending so many time bank meetings, parties and volunteering in the office of Rushey Green Time Bank. I love them and I'm so grateful for each of them. “Thank you!”

The time bank has given me opportunities to.....

- Give to others: **96%**
- Contribute to the community: **96%**
- Make new friends: **96%**
- Learn new skills: **82%**
- Find out what is happening in my area: **94%**

FoodCycle



Time Bank Group

People's Day



Wild Cat Wilderness

SUMMARY

Despite resourcing challenges the charity continues to expand and has initiated its Foodcycle Lewisham Project. Operating the wider outreach from the iconic PlaceLadywell to provide a space for events, meetings and collaborative work, has raised the profile and stakeholder position of the charity. The popular Wild Cat Wilderness has flourished and developed more activities. The Lewisham Local Community Contributor card underpins the aspiration and reach of Lewisham Local which has become a symbol of community development and Lewisham's raison d'être for 'place based giving'. It's provides a framework for new initiatives to attract and inspire local people to get involved with their time and skills in the neighbourhood.

On average 1,000 people have been involved across our projects, performing **5,998** hours of volunteering during 2016/17.

FINANCE

Our trading figures for 2016-17 show an income of £144,701 and an expenditure of £137,656. Net assets at 31/03/17 were £74,262 made up of £48,039 restricted funds and £26,223 unrestricted. Full accounts are included in our annual report, submitted to Companies House and the Charity Commission. They are also posted on our website and copies are available on request.

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Rushey Green Time Bank Annual Review 2016/17

“It keeps you in touch with the local community. It is an opportunity to get to know lots of new people and learn and exchange skills”

