



Chair's Report VGERTA AGM 2018

I would like to thank the community for giving me this opportunity to serve as the Chair of the TRA. We have had an eventful year which has seen some changes at VGERTA.

Change of people.

Our secretary Chrys resigned mid-year due to pressure of work. Chrys raised the public profile of VGERTA during his tenure and have not been able to replicate his commitment since he left. Big thanks to Chrys for all his work and achievements.

Additionally Alison had to step down as Vice Chair and Centre Manager due to family commitments. Alison has remained on the committee and we are grateful for her continued support and contribution to VGERTA and the Carmelita Centre. Big Thanks to Alison.

3 priorities

Other significant Developments at the Carmelita Centre during the past year have been:

Agreement of 3 priorities for VGERTA in relation to future provision in the Carmelita Centre:

- Health and wellbeing.
- Skills and crafts.
- Community safety.

Community Activities

We are currently delivering activities under all these headings; For example Restorative Yoga, which includes a number of free places for Estate Residents; Spinning on Saturdays, which is open to everyone; Drumming on Fridays for Children and Young People and we are very pleased that the Police have begun offering Community Safety Surgeries alongside the Councillor Surgeries which are at 10am on the first Saturday of every month.

Amanda continues to offer **Cool It Art** with the support of the Resident Engagement Team, and with Alison's help the Bloomfield murals were installed earlier this month.

We look forward to further developing activities in partnership with Lambeth Council, Local Health Providers, The Police and other local organisations.

Activities on Sundays.

The committee also took the decision this year to pilot **activities on Sundays**. This is a sensitive issue and some committee members remain unconvinced, but carefully vetted daytime activities which are not noisy have been successful. Although we don't have any immediate plans we may consider health and well-being activities in the future.

Raised Beds in the Garden.

We have also allocated the raised beds to local gardeners. Three are still available. If you would like to take responsibility for one of them, please let us know.

Volunteering and Time Banking

We have increased our emphasis on Volunteering and have developed a partnership with the Paxton Green Time Bank. They have supported us to develop our offer of volunteers exchanging volunteer hours for hire of the hall.

Rainbow Collective Animation

We commissioned another Rainbow Collective Animation. It can be downloaded and viewed from the following link:

http://www.mediafire.com/file/kd5ndje3ed9bdfh/Power_Station_Final_with_audio_cut.mp4/file

Graphite Square Development.

We also participated in the opposition to the **Graphite Square Development**. Thanks to the efforts of two committee member, Chrys and David, as well as our Ward Councillors and David Boardman, planning was refused. We plan to continue to be actively involved in local planning and development issues, but will need people to join the committee who are willing to work on this.

Carmelita Centre Redevelopment

We continue to have monthly meetings with representatives of Lambeth's Regeneration Team. We have completed the first draft of a business plan which will shortly be available on our website. The latest timescale is that we hope the redevelopment will begin in earnest in early 2020.

The Future.

For the next year our priorities will be: to continue to work with Lambeth on the Carmelita Redevelopment, and to develop the three priority workstreams so that there are more activities at the centre around Health and Wellbeing; Skills and Crafts and Community Safety. We hope to continue to improve the centre management arrangements to make it easier to hire and possible to book online; and we will review and improve our key policy documents.

Clare Douglas. July 2018