

GREENHOUSE GALLERY

www.Greenhousetrust.co.uk

Annual Report 2018-19

"An ounce of hope, is worth a ton of despair" - George Monbiot

Introduction

The Greenhouse Trust's educational work is driven by the fact that it will be too late for future generations to reduce carbon dioxide emissions to below pre-industrial levels (350ppm). The public is increasingly aware that if we do not take significant action now, we will cause mass extinction of many millions of species on planet earth, including maybe humans.

The Trust operates an environmental art gallery on the first floor of its building; this is the focal point for its climate change education work. Events are staged in the gallery, and in the garden and café, aimed at helping the public understand the environmental challenges we collectively face.



Elaine Banham - Holkham Dark Sky



The gallery hosts themed exhibitions which link artists' personal art practice with climate change science and environmental policies.

The Trust publishes briefings and hosts talks and workshops which expand the wider cultural conversation about the role of art and artists in the context of global warming.

Much of the Trust's current education work is centred around eARTh, a project which prioritises the vital role that soils play in managing our climate and in improving environmental and human health. eARTh also actively promotes the Soil Association's campaign to increase organic matter in soils. Its first patron (*until his death in August 2018*) was Peter Melchett. As former Policy Director for the Soil Association, he led work on issues ranging from antibiotic and welfare abuse in farm animals to campaigns against pesticides.



We now welcome the support of Helen Browning, Chief Executive of the Soil Association, for our latest eARTh exhibition series. Referencing Helen's writing on food and farming issues, we will be

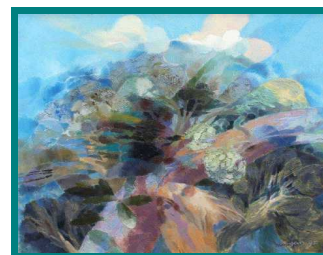
launching the next in a series of exhibitions and events to promote the importance of soils, inspired by both the UN's 'Decade of Soils' and the Soil Association's 'Living Soil' campaign. To deliver this, we are working with a wide range of visual artists, historians, poets and environmentalists.

Environmental art in Norwich

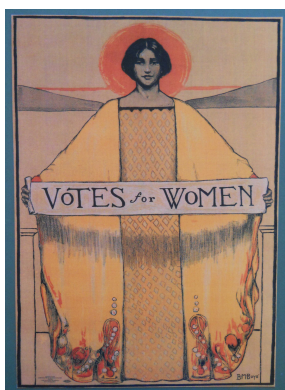


The Greenhouse acts as an artists' hub for Norwich Open Studios and the Norfolk & Norwich Festival. Our contribution to this year's Festival was an exhibition celebrating the life and work of Glynn Morgan, a contemporary of Cedric Morris, Maggie Hambling and Ceri Richards.

Glynn had a keen interest in the myths of Gaia and the Green Man and these were often the focus of his dream-like landscapes.



Later in 2018, we staged an exhibition celebrating the lives of two very different and influential East Anglian Women, Dorothy Jewson, the first woman MP for Norwich and Lady Eve Balfour, pioneer of the Soil Association. The show was opened by Norwich's Lord Mayor, Ros Brown, and closed with a visit by Clive Lewis, our constituency MP. The exhibition and associated workshops were funded by a Heritage Lottery grant, as part of the national centenary of 'Votes for Women'.



The show was well attended, with many visitors returning several times to explore the inspiring display of both historic and contemporary feminist writing and views. A Friends of the Earth and C40 publication was also promoted alongside the exhibition; entitled 'Why Women Will Save the Planet', it highlighted

contemporary feminist/equality issues and allowed us to place them within the context of the next generation of women environmental pioneers.

Wider educational projects

To emphasise the impact of climate change on society, the Trust received a National Lottery grant for a project called 'Finding Sanctuary, Promoting Integration' which linked practical activities with creative paths to greater social and cultural integration. We worked with the Grange in Great Cressingham and New Routes to involve refugees, local residents, friends and family in 'Workday Wednesdays'. These events included a range of practical and creative tasks which took place in the gardens at the Grange.



Stepping Stones, an organisation which supports young adults with learning difficulties, also travelled to the Grange and worked alongside members of the local community on

tasks in the garden, growing area and wider grounds. Volunteers built a stile, constructed a fence, worked on a small bridge, cleared vegetation and invasive scrub to create wildflower habitats, grew and harvested produce from vegetable beds and polytunnels, cleared and tidied flower borders and created a new footpath through woodland. Associated activities were a printing workshop, a natural plant dyeing event and two group dance workshops (Rodas). The latter were staged at the Garage dance studios in Norwich, along with a diary of small workshops run by Capoeira Communities. Two family days which involved a treasure hunt, a walk around Cressingham and games in the grounds, proved popular and the Grange plan to run more of these events in the future. The feedback on the events was all very positive. One of the participants summed up their experiences very eloquently, as follows:



"Volunteering at the Grange was life-changing for me. It was amazing on so many levels. It was fun, challenging and educational but most brilliantly offered a space to meet and work alongside people from so many different countries with such different life experiences. Most importantly, it felt like a safe place where intolerance and prejudice were left at the gate. People truly wanted it to be safe and welcoming. It was wonderful to find this in such a difficult world. I think the effects of the Grange ripple out into the larger world and this can only be a good thing. I loved my time there."

The Trust staged a number of food and wine tastings in 2018 featuring speakers from vineyards where local residents, refugees and volunteers helped plant, grow and harvest fruit and vegetables. Forty Hall Vineyard, for example, is a social enterprise placing local and supportive community at the heart of wine production and is a wonderful illustration of people being environmental citizens as well as consumers. What we buy matters, not just in terms of the product, but the world we want to live in.

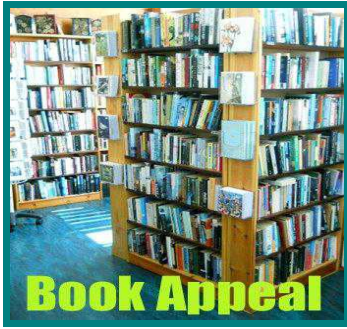
Income and funding

During 2018, we continued to scale back the activities of our company by reducing trading hours, partly as a reflection of the tough trading landscape. However this was also beneficial, as by only opening three days a week, we now have more time to plan events, prepare work for presentation in the Gallery and develop policy and educational materials. We are also looking at potential new ways to use the café space.

We would like to thank our loyal customer base, and the many new visitors to the gallery, who have helped us resist the sad demise faced by so many local high street shops. However, there is no avoiding the fact that online shopping, Brexit and austerity make a heady brew for those of us engaged in promoting sustainability.

Our trading company sells a range of organic food and goods. As well as contributing to our funds, sales of these products are part of our commitment to the promotion of organic agriculture. Sales of books continue to provide an important source of income. We have received some very generous donations of high-quality books, CDs and vinyl during the year.





The reuse, redistribution and recycling of these items fits well with our ethos and sits comfortably alongside the quiet contemplative atmosphere that the Gallery and garden provide. We aim to increase our stock of new environmental art books, so continuing to inspire artists and the public to engage with the Climate Change Challenge.

We are, as ever, extremely grateful to the organisations and individuals who have provided the grants and donations needed to deliver our charitable objectives. This year we would particularly like to thank: the John Spedan Lewis Foundation and the Paul Bassham Trust for helping make our Open Studios and Festival exhibition possible; the Heritage Lottery Fund and Awards for All for project funding; and Clive Lewis, our constituency MP, for his financial help and for supporting the Heritage Lottery exhibition.

Thank you all and everyone. Onwards...

M. Chamley

Chair of Trustees

Background to the Greenhouse

Established in 1993, the Greenhouse Trust's first ambition was to purchase and convert a listed II* building into a working model of how old buildings can be part of the move towards a fossil fuel-free world.

With the support and involvement of thousands of volunteers across two decades, the building was successfully redesigned and rebuilt, becoming a nationally celebrated and award-winning building. It is equipped with solar hot water technology, photovoltaic (electricity generating) panels and triple glazing. With 3.5 tonnes of rainwater storage capacity, the run-off from the roof and the photovoltaic array over the courtyard supply the public toilets and small garden with rainwater.

The building's walls, floors and ceilings are heavily insulated with recycled paper, wool and cork in a recycled timber frame. These natural and low-embodied-energy materials help to demonstrate the ways in which both new and old buildings can significantly reduce their carbon footprint, avoid products derived from fossil fuels and be re-imagined.

With the generous support and assistance of Lord Joffe, Sir Peter Melchett, George Monbiot and the Marchioness of Worcester, who all acted as Appeal Patrons across the life-time of this project, the Trust now owns and runs this landmark building. Sadly during last year, both Lord Joffe and Peter Melchett died, but their legacies live on.



PETER MELCHETT: (24 February 1948 - 29 August 2018)

Peter first worked with the Greenhouse Trust when he became one of the 28 Greenpeace activists who destroyed a trial crop of genetically modified maize at Walnut Tree Farm, Lyng, Norfolk in 1999. A Norwich jury acquitted the 28 at the Crown Court the following year. This result was seen as a timely and important reflection of UK public opinion on the GM debate.

Peter was on the BBC's Rural Affairs Committee from 2005 until his death and on the government's Rural Climate Change Forum for two years. As Policy Director for the Soil Association from 2002, he chaired the Association's successful school food programme, the Food for Life Partnership and its associated Food for Life awards. These encourage provision of school meals that are freshly-prepared and free from trans-fats, sweeteners and additives and use ingredients from sustainable and ethical sources.

Peter ran an 880-acre family farm near Hunstanton in north-west Norfolk and put huge energy into farming it organically. He became the Greenhouse Trust's patron and ambassador for eARTh during the last year of his life. We will do our very best to honour his passion for organic food and for protecting the environment.



Joel Goodman Joffe, Baron Joffe, CBE (12 May 1932 – 18 June 2017)

A South African born British lawyer, who acted as the instructing solicitor for Nelson Mandela's defence team at the Rivonia trial of 1963-64, playing a key role in helping the future South African president and others avoid the death penalty.

Joel was born in Johannesburg to Jewish immigrant parents who had met and married in South Africa. He planned to emigrate to Australia after the Rivonia trial. However, as a consequence of the trial he was listed as an "undesirable"; and instead came to the UK, with his wife Vanetta, where he became a leading philanthropist for UK-registered South African causes. His book *The Rivonia Trial* (1995) was republished as *The State vs Nelson Mandela: The Trial that Changed South Africa* (2007). He served as chair of Oxfam and was made a life peer (Labour) in 2000. In 2002 he tabled a private member's bill that sought to allow people to be given medical help to die under certain circumstances. The bill failed, but he re-introduced it in the Lords on several occasions before retiring due to failing health.

Joel was Chair of the Joffe Trust and was instrumental in securing the mortgage for the Greenhouse building. We take this opportunity to remember his invaluable support and his family's generosity.

The Greenhouse Building in context

The UK's housing stock remains far from ready to deal with the effects of rising temperatures, which include flooding, overheating and water scarcity. The Chair of the Climate Change Committee (CCC)'s Adaptation Committee states



that most of the country's 30 million homes are *"not in a condition to keep us comfortable and safe and productive in the changing climate"*.

Around 20% of homes currently overheat, even in cool summers. Similarly, the National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) calls for energy efficiency of the UK's building stock to be prioritised and for 50% renewable power by 2030. The NIC estimates that national investment in existing buildings would cut around £5 billion from UK energy bills.

It is estimated that 80% of buildings standing today will still exist in 2050 and that the vast majority both contribute to climate change and are poorly adapted to the challenges posed by our changing climate. The CCC says that the UK average daily water consumption of around 140 litres per person needs to drop to well below 100 litres by 2050 to avoid water scarcity. This would also reduce carbon emissions and water and energy bills.



Local government undoubtedly suffers from a chronic lack of finance and resources, however they continue to approve poorly designed buildings with wholly inadequate energy performance and resource-use standards. The Greenhouse is one of more than 1,500 listed buildings in Norwich and yet more than two decades on from this project's inception, very little in Norwich has changed. Without significant policy intervention and funding from government, we have concluded that there is little that we can realistically deliver.

Diet, growing food and consumerism (unlike the challenges of housing and infrastructure development) are all social issues that our supporters and the wider public can engage with on a daily basis. Consequently, our educational work has recently switched focus to the challenges of food production and soil management. A 0.4% increase in global soil carbon would deliver annual carbon savings equivalent to the current total anthropogenic emissions of CO₂.



Though hypothetical, this illustrates how important soils are as a carbon store. Almost every week, another scientific study is published which confirms the catastrophic impact of our reliance on agricultural chemicals and monocultures, with associated devastating effects on soil ecosystems, insects and their crucial role in producing food. In contrast, organic farming methods actively maintain soil health and nutrients, are better for wildlife, cause less chemical pollution and produce less CO₂ and dangerous wastes.



Charity No. 1037992