



Annual Report 2018



London Green Wood is a community of green woodworkers based in Abney Park Cemetery, Hackney. Our purpose is to encourage craftyness, creativity and self-reliance in everybody. From our outdoor woodland workshop, using wood felled locally, we bring heritage crafts to the heart of the city and make basic woodcraft skills available to all. We use hand tools and green wood straight from the log.

Our aims:

- Promote green woodwork
- Provide opportunities to learn traditional rural crafts to people living in the city
- Create a welcoming and accessible green wood workshop for a diverse community of woodworkers
- Create opportunities for people to learn new skills and earn money from their skills.

London Green Wood was founded in 2011 by a group of volunteers. We run a weekly community workshop and regular courses for adults and families. Since 2011 we have been open for 430 workshop days, taught 142 courses, held 49 volunteering days, attended and held 63 public events and registered a total of 3,958 woodworking attendances. In 2018 we welcomed over 310 new participants to the workshop, taught 41 courses and registered 756 woodworking attendances.

This year we incorporated as a cooperatively-run Community Interest Company, increased the opening of the community workshop to two days a week, built lots of new equipment for the workshop and welcomed our first guest tutor.

This annual report includes updates from our community workshop, volunteering, courses, events, partnerships and networks, fundraising, our annual accounts, income opportunities we have created for members and our governance structure. Our full Diversity Report and Financial Statement are included as appendices.

A history of LGW in numbers

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
New participants						52	172	310
Workshop Attendances	212	599	570	619	309	342	551	756
Community workshop sessions	19	86	50	55	47	47	53	73
Courses	5	7	1	15	9	16	48	41
External events attended	0	2	0	2	0	3	5	9
Off-site projects							3	0
Other community groups using the workshop								3

The community workshop

Since August 2018 the community workshop offering has doubled and it is now open twice a week, on Thursdays and Fridays. We have four volunteer keyholders who open and supervise the workshop for these sessions. We had four General Meetings attended by regulars including our AGM, summer and winter socials and a group visit to the Turners' Company exhibition at Carpenters' Hall. Regulars also attended the Bodgers' Ball and the Bowl Gathering together, to meet other green woodworkers and learn new skills.

There is a strong, supportive sense of community amongst those who use the community workshop. People care for and look out for each other, as well as sharing tools, skills and advice. 2018 saw experimentation with shrink pots and regulars increasingly eating and drinking from their own kuksas, bowls and plates.

"Great place, great community, best tutors!! Thank you!!"

Hardijs

"Everyone is very lovely. I like them sharing their own woodwork experience and having lunch together :) I will go back to learn more from them."

Pei-Jing

"I can't think of a better way to spend my Fridays :) Thanks so much to Jo, and the lovely crew that use the outdoor workshop, for sharing their skills in such a relaxed manner, it's been really nourishing."

Charlotte

"Each Friday was the highlight of my week, and I look forward to returning to the workshop as often as I can in future. The atmosphere at the workshop itself is a really potent antidote to living in a big city, and it feels like you're dipping into a wonderful community of people who are keeping a set of skills alive and in use even in London."

Daniel

We also support other community craft projects by sharing experiences as well as policies and practices we have developed. This year we advised the Abney Park Stone Carvers on appropriate membership criteria, responsibilities of keyholders, rules of the workshop and maintaining a safe space. We have provided on-going support to the green woodworkers at Brockwell Park Community Glasshouses over the year including sharing forms and policies, phone support for the main organiser and facilitating a strategy meeting for the group at their site.

"You helped us a lot at the beginning of last year by letting us visit and giving great advice... Very useful and encouraging! Lots to do by hopefully lots of people. Thank you again for shining some light."

Paul Shrubshall, Brockwell Park Community Glasshouse Green Woodworkers

Volunteering

Monthly volunteering days launched in 2017 have continued, giving new people an opportunity to try out the workshop and giving regulars an opportunity to contribute to the development of the workshop. During these volunteer days we have helped to fell a sycamore tree, built a bowl-lathe, made wooden sheaths for safe storage of all our hook knives and augers, made handles for new tools, cleared and re-organised both the outside workshop and tool container, made 'bowl jig' attachment for our shave horses, designed and built four small collapsible shave horses, repaired and reinstated two pole-lathes and replaced the legs on an oak sleeper bench. Volunteer days have become part of our induction process for new members who already have green woodworking skills and therefore do not join the Introduction course. 39 days of volunteer time were given to develop equipment at workshop, plus many other community workshop days when regular workshop users spent their time building lathes and other equipment for us all to use.

Other volunteers support the running of London Green Wood, we have a Board of Directors of six and four keyholders (most of the keyholders are also Directors). Two volunteers made huge commitments to supporting courses at the LGW workshop, Dave Evers supported all one day courses for adults in 2018 and Kisha Green supported monthly sessions with a group of home-educating families.

"The volunteer days were great - a lovely chance to learn more about what equipment is used for green woodwork and to collaborate on making useful things with experienced woodworkers, even though I had little pre-existing woodworking skills. Thank you!"

Madeleine

"Would like to express my appreciation of the development of volunteer days and the increased availability of equipment to develop my woodworking skills. It has made me understand the value of sharing ideas and techniques with other people attending the sessions. I think this process encourages new people to join in the sessions helping to bring new ideas. That help us all improve our techniques, encourage our imagination and explore new ways to produce projects from greenwood. Many thanks for all your encouragement."

David



Courses

We have continued to offer a four day Introduction to Green Woodworking course and one day courses in bowl carving, spoon carving and making a spatula. Our intention this year was to deliver a similar no. of courses as in 2017, which we have done. Our teaching capacity has not changed, we have one main teacher delivering courses on an independent basis, paying a rent contribution to LGW. Although our capacity has remaining static demand for our courses has grown. Most of our one day courses were fully booked, we expect lower bookings on Intro courses (which require participants to be available midweek) but even on these courses demand changed dramatically, the first Intro course of 2018 had our lowest booking with only one participant and the last Intro course of 2018 was fully booked.

"It was brilliant I learned loads and had fun."

Trina

"This was a first class course which I would recommend to anyone."

Steve

"I had one of the best days ever at the spoon carving workshop. It was a really lovely day so it was nice to work outside. I was quite intimidated by the idea of woodwork but Jo made us really comfortable and had a lot of patience with me when I couldn't get the hang of the techniques. There was tea flowing all day which was great. I would love to come back and make another spoon to improve on what I've learned."

Soomiya

"So happy to have achieved so much, Jo is an excellent and patient teacher. Class was relaxed but learnt lots about techniques. Can't wait to try out my new skills at home."

Serife

The Intro course is designed as an induction to the community workshop for those who want to continue practising green woodwork after the course. In 2018 the majority of people who came on an Intro course (65%) returned to use the workshop after the course (other new community workshop members joined after attending volunteer days). In terms of meeting our aims, this is probably the most important figure we can judge our success by, and shows that collectively we are good at welcoming and encouraging others to join the workshop.

We piloted a model for offering the LGW workshop to guest tutors in order to create more training opportunities for our regulars, bring new green woodworking opportunities to London and support other craftspeople outside of London to access to millions of people desperately in need of something more creative, practical and outdoors to do with their hands. Our first guest tutor was Adrian Lloyd who came down from Cumbria to teach four Bowl Turning courses. Each course was full and 30 bowls were turned, mostly by first time turners. We were really proud to offer this unique opportunity to learn from such an excellent craftsman and teacher. There are currently no bowl turning teachers using treadle lathes based in London and the only other opportunities to learn are on electric lathes.

"This was a very good and fun course taken at London Green Wood. Ade was as good a listener as a teacher so was very helpful in the whole process of as he says bothering bits of wood."

Gavin

"A thoroughly relaxing and enjoyable day. My bowl is a source of joy to me, and I now know how to make more of 'em. I am bowled over by how good it was. Helpful in many ways, the day demonstrated that the right day course can make a person feel good, which showed me that I should see them as valuable experiences offered for sale, rather than money-making opportunism. Thanks for the lesson Adrian. Here's to all the gentle teachers out there."

Robin

*"I loved it
I love my bowl
Its still drying in my basement
The first thing I will eat from it will be porridge
It is a gift to myself for life – the bowl, and the experience
The lathes are a joy to experience
Adrian was a master at teaching, sharing, and passing his knowledge along
The setting in London Green Wood was enchanting
The weather was wetter than the wood
Thank you to the Adrian and the group!"*

Daniel

Summary of our courses and course growth since 2016

	2016	2017	2018
One day courses	3	23	26
Participants on one day courses	11	127	155
Returning participants on one day courses		10%	15%
Average no. of participants on one day courses			6
Fully booked courses			81%
Introduction to Green Woodworking courses	3	5	6
Participants on Intro courses	12	23	17
Participants from Intro courses returning to the workshop		52%	65%
Average no. of participants on Intro day courses			2.8
Fully booked courses			6%





"Fantastic day with Jo, who talked us through the basics of green wood & after some practice, on to make a wooden cooking spoon out of a wedge of newly axed Sycamore greenwood. Left feeling very inspired, happy & ready for more. Just give it a go!!"

Rebecca

"I had a great time learning to spoon carve yesterday! The gorgeous setting of Abney Park was the perfect backdrop to our class, and Jo's expert and friendly tuition kept us safe and enabled us to all come away with a usable spoon by the end of the day. It was all over too soon!"

Gemma

"Lovely warm and welcoming atmosphere. Super friendly. Very knowledgeable teachers. Great venue, nice to be outdoors, all the tools you could need."

Adam

"Really enjoyed my day, even with the cold and rain it was so worth it. Teacher Jo was great she gave you great encouragement and taught great skills. She had an assistant Dave who was very helpful and supportive as well. On booking I really did not think I would achieve a spoon by the end of the session, but I did and I am very proud of it."

Marie

"A really enjoyable day with gentle attentive tutors, tucked away in a quiet little park in London. It really is a lovely thing to take a log of fresh green wood and chop, carve and whittle it away into something you can use every day. A very friendly supportive and safe atmosphere is cultivated and I think everyone left very happy with their day's work. I'd imagine sales of axes, woodcarving knives and various guide books are boosted every time the course is run. Recommended."

James



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London Green Wood is a Community Interest Company registered in England and Wales, no. 11619000



Family courses

We offer courses for families in the school holidays: Family Whittling and Make a Stool. All our courses are for children and young people to come with an adult who will work alongside them and supervise them, and in the case of making a stool, work together to complete a project. We encourage parents in particular to join these courses so that they can keep their child safe when whittling at home and be confident in their child's abilities to work with knives and wood.

We introduced a 6-8yrs Family Whittling course which is just 1hr long, and raised the minimum age on our other family courses to 9yrs. This was in response to families attending the course with kids who were not quite 8yrs old and those younger kids struggling with the tools and the length of the session. Although parents are often keen to get their kids woodworking young, our concern was that by bringing the kids to inappropriately aged courses there was a danger the kids would be frustrated and put off woodworking later.

Our monthly group of home-educating families set up in 2017 continued into the spring of 2018, with one new family joining the group.

"Great experience, definitely plan to go back. Lovely activity & lovely location."

Ruth

"We all really enjoyed it."

Gemma

"I would fully recommend this workshop, for Jo's very gentle, knowledgeable direction, the well organised stages of getting you going and keeping your attention on task (a challenge with three children) and the huge satisfaction of making something truly beautiful. All six of us who attended felt it was a wonderful way to spend a day."

Kelly

Summary of woodworking opportunities for families

	2017	2018
Courses for families	10	8
Courses specifically for home-educating families	4	1
Total no. of families using the workshop	27	22

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Events

We attended nine events, almost twice as many as last year. In previous years we have attended events as volunteers or using our own funding. 2018 brought a new income source for us after we were approached by Outdoor People and The Orchard Project, both of whom paid us to attend their events. We delivered whittling activities at three Apple Day events for The Orchard Project. Using our own funding we delivered activities at Abney Park Spring and Autumn Fayre, Highgate Woods Community Day, Stoke Newington Common Funday and Timber Festival at the National Forest. Over 100 people of all ages took part in green woodworking activities at these events.

"It's been a fantastic fit having Dave and Cyriaque at our events... lots of kids wandering about afterwards with wands!"

Feedback from The Orchard Restoration Project Manager

Partnerships and networks

We have on-going partnerships with Hackney Council and Abney Park Trust who host us and give us a workshop space, and our booking partner Obby.co.uk.

As well as working with five local and national organisations to deliver activities at their own events (see above) we hosted visits to the LGW workshop from Hackney Woodcraft Folk, Stokie Womens' Institute and students at Mossbourne Academy.

We are one of two London local groups of the Association of Pole-Lathe Turners and Green Woodworkers, or which many of us are members. This year we also joined the Open Workshop Network and became members of Social Enterprise UK.



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Fundraising

Delivery of our 2017 Awards for All grant was ongoing throughout 2018 and will be completed before May 2019. We finished the spending for and reported on our 2017 grant from the Worshipful Company of Turners in August 2018. We were awarded a further grant of £3000 from the Worshipful Company of Turners and £1350 from the GLL Community Foundation.

Income for members

Members of LGW are able to receive income on a self-employed basis through teaching courses, leading projects with other community groups and selling their own work at events, at the Abney Park Trust shop and through commissions. In 2018 seven members of London Green Wood received income through these activities. Income for courses and sales are paid directly to the members by our customers and so does not appear on London Green Wood's accounts.

Income for members in 2018

	2017	2018
Sales	£199	£413
Courses	£12,240	£12,114
Projects with community partners	£1,648	£525
Total	£14,102	£13,052

Members were also paid £7,030 directly by London Green Wood for delivering events, courses and outcomes for our funded projects.

Governance

In October 2018 we incorporated as a cooperatively-run Community Interest Company. Our six Management Committee members became Directors of the Company: Jo Clarke, Jane Stables, Julian Weston, Dave Evers, David Walters and Roger Chapman. Roger Chapman also became a trustee of Abney Park Trust.

Thanks to everyone who gives their time, skills and enthusiasm to the workshop to make it what it is.



Appendix 1- Diversity Report 2018

2018 was the first year that we collected diversity data for all our courses. We collect this data by anonymous tally sheets completed by course tutors. The purpose of collecting this data is to monitor and therefore be aware of the diversity of those accessing our workshop and through this to assess whether we are achieving our aim of creating an open, inclusive and welcoming space.

2018 data: courses and volunteers

Type of course	No. participants	Female participants	Male participants	BME participants	Concessionary rate
One day courses	155	49%	51%	7%	14%
Introduction courses	17	47%	53%	12%	12%
Volunteer days	39	18%	82%	13%	n/a
Other volunteer roles	8	38%	63%	13%	n/a
Family courses	54	54%	46%	26%	6%
Overall figures	273	45%	55%	12%	5%

2011 Census data

	Female	Male	BME
England and Wales	51%	49%	14%
London	51%	49%	40%
Hackney	50%	50%	45%

London Green Wood aims to challenge the stereotype of the white, male woodworker. We are doing better at challenging the male stereotype than the white one, and on gender we are not succeeding equally across all of our activities.

On our courses the gender split is very close, with slightly more women and girls joining family courses and slightly more men joining other courses. Our volunteer days however are attracting significantly more men than women. As London Green Wood membership is informal we have no data on those who are regularly using the workshop (this will change in 2019 with the introduction of a formalised membership scheme for the workshop), but in 2018 female participation in the community workshop sessions was visibly lower than in previous years. This shows that although women are joining our courses we are not doing enough to encourage women to use the space on a more independent basis or our courses are not giving them the confidence to return to use the workshop outside of the structure of a course.

Overall Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) participation is around 12%, slightly below the BME population of England and Wales which is 14%. This almost halves on our one day courses, which may be due to one day courses being more likely to be filled through Obby.co.uk audiences than our own networks or local promotion. BME participation is higher on family courses, double the participation of introduction courses and volunteering. But across all our courses and volunteering opportunities BME uptake is way below the BME make-up of the population in Hackney or London.

We have not previously measured the uptake of concessionary rates on courses, but anecdotally this has been lower in 2018 than in previous years. This is likely a result of our partnership with Obby.co.uk which brings most new participants to our courses. Obby has allowed us to reach a much bigger audience across London but this seems to be a wealthier and less diverse audience.

Comparison to 2017

Data was collected from approximately half of our courses in 2017. This incomplete data does not provide a sufficient baseline for comparison. At the end of 2019 and in future years, we will be able to compare to a 2018 baseline.

Demographics of 2017 course participants

Female	56%
Male	44%
BME	13%

Two partnership projects begun in 2017 with Mind in Haringey and Skyways youth club helped us to engage new audiences: low income adults with mental health issues and predominantly black and asian young people. In 2018 we didn't work on any additional partnership projects like these, but fundraising for similar partnership projects in the future remains a goal.

Appendix 2- Financial report 2018

2018 has been a year of expanding activity and events for London Green Wood. In the middle of the year we formally became a community interest company. Financially we are solvent and, through the excellent work behind the scenes by Jo, we have managed to attract further grants, one from the Worshipful Company of Turners and one from Spacehive.

Our financial year runs from 1st January 2018 to 31st December 2018.

We are restricted in the way we can spend money received from grants by the terms of that grant. That accounts for most of our money. (83% of our funds) Other money which can come from donations from workshop users, events and course contributions are unrestricted in how we use them (17% of our funds).

Table 1: Income/Expenditure figures for 2017 and 2018

	2017 figures			2018 figures		
Source	Income	Expenditure	Balances	Income	Expenditure	Balances
Unrestricted	550	349.79	200.21	487.95	663.03	25.13
Events and Courses				1712.5	1025	687.5
Awards 4 All grant	9900	1417.41	8482.59	0	5295.05	3187.54
Turners Co. grant	3200	955.75	2244.25	3000	2823.01	2421.24
Spacehive grant				1694.75	394	1300.75
Totals	13650	2722.95	10927.05	6895.2	10200.09	7622.16

The beginning and the end

On 1st January 2018 we had a bank balance of £10,927.05. During the year we spent £10,200.09 and had an income of £6895.20 which left us with a bank balance on 31st December 2018 of **£7622.16**.

Restricted Funds

We have three restricted funds:

- **Awards for All** - the original grant of £9900 was received in 2017. We started 2018 with nearly £8500 left and spent £5295.05 during the year on tools etc. We now have a balance at the end of 2018 on this grant of £3187.54.
- **Worshipful Company of Turners** - We had one grant in 2017 of £3200 and still had nearly £2250 of that left at the beginning of the year to spend on coordinating volunteer days etc. We spent the rest of that grant on activities during 2018 but Jo managed to obtain a further grant of £3000 in year which means that we can continue to fund volunteer days into 2019 with a fund of £2421.24 remaining.

- **Spacehive** - Jo obtained this grant, but it was only paid late in December and amounted to £1694.75. It is a crowdfunded grant but the bulk of the donations come from the GLL Community Fund. A payment of £394 under this heading was paid by LGW from unrestricted donations to enable us to achieve our crowdfunding target. In effect it is a net grant of £1300.75. We will be using this next year to purchase tools and a sharpening system for the workshop.

Unrestricted funds

Our unrestricted funds are made up of two main sources. The donations from workshop users and income received as a contribution per person to our funds made by Jo when she runs courses, currently £5 per person, plus small amounts from contributions made by external organisations for us to lead activities at events. Currently we have a total of £712.63 of unrestricted funds.

Roger Chapman
London Green Wood Treasurer
10th January 2019