

Press Release 26 May 2010



## Secret Garden Project

an up projects production

The Secret Garden Project launches in Islington, 29<sup>th</sup> May 2010

up projects are proud to launch **Secret Garden Project** - a new programme of temporary commissions and pop up art events by young and established artists created especially for a trail of London's secret gardens, lesser known green spaces, and urban corners.

This varied programme of sculpture, performance, planting projects, artists' walks and literary works taps into environmental themes; creating new habitats for wildlife, revealing the parks' ecological characteristics, and bringing a touch of green to greyer sites around the capital.

up projects are delighted to be working in partnership with **Islington Council** and the **Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea** for projects in 2010 to create an exciting range of ecologically-themed art projects across the boroughs.

The first art project launches on **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> May** with the *Mobile Picnic Pavilion* by artist **Francis Thorburn** - a mobile vegetable patch that will travel around Islington's streets pulled by a merry band of performing gardeners from St Luke's Community Centre on Central Street to Islington Central Library on Fieldway Crescent. It will park up outside the library during the lunch hour providing opportunities for passers-by to explore this portable green-space and even picnic upon it! The pavilion procession is from 11am till 3pm starting at St Luke's. It will be stationed at the library from 12-2pm. On **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> June** the *Mobile Picnic Pavilion* will appear at St Luke's on Central Street. Visitors can expect a lively lunch as they interact with this artwork and its performers, as well as a host of other events and activities hosted by St Luke's including a car boot sale, gardening sessions and honey-harvesting! On **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> July** the nomadic *Mobile Picnic Pavilion* tours once more from St Luke's Community Centre to Highbury Fields as part of Islington's cultural festival *Go Islington*, where it will provide an entertaining luncheon experience for visitors to the festival.

Later in the summer several other projects are due to launch around the borough; a *Pleasure Garden for Birds* by art and architecture collective **London Fieldworks** will launch simultaneously in Duncan Terrace, Islington and Cremorne Gardens, Chelsea; **Shane Waltener** will create *The Hanging Garlands of Tibby Place* around the ruins of the former Tibberton Baths; **Tony Heywood** will create a horticultural installation called *000*, a secret garden for an area on Caledonian Road; and a series of literary works will be developed for the **Secret Garden Project** website by our Writer in Residence, **Sarah Butler**. These writings will provide a literary thread throughout the programme, responding to the various sites, artworks and visitors' feedback.

The **Secret Garden Project** is curated by **Emma Underhill** and **Sarah B Davies** and will evolve across different London Boroughs over the next 18 months. For 2010 we are working in partnership with Islington Council as well as the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea as part of their *InTRANSIT Festival*.

Further announcements about Secret Garden Project events and commissions will follow soon....

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## **ENDS**

### **Notes to Editors**

**The Secret Garden Project** is one in a series of ongoing 'Park Art' projects developed and produced by UP Projects. Building on the success of UP Projects' *Portavilion*, which began in four major Central London parks in 2008 and continues in 2010 ([www.portavilion.com](http://www.portavilion.com)); Secret Garden Project focuses on London's lesser known green spaces including hidden gems such as Cremorne Gardens in the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea and Tibbey Place in Islington, with new, artist's commissions and site specific projects of varying scales that respond to the ecological and historical context of the sites and raise awareness of the ecological and social value of green spaces in city life. The Secret Garden Project is curated by Emma Underhill, Founding Director of UP Projects and Sarah B Davies, Assistant Curator UP Projects.

**up projects** believes in challenging perceptions of what public art can be. Operating as if a gallery without walls, they are inspired by the complexities of the public realm to create a programme of artists' commissions, projects, strategies and multi-disciplinary events for a broad public audience. Since their first project in 2002, their work has consistently attracted considerable public attention.

**[www.upprojects.com](http://www.upprojects.com)**

**Francis Thorburn** is a London based emerging artist who has been developing ambitious, sculptural vehicles to form a series of works called the *Alternative Transport Network*. Since graduating from Camberwell in 2008, he has developed work with Hannah Barry Gallery and The House of Fairytales.

**London Fieldworks** is a London-based collective formed in 2000 by artists Bruce Gilchrist and Jo Joelson as an umbrella organisation for creative research and collaboration at the art, science and technology intersection. Typically, their projects engage with the notion of ecology as a complex inter-working of social, natural, and technological worlds. **[www.londonfieldworks.com](http://www.londonfieldworks.com)**

**Shane Waltener** lives and works in London and operates within the crossover between craft and fine art practice. He has exhibited works internationally and developed a broad range of collaborative projects both for gallery contexts and public spaces. **[www.shanewaltener.com](http://www.shanewaltener.com)**

**Tony Heywood** is an installation artist who creates horticultural, garden-inspired installations in unexpected locations, including neglected urban corners and indoor spaces. Once the Head Gardener for the Hyde Park Estates, Heywood is now a widely exhibiting artist receiving a variety of international awards and commissions. **[www.tonyheywood.com](http://www.tonyheywood.com)**

**Sarah Butler** writes about people and the relationships between them; inspired by unexpected meetings and complicated interactions, places and people's relationship to the places they live, work and breathe in. As well as writing, she runs a consultancy called UrbanWords which manages literature based projects that engage with the process of urban regeneration. **[www.urbanwords.org.uk](http://www.urbanwords.org.uk)**

**Islington Council's *Greening the Grey* strategy** is a scheme to "blur the boundaries of the park" taking the green into a variety of other spaces. It offers an innovative approach to tackling climate change and creates an interesting contribution to the green spaces debate. **[www.islington.gov.uk](http://www.islington.gov.uk)**

**Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea's *InTRANSIT* Festival** is a summer programme of interventions, performances and commissions which will animate streets, parks, neglected and forgotten spaces from 19 to 1 August 2010. Events are suitable for all ages and range from self-led trails and podcast guides through to artist led walks. **[www.rbkc.gov.uk/intransit](http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/intransit)**