

In October 2022, Myanah, Mark and Simon (UCL PhD student) from Newham's Forest Gate Community Garden Evaluation Exchange team (2021/22) hosted Yuhong Wang (UCL PhD student) from Camden's Calthorpe Community Garden Evaluation Exchange team (2021/22). The visit was made possible by the UCL Bartlett Community of Engagers Equity Fund. This is the report by Yuhong summarising key points from the visit.

Oct 29, 2022

Forest Gate visit to Calthorpe

Attendees: Myanah, Mark, Simon, and other participants for the Winter Celebration (FGCG), Yuhong(CCG)



1. Winter Celebration and warm up

Participated hand enjoyed the party, to look around, and talk with volunteers and residents.



2. Introduction and tours

Mark introduced us to his colleagues and friends, and have a introduction on the facilities, plants and events.

- The origin of the garden
Have been around 10years history. Before the site was a left-over spaces full of waste. After 3years negotiation and paper work with the Newham Council, the Forest Gare community Garden are approved, and constructed by the volunteers and residents.
- Water resources
Main water recourse is rainwater harvesting. It can meet the daily demands for most of the days, but was struggled in the hot summer.
- Plant Bed
Native, dry plants, and herbs was preferred. The plant bed was built by volunteers and residents.
- Wind mill for power
Design by a volunteer, can light up the light for a while by natural resources.
- Container
Upgraded and decorated for tool storage and office
- Music Band
Local non-professional music lover, firstly 2 persons, and gathered people together
- Water tank
Rainwater harvesting, using height difference to make a tank chain.



- Compost box
Three big boxes, using the branches and leaves within the garden, produces fertiliser
- Water Pond
Built in 2016, totally rely on rainwater. Frog, fishes and bees.



- Steering Committee and Trustee
Have regular meeting online

3. Future opportunities

- Community Garden network
Get connected with more local community gardens to share resources, knowledges and experiences.

