GREENHOUSE GALLERY - HISTORY



2012

The Greenhouse published an information booklet on Climate Change – the myths and some solutions', originally created as part of the Trust's decision to take part in the County wide 'Open Studios' fortnight. The booklet was initially created as a briefing for the visual artists and writers involved in the exhibition. The booklet, eventually ran to three re-prints and promoted the decision to redesign our educational work, using art as a communications tool and motivator.

At the same time, organic wine tastings were established as a key way of inviting new people to support the Greenhouse and creating a way to meet and greet the wider community.

The Directors and Trustees combined the two administrative boards to join up our education and promotional work. The meeting room was refitted and the Gallery created. In December the Trust piloted its first successful on-line environmental art sale.

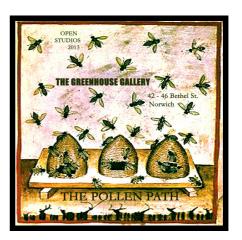




The Greenhouse website was re-designed to respond to the increasing level of virtual visits to the Greenhouse. All the paper educational resources were translated into downloadable pages. The Trust took part in Open Studios, creating a virtual tour and exhibition entitled 'The Pollen Path'. This created the opportunity for twelve local artists and seven writers to work on images and poems that connected to the issues linked to Bee decline. The Greenhouse linked in to Friends of the Earth BeeCause and the local group lobbied MPs across the County. The success of the poetry reading and the visual art show continued into the autumn with a public exhibition/sale.



Jane Ironside – The Final Warning



Pollen Path Exhibition Poster

2014.

The 20th anniversary of the Greenhouse Trust occurs as the CO_2 level passes the 400ppm level. Despite the evidence that solar systems generate electricity at less than half the CO_2 life-cycle costs for nuclear, the Government pledges 240bn for new nuclear power stations in the UK. This figure equates to approximately £10,000 for each home in the UK. Government polling established that 82% of the public support the policy to provide electricity and heat via renewable sources. Only 11% oppose onshore wind farms (68% positively approve), and 76% support offshore wind, with just 7% opposed. Norwich planners continue to discuss solar technology as 'eco-bling', and local/sustainable energy generation remains side-lined.



Martin Langford – The Butterfly Effect

'Flight' was used as the over-arching theme for the exhibitions in the Gallery 'Flight' sought to communicate a range of issues around resource conflicts, oll and fossil fuel wars, human and species migration and the break-down of the geography and governance of nation states.

2015

During 2014 the Trust launched a design competition in collaboration with the regions leading fine art card company, Green Pebble. The ten winning designs formed the basis of a grant application to the Arts Council, who funded the publicity and promotion of an exhibition at the Forum. 'Melt' was praised as one of the best 'ever' exhibitions at the Forum. The Trust is indebted to Stephen Fry for his tweet and support.

An auction at the close of the year enabled us to engage with the Paris Climate Conference (COP21) and contribute to the UK's Energy Bill Revolution. This national lobby network called for major investment in the UK's housing stock. The UK has some of the least efficient housing stock in Europe, exacerbating environmental problems and perpetuating the economic and human misery created by fuel poverty. 27% of UK CO₂ emissions are generated

as a consequence of heating buildings. Despite crossparty proclamations, the 'development Masterplans' remain locked into unsustainable growth presumptions, with no zero-carbon/low embodied energy design or decentralised energy strategy on the horizon.



INUNDATION – was used as an over-arching theme, to highlight the impacts of extreme weather on Norwich and Norfolk.

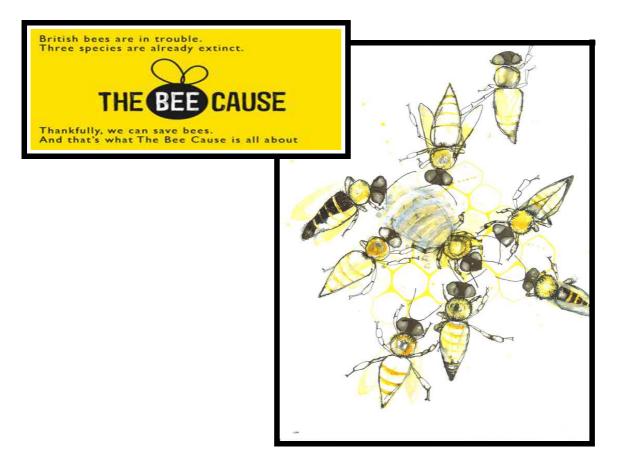




The call to reduce CO₂ emissions to below pre-industrial human activity levels provides a bench-mark for the production of the artists-briefings published by the Trust.

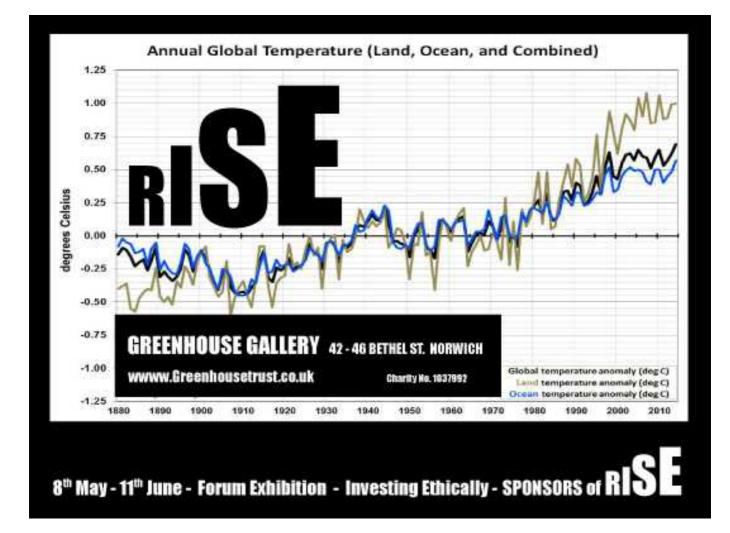


This year the theme became eARTh, which aims to focus the imagination on soil, organic food production, the role of pollinators, species recovery and protection from extinction.



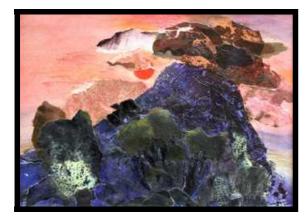
The role of pollinators and Friends of the Earth's 'BeeCause' were integral to a series of exhibitions across the year.

The photovoltaics on the front of the building were upgraded and maintenance to the top floor/roof was carried out at the same time. A bequest from Consumers Against Nuclear Energy (a consumer campaign which withheld the nuclear generated proportion of energy bills) and a Trust enabled us to reach our solar building Appeal target, This was linked to an exhibition: RISE, which explored sea level rise, local geography and the necessary transformation of the historic buildings in Nowich.



Peter Melchett (Policy Director of the Soil Association) became the patron of eARTh and we began to link the policy demands of the Soil Association's 'Living Soil' campaign to the design invitations/briefings provided to artists.

During the Norfolk and Norwich Festival we staged a exhibition of the work of Glynn Morgan, a contemporary of Cedric Morris, Maggie Hambling and Ceri Richards. 'You Should See The View From Here' was very well received and provided the starting point for a collection of work that remains on display in the Gallery.



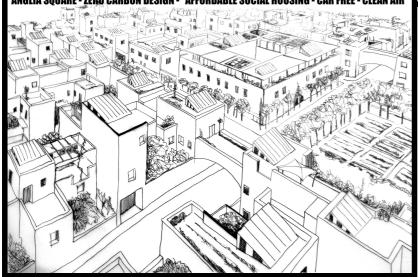


On June 14th 2017 the Grenfell Tower disaster occurred. Using the poem by Ben Okri, photographs of the Grenfell neighbourhood were placed alongside designs for small-scale social housing desigs and a visualzation of the City Council's (outdated) flood data

"The did not die when they died; their deaths happened long before. It happened in the minds of the people who never saw Them. It happened in the profit margins. It happened in the laws. They died because money could be saved and made."



Grenfell Tower - Ben Okri (extract).

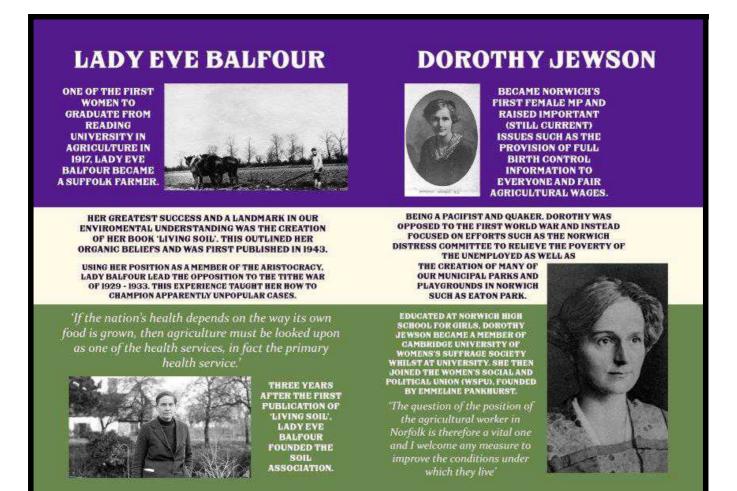






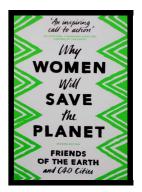


During the year grants from both the Heritage Lottery and Awards for All were granted. The Awards for All grant was focused around 'Finding Sanctuary'. Staff and volunteers were involved in dance and community activities which enable local people to meet and support refugees. Our long-standing wine-tastings provided a series of social events which linked into the Galleries exploration of 'Finding Sanctuary' in a world of increasingly murderous regimes and un-natural weather (global heating) related events.



The Heritage Lottery grant created our best attended and most interactive exhibition todate. The show placed the lives of two women, Dorothy Jewson (the first socialist woman to be elected as MP in Norwich), alongside Lady Eve Balfour, the Suffolk farmer who created the Soil Association. Quotes and posters from a century of campaigning for votes for women and equality, were the background for a series of discussions about what progress (often little) has been made across the period. The discussions focused around 'Why Women Will Save the Planet', a book published by Friends of the Earth, promoting C40, a global network of women Majors and policy makers who represent cities around the world.

2019



One outcome, was the discovery of Claire Leighton, a celebrated engraver and illustrator whose books and prints, particularly 'The Farmers Year' from 1933(Agricultural Depression) showcases both the under-representation of women artists and the need for new visions of and for eco-agriculture. The death ofour patron and long-time supporter and friend Peter Melchett paused our education work, and generated a need to redesign our management system. We are extremely grateful to Helen Browning for allowing us to use observations and text from her book 'Pig' as curation for the exhibition. Her talk, held at the Forum in Norwich on International Women's day (8th March 2019), honed our interests on Agro-forestry, which is now the focus for future art/briefings.

