



Touchwood Trees Ltd
Frith Wood, Kent
Karen Wydler
Office: 59, Clayton Road
Brighton
BN2 9ZP

Tel. 01273 380855
Mob. 07867 683 169

www.touchwoodtrees.co.uk
touchwoodtrees@yahoo.com

Touchwood regenerate and transform public spaces; both urban and rural, to create healthy and diverse environments that are culturally stimulating, educational, and that function in providing habitat richness and aesthetic value.

We specialise in accessible public and community artworks, producing wooden sculptures and furniture, murals and mosaics, landscaping and food gardens in cities, schools, hospitals and public parks, also galleries and unused spaces.

In all our work, we aim to involve those working with us in design and creation, so that the work truly reflects local aspirations and values. Social cohesion and collective values are represented through symbols at the centre of a community. The raw materials for much of our work come from our woodland practice, which through dedicated management is a sustainable, renewable resource. The use of reclaimed and sustainable materials informs the nature of our work, leading to environmental issues and broad social concerns being addressed.

We have a vast experience of designing, organising and developing public art projects, working within budgets, and completing work on time. We are covered by public liability insurance up to £10m and we are CRB checked.

Amongst our qualified staff are; artists, construction specialists, gardeners; an HCPC registered Art Psychotherapist, qualified teachers and an arboriculturalist.

Touchwood's work centers round our relationship to land, its ownership and uses and the social and political implications therein. This has led to horticultural and therapeutic work with groups in educational settings as part of an exploration of landscape and garden creation that individuals and communities can benefit from materially and socially.

We aim to reclaim the social importance of public space and to facilitate contribution through collaboration and shared responsibility. Urban spaces and landscapes are shared cultural phenomena, and we aim to promote social experiences and interventions that reflect our common values and are a communion with a historic self. Where the audience's role is non- participatory we aim to convey a sense of engagement with the work through the concepts, processes and materials employed in construction.

We recognise managed landscape as the narrative that describes the relationship between people and the land and we seek to point to the physical reality of our lives; to create both a sense of wonder and urgency about our current situation on earth.

Current work- public, social and therapeutic

Centre for Contemporary Art and the Natural World. Soil Culture Artist's Residency, Exeter University. **UN International Year of Soils 2015.**

Human Nature, Bristol. A group exhibition exploring the relationships between animal instincts and contemporary social conditioning. Gardens and mosaics under the title of 'Feral'.

Acton Heritage Project. Working with a variety of groups to create mosaic seating in a parkland that celebrates Acton's rich heritage and considers current changes.

Learning for a Sustainable Life, Frith Wood, Kent. A green education programme which was created by Touchwood (funded in its first year by The National Lottery). Local groups visit us each season and are involved in practical work including: coppicing and green wood work, environmental artworks, food growing and healthy eating, composting, willow weaving, shelter and survival, habitat and tree studies, mosaic making and herb growing. As part of the programme we completed an Iron Age Round House to facilitate forestry and education. We are now developing **Kent Garden Chronicles**, a rural heritage project, using the arts and ancient crafts to integrate history and contemporary farming and growing practices in the 21st century with refugee and immigrant groups, the elderly and youth groups.

RSPB Paintings of human size birds in public spaces to highlight habitat loss and species decline, various locations including:Tate Modern and Radipole Lake Reserve Centre , Weymouth, Bristol etc.

Moulsecoombe School. Heritage and Environment Festival. Commission to make a large permanent sculpture for the front of the school.

Cambian Churchill The creation of permanent artworks and a large garden, working with inpatients in acute care in a psychiatric hospital.

Oasis Brighton- Young Oasis. Outdoor activities and making artworks with natural materials for children affected by substance misuse

Cranstoun Recovery Centre, London Creation permanent artworks for the centre with residents using mosaic making, and poetry and text work.

Bolnore Arts The creation of seating and sculptures made from a fallen 400 year old oak tree.

Selection of Art, Garden Commissions and Art Therapy

Tomorrow Today. Cobb tutor for ‘Somewhere’ artists’ residency with Cambridge University Archaeological Unit to create a cobb replica of a architectural plan of a housing development on an historical site containing the remains of roundhouses. 2014

ATIC. Sussex Partnership NHS Trust. Art Psychotherapy group in the community within an Arts Organisation setting. 2014

Dove Ward- NHS substance misuse. Arts into Health. A project to create artworks with patients for the ward. 2014

Disobedient Objects The Treatment Rooms Collective. The Victoria and Albert Museum, London. Creation of mosaics for the entrance to the museum.

Late nights: Making Trouble and Influencing People. Workshops to create posters. 2014

Artcore International Group show Elephant Hotel, London. ‘Day Bed’ 2014. Artcore primarily facilitates the use of vacant property for creative uses and raises awareness of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), promoting creativity as a coping mechanism. 2014

Millview Hospital, Sussex Partnership NHS Trust. Art Psyschotherapy Internship. Co-running Psychotherapy groups within an acute in-patient setting on a secure women’s ward.

Sussex Partnership NHS Trust I recently completed a research project co-running a group: ‘Dementia, Identity and Creativity’ 2013-14

The Treatment Rooms. Creation of artworks for ‘Utopia’ show in support of Shelter and Single Homeless Project. 2014

Artxpartell, Berazategui, Buenos Aires Province, Argentina.
International Public Art collaboration 2014

Bolnore Arts. Mixed media sign creation for new developments, made with residents. 2013

Whitecross Street, London. Public Art, ceramic works 2013

Southdown Housing. Care worker- facilitating art and food growing workshops for adults with learning disabilities. 2012-14

Bradstow Special School, Kent. The creation of earth ovens and a Roman kiln for community events.

Hidden Camp. OYAP Trust 5 days of woodland survival skills, team building activities, making artworks, shelter building, cooking in earth ovens and over an open fire, building an outdoor kitchen, foraging and learning bush craft skills with 16-18yr olds. 2013

Cogges Agricultural Museum, Oxfordshire Learning@Cogges Farm with Creative Junction, 'Philosophy 4 Children' for schools, general public and 'What's Outside?' with home education groups and schools. 2013

Tarner Park, commissioned by Brighton and Hove Council. Floor mosaics as part of regeneration project with Brighton Unemployed Centre, After school club and Carlton Hill School.

Weir Community Art Garden, London. The design and creation of a community garden for food growing and social space within an estate, made with local residents. **2012-13**

Frith Wood, Kent. Regeneration of woodland, to restore bio-diversity in coppice cycles. Features include: ride clearance, reinstating pond, ditch and bank systems and keeping rare breed pigs for seed bank disturbance. This year's pond regeneration is funded by Million Ponds Project, Biffaward. **2012**

Ashley C of E Primary School. 'Enquiry School' project, Surrey. A whole- school, food growing project, to provide fresh produce for school meals. Ending with a Feast of earth oven pizzas and salads. **2011**

Chalgrove Community School, Oxford. A Change School Project. Landscaping and artworks with P4C and the local community to establish a nature reserve. **2011-12**

St. Mary Star of the Sea Primary School, Hastings. Creative Partnerships: design of school grounds with art works and gardens and creating links with the community with Bohemia Walled Garden Association. **2010**

Feast on the Bridge, The Mayor's Thames Festival. Harvest feast with pumpkin lanterns and seed stall. **2010**

Whitecross Street Party, Urban Art Show, London. Gardens, artworks and workshops. **2011**

West Blatchington Arts week, Brighton
Temporary sculptures in the outdoors **2011**

Sunningwell Primary School, Oxford Creative Partnerships: Independent Learning in the Outdoors **2010**

NEC Birmingham, Mosaic artworks for International Year of Biodiversity: Gardeners World garden. **2010**

Renegade Potters, Inkd Gallery, Brighton. Ceramics work **March 2010**

Moulsecoomb Primary School
'Evolution' Gateway to school grounds. **2010**

Mutate Britain, Under the Westway, Ladbroke Grove, London Dec **2009**
Sculptures, gardens and mosaic workshops.

'Shaping Our Spaces' Solihull Borough Council, 3yr residency.
A major initiative to address public perception of green spaces and woodlands. This project involves working with the community, the local authority, park rangers and managers, landscape architects and town planners to encourage positive and

constructive use of, and contribution to our natural spaces, through public artworks, landscaping and planting. **2007-2010**

'Moveable Feast' The Mayor's Thames Festival 2009 Feast on the Bridge, Harvest celebration. Community container garden creation in public spaces around the River Thames with various groups: Housing Associations, the homeless, the elderly, community groups and schools to be used at Feast on Southwark Bridge.

Dedworth Middle School, Windsor

Transformation of school grounds into food growing areas, orchard and farm. **2009**

Potter's Fields Park- City Hall, London

Raised beds for vegetables in a public park, in collaboration with Sustain. **2010**

Team London Bridge, London

Planter troughs and garden at Fair St, More London. **2010**

Orleans House Gallery, London 'Transformation' Commission to create a permanent garden sculpture for Orleans House Gallery, with residents of Spear Homeless Hostel. **2010**

The Cole Valley, Riverside sculptures: dragonflies and kingfishers Meriden Park, Lakeside Feeding Station/ Ship sculpture.

Reay Primary School, London Creation of raised food growing beds and tree house/ hide **2008**

Hangleton and Knoll Park, Brighton & Hove City Council
4 Sculptural gateways to the public park 2008

Bolnore Village, East Sussex

Large scale Public Art for Central Square and 3 other locations, designed and made in consultation with the community. 2008

Cuckmere House School, Seaford

Creative Partnerships commission to develop school grounds (part II) to include a shelter, an entrance mosaic, a fitness trail and a large scale sculpture for the front of the school. **2007- 2008**

Tarner Park, Brighton and Hove. Inner city park commission to create mosaics in consultation with Brighton Unemployed Centre and Youth Centres. 2008

Moulscoombe Heritage and Environment festival
7m Totem Pole, Lewes Road, Brighton **2007**

The Mayor's Thames Festival

Lead Gardener/ co-ordinator of 50 London Schools for the creation of new food production areas.

Southwark Bridge Harvest Feast: seed saving and sharing, pumpkin carving and cooking and vegetable sculptures and installation in Borough Market **2007- 2008**

Freda Gardham School Creative Partnership residency: 'The Field' Art in the Environment **2007**

'Making a Difference' Brighton and Hove City Council

Easthill Park Bench Commission, Brighton
Sustainable wooden seating for public parkland **2007**

Victoria and Albert Museum, London Garden sculptures for Arabic Weekend to celebrate the opening of the new Jameel Islamic Art Gallery **2007**

Meriden Park, Birmingham Furniture and artworks for a public park, designed and made with local community**2007**

Jubilee school, Hackney, (X)change Project Creative Partnerships commission to create a mixed media mosaic to promote healthy eating. **2007**

Hermitage School, London, (X)change Project
School grounds development with artworks for an 'Outdoor Classroom' **2007**

St Charles School, London External mosaic on 50m wall, made with St Charles School pupils and psychiatric patients from adjoining hospital, Ladbroke Grove. **2006**

St Andrew's School, Hove.

Major transformation of the newly built school grounds. This includes the creation of a large wildlife area, mixed native hedging and chestnut fencing. In the playgrounds there are wooden troughs, trelliswork, climbing plants, seating, sculptures and mosaics, all made from reclaimed materials. We have recently completed a large wetland area and pond and a sensory garden, summer house and new compost bins.

2004-2007

Elm Grove School, Brighton, Mosaic central to amphitheatre. **July 2005**

National Tree Week, 8 School Grounds makeovers: Hedge Planting, planter troughs, raised beds, herb beds and tree planting **Nov-Dec 2004**

'The Art of Recycling' Large scale recycled mosaic Harold Hill Library, London **June-Sept 2003**

Pitesti and Tigveni Orphanage and street children's centre, Bucharest, Romania. Artists Residencies **2001-2003**

Stephen Lawrence Art Project, Chisenhale Gallery, London June 2001

Northfields School, Luton. Sculptural mosaic bench and garden Pyramid Project, for excluded children **2001**

Brighton Festival, 'Temple Of Growth' with Elm tree, Care Co-ops and MIND, Brighton **July 2001**

Mural project, Groundwork. Crescent Play area, Southall, made with refugee children in hostels, **March 2000**

Referees

Heather Barford, Art Psychotherapist
Sussex Partnership NHS Trust
Millview Hospital, Neville Avenue, Hove, BN3 7HZ
Heather.Barford@sussexpartnership.nhs.uk
Phone 01273 621984 ext 2527/2410

Janine Charles. Therapist and Educator
Nurture and Learning
Overstone Cottage, The Green, Freeland OX29 8AP
janinecharles@hotmail.com
01993 886618/07939