

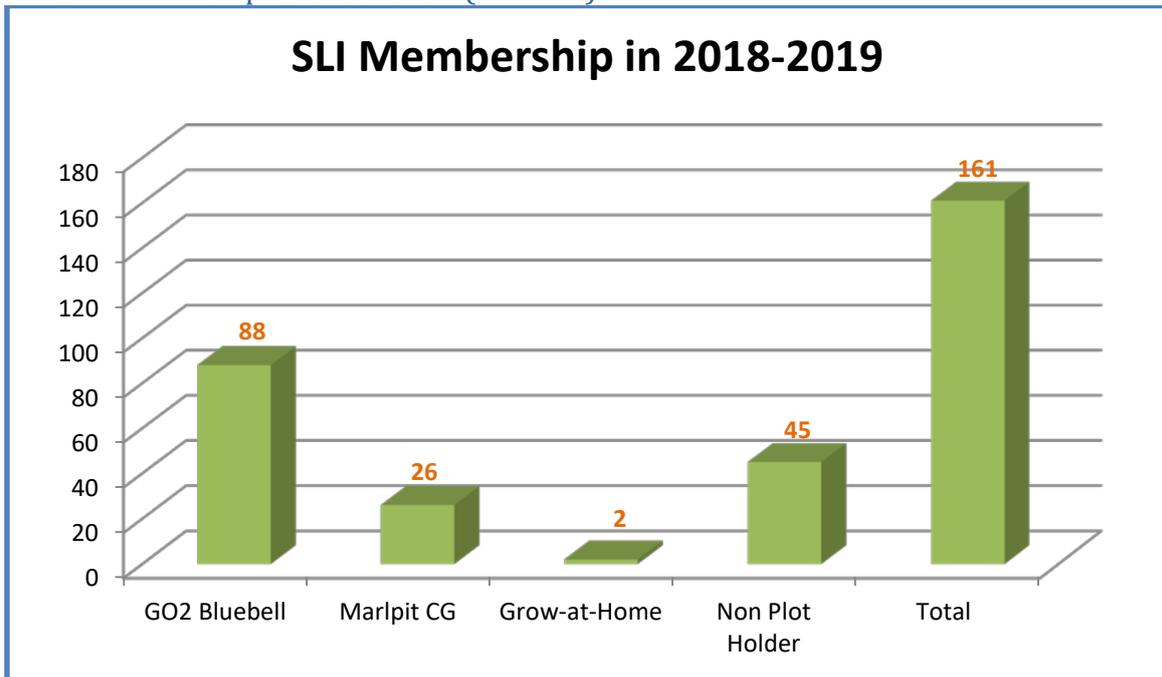
Annual Report 2019

Introduction

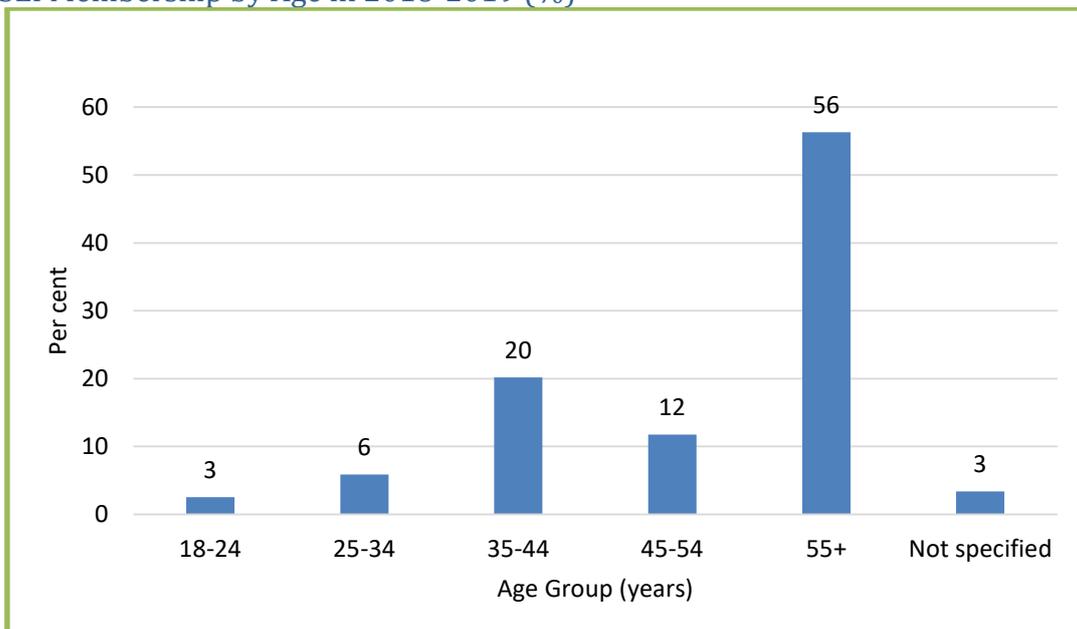
The Sustainable Living Initiative started life in 2004 as the brainchild of Mahesh Pant. He began by inviting some friends to join him on an allotment and the project grew from there into a community with two growing sites and a central hub. Our ethos is one of sharing, supporting each other and the environment, and having fun while we work together to grow food, promote sustainability and reach out to our city neighbours.

At a glance

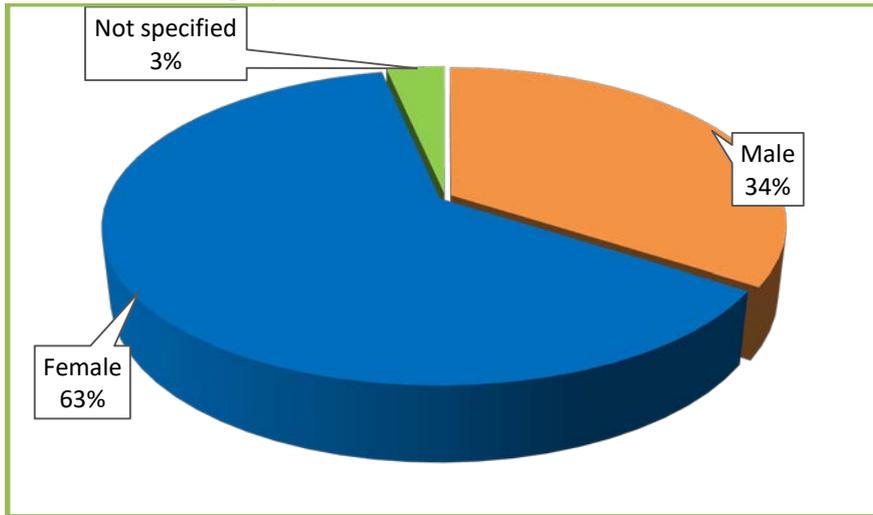
SLI Membership in 2018-2019 (number)



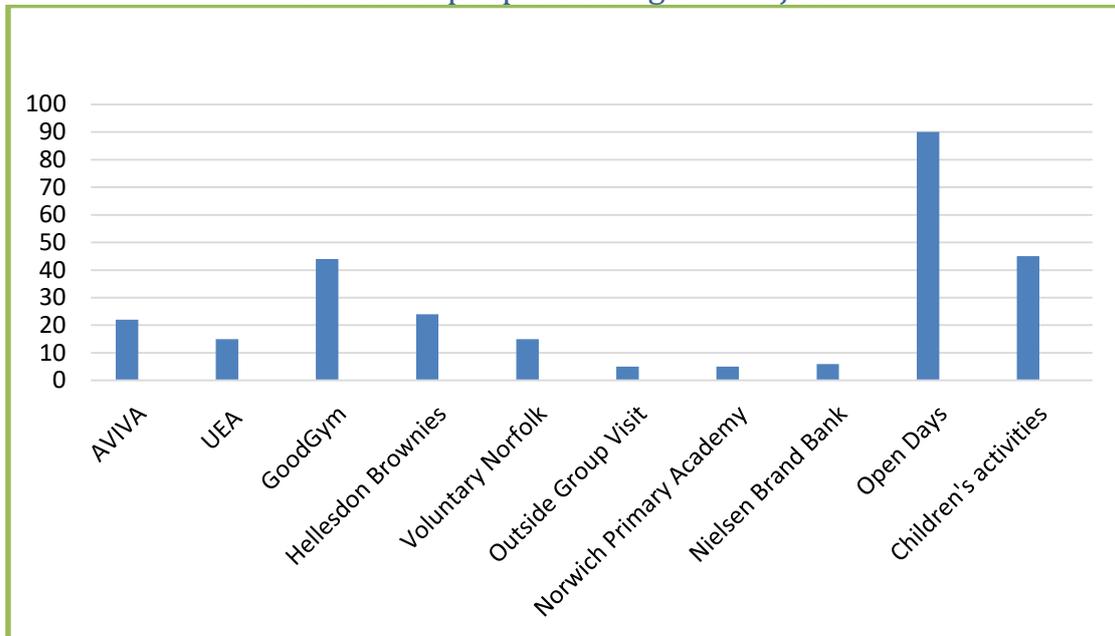
SLI Membership by Age in 2018-2019 (%)



SLI Membership by Gender in 2018-2019



Number of people visiting SLI Projects



Activities

We have continued to run our series of training sessions taking people right from the beginning of planning a plot through to planting, pruning and dealing with those hardy perennials – pests and diseases. We have a monthly cookery club experimenting with international culinary traditions using our home grown food. We have also run activities for schoolchildren during the holidays introducing them to the delights of nature and the magic of growing plants. And we have expanded beyond food to include workshops on candle making using our own beeswax and sessions for local artists to paint and draw pictures of our surroundings.

We have had our usual regular visits from volunteers at AVIVA and the Good Gym who have grown to love our field at Marlpit.

Other groups which have taken their own plots include local schoolchildren and people with mental health problems. Mitch Neville, Senior Occupational Therapist for Norfolk and Suffolk Foundation Trust says: 'The allotment is an amazing project which has been a real lifeline to the service users who have accessed it during the past 12 months.'

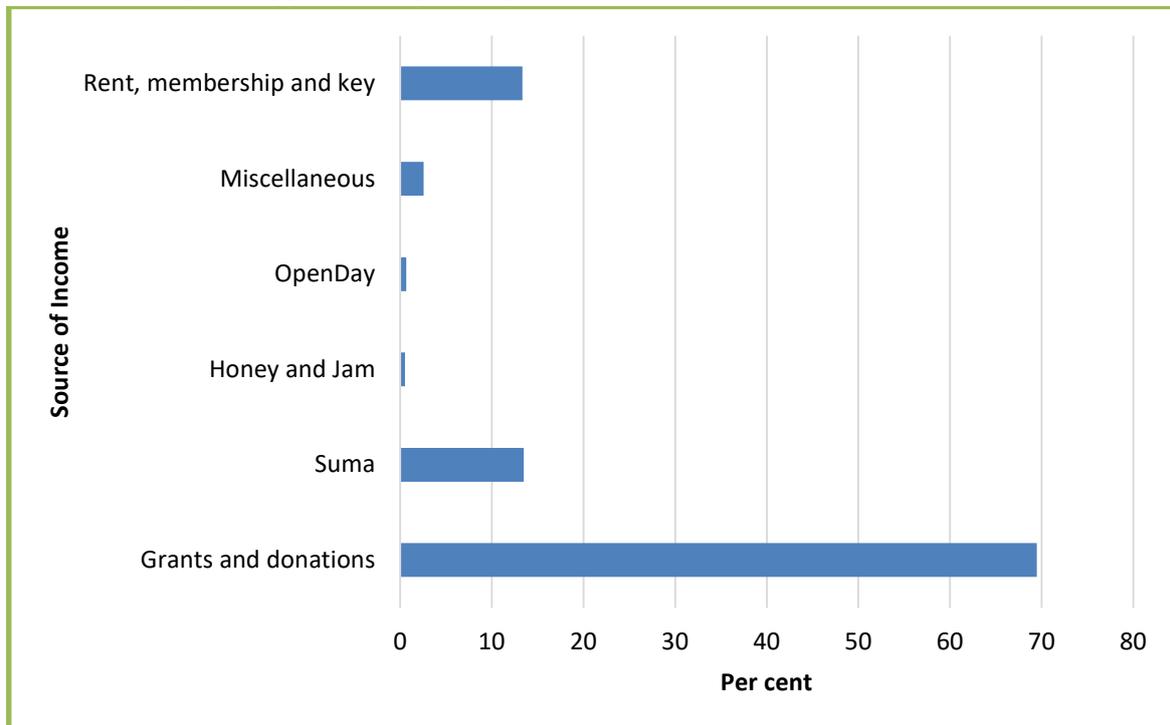
Our day to day work continues with members looking after their own mini plots and joining in work on communal areas which nearly always involves some delicious food to keep us going.



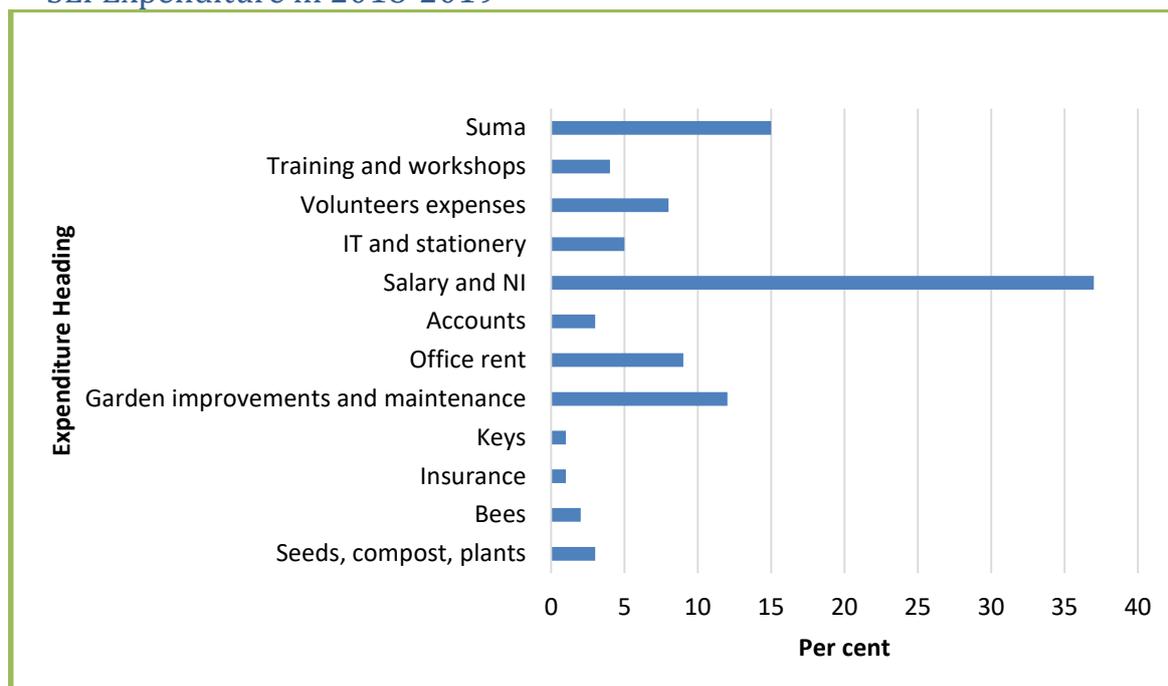
Finance

Total income for the year 2018-2019 was £37039 of which nearly 70% was from grants and donations. We spent £32898, most of which was spent on salaries, overheads and garden maintenance (please see the charts below).

SLI Income in 2018-2019



SLI Expenditure in 2018-2019



Future Plans

Our future plans have taken on a real sense of urgency with the retirement of our founder Mahesh Pant planned for October 2020. We have held a number of forums to look at how we can continue to manage the project after his departure. We have come up with a new structure which will devolve the basic responsibilities to the trustees who will have teams of members to take on the necessary tasks. It is going to take very many of us to fill the enormous gap but we are determined to carry on and we believe that we can do it.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the Tudor Trust, Dulverton Trust, Ground Work, Nielsen Brand Bank and Norfolk Garden Trust for supporting our work by providing grants and donations during October 2018 to September 2019. Our thanks also go to volunteers from AVIVA, GoodGym and Voluntary Norfolk who have helped us maintain our community gardens. Last but not least - a big thank you to all our trustees, members and volunteers whose unwavering support helps keep the organisation running.



Sustainable Living Initiative

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