

# Annual Review 2019/2020





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The gates of the Eden Project are closed. For the first time in our 20-year history, we have been unable to enthral and inspire our visitors. A microcosm of society in conjunction with nature, we are forced to slow down, mitigate and adapt. The gardens are running a bit wild and most of the team are at home. As we have seen all over the country, our natural response is to conserve and support our local communities. There is so much we can learn from the experience of Covid-19.

This report reveals that the year ending 31 March 2020 had been a good one. Over a million people came through our gates in the 50 weeks that we were open. They were treated to Eden's unique blend of music, theatre and art, a few examples of which are shown here. All were participating in the special educational experience that Eden offers. Art, architecture, plants and people combine to reveal our deep connection to the natural world on whose complex systems all life depends. Science reveals, but direct personal engagement with the stories of life is how we learn, and

it is through collective action, at a community level, that we adapt.

These pages show the huge variety of ways Eden helps people to engage with nature and with their communities: a kaleidoscope of actions, large and small, in Cornwall and in so many places, where Eden people have applied their energy and imagination. The Big Lunch, whose generous Patron is HRH the Duchess of Cornwall, continues to thrive, thanks to Eden's partnership with the National Lottery. Nesta has allowed us to engage with pre-school children, while Cornwall College and the Universities of Plymouth and Anglia Ruskin have partnered with us in offering higher education courses. To these, and all of our partners and staff, our heartfelt thanks.

Our thanks also to Judith Donovan CBE and Gordon Seabright, chair and CEO respectively of Eden Project Limited, who both left us this year after 6 years of committed leadership. Eden now has the ambition and the resilience to extend its reach. The coming months will be challenging

for the Eden Project as for everybody. Scientific innovation and social action will bring us through the dark times of the pandemic, and Eden will emerge re-invigorated, with an even clearer role to play and with a new perspective on humanity's delicate relationship with the natural world.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edward Benthall', written in a cursive style.

Edward Benthall, Eden Trustee  
and Chairman of the Eden Trust



Eden 2019/20 ... how fondly we look back upon that year (perhaps longingly so, as I write this during lockdown). A quick skip through this Annual Review will, once again, demonstrate the considerable variety on offer to both visitors to the Eden Project and those involved in our many programmes or developments.

It is always tempting to list out a few highlights ... and to do so risks the wrath of colleagues, volunteers and supporters if they are not highlighted! Yet, to not do so risks not being able to mention our Summer Programme 'Earth Story' (our most popular programme ever); the Make the Change programme; the considerable investment into arts and culture at Eden in the year; the multiple access points for learning at, and with the Eden Project team; the extensive, national impact of the Big Lunch and the wider Communities team; and the huge strides made by our international development team in furthering projects in locations as far apart as Qingdao, Derry~Londonderry, Costa Rica and Morecambe.

The Eden team has been as dedicated and adaptable as it always is - indeed, as the pages of this report show, the team had been flying high in 2019/20. At the time of writing, through no fault of theirs, we have sadly had to announce a major staff restructure across our Cornish operations, to ensure its future resilience and as a response to the pandemic's enforced closures. For all its necessity, the considerable uncertainty that this will bring - at a time that is already uncertain - hurts deeply, particularly for a team that feels genuinely like family for many.

It is clear that 2020/21 is going to be tough; it is inevitable that Eden will be closed for some time; many of our team have been furloughed, and the world is not quite as we all expected. There are clearly challenges ahead for Eden and indeed, humankind. And yet, as we traversed the first lockdown, many of us noted the silence of the roads, the sound of birdsong, the hedgerows springing into life and perhaps even enjoyed the seemingly all-too-brief moments away from a Zoom or Team screen meeting.

As we reflect on the year gone by and the year ahead, we firmly believe that Eden's key message about the interdependence of humans and the living world has never been more relevant or pressing. As we head towards our twentieth birthday in March 2021, we hold onto our strongest belief that the future remains ours to make.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Harland'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

David Harland, Interim CEO Eden Project, CEO Eden Project International



# Highlights

The Eden Project is one of the world's great botanical gardens, a year-round destination with a vibrant series of events, activities and exhibitions for all ages. In 2019/20, we launched our Make the Change campaign as part of our summer season, Earth Story, and the campaign's message shaped our events, programmes, performances and Lab activities throughout the year.





# Make the Change

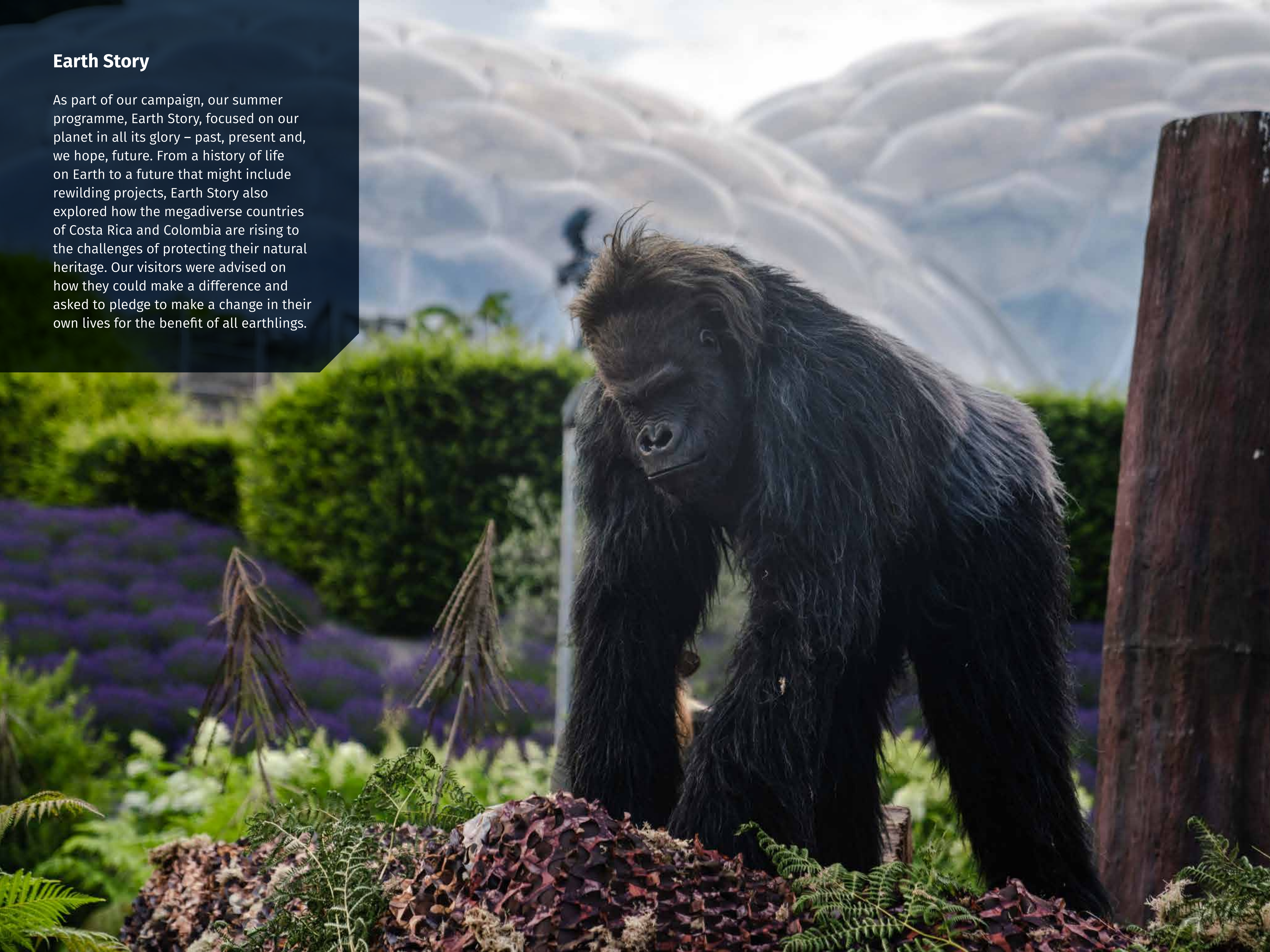
Thanks to the efforts of Extinction Rebellion, Greta Thunberg, and the school strike, the climate crisis is visible as never before. For the first time in our history, humans understand the impact we are having on the planet through climate change, pollution and the destruction of habitats and species. With 12 years left to prevent runaway climate change, it's time to act. However, there are different ways of winning hearts and minds to the cause. At Eden, we've always aimed to engage the widest possible audience and inspire people with the possibilities, not just the challenges ahead. Our Make the Change campaign aims to raise awareness of the crisis, and what can be done about it, in a friendly and accessible way. We will need clear heads and kind hearts to get through this.



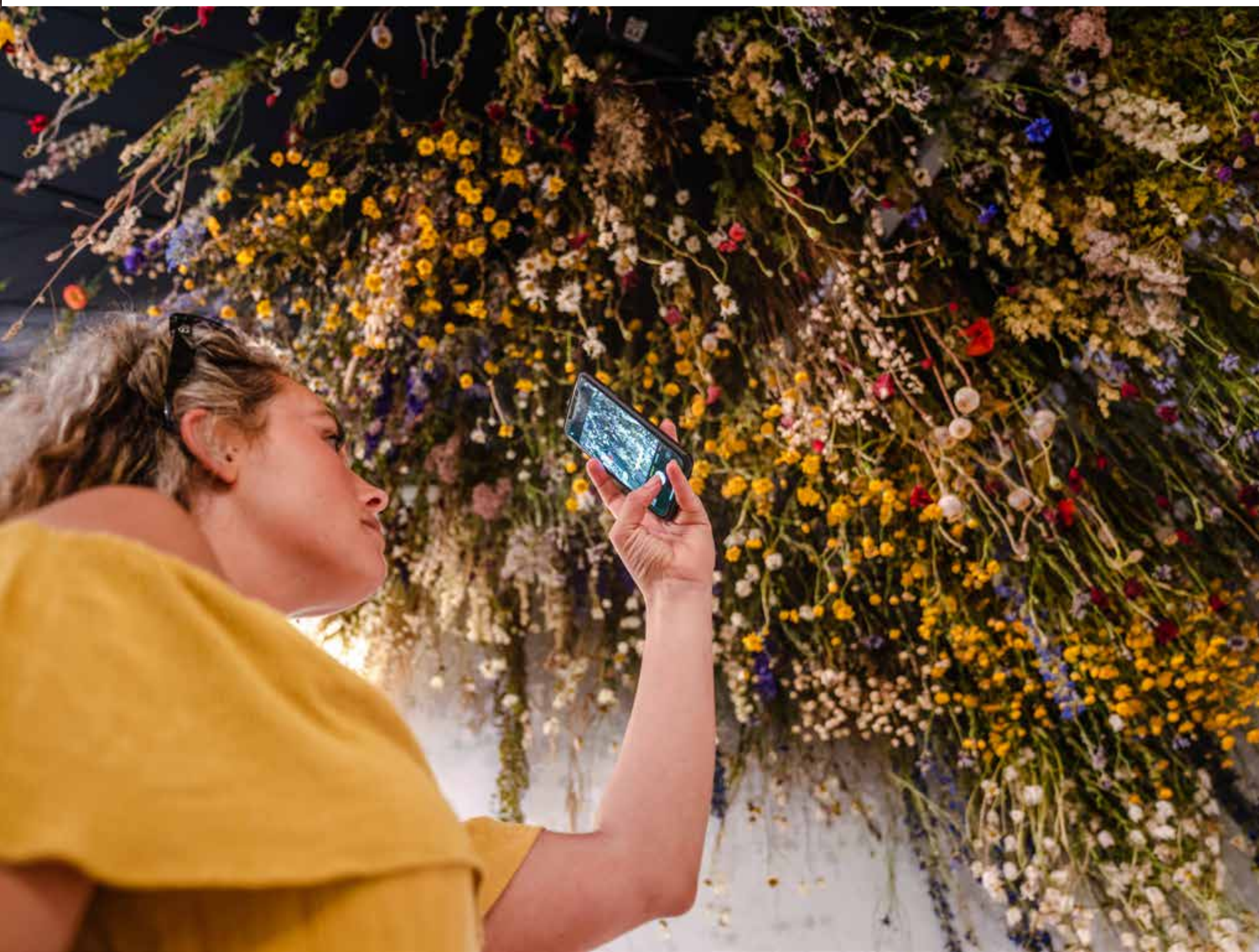


## Earth Story

As part of our campaign, our summer programme, Earth Story, focused on our planet in all its glory – past, present and, we hope, future. From a history of life on Earth to a future that might include rewilding projects, Earth Story also explored how the megadiverse countries of Costa Rica and Colombia are rising to the challenges of protecting their natural heritage. Our visitors were advised on how they could make a difference and asked to pledge to make a change in their own lives for the benefit of all earthlings.









## The Library of Life

Bringing the story of life to life, the Storytelling Team, wrote and performed *The Library of Life* a thirty-minute show that took a quirky and light-hearted look at the interdependence of life. Performed three times a day with a rotating cast, *The Library of Life* featured puppetry and a cameo from Charles Darwin himself.





## Laboratory Earth

The Lab gave our visitors the chance to do a deeper dive into the issues around our Earth Story summer programme. Working with scientists from across the UK, the Lab team curated a programme throughout the summer that tackled microplastics with Plymouth Marine Laboratory; friendly fungi and ancient algae that make life on earth possible; Cornish wildlife; volcanos and making soil. They also teamed up with the Earlham Institute to give our visitors the chance to be DNA detectives and use cutting-edge molecular science to save Colombian flora and fauna as part of the GROW Colombia project.





## Gaia

Luke Jerram

As part of our Festival of Christmas, Luke Jerram's spectacular illuminated globe *Gaia* was suspended over the Citrus Grove in the Mediterranean Biome. Seven metres in diameter, *Gaia* is touring the world it faithfully depicts. It is intended to elicit the same reaction as the 'overview effect' experienced by astronauts on seeing the Earth from space for the first time. The 'overview effect' is a state of mental clarity in which the observer realises the fragility and interconnectedness of life on our planet.







### Make the change festival

As the name implies, our Make the Change event was all about new ways of thinking and feeling in the face of climate change. Timed to provide another way for people to engage with the climate strike, the event kicked off with a keynote from the environmental philosopher, Professor Glenn Albrecht, who argued passionately for a move from the Anthropocene to 'the Symbiocene', a future in which we restore our connection to nature and become Generation 'S'. Throughout the day there were talks on projects and solutions that were already working in this way, whether it was the potential of microalgae, renewable energy or just getting a clearer picture of how our consumption affects the planet, through apps like Giki Badges, plus screenings of key films, *Plastic Ocean* and *The Twelve*.



# Other highlights...

## A new musical partnership

Eden has formed a partnership with global live events company AEG Presents. The new joint venture, Eden Sessions Ltd, will take over the Sessions helping to make an already world-class series of gigs even better.





## Minibeast Mansion

Outdoor play in nature can lead to a deeper respect for our environment. This summer saw the installation of a new outdoor play area, the Minibeast Mansion. It's been built next to a real insect hotel for pollinators and other beneficial minibeasts, so children can catch a glimpse of them in action.



## The mother of all Christmases

Eden is an equal opportunities employer, so Christmas in 2019 saw Mother Christmas step into the limelight for the first time adding a whole new dimension to the Christmas experience.



## Red-hot pokers

Eden's display of red-hot pokers won a bronze medal at the RHS Hampton Court Garden Festival in July 2019.







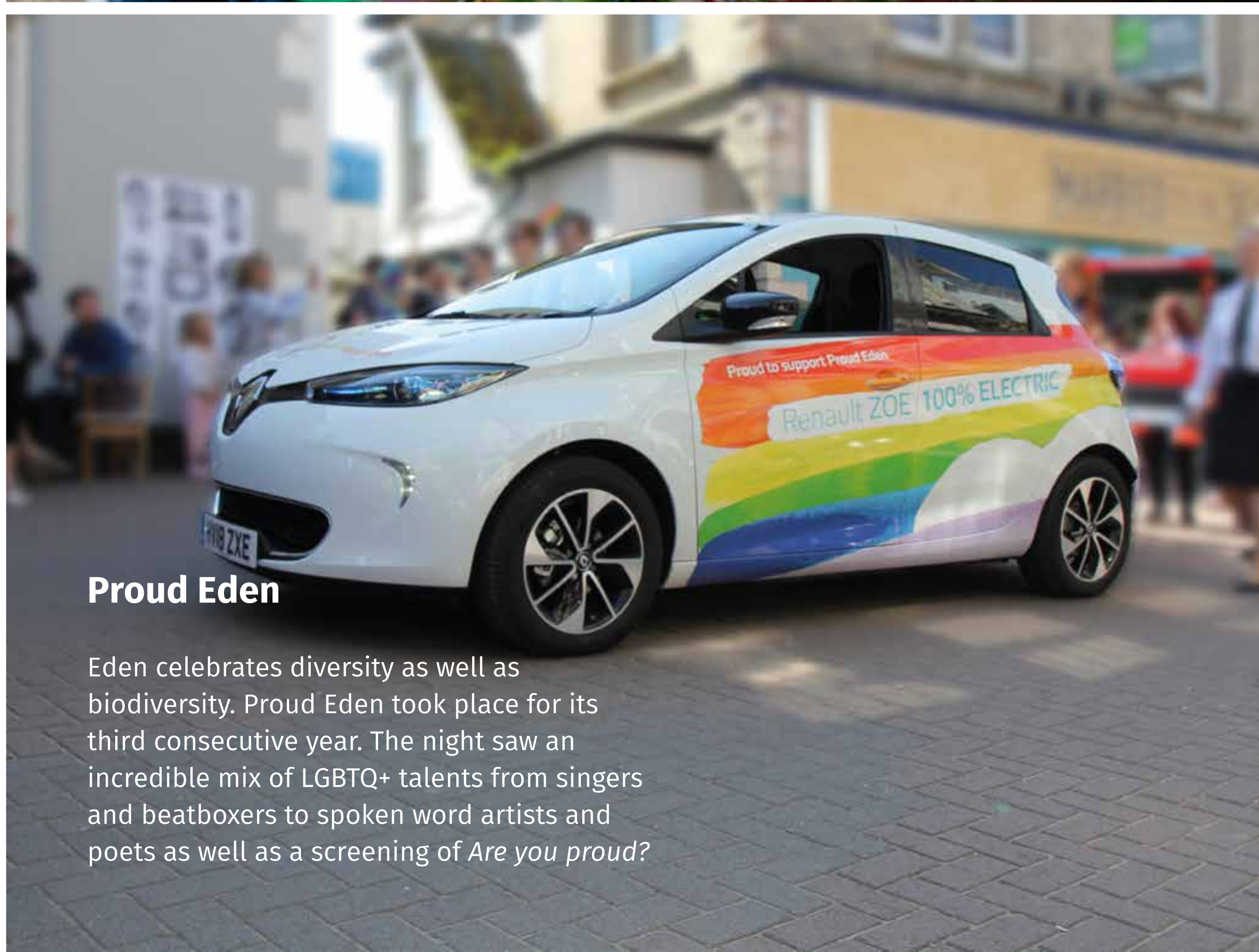
## Playing the blues

June 2019 saw a mass planting of the Arena, where the Eden Sessions take place. Over 2,800 plants including lupins, buddleia, agapanthus, campanula and salvia were planted creating a blue backdrop for the future Eden Sessions.



## Colour Uncovered

Eden went technicolour at spring half-term. Colour Uncovered used art and science to create a rainbow of activities. Visitors experienced the ultraviolet world of insects and discovered the clever ways plants use colours to entice pollinators, alongside demonstrations of natural fabric dyes, and collaborative art installations. They also had the chance to put themselves in the (big) picture as they learned about the changing colours of Planet Earth.



## Proud Eden

Eden celebrates diversity as well as biodiversity. Proud Eden took place for its third consecutive year. The night saw an incredible mix of LGBTQ+ talents from singers and beatboxers to spoken word artists and poets as well as a screening of *Are you proud?*





## Feeding young minds

The Campaign for Female Education (CAMFED) African Garden, which won a prestigious gold medal at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show in May 2019, was given a new home at Eden later that year. The garden tells the story of how CAMFED supports the most excluded girls and young women in rural sub-Saharan Africa to go to school and become leaders and change-makers in their communities.





### Pitching in

In spring 2020, just before the Covid-19 pandemic hit the UK, a new display featuring ten different carnivorous pitcher plants (*Nepenthes*) was installed in the Malaysian area of the Rainforest Biome. Because of the plants' preference for low-nutrient soil, our horticulture team had to dig out the bed and add large quantities of coir, or coconut fibre, to the area to create the ideal environment for them.

### Branching out

The Rainforest Biome Team relocated our orchid collection to the rainforest canopy where they would naturally belong. They were helped by Chloe McGiveron from the Writhlington School Orchid Project, which has been propagating orchids for Eden for the last three years. The orchids were temporarily attached with tights until they established themselves.

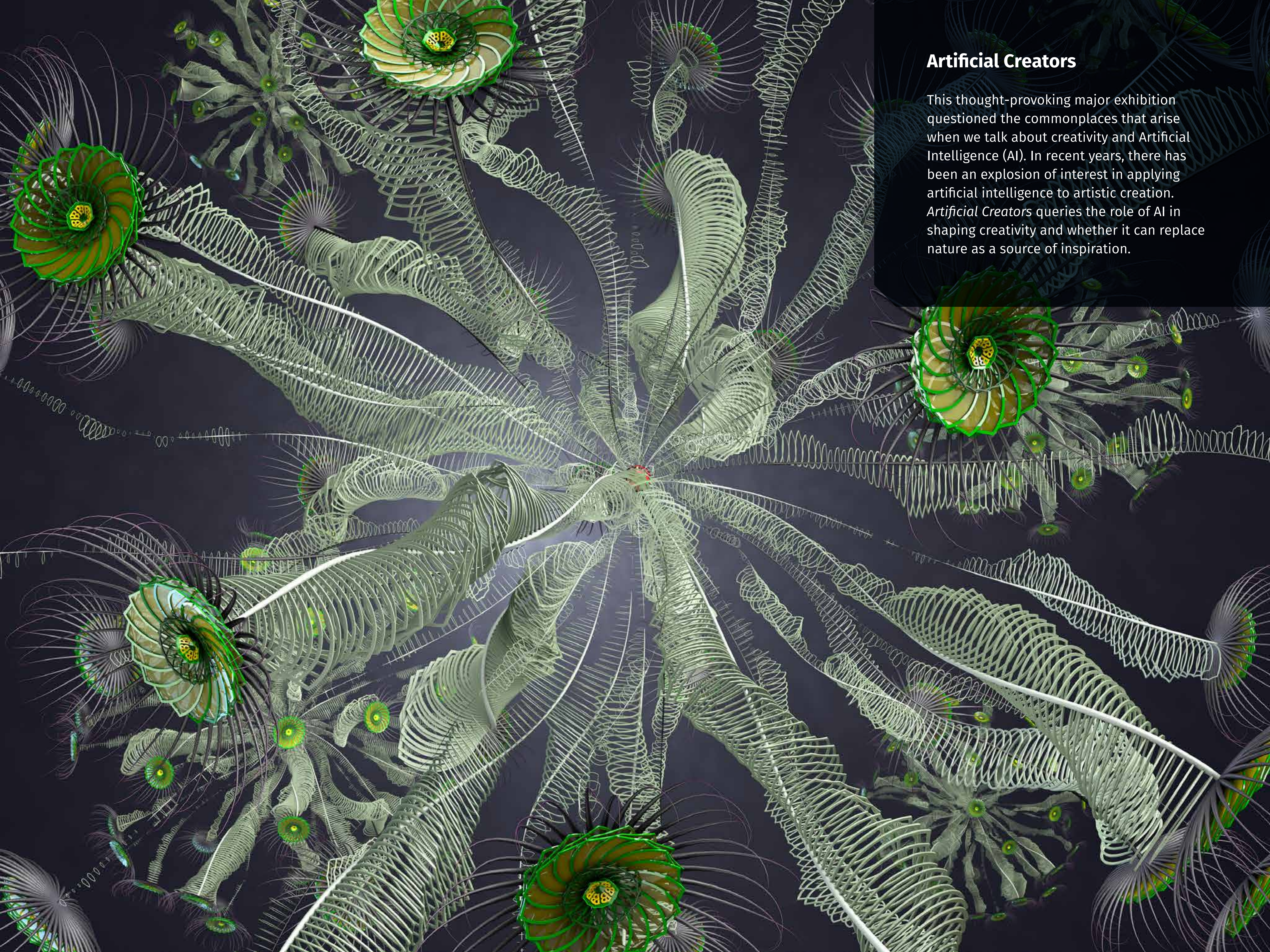




# Art at Eden

Eden is home to iconic sculptures and stunning installations set within our rolling Outdoor Gardens. We also have a programme of temporary exhibitions, residencies, talks and workshops, exploring new collaborations between science and art.





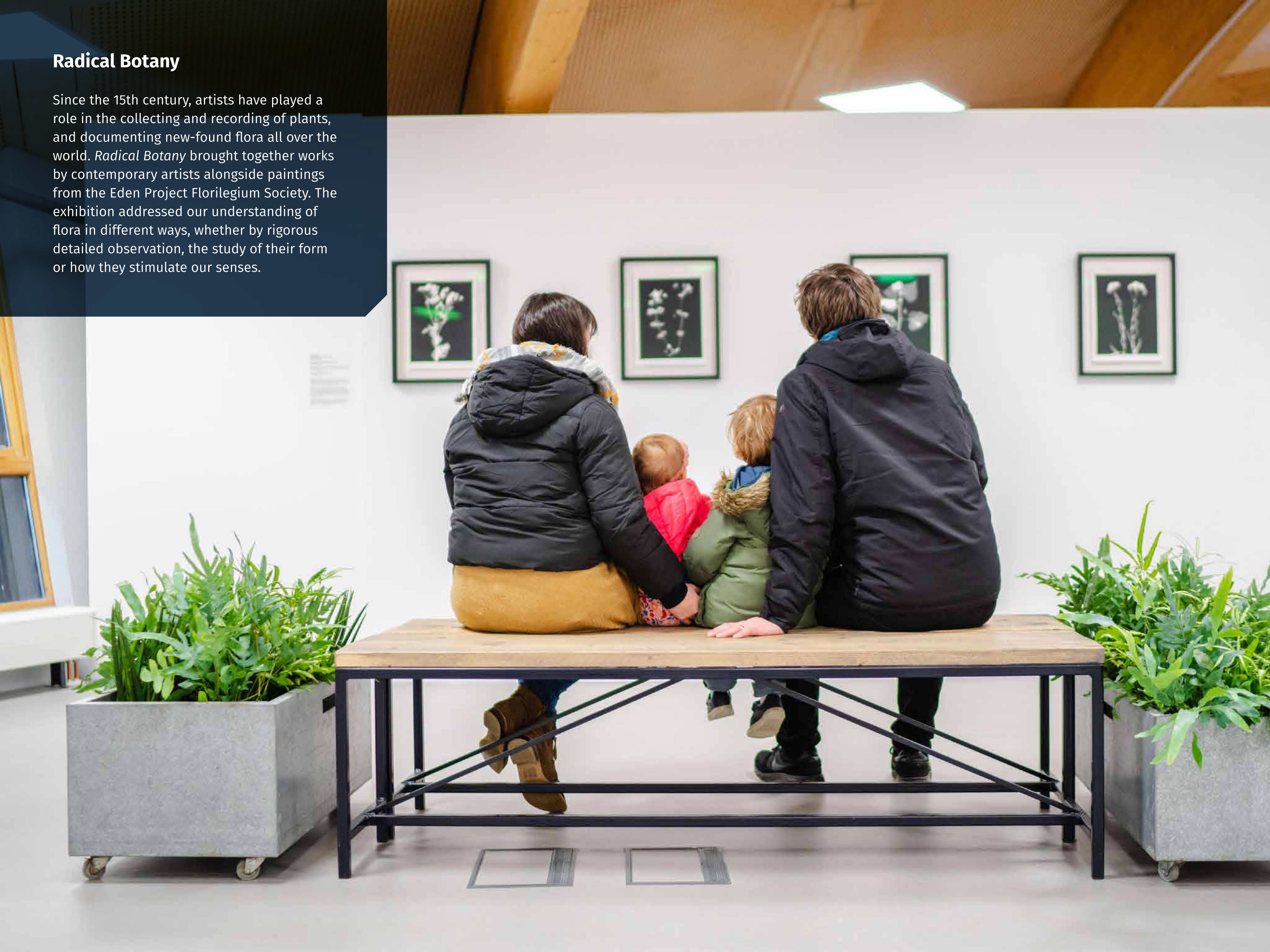
## Artificial Creators

This thought-provoking major exhibition questioned the commonplaces that arise when we talk about creativity and Artificial Intelligence (AI). In recent years, there has been an explosion of interest in applying artificial intelligence to artistic creation. *Artificial Creators* queries the role of AI in shaping creativity and whether it can replace nature as a source of inspiration.



## Radical Botany

Since the 15th century, artists have played a role in the collecting and recording of plants, and documenting new-found flora all over the world. *Radical Botany* brought together works by contemporary artists alongside paintings from the Eden Project Florilegium Society. The exhibition addressed our understanding of flora in different ways, whether by rigorous detailed observation, the study of their form or how they stimulate our senses.







## Unbounded

Signs of human activity and industry are becoming evident in even the most natural environments. In our exhibition *Unbounded*, fifteen artists explored some of the many layers of Cornwall's social and environmental landscapes. *Unbounded* mapped this terrain through painting, photography, textiles and even a choral performance drawn from traditional Cornish celebrations and Goonhilly Earth Station transmissions.





**To employ the mistress...  
It's a French toff thing**

Ryan Gander  
Outdoor Gardens

As part of our Invisible Worlds programme, we installed this artwork-come-drinking-fountain by the internationally established artist Ryan Gander. *To employ the mistress...* connects the everyday, the esoteric, the overlooked and the commonplace.



## Birds Watching

*Jenny Kendler*

Outer Estate Summer 2019

Jenny Kendler's work seeks to complicate the space between nature and culture to re-enchant human beings' relationship with the natural world. Her 'flock' of one hundred colourful, reflective birds' eyes, fabricated in the same fashion as street signs, mimics the experience of seeing the glowing reflection of an animal's eyes at night. Each eye depicts a bird species considered threatened or endangered by climate change, creating a portrait of a vanishing world.







## The Drummer

*Tim Shaw*  
Outer Estate

Tim Shaw's sculpture *The Drummer* was relocated to Eden's Outer Estate during the redevelopment of the Hall for Cornwall in Truro. The bronze sculpture contains Cornish tin and Cornish copper and was inspired by the steely resilience of Cornwall's men and boys, who mined tin for generations in the heat and darkness below ground and the fishermen that battle against the sea. It is the second of Shaw's pieces to be shown at Eden, joining the Mediterranean Biome's *The Rites of Dionysus*.



# Transformational programmes and learning projects

Eden is more than a visitor destination – our projects and learning programmes aim to stimulate, educate and empower across the generations, working locally and nationally with partners, governments and people like you.





# Education

Education is at the heart of what we do. We offer learning opportunities from preschool to degree level and beyond to connect people of all ages with the natural world and help them to understand their place within it. We also provide leadership programmes for businesses and community training for people who want to roll up their sleeves and make a difference.





## Schools

School and university visits to Eden were maintained at the previous year's high levels until the impacts of the Coronavirus pandemic were first felt on bookings in March 2020. A total of 48,124 students visited Eden during 2019/20. Our programme was enriched with specific GCSE and A level-linked workshops, developed in partnership with colleagues at Camborne Science & International Academy and Exeter University. In Eden's Outer Estate, young people involved in the Game Changer careers programme for those not currently in education or employment constructed both a polytunnel and roundhouse and nurtured crops and wildflower seedlings. Off-site, our Education Team worked with Eden Project Learning students on improving Indian Queens School's grounds and outdoor spaces, and still further afield they returned to Hong Kong for a second year in November 2019 to work with Eden's partners AFTEC (Absolutely Fabulous Theatre Education Connection) and to contribute to their annual festival.







## School Strike

2019 was the year of the school strike led by the #FridaysForFuture movement. On 20 September at least 7.6 million people walked out of school and work to call for decisive action on climate change. At Eden, we've always aimed to engage the widest possible audience and inspire people with the possibilities, not just the challenges ahead. While we support people's right to protest, we wanted to make sure that everyone felt involved, so Eden responded to the school strike by opening its doors to people who want to prevent serious climate change without resorting to superglue and reaching out to school children who didn't necessarily have the means or opportunity to go on strike.

This two-pronged approach saw our Schools and Science Teams literally get on their bikes to take the climate change message to schools across the county, while back here at Eden we invited people to join us at a specially curated Make the Change event.



Working with the villagers, Sue and Pete Hill made *Ocean Dragon King* using local bamboo, rattan vines and waste plastic water bottles recovered from the beaches of Lantau.



## AFTEC Flow Festival, Shalowan, Hong Kong

The Schools Team returned to Hong Kong for a second year in November 2019 to work with Eden's partners AFTEC (Absolutely Fabulous Theatre Education Connection) and to contribute to their annual festival, held in the village of Shalowan, situated on an island just outside Hong Kong. We worked alongside the HotHouse Team, and Eden Project International's Sue Hill and her brother, Pete, who are both artists in their own right.

The festival celebrates the importance of art in regeneration and the power of working creatively, together with and in nature. This year's theme was 'Flow' and we were asked to deliver a series of school workshops and teacher training sessions based around water. We broke with tradition by bringing the schools to the island rather than visiting them. We took teachers and pupils exploring along the coastline and upstream, doing activities and games to highlight the global and local importance of water. It went down well, despite the differences in circumstance, culture and language, showing that the approach we've developed over the past 20 years translates well. It turns out a fascination with nature and telling stories is something we all have in common.



## Indian Queens Primary redevelopment

In 2019, the headteacher of Indian Queens Primary School, an ASPIRE multi-academy trust, invited Eden to help develop the field beside their school into the best possible landscape for children aged 5 to 11 years. Working with students and teachers, the Eden Team helped uncover what it was that the school wanted to be able to do in that space.

The design includes an outdoor classroom, fire circle, raised beds for planting, gathering spaces for small groups to whole classes. Sand, wildflower meadows, native hedges and trees provide spaces to hide and loose parts for creative, imaginative play. The topography invites children to climb, crawl, roll, hide, balance and explore. An all-weather path connects it all and allows children to complete their Daily Mile. The landscape offers flexibility and 'invitations' to play and learn that can be reimaged over and over again.

Indian Queens Primary School, supported by the ASPIRE Estates Team, is now working to make it real.





Eden is a delivery partner for Rio's Game Changer programme, but a large and busy leisure and tourism setting was not the best place for them to volunteer in the hope of leading to employment or training. So, we devised our own approach, inspired by our staff induction programme.

## Game Changer

Between January and June 2019, Vounder Farm Field was transformed into a productive training garden with a roundhouse communal space. What's most astonishing is not what's been achieved but who achieved it. The transformation was the work of young people who had been largely written off by society – excluded from school or college and living with anxiety, depression or behavioural conditions and learning disabilities.

Even more surprisingly not one of the 41 young people who have worked in the training garden over 340 sessions has displayed any of the behaviour that caused their exclusions from school or college or the loss of their jobs.

'Game Changer has reduced my anxiety and my medication and helped me towards starting a supported internship at Eden.'

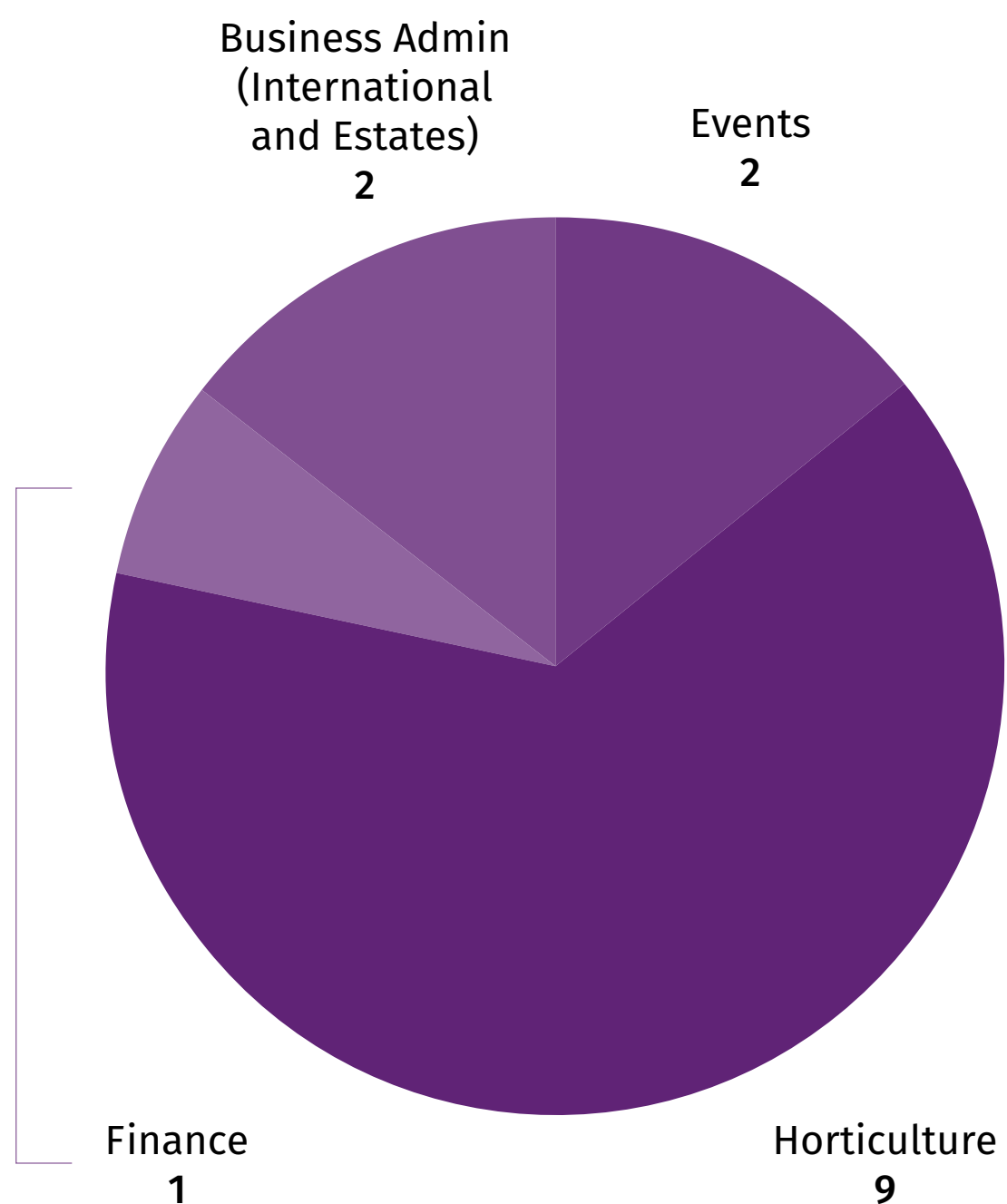
Jordon, Game Change participant





## Apprenticeships

Eden's award-winning apprenticeship programme has been running since 2014. The programme is run in partnership with Cornwall College and Truro & Penwith College and offers horticulture, events management, and commis chef apprenticeships. In addition, Eden offers apprenticeships in HR, finance, graphic design, media/PR, as well as trades-based apprenticeships in carpentry, vehicle maintenance and electrics.

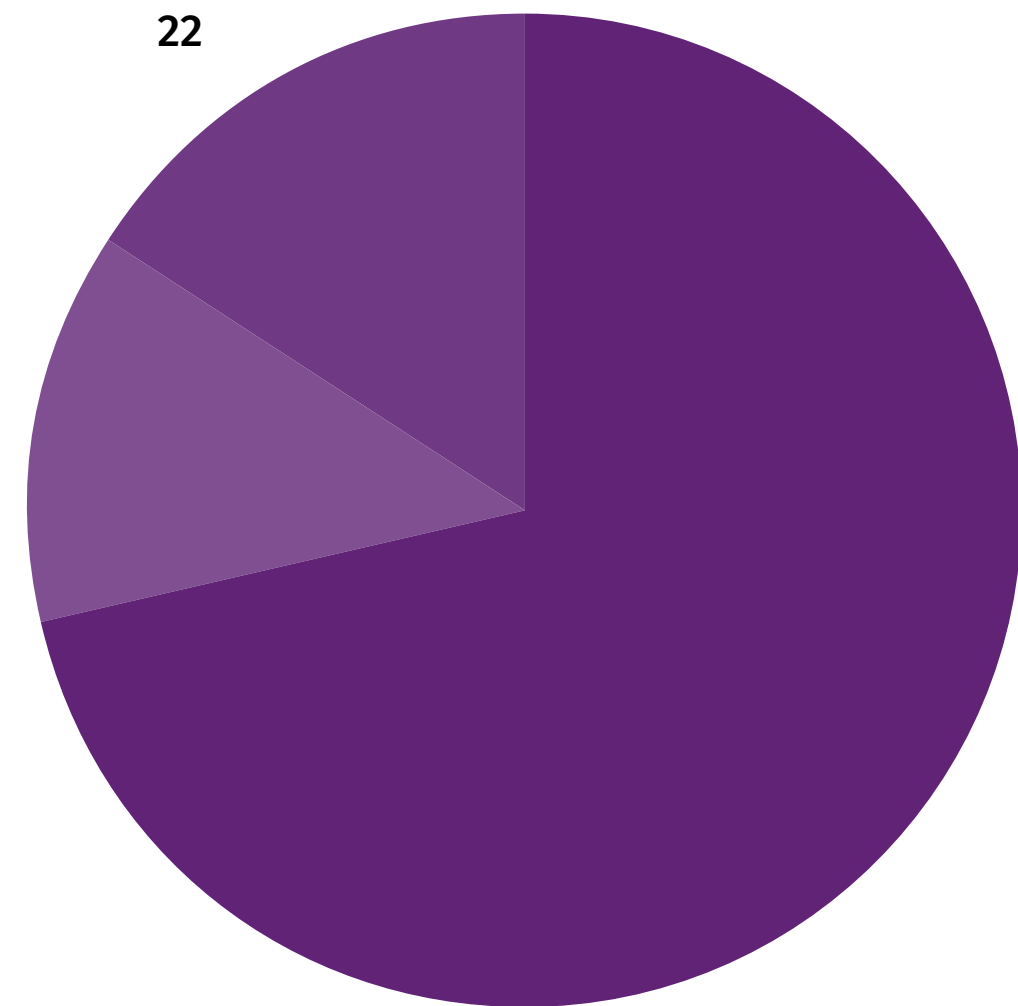




## Eden Project Learning

Eden Project Learning offers a growing portfolio of specialist Higher Education programmes in partnership with Cornwall College, and the Universities of Plymouth and Anglia Ruskin. In the academic year 2019-20, 118 students started undergraduate degrees at Eden, enrolled on courses including garden and landscape design, horticulture, and event management. Another 22 students completed two postgraduate programmes – MSc Sustainability, and a successful first year of delivery for a new MSc in Land and Ecological Restoration. Our students established the UK's first Society for Ecological Restoration Student Association as a vehicle for practical conservation and science outreach within our locality.

Sustainability,  
and Ecological  
Restoration  
22



Event  
Management  
18

Horticulture,  
Plant Science &  
Garden and  
Landscape Design  
100



'On the eve of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, there is a growing demand for courses that emphasise conservation optimism, sustainable and restorative horticultural practices. Eden Project Learning is growing to meet this need with a suite of applied HE programmes aligned to Eden's ethos.'

Dr Mark Nason, Academic Lead for Eden Project Learning



## Educator Status Awarded

Eden Project Learning was awarded Educator Status by the Society of Garden Designers, the only professional association for both practices and individual designers. To achieve accreditation, institutions are scrutinised to ensure their courses are of the highest professional standard, and that the skills, understanding and knowledge gained by the students are relevant and increase their employability.





## HotHouse

HotHouse is Eden's personal development and organisational training programme in leadership, creativity and sustainability, used by companies like Pukka Teas, Lush, Ella's Kitchen and Riverford Organic Farms.

This year saw a new programme open to individuals. The Creative Edge of Change is a nature-based retreat designed to inspire leaders to hone their creative edge, unlock answers and spark fresh responses to some of the great challenges of our time. A shorter, 2-night programme, the Creative Edge of Change is for people from different organisations and sectors who want to be a force for good in their business and community.

In 2019/20 HotHouse also delivered its core programme The Nature of Leadership at Noble Garden, Cheng Du, Sichuan Province, China and a series of HotHouse workshops in Hong Kong for AFTEC at their outdoor festival in conjunction with our Schools Team.





# Eden Project Communities

Eden is a testament to the power of ordinary people working together. The range and scale of the environmental challenges the world faces today are intimidating, but we believe that strong communities have an important part to play in overcoming them.

At Eden, community means using our site to support local people of all ages to get out in nature, and working nationally and internationally to bring people together through campaigns like the Big Lunch. We also use our experience and site to support other campaigns and charitable causes like Sleep Out.





## The Big Lunch

Supported by the National Lottery, our flagship programme, the Big Lunch, continues to go from strength to strength, with millions of people making friendships and making a difference to the places they live.

[edenproject.com/big-lunch](https://edenproject.com/big-lunch)





# THE BIG LUNCH IS...

# BIG



**OVER 91,000**  
BIG LUNCHES TOOK PLACE ALL  
OVER THE UK IN JUNE AND  
MANY MORE HAPPENED OVER  
THE SUMMER

**ON AVERAGE  
OVER 6 MILLION  
PEOPLE  
TAKE PART EVERY YEAR**



**3.8M** PEOPLE SAY THE  
BIG LUNCH HELPED THEM  
FEEL LESS LONELY

**73%**  
OF PEOPLE WHO ATTEND  
A BIG LUNCH REPORT  
FEELING PROUDER OF  
WHERE THEY LIVE

**71%** FEEL CLOSER TO  
THEIR NEIGHBOURS AND MORE  
CONFIDENT ABOUT GETTING  
INVOLVED IN COMMUNITY  
ACTIVITIES



# IMPORTANT



**4 MILLION**  
NEW FRIENDSHIPS MADE AS  
A RESULT OF THE BIG LUNCH  
THIS YEAR

# FUN

**78%**  
BELIEVE THEIR  
NEIGHBOURHOOD IS A  
FRIENDLIER PLACE

**92%** OF ORGANISERS  
SAY THAT THE BIG LUNCH  
CREATES STRONGER  
COMMUNITIES IN THE UK

**4M PEOPLE**  
FEEL THEY BELONG MORE  
IN THEIR COMMUNITY

**£8.2M** WAS RAISED  
AT BIG LUNCHES, WITH  
**66%** OF FUNDRAISERS  
CHOOSING A LOCAL  
CHARITY OR CAUSE TO  
GIVE THE MONEY TO

# BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER



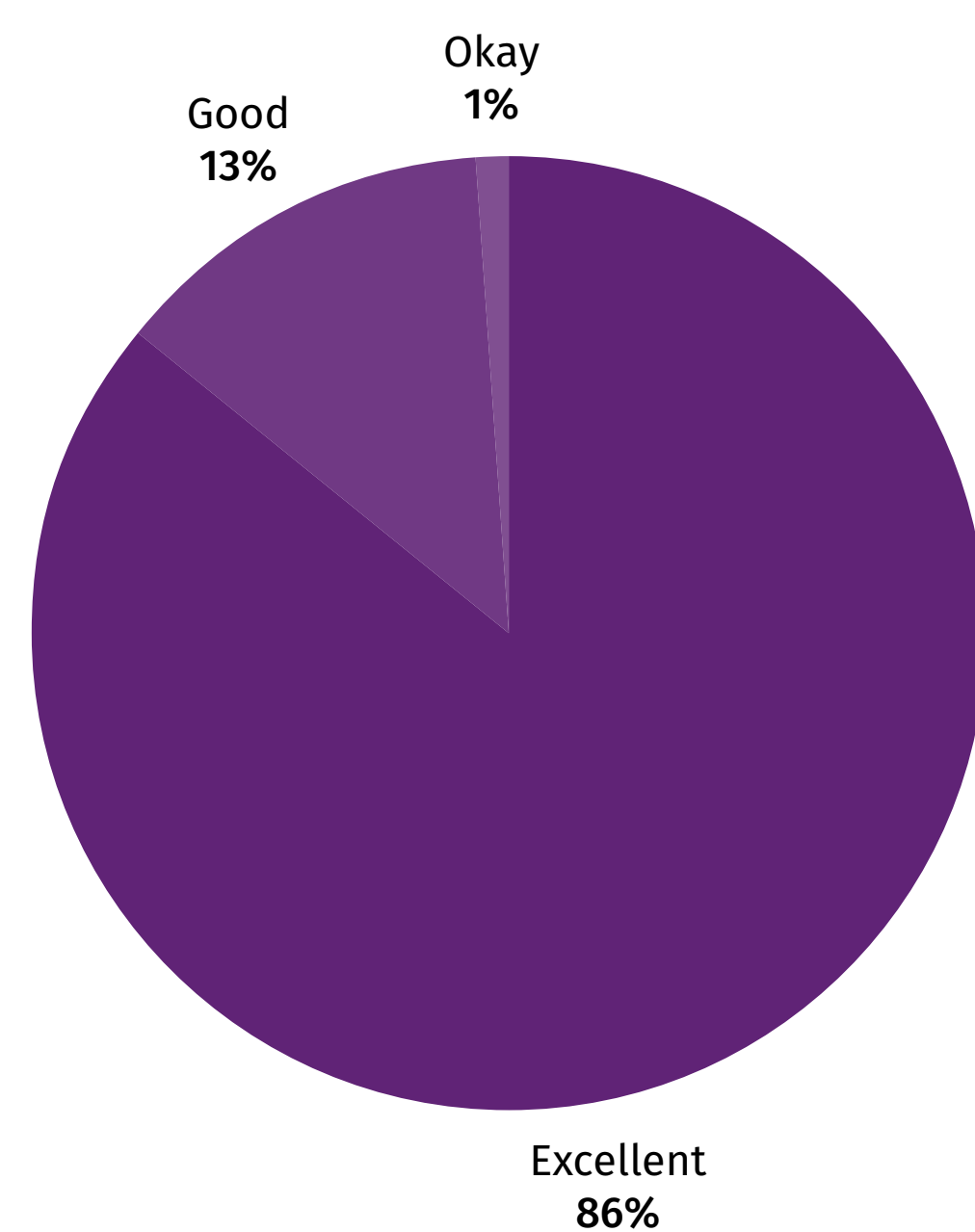
an eden project THE NATIONAL LOTTERY



## Community Camps

The Eden Communities team ran two community camps in the autumn of 2019 featuring inspiring presentations from experts and practitioners from across the UK. Although the third camp scheduled for March 2020 was cancelled owing to the pandemic the team went back to the drawing board with plans to deliver a digital programme in 2020.

Overall Community Camp rating:





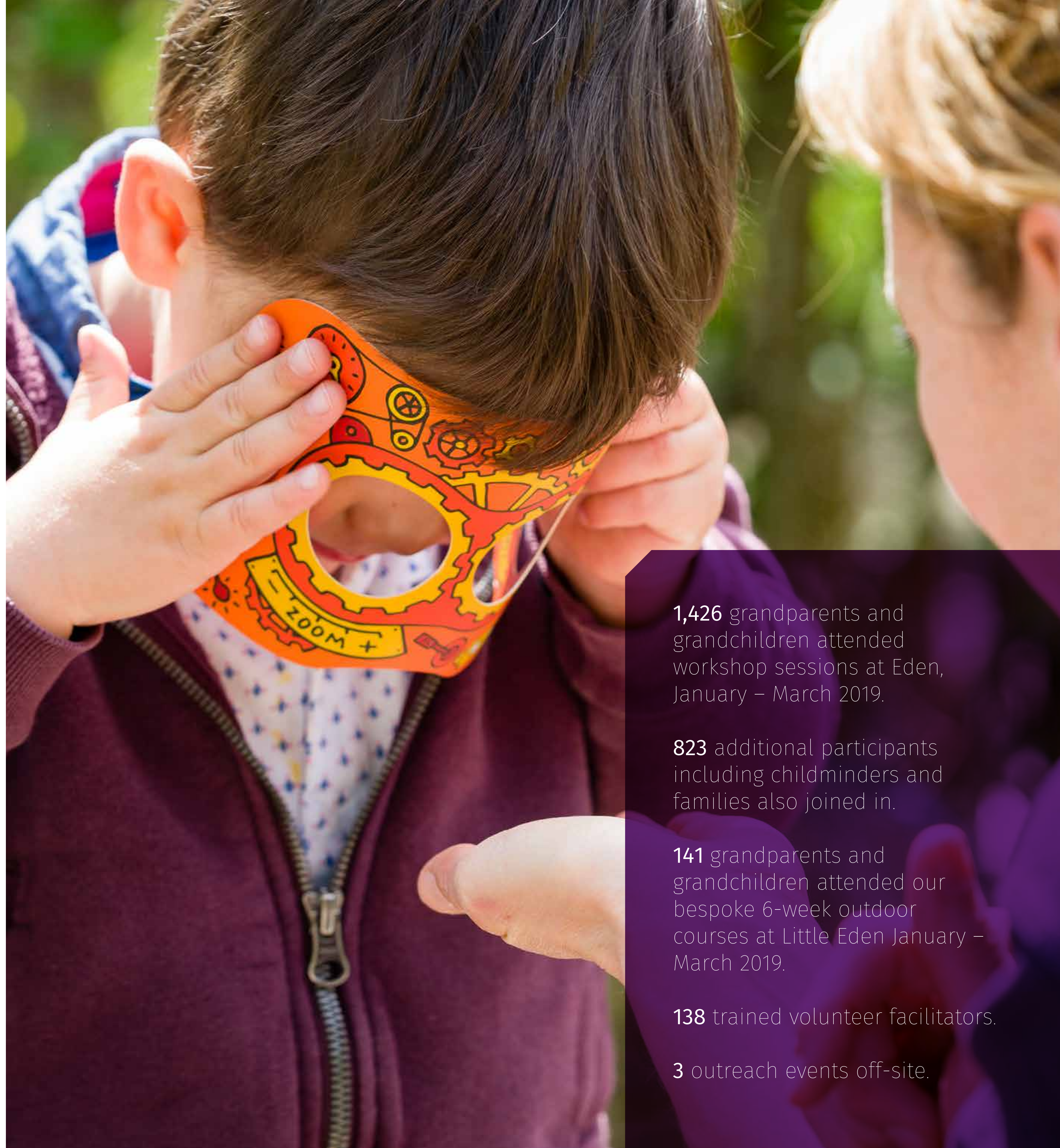
## Development Projects

### Deep Roots, New Shoots

The Deep Roots New Shoots programme was created to bring under-fives and their grandparents closer to nature.

In 2019/20 the external evaluation of the programme was completed. It was designed to help ensure the Deep Roots New Shoots pilot was on a robust footing and capable of delivering on its objectives. Evaluated by Jo Graham, an early-years education expert, the feedback enabled the programme to finesse its workshops and delivery, and saw the creation of a 'how-to' guide for other visitor attractions who want to work with grandparents and grandchildren.

Deep Roots also extended its reach with a new offshoot project, which supports younger parents thanks to funding by the Masonic Charitable Foundation, while enhanced impact funding from Nesta allowed us to develop a partnership with the National Maritime Museum Cornwall; run outreach events in Eden's neighbouring villages and develop a five-year sustainable business plan with Meta-Value.



**1,426** grandparents and grandchildren attended workshop sessions at Eden, January – March 2019.

**823** additional participants including childminders and families also joined in.

**141** grandparents and grandchildren attended our bespoke 6-week outdoor courses at Little Eden January – March 2019.

**138** trained volunteer facilitators.

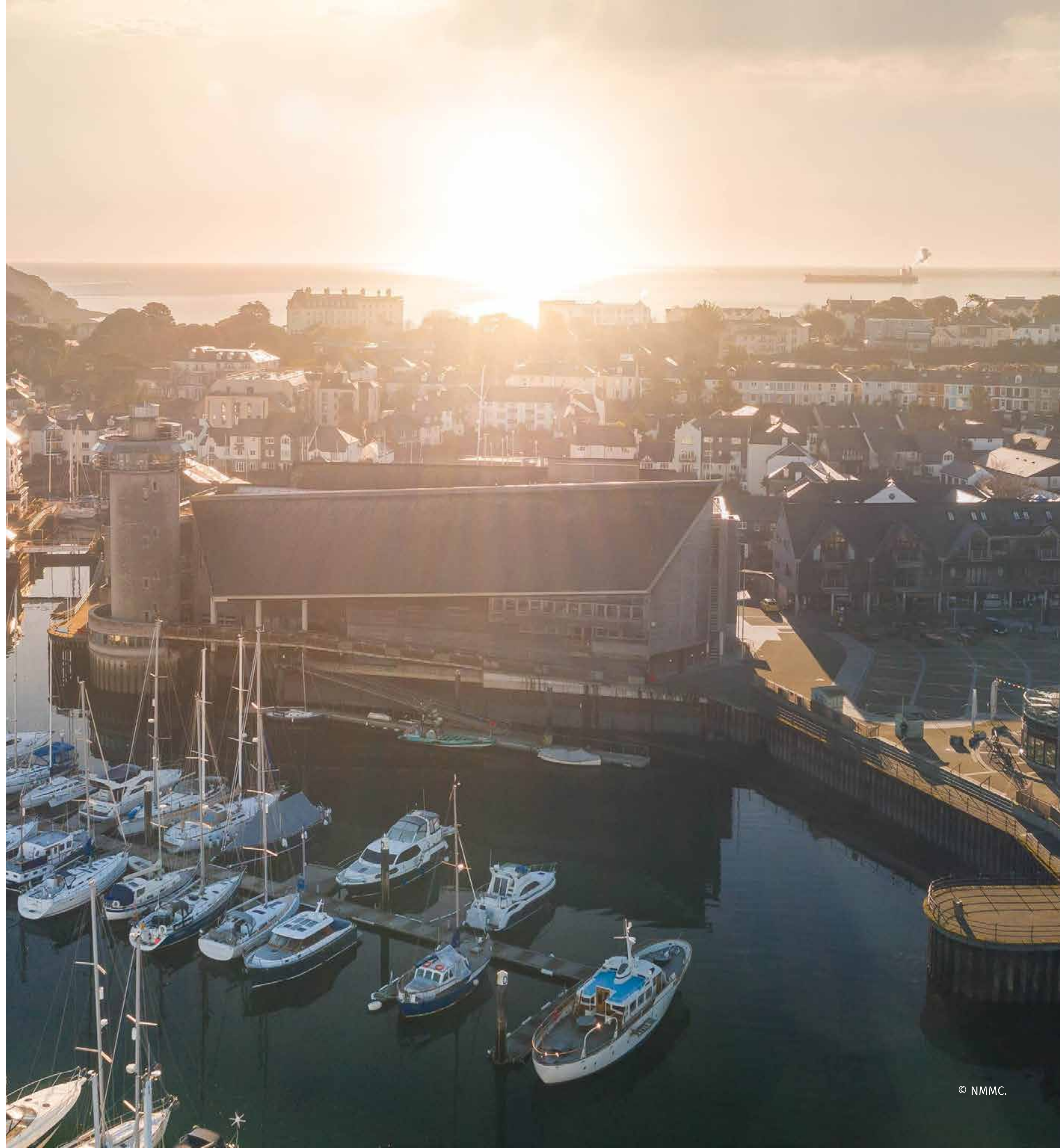
**3** outreach events off-site.



## Minnows Explorers

Enhanced Impact funding from Nesta enabled Deep Roots to partner with The National Maritime Museum Cornwall (NMMC) and share our knowledge of working with grandparents and under-fives. This enabled NMMC to develop their own session for grandparents and grandchildren. Called Minnows Explorers, the session encourages families to actively explore the museum. It was facilitated by volunteers who had attended training at Eden and had the opportunity to meet Eden's Deep Roots New Shoots volunteers. Eden was supporting NMMC in developing trails and learning tools for self-led visits when the pandemic began, and since then we have shared our experience of developing digital tools.

**244** people attended Minnows Explorers sessions of whom **133** were grandparents and grandchildren.





## Deep Roots Outreach

Nesta's Enhanced Impact funding also enabled us to run three outreach events in community venues in Eden's neighbouring villages. The villages were selected because they were areas with high deprivation scores. These events encouraged families to appreciate and make use of the natural world on their doorsteps and also promoted Deep Roots sessions for under-fives with their grandparents. For six weeks following the event, the Eden minibus travelled to neighbouring villages to collect families without access to transport so they could attend Deep Roots New Shoots Sessions at Eden.





## Running wild

In 2019 we teamed up with the #iwill campaign to inspire youth social action that could benefit the environment. Through this collaboration, we created 1,000 #iwill4nature kits with enough resources for 35,000 children to connect with nature and demonstrate leadership that enables our environment to thrive. A digital resource kit was also developed and continues to be promoted through our Eden Project Communities website.





## Nature's Way

Eden's Nature's Way social prescribing programme won *Horticulture Week's* Best Community Health/Wellbeing project in 2019.

Set up in 2016, in partnership with St Austell Healthcare, Nature's Way has developed a series of activities including a lunch club, health walks for people suffering from diabetes, COPD and other conditions, and created a garden for therapeutic horticulture sessions.

[edenproject.com/naturesway](http://edenproject.com/naturesway)

120 walkers

20 volunteer walk leaders

20 regular lunch club members





## Ecology

Twenty years ago, Eden was a sterile pit; today it is literally full of life. Conservation is important, but it's not enough. We need to regenerate lost landscapes and make them sustainable through a combination of creative, social and economic approaches. Working with partners from across the world and from up the road, our projects use cutting-edge science to conserve and regenerate endangered landscapes. Here at Eden, we use our Lab to engage the public using residencies.





## GROW Colombia

Colombia is one of the world's most mega-diverse countries and also home to the greatest diversity of birds and orchids anywhere on the planet. GROW Colombia is a 4-year project to conserve biodiversity by strengthening Colombian research capacity in biological sciences and socioeconomics. Led by the Earlham Institute, the project involves a range of organisations in Colombia and the UK, including the Eden Project. Eden is helping support the organisations and researchers on the ground in Colombia bring the project's amazing stories of biodiversity to life for people in Colombia and the UK.

### GROW Colombia Public Engagement Workshop

In November 2019, members of Eden's Development Team created and delivered a public engagement workshop in Bogotá and established a public engagement network for scientific, arts and educational organisations in Colombia.

### Pop-up engagement

Eden hosted the GROW Colombia team for a 2-day pop-up engagement featuring research on cacao, sugar and the Andean bear. The event attracted over 1,500 visitors through the Lab who were invited to create their own Lego® DNA sequences among other activities.

### Outdoor Classroom Day 2019

Eden collaborated with United Way Colombia to support Outdoor Classroom Day Colombia, which saw participation from over 19,000 young people from 57 municipalities and 14 cities.





## The Great Hive Mind

Made from reclaimed scaffolding poles, a new observation hive, *The Great Hive Mind*, was opened to the public and a colony of around 25,000 European dark honeybees. The European dark honeybee (*Apis mellifera mellifera*) is the only honeybee that originates from the UK and as such, it is well-adapted to our environment. Pollinators like honeybees are in decline making initiatives like this essential.





## Pips in space

In 2015, pips from the apple tree that is said to have inspired Sir Isaac Newton's theory of gravity were blasted into space with astronaut Tim Peake as part of the Principia mission to the International Space Station. After six months floating in microgravity, they were returned to Earth where they were cultivated by scientists at Wakehurst, Kew's wild botanic garden in Sussex. Four years later, one of the trees from the mission landed at Eden where it was planted.





# Future Plans

Eden is always evolving. In this section, you'll find a selection of our plans for the year ahead (2019/20) some of which have been years in the making and others that are reacting to current challenges.





## The Korea Garden

The pandemic may have prevented its launch, but our new Korea Garden had already started to take shape before the first lockdown began. Two *jangsueng*, talismanic wooden figures traditionally found on the outskirts of Korean villages, were installed in the winter of 2019, and much of the site's structure was put in place, including the initial planting.

Living Landscapes Manager, Julie Kendall, is typically relaxed about the delay, as she says it gives the plants more time to establish. The 2021 launch should be truly spectacular.



## The Veld

A new area featuring the plants of the South African veld will open in the Outdoor Gardens at Eden in the summer of 2020 – ahead of schedule despite the pandemic. Rather than recreate a specific habitat, the aim is to create one of the biggest outdoor displays of South African plants in the UK.



Florence Mansbridge in South Africa researching the plants she will use in the veld display. Her research trip was kindly funded by the RHS and the Cornwall Garden Society.  
Inset: Florence planting up the new display at Eden.



# Eden Project International

At a time of environmental decline and social disruption, Eden Project International aims to deliver social and ecological benefits by working in partnership with like-minded organisations around the world on the development of Eden Project visitor attractions and selected wild-site projects. These new Edens will focus on the global challenges that face specific localities, such as soil, water, food and biodiversity.





## Eden Project North

Eden Project North will be a seaside resort for the 21st Century. A series of mussel-shaped pavilions capable of housing a variety of environments will be built on Morecambe's seafront.

In June 2019, the Environmental Impact Assessment scoping report, the first formal step in the planning process, was submitted. In September, the design team completed the Project Definition Document which defines the essence of Eden Project North – what it will contain and the themes it will address.

In November, the then Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rt Hon. Sajid Javid MP, visited Morecambe and reaffirmed his support for the project. The business case was submitted to HM Treasury in February 2020 with a request for government funding.

### Arts programme

We received 46 applications in response to our open call public-arts programme in May 2019. Funding was awarded to three projects by regional artists, Daniel Bye, Becky Burns and Bethany Wells, which were realised over the following year in Morecambe Bay.

### Public engagement

In October 2019, over 2,000 people attended our open engagement events held in a series of venues across Morecambe. The events were designed to gauge the community's response to plans for Eden Project North and collect feedback to help shape the direction of the project. When asked whether they were in favour of Eden Project North, 99% of attendees agreed. The public also wants Eden Project North to maintain the environmental focus of its sister project in Cornwall and offered ideas for specific events including live music and art installations.





## Foyle River

February 2020 saw the official launch of Eden Project Foyle in Derry~Londonderry, an ambitious plan to transform a 100-hectare site alongside the River Foyle into a unique cultural and environmental tourist attraction.

At the centre of the proposed project sits a spectacular building known as the Acorn, inspired by Neolithic architecture. Other plans for the site include walled gardens, tree-top and floating walkways, a water activity centre and further play areas.

'It has been amazing to get such a positive reaction from the people of Derry~Londonderry. The community has really bought into the project, and it really feels like it has huge momentum behind it now.'

Dan James, Eden's Development Director





## Eden Qingdao

Design has continued to progress at a pace with enabling works underway on the site and the development of the visitor experience. Visitors to Eden Project Qingdao will journey through dramatic landscapes of water abundance and extreme aridity, surrounded by theatrical performances and interactive installations. These will explore different aspects of water, from the microscopic life forms that can exist in a single drop of water to the thunderclaps of a storm cloud.

In August 2019, the Eden Project International team were delighted to host Qingdao Project director, Mr Wang, in Cornwall during his visit to the UK. This trip was of enormous significance as it was the first occasion any of the Qingdao team had visited the Eden Project.





# The National Wildflower Centre

Part of the Eden Project since 2018, the National Wildflower Centre (NWC), is devising new programmes with the bold ambition of reversing ecological decline and bringing wildflowers back into the UK's living culture. Above all, the aim is to use wildflowers to bring biodiversity, delight and colour into the lives of communities, bridging social divides.





## **A30 Link Road consultation and planning**

The National Wildflower Centre is working with Cornwall Council to ensure the new A30 Link Road becomes the greenest possible gateway to the Eden site and St Austell town by creating over 18 hectares of new wildflower, woodland, and heathland habitat. The NWC is creating a series of wildflower mixes with the help of Griffiths Civil Engineering and Construction and Cornwall Council to line the new St Austell Link Road, a 4-mile single carriageway that will connect the old A30 near Victoria to the north and the A391 at Stenalees roundabout to the south.

As part of the project, NWC and Cornwall Council devised and held a series of community engagement events in local villages that will benefit from the new road and discussed ways in which complementary measures could create opportunities for small green spaces and social spaces alongside traffic-calming interventions.



## 'Wildflowering' with Prince William

In November 2019, the National Wildflower Centre gave an assembly at Anfield All Saints School, Liverpool, and agreed to help the children 'wildflower' Thirlmere Park, a small, unloved greenspace half a mile from the school. The project featured in the ITV special, *Prince William: A Planet for Us All* in 2020.





Celebrating the first phase of the project in the new wildflower meadows in St Agnes Park, Liverpool.

## A 'Scouse flower house'

Liverpool, the original home of the National Wildflower Centre, saw the first seeds sown of the Liverpool Wildflower Gateways Project in 2019. Funded by Liverpool City Council, the project is creating a network of wildflower displays that radiate out along the main routes into the city.



# Eden Geothermal

Eden Geothermal got the final go-ahead with the signature of a £9.9m European grant-funding agreement with the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government in October 2019. This was matched by £1.4m from Cornwall Council and £5.2m from an institutional investor. The grant funding will enable Eden Geothermal to drill a single 4.5km geothermal well at the site next to Eden's north gate and demonstrate that it can be used to heat Eden's Biomes and offices. The project should prove the resource's viability and pave the way for a second well and electricity plant. The team got busy with procurement and recruitment. International interest in the project brought Max Skerratt back from New Zealand to be our project manager, and with great good fortune, his family arrived in the UK on the last flight out of New Zealand on 22 March 2020.



# Regenerative Sustainability

At Eden, sustainability means regenerative sustainability: how we can generate more environmental, social and economic good. Not just minimising harm, but making things better, whether it is transforming a worked-out quarry into a global garden, creating jobs in an area of economic deprivation, or improving the wellbeing of individuals by providing opportunities for them to connect with nature.



## Energy & Carbon reporting for 2019/20

We are pleased to report a significant reduction in our overall carbon footprint, which decreased by 12% from 2018/19 and by 35% from our baseline year, 2012/13. With energy used to heat and power our Biomes and buildings making up nearly 90% of our overall footprint, we reaped the benefit of driving energy consumption down across the site and investing in more efficient kit – freezing our ice rink with a new super-efficient chiller generated carbon savings of 35 tonnes over the winter season. Ahead of Eden Project Geothermal's ground-breaking geothermal energy plant coming online, which will provide renewable heat to the Biomes, we have focussed on reducing gas consumption as much as possible, highlighted by the 14% reduction we achieved from 2018/19 by further fine-tuning our Building Management System (BMS).

Our teams reduced their business travel footprint during the year, adapting to remote methods of working to avoid unnecessary journeys. The further elements of our value chain's Scope 3 emissions will be an important focus over the coming years as we work with suppliers and partners to reduce the impact of their transport, goods and services, particularly as we embark on exciting new projects both in Cornwall and further afield. We continue to recycle all of our food waste for either compost use on-site or for anaerobic digestion to create green energy at a specialist waste plant and the amount of waste sent to landfill was further reduced in 2019/20.

2012/13 is our baseline year against which we compare performance.

The carbon emissions calculation for 2019/2020 is based on Defra 2019 greenhouse gas conversion factors. Well-to-tank emissions have been omitted for 2019/20 reporting in line with The Planet Mark's Code of Practice.

With regards to business travel, there are inconsistencies in the reported figures due to the lack of an accurate method of capturing distance travelled. We are resorting to our travel agent Key Travel for the most accurate available data. Until our in-house system is fully capturing distance travelled by rail, car and air.

		2019/2020		2018/2019		2012/2013	
	Source	Units	CO <sub>2</sub> e (t)	Units	CO <sub>2</sub> e (t)	Units	CO <sub>2</sub> e (t)
Energy	Electricity (kWh)	4,161,360.0	1,063.6	4,370,475.3	1237.2	4,764,421.0	2,191.7
	Gas (kWh)	4,953,562.0	910.7	5,766,439.0	1060.8	5,671,168.0	1,050.4
	Liquid Petroleum Gas (l) (building)	127,862.0	194.6	107,169.4	162.8	128,053.0	196.3
	Oil (l)	0	0	0	0	991.0	2.5
	Bottled Gas (building) (l)	2,828.3	4.2	6,504.0	1.4	1,923.0	3.0
	Renewable generation (kWh)	58,360.0	0	63,256.0	0	68,924.0	0.0
	<b>Total</b>		<b>2,173.2</b>		<b>2,462.1</b>		<b>3,443.8</b>
Fuel	Diesel (l)	6,593.0	17.1	7,624.7	20.0	38,834.4	100.3
	Gas oil (red diesel) (l)	27,465.0	75.8	23,636.0	70.2	0	0
	Petrol (l)	6,272.7	13.9	9,175.9	20.2	9,171.4	20.1
	LPG (l)	3,647.0	5.6	5,876.9	8.9	18,719.0	28.2
	<b>Total</b>		<b>112.3</b>		<b>119.4</b>		<b>148.7</b>
Refrigerants & catering gases	R134a (kg)	20.0	28.6	4.5	6.4	4.1	5.3
	R404a (kg)	1.3	5.1	13.3	52.3	3.8	12.4
	R417a(kg)	8.3	19.5	0	0	0	0
	CO2 (l)	0	0	275.4	0.3	0	0
	R410a (kg)	0	0	1.8	3.8	0	0
	R452a (kg)	0	0	0	0	0	0
	CO2 (kg)	0	0	275.4	0.3	0	0
	R290	0.1	0		<b>63.0</b>		<b>17.7</b>
	R449a	5.7	8.0				
<b>Total</b>		<b>63.0</b>					
Business travel	Rail (km)	31,572.0	1.3	30,209.0	1.3	30,209.0	1.3
	Car (km)	145,447.7	25.8	218,856.3	40.1	218,812.5	41.4
	Domestic flights (passenger km)	6,058.4	1.5	8,119.0	1.3	84,804.5	24.9
	Short-haul flights (passenger km)	1,015.9	0.2	3,032.0	0.3	10,851.5	1.8
	Long-haul flights (passenger km)	121,389.8	18.9	373,655.0	42.0	177,655.0	37.3
	International flights (passenger km)	4,809.1	0.7	79,421.0	7.7	0	0
	<b>Total</b>		<b>48.3</b>		<b>92.6</b>		<b>106.7</b>
Water	Mains water supply (m3)	19,246.3	6.6	19,985.0	6.9	13,393.0	4.6
	Water treatment (m3)	25,199.8	17.8	26,515.0	18.8	25,127.0	17.8
	Rain & groundwater usage (m3)	58,649.0	0	64,605.7	0	11,734.0	0
	<b>Total</b>		<b>24.5</b>		<b>25.6</b>		<b>22.4</b>
Waste	Food - anaerobic digestion (tonnes)	66.5	0.7	57.9	1.2	5.7	0.0
	Food - compost (tonnes)	20.2	0.2	32.6	0.3		
	Recycled (tonnes)	245.4	5.2	246.5	5.3	206.4	4.5
	Energy recovery (tonnes)	108.5	2.3	118.8	2.5	0.0	0.0
	Clinical & Haz waste (tonnes)	6	0.1	6	0.1	10.1	4.0
	Landfill (tonnes)	17.8	1.8	26.3	2.6	161.1	45.1
	<b>Total</b>		<b>12.1</b>		<b>12.1</b>		<b>8.5</b>
	<b>Total (tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e)</b>		<b>2,429.7</b>		<b>2,775.0</b>		<b>3,747.8</b>

Compared to last year: **12%↓** Compared to baseline year: **35%↓**



# Financial Reporting





2019/20 was another good year for the Eden Project. The staff at Bodelva, Cornwall have worked hard to improve upon the 2018/19 performance; this came to fruition with a cash surplus from trading of more than £2.1 million in the past financial year. Visitor numbers were slightly down on 2018/19, but visitor income increased by 3.8% compared to the previous year.

2019/20 saw Eden continuing to make big investments in staff, exhibits and infrastructure.

Annual accounts for Eden Project Limited show that the trading cash surplus of £2.16 million was an increase on the 2018/19 figure of £1.64 million; the result was back to the levels achieved in the 2017/18 financial year.

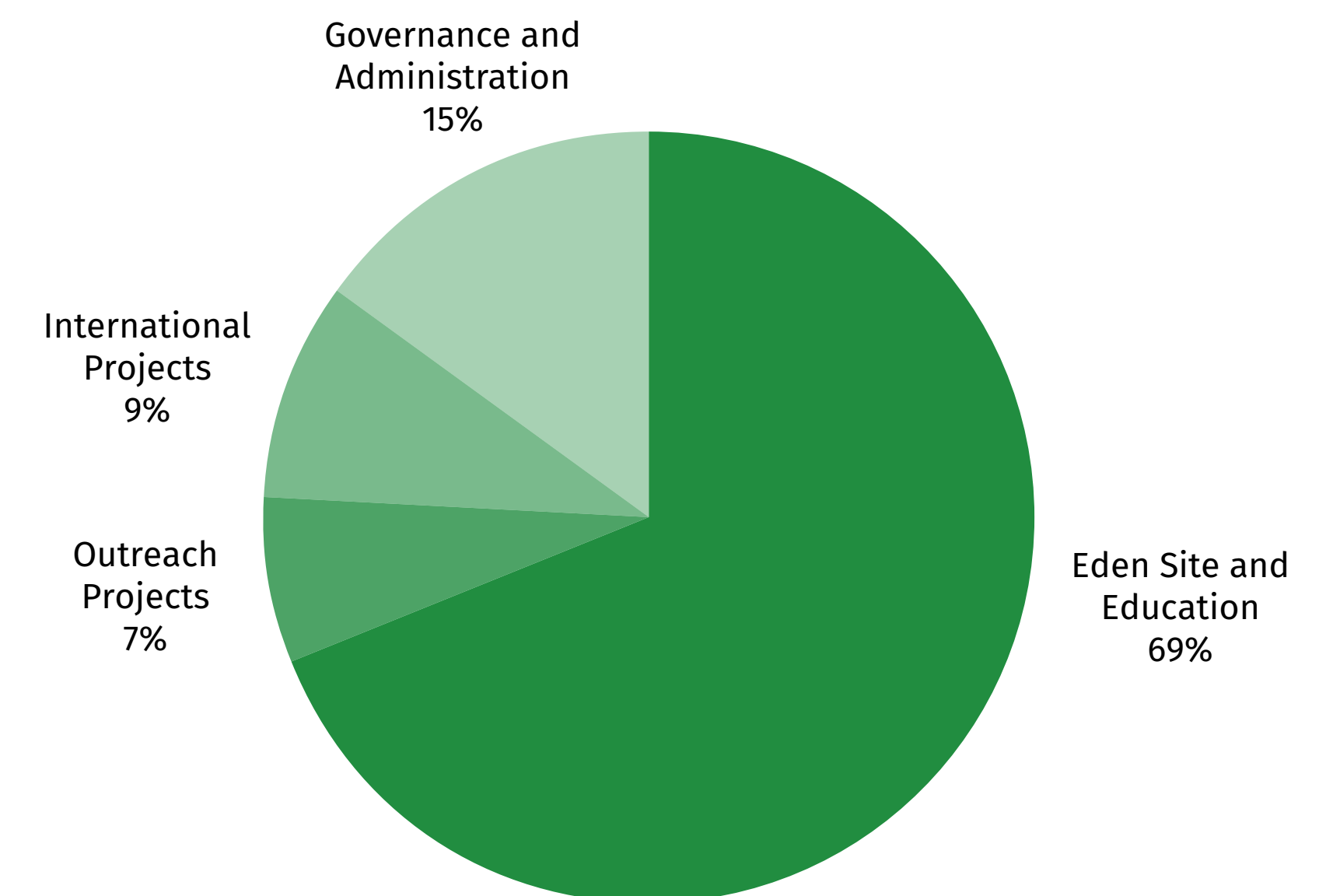
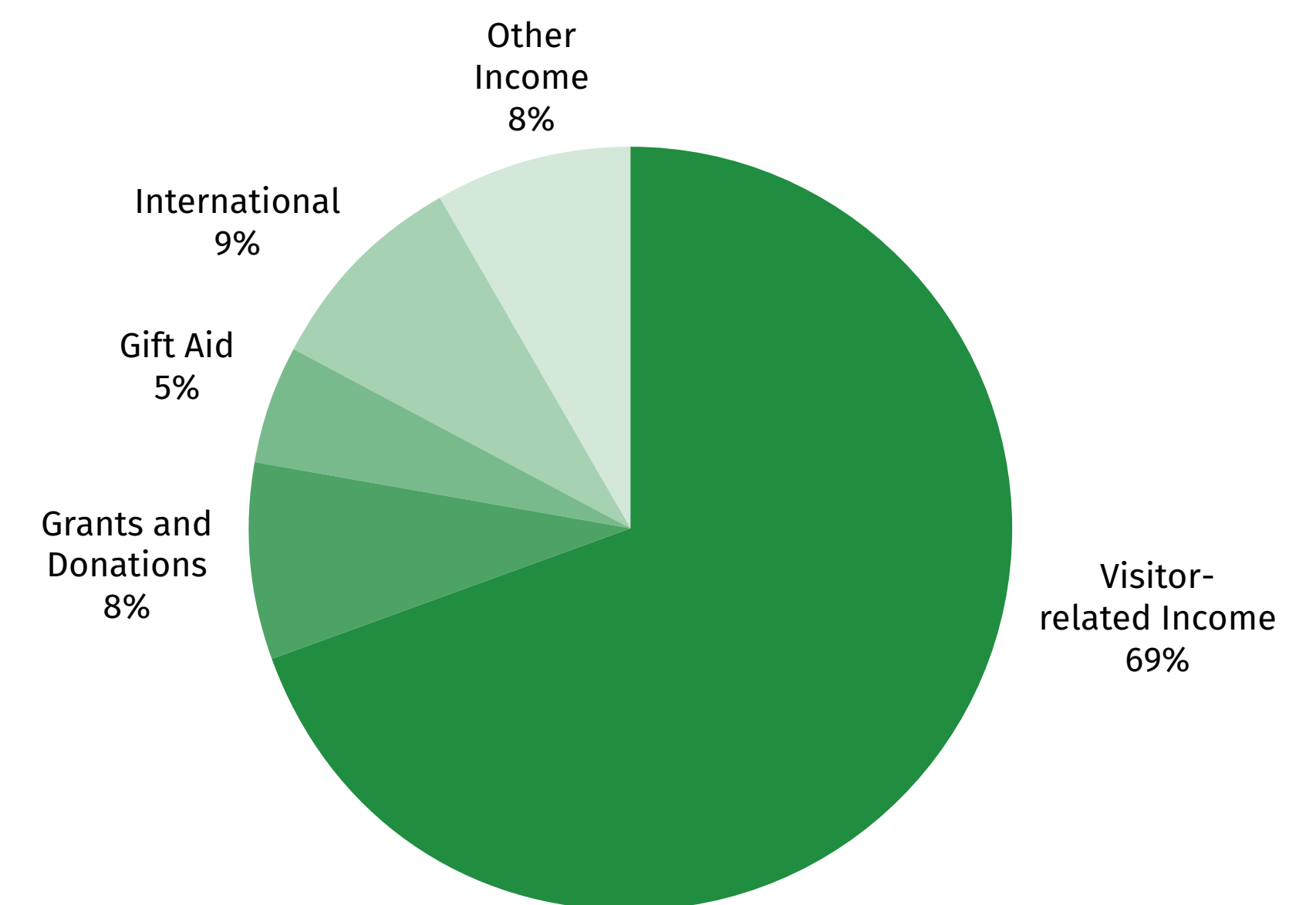
The company's payroll costs have continued to increase as it has again met and exceeded the requirements of the National Living Wage; the

company has budgeted increases of at least 6.2% for those employees benefitting from the increase due to take effect from April 2020.

Any surplus generated from the visitor destination and associated income streams is used to support investment in the site, maintenance, Eden educational programmes and debt repayment.

The surplus is not sufficient to cover all of Eden's ambitions like many charitable organisations we seek the support of governments, charitable trusts, grants and donations to continue the work of delivering the Eden message across the globe.

The impact of COVID-19 restrictions hit the final month of the financial year, but the government's restrictions were felt more severely in the 2020/21 financial year commencing in April 2020.



Eden Project Group Accounts	Mar-20 Group Actual YTD £000s	Mar-19 Group Actual YTD £000s
Group Earnings before interest	2,145	1,742
(Reduction)/Increase in net current liabilities	(568)	(217)
<b>Net Cash Inflow from Core Activities</b>	<b>1,577</b>	<b>1,525</b>
Net Interest Paid	(182)	(300)
Net Investment in Fixed assets	(766)	(1,355)
Receipt from Sale of Investment	1,700	
Loan and Lease Advances	-	4,740
Loan and Lease Repayments	(1,813)	(3,704)
<b>Net Cash (Outflow)/Inflow</b>	<b>516</b>	<b>906</b>





EDEN TEAM 2020

# Our People

Eden Team photo taken at the annual Eden Gathering, January 2020.



## Sunday Times – Top 100 Best Companies

Eden completed its first Best Companies survey in 2018 and now runs the survey on alternate years. While Eden didn't make the Top 100 in its first survey, it was considered 'One to Watch'. The survey data gave us insight into the areas where we were doing well and those on which we needed to focus our energies. Following an L&D Strategy and a Wellbeing Strategy, in 2020 we were delighted to have earned a place in the Not-for-profit section of the Top 100 Best Companies. To reach this point was a huge achievement. A shift change over two years significantly increased employee engagement levels. We celebrated this success with a team of Eden colleagues at the awards ceremony that took place in February 2020.

## Pay Review 2019

For the first time in many years, we supported a company-wide pay review that went beyond the increase to the statutory minimum wage levels. We were able to apply increases of 4–5% in Bands 1–4 and 2% for all bands above this up to Band 10/Executive Pay. Additionally, we chose to introduce the National Living Wage for staff aged 21 rather than 25 as per government requirements. We also announced that all Eden employees would receive their birthday off each year.

## Wellbeing and Mental Health Strategy

Eden's Wellbeing and Mental Strategy was first developed in 2018 but delivered more structured activity throughout this financial year.

Four areas were developed for activities supporting holistic wellbeing in the workplace, these were Personal, Mental, Financial, and Physical.

Each of these areas features a responsive programme of content and activities to support our employees' overall wellbeing. This approach became an essential support facility for all employees when the pandemic struck in March 2020.

We formally launched the Eden Mental Health First Aid Team and trained 30 employees across a variety of levels to qualify as MHFAW. This team provided invaluable support to colleagues through the first months of the pandemic and beyond.

## Eden Talent Programme

We introduced an end-to-end development programme for Eden employees providing a progressive pathway from apprenticeships to leadership. Each pathway features a structured programme and underpinned formal education ranging from levels 2 – 7. We also obtained the Institute of Leadership and Management (ILM) accreditation for our in-house management programme that has been developed at Foundation, Intermediate and Advanced levels. The programme formally launched in January 2020. Although the pandemic has meant the deferral of some stages, it has been running in the background, as training is permitted during furlough. We will have a celebratory launch when this is appropriate.

## Eden Coaching and Mentoring Programme

A new formal network of coaches and mentors, trained by the Institute of Leadership and Management, has been created to complement the Eden Talent Programme (ETP). Participants in the ETP are paired with a coach and/or mentor depending on their needs, who supports their development and helps manage their developmental learning and experience. This team has also offered support to staff who aren't enrolled in the formal programme, but who may have a specific need or help with coaching on an area on a short-term basis.



# Our Trustees and Directors

## The Eden Trust

### Chairman

Edward Benthall

### Trustees

Jonathan Drori

Sir Ferrers Vyvyan

Geoffrey Austin

Professor Adam Beaumont

Kevin Havelock

Dame Georgina Mace

### Resignations

Penny Parker (*resigned 19 September 2019*)

Richard Reid (*resigned 19 September 2019*)

## The Eden Project Ltd board

Eden Project Limited is managed by a Board of Executive and Non-executive Directors.

### Non-executive chair

Sanjeev Gandhi

### Directors

Sir Tim Smit KBE, Executive Vice-chair

Simon Bellamy, Interim Managing Director

Peter Stewart MVO, Executive director

Peter Wroe, CFO

Angela Marshall, Non-executive director

Caroline White, Non-executive director

Christian Wilson, Non-executive director

Katey Adderley, Non-executive director

Ashley Highfield, Non-executive director

### Resignations

Gordon Seabright, CEO

(*resigned 15 January 2020*)

Mike Maunder, board director

(*resigned 31 May 2019*)

## Eden Project International Ltd board

Eden Project International Ltd (EPIL) is an entity formed as part of the Eden Trust, created to drive the establishment of Eden Projects around the world.

### Co-chairs

Chairman Sir Tim Smit KBE – Executive Co-chair

Helen Owers – Non-executive Co-chair

### Directors

David Harland, CEO

Keric Morris, Non-executive director

Geoffrey Wilkinson, Non-executive director

Professor Adam Beaumont, Non-executive director

Professor Michael Depledge, Non-executive director

Emma Bridgewater, Non-executive director

Sir Ken Robinson, Non-executive director



# Our Funders

Albert Van den Bergh and Jane Hartley Fund

Arts Council

Building Better Opportunities - European Social Funding/Big Lottery Fund

Careers and Enterprise Company

Derry Northside Development Trust

Garfield Weston Foundation

Lancashire County Council

Lancashire LEP

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Mr Lorne Somerville

Ms Helen Owers

Mr James Arnell

Mrs Leslie Tobin Bacon

Mr Adam and Mrs Carrie Glinsman

Mr Keric Morris

Mr Malcolm Parsons

Dr Craig Davidson

Mr Daniel Nelson-Smith

Mrs Penelope Parker

## **Gifts in wills**

J Ward

With sincere thanks also to our Eden Project Supporters and Members, we are very grateful for your loyalty and support.