



THE GARDENS TRUST

NOTICE OF THE EIGHTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

to be held on Thursday 8th September 2022 by Zoom, commencing at 6.30 p.m.

Note: The formal part of the Annual General Meeting will be preceded by a presentation given by Linden Groves, GT Head of Operations and Strategy, covering the activities of the Trust over the past year.

AGENDA

1. **Welcome by Peter Hughes QC, Chairman of the Board**
2. **Resolution 1: Minutes**
To approve the Minutes of the 7th Annual General Meeting held on Friday 3rd September 2021.
3. **Resolution 2: Annual Report and Accounts**
To receive the Accounts together with the Report of the Directors and the Independent Examiners for the year ended 31st December 2021.
4. **Resolution 3: Independent Examiners**
To re-appoint Able & Young as Independent Examiners and to authorise the Board to fix their remuneration.
5. **Resolution 7: Election of Directors**
To elect the following as Directors and Trustees for a term of three years (*brief biographies are provided on the following page*):
 - Mary Davis (Treasurer Elect)
 - Deborah Evans
 - Clare Hickman
 - Paul Rabbitts
 - Jill Sinclair

VOTING – EXPLANATORY NOTES

The meeting will be held online by Zoom to enable as many members as possible to attend. The meeting is open to all GT members.

To attend the meeting Individual Members and representatives of County Gardens Trusts should register via Eventbrite. Full instructions for joining can be found on the Events section of the Gardens Trust website.

- Individual Members (single or joint) and authorised representatives of County Gardens Trusts who are not able to join the Zoom meeting can vote by appointing a proxy to attend the meeting and vote on their behalf, by submitting their proxy form electronically or by post.
- Individual Members and County Gardens Trusts representatives vote as two separate classes of members and a majority of each class is required in favour of any resolution for it to be passed.

Your vote is important to us and will help to ensure a quorum at the meeting, even if you cannot attend in person or by Zoom.

NOMINATIONS FOR TRUSTEES

Trustees are Directors of the Gardens Trust for the purposes of company law. The Board is recommending that Mary Davis, Deborah Evans, Clare Hickman, Jill Sinclair, and Paul Rabbitts be elected to the Board for a first three year term to fill vacancies on the Board.

The Board proposes to re-appoint Lisa Watson, Maureen Nolan, and Dr David Marsh, who have completed their second three year term as co-opted members of the Board pursuant to Article 37.1 of the Articles of Association.

By order of the Board

Maureen Nolan

Company Secretary

Dated 20th June 2022

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES OF THOSE STANDING FOR ELECTION AS TRUSTEES

Mary Davis

A Chartered Accountant, trained at a top professional firm, with experience working in industry with both multinational corporations and small businesses. In 2019 completed a Masters degree in Landscape and Garden History at the Institute of Historical Research ("IHR"), University of London. A former member of Bucks Gardens Trust who now lives in Suffolk and is a member of Suffolk Gardens Trust.

Deborah Evans

A chartered landscape architect, historian, and horticulturist. Former head gardener and estate manager for the National Trust at Tyntesfield, landscape architect for English Heritage in the East Midlands and East of England, and since 2015 operating her own landscape architecture consultancy business. A lecturer on historic landscapes with experience of the provision of professional CPD training, author of articles in a wide number of publications, and member of the National Trust's Historic Environment Advisory Group.

Dr Clare Hickman

Senior Lecturer in History, and from August 2022, Reader in Environment and Medical History at the University of Newcastle. Author of *The Doctor's Garden: Medicine, Science and Horticulture in Late Georgian Britain* (Yale University Press, 2021), *Therapeutic Landscapes: A History of English Hospital Gardens since 1800* (Manchester University Press, 2013), and (with Timothy Mowl) *The Historic Gardens of England: Northamptonshire* (Tempus, 2008), and author or contributor to numerous other books and articles including *Garden History – The 'Picturesque'* at Brislington House, Bristol: *The Role of Landscape in Relation to the Treatment of Mental Illness in the Early Nineteenth-Century Asylum* (33.1 (2005), 47-60).

Paul Rabbitts

A highly experienced, award winning and nationally recognised local authority Head of Parks, Heritage and Culture, and national advocate for historic parks and green spaces. A landscape architect, who is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, Fellow of the Landscape Institute, and Fellow of the Royal Historical Society. He is a published author, lecturer and public speaker, and an authority on bandstands of the Victorian and Edwardian era, their social history and impact on public recreation

Jill Sinclair

A Harvard trained landscape and garden historian. Has experience of life and work in the United States, France and India, but now living in South Yorkshire. A trustee of the Historic Gardens Foundation and tutor of garden history online for the University of Oxford. Publications include *Fresh Pond: the history of a Cambridge landscape* (MIT Press), chapters in *Foreign Trends in American Gardens* (University of Virginia Press), and *Gardens of Renaissance Europe and the Islamic Empires* (Penn State University Press). A regular contributor to *Historic Gardens Review* and other journals and websites, and a contributor to the Gardens Trust online lecture programme.

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
THE GARDENS TRUST**

**held on Friday 3rd September 2021
by Zoom, commencing at 6 p.m.**

1. Welcome and Introduction

Peter Hughes, Chairman, opened the meeting and reminded those present that due to the continuing uncertainty surrounding government restrictions on gatherings, the AGM was being held as a Zoom webinar and was open to all GT members. Over eighty members had registered to attend and there were sixty members present. Lou Cooper, Administrator, was in attendance.

2. There had been a number of challenges with the arrangements for the meeting and Peter thanked Maureen Nolan and David Marsh for their hard work in making the meeting possible. It had been a challenging year but the GT had not just adapted to the restrictions, but met the challenges and succeeded in overcoming them in an exceptional way. Through the online talks, the GT had reached out to members and many others in the UK and overseas, who had supported and helped the GT to achieve a stronger financial position than in the past. This was due to the support of members, to the CGTs and their supporters and also the support of staff, Trustees and volunteers, all of whom had risen to the challenge and made a significant contribution over the last twelve months.
3. Three Trustees would step down from the Board at the end of the AGM. Thadian Pillai had been a member of the Board for a relatively short time but had brought a fresh perspective to the Board. It was hoped he would continue to play a part in the Trust in the future. David Lambert and Virginia Hinze had made an immense contribution over many years. They were part of the fabric of the GT and although they decided now was the right time to step down from the Board, it was hoped they would continue to be involved in the work of the GT and offer their wise counsel in the years to come.
4. Members had been encouraged to exercise their votes by appointing the Chairman as their proxy. A total of 45 valid Proxy Forms had been received from Individual Members and 5 from CGTs and there were no spoiled votes. Voting at the meeting would be carried out using a Zoom poll for each resolution and the poll results would be added to the proxy votes received to determine the total number of votes cast.

Apologies for absence

5. Apologies had been received from: Dominic Cole, President; Charles Boot; Teresa Forey; Robert Peel; and Thadian Pillai. Dominic Cole sent a message in which he thanked all the Trustees, Officers and Volunteers who continue to grow the GT and have offered a remarkable range of activities, learning and support over the last year. He was heartened to watch the organisation evolve and witness all the innovations. He congratulated everyone, especially the members.
6. The names of those who had died since the previous AGM were noted with sadness: Miss Enid Cassen; Mrs Fiona Crumley (wife of Jeremy Garnett); Miss Crutchlow; Mrs De Ferranti; Dr F Harris; The Hon Lady Roberts; Dr Mary Swan; and Dr Anne Tupholme. The death of Steve Taylor (who was not a member but was the husband of Elaine, Chair of Lancashire GT) was also noted.

Minutes of the previous AGM

7. A motion to approve the minutes of the sixth AGM, held on 5th September 2020 was proposed by Sarah Dickinson and seconded by David Marsh. The votes cast at the meeting were: 42 for; none against; and 6 abstentions. The proxy votes cast were: 42 for; none against and 6 abstentions. The total number of votes cast were: 89 for; none against; and 8 abstentions. The motion was therefore **agreed.**

Annual Report and Accounts for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

8. Lisa Watson, Treasurer, introduced the Report and Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2020. The pattern of activity had to be completely rethought due to Covid and the resulting government restrictions. Despite this, building on good foundations, the Trust had achieved an excellent operating surplus of £32,483. This included the welcome legacy of £25,000 from the estate of Herbert Robinson, a loyal member of the GT and of the Garden History Society previously. The remainder of the surplus is a result of the success of the programme of online lectures, talks and presentations, together with the generosity of supporters to the fundraising campaign in the summer.
9. The continuing success of the online activity had enabled the Trust to fund matched funding for the new National Lottery Heritage Fund grant. An additional factor was the economies enforced by travel restrictions on planned activities. The Trust continued to benefit from funding from Historic England, not only in respect of statutory casework and County Gardens Trusts support activities, but also in other project work. An extension to the Sharing Repton project was funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Total funds at the year end 2019 were £497,706, which had increased to £535,570 at the year end 2020.
10. A motion to receive the Report and Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2020, together with the Reports from the Directors and Independent Examiners was proposed by Virginia Hinze and seconded by Paul Titcombe. The votes cast at the meeting were: 49 for; none against; and one abstention. The proxy votes cast were: 49 for; none against; and 1 abstention. The total number of votes cast were: 98 for; none against; and 2 abstentions. The motion was therefore **agreed**.

Appointment of Auditors and their remuneration

11. A motion to re-appoint Averillo and Associates as Independent Examiners and delegate authority to the Board to fix their remuneration was proposed by Peter Waine and seconded by Peter Hughes. The votes cast at the meeting were: 48 for; none against; and 1 abstention. The proxy votes cast were: 49 for; none against; and 1 abstention. The total number of votes cast were: 97 for; none against; and 2 abstentions. The motion was therefore **agreed**.

12. Re-election of Vice Presidents

Two Vice Presidents had come to the end of their five year term and were willing to offer themselves for re-election. A motion to re-elect **Alan Baxter** as Vice President for a further term of five years was proposed by Sally Jeffrey and seconded by Rachel Savage. The votes cast were: 48 for; none against and one abstention. The proxy votes cast were: 49 for; none against and no abstentions. The total number of votes cast was: 97 for; none against; and one abstention. The motion was therefore **agreed**.

13. A motion to re-elect **Susan Campbell** as Vice President for a further term of five years was proposed by Marion Harney and seconded by Virginia Hinze. The votes cast at the meeting were: 50 for; none against; and one abstention. The proxy votes cast were: 49 for; none against; and one abstention. The total number of votes cast was: 99 for; none against; and two abstentions. The motion was therefore **agreed**.

14. Re-election of Board member

Under the Trust's Articles, one third of the Board must step down this year and are eligible for re-election for a further three year term. Taking into account the Trustees standing down, one Trustee (Peter Hughes) was due to step down and offer himself for re-election. The Board recommended that Peter be re-elected for a further term of three years.

15. A motion to re-elect Peter Hughes as a Director for a further term of three years was proposed by Chris Blandford and seconded by Lisa Watson. The votes cast at the meeting were: 49 for; none against; and 2 abstentions. The proxy votes cast were: 49 for; none against; and no abstentions. The total votes cast were: 98 for; none against; and two abstentions. The motion was therefore **agreed**.

16. **Election of Board members**

Rachel Savage and Paul Titcombe were co-opted to the Board in March 2021 to hold office until the 2021 AGM, when they would be eligible for election. The Board recommended that they both be elected for an initial term of three years.

17. A motion to elect **Rachel Savage** as a Director for a further term of one year was proposed by Peter Hughes and seconded by Maureen Nolan. The votes cast at the meeting were: 45 for; none against; and 2 abstentions. The proxy votes cast were: 48 for; none against; and two abstentions. The total votes cast were: 93 for; none against; and 4 abstentions. The motion was therefore **agreed**.
18. A motion to elect **Paul Titcombe** as a Director for a further term of one year was proposed by Lisa Watson and seconded by Chris Blandford. The votes cast at the meeting were: 46 for; none against; and 2 abstentions. The proxy votes cast were: 48 for; none against and 1 abstention. The total votes cast were: 94 for; none against; and 3 abstentions. The motion was therefore **agreed**.
19. At the conclusion of the formal part of the AGM, Linden Groves gave a presentation on the activities of the Trust over the previous year, following which awards were presented to the winner of the Mavis Batey Essay Prize (Anthony Davis) and the winner of the Gilly Drummond Volunteer of the Year Award (Marcus Batty).

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 7.25 p.m.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021
FOR THE GARDENS TRUST**

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

03163187 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

1053446

Registered office

70 Cowcross Street

London

EC1M 6EJ

Trustees

Members of the Board of Trustees who served during the period and up to the date of signature are listed below:

Christopher John Blandford
Sarah Frances Dickinson*
Dr Marion Harney *
Virginia Hinze (resigned 03.09.21)
Peter Thomas Hughes QC
Dr Sally Jeffery*
David Austen Lambert (resigned 03.09.21)
Dr David John Edward Marsh
Maureen Patricia Nolan
Thadian Pillai (resigned 03.09.21)
Rachel Jane Savage
Paul Anthony Titcombe
Peter Edward Waive
Elizabeth Jane Watson *

* Refers to trustees who completed their term of office on 03.09.21 pursuant to Article 34.2 of the Articles of Association, but were co-opted to serve until the next Annual General Meeting by the Board on 03.09.21 pursuant to Article 37.1 to fill vacancies on the Board.

Ex officio and non-voting members of the Board:

Chloe Elizabeth Bennett (resigned 14 April 2022)

Joanna Elizabeth Davidson

Company Secretary

Maureen Patricia Nolan

Independent Examiner

Rekha Shah

Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales

Able & Young Ltd

Chartered Certified Accountants

Airport House

Purley Way

Croydon

Surrey

CR0 0XZ

During the year Averillo & Associates merged with Able & Young, and now practice under that name.

Bankers

Barclays Bank plc

Leicester

LE87 2BB

CAF Bank Limited

PO Box 289

West Malling

Kent

ME19 4TA

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees (who are also Directors for the purposes of company law) present their Annual Report together with the Financial Statements of The Gardens Trust ("the Charity") for the year ended 31 December 2021.

The Trustees confirm that the Annual Report and financial statements of the Company comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the Company's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities", further details being set in the accounting policies.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**Constitution**

The Company is a charitable company limited by guarantee constituted under Articles of Association, as amended by Special Resolution dated 24 July 2015, and is a Registered Charity number 1053446, Registered Company number 03163187 (England and Wales).

Method of election of Board of Trustees

Board members are elected for a three-year term of office and are then required to retire at the next Annual General Meeting but are eligible for re-election for a further three-year term. The names of those who are due to retire and wish to stand for re-election to the Board are listed in the papers for the Annual General Meeting.

Induction and Training of Board Members

Newly elected Trustees are provided with copies of the previous Annual Report and Financial Statements, the Trust's Articles of Association, the Trust's Business Plan, the Risk Register, Trust policy documents, Minutes of previous Board meetings and Charity Commission advice on the duties of Trustees. All Trustees serve on Committees or otherwise have responsibilities within the Trust in addition to serving as Trustees.

Organisational structure

The Board has Committees responsible for: Conservation; Audience Development, Marketing, and Communications and Education and Training. The Board also has a Steering Group as required by the terms of grant funding provided by the National Lottery Heritage Fund., which acts as a Management Committee. The Board meets quarterly, with additional ad-hoc meetings as required, and the Committees and Steering Group meet on a regular basis.

In 2021, the Trust had a complement of staff comprising: an administrator; finance officer; Strategic Development Officer; two conservation case workers & a conservation case logger; and two Volunteer Support Officers. During the year, assisted by the NLHF grant, the Trust recruited an Audience Development and Engagement Officer. All staff are employed part-time.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

1. Charitable objectives

The objects of the Charity are for the public benefit:

- to promote the study of the history of gardens and gardening, landscape gardening and horticulture in all its aspects;
- to promote the protection and conservation of historic parks, gardens and designed landscapes and to promote and advise on their conservation;
- to promote the County Gardens Trusts and through them, education, appreciation and involvement of the public in matters connected with the arts and sciences of Garden Land; and
- to encourage the creation of new parks, gardens and designed landscape.

2. Public benefit

The Board of Directors, as Trustees, confirm that they have complied with the duty in Section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

'We have:

- continued to deliver planning application responses and other conservation activities to ensure historic designed landscapes survive for public benefit in this and future years.
- continued to offer publicly accessible events, specifically online talks this year.
- delivered substantial open access social media and other communications, to support better public awareness and enjoyment of historic designed landscapes.
- supported local volunteers, particularly County Gardens Trusts, to be actively involved in conserving, researching and sharing historic designed landscapes so that they may be enjoyed by local communities now and in future.
- sustained and grown our open access online resources for this interested in learning about or contributing to the conservation of historic designed landscapes.'

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This is my second annual report since becoming Chairman of the Board of Trustees. 2021 will be remembered as the year dominated by the pandemic. Normal day-to-day life was significantly affected and restricted by periods of lockdown. By its end there was a general feeling of weariness and desire for some return to normality. As I write this report almost midway through 2022, whilst the impact of Covid appears to have receded – at least for the moment - fresh anxieties have come to the fore; in particular the situation in Ukraine and the resulting impact on the global economy. The unwelcome return of inflation will provide additional challenges for charities such as ours.

The work of the Trust in 2021 centred on the project supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund to review our operations, make us more independent and resilient as an organisation, and increase public awareness of the value of what we do and widen and diverse support for our activities. The project enabled us to recruit Frankie Taylor as Audience Development and Engagement Officer, and with the financial support provided by the lottery, we have been able to engage consultants to help us plan for the future. We are now at about the mid-point in the project and developing a business plan to set out our strategy for the next three years and beyond. Work on the project has been led by our vice-chair, Chris Blandford with assistance from another trustee, Paul Titcombe, and we are grateful for the time and effort that they have put into it.

The pandemic had a material bearing on the operation of the Trust in 2021. The office at Cowcross Street was closed, staff worked from home, and Board and committee meetings were all held on Zoom. In September, our long-serving Administrator, Louise Cooper, gave notice that she intended to step down from her position at the end of the year. We had planned to meet face-to-face for the first time since March 2020 at the December meeting of the Board, and to hold a small party afterwards to say thank you to her and to present her with a leaving gift. Sadly, we had to abandon the face-to-face meeting and the party because of a rise in Covid cases. Louise Cooper made a significant contribution to the work of the Gardens Trust, and to its predecessor, the Garden History Society over many years. As part of her leaving present, we made her an honorary life member of the Trust, and we hope that she will continue to be involved in the Gardens Trust for many years to come.

Following Louise Cooper's decision, the Board reviewed the Trust's staffing structure. We decided to create a new position of Head of Operations and Strategy and to invite Linden Groves to accept the appointment. She took up her new role with effect from the 1st January 2022. It is a key role within the organisation, leading the Trust's complement of staff, and is our first full-time appointment. Like Louise Cooper, Linden Groves has made a significant contribution to the work of the Gardens Trust and we wish her well in her new role. To provide her with administrative support, the Board decided to create a new part-time position of Administration and Membership Officer. The successful candidate, Catherine Ford took up her role in mid-June 2022.

An important part of the work of the Administration and Membership Officer will be to maintain the membership records of the Trust. Since the Trust was formed, the responsibility for maintaining our membership records has been out-sourced to our printers, the Lavenham Press. The disadvantage of this is that we do not have direct control of the records and the ability to ensure that they are kept up-to-date. This is vital now that so much personal information is stored digitally. During 2021, the Board explored the feasibility of bringing the records 'in house' and the decision has since been taken to do this. Our Finance Officer, Teresa Forey, has done a great deal of work on organising the migration of the membership records and finding the best software system for this. We are extremely grateful to her, and to the work of the Audience Development, Membership, and Communications Committee and its Chair, Rachel Savage, for all that they have done to make this possible. Catherine Ford will work alongside Teresa Forey on the process of completing the work required to migrate the membership records and to ensure that we have accurate information for all our members.

The volume of planning applications referred to the Trust in its role as statutory consultees continued to grow in 2021, and the number of high-profile and controversial applications, which require the most careful attention, is increasing. The responsibility on the shoulders of our Casework Officers, Margie Hoffnung and Alison Allighan, and our Casework Logger, Daniel Bowles is immense. They are much assisted by County Gardens Trusts up and down the country, and without their support, they would not be able to handle all the increasing volume of work. The members of the Conservation Committee, chaired by Sarah Dickinson, play a vital part too, and their remit during 2021 involved wider considerations of topical issues such as reform in the planning system, environmental protection, and climate change.

Notwithstanding the impact of the pandemic, the Trust's accounts and balance sheet for 2021 provide a robust and sound financial picture. Much of this is due to two factors. One is the wise and careful financial management of our Treasurer, Lisa Watson. The other is the continuing success of our online programme of lectures. These have gained the admiration of other charities who have seen with envy the resourcefulness of what the Gardens Trust has provided. We are pleased to see that others have sought to follow our lead. An exceptionally wide and diverse range of subjects was covered during 2021. It included contributions from County Gardens Trusts, as part of our theme focussing on Unforgettable Gardens, featuring gardens in their area. The online programme has enabled us to reach out to people in the United Kingdom and abroad, who would otherwise not be aware of us or what we do, and it has been a financial lifeline during the pandemic.

We owe a huge debt of thanks to the chair of our Education and Training Committee, Dr David Marsh, his team of volunteers, who organise, administer, and compere the lecture programme, and to all those who have been willing to take part in the programme and share with us their knowledge and expertise. The intention is that we will maintain and develop our online programme and that it will continue to be an important part of what we offer to our members and to a wider audience.

During 2021, we began the process of reviewing all our policies and procedures, under the lead of our Company Secretary and Trustee, Maureen Nolan. She has the experience of working for other organisations in the charitable sector, and her knowledge and expertise has been invaluable. It is an ongoing process which we plan to complete by the end of 2022. In my first annual report, I referred to the need to revise our Articles of Association and the impact of the 'six year' rule on the retirement of trustees who took office when the Trust was formed in 2015. To manage the process, a number of trustees required to retire in 2021, agreed to stay on the Board as co-opted members until this year's AGM. At this year's Annual General Meeting, we say good-bye to a number of trustees who have given invaluable service to the Trust and helped to guide it through its crucial formative years since 2015; Sarah Dickinson, Marion Harney, Sally Jeffrey, and Peter Waine. Although they will no longer be on the Board, we hope that they will continue to contribute to the work of the Trust. We also say good-bye to Paul Titcombe, who is leaving the Board because of the increasing demands of his work. He only became a trustee in the early days of the pandemic and all his meetings have been on Zoom, and never face-to-face. He has, though, made a valuable contribution because he has provided us with fresh ideas from his wide experience of corporate business.

The Trust has undertaken two recruitment exercises for new trustees. One for a new Treasurer to replace Lisa Watson. The other to fill general vacancies on the Board. We were encouraged to receive applications from an excellent range of candidates. The Board is recommending the appointment of five new trustees to the Annual General Meeting; Mary Davis with a view to succeeding Lisa Watson as Treasurer, Deborah Evans, Clare Hickman, Jill Sinclair and Paul Rabbitts. Their biographical details are to be found in the accompanying notice of the AGM. They provide a wide range of knowledge and experience. Together they will provide the Board with fresh minds and fresh ideas as we plan for the future. Lisa Watson, Maureen Nolan, and Dr David Marsh have all completed their terms of office, but have agreed to stay on the Board as co-opted members for a period. This is because of their key roles, and the need to provide continuity for the new Board in a time of transition.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to my fellow Board members, to all our volunteers who assist us in our work in a variety of ways - serving on committees, delivering our online programme and promoting the GT on social media - and to all our staff. They have done a terrific job in exceptionally difficult times, and they have been unstinting in the help and support they have given me.

Peter Hughes QC

FINANCIAL REVIEW FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

In 2021 the Gardens Trust achieved a surplus before investment gains/losses of £50,787. This exciting figure was largely a result of the continuing success of the programme of on-line lectures, talks and presentations. The Trust also benefitted from a donation of £10,000 from the Sanderson Foundation. There were economies enforced by on-going pandemic restrictions and resulting adjustments to our ways of working. We were able to invest in additional staff time during 2021 and now are able to look forward to consolidating the structure in the coming year.

The Gardens Trust has continued to benefit from support from Historic England funding, not only in respect of our statutory casework and County Gardens Trusts support activities, but also in other project work. The *Engaging with our Future* project, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, continues apace.

Overall our investments fared well and the valuation of our investments at market rates at the end of the year showed unrealised net gains of investment of £32,183. So I am delighted to report that total funds have increased to £618,540 at year-end 2021, from £535,570 at year-end 2020, which reflects net income for the period of £82,970.

The Notes to the Financial Statements are available on our website.

Lisa Watson, Honorary Treasurer

STATEMENT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees (who are also the Directors of The Gardens Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Risk Management

Following Charity Commission guidance, the Board has adopted a Risk Management Policy and agreed a Risk Register. This is monitored and reviewed annually and actions agreed to manage significant risks. The Board has reviewed the Risk Register during the year and agreed actions to address or mitigate the identified significant risks.

Approved by order of the Board of Trustees on 20 June 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Peter Hughes QC', written in a cursive style.

Peter Hughes QC – Chairman

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE GARDENS TRUST

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Gardens Trust ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 December 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a registered member of Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Rekha Shah
Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales
Able & Young Ltd
Chartered Certified Accountants
Airport House
Purley Way
Croydon
Surrey
CR0 0XZ

Date: 4th July 2022

THE GARDENS TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2021 Total funds £	2020 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Subscriptions and donations	2	73,290	-	73,290	93,731
Charitable activities					
Grants receivable					
Historic England		-	103,980	103,980	102,881
Historic England Projects		-	2,500	2,500	19,198
Heritage Lottery Fund - Repton		-	-	-	8,250
Other Projects		-	63,610	63,610	16,886
Publications		5,639	-	5,639	6,990
Other trading activities					
Advertising		1,872	-	1,872	2,070
Events		118,513	-	118,513	36,011
Investment income	3	10,340	-	10,340	11,771
Total		209,654	170,090	379,744	297,788
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds	4	4,130	-	4,130	3,785
Charitable activities					
Events		59,240	-	59,240	12,244
Wages and salaries		42,815	132,038	174,853	149,556
Printing and distribution		23,606	-	23,606	22,902
Membership		7,695	-	7,695	7,729
Office management costs	5	23,111	-	23,111	18,523
Other support costs	5	6,710	-	6,710	7,050
Historic England		-	-	-	7,301
Historic England Projects		-	130	130	12,356
Heritage Lottery Fund - Repton		-	-	-	8,309
Other Projects		-	29,481	29,481	15,550
Total		167,308	161,649	328,957	265,305
NET INCOME / (EXPENDITURE) BEFORE GAINS AND LOSSES		42,345	8,441	50,787	32,483
Net gains on investments		32,183	-	32,183	5,381
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		74,528	8,441	82,970	37,864
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		534,041	1,529	535,570	497,706
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>608,569</u>	<u>9,970</u>	<u>618,540</u>	<u>535,570</u>

CONTINUING OPERATIONS

All income and expenditure has arisen from continuing activities.

THE GARDENS TRUST

BALANCE SHEET
AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2021 Total funds £	2020 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	10	63,715	-	63,715	63,715
Investments	11	<u>494,881</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>494,881</u>	<u>456,602</u>
		558,596	-	558,596	520,317
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	12	41,041	-	41,041	3,169
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>71,445</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>71,445</u>	<u>49,203</u>
		112,486	-	112,486	52,372
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	13	<u>(52,542)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(52,542)</u>	<u>(37,119)</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS					
		<u>59,944</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>59,944</u>	<u>15,253</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES					
		618,540	-	618,540	535,570
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due after more than one year	14	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
NET ASSETS					
		<u>618,540</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>618,540</u>	<u>535,570</u>
FUNDS					
	15				
Unrestricted funds				608,569	534,041
Restricted funds				<u>9,970</u>	<u>1,529</u>
TOTAL FUNDS					
				<u>618,540</u>	<u>535,570</u>

THE GARDENS TRUST

BALANCE SHEET - CONTINUED AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 December 2021.

The members have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 22 June 2021 and were signed on its behalf by



Peter Hughes QC -Chairman

THE GARDENS TRUST

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	2021 £	2020 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Subscriptions and donations		
Donations	13,329	29,579
Subscriptions	58,048	61,540
CGT Insurance surplus	<u>1,913</u>	<u>2,612</u>
	73,290	93,731
Other trading activities		
Advertising	1,872	2,070
Contributions from member's events etc.	<u>118,513</u>	<u>36,011</u>
	120,385	38,081
Investment income		
Dividends from investments	10,267	11,676
Interest receivable on liquid investments	<u>72</u>	<u>95</u>
	10,339	11,771
Charitable activities		
Publications	5,639	6,990
Grants receivable	<u>170,090</u>	<u>147,215</u>
	<u>175,729</u>	<u>154,205</u>
Total incoming resources	379,744	297,788
EXPENDITURE		
Investment management costs		
Investment management fees	4,130	3,810
Charitable activities		
Wages and salaries	174,583	149,556
Events	59,240	12,244
Printing and distribution	23,606	22,902
Membership	7,695	7,729
Historic England Projects	29,611	35,207
Historic Lottery Fund - Repton	<u>-</u>	<u>8,309</u>
	295,006	235,947
Support costs		
Management	<u>23,111</u>	<u>18,523</u>
	23,111	18,523

THE GARDENS TRUST

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	2021 £	2020 £
Other		
Conservation, travel and subsistence	-	629
Office and Trustees's travel and subsistence	-	289
Postage and stationery	2,678	2,136
Bookkeeping	432	396
Independent Examiner	3,600	3,600
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	-	-
	<u>6,710</u>	<u>7,050</u>
Total resources expended	<u>328,957</u>	<u>265,305</u>
Net income before gains and losses	50,787	32,483
Realised and unrealised gains and losses		
Net realised gains/(losses) on fixed asset investments	9,107	4,731
Unrealised gains/(losses) on revaluations of fixed assets investments	23,076	650
	<u>82,970</u>	<u>37,864</u>
Net income	<u>82,970</u>	<u>37,864</u>