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THE GARDENS TRUST
Notice of the Ninth Annual General Meeting 2023
To be held on Thursday, the 7th September 2023 at 70 Cowcross Street, London EC1M 6EJ,
commencing at 1.30 p.m.

The AGM is open to all members but if at all possible please book via <https://thegardenstrust.org/events-archive/> as the meeting is part of a wider full-day event and we need to be conscious of room capacity.

AGENDA

1. **Welcome (Peter Hughes KC, Chairman of the Board)**
2. **Resolution 1: Minutes**
To approve the Minutes of the 8th Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 8th September 2022.
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 2022.
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*):
Catriona Stenhouse
Francesca Murray

VOTING – EXPLANATORY NOTES

- Individual Members and authorised representatives of County Gardens Trusts who are not able to attend the meeting can vote by appointing a proxy to attend the meeting and vote on their behalf, by submitting their proxy 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.

NOMINATIONS FOR TRUSTEES

The Trustees are Directors of the Gardens Trust for the purposes of company law.

The Board is recommending that Catriona Stenhouse and Francesca Murray be elected to the Board for an initial term of three years to fill vacancies on the Board.

The Board proposes to re-appoint Lisa Watson who has completed her second three year term as a co-opted member 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 2023

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES OF THOSE STANDING FOR ELECTION AS TRUSTEES

Catriona Stenhouse

Catriona is a solicitor specialising in real estate finance, but she has advised on other types of financing, security arrangements and corporate transactions. She has considerable experience drafting contracts and advising both borrowers and lenders on complex multimillion pound transactions. In her job she identifies and mitigate risks for clients and manages deal teams, including supervising juniors and engaging with external parties and stakeholders.

She is currently working as a solicitor part time whilst studying for a business school masters in heritage management. The course is run jointly between Queen Mary University London and Historic Royal Palaces ("HRP"). Her studies at HRP, and hands on experience in the various palaces and gardens during the placements, are arming with her with an understanding of the history, theory and practice of heritage in the UK today. Catriona also has RHS Level 2 Certificate in the Principles of Horticulture. She hopes to be able to combine her legal knowledge and career experience to date, with her passion for history, nature and gardens.

FRANCESCA MURRAY

Having worked in the design industry for many years including for the interiors brands of Cole and Son, Warner and Co and Zoffany, Francesca changed direction and studied horticulture and garden design at Berkshire College of Agriculture and ran her own garden design business for another ten years.

Studying garden history at Birkbeck in the evenings led to a Masters in garden history on the Orchids of the Rothschilds at Buckingham University (2015). From this she wrote *The Eighth Wonder of the World, Exbury Gardens and The Rothschilds* (2019 Exbury Gardens Trust). She is in her third year of a PhD at Queen Mary's University of London researching 'Nineteenth-century gardeners, nurserymen, and the associations that came to their aid'. She has published a number of garden history articles. She is a member of the Gardens Trust Education and Training Committee and of various County Gardens Trusts and a regular speaker particularly as the archivist of Perennial.

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

**held on Thursday 8th September 2022
by Zoom, commencing at 6 p.m.**

1. Welcome and Introduction

Peter Hughes, Chairman, opened the meeting and welcomed members to the eighth AGM of the Gardens Trust. There were 91 members present and the meeting was quorate. As the meeting commenced, the sad news of the death of Her Majesty the Queen was announced to members. As a mark of respect, Peter Hughes proposed that the presentation would be omitted and the meeting would move to the formal section of the meeting. The proposal was agreed.

Apologies for absence

2. Apologies had been received from: Dominic Cole, President; Philip Christie; Val Hepworth; Adam Naylor; Steffie Shields; Paul Rabbitts and Advolly Richmond.
3. The names of the following three members who had died since the previous AGM were noted with sadness: Mr F Field; Mr John Harris; and Mr James Sutton.
4. Maureen Nolan confirmed that by the deadline for receipt of Proxy Forms, a total of twenty nine Proxy Forms had been received from Individual Members and ten from CGTs. There were no spoiled votes. Voting at the meeting would be carried out using Zoom polls and the proxy votes would be added to the votes cast online to arrive at the total number of votes cast. As usual, a majority of votes from Individual Members and CGTs would be required for each resolution.

Minutes of the previous AGM

5. A motion to approve the minutes of the seventh AGM, held on 3rd September 2021 was proposed by Lisa Watson and seconded by Peter Hughes. The result of the Zoom poll was clearly in favour. The proxy votes cast were: 37 for; none against and 2 abstentions. The motion was therefore **agreed**.

Annual Report and Accounts for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

6. Lisa Watson, Treasurer, introduced the Report and Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2021. Total funds at the year end were £535,570 and these have increased to £618,540 at 31 December 2021. It had been a very good year. A new pattern of activity had been developed and, building on good foundations, the GT has recorded an operating surplus of £50,787. 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 GT's ongoing fundraising.
7. The GT also benefitted from a legacy of £10,000 from the Sanderson Foundation. The continuing success of the online activity has enabled the GT to invest in additional staff in 2021 and consolidate the structure. The GT has continued to benefit from funding from Historic England, not only in respect of statutory casework and CGT support activities, but also in other project work. Investments performed well and the valuation of the investment portfolio showed net gains of £32,183.
8. There were no questions on the report.
9. A motion to receive the Report and Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2021, together with the Reports from the Directors and Independent Examiners was proposed by Chris Blandford and seconded by Rachel Savage. The result of the Zoom poll was clearly in favour. The proxy votes cast were: 39 for; none against; and no abstentions. The motion was therefore **agreed**.

Appointment of Auditors and their remuneration

10. A motion to re-appoint Able & Young as Independent Examiners and delegate authority to the Board to fix their remuneration was proposed by Lisa Watson and seconded by Maureen Nolan. The result of the Zoom poll was clearly in favour. The proxy votes cast were: 38 for; none against; and one abstention. The motion was therefore **agreed**.
11. **Re-election of Board members**
A motion to elect Mary Davis, Deborah Evans, Clare Hickman, Paul Rabbitts and Jill Sinclair as Trustees for a term of three years was proposed by Peter Hughes and seconded by Chris Blandford. The appointments were proposed as a single block vote but there would be a separate vote on each individual in turn. Brief biographies had been provided in the AGM booklet
12. Mary Davis was co-opted to the Board in June 2022 and thus held office until this AGM when she is eligible to stand for election. The Board recommended that she be elected for a period of three years. Mary would be elected as the Treasurer-elect, with a view to taking over as Treasurer when Lisa Watson stands down from the Board. A motion to elect **Mary Davis** as a Director for a term of three years was put to a vote. The result of the Zoom poll was clearly in favour. The proxy votes cast were: 39 for; none against; and no abstentions. The motion was therefore **agreed**.
13. A motion to elect **Deborah Evans** as a Director for a term of three years was put to a vote. The result of the Zoom poll was clearly in favour. The proxy votes cast were: 37 for; none against and two abstentions. The motion was therefore **agreed**.
14. A motion to elect **Clare Hickman** as a Director for a term of three years was put to a vote. The result of the Zoom poll was clearly in favour. The proxy votes cast were: 36 for; none against and three abstentions. The motion was therefore **agreed**.
15. A motion to elect **Paul Rabbitts** as a Director for a term of three years was put to a vote. The result of the Zoom poll was clearly in favour. The proxy votes cast were: 38 for; none against and one abstention. The motion was therefore **agreed**.
16. A motion to elect **Jill Sinclair** as a Director for a term of three years was put to a vote. The result of the Zoom poll was clearly in favour. The proxy votes cast were: 38 for; none against and one abstention. The motion was therefore **agreed**.
17. At the conclusion of the AGM, Peter Hughes thanked members for attending the meeting. Extracts from the presentation would be made available on the website in due course.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 6.29 p.m.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022
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
Mary Elizabeth Davis (appointed 20th June 2022, resigned 24th October 2022)
Sarah Frances Dickinson (resigned 8th September 2022)
Deborah Jane Evans (appointed 8th September 2022)
Prof. Marion Harney (resigned 8th September 2022)
Dr Clare Hickman (appointed 8th September 2022)
Peter Thomas Hughes KC
Dr Sally Roberta Jeffery (resigned 8th September 2022, reappointed pursuant to Article 37.1 1st January 2023)
Dr David John Edward Marsh
Maureen Patricia Nolan (reappointed 8th September pursuant to Article 37.1)
Paul Anthony Rabbitts (appointed 8th September 2022)
Rachel Jane Savage
Gillian Sian Sinclair (appointed 8th September 2022)

Paul Anthony Titcombe (resigned 8th September 2022)
Peter Edward Waine (resigned 8th September 2022)
Elizabeth Jane Watson (reappointed 8th September 2022 pursuant to Article 37.1)

Ex officio and non-voting members of the Board:
Chloe Elizabeth Bennett (resigned 14th April 2022)
Joanna Elizabeth Davidson
Vanessa Stephenson (resigned 18th December 2022)

Company Secretary

Maureen Patricia Nolan FCG

Independent Examiner

Rekha Shah
Association of Chartered Certified Accountants
Able & Young Ltd
Chartered Certified Accountants Airport House
Purely Way
Croydon
Surrey
CR0 0XZ

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 companies law) present their Annual Report together with the Financial Statements of The Gardens Trust ("the Charity") for the year ended 31 December 2022.

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.

Policies adopted for the 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. In 2002, the Board also had a Steering Group as required by the terms of grant funding provided by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. This acted also as a Management Committee and from the 1st January 2023, it was replaced by a Management Committee comprising the Officers and the Chairs of Committees. The Board meets quarterly, with additional ad-hoc meetings as required, the Management Committee meets monthly, normally on the second Friday of the month, and the Committees meet on a regular basis.

By the end of 2022, the Trust had a complement of staff comprising: Head of Operations and Strategy; Administration and Membership Officer; Finance Officer; Conservation Officer; Casework Manager; Assistant Casework Manager; Audience Development and Engagement Officer and three Volunteer Support Officers, one of whom was engaged during the year on a specific project assisted by a grant from Historic England. All staff apart from the Head of Operations and Strategy were 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.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This is my third annual report since becoming Chairman of the Board of Trustees. 2022 was the second year in which normal activities were significantly affected by the restrictions resulting from the Covid 19 pandemic. The Trust, though through the loyalty, determination, and resourcefulness of its staff, volunteers, and members, demonstrated great resilience and fortitude in meeting the challenges that the restrictions imposed. By June 2023, as I write this report, although the pandemic has been declared officially over, we face different challenges stemming from the international situation and the war in Ukraine and the impact on the domestic economy. Inflation affects everyone, but it has a particular impact on the budgets and financial management of charities such as the Gardens Trust, which are dependent on the support of their members and whatever grants maybe available out of public funds. Through 2021 and 2022 we received support from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, to carry out a fundamental review of our organisation and what we do. By the end of 2022, we were approaching the end of that project. It has enabled us to create a strategic business plan for the next five years, and plans for audience development and fund raising which underpin it. The trustees have played an active part in the considerable amount of time and work that has gone into this and I am grateful particularly to Chris Blandford for steering the work on the business plan and to Rachel Savage for her lead on the audience development and fund raising plans. The next two to three years will be challenging, though, as we implement those plans. It will mean, in the short-term, carefully managing our resources, and a preparedness to rely to a limited extent on our reserves, to provide us with a sound and resilient platform from which to build the future of the organisation. It had been intended that Lisa Watson would retire from her role as Treasurer at the end of 2022. Unfortunately, her successor withdrew for personal reasons. Lisa selflessly agreed to stay in post for a further year. We are extremely lucky to have someone who has given such dedicated service to the Trust in this vital position for another year at this important time for our future.

There are a number of priorities for the future of the Trust that have been identified. One is in relation to our role as statutory consultees in the planning system. The number of planning applications has grown year-on-year and there is an increasing number of sensitive and controversial proposals. Our conservation team do an incredible job but we need to expand our team to ensure that we can meet the burden of the work for the future. Another is to increase our membership, find new ways of explaining what we do and why it is important, and encourage people to join us. A third is to broaden our financial appeal. We cannot rely on membership subscriptions alone. We have now appointed our first Fundraising Development Officer, Tara Hamdi. She has considerable experience in the field and will be working on ways to attract new sources of financial support.

Our Audience Development, Marketing, and Communications Committee (ADMC) was formed in 2020, chaired by Rachel Savage. It is now a firmly established part of our organisation covering everything from expanding our membership and engaging with new audiences to the GT News and our online Ebulletin, to our communications. Not long ago, social media was a new innovation. In 2022, incredibly, we had over 300,000 views of our social media posts, bringing the work of the Trust to people who might otherwise never have known of our existence and providing them with information about historic parks and gardens. The National Lottery Heritage Fund grant enabled us to engage Frankie Taylor as our Audience Development and Engagement Officer. We are grateful to her, to Rachel and her committee and to the volunteers who assist them for all that they do.

2022 was a memorable year for *Garden History*. It marked the fiftieth anniversary of the first issue. We celebrated the event with a special edition re-printing a selection of articles from the last fifty years together with follow-up pieces from a panel of distinguished experts. The editor of the Journal, Barbara Simms and her assistant, Cris Ratti put in a lot of extra work to produce the anniversary edition and it would not have been possible without the excellent response to our appeal for funds to cover the cost.

During 2022, we brought our membership records back in-house and introduced a new software recording system. This has enabled us to update the details that we have recorded for individual members and to introduce a simple process for new members to join on line. Our Administration and Membership Officer, Catherine Ford, and Finance Officer, Teresa Forey, have worked together to achieve this, and we are grateful to them for their hard work. We are extremely grateful to them, and to 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. At the end of 2022, we had 1,251 members, the highest end-of-year numbers since the Trust was formed in 2015. This is positive progress in the right direction, but we need to continue to grow our membership year-on-year.

As already referred to, the volume of planning applications continues to increase. In 2022, our Conservation Officer, Margie Hoffnung, Casework Manager Alison Allighan, and our Assistant Casework Manager, Daniel Bowles, handled a record 674 applications. A total of 610 written responses were drafted and submitted. This is a huge undertaking that is only possible with the support of the network of County Gardens Trusts around the country. In September 2022, Sarah Dickinson retired from the Board and as Chair of the Conservation Committee. She made an invaluable contribution both to the work of both the Board and the Committee and we are grateful to her. She was succeeded by Chris Blandford, who brings considerable experience to the role from his professional experience as a landscape architect.

The part played in the national Gardens Trust by the thirty-seven individual County Gardens Trusts forms an important and truly symbiotic relationship. We are there to support each other. Just as the Trust is dependent on the help the CGTs give in responding to planning applications, the Trust and its Volunteer Support Officers, Tamsin McMillan and Sally Bate are there to give advice and support to CGTs. In 2022, Tamsin and Sally were joined by Karina Flynn, who has been engaged to work on a specific project, supported financially by Historic England, to work with Suffolk County Gardens Trust on their Unforgettable Garden Story project. Through this new volunteers have been found to work with the CGT on researching and recording landscapes in the county, some of which may be added to the National Heritage list in the future. We hope to be able to replicate this initiative in other parts of the country with CGTs in the future.

During 2022, our online programme of lectures continued to make a vital contribution. It is not just financial. It has provided a service to our members and to many more in the United Kingdom and abroad. Over the year there were, in total, 157 online lectures and an incredible 20,000 ticket sales. As we return to greater normality, we are beginning to resume in-person events, but the online programme will continue. In September 2022, we held our first in person event since 2019, the much postponed North Yorkshire weekend. The format was different from what had been originally planned, instead it focussed on an opportunity for members and members of County Gardens Trusts from across the country to meet up and visit some special houses and gardens in the area. The weekend was much enjoyed and we are repeating the same formula in North Wales in September 2023.

In 2022, Dr David Marsh retired as chair of our Education and Training Committee. He has continued to play a key part in the organisation of the online lecture programme, and will be handing over responsibility for the programme to one of our new trustees, Jill Sinclair, with the support of an excellent and hard-working team of volunteers. David's retirement left a vacancy as chair of the Committee. Dr Sally Jeffery selflessly agreed to re-join the Board and chair the committee short-term. She has focussed on putting together a new series of in-person events as hopefully life returns to normal post-pandemic.

There are two new trustees proposed for appointment to the Board at this year's Annual General Meeting. Catriona Stenhouse, who has been a member of ADMC for the last year, and Francesca Murray. Their biographical details are to be found in the accompanying notice of the AGM and their election is supported by the Board. The Charity Commissioners encourage a policy of a regular cycle of appointment, retirement, and replenishment of trustees. This is enshrined in our Articles of Association by a 'six-year' rule, although there is provision for temporary appointments to be made by the Board to fill vacancies. Having finished their terms of office, Lisa Watson, Maureen Nolan, and Dr David Marsh have all continued to serve on the Board under this provision. Lisa Watson has agreed to continue in her role as Treasurer until she is able to hand over to a new Treasurer and the Board proposes to re-appoint her after the AGM. Dr David Marsh, though, now finally leaves the Board with the sincere thanks of us all for the sterling work that he has done and vital service that he has performed.

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. It is impossible for me to mention them all by name, but each and everyone has done a terrific job and seen us through the pandemic. They have been unstinting in the help and support they have given me.

Peter Hughes KC

FINANCIAL REVIEW FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

In 2022 the operating outcome for the Gardens Trust was a negative figure of £37,431, before investment gains/losses. This was broadly in line with the budget for the year. The deficit was largely a result of increased investment in staff hours, combined with reduced take-up of our programme of on-line lectures, talks and presentations. The economies originally enforced by pandemic restrictions and resulting adjustments to our ways of working continued in this period.

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 level of support remained unchanged from the previous year. We delivered the *Engaging with our Future* project, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. This helped to improve our resilience and impact through audience development and fundraising strategies.

Funds were raised to produce a 50th Anniversary Special Issue of the Journal of the Gardens Trust. The Trust was very grateful to receive a total of £12,500, made up of grants from the Finnis Scott Foundation and the Bedford Road Charitable Fund and donations from individual members.

The value of our investments fell in line with the decline in global markets by £55,657 over the year. We had become used to a steadily rising market, and some correction was to be expected, but the scale of the correction was more severe on account of the international situation and domestic uncertainties. At the end of the year the value of our investments was £525,451 compared with

£618,540 a year earlier, taking account of the reduction in values and the operating loss, a total of £93,088.

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 20th June 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Peter Hughes', with a stylized, looping flourish at the end.

Peter Hughes KC – 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')

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 2022.

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
Association of Chartered Certified Accountants Able & Young Ltd
Chartered Certified Accountants
Airport House
Purley Way
Croydon
Surrey
CR0 0XZ

Date: 20th June 2023

THE GARDENS TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 funds £	Total 2021 funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Subscriptions and donations	2	64,889	-	64,889	73,290
Charitable activities					
Grants receivable					
Historic England		-	100,925	100,925	103,980
Historic England Projects		-	2,500	2,500	2,500
Other Projects		-	40,965	40,965	63,610
Publications		18,752	-	18,752	5,639
Other trading activities					
Advertising		1,182	-	1,182	1,872
Events		96,510	-	96,510	118,513
Investment income	3	11,434	-	11,434	10,340
Total		192,767	144,390	337,160	379,744
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds	4	4,022	-	4,022	4,130
Charitable activities					
Events		46,313	-	46,313	59,240
Wages and salaries		60,559	164,840	225,399	174,853
Printing and distribution		38,708	-	38,708	23,606
Membership		8,385	-	8,385	7,695
Office management costs	5	24,536	-	24,536	25,789
Other support costs	5	4,241	-	4,241	4,032
Historic England Projects		-	-	-	130
Other Projects			22,987	22,987	29,481
Total		186,764	187,827	374,591	328,956
NET INCOME / (EXPENDITURE) BEFORE GAINS AND LOSSES		6,003	-43,437	-37,431	50,787
Net (losses)/gains on investments		-55,657	-	-55,657	32,183
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		-49,654	-43,437	-93,088	82,970
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		608,569	9,970	618,540	535,570
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>558,915</u>	<u>-33,467</u>	<u>525,451</u>	<u>618,540</u>

CONTINUING OPERATIONS

All income and expenditure has arisen from continuing activities.

THE GARDENS TRUST

BALANCE SHEET
AT 31 DECEMBER

		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2022 Total funds £	2021 Total funds £
	Notes				
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	9	63,715	-	63,715	63,715
Investments	10	<u>437,748</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>437,748</u>	<u>494,881</u>
		501,463	-	501,463	558,596
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	11	34,332	-	34,332	41,041
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>44,175</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>44,175</u>	<u>71,445</u>
		78,507	-	78,507	112,486
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	12	(54,519)	-	(54,519)	(52,542)
		<u>23,988</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>23,988</u>	<u>59,944</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS					
		525,451	-	525,451	618,540
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES					
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due after more than one year	13	-	-	-	-
		<u>525,451</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>525,451</u>	<u>618,540</u>
NET ASSETS					
	14				
FUNDS					
Unrestricted funds				558,915	608,569
Restricted funds				<u>-33,467</u>	<u>9,970</u>
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>525,451</u>	<u>618,540</u>

THE GARDENS TRUST

**BALANCE SHEET - CONTINUED
AT 31 DECEMBER 2022**

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 December 2022.

The members have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022 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 20th June 2023 and were signed on its behalf by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Peter Hughes', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Peter Hughes KC -Chairman

THE GARDENS TRUST

**DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL
ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31**

	2022 £	2021 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Subscriptions and donations		
Donations	8,640	13,329
Subscriptions	55,981	58,048
CGT Insurance surplus	<u>268</u>	<u>1,913</u>
	64,889	73,290
Other trading activities		
Advertising	1,182	1,872
Contributions from member's events etc.	<u>96,510</u>	<u>118,513</u>
	97,692	120,385
Investment income		
Dividends from investments	11,282	10,267
Interest receivable on liquid investments	<u>152</u>	<u>72</u>
	11,434	10,339
Charitable activities		
Publications	18,752	5,639
Grants receivable	<u>144,390</u>	<u>170,090</u>
	<u>163,142</u>	<u>175,729</u>
Total incoming resources	337,160	379,744
EXPENDITURE		
Investment management costs		
Investment management fees	4,022	4,130
Charitable activities		
Wages and salaries	225,399	174,583
Events	46,313	59,240
Printing and distribution	38,708	23,606
Membership	8,385	7,695
Historic England Projects	<u>22,987</u>	<u>29,611</u>
	345,814	295,006
Support costs		
Management	<u>24,536</u>	<u>25,789</u>
	24,536	25,789

THE GARDENS TRUST**DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL
ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31**

	2022 £	2021 £
Other		
Bookkeeping	461	432
Independent Examiner	<u>3,780</u>	<u>3,600</u>
	<u>4,241</u>	<u>4,032</u>
Total resources expended	<u>374,591</u>	<u>328,957</u>
Net income / (expenditure) before gains and losses	-37,431	50,787
Realised and unrealised gains and losses		
Net realised gains/(losses) on fixed asset investments	2,506	9,107
Unrealised gains/(losses) on revaluations of fixed assets investments	<u>-58,163</u>	<u>23,076</u>
Net income / (expenditure)	<u>-93,088</u>	<u>82,970</u>