

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 03163187 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1053446

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025
FOR
THE GARDENS TRUST

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

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THE GARDENS TRUST

**REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number
03163187 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number
1053446

Registered office
70 Cowcross Street
London
EC1M 6EJ

Trustees
Jo Barnes
Christopher John Blandford
Deborah Jane Evans
Dr Clare Hickman (resigned 10 September 2025)
Catriona Hoyes
Francesca Murray (resigned 3 April 2026)
Rachel Jane Savage
Gillian Sian Sinclair
Victoria Louise Thomson (resigned 10 September 2025)
William Anthony John Watkins (appointed on 31 March 2025)
Elizabeth Jane Watson
Christopher John Weddell (appointed on 10 September 2025)
Ex officio and non-voting members of the Board:
Joanna Elizabeth Davidson

Company Secretary
Catriona Hoyes

Independent examiner
Rekha Shah
Able & Young Ltd
Chartered Certified Accountants
Airport House
Purley 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
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees (who are also Directors for the purposes of the company's law) present their Annual Report together with the Financial Statements of the Gardens Trust ("the Charity") for the year ended 31 December 2025.

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. There is additionally 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, and the Committees meet on a regular basis.

By the end of 2025, the Trust has a complement of staff comprising: Director (previously Head of Operations and Strategy); Administration and Membership Officer; Finance Officer; Conservation Officers x2; Engagement Officer and a Lead Volunteer Support Officers. All staff apart from the Director and Engagement Officer 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.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

The Gardens Trust Trustees Overview 2025 for Annual Report

In 2025 the outcome for the Gardens Trust, after net gains/losses was a surplus of £4,140. The Trustee's Overview details the unceasing efforts of our small team to keep the organization afloat, and moving in a positive direction. Our total funds carried forward are £365,611.

2025 was an extraordinary year for the Gardens Trust, particularly due to the Government's announcement in March of its proposal to remove the Gardens Trust's statutory consultee role. As a statutory consultee in the English planning system, the Gardens Trust must be consulted by local planning authorities, and we must respond, on any planning applications that may affect sites on the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest. Whilst Historic England are only statutory consultees for Grades I and II*, we are additionally consulted on Grade II, carrying a unique responsibility. We deliver this role working closely with volunteers in the County Gardens Trusts, whose local expertise is invaluable.

We campaigned publicly and confidently, raising awareness of the errors in the Government's position, the value and vulnerability of registered parks and gardens, and our concerns about the proposal. For example:

- We produced various data to demonstrate that we are not 'blockers' to development, that our role is important, and that it produces a huge cost saving for local planning authorities.
- The central Gardens Trust team emailed all Members of Parliament (MPs), four times, resulting in an encouraging range of support from different parties. Many CGTs and GT members wrote too, and between us we ensured that MPs are now aware of our vital work.
- Many of the MPs in turn contacted ministers and ministries, and this helped bring our concerns to the attention of the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), and to increase their understanding of the value of historic parks and gardens.
- MPs asked questions in the House of Commons, mainly around asking what evidence the Government had for its proposal, with a non-committal response.
- Daisy Cooper MP, a Liberal Democrat, tabled an amendment to the Planning and Infrastructure Bill, running concurrently with the proposal, to include the Gardens Trust specifically as a statutory consultee. This went to the House of Lords and we successfully gathered several peers to speak on our behalf, although the Bill eventually proceeded without our amendment.
- We also built a network of over 20 important and demonstrably supportive organisations, with the result that the Gardens Trust website could include letters of support from organisations including the National Trust, Historic Houses, Landscape Institute, Horticultural Trades Association, Institute of Historic Building Conservation, and the Parks Management Association, as well as many more beside.
- We quickly launched the Fighting Fund Appeal and raised £26,059.95—more than double the target.
- We commissioned professional PR support, resulting amongst many things in articles in the *Daily Express*, *Country Life*, *Daily Telegraph* and the *Financial Times*, interviews on Sky News and local radio stations, and the HortWeek and Roots and All podcast. This coverage is estimated to have reached 50 million people.
- We built relationships with the key government departments - DCMS, and the one heading the proposals, MHCLG. We have met extensively with key civil servants at both departments, including taking them on site visits to Grade II registered parks and gardens. We also met with the Heritage Minister, Baroness Twycross; Shadow Secretary of State for DCMS, Nigel Huddleston; Shadow Minister for DCMS, Louie French; and Shadow Minister for Housing, David Simmonds.
- The consultation was launched in November and within 9 days the Gardens Trust submitted and published a detailed evidence-based response, encouraging its network of supporters to do similar. Our response included:
 - Emphasising that the statutory consultation requirement is an important provision within the limited protections that registered parks and gardens have. Removing that is directly damaging, by reducing specialist input to the consideration of planning proposals and indirectly damaging, by signalling that parks and gardens are being 'downgraded' as heritage assets.
 - Grave concern for the future of Grade II registered parks and gardens (64.7% of all 1700 registered parks and gardens).
 - Contesting the proposal to notify rather than consult the Gardens Trust. This misguided and clumsy attempt to align registered parks and gardens with listed buildings instead places them with lower protection because listed buildings are subject to greater protection, including:

- Statutory duties for local planning authorities to have special regard to the desirability of preserving the listed building or its setting in the consideration of applications for both listed building consent and planning permission
- A dedicated consent regime: listed building consent is required for works which would affect the character of a listed building
- Identification of failure to obtain listed building consent where needed as a criminal offence.
- Contesting the proposal to notify the Gardens Trust only on applications within the registered boundary, thus removing protection for the setting of parks and gardens, which can be key to the significance of sites.
- Local planning authorities (LPAs) do not have the expertise to handle park and garden casework without guaranteed specialist input. The cost of all local planning authorities having to deliver the service currently provided by the Gardens Trust themselves is estimated at £3,692,846 per annum. (In 2024/25, the Gardens Trust received a grant of £43,963 from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport to deliver its statutory consultee role.)
- The disparity in the protection of registered parks and gardens compared to listed buildings (both of which heritage assets are statutory designations, and of 'special interest') could be addressed in part by the commencement of section. 102 of the *Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023*. This would introduce a statutory duty to have special regard to the desirability of preserving or enhancing registered parks or gardens or their setting. This is noted as a possibility in the consultation document and is strongly sought by the Gardens Trust.

In October we published a report *Harnessing Parks and Gardens in the 21st Century: How historic landscapes can support and enhance our today and tomorrow*, in order to champion the crucial role parks and gardens have in creating and supporting a happy, healthy and prosperous society.

The report emphasises that:

- parks and gardens are at the heart of our communities and national story but are often taken for granted or undervalued;
- these historic designed landscapes have a key role in meeting the challenges of today, particularly around meeting the need for growth and housing whilst not sacrificing the health of communities;
- historic parks and gardens have a critical role to play in nature recovery and helping combat the effects of climate change, by providing established habitats and being highly effective for carbon capture and sequestration.

It calls for help achieving our aims of:

- celebrating that we are a nation of gardens and gardeners, recognised and admired across the world;
- better recognition and protection for our historic legacy of parks and gardens, by improving control and consents and aligning their treatment with other heritage assets;
- increased awareness that thousands of high-quality parks, gardens and other designed landscapes already exist and require skilled maintenance and management;
- investment in the conservation and care of historic green spaces, so that they can continue to support communities for generations to come;
- improving the quantity and quality of expertise available to local planning authorities in historic designed landscapes, through improved training of conservation officers, planning teams and better-connected external advice;
- new guidance and investment to ensure that historic designed landscapes can be harnessed to fulfil their potential in addressing key challenges of our time such as communities' health and wellbeing, social cohesion, climate change and nature recovery;
- a more holistic and joined-up role for the Gardens Trust, stretching beyond our work commenting on planning applications, enabling our expertise to fully support positive development, economic growth and conserving our green heritage for future generations.

A press release accompanied the report launch and resulting coverage in national publications such as the *iPaper*, the *Daily Express* and *The Spectator*, local newspapers and the Independent Radio News via the Press Association reached 40,100,000 people, with an Advertising Value Equivalent of £287,500. A link to the report was sent to all MPs and 113 key stakeholders, from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, to Historic England, to Natural England, and we hosted influential sector leaders at the launch event, at Red Cross Gardens in Southwark. A free copy can be downloaded at <https://thegardenstrust.org/resources/parks-gardens-21st-century/>

As ever, we worked hard to train and provide support for volunteers, particularly in the County Gardens Trusts. 2025 took us halfway through our two year, Historic England-supported 'Green Futures: Gardens and NSIPs' project. Forty volunteers in the East of England were recruited and trained and have started their own research into historic designed landscape that may be affected by NSIPs - large-scale infrastructure projects like solar farms, reservoirs, windfarms and railways - which are considered crucial for our national stability and climate resilience. Thanks to grants from the Worshipful Company of Gardeners and the Finnis Scott Foundation, we were able to take our research and recording training around the country in 2025. We invited applications from County Gardens Trusts whose research groups would benefit from training and new members and sessions were awarded to Avon and Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire and Northamptonshire Gardens Trusts.

County Gardens Trusts, and the Welsh Historic Gardens Trust, are key to our work and we support them wherever possible. In October 2025 the Gardens Trust Chair attended the AGM of the newly-formed Avon and Gloucestershire Gardens Trust, formed from the merger of two separate County Gardens Trusts (CGTs). The following month, our Director Linden Groves spoke at Derbyshire Gardens Trust's AGM, pleased to support work to reboot one of the smallest CGTs.

Thanks to a grant from Historic England, in 2025 we were able to deliver a scoping report into the GT-CGT relationship, to identify the help that CGTs need and explore ways in which the Gardens Trust could provide it in a sustainable way, reducing duplication and gaps in our working, and clarifying the relationship between the different organisations. In January we carried out a survey with all CGTs, covering questions around difficulties, capacity, strategic planning and over the spring held 9 regional meetings. This resulted in significant learning around the challenges facing the CGTs, their ability to address them, and their experience of the relationship with the Gardens Trust. We distilled ideas emerging from discussions into an array of possible ideas for the relationship between the Gardens Trust and CGTs, ranging from better networking and shared guidance to refreshed membership models, and discussed these at national Chairs Meet Ups in March and June, continuing to receive feedback over the summer, which we shared at another Chairs Meet Up in November. It was concluded that we will design a multi-year project to: formalise CGTs' involvement in Gardens Trust governance; provide better templates and guidance with fit-for-purpose sharing mechanism; facilitate more routine and sustainable networking amongst CGTs and Gardens Trust; examine and potentially implement what would be needed to provide a model for a CGT to merge with the Gardens Trust for the CGT who would like to do that, to provide a safe harbour for those struggling to remain independent and ensure all counties still have an identifiable local group in some form (which may also enable the GT to take on back-office functions for anyone struggling but were still wanting to remain a CGT).

For well over a decade our work with volunteers has been supported by a series of national project grants from Historic England. Last year this sequence came to an end, and also though Historic England have generously supported locally-based volunteer projects since then, we have struggled to address the national gap. We are working hard to find a resolution, because our work with volunteers is core to delivery of our aims, and as such deserves core ongoing funding. In the meantime, financial support from membership subscriptions and other has been absolutely vital - thank you. We're also grateful to the Swires Charitable Trust for their help with our ongoing volunteer support commitments.

The County Gardens Trusts are always productive and examples from 2025 include:

- Essex Gardens Trust has completed their eighth Inventory of Designed Landscapes, for the City of Southend-on-Sea. The document provides a comprehensive account of the history and current condition of fourteen historic green locations in the city - a diverse collection including public parks, cemeteries, remnants of a tramway and an orchard.
- The Hertfordshire Gardens Trust Walled Gardens Research Group, only formed in 2024, has examined all the 1898 OS maps of Hertfordshire to find 400 walled gardens. The group is now embarking on more detailed research to discover when individual gardens may have been created and how long they lasted.
- London Parks and Gardens' decade-long campaign continues to safeguard Victoria Tower Gardens, a Grade II listed park next to the Palace of Westminster, for future generations. In July, delegates at a UNESCO meeting in Paris backed their stance, including alternative options, such as a compromise proposal of a suitably scaled memorial in the park and for the Learning Centre to be built at another more suitable location.
- Norfolk Gardens Trust partnered with the Royal Norfolk Show's School Gardens Competition in June, giving every school entry £30 to help build and plant their exhibit. They also arranged an NGT's People's Choice Award, asking over 1300 members of the public to choose their favourite show garden. They visited the winners, PCT Educational Services in Great Yarmouth, to award an engraved silver trowel and cheque. NGT has also awarded small grants to an additional 14 schools and community groups this year.

- Thanks to Surrey Gardens Trust, two drawings by Gertrude Jekyll, have been rediscovered and gifted to the Surrey History Centre for public benefit. SGT was instrumental in their conservation - recognising them as rare survivals important to the historic record and requiring professional preservation.
- At the Grade II* landscape of Plumpton Place, Sussex Gardens Trust have been working with the applicant since 2020 on a Concept Design for landscaping changes. SGT were able to provide information on the sensitivities of the site and how changes could be incorporated sympathetically into the designed landscape, which includes work by Lutyens as well as earlier phases.

The Gardens Trust's events continued at pace, with over 80 events (online and in person) in 2025. 10,000 tickets were booked by attendees from across the globe, including over 2500 free places. Our events programme is designed both to spread the word about the history of gardens and to raise funds for our work - and this year ticket sales contributed almost £38,000 to the cause.

In-person events this year included successful members-only trips to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, to view two collections not usually open to the public; the magnificent archive and library of the Linnean Society in central London; and the Windsor Castle Print Room and Library for an exclusive viewing of natural history illustrations in the Royal Collection. Members were also treated to an 8-day study trip to visit gardens in the south of Ireland. Online highlights included popular series such as 'Gardens on Film', 'Plantmania', 'Twentieth Century Women in Landscape Design' and 'Places to Play'. We also piloted two mini-series of free lunchtime sessions, designed to attract new audiences, which focused on the well-being benefits of parks and gardens, with one exploring biodiversity and the other ways of celebrating parks and gardens in creative art.

In addition, we partnered with the Garden Museum for an introductory course, held over four Saturdays, 'Looking at Historic Landscapes and Gardens', and for a celebration of the launch of the Nesfield Archive. Our annual Oxford study weekend, organised in partnership with Oxford University and the Twentieth Century Society, examined twentieth century gardens.

In April the national Historic Landscapes Assembly focused on parks and gardens in the planning system. There were 119 attendees, both in person and online, from organisations including the Cabinet Office, DCMS, Historic England, local authorities, and landscape, heritage or planning consultancies.

The New Research Symposium is run as an annual opportunity to share new and unpublished interdisciplinary research relating to garden history. In 2025 almost 200 people attended, from 16 different countries.

The annual Mavis Batey Essay Prize is to encourage vibrant, scholarly writing and new research, especially by those who have not yet had their work published. It is open to any student, worldwide, registered in a bona-fide university or other recognised qualification-awarding institution of higher or further education or who has recently graduated from such an institution no more than two years prior to submission. 2025 saw a strong field of entries and the panel chose as winner 'Gardenesque Urbanism: John Claudius Loudon's Metropolitan "Breathing Places"'. The essay's discussion of the reconciliation of urban growth with the innate human affinity for open space is particularly apt at a time when parks and gardens have an important role to play in supporting positive new built development. Its author, Patrick Smith, graduated in 2025 from the University of Cambridge having studied architecture and is now working for an architect's practice.

Under Dr Barbara Simms' editorship, the *Garden History* journal published a range of papers furthering understanding of garden history: 'The Design of the First Duke of Chandos's Grounds at Canons, 1713-25', Katherine Myers; 'The Sculpture Garden at Denham Place', Struan Bates; 'Thomas Haverfield (1747-1804): royal gardener at Hampton Court', Diane Clements; 'The Skill and Natural Taste in Ornamental Gardening' of Mr Shanley (fl. 1770-85), Patrick Bowe; 'The Enigmatic Mr Forrest (1792-1870)', Elizabeth Taylor; 'The Botanical Painted Panelling at Bramshill, Hampshire: New Insights', Ann Benson; 'The environs are finishing in a manner equal to the building': a continuing account of the history and development of Kedleston Hall, its park and its designed landscape, in the third quarter of the eighteenth century', Christopher Gallagher; 'Planting and gardening at Canons 1713-1747', Katy Myers; 'Reggie Cooper (1885-1965), Restorer of Houses and Maker of Gardens', Helen Langley; 'Halswell, Somerset, An Idiosyncratic Landscape: Background, Context and Layout', Michael Cousins; and 'The Filter Approach to Understanding and Restoring Historic Gardens', Michael Symes. Recipients of the *Garden History* journal include 92 libraries, of which 41 are universities, from Columbia in the USA to Tokyo Denki in Japan, to Cardiff in the UK.

The 2024/25 academic year saw increased enrolment numbers for the MA (Research) in Garden History at the University of Buckingham, a course established and supported by the Gardens Trust and a Research Day highlighting the work of the students was held which will be repeated annually.

We received £3,000 from *Archives Revealed* to commission an independent consultant to produce a professional scoping report on the Gardens Trust archives. The next step is to assess the research value of our holdings and the ultimate goal is to make items of interest readily accessible to researchers in future.

The Gardens Trust Community Grant is intended to help seed-fund volunteer projects that will support historic designed landscapes in the UK, and we are grateful to Peter and Rosy Gent for their generosity in supporting it. The projects who received a GT Community Grants in 2025 are:

- Your Park Bristol and Bath, supporting the reintroduction and enhancement of sustainable natural habitats to Bath's green spaces at scale with volunteers, to boost the City's biodiversity. (£1025)
- The Warneford 200 Gardening Group, recreating an early nineteenth-century asylum garden and the creation of the Warneford Walk in the hospital grounds. (£1025)
- Broomhill Community Trust, restoring gardens designed by the internationally renowned garden designer Percy Cane. (£2400)
- Arnos Vale Cemetery Trust, helping continue the upkeep and restore the Grade II* listed cemetery, including parts of the original Arcadian Victorian cemetery designed by Charles Underwood. (£1544)

Our social media is growing as a key way to communicate messages around historic parks and gardens and our work, and to get new people involved. News of the potential removal of our statutory consultee role was a main driver of our social media in 2025. We are now active on Facebook, X, Instagram, YouTube, LinkedIn and TikTok. A part of an Historic England funded project, we launched a new Instagram account [@gardenhistorystorytellers](https://www.instagram.com/gardenhistorystorytellers), aimed at providing a platform for volunteers to share stories about historic green spaces. These videos were viewed more than 2500 times. We also use more traditional methods, such as the Unforgettable Gardens book, which has sold 2648 copies through 2025 since publication in November 2024. For the 10th anniversary year the *GT News* was relaunched into the *GT magazine*, a modern, accessible magazine format edited by volunteer Charlotte Casella. To complement the *GT magazine* for members, we also have an eBulletin covering sector highlights, also edited by Charlotte Casella, which goes out monthly to over 2200 readers, with a special edition for non-GT members.

The Gardens Trust and the County Gardens Trusts are reliant on the work of volunteers, and this is recognised by the annual Volunteer Award, given to celebrate volunteers and recognise the value of volunteering; showcase volunteers and the contribution they make; and encourage volunteering through a variety of roles. The winner of the 2025 Volunteer Award was Sandra Pullen, who volunteers for the national Gardens Trust and has been a major player in the events programme over the last two years. Sandra was presented with a certificate and glass trophy at the annual Volunteering Celebration held in July at Stowe Landscape Gardens.

An award for Exceptional Contribution was presented to Colin Wing, who volunteers for London Parks & Gardens. He was nominated for being their in-house tech guru, including for fundraising and membership systems, as well as also organising and running cycle tours. As part of the 10th anniversary celebration, 2025 saw the launch of additional categories, one looking back to long service, and one supporting stars of the future. The winners of the new Long-service award were Diana Matthews (Cumbria Gardens Trust), Marion Blair (London Parks & Gardens), Clare Greener (Devon Gardens Trust) and Jim Stockwell (Sussex Gardens Trust). The Newcomer Award is to recognise volunteers who, although relatively new to the subject, throw themselves into action and make a quick impact. We presented this new award to Zhixin Zheng, who was nominated for giving support to the Gardens Trust Events team, from helping find new audiences, to building relationships with similar organisations, to generating promotional social media content. Commendations saw certificates presented to India Cole (national Gardens Trust) and Annette Fettes (Kent Gardens Trust).

In 2025, our fundraising work entered a new phase of growth, urgency and diversification. Building on the foundations laid in previous years, we strengthened our supporter base, expanded our income streams and rallied our community at a moment of significant national challenge.

Our Patrons Scheme continued to grow steadily, with 22 committed supporters now championing our work. Their generosity provides us with a reliable source of unrestricted income and a growing network of advocates who care deeply about the future of our historic landscapes.

For the first time, the Gardens Trust took part in the London Marathon. Our five inaugural runners raised £12,886, and it raised our profile too, including with a 'cheer station' enroute.

We owe a huge thank you to our Members and Patrons for their generosity in supporting the Gardens Trust's work. At the end of 2025 we had 1210 members and 22 Patrons, and their support is invaluable.

FINANCIAL REVIEW FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

In 2025 the outcome for the Gardens Trust, after net gains/losses was a surplus of £4,140. The Trustee's Overview details the unceasing efforts of our small team to keep the organization afloat, and moving in a positive direction. Our total funds carried forward are £365,611.

THE GARDENS TRUST

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

STATEMENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS 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 15th June 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

Elizabeth Jane Watson- Trustee

THE GARDENS TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
	Notes	£	£		
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Subscriptions and donations	2	103,243	-	103,243	103,690
Historic England		-	-	-	99,810
Historic England Projects		-	148,318	148,318	3,567
Other Projects		8,268		8,268	12,570
Publications		5,388	-	5,388	5,631
Advertising		1,365	-	1,365	2,036
Events		48,516	-	48,516	70,117
Investment income	3	21,901	-	21,901	9,285
Total		188,681	148,318	336,999.	306,709
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds	4	1,214	-	1,214	2,655
Charitable activities					
Events		25,018	-	25,018	39,673
Wages and salaries		84,842	127,860	212,702	243,724
Printing and distribution		15,243	-	15,243	10,029
Membership		2,297	-	2,297	9,770
Office management costs	5	44,226	43,452	87,678	64,249
Other support costs	5	3,780	-	3,780	3,780
Other Projects		-	-	-	-
Total		176,620	171,312	347,932	373,881
NET INCOME / (EXPENDITURE) BEFORE GAINS AND LOSSES		12061	-22994	-10,933	-67,173
Net gains/(losses) on investments		15,074	-	15,074	10,310
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		27,135	-22994	4,140	-56,863
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		473,000	-111,530	361,470	418,333
Transfer from restricted to unrestricted		-134,524	134,524		
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>365,611</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>365,611</u>	<u>361,470</u>

CONTINUING OPERATIONS

All income and expenditure have arisen from continuing activities.

THE GARDENS TRUST

BALANCE SHEET
AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
	Notes				
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	9	63,715	-	63,715	63,715
Investments	10	<u>313,613</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>313,613</u>	<u>291,754</u>
		377,328		377,328	355,469
		-			
CURRENT ASSETS					
Prepayment	11	1,884		1,884	2,108
Debtors	11	26,158	-	26,158	28,391
Cash at bank and in hand		37,599	-	37,599	31,103
		<u>65,640</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>65,640</u>	<u>61,603</u>
			-		
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	12	(77,358)	-	(77,358)	(55,601)
		<u>-11,717</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-11,717</u>	<u>6,002</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS					
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		365,611	-	365,611	361,470
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due after more than one year	13	-	-	-	-
		<u>365,611</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>365,611</u>	<u>361,470</u>
NET ASSETS					
	14				
FUNDS					
Unrestricted funds				365,611	473,000
Restricted funds				<u>0</u>	<u>-111,530</u>
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>365,611</u>	<u>361,470</u>

THE GARDENS TRUST

BALANCE SHEET - CONTINUED AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 December 2025.

The members have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2025 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.

To clarify the presentation of the accounts according to the guidance from the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice, a line has been added to the Statement of Financial Activities noting the transfer of unrestricted funds to offset the deficit of restricted funds. This transfer was agreed by the trustees.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 15th June 2026 and were signed on its behalf by

Elizabeth Jane Watson - Trustee

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 2025.

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 the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants 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:

- 2. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- 3. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- 4. 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
- 5. 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
Airport House
Purley Way
Croydon Surrey
CR0 0XZ

Date:

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2020)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments which are included at market value, as modified by the revaluation of certain assets.

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Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Furniture, fixtures & fittings	- 25% on reducing balance
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No depreciation is provided for on the Trust's library as, in the Board's opinion, the library will be maintained in perpetuity.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Board in furtherance of the general objectives of the company and which have not been designated for any other purpose.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Board for a particular purpose. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors which have been raised by the company for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued**Foreign currencies**

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date.

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of transaction.

Exchange differences are taken into account in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Company status

The company is a company limited by guarantee. The directors of the company are the Board members named in the reference and administrative details. In the event of the company being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the company.

Investments

Investments are stated at market value at the balance sheet date. The statement of Financial Activities includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluations and disposals throughout the year.

Investments are held for the long-term to generate income or capital growth.

2. SUBSCRIPTIONS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Donations	27,272	32,409
Subscriptions	75,252	70,825
CGT Insurance surplus	<u>720</u>	<u>456</u>
	<u>103,243</u>	<u>103,690</u>

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2025	2024
	£	£
Dividends and interest from investments	21,899	9,026
Interest receivable on liquid investments	<u>2</u>	<u>259</u>
	<u>21,901</u>	<u>9,285</u>

4. RAISING FUNDS

Investment management costs

	2025	2024
	£	£
Investment management fees	1,214	2,655

6. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 December 2025 nor for year ended 31 December 2024.

Trustees' expenses

Trustees' expenses of £670 were reimbursed for the year ended 31 December 2025.

7. STAFF COSTS

	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	195,230	222,080
Social security costs	<u>17,472</u>	<u>21,654</u>
	<u><u>212,702</u></u>	<u><u>243,724</u></u>

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2025	2024
Management and administration	2	2
Conservation	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>
	<u><u>9</u></u>	<u><u>9</u></u>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

8. 2024 COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	103,690	-	103,690
Charitable activities			
Grants receivable	-	107,177	107,177
Publications	5,631	-	5,631
Other trading activities	80,925	-	80,925
Investment income	<u>9,285</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,285</u>
Total	199,531	107,177	306,710

8. 2024 COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - continued

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	2,655	-	2,655
Charitable activities			
Events	39,673	-	39,673
Wages and salaries	129,835	113,889	243,724
National insurance	-	-	-
Printing and distribution	10,029	-	10,029
Membership	9,770	-	9,770
Other management costs	64,249	-	64,249
Other support costs	3,780	-	3,780
Historic England	-	-	-
Historic England Projects	-	-	-
Other Projects	-	-	-
Heritage Lottery Fund - Repton	-	-	-
Total	259,992	113,889	373,881
Net gains on investments	10,310	-	10,310
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	-50,150	-6713	-56,863
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	523,150	-104,818	418,333
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>473,000</u>	<u>-111,530</u>	<u>361,470</u>

9. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Library £	Furniture, fixtures & fittings £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST				
At 1 January 2024	63,715	-	-	<u>63,715</u>
At 31 December 2025	<u>63,715</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>63,715</u>
DEPRECIATION				
At 1 January 2024	-	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
At 31 December 2025	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31 December 2024	<u>63,715</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>63,715</u>
At 31 December 2025	<u>63,715</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>63,715</u>

The library comprises books and journals donated to the Trust from time to time and is valued at the estimated cost when donated. The library is housed at the Library of the University of Bath, BA2 7AY and the Library of the University of York, YO10 5DD.

10. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	Listed investments £	Unlisted investments £	Totals £
MARKET VALUE			
At 1 January 2024	291,254	500	291,754
Additions	21,860	-	21,860
Disposals	-	-	-
Revaluations	-	-	-
At 31 December 2025	<u>313,113</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>313,613</u>
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 December 2025	<u>313,113</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>313,613</u>
At 31 December 2024	<u>291,254</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>291,754</u>

There were no investment assets outside the UK.

Unlisted investments comprises a Pen and Wash painting that was donated in earlier years and is included at its estimated market value.

11. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025	2024
	£	£
Other debtors	28,041	30,499
	<u>28,041</u>	<u>30,499</u>

12. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025	2024
	£	£
Social security and other taxes	5,268	6,224
Accruals and deferred income	<u>72,090</u>	<u>49,377</u>
	<u>77,358</u>	<u>55,601</u>

Accruals and deferred income for 2024 includes grants received from Historic England in respect of the following year.

13. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

	2025	2024
	£	£
Accruals and deferred income	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

14. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	<u>188,681</u>	<u>(199,614)</u>	<u>15,074</u>	<u>4141</u>
	188,681	(199,614)	15,074	4141
Restricted funds				
Historic England	<u>148,318</u>	<u>(148,318)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	336,999	(347,932)	15,074	4141
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>336,999</u></u>	<u><u>(302,235)</u></u>	<u><u>15,074</u></u>	<u><u>4141</u></u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.1.24 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.24 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	313,496	-50150	263,346
Library Fund	63,715	-	63,715
Fighting Fund	30,758	-	30,758
Fund for Conservation	112,341	-	112,341
College Lectures	<u>2,840</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,840</u>
	523,150	-50150	473,000
Restricted funds			
Historic England	-	-	-
Other Projects	106,347	-6712	-113059
Frank Clark	1,000	-	1,000
G Drummond Volunteer Award	<u>529</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>529</u>
	-104,818	-6712	-111,530
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>418,333</u>	<u>-56863</u>	<u>361,470</u>

The purpose of each material fund may be summarised as follows:

Designated funds:

The Library Fund comprises books and journals donated to the Trust from time to time.

The Fighting Fund comprises funds designated by the Board as such from time to time to help build a general reserve.

The Fund for Conservation comprises gifts to the Trust designated to be held to support the Trust's objectives in conservation work.

The College Lecture Fund is designated to be used for educational purposes.

The G Drummond Volunteer Award Fund was contributed by CGTs.

General funds:

The General fund represents net assets of the charity that are not Designated Funds or Restricted Funds.

Restricted funds:

The grant from Historic England has been applied to conservation and localism work in England.

The Frank Clark Fund contains a grant to be used towards work on a publication of the life and work of the Trust's founding President, Frank Clark.

15. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 December 2025 or 2024.

THE GARDENS TRUST

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Subscriptions and donations		
Donations	27,272	32,409
Subscriptions	75,252	70,825
CGT Insurance surplus	<u>720</u>	<u>456</u>
	103,243	103,690
Other trading activities		
Advertising	1,365	2,036
Contributions from member's events etc.	<u>48,516</u>	<u>70,117</u>
	49,881	72,153
Investment income		
Dividends from investments	21,901	9,026
Interest receivable on liquid investments		259
	<u>21,901</u>	<u>9,285</u>
Charitable activities		
Publications	5,388	5,631
Grants receivable	<u>156,586</u>	<u>115,947</u>
	<u>161,974</u>	<u>121,578</u>
Total incoming resources	336,999	306,709
EXPENDITURE		
Investment management costs		
Investment management fees	1,214	2,655
Charitable activities		
Wages and salaries	212,702	243,724
Events	25,018	39,673
Printing and distribution	15,243	10,029
Membership	2,297	9,770
Historic England Projects	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	256,474	303,196
Support costs		
Management	87,678	64,249
	<u>87,678</u>	<u>64,249</u>

THE GARDENS TRUST

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
Other		
Independent Examiner	<u>3,780</u>	<u>3,780</u>
	<u>3,780</u>	<u>3,780</u>
Total resources expended	<u>347,932</u>	<u>373,881</u>
Net income / (expenditure) before gains and losses	-10,933	-67,173
Realised and unrealised gains and losses		
Net realised gains/(losses) on fixed asset investments	4,959	195
Unrealised gains/(losses) on revaluations of fixed assets investments	<u>10,115</u>	<u>10,115</u>
Net income / (expenditure)	<u><u>4,140</u></u>	<u><u>-56,863</u></u>