

Sydenham Garden

Trustees' Annual Report

and

Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st March 2024

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SYDENHAM GARDEN: TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Trustees present their report for the financial year ending 31st March 2024.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting and Reporting for Charities SORP FRS102 and in accordance with the special provisions of Part 13 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small entities. It includes the directors' report as required by company law.

TRUSTEES AND DIRECTORS

The directors of the charitable company are its Trustees for the purposes of charity law. Throughout these statements the reference to either Directors or Trustees is a reference to both.

The following Directors have served either for the whole or part of the time since 1st April 2023:

	Position held / relevant dates
Kehinde Adeogun	Appointed as Trustee 05/08/20, Vice Chair since 02/12/2022, re-elected 23/11/2022
Julia Brandreth	Appointed as Trustee 04/04/19, Chair since 13/06/19, re-elected as Trustee and Chair 22/11/2023
Frances Bristow	Appointed as Trustee 12/04/18, Vice Chair since 05/12/19, retirement as trustee and Vice Chair 22/11/2023
Sir Stephen Michael Bullock	Appointed as Trustee 06/12/18, re-elected 23/11/22
Jullen Gordon	Appointed as Trustee 05/08/20, re-elected 23/11/22
Arthur Ngoka	Appointed as Trustee 29/08/17, re-elected 07/11/20, former Treasurer
Natasha Victoria Ratter	Appointed as Trustee 07/11/22, elected as Trustee 23/11/22, elected as Vice Chair 31/01/24
Laura Elizabeth Reynolds	Appointed as Trustee 07/11/22, elected 23/11/22, appointed as Vice Chair 09/03/2023
Laura Saksena	Appointed as Trustee 01/08/23, elected 22/11/23
Jon Sherman	Appointed as Trustee 05/09/19 and Treasurer since 10/12/19, re-elected 13/11/2021
Anne Sykes	Appointed as Trustee 05/07/18, re-elected 22/11/2023
Graeme Thomson	Appointed as Trustee 25/08/17, Vice Chair since 06/12/18, Company Secretary since 07/12/18, re-elected as Vice Chair 22/11/23

Summary details about the Trustees are set out on the Sydenham Garden website.

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COMPANY DETAILS AND ADVISERS

Reference Details:

Telephone: 020 82911650

Email: info@sydenhamgarden.org.uk

Website: www.sydenhamgarden.org.uk

Registered Office

Sydenham Garden Resource Centre

28a Wynell Road, London, SE23 2LW

Independent Examiner

Carleys

The Fitted Rigging House

Anchor Wharf, The Historic Dockyard

Chatham, Kent, ME4 4TZ

Solicitors

Ewings & Co

148 High Street

Penge, London, SE20 7EU

Bankers

CAF Bank Ltd

25 Kings Hill Avenue

Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ

Company Limited by Guarantee

Registered in England No. 05291164

Registered Charity No: 1108100

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GOVERNANCE

Governing Document:

Sydenham Garden is a charitable company limited by guarantee and is established under a Memorandum of Association and governed by its Articles of Association.

Trustee Recruitment and Appointment:

Under the Articles of Association, the Board of Trustees consists of at least six and not more than thirteen individuals. One third (or the number nearest) of the Trustees, excepting those being elected or retiring, must offer themselves for re-election at each AGM, with those longest in office retiring first and the choice between any of equal service being made by drawing lots.

At the AGM in November 2023 Fran Bristow stepped down as a Trustee after five and a half years' service. Fran used her NHS and strategy experience to make a big contribution during her time as trustee. Fran will always be welcome at our sites.

One new trustee was appointed during the year. Laura Saksena brings experience in dementia and mental health settings at a strategic level. Laura was also appointed the Trustee Board Safeguarding Lead during the year.

Trustee Benefit:

Trustees of the Charity do not receive any benefits from their position. Trustees are entitled to reclaim travel and other reasonable expenses incurred in their duties. No Trustees made a claim in the 2023/24 period (22/23: nil). The charity pays for trustee indemnity insurance.

Trustee Induction and on-going training:

All Trustees are provided with a detailed role description and given informal guidance and support regarding their role from the Chair and Vice Chairs of Trustees. All new Trustees receive a copy of the NCVO Good Trustee Guide. Trustees are encouraged to attend training to help them in their roles.

Trustees' Responsibilities:

The Trustees are responsible for the strategic direction of the Charity, setting its aims and monitoring progress towards these. Day to day management is delegated to the Director.

Trustees' Meetings:

The Board of Trustees have met seven times during the year. The Officers sub-group met a similar number of times during the year.

Trustee Sub-Committees:

During the financial year, two of the three Trustee Sub-Committees met periodically. These Committees are Finance and Governance (Chair: Jon Sherman) and Services and People (Chair: Anne Sykes). The Fundraising Sub-committee held its first meeting in May 2024 (Chair: Natasha Ratter)

OBJECTIVES

Objects:

The objects of the Charity as set out in our governing document are:

To promote the physical and mental health of the residents of the Boroughs of Lewisham, Bromley and other South London Boroughs, in particular by providing:

- (a) a community garden where horticulture is used for therapy and rehabilitation;*
- (b) the protection and preservation of the environment for the benefit of the public by the conservation or promotion of biological diversity through:*

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- (i) the provision, conservation, restoration or enhancement of the natural habitat in Sydenham Garden;
- (ii) the maintenance or recovery of a species in its natural habitat in Sydenham Garden.

- (c) opportunities for training for work and education; and
- (d) opportunities for artistic and creative expression

Mission Statement:

Sydenham Garden aims to transform lives through therapeutic activities, enabling people to move forward in a supportive community environment. We aspire to be a diverse, inclusive, sustainably funded, quality assured organisation. We will continue to develop a range of high quality and inspiring activities and opportunities for the local community, primarily for those experiencing mental ill health or other significant illness.

Public Benefit:

To achieve our objects, Sydenham Garden provides services to the people of Lewisham, Bromley and other South London boroughs that improve their mental and physical health, and their quality of life and provide opportunities for social interaction.

Sydenham Garden's Trustees confirm that the activities of the Charity are carried out in line with its objects, for the benefit of the public, and the impact of our work on our beneficiaries is a key criterion when deciding what activities to undertake and how best to achieve our mission. Sydenham Garden's Trustees therefore confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission in determining the activities undertaken by the Charity.

During the year, we developed a new multi-year strategic plan to guide us until 2027. The strategic plan was developed through several sessions involving trustees, staff, volunteers and co-workers. The strategic plan, which was approved by the Board in September 2023, includes six sections: Our Activities, Our Learning and Sharing, Our Volunteers, Our Environment, Supporting Our Activities and Resourcing Our Activities. Four overall strategic aims are:

1. To develop Sydenham Garden services to reach a larger cohort of co-workers
2. To continuously improve the effectiveness and impact of Sydenham Garden's activities
3. To solidify and diversify Sydenham Garden's funding sources
4. To increase Sydenham Garden's diversity at all levels.

During the year we completed reports for our funding from a range of sources including Lewisham Council, Together for Mental Wellbeing, South-East London Mind, City Bridge Foundation, Mercer's Company, Henry Smith Charity amongst others. At the end of the year, we conducted surveys of our co-workers (56 respondents in total) and volunteers (36 respondents in total), with the following results:

- 98% of co-workers reported receiving the service they wanted.
- 98% of co-workers reported an increase in confidence to advocate for themselves.
- 88% Co-workers reported increased engagement with physical activity.
- 93% of co-workers reported increased confidence in health management.
- 98% of co-workers reported having met more people.
- 93% of co-workers reported having more fulfilling relationships.
- 91% of co-workers reported increased contentment with life.
- 95% of co-workers reported increased access to information.
- 46% of co-workers reported involvement in volunteering.
- 100% of volunteers reported having met more people.
- 100% of volunteers reported increased contentment with life.
- 92% of volunteers reported improved skills as a result of their volunteering.

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MANAGEMENT, STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

Staff:

- Rebecca Kelly resigned from her post on 23 August 2023. Instead of replacing the post, we have contracted a freelance fundraiser.
- Jermaine Bennett resigned from his post on 7 December 2023 and was replaced by Ollie Moss who started on 20 May 2024.
- Rosie Hollands' post was regraded to a Project Lead level from 1 April 2023.
- Natalie White was appointed African and Caribbean Project Worker on 15 January 2024.
- Charlene Henderson was appointed as Community Growing Project Facilitator on 15 March 2024.
- Penny Jones and Kenton Brown were employed as sessional workers during the year.

Other staff whose employment continued in 2023-24 are: Beth Jaichand, Director; Vani Niranjan, Finance Manager; David Lloyd, Growing Lives Project Coordinator; Steve Prowse, Business and Premises Manager; Charlotte Dove, Garden Project Lead; Joanna Vallis, Art & Craft Project Lead; Rachael Tyndall, Outreach and Development Worker; Sekha Hall, Environment Education and Biodiversity Officer; Inma Anido, Booking Host; and Vinay Thakrar, Booking Host.

The Trustees acknowledge and are very grateful for the enormous contribution and professionalism of the staff, past and present, to the work of the Charity. The Trustees would particularly like to acknowledge the contribution of Jermaine Bennett to Sydenham Garden during his seven years of service.

Volunteers:

Our volunteers are crucial to Sydenham Garden's operations; the Trustees and staff record their gratitude for their time and effort. We had 71 people volunteering regularly for the Charity in 2023-2024, contributing on average 3 hours per week. This results in over 10,000 volunteer hours over the year.

ATTENDANCE STATISTICS (GROUPED):

The table below shows the number of referrals and number of co-workers attending at least one session during the year, with data for previous years shown for comparison. The diversity data for our co-workers during the year is also presented. Data for 2020 – 2021 is not available as a result of Covid interrupting normal services.

	2023-24	2022-23	2021-22	2019-20	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17	
Number of Referrals	277	213	258	318	441	313	421	
Number of people attending at least one session	336	238	180	228	378	354	349	
Co-worker ethnicity	2023-24	2022-23	2021-22	2019-20	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17	Lewisham 2021 Census

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Asian	4%	6%	7%	4%	9%	5%	4%	9%
Black or Black British	23%	26%	22%	21%	16%	27%	19%	27%
Mixed	7%	6%	3%	4%	12%	5%	11%	8%
White	44%	48%	47%	65%	58%	58%	60%	52%
Other	4%	2%	2%	0%	2%	3%	2%	5%
Preferred not to say	6%	7%	7%	5%	2%	2%	2%	
Not Indicated	12%	5%	12%	1%	1%	0%	2%	
Co-worker Sex	2023-24	2022-23	2021-22	2019-20	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17	Lewisham 2021 Census
Female	64%	63%	61%	61%	50%	57%	54%	53%
Male	26%	33%	34%	37%	50%	42%	43%	48%
Non-binary	1%							
Transgender	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
Other	2%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
Preferred not to say	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	2%	
Not indicated	5%	1%	2%	1%	0%	0%	2%	
Co-worker Age	2023-24	2022-23	2021-22	2019-20	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17	
18-24	13%	6%	3%	2%	2%	4%	4%	
25-34	14%	16%	12%	24%	19%	12%	13%	
35-44	13%	13%	14%	11%	10%	6%	9%	
45-54	18%	22%	17%	32%	21%	16%	16%	
55-64	17%	23%	13%	25%	14%	16%	14%	
65-74	11%	10%	13%	3%	9%	6%	7%	
75+	9%	10%	18%	3%	23%	39%	34%	
Preferred not to say	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%	
Not indicated	5%	0%	10%	0%	1%	0%	2%	
Co-worker sexual orientation	2023-24	2022-23	2021-22	2019-20	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17	
Heterosexual	56%	69%	64%	80%	80%	79%	77%	
Gay/Lesbian	3%	3%	3%	7%	2%	1%	5%	
Bisexual	6%	3%	4%	3%	3%	1%	3%	
Other	4%	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%	0%	
Preferred not to say	21%	16%	11%	8%	12%	11%	1%	
Not indicated	10%	7%	16%	1%	1%	6%	0%	
Co-worker Disability	2023-24	2022-23	2021-22	2019-20	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17	
Yes	68%	81%	63%	60%	50%	65%	47%	
No	6%	3%	1%	22%	34%	25%	36%	
Preferred not to say	3%	3%	3%	11%	14.50%	6%	12%	
Not indicated	23%	13%	33%	7%	1.50%	4%	5%	

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Co-worker Religion	2023-24	2022-23	2021-22	2019-20	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17	Lewisham 2021 census
Buddhist	0%	3%	2%	1%	1%	3%	1%	1%
Christian	25%	29%	36%	44%	47%	61%	62%	44%
Hindu	1%	1%	0%	0%	3%	0%	2%	2%
Jewish	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0.3%
Muslim	1%	3%	2%	1%	4%	4%	1%	7%
No Religion	17%	23%	17%	35%	30%	18%	21%	37%
Sikh	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0.2%
Other	11%	4%	10%	7%	4%	3%	3%	1%
Preferred not to say	30%	26%	13%	9%	9%	9%	8%	
Not indicated	14%	10%	19%	2%	2%	2%	1%	8%

The trustees are committed to Sydenham Garden becoming an organisation that reflects the diversity and ethnicity of the community around them.

ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

During the year, Sydenham Garden has run the following weekly sessions:

Adult Mental Health:

- Garden groups x 3
- Art & Craft groups x 3
- African Caribbean group x 1
- Growing Lives groups x 6
- m.u.d (Young Person Project) x 2
- Practical Organic Gardening (leading to an accredited qualification) x 2

Dementia:

- Sow & Grow groups x 2
- Sow & Grow Families group x 1

School sessions:

- Brent Knoll specialist school sessions x 4
- Greenvale specialist school sessions x 2

Clubs:

- Wild Walks Club – a walking group
- Wildlife Club – a club to enjoy and learn about wildlife
- Activities Club – a club to enjoy a variety of textiles activities
- Gardening Club – a club to enjoy gardening activities

Additional activities:

- Trinity Laban dance for wellbeing
- Opening Wildlife Club, Activities Club and initiating Gardening Club to drop-in sessions as part of Lewisham Warm Welcomes from Dec-Mar.

Adult Mental Health groups are run for people recovering from ill-health in Lewisham and the surrounding boroughs. People were referred to us through Lewisham Wellbeing Hub, by secondary mental health services, or via primary care services from other boroughs. All groups have social, therapeutic, creative and training based activities at their core.

Sow & Grow groups are for people in the early stages of Dementia and the Families group is for people in the early stages of Dementia and their carers. People were referred to these projects by the Lewisham Dementia Support Hub. Groups also have social, therapeutic and creative activities at their core, and

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underpin the activities with Cognitive Stimulation Therapy (CST), which is an evidence-based approach to treating dementia.

School sessions are delivered to four classes (aged between 6 and 18) of Brent Knoll specialist school on a weekly basis and two classes of Greenvale school on a weekly basis during term time.

Clubs are led by a staff member or volunteer and are open to all current and past co-workers as well as other staff and volunteers. In December, we were excited to become part of Lewisham Local's 'Warm Welcomes' initiative for the first time, which saw our clubs transform into welcoming spaces for new visitors to the gardens. Warm Welcomes were set up to support individuals affected by increased living costs in winter. We secured a grant of £5,500 to deliver Warm Welcomes sessions from December to the end of March 2024 and had 472 visits to the groups over this time.

February saw the design and delivery of an intergenerational LGBTQIA+ History Month project, *Supportive Herbs*. Intertwining our 18-25-year-old's group, m. u. d. with elders from the LGBTQIA+ community, we decided upon a project that revolved around medicinal herbs. We explored our nature reserve, spent considered time with wild herbs, and conducted research at Chelsea Physic Garden. Filmmaker, Jack Hogan, composed a 28-minute film collaging our research and intergenerational conversations together. Screening this to the public, and exhibiting our botanical art, gave us the chance to meet new people from this community.

In partnership with Trinity Laban we held summer, autumn and winter series of dance for wellbeing workshops open to our current co-workers. Eighteen co-workers took part in the dance sessions which received very positive feedback. One co-worker said: "I can't tell you how much this experience has helped my mental and physical health."

In total, we received 277 total referrals during the year and 241 co-workers attended at least one session.

We were pleased to hold summer and winter plant sales, the De Frene Summer Festival, and participate in Sydenham Artist's Trail during the year. Co-workers and volunteers actively participated in these events, showing friends, family and local community members around our sites and selling tea, coffee, cake, food, plants, produce and craft items. We also held six bring and share community lunches during the year, attended by co-workers, past co-workers, volunteers and staff, receiving excellent feedback about these opportunities to participate actively in the Sydenham Garden community.

We also hosted four corporate groups during the year with 50 people participating in activities. The groups undertook work on both of our sites including constructing a new wildlife pond; replacing two of our raised brick planter beds with new timber beds; building a new wood store and cleaning the greenhouse. This year, we had a total of 93 hire bookings, including church meetings, children's nature parties, reiki workshops, art workshops and charity training. We generated income of £12,000 from corporate days and venue hire which supports our charitable work.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The charity planned to spend more than its income for the year in order to support both restricted and core projects. This was made possible by using leftover unrestricted reserves from the Covid period. Consequently, the charity spent £16,085 more than its income (compared to a deficit of £140,570 in

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2023). The total income for the year was £429,703 (compared to £343,762 in 2023), and total expenses were £445,788 (compared to £484,332 in 2023). Despite this, the charity is continuing to make progress in delivering its services.

Reserve Policy

The Trustees continued with a policy of maintaining an unrestricted reserve of approximately six months of operating costs (approximately £241k in the 24/25 financial year), which they consider remains appropriate given the challenges and uncertainties facing the charity. The total reserves as of year-end were £228,383 which is less than six months of the operating cost. The charity is expected to achieve the target reserve through the new fundraising strategy to bring more multiyear funding. The charity holds a restricted reserve of £310,707 on fixed assets: this non-cash item is depreciated every year as set out in the accounting policies.

Progress since the end of the year:

- Lauren's Goddard's post was upgraded to m.u.d Project Lead from 1 April 2024.
- Clare Phipps joined as Sow & Grow Sessional Worker on 11 April 2024.
- Ollie Moss joined as Head of Services on 20 May 2024.

In total, we currently have 17 members of staff, three full-time, twelve part-time and two on-call.

Risk Management

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed. Strategies continue to be developed to mitigate these risks and are reviewed by the Trustees at board meetings.

We have secured £342,000 of the budgeted income of £483,000 for the year 2024-25 (as at June 2024).

We have funding applications totalling £265,000 currently being considered by a variety of funders. In addition to this, all secured grants and Service Agreement funds continue to be received such that 71% of 24/25 projected grant income for the year has been secured.

The charity's initial budget for 2024-24 indicated a surplus of £1,924 for the year.

During the year we have engaged the services of a Freelance Fundraiser and developed a multi-year funding strategy.

We have been awarded a £125,000 endowment fund from the Edward Gostling Foundation. Terms state that for five years the capital and/or interest from the endowment fund must be used to ensure our reserves meet our policy of six months operating costs at the end of the each year. After five years, the restrictions lift and trustees may decide how to use the endowment fund, while meeting Charity Commission rules.

We have also been awarded a grant of £278,000 over three years from the National Lottery Reaching Communities Fund. The grant will start on 1 September 2024.

Banking Arrangements:

CAF Bank remains our banker. Funds are placed in the Gold Savings account with an arrangement that a balance of £1,000 is maintained in our current account at the end of each day.

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Accountants

Carleys were re-appointed as the charitable company's accountants at the last AGM. A resolution to re-appoint Carleys for the ensuing year as independent examiner will be proposed at the 2024 AGM.

The report has been prepared having taken advantage of the small companies exemption in the Companies Act 2006

Approved by the Trustees on 19 November 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



Julia Brandreth (Chair)

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INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF SYDENHAM GARDEN FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2024 which are set out on pages 13-21.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The Charity's Trustees and also its directors for the purposes of company law are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act"). They consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act") and that they are eligible for an independent examination.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts (under S145 of the 2011 Act)
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under S145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention 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 Charities SORP (FRS102).

I 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.



Tanja Lawes FCA,
Carleys

Date: 03/12/24

Carleys
The Fitted Rigging House
Anchor Wharf, The Historic Dockyard
Chatham, Kent, ME4 4TZ

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**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024)**

COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER 05291164

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Income from:				
<i>Donations and legacies</i>				
<i>Donations</i>	23,537		23,537	12,304
<i>Charitable Activities</i>				
Grants received	174,917	187,722	362,639	298,645
Session fees	10,460		10,460	8,495
Session Produce Sales	4,816		4,816	4,077
<i>Other trading activities</i>				
Fundraising and publicity	10,460		10,460	6,765
Rental and Corporate	13,074		13,074	12,009
<i>Investment Income</i>				
Bank Interest received	4,717		4,717	1,467
Total Income	241,981	187,722	429,703	343,762
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	11,796		11,796	3,750
Charitable Activities	111,309	322,683	433,992	480,582
Total Resources Expended (see note 16)	123,105	322,683	445,788	484,332
Net movement in funds (see note 10)	118,876	(134,961)	(16,085)	(140,570)
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward	215,850	339,325	555,175	695,745
Transfer between funds	(106,343)	106,343		
Total funds carried forward	228,383	310,707	539,090	555,175

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities.

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**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31ST MARCH 2024**

	Notes	2024	
		£	2023
<i>Fixed Assets:</i>			
Tangible assets	4	355,459	389,996
<i>Current Assets:</i>			
Debtors	5	15,001	30,031
Cash at bank and in hand		255,587	186,668
		270,588	216,699
<i>Liabilities:</i>			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	6	(86,957)	(51,520)
Net Current Assets		183,631	165,179
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities		539,090	555,175
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year		0	0
Net Assets		539,090	555,175
<i>Represented by:</i>			
General Unrestricted funds		228,383	215,850
Designated Special Unrestricted fund		0	0
Total Unrestricted funds		228,383	215,850
Restricted funds - tangible assets		310,707	339,325
Restricted funds		0	0
Total funds		539,090	555,175

For the year ending 31st March 2024 the Company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies. The members have not required the Company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts.

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

The financial statements on pages 13-14 were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 19 November 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

Julia Brandreth
Chair

Jon Sherman
Treasurer

SYDENHAM GARDEN: TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

1. Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with FRS 102, the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP FRS 102), applicable accounting standards and company law. The charity is a public benefit entity. The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

Incoming Resources

Charitable trading activities: income is included in the period in which the Charity is entitled to its receipt.

Donations and Grants

Income from donations and grants is included in incoming resources when these are receivable. Income is also included when the charity is entitled to it, when it is probable it will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably. The exception is as follows:

When donors impose conditions which have to be fulfilled before the Charity becomes entitled to use such income, the income is deferred and not included in incoming resources until the pre-conditions for use have been met.

Resources Expended

Resources expended are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on an accruals basis, inclusive of any VAT which cannot be recovered. All support costs are included under "charitable activities" rather than apportioned between each of the charity's activities (such as fundraising), as such an apportionment would result in small, immaterial amounts attributable to non-charitable activities. The costs and time involved of calculating such an apportionment would vastly outweigh the usefulness of doing so.

Pension Costs

The Charity participates in a defined contribution scheme.

Tangible Fixed Assets

Tangible Fixed Assets are depreciated by reference to their estimated useful lives. The rates are:

IT and garden furniture, garden equipment, bee hives, water tank, floodlights and bicycle	33%	straight line basis
Canopy sail and water irrigation system	20%	straight line basis
Other equipment, fencing, buggy, heat source pump, PV panels, air conditioning, greenhouse electrics and office furniture	10%	straight line basis
De Frene greenhouse, hub, education hub, compost toilet, solar kit, path shelter and sheds	10%	straight line basis
Wynell Road Garden Buildings	Length of lease	straight line basis
De Frene Lease	Length of lease	straight line basis

Funds Accounting

Funds held by the Charity are either:

- Unrestricted - these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the Trustees.
- Designated Unrestricted – The trustees intend to investigate expansion of services and physical space.
- Restricted - these are funds that can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the Charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

2. Legal Status of the Charity

The Charity is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The liability of each member in the event of a winding up is limited to £1. Its registered office and business address is Sydenham Garden Resource Centre, 28A Wynell Road, London, SE23 2LW.

3. Staff and Pension Costs

	2024	2023
Gross wages and salaries	£282,304	£327,362
Employers NI	£17,477	£21,954
Pension costs	£16,616	£18,826
	£316,397	£368,142

No employee received emoluments of over £60,000 during the year (2023: nil). No trustee received any remuneration.

The average number of employees in the year was 15 (2023: 16). The equivalent full time number of employees was 9 (2023: 9).

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for the benefit of employees. Contributions payable by the Charity for the period were £16,616 (2023: £18,826).

4. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Land and Buildings	Equipment & Furniture	Total
Cost			
At 1st April 2023	595,110	68,977	664,087
Additions			0
Disposals		(13,228)	(13,228)
At 31st March 2024	595,110	55,749	650,859
Depreciation			
At 1st April 2023	218,328	55,763	274,091
Charge for the year	28,242	3,308	31,550
Disposals		(10,241)	(10,241)
At 31st March 2024	246,570	48,830	295,400
Net Book Value			
At 31 st March 2023	376,782	13,214	389,996
At 31st March 2024	348,540	6,919	355,459

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5. Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Grant receivable	10,697	25,247
Prepayments	2,304	2,784
Other debtors		0
Accrued Income: donation	2,000	2,000
Total	15,001	30,031

6. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	4,405	
Deferred Income	79,487	45,401
Other creditors	1,565	2,544
Accruals	1,500	3,575
Total	86,957	51,520

Deferred income relates to rental income received in the year but relating to the year ending 31st March 2025.

7. Commitments:

The Charity has a commitment to the National Allotments Society that expires within 985 years in respect of the lease of allotment land at De Frene Road Allotments, De Frene Road, Lewisham, London SE26, from and including 1st January 2010, to and including 31st December 3008. The lease was acquired for a premium of £3,250 with rent of £150 a year payable in advance on 1st January every year. Rent will be doubled with effect 1st January 2060 and again every 150 years after that. The total amount payable to the end of the lease in 3008 is £3,781,200. The charity is obliged to notify the Landlord within one month if they vacate, dispose to another party, or cease operations, or if there are any other circumstances in which the lease ceases to be invested in the Charity. A reasonable fee of at least £50 is payable on notification.

The Charity also holds a lease from Lewisham Council on the Queenswood Road Nature Reserve, accessed from Wynell Road, the site of the Sydenham Garden Resource Centre, which expires on 26th September 2042. A peppercorn rent was payable per annum if demanded for the first ten years to 26th September 2017. For the next five years and subsequent five-year periods, either rent is payable based on that for the immediately preceding period or at open market value. To date no amount has been specified by Lewisham Council. The Charity can vacate the lease on written notice being given to the Landlord within at least six months of vacation.

The Charity entered into a new hire agreement with Pitney Bowes Finance Limited in April 2022 for the hire and maintenance of the franking machine until May 2027. After renegotiation of the lease, £224 is payable each year in quarterly amounts of £56. The total amount payable to the end of the agreement is £896.

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8. Movement in restricted funds

	Balance 01.04. 2023	Balance	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfer	Balance
		£	Resources	Resources	between	31.3 2024
<i>Funds held as cash and debtors:</i>						
1)	Art Project costs	-	11,250	47,610	36,360	-
2)	De Frene Growing Lives Fund	-	63,785	69,726	5,941	-
3)	Garden Fund	-	5,000	42,281	37,281	-
4)	Dementia Sow & Grow	-	32,503	36,870	4,367	-
5)	NCIL Ward Meeting Up	-	8,100	8,100	-	-
6)	OCN Practical organic gardening	-	27,000	35,353	8,353	-
7)	Culturally diverse Youth Project	-	37,250	49,860	12,610	-
8)	Hyde Charitable Fund	-	2,834	4,265	1,431	-
Sub-total – cash and debtors		-	187,722	294,065	106,343	-
 <i>Funds held as tangible assets:</i>						
a)	Wynell Greenhouse	26,624		1,365		25,259
b)	Garden Resource Centre building	264,747		14,226		250,521
c)	De Frene Greenhouse including stove	1,501		754		747
d)	De Frene compost toilet	1,845		758		1,087
e)	De Frene Equipment	1,224		888		336
f)	De Frene Hub building	7,806		2,019		5,787
g)	De Frene Education Hub	1,188		406		782
h)	Buggy	5,779		5,779		-
i)	Path	25,000		1,667		23,333
j)	Shelter	3,611		756		2,855
Sub-total (tangible assets)		339,325	-	28,618	-	310,707
TOTAL RESTRICTED RESERVES		339,325	187,722	322,683	106,343	310,707

The providers of the above funds in note 8 are as follows:

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- 1) The Drapers Charitable Trust
- 2) The City Bridge Trust, Award for all, Richer Sound and The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust
- 3) Peter Stebbings Memorial Charity
- 4) The Lee Charity of William Hatcliffe, McCarthy Stone and The Mercers' Charitable Foundation
- 5) London Borough of Lewisham NCIL Ward
- 6) London Borough of Lewisham
- 7) South East London Mind
- 8) Hyde Charitable Fund

The funders of the above tangible assets are as follows:

- a) Friends of Sydenham Garden and individual Donors Greenhouse appeal, Horniman Museum, the Heritage Lottery Fund
- b) The Harold Hyam Wingate Foundation, Guys & St Thomas' Charity – PCT Development Fund, London Borough of Lewisham, Garfield Weston Foundation, The Clothworkers' Foundation, The Coutts Charitable Trust, The MacRobert Trust, The Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths, Friends of Sydenham Garden and Individual Donors Building Appeal, The Percy Bilton Charity, Beatrice Laing Trust, The Tudor Trust, The Trusthouse Charitable Foundation, The Wolfson Foundation, The Henry Smith Charity, City Bridge Trust, London Borough of Lewisham Energy Fund, combined contribution from South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust and NHS Lewisham and London, South London and Maudsley NHS Trust Charitable Funds
- c) London Borough of Lewisham – Social Enterprise, Big Lottery Fund - Awards for All, Big Lottery Fund - Reaching Communities
- d-g) Big Lottery Fund - Reaching Communities and Individual donors, Evans Cornish foundation and London Groundwork
- e) Big Lottery Fund - Reaching Communities, Evans Cornish foundation and London Groundwork
- h) The Edward Gosling Foundation (formerly The ACT Foundation)
- i) The Clothworkers' Foundation
- j) Friends of Sydenham Garden and individual Donors Shelter Fund, Michael Dufton Memorial & Dementia Fund

Other grant funders are as follows

Dr P Cawley
Henry Smith Charity
Merchant Taylors' Company
Mrs Smith & Mount Trust
Orange Tree Trust
The 29th May 1961 Charity
The Champniss Charitable Trust
The Edward Gostling Foundation
The London Borough of Lewisham Main grant
The National Lottery
Together

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9. Net movement in funds

	2024	2023
	£	£
<i>The net movement in funds are shown after charging:</i>		
Depreciation	31,550	33,469
Leases/premises rent	1,020	1,179

10. Summary of Assets and Liabilities by Fund

	Unrestricted General Fund		Unrestricted Designated Fund		Restricted Funds tangible assets		Restricted Funds		Total	
	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023
Fixed Assets	44,752	50,671			310,707	339,325			355,459	389,996
Net Current Assets	183,631	165,179							183,631	165,179
Long term liabilities										
Total	228,383	215,850	0	0	310,707	339,325	0	0	539,090	555,175

11. Related Party Transactions

The charity received donations from the Trustees in the year of £15 (2023: £455). No payments were made to related parties in the year (2023: nil).

12. Trustees Expenses

Trustees are entitled to claim travel and subsistence and other expenses related to carrying out their duties at Sydenham Garden. There were no expenses in the year (2023: nil).

13. Independent Examiner's Fee

£1,500 was accrued in the year being the cost of the independent examination for 2024 (2023: £1,500).

14. Volunteers

During the year the Charity had 71 volunteers that supported it on a weekly basis. The Charity has benefitted from these unpaid volunteers and this is not recognised in the financial statements.

15. Government Grants

Government grants, including local government and NHS Trusts, have provided funds of £157,183 in the year being 42% of total grant income (2023: £127,337- 43%).

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16. Analysis of Expenses

	Charitable Activities	Support Costs	Total Charitable Activities	Fundraising Expenses	Total Expenses
	£	£	£	£	£
Human resources	179,453	146,170	325,623		325,623
Project costs	22,273		22,273		22,273
Premises costs		18,642	18,642		18,642
Office expenses		15,848	15,848		15,848
Information Technology		11,835	11,835		11,835
Insurance		5,563	5,563		5,563
Loss on Sales of FA		487	487		487
Depreciation		31,550	31,550		31,550
Governance Costs		2,171	2,171		2,171
Direct fundraising costs				11,796	11,796
TOTAL	201,726	232,266	433,992	11,796	445,788