



Charity Name	No (if any)
Olden Community Garden	1158105

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	1 st Sept 2016		31 st Aug 2017

CC16a

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
11. Cripplegate Foundation Islington Council's community Chest	-	5,000	-	5,000	5,000
12. Islington Council S106 and LIF	-	2,000	-	2,000	1,000
13. Corporate Donations Waitrose and Morris Trust	188	-	-	188	2,663
14. Individual Donations	558	-	-	558	778
15. Member's Subscriptions	3,160	-	-	3,160	4,197
16. Lettings	3,060	-	-	3,060	3,655
17. Events and Fundraising	3,590	-	-	3,590	2,286
18. Miscellaneous Sales and Fundraising	50	-	-	50	259
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	10,606	7,000	-	17,606	19,838
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	10,606	7,000	-	17,606	19,838
A3 Payments					
29 Gardeners Services	5,602	5,000	-	10,602	8,708
30 Plants, Compost etc	493	326	-	819	1,835
31 Tools	-	-	-	-	87
32 Repairs, Improvements, & Maintenance	915	200	-	1,115	7,432
33 Volunteer Work Days	249	-	-	249	290
34 Events and Fundraising	1,243	-	-	1,243	1,968
35 Office Supplies, postage	437	-	-	437	336
36 Insurance	311	-	-	311	313
37 Electricity	300	-	-	300	288
38 Miscellaneous Expenses	140	-	-	140	132
Sub total	9,690	5,526	-	15,216	21,389
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-

Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	9,690	5,526	-	15,216	21,389
Net of receipts/(payments)	916	1,474	-	2,390	- 1,551
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	11,482	-	-	11,482	11,482
Cash funds this year end	12,398	1,474	-	13,872	9,931

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

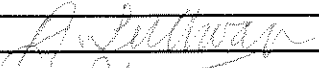
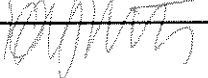
Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Bank Account	13,872	1,474	-
			-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	12,398	1,474	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

R & P Accounts 16-17

B5 Liabilities

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	

Signed by one or two trustees on
behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	ANNA SULLIVAN	02/10/2017
	JENNY SMITH	04/10/2017



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
	1	SEPT	2016		31	AUG	2017

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

Olden Community Garden

Other names charity is known by

formerly known as the Olden Garden Development Project

Registered charity number (if any)

1158105

Charity's principal address

Whistler Street,

Highbury

LONDON

Postcode

N5 1NH

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Terry STACY	Chair		
2	Anna SULLIVAN	Deputy Chair		
3	Jill McKEOWN	Membership Secretary		
4	Vicky CHURCH	Trustee		
5	Nancy McCREA	Secretary		
6	Jeremy URQUHART	Trustee		
7	Laura Ellington-Jones	Trustee		
8	Samir Patel	Trustee		
9				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Type of adviser

Name

Address

Adviser on Woodlands and Wildlife Conservation	Carrick JAMES	13 Baalbec Road, Highbury, London N5 1QN
Gardener	Laura Arison	107 Arlington Road, London, Nw1 7ET
Gardener	Andrew Smith	24 Pexket Square, London, N5 2PB

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Olden Community Garden is governed by the Constitution which was agreed on 6 April 2014. It gained charitable status in August 2014.
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Olden Community Garden is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). It currently has 8 (eight) Trustees, and the maximum permissible under its constitution of 9 (nine) Trustees. It has one Adviser on Woodlands and Wildlife Conservation, and two adviser gardeners
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Trustees are elected by the Membership at the Annual General Meeting for a period of 3 years, and may be co-opted.

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

The charity has a simple **organisational structure**, with no sub-committee, though individual Trustees take lead responsibility for different aspects of running the garden.

We are in the process of negotiating a **lease** at peppercorn rent with the **London Borough of Islington**

We are supported in **risk management** by the **London Borough of Islington** which retains responsibility for aspects of the structural integrity of the site, and has an advisory role.

Trustees regularly review risks associated with the management of the garden, and develop policies and action plans to deal with them. The nature of the diverse two-acre (0.8 hectare) garden site means that some risks are on-going and dealt with through policies (such as the policy of having no unaccompanied children in the garden) while others are one-off and are dealt with through an action plan.

Olden Community Garden holds full public liability insurance.

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The objects of the CIO are to promote for the benefit of those people living or working in the London Borough of Islington a community garden and associated facilities to advance education and for the purposes of recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disability, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances or for the public at large in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving their condition of life.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

The Trustees were satisfied that the activities of Olden Garden met the **objectives** as set out in the constitution, and the requirement of public benefit. We continue to be guided by the requirement of **public benefit** as we plan our future programme of work and activities in the garden.

The Olden Garden was created in 1986 when a group of local residents successfully campaigned to rescue a derelict railway embankment and turn it into a community garden. Over the years, the site has been turned into a haven for local residents and wildlife alike. The garden is a significant asset to the community. Islington has less green space than any other London Borough, and the garden forms an important wildlife habitat. The Garden contains the largest area of woodland in the Borough and is one of the largest community managed open spaces in

London The Borough recognises the garden's importance to the area and has designated it Grade 1 SINCC (Site of Importance for Nature Conservation).

The garden is open to the **general public** at least 55 times a year, and to its key-holding Members at all times. The general public can drop into the garden on the weekly volunteer work days and the monthly volunteer days, and can attend any of the special events. During 2016/2017, our special events and fund raising activities included taking part in the London Open Squares & Gardens Programme and yet again in the Chelsea Fringe which attract visitors from all over London and further afield.

The garden is largely maintained by **volunteers** (including both Members and Non-Members) with the support of two part-time **gardeners** who are advisers to the committee. Key-holding Members can drop in at any time to garden, or just to enjoy the surroundings. The gardeners are present one day per week, and this tends to be when regular volunteers come in who get support and encouragement from the gardeners. In addition, there is a regular monthly volunteer work day (except in December and January) at which up to 15 volunteers (including both individuals and families) come along to work and to enjoy a social lunch.

Over the year 2016/2017 the **garden and garden house facilities** were booked for a total of 75 lettings. These included lettings for educational sessions and meetings which had a gardening input for Olden Community Garden. The remainder of the lettings were meetings, private parties, and social enterprises that did not involve a gardening input for Olden Garden. One of our main users has continued to be the City & Islington College Learning Disabilities Training Team which held a number of sessions in the garden. Private parties and social enterprises booked the garden and garden house a number of times during the year which helped generate income for the garden. Other not for profit organisations that used the garden included , Woodland Folk, Islington Brownies; the University of the Third Age and AgeUK..

Olden Community Garden provides both a regular programme of activities and opportunities for volunteers to drop in.

Our regular programme of activities in 2016/17 were:

- Weekly volunteering sessions that are aimed particularly at those assisting with regular garden maintenance, and who receive support and advice from our sessional gardeners.
- Monthly volunteering sessions (3rd Saturday of every month, except December and January) that are regularly attended by up to 20 adults, and several children. The sessional gardeners and senior Members provide gardening advice and support.
- Hosting regular sessions for community groups, including horticulture training courses for people with learning disabilities run by City and Islington College; and the University of Third Age.
- Hosting a steady stream of visitors. The garden is particularly enjoyed by families whose young children love the space and variety the garden offers.
- Host networking events for friends of open spaces groups and other community gardens in partnership with Social Farms and Gardens
- Growing a range of fruit and vegetables which are enjoyed by local people, and some are sold to raise funds. The produce made from our fruit and vegetables raise awareness of using local food, and inspire our volunteers.

Maintenance and development of the garden:

- We have two part-time paid gardeners who are present one day a week, but much of the work to maintain the garden is carried out by volunteers – on weekly, monthly, and *ad hoc* work days.
- The total number of hours worked on-site by the volunteers stayed stable in 2016/17.

This year, **repairs and improvements** have included:

- After many years of trying to improve the performance of the herbaceous long border it was decided to raise the front edge and insert a great deal of good quality compost. Generally speaking this has been a success
- Our attempts to camouflage the “new” Roundhouse wall have met with mixed success. The builders of the new “Highbury Roundhouse” obligingly put up a thick mess fence to stop their various materials coming onto our territory but several of our climbers have suffered because of the scaffolding that had to go up on our side. However up there you will see a thriving cercis, a thriving quince tree and an exuberant rosa filipe Kiftsgate.
- In June 2016 we embarked upon our participation in the London Orchard Project
- Three new compost bays have been erected; and this should help us turn all our waste into productive compost or mulch

Our Events Programme

We have an annual programme of events, aimed at both our members and the wider public. This year the **special events** included:

- A Chelsea Fringe Music Garden Party to raise funds for the maintenance of our garden. A number of musicians performed, and the arrangements were organised by our part-time gardeners. Over 400 visitors attended who enjoyed the music, the BBQ, teas and cakes that were arranged by the Committee and Members.
- Our involvement in the London Open Squares & Gardens Programme, which was highlighted in the national press
- We hosted a number of joint events with the London Orchard Project to promote fruit growing and fruit tree maintenance

Developing the charity:

- We continue to discuss with LB Islington the details of our lease, we hope that 2017/2018 will see this finally signed once issues about repair and tree maintenance issues are addressed
- Our financial accounts were examined by an independent external examiner.
- We refreshed our trustee committee with a number of new members

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- Policy on grantmaking;
- Policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

N/A

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Generally speaking the garden has ticked over very well this year 2016/2017, and many thanks to all our volunteers and friends who help make this happen we couldn't do it without you our members and supporters.

You will notice that the back-drop to this year's AGM is a bit different. After many years of trying to improve the performance of the herbaceous long border it was decided to raise the front edge and insert a great deal of good quality compost. Generally speaking this has been a success. It is still difficult to get some of the plants at the back to flower – the wisteria, the hydranger, the hibiscus etc – but many other plants have enjoyed the new conditions.

Our greatest concern has been the lawn. Over the winter a great deal of time and effort was spent trying to get it into decent fettle. (Our overtures to the Arsenal ground staff have not yet brought a response.) The lawn was painstakingly and professionally relayed two winters ago but, due to the heavy wear it gets, it has become more and more threadbare; and the many efforts to aerate and re-seed have been mostly unsuccessful. Other solutions must be sought. One suggestion is that this autumn we could sow or lay a broad-leaf lawn, with more daisies, thyme, clovers etc than grass, and this work will start just after the AGM

We applied for funds to develop the woodland through the Tesco Bags of Help scheme. We are currently deciding which parts of the scheme we can spend the money on following on discussions with the Council about the boundary wall with 1 Whistler Street which has had some movement. We are reflecting on the aim of the project and are discussing with Tesco's how we take the project forward and improve the area for the benefit of both the ecology of the woodland and the convenience of the members.

A complication has arisen in the woodland in that British Rail (or Railtrack) have cleared the very heavy vegetation that used to surround and disguise the stone embankment beside the tunnel at the south end of our site. This has created quite a health hazard for us which we are seeking to solve by inserting a fence and some new discouraging planting. With the kind help of the Council we will be fencing off the area around the tunnel entrance for health and safety reasons

Our attempts to camouflage the Roundhouse wall have met with mixed success. The builders obligingly put up a thick mess fence to stop their various materials coming onto our territory but several of our climbers have suffered because of the scaffolding that had to go up on our side. However up there you will see a thriving cercis, a thriving quince tree and

an exuberant rosa filipe Kiftsgate.

On the approach to the woodland you will also see, against the new yellow-brick wall, the rosa mutabilis that Robin Mabey gave us to mark his 80th birthday last year. Robin as you know was a stalwart of the garden and his passing will be recorded in other, yet to be decided, horticultural ways.

In June we embarked upon our participation in the London Orchard Project. This has been an opportunity for members to increase their knowledge and skills in tending our orchard under professional supervision. Each work day there has been an orchard-related activity and that continues over the winter. There are still sessions on harvesting, pruning and grafting still to come. Members can still join the programme and emerge next year as accredited orchardists.

Three new compost bays have been erected; and this should help us turn all our waste into productive compost or mulch. We will once again make our own potting and seed-planting compost by capturing and sieving our leaf-fall.

A few of the successes we are proud of this year include, the nurturing of an abutilon and a heptacosia. Our campsia has at last produced a decent amount of bloom. Jill's echium from Cornwall has been spectacular as was the Paul's Himalayan Musk rose. The sharp eyed will also find a hamamelis mollis and two arbutuses. We are well aware though of areas that are not so successful and these we will put our energies into over the next year.

Yet again Olden Community Garden took part in the Open Garden Squares Weekend in June along with our neighbours at the Arvon Road Allotments and Arvon Road Community Garden. We joined some of London's exclusive squares, secret gardens and green spaces, and flung their gates wide open in June as part of the Open Garden Squares Weekend. It was a great success and many thanks to all those friends and volunteers who helped Olden Community Garden take part again this year.

Our Chair Terry Stacy is a big fan of the weekend and helped write an article for the national press on the highlights of this year's offering. Below is a bit of that article

"Founded 20 years ago by Londoner Caroline Aldiss when she wanted to share her own home square, Kensington's Collingham Gardens, and organised by the London Parks and Gardens Trust, the city's great garden show now embraces not just our finest squares but more than 230 gardens across 27 London boroughs, including Olden Community Garden.

Newcomers this year included two acclaimed roof gardens at Bishopsgate, the northern terrace inspired by Asia, the southern by Europe, and Hachette's award-winning rooftop with stretches of lawn, English country garden planting and sensational views towards the Tower and London Eye.

Other gardens-in-the-sky which were able to be visited included the dynamic roof garden at the Barbican Centre, designed by climate change expert Professor Nigel Dunnett, and the garden above Canary Wharf's Crossrail station, which has both striking architecture and landscape

Section D

Achievements and performance

inspired by the wharf's maritime heritage. People were also able to head to Canary Wharf's Crossrail station to see a garden inspired by the wharf's maritime heritage. The open spaces in and around Canary Wharf are one of the major successes of this development in my view. You were able to find plenty of planting inspiration at the Inner Temple Garden, which has changed dramatically since its conception in the 12th century, thanks to head gardener who's perennial and container plantings could scoop Gold at the Chelsea Flower Show.

Instead of using humdrum terracotta pots, get more original container ideas from Roof East, which is on a car park atop the Stratford Shopping Centre, where colourful shrubs and saplings spring from planters of recycled pallets, decking from the Olympic Park footbridge and even vintage sports cars, although these might be trickier to source. This was really "greening the grey" in my view.

If sleek minimalism is more your style, you would have appreciated the modern garden at Arsenal's former Highbury Stadium. Touring the precision-clipped hedging cubes, contemporary water features and pristine geometric lawns framed with Perspex walls. All a bit "perfect" and "clean cut" for me, give me Olden Community Garden any day! Southwark Cathedral, London's oldest Gothic church, offered a botanical trail with a difference: all the plants in the churchyard and herb garden have biblical and Shakespearean connections, but then the Bard himself did worship here, as did his brother, Edmund, who is buried within the grounds. When is a weed a wildflower?

You were able to find out on a nature trail at Haringey's Railway Fields, the former goods yard that is now a spectacular nature reserve boasting over 200 species of wildflowers as well as the Haringey knotweed, supposedly a hybrid of Japanese knotweed and Russian vine... hopefully not coming to your garden any time soon."

Our children's Garden has continued to grow from strength to strength thanks to local parents, along with the regular monthly workdays the garden has continued to bloom.

Our Chelsea Fringe music party which we held in May, was a huge success - frighteningly so at times! The music was great, the weather was marvellous, and the food sublime.

Our partnership with City & Islington colleague has continued, this is a Partnership we are extremely proud of that give young people with learning difficult access to our wonderful garden space and allows them to develop their skills.

Whilst Laura, one of our regular gardeners, has been away we have been very lucky to have Catherine working with us during Andrews's indisposition and Laura's sojourn in Turkmenistan. With her experience and expertise Katherine has been a great asset.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The Trustees' policy is to hold in reserve a minimum of 3 month's running costs. These are defined as: gardening services; gardening supplies and equipment; garden house and toilet facilities; and general administration.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

The charity's financial picture has been stable. We have mixed sources of income and depend both on our own income (membership subscriptions, donations, and earned income from lettings and special fundraising events) and external grants (, Local Initiative Fund, and Community Chest; Cripplegate Foundation; Tesco's Bag for Life Programme and Waitrose).

We are particularly grateful to the **London Borough of Islington** (LBI) for their long-standing financial and advisory support and other offers of practical assistance. As well as support from local Councillors via their Local Initiative Funding.

We are grateful to the **Cripplegate Foundation** for their generous financial support over many years. The restricted grant for gardening services from the Cripplegate Foundation & Islington Council Community Chest enabled us to continue to employ two sessional gardeners who form the backbone of the gardening activities undertaken at Olden Community Garden by members and other volunteers.

We will be looking to expand our funding base over the next year as we do every year, with applications to other external funding bodies. We also hope to grow our membership and income earned from lettings as unrestricted funds are invaluable in maintaining and developing the garden and the activities we can offer.

Section F

Other optional information

Trustees continue to look at the development of a longer-term plan for the garden. This will need to address the following

- The costs of rebuilding the retaining wall that has collapsed, and the way forward.
- Improving access to all parts of the garden, including steep woodland paths, for the elderly, disabled and general public.
- Identifying new groups of people who might benefit from use of the garden, and garden house facilities, including those in need and those who have less access to open space
- More activities for families and younger children, such as the physical development of a Children's Garden, and regular activities for families.
- Developing particular areas of the garden such as the lawn and herbaceous borders on the top

terrace; the raised terrace on the middle level, the orchard, and wildflower meadow

- Preparation of an Annual Garden Plan of priority activities to be undertaken each month.

Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Terry STACY MBE JP	Anna SULLIVAN
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	Vice Chair

Date