



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
	1	SEPT	2018		31	AUG	2019

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	Sussie Burrows	Trustee		
6	Jeremy URQUHART	Trustee		
7	Laura Ellington-Jones	Trustee	Resigned November 2018	
9	Tom Hitchman	Treasurer		

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

Gardener	Laura Arison	107 Arlington Road, London, NW1 7ET
Gardener	Andrew Smith	24 Peckett Square, Highbury, London, N5 2PB

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

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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 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. A copy of which is on public display in the garden house on site

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 SINC (Site of Importance for Nature Conservation).

The garden is open to the **general public** at least 55 times a year, and to it 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 2017/2018, our special events and fund raising activities included taking part in the London Open Squares & Gardens Programme, Chelsea Fringe and as part of the National Garden Scheme 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 adviser 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 2018/2019 the **garden and garden house facilities** were booked for a total of 47 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 user 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, AgeUK, local residents groups and environment campaign organisations.

As with previous years the Olden Community Garden provides both a regular programme of activities and opportunities for volunteers to drop in.

Our regular programme of activities in 2018/19 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 10 adults, and several children. The sessional gardeners and senior Members provide gardening advice and support.
- Hosting regular sessions for community groups,
- 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 opens 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. Sadly this is becoming an annual thing due to historical site issues and the poor ground/London clay issue across Highbury
- Our attempts to camouflage the "new" Roundhouse wall has continued to have 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.
- Three new compost bays which we erected; has been a great success in turning all our waste into productive compost or mulch
- Drawing up plans for works to the patio and for a new pond in the garden

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 300 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
- We opened the garden as part of the National Garden Scheme to raise money for charity as part of a London Wide scheme
- We relaunched our work with Drayton Park Primary school and have given them an allotment for them to look after with class 5 and 6 pupils

Developing the charity:

- We continue to discuss with LB Islington the details of our lease.
- 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

At the AGM we usually see an exhausted lawn and a green but tired herbaceous border. The lawn is its usual self; but this year the long border is thriving. It's always good in spring and early summer but this year we were able to arrest its slide by the introduction, at the start of August, of an irrigation system. While we can point to areas of the garden that have improved and plants that have done well there are still areas where we struggle to find the succession of flowering plants that suit the conditions at different times of the year. Irrigation is a major problem still, not helped by the London clay

The mature trees on the site draw away much of the rainfall; but it looks as if the long-planned exploitation of the water from the roof of the new Roundhouse is about to happen, the tank is in place on their side of the fence and there is a tap on ours so soon the water will flow, as the work has started again on the community centre. So, by annual increments, through judicious buying, through gifts and our own propagation, the herbaceous side of the garden will continue to flourish.

The lawn

Despite our best efforts the new lawn has not thrived. It was re-turfed in Nov 2017. We carefully scrutinised the process and the turf was said to be sports quality but it has already degenerated into its previous condition, in particular at the bottom end where it has reverted to a sandy dust. When the turf was laid it was put on a bed of 'root-zone' which is supposed to promote root growth, but in our case the soil has been washed away and we're left with the sand.

Footfall is obviously one of the reasons. Despite the fact we fenced-off the lawn for the whole of the last two winters it's clear that the grass doesn't grow where people come on to it from the patio. The other major issue of course is the thirstiness of the big trees, the ash, the silver birches, the Rambling Rector and the eucalyptus. The eucalyptus is a particular problem: we heard from an Australian visitor it's well known to be incompatible with grass growing. It sheds hard, waxy leaves which wriggle down on to the soil and take a long time to biodegrade thus starving the roots of light and water. We have scarified the lawn ever Tuesday all summer, even spent time on our hands and knees winking the leaves out of the turf; and of course re-seeded at regular intervals during the growing season. The result, though, you can see. The solution? More of the same? Perhaps more feeding? We looking at suggestions centred around possibly extending the patio and installing some raised beds so watch this space.

Vegetables

The undoubted success of the year has been the resurrection of our

vegetable growing by Lynne Friedl. She works with a number of children's growing projects and it became clear that our raised beds and our greenhouse would be ideal for her purposes. The results are tremendous: we have a very productive veg. terrace and through Lynne's industry we have the basis for a sustainable veg. project with Drayton Park School. In fact the greenhouse has been very productive this year on the horticultural as well as the vegetable front; and we have Amato to thank for being the person-on-the-spot to open and close it and do a great deal of watering.

Our orchard

It's been a strange year. No pears, no plums, no greengages but several fruitful apple trees, which is great news compared to last year, so we can contribute to Gillespie Park's apple day.

Composting

The annual round of composting is now well established. We generate our own potting and seed compost by sieving the annual leaf-fall and anything left over becomes a useful mulch. We sort our green waste into different qualities of compost so it all stays on the site. The good stuff, fortified by the bags of coffee grinds brought to us by Paul from the Vagabond Cafe, goes back into the soil; the rest is deployed to form habitats through dead-hedges or ecoheaps.

Projects

There are three major projects that have a bearing on gardening. These concern the work area, the subsiding terrace and the patio.

The work area development is underway to install a wheelchair ramp a work counter with a lean-to roof and storage beneath.

We are drawing up plans to remodel the patio and will redevelop the area within an arc from the side alley, round in front of the two pergolas, round the back of the rockery and to the fence behind the shed. We are seeking member feedback on the idea

We continue to look at sites for a possible pond in the garden. We have taken professional advice and now have comprehensive plans for the work. We are looking out for a major funding opportunity, and are 'ready to go' when one comes.

Amenity versus ecology.

This year has highlighted the issue of what sort of a facility we are offering. The problem really only arises when members allow children to use the garden as a playground. It would be great if they could: playing in the woods sounds like a childhood right; but as children get bigger playing includes damaging trees, throwing items of equipment around, leaving taps on, chalking over the paving and scribbling in the record book. We are in discussion with members about how to address these issues

Open Squares & Chelsea Fringe

We had a number of days in which we invite the general public into the garden. We had a very pleasant Sunday during Open Gardens Weekend in which visitors from far-flung places found their way to our door; and in association with Islington Gardeners we have hosted very successful plant and seed swap afternoons.

The biggest event though was our Musical Garden Party, part of the

Section D

Achievements and performance

Chelsea Fringe Festival. The introduction of special, professionally run sessions for children in the woodland helped us comfortably deploy the 300 or so people who attended. They could also find a Swing band, a choir, the Islington folk-music all-comers band and one or two other individual performers. They all came together in the late afternoon for a concert on the lawn: the standard of performance was agreed to be impressively high. The outlay on musicians, food and drink, if we cross refer with the treasurer's report, was repaid by a useful profit. The music was great, the weather good, and the food sublime. Many thanks to all the people that helped make this the success it was, from those that donated cakes, staffed the bar, looked after the barbecue, staffed the entrance desk and helped clear up after the event. We could not have done it without you. Special thank you to Andrew and Laura

Policy Review

We reviewed our Adult Safeguarding policy, and all agreed a new Children's Safeguarding policy this year. Copies of these can be found in the garden house on the notice board.

New Committee Member

We were delighted to co-opt Whistler Street resident and garden member Wendy Desilva onto the Garden Committee from September 2019

Work Days

We would like to say a big thank you to our members and volunteers who attend our work days on the third Saturday of the month, we would be lost without you. The other debt we owe to Amato is the regulation of the greenhouse. He has kept it watered and aired on a daily basis to the benefit of his own plants and ours – a decent bargain in our opinion.

Bookings

Bookings of the garden and the garden house continue to be our main avenue of fundraising, many thanks to Jill for all her hard work in overseeing this, you can't underestimate how much time and energy this takes up. We had 47 Lettings this year, we have developed our relationship with LB Children's Services who have become big fans of the garden and regular users for their training days.

Cripplegate

We continue to be thankful to Cripplegate for their continued support that helps us employ our gardeners Laura and Andrew.
Angela Sinclair bench

Said goodbye to garden friends

We were sorry to lose long standing garden supporter Angela Sinclair recently, her family have kindly donated a bench in her memory to the garden which has been installed and we devasted to hear of the Christine Mabey sad passing of garden supporter, she will be deeply missed by us all.

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 (, LBI 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 continue to look at expanding 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.

A big thank you to our members, supporters and neighbours who continue to support us with their time and energy

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

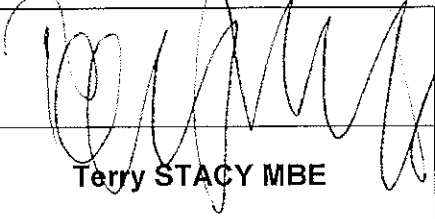
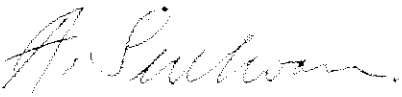
- Improving access to all parts of the garden, including steep woodland paths, for the elderly, disabled and general public.
- Identifying new groups of people who might benefit from use of the garden, and garden house facilities, including those in need and those who have less access to open space
- 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, this is a "organic" document and is being developed

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	Anna SULLIVAN
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	Vice Chair

Date 30/07/2019.



Charity Name	No (if any)
Olden Community Garden	1158105

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date 1 st Sept 2018	To	Period end date 31 st Aug 2019
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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	-	-	-	-	-
13. Corporate Donations	1,300	-	-	1,300	260
14. Individual Donations	375	-	-	375	180
15. Member's Subscriptions	3,855	-	-	3,855	3,890
16. Lettings	3,965	-	-	3,965	3,885
17. Events and Fundraising	2,750	-	-	2,750	310
18. Miscellaneous Sales and Fundraising	-	-	-	-	51
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	12,245	5,000	-	17,245	13,577

A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	12,245	5,000	-	17,245	13,577

A3 Payments					
29 Gardeners Services	4,574	5,000	-	9,574	9,085
30 Plants, Compost etc	1,325	-	-	1,325	972
31 Tools	332	-	-	332	68
32 Repairs, Improvements, & Maintenance	3,371	-	-	3,371	3,498
33 Volunteer Work Days	97	-	-	97	116
34 Events and Fundraising	1,361	-	-	1,361	188
35 Office Supplies, postage	221	-	-	221	379
36 Insurance	320	-	-	320	320
37 Electricity	317	-	-	317	235
38 Miscellaneous Expenses	53	-	-	53	246
Sub total	11,971	5,000	-	16,971	15,108

A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-

Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	11,971	5,000	-	16,971	15,108
Net of receipts/(payments)	274	-	-	274	- 1,531
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	12,341	-	-	12,341	11,482
Cash funds this year end	12,615	-	-	12,615	9,951

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

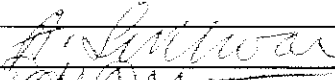
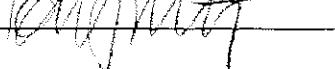
Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Bank Account	12,615	-	-
			-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	12,615	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted 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 18-19

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	29/09/2019
	TERRY STACEY	29/09/2019