



## Trustees' Annual Report for the period

		Period start date			Period end date		
From	Day	Month	Year	To	Day	Month	Year
	1	SEPT	2015		31	AUG	2016

### Section A

### Reference and administration details

<b>Charity name</b>	Olden Community Garden
<b>Other names charity is known by</b>	Formerly known as the Olden Garden Development Project
<b>Registered charity number (if any)</b>	1158105
<b>Charity's principal address</b>	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 MBE	Chair		
2	Anna SULLIVAN	Deputy Chair		
3	Jill McKEOWN	Membership Secretary		
4	Jennifer SHARPLEY	Treasurer	Resigned 21 <sup>st</sup> February 2016	
5	Nancy McCREA	Secretary	Co-opted 23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2015	
6	Jeremy URQUHART	Trustee		
7	Vicky CHURCHER	Trustee	Co-opted 1 <sup>st</sup> October 2015	
8				
9				

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

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year
N/A	N/A

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Adviser on Woodlands and Wildlife Conservation	Carrick JAMES	13 Baalbec Road, Highbury, London N5 1QN

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

N/A
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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). During 2015/2016 it had 7 (7) Trustees, and the maximum permissible under its constitution of 9 (nine) Trustees. It has one Adviser on Woodlands and Wildlife Conservation.
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. For events/fundraising we set up "ad-hoc" task & finish groups

We now have a draft lease at a peppercorn rent with the **London Borough of Islington**, discussions are on-going before it is signed later in 2017

The London Borough of Islington, which retains responsibility for aspects of the structural integrity of the site, and has an advisory role, supports us in risk management.

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, 2015/2016 saw the garden adopted a wider safeguarding policy to cover adults as well) while others are one-off and are dealt with through an action plan. We also work closely with Isling Voluntary Action Council who acts as advisers. The Garden is subject to a annual "audit" by LB Islington

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)**

This years report is our second since Olden Community Garden completed its charitable status. 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 Highbury and the wider community. Islington has less green space than any other London Borough, and the garden forms an important wildlife habitat. It, along with the allotments on the opposite embankment, contains the largest area of woodland in the Borough. 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 one of a reducing number of community managed open spaces in Islington and London as a whole.

The garden is open to the **general public** at least 55 times a year, and to it's key-holding members at all times. The general public can drop into the garden on the weekly volunteer workdays (Tuesdays) and at the monthly volunteer day (Third Saturday of each month) , and can attend any of the special events. During 2015/2016, our special events and fund raising activities included the Chelsea Fringe Music Garden Party, as well as participation in the National Garden Scheme which attract visitors from all over London and further afield. The garden also played host to a number of other "community "events organised by other community groups in the area.

The garden is largely maintained by **volunteers** (including both Members and Non-Members) with the support of two part-time gardeners, who help host our volunteer workdays. 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 20 plus volunteers (including both individuals and families) come along to work and to enjoy a social lunch, when possible using produces grown in the garden

Over the year 2015/16, the **garden and garden house facilities** were booked for a total of 132 lettings. More than half of the lettings were for educational sessions, community benefit 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. The main user was the City & Islington College Learning Disabilities Training Course, which held 72 sessions in the garden. Private parties were booked for 60 sessions. Other not for profit organisations that used the garden included the local Drayton Park Primary School, Islington Gardeners, Islington in Bloom, Woodland Folk, Islington Brownies; the University of the Third Age and AgeUK..

We continue to extend the number and range of groups using the garden, and to increase the **rental income earned from our own fund raising efforts** so as to maintain the garden and regular programme of activities, this is on-going and is reviewed on a regular basis by the committee. As we become better known, we are receiving more enquiries and the total number of bookings is increasing. Olden Community Garden provides



both a regular programme of activities and opportunities for volunteers to drop in.

This year the garden adopted a new Safeguarding policy, covering children and Audits and appointed a lead trustee for safeguarding, as well as adopting a member's code of conduct, these were drawn up with the help of LB Islington and Voluntary Action Islington.

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#### 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.

## Section D Achievements and performance

2015/2016 has been a year of consolidation in the garden. Some of the key highlights are below:

New trees and planters along the north boundary with the Highbury Roundhouse site have mostly bedded in very well, the wild-flower area leading up to it has been quite a success

The orchard has had a fruitful year, the vegetable terrace has been revitalised with the creation of a children's growing project, we have continued to ensure that the greenhouse is well-used for future planting

In one area of the garden however it has been a year of innovation and that's the area formerly dominated by the old lilac tree and its undergrowth of ivy. This was cleared last year and replanted this spring; and has become a half-way-house between the more formal herbaceous end of the garden and the more natural woodland end. It contains a group of very attractive shrubs – viburnum plicatum, exocordia, a large cotoneaster, a grey-leaved spirea, physocarpus diabalo etc – plus a swathe of perennials and grasses. It will be interesting to nurture these, to monitor their growth and marry this area into the rest of the garden.

We still have our challenging areas as all gardens do: the area under the big willow up to wards the top gates is starting to be good in spring with snowdrops and windflowers, and is ok in summer when the perennial geraniums and centaurea take over but it soon becomes impossibly dry and shabby and has to be completely cleared for further development.

Our lawn continues to be well used, if anything, to well used. It gets very heavy use, it gets dug into by animals or children, we're not sure which, and it dries out very quickly. It was aerating and reseeding again last autumn and it was cordoned off to give it a chance of recovery. We are programming in a regular maintained programme for this area as the most used in the garden

Details of any funds materially in deficit

The main herbaceous borders have has their usual problems. It is always difficult to follow their spring and early summer colour with late summer colour. We keep introducing likely plants – penstemon, echinacea, hibiscus, ceratostigma. We have a climbing hydranger that always looks healthy but never flowers, though the observant among you will have noticed that at last we have a flower on our campsis: it has taken five years so it pays to be patient. The soil is not great, so on the one hand we continue to try to plants that are right for these conditions and on the other we enrich the soil every winter trusting that in time we get the colourful garden we all want as long as possible.

And on the subject of soil enrichment: we have made strenuous efforts to contain the whole soil cycle on site. We have a hot-composting scheme getting underway so we can recycle all the green waste without getting the seeds of the invasive weeds back into the soil and for two years now we have been able to use all the autumn leaf-fall either by sieving it for seed and potting compost or as winter mulch.

We have bid for funds to develop the potential of the woodland area – diversifying its species, introducing a nut and berry producing middle storey and creating new ground-level environments, interpretation and information for garden users and members

Our partnership with AGE UK continues to go well, we took a break over the Summer but it started again this week, and our monthly works day continue to be a great success, many thanks to all those volunteers who join us come rain or shine you help is much appreciated

One of the major roles of the Trustees/Management committee is fundraising that is how we are able to keep the wonderful services of our gardeners Andrew and Laura and also carry out much needed improvements to the garden. We have continued to be successful in securing money from the Waitrose Green Disc charity support scheme. As well as from Islington Council & the Cripplegate Community Chest scheme that support our two gardening posts.

We agree secured support and funding from Highbury East three Councillors (LB Islington) for their continuing support via the local initiative fund which has allowed us to carry out much needed improvements to the central stairs, helping us improve access to key groups like the elderly and disabled

We also secured funding from the Morris Family Trust towards the work of the garden. The Morris family own the Business Design Centre at the Angel and have a long history of supporting local community groups. We are currently looking at funding bids to the national lottery and bridge house trust for capital works to the garden and revenue support for the gardeners posts

We now have a draft lase for the garden from LB Islington discussions are on-going about clarifications, the trustees want to ensure clear clarity about site liabilities

Our contribution to this 2016 Chelsea Fringe was our own Music Day in July 2016, which was a great success by the feedback from members and guests, the garden was packed and everyone had a great time, this year's we had a lot more families and children attend then we have had in the past. Putting on events like this take a lot of time and effort from the Trustees/Management Committee

2016 saw us celebrate our 5<sup>th</sup> year of opening the garden as part of the National Garden Scheme for cancer charities. Sadly we couldn't take part in this year's Open Squares programme, but we hope to return to that in 2017. Olden Garden



celebrates our 30 birthday this year after being formed in 1986

We were overjoyed when we found out our own gardener Laura won the RHS Gold Medal at the RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show for her "retreat garden"

#### 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 (Islington Council Section 106 Planning Gain, Local Initiative Fund, Community Chest, Cripplegate Foundation; and Waitrose).

We continue to be grateful to the **London Borough of Islington (LBI)** for their long-standing financial and advisory support and other offers of practical assistance (eg waste removal). The Section 106 Planning Gain and Local Initiative Funding for tools and main steps has supported our key objectives of increased accessibility to the garden and gardening activities.

We want to thank **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 have expanded our funding base over the last year, and have used the funding to invest in the garden infrusture, 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 are starting on the process of developing a longer-term plan for the development of the garden. We will be consulting members on our initial ideas which might include:



- The costs of rebuilding the retaining wall that has collapsed, and the way forward. Discussing with LB Islington are on-going
- Improving access to all parts of the garden, including steep woodland paths, for the elderly, disabled and general public. Especially issues that have arisen with the long border and the Lawn
- 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, on-going, we are particularly looking at expanding our links with those with out 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 the trees in the garden and woodlands with a view to enhancing woodland sustainability and wildlife habitats. Linked to a community education project
- Preparation of a wide range of community based events to increase membership, fundraising opportunities and charity fundraising in the wider since

## 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

1<sup>st</sup> June 2012







Charity Name	No (if any)
Olden Community Garden	1158105

## Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	1 <sup>st</sup> Sept 2015		31 <sup>st</sup> Aug 2016

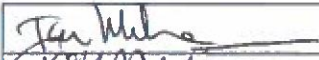

### Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endow- ment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
11. Cripplegate Foundation Islington Council's community Chest	-	5,000	-	5,000	5,000
12. Islington Council S106 and LiF	-	1,000	-	1,000	8,539
13. Corporate Donations Waitrose and Morris Trust	2,663	-	-	2,663	716
14. Individual Donations	778	-	-	778	752
15. Member's Subscriptions	4,197	-	-	4,197	4,993
16. Lettings	3,655	-	-	3,655	3,707
17. Events and Fundraising	2,286	-	-	2,286	4,153
18. Miscellaneous Sales and Fundraising	259	-	-	259	533
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>13,838</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>19,838</b>	<b>28,393</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>13,838</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>19,838</b>	<b>28,393</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
29. Gardeners Services	3,708	5,000	-	8,708	8,920
30. Plants, Compost etc	1,835	-	-	1,835	3,635
31. Tools	87	-	-	87	661
32. Repairs, Improvements, & Maintenance	6,432	1,000	-	7,432	6,366
33. Volunteer Work Days	290	-	-	290	283
34. Events and Fundraising	1,968	-	-	1,968	2,821
35. Office Supplies, postage	336	-	-	336	546
36. Insurance	313	-	-	313	316
37. Electricity	288	-	-	288	325
38. Miscellaneous Expenses	132	-	-	132	27
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>15,389</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>21,389</b>	<b>23,900</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>15,389</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>21,389</b>	<b>23,900</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>- 1,551</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>- 1,551</b>	<b>4,493</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>13,784</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>13,784</b>	<b>9,825</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>12,233</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>12,233</b>	<b>14,318</b>

## 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 £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Bank Account	11,482	-	-
	Cash in hand	751	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>12,233</b>	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))			
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>	Details	to nearest	to nearest £	to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>	Details	which asset	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>	Details	which asset	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>	Details	Fund to which	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Tom Hitchman	11/12/2016
	Terry Gray	11/12/2016