

BOTANIC GARDENS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2020

Registered Charity Number
1164497

BOTANIC GARDENS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
TRUSTEES REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2020

CONTENTS

	PAGE
Legal and Administrative Information	1
Trustees' Report	2-5
Independent Examiner's Report	6
Receipts and Payments Account	7
Balance Sheet	8
Movement in Funds	9

BOTANIC GARDENS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
TRUSTEES REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2020

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

CHARITY COMMISSION NUMBER 1164497

CHAIRMAN AND TRUSTEE David Cobham

TRUSTEES Margaret Brown (Treasurer)
Sandra Cain
Ann Cobham
Sally Crowther
John Dodd
Alan Foxall
Joan Huyton
Gary Mawdsley
Clive Pickup
Gail Settle

ADDRESS Botanic Gardens Community Association
Botanic Gardens
Botanic Road
Churchtown
Southport
PR9 7NB

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER Oliver Grills FCA
J A Fell & Co
40 Hoghton Street
Southport
PR9 0PQ

BOTANIC GARDENS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DEC 2020

The Botanic Gardens Community Association Trust (incorporated) is registered with the Charity Commission (No 1164497) and constituted by Deed of Trust.

The Trustees who served during the year are as follows:-

David Cobham.* (d.cobham@sky.com)
John Dodd.* (mail@johndodd.co.uk)
Margaret Brown.* (Margaret.brown@rocketmail.com)
Ann Cobham.* (anncobham@hotmail.com)
Sandra Cain.* (sandrajcain@gmail.com)
Sally Crowther.* (sally@cleverwebseo.com)
Clive Pickup.* (clive.pickup2@btinternet.com)
Gail Settle. (botanic@madasafish.com)
Alan Foxall. (simplyflowersandfoliage@gmail.com)
Joan Huyton. (Joanhuyton2@gmail.com)
Gary Mawdsley. (g.mawdsley@talktalk.net)
Trustees serve on a 3 year rotation basis and may stand for re-election.*

Objectives

1. To further or benefit the residents of Churchtown and surrounding areas, without distinction of age, sex, sexual orientation, race, or of political, religious or other opinions.
2. To provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure time occupation, with the objective of improving the conditions of life for the residents and visitors. To have power to establish a Community Centre and to Co-operate with any statutory authority in the management of such a centre for activities promoted by the Charity in furtherance of the above objectives.
3. To promote for the benefit of the public at large the protection, preservation, care and maintenance of the Botanic Gardens Southport in co-operation with the local authority for recreational purposes to improve the health and well-being of mind and body.

Review of Activities and Achievements

The Botanic Gardens Community Association of volunteers was formed in 2012 to help the gardens to continue providing beautiful floral displays and other attractions which were in the process of being reduced, ended or closed by severe funding cuts.

This has been achieved via donations and a sponsorship scheme. Funding is obtained from local associations, business and individuals which enable us to source quality local plants which are designed, planted and maintained by our volunteers for dedicated Spring and Summer displays in the 5 large beds, over 40 hanging baskets and ornamental containers at the formal part of the park. The Botanic Nursery has now closed despite our great efforts to retain it, but the Volunteers have been allocated some greenhouse facilities to enable plants to be saved or nurtured out of season and, we also have a plant shop to bring in funds.

We carry out general tidying jobs and minor infrastructure work such as painting and bench restoration and have a team of litter pickers with a zero litter and dog fouling policy. We hold meetings with the Bat Society and Lancashire Trust Squirrel officer.

BOTANIC GARDENS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DEC 2020

Because of our previous success in carrying out all the above projects the Council has decided we take over on Lease the running of the parks nationally important 1875 Victorian Fernery voted number two in the UK about 8 years ago but suffering due to finance and labour cuts and seldom open. We are now connected with the British Pteridological Society who provide Ferns advice and work with us on a regular basis.

Non desirable plants etc are being removed and we are expertly planting many new species which have been gifted to us by the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. A large van was hired and our project manager Sandra and Alison from the Fern Society did the 400 mile round trip to pick up the Ferns in a day, the aim is to be No1 Fernery attraction in the UK. The Fernery is now managed by BGCA on a rolling Lease.

We have renovated and taken over the running of the formally dank public toilet block, this has encouraged the return of many visitors and coach parties, especially school and special needs groups, a small entry charge funds these improvements. We hold many fund raising events, and offer an historical and educational walk and talk to visiting parties. Over **40,000** volunteer hours were recorded 2014 to end 2020.

We work **52** weeks of the year and stage free events for the community throughout. The waste, and recycling depot is in the old Nursery area, and greenhouse run off water is saved in wells and tanks for watering use, we have a new composting area adjacent, we also look after the lake tidiness and keep an eye on its wildlife inhabitant's welfare. The former Nursery area is now occupied by various organisations for the recreation, and vocational needs of groups with Special health and education needs.

As our name suggests we are an inclusive volunteer charitable organisation within the community for the community.

There are so many facets to the wonderful Botanic Gardens that suit all sections of the community, and we are always looking for ways to improve the visitor experience year on year, we continue to maintain a small Rose Garden in a former neglected area by the popular Aviary. A Victorian style Stumpery with Hostas and Ferns has been constructed.

We continue restoring Heather rockery areas on the "Mulberry" island and we asked 120 of our neighbouring Churchtown Year 2 Primary School pupils to help us plant 200 Lavenders as part of their Bee attracting project, they planted one each.

The Botanic Gardens acts as a huge Nature classroom for all our local schools. Our aim is to do our utmost to keep the Botanic Gardens deserving of its "Jewel in the Crown" reputation and most importantly maintain its Gardens, Environmental, and Community spirited elements, so nearly lost for ever.

We have a shared Management agreement with the council to ensure the future of the rescue Aviary. We have obtained donations to fund extensive modernisation.

BOTANIC GARDENS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DEC 2020

The BGCA were awarded a coveted **RHS National Certificate of Distinction** in 2016/19.

RHS North West in Bloom awarded us a 6 years of **Outstanding** Certificate in 2019.

We also entered in the RHS Parks category and gained a **Gold Medal** award.

The BGCA were a main feature of the BBC 2 Britain in Bloom show March 28 2019.

In 2019 Awarded Silver Trophies for RHS Best in Category and Best Overall entry.

As there was no Britain in Bloom competition in 2020 and the Council stopped entering, we prepared a protracted document and entered as a Volunteer group into the **2020 Green Flag Community Awards and were successful with the highest ranked marks.**

Activities with other groups

1. Our neighbour Churchtown Primary School carries out many projects with B.G.C.A
2. Prestfield Secondary school and College Duke of Edinburgh students have created a bug village and carry out projects on a regular basis.
3. Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award students from Meols Cop School Youth Club work in the Fernery on a regular basis.
4. Southport "Access for All" is working with us to deliver Seftons inclusion agenda and making recommendations. I.e. Tactile Voice Activated Notices etc
5. We are the home of the Generation Club Monthly Disco for people with Additional Needs and Disabilities with Stephen Ball presenter on Maghull Radio. We support local people.
6. We work with the Community Workshop, Props made by people with S.E.N.D.S. (Special Educational Needs and Disability).
7. We are in discussion with Public Health to put Parks as a Prescription for Health and Supporting North West Parks for a National Forum.
8. Princes Trust young people work on projects from time to time in conjunction with B.G.C.A.
9. The Association is registered with Dementia Friends.
10. We continue to maintain a Defibrillator on site.
11. We are approved by and work closely with Sefton Councils officers and staff.
12. To further our original stated objectives the BGCA has applied for a Licence to Assign the former Botanic Gardens Sports and Social Club premises & Lease over to the BGCA. This is an amicable arrangement with our associates which will benefit both the dissolved Charity whose remaining members have joined the BGCA, and will provide a centre to widen and enhance publicise our BGCA volunteering activities.

Financial review and reserves policy.

The financial results for the year are shown on pages 7 to 9. The trustees aim to ensure that the level of reserves held at any time would be sufficient to enable the charity to continue for the short term in the event of any significant fall in income.

BOTANIC GARDENS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DEC 2020

Risk management.

The trustees review the major risks which the charity faces on a regular basis, and are also bound by local authority dictate.

BGCA is fully covered by Public Liability insurance.(£10m)

Public benefit.

The charity trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers or duties.

We obtain funding via sponsorship, donations and fund raising events to improve the park.

A review of the Associations objectives, activities and achievements since formation is attached, also the Finance Statements and independent examiners report.

David Cobham. (Chairman)

For and on behalf of the Trustees. (26 August 2021)

BOTANIC GARDENS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF BOTANIC GARDENS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Botanic Gardens Community Association (The Charity) for the year ended 31 December 2020 as set out on pages 7 to 9.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

9 September 2021

Oliver Grills FCA
J A Fell & Co
40 Hoghton Street
Southport
PR9 0PQ

**BOTANIC GARDENS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2020
GENERAL & RESTRICTED FUNDS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT**

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2020 Total	2019 Total
RECEIPTS				
Regular donations and subscriptions	420	-	420	380
Donations for public toilet	-	2,134	2,134	4,368
Events	-	-	-	2,988
Aviary	-	11,555	11,555	1,649
Fernery	-	907	907	526
Flowers & Gardens	7,564	-	7,564	23,975
Botanic Social Club Funds	3,100	-	3,100	-
Total Receipts	11,084	14,596	25,680	33,886
PAYMENTS				
Toiletries	-	1,174	1,174	447
Toilet Maintenance	-	320	320	343
Fernery & Aviary	1,339	1,532	2,871	3,480
Gardening expenses	5,033	-	5,033	7,717
Printing	60	-	60	191
Insurance	250	-	250	443
Repairs & Maintenance	48	3,474	3,522	80
Miscellaneous Expenses	311	-	311	1,068
Events	350	-	350	2,366
Total Payments	7,391	6,500	13,891	16,134
Excess of Receipts over payments	3,693	8,096	11,789	17,752
Total Funds at 1 January 2020	37,650	12,504	50,154	32,403
Total Funds at 31 December 2020	41,343	20,600	61,943	50,154

**BOTANIC GARDENS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2020
STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES**

	2020	2019
	£	£
CASH FUNDS		
Bank Account: Main	53,280	38,456
Bank Account: Toilet	8,663	11,698
Total bank current and deposit accounts	61,943	50,154
This figure is made up by		
Unrestricted fund	41,343	37,651
Restricted fund	20,600	12,504
	61,943	50,155
ASSETS RETAINED FOR THE USE OF THE CHARITY		
Laptop- 2017	520	520
Gala Tents- 2017	624	624
	1,144	1,144

NOTES

1. The financial statements have been prepared using the Receipts and Payments basis.

Approved by the Trustees on 26 August 2021 and signed on their behalf

.....
David C Cobham
Chairman

.....
Margaret V Brown
Treasurer

BOTANIC GARDENS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2020
MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	Flowers & Gardens	Toilets	Aviary	Fernery	Social Club	General	2020 Total	2019 Total
INCOME								
Botanic Social Club Funds	-	-	-	-	3,100	-	3,100	-
Donation - Collection Boxes	-	-	555	297	-	-	852	4,368
Donations - Individuals & Charities	6,110	-	11,000	-	-	-	17,110	380
Flower Sales	1,454	-	-	-	-	-	1,454	23,975
Grants	-	-	-	610	-	-	610	2,988
Pay Entry Income	-	2,134	-	-	-	-	2,134	-
Members Subscriptions	-	-	-	-	-	420	420	2,175
Total Receipts	7,564	2,134	11,555	907	3,100	420	25,680	33,886
INCOME ANALYSIS BY FUND								
Unrestricted Fund	7,564	-	-	-	3,100	420	11,084	29,518
Restricted Fund	-	2,134	11,555	907	-	-	14,596	4,368
	7,564	2,134	11,555	907	3,100	420	25,680	33,886
EXPENSES								
Animals	-	-	99	-	-	-	99	343
Events	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,366
Flowers & Gardening	4,973	-	-	143	-	-	5,116	7,717
Insurance	-	-	-	-	-	250	250	443
Light & Heat	-	-	-	-	100	-	100	-
Miscellaneous Expenses	-	-	-	95	-	311	406	1,068
Printing	-	-	-	-	-	60	60	191
Repairs & Maintenance	60	3,794	526	2,008	-	48	6,435	80
Subscriptions	-	-	-	-	250	-	250	-
Toiletries	-	1,174	-	-	-	-	1,174	447
Fernery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,480
Total Payments	5,033	4,968	625	2,246	350	669	13,891	16,134
EXPENSE ANALYSIS BY FUND								
Unrestricted Fund	5,033	-	-	1,339	350	669	7,391	12,600
Restricted Fund	-	4,968	625	907	-	-	6,499	3,534
	5,033	4,968	625	2,246	350	669	13,891	16,134
RESTRICTED FUNDS								
	At 1 Jan 2020	Income	Expenditure	At 31 Dec 2020				
	£	£	£	£				
Toilets	12,504	2,134	4,968	9,670				
Aviary	-	11,555	625	10,930				
Fernery	-	907	907	-				
	12,504	14,596	6,500	20,600				
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS								
Flowers & Gardens		7,564	5,033					
Fernery		-	1,339					
Club House		3,100	350					
General		420	669					
	37,650	11,084	7,391	41,343				
TOTAL FUNDS AT 31 DEC 2020	50,154	25,680	13,891	61,943				