

BOTANIC GARDENS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2022

Registered Charity Number
1164497

BOTANIC GARDENS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
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FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2022

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BOTANIC GARDENS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
TRUSTEES REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2022

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

CHARITY COMMISSION NUMBER	1164497
CHAIRMAN AND TRUSTEE	David Cobham
TRUSTEES	Margaret Brown (Treasurer) Ann Cobham Sally Crowther John Dodd Aian Foxall Joan Huyton Clive Pickup Gail Settle Susan Regan Maria Morris
ADDRESS	Botanic Gardens Botanic Road Churchtown Southport PR9 7NB
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	Oliver Grills FCA J A Fell & Co 40 Houghton Street Southport PR9 0PQ

BOTANIC GARDENS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DEC 2022

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)
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)*
Maria Morris.	(johnandmaria2013@outlook.com)
Susan Regan.	(susanmregan55@gmail.com)

Trustees serve on a 3 year rotation basis and may stand for re-election.

Constitutional 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. This we have achieved.
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 an onsite plant shop involvement to bring in funds to be spent on the gardens.

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 2022 (cont)

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 was 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 Fern species which have been gifted to us by the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. A large van was hired and our project manager 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 volunteers 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 and management. We hold many fund raising events, and offer an historical and educational walk and talk to visiting parties. Over 5000 volunteer hours are recorded each year..

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 jointly occupied by an adult needs group for the recreation, and vocational needs of groups with Special health and education needs. We get on with them. As our name suggests we are an inclusive volunteer charitable organisation within the community for the community. The BGCA are proud to say we worked safely throughout the Pandemic years to keep all the floral and Aviary and public toilets open to the public.

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 free visitor experience year on year, we continue to maintain a small Rose Garden in a former neglected area in 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 due to council funding cuts. **We have had a shared Management agreement with the council to ensure the future of the rescue Aviary. We have obtained donations to fund extensive modernisation. And we planted and maintain an Aviary Garden area to enhance the facility.**

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

BOTANIC GARDENS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DEC 2022 (cont)

RHS North West in Bloom awarded us a 9 years of **Outstanding** Certificate in 2022. 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, this full half hour show has been repeated five times.

In 2019 Awarded Silver Trophies for RHS Best in Category and Best Overall entry. As there was no Britain in Bloom competition in 2020 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 in 2020/21, and 22/23.**

For the health and enjoyment of the public we worked as usual throughout Covid.

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 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. We enter the RHS North West in Bloom and Community Green Flag awards and have attained the top outstanding rating for nine years running.
5. We work closely with the British Pteridological Society in our Leased Nationally acclaimed Grade 2 listed Fernery.
6. We work with the Community Workshop, Props made by people with S.E.N.D.S. (Special Educational Needs and Disability).
7. We have had discussions 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. We work closely with the Adult special needs working group Natural Alternatives.
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 obtained 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 included. 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 2022 (cont)

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 and Employee 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, plant sales, donations and fund raising events to improve the park.

A review of the Association's objectives, activities and achievements since formation is included, also the Finance Statements and independent examiners report.



**David Cobham. (Chairman)
For and on behalf of the Trustees. (Feb 2023)**

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 2022 as set out on pages 8 to 10.

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.

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

**BOTANIC GARDENS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2022
GENERAL & RESTRICTED FUNDS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT**

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2022 Total	2021 Total
RECEIPTS				
Regular donations and subscriptions	380	-	380	520
Donations for public toilet	-	3,894	3,894	3,734
Lake Fund	-	8,339	8,339	26,952
Events	1,379	-	1,379	971
Aviary	-	3,237	3,237	33,272
Fernery	-	2,198	2,198	1,388
Flowers & Gardens	14,761	-	14,761	13,283
Other Income	3,000	3,000	6,000	329
Total Receipts	19,520	20,668	40,188	80,448
PAYMENTS				
Toiletries and cleaning	-	3,186	3,186	1,594
Toilet Maintenance	-	209	209	405
Fernery & Aviary	-	13,126	13,126	32,181
Lake Fund	-	870	870	8,536
Gardening expenses	7,814	-	7,814	9,863
Printing	196	-	196	-
Insurance	220	-	220	250
Repairs & Maintenance	283	-	283	2,108
Miscellaneous Expenses	1,123	-	1,123	1,306
Events	1,104	-	1,104	1,778
Total Payments	10,739	17,391	28,130	58,022
Excess of Receipts over payments	8,781	3,277	12,058	22,427
Total Funds at 1 January 2022	41,141	43,229	84,370	61,943
Total Funds at 31 December 2022	49,922	46,506	96,427	84,370

**BOTANIC GARDENS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2022
STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES**

	2022	2021
	£	£
CASH FUNDS		
Bank Account: Main	85,331	73,773
Bank Account: Toilet	11,096	10,598
	<u>96,427</u>	<u>84,370</u>
Total bank current and deposit accounts		
This figure is made up by		
Unrestricted fund	49,922	41,141
Restricted fund	46,506	43,229
	<u>96,427</u>	<u>84,370</u>
ASSETS RETAINED FOR THE USE OF THE CHARITY		
Laptop- 2017	520	520
Gala Tents- 2017	624	624
	<u>1,144</u>	<u>1,144</u>

NOTES

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

Approved by the Trustees on 18th MAY 2023 and signed on their behalf

D.C. Cobham
David C Cobham
Chairman

M.V. Brown
Margaret V Brown
Treasurer

**BOTANIC GARDENS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2022
MOVEMENT IN FUNDS**

	Flowers & Gardens	Toilets	Aviary	Fernery	Social Club	Lake Fund	General	2022 Total	2021 Total
INCOME									
Donation - Collection Boxes	-	-	2,337	1,758	-	71	-	4,168	8,904
Donations - Individuals & Charities	8,261	40	900	-	-	4,343	500	14,044	59,041
Flower Sales	6,500	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,500	6,970
Grants	-	-	-	440	-	1,000	5,500	6,940	350
Pay Entry / Events Income	-	3,854	-	-	-	2,925	1,378	8,158	4,683
Members Subscriptions	-	-	-	-	-	-	380	380	520
Total Receipts	14,761	3,894	3,237	2,198	-	8,339	7,759	40,188	80,448
INCOME ANALYSIS BY FUND									
Unrestricted Fund	14,761	-	-	-	-	-	4,759	19,520	15,103
Restricted Fund	-	3,894	3,237	2,198	-	8,339	3,000	20,668	65,345
	14,761	3,894	3,237	2,198	-	8,339	7,759	40,188	80,448
EXPENSES									
Animals	-	-	5,352	-	-	-	-	5,352	-
Events	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,104	1,104	100
Flowers & Gardening	7,814	-	-	482	-	-	-	8,296	10,254
Insurance	-	-	-	-	-	-	220	220	250
Light & Heat	-	-	-	-	615	-	-	615	342
Licence & Lease fees	-	-	-	-	-	-	60	60	1,336
Miscellaneous Expenses	150	-	-	-	91	-	207	448	1,348
Printing	-	-	-	-	-	-	196	196	-
Repairs & Maintenance	-	208	8,852	440	-	870	283	9,654	42,384
Toiletries & Cleaning	-	3,186	-	-	-	-	-	3,186	2,000
Fernery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Payments	7,964	3,395	12,204	922	706	870	2,070	28,130	58,022
EXPENSE ANALYSIS BY FUND									
Unrestricted Fund	7,964	-	-	-	706	-	2,070	10,739	15,305
Restricted Fund	-	3,395	12,204	922	-	870	-	17,391	42,716
	7,964	3,395	12,204	922	706	870	2,070	28,130	58,022
RESTRICTED FUNDS									
	At 1 Jan 2022	Income	Expenditure	At 31 Dec 2022					
	£	£	£	£					
Toilets	11,404	3,894	3,395	11,903					
Lake Fund	18,416	8,339	870	25,885					
Aviary	12,421	3,237	12,204	3,454					
Fernery	887	2,198	922	2,263					
Lake Bridge and Mural	-	3,000	-	3,000					
	43,229	20,668	17,391	46,508					
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS									
Flowers & Gardens		14,761	7,964						
Club House		-	706						
General		4,759	2,070						
	41,141	19,520	10,739	49,922					
TOTAL FUNDS AT 31 DEC 2020	84,370	40,188	28,130	96,427					

BOTANIC GARDENS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2021
MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	Flowers & Gardens	Toilets	Aviary	Fernery	Social Club	Lake Fund	General	2021 Total	2020 Total
INCOME									
Botanic Social Club Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,100
Donation - Collection Boxes	-	-	7,882	1,023	-	-	-	8,904	852
Donations - Individuals & Charities	6,678	-	25,040	-	-	26,952	371	59,041	17,110
Flower Sales	6,605	-	-	385	-	-	-	6,970	1,454
Grants	-	-	350	-	-	-	-	350	610
Pay Entry / Events Income	-	3,734	-	-	-	-	930	4,663	2,134
Members Subscriptions	-	-	-	-	-	-	520	520	420
Total Receipts	13,283	3,734	33,272	1,388	-	26,952	1,820	80,448	25,866

INCOME ANALYSIS BY FUND

Unrestricted Fund	13,283	-	-	-	-	-	1,820	15,103	11,084
Restricted Fund	-	3,734	33,272	1,388	-	26,952	-	65,345	14,596
	13,283	3,734	33,272	1,388	-	26,952	1,820	80,448	25,880

EXPENSES

Animals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	99
Events	-	-	-	-	-	-	100	100	-
Flowers & Gardening	9,863	-	-	401	-	-	-	10,264	5,116
Insurance	-	-	-	-	-	-	260	260	260
Light & Heat	-	-	-	-	342	-	-	342	100
Licence & Lease fees	-	-	-	-	1,338	-	-	1,336	250
Miscellaneous Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	40	1,306	1,346	406
Printing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	80
Repairs & Maintenance	-	-	31,780	-	-	8,498	2,108	42,384	6,435
Toiletries & Cleaning	-	2,000	-	-	-	-	-	2,000	1,174
Fernery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Payments	9,863	2,000	31,780	401	1,678	8,538	3,764	58,022	13,891

EXPENSE ANALYSIS BY FUND

Unrestricted Fund	9,863	-	-	-	1,678	-	3,764	16,305	7,381
Restricted Fund	-	2,000	31,780	401	-	8,538	-	42,716	6,499
	9,863	2,000	31,780	401	1,678	8,538	3,764	58,022	13,881

RESTRICTED FUNDS

	At 1 Jan 2021	Income	Expenditure	At 31 Dec 2021
	£	£	£	£
Toilets	9,670	3,734	2,000	11,404
Lake Fund	-	26,952	8,538	18,416
Aviary	10,930	33,272	31,780	12,421
Fernery	-	1,388	401	987
	20,600	65,345	42,716	43,228

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

Flowers & Gardens		13,283	9,863	
Club House		-	1,976	
General		1,820	3,764	
	41,343	15,103	16,305	41,141

TOTAL FUNDS AT 31 DEC 2020

	61,943	60,448	58,022	84,370
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