

## Trustees' and Director's Report

### For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020

The year began at REEP's usual busy pace with garden scholars from Spain and Morocco being hosted on the Isles of Scilly for the third round of the REEP McLaren Scholarship. REEP also met with its gardening associates in Spain to discuss the fourth round of the scholarship, planned to take place at *Coto de Nuestra Señora del Carmen*, an historic garden in the Castilla y León region. February also saw the continued development of two of REEP's gardening project in Morocco: the *Foyer de Jeunes Filles in Marrakesh*, where a team of volunteers joined the girls to develop a working kitchen garden, and an embryonic Shakespeare Garden and club at a University in Fez. Although Covid-19 had an obvious and severe impact on travel and organised group activities in Morocco and Spain, REEP was able to refocus onto developing its supporting online materials, especially its language learning resource, *English Through Gardening*. Themed resources for use at home were developed throughout the year.

#### 1. REEP McLAREN SCHOLARSHIP

A Spanish gardener and a Moroccan landscape architect were welcomed at the Tresco Abbey Gardens in January 2020 and spent two weeks working with the Abbey's garden team. The micro-climate on Tresco, unusual and important, holds many clues about plant links with Africa and Spain. It was especially rewarding that part of the garden was designed many years ago by Carey Duncan, the Rabat-based landscape architect who supports many of REEP's projects in Morocco.

In February, REEP visited Madrid to plan the fourth round of the REEP McLaren Scholarship. This is to be based at one of the last extant 19<sup>th</sup> century new romantic gardens in Spain, located on part of the Camino de Santiago route. The focus will be the restoration of the historic 'English Garden'. The site also has potential for performance and art space. The original timing of autumn 2020 has had to be postponed but planning is ongoing and will involve historical research.

#### 2. LE FOYER DE JEUNE FILLES, MARRAKESH

In February, REEP organised its sixth collaboration at Le Foyer de Jeune Filles, a girls' boarding house in Marrakesh for young women from mountain areas who would not otherwise be able to undertake secondary education. This was the largest event yet in the gardening project with the Foyer, with a key aim of creating a working kitchen garden within the grounds. As well as completing the construction and filling of raised beds, first crops were planted for boarders to harvest in the spring and summer months.

Through REEP's longstanding relationship with the National Trust (NT) and other supporting organisations, six garden volunteers were released from NT Fenton House Garden and Blicking Estate, together with Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens and Carey Duncan Design in Rabat, to work with the boarders to complete the garden and teach gardening skills. Enriching the team were a Moroccan professor of English

and a plant ecology expert. REEP's education intern delivered garden craft-based activities to teach the girls *English Through Gardening*.

The event was a resounding success' the REEP team gained insight into growing in an arid climate and a different culture, while the Foyer boarders were happy with their new garden and skills. Another important aspect of the project was the establishment of a gardening club to look after the garden. This involved weekly lessons of English, gardening and crafts delivered by Professor Fatima Bouabdelli (formerly of Cadi Ayyad University, where our original garden had been made).

Sadly Covid-19 caused the Foyer to close when girls were sent back to their villages at short notice. It is unlikely that the garden will have survived but the skills have been learnt and REEP hopes to be able to grow the project back post-pandemic.

### **3. SHAKESPEARE GARDENS**

This project celebrates the shared history, patterns and planting of England and Morocco and has been a key theme for several years, including the creation of the Anglo-Moroccan Shakespeare Garden at Marrakesh University and REEP's garden at Chelsea in 2015. At Fez, REEP was approached by a professor of English at Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University to create a new Shakespeare Garden and Gardening Club at the Faculty of Letters, which met several times. The launch of the garden was to coincide with Shakespeare's birthday and to include a Shore-to-Shore style celebration, competitions for students about the environment and links to the Fez Festival of Sacred Music. Although the pandemic meant this had to be cancelled, REEP is still in regular touch with the Professor of English who intends to reignite the project once a more normal pattern of travel and communication can be established.

### **4. ENGLISH THROUGH GARDENING (ETG)**

While the pandemic caused most of REEP's physical projects to be suspended, it provided an opportunity in other ways. REEP already had deep roots in providing online activities and resources relating to gardening, the environment and faiths. The rest of 2020 saw the publication of a series of ETG materials suitable for young people at home and abroad. These included:

- Weekly craft tutorials designed to teach English and to broaden young people's understanding of gardens in a fun and engaging way. Tutorials feature video instruction and a supporting worksheet.
- An Easter resource pack of garden and faith-based activities including, e.g., acrostic poems, information and egg hunts (April 2020).
- A 'Shakespeare Celebration' full of activities related to Shakespeare's gardens, plants, life and language (May 2020).
- A 'Rainbow Gardens' resource in honour of the NHS, with activities about colour and its use in gardens around the world (June 2020).
- 'The Buzz about Bees' resource with activities to teach that bees are essential to plant life and how to look after them (August 2020).

- 'Water in Gardens', a resource exploring how water is important to plants and how to water them well, together with learning about the role of water in different style of historic garden (November 2020).
- A Spice Advent Calendar examining the botany and international usage of 24 important culinary spices, including recipes, crafts and language activities (December 2020).

All these resources are still available on the REEP website.

Once again, REEP would like to thank the two Trusts that so generously continue to support and enable its work. It would also like to express gratitude to the wide network of friends, advisors and organisations in Britain, Morocco and Spain who volunteered their time and expertise to make the projects happen. They fill REEP with eagerness and enthusiasm for the resurgence of its practical projects as life and work return to normal.

For further details of our projects see:



<https://www.reepinfo.org>



<https://www.englishthroughgardening.org>



<https://www.facebook.com/REEPEducation/>



[https://www.instagram.com/leep\\_faithsandgardens/](https://www.instagram.com/leep_faithsandgardens/)

Signed

Paul Willcox  
Chair of Trustees, REEP

26<sup>th</sup> October 2021

**FRIENDS OF THE CENTRE (also known as REEP) Registered Charity No. 1000998****Summary Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020**

	<b>2020 £</b>	<b>2019 £</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>85470</b>	<b>45024</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
REEP McLaren Scholarship	6946	3749
English Through Gardening Project	18698	14217
Marrakesh Gardens	15624	21249
Website	11631	6761
Social Media	6782	3941
Fundraising, Administration & Office Expenses	1454	1685
Other events eg Gardeners' World Live exhibition/conferences	—	<u>15154</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>61135</b>	<b>66756</b>
<b>Surplus (-deficit)</b>	<b><u>24335</u></b>	<b><u>(21732)</u></b>
<b>Cash Position</b>		
Opening cash position	1380	23112
Surplus (-deficit) for the year	24335	(21732)
Closing cash position	<b><u>25715</u></b>	<b><u>1380</u></b>
Cash & Deposits		
Bank	25665	1330
COIF Charity Funds	50	50
	<b><u>25715</u></b>	<b><u>1380</u></b>

**NOTES**

1. The charity was registered with the Charity Commission with effect from 30<sup>th</sup> April 1993.
2. The accounts are prepared on a receipts and payments basis.
3. The charity holds no assets other than a bank account with Natwest and a holding balance on a CCLA account. There has been no activity on the COIF account in 2020.
4. The charity continues to rely greatly on the time effort, office space and equipment give freely by its supporters, including the Director. This cannot be quantified easily so is not represented here.



# CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

## Independent examiner's report on the accounts

### Section A

### Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/  
members of**

Charity Name

FRIENDS OF THE CENTRE (ALSO KNOWN AS REEP)

**On accounts for the year  
ended**

31<sup>st</sup> December 2020

**Charity no  
(if any)**

1000998

**Set out on pages**

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2020.

**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 (~~other than that disclosed below~~\*) 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.

*\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

**Signed:**

*Joy Antayne*

**Date:**

25<sup>th</sup> October 2021

**Name:**

JOY ANGELA HOYLE

**Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body  
(if any):**

FCA., CTA.

**Address:**

WOOTTON FARM, PENCOMBE, BROMYARD,  
HEREFORDSHIRE, HR7 4RR

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

**Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.**