

Company registration number: 03285642

Charity registration number: 1074448

Helmsley Walled Garden Limited

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 November 2023



A beautiful garden changing lives

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Helmsley Walled Garden Limited
Year ended 30 November 2023

Trustees' Report

The trustees, who are directors for the purposes of company law, present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 30 November 2023.

Reference and administrative details

Trustees

N Holroyd (Chair)
C Lawton (Vice Chair)
J A Batty (Treasurer)

V Aston
S Barstow
D Brewster
E Hook (Appointed 13 July 2023)
E J Parker (Resigned 13 July 2023)
A Roberts (Appointed 13 July 2023)
N Saunders (Appointed 13 July 2023)
Dr J R Strang (Resigned 13 July 2023)

Company registration number: 03285642

Charity registration number: 1074448

Registered office

Helmsley Walled Garden
Cleveland Way
Helmsley
York
YO62 5AH

Objectives and Activities

Our Charitable objects are contained within the Articles of Association as approved by the Charity Commission and filed at Companies House and they are as follows;

"To advance the education of the public in all matters relating to horticulture, gardening skills and therapeutic horticulture through the development and maintenance of an historic walled garden, providing a supportive therapeutic space for volunteers and enhancing the physical and emotional health and wellbeing of everyone who uses and visits the garden."

The Trustees can confirm that the charity's activities are conducted in accordance with the requirements of Section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 and the fulfilment of the Public Benefit provision and guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

During the 2022 financial year we conducted a review of our business plan which was completed and approved at a Board Meeting in May 2022. The current business plan, which was approved in 2022 covers the period 2022 to 2025. The Business Plan is kept under regular review and updated as appropriate.

Objectives and activities (continued)

We now include a regular item on the Board meeting agenda to allow for consideration of the business plan and to ensure that, as a charity, we are conducting our business in accordance with our charitable objectives, vision and values.

We conducted regular Board meetings throughout the year with a mixture of face to face meetings and use of Zoom and the Board meet once each year for an Away Day when the Board are able to focus on strategic planning and finance.

Structure, Governance and Management

The year saw some further changes to the Board of Trustees with the resignations on rotation of the Vice Chair, Edwina Parker and Jeffrey Strang. In anticipation of these resignations the Board commenced the recruitment of trustees in accordance with our trustee recruitment policy and we were pleased to welcome three new Trustees, namely Andy Roberts, Ellie Hook and Nicola Saunders, further enhancing the skill set and diversity of the Board. Claire Lawton was appointed Vice Chair on the 13th July 2023, with unanimous trustee support.

We have continued to operate through four working groups relating to Governance, Commercial/Marketing, Property and Finance whilst maintaining the Boards ability to appoint specific groups where a need is identified. Going forward we have agreed to create a Fundraising Group consisting of trustees and the Executive Director so as to oversee our future fundraising activity, particularly having regard to the need to develop and maintain our buildings. This followed upon the successful use of subgroups to develop our website and branding and to produce our Volunteering Policy in previous years.

During the previous year the Governance Working Group produced a new set of draft policies including those covering Safeguarding, Health and Safety and Equality and Diversity. The Working Group also produced a set of Handbooks relating to Staff, Volunteers and Trustees together with a new Code of Conduct for Trustees in accordance with the provisions of the Charity Governance Code for Smaller Charities. These policies were formally adopted and approved by the Board in January 2023.

We are a Charitable Company, limited by guarantee with a voting membership. Our current group of members have voting rights at the Annual General Meeting and are responsible for receiving and adopting the Annual Report and Financial Statement as well as confirming the appointment of new Trustees.

During this financial year the Chair and Executive Director have met on a regular basis with our members for the purpose of providing progress reports on our activities and financial performance and to keep the membership engaged and informed of developments at the Garden.

Our constitution also provides for the appointment of Garden Ambassadors. This is an honorary role for those people who are judged to have made a notable contribution to the Garden. The role allows to attend garden events by invitation and to help promote the garden as a therapeutic space. We have now appointed 13 Ambassadors including two new additions this year.

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

We have undertaken a targeted recruitment and appointment process for Trustees to help ensure an appropriate mix of skills, knowledge and experience amongst the Board resulting in the appointment of three new trustees in the financial year. During that time the recruitment process has helped secure greater diversity within the Board, including two Trustees who are also garden volunteers.

Succession planning is an ongoing activity, and the recruitment processes we use will continue to be reviewed and updated so that we attract potential Trustees from as diverse a range of backgrounds and experience as possible. In particular, we shall continue to work towards ensuring the best possible balance of gender, ethnicity, disability and age. All Trustees have a role description and participate in a regular review of their contribution to the Garden and the effectiveness of the Board.

Trustees, who are also Board members, were appointed for an initial period of three years, with a further opportunity to serve for three more years, thereby ensuring rotation and succession. The skill mix of Board members reflects the main priorities of the Garden as identified in the Business Plan.

The Board have recently conducted a review of the succession policy and are looking to amend this to a 9 year rotation period as it is considered that the current period of six years is too restrictive and places an unnecessary strain on the charity in terms of the need for constant recruitment and the loss of trustee skills and contribution.

A profile of the current Board members can be found on our website

www.helmsleywalledgarden.org

We are blessed with a Board which has a wealth of senior level experience from the private, voluntary and public sectors. Vacancies for the role of Trustee are advertised widely, specifying the preferred skill set and experience required and reflecting the future need and strategy of the Garden as set out in the business plan. Candidates are invited to meet the Chair, Vice Chair and Executive Director to learn about the work of the Board and the exciting opportunities ahead. Appointments are initially confirmed by the Board and ratified at the AGM. All Trustees are now provided with an induction pack and the opportunity for an induction meeting.

Trustee Reviews

The Charity Commission Governance Code recommends that the Board reviews its own performance and that of individual Trustees and the Chair. Accordingly, we have completed a review of each Trustee, and this continues to be repeated on a regular basis with further reviews, including of newly appointed trustees in 2024. Such reviews form part of the continuing and future review of the Board's effectiveness.

The Garden in 2023

We were able to continue with significant progress in 2023, in completing the repair/ renovation of an important part of our building stock and maintaining progress in managing our finances and reserves, whilst continuing to increase the number of volunteers working in the garden who, together with our staff, have created a magnificent display throughout the year.

The Garden in 2023 (continued)

Our visitors have been extremely complimentary about the garden throughout the season and HWG is currently in excellent condition with very few perennial weeds and a range of spaces that give our visitors interesting and varied experiences. We were fortunate to have been included in an episode of Gardener's World in March 2024, filmed in May 2023, and this has greatly enhanced the profile of the garden and highlighted the work of the charity.

New areas planned for 2024 include our alpine garden – the recreation of our successful award-winning garden created by our volunteers at Harrogate Spring Fair in April 2024. The alpine garden will be an interesting addition for our visitors and will be sited adjacent to our annual raised beds. We are also planning a renovation of our Physic Garden, 'twinning' the garden with the Royal College of Physicians Garden in Edinburgh. This will bring new life into this interesting and educational part of the garden which is very popular with visitors.

Our kitchen garden continues to develop and this year our maintenance volunteers have created a new bay where we can store horse manure from the neighbouring stables to use in the kitchen garden and elsewhere.

Enhancing Our Visitor Experiences

We are a significant tourist attraction in the North York Moors and Ryedale area and, together with our partners at the Vine House Café, we attract visitors from far afield aided by welcome publicity at national and local level in the media.

Our new website continues to perform well with visitors able to access all our courses, workshops and of course tickets for the garden. With a focus on better educating our visitors about the work we do as a charity, we are looking this year to encourage increasing donations from our visitors and a higher spend per head on visiting.

We have introduced a new Annual Pass at just £16 per year, £15 if booked online, and this is already proving to be popular. The pass enables our visitors to see the garden all year round at a very reasonable cost and all passes can be gift-aided if appropriate.

Our free RHS partner garden day remains as a Wednesday, one of our busiest days of the week, both in revenue and visitors. We have now revised our Gardener's World Two for One Pass, to be restricted, valid only on a Friday rather than any time the garden is open.

Signage remains a focus and we are planning new interpretation signage in 2024 in line with further emphasizing our charitable work to our visitors.

We have retained the set of sculptures by Bill Harling for a further year and these will be more actively advertised as being for sale to our visitors.

Our Buildings

As previously reported, we have already completed the restoration of the Orchid House, together with the refurbishment of our cold frames which help to enhance our volunteer experience by supporting the propagation of our own plants for planting in the Garden and for sale to our visitors.

Our Buildings (continued)

In December 2023 we were successful in being awarded a grant from the National Lottery Community Fund for a three-year project that will extend and develop our own range of perennials available for visitors to purchase. The project, 'Learning to Grow' has enabled us to employ two additional part time volunteer coordinators and a garden trainee. We are already seeing excellent results in the increasing range of garden plants we have available and the extremely positive impact the project is making on some of our more vulnerable volunteers.

Our favourable financial position has enabled us to set aside funds in a Designated Reserve as security against future commitments and the need to regularly maintain and repaint our glasshouses and other buildings. It is important to recognise that we still have a repair backlog for the Vine House and Orchard House in future years.

We are at an advanced stage in planning the development of the entrance, shop and offices for staff, together with the redesign of the Orchard House. This development will provide a fitting space for our visitors, staff and for our many volunteers, including for educational purposes, and will maintain our focus on the charity's objectives and our vision. We are waiting to submit plans to the planning authority in the hope that permission for this ambitious and exciting project will be granted in the 2024 financial year.

Our Volunteers

Our volunteers are crucial to the work we do and benefit from the support of our charity.

Initially our "Over the Garden Gate" programme saw our number of volunteers has increased substantially and we now have a waiting list. Our volunteers include several who need additional support, including those experiencing autism, deafness, depression and anxiety, learning difficulties and dementia.

We continue to see enquiries from people keen to volunteer at the garden, however we are currently at capacity for volunteers with an average of 8-10 volunteers attending each session. Priority is given to those who need us the most and who are more vulnerable - in tandem with this, we also are always open to more volunteer mentors. We also encourage applications for those interested in being in the kiosk as this is one area where we could accommodate more volunteers.

We were fortunate enough to, once again, receive funding from the National Gardens Scheme to accommodate an additional trainee from the Working for Garden Society (WFGA). This trainee finished her bursary at the garden in March 2024 and is now employed by the garden in one of our two day per week posts, funded within our Learning to Grow project.

One very popular new project for 2024 was the construction, attendance and deconstruction of our show garden at the Harrogate Spring Fair. Over 20 of our volunteers became involved in the project over a period of two and a half weeks and enjoyed talking to visitors to the spring show about Helmsley.

We have commissioned a promotional film in 2024, following on from the success of our Gardener's World filming last year, which looks to represent our volunteers more fully to our visitors and funders. The film is being shot over three separate occasions and the first segment was completed in March 2024.

A Sustainable Garden

The garden continues to recognise the issues caused by climate change and to do as much as possible to minimize its carbon footprint and enhance biodiversity. We continue to update and improve the steps we are taking towards this end and some of the activities we can highlight are as listed below.

- Extending our composting – our maintenance team have built a new hot composter to ensure the surplus garden waste is recycled and used to mulch our borders.
- Promoting the use of natural fertilisers in the Garden at all times using manure from nearby stables and from our own chickens.
- Replacing our old gas boilers with electric heaters.
- Growing our own produce and sourcing new plants for sale from a more local grower – Myers Beck which is also a registered charity with a similar ethos to Helmsley Walled Garden and which provides work experience and social therapeutic horticulture for adults with disabilities.
- Promoting shared car journeys for staff and volunteers who cannot walk or cycle to the garden or don't have convenient access to public transport. Visitors using public transport can receive a discounted entry ticket.
- Promoting wildlife and biodiversity in the garden through the selection of plants, eradicating the use of chemical fertilisers, and erecting insect hotels and bird boxes.
- We make our own leaf mould as mulch for the garden and make comfrey plant food as well as using peat free compost for peat propagation. We do not use any chemical herbicides or pesticides in the garden.

Following a comprehensive audit with students from the Stockholm Institute at York University, we have defined some key areas that can be further developed in terms of sustainability. Promoting day to day activities, such as waste recycling, water harvesting and using peat-free compost have been incorporated into our own marketing campaigns. Sustainability and minimal environmental impact will be part of the criteria for future developments, such as new buildings and building restoration work. New projects in the garden will have a focus on biodiversity, sustainable maintenance requirements and low carbon impact.

Water harvesting and use continues to be a key area for focus, following the severe drought of 2022. The garden now has new water butts on all downpipes and is creating a water harvest facility from the existing polytunnel roof. Water use in the garden is being carefully considered and new systems that enable more effective watering will be a development project for the garden in 2023. The Board has agreed to the investigation of the potential for a bore hole on site. Initial surveys have been undertaken and subject to finance being available it is hoped that work can commence on the excavation of a bore hole in the latter part of 2024. This will make a substantial contribution to the management and sustainable use of water in the garden in future years and longer term.

Working with our Local Community

In addition to supporting our volunteers (many of whom live locally), we also provide 20 low cost potager plots made available to Helmsley residents to grow their own vegetables. One of our volunteers has also started a new Helmsley Gardening Club.

The garden has continued to host a number of short courses, including painting, fruit tree pruning, photography and outdoor theatre in conjunction with Helmsley Arts Centre has become a regular spring and summer event.

Working with our Local Community (continued)

Countryside Learning, in collaboration with English Heritage, continue to use the garden for outdoor learning days with a further four days booked for local primary schools in 2024. These events will be supported also this year by an English Heritage education officer.

The garden continues to be supported by the North Yorkshire Moors National Park (NYMNP) and by Helmsley Town Council through small grant funding and volunteering days. Local charities such as Ryedale Special Families also use the garden for free on occasion to provide respite days for both beneficiaries and carers.

Marketing and Communications

We continue to update our website with helpful information to assist our visitors and to demonstrate the work of the garden and the emphasis on the work of our volunteers.

We also promote the Vine House Café and guidance on how to get to the Garden.

Marketing became a strong focus during 2023 with the appointment of a new dedicated Marketing Manager at the garden. HWG appeared on two television programs at the start of 2023, 'Love Your Garden' and Robson Green's 'Escape to the Country'. Building on this good publicity, a new campaign is planned for 2024, 'Not just a pretty garden', to further develop the theme of Helmsley as an attractive ornamental garden that is most effectively also benefiting its community. This theme will run through all social media accounts in 2024 and help to increase donations from visitors.

The garden has invested in a new ticketing system with Vennersys. This system is enabling us to provide our visitors with bar coded entry cards that are scanned on each visit. Not only is the system giving us detailed information about when pass holders come to the garden, it is also allowing us to collect valuable data about our visitors that will better enable us to communicate with our visitors in a more targeted way. We plan to add our retail shop to the system also in the autumn of 2024.

Financial Review

Helmsley Walled Garden's Income derives from a range of sources. Grants do form a proportion of our income, but primarily, this is derived from the Entrance fees into the Garden as well as the sales of the plants, many of which we have home- propagated and our Garden shop which stocks an attractive range of quality products, with appeal to the full spectrum of our visitor demographic.

The results for this financial year show our total income from all sources increased to £302,447 compared to £300,574 in 2022 with an overall surplus of £8,964 compared to the deficit in 2022 of (£19,653).

Numbers visiting the garden remained robust during the period, bolstered by the affiliation to the RHS as a Partner Garden on Wednesdays each week as well as the widening awareness of the Garden as a visitor destination through collaborative marketing through multiple media channels and the enhanced marketing reach and expenditure in the year to develop actively develop this.

The accessibility of the Shop, with its widening range of stock and plants without the requirement to enter the garden has continued to increase its sales year on year too, with income increasing to £68,147 from £59,705 in 2022.

Financial Review (continued)

We benefited this financial year from the generosity of individual donations to the Garden too for the furtherance of our core activities, without restriction, with these £28,913 this year compared to £12,968 in 2022. The financial support from these benefactors supplements the overall Garden income and aides the expansion of the reach of our activities, for which we are supremely grateful.

The level of admission fees continues to be constrained by competition from other attractions in the vicinity; they are reviewed keenly on an annual basis in line with gardens of a similar size and quality to ensure we continue to remain attractive to visitors, feeling that they are still getting value for money from every visit that they make to the garden with a constant watching brief by the Trustees of the impact that the cost of living crisis in the economy is having on household disposable income and the risks associated with this for the overall income of the garden.

Our close symbiotic relationship with the Vine House Café and its proximity to the garden, undoubtedly continues to enhance the overall visitor experience.

During the year, the Trustees have Designated a further £20,000 (2022: £60,000) from the Unrestricted Reserves which has been set aside to support the on-going maintenance, upkeep and rolling repairs associated with the historical buildings and glasshouse assets. The balance in this Designated Fund at the end of the financial year was £95,095 compared to £84,260 in 2022. Note 18 on pages 25 provides additional information of this designated purpose and the utilisation of funds in this reserve during the financial year on its designated purpose.

At the Balance sheet date, the Total Funds of the Charity were £322,896 compared to £313,932 in the previous financial year Charity; of these, the Unrestricted Funds were £229,314 compared to £211,250 at the end of the prior year. These are funds which are expendable at the Trustees' discretion in furtherance of the objects or administration of the Charity.

Almost all of our operating costs are covered by income from our Friends and visitors to the Garden, corresponding Gift Aid to this revenue, sales from the shop and plants and rental income from the café and the Garden with the remainder of any income from gifts, bequests, and grant funding.

Our financial model continues to be rigorously evaluated to ensure that the financial well-being of the Charity and the solidity of its current level of resources are sustained and operationally maintainable for the future.

Reserves Policy

The aim of our Reserves Policy is to;

- to provide a level of working capital that protects the continuity of our core work
- to provide a level of funding for unexpected opportunities
- to provide cover for risks such as unforeseen expenditure or unanticipated loss of income resulting from adverse period of weather or other unforeseen circumstances

To achieve these aims, the charity looks to hold reserves of a minimum of five months running costs at the end of our accounting year in November. Seeking to build additional income streams through the winter months, we would also look to achieve a financial safety net at the start of the season in March of a further three months running costs into the summer.

Reserves Policy (Continued)

Helmsley Walled Garden, in addition to being a popular tourist destination during the summer months, is an essential resource for its nearby community. It is imperative that we retain enough reserves from our summer visitors through these months to support the ongoing work of our volunteers in the winter months. Not only do we need to cover the costs of our staff to support volunteers through the winter, we also have expenses, garden tools and materials that continue to be ongoing costs for us from November through to March with limited visitor income. Our position, financially, highlights the fact that Helmsley Walled Garden exists through our volunteers – the garden itself providing solace and therapeutic activity for those individuals 11 months of the year.

In addition to the picture we see in November, we also look to hold a balance in the Spring that enables us to ensure the purchase of stock for our shop and plant sales, the replanting and restoration of some areas of the garden on an annual basis and the supply of new tools and equipment for our volunteers if required. The revenue from our visitor sales fluctuates greatly due to weather conditions throughout the summer months and, although our visitor numbers (and consequently revenue) may be greatly reduced by poor weather, our volunteers continue to enjoy their activities in the garden in even the inclement weather of an English Spring.

To enable the charity to achieve its objectives, we continue in our endeavour to maintain at least £134,000 of Unrestricted reserves. Our performance in this financial year has once again been reassuringly positive and these currently stand at £229,314, being the combined sum of General and Designated funds.

Total funds at the year-end amount to £322,896 (2022: £313,932) of which £93,582 (2022: £102,682) is Restricted and can only be used for particular restricted purposes as stipulated by the donors. The assets and liabilities attributable to the various funds are shown in note 18 and 19 which also describe the various funds of the Charity.

The Trustees are mindful that to meet our existing and ongoing obligations for the next financial year, new income streams projects and funding will continue to be vital to ensure our sustainability and our ability to service our community, members and the wider public with what the garden offers. Our primary focus continues to be an unwavering endeavour to sustain the reserves in excess of the minimum operational level set.

The Board of Trustees continually review the above criteria with reference to the charity's Annual Plan and evaluate their strategy and target level of free reserves to meet these requirements.

Plans for Future Periods

The Garden is now in a much stronger financial position than has been the case in recent times as a result of the hard work and commitment of our staff, volunteers and trustees. The comments we receive from our visitors about the Garden continue to be complimentary but we still have a significant building repair backlog and as mentioned, we have plans for the development of the entrance, shop and offices and now to redevelop the Orchard House to create a space to enhance the experience and wellbeing of our volunteers. We have recognised the need to ensure that we have sufficient staff resources in place to support our volunteers and ensure the smooth running of the Garden.

Accordingly, we will aim to continue to grow and diversify our income as well as to support the development of the Garden in a way which is increasingly attractive to families and by creating exciting new attractions.

Helmsley Walled Garden Limited
Year ended 30 November 2023

We thank all who have been part of this successful financial year and look forward to the next.

The financial statements have been delivered in accordance with the special provisions relating to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 25/7/24 and signed on its behalf by:



Nick Holroyd
Chair Helmsley Walled Garden Trustees

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of Helmsley Walled Garden Limited for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Helmsley Walled Garden Limited ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 30 November 2023.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the Company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Helmsley Walled Garden Limited
Year ended 30 November 2023

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

Signed:

Saffery UP

Sally Appleton
ICAEW
Saffery LLP
Mitre House
North Park Road
Harrogate
HG1 5RX

16 August 2024

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 30 November 2023

(Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Income and Endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3	29,113	-	29,113	12,968
Charitable activities	4	228,426	6,900	235,326	247,374
Investment income	5	494	-	494	20
Other income	6	37,514	-	37,514	40,212
Other trading activities	7	-	-	-	-
Total income		295,547	6,900	302,447	300,574
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		(3,872)	-	(3,872)	(600)
Charitable activities	8	(262,643)	(16,000)	(278,643)	(307,826)
Governance costs	10	(10,968)	-	(10,968)	(11,801)
Total expenditure		(277,483)	(16,000)	(293,483)	(320,227)
Net income/(expenditure)		18,064	(9,100)	8,964	(19,653)
Transfer between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		18,064	(9,100)	8,964	(19,653)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		211,250	102,682	313,932	333,585
Total funds carried forward	18	229,314	93,582	322,896	313,932

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods. The funds breakdown for 2023 is shown in note 18.

Helmsley Walled Garden Limited
Year ended 30 November 2023

(Registration number: 03285642)

Balance Sheet as at 30 November 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	13	101,752	106,167
		<u>101,752</u>	<u>106,167</u>
Current assets			
Stocks	14	35,259	18,197
Debtors	15	7,500	861
Cash at bank and in hand		232,740	258,219
		<u>275,499</u>	<u>277,277</u>
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	16	(20,236)	(30,108)
Net current assets		<u>255,263</u>	<u>247,169</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>357,015</u>	<u>353,336</u>
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	17	(34,119)	(39,404)
Net assets		<u>322,896</u>	<u>313,932</u>
Funds of the Charity:			
Restricted funds	18	93,582	102,682
Unrestricted funds	18		
General		134,219	126,990
Designated		95,095	84,260
Total funds		<u>322,896</u>	<u>313,932</u>


For the year ended 30 November 2023 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies:

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements on pages 14 to 28 were approved by the Trustees, authorised for issue on 25/7/24 and signed on their behalf by:


N Holroyd
Trustee


J Batty
Trustee

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 November 2023

1. Charity status

The charity is a charity limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales, and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the trustees is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

2. Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) and the Companies Act 2006.

Basis of preparation

Helmsley Walled Garden Limited meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the company.

Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

Going concern

The financial statements are drawn up on the going concern basis which assumes the Charity will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

In assessing the lasting impact of financial pressures brought about by rising inflation and the national economic cost of living crisis, the trustees have considered all the matters described in the Trustees' Report when making this evaluation.

The charity substantially relies on income from its members, Friends for Life, visitors to the Garden and associated income from its plant and shop sales along with rental income from the café on site as well as the hire of the garden now for outdoor events.

The Trustees continue to maintain a constant watching brief on the Charity's cash flow and budget predictions with financial projections updated quarterly and reforecasts fine-tuned on alternative assumptions to evaluate the predicted outcomes, and these are reviewed at Trustee meetings,

New income streams are continually being evaluated and pursued to balance against any future disruptions to the normality of the usual trading pattern and cycle to strengthen the Unrestricted Reserves and boost the Charity's resilience.

The Trustees' forecasts indicate that the Charity will be able to maintain liquidity for a period of at least one year following the date of signing these financial statements and sustain its operational existence during the next 12 months and accordingly, the Charity accounts are appropriately prepared under the going concern basis.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 November 2023 (continued)

Income and endowments

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of the income receivable can be measured reliably.

Donations and legacies

Donations are recognised when the charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance by the charity before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that these conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Investment income

Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due. Interest income is recognised as it is received.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Raising funds

These are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, the management of investments and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, finance, personnel and payroll costs which support the Trusts activities. The breakdown of these support costs is set out in note 9.

Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit or independent exam, strategic management and trustees' meetings and reimbursed expenses.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 November 2023 (continued)

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph I Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part I I of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £100 or more are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Buildings and Glasshouses	straight line over the remaining useful life of the lease
Plant & equipment	15% reducing balance
Fixtures & fittings	15% reducing balance
Computer equipment	3 years straight line

Stock

Stock is valued at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell, after due regard for obsolete and slow moving stocks. Cost is determined using the first-in, first-out (FIFO).

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Trade creditors

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if the charity does not have an unconditional right, at the end of the reporting period, to defer settlement of the creditor for at least twelve months after the reporting date. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Trade creditors are recognised initially at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees' discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 November 2023 (continued)

3. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds General	Restricted funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
Donations and legacies	200	-	200	-
Donations from individuals	28,913	-	28,913	12,968
	<u>29,113</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>29,113</u>	<u>12,968</u>

4. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds General	Restricted funds	Total 2023
	£	£	£
Entrance fee	127,714	-	127,714
Garden and shop sales	68,147	-	68,147
Grant	-	6,900	6,900
Other	32,565	-	32,565
	<u>228,426</u>	<u>6,900</u>	<u>235,326</u>

Included within restricted fund grant income is £4,000 from The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust for the 'Plants, People and Possibilities' project, £2,500 from Ryedale District Council for the 'Beyond the Secret Garden' project and £400 from Helmsley Town Council for 'Willow Weaving'.

Income from charitable activities – previous year

	Unrestricted funds General	Restricted funds	Total 2022
	£	£	£
Entrance fee	108,119	-	108,119
Garden and shop sales	59,705	-	59,705
Grant	2,000	55,438	57,438
Other	22,112	-	22,112
	<u>191,936</u>	<u>55,438</u>	<u>247,374</u>

Included within restricted fund grant income is £2,667 from Ryedale District Council for COVID support and £2,500 for Beyond the Garden Gate, £7,771 from North York County Council for the apprenticeship scheme, £31,000 in contributions for the Orchid House Renovation, £500 from Helmsley Town Council for the Auricular Theatre, £1,000 from North York Moors for picnic tables, £5,000 from Bramall Foundation and £5,000 from the Brelms Trust for salary costs.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 November 2023 (continued)

5. Investment income

Unrestricted funds	2023	2022
	£	£
Interest receivable on bank deposits	494	20
	<u>494</u>	<u>20</u>

6. Other income

	Unrestricted funds General	Restricted funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
Rental income	22,343	-	22,343	22,343
Gift Aid tax reclaimed	15,171	-	15,171	17,869
	<u>37,514</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>37,514</u>	<u>40,212</u>

7. Other trading activities

	2023	2022
	£	£
Fundraising	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

8. Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds General	Restricted funds	Total 2023
	£	£	£
Garden and shop cost of sales	44,332	-	44,332
Wages and salaries	136,973	9,000	145,973
Staff pensions	2,930	-	2,930
Repairs and renewals	24,040	2,900	26,940
Support costs (see note 9)	52,768	-	52,768
Depreciation and impairment	1,600	4,100	5,700
	<u>262,643</u>	<u>16,000</u>	<u>278,643</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 November 2023 (continued)

Expenditure on charitable activities – previous year

	Unrestricted funds General	Restricted funds	Total 2022
	£	£	£
Garden and shop cost of sales	35,816	-	35,816
Wages and salaries	106,971	11,881	118,852
Staff pensions	2,412	87	2,499
Repairs and renewals	26,374	66,279	92,653
Support costs (see note 9)	51,606	803	52,409
Depreciation and impairment	1,497	4,100	5,597
	224,676	83,150	307,826

The average number of staff during the year was 8 (2022: 5). No member of staff received employee benefits of more than £60,000 in the current or prior year.

9. Support costs

	Unrestricted funds General	Restricted funds	Total 2023
	£	£	£
Cleaning	3,418	-	3,418
Rent	14,362	-	14,362
Rates & Water	1,997	-	1,997
Light, heat and power	4,626	-	4,626
Insurance	4,977	-	4,977
Telephone and fax	1,702	-	1,702
Website and computer	408	-	408
Printing, postage and stationery	1,681	-	1,681
Subscriptions and memberships	2,129	-	2,129
Sundry expenses	1,501	-	1,501
Advertising	8,319	-	8,319
Bank charges	4,451	-	4,451
Bank loan interest	1,055	-	1,055
Travel, fuel and accommodation	742	-	742
Trustee mileage claims	576	-	576
Trustee meetings and other expenses	824	-	824
	52,768	-	52,768

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 November 2023 (continued)

Support costs – previous year

	Unrestricted funds General	Restricted funds	Total 2022
	£	£	£
Cleaning	4,136	-	4,136
Rent	16,563	-	16,563
Rates & Water	2,335	-	2,335
Light, heat and power	4,915	-	4,915
Insurance	4,743	-	4,743
Telephone and fax	1,341	-	1,341
Website and computer	128	-	128
Printing, postage and stationery	1,953	-	1,953
Subscriptions and memberships	1,991	-	1,991
Sundry expenses	3,370	-	3,370
Advertising	4,936	-	4,936
Bank charges	3,054	-	3,054
Bank loan interest	1,182	-	1,182
Travel, fuel and accommodation	581	803	1,384
Trustee mileage claims	107	-	107
Trustee meetings and other expenses	271	-	271
	51,606	803	52,409

10. Governance Costs of the Charity

	Unrestricted funds General	Restricted funds	Total 2023
	£	£	£
Accountancy fees	5,800	-	5,800
Legal and professional fees	5,168	-	5,168
	10,968	-	10,968

Governance Costs of the Charity – previous year

	Unrestricted funds General	Restricted funds	Total 2022
	£	£	£
Accountancy fees	4,800	-	4,800
Legal and professional fees	7,001	-	7,001
	11,801	-	11,801

Accountancy fees include £5,200 (2022: £4,800) payable to the Independent examiner.

Helmsley Walled Garden Limited
Year ended 30 November 2023

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 November 2023 (continued)

11. Trustees remuneration and expenses

Three trustees (2022: three) had expenses reimbursed in the year totalling £576 (2022: £107) for mileage claims. No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any other remuneration from the charity during the year.

12. Taxation

The Charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

13. Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures & fittings	Buildings and Glasshouses	Total
Cost	£	£	£
At 1 December 2022	25,228	804,408	829,636
Additions	1,285	-	1,285
At 30 November 2023	26,513	804,408	830,921
Depreciation			
As at 1 December 2022	16,743	706,726	723,469
Charge for the year	1,600	4,100	5,700
At 30 November 2023	18,343	710,826	729,169
Net book value			
At 30 November 2023	8,170	93,582	101,752
At 30 November 2022	8,485	97,682	106,167

Impairment

Other tangible fixed assets

In the year ended 30 November 2018 the Trustees considered the glasshouses to be impaired. The impairment charge was based on a report on the condition of the glasshouses prepared by W R Dunn & Co Limited in 2018. In the current year the Trustees didn't consider any further impairment to be necessary.

14. Stock

	2023	2022
	£	£
Stocks	35,259	18,197

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 November 2023 (continued)

15. Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade debtors	1,099	373
Other debtors	6,401	488
	<u>7,500</u>	<u>861</u>

16. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade creditors	3,167	2,235
Other taxation and social security	6,199	6,394
Bank loans	5,285	5,155
Accruals	5,585	16,324
	<u>20,236</u>	<u>30,108</u>

17. Creditors: amounts falling due after one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Bank loans	34,119	39,404
	<u>34,119</u>	<u>39,404</u>

The 10-year bank loan entered into in 2020 is guaranteed by the UK Government under the BBLS (Bounce Back Loan Scheme). There was an initial 13 months where no repayments were to be made and interest at 2.25% is covered by UK Government for the 13 month period under BIP (Business Interruption Payment). Repayments and interest commenced in November 2021.

Helmsley Walled Garden Limited
Year ended 30 November 2023

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 November 2023 (continued)

18. Funds

	Balance as at 1 December 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Funds Transferred £	Balance as at 30 November 2023 £
Unrestricted funds					
General	126,990	295,547	(268,318)	(20,000)	134,219
Designated	84,260	-	(9,165)	20,000	95,095
Total unrestricted funds	211,250	295,547	(277,483)	-	229,314
Restricted funds					
BIG Lottery	30,147	-	-	-	30,147
Glasshouses Fund	67,535	-	(4,100)	-	63,435
Other restricted grant funding	5,000	6,900	(11,900)	-	-
Total restricted funds	102,682	6,900	(16,000)	-	93,582
Total funds	313,932	302,447	(293,483)	-	322,896

	Balance as at 1 December 2021 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Funds Transferred £	Balance as at 30 November 2022 £
Unrestricted funds					
General	173,191	245,136	(231,337)	(60,000)	126,990
Designated	30,000	-	(5,740)	60,000	84,260
Total unrestricted funds	203,191	245,136	(237,077)	-	211,250
Restricted funds					
BIG Lottery	30,147	-	-	-	30,147
Glasshouses Fund	71,635	-	(4,100)	-	67,535
Orchid House Appeal (including grants)	26,212	31,000	(57,212)	-	-
Restricted grant funding	2,400	24,438	(21,838)	-	5,000
Total restricted funds	130,394	55,438	(83,150)	-	102,682
Total funds	333,585	300,574	(320,227)	-	313,932

Designated funds

During the year, the Trustees have Designated a further £20,000 (2022: £60,000) from the Unrestricted Reserves which has been set aside to support some of the charity's predicted investment in infrastructure planned for 2024. It includes some on-going maintenance, upkeep of the glasshouse assets and funds to support the renovation of the historical buildings. The sum held in the Designated Funds is now £95,095 (2022: £84,260)

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 November 2023 (continued)

Restricted funds

- BIG Lottery: Donations to refurbish the glasshouses which are held in fixed assets.
- Glasshouses Fund: Established to refurbish the glasshouses which are held in fixed assets. The expenditure in the year is depreciation.
- Restricted Grant Funding: This represents funding given for specific purposes. The balance at the year end was £nil with the restricted funds being used for salaries in the year.

19. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Intangible fixed assets	-	-	-
Tangible fixed assets	8,170	93,582	101,752
Current assets	275,499	-	275,499
Current and non-current liabilities	(54,355)	-	(54,355)
Total net assets	229,314	93,582	322,896

Analysis of net assets between funds – previous year

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Intangible fixed assets	-	-	-
Tangible fixed assets	8,485	97,682	106,167
Current assets	272,277	5,000	277,277
Current and non-current liabilities	(69,512)	-	(69,512)
Total net assets	211,250	102,682	313,932

20. Analysis of net funds

	As at 1 December 2022 £	Cash flow £	As at 30 November 2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	258,219	(25,479)	232,740
Net funds	258,219	(25,479)	232,740

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 November 2023 (continued)

21. Operating lease commitments

Helmsley Walled Garden Limited leases the site from which the company operates. Under the terms of the lease, there are two elements to the rent due; a fixed basic rent and a variable rent linked to admissions income.

The total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Not later than 1 year – fixed and variable elements	16,680	14,230
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years		
Fixed element	2,612	2,612
Estimated variable element*	40,000	40,000
Later than 5 years		
Fixed element	11,763	12,416
Estimated variable element*	180,000	190,000
	246,272	259,258

The lease contains a provision for rent reviews linked to RPI every three years. These increases have not been factored into the figures above after 2019, as it is not possible to accurately determine future values for the Retail Prices Index.

*The variable rent is linked to admissions income. It is not possible to accurately predict future amounts of variable rent due, however, based on admissions income over the last five years, the Trustees expect this charge to equate to approximately £10,000 per annum.

22. Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in the current or prior year that require disclosure.

Helmsley Walled Garden Limited
Year ended 30 November 2023

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 November 2023 (continued)

23. Comparative Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £
Income and Endowments from:			
Donations and legacies	12,968	-	12,968
Charitable activities	191,936	55,438	247,374
Investment income	20	-	20
Other income	40,212	-	40,212
Other trading activities	-	-	-
Total income	245,136	55,438	300,574
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds	(600)	-	(600)
Charitable activities	(224,676)	(83,150)	(307,826)
Governance costs	(11,801)	-	(11,801)
Total expenditure	(237,077)	(83,150)	(320,227)
Net income/(expenditure)	8,059	(27,712)	(19,653)
Transfers between funds	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	8,059	(27,712)	(19,653)
Reconciliation of funds			
Total funds brought forward	203,191	130,394	333,585
Total funds carried forward	211,250	102,682	313,932