

THE WALSHAM LE WILLOWS OPEN GARDENS TRUST

Charity number: 1147893

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2024

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Objectives and Activities

Objects of The Walsham le Willows Open Gardens Trust (the "Trust"):

To further general charitable purposes for the benefit of the inhabitants of Walsham le Willows and the surrounding area and in particular but not exclusively by:

- 1) Advancing the Christian religion by providing financial assistance to St Mary's Parish Church, Walsham le Willows; and
- 2) Promoting for the benefit of the inhabitants of Walsham le Willows and the surrounding area the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances or for the public at large in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving the condition of life of the said inhabitants.

Achievements and Performance

Chairman's Statement

THE OPEN GARDENS WEEKEND 2024

We were extremely lucky with the weather once again, two, warm but not too hot days, made for the perfect conditions for our visitors and for the Walsham volunteers. Church bells pealed as the visitors arrived, eager to sample this year's delights and they certainly were not disappointed by the 36 gardens and open spaces. People were thrilled as they crossed the road; the Flower Power Project with in excess of 3000 crocheted flowers fixed to netting and draped over the brick and flint wall of the churchyard... a total joy to behold.

In St Mary's itself, another fantastic art exhibition and sale of local artists work, a floral display on the theme of 'Nursery Rhymes', music by visiting performers.

The Village Market was housed in the yard at Clarkes again this year and visitors happily browsed the stalls, enjoyed an ice cream and learnt that Walsham's famous builders' merchants have a lot more on offer than they perhaps knew.

At the Memorial Village Hall, we had a recorder group playing and then followed the traditional brass bands with quintessentially English sounds drifting over the village on these idyllic summer days.

Visitors remark on the quality and variety of the refreshments that are provided, indeed some visitors only come to sample them; the Memorial Hall and Priory Room with the now famous lunches and teas including a return of wonderful meringues this year. Pimm's and produce at the allotments, the pizza, BBQ and bar at the Elms delighted the public serving fine locally sourced food cooked to perfection and with the garden still packed at the end of each day with live music continuing well into the evening. Our teams at all our food venues were continuously congratulated as the days passed by.

We had, the now traditional rare tortoises on display, lots of vintage cars, Morris Dancing, birds of prey in the churchyard and much, much more...

None of this would be possible without the support, the help, and the encouragement we get from, literally hundreds of Walsham residents, who throw themselves into the event and give their whole hearted support to my wonderful committee's amazing efforts.

exhausting at times but we hope you enjoyed the event and we want to thank you all; the garden owners of course, the volunteers at the car park, the flower arrangers and the flower power people, the art sales folk, the raffle ticket sellers, the helpers at the refreshment venues, the cake makers, the bell ringers, the musicians, the tent erectors (and dismantlers), the traffic cone providers, all our sponsors who advertised in the lovely programme and many many more.

Your warm welcome, your smiles and your generosity shone through and our visitors were mightily impressed and we are sure that many of them will come again next year....

As a result of the highly successful weekend, the Trust made a spectacular profit of £21,046 for the year. Always 50% will go to the fabric fund of the Church, the rest to support the many Walsham clubs and organisations who have been invited to submit funding bids.

Once again, a big THANK YOU to you all for your support. I do hope that whatever you were involved with that you got completely immersed and enjoyed the whole experience and came away with a 'well charged community spirit' plus that warm feeling of being part of the fellowship that is Walsham le Willows in the beautiful County of Suffolk.

Colleen Baker

Chair of the Walsham Le Willows Open Gardens Trust

Financial Review

Gate money was up £1,805 (+17%) on 2023, which equates to roughly 225 additional visitors, so a very successful result.

Total catering receipts were up £4,156 (+25%) and, because catering costs were up only £814 (13%), the net catering result was up £3,342 (32%), a terrific result given the continued increase in costs generally in the UK.

The Raffle was down 42% to £1,266, further exacerbated by a 36% increase in costs to £239. Fridge hire cost increased 96% to £1,130 due to additional trailers being hired for the Priory Room and The Elms.

Funds available at year end were £31,508.81. Deducting the General Reserve (see below) of £10,272.91 results in £21,235.91 being available for Grant Disbursements of which 50% will be paid to St Mary's Church, Walsham le Willows, leaving £10,618 available for other causes in line with the Objectives of the Trust.

Reserves policy

Given that much of the annual expenditure for the annual open gardens event is committed before the event, it is the Trustees aim to maintain a General Reserve to protect the Trust against unforeseen circumstances, for example bad weather. The Trustees agreed that this reserve should be set at 50% of the most recent Total Payments (excluding "Independent Projects"). For 2024, this is 50% of £20,545.81 or £10,272.91.

Barth Harlow

Hon. Treasurer

Structure and Governance

The method of appointment of Trustees is set out in the Declaration of Trust dated 14th June 2012. The members of the Trust are set out below.

Trustees

Collen Baker – Chairman

Garth Harlow – Hon. Treasurer

Frances Jenner – Trustee

John Stebbing – Secretary

Committee members

Michael Cousins

Nick Parsons

Grant Robinson

Beverly Rust

Cath Knowles (from 21 March 2024)

Dawn Bramham (from 18 April 2024)

Tracey Gorzelak (from 26 September 2024)

Administrative information

The contact details for the Trust are:

Mr John Stebbing, Secretary, 2 Vine Cottages, The Street, Walsham le Willows, IP31 3AZ

Mr Garth Harlow, Hon. Treasurer, The Rookery, Wattisfield Road, Walsham le Willows, IP31 3BD

Bankers: Barclays Bank plc, Abbeygate Street, Bury St Edmunds, IP33 1LB

Approved by the Trustees on

2025 and signed on their behalf by



Chairman

Hon. Treasurer

THE WALSHAM LE WILLOWS GARDENS TRUST
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

RECEIPTS	2024 £	2023 £	PAYMENTS	2024 £	2023 £
Weekend Event (see note A)	41,438.30	35,920.26	Weekend Event (see note A)	-17,282.13	-14,961.84
Churchyard Roses		25.00	Churchyard Roses	-135.85	-85.88
Bank interest	289.49	123.35	Insurance	-580.69	-457.84
			Administration	-45.99	-135.34
			Repairs & Renewals	-1,113.34	-355.17
			Capital Expenditure	-1,209.00	-2,784.84
			Public Meeting		-66.86
			Friday Party	-293.66	-31.45
			June Owners Meeting		
			Licencing	-21.00	-21.00
Total Receipts	41,727.79	36,068.61	Total Payments	-20,681.66	-18,900.22
less Payments	-20,681.66	-18,900.22			
NET PROFIT	21,046.13	17,168.39			

DISBURSEMENTS

St Mary's fabric fund	-8,015.00	-9,094.00
CEVC Primary School		-800.00
Walsham Sports Club	-1,500.00	-2,000.00
Walsham Wild Wood	-130.32	-2,000.00
The Priory Room/Walsham Arts Group	-330.45	-1,362.00
Walsham Allotments	-800.00	-1,720.00
History Group	-554.70	-349.00
National Open Gardens		-20.00
Playground ice cream		-107.24
Xmas Tree	-216.25	-187.00
R Newell Bench		-23.22
Four Ashes Triangle		-232.30
Flower Power Project	-244.72	
Walsham Pre-School	-1,500.00	
Elodie Day	-250.00	
St Mary's Clock	-1,500.00	
Total Disbursements	-15,041.44	-17,894.76
NET AFTER DISBURSEMENTS	6,004.69	-726.37

FUNDS STATEMENT	2024	2023
Barclays Opening Balance	25,504.12	26,230.49
Income	41,727.79	36,068.61
Expenditure	-20,681.66	-18,900.22
Dispersements	-15,041.44	-17,894.76
CLOSING BALANCE	31,508.81	25,504.12

Represented by: (as at)	31/12/2024	31/12/2023
Barclays Current Account	235.97	80.77
Barclays Deposit Account	31,272.84	25,423.35
TOTAL FUNDS @ YEAR END	31,508.81	25,504.12

THE WALSHAM LE WILLOWS OPEN GARDENS TRUST
NOTES TO THE RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1. The accounts of the Trust have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 using the receipts and payments basis.

2. Further analysis of Receipts and Payments

NOTES						
Note A: Weekend Event						
	2024	2024	2024	2023	2023	2023
	Receipts	Payments	Result	Receipts	Payments	Result
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Entrance Fee	11,610.87	-126.15	11,484.72	9,839.84	-63.32	9,776.52
MVH Car Park	544.50		544.50	509.90		509.90
MVH Catering	6,740.33	-1,280.15	5,460.18	5,695.26	-1,250.67	4,444.59
Priory Room	3,306.77	-605.83	2,700.94	2,738.76	-619.33	2,119.43
Elms BBQ	5,669.53	-2,863.66	2,805.87	5,098.35	-2,311.16	2,787.19
Elms Bar	4,743.94	-2,121.30	2,622.64	2,856.40	-1,874.95	981.45
Elms Classic Cars	85.00		85.00	100.00		100.00
Art Show	2,827.81	-2,219.44	608.37	2,774.67	-2,179.18	595.49
Pimms Stall	541.12	-117.95	423.17	343.30	-129.64	213.66
Village Market	560.00	0.00	560.00	575.00	-33.49	541.51
Raffle	1,265.59	-239.20	1,026.39	2,180.01	-175.20	2,004.81
Ice Cream	180.00		180.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Donations/Sponsorship	328.34		328.34	277.46		277.46
Programme Advertising	1,420.00		1,420.00	1,523.31		1,523.31
Gift Aid	1,614.50		1,614.50	1,408.00		1,408.00
MVH Hire		-607.50	607.50		-607.50	-607.50
First Aid		-525.00	525.00		-500.00	-500.00
Fridge Hire		-1,130.00	1,130.00		-576.00	-576.00
Toilet Hire		-528.00	528.00		-336.00	-336.00
Bands/Music		-450.00	450.00		-450.00	-450.00
Advertising		-1,749.80	1,749.80		-1,478.00	-1,478.00
Printing		-1,745.60	1,745.60		-1,682.40	-1,682.40
Transport		-680.00	680.00		-660.00	-660.00
Flowers		-220.50	220.50		-35.00	-35.00
Helpers		-72.05	72.05			
TOTAL	41,438.30	-17,282.13	24,156.17	35,920.26	-14,961.84	20,958.42

3. Assets retained by the Trust:

ASSET REGISTER

Item	Cost £	Date Purchased £	Estimated Replacement Value £
Mains operated coin counter			200.00
Pizza Oven (wood fired)			800.00
Marque			450.00
Blue Gazebo (3m x 6m)			330.00
Catering equipment (various)			850.00
8 x advertising signs (2400x1200mm)			1,000.00
Numerous smaller signs			500.00
8 x folding metal road signs			800.00
8 x large fold up timber tables			800.00
40 x stacking plastic chairs			1,200.00
Shed located at Priory Room			450.00
Art Peg Boards	180.60	10/08/2022	180.00
UniFlame 6 Burner Gas Grill BBQ and cover	462.95	29/05/2022	460.00
8 x SumUp card readers	200.00	27/07/2022	200.00
4 x large PVC Banners	760.00	01/08/2023	760.00
Various crockery & glasses (Hubbard)	285.00	08/08/2023	285.00
Capital investment storage container WSC	1,000.00	25/10/2023	1,000.00
Dough Roller	544.56	01/07/2024	544.56
2 x A4 Pavement Sign	90.00	17/06/2024	90.00
3 X SumUp Solo	140.40	19/11/2024	140.40
			<u>10,265.00</u>

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE WALSHAM LE WILLOWS OPEN GARDENS TRUST

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Walsham le Willows Open Gardens Trust (the "Trust") for the year ended 31 December 2024.

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 all 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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.



Alison Roberts FMAAT

Acorn Accounting
Acorn House, Chapel Road,
Wattisfield, Diss, IP22 1NY

2nd March 2025