

THE WILLOW GARDEN PROJECT
REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

CHARITY NO. 1148248

CROSSLEY & DAVIS
Chartered Accountants
Ground Floor Seneca House
Links Point
Amy Johnson Way
Blackpool
Lancashire
FY4 2FF

**THE WILLOW GARDEN PROJECT
REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025**

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
Trustees' Annual Report	1-7
Independent Examiner's Report	8
Statement of Financial Activities	9
Balance Sheet	10
Notes forming part of the Financial Statements	11-14

THE WILLOW GARDEN PROJECT
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

The Trustees present their report along with the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31st March 2024. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on page 11 and comply with the Charity's Trust Deed and applicable law.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

REGISTERED NAME: THE WILLOW GARDEN PROJECT

PRINCIPLE ADDRESS: 14 The Ridgeway
Fleetwood
FY7 8AW

CHARITY NUMBER: 1148248

DATE OF REGISTRATION: 24th July 2012

BANKERS: Barclays Bank plc
Leicester
LE87 2BB

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER: Steven Mondy F.C.A
Chartered Accountant
Crossley & Davis
Ground Floor Seneca House
Links Point, Amy Johnson Way
Blackpool
FY4 2FF

CHARITY TRUSTEES WHO MANAGE THE CHARITY:

Trustee Name	Office
John Whalley	Chairman
Derrik Foulkes	Treasurer
Karen Laird	Trustee/Secretariat
Philip Murphy	Service user and Trustee
Carole Elizabeth Mianbaghi	Trustee

THE WILLOW GARDEN PROJECT
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Willow Garden Project is an independent community-based charity garden project. It is governed by a Deed of Trust dated 22nd February 2012 for keeping the project focused on its purpose – ensuring it is solvent, meeting legal requirements and those of good governance.

The charity trustees are responsible for the general control and management of the charity. Trustees meet at least four times each year to take all decisions necessary jointly with regard to the review of the Charity's activities and achievement of objectives. All trustees give their time voluntary and received no remuneration or other financial benefits.

Ongoing costs of the project's core activities is funded in many ways, including charitable grants and awards on the basis of achieving agreed targets and outcomes, or conducting specified activities. These funds are supplemented with unrestricted monies raised by fundraising, community donations and organised charitable events.

STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

The garden has twelve volunteers supporting the work and fundraising events, but only a small group of six who support the different weekly activities – we have a minimum of two people supporting each group gardening session. There is one paid member of staff, Mrs Pamela Laird, who is the project's founder and a qualified horticultural tutor working as the site manager and workshop facilitator. There are also five voluntary trustees.

Sessional workers are contracted on a self-employed basis when expert services are required by the project to run workshops in addition to those that are normally scheduled over the two days a week. In these circumstances the funding source (restricted) is included within the successful bid/award grant and payment would be made on completion of the specific piece of project work.

OUR PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

Established in 2012, the garden has been built on derelict underused land leased from the local cricket club. With the good will and help of experienced volunteers, including support from the local councils, charities and other groups it has become a flourishing community serving garden - including a cabin fit for purpose/disabled access building. Funding for the garden work is raised by organising fundraising and profile-raising events and is supported through general public donations and by service users.

The purpose of the charity is to provide facilities for healthy recreation (particularly gardening and horticulture) and leisure time pursuits in the interest of social welfare for people living in Fleetwood and surrounding areas who have need of such facilities by reason of their infirmity or disablement, youth, age, financial hardship or social circumstances with the object of improving their conditions of life.

Today we have around forty-five regular service users (adults with physical and mental disabilities) attending weekly – with some really good results. More recently we have extended our support to people living with dementia and cancer. We also provide different sessions to local nurseries, schoolchildren and other organisations and businesses on an ad hoc basis.

THE WILLOW GARDEN PROJECT
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

Our main objectives of the year continued to be the promotion and delivery of a professional, independent and outcome-based support services to a range of clients. Developing community links and working in partnership and in collaboration with Lancashire County Council, Healthier Fleetwood and other supporting organisations and potential service users to undertake targeted pieces of work and encourage new users to the project.

The project's founder, Pamela Laird takes responsibility for the ongoing day-to-day management of the community-serving garden site. A team of volunteers contribute to the routine cultivation of the garden; and help organise the charity's activities, including:

- Practical gardening group sessions to learn and engage in food growing activities.
- Making green and upcycled crafts in our 'cabin' resource centre
- Organising seasonal workshops in the run up to Easter, Halloween and Christmas
- Marketing the flowers and vegetables grown in our garden
- Supporting neighbouring groups and organisations with developing their gardens, planting etc.
- Raising funds through regular bag packing in local supermarkets
- Other fundraising events such as open days, fayres and community activities.

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Willow team have successfully delivered gardening sessions throughout this period, running workshops on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 19/03/2024 to 28/11/2024.

In this period we have had a new cover put on one of poly tunnels, and have added more gravel to the paths around the garden site. We also hosted a volunteer day for Victrex, a local business company who kindly funded a team to come along and paint our work cabin and garden furniture. Harvesting was good too, with giant vegetables (onions, beetroot, peas & beans) as well Sunflower and Lupin plants grown from seeds. We also challenged ourselves and for the first time harvested sweetcorn which were a great success. Some of the vegetables grown were entered into Blackpool Allotments Vegetable & Flower show, and we were over the moon to be awarded 2nd place for our beetroots and 3rd Place for large Onions.

In engaging with our local community we have worked with a local artist on artwork for the Fleetwood Festival tram Sunday, have had children from Great Arley school in Thornton visit to learn about garden work and general wellbeing as well as organised open days for the general public. For our Summer event we were kindly donated a supply of horseshoes for upcycling into crafts, as well as been given a fabulous collection of handknitted Gnomes. Together with other nature crafts our service users made and a tombola raffle it was a very successful fundraising day. The open day for our Christmas fayre was also a very successful event, and a huge thank you goes out to the many people donating goods and raffle prizes for fundraising. For the first time this year we also organised Wreath Making workshops. These events were run in addition to our normal gardening workshops and we provided all materials to decorate wreaths made from our own willow grown on site. The feedback was excellent and we will look to run such an event again next season. A small business market night was also arranged by a local ecology project, with funds raised from donations on the door given to Willow. Additionally, the garden centre at Affinity shopping outlet in Fleetwood have donated plants for our garden.

We are incredibly fortunate to have valued supporters of our charity; it allows us to achieve our goals. Thank you for your amazing support.

THE WILLOW GARDEN PROJECT
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

SUCSESSESS AND AWARDS

Since establishing Willow Garden we've been successful in achieving a number of awards and accolades including:

- BBC Radio Lancashire Community Hero's Awards 2019 – Community Project Of the Year
- RHS Britain In Bloom Northwest "In Your Neighbourhood" award category Achieved Level 5 (outstanding) with the 2019 Community Champion Award
- Publication of 3-page feature of Project's work in Lancashire Life Magazine – October 2018 edition
- Winner of BBC Northwest Tonight Community Garden, Up Here displayed at RHS Flower Show Tatton Park August 2018.
- RHS It's Your Neighbourhood National Certificate of Distinction for groups who have done consistently well over time – awarded November 2018
- RHS Britain In Bloom Northwest "In Your Neighbourhood" award category Achieved Level 5 (outstanding) with discretionary award and highly commended for our community effort.
- Lancashire Green Award for the best community group.
- Green Partnership Award with Lancashire County Council.
- Clean Sweep for Britain Award (Northern Entry) in conjunction with Veolia and the Sunday People Newspaper, in celebration of the Queens Diamond Jubilee, our efforts were acknowledged.
- Wyre Together Best Volunteer Team Award.
- Nominated Best Volunteer by Lancashire County Council.
- Horticultural qualifications in partnership with Myerscough
- National Big Lottery funding award (ITV Millions public voting).

Our Charity has a very good following and news is spread by word of mouth, and is also communicated via a network of interested group contacts and local publications. Social media is used to interact in real time and feed the latest news and information is also available from the charity's Facebook pages.

THE WILLOW GARDEN PROJECT
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

Listed below are the groups and organisations that we work in partnership and in collaboration with for charitable activities and on-going projects:

- Action on Hearing Loss
- Alternative Future Group Charity
- Alzheimer's Society
- ASDA Fleetwood Store
- A.M Seafoods
- Barclays Bank
- Blackpool CVS
- Blackpool Youth Offending Team
- Blackpool Wakefield Activity Park
- BP Offshore
- Cala Gran Holiday Park Fleetwood
- Cardinal Allen R.C. High School Fleetwood
- Chaucer Community Primary School Fleetwood
- Co-op Stores and Funeral Home
- Creative Support (Mental Health Supported Living)
- Disability Trust
- Dreamscheme Network
- DWP Jobcentre Fleetwood
- Fleetwood Churches Together
- Fleetwood Cricket Club
- Fleetwood Food Bank
- Fleetwood Rotary Club
- Fleetwood Rugby Club
- Fleetwood and Cleveleys Lions Club
- Fleetwood and Thornton National Citizen Service
- Fleetwood Taxi 2222
- Fleetwood Town Council
- Fleetwood WI Group
- Furness Building Society
- G Tees (Fleetwood store)
- Highbury Golf Society
- Joanne Wilson Ballet & Dance School
- Jubilee Harvester Cleveleys
- Lancashire Adult Learning
- Lancashire County Council
- Lancashire Wildlife Trust
- Larkholme Primary School
- Masonic Hall
- Mini Me Nursery Fleetwood
- McColl's Store

THE WILLOW GARDEN PROJECT
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

- Mount Croft Mental Health Service
- Mustard Seed Group Fleetwood
- Myerscough College
- N-Compass North West
- NCS (National Citizen Service)
- Northwest Everest Platform
- Ormerod Trust
- Santander
- TSB
- Unique Estate Agency
- Wyre Fisheries
- Rotakids projects
- Social Enterprise Solutions (UK) CIC
- Tesco Help for Bags
- Umbrella Collective
- Unique Estate Agency
- Veolia Environment Service
- Victrex plc
- Windmill Players Group
- Wyre Day Care Broadwaters
- Wyre Domiciliary Service
- Youth Offending List

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The results for the year and financial position of the charity are set out in the annexed accounts. The trustees have examined the requirement to maintain reserves for the ongoing work of the charity and concluded that the most appropriate level is between three and six months of operational expenditure. The trustees consider the financial performance by the charity during the year to have been in line with their expectations.

The Statement of Financial Activities shows an overall deficit for the year of £3,640 (2023: deficit of £11,467) and reserves stand at £32,264 (2023: £35,904).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Special thanks go to our volunteers for their dedication, commitment and contribution to the Willow Garden Project. A big thank to all our friends and supporters who give their time so generously. Thanks to the continued support and donations and close help from Charitable Trusts and other groups and organisations for which we are most grateful.

THE WILLOW GARDEN PROJECT
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees are required by the Charities Act 2011 and the Statements of Recommended Practice for Charities to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). The financial statements are required by law to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the surplus or deficit of the charity for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will not continue in operation.

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

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant information of which the Charity's independent examiner is unaware; and
- the Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant information and to establish that the independent examiner is aware of that information.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

 Trustee/ Chairman

 Trustee

08/12/2025 Date

THE WILLOW GARDEN PROJECT
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE WILLOW GARDEN PROJECT

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Willow Garden Project (the Trust) for the year ended 31st March 2025, which are set out on pages 10 to 14.

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 Trustee'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 2011 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; or
- (3) the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulation 2008 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.

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.

Steven Mondy FCA
Crossley & Davis
Ground Floor Seneca House
Links Point, Amy Johnson Way
Blackpool
FY4 2FF

Date:



THE WILLOW GARDEN PROJECT
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS				
Donations	20,953	-	20,953	18,771
Income from fundraising activities	4,585	-	4,585	5,138
Government grants	-	-	-	-
	<u>23,538</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>25,538</u>	<u>23,909</u>
EXPENDITURE				
<i>Costs of raising funds:</i>				
Fundraising expenses		-		79
<i>Charitable activities:</i>				
Crafting materials	455	-	455	272
Rent, rates and water	371	-	371	48
Light & heat	443	-	443	1,092
Telephone	777	-	777	779
Gardening purchases	473	-	473	559
General repairs	329	-	329	2,159
Printing, postage, stationery and advertising	10	-	10	55
Cleaning	81	-	81	207
Refreshments	651	-	651	497
Sundry expenses	48	-	48	2,056
Insurance	1,100	-	1,100	-
Xmas Party	372	-	372	-
Gifts	114	-	114	1,529
	<u>5,223</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,223</u>	<u>9,253</u>
<i>Governance costs:</i>				
Depreciation	-	2,792	2,792	3,490
Wages	-	13,080	13,080	12,960
Accountancy fees	1,925	-	1,925	1,768
	<u>1,925</u>	<u>15,872</u>	<u>17,796</u>	<u>18,218</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>7,148</u>	<u>15,872</u>	<u>23,019</u>	<u>27,549</u>
TRANSFERS				
NET EXPENDITURE	(15,000)	15,000	2,519	(3,640)
Balance brought forward	<u>3,391</u>	<u>(872)</u>	<u>32,264</u>	<u>35,904</u>
Balance carried forward	<u>34,666</u>	<u>119</u>	<u>34,783</u>	<u>32,264</u>

THE WILLOW GARDEN PROJECT

BALANCE SHEET

31ST MARCH 2024

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
FIXED ASSETS	2	11,167	13,959
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash at bank and in hand	3	<u>46,149</u>	<u>27,478</u>
		<u>57,316</u>	<u>41,437</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
PAYE		97	119
Creditors and Accruals	4	<u>22,435</u>	<u>9,054</u>
		<u>22,533</u>	<u>9,173</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>23,616</u>	<u>18,305</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>34,783</u>	<u>32,264</u>
FUNDS	6		
Unrestricted		34,666	31,275
Restricted		<u>117</u>	<u>989</u>
		<u>34,783</u>	<u>32,264</u>

Approved by the Board of Trustees on

and signed on its behalf by:



Trustee/ Chairman



Trustee

The notes on page 11 to 13 form part of these accounts.

THE WILLOW GARDEN PROJECT
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with The Charities Act 2011, and Accounting and Reporting by charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102 (effective 1 January 2016 – Charities SORP (FRS102)).

1.2 Reconciliation with Previous Generally Accepted Accounting Practice

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the Managing Trustees are responsible in law.

1.3 Income and endowments

Donations, and other forms of voluntary income, are recognised as incoming resources when receivable and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Grants received are treated as income and are reflected in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Income from fundraising activities are accounted for under the accruals concept. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

1.4 Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. Expenditure is allocated between the following categories:

- Cost of raising funds
- Cost of activities in furtherance of the charity's objects
- Governance costs

THE WILLOW GARDEN PROJECT
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

1.5 Funds

Restricted funds represent donations or grants received for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund.

Unrestricted funds are general funds which can be used for the charity's ordinary purpose.

1.6 Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets for use by the charity are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £500. They are valued at cost or a reasonable value on receipt.

1.7 Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of an asset, less its estimated residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Equipment	-	20% reducing balance basis
Fixtures and fittings	-	20% reducing balance basis

2. FIXED ASSETS

	Equipment £	Fixtures & Fittings £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Cost brought forward	16,089	90,729	106,818	106,808
Additions	-	-	-	-
Cost carried forward	16,089	90,729	106,818	106,818
Depreciation brought forward	13,106	76,264	89,370	89,370
Charge for the year	597	2,893	3,490	3,490
Depreciation carried forward	13,703	79,157	92,860	92,860
Net book value at 31st March 2024	2,387	11,572	13,959	13,959
Net book value at 31st March 2023	2,983	14,465	17,448	17,448

THE WILLOW GARDEN PROJECT
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

3. CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

	2025	2024
	£	£
Main Account	44,319	27,340
Cash in hand	1,830	138
	<u>46,149</u>	<u>27,478</u>

4. CREDITORS & ACCRUALS

Accountancy and independent examiners fees	2,912	2,632
Wages control	19,523	6,422
	<u>22,435</u>	<u>9,054</u>

5. ANALYSIS OF ASSETS BY FUND

	Unrestricted	Restricted	
	Funds	Funds	Total
	£	£	£
Fixed assets	11,167	-	11,167
Current assets	46,032	117	46,149
Current liabilities	(22,533)	-	(22,533)
FUND BALANCE	<u>34,666</u>	<u>117</u>	<u>34,783</u>

6. TRUSTEES AND RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There were no transactions with related parties during the year.