

FRIENDS OF JERUSALEM BOTANICAL GARDENS

**TRUSTEES' REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2023**

Charity Reg. No. 1151347



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	Day 01	Month January	Year 2023		Day 31	Month December	Year 2023

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name Friends of Jerusalem Botanical Gardens

Other names charity is known by Friends of JBG

Registered charity number (if any) 1151347

Charity's principal address

100 Green Lane	
Edgware	
Middx	
Postcode	HA8 8EJ

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Aaron Bertelsen	Co-Chair		
2	Jill Kowal	Co-Chair		
3	Brandon George		Until 20/10/2023	
4	Linda Smith		Until 26/09/2023	
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20				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

Barbara Sherling – Operations Manager

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Election by the Board of Trustees

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

Reviewing the structure of the Board with the aim of creating opportunities to appoint new Trustees with particular skills to advance the charity's activities.

The Friends of Jerusalem Botanical Gardens (JBG) continued its membership of the NCVO in order to be kept aware of current governance, organisational and charity best practice and to access training.

Work alongside the CEO and senior staff members of the Jerusalem Botanical Gardens; the Israel-based Friends of Jerusalem Botanical Gardens and two of the Trustees of the UK Friends represent the UK Friends on the international advisory panel of the Board of the JBG.

The Trustees have adopted the following policies and procedures: Conflict of Interests; Data Protection, Equality and Diversity; Grievance; Privacy, Register of Interests, and a Reserves Policy. The Trustees continue to review the financial position of the charity regularly.

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

To advance the education of the public on Israel's biodiversity, plant conservation and cultural uses of plants, in particular but not exclusively by supporting the work of the Jerusalem Botanical Gardens.

This is achieved by supporting the Gardens in:

- its cross-cultural education of school-age children in Jerusalem;

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

- its social action and environmental outreach programme which aims to engage disaffected and disadvantaged members of the community through working with plants; and
- by offering qualified gardeners the opportunity to extend their education through learning about Israel's biodiversity etc.
- Online talks given via Zoom on botanical aspects and, in the UK, talks by the Operations Manager to various communal organisations.

The Trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit in the undertaking of all their activities.

Our main support for the JBG comes through the horticultural internship programme. Our interns worked closely with professionals at the JBG gaining greater knowledge of Israel's biodiversity and plant conservation.

Ezile Tyutwana from South Africa began his nursery propagation internship in November 2022 and it was always his intention to stay for 12 months. He quickly became a popular member of the team, eager to share his knowledge of propagating South African species and enthusiastic about learning about the new or different methods used at the JBG. His internship finished slightly early because of the events on 7 October, about which more is written below.

The Tropical Conservatory internship was awarded to Sam Slotin, an American who had emigrated to Israel. His internship began at the end of August 2022 and was planned to last for 12 months. Sam also proved himself to be a popular and reliable member of the team and contributed to our aim to advance the education of the public on Israel's biodiversity, plant conservation and cultural uses of plants by providing many of the photographs and commentaries on our Instagram feed.

Thanks to the generous sponsorship of Della and the late Fred Worms, a four-week travel bursary to the JBG is offered annually to a final year student at the Kew School of Horticulture. In 2023, the bursary was won by Josef Kreidt, whose visit was in May.

To achieve an overlap between the new nursery intern and the outgoing one, Lucy Hoggett, a British horticulturist, arrived in Israel at the beginning of October, intending to stay for 6 months. Sadly, this was not possible because on 7 October 2023, the terrorist organisation Hamas, based in Gaza, launched a deadly attack on Israel and war was declared against them.

Our interns' safety was of paramount importance and we were able, after a few stressful days, to repatriate Ezile and Lucy. Sam decided to remain in Israel, where we ensured he was well connected with the other staff at the Gardens and we remained in frequent contact with him by phone and email.

At the beginning of November, we agreed to sponsor Shai Alfi for 6 months who took the lead horticultural role in the tropical conservatory. Lucy Hoggett hoped to resume her internship, but the ongoing hostilities prevented her return in 2023. The ongoing hostilities also prevented the award of the Worms Travel Bursary to a final year Kew Diploma student.

The Friends continued their aims of informing the public about plants and the environment through talks given by the Operation Manager. Fewer talks were given in 2023 as a result of a general feeling of 'zoom

<p>overload' from the COVID years, followed by the impact of the 7 October attacks. Some planned talks were postponed until 2024.</p> <p>As part of the review begun in December 2022 to improve the Friends' social media and information goals, a new website, designed by Trustee and alumnus Brandon George went live in the Spring. To assist us in furthering our aims to inform and educate about Israel's plant biodiversity and conservation, our interns provided a steady flow of photographs and information about plants in flower at the Gardens and in the wild.</p> <p>The Trustees are aware that the war has impacted on our membership and our activities, compounding the decline we were experiencing, like many organisations, following COVID 19. We continue to try to make the charity more attractive online to a worldwide audience.</p> <p>In the autumn of 2023, our two USA-based Trustees, Linda Smith and Brandon George, resigned as Trustees but remained as Special Advisors. We are grateful for their ongoing support and advice.</p> <p>The Friends thank supporters and acknowledge the donations from individuals which have supported our projects in 2023.</p>
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Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grant-making;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

<p>Grant-making</p> <p>The policy in awarding internships as part of our International Horticultural Internship Programme is to select students who are most likely to benefit from the education and experience provided at the Gardens. Candidates apply using a standardised form and their experience and qualifications are assessed. Short-listed candidates are then interviewed by a panel to assess their suitability to the conditions and lifestyle in Israel and to identify what they wish to gain from the experience and how to achieve their aims.</p> <p>The policy of grant-making to the Jerusalem Botanical Gardens involves identifying those areas which most effectively meet the UK Friends' objectives. In 2023 a grant was allotted towards accommodation for the interns.</p> <p>Volunteers</p> <p>Help from our members continues to be of crucial importance to the Friends. Involving volunteers continues to be an on-going area of development as the Trustees recognise that volunteering is a key element of the charity's sustainability and diversity.</p>
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Section D

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Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Achievements and performance

Five interns were sponsored of whom two continued internships started in 2022.

The charity continues to be in a stable fiscal position.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The Trustees take seriously their fiscal responsibility to ensure that the charity is sustainable. A reserves policy was adopted which states that funds which have not been designated for specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to six months' expenditure.

The Trustees consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in income, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to the way in which additional funds may be raised. The Trustees recognise that many charities only operate on a 3-month policy. They are satisfied that the reserves more than meet the requirements to maintain the charity as an ongoing concern. The charity has no contracts which could not be met by its current reserves.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

There are no deficits.

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

A donation from a UK-based charitable trust provides the charity with its main source of funds. Its largest expenditures are the salary of the Operations Manager and expenses associated with the International Horticultural Internship Programme. These expenditures are funded by donations and fundraising events, as highlighted in Section C above and bequests. The Trustees recognise that a generous bequest from the estate of Mrs Philippa Rakusen enables the Internship Programme to continue.

Investment

The charity is financially cautious, maintaining only a current account and an interest-paying savings account.

Section F

Other optional information

The Trustees will continue to seek opportunities to strengthen the Friends of Jerusalem Botanical Gardens' Board; develop its programmes in response to its on-going objectives and review the day-to-day activities to optimise the charity's future.

Section G

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees’ report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity’s trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)		
	Aaron Kaen Bertelsen	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Co-Chair	
Date	24 September 2024	

FRIENDS OF JERUSALEM BOTANICAL GARDENS					
Statement of Financial Activities - Year Ended 31st December 2023					
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Y/E 31.12.22
		Funds	Funds	Funds	Total Funds
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:					
Membership subscriptions		1,350	0	1,350	1,395
Donations and legacies	1	20,089	0	20,089	19,535
Fund Raising	2	30	0	30	813
Other trading activities		0	0	0	0
Interest Received		1,267	0	1,267	40
Total		22,736	0	22,736	21,783
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	2	15	0	15	15
Charitable activities	3	39,180	0	39,180	24,414
Other	4	10,468	0	10,468	15,030
Total		49,663	0	49,663	39,459
(Net expenditure)		-26,927	0	-26,927	-17,676
Net movement in funds		-26,927	0	-26,927	-17,676
Total funds brought forward		118,344	11,095	129,439	147,115
Total funds carried forward		91,417	11,095	102,512	129,439

FRIENDS OF JERUSALEM BOTANICAL GARDENS
Notes to the Accounts - Year Ended 31st December 2023

1	Restricted Fund Donations	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Y/E 31.12.22</u> <u>Total</u>
	Craps CT	0	16,000	16,000	16,000
	General donations	0	4,089	4,089	3,535
		0	20,089	20,089	19,535
2	Fund Raising activities	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Profit/(Loss)</u>	<u>Y/E 31.12.22</u>
	Talks	30	15	15	198
	Visit	0	0	0	600
		30	15	15	798
3	Charitable Activities	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Y/E 31.12.22</u>
	Internships	20,780	0	20,780	19,414
	Apartment	18,400	0	18,400	5,000
		39,180	0	39,180	24,414
4	Other Expenses		<u>31.12.23</u>		<u>31.12.22</u>
	Salaries & NIC		12,000		13,500
	Travel		0		910
	Bank charges		0		45
	Computer expenses		478		294
	Subscriptions -NCVO/BGCI		270		0
	Insurance		185		169
	Web site costs		0		42
	Accountancy fees		-400		0
	Audit Fees		98		0
	Office expenses		-1,383		70
	Telephone & broadband		-780		0
			10,468		15,030
5	Total Funds at 31st December 2023 are represented by the following:				
	Bank Current account	1,005			
	Bank Deposit account	106,873			
			107,878		
	Less:Accruals		5,366		
			102,512		