



**CHARITY COMMISSION**  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

## **Trustees' Annual Report for the period**

**From** 6 April 2022 **Period start date** **To** 5 April 2023 **Period end date**

**Charity name:** Wildlife Gardening Forum

**Charity registration number:** 1156608

## **Objectives and Activities**

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	<p><b>a) To promote the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment of gardens and their biological diversity.</b></p> <p><b>b) To advance the education of the public in the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment and biodiversity of gardens and the consequent human health and well-being benefits.</b></p>
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	<p><b>Gardens are diverse and important habitats for our declining wildlife and where the great majority of children find their first direct contact with nature. Nearly 90% of UK households have gardens and so our work can benefit a very large proportion of the public who wish to manage their gardens sustainably and with wildlife in mind. In planning and executing our work, the Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and in particular to its public benefit guidance on advancing education and on conservation of the environment.</b></p> <p><b>Object a) Promoting conservation, protection and improvement ...</b></p> <p><b>The Wildlife Gardening Forum furthers this object through issuing four newsletters per year summarising new research and best practice findings. We maintain a large website to provide access to evidence-based information on the science of wildlife gardening and on garden organisms, including practical guidance. We seek to inform</b></p>

		<p>the work of the many charities and other organisations within our membership and contacts. We influence decision makers through working with other charities and disseminating evidence. The influence of the Forum on social media has grown remarkably on its Facebook group and is developing on Instagram and X (formerly Twitter).</p> <p>Our website continues to grow with the ambition of being a 'one stop shop for scientific and practical information about gardens and wildlife'. It contains extensive background information in garden and wildlife science and planting for wildlife, reviewing information largely unavailable to a general reader. By March 2022 the site contained nearly 400 pages of information and a further 120 downloadable documents. It constitutes the largest compendium of freely available information about garden biodiversity anywhere on the web.</p> <p>The Forum's Manifesto, available in English and Welsh on the website, provides a simple introduction to decision makers about the policy changes we would like to see to improve the status of gardens for wildlife and people. Our membership of the umbrella organisation Wildlife and Countryside Link is allowing the Forum to contribute its voice alongside other charities in environmental issues.</p> <p>Object b) To advance the education of the public....</p> <p>This object is addressed through the creation of publications and newsletters, provision of professional guidance and training for teachers and practitioners and maintaining a website to provide access for everyone to evidence-based information and advice.</p> <p>The Trustees ensure a powerful educational outcome by insisting on testing all statements and guidance in our material and on our website against established and published fact, giving attribution so that those who wish can have access to original work. We identify and point out areas where evidence is inadequate and have succeeded in starting research projects (such as the RHS-run "Plants for Bugs</p>
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		<p><b>Project” investigating the relative value of native and non-native garden plants) where a major deficiency of evidence has let myths and assumptions stay unchallenged.</b></p> <p><b>While most of our focus is on biodiversity, our education objective is also concerned with the role of gardens and urban green space on human mental and physical health, and the cohesion and better function of communities. This is another relatively new field of research that has not yet become widely known among the public and decision makers but is of increasing importance as Britain becomes steadily more urban. There is great synergy between this aspect of gardens, and biodiversity conservation, and we see our role as helping to make the health research findings accessible to everyone alongside the biodiversity, and with the same standards of rigour.</b></p>
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	<p><b>The Trustees confirm that in the period covered by this report they have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.</b></p>

## Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p><b>In the ninth year of the Wildlife Gardening Forum's operation as a registered charity, trustee meetings continued to be conducted remotely and although no in-person conferences were held during the period the charity organised its first ever online conference in Jan 2023, providing a low-cost (donation-based ticketing), travel-free format to an audience of over 300. Keynote speaker Professor Dave Goulson was joined by speakers from Plantlife and BTO to address diverse topics on the theme 'Resilience, challenges and solutions for today's wildlife gardeners'. Recordings were made available through the website and a member podcast.</b></p> <p><b>The Forum was able to fulfil its core purposes in a number of ways;</b></p> <p><b>Building on resources developed through the Polli:Gen project in 2021, the Forum ran a wildlife-gardening self-</b></p>

		<p>accreditation scheme pilot in 2022 called 'Cholsey Wildlife Garden Challenge', set in a village in rural Oxfordshire. 55 households participated and 16 certificates awarded (2 Bronze, 7 Silver, 7 Gold). The success of the pilot has provided a proof-of-concept for a future expansion of the scheme.</p> <p>The Forum's Facebook group exceeded 100,000 members in 2022, making it the largest Facebook group dedicated to wildlife gardening. It is primarily a UK-based group though it encourages and supports members in over 100 countries and enlists a volunteer moderator team of around 15 to maintain a friendly, positive online community.</p> <p>The Forum's website has expanded its section on garden birds, which now covers 49 species, comparison pages and bird biology. This topic is particularly popular with people new to wildlife gardening and contributes to improved nature-connectedness and wellbeing. An ambition of the Forum is to convert it to a secure https site.</p> <p>Our member's quarterly newsletter has continued to inform over 3,000 gardeners, garden designers, landscapers, conservationists and other practitioners, giving them the tools to make direct changes to benefit biodiversity and the environment.</p>
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## Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	The charity's reserves fell slightly in the period due to combined expenses of website/domain hosting and mailout costs. New income from the online conference helped to offset losses and in future this could prove to be an effective revenue stream. Any larger ambitions of the charity will need to be sought from grant funding.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	The Wildlife Gardening Forum has general funds, currently approximately equal to one (normal) year's operating costs, which the Trustees consider prudent to maintain the charity's core activities, especially given the current financial uncertainties. There are no designated or restricted funds.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£5,557
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	N/A



Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	None
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	None

## Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Constitution
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Appointed by existing Trustees on the basis of a Board Skills Audit and informal interview.

## Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Wildlife Gardening Forum
Other name the charity uses	n/a
Registered charity number	1156608
Charity's principal address	Mollys Lodge Little Wolford Shipston on Stour Warwickshire CV36 5NR

## 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	Helen Bostock	Chair (October onwards)	All Year	
2	Karen Murphy	Hon Secretary	All Year	
3	Johan Ingles le-Nobel		All Year	
4	Mary Jackson		All Year	
5	Judith Conroy		All Year	
6	Mark Goddard		All Year	
7	David Perkins		All Year	
8	Adrian Thomas		All Year	
19				
10				
11				

12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		
None		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	
None		

## Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	None
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

**Additional information (optional)**

**Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)**

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Hon. Treasurer	Marc Carlton	10, Portwall Road, Chepstow, NP16 5DL

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

None

## Exemptions from disclosure


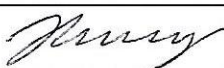
Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

## Other optional information

## Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Helen Bostock	Judith Conroy
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	Hon Secretary

Date 14.09.23





CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

The Wildlife Gardening Forum

1156608

## Receipts and payments accounts

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For the period  
from

6th April 2022

To

5th April 2023

### Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Voluntary Receipts: Donations	20	-	-	20	524
Charitable activity: Conference income	951	-	-	951	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	971	-	-	971	524
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total receipts</b>	971	-	-	971	524
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Charitable Activity: Website	520	-	-	520	-
Charitable Activity: Conferences	585	-	-	585	-
Charitable Activity: Influence	-	-	-	-	-
Mailchimp costs	452	-	-	452	398
Governance costs	103	-	-	103	107
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	1,660	-	-	1,660	505
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total payments</b>	1,660	-	-	1,660	505
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	- 689	-	-	- 689	19
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	6,246	-	-	6,246	6,227
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	5,557	-	-	5,557	6,246



## Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds		5,557	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	5,557	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK


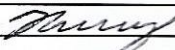
	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Helen Bostock	14.09.23
	Judith Conroy	14.09.23