



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 6 April 2024 Period start date To 5 April 2025 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>a) To promote the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment of gardens and their biological diversity.</p> <p>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.</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>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.</p> <p>Object a) Promoting conservation, protection and improvement ...</p> <p>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</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 is undergoing migration to a new platform to help meet the ambition of it becoming 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. 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 Project" investigating the relative value</p>
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		<p>of native and non-native garden plants) where a major deficiency of evidence has let myths and assumptions stay unchallenged.</p> <p>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.</p>
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	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.

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>The Forum trustee meetings continued to be conducted remotely with the exception of an in-person Away Day and AGM held at Ryton Gardens in Coventry in July.</p> <p>The Forum was able to fulfil its core purposes in a number of ways;</p> <p>Activities were held to mark the Wildlife Gardening Forum's 20th anniversary from its original formation in March 2005. This took the form of recorded birthday wishes from friends of the Forum such as wildlife author and presenter Kate Bradbury, a press release sent out in March 2025 marking 10 wins and 10 challenges from the last 20 years, and a book giveaway of 20 signed copies of Chris Baines' book <i>RHS Companion to Wildlife Gardening</i>. The book giveaway received nearly 100 applications and generated many positive stories of people keen to make a difference to wildlife in their gardens or communities.</p>

		<p>To further dissemination of current wildlife gardening research through online events, the Forum partnered with the Biological Recording Company to deliver a hugely successful Wildlife Gardening Symposium in January 2025, an event which sold over 600 tickets. The 3-hour event included a round-up of wildlife gardening research from 2025 by the Founder Patron, Steve Head; a talk on hedgehogs and their safety in gardens from international researcher Dr Sophie Lund Rasmussen; impact of wildlife-friendly gardening practises on butterflies from Dr Richard Fox (Butterfly Conservation Trust); the challenges and trade-offs of feeding garden birds by Dr Hugh Hanmer (BTO); and gardening for bats and people with Jo Ferguson (Bat Conservation Trust). Recordings were made available via the website. Preparations are underway for a similar event in 2026.</p> <p>The Forum's Facebook presence continued to excel in 2024/5, giving the charity a strong online presence and channel for messaging through its organisational page (>18,000 followers) and supporting the national and international wildlife gardening online community with experienced moderators through the Forum's public group (>130,000 members + >120,000 visitors, giving a combined total of over quarter of a million people).</p> <p>The Forum's website of over 500 pages contains excellent and extensive content on the subject of wildlife gardening but the board identified the need for its redevelopment as a priority if it is to serve the aims of the charity. Thanks to a generous donation work began in March 2025 to move it to a more flexible and stable platform. This is a major project being taken forward by a web developer and one of the trustees.</p> <p>Our member's free 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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Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	The charity's operating costs have been maintained in the period due to income from the virtual symposium. Projects (i.e. web development) have been primarily funded through donations rather than drawing on reserves.
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 in current financial uncertainties. There is £3,000 in restricted funds designated for use on website development.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£9,006 (total), £6,006 (unrestricted)
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 + Vice-chair	Apr 2024 – Nov 2024 (Chair) Nov 2024 – Apr 2025 (Vice-chair)	
2	Mary Jackson	Chair	Apr 2024 – Nov 2024 (trustee) Nov 2024 – Apr 2025 (Chair)	
	Judith Conroy	Hon Secretary	All Year	
3	Ali Vitale		All Year	
	Mark Goddard		All Year	
4	Adrian Thomas		All Year	
5	Clare Wright		All Year	
6	Hafsah Hafeji		All Year	
8	Stephanie Bird		All Year	
19				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				

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)	Mary Jackson	Helen Bostock
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	Vice Chair

Date 05/11/25



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

The Wildlife Gardening Forum

1156608

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Receipts and payments accounts

For the period
from

6th April 2024

To

5th April 2025

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Voluntary Receipts: Donations	332	3,000	-	3,332	337
Charitable activity: Conference income	2,250	-	-	2,250	2,045
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	2,582	3,000	-	5,582	2,382
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	2,582	3,000	-	5,582	2,382
A3 Payments					
Charitable Activity: Website	2,333	-	-	2,333	366
Charitable Activity: Working Groups					
Charitable Activity: Conferences	-	-	-	-	204
Charitable Activity: Influence	-	-	-	-	-
Mailchimp costs		-	-	-	-
Governance costs	871	-	-	871	941
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	3,204	-	-	3,204	1,511
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	3,204	-	-	3,204	1,511
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 622	3,000	-	2,378	871
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	6,628	-	-	6,628	5,557
Cash funds this year end	6,006	3,000	-	9,006	6,428

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		6,006	3,000	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	6,006	3,000	-

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

OK

OK

OK

B2 Other monetary assets

Details	Unrestricted to nearest £	Restricted to nearest £	Endowment to nearest £
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

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 asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B5 Liabilities

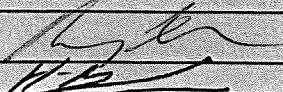

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	

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

Signature

Print Name

Date of approval

Mary Jackson
Helen Bostock

06/11/25
05/11/25