

Grapes Hill Community Garden Group Annual Report 2024



5th Norwich Scouts Celebrated the Big Lunch at Grapes Hill Community Garden in May 2024

The Trustees & Committee team are pleased to have seen another wonderful year for Grapes Hill Community Garden Group and report here on key happenings over 2024.

What we've achieved in 2024

The Grapes Hill Community Garden Group had a successful year in delivering its regular core events, workshops and volunteering days with many extras too! There were 1360 separate visits to the garden. We've seen at least 235 people come to the garden for the first time this year, whether this was just coming to an event, taking part in a workshop or volunteering. We have recorded 563 returning visits.

Volunteer Sessions

Throughout 2024 our volunteers, on Wednesdays and Sundays, were brilliant as ever. We had an amazing 47 sessions with at least 6 volunteers at all these sessions. As well as ongoing support from our regular volunteers we have been joined by two new regular volunteers. They have helped us keep on top of various tasks including weeding, watering and pruning. They have also reported how important the regular sessions are to them.

"I have a wealth of knowledge about gardening and tree and shrub care and plant and weed identification that I did not have before." Regular garden volunteer.

Our volunteers have been a great support at events, serving refreshments and welcoming new visitors to the garden. Many have also joined us at external events to help us promote the garden and share their experiences of volunteering at the garden and how this has had an impact on their lives. We are also very grateful to those on gate duty, who take turns making sure the gates are unlocked each day and closed at night.

Three cheers to all our volunteers, we cannot thank you enough for all you do!

Key Roles in the Garden

In 2024 we were happy to welcome in Clare Nubel as a trustee, Sarah Davis as admin volunteer and Matthew Salmon as a committee member.

Paid Officer Roles

- Jo Rice – Principal Gardener
- Caroline Fernandez - Outreach and Integration Officer (From Feb 2023)
- Charity Lamb - Assistant Gardener (from Feb 2023)

Trustees

- Richard Bearman - Chair
- Fran Ellington - Founder
- Patrick Goodall - Garden maintenance, sculptor and bench creator
- Wyn Hurst - Funding and administrative support
- Peter Ellington - Treasurer
- Clare Nubel- fundraising from March 24

Other Key Roles

- Ben St Ruth - Hon. Bookkeeper
- Jeremy Bartlett - Web Master
- Sarah Davis- Admin. and Membership Volunteer (from Sept 2024)
- Matthew Salmon- Committee Member

New for 2024

- Celebrating Nature Through Poetry around the fire. 22 people came and took turns reading out poems around the fire. The spiced chai and snacks went down well.
- Wine and Cheese tasting for members and subscribers was a ticketed event with our friends Substrata Wines. It was an amazing taste adventure. The guests huddled under our event shelter while the rain poured down.
- The Big Lunch - 44 people came including 22 scouts. Feedback – “Our visit to you has literally changed the dynamics of our group they are more interconnected friendlier and since we have been to Grapes Hill Community Garden they have helped in the maintenance of the campsite we use.”
- A group of eight students from City College come regularly on Wednesdays with their tutors. They have been a big help in the gardens and we have really seen their confidence and skills grow.
- Douro Place garden. A large amount of litter, scrap metal and couch grass has been removed. Daffodil bulbs and primroses have been planted and flower seeds have been sown. Much of the work was achieved with a team from Aviva and our City College group. This is an ongoing project.
- We are grateful to LanPro who donated a big box of daffodil bulbs. These have been planted at Douro Place around the garden and in pots.
- We are also grateful to Norwich City Council, Louise Curtis through the Open Projects Network for donations of seeds, plants and wildflower seeds during the year.



Bulbs and primroses planted at Douro Place with students and tutors from City College. Photo credit Jo Rice.

- In October, we held a review workshop for all the GHCGG members facilitated by our trustee Clare Nubel. All trustees and paid officers attended and it was an opportunity to celebrate our achievements to date, review ways of working and agree strategies for improving communication and coordination.
- At requests from our regular volunteers, we have introduced some extra Winter sessions this year. As well as keeping the garden tidy, it is beneficial for reducing isolation and keeping mentally and physically healthy.



A team from Aviva helped at both Grapes Hill Community Garden and Douro Place on a corporate volunteering day in September. Photo credit Jo Rice

The Seasons Speak Exhibition

The Seasons Speak Exhibition in October, was very beautiful and inspiring. Thank you to Rita Kearton and Friends of Waterloo Park for allowing us to exhibit these beautiful textiles of the poetry of Dorothy Amery. We hope to be able to exhibit again in May 2025. Photos below from Jo Rice.



Events

The garden hosted three big community event days seeing over 400 people attend across the three days:

Nature in the Garden; Sunday 19th May 2024

Our first big event of 2024 took place in May.

We had new guests Revolutionary Roots, who experimented with sound from plants—a unique and engaging experience for us. The Norfolk Ukulele Society opened the event. We also welcomed back Substrata Wines, and Tom Conway, The Coffee Pedlar. Musicians Peter Turrell and Adam Clark performed and were well received. We are grateful to Norfolk Wildlife Trust, Norfolk Organic Group, and Norfolk Master Composters for all providing activities and stalls. We had a plant and book stall as well as offering tea and cakes for donations. There were many new visitors to the garden. We recorded 185 attendees. We Wear the Trousers offered a space where people could join in mending or embroidering nature-inspired designs. Hallswood Animal Sanctuary kindly brought animals including a hedgehog named Hercules, a pig, a pony, and a lamb. Sustainable Living Initiative, Marlpit showed attendees how they keep bees, with an opportunity to dress up in beekeepers' outfits. A cressheads workshop was available for children. Overall, it was a productive day focused on celebrating the natural world.



Norfolk Ukulele Society



Nature in the Garden '24 was very popular.



The Coffee Pedlar- Tom Conway



Master Composters

Celebration of International Cultures; 30th June 2024

A successful event was co-hosted in the garden with New Routes Integration. Despite the sweltering heat, we welcomed over 150 attendees to celebrate international culture, many of whom were new visitors to the garden. Anna Mudeka and The African Choir of Norfolk were our headline performers. The event included a singing workshop by Samia Malik, delicious vegetarian curries provided by Namaste Village, a seed sowing stall, and a plant stall offering rhubarb and fresh herbs.

Additional highlights were "I Will Heal," a performance by refugees and asylum seekers, in collaboration with Common Lot members Simon and Charlie, Indian drumming by Harsh and Josh, an ice cream van, Gareth's Big Games, language taster sessions, a tea and cake stall, Nordic braiding, and a Red Cross vintage stall. Coffee was supplied by The Coffee Pedlar- Tom Conway. Thank you to all who made it so enjoyable!

We extend our gratitude to the National Lottery, The Co-op, our neighbours for providing electricity, and The Eagle Café (now called Cloud Café) for hot water. The event was marked by a lovely atmosphere, and we eagerly anticipate collaborating with New Routes Integration again in 2025.



Anna Mudeka and The African Choir of Norfolk. Photo credit Jo Rice

Arts and Culture in the Garden Sunday 21 July 2024

The Garden's third event of the year connected people through visual and musical arts. Artists showcased their crafts, and musicians Adam Clark, Joe Durant, Tony Park, and Punch House band entertained the visitors. We regularly have positive feedback about the live music we have in the garden. Workshops included a haiku session by Patrick Widdess and a "collage corner" with Charity. The event offered wine tasting, jewellery, plants, and refreshments for all senses. Thanks to everyone who visited; we had over 70 attendees.

"There was a very relaxed and sociable atmosphere, which really added to the fun. I'll definitely look out for any other events at Grapes Hill Community Garden." Workshop participant.



The programme was full.



Samia Malik led a lively singing workshop. Craft stall



Photo credits Jo Rice

Workshops

Throughout the year, we hosted a total of 18 free workshops, many of which were oversubscribed. 152 people attended altogether. These workshops enhanced the opportunities available in the garden by providing participants with the chance to acquire new skills and knowledge while connecting with each other and nature.

- Collage: Crafting unique artworks from various materials. (Charity)
- Willow Bird Feeders: Creating functional and decorative bird feeders. (Caroline)
- Yoga Workshops: Led by Sue Tideswell, offering Hatha yoga and slow movement sessions.
- Herbal Tea: Finding out about garden herbs and sampling herbal teas. (Jo)
- Nettle Cordage creating nettle string in the garden. (Caroline)
- Nature Inspired Art: Facilitated by Charity, encouraging spontaneous creativity in a small, quality group.
- Herbal Remedies: led by Jo, with participants infusing lavender oil to take home.
- Eco-Dyeing: Hands-on solar dyeing using common plants. (Rita and Caroline)
- Fermentation: Allowing participants to make their own sauerkraut to take home. (Caroline)
- Poetry: Exploring the art of poetry in a natural setting. (Patrick Widdess)
- Winter Pruning: Techniques for pruning plants during the winter season. (Jo)
- Seasonal Wreath Workshops: Crafting seasonal wreaths using natural materials. (Caroline)

The feedback from these workshops was overwhelmingly positive, 91 % of people were very likely to recommend them to others. Other feedback:

"It's made me cherish the importance of a cohesive community." Workshop participant.



During the herbal remedies workshop participants looked at the various herbs we have in the garden



Decorative bird feeders were created on the willow workshop



Looking at samples and books during the eco dyeing workshop.

"There was nothing missing for me...it was pretty much perfect!" Fermentation workshop participant.

"I've been to three events at Grapes Hill. Each was very different, but each amazing. It's a very inspiring place with such a welcoming atmosphere."

- Board games and seasonal quizzes became a regular monthly activity. We held nine board game sessions over the year and four quizzes.



Come Play with Us Games in the garden.

Nettle cordage Photo credit Jo Rice

Photo credit Jo Rice

- We offered eight family garden group sessions over the season.



Family Garden Group. Photos credit Jo Rice



Planting snow drops. Photo credit Jo Rice



Removing scrap metal from Douro Place garden

Achievements

We are very proud to note that in June, at the Biodiversity Awards Ceremony, we won the Nature for Health and Wellbeing award.



Pictured L to R Caroline Fernandez, Charity Lamb, Richard Bearman, Jo Rice



Bee on verbena Bonariensis. Photo credit Jo Rice

Outreach / group visits

We reached out from the garden at several other events, sharing information about the garden

- Science Festival 2024, The Forum. On our stall with herbal tea tastings and potting up seeds we interacted with over 160 people.
- Question the Gardener (QTG) in Mile Cross. Jo was on the panel.
- Talk on growing produce on windowsills for the Carers Network (Caroline)
- Planting workshop at Under one Roof with Together for Mental Wellbeing (Caroline)
- Bugs and Beasts at Waterloo Park 1st Aug (Charity and Jo)
- At Harlequin Fayre we ran workshops with Norfolk Organic Group (NOG) and Permaculture Association. (Caroline, Clare, Charity)



City College students and tutors. Photo credit Jo Rice.

Accounts

Grapes Hill Community Garden Accounts 31.12.2024

Grapes Hill Community Garden								
Income 2024								
		Total	Green in the community	Get up and Grow - Lottery	TNLCF	NCC Grant - Love Norfolk	Post Code places	General
Grants		27,905	5,000	17,934		3,660	1,311	
Membership		93						93
Plant sales		-						-
Donations - non gift aided		100						100
Donations - gift aided		115						115
Business sponsorship		120						120
Bucket donations		446						446
Raised bed rental		58						58
Commission Amazon Smile		-						-
CAF donations		126						126
Interest Received		174						174
Total income		29,137	5,000	17,934	-	3,660	1,311	1,232

			Green in the community	Get up and Grow - Lottery	TNLCF	NCC Grant Love Norfolk	Post Code places	General
Cost of Sales								
Project Coordinator		598			598			
Outreach officer		3034	3034					
Eventa and outreach work		1218	1218					
Community Roots Expenses		77			7			70
NCC Grant - Love Norfolk Fund -Gardner		1466				1466		
NCC Grant - Love Norfolk Fund -Talent fund		78				78		
Get Up and Grow - Volunteer Sessions		6638		5519			1119	
Get Up and Grow - Public events		990		990				
Get Up and Grow - Workshop expenses		155		155				
Total		14254	4252	6664	605	1544	1119	70
Overheads								
Advertising and promotions		229						229
Tools, plants and materials		154						154
Subsistence		116						116
Web Hosting		0						
Computer Software		78						78
Sundries		19						19
Insurance		463						463
Accountancy		120						120
Training		30						30
Sub total		1209						1209
Depreciation Charge		6100						6100
Total		7309	0	0	0	0	0	7309
Transfer							-192	192
Operating surplus / - deficit for year		7574	748	11270	-605	2116	0	-5955
Balance b/fwd		46803	0	0	605	0	0	46198
Balance C/fwd		54377	748	11270	0	2116	0	40243

Grapes Hill Community Garden			
Summary Accounts			
Income statement			
		2024	2023
		£	£
income		29137	3933
Expenditure		-15463	-14129
Depreciation		-6100	-6078
Surplus		7574	-16274
Balance sheet		31.12.2024	31.12.2023
		£	£
Fixed assets		106773	106073
Depreciation		-70551	-64450
Net book value		36222	41623
Bank and cash		18155	5180
Total		54377	46803
Funds			
TNLCF		0	605
Get up and Grow		11270	0
NCC Love Norfolk		2116	0
Green in the community		748	
General		40243	46198
Total		54377	46803
Cash flow summary		2024	2023
		£	£
Bank at start		5180	15377
Grants in		27905	0
Capital additions		-700	
Other income		1232	3933
Expenditure		-15462	-14129
Bank at end		18155	5180

Funding report 2024

The nature of grant funding is 'feast or famine': sometimes very lean and sometimes very bountiful. As you can see below.

Year	Total Income
2022	£14,977
2023	£3,933
2024	£29,137

2025

To date in 2025 we have already received £16,670

Source	Amount	Notes
Talent Fund	£5000	
Coop	£5670	
Alistair Amery	£6000	Unrestricted funds

However, we don't stop looking for opportunities to expand our funded income and to deliver more events and activities free of charge to those in the community who can benefit from the space and people that is Grapes Hill Community Garden.

- Our regular gardening sessions have resumed on Wednesday afternoons and once a month on Sundays.
- The Family Garden Club will meet on the last Sunday of each month, beginning on March 30th.

Plus New for 2025

- We are pleased to announce four Seasonal Connections workshops, funded by the Norfolk Community Foundation, through the Love Norfolk Fund.
- The Norwich Community Gardens Festival will take place on April 26th and 27th.

EVENTS 2025

Please mark these dates in your calendars. All events are free and will run from 11am to 3pm

Sunday, May 11th: Nature in the Garden

Sunday, June 15th: Celebration of International Cultures

Sunday, July 27th: Arts in the Garden

We extend our heartfelt thanks for your support and encouragement this year. We look forward to another successful year with the Grapes Hill Community Garden Group.

This annual report is dedicated to Alistair Amery, a generous supporter and friend of the garden, who kindly donated money and sculptures to GHCGG prior to his passing in February 2025.



***Supported by Norfolk Community Foundation
through Love Norfolk***

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Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
Grapes Hill Community Garden

On accounts for the year
ended

31st December 2024

Charity no
(if any)

1156616

Set out on pages

1-2

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2025.

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 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 (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

Date: 29/10/2025

Name:

Claire Atkinson

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

Chartered Institute of Management Accountants

Address:

Triple Bottom Line Accounting Limited, The Enterprise Centre, University of East
Anglia, Norwich NR4 7TJ

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

The books and records for Grapes Hill Community Garden are maintained to a high standard, and all supporting documentation was easily accessible.

There are no other significant matters to report.