

# OLDEN COMMUNITY GARDEN

England & Wales · Charity number 1158105

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** CIO

**Registered** 2014-08-04

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** 15 Sotheby Road  
London  
N5 2UP

**Phone** 0783 160 3449

**Email** [oldengarden1@gmail.com](mailto:oldengarden1@gmail.com)

**Website** [www.oldengarden.org](http://www.oldengarden.org)

## Activities

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**Objects:** TO PROMOTE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THOSE PEOPLE LIVING OR WORKING IN THE LONDON BOROUGH OF ISLINGTON A COMMUNITY GARDEN AND ASSOCIATED FACILITIES TO ADVANCE EDUCATION AND FOR THE PURPOSES OF RECREATION OR OTHER LEISURE TIME OCCUPATION OF INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE NEED OF SUCH FACILITIES BY REASON OF THEIR YOUTH, AGE, INFIRMITY OR DISABILITY, FINANCIAL HARDSHIP OR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES OR FOR THE PUBLIC AT LARGE IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND WITH THE OBJECT OF IMPROVING THEIR CONDITION OF LIFE

**Activities:** OLDEN COMMUNITY GARDEN IS A TWO-ACRE SITE IN ISLINGTON. THE GARDEN IS RUN ON ORGANIC PRINCIPLES, AND PROVIDES A BASE FOR GARDENING-RELATED AND GENERAL ACTIVITIES. THE GARDEN IS OPEN TO KEY-HOLDING MEMBERS, AND TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC ON VOLUNTEER WORK DAYS. THE GARDEN HAS LINKS WITH LOCAL SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO OPEN SPACE AND OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN ABOUT GARDENING.

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space
- **What:** Environment/conservation/heritage, Recreation
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin, The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- **Area of benefit:** IN THE LONDON BOROUGH OF ISLINGTON
- Islington

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-08-31	£28,161	£22,010	-	-
2023-08-31	£30,119	£31,805	-	-
2022-08-31	£20,448	£19,540	-	-
2021-08-31	£16,579	£13,506	-	-
2020-08-31	£9,594	£12,876	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
<b>Hamish Charles Keith Waddell</b>	Chair	2022-10-02
Catherine Margaret Willmore		2024-01-12
Daniel Peter Olive		2024-08-12
Dr JILL McKEOWN		2022-10-02
Evelyn Thomas		2023-10-07
Hannah Sophie Clutton		2025-10-19
John Croxen		2020-10-04

**OLDEN COMMUNITY GARDEN**

England & Wales - Charity number 1158105

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# Accounts

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## Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1 September 2023 Period start date To 31 August 2024 Period end date

Charity name: **OLDEN COMMUNITY GARDEN**

Charity registration number:

## Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	The objects of the CIO are to promote for the benefit of those people living or working in the London Borough of Islington a community garden and associated facilities to advance education and for the purposes of recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disability, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances or for the public at large in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving their condition of life.
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>Olden Community Garden was created in 1986 when a group of Islington residents successfully campaigned to rescue a derelict railway embankment and turn it into a community garden. Over the years, the site has become a significant asset for the local community. Islington has less green space than any other London borough, and our garden and woodland form an important wildlife habitat. Olden Garden contains the largest area of woodland in the Borough and is one of the largest community managed open spaces in north London. The Borough recognises the importance of Olden Community Garden to the area and has designated it Grade 1 SINC (Site of Importance for Nature Conservation). Olden Community Garden was open to the general public on 60 days during the year. We were also open to partner community groups, members and their families and guests during daylight hours every day during the year.</p> <p>Olden Community Garden is maintained by volunteers, members and non-members, under the leadership of part-time</p>

		<p>professional gardeners. On our weekly Open Days, a part-time professional gardener leads volunteers. In addition, our monthly Saturday Open Days attract volunteers and families. All are welcome to come along to make new friends and learn more about the garden or to walk in the woodland or sit around the lawn.</p> <p>It is clear that many families and individuals are benefitting from the recreational aspects provided by Olden Community Garden. Walking, sitting, reading in the garden, exploring the woodland, enjoying the peace and quiet, looking at our flowers, are all much appreciated and contribute to the wellbeing of local people, many of whom do not have their own garden.</p> <p>We completed the regeneration of our wildflower meadow and created a butterfly garden, with the help of the grant received last year from Groundwork's Our Space Award for biodiversity enhancement. We completed the creation of a wildlife pond, funded by a grant received last year from Local Giving's Magic Little Grants.</p> <p>Our successful application to Islington Council's Community Chest provided funds to help pay our part-time gardeners and to purchase some accessible tools.</p> <p>We successfully applied to National Gardens Scheme Community Grants for a grant to repair our raised vegetable beds. We also successfully applied to Islington Giving Make It Happen Fund for a grant for planting in a shaded area of the garden.</p> <p>Remedying the effects of landslip on the terracing on our steep railway siding site is an ongoing challenge and is costly. Volunteers started replacing the rotten wooden sleepers with reclaimed wooden railway sleepers that we bought.</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 were satisfied that the activities of Olden Community Garden met the objectives as set out in the constitution, and the requirement of public benefit. We continue to be guided by the requirement of public benefit as we plan our future programme of work and activities in Olden Community Garden.

**Additional information (optional)**

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
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Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	N/A
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	N/A
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	
Other		Olden Community Garden encourages volunteers to be involved in gardening to help reduce isolation and improve wellbeing. During the year over 150 volunteers supported the charity in many ways, including volunteer gardening in Olden Community Garden. Others helped with our public events and with administration of the Charity. Through our partnerships with The BIG Alliance and a local company, groups of corporate volunteers also helped in the garden.

## 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>This was another successful year for Olden Community Garden. We are one of the largest community-managed open spaces in north London. Our engagement with members, community groups and volunteers, our fundraising activity, our relationship with neighbours and the usage of the garden shows that our work is much appreciated throughout our local community and has reinforced trustees' resolve to continue to deliver for Islington.</p> <p>Maria, one of our two part-time gardeners, led our volunteer gardening and advised the trustees, while Caroline led our Saturday volunteers.</p> <p>Our maintenance of Olden Garden as a Borough Grade 1 Site of Importance to Nature Conservation ensures its contribution to Islington Council's Biodiversity Action Plan.</p>

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

## Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	At the year end, the charity's financial position was good. With our planned reserves, we ensured funds would be available for paying our part-time gardeners and to deliver our grant funded projects.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	The Trustees' policy is to hold in reserve a minimum of three months running costs. These are defined as: gardening services; gardening supplies and equipment, garden house and toilet facilities, and general administration.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£5,878
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	<p>Our primary sources of income included subscriptions and donations from members, donations for bookings for the Garden House and events, and the surplus from our music festival, together with grants.</p> <p>We received £5,000 from Islington Council's Community Chest, £4,695 from National Garden Scheme Community Garden Grants, and £500 from Islington Giving's Make It Happen Fund.</p>
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	<p>We are supported in risk management by the London Borough of Islington which owns the land and retains responsibility for aspects of the structural integrity of the site and maintenance of the boundary fences and walls and has an advisory role.</p> <p>We have undertaken a full risk assessment of our operation which is reviewed regularly, together with the actions to mitigate the risks. We have public liability insurance and regularly review our policies including safeguarding children and</p>

		<p>vulnerable adults. Copies of these documents are on public display in the Garden House. Principal risks are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Loss of income from bookings</li><li>- Loss of experienced and/or active Trustees</li><li>- Unsuccessful grant applications</li></ul>
Other		

## Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	The Constitution was agreed on 6 April 2014. Olden Community Garden gained charitable status in August 2014.
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	Trustees are elected by the membership at the Annual General Meeting for a period of three years and may be appointed by the committee to vacant positions. During the year there were eight Trustees, including the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. Under the Constitution, the maximum permissible number is nine.

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	Information provided by the Charity Commission is made available. Trustees receive our Risk Assessment and copies of our constitutional documents, policies and procedures.
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	<p>Olden Community Garden is managed by its Trustees, currently eight, elected by the membership and meeting as the management committee. Elected Positions include the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. Management committee meetings are held approximately monthly. The charity has a simple organisational structure, with no sub-committee, though individual Trustees may take lead responsibility for different aspects of running it.</p> <p>Olden Community Garden works closely with Islington Council which owns the land. Islington Council is responsible for aspects of the structural integrity of the site and for maintaining the boundary walls and fences, and has an advisory role.</p> <p>The fencing along the boundary with the railway line is the responsibility of Network Rail.</p> <p>Olden Community Garden has partnerships with local community groups, to some of which we give free membership, including local children's groups and community support organisations.</p>

Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	We are supported in risk management by the London Borough of Islington which owns the land and retains responsibility for aspects of the structural integrity of the site and maintenance of the boundary fences and walls and has an advisory role.
Other		

### Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Olden Community Garden
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1158105
Charity's principal address	15 Sotheby Road, London N5 2UP

**Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity**

	<b>Trustee name</b>	<b>Office (if any)</b>	<b>Dates acted if not for whole year</b>	<b>Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)</b>
1	Charles Waddell	Chair		
2	Evelyn Thomas	Secretary		
3	Danny Olive	Treasurer	Appointed 12 <sup>th</sup> August 2024	Management Committee
4	Jill McKeown			
5	Wendy de Silva			
6	Terry Stacy MBE			
7	Catherine Willmore		Appointed 12 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	Management Committee
8	John Croxen			
9				
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18				
19				
20				

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

<b>Director name</b>		

**Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity**

<b>Trustee name</b>	<b>Dates acted if not for whole year</b>	

## Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	
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
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#### Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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## Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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## Other optional information

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## Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

<b>Signature(s)</b>	Charles Waddell (approved by email)	Evelyn Thomas (approved by email)
<b>Full name(s)</b>	Hamish Charles Keith Waddell	Evelyn Kaye Thomas
<b>Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)</b>	Chair	
<b>Date</b>	06/01/2025	



## Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period  
from

01-Sep-23

To

31-Aug-24

### 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 £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Islington Council Community Chest grant	-	5,000	-	5,000	3,000
Groundwork's Our Space Award	-	-	-	-	4,000
Localgiving Foundation Magic Little Grants	-	-	-	-	500
National Garden Scheme Community Garden grant	-	4,695	-	4,695	
Corporate donations	1,780		-	1,780	1,748
Individual donations	1,002		-	1,002	4,386
Donations via Local Giving	169		-	169	
Members subscriptions	4,750		-	4,750	6,360
Garden House bookings	4,041		-	4,041	3,600
Fundraising activity	4,933		-	4,933	4,786
Gift Aid	999		-	999	1,321
Miscellaneous	292		-	292	418
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>17,966</b>	<b>10,195</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>28,161</b>	<b>30,119</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>17,966</b>	<b>10,195</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>28,161</b>	<b>30,119</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Gardeners fees for services	5,525	4,697	-	10,222	12,984
Plants, materials, equipment	2,593	-	-	2,593	2,555
Repairs, Improvements, & maintenance	2,301	-	-	2,301	1,946
Events and fundraising	2,576	-	-	2,576	1,934
Accessible patio	-	-	-	-	3,983
Office supplies, admin, website, postage	340	-	-	340	482
Insurance	445	-	-	445	1,147
Electricity	840	-	-	840	712
Electrical testing and remedial works	-	-	-	-	207
Accessible tools	-	303	-	303	-
Meadow Project Our Space Award	-	941	-	941	3,059
Meadow Project	212	-	-	212	2,110
Magic Little Grants wildlife pond	-	357	-	357	143
Magic Little Grants bird boxes	-	-	-	-	121
Publicity materials	636	-	-	636	-
Miscellaneous	244	-	-	244	422
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>15,712</b>	<b>6,298</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>22,010</b>	<b>31,805</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>15,712</b>	<b>6,298</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>22,010</b>	<b>31,805</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>2,254</b>	<b>3,897</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6,151</b>	<b>- 1,686</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>10,604</b>	<b>1,298</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>11,902</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>12,858</b>	<b>5,195</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>18,053</b>	<b>- 1,686</b>

## 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 £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>		12,858	5,195	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>12,858</b>	<b>5,195</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

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

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
Charles Waddell (approved by email)	Hamish Charles Keith Waddell	20/10/2024



**Section A Independent Examiner's Report**

**Report to the trustees/  
members of**

Charity Name  
Olden Community Garden Charity

**On accounts for the year  
ended**

	<b>Charity no (if any)</b>	1158105
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**Set out on pages**

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/08/2024.

**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 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.

**Signed:**  **Date:** 26/10/2024

**Name:** Philip David Middleton

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

N/A

**Address:**

77 Highbury Hill  
London N5 1SX

**Section B Disclosure**

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

**OLDEN COMMUNITY GARDEN**

England & Wales - Charity number 1158105

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# Accounts

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## Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1 September 2022 Period start date To 31 August 2023 Period end date

Charity name: Olden Community Garden

Charity registration number: 1158105

## Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	The objects of the CIO are to promote for the benefit of those people living or working in the London Borough of Islington a community garden and associated facilities to advance education and for the purposes of recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disability, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances or for the public at large in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving their condition of life.
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>Olden Community Garden was created in 1986 when a group of residents successfully campaigned to rescue a derelict railway embankment and turn it into a community garden. Over the years, the site has become a significant asset for the local community. Islington has less green space than any other London borough, and our garden and woodland form an important wildlife habitat. Olden Garden contains the largest area of woodland in the Borough and is one of the largest community managed open spaces in north London. The Borough recognises the importance of Olden Community Garden to the area and has designated it Grade 1 SINC (Site of Importance for Nature Conservation).</p> <p>Olden Community Garden was open to the general public on 60 days during the year. We were also open to partner community groups, members and their guests during daylight hours every day during the year.</p> <p>Olden Community Garden is maintained by volunteers, members and non-members,</p>

		<p>with the support of part-time professional gardeners. On our weekly Open Days, a part-time gardener leads volunteers. In addition, our monthly Saturday Open Days attract up to 25 volunteers. All are welcome to come along to make new friends and learn more about the garden or just to walk in the woodland or sit around the lawn.</p> <p>It is clear that many families and individuals are benefitting from the recreational aspects provided by Olden Community Garden. Walking, sitting, reading in the garden, exploring the woodland, enjoying the peace and quiet, looking at our flowers, are all much appreciated and contribute to the wellbeing of local people.</p> <p>We completed the paving of our new accessible patio, providing a welcome new space for people with limited mobility.</p> <p>Our successful application to Groundwork's Our Space Award provided a grant for biodiversity enhancement, to regenerate the damaged meadow and create a butterfly garden. We began this project during the year.</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 were satisfied that the activities of Olden Community Garden met the objectives as set out in the constitution, and the requirement of public benefit. We continue to be guided by the requirement of public benefit as we plan our future programme of work and activities in Olden Community Garden.

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	N/A
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	N/A
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	Olden Community Garden encourages volunteers to get involved in gardening to help reduce isolation and improve wellbeing. During the year over 100 volunteers supported the charity in many ways, including volunteer gardening in

		Olden Community Garden, and helping at our public events and with administration of the Charity. Through our partnership with The BIG Alliance, groups of corporate volunteers have also helped in the garden.
Other		

## 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>This was another successful year for Olden Community Garden. We are one of the largest community-managed open spaces in north London. Our engagement with members, community groups and volunteers, our fundraising activity, our relationship with neighbours and the usage of the garden shows that our work is much appreciated throughout our local community and has reinforced trustees' resolve to continue to deliver for Highbury and beyond.</p> <p>Maria, one of our two part-time gardeners, leads our volunteer gardening and advises the trustees, while Caroline guides our Saturday volunteers.</p> <p>Our maintenance of Olden Garden as a Borough Grade 1 Site of Importance to Nature Conservation ensures its contribution to Islington Council's Biodiversity Action Plan.</p> <p>Our successful application to Groundwork's Our Space Award provided a grant for biodiversity enhancement, to regenerate the damaged meadow and create a butterfly garden. We began this project during the year. To meet the costs of a major design change in the meadow path, we provided additional funding from our own funds, through the surplus from our Chelsea Fringe music festival. Our successful application to Islington Council's Community Chest provided funds to help pay our part-time gardeners and to help pave our new patio. Our successful application to Local Giving's Magic Little Grants enabled us to start creating a wildlife pond.</p> <p>We maintain and enhance the biodiversity of Olden Garden by creating habitats for wildlife and encouraging pollinators, and</p>

		<p>not using peat or chemicals. We encourage native species in the woodland and meadow. In parts of the garden, new planting is of drought tolerant species. We source plants locally.</p> <p>Through our partnership with The BIG Alliance, business organisations provide groups of corporate volunteers to help with gardening tasks.</p> <p>Through our greenhouse and vegetable patch, Olden Community Garden continued to be a hub for community vegetable growing. Regular volunteers continued their work on the vegetable terraces, encouraging and educating groups of parents and children, creating a source of seeds and plants for community groups throughout Islington, and providing pots to help families to grow plants on their window sills. They provided inspiration for local people who want to make gardening and greenery part of the local scenery. The orchard was not very productive this year because of the lack of rainfall in the growing season.</p> <p>Through our partnership, Highbury Roundhouse continued to provide us with water from their water harvesting scheme. We produced much of our compost from our leaf-fall. Other green waste materials were incorporated into dead hedges.</p> <p>Due to the age of the infrastructure the need for repairs increased; steps and some flower bed supports required repair. Wooden sleepers are deteriorating and the veg bed borders need to be replaced. And we need a new wooden door.</p> <p>There are signs of landslip on the Garden's steep terraced site. Council staff have reassured us that the Whistler Street wall is fine and that the cracked wall behind the greenhouse poses no risk; they are also assessing what can be done to safeguard against further problems with that wall.</p> <p>In May, our community music festival in support of the Chelsea Fringe (the festival of gardening) was very successful. Over 500 visitors, including many families, enjoyed our musical entertainment, with music groups performing throughout the garden and woodland. The Mayor of Islington attended. Financially, the event was also a great success.</p>
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		<p>In June, we participated in London Open Gardens, the annual event where over secret gardens open to the general public. We welcomed over 80 visitors.</p> <p>In September, we participated in London Open House, welcoming over 60 visitors, including families, to a craft day celebrating our meadow project.</p> <p>Our partnerships with local community groups are thriving. Partnerships with over 20 groups and organisations give us a vital community network. Islington Gardeners held a well-attended plant sale in Olden Garden.</p> <p>Our garden house remained popular with our local community for parties and meetings, During the year more than 40 such events took place. Income from bookings helped to pay our gardeners fees. We offered free membership to local children's playgroups, enabling them to bring under-5s to the Garden, and to Drayton Park Primary School, to enable pupils' nature walks. Forest School sessions brought small groups of primary and nursery school pupils. Islington social services teams and disability support groups used the Garden House.</p> <p>About 2,500 people visited Olden Garden during the year, including members, their families and friends, partner groups, and visitors to events and at parties.</p> <p>At the end of the year, we had about 300 families in membership, a reduction on the previous year.</p> <p>To keep our members updated, we emailed regular Newsletters via our Mailchimp database. The Newsletters were normally opened by over 75% of our members. Our website posted news items and information about events. We used Instagram and Twitter to promote our achievements.</p> <p>From our on-line survey, we know members appreciate the peace and quiet of the garden, walking in the woodland, birds and birdsong, flowers in bloom. Half of our members brought children with them, while many brought people aged 75+. Our woodland and garden appeal to people of all ages.</p>
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**Additional information (optional)**

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

## Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	At the year end, the charity's financial position was good. With our planned reserves, we ensured funds would be available for paying our part-time gardeners.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	The Trustees' policy is to hold in reserve a minimum of three months running costs. These are defined as: gardening services; gardening supplies and equipment, garden house and toilet facilities, and general administration.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£8,000
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	N/A
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	N/A
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	N/A

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	<p>Our primary sources of income included subscriptions and donations from members, and income from bookings for the Garden House and events, together with grants.</p> <p>We received £3,000 from Islington Council's Community Chest, £4,000 from Groundwork's Our Space Award, and £500 from Magic Little Grants.</p>
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	N/A
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	<p>We are supported in risk management by the London Borough of Islington which owns the land and retains responsibility for aspects of the structural integrity of the site and maintenance of the boundary fences and walls and has an advisory role.</p> <p>We have undertaken a full risk assessment of our operation which is reviewed regularly, together with the actions to mitigate the risks. We have public liability insurance and regularly review our policies including safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. Copies of these</p>

		documents are on public display in the Garden House. Principal risks are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Loss of income from bookings</li><li>- Loss of experienced and/or active Trustees</li><li>- Unsuccessful grant applications</li></ul>
Other		

## Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	The Constitution was agreed on 6 April 2014. Olden Community Garden gained charitable status in August 2014.
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	Trustees are elected by the membership at the Annual General Meeting for a period of three years and may be co-opted. During the year there were seven Trustees, including the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. Under the Constitution, the maximum permissible number is nine.

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	Information provided by the Charity Commission is made available. Trustees receive our Risk Assessment and copies of our policies and procedures.
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	<p>Olden Community Garden is managed by its Trustees, currently seven, elected by the membership and meeting as the management committee. Elected Positions include the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. Meetings are held monthly, except in December. The charity has a simple organisational structure, with no sub-committee, though individual Trustees may take lead responsibility for different aspects of running it.</p> <p>Olden Community Garden works closely with Islington Council which owns the land. Islington Council is responsible for aspects of the structural integrity of the site and for maintaining the boundary walls and fences, and has an advisory role.</p> <p>The fencing along the boundary with the railway line is the responsibility of Network Rail.</p> <p>Olden Community Garden has partnerships with local community groups, to some of which we give free membership, including local children's playgroups and community support organisations.</p>

Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	We are supported in risk management by the London Borough of Islington which owns the land and retains responsibility for aspects of the structural integrity of the site and maintenance of the boundary fences and walls and has an advisory role.
Other		

### Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Olden Community Garden
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1158105
Charity's principal address	15 Sotheby Road, London N5 2UP

**Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity**

	<b>Trustee name</b>	<b>Office (if any)</b>	<b>Dates acted if not for whole year</b>	<b>Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)</b>
1	Charles Waddell	Chair		
2	Evelyn Thomas	Secretary		
3	John Croxen	Treasurer		
4	Jill McKeown			
5	Wendy da Silva			
6	Terry Stacy MBE			
7	Catherine Willmore		Appointed 12th January 2024	Management Committee
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

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

<b>Director name</b>		

**Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity**

<b>Trustee name</b>	<b>Dates acted if not for whole year</b>	

## Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	N/A
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	N/A
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	N/A

### Additional information (optional)

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

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Gardener	Maria Papoui	62 Landseer Road, London, N19 4JP

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

We have no staff

## Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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## Other optional information

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## Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

<b>Signature(s)</b>	Charles Waddell (approved by email)	Evelyn Thomas (approved by email)
<b>Full name(s)</b>	Hamish Charles Keith Waddell	Evelyn Kaye Thomas
<b>Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)</b>	Chair	Secretary
<b>Date</b>	11 June 2024	14 June 2024



## Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	01-Sep-22	To	31-Aug-23
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### 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 £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Islington Council Community Chest grant	-	3,000	-	3,000	5,000
Groundwork's Our Space Award	-	4,000	-	4,000	
Localgiving Foundation Magic Little Grants	-	500	-	500	500
Corporate donations	6,360	-	-	6,360	740
Individual donations	4,386	-	-	4,386	1,560
Members subscriptions	1,748	-	-	1,748	5,925
Garden House bookings	4,786	-	-	4,786	3,150
Fundraising activity	3,600	-	-	3,600	2,678
Gift Aid	1,321	-	-	1,321	890
Miscellaneous	418	-	-	418	6
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>22,619</b>	<b>7,500</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>30,119</b>	<b>20,448</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>22,619</b>	<b>7,500</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>30,119</b>	<b>20,448</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Gardeners fees for services	10,404	2,580	-	12,984	8,067
Plants, materials, equipment	2,555	-	-	2,555	1,748
Repairs, Improvements, & maintenance	1,946	-	-	1,946	1,402
Events and fundraising	1,934	-	-	1,934	1,399
Office supplies, admin, website, postage	482	-	-	482	371
Insurance	1,147	-	-	1,147	488
Electricity	712	-	-	712	348
Electrical testing and remedial works	207	-	-	207	945
Lawn refurbishment	-	-	-	-	1,903
Occasional labour	-	-	-	-	450
Woodland maintenance	-	-	-	-	2,040
Meadow Regeneration project	2,110	3,059	-	5,169	-
Wildlife pond project	-	143	-	143	-
Bird nesting boxes	-	121	-	121	379
New accessible patio	3,563	420	-	3,983	-
Miscellaneous	422	-	-	422	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>25,482</b>	<b>6,323</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>31,805</b>	<b>19,540</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>25,482</b>	<b>6,323</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>31,805</b>	<b>19,540</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>- 2,863</b>	<b>1,177</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>- 1,686</b>	<b>908</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>13,467</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>13,588</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>10,604</b>	<b>1,298</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>11,902</b>	<b>908</b>

## 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 £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>		10,604	1,298	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>10,604</b>	<b>1,298</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

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

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Charles Waddell (approved by email)	Hamish Charles Keith Waddell	12-Jun-24



**Section A Independent Examiner's Report**

**Report to the trustees/  
members of**

Olden Community Garden

**On accounts for the year  
ended**

31.8.2023

**Charity no  
(if any)**

1158105

**Set out on pages**

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/08 /2023.

**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 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.

**Signed:**

**Date:**

27.5.2024

**Name:**

Philip David Middleton

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

**Address:**

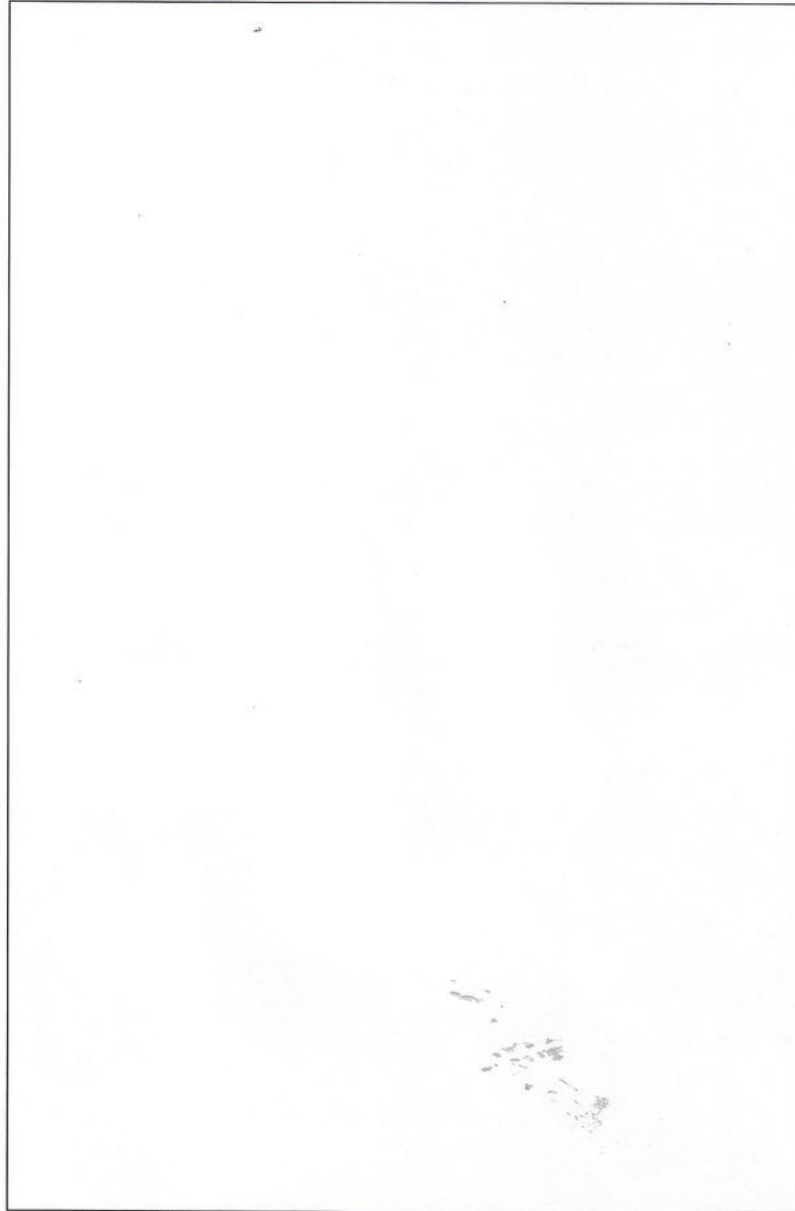
77 Highbury Hill

London N5 1SX

**Section B Disclosure**

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.



**OLDEN COMMUNITY GARDEN**

England & Wales - Charity number 1158105

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# Accounts

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## Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1 September 2021 Period start date To 31 August 2022 Period end date

Charity name: Olden Community Garden

Charity registration number: 1158105

## Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	The objects of the CIO are to promote for the benefit of those people living or working in the London Borough of Islington a community garden and associated facilities to advance education and for the purposes of recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disability, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances or for the public at large in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving their condition of life.
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>Olden Community Garden was created in 1986 when a group of residents successfully campaigned to rescue a derelict railway embankment and turn it into a community garden. Over the years, the site has become a significant asset for the local community. Islington has less green space than any other London borough, and our garden and woodland form an important wildlife habitat. Olden Garden contains the largest area of woodland in the Borough and is one of the largest community managed open spaces in north London. The Borough recognises the importance of Olden Community Garden to the area and has designated it Grade 1 SINC (Site of Importance for Nature Conservation).</p> <p>Olden Community Garden was open to the general public on 60 days during the year. We were also open to partner community groups, members and their guests during daylight hours every day during the year.</p> <p>Olden Community Garden is largely maintained by volunteers, members and</p>

		<p>non-members, with the support of part-time gardeners who advise the Committee. Members who have the entry code can drop in at any time for volunteer gardening or to enjoy the garden and woodland. A part-time gardener is present one day per week to guide and encourage our volunteers. In addition, our monthly volunteer gardening Saturday attracts up to 25 volunteers who come along to make new friends and learn more about Olden Community Garden.</p> <p>It is clear that many families and individuals are benefitting from the recreational aspects provided by Olden Community Garden. Walking, sitting, reading in the garden and woodland, enjoying the peace and quiet, looking at our flowers, are all much appreciated and contribute to the wellbeing of local people.</p> <p>Following the re-configuration of the lawn we have a large area that is being re-paved to provide us with a second accessible patio.</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 were satisfied that the activities of Olden Community Garden met the objectives as set out in the constitution, and the requirement of public benefit. We continue to be guided by the requirement of public benefit as we plan our future programme of work and activities in Olden Community Garden.

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	N/A
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	N/A
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	Olden Community Garden encourages volunteers to get involved in gardening to help reduce isolation and improve wellbeing. During the year some 50 volunteers supported the charity in many ways, including volunteer gardening in Olden Community Garden, and helping at our public events and with administration of the Charity.

Other		
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## Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
<p>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.</p>	<p>Para 1.20</p>	<p>This was a successful year for Olden Community Garden. We are one of the largest community-managed open spaces in north London. Our engagement with members, community groups and volunteers, our fundraising activity, our relationship with neighbours and the general usage of the garden has shown us how well thought of we are in the Islington community and reinforced trustees' resolve to continue to ensure we deliver for Highbury and beyond.</p> <p>We welcomed two new gardeners, Maria who joined us as lead gardener, to run the Tuesday volunteer days and to provide general guidance on the garden and advice to the trustees, and Caroline, who joined us to run the Saturday volunteer days. They have generated enthusiasm and new ideas, increasing involvement in our garden.</p> <p>Tuesdays have seen volunteer numbers average about ten each session. Half of these are core regulars and garden members. Diversity of people using the garden is improving which Trustees are pleased with; there are more BME participants and younger people are joining in.</p> <p>Our maintenance of Olden Garden as a Borough Grade 1 Site of Importance to Nature Conservation ensures its contribution to Islington Council's Biodiversity Action Plan.</p> <p>We aimed to maintain and enhance the biodiversity of Olden Garden by creating habitats for wildlife, and not using peat, petrol machinery or chemicals in the garden. We aimed to encourage native species in the woodland and meadow. In other parts of the garden new planting is drought tolerant, with pollinators for all the year and we are sourcing plants locally.</p> <p>The re-turfed lawn survived the summer drought and as it was in its first year we</p>

		<p>had to water regularly, using harvested water.</p> <p>We secured a partnership with the BIG Alliance (Businesses for Islington Giving Alliance, set up to strengthen links between businesses and community organisations and educational institutions across Islington).</p> <p>Our large collection of bricks is being re-purposed as Victorian leaf composters.</p> <p>In the woodland we addressed the long-standing problem of dead and dying trees/saplings - after several years when there was no maintenance of the woodland. Following inspection by an officer from Islington Council's parks department, and with the Council's permission, we obtained the services of tree surgeons to fell about 20 dead and dangerous saplings. We had to bear the significant costs of these major works.</p> <p>Another challenge was the fencing along the railway line which is the responsibility of Network Rail. We maintained a dialogue, informing them of any damage, and several times requested them to repair the gate.</p> <p>Work was required to repair our steps, many of which suffered from deterioration during the year.</p> <p>There are several signs of landslip and subsidence on the Garden's steep terraced site. The wall along Whistler Street is cracked, while several struts and wooden sleepers holding up our terracing have fallen. Islington Council is responsible for looking after the wall and the structural integrity of the site.</p> <p>With the harvested water from the Roundhouse roof and use of the irrigation system for the long border and the lawn, we have had no drought problems this year. We produced much of our own compost by sieving our annual leaf-fall and turning it into cutting and seed compost. Other green waste materials were incorporated into dead hedges and other eco-heaps.</p> <p>With our greenhouse, Olden Community Garden continued to be a hub for community vegetable growing. Regular volunteers continued their valuable work on the vegetable terraces, encouraging and</p>
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educating groups of parents and children, creating a source of seeds and plants for community groups throughout Islington, and providing pots to help families to grow plants on their window sills. They provided the inspiration for local people who want to make gardening and greenery part of the local scenery.

The orchard was not very productive this year.

In May, our community festival of music in support of the Chelsea Fringe (the festival of gardening) was the first for three years and a really great success. Over 350 visitors came along to enjoy our musical entertainment, with music groups performing all afternoon throughout the garden and woodland.

In June, we opened the garden for London Square Open Gardens, the annual event where over 100 secret gardens throw open their gates to the general public. We welcomed over 60 participants who had bought tickets for the weekend's events.

Also in June, we participated in 'Have a Grow Day', an initiative of Social Farms and Gardens. Visitors were able to help our gardener Caroline with the day's volunteer gardening tasks and were invited to sow a pot of herb seeds to take home with them to promote healthy eating. Visitors could also see the food we are growing in the greenhouse. And we offered visitors an edible gardening advice sheet to encourage them to try some food growing at home.

Our partnerships with local community groups are now thriving, following their revival during the past year. These partnerships – currently 20 groups and organisations – give us a vital community network.

Bookings for the Garden House were back to pre-covid levels, raising over £3,000. During the year, the Garden House was booked by individuals and organisations who made 29 bookings, mostly for one-off parties or meetings. Other bookings enabled groups to come for multiple (weekly or monthly) sessions in Olden Community Garden.

We offered free membership to local children's playgroups, enabling them to

		<p>bring under-5s to the Garden, and to Drayton Park Primary School, to enable pupils' nature walks with a teacher. Forest School sessions, organised by Urban Outdoors, brought small groups of primary and nursery school pupils. Islington social services teams and disability support groups used the Garden House. By providing use of our greenhouse and vegetable patches, we were a hub for other community groups. And we had links with allotment groups and Islington Gardeners.</p> <p>About 2,500 people visited Olden Garden during the year, including members, their families and friends, partner groups, parties and other events. Garden usage and partnerships were crucial in seeking grants, as there is a myth that the garden is closed except to members.</p> <p>At the end of the year, we had 330 members, a reduction on the previous year's high of 370 during Covid.</p> <p>To keep our members updated, we sent regular Newsletters via our Mailchimp database. Our website regularly posts news items and provides information about events. We encouraged use of Instagram and Twitter to promote our achievements.</p> <p>The garden door access using a pin code worked well during the year. Our Newsletters were normally opened by over 75% of our members.</p> <p>We appreciated the excellent response from our members who completed our on-line member survey, giving us useful information. The most liked aspects of Olden Community Garden are peace and quiet, walking in the woodland, birds and birdsong, flowers in bloom. Half of our members brought children with them, while many brought people aged 75+. Our woodland and garden appeal to people of all ages.</p> <p>To comply with best practice we arranged for remedial works to our electrical systems.</p>
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**Additional information (optional)**

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
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Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

## Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	At the year end, the charity's financial position was good. We had a planned surplus, to pay the contractor for paving our new accessible patio, to pay our increased insurance costs, and to ensure funds would be available for paying our part-time gardeners.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	The Trustees' policy is to hold in reserve a minimum of three months running costs. These are defined as: gardening services; gardening supplies and equipment, garden house and toilet facilities, and general administration.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£5000
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	N/A
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	N/A
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	N/A

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	<p>Our primary sources of income included subscriptions and donations from members, and income from bookings for the Garden House and events, together with grants.</p> <p>We received the maximum grant available from Islington Council's Community Chest and we are grateful for their continuing support. This grant was used to help fund the services of part-time gardeners who advise the Trustees and guide the volunteers in maintaining the garden.</p>
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	N/A
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	<p>We are supported in risk management by the London Borough of Islington which owns the land and retains responsibility for aspects of the structural integrity of the site and maintenance of the boundary fences and walls and has an advisory role.</p> <p>We have undertaken a full risk assessment of our operation which is reviewed regularly, together with the actions to</p>

		<p>mitigate the risks. We have public liability insurance and regularly review our policies including safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. Copies of these documents are on public display on site in the Garden House. Principal risks are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Loss of income from bookings</li><li>- Loss of experienced and/or active Trustees</li><li>- Unsuccessful grant applications</li></ul>
Other		

## Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	The Constitution was agreed on 6 April 2014. Olden Community Garden gained charitable status in August 2014.
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	Trustees are elected by the membership at the Annual General Meeting for a period of three years and may be co-opted. During the year there were seven Trustees, including the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. Under the Constitution, the maximum permissible number is nine.

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	Information provided by the Charity Commission is made available. Trustees receive our Risk Assessment and copies of our policies and procedures.
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	<p>Olden Community Garden is managed by its Trustees, currently six, elected by the membership and meeting as the management committee. Elected Positions include the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. Meetings are held monthly, except in December. The charity has a simple organisational structure, with no sub-committee, though individual Trustees may take lead responsibility for different aspects of running it.</p> <p>Olden Community Garden works closely with Islington Council which owns the land. Islington Council is responsible for aspects of the structural integrity of the site and for maintaining the boundary walls and fences, and has an advisory role.</p> <p>The fencing along the boundary with the railway line is the responsibility of Network Rail.</p> <p>Olden Community Garden has partnerships with local community groups, to some of which we give free membership, including local children's playgroups and community support organisations.</p>

		Olden Community Garden normally participates in the Chelsea Fringe festival and in the London Square Open Gardens Weekend.
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	We are supported in risk management by the London Borough of Islington which owns the land and retains responsibility for aspects of the structural integrity of the site and maintenance of the boundary fences and walls and has an advisory role.
Other		

### Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Olden Community Garden
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1158105
Charity's principal address	15 Sotheby Road, London N5 2UP

**Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity**

	<b>Trustee name</b>	<b>Office (if any)</b>	<b>Dates acted if not for whole year</b>	<b>Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)</b>
1	Terry Stacy MBE	Chair		
2	Evelyn Thomas	Secretary		
3	John Croxen	Treasurer		
4	Jill McKeown	Trustee		
5	Wendy da Silva	Trustee		
6	Anjali Krishnan	Trustee		
7	Charles Waddell	Trustee	Appointed 20 <sup>th</sup> March 2022	
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

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

<b>Director name</b>		

**Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity**

<b>Trustee name</b>	<b>Dates acted if not for whole year</b>	

## Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	N/A
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	N/A
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	N/A

### Additional information (optional)

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

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Gardener	Maria Papoui	62 Landseer Road, London, N19 4JP

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

We have no staff

## Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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## Other optional information

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## Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

<b>Signature(s)</b>		
<b>Full name(s)</b>	Hamish Charles Keith Waddell	Evelyn Kaye Thomas
<b>Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)</b>	Chair	
<b>Date</b>		



## Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period  
from

01-Sep-21

To

31-Aug-22

### 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>					
Islington Council Community Chest grant	-	5,000	-	5,000	5,000
Localgiving Foundation Magic Little Grants	-	500	-	500	-
Corporate donations	740	-	-	740	-
Individual donations	1,560	-	-	1,560	2,683
Members subscriptions	5,925	-	-	5,925	6,990
Garden House bookings	3,150	-	-	3,150	1,262
Fundraising activity	2,678	-	-	2,678	109
Gift Aid	890	-	-	890	535
Miscellaneous	6	-	-	6	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>14,948</b>	<b>5,500</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>20,448</b>	<b>16,579</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>14,948</b>	<b>5,500</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>20,448</b>	<b>16,579</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Gardeners fees for services	3,067	5,000	-	8,067	7,344
Plants and materials	1,748	-	-	1,748	894
Materials, wood, compost, etc	-	-	-	-	793
Gardening tools and equipment	-	-	-	-	936
Repairs, Improvements, & maintenance	1,402	-	-	1,402	-
Volunteer work days	-	-	-	-	-
Events and fundraising	1,399	-	-	1,399	-
Office supplies, website, postage	371	-	-	371	291
Insurance	488	-	-	488	320
Electricity	348	-	-	348	313
Electrical testing and remedial works	945	-	-	945	781
Lawn refurbishment	1,903	-	-	1,903	1,619
Occasional labour	450	-	-	450	215
Woodland maintenance	2,040	-	-	2,040	-
Bird nesting boxes	-	379	-	379	-
	14,161	5,379	-	19,540	13,506
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>14,161</b>	<b>5,379</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>19,540</b>	<b>13,506</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>787</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>908</b>	<b>3,073</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>12,680</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>12,680</b>	<b>9,607</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>13,467</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>13,588</b>	<b>12,680</b>

## 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 £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>		10,394	121	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>10,394</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	Agreement Error	OK	OK

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

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

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
approved by email	Hamish Charles Keith Waddell	14/02/2023
approved by email	Evelyn Thomas	14/02/2023

**OLDEN COMMUNITY GARDEN**

England & Wales - Charity number 1158105

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# Accounts

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## Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1 September 2020 Period start date To 31 August 2021 Period end date

Charity name: Olden Community Garden

Charity registration number: 1158105

## Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	The objects of the CIO are to promote for the benefit of those people living or working in the London Borough of Islington a community garden and associated facilities to advance education and for the purposes of recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disability, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances or for the public at large in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving their condition of life.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes <b>for the public benefit</b> , in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	<p>Olden Community Garden was created in 1986 when a group of residents successfully campaigned to rescue a derelict railway embankment and turn it into a community garden. Over the years, the site has become a significant asset for the local community. Islington has less green space than any other London borough, and our garden and woodland form an important wildlife habitat. Olden Garden contains the largest area of woodland in the Borough and is one of the largest community managed open spaces in north London. The Borough recognises the importance of Olden Community Garden to the area and has designated it Grade 1 SINC (Site of Importance for Nature Conservation).</p> <p>Olden Community Garden is normally open to the public at least 55 times a year, though this was adversely affected by Covid restrictions during the year under review. We continued to be open to our growing membership and their guests from dawn until dusk every day. For much of the year we suspended our volunteer workdays and general openings to the</p>

		<p>public due to government Covid19 social distancing guidelines and advice from the London Borough of Islington.</p> <p>During the same period, we saw a significant increase in membership and in usage by members and their families and friends.</p> <p>Olden Community Garden is largely maintained by volunteers, members and non-members, with the support of two part-time gardeners who are advisers to the Committee. Members who have the entry code can drop in at any time for volunteer gardening or to enjoy the garden and woodland. Our part-time gardeners are present one day per week to guide and encourage our volunteers. In addition, our monthly volunteer gardening Saturday attracts up to 25 volunteers who come along to make new friends and learn more about Olden Community Garden.</p> <p>From the significant increase in usage during the year, it is clear that many more people are benefitting from the recreational aspects provided by Olden Community Garden. Walking, sitting, reading in the garden and woodland, enjoying the peace and quiet, looking at our flowers, are all much appreciated and contribute to the wellbeing of local people.</p> <p>Following the re-configuration of the lawn we have a large area that is being re-paved to provide us with a second accessible patio.</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 were satisfied that the activities of Olden Community Garden met the objectives as set out in the constitution, and the requirement of public benefit. We continue to be guided by the requirement of public benefit as we plan our future programme of work and activities in Olden Community Garden.

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	N/A
	Para 1.38	N/A

Policy on social investment including program related investment		
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	Olden Community Garden encourages volunteers to get involved in gardening to help reduce isolation and improve wellbeing. During the year some 50 volunteers supported the charity in many ways, including working in Olden Community Garden and with administration of the Charity.
Other		

## 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>During the 12 months of the review year, Covid had a major effect on the lives of our local community and on Olden Community Garden. It created major challenges for us as a community-managed open space, our engagement with members and volunteers, our fundraising activity, our relationship with neighbours. We experienced a significant increase in usage during lockdowns. We have been a much appreciated resource for individuals and family groups who have no garden. We are hugely grateful to our Trustees, members and volunteers for their support during this challenging year.</p> <p>A major achievement was to reconfigure the bottom half of our lawn. We created a small sleeper-based wall which has extended the social area around the Garden House and has taken the pressure of footfall from the lawn. We raised the soil level behind the wall to flatten out the slope and improve water retention. New turf was laid with the help of volunteers and a new rose bed planted. But we will need to combat the deleterious influence of the eucalyptus tree, its thirst for rainwater and its insidious leaves, and be attentive to the lawn to make sure it thrives. The reconfiguration has provided us with a second accessible patio area which will be paved in the coming year.</p> <p>With the harvested water from the Roundhouse roof and use of the irrigation system on the long border, we have had no drought problems this year. We produced much of our own compost by sieving our annual leaf-fall and turning it into cutting and seed compost. Other green waste</p>

		<p>materials were incorporated into dead hedges and other eco-heaps.</p> <p>In the woodland we addressed the long-standing problem of dead and dying trees/saplings, several of which had fallen. Following inspection by an officer from Islington Council's parks department, he gave us permission to arrange for The London Tree Company to fell over 20 dead and dangerous saplings. The officer also confirmed that the silver birch which gives concern to neighbours is in good condition and that we would not be permitted to lop the eucalyptus.</p> <p>With our greenhouse, Olden Garden continued to be a hub for community vegetable growing. Lynne and other volunteers continued their work on the vegetable terraces, encouraging and educating groups of parents and children, creating a source of seeds and plants for community groups throughout Islington, and providing pots to help families to grow plants on their window sills. They provided the inspiration for local people who want to make gardening and greenery part of the local scenery.</p> <p>This was another good year in our orchard, especially for apples, many of which we juiced, and for apricots; however, the plums and greengages were disappointing. In our meadow we found cowslips, ox-eye daisies and golden rod throughout their seasons.</p> <p>We invited local communities and individuals to take some of the small trees that we have been nurturing in pots since they were donated by the Woodland Trust through the Mayor of London's tree programme. Other trees are being planted out in our woodland.</p> <p>The old leaky gazebo was taken down and a new wooden shelter built in its place. We are extremely grateful to Jill for her gift to Olden Garden.</p> <p>Post lockdown, volunteer gardening days resumed in April, on Tuesdays and on the third Saturday every month, with Covid safety measures in place. We appreciate the support of our regular volunteers and a few new ones, and hope soon to encourage others from the wider community to come and help our part-time gardeners.</p> <p>We were sorry, after ten years, to say goodbye to our part-time gardeners Laura and Andrew. We can't thank them enough for all their hard work over the years and wish them well.</p>
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We also saw some changes in the Garden's trustees, with Susie and Gary stepping down. We also saw the retirement of Anna, after over 20 years involvement; she has been a true champion of community gardening and we have valued her education over the years.

Our trustees have worked hard during the most difficult time in our history; we have survived and will bloom again over the coming year.

At the end of August we had 370 members, our highest ever total. We appreciated their support in moving smoothly from cash to on-line payment of membership subscriptions. Through our new membership forms we enabled members to give us permission to claim Gift Aid on their donations/subscriptions; the extra income is much appreciated. The introduction of a pin code access, instead of keys, on the door has been a great success and we thank all our members for their cooperation.

We appreciated the excellent response from our members who completed our on-line member survey, giving us useful information. The most liked aspects of Olden Community Garden are: peace and quiet, walking in the woodland, birds and birdsong, flowers in bloom. About half of our members brought children with them, while many brought people aged 75+. Our woodland and garden appeal to people of all ages.

To keep our members updated, we send Newsletters via our Mailchimp database.

In July, after many months of Covid restrictions, we starting accepting bookings for the Garden House, with nine events taking place by the end of August. Income from bookings was very low this year as a result, but we are very pleased that the increased income from member subscriptions and donations has more than compensated.

To comply with regulations we arranged for electrical testing and certification of our electrical services, with further remedial works to continue into the coming year.

Our well-maintained site, comprising 1.5 acres of woodland and garden, make a significant contribution to the biodiversity of the London Borough of Islington. We thank all our members, volunteers and neighbours for their continuing support.

**Additional information (optional)**

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	The numbers benefitting, 2000 individuals, exceeded expectations. Despite the unpredictable Covid restrictions a small group of members continued to volunteer in Covid-safe way, maintaining Olden Garden.
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	Due to Covid restrictions our normal public open days and fundraising activities could not take place.
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	N/A
Other		We were encouraged by the increase in income from membership subscriptions and donations which balanced out the loss of income due to Covid restrictions on letting out the Garden House.

## Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	At the year end, the charity's financial position was good. We have increased our surplus this year, in order to give us funds designated for further remedial electrical works and further works to repair the lawn, as well as work to create a new accessible patio and develop educational resources.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	The Trustees' policy is to hold in reserve a minimum of three months running costs. These are defined as: gardening services; gardening supplies and equipment; garden house and toilet facilities; and general administration.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£4000
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	<b>N/A</b>
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	<b>N/A</b>
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	<b>N/A</b>

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	<p>Our primary sources of income include subscriptions and donations from members, and income from lettings and fundraising events. Due to Covid restrictions during the year, our income from lettings and fundraising events was significantly reduced.</p> <p>We received the maximum grant available from Islington Council's Community Chest and we are grateful for their continuing support. This grant was used to secure the services of part-time gardeners who advise the Trustees and guide the volunteers in maintaining Olden Community Garden.</p>
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	<b>N/A</b>
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	<p>We are supported in risk management by the London Borough of Islington which owns the land and retains responsibility for aspects of the structural integrity of the site and maintenance of the boundary fences and walls and has an advisory role.</p> <p>We have undertaken a full risk assessment of our operation which is reviewed regularly, together with</p>

		<p>the actions to mitigate the risks. We have public liability insurance and regularly review our policies including safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. Copies of these documents are on public display on site in the Garden House. Principal risks are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Loss of income from bookings</li><li>- Loss of experienced and/or active Trustees</li><li>- Unsuccessful grant applications</li></ul>
Other		

## Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	The Constitution was agreed on 6 April 2014. Olden Community Garden gained charitable status in August 2014.
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	Trustees are elected by the membership at the Annual General Meeting for a period of three years and may be co-opted. There are currently has six Trustees, including the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. Under the Constitution, the maximum permissible number is nine.

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	<p>Information provided by the Charity Commission is made available.</p> <p>Trustees receive our Risk Assessment and copies of our policies and procedures.</p>
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	<p>Olden Community Garden is managed by its Trustees, currently six, elected by the membership and meeting as the management committee. Elected Positions include the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. Meetings are held monthly, except in December. The charity has a simple organisational structure, with no sub-committee, though individual Trustees take lead responsibility for different aspects of running it.</p> <p>Olden Community Garden works closely with Islington Council which owns the land. Islington Council is responsible for aspects of the structural integrity of the site and for maintaining the boundary walls and fences, and has an advisory role.</p> <p>Olden Community Garden has partnerships with local community groups, to some of which we give free membership, including local children's playgroups and community support organisations.</p> <p>Olden Community Garden normally participates in the Chelsea Fringe festival and in the London Square Open Gardens Weekend.</p>

Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	We are supported in risk management by the London Borough of Islington which owns the land and retains responsibility for aspects of the structural integrity of the site and maintenance of the boundary fences and walls and has an advisory role.
Other		

### Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Olden Community Garden
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1158105
Charity's principal address	Opposite no22 Whistler Street Highbury London N5 1NH



## Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	N/A
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	N/A
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	N/A

### Additional information (optional)

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

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Gardener	Laura Arison	107 Arlington Road, London, NW1 7ET
Gardener	Andrew Smith	24 Peckett Square, Highbury, London, N5 2PB

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

We have no staff.

## Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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## Other optional information

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## Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

<b>Signature(s)</b>	Terry Stacy (approved by email)	Evelyn Thomas (approved by email)
<b>Full name(s)</b>	Terry Stacy	Evelyn Thomas
<b>Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)</b>	Chair	Secretary
<b>Date</b>	12 April 2022	



## Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period  
from

01-Sep-20

To

31-Aug-21

### 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>					
Islington Council Community Chest grant	-	5,000	-	5,000	3,000
Islington Council grant	-	-	-	-	748
Corporate donations	-	-	-	-	-
Individual donations	2,683	-	-	2,683	407
Members subscriptions	6,990	-	-	6,990	4,424
Garden House lettings	1,262	-	-	1,262	1,015
Fundraising activity	109	-	-	109	-
Gift Aid	535	-	-	535	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>11,579</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>16,579</b>	<b>9,594</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>11,579</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>16,579</b>	<b>9,594</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Gardeners fees for services	2,344	5,000	-	7,344	7,959
Plants	894	-	-	894	-
Materials, wood, compost, etc	793	-	-	793	846
Gardening tools and equipment	936	-	-	936	-
Repairs, Improvements, & maintenance	-	-	-	-	3,633
Volunteer work days	-	-	-	-	-
Events and fundraising	-	-	-	-	-
Office supplies, website, postage	291	-	-	291	50
Insurance	320	-	-	320	-
Electricity	313	-	-	313	315
Electrical testing and remedial works	781	-	-	781	-
Lawn refurbishment	1,619	-	-	1,619	-
Occasional labour	215	-	-	215	-
Miscellaneous expenses	-	-	-	-	73
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>8,506</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>13,506</b>	<b>12,876</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>8,506</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>13,506</b>	<b>12,876</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>3,073</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,073</b>	<b>- 3,282</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>9,607</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>9,607</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>12,680</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>12,680</b>	<b>- 3,282</b>

## 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 £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>		12,680	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	12,680	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

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

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
Approved by email	Terry Stacy	
Approved by email	John Croxen	

**OLDEN COMMUNITY GARDEN**

England & Wales - Charity number 1158105

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# Accounts

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# Trustees' Annual Report for the period

<b>From</b>	Period start date			<b>To</b>	Period end date		
	Day 1	Month SEPT	Year 2019		Day 31	Month AUG	Year 2020

## Section A

## Reference and administration details

**Charity name**

Olden Community Garden

**Other names charity is known by**

formerly known as the Olden Garden Development Project

Registered charity number (if any)

**1158105**

**Charity's principal address**

Whistler Street,

Highbury

LONDON

**Postcode**

**N5 1NH**

### 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	Terry Stacy MBE	Chair		
2	Anna Sullivan	Deputy Chair		
3	Jill McKeown	Membership Secretary		
4	Vicky Church	Trustee	Resigned 29/09/2019	
5	Susie Burrows	Trustee		
6	Jeremy Urquhart	Trustee	Resigned 21/06/2020	
9	Tom Hitchman	Treasurer	Resigned 19/09/2019	

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

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year
Same as above	

**Type of adviser**

**Name**

**Address**

Gardener	Laura Arison	107 Arlington Road, London, NW1 7ET
Gardener	Andrew Smith	24 Peckett Square, Highbury, London, N5 2PB

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

N/A

## Section B Structure, governance, and management

### Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Olden Community Garden is governed by the Constitution which was agreed on 6 April 2014. It gained charitable status in August 2014.
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Olden Community Garden is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). It currently has 7 (seven) Trustees, and the maximum permissible under its constitution of 9 (nine) Trustees. It has two adviser gardeners.
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Trustees are elected by the Membership at the Annual General Meeting for a period of 3 years and may be co-opted.

### 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.

The charity has a simple **organisational structure**, with no sub-committee, though individual Trustees take lead responsibility for different aspects of running the garden.

We are supported in **risk management** by the **London Borough of Islington** which retains responsibility for aspects of the structural integrity of the site and has an advisory role.

Trustees regularly review risks associated with the management of the garden and develop policies and action plans to deal with them. The nature of the diverse two-acre (0.8 hectare) garden site means that some risks are on-going and dealt with through policies (such as the policy of having no unaccompanied children in the garden) while others are one-off and are dealt with through an action plan.

Olden Community Garden holds full public liability insurance. We have also done a full risk assessment of our operation which is reviewed regularly. Both a copy of our public liability insurance and safeguarding policy is on public display in the garden house on site.

## Section C Objectives and activities

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

The objects of the CIO are to promote for the benefit of those people living or working in the London Borough of Islington a community garden and associated facilities to advance education and for the purposes of recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disability, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances or for the public at large in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving their condition of life.

### 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)

The Trustees were satisfied that the activities of Olden Garden met the **objectives** as set out in the constitution, and the requirement of public benefit. We continue to be guided by the requirement of **public benefit** as we plan our future programme of work and activities in the garden.

The Olden Garden was created in 1986 when a group of residents successfully campaigned to rescue a derelict railway embankment and turn it into a community garden. Over the years, the site has been turned into a haven for residents and wildlife alike. The garden is a significant asset to the community. Islington has less green space than any other London Borough, and the garden forms an important wildlife habitat. The Garden contains the largest area of woodland in the Borough and is one of the largest community managed open spaces in north London. The Borough recognises the garden's importance to the area and has

designated it Grade 1 SINC (Site of Importance for Nature Conservation).

The garden is normally open to the **public** at least 55 times a year, and to Members from dawn to dusk every day. Towards the end of 2019/2020 we had to suspend our workdays and general openings to the public due to government Covid19 social distancing guidelines and advice from LB Islington. During the Covid pandemic the Garden saw a massive increase in usage amongst the members.

During 2019/2020 our fundraising activity centred on our, eventually unsuccessful, application to the Mayor of London's 'Grow Back Greener' fund for £21,500 to shore up the failing terrace with gabions.

The garden is largely maintained by **volunteers** (including both Members and Non-Members) with the support of two part-time **gardeners** who are advisers to the committee. Key-holding Members can drop in at any time to garden, or just to enjoy the surroundings. The gardeners are present one day per week, and this tends to be when regular volunteers come in to get support and encouragement from the gardeners. In addition, there is a regular monthly volunteer work day (except in December and January) at which up to 12 volunteers (including both individuals and families) come along to work and to enjoy a social lunch.

Over the year 2019/2020 the **garden and garden house facilities** were booked on a total of 18 occasions between September and mid-March when Covid restrictions began. This has had a major effect on our fundraising.

Private parties and social enterprises booked the garden and garden house. Events included a Diwali in September, awaydays for Quakers House staff, an Islington Gardeners plant sale and a Halloween Party. The Covid restrictions have resulted in a significant reduction in the number of events and in the income from bookings.

As with previous years, the Olden Community Garden provides both a regular programme of activities and opportunities for volunteers to drop in.

Our regular programme of activities in 2019/2020, pre-Covid were:

- Weekly volunteering sessions that are aimed particularly at those assisting with regular garden maintenance, and who receive support and advice from our sessional gardeners.
- Monthly volunteering sessions (3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month, except December and January) regularly attended by up to 10 adults, and several children. The sessional gardeners and senior Members provide gardening advice and support.
- Hosting regular sessions for community groups,
- Hosting a steady stream of visitors. The garden is particularly enjoyed by families whose young children love the space and variety the garden offers.
- Host networking events for friends of opens spaces groups and other community gardens in partnership with Social Farms and Gardens
- Growing a range of fruit and vegetables which are enjoyed by local people, and some are sold to raise funds. The produce made from our fruit and vegetables raises awareness of using local food, and inspire our volunteers.

Maintenance and development of the garden:

- We have two part-time paid gardeners who are present one day a

week, but much of the work to maintain the garden is carried out by volunteers – on weekly, monthly, and *ad hoc* work days.

- The total number of hours worked on-site by the volunteers reduced significantly in the second part of 2019/20 due to Covid.

This year, **repairs and improvements** have included:

- After many years of trying to improve the performance of the herbaceous long border it was decided to raise the front edge and insert a great deal of good quality compost. Sadly, this is becoming an annual thing due to historical site issues and the poor ground/London clay issue across Highbury
- Our attempts to camouflage the “new” Highbury Roundhouse community centre wall has continued to have mixed success. The builders of the new “Highbury Roundhouse” obligingly put up a thick mesh fence to stop their various materials coming onto our territory but several of our climbers have suffered because of the scaffolding that had to go up on our side. However up there you will see a thriving cercis, a thriving quince tree and an exuberant rosa filipe Kiftsgate.
- Three new compost bays which we erected have been a great success in turning all our waste into productive compost or mulch
- Drawing up plans for works to the patio and for a new pond in the garden

#### **Our Events Programme**

We have an annual programme of events, aimed at both our members and the wider public. However, due to Covid restrictions in the second half of our year, events ceased or were cancelled, following advice received from Islington Council. Events planned for the spring and summer seasons could not take place. Whilst the Garden was available to members all the time, we were unable to permit access to general public.

#### **Developing the charity:**

- We continue to discuss with LB Islington the details of our lease.
- Our financial accounts were examined by an independent external examiner.

**Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)**

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

- Policy on grantmaking.
- Policy programme related investment.
- contribution made by volunteers.

N/A

## Section D

## Achievements and performance

### Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Our Highbury oasis came into its own during the Covid lockdown.

2019/2020 has obviously been dominated by the pandemic: but things didn't stop growing, except of course our lawn which seems to have been on a lockdown of its own for months.

We are extremely proud that we managed to keep the garden open for members throughout the pandemic, other community gardens in the borough were forced to close. We were not able to keep it open for the general public due to social distancing

We would not have been able to do this without the active support of members and trustees, and our thanks go to them.

In consultation with the Council, we halted new membership for a while so that garden user numbers could be managed, and gradually reintroduced new memberships over several months, with the consequent boom in interest and numbers of new members.

The most obvious physical change in the garden since the last AGM happened in December is our new covered potting area.

The Metropolitan Parks and Gardens Association gave us a grant for part of the cost of constructing a covered potting area; and through the good offices of Jez (one of our trustees) we found a carpenter who could do the work between lockdowns. It has opened our potential for propagation and we're now in the process of reorganising the work area around it. Many thanks to Jess for his help in sorting this and getting this done.

The other innovation is that this is the first summer we have had access to the harvested water from the Roundhouse and it has been tremendous. When the building was being designed and in seeking planning permission, we made the case for this to be included in the scheme. We are delighted for our neighbours at the Highbury Roundhouse that they finally have a new building.

All the planting along the woodland wall and all the propagation in the work area is now done without taking water from the mains. We can even water the compost heaps in hot weather.

The other issue solved by water can be seen in the long border. The new irrigation system, albeit run with mains water, has made a huge difference to the health and strength of the plants.

After a month of lockdown, the gardeners returned to their Tuesday

routine at the start of May ably supported by a growing group of volunteers who are learning the garden's routines and whose contribution to helping us keep on top of things has been invaluable. There are many who should be thanked for giving their time and, in one case, their money to enhance the place. But again, with new restrictions being introduced, we had to review this.

In the early days of the pandemic while some used the garden with enthusiasm others were nervous of the risks, they ran in coming to the garden.

In the interests of retaining the garden's role as a quiet haven for socially-distant small groups, we discouraged families from using the garden as a playground, but continue to welcome them in an inclusive and wider sense

In addition, there was a major incident with damage to cars in Whistler Street from bricks thrown over the wall by unsupervised children in the garden. This reinforced the need for the strong messages given out in our garden notices and in newsletters. Fortunately, we facilitated a resolution between the car owners and the parents of the children concerned.

The pandemic has meant a halt to garden house bookings but has seen an increase in wear and tear of the lawn and other bits of the garden. Lockdown coincided with the time when we would have tried once more to re-seed the lawn; and was followed by a period of very hot weather and very heavy use. The lawn stood very little chance of recovery.

One plan that will help this situation is the proposal to redesign the bottom end of the garden to enlarge the social area and thus reduce the lawn at the point where it is most vulnerable.

It has been an excellent year in the orchard. There were no greengages – a little puzzling: theft maybe – but a good crop of plums for jam making and an excellent crop on all the apple trees. Since there was no Gillespie Park Apple Day this year we have indulged in a frenzy of juicing on Tuesdays and 20 bottles of apple juice have been produced so far. There are three late-cropping trees to go.

One problem we are facing is the issue of what to do with the elderly trees in the woodland. Can we let them decay as advised by some tree-watchers or are they an unsightly hazard? There's no risk of them not being replaced: we have dozens of young trees, mostly ash, sprouting up in their midst, but one fell recently and has rendered one of our paths out of bounds, so a programme of husbandry is being put together and we have had our first consultation with the Borough tree officer.

## Section E

## Financial review

### Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The Trustees' policy is to hold in reserve a minimum of 3 months running costs. These are defined as: gardening services; gardening supplies and equipment; garden house and toilet facilities; and general administration.

### Details of any funds materially in deficit

### 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.

The charity's financial picture has been stable. We have mixed sources of income and depend both on our own income (membership subscriptions, donations, and earned income from lettings and special fundraising events) and external grants (Cripplegate Foundation; and Waitrose).

We are particularly grateful to the **London Borough of Islington** (LBI) for their long-standing support and practical assistance, as well as support from local people generally, and the good will and in-kind support of our trustees and members.

The restricted grant for gardening services from the Cripplegate Foundation & Islington Council's Community Chest enabled us to continue to employ two sessional gardeners who form the backbone of the gardening activities undertaken at Olden Community Garden by members and other volunteers.

We would normally say here that we look forward to expanding our funding base over the next year as we do every year, with applications to other external funding bodies but with the Covid pandemic we do not know what the future holds.

We would also hope to grow our membership and income earned from lettings as unrestricted funds are invaluable in maintaining and developing the garden and the activities we can offer. Again, this is dependent on what the Covid pandemic holds for us

As ever, a big thank you to our members, supporters and neighbours who continue to support us with their time and energy

## Section F Other optional information

Trustees continue to look at the development of a longer-term plan for the garden and update our vision for the future. This will need to address the following

- Improving access to all parts of the garden, including steep woodland paths, for the elderly, disabled and general public.
- Extending the hours of opening to the wider community
- Identifying new groups of people who might benefit from use of the garden, and garden house facilities, including those in need and those who have less access to open space
- Developing particular areas of the garden such as the lawn and herbaceous borders on the top terrace; the raised terrace on the middle level, the orchard, and wildflower meadow
- Preparation of an Annual Garden Plan of priority activities to be undertaken each month, this is a “organic” document and is being developed

## Section G Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity’s trustees

<b>Signature(s)</b>	Approved by email due to Covid restrictions and Trustees isolating	Approved by email due to Covid restrictions and Trustees isolating
<b>Full name(s)</b>	<b>Terry STACY MBE</b>	<b>Anna SULLIVAN</b>
<b>Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Vice Chair</b>

**Date**

2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020





CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name <b>OLDEN COMMUNITY GARDEN</b>	No (if any) 1158105
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**CC16a**

## Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 1st Sept 2019	To	Period end date 31st Aug 2020
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### 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 £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Islington Council's Community Chest	-	3,000	-	3,000	5,000
Islington Council grant	-	748	-	748	-
Corporate donations	-	-	-	-	1,300
Individual donations	407	-	-	407	375
Members subscriptions	4,424	-	-	4,424	3,855
Lettings	1,015	-	-	1,015	3,965
Events and fundraising	-	-	-	-	2,750
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>5,846</b>	<b>3,748</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>9,594</b>	<b>17,245</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>5,846</b>	<b>3,748</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>9,594</b>	<b>17,245</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Gardeners services	4,959	3,000	-	7,959	9,574
Plants, compost, etc	846	-	-	846	1,325
Tools	-	-	-	-	332
Repairs, Improvements, & maintenance	2,565	748	-	3,313	3,371
Volunteer work days	-	-	-	-	97
Events and fundraising	-	-	-	-	1,361
Office supplies, postage	50	-	-	50	221
Insurance	320	-	-	320	320
Electricity	315	-	-	315	317
Miscellaneous expenses	73	-	-	73	53
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>9,128</b>	<b>3,748</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>12,876</b>	<b>16,971</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>9,128</b>	<b>3,748</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>12,876</b>	<b>16,971</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>- 3,282</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>- 3,282</b>	<b>274</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>12,889</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>12,889</b>	<b>12,615</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>9,607</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>9,607</b>	<b>12,889</b>

## 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 £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>		9,607	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>9,607</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>	Details	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>	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			Date of approval
	Approved by email due to Covid restrictions and Trustees isolating	Terry Stacy		4th Oct 2020
	Approved by email due to Covid restrictions and Trustees isolating	John Croxen		4th Oct 2020 26/09/2021