



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

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	<p>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.</p>

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. Though 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"> - Loss of income from bookings - Loss of experienced and/or active Trustees - Unsuccessful grant applications
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

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
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				
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19				
20				

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

Director name		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	

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

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



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Olden Community Garden

1158105

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

01-Sep-22

To

31-Aug-23

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 £
A1 Receipts					
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
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	22,619	7,500	-	30,119	20,448
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	22,619	7,500	-	30,119	20,448
A3 Payments					
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	-
Sub total	25,482	6,323	-	31,805	19,540
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	25,482	6,323	-	31,805	19,540
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 2,863	1,177	-	- 1,686	908
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	13,467	121	-	13,588	-
Cash funds this year end	10,604	1,298	-	11,902	908

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds		10,604	1,298	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	10,604	1,298	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets			Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities		Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
	Charles Waddell (approved by email)	Hamish Charles Keith Waddell	12-Jun-24	



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

**Independent examiner's
report on the accounts**

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.