



**CHARITY COMMISSION**  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

## 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	<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	
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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. Though 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**

	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	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				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

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

Director name		

**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	
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

#### 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	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
Groundwork's Our Space Award	-	-	-	-	4,000
Localgiving Foundation Magic Little Grants	-	-	-	-	500
National Garden Scheme Community Garden grant	-	4,695	-	4,695	
grant	-	500	-	500	
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 £
B1 Cash funds		12,858	5,195	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	12,858	5,195	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

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

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

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

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

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

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



**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**

Charity Name  
Olden Community Garden Charity

**On accounts for the year  
ended**

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 31/08/2024.

**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).