

Friends of Homeyards Botanical Gardens in Shaldon

(a Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

Report and Financial Statements

Year ended: 31 December 2020

Charity no: 1159641



Friends of Homeyards Botanical Gardens in Shaldon

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31st December 2020

The Trustees are pleased to present their report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2020.

Reference and Administrative Details of the Charity, its Trustees and Advisors

Friends of Homeyards Botanical Gardens in Shaldon

Registered Charity number: 1159641

Principal Office: Little Green, 12 Dagmar Street, Shaldon TQ14 0DU

Trustees:

The trustees during the period are:

Chair	Alison Mary Melville-Shreeve
Treasurer	Richard John Brett
Trustee	Carolyn Elizabeth Pash

Bankers:

Barclays Bank plc., Leicester LE87 2BB

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The organisation is governed by its Constitution last amended 28th November 2014 which establish its objects and powers.

Constitution of the Organisation.

Friends of Homeyards Botanical Gardens in Shaldon is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, registered on 16th December 2014.

Board of Trustees and Trustee selection.

The body responsible for the management of Friends of Homeyards Botanical Gardens in Shaldon is the Board of Trustees.

The full complement of Trustees is eight and the Constitution requires that there shall never be less than three. Trustees serve for a term of three years and there are no restrictions on the number of terms that a Trustee may serve. Appointment of Trustees is by election at the Annual General Meeting. All Trustees must be members of Friends of Homeyards Botanical Gardens in Shaldon and members are invited to nominate people to serve. The Chair and Officers are appointed by the Trustees from among their number.

Upon their first appointment each new trustee is provided with the following information;

- A copy of the Constitution along with any amendments made to it;
- The latest trustee' annual report and statement of accounts.

The Trustees are supported by a management committee, members of which attend Trustee meetings and by volunteers who provide valuable assistance with work in the Gardens and with fundraising events.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity.

Risk Management

The Homeyards Botanical Gardens is owned and maintained by Teignbridge District Council who operate appropriate risk management policies. The Friends of Homeyards Botanical Gardens in Shaldon organise events in the Gardens from time to time and for each event a risk assessment and risk management plan is prepared having regard to:

- Protecting the public from risk
- Protecting the Gardens and property from damage
- Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults

Objectives and Activities

The principal object of Friends of Homeyards Botanical Gardens in Shaldon is for the public benefit to promote the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment and to advance the education of the public in the land and buildings at Homeyards Botanical Gardens, Shaldon Devon.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit

The Friends run Easter, Summer and Halloween events to involve children and families in the gardens. These events are generally free but fundraising can be involved.

Volunteers open up the Castle on regular occasions to provide tea, coffee and information for visitors. As well as enhancing the experience of the gardens for visitors the facility is a meeting point for local people and volunteers, providing a social opportunity and increasing engagement with the gardens.

Continuing historical researches into the Homeyards story.

Conservation volunteering on a regular basis to maintain and improve specific areas of the gardens.

Summary of the main achievements of the Charity during the period

It was an unusual and difficult year for all of us, and activities in the Gardens have been constrained by the need to conform with Covid19 regulations and social distancing requirements.

Lottery funding for Gary the gardener ran out in October 2019 and we were grateful to Shaldon Parish Council which agreed to provide funding for Gary for two days a week until April 2020. We were glad to have confirmation from the Parish Council that they would continue to underwrite the cost of Gary being employed in the

gardens for two days a week from April until the maintenance contractors contract comes up for review.

The new web site was delivered by Teign Geeks and went live early in the year and at the same time a Facebook Page was set up. The much improved digital presence provides opportunities to inform and communicate with Friends and visitors both old and new.

Once the March lockdown came into force Gary was furloughed and the volunteers had to demobilise until the summer. The Gardens took a turn for the natural look, but with a surge of visitors they were very much valued for recreation and this increased over the summer with many people enjoying the tranquil surroundings for walks, exercise and views. The usual Easter event had to be abandoned along with all plans for summer events. Halloween activities were also affected by lockdown, but replaced with an impressive tableau in the castle of suitably scary models seated at a decorated dinner table. Timed to light up between first dark and later evening it could be viewed through the windows, proving to be quite a success with visitors.

Prompted by this success, St Peter's Church re-located their Christmas Nativity scene to the castle this year. It was available for all to view through the windows during December.

The garden volunteers managed to get back in action over the summer with Gary, catching up on weeding, mulching and clearing overgrown planted areas. We created a bug hotel near the wild flower area beyond the pond. Activity there is quiet so far but we hope for some interesting customers as it settles in. There was also vigorous activity on the part of some volunteers in clearing major scrub etc. in overgrown areas including near the Ness end woodland and above the long retaining walls near the castle. Quite an undertaking but leading to a much better appreciation of the original landscape. We are hoping to set up a specific program and fundraising for repair of the walls and replanting above them.

The Gardens were the recipient of a Green Flag award in 2019 and we were pleased to hear that, despite the difficulties of lockdown, following an annual audit the award had been renewed for 2020.

We were pleased to see the enjoyable Open Studios event held again this year in the castle. The Shaldon "Artists at Homeyards Castle" exhibition featured fine art, pottery, fused glass and jewellery over several weeks in September. We were also very glad to receive a beautiful white rose bush (Tranquillity) in the Burma Star garden area, which was planted by the Torbay Hospital Nurses League at a ceremony to celebrate their 75 year anniversary. The rose was dedicated to nurses in all kinds of caring roles and was particularly fitting in the light of the appreciation which has been expressed for the work of the NHS and other care and emergency workers this year.

Financial Review

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" issued in July 2014.

The Receipts and Payments account shows the gross income from all sources and the split of activity between restricted and unrestricted funds.

Review of the financial position

There was an excess of payments over receipts of £298 during the year. The cash balance held in unrestricted funds was reduced by this amount.

The main element of income in the year was donations from members and supporters amounting in total to £1,635. This was significantly less than the previous year because of a single donation of £1500 received in 2019 and also the loss of donations from events cancelled in 2020 due to the Covid19 lockdowns.

The main items of expenditure in the year were £1,503 for trees and plants for the Gardens and £678 to Teign Geeks in respect of web site development.

Reserves Policy

The trustees aim to hold sufficient reserves to provide funding for special events and fundraising efforts organized by the Friends or by supporters.

Reserves at 31st December 2020 amount to £7,705 which trustees consider adequate to cover planned expenditure commitments and the costs of arranging a typical programme of events for a year. Reserves are unrestricted and held in cash at Barclays Bank.

Future Plans

Gardener

After Gary's appointment ended at the end of October 2019 Shaldon Parish Council funded his continued employment in the Gardens on a part time basis. The Trustees recognize the enormous impact that a resident gardener has had on the Gardens and as a priority will work with Shaldon Parish Council and other potential funders to ensure the continued employment of a gardener.

Tree Trail

As part of the lottery funding Teignbridge District Council has arranged for many of the principal trees in the Gardens to be named and a Tree Trail leaflet has been prepared for publicising when conditions permit.

Web Site & Digital Presence

The new web site delivered early in 2020 has improved communications with users, visitors and the world at large. Use of the Web Site, digital presence and social media opportunities will continue to be developed to provide the best possible service for Friends and visitors alike.

Homeyards History second edition

An updated version of 'Aturfuqil's Shaldon', Homeyards history was completed during Lockdown and following a final edit, should be ready for printing in 2021.

Mosaic Seat

Our work has usually followed the path of conservation and restoration but after the gardens provided such an important area for respite and recreation during the times of restrictions during 2020 we started to plan fundraising for a more light hearted project in the creation of an octagonal outdoor seat.

This is to be decorated with ceramic mosaic tiles by local skilled independent artists Michelle Greenwood Brown and Alison Miles who have much experience in providing delightful designs. If possible they will hold workshops for local children to make some of the tiles so that they are included in the project.

It will be sited on the disused old birdbath base on a terrace in front of the castle folly. We aim to show scenes of water earth and sky elements which will be a fascinating focus for visitors from far and near. It will provide a positive experience for the community as a focus to sit play and picnic and enhance the built environment by brightening the terrace which can get gloomy in the winter as it is north facing.

Restorations

Castle maintenance

The castle has developed a serious problem with leaks and damp which it is evident stems from the design and implementation of the recent renovation. The trustees and committee will continue to work closely with Teignbridge District Council and local councillors to resolve the situation and ensure that the castle continues to make a significant contribution to the success of the Gardens.

Witches Cave

The witch's cave has been condemned by council engineers as being unsafe and has been fenced off. Trustees propose to seek further information about the state of the cave and to establish the steps required and the potential cost to repair it.

Castle wall

The efforts of volunteers in 2020 have made a good impact on clearing the ground above the wall and uncovering the stonework. Trustees have agreed to take the effort forward by obtaining a programme of work and costings for the restoration of the wall and appropriate planting, recognising the importance of involving Teignbridge District Council in view of the many health and safety implications and the scale of the project.

Gardeners Hut

We are encouraging Teignbridge District Council to repair the gardeners hut which is part of their programme. It is likely to be delayed by funding limitations at present.

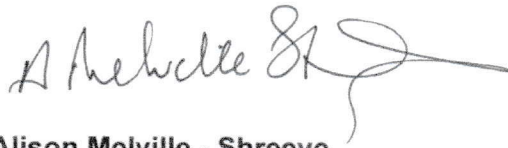
It seems there is clearly no public money for such projects for the foreseeable future so that it will be necessary to try and follow a programme of fundraising for the reinstatement of these important features over a period of time, including potentially a second phase application to Heritage Lottery.

Volunteers

The work of the Friends depends upon volunteers and the trustees are very grateful for the time and effort given by the management committee and by all those volunteers who turn up regularly to work in the gardens.

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alison Melville', followed by a long, sweeping horizontal stroke.

Alison Melville - Shreeve
Chair

10th March 2021



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Friends of Homevards Botanical

1159641

Receipts and payments accounts

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For the period
from

1st January 2020

To

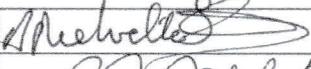
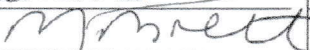
31st December 2020

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations	1,635	-	-	1,635	3,280
Events & Fundraising	-	-	-	-	408
Merchandising	-	-	-	-	18
Teignbridge Communities Grant	-	-	-	-	200
HMRC Gift Aid Repayment	599	-	-	599	324
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	2,234	-	-	2,234	4,230
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	2,234	-	-	2,234	4,230
A3 Payments					
Subscription - Devon Gardens Trust	35	-	-	35	30
AGM & Membership Costs	86	-	-	86	67
Works in Gardens	1,503	-	-	1,503	6,220
Insurance	230	-	-	230	230
Sundry Expense	-	-	-	-	42
Web Site Development	678	-	-	678	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	2,532	-	-	2,532	6,589
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	2,532	-	-	2,532	6,589
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 298	-	-	- 298	- 2,359
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	7,993	-	-	7,993	10,352
Cash funds this year end	7,695	-	-	7,695	7,993

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	Barclays Bank Current Account	7,695	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	7,695	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))			
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets		Fund to which asset belongs	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
	Alison Melville Shreeve	10/03/2021
	Richard Brett	10/03/2021