

Friends of Homeyards Botanical Gardens in Shaldon

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31st December 2023

The Trustees are pleased to present their report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2023.

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

Friends of Homeyards Botanical Gardens in Shaldon

Registered Charity number: 1159641

Principal Office: 5 The Hamilton's, Torquay Road, Shaldon, Devon TQ14 0AY

Trustees:

The trustees during the period are:

Chair	Alison Mary Melville-Shreeve (to retire 14/3/24)
Treasurer	Hazel Dawn Todd
Trustees	Carolyn Elizabeth Pash
	Tina Caple (appointed 15/11/23)
	Joyce Gillespie (appointed 15/11/23)

Bankers:

Barclays Bank plc., Leicester LE87 2BB

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The organisation is governed by its Constitution, amended 28th November 2014 which establishes 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 objective 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 refreshments 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 research into the Homeyards story.

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

Achievements and Performance

Gardener

Shaldon Parish Council agreed to subsidise the cost of gardening for 2 days a week and this has been extended for the year 2023/4. The contract for the garden's maintenance contractors working for TDC continues with ID Verde. They employ the gardener directly. The gardener remains a hard-working and experienced gardener and a great asset to the Shaldon community and the Gardens.

Castle Folly

The folly building structure remains vulnerable to leaks in wet stormy weather which means it is more useful as a summer venue than for winter events. The council has instructed heritage contractors to look into finding a solution. The solution for 2023/24 has been to clean up and paint in Spring making it usable for the summer months. A very efficient team of volunteers managed the emptying of the dehumidifier through the winter months.

Castle Folly openings

The opening of the Castle Folly for Teas and Coffees run by volunteers for donations was successfully continued in 2023, offering tea and coffee refreshments on an informal basis to garden visitors. These were running most Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from June to September 2023 and net proceeds were £690.

An online YouTube video in Devon Life inspired an increase in visitors. The site was also used by an Exeter theatre group who filmed in the gardens making very good use of its features.

For 2024, Tina Caple, one of our new Trustees has kindly agreed to take over the administration of the castle volunteers and has created and rolled out full procedures and controls.

Walk and Talk Events

The Friends held two prearranged afternoon events with a guided tour of the gardens followed by tea and cake. These both raised healthy donations.

Easter event 2023

The Easter event in 2023 went very well in wonderful weather with Monica Shanta Brown's shadow puppet making, Sarah Hurley's story telling and Jon Stewards willow fishing rods and our popular scavenger hunt with the Hope coffee van keeping us in drinks and cake. Our thanks to Shaldon Water Carnival for their kind grant of £250 offset against the cost of £450 for this event.

Autumn Children's 2023 event

This went very well in St. Peter's Church due to the very inconsistent weather, with around 200 children taking part in lots of activities on offer all free of charge at this very well attended event during the Autumn half term . We had popular craft tables and the Barn Owl conservation trust and autumn making with natural materials.

Plants

In spring, a Weeping Willow `Kilmarnock was received from the congregation of St. Peters church to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles. This is in the oval bed near the Witch's cave.

Moderate success was had with the wildflower area, but this needs a new strategy due to the larger self-seeded wild plants trying to take over.

Shrubs from Plant World nursery and many tulip bulbs and self grown flowering plants in the spring flowering oval bed were added. A climbing rose and two different pyracanthas were also added against the wall below the Burma Star Garden.

After a fairly comprehensive tree survey and several meetings with TDC a large diseased Chestnut tree and two smaller trees near the allotment end were felled. This cleared some light and a trio of donated birches of differing bark types were planted below the western end balustrade.

In the autumn 500 blue crocus bulbs were received from Teignmouth Rotary which were planted on the grassy banks above the Ropewalk gate and the Broadlands /Horse Lane entrance steps. These are to mark the eradication of Polio in most of the world.

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 receipts over payments of £2,924 during the year. The cash balance held in unrestricted funds increased by this amount.

Total funds at the end of the year were £13,452 and a deposit account was opened in Autumn 2023 to achieve some interest for the surplus funds.

A Finance Policy was established in December 2023 with final Trustee approval in January 2024.

Income was lower in 2023 as 2022 had an exceptional fundraising music event raising £2,000.

However, donations increased by 28% year on year and included a one off generous donation of £500 via the Charities Aid Foundation.

Plant sales raised £258 slightly down in 2023 but the Tea and Coffee volunteer sessions at the Castle Folly raised £798 gross (£690 net) a gross increase of 34%

A grant of £250 was received from Shaldon Water Carnival (£500 in 2022) and £150 from Devon Wildlife Trust.

The historical book commissioned and launched in November 2022 continued to sell raising £571 in 2023 giving a total of £1,037 to date against an investment of £1,875 in 2022.

Expenditure was significantly lower in the year largely due to the exceptional expenditure on the ceramic seat, book publication and witch's grotto survey completed in 2022.

The main items of expenditure were routine operating expenses (insurance, website maintenance and some minor garden works).

However, the key areas of development agreed were the redevelopment of the pond filtering system and pergola gates. This work was agreed at a total cost of c £4,400 in Autumn 2023 and the pond was completed in February 2024 (c £1,200) and the work on the gates starts in April 2024 (c £3,200).

Reserves Policy

A formal reserves policy was documented in the Finance Policy approved in January 2024. The trustees aim to hold sufficient reserves to provide funding for special events and fundraising efforts organized by the Friends Committee or by supporters.

Total Reserves on 31st December 2023 amount to £13,452

Trustees consider the remaining free reserve to be 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 in a current and deposit account as mentioned above. A Just Giving site was also introduced in the year and now the main method of online donation. Funds are automatically transferred to Barclays monthly. Donations collected via PayPal also now automatically transferred to Barclays Bank monthly.

Structure Governance and management.

The trustees appointed two new Trustees in November 2023 at their last meeting, Joyce Gillespie and Tina Caple, bringing the total to five. This enables the resignation and rotation rules in the constitution. At the AGM, Alison Melville Shreeve will retire and Joyce Gillespie be appointed Chair.

The Trustees constantly review the need for new policies and review existing policies. The safeguarding policy was reviewed and signed in January 2024 and Finance policy was introduced in December 2023 and formally adopted also in January 2024.

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. There are 10 garden volunteers, 6 Tea and Coffee volunteers and 4 other volunteers giving 20 in total. A new induction document was introduced and is now in use for garden volunteers, new and old. Similarly, a protocol for castle refreshments volunteers has been introduced ready for the 2024 season.

Future Plans

Pond

We received a £150 grant from Wild About Devon to buy plants to improve the oxygenation and diversity of the main pond in 2023. We also joined with TDC in putting in a new filter system and waterfall blade which will keep the water much cleaner and has resulted in a much fresher environment for the fish and other creatures. The work was done by Rob Wright of Netherton Koi of which £750 was paid for by the council. The balance was paid by the charity (£1,231).

Gates

The council have been consulted about the deficiencies of various gates latches and closures.

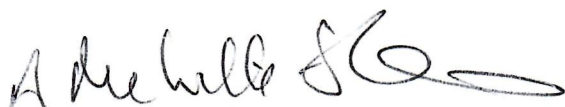
A new pair of replica gates is in the process of being made for the pergola entrance off Horse Lane. These should be installed in April 2024 at a total cost of £3,200 agreed by the Trustees at their meeting in November 2023.

More work is required on "the old gate" which is part of the boundary near the allotment end which was very badly damaged in a storm and has had to be boarded over for safety. The metal fixings are still in place.

Research and investigation into a solution for the Witches Grotto is ongoing with TDC.

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, horizontal, wavy line.

**Alison Melville - Shreeve
Chair**

14th March 2024



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Friends of Homevards Botanical
Gardens in Shaldon

1159641

Receipts and payments accounts

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For the period
from

Period start date
1st January 2023

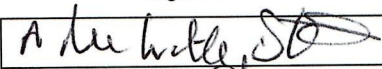

To

Period end date
31st December 2023

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	2,118	-	-	2,118	1,651
Events & Fundraising	1,559	-	-	1,559	2,980
Merchandising	571	-	-	571	475
Shaldon Water Carnival Grant	250	-	-	250	500
Devon Wildlife Grant	150	-	-	150	-
HMRC Gift Aid Repayment	307	-	-	307	647
Bank Interest	19	-	-	19	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	4,974	-	-	4,974	6,253
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	4,974	-	-	4,974	6,253
A3 Payments					
Subscription - Devon Gardens Trust	35	-	-	35	35
AGM & Membership Costs	90	-	-	90	10
Works in Gardens	432	-	-	432	874
Insurance	157	-	-	157	96
Mosaic Seat & Workshops	-	-	-	-	4,319
Web Site Maintenance & Hosting	255	-	-	255	78
Paypal Commissions	-	-	-	-	13
Events	884	-	-	884	595
Merchandising costs	-	-	-	-	1,875
Other	197	-	-	197	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	2,050	-	-	2,050	7,895
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	2,050	-	-	2,050	7,895
Net of receipts/(payments)	2,924	-	-	2,924	- 1,642
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	10,528	-	-	10,528	12,170
Cash funds this year end	13,452	-	-	13,452	10,528

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	990	-	-
	Barclays Bank Savings Account	12,462	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	13,452	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
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 asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	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	Print Name	Date of approval	
		Alison Melville Shreeve	14/03/2024	
		Hazel Todd	14/03/2024	