

Friends of Homeyards Botanical Gardens in Shaldon

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31st December 2024

The Trustees are pleased to present their report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2024.

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

Friends of Homeyards Botanical Gardens in Shaldon

Registered Charity number: 1159641

Principal Office: The Paddocks, Brook Lane Shaldon, Devon TQ14 0HL

Trustees:

The trustees during the period are:

Chair	Joyce Gillespie (appointed 14/03/24)
Treasurer	Hazel Dawn Todd
Trustees	Carolyn Elizabeth Pash
	Tina Caple (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 is a three year restriction on the number of terms that a Trustee may serve. Appointment of Trustees is by election at the Annual General Meeting or by the Trustees. 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 2024/5. 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 2024/5 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

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, Thursday and Friday mornings from June to September 2024 and net proceeds were £629.22.

for 2024, Tina Caple, one of our Trustees 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 2024

The Easter event in 2024 was held in St. Peter's Church, Shaldon thanks to the PCC due to inclement weather. We had craft tables, live animal petting, bush craft and the Devon Butterfly Conservation table. Cakes and drinks were served by the volunteers. Our thanks to Shaldon Water Carnival for their kind grant of £250 offset against the cost of £470 for this event.

Autumn Children's 2024 event

This was a free but ticketed event for accompanied children. Monica Shanta Brown provided well received flower and leaf printing workshops in the castle using natural materials from the gardens. The volunteers provided refreshments. The cost was £500 paid to DAISI which organised the artist.

Plants

In the autumn we planted cyclamen plants, anemone, narcissus and Scilla bulbs below the pond area and a good-sized Acer Shindeshojo beside the pond. Also 15 Hebe Sutherlandii between last year's new birch trio.

Shaldon School Volunteer groups

Starting in September we have welcomed gardening help from a regular small group with staff from the local primary school. They have carried out all sorts of tasks with great cheer including planting up 3 spring planters which were donated by a local resident and weaving a willow fence.

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 (£1,657) during the year. The cash balance held in unrestricted funds decreased by this amount.

Total funds at the end of the year were £11,795 including £11,279 in the deposit account which was opened in Autumn 2023 earning interest of £178.

Donations were higher in 2024, £3,737 compared to £2,118 in 2023 due to an increase in special donations from £250 in 2023 to £1,915 in 2024. Excluding the special one-off donations, underlying donations were flat. There was an increase in Just Giving Donations which included associated timely Gift Aid recovery which was largely event and coffee and tea donations. Cash and Cheque donations only represented 5% of all donations.

Total Events Fundraising (tea coffee mornings, plant sales and events) fell in 2024 (£1,224 in total, compared to £1,559 in 2023) and a decision was made at the November 2024 Trustee meeting to cease the Easter and October events.

The Tea and Coffee gross donations increased slightly from £798 in 2023 to £819 in 2024, but this was an achievement considering the delayed opening times due to the water issues in Castle Folly.

A grant of £250 continued to be received from Shaldon Water Carnival (£250 in 2023)

The historical book commissioned and launched in November 2022 sold £110 in 2024 (£571 in 2023) giving a total of £1,147 to date against an investment of £1,875 in 2022-61. 865 books remain.

Expenditure was significantly higher in the year £7,581 (2023 £2,050) due to the expenditure on the Pergola gates (£3,200, approved in 2023 but spent in 2024) and the pond works (£1,231) There was also money spent on planting of specimen rhododendrons from Millais Nursery above the castle banks following paid for clearance of brushwood and weeds, utilising the kind one off donations from the funeral of our former Chairman Gerald Symons.

The main items of expenditure were routine operating expenses (insurance, website hosting, meetings).

Plans for 2025

- Continue core activities.
- Potential relocation of stone archway and new gate for the Torquay Road allotment end gate.
- Potential specialist investigations of the castle structure.
- Potential ironwork decorative feature for the grotto.

All dependent on estimates and council permissions.

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 organised by the Friends Committee or by supporters.

Total Reserves on 31st December 2024 amount to £11,795

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. The Just Giving site introduced in 2023 is the main method on online donation. Funds are automatically transferred to Barclays monthly. Donations collected via PayPal continue to be automatically transferred to Barclays Bank monthly, but this is now only one regular donation.

Structure Governance and Management.

At the 2024 AGM, Alison Melville Shreeve retired and Joyce Gillespie was appointed Chair. Hazel Todd retired as a trustee as of 31st December 2024.

At the March 2025 AGM Carolyn Lisa Pash will retire by rotation.

Adrian Symons was co-opted as new trustee in February 2025 and to be formally appointed at the AGM.

Lucie Laker was co-opted as new trustee and Treasurer in February 2025 and to be formally appointed at the AGM.

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 formally adopted also in January 2024.

A risk register was created and adopted in 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.

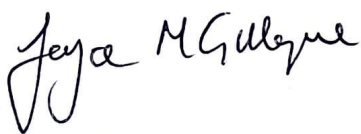
An induction document was introduced and is in use for garden volunteers, new and old. Similarly, a protocol for castle refreshments volunteers has been introduced since the 2024 season.

Pond

The council provided and we designed 2 signs requesting for dogs not to go in the pond. We also blocked the pond steps with planters to deter entry.

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees.



Joyce Gillespie
Chair

12th March 2025



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Friends of Homeyards Botanical
Gardens in Shaldon

1159641

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Receipts and payments accounts

For the period
from

Period start date
1st January 2024

To

Period end date
31st December 2024

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	3,737	0	0	3,737	2,118
Events & Fundraising	1,224	0	0	1,224	1,559
Merchandising	110	0	0	110	571
Shaldon Water Carnival Grant	250	0	0	250	250
Devon Wildlife Grant		0	0	0	150
HMRC Gift Aid Repayment	425	0	0	425	307
Bank Interest	178	0	0	178	19
Sub total(Gross income for AR)	5,924	0	0	5,924	4,974

A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).

	0	0	0	0	
	0	0	0	0	0
Sub total	0	0	0	0	0

Total receipts	5,924	0	0	5,924	4,974
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A3 Payments

Subscription - Devon Gardens Trust	35	0	0	35	35
AGM & Membership Costs	117	0	0	117	90
Works in Gardens	5,917	0	0	5,917	432
Insurance	157	0	0	157	157
Mosaic Seat & Workshops		0	0	0	
Web Site Maintenance & Hosting	78	0	0	78	255
Paypal Commissions		0	0	0	
Events	1,215			1,215	884
Merchandising costs				0	
Other	62	0	0	62	197
	0	0	0	0	0
Sub total	7,581	0	0	7,581	2,050

A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)

	0	0	0	0	
	0	0	0	0	
Sub total	0	0	0	0	0

Total payments	7,581	0	0	7,581	2,050
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Net of receipts/(payments)	-1,657	0	0	-1,657	2,924
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A5 Transfers between funds	0	0	0	0	0
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A6 Cash funds last year end	13,452	0	0	13,452	10,528
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Cash funds this year end	11,795	0	0	11,795	13,452
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Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds			
Barclays Bank Current Account	516	0	0
Barclays Bank Savings Account	11,279	0	0
	0	0	0
Total cash funds	11,795	0	0

(agree balances with receipts and payments
account(s))

OK

OK

OK

**Unrestricted
funds**

Restricted funds

**Endowment
funds**

to nearest £

to nearest £

to nearest £

B2 Other monetary assets

Details			
	0	0	0
	0	0	0
	0	0	0
	0	0	0
	0	0	0
	0	0	0

B3 Investment assets

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		0	0
		0	0
		0	0
		0	0
		0	0

**B4 Assets retained for the
charity's own use**

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		0	0
		0	0
		0	0
		0	0
		0	0
		0	0
		0	0
		0	0

B5 Liabilities

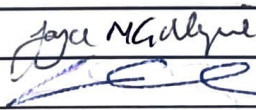
Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
		0	
		0	
		0	
		0	
		0	

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

Signature

Print Name

Date of approval



Joyce Gillespie

Lucie Laker

xx/03/2025

xx03/2025