



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

		Period start date		Period end date		
From	1st	Jan	2023	To	31st	Dec 2023

Section A

Reference and administration details

Charity name

Friends of Menacuddle Well

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any) 1170532

Charity's principal address

Menadue

Menacuddle Hill

St Austell, Cornwall

Postcode

PL25 5QP

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	Wendy Earl			
2	Derek Marley	Treasurer		
3	Francesca Arundel			
4	Denise Marley			
5	Kenneth Wellicome	Chair		
6	Hugh Symes-Thompson			
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

--

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution, adopted 2nd December 2016
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Charitable Incorporated Organisation - Association
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Appointed by existing trustees or members. One third of the Trustees retire at each Annual General Meeting but are eligible for reappointment.

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

The charity trustees will make available to each new charity trustee, on or before his or her first appointment:

- (a) a copy of the constitution and any amendments made to it.
- (b) a copy of the CIO's latest trustees' annual report and statement of accounts.
- (c) a copy of the Charity Commission Trustee Guidance CC3.
- (d) a copy of the Charity Commission Trustee Welcome Pack

All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no remuneration or other benefits.

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

1. The preservation and conservation of the Grade II* Listed Baptistery and other historical remains associated with the Baptistery in Menacuddle Valley for the benefit of the public.
2. The advancement of education of the public about the history of the Baptistery and the ecological importance of the surrounding area.
3. To provide or assist in the provision of facilities for recreation and other leisure time occupation in the interests of social welfare with the object of improving the conditions of life of the public by the conservation, enhancement and maintenance of the original Victorian ornamental garden in Menacuddle Valley.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

Work continued apace in 2023 at the beautiful site of Menacuddle Well to further our aims to provide an area of 'managed wildness' in the environment of the original Victorian Gardens for the benefit of the public and wildlife alike. Five General Meetings were held in the course of the year where the Trustees, volunteers, partners and other local interested groups were invited to plan and monitor progress towards our objectives, and to increase our knowledge and understanding of the site.

The main activities undertaken for the public benefit in furthering our listed objectives were as below:

1. Attention was paid to the Baptistery, Leat and other historical remains to regularly assess the need for any further conservation work. The surrounding areas were regularly weeded and kept clear of leaves etc as well as ensuring that any flooding caused by heavy rainfall was mitigated as necessary.
2. The most significant connection this year with large numbers of members of the public was at the annual St. Austell Garden Festival. Trustees manned a stand in the town centre armed with photographs and information about Menacuddle Well to spread the word about the work being carried out and the significance of the site to the local area. We spoke to many people who had never visited, or even heard of, the Well previously and handed out around 100 information leaflets. It was particularly satisfying to speak to a worker from the neighbouring Care Home and furnish him with leaflets to encourage more of the Home's residents to appreciate the site.

As in previous years the main event held in the Gardens to engage with members of the public was the November Remembrance Service. The service seeks to commemorate all those who have lost their lives in combat through the ages and remembers the special connection of the site with Richard Graves-Sawle, who's death in World War I is immortalised on a plaque on the Baptistery wall. The ceremony was again attended by Standard Bearers and a bugler from the Royal British Legion and, for the first time, was conducted by one of the Friends own Trustees. The 'St. Austell Voice' local newspaper recognised the event with photographs on the front page and further coverage on inside pages.

A number of Trustees attended an event held for volunteer groups by the Cornwall Council organisation 'Cormac' where we heard a fascinating talk on 'Natural Gardening' from an ecological garden designer and networked with many other local groups working on similar regeneration projects to our own.

At one of the general group meetings, Trustees and volunteers were presented with an incredibly detailed and well-researched paper on the history of the Gardens and the old bridge across the river, by two members of the Cornwall Archaeological Society. This was very well received, and the new information will be included in the next edition of the information leaflet.

Other links with the public were made through an organised 'Walk to Menacuddle' by a group from the local Trinty Church; a photoshoot with the Rotary Society in the newly created picnic area; and contact for information from a journalist writing an article about Holy Wells in Cornwall.

3. Eight 'Welly Days' were held throughout 2023 as well as numerous other sessions where small groups of volunteers would work on maintenance and improvement of the site. The main tasks carried out at these sessions were to: Weed and litter-pick around the established plants; mulch the beds and in-fill with plants such as primula and forget-me-nots, as well as countless numbers of bulbs; clear surface weed from the pond; prune shrubs as necessary; treat the picnic benches with wood preserver; and improve access by adding more chippings to the previously laid paths, and removing soil which had accumulated along the access road.

A special volunteer day was arranged as part of the national 'Big Help Out Day' to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III. The event was widely advertised locally, with tea, coffee and cakes provided and a 'Well Wildlife Quiz Sheet' produced for visiting children. Unfortunately the weather was atrocious, with heavy rain for much of the afternoon, but a few hardy souls sheltered under a gazebo for refreshments after planting a *Sorbus vilmorinii* in honour of the new King and carrying out what other tasks they could while dodging the rain.

A contractor was employed to clear the smothering overgrowing laurel from along the river bank to the south of the road bridge and open up the entrance view of the site. The cost was generously covered equally by St. Austell Brewery and Treverbyn Parish Council.

The Charity Commission guidance on public benefit is taken into account when planning all activities.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You may choose to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

The Trustees would like to extend thanks to the volunteers who have given their time and effort over the past year to help in keeping Menacuddle Well the magical place it is. Even an hour or two spent on the site makes a difference, but especial thanks go to the hardened group of 3 who have turned out in all weathers on Welly Days to carry out sterling work that couldn't have been done without them.

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

It is good to report that the majority of the objectives that the Friends set for 2023 were achieved as planned, with just a couple carried over until next year.

A large Wildlife Hotel was constructed in the South Garden next to a new wildflower patch sown with numerous native species to provide food for the hotel residents. The Hotel was provided with accommodation for hedgehogs and other small animals in the base, and with nooks and crannies in the upper compartments suitable for solitary bees (such as Mason and Orchard species), butterflies, bugs, spiders, lacewings etc. The Hotel was topped off with a green roof planted with sedum, which proved hardy enough to survive all that the weather could throw at it throughout the year.

The sustainability of the site was further improved with the donation by Cormac of more large wooden compost containers to enable us to process more plant waste and to produce leaf mould for use in the gardens.

A 5 year plan of action was finalised and shared with Cormac, the representatives of Cornwall Council. This should help us to focus our future efforts, and also means that we can carry out planned actions without having to seek further permission from the Council.

The Gardens continue to improve each year as the flowers, shrubs and trees grow and bloom, and it is always pleasing to see nature developing in its own way – such as with the discovery of a wild white foxglove near the Baptistery. The hundreds of crocuses planted by the Rotarians in 2022 gave beautiful colour at the beginning of the year, and it was good to see the return of the duck and drake to the pond. There were some setbacks when the severe storms suffered in the winter months unfortunately led to the loss of 2 mature rhododendrons; an ash tree was lost to dieback, and a recently planted walnut tree was also lost. The large trees were removed by Cormac and will be replaced as part of the succession planting plan.

Section D

Achievements and performance

The main achievement was, as always, in the positive response of others to the work the Friends of Menacuddle Well are carrying out. This is shown by the ever-increasing numbers of appreciative visitors, especially young families, and also by the award again received in the RHS and SW in Bloom 'It's Your Neighbourhood' Competition of 'Level 5 – Outstanding'.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

£465 of unrestricted cash funds were held in the current account at year end, along with £523 remaining from the Eden Geothermal Community Fund grant. This is in line with the policy to hold between £200 and £1,000 in reserve to cover expenses such as Public Liability Insurance, purchase of plants, equipment and herbicides etc for maintenance of the gardens, and unforeseen expenditure such as repair of damage caused by acts of vandalism.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

Not applicable

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Sufficient funds were held in unrestricted reserves to cover the planting and maintenance work carried out this year, as well as for the purchase of a small rowboat to be used in accessing the pond island and clearing pondweed.

We were very grateful for the continuing support from Cormac throughout the year, particularly for: The donation of a sturdy metal shed with a good selection of gardening tools; the supply and erection of several large wooden compost bins; and a supply of mulch for use in the Gardens.

The clearance of the overgrowing laurel from the riverbank to the south of the Gardens was generously funded by a grant of £600 from Treverbyn Parish Council and £691 from St. Austell Brewery.

The grant awarded in 2021 by the Eden Geothermal project continued to fund work on the paths, and residual funds from the Rotary Club of St Austell grant of 2022 were spent on the Wildlife Hotel and wildflowers.

Section F Other optional information

The main plans for improvements at Menacuddle Well in 2024 are to:

- Work on succession planting to ensure continuation of the legacy of the heritage rhododendrons
- Continue plant infilling, especially beside the river in the North Garden
- Plant the slope and bank above the river in the South Garden with low maintenance plants
- Repair potholes in entrance road
- Consider new print run of the amended information leaflet
- Maintain the river banks by the removal of invasive plant species, replacement of fallen rocks, and planting if required to avoid erosion of the banks.
- Provide small identification labels to enable the public to identify notable plants
- Continue work on improving paths, and soften edges with sympathetic planting
- Maintain and improve high tread areas under picnic benches, the information board, benches etc

Section G Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	K.S.Wellcome	D. May
Full name(s)	Kenneth Wellcome	DEREK MARLEY
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	
Date	6.8.24.	



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name Friends of Menacuddle Well	No (if any) 1170532
--	------------------------

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date 1.1.23.	To	Period end date 31.12.23.
------------------------	------------------------------	----	------------------------------

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					
Grants		1,291	-	1,291	
Donations		-	-	-	124
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	-	1,291	-	1,291	124
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	-	1,291	-	1,291	124
A3 Payments					
Construction of New Paths		246	-	246	1,029
Insurance	83		-	83	63
Flora Planting and Maintenance	263	1,291	-	1,554	972
Info Boards Design and Construction			-	-	
Public Events and Information	25	-	-	25	213
Infrastructure Repair and Maintenance			-	-	
Provision for wildlife	11	-	-	11	74
Sub total	382	1,537	-	1,919	2,351
A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)					
Purchase of Picnic Table + Benches			-	-	668
	-		-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	
Total payments	382	1,537	-	1,919	2,351
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 382	- 246	-	- 628	- 2,227
A5 Transfers between funds			-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	846	770	-	1,616	4,511
Cash funds this year end	464	524	-	988	2,284

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	NatWest Current Account	464	524	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	464	524	-
	(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	Benches	Restricted	1,236	-
	Benches	Unrestricted	423	-
	Picnic Tables	Unrestricted	758	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	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
K. S. Wellcome	Kenneth Wellcome	6.8.24
D. May	DEREK MARLEY	6.8.24