



# Trustees' Annual Report for the period

	Period start date		Period end date
From	1st Jan 2024	To	31st Dec 2024

## 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			
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### 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)

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# 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)**

The main focus of the Friends of Menacuddle Well in 2024 was on maintaining and enhancing the site, now well established after the initial major restoration work of previous years. Five General Meetings were held, normally attended by the Trustees and the representative from our partner organisation 'Cormac'. This was where progress on our objectives was reviewed and plans for future projects discussed.

The main activities carried out in furthering the listed objectives for the public benefit were as below:

1. The condition of the Baptistery and remains of the Leat were monitored, and they were kept clear of weeds, leaves and floodwater as necessary.
2. A talk was given by the Trustees to a local women's fellowship group describing the restoration work carried out at Menacuddle, along with a brief history of the site, and an explanation of the planting ethos and ecological significance of the area. The talk was very well received and introduced Menacuddle Well to a new audience.

The now traditional Remembrance Day Service was held in November, led by one of the Charity Trustees and with the support of standard bearers and a bugler from the local branch of the Royal British Legion. Members of the public and ex-service personnel attended to lay a wreath and sprigs of rosemary at the Baptistery and remember the dead of conflicts through the ages, including Richard Graves-Sawle, in whose honour the Menacuddle Well site was gifted to the people of St Austell by his father in 1921.

Contact was made with the Communications Officer of 'IML and British Lithium', a large locally based mineral extraction company. He visited The Well to meet with the Trustees, take photographs and gather information for use in their internal publications to further spread knowledge of the site.

3. The real work of keeping the gardens attractive and accessible for visiting members of the public was largely carried out at the 'Welly Days' held each month throughout the year. These days were advertised locally and on social media, and volunteers would join the trustees for a few hours of work on a Sunday afternoon in beautiful surroundings. The general tasks completed included weeding, watering and litter picking; pruning and feeding shrubs, trees and hedging; leaf clearing; and planting of 50 Kg of daffodil bulbs, as well as a variety of ferns and flowers. General maintenance work was also carried out, including: keeping the paths and high footfall areas even, free of trip hazards and topped up with wood chippings as necessary; filling potholes in the access road; repairing a damaged drainage pipe under one of the flower beds; and painting wooden garden furniture. A highlight of the year was the launching of our new rowboat: 'The Wendy Earl', named after our founder and inspiration for the restoration project. This was used on numerous occasions to navigate the pond and remove weed from the water and the island.

In November, two of our Trustees participated in a meeting of the 'White River Project'. This is a new initiative involving local councils, environmental groups etc working together to generate a grant application to Cornwall Council to support improvements in the catchment area of the White River, which includes the Menacuddle Well site. The vision is to promote 'Wildlife, Heritage, Healthy Living and Economic Activity', as well as to address the problem of pollution from mining activities in the area. Our hopes of restoring the old riverside walk from the town to Menacuddle Well, and for a new disabled-friendly bridge across to the Baptistery were conveyed to the group.

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.

Volunteers have again made an invaluable contribution to furthering the aims of the Charity in the activities carried out, and it has been a pleasure to welcome two new members to the team this year. The Trustees are extremely grateful for all their help on various 'Welly Days', keeping the gardens looking their best for the increasing numbers of visitors.



**Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year**

Throughout the year we worked to make progress on as many of our planned objectives as possible, and achieved good results in all of them.

The overall planting was enhanced with infilling in all areas of the gardens, including planting many more daffodil bulbs and transferring self-seeded tree ferns to new locations. It is always uplifting to see the daffodils and crocuses bursting into bloom after the long cold winter before other plants start to flower! Access was also improved with the filling of potholes in the entrance road, and ongoing maintenance of the paths and high footfall areas around the picnic tables and information board.

We were delighted to be recognised by the Imerys Charity Fund, who generously gave us a donation to cover the cost of printing a new edition of the information leaflets, a plaque to mark the King's Coronation Tree planted last year as a companion to the Queen's Jubilee Tree, and new specimen trees to be purchased in 2025.

Menacuddle Well continued to receive media coverage in recognition of the restoration work completed when it was listed in The Guardian newspaper 'Walking Guide' as one of the Top Ten of 'Britain's Most Mystical Sites', following its inclusion in the book 'Magical Britain' by Rob Wildwood.

Following the judging stage in the annual RHS and SW in Bloom 'It's Your Neighbourhood' competition, the Gardens were again given an award of 'Level 5 – Outstanding'. The judge gave very complimentary feedback, stating that it is 'A truly outstanding area, rescued and maintained by an admirable group of volunteers' and adding 'This area is one of Cornwall's gems'. It is always incredibly rewarding to get this kind of response to the Gardens from visitors new and old, both local and from further afield, as awareness of the site increases; and this year we were especially pleased to welcome a young man from Beijing who came to St Austell specifically to see Menacuddle Well after being recommended by his friends!

## Section E

## Financial review

### Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

£567 of unrestricted cash funds were held in the current account at year end, along with £265 remaining from the Imerys Charitable Donation Fund. 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.

The Trustees would like to extend their gratitude to the 'Imerys Charitable Donation Fund' for their award of £625 which enabled us to print a new edition run of the information leaflet, install a plaque to mark the King's Coronation tree and cover the cost of specimen trees to be planted in the spring of 2025. This was an essential addition to our reserve funds in enabling us to carry out the planned works for the year.

Our thanks also go to Cormac for their ongoing support, and supply of a length of pipe to aid in repairing a broken drain; as well as to the unknown donor who deposited a load of wood chippings for use around the gardens.

## Section F

## Other optional information

The main plans for improvements at Menacuddle Well in 2025 are to:

- Stabilise and maintain the river banks by the removal of invasive plant species, replacement of fallen rocks, and further planting, if required, to avoid erosion. Also, to clear fallen branches and litter from the river as necessary.
- Label interesting/important specimen plants at the site to provide botanical information for education of the public.
- Ensure the heritage of the site by succession planting of additional *Rhododendron arboreum*, and planting further specimen trees as appropriate
- Repair worn grassed areas at the picnic site with Geotech grids and gravel infill.

**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. Wellcome	D. May
Full name(s)	Ken Wellcome	DEREK MARLEY
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	TREASURER
Date	5. 8. 25.	





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	To	Period end date
	1.1.24.		31.12.24.

### 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>					
Grants			-	-	1,291
Donations		625	-	625	
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	-	625	-	625	1,291
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total receipts</b>	-	625	-	625	1,291
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Construction of New Paths			-	-	246
Insurance	107		-	107	83
Flora Planting and Maintenance	98		-	98	1,554
Info Boards Design and Construction			-	-	
Public Events and Information	99	361	-	460	25
Infrastructure Repair and Maintenance	17		-	17	
Provision for wildlife		-	-	-	11
<b>Sub total</b>	321	361	-	682	1,919
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
Purchase of Rowboat	100		-	100	
	-		-	-	
<b>Sub total</b>	100	-	-	100	
<b>Total payments</b>	421	361	-	782	1,919
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	- 421	264	-	157	628
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	523	523	-	-	-
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	464	524	-	988	2,284
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	566	265	-	831	1,656



## 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	566	265	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>566</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>-</b>
	(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	-
	Rowboat	Unrestricted	100	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	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. Wollicome	Ken Wollicome	5.8.25
D. May	DEREK MARLEY	5.8.25