

**Let's Get Growing Ltd.**

**Annual Report and Unaudited Financial Statements**

**1 December 2023 to 30 November 2024**

**Let's Get Growing Ltd.****Company Information****Directors**

Mrs Eileen Ewen  
Mrs Elizabeth Hume  
Ms Nuala O'Brien  
Dr. Ruth Briel

**Secretary**

Katrina Padmore

**Company Number**

7287776

**Charity Registration Number** 1172662

**Registered Office**

Steel Farm Cottage  
Steel  
Hexham  
Northumberland  
NE47 0LG

**Bankers**

The Co-operative Bank  
PO Box 250  
Delf House  
Skelmersdale  
WN8 6WT

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## **Let's Get Growing Ltd.**

### **Directors' Report**

**1 December 2023 – 30 November 2024**

The Directors present their report and the financial statements for 1 December 2023 to 30 November 2024

#### **Objectives and activities**

##### **Purposes**

The purposes of Let's Get Growing, as set out in our Articles of Association are:-

- To assist in the treatment and care of persons suffering from physical and mental illness of any description or in need of rehabilitation as a result of such illness, in Hexham and the surrounding areas, by the provision of therapeutic gardening and horticulture.
- To advance the education of the public, in particular, but not exclusively, young people in the subject of horticulture and related practices.

We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when setting our aims and objectives and in planning our future activities.

##### **Activities**

In the financial year ending 30 November 2024, Let's Get Growing provided the following services:-

- Our regular twice weekly gardening therapy sessions at Minsteracres Peace Garden (working with adults aged 20 – 80+ yrs experiencing a range of mental and physical health difficulties, including depression, anxiety, PTSD, bi-polar disorder, dementia and mild learning difficulties) remained open throughout the period and well-b
- Additional one-off therapeutic garden workshops for a range of groups of all ages, including addicts in recovery, homeless people, carers, refugees and asylum seekers were expanded to include more groups.

##### **Achievements and Performance**

- Our gardening therapy sessions thrived, with significant benefits for participants who attended, reflected in feedback from both them and their carers/families.
- We continued to focus on supporting mental health and well-being, and promoting personal self-esteem and social confidence, with new participants joining us very successfully after having been significantly isolated at home through mental ill-health.
- We also continued to support people with dementia through to the latter stages of their illness, which we feel is a particular strength of the project, which successfully provides mental stimulation, physical exercise and friendship which might otherwise be absent for these participants.
- We once again combined a small subsidised veg box scheme, open to those attending gardening sessions, with selling produce to the Angel Inn in Corbridge, despite a tricky growing year in the Peace Garden as a consequence of the weather conditions, in particular a very cold late spring.
- As well as outings to Wheelbirks, we again used funds to put on some special barbeque lunches in the garden, including salads made with garden produce and puddings using our own home-grown fruit.

These were a great success and offered an excellent way to provide a treat in a familiar environment where we could comfortably meet everyone's support needs.

- We hosted a very successful summer open day in the garden, which was a great way to show people what we do. Participant-led drama and singing provided entertainment and we all enjoyed tea and cake together.
- We ran an increased number of additional one-off sessions in the garden for a range of other beneficiary groups of all ages, from children to adults. Feedback from these sessions was very positive and heart-warming. This work requires imagination, skill and flexibility, as these diverse and sometimes challenging groups often require a high level of support.
- All of this was made possible by a skilled and committed team of staff and volunteers. A solid long-standing volunteer group was boosted by an additional volunteer during the course of the year. As well as formal volunteer meetings to explore safeguarding and the needs of individual participants in depth, there is always an informal space before gardening sessions, when volunteers can chat and raise concerns. In addition, the co-ordinators continued to provide one-to-one time for each volunteer to discuss how they are getting along and any further guidance or training needed.
- We continued to prioritise teaching organic growing skills and planting to create bio-diversity.
- The whole garden, including the extensive ornamental areas, were lovingly maintained to provide a beautiful, therapeutic space, not just for those attending gardening therapy sessions, but also for the local community at large.
- Inspired by the challenging weather through 2024, we began the process of fundraising for a new large polytunnel to provide a year-round growing and work space whatever the weather conditions outside. This was kick-started by a sponsored walk with the whole gardening group, which raised a fantastic £2,000. We also plan to create a new large full-height raised bed to enable those with mobility issues to enjoy gardening with ease.
- In addition to our website, we maintained an ongoing instagram presence, with participants, volunteers and staff able to share photos of memorable moments in and around the garden, capturing something of the diversity and humour of what happens here. We appreciate the ability this provides to stay connected with all our friends and supporters.

### Financial review

The principal income sources for Let's Get Growing are from participant contributions for regular gardening therapy sessions, produce sales and additional one-off therapeutic workshops, as well as from funding from charitable trusts and private donations. The breakdown by percentage of all our income sources in this accounting period is shown below.

INCOME SOURCE	%
Participant contributions	50
Produce sales	4
Additional one-off workshops	6.5
Private donations and GiftAid	8.5
Charitable grants	31

We are grateful to Boundary Lane Wind Farm and the National Lottery Community Fund for charitable funding.

We are also very grateful for the generosity of individual one-off and regular donors. Especial thanks to all these, including two of our volunteer team who raised £578, plus £136 GiftAid through JustGiving, in doing a sponsored microlight flight.

We remain committed to providing free or subsidised places to those who can benefit from the project, but who are unable to access statutory funding and do not have private means. Mostly this seems to be those with mental health difficulties who are living on benefits and are not eligible for a personal budget. We anticipate that we shall therefore require some charitable funding into the future to accommodate this aim, as well as to support the work of the organisation as a whole.

At the end of the reporting period, Let's Get Growing carried forward £36,130 restricted charitable funding allocated to the Minsteracres gardening therapy project, to be spent during the next financial year.

### **Structure, Governance and Management**

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 17 June 2010 and registered as a charity on 20 April 2017. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £10.

There are currently four directors on the board. The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law and, under the company's Articles, are known as members of the Management Committee. Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, one third of the members of the Management Committee must retire at each Annual General Meeting and may stand for re-election if desired.

The Management Committee seeks to ensure that the needs of this group are appropriately reflected through the diversity of the trustee body, which now includes a retired head teacher, retired social worker, retired communications manager and retired psychiatrist.

All members of the Management Committee give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the charity.

The directors who served during the year are as stated below:-

Mrs Eileen Ewen      Ms Nuala O'Brien  
Mrs Elizabeth Hume   Dr. Ruth Briel

This report was approved by the Board on ..... 2025 and signed on its behalf by

..... *E. Hume* .....

**Elizabeth Hume**

**Chair**

..... *E. Ewen* .....

**Eileen Ewen**

**Director**

## Let's Get Growing Ltd.

**Statement of Financial Activities**  
**From 1 December 2023 to 30 November 2024**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>2023/2024</b>	<b>2022/2023</b>
INCOME	5,125	73,771	78,896	70,174
Direct expenditure	5,603	58,521	64,124	60,537
	<b>-478</b>	<b>15,250</b>	<b>14,772</b>	<b>9,637</b>
Administrative Expenses	0	6,693	6,693	6,265
Building Costs	0	0	0	0
	<b>-478</b>	<b>8,557</b>	<b>8,079</b>	<b>3,372</b>
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>				
Unpaid wages	0	0	0	0
<b>Net income</b>	<b>-478</b>	<b>8,557</b>	<b>8,079</b>	<b>3,372</b>
<b>Funds b/f as at 1 Dec 2023</b>	<b>1,794</b>	<b>27,572</b>	<b>29,366</b>	<b>25,994</b>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>1,316</b>	<b>36,129</b>	<b>37,445</b>	<b>29,366</b>

*M. Weatherley*

**Let's Get Growing Ltd.**  
**Balance Sheet as at 30 November 2024**

	2023/2024 £	2022/2023 £
<b>Current assets</b>		
Bank Current Account	37,446	25,994
<b>Total current assets</b>	<u>37,446</u>	<u>25,994</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	0	0
<b>Total net assets</b>	<u>37,446</u>	<u>25,994</u>

**Capital and reserves**

	2023/2024	2022/2023
Called up share capital	0	0
Income and expenditure account	37,446	25,994
<b>Total members funds</b>	<u>37,446</u>	<u>25,994</u>

**Directors' Statements**

For the accounting period ended 30 November 2023, the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the micro-entity provisions and delivered in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

*E. Hume*

Elizabeth Hume  
Chair

*E. H. Ewen*

Eileen Ewen  
Director

**Let's Get Growing Ltd.****Notes to the financial statements  
For the period 1 December 2023 to 30 November 2024****1. Accounting policies****1.1. Accounting convention**

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards, and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities 2015.

**1.2. Turnover**

Turnover represents the total invoice value, excluding value added tax, of sales made during the year and derives from the provision of services falling within the company's ordinary activities, wholly undertaken within the UK.

**2. Company limited by guarantee**

The company is limited by guarantee. Every member of the Company undertakes to contribute such amount as may be required (not exceeding £10) to the Company's assets if it should be wound up while they are a member, or within one year after ceasing to be a member, for payment of the Company's debts and liabilities contracted before ceasing to be a member, and of the costs, charges and expenses of winding up, and for the adjustment of the rights of the contributories among themselves. If the Company is wound up or dissolved and after all its debts and liabilities have been satisfied there remains any property it shall not be paid to, or distributed among the members of the Company, but shall be given or transferred to some other Company or charities having similar objects which prohibit the distribution of its income and property, directly or indirectly, by way of dividend, bonus or otherwise by way of profit, to members of the Company

**3. Controlling interest**

In the opinion of the directors the company is under no controlling interest.

## Let's Get Growing Ltd.

## 4. Detailed income and expenditure account for the period 1 December 2023 to 30 November 2024

Income	1 Dec 2023 - 30 Nov 2024		
	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total
<b>Grants:</b>			
Boundary Lane Wind Farm	5,000.00	0.00	0.00
National Lottery Community Fund	19,550.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Grants</b>	<b>24,550.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>24,550.00</b>
<b>Donations</b>	<b>5,687.24</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>5,687.24</b>
<b>Participant contributions</b>	<b>38,933.10</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>38,933.10</b>
<b>Produce sales:</b>			
Veg box scheme	1,103.00	0.00	1,103.00
Other produce sales	1,981.63	0.00	1,981.63
<b>Total Produce sales</b>	<b>3,084.63</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>3,084.63</b>
<b>Garden project fees</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>5,125.00</b>	<b>5,125.00</b>
<b>Building rental</b>	<b>440.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>440.00</b>
<b>Sundry</b>	<b>96.78</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>96.78</b>
<b>GiftAid</b>	<b>979.53</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>979.53</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>73,771.28</b>	<b>5,125.00</b>	<b>78,896.28</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
<b>Direct Expenditure:</b>			
Project management fees	45,353.59	4,180.03	49,533.62
Garden materials	6,503.35	622.59	7,125.94
Participant transport	6,381.00	0.00	6,381.00
Participant outings/BBQ's	283.25	0.00	283.25
Project management fees refund	0.00	800.00	800.00
	<b>58,521.19</b>	<b>5,602.62</b>	<b>64,123.81</b>
<b>Administration Expenses :</b>			
Admin/accounting fees	5,719.40	0.00	5,719.40
Printing	0.00	0.00	0.00
Stationery/Postage	142.74	0.00	142.74
Companies House	34.00	0.00	34.00
Insurance	661.40	0.00	661.40
Website	135.00	0.00	135.00
Sundry	0.00	0.00	0.00
	<b>6,692.54</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>6,692.54</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>65,213.73</b>	<b>5,602.62</b>	<b>70,816.35</b>
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Retained surplus from period</b>	<b>8,557.55</b>	<b>-477.62</b>	<b>8,079.93</b>
<b>Funds b/f as at 1 Dec 2023</b>	<b>27,572.11</b>	<b>1,793.67</b>	<b>29,365.78</b>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>36,129.66</b>	<b>1,316.05</b>	<b>37,445.71</b>

