

STEPHEN COX GARDEN TRUST

England & Wales · Charity number 1174239

Details

Other names	Arcadiana Garden Trust, MID WESSEX GARDEN TRUST, SBC GARDEN TRUST, STEPHEN BEN COX GARDEN TRUST, STEPHEN COX GARDEN, The Conservation Garden Trust
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2017-08-14
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	84 Studley Lane Studley Calne SN11 9NH
Phone	01249812968
Email	stephencox.gardentrust@gmail.com
Website	https://stephencoxgarden.webador.co.uk

Activities

Objects: 1. TO ADVANCE EDUCATION IN THE SUBJECTS OF HORTICULTURE AND CONSERVATION IN PARTICULAR BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY BY PROVIDING STUDY COURSES, TRAINING PLACEMENTS AND WORKSHOPS.2. SUCH CHARITABLE PURPOSES FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT AS ARE EXCLUSIVELY CHARITABLE ACCORDING TO THE LAWS OF ENGLAND AND WALES AS THE TRUSTEES MAY FROM TIME TO TIME DETERMINE.

Activities: 1. To advance horticulture & conservation education in particular but not exclusively by means of: videos; library; public literature; research; mentoring; publishing; websites; student placements; teaching; garden.2. Such charitable purposes for the public benefit as are exclusively charitable according to the laws of England & Wales as the trustees may from time to time determine

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Provides Human Resources, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Environment/conservation/heritage, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Germany
- Bath And North East Somerset
- Devon
- Dorset
- Gloucestershire
- North Somerset
- Oxfordshire
- South Gloucestershire
- Swindon
- West Berkshire
- Wiltshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-09-30	£3,829	£3,596	-	-
2024-09-30	£615	£2,705	-	-
2023-09-30	£2,803	£7,234	-	-
2022-09-30	£9,521	£2,686	-	-
2021-09-30	£2,361	£3,968	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
STEPHEN BEN COX B.A.	Chair	2017-03-20
COLETTE SOM		2017-03-24
David Meier		2018-08-09
NICHOLAS SELF		2017-04-03
Ryan Miller		2018-04-25
Simon Kerstan		2018-05-03

STEPHEN COX GARDEN TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1174239

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date			Period end date				
From	01 st .	October	2024	To	30 th .	September	2025

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name	Stephen Cox Garden Trust
Other names charity is known by	Mid-Wessex Garden Trust; Stephen Cox Trust, SBC Garden Trust
Registered charity number (if any)	1174239
Charity's principal address	84, Studley Lane, Studley, nr. Calne, Wiltshire Postcode SN11 9NH

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	Stephen Ben Cox	C.E.O./chair/ Founder		
2	Colette Som			
3	Nicholas Self			
4	Simon Kerstan	Publisher & Assistant Director		
5	David Meier			
6	Ryan Miller			
7				
8				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				

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)

Stephen Ben Cox

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	By majority approval of all Trustees via e-mail proposal from C.E.O./Founder.

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.

1. The Trust has a wide range of policies with regards to such matters as: Risk Assessment; Student Welfare; Health & Safety; Accidents; etc (14 documents in all). The student receives a written copy of all of these as part of our detailed Induction Programme prior to commencing any studies, training or volunteering with the Trust.
2. Four times a year (31Dec/31 Mar/30 June/30 Sept) the Trustees receive from the Founder Trustee/CEO a detailed Report on the activities of the Trust.
3. Covid19: The Trustees and CEO kept in mind Government guidelines regarding teaching and visitors in all its activities.
4. Whilst the overall quantity and range of provision of charitable services has gradually increased, the Trust keeps in mind the relative balance between online/remote provision and on-site provision. Where appropriate it increases the former according to the resources available in terms of finances/donations etc and manpower. (It is also cognisant of the necessity to not undermine the CEO's state of health)

Section C Objectives and activities

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

- (i) To advance horticulture & conservation education in particular but not exclusively by means of: videos; library; public literature; research; mentoring; publishing; websites; student placements; teaching; garden. 2. Such charitable purposes for the public benefit as are exclusively charitable according to the laws of England & Wales as the trustees may from time to time determine.
- (ii) Such charitable purposes for the public benefit as are exclusively charitable according to the laws of England and Wales as the trustees may from time to time determine.

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)

Trustees kept in mind the Charity Commission’s guidance on public benefit when planning our activities for the year. As a matter of course, reference was made to our agreed objectives to aid decision-making. The main activities undertaken for the public benefit were as follows:

1. Public information & guidance via its own three websites, its own YouTube channel, & Google website, and Google notices & news + on the following media platforms: FaceBook, LinkedIn, Xing/, Instagram, & other professional networking media.
2. Provision of residential educational placements all year round for foreign students especially from the E.U., staying for around 30 days each.
3. Making available information sheets, guides etc on conservation, wildlife to the general public.
4. Offering access to the library for local students; and to post-graduate scholars.
5. Student Manager conservation remote roles for students from 7 UK universities.
6. As and when manpower, finance and circumstance permit offering private group visits.
7. Similarly: group bookings by gardening clubs/women’s’ institutes etc.
8. Similarly: training/study opportunities for young unemployed.
9. Offering the garden for supervised visits by pupils of local schools for projects/study.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

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

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

10. Residential Student Volunteer programme (E.U) assist garden improvement increasing enjoyment students, visitors, disadvantaged, elderly. Also interact with the community. gain skills. They come to the Trust for tuition/study holiday/language improvement/life and skills enhancement/work experience and were given free board and lodge. Each student stays for between 2 and 6 weeks.
11. Association with Wiltshire County Council Unit for young adults with learning difficulties: providing a resource for building skills & confidence under carer supervision.
12. Mentoring: The Trust provides aspects of mentoring to 23 of its past residential student volunteers to support their ongoing (e.g. university or vocational) education and/or career development.
13. Making educational videos on conservation/wildlife/climate change which are made publicly available via our YouTube Channel.
14. Creation of research documents on climate change/conservation/wildlife etc in an immense range of subjects.
15. Student Trips to places of historical, cultural and scientific interest.
16. Book Publishing (educational): horticulture, well-being, conservation. heritage. Initially as e-books Rolling programme of new titles each year.

17. Quarterly Magazine on the activities, projects, programmes of the Trust for benefit of: the Trustees, past students, current students, sponsors & donors, associated educational bodies, supporters.

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

1. FOREIGN STUDENTS RESIDENTIAL PLACEMENTS

Residential placements were continued for foreign students to come to stay with us for study/language improvement/work and skills enhancement, life adventure etc. They came from: GERMANY, AUSTRIA, SWITZERLAND, FRANCE, NETHERLANDS FINLAND..

There was also the return of past students from Germany and Finland.

It has been of value to the local community, to international friendship and understanding. They also improved their English; completed their designated abroad placements required by their respective universities. They also often made their university applications whilst here. And were able to explore England, get out of their comfort zone and broaden their horizons in life.

Places are now being offered as from March 2026.

2. BOOK PUBLISHING

The Trust has initiated a project to engage in additional public education and welfare: book publishing.

This is made possible by the support of a company in Germany who will undertake e-publishing for the Trust.

A series of books is planned to assist public understanding of such matters as:

conservation, gardening, well-being, ecological landscaping, design.

The two books "The Water Gardener" and "The Well Being Gardener" (both written by the founder, Stephen Ben Cox) were delayed for technical reasons and will now be released and are due for public release early in 2025.

The third book, The Happy Gardener is now approaching completion.

A fourth book: "The Healthy Gardener" is now well advanced

A fifth book: "The Spiritual Gardener" dealing with the gardening ethos and approach found in Taoism, Islam, Buddhism, Shinto, Christian monasteries, as well as the English Romantic style and other traditions is now also being written.

And a sixth book "The Heritage Gardener" has been started.

3. ONE WEEK EDUCATION STUDIES CORNWALL

With one of our former German students together with representatives of our German sponsors 7 days research and studies in Cornwall and Exmoor relating to botanical, historical, horticultural, geological and heritage analysis and visits. This included several coastal treks, visits to the Eden Project, and to the Pinetum Gardens, Pendennis Castle, St. Michael's Mount,.

4. CONSERVATION VIDEOS

The Trust has developed its own YouTube video channel and is now actively producing videos for public education in the arenas of: conservation, climate change, habitat protection & restoration, pollution, wildlife endangered species. This also involves the active participation of students at various universities in the UK and abroad.

The Founder produced the text, audio and photographs.

Several more videos are in pre-production planning.

The Trust channel at YouTube is:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UckYY9eJhV8SLIY8iVwnKG1Q>

5. QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

The Trust Quarterly Magazine underwent expansion and redesign. Additional to the activities, projects, programmes of the Trust for it now includes previous of forthcoming Trust book publications, guidance notes on well-being/garden tips/conservation for the benefit of: the Trustees, past students, current students, sponsors & donors, associated educational bodies, supporters. It also includes feedback form over 21 past foreign residential students, and notes on: new videos produced, eds, new books publishing, garden improvement, library expansion, conservation projects with UK universities student, links with Wiltshire Special Education Unit, educational visits.

6. E.U. STUDENT SUPPORT:

Ongoing mentoring/guidance given to 21 of our past residential student volunteers for their university studies/career etc in their home countries. Re-visits to the Trust by some of them. And they send feedback on their lives and studies for the Trust Quarterly Magazine/Report.

7. U.K. UNIVERSITIES

Links continued and were expanded with several U.K. Universities student union internship/volunteering/community portals. Trust profiles have been published. Several volunteering jobs in the areas of Multi-Media, Video production, Conservation, Wildlife were published with U.K. universities. These included:

University of Bath; Bristol University; Bath Spa University; and University of the West of England; Oxford University, Southampton University. Bournemouth University.

Over 50 students volunteered with the Trust this year.

8. GRASSES GARDEN

Which includes Cordylines and Phormiums. This has now undergone extensive refurbishment requiring removal of large overgrown Pampas Grass. Then installation/planting of: a range of Sedums; Oleander; Lavender; new Grasses; Catananche;

9. PUBLIC INFORMATION & GUIDANCE & EDUCATION

- (i) Conservation research articles by student managers
- (ii) On social media platforms (LinkedIn; Facebook; Xing; Instagram; Google for Business.
- (iii). And our three Websites.
- (iii) Provision/offer of guide sheets and reference on wildlife; animal habitats; conservation; organic gardening, pollinating planting.
- (iv) Videos on climate change, conservation, wildlife.
- (v) Writing of several books for public release in 2024.

10. STUDENT EXCURSIONS

The Trust is now also helping its foreign students by organising cultural excursions around England and Wales. This year these were: Aveburyhenge; Bath; Gloucester; Calne; Salisbury; Exmouth; Cardiff; London; Weymouth; Winchester; Chippenham; Oxford; Wells; Malmesbury; Castle Combe, Bristol; Marlborough; Lynmouth; Polperro; Mevagissey; Pendennis Castle; Porth Levan; Charlestown; Mousehole; Falmouth; Minehead; Lansallos; Perranporth; St. Austell; Helston; The Lizard; Mullion Cove; Pinetum Gardens; Bude; Lynmouth; Minehead; St. Michael's Mount; Porthcurno; Brean Down

Headland; Malmesbury; Lacock; Cheddar Gorge. Clevedon. Sand Bay.

This opportunity for our students has also been enhanced by the generosity of a Trust supporter who allows the use of his car.

11. **E.U. STUDENTS CONSERVATION MANAGERS**

The Trust is now investigating the possibility of expanding the student manager roles and opportunities to other countries (in the E.U.). Initially discussions are taking place with German students.

12. **PROMOTION**

- (i) Improvement of our main website Garden Trust (webnode)
- (ii) 'Workaway' website profile and four other student traveller sites.
- (iii) Various local directories.
- (iv) Google listing & Google website
- (v) YouTube Channel .
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UcKY9eJhV8SLIY8iVwnKG1Q>
- (vi) LinkedIn
- (vii) Xing.
- (viii) FaceBook
- (ix) Instagram
- (x) <https://philomathes5.webnode.page/> (education website)
- (xi) A website is being produced by a German publisher to promote the books being written by Stephen Cox (the Trust's Founder).

13. **UNIVERSITY MANAGERS- HABITATS AND WILDLIFE**

There are several categories each with various subjects. Each manager chooses a category and they proceed to write articles in that category. The appointments last for one academic year and is renewable:

- (A) Species (12 subjects); (B) How to Make Animal Houses (5 subjects)
- (C) Soil (7 subjects). (D) Planting (5 subjects). (E) Water (5 subjects)
- (F) Feeding/Foraging Routes/Wildlife Corridors (6 subjects).
- (G) Conservation For Children (4 subjects)
- (H) Recycling/Renewables (8 subjects)
- (I) Wild Spaces & Habitats (5 subjects)
- (J) Wildlife & Organic Gardening (9 subjects)

Neither the categories nor the range of subjects are exhaustive and are always being expanded. Students retain copyright of their work but the Trust has full rights of archiving/publishing etc. Students managers are given accreditation for their work and testimonials/ reports/feedback is provided

14. **WILTSHIRE COUNCIL EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES**

Working with the Wiltshire Council Unit for adults with learning difficulties & other disabilities (e.g. autism, Downes syndrome etc) with their carers) providing placements to enable them to gain work experience and improve skills and confidence and offer parent respite. Currently two mornings a week. We have taken on two additional clients.

15. UNIVERSITY MANAGERS CONSERVATION

There are several categories each with various subjects. Each manager chooses a category and then proceed to write articles in that category. The appointments last for one academic year and is renewable:

(A) Mitigation measures.(15 subjects) (B) Renewable energy advantages/impacts. (13 subjects)
 (C) Re-wilding. (10 subjects) (D) Landscape restoring/protection/wildlife enhancement. (17 subjects) (E) Threats to species. Extinction. Climate Change(13 subjects). (F) Individual species/threats/decline(15 subjects). (G) Damage to migration routes/breeding. (11 subjects) (H) Well being & nature. Housing etc (15 subjects). (I) Loss/damage of Habitats/special landscapes. (10 subjects) (J) Pollution (12 subjects).
 (K)Circular Economy. (7 subjects) (L) Landscape/Environment (15 subjects) (M) Landscape re-wilding (17 subjects) (N) Pollution Costs (11 subjects) (O) Oceans & Waterways (20 subjects) (P) Landscape & Economy Impacts (12 subjects)

Neither the categories nor the range of subjects are exhaustive and are always being expanded. Students retain copyright of their work but the Trust has full rights of archiving/publishing etc. Students managers are given accreditation for their work and testimonials/reports/feedback is provided

16. LIBRARY:

Modest expansion of the Library in the areas of conservation, heritage, gardening, design, architecture. Ongoing offer to local students for their studies, and to university and to post-graduate scholars for research.

17. PEDAGOGY

The Trust has continued to develop its unique educational philosophy based on the ethos and teachings of its Founder. This might be termed a version of humanist education: though not constrained by the theories, and delimitation or prejudice of what can sometimes be inherent in the term 'humanism'. The philosophy combines the best of teaching traditions and developments of the past with the experience, innovations and unique approach of the Founder over many years to yield this unique practical form of education to arm young people to:

(i) fulfil their individual potential and a full and meaningful life (ii) improve and serve their community (iii) seek and practice innovation, improvement and high ideals and standards in life (iv) cherish the planet, wildlife and the environment and (v) to become model citizens.

(ii) This is explained in our humanist education website Philomathes. (<https://philomathes5.webnode.page/>)

18. PAST STUDENTS:

Twenty-four past residential volunteers from around Europe are staying in regular contact with the Founder and also write a quarterly report for the Trustees and Friends of the Trust (in its Quarterly Magazine/Report) about the progress of their university courses and life in general since the completion of their residential study placements with our Trust. Some of our past students returned. At their invitation the Founder visited some of its past German students.

19. SCHLOSS MÜNSTER BOTANICAL GARDENS

Thanks to German sponsorship, there was a visit to the botanical gardens at the Prince Bishop's Castle in Münster. Severely damaged during World War II, and its greenhouses destroyed. Since restored. Maintained by University. It contains: 8,000 species, including a major collection of 230 of 280 known Pelargonium species; 10 greenhouses/2,000 m²; artificial stream, meadow; a medicinal garden. A garden with plants from the Alps & Pyrenees; Arboretum; birch-oak forest; Tilia-beech trees, Australia and New Zealand plants; Mediterranean plants (kept in the orangery in cold months); Moor and heath. Systematic garden of seed plants, Tropical house. Victoria House, Cottage Garden from the 1900s, featuring vegetables and herbs. The garden contains a good selection of rare and mature tree specimens in its arboretum, including orange trees that are over 200 years old.

20. VIDEOS PRODUCED IN CURRENT YEAR

Video production is now a major part of the Trust's educational work.

Greening The City

Since the late Neolithic the city was never planned it happened anarchically. It is creeping across the entire planet. This video proposes that the city must grow upwards: •produce its own food, •submerged transport, •roads becoming wildlife & public havens •renewable energy •designated community identities •waterways, lagoons. •green sky boulevards

Editor: Adam Mirreh UWE. Creator/Narrator: Stephen Ben Cox

You and the Wildside

Addresses depletion of Nature in UK and decline of 97% of wildflower meadows & 93% of invertebrate species in only 80yrs. Humble gardens can assist renewal. Outlines ways householders can restore local habitat.

An excerpt from the book by Stephen Ben Cox: The Conservation Gardener.

Editor: Adam Mirreh UWE. Creator/Narrator: Stephen Ben Cox

Et in Arcadia Ego

Via the painting by Nicolas Poussin (1594 – 1665) of the same name (and various other artists across the centuries) this video assesses the mystery of the phrase and the loss of the vision and hope of man in harmony with nature and proposes its renewal for a modern age to overcome hubris, lost opportunities and fulfil our potential.

Editor: Celeste Dadd (Bath Spa University)

Author/Narrator: Stephen Ben Cox

Extinction

Examines the triggers and dangers of the 6th Great Mass Extinction Event which has already begun and what is needed to arrest its cataclysmic result for all wildlife and the human. The Anthropocene Age has unravelled the normal planetary flows, self renewal and balance. Clear facts are given about the collapse of life renewal and evolution

Written & narrated by Stephen Ben Cox

Editing/Music: Freya Malone. (Bath Spa university)

21. EDUCATIONAL INNOVATION IN THE TRUST MAGAZINE

A new feature was launched in the quarterly magazine. These are 5 guides/help/how to/education items written by the founder in 5

categories:

History: gardeners, movements, philosophers. Innovations, styles, etc.

Well-Being : How to overcome fatigue, illness, strengthen mind and body, reduce mental health problems, gain insights and understanding into nature.

Garden Tips: Best practice for organic gardening, cuttings, pollinating, design, composting, harvesting.

Conservation: life living and gardening in an ecological friendly manner to improve one's life and help the planet.

Spirituality: Garden traditions including monastic Christian, Taoism, Islam, Buddhism, Confucian, Shinto and how they can be used to enrich our modern day lives and gardening.

22. WILDLIFE HABITATS IN THE TRUST GARDENS

As part of the ongoing programme to continuously update and improve the conservation, wildlife habitats, and enhancement in the garden. Several new bug hotels have been purchased and these have been installed in the garden along the high fence to the north. Together with hotels previously installed there is now quite a collection (bat boxes, bee boxes, many bird boxes, many bug hotels).

There are many options and of designs and suppliers people can choose from and advice is available from the Trust.

23. VISIT TO THE EDEN PROJECT

Housing many thousands of plant species from around the world. Created from a disused quarry starting 1998, are a series of bio-domes of specific climates in which can be protected researched and reproduced plants of the world to help future planetary restoration. It is a remarkable place to walk around wherein one is overcome and enthralled by having hands on sensation with biological and botanical atmospheres from around the world. It sits 15m below the surrounding water table!

The larger of the two biomes The Rainforest Biome (one of the largest indoor rainforests in the world): 1.56 ha (3.9 acres) measures 55 m (180 ft) high, 100 m (328 ft) wide, and 200 m (656 ft). The second The Mediterranean Biome covers 0.654 ha (1.6 acres) and measures 35 m (115 ft) high, 65 m (213 ft) wide, and 135 m (443 ft) long. Outside Temperate botanical garden home to many plants and wildlife native to Cornwall and the UK; and many that provide an important backstory, e.g. those with a prehistoric heritage.

The Core provides an education facility, with classrooms, exhibition spaces designed to help communicate Eden's central message about the relationship between people and plants.

Regional 'Edens' are now being recreated all over the UK., and also in New Zealand and China. In 2016, Eden became home to Europe's second-largest redwood forest.

24. TWO YEAR RESTORATION PROGRAMME

The garden has started is 2 year refurbishment programme. So far completed:

- Beach arbour repaired & repainted
- Veg garden arch repaired & repainted
- 3 Steel tubes fountain pump upgraded
- Pool area Arch & gate repainted
- Beach arch repainted
- Two areas of wet rot summerhouse rear wall cut out, treated spliced.
- Entry fountains interior sealed leaks

Section D

Achievements and performance

- 2nd Stone column added Heathers
- 20 electric spike mole deterrents
- Fruitarium arbour repaired/repainted
- 3Steel tubes fountain pump replaced.
- Pond Koi statue found pump replaced
- Summerhouse interior re-organised
- Waterfall pools (3) cleared of debris/sludge. Leaks checked.
- Exotics patio walls repainted
- 3 pond pumps replaced
- main pond pump hose splits repaired.
- Roof and gutter and leaks to gymnasium; repairs entire length.
- 16 new plants added to Alpine garden
- Conifer arch blue.
- Woodland arch?
- repainting Hideaway arch
- new pump and cable Neptune fountain?

25. GARDEN ELECTRICS & WATER FEATURES

Some major problems had to be dealt with:

- Splits 14 m length underground hose dug up repaired buried.
- 4 pond pumps for fountains repaired/replaced: Neptune, Nymph, Koi, fan spray.
- Also fountain pump & 14 m cable to Herb garden replaced.
- Large 3 tier fountains (5 of) refurbished.
- Replace 3 p.i.r lanterns

Overall, across the garden there is a wide range and number of electrical installations. These are:

- (a) Power: multi-socket power points x9.
- (b) Fountains: free standing= 13.
- (c) Pond & waterfall pools=7
- (d) Cables & water hoses
- (e) P.i.r lanterns =16
- (f) Water pumps=20

This has proceeded simultaneously with the two year refurbishment programme of landscaping and planting.

Section D ends.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The reserve fund (Savings Account) which was created for emergencies continues and has not been used. This now stands at: **£825. 30p** (an increase of £100 + interest over last financial year)

Details of any funds materially in deficit

NONE

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 Trust currently seeks support/income from the following sources:

- Grants.
- Occasional plant sales.
- Small donations from individuals.
- Occasional workshops/seminars.
- Stock donations from businesses.
- Donations via private group visits to the gardens.
- Financial donations and/or sponsorship from businesses.

Section F Other optional information

- (i) The Trust does not allow itself to run an overdraft or have loans or leases.
- (ii) To enhance a strict financial discipline quarterly accounts are generated for Trustees and Advisers.
- (iii) The Trust is registered with HMRC for Gift Aid and has its own customised donation forms/receipts which are issued to donors.
- (iv) The Trust does not permit itself to have a credit card.
- (v) The Trust does not enter into financial association or partnerships with other organisations.

Section G Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	<i>Stephen Ben Cox</i>	
Full name(s)	Stephen Ben Cox	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair/Founder/C.E.O.	
Date	07 October 2025	

Stephen Cox Garden Trust

(registered Charity #1174239)

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

01st October 2024 to 30th September 2025

EXPENDITURE

SUBJECT	2023/2024	AMOUNT
Tools/equipment	£116. 72	£245. 99
Residential students Food	£472. 51	£324. 80
Residential students Electricity	}-↓	}-↓
Residential students Water	} £162	£81. 68
Garden paint & sealants etc	£245. 57	£170. 49
Books	£14. 70	£6
Compost/Fertilisers/Plant aids	£66. 94	£---
Postage	£--	£--
Printing	£--	£---
Telephone %	£---	£---
Internet %	£60	£60
Protective & promo clothing	£---	£---
Visits/research/sponsors meetings	£-----	£---
Insurance	£306. 27	£325. 04
Landscaping/Building/Restoring	£423. 23	£633. 90
Travel/Student excursions	£80. 49	£69. 43
Repairs (incl.patios/paving)	£245. 85	£367. 90
Subscriptions	£---	£---
Plants/Trees/Shrubs/Fruit	£133. 14	£751. 19
Seeds	£48. 79.	£50. 99
Stationery/Office	£---	£13. 29
Furniture/statues/clocks/fountain	£200	£200. 24
Replacements (incl greenhouse)	£128. 91	£112. 50
Mobile phone %	£---	£---
Residential students heating oil	£---	£---
Transfer to reserve account	£---	£100
Students pocket money	£---	£---
Transport/Travel/Parking	£---	£82. 80
TOTAL EXPENDITURE:	£2705. 12	£3596. 24p

INCOME

SUBJECT	2023/24	AMOUNT
Business sponsor donation	£---	£2942. 66
Plant sales	£40	£45. 98
Group visits	£---	£---
Grants	£---	£---
Trustees Monthly Giving	£234. 36	£215. 32
Bequests/Past Students Giving	£---	£96. 21
Loans	£---	£---
Refunds	£---	£---
Private Viewing	£---	£---
Copyright fees	£126. 17	£131. 24
Just Giving platform incl students	£---	£167. 12
Gift Aid	£---	£---
Other donations	£215	£231
Paypal Giving	£---	£---
Consultations	£---	£---
Amazon Smile	£---	£---
Students accommodation	£---	£---
TOTAL INCOME:	£615. 53	£3829. 53

2026 Assessment:

Items For Which Funds Not Yet Available

*Projected works/activities placed on hold pending donations.
(But essential remote educational activities can proceed)*

1. Special specimen Plants/shrubs/trees replacements: £380
2. Replacement lawn mower £380
3. Hand chain saw: £110
4. Paint: £180
5. Compost/Fertiliser/Plant aids: £170
6. Fountain replacement: £280
7. Garden sheds roof repairs: £560
8. Students folding bed: £110
9. Students outdoor study furniture & table: £585
10. Student excursions
11. Repairs general
12. Pond fish restock
13. Sealants & wood repairs
14. Tools replace
15. Water pump replace
16. Stationery
17. Students/library Books.
18. Travel/research
19. Perennial flowers replacements
20. Replacements
21. Gloves/safety items
22. Student arrivals pick up
23. Water pimp
24. Student dipping pool liner replacement
25. Electrics, security, cables, pirs (new & replace)

2025 SAFE PROJECTION

Bare minimal anticipated expenditure/maintenance 2025/2026

ESSENTIAL NEEDS (funds ring-fenced):

1. Insurance (12 months) =	£341. 29
2. Portion of Internet @ £5 pcm	£60
3. Workawayers food to Sept. 2026	£840
3. Utilities students	£160
Sub-TOTAL	£1401. 29

Balance on 30th.September 2025: £1177.75p

Guaranteed donations to Oct.25-Sep 26: £234.36p

Sub-Total: £1412.11

Projected Credit Sept 30th. 2026 = **£10. 82p**

Other essential expenditure not included see table opposite

LIABILITIES & CREDITORS

None in current year

ASSETS & INVESTMENTS

1. Reserve fund: £825. 30p
2. Assets (less depreciation)
Chain saw/hedge trimmer:£99. 99; Statue £99;
Short hedge trimmer: £28. 99
Column fountains x2: £290. Grass edger: £32

CLOSING STATEMENT

	2023/24	2024/25
Opening balance:	£3034. 05	£944. 46
Income from all sources =	£615. 53	£3829. 53
	£3649. 58	£4773. 99
Expenditure =	£ 2705. 12	£3596. 24
<u>Sub-total/Closing balance(A)=</u>	+£3034. 05	+£1177. 75p (=current account closing balance)

Reserve/Savings Account=	£716. 56	£825. 30p
	(incl interest for year=	£8. 74p)
Monies owing =	£----	
<u>Sub-total balance (B)</u>	<u>£825. 30p</u>	

Liabilities/loans=	£ ----
Creditors =	£----
<u>Sub-Total (C) =</u>	£ ----

CREDIT (+) or DEFICIT (-) for the year

Total D (A+B - C) = **+£2003. 05p** (Inc. emergency reserve of £825.30)

NOTES:

- (i) The Trust does not/will not run a Bank Overdraft.
- (ii) The Trust does not/will not have any Loans.
- (iii) The Trust does not/will not take on any Leases.
- (iv) The Trust does not/will not engage in any Share Dealing.
- (iv) The Trust does not/will not engage in any joint Financial Ventures with other parties.

Stephen Cox Garden Trust

Registered Address

84, Studley Lane, Studley, Nr. Calne, Wiltshire, SN11 9NH. UK.

Registered Trustees

Stephen B. Cox; Simon Kerstan; David Meier; Ryan Miller; Nicholas Self; Colette Som.

STEPHEN COX GARDEN TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1174239

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date			Period end date				
From	01 st .	October	2023	To	30 th .	September	2024

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name	Stephen Cox Garden Trust
Other names charity is known by	Mid-Wessex Garden Trust; Stephen Cox Trust, SBC Garden Trust
Registered charity number (if any)	1174239
Charity's principal address	84, Studley Lane, Studley, nr.Calne, Wiltshire Postcode SN11 9NH

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	Stephen Ben Cox	C.E.O./chair/ Founder		
2	Colette Som			
3	Nicholas Self			
4	Iain Jessup			
5	Simon Kerstan	Publisher & Assistant Director		
6	Ryan Miller			
7	David Meier			
8				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				

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)

Stephen Ben Cox

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	By majority approval of all Trustees via e-mail proposal from C.E.O./Founder.

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.

1. The Trust has a wide range of policies with regards to such matters as: Risk Assessment; Student Welfare; Health & Safety; Accidents; etc (14 documents in all). The student receives a written copy of all of these as part of our detailed Induction Programme prior to commencing any studies, training or volunteering with the Trust.

2. Four times a year (31Dec/31 Mar/30 June/30 Sept) the Trustees receive from the Founder Trustee/CEO a detailed Report on the activities of the Trust.

3. Covid19: The Trustees and CEO kept in mind Government guidelines regarding teaching and visitors in all its activities.

4. Whilst the overall quantity and range of provision of charitable services has gradually increased, the Trust keeps in mind the relative balance between online/remote provision and on-site provision. Where appropriate it increases the former according to the resources available in terms of finances/donations etc and manpower. (It is also cognisant of the necessity to not undermine the CEO's state of health)

Section C Objectives and activities

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

(i) To advance education in the subjects of horticulture and conservation in particular but not exclusively by providing study courses, training placements and workshops.

(ii) Such charitable purposes for the public benefit as are exclusively charitable according to the laws of England and Wales as the trustees may from time to time determine.

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)

Trustees kept in mind the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when planning our activities for the year. As a matter of course, reference was made to our agreed objectives to aid decision-making. The main activities undertaken for the public benefit were as follows:

1. Public information & guidance via its own three websites, its own YouTube channel, & Google website, and Google notices & news + on the following media platforms: FaceBook, LinkedIn, Xing/, Instagram, & other professional networking media.
2. Provision of residential educational placements all year round for foreign students especially from the E.U., staying for around 30 days each.
3. Making available information sheets, guides etc on conservation, wildlife to the general public.
4. Offering access to the library for local students; and to post-graduate scholars.
5. Student Manager conservation remote roles for students from 7 UK universities.
6. Offering the garden for relaxation visits by residents of nursing homes and retirement homes (under carer supervision).
7. Similarly group bookings by gardening clubs/women's institutes etc.
8. Offering training/study opportunities for young unemployed.
9. Offering the garden for supervised visits by pupils of local schools for projects/study.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

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

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

10. Residential Student Volunteer programme (E.U) assist garden improvement increasing enjoyment students, visitors, disadvantaged, elderly. Also interact with the community. gain skills. They come to the Trust for tuition/study holiday/language improvement/life and skills enhancement/work experience and were given free board and lodge. Each student stays for between 2 and 6 weeks.
11. Association with Wiltshire County Council Unit for young adults with learning difficulties: providing a resource for building skills & confidence under carer supervision.
12. Mentoring: The Trust provides aspects of mentoring to 23 of its past residential student volunteers to support their ongoing (e.g. university or vocational) education and/or career development.
13. Making educational videos on conservation/wildlife/climate change which are made publicly available via our YouTube Channel.
14. Creation of research documents on climate change/conservation/wildlife etc in an immense range of subjects.
15. Student Trips to places of historical, cultural and scientific interest.
16. Book Publishing (educational): horticulture, well-being, conservation. heritage. Initially as e-books Rolling programme of new titles each year.

17. Quarterly Magazine on the activities, projects, programmes of the Trust for benefit of: the Trustees, past students, current students, sponsors & donors, associated educational bodies, supporters.

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

1. FOREIGN STUDENTS RESIDENTIAL PLACEMENTS

Residential placements were continued for foreign students to come to stay with us for study/language improvement/work and skills enhancement/life adventure etc. They came from: Germany. Italy. France. Sweden. Denmark, and the U.S.A... There was also the return of past students from Germany and Denmark.

It has been of value to the local community, to international friendship and understanding. They also improved their English; completed their designated abroad placements required by their respective universities. They also often made their university applications whilst here. And were able to explore England, get out of their comfort zone and broaden their horizons in live.

Places are now being offered as from March 2025

2. BOOK PUBLISHING

The Trust has initiated a project to engage in additional public education and welfare: book publishing.

This is made possible by the support of a company in Germany who will undertake e-publishing for the Trust.

A series of books is planned to assist public understanding of such matters as:

conservation, gardening, well-being, ecological landscaping, design.

The two books "The Water Gardener" and "The Well Being Gardener" (both written by the founder, Stephen Ben Cox) were delayed for technical reasons and will now be released and are due for public release early in 2025.

The third book, The Happy Gardener is now approaching completion.

A fourth book: "The Healthy Gardener" is now well advanced

A fifth book: "The Spiritual Gardener" dealing with the gardening ethos and approach found in Taoism, Islam, Buddhism, Shinto, Christian monasteries, as well as the English Romantic style and other traditions is now also being written.

And a sixth book "The Heritage Gardener" has been started.

3. CAP DEL JARDI BOTANIC de BARCELEONA

At the invitation of this Catalonian state organization a meeting was held between trustees Stephen Cox and Simon Kerstan and Noélia Sanz Pons (director), and béToni Rodríguez (their agricultural engineer) to learn about the Mediterranean Zones gardens (Spain, South Africa, California, Chile, Australia). We exchanged views on many aspects of gardening and conservation and were introduced to the origins and development of Jardí Botànic. Afterwards we were given a tour of the garden by the agricultural engineer. The Trust and Jardí Botànic are keeping in touch and will exchange information.

4. UNITED WAY UK REFURBISHMENT DAY

The charity United Way UK in association with Holman Transport Management undertook a refurbishment day September 2020. 20 volunteers from Holman came along. This involved commencing the extensive project of taking up all the turf, levelling the ground and laying down new turf to ensure a safe environment for clients, visitors and students and the disabled etc. And power washed the patios. A goodly part of these two projects was completed.

We are grateful to them for their help and support which renders the Trust gardens safer and more attractive.

5. CONSERVATION VIDEOS

The Trust has developed its own YouTube video channel and is now actively producing videos for public education in the arenas of: conservation, climate change, habitat protection & restoration, pollution, wildlife, endangered species. This also involves the active participation of students at various universities in the UK and abroad. Three videos were produced this year:

Extinction.

Mars Repurposed

Invasive Species- Mink

These were edited/produced by students from; Bath Spa University; and Southampton University;

The Founder produced the text, audio and photographs.

Several more videos are in pre-production planning.

The Trust channel at YouTube is:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UcKY9eJhV8SLIY8iVwnKG1Q>

6. QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

The Trust Quarterly Magazine underwent expansion and redesign. Additional to the activities, projects, programmes of the Trust for it now includes previous of forthcoming Trust book publications, guidance notes on well-being/garden tips/conservation for the benefit of: the Trustees, past students, current students, sponsors & donors, associated educational bodies, supporters. It also includes feedback form over 21 past foreign residential students, and notes on: new videos produced, eds, new books publishing, garden improvement, library expansion, conservation projects with UK universities student, links with Wiltshire Special Education Unit, educational visits.

7. E.U. STUDENT SUPPORT:

Ongoing mentoring/guidance given to 21 of our past residential student volunteers for their university studies/career etc in their home countries. Re-visits to the Trust by some of them. And they send feedback on their lives and studies for the Trust Quarterly Magazine/Report.

8. U.K. UNIVERSITIES

Links continued and were expanded with several U.K. Universities student union internship/volunteering/community portals. Trust profiles have been published. Several volunteering jobs in the areas of Multi-Media, Video production, Conservation, Wildlife were published with U.K. universities. These included:

University of Bath; Bristol University; Bath Spa University; and University of the West of England; Oxford University, Southampton University. Bournemouth University.

9. EXOTICS GARDEN

This has now undergone extensive refurbishment with installation of porcelain slave paving, replacement of plants, additional plants, new planters, and new concrete block walls. It will also provide seating/table for meetings and studies.

10. PUBLIC INFORMATION & GUIDANCE & EDUCATION

- (i) Conservation research articles by student managers
- (ii) On social media platforms (LinkedIn; Facebook; Xing; Instagram; Google for Business.
- (iii). And our three Websites.
- (iii) Provision/offer of guide sheets and reference on wildlife; animal habitats; conservation; organic gardening, pollinating planting.
- (iv) Videos on climate change, conservation, wildlife.
- (v) Writing of several books for public release in 2024.

11. STUDENT EXCURSIONS

The Trust is now also helping its foreign students by organising cultural excursions around England and Wales. This year these were: Aveburyhenge; Bath; Lacock Abbey; Dartmoor; Oxford; Wells; Malmesbury; Castle Combe, Weston-Super-Mare & Brean Down Headland; Salisbury; Stonehenge; Chepstow, Tintern Abbey, Abergavenny; Bristol; Marlborough; Glastonbury.

This opportunity for our students has also been enhanced by the generosity of a Trust supporter who allows the use of his car.

12. E.U. STUDENTS CONSERVATION MANAGERS

The Trust is now investigating the possibility of expanding the student manager roles and opportunities to other countries (in the E.U.). Initially discussions are taking place with German students.

13. PROMOTION

- (i) Improvement of our main website Garden Trust (webnode)
- (ii) 'Workaway' website profile and four other student traveller sites.
- (iii) Various local directories.
- (iv) Google listing & Google website
- (v) YouTube Channel .
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UckYY9eJhV8SLIY8iVwnKG1Q>
- (vi) LinkedIn
- (vii) Xing.
- (viii) FaceBook
- (ix) Instagram
- (x) <https://philomathes5.webnode.page/> (education website)
- (xi) A website is being produced by a German publisher to promote the books being written by Stephen Cox (the Trust's Founder).

14. UNIVERSITY MANAGERS- HABITATS AND WILDLIFE

There are several categories each with various subjects. Each manager chooses a category and they proceed to write articles in that category. The appointments lasts for one academic year and is renewable.:

- (A) Species (12 subjects); (B) How to Make Animal Houses (5 subjects)
- (C) Soil (7 subjects). (D) Planting (5 subjects). (E) Water (5 subjects)
- (F) Feeding/Foraging Routes/Wildlife Corridors (6 subjects).
- (G) Conservation For Children (4 subjects)
- (H) Recycling/Renewables (8 subjects)
- (I) Wild Spaces & Habitats (5 subjects)
- (J) Wildlife & Organic Gardening (9 subjects)

Neither the categories nor the range of subjects are exhaustive and are always being expanded. Students retain copyright of their work but the Trust has full rights of archiving/publishing etc. Students

managers are given accreditation for their work and testimonials/reports/feedback is provided

15. WILTSHIRE COUNCIL EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES

Working with the Wiltshire Council Unit for adults with learning difficulties & other disabilities (e.g. autism, Downes syndrome etc) with their carers) providing placements to enable them to gain work experience and improve skills and confidence and offer parent respite. Currently two mornings a week. We have taken on two additional clients.

16. UNIVERSITY MANAGERS CONSERVATION

There are several categories each with various subjects. Each manager chooses a category and then proceed to write articles in that category. The appointments lasts for one academic year and is renewable.:

(A) Mitigation measures.(15 subjects) (B) Renewable energy advantages/impacts. (13 subjects)
 (C) Re-wilding. (10 subjects) (D) Landscape restoring/protection/wildlife enhancement. (17 subjects) (E) Threats to species. Extinction. Climate Change(13 subjects). (F) Individual species/threats/decline(15 subjects). (G) Damage to migration routes/breeding. (11 subjects) (H) Well being & nature. Housing etc (15 subjects). (I) Loss/damage of Habitats/special landscapes. (10 subjects) (J) Pollution (12 subjects).
 (K)Circular Economy. (7 subjects) (L) Landscape/Environment (15 subjects) (M) Landscape re-wilding (17 subjects) (N) Pollution Costs (11 subjects) (O) Oceans & Waterways (20 subjects) (P) Landscape & Economy Impacts (12 subjects)

Neither the categories nor the range of subjects are exhaustive and are always being expanded. Students retain copyright of their work but the Trust has full rights of archiving/publishing etc. Students managers are given accreditation for their work and testimonials/reports/feedback is provided

17. LIBRARY:

Modest expansion of the Library in the areas of conservation, heritage, gardening, design, architecture. Ongoing offer to local students for their studies, and to university and to post-graduate scholars for research.

18. UNIVERSITY MEDIA MANAGERS:

Another student managers post (this being the 3rd such managerial role) has been advertised with 7 UK universities. This is for managers to help with social media platforms, promotion, and internet. Each manager will take responsibility for one of the following:

- (i) Website design.
- (ii) YouTube channel.
- (iii) Social media profile & promotion : Instagram business account.
- (iv) Social media profile & promotion : LinkedIn business account.
- (v) Photography.
- (vi) Video about the garden. (vi). Video about the Trust.

- (vii) Video about our conservation projects.
- (viii) Podcasts.
- (ix) Webinars.
- (x) Foreign universities promote volunteering/study holidays/college internships etc

19. **BARCELONA BOTANICS RESEARCH**

Two Trustees undertook a seven-day botany trip to Barcelona in Spain. A city and region of great interest to botanists, horticulturalists and conservationists.

Visits/research included: The Palm Houses collection in the centre of Barcelona, the Historic Botanic Garden (created from an old quarry), the Jardí Botànic (up on Mountain Juic), the coast to the south of Barcelona where many wonderful Mediterranean species of plants grow wild. Our visit to and meeting at the Jardí Botànic was a main feature and we are grateful to them for their hospitality. There were also visits to places of cultural and architectural interest

20. **PEDAGOGY**

The Trust has continued to develop its unique educational philosophy based on the ethos and teachings of its Founder. This might be termed a version of humanist education: though not constrained by the theories, and delimitation or prejudice of what can sometimes be inherent in the term 'humanism'. The philosophy combines the best of teaching traditions and developments of the past with the experience, innovations and unique approach of the Founder over many years to yield this unique practical form of education to arm young people to:

- (i) fulfil their individual potential and a full and meaningful life
 - (ii) improve and serve their community
 - (iii) seek and practice innovation, improvement and high ideals and standards in life
 - (iv) cherish the planet, wildlife and the environment and
 - (v) to become model citizens.
- (ii) This is explained in our humanist education website Philomathes. (<https://philomathes5.webnode.page/>)

21. **PAST STUDENTS:**

Twenty-four past residential volunteers from around Europe are staying in regular contact with the Founder and also write a quarterly report for the Trustees and Friends of the Trust (in its Quarterly Magazine/Report) about the progress of their university courses and life in general since the completion of their residential study placements with our Trust. Some of our past students returned. At their invitation the Founder visited some of its past German students.

22. **DIPPING POOL REFURBISHMENT**

The students relaxation/dipping pool area was refurbished via: demolition of old rotted small changing room wooden shed and building a new one. Taking up old slabs and levelling ground and laying 60cm.sq slate porcelain tiles. Making the area safer and easier to maintain.

23. **FOOD FUND**

One of our past students (in Italy) has launched a GoFundMe crowd funding campaign. Its purpose is to raise donations so that the international programme which enables European & other students to come for residential placements is not indefinitely suspended. (<https://www.gofundme.com/f/the-scgt>)

24. GARDEN REFURBISHMENT ROLLING PROGRAMME

Having been created from a field starting 12 years ago, the entire area needed redesign, definition, and refurbishment. A one-to-two-year programme of works has been activated and is about to enter its second year of projects.

Items completed this year were:

- (i) Substantial repairs to the summerhouse- replacement of veranda railings and floor and corner of roof.
- (ii) Replacement of shed/changing room in the student pool/relaxation area.
- (iii) Levelling of ground and replacement of old patio slabs with slate porcelain tiles.
- (iv) Construction of additional wood arbour in the woodland area.
- (v) Removing old turf/laying new lawns (sponsor by United Way UK).
- (vi) Started a collection of different Penstemon plants
- (vii) Starting a collection if Succulent plants
- (viii) Provision of opportunities for Hedgehogs.

Proposed for 2025 Additional to continuing all of its current programmes and services it is hoped that the following projects, and possibilities will be undertaken:

- (i) Reorganisation of the small Woodland and development of rest areas, and wild-flower area.
- (ii) Possible establishment of bee hives in woodland area
- (iii) Redesign and planting of the Cottage Garden ('Jekyll's View')
- (iv) Taking up 6 patios, levelling ground, and re-laying.
- (v) Restocking pond fish and extending number of species.
- (vi) Improvement & extension of wildlife habitats
- (vii) Development of a collection of Mediterranean plants.
- (viii) Possible launch of publication of books initially as E-books.
- (ix) The Trust also hopes to extend an invitation to the director, botany expert, and the aquacultural engineer of Jardin Botanico Barcelona to visit our garden.
- (x) Seek sponsors
- (xi) Publish books

Overall, this will enable a transformation of the garden and enhancing its unique sculptural and compositional character and vistas. Thereby also enhancing our ability to provide public benefit and educational opportunities/advancement of education and enhancing the experience of visitors and students.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

The Founder appointed trustee Simon G. Kerstan as his Assistant Director, also as Trust Publisher.

Section D ends.

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The reserve fund (Savings Account) which was created for emergencies continues and has not been used. This now stands at: **£706.19** (an increase of £200 over last financial year)

Details of any funds materially in deficit

NONE

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 Trust currently seeks support/income from the following sources:

Grants.
Occasional plant sales.
Small donations from individuals.
Occasional workshops/seminars.
Stock donations from businesses.
Donations via private group visits to the gardens.
Financial donations and/or sponsorship from businesses.

Section F Other optional information

- (i) The Trust does not allow itself to run an overdraft or have loans or leases.
- (ii) To enhance a strict financial discipline quarterly accounts are generated for Trustees and Advisers.
- (iii) The Trust is registered with HMRC for Gift Aid and has its own customised donation forms/receipts which are issued to donors.
- (iv) The Trust does not permit itself to have a credit card.
- (v) The Trust does not enter into financial association or partnerships with other organisations.

Section G Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	<i>Stephen Ben Cox</i>	
Full name(s)	Stephen Ben Cox	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair/Founder/C.E.O.	
Date	22 October 2023	

Stephen Cox Garden Trust

(registered Charity #1174239)

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

01st October 2023 to 30th September 2024

EXPENDITURE

SUBJECT	2022/2023	AMOUNT
Tools/equipment	£211. 94	£116. 72
Residential students Food	£663. 17	£472. 51
Residential students Electricity	}-↓	}-↓
Residential students Water	}110	£162
Garden paint & sealants etc	£206. 61	£245. 57
Books	£66.01	£14. 70
Compost/Fertilisers/Plant aids	£241. 18	£66. 94
Postage	£--	£---
Printing	£--	£---
Telephone %	£---	£---
Internet %	£60	£60
Protective & promo clothing	£12. 99	£--
Visits/research/sponsors meetings	£21. 41	£---
Insurance	£283. 26	£306. 27
Landscaping/Building/Restoring	£1733. 18	£423. 23
Travel/Student excursions	£149. 01	£80. 49
Repairs (incl.patios/paving)	£984. 07	£245. 85
Subscriptions	£---	£---
Plants/Trees/Shrubs/Fruit	£828. 83	£133. 14
Seeds	£33. 50	£48. 79
Stationery/Office	£29. 77	£---
Furniture/statues/clocks/fountain	£203. 12	£200
Replacements (incl greenhouse)	£1064. 33	£128. 91
Mobile phone %	£---	£--
Residential students heating oil	£---	£---
Transfer to reserve account	£300	£---
Students pocket money	£---	£---
Transport/Travel/Parking	£31. 75	£---
TOTAL EXPENDITURE:	£7234. 13	£2705. 12p

INCOME

SUBJECT	2021/22	AMOUNT
Business sponsor donation	£200	£---
Plant sales	£225	£40
Group visits	£---	£---
Grants	£---	£---
Monthly Pledges	£253. 89	£234. 36
Bequests	£---	£---
Loans	£---	£---
Refunds	£57. 29	£---
Private Viewing	£----	£---
Copyright fees	£93. 97	£126. 17
Just Giving platform	£---	£---
Gift Aid	£---	£---
Other donations	£1585	£215
Paypal Giving	£---	£---
Consultations	£160	£
Amazon Smile	£18. 41	£----
Students accommodation	£210	£----
TOTAL INCOME:	£2803. 46	£615. 53

2025 SAFE PROJECTION

Bare minimal anticipated expenditure/maintenance 2024/2025

ESSENTIAL NEEDS (funds ring-fenced):

1. Insurance (12 months) =	£336. 31
2. Seeds=	£45
3. Portion of Internet @ £5 pcm	£60
4. Hand chain saw	£110
5. Workawayers food October	£150
6. Utilities October	£36
Sub-TOTAL	£737.31p

Balance on 30th.September 2024

Guaranteed donations to 01 Feb:

Sub-Total: £1022.58

Projected Credit 1st.Ferbruary 2025 = **£285. 27p**

2025 Assessment:

Items For Which Funds Not Yet Available

*Projected works/activities placed on hold pending donations.
(But essential remote educational activities can proceed)*

- Plants/shrubs/trees replacements
- Mediterranean plants collection new project
- Hot water/heating/cooking Workawayers
- Residential students (Workawayers food) 2025
- Compost/Fertiliser/Plant aids
- Student excursions
- Repairs general
- Pond fish restock
- Tools new
- Tools replace
- Water pump replace
- Stationery
- Books.
- Travel/research
- Building repairs
- Replacements
- Gloves/safety items
- Student arrivals pick up
- Water pimp
- Student dipping pool liner replacement

STUDENT FOOD CAMPAIGN:

A GoFundMe online campaign has been launched to help finance food for residential E.U. student volunteers.

LIABILITIES & CREDITORS

None in current year

ASSETS & INVESTMENTS

1. Reserve fund: £716. 56p
2. Assets (less depreciation)
Chain saw/hedge trimmer:£99. 99; Statue £99;
Short hedge trimmer: £28. 99

CLOSING STATEMENT

	2022/23	2023/24
Opening balance:	£7464. 61	£3034. 05p
Income from all sources =	£2803. 46	£615. 53p
	£10268. 07	£3649. 58
Expenditure =	£7234. 13	£2705. 12p
<u>Sub-total/balance (A) =</u>	+ £3034. 05	<u>+£944. 46p</u> (=current account closing balance)

Reserve/Savings Account= £716. 56p
(incl interest for year= £10. 37p
Monies owing = £----
Sub-total balance (B) £716. 56p

Liabilities/loans= £ ----
Creditors = £----
Sub-Total (C) = £ ----

CREDIT (+) or DEFICIT (-) for the year

Total D (A+B - C) = **+£1661. 02p** (Inc. emergency reserve of £716.56)

NOTES:

- (i) The Trust does not/will not run a Bank Overdraft.
- (ii) The Trust does not/will not have any Loans.
- (iii) The Trust does not/will not take on any Leases.
- (iv) The Trust does not/will not engage in any Share Dealing.
- (iv) The Trust does not/will not engage in any joint Financial Ventures with other parties.

Stephen Cox Garden Trust

Registered Address

84, Studley Lane, Studley, nr. Calne, Wiltshire, SN11 9NH. UK.

Registered Trustees

Stephen B. Cox; Iain Jessup; Simon Kerstan; David Meier; Ryan Miller; Nicholas Self; Colette Som.

STEPHEN COX GARDEN TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1174239

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date			Period end date				
From	01 st .	October	2022	To	30 th .	September	2023

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name	Stephen Cox Garden Trust
Other names charity is known by	Mid-Wessex Garden Trust; Stephen Cox Trust, SBC Garden Trust
Registered charity number (if any)	1174239
Charity's principal address	84, Studley Lane, Studley, nr.Calne, Wiltshire Postcode SN11 9NH

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	Stephen Ben Cox	C.E.O./chair/ Founder		
2	Colette Som			
3	Nicholas Self			
4	Iain Jessup			
5	Simon Kerstan	Publisher & Assistant Director		
6	Ryan Miller			
7	David Meier			
8				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				

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)

Stephen Ben Cox

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	By majority approval of all Trustees via e-mail proposal from C.E.O./Founder.

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.

1. The Trust has a wide range of policies with regards to such matters as: Risk Assessment; Student Welfare; Health & Safety; Accidents; etc (14 documents in all). The student receives a written copy of all of these as part of our detailed Induction Programme prior to commencing any studies, training or volunteering with the Trust.

2. Four times a year (31Dec/31 Mar/30 June/30 Sept) the Trustees receive from the Founder Trustee/CEO a detailed Report on the activities of the Trust and also detailed Accounts (additional to Annual Accounts and lengthy detailed Annual Report).

3. Covid19: The Trustees and CEO kept in mind Government guidelines regarding teaching and visitors in all its activities.

4. Whilst the overall quantity and range of provision of charitable services has gradually increased, the Trust keeps in mind the relative balance between online/remote provision and on-site provision. Where appropriate it increases the former according to the resources available in terms of finances/donations etc and manpower. (It is also cognisant of the necessity to not undermine the CEO's state of health)

Section C Objectives and activities

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

- (i) To advance education in the subjects of horticulture and conservation in particular but not exclusively by providing study courses, training placements and workshops.
- (ii) Such charitable purposes for the public benefit as are exclusively charitable according to the laws of England and Wales as the trustees may from time to time determine.

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)

Trustees kept in mind the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when planning our activities for the year. As a matter of course, reference was made to our agreed objectives to aid decision-making. The main activities undertaken for the public benefit were as follows:

1. Public information & guidance via its own three websites, its own YouTube channel, & Google website, and Google notices & news + FaceBook/LinkedIn/Xing/Instagram, & other professional networking media.
2. Provision of residential educational placements all year round for foreign students especially from the E.U.
3. Making available information sheets, guides etc on conservation, wildlife to the general public.
4. Offering access to the library for local students; and to post-graduate scholars.
5. University Student Manager conservation roles.
6. Offering the garden for relaxation visits by residents of nursing homes and retirement homes (under carer supervision).
7. Similarly group bookings by gardening clubs/women's institutes etc.
8. Offering training/study opportunities for young unemployed.
9. Offering the garden for supervised visits by pupils of local schools for projects/study.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

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

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

10. Residential Student Volunteer programme (E.U) assist garden improvement increasing enjoyment students, visitors, disadvantaged, elderly. Also interact with the community. gain skills. They come to the Trust for tuition/study holiday/language improvement/life and skills enhancement/work experience and were given free board and lodge. Each student stays for between 2 and 6 weeks.
11. Association with Wiltshire County Council Unit for young adults with learning difficulties: providing a resource for building skills & confidence under carer supervision.
12. Mentoring: The Trust provides aspects of mentoring to 19 of its past students to support their ongoing (e.g. university or vocational) education and/or career development.
13. Making educational videos on conservation/wildlife/climate change which are made publicly available via our YouTube Channel.
14. Creation of research documents on climate change/conservation/wildlife etc in an immense range of subjects.
15. Student Trips to places of historical, cultural and scientific interest.
16. Book Publishing (educational): horticulture, well-being, conservation. heritage. Initially as e-books Rolling programme of new titles each year.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

1. CONSERVATION VIDEOS

The Trust has developed its own YouTube video channel and is now actively producing videos for public education in the arenas of: conservation, climate change, habitat protection & restoration, pollution, wildlife, endangered species. This also involves the active participation of students at various universities in the UK and abroad. Four videos were produced this year:

Arcadia, Water in the Trust Gardens.

Journey of Statues.

Neighbourhood Plans.

These were edited/produced by students from: Bath University; Bath Spa University; University of the West of England; Berlin.

The Founder produced the text, audio and photographs.

Several more videos are in pre-production planning.

2. BOOK PUBLISHING

The Trust has initiated a project to engage in additional public education and welfare: book publishing.

This is made possible by the support of a company in Germany who will undertake e-publishing for the Trust.

A series of books is planned to assist public understanding of such matters as:

conservation, gardening, well-being, ecological landscaping, design.

The two books "The Water Gardener" and "The Well Being Gardener" (both written by the founder, Stephen Ben Cox) are due for public release early in 2024.

The third book, The Happy Gardener is in an advanced stage of writing/completion.

A fourth book: "The Healthy Gardener" is now being written

And a fifth book The Heritage Gardener has been planned.

3. E.U. STUDENT SUPPORT:

Ongoing mentoring/guidance given to 21 of our past residential student volunteers for their university studies/career etc in their home countries. Re-visits to the Trust by some of them. And they send feedback on their lives and studies for the Trust Quarterly Magazine/Report.

4. U.K. UNIVERSITIES

Links continued and were expanded with several U.K. Universities student union internship/volunteering/community portals. Trust profiles have been published. Several volunteering jobs in the areas of Multi-Media, Video production, Conservation, Wildlife were published with U.K. universities. These included:

University of Bath; Bristol University; Bath Spa University; and University of the West of England; Oxford University, Southampton University.

And this year Bournemouth University was added.

5. VISIT BY GERMAN BUSINESS SPONSOR

An active 12-month programme of restoration is now under way thanks to generous sponsorship from Germany. In August they visited the gardens to view the work undertaken, the transformation from a field, discuss the work of the Trust and then also visited major

gardens in southwest England. The Founder acted as guide for this and on several cultural and botanical excursion around England, also accompanied by two of our past international students and two others.

6. EXOTICS GARDEN

This has now undergone its refurbishment with installation of porcelain paving, replacement of plants, addition of additional plants, new planters, and new concrete block walls. It will also provide seating/table for meetings and studies.

7. PUBLIC INFORMATION & GUIDANCE & EDUCATION

- (i) Conservation research articles by student managers
- (ii) On social media platforms (LinkedIn; Facebook; Xing; Instagram; Google for Business.
- (iii). And our three Websites.
- (iii) Provision/offer of guide sheets and reference on wildlife; animal habitats; conservation; organic gardening, pollinating planting.
- (iv) Videos on climate change, conservation, wildlife.
- (v) Writing of several books for public release in 2024.

8. STUDENT EXCURSIONS

The Trust is now also helping its foreign students by organising cultural excursions around England and Wales. This year these were: Avebury henge; Bath; Lacock Abbey; Wells; Malmesbury; Castle Combe, Weston-Super-Mare; Salisbury; Oxford. With the Trust sponsors, the Kerstans & Lange, we also went to Exeter, Truro, the Devon Coast, Cornish Coast, Dartmoor, Halligan gardens, Buckfast Abbey Gardens, This opportunity for our students has also been enhanced by the generosity of a Trust supporter who allows the use of his car.

9. E.U. STUDENTS CONSERVATION MANAGERS

The Trust is now investigating the possibility of expanding the student manager roles and opportunities to other countries (in the E.U.). Initially discussions are taking place with German students.

10. PROMOTION

- (i) Improvement of our main website Garden Trust (webnode)
- (ii) 'Workaway' website profile and four other student traveller sites.
- (iii) Various local directories.
- (iv) Google listing & Google website
- (v) YouTube Channel .
- (vi) LinkedIn
- (vii) Xing.
- (viii) FaceBook
- (ix) Instagram
- (x) <https://philomathes5.webnode.page/> (education website)
- (xi) A website is being produced by a German publisher to promote the books being written by Stephen Cox (the Trust's Founder).

11. UNIVERSITY MANAGERS- HABITATS AND WILDLIFE

There are several categories each with various subjects. Each manager chooses a category and they proceed to write articles in that category. The appointments lasts for one academic year and is renewable.:

(A) Species (12 subjects); (B) How to Make Animal Houses (5 subjects)
 (C) Soil (7 subjects). (D) Planting (5 subjects). (E) Water (5 subjects)
 (F) Feeding/Foraging Routes/Wildlife Corridors (6 subjects).
 (G) Conservation For Children (4 subjects)
 (H) Recycling/Renewables (8 subjects)
 (I) Wild Spaces & Habitats (5 subjects)
 (J) Wildlife & Organic Gardening (9 subjects)

Neither the categories nor the range of subjects are exhaustive and are always being expanded. Students retain copyright of their work but the Trust has full rights of archiving/publishing etc. Students managers are given accreditation for their work and testimonials/reports/feedback is provided

12. WILTSHIRE COUNCIL EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES

Working with the Wiltshire Council Unit for adults with learning difficulties & other disabilities (e.g. autism, Downes syndrome etc) with their carers) providing placements to enable them to gain work experience and improve skills and confidence and offer parent respite. Currently two mornings a week. We have taken on two additional clients.

13. FOREIGN STUDENTS RESIDENTIAL PLACEMENTS

Residential placements were continued for foreign students to come to stay with us for study/language improvement/work and skills enhancement/life adventure etc. They came from:

Germany. Italy. France. Belgium. Denmark. .

There was the return of two past students (from Germany).

It has been of value to the local community, to international friendship and understanding. They also improved their English; completed their designated abroad placements required by their respective universities. They also often made their university applications whilst here.

Places are being offered as from March 2024.

14. UNIVERSITY MANAGERS CONSERVATION

There are several categories each with various subjects. Each manager chooses a category and then proceed to write articles in that category. The appointments lasts for one academic year and is renewable.:

(A) Mitigation measures.(15 subjects) (B) Renewable energy advantages/impacts. (13 subjects)

(C) Re-wilding. (10 subjects) (D) Landscape restoring/protection/wildlife enhancement. (17 subjects) (E) Threats to species. Extinction. Climate Change(13 subjects). (F) Individual species/threats/decline(15 subjects). (G) Damage to migration routes/breeding. (11 subjects) (H) Well being & nature. Housing etc (15 subjects). (I) Loss/damage of Habitats/special landscapes. (10 subjects) (J) Pollution (12 subjects).

(K)Circular Economy. (7 subjects) (L) Landscape/Environment (15 subjects) (M) Landscape re-wilding (17 subjects) (N) Pollution Costs (11 subjects) (O) Oceans & Waterways (20 subjects) (P) Landscape & Economy Impacts (12 subjects)

Neither the categories nor the range of subjects are exhaustive and are always being expanded. Students retain copyright of their work but the Trust has full rights of archiving/publishing etc. Students managers are given accreditation for their work and testimonials/reports/feedback is provided

15. **LIBRARY:**

Modest expansion of the Library. Ongoing offer to local students for their studies, and to university and to post-graduate scholars for research.

16. **UNIVERSITY MEDIA MANAGERS:**

Another student managers post (this being the 3rd such managerial role) has been advertised with 7 UK universities. This is for managers to help with social media platforms, promotion, and internet. Each manager will take responsibility for one of the following:

- (i) Website design.
- (ii) YouTube channel.
- (iii) Social media profile & promotion : Instagram business account.
- (iv) Social media profile & promotion : LinkedIn business account.
- (v) Photography.
- (vi) Video about the garden. (vi). Video about the Trust.
- (vii) Video about our conservation projects.
- (viii) Podcasts.
- (ix) Webinars.
- (x) Foreign universities promo re volunteering/study holidays/college internships etc

17. **SPONSORS**

Major sponsorship from a landscape engineering company in Germany. This has enabled the Trust to recommence German and E.U. student residential study placements, occasional student excursions and also some major garden refurbishment and repairs and replanting projects.

18. **PEDAGOGY**

The Trust has continued to develop its unique educational philosophy based on the ethos and teachings of its Founder. This might be termed a version of humanist education: though not constrained by the theories, and delimitation or prejudice of what can sometimes be inherent in the term 'humanism'. The philosophy combines the best of teaching traditions and developments of the past with the experience, innovations and unique approach of the Founder over many years to yield this unique practical form of education to arm young people to:

- (i) fulfil their individual potential and a full and meaningful life
 - (ii) improve and serve their community
 - (iii) seek and practice innovation, improvement and high ideals and standards in life
 - (iv) cherish the planet, wildlife and the environment and
 - (v) to become model citizens.
- (ii) This is explained in our humanist education website Philomathes. (<https://philomathes5.webnode.page/>)

19. PAST STUDENTS:

Twenty one past residential volunteers from around Europe are staying in regular contact with the Founder and also write a quarterly report for the Trustees and Friends of the Trust (in its Quarterly Magazine/Report) about the progress of their university courses and life in general.

Some of our past students return.

21. GARDEN REFURBISHMENT PROGRAMMES

Having been created from a field starting 12 years ago, the entire area needed redesign, definition, and refurbishment. A one-to-two-year programme of works has been activated and is about to enter its second year of projects.

Items completed this year were:

- (i) Removing old turf and laying new lawns.
- (ii) Replanning/replanting of the Alpine Garden & rockery together with stone bird bath.
- (iii) Reorganizing of the Herb Garden ('Culpepper's Delights'), addition of 24 new herbs and re-design of area with various size planters for better cultivation and care.
- (iv) Exotics garden area now completed as in (6) above.
- (v) Repairs and repainting to all garden buildings, arches, pergolas, benches
- (vi) Replacement and extension of the exotic and coastal plants and shrubs in the pool area

It is hoped that 2024 will see the following projects undertaken:

- (i) Reorganisation of the small Woodland and development of rest areas, and wild-flower area.
- (ii) Redesign and planting of the Cottage Garden ('Jekyll's View')
- (iii) Replacement of the students' pool area changing room
- (iv) Taking up 6 patios, levelling ground, and re-laying.
- (v) Restocking pond fish and extending number of species.
- (vi) Improvement & extension of wildlife habitats
- (vii) Refurbishment of students' pool area via re-level ground, installing paving and construction of walls/floor and a fitted pool liner

Overall, this will enable a transformation of the garden and enhancing its unique sculptural and compositional character and vistas. Thereby also enhancing our ability to provide public benefit and educational opportunities/advancement of education and enhancing the experience of visitors and students.

22. TRUST QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

A quarterly illustrated magazine has now published and sent out. This contains all the news of the Trust e.g.: projects, opportunities, books, library, videos, developments, research documents, feedback from 21 of our past international students, etc.

It is distributed to Trustees, past Students, friends of the Trust, volunteers, advisers, sponsors, and other education organizations with which we may have contact.

Section D ends.

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The reserve fund (Savings Account) which was created for emergencies continues and has not been used. This now stands at: **£706.19** (an increase of £200 over last financial year)

Details of any funds materially in deficit

NONE

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 Trust currently seeks support/income from the following sources:

- Grants.
- Occasional plant sales.
- Small donations from individuals.
- Occasional workshops/seminars.
- Stock donations from businesses.
- Donations via private group visits to the gardens.
- Financial donations and/or sponsorship from businesses.

Section F Other optional information

- (i) The Trust does not allow itself to run an overdraft or have loans or leases.
- (ii) To enhance a strict financial discipline quarterly accounts are generated for Trustees and Advisers.
- (iii) The Trust is registered with HMRC for Gift Aid and has its own customised donation forms/receipts which are issued to donors.
- (iv) The Trust does not permit itself to have a credit card.
- (v) The Trust does not enter into financial association or partnerships with other organisations.

Section G Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	<i>Stephen Ben Cox</i>	
Full name(s)	Stephen Ben Cox	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair/Founder/C.E.O.	
Date	22 October 2023	

Stephen Cox Garden Trust

(registered Charity #1174239)

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

01st October 2022 to 30th September 2023

EXPENDITURE

SUBJECT	2021/2022	AMOUNT
Tools/equipment	£82. 35	£211. 94
Residential students Food	£413. 22	£663. 17
Residential students Electricity	}-↓	}-↓
Residential students Water	}38	£110
Garden paint & sealants etc	£228. 43	£206. 61
Books	£---	£66. 01
Compost/Fertilisers/Plant aids	£120. 90	£241. 18
Postage	£--	£---
Printing	£--	£---
Telephone %	£---	£---
Internet %	£20	£60
Protective & promo clothing	£---	£12. 99
Visits/research/sponsors meetings	£---	£21. 41
Insurance	£259. 71	£283. 26
Landscaping/Building/Restoring	£353. 36	£1733. 18
Travel/Student excursions	£64. 65	£149. 01
Repairs (incl.patios/paving)	£99. 03	£984. 07
Subscriptions	£---	£---
Plants/Trees/Shrubs/Fruit	£623. 8	£828.83
Seeds	£17	£33. 50
Stationery/Office	£---	£29.77
Furniture/statues/clocks/fountain	£63	£203. 12
Replacements (incl greenhouse)	£150	£1064. 33
Mobile phone %	£---	£---
Residential students heating oil	£---	£---
Transfer to reserve account	£100	£300
Students pocket money	£100	£---
Transport/Travel/Parking	£---	£31. 75
TOTAL EXPENDITURE:	£2868. 49	£7234. 13p

INCOME

SUBJECT	2021/22	AMOUNT
Business sponsor donation	£6171.41	£200
Plant sales	£180	£225
Group visits	£---	£---
Grants	£---	£---
Monthly Pledges	£234. 36	£253. 89
Bequests	£850	£---
Loans	£---	£---
Refunds	£---	£57. 29
Private Viewing	£---	£---
Copyright fees	£102. 84	£93. 87
Just Giving platform	£---	£---
Gift Aid	£---	£---
Other donations	£1418. 99	£1585
Paypal Giving	£---	£---
Consultations	£---	£160
Amazon Smile	£5	£18. 41
Students accommodation	£559. 11	£210
TOTAL INCOME:	£9521. 71	£2803. 46

NOTES:

OTHER PURCHASES: Some Repairs (pond pumps etc); Seeds; Many plants; Stationery; Postage; Mobile phone; Business travel; Some paint; Cement & sand; Telephone; personally financed by Stephen Cox for the Trust (not shown here).

INSURANCE: This year monthly cost increased from £21. 70 to £24. 24 incl. 'Mutual Benefit' discount

FOREIGN RESIDENTIAL STUDENTS

Residential student placements continued from October 2022- Oct 2023. Placements being considered as from Spring 2024

RESERVE FUND

Was increased by £300 via transfer from current account

STUDENT FAMILIES' CONTRIBUTION

This year some families contributed to their off-spring accommodation

2024 SAFE PROJECTION to 01 July

Minimal anticipated expenditure/maintenance for ¾ Year 2023/2024

ESSENTIAL NEEDS (funds ring-fenced):

1. Insurance (12 months) =	£290. 88
2. Residential volunteers (8 months) food=	£1248
3. Volunteer electricity/water/heat =	£315
4. Summerhouse veranda repairs	£322
5. Portion of Internet @ £5 pcm	£60
6. Plants	£210
7. Paint	£90
8. Wood chemicals	£127
9. Seeds etc	£40
10. Accompany students on excursions/research	£90
12. Travel to sponsor's meetings	£160
TOTAL	£2862. 88p
Balance on 30 th .September 2023	£3034. 05p
Projected Credit 1 st .July 2023 =	+£171.17p

LIABILITIES & CREDITORS

None in current year

ASSETS & INVESTMENTS

1. Reserve fund: £706. 19p
2. Assets (less depreciation)
Chain saw/hedge trimmer:£99. 99; Statue £99;
Short hedge trimmer: £28. 99

CLOSING STATEMENT

	2021/22	2022/23
Opening balance:	£629. 39	£7464. 61p
Income from all sources =	£9521.71	£2803. 46p
	£10151. 10	£10268. 07

Expenditure =	£ 2686.49	£7234. 13p
<u>Sub-total/balance (A) =</u>	+ £7464. 61	<u>+£3034. 05</u> (=current account closing balance)

Reserve/Savings Account= £706. 19p
(incl interest for year= £5. 19p)

Monies owing = £----

Sub-total balance (B) £706. 19p

Liabilities/loans= £ ----

Creditors = £----

Sub-Total (C) = £ ----

CREDIT (+) or DEFICIT (-) for the year

Total D (A+B - C) = **+£3740. 24p** (Inc. emergency reserve of £706. 19)

NOTES:

- (i) The Trust does not/will not run a Bank Overdraft.
- (ii) The Trust does not/will not have any Loans.
- (iii) The Trust does not/will not take on any Leases.
- (iv) The Trust does not/will not engage in any Share Dealing.

Stephen Cox Garden Trust

Registered Address

84, Studley Lane, Studley, nr. Calne, Wiltshire, SN11 9NH. UK.

Registered Trustees

Stephen B. Cox; Iain Jessup; Simon Kerstan; David Meier; Ryan Miller; Nicholas Self; Colette Som.

STEPHEN COX GARDEN TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1174239

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	01 st .	October	2021		30 th .	September	2022

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name	Stephen Cox Garden Trust
Other names charity is known by	Mid-Wessex Garden Trust; Stephen Cox Trust
Registered charity number (if any)	1174239
Charity's principal address	84, Studley Lane,
	Studley, nr.Calne,
	Wiltshire
	Postcode SN11 9NH

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	Stephen Ben Cox	C.E.O./chair		
2	Colette Som			
3	Nicholas Self			
4	Iain Jessup			
5	Simon Kerstan			
6	Ryan Miller			
7	David Meier			
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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)

Stephen Ben Cox

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document <small>(eg. trust deed, constitution)</small>	Constitution
How the charity is constituted <small>(eg. trust, association, company)</small>	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods <small>(eg. appointed by, elected by)</small>	By majority approval of all Trustees via e-mail proposal from C.E.O./Founder.

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

<p>You may choose to include additional information, where relevant, about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Trust has a wide range of policies with regards to such matters as: Risk Assessment; Student Welfare; Health & Safety; Accidents; etc (14 documents in all). The student receives a written copy of all of these as part of our detailed Induction Programme prior to commencing any studies, training or volunteering with the Trust. 2. Four times a year (31Dec/31 Mar/30 June/30 Sept) the Trustees receive from the Founder Trustee/CEO a detailed Report on the activities of the Trust and also detailed Accounts (additional to Annual Accounts and lengthy detailed Annual Report). 3. Covid19: The Trustees and CEO kept in mind Government guidelines regarding teaching and visitors in all its activities. 4. Whilst the overall quantity and range of provision of charitable services has gradually increased, the Trust keeps in mind the relative balance between online/remote provision and on-site provision. Where appropriate it increases the former according to the resources available in terms of finances/donations etc and manpower. (It is also cognisant of the necessity to not undermine the CEO's state of health)
--	--

Section C Objectives and activities

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

<p>(i) To advance education in the subjects of horticulture and conservation in particular but not exclusively by providing study courses, training placements and workshops.</p> <p>(ii) Such charitable purposes for the public benefit as are exclusively charitable according to the laws of England and Wales as the trustees may from time to time determine.</p>

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)

Trustees kept in mind the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when planning our activities for the year. As a matter of course, reference was made to our agreed objectives to aid decision-making. The main activities undertaken for the public benefit were as follows:

1. Public information & guidance via its own three websites, its own YouTube channel, & Google website, and Google notices & news + FaceBook/LinkedIn/Xing/Instagram, & other professional networking media.
2. Provision of residential educational placements all year round for foreign students especially from the E.U.
3. Making available information sheets, guides etc on conservation, wildlife to the general public.
4. Offering access to the library for local students; and to post-graduate scholars.
5. University Student Manager conservation roles.
6. Offering the garden for relaxation visits by residents of nursing homes and retirement homes (under carer supervision).
7. Similarly group bookings by gardening clubs/women's institutes etc.
8. Offering training/study opportunities for young unemployed.
9. Offering the garden for supervised visits by pupils of local schools for projects/study.

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.

10. Residential Student Volunteers programme (mainly from the E.E.A) who contribute to the improvement of the garden thus increase its enjoyment for other students, visitors, as well as the disadvantaged, the elderly etc. They also interact with the local community. gain skills; improve their employability

Students on this programme come to the Trust for tuition/study holiday/language improvement/life and skills enhancement/work experience and were given free board and lodge. Each student stays for between 2 and 6 weeks.

11. Association with Wiltshire County Council Unit for young adults with learning difficulties: providing a resource for building skills & confidence under carer supervision.

12. Mentoring: the Trust provides aspects of mentoring to 16 of its past students to support their ongoing (e.g. university or vocational) education and/or career development.

Covid19: The Trustees and CEO kept in mind Government guidelines regarding teaching and visitors all its activities.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

1. CONSERVATION VIDEOS

The Trust has developed its own YouTube video channel and is now actively producing videos for public education in the arenas of: conservation, climate change, habitat protection & restoration, pollution, wildlife, endangered species. This also involves the active participation of students at various universities in the UK and abroad. Five videos were produced this year. Several more are in production.

2. E.U. STUDENT SUPPORT:

Ongoing mentoring/guidance given to 16 of our past residential student volunteers for their university studies/career etc in their home countries. Re-visits to the Trust by some of them.

2. U.K. UNIVERSITIES

Links continued and were expanded (to now also include Oxford University) established and profile published with U.K. universities for student volunteering. These included:

University of Bath; Bristol University; Bath Spa University; and University of the West of England; Oxford University. And this year Southampton University was added.

3. HOT WEATHER DEVASTATION

Despite valiant efforts of safeguarding, the extreme hot weather caused losses of over £1800 of specimen and specialist plants. An active 12 month programme of restoration is now under way thanks to generous sponsorship from Germany.

4. EXOTICS GARDEN

This area has suffered losses to its plant collection (and decking etc created from old recycled wood has rotted and collapsed). A total refurbishment programme is under way which will make the hard landscaping (via walls and paving) long lasting also extend the range of exotic and semi-tropical plants. It will also provide seating/table for meetings and studies.

5. PUBLIC INFORMATION & GUIDANCE

- (i) Conservation research articles by student managers
- (ii) On social media. And Websites.
- (iii) Provision/offer of guide sheets and reference on wildlife; animal habitats; conservation; organic gardening, pollinating planting.

6. GARDEN REFURBISHMENT PROGRAMMES

Having been created from a field starting 12 years ago, the entire area needed redesign, definition, and refurbishment. A one to two year programme of works has been activated which will include:

- (i) Removing old turf and laying new lawns.
- (ii) Replanning/replanting of the Alpine Garden & rockery
- (iii) Removing dead plants, reorganisation and replanting of the Herb Garden ('Culpepper's Delights')
- (iv) Reorganisation of the small Woodland and development of rest areas, and wild-flower area.
- (v) Redesign and planting of the Cottage Garden ('Jekyll's View')
- (vi) Repairs and repainting to all garden buildings, arches, pergolas, benches,

- (vii) Taking up 6 patios, levelling ground, and re-laying.
- (viii) Restocking pond fish and extending number of species
- (ix) Improvement & extension of wildlife habitats

Overall, this will enable a transformation of the garden and enhancing its unique sculptural and compositional character and vistas. Thereby also enhancing our ability to provide public benefit and educational opportunities/advancement of education and enhancing the experience of visitors and students.

7. GERMAN STUDENTS CONSERVATION MANAGERS

Consideration is being given to expand the student manager roles and opportunities to other countries (in the E.U.). Initially discussions are taking place with German students.

8. PROMOTION

- (i) Improvement of our 3 web-sites
- (ii) Launch of a new and better main Trust website (stephencoxgarden.webador.co.uk)
- (iii) 'Workaway' website profile.
- (iv) Various local directories.
- (v) Google listing & Google website
- (vi) YouTube Channel .
- (vii) LinkedIn
- (vii) Xing.
- (ix) FaceBook
- (x) Instagram
- (xi) <https://philomathes5.webnode.page/> (education website)

9. UNIVERSITY MANAGERS- HABITATS AND WILDLIFE

There are several categories each with various subjects. Each manager chooses a category and the m, proceed to write articles in that category. The appointments lasts for one academic year and is renewable.:

- (A) Species (12 subjects); (B) How to Make Animal Houses (5 subjects)
- (C) Soil (7 subjects). (D) Planting (5 subjects). (E) Water (5 subjects)
- (F) Feeding/Foraging Routes/Wildlife Corridors (6 subjects).
- (G) Conservation For Children (4 subjects)
- (H) Recycling/Renewables (8 subjects)
- (I) Wild Spaces & Habitats (5 subjects)
- (J) Wildlife & Organic Gardening (9 subjects)

Neither the categories nor the range of subjects are exhaustive and are always being expanded. Students retain copyright of their work but the Trust has full rights of archiving/publishing etc. Students managers are given accreditation for their work and testimonials/reports/feedback is provided

10. WILTSHIRE COUNCIL EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES

Working with the Wiltshire Council Unit for young adults with learning difficulties (with their carers) providing placements to enable them to gain work experience and improve skills and confidence and offer parent respite. Currently two mornings a week.

11. FOREIGN STUDENTS RESIDENTIAL PLACEMENTS

Residential placements were continued for foreign students to come to stay with us for study/language improvement/work and skills enhancement/life adventure etc. They came from:

Finland.

Italy.

Spain

There was the return of two past students (from Germany).

It has been of value to the local community, to international friendship and understanding. They also improved their English; completed their designated abroad placements required by their respective universities. They also often made their university applications whilst here.

The Trust is now fully booked for foreign residential student placements until the end of 2022 (German students). Places are being offered as from March 2023.

12. UNIVERSITY MANAGERS CONSERVATION

There are several categories each with various subjects. Each manager chooses a category and then proceeds to write articles in that category. The appointments last for one academic year and is renewable.:

(A) Mitigation measures. (15 subjects) (B) Renewable energy advantages/impacts. (13 subjects)

(C) Re-wilding. (10 subjects) (D) Landscape restoring/protection/wildlife enhancement. (17 subjects) (E)

Threats to species. Extinction. Climate Change (13 subjects). (F) Individual species/threats/decline (15 subjects). (G) Damage to migration routes/breeding. (11 subjects) (H) Well being & nature. Housing etc (15 subjects). (I) Loss/damage of

Habitats/special landscapes. (10 subjects) (J) Pollution (12 subjects).

(K) Circular Economy. (7 subjects) (L) Landscape/Environment (15 subjects) (M) Landscape re-wilding (17 subjects) (N) Pollution Costs (11 subjects) (O) Oceans & Waterways (20 subjects) (P) Landscape & Economy Impacts (12 subjects)

Neither the categories nor the range of subjects are exhaustive and are always being expanded. Students retain copyright of their work but the Trust has full rights of archiving/publishing etc. Students managers are given accreditation for their work and testimonials/reports/feedback is provided

13. LIBRARY:

Modest expansion of the Library. Ongoing offer to local students for their studies, and to university and to post-graduate scholars for research.

14. UNIVERSITY MEDIA MANAGERS:

Another student managers post (this being the 3rd such managerial role) has been advertised with 5 UK universities. This is for managers to help with social media platforms, promotion, and internet. Each manager will take responsibility for one of the following:

- (i) Website design.
- (ii) YouTube channel.
- (iii) Social media profile & promotion : Instagram business account.
- (iv) Social media profile & promotion : LinkedIn business account.
- (v) Photography.
- (vi) Video about the garden. (vi). Video about the Trust.
- (vii) Video about our conservation projects.
- (viii) Podcasts.
- (ix) Webinars.
- (x) Foreign universities promo re volunteering/study holidays/college internships etc

15. **SPONSORS**

Major sponsorship from a landscape engineering company in Germany. This has enabled to recommencement of German and E.U. student residential study placements, occasional student excursions and also some major garden refurbishment projects.

16. **PEDAGOGY**

The Trust has continued to develop its unique educational philosophy based on the ethos and teachings of its Founder. This might be termed a version of humanist education: though not constrained by the theories, and delimitation or prejudice of what can sometimes be inherent in the term 'humanism'. The philosophy combines the best of teaching traditions and developments of the past with the experience, innovations and unique approach of the Founder over many years to yield this unique practical form of education to arm young people to:

- (i) fulfil their individual potential and a full and meaningful life
 - (ii) improve and serve their community
 - (iii) seek and practice innovation, improvement and high ideals and standards in life
 - (iv) cherish the planet, wildlife and the environment and
 - (v) to become model citizens.
- (ii) This is explained in our humanist education website Philomathes. (<https://philomathes5.webnode.page/>)

17. **REFURBISHMENT OF SUMMERHOUSE**

Following the grant by Calne Without Parish Council repairs and refurbishments have begun on this building to make it a more effective teaching area and also protect the book collection.

18. **PAST STUDENTS:**

Residential volunteers from around Europe are staying in regular contact with the Founder and also write a quarterly report for the Trustees and Friends of the Trust about the progress of their University courses and life in general.

19. **EXPANSION OF OPPORTUNITIES**

The Trust is considering has added a provision: opportunities/studies for school years 12-13 (16-18 years). The opportunities will also be made available to students from the European Union. This depends on: (i) Trust finances (ii). liaison with schools and families. Half-day placements only. No residency.

20. BOOK PUBLISHING

The Trust has initiated a project to engage in additional public education and welfare : book publishing.

This is made possible by the support of a company in Germany who will undertake e-publishing for the Trust.

A series of books is planned to assist public understanding of such matters as:

conservation, gardening, well-being, ecological landscaping, design.

The first book "Water Gardening For You" (written by the founder, Stephen Ben Cox) is due for public release early in 2023.

Section D ends.

Section E**Financial review****Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves**

The reserve fund (Savings Account) which was created for emergencies continues and has not been used. This now stands at: **£500.92** (an increase of £100 over last financial year)

Details of any funds materially in deficit

NONE

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 Trust currently seeks support/income from the following sources:

- Grants.
- Occasional plant sales.
- Small donations from individuals.
- Occasional workshops/seminars.
- Stock donations from businesses.
- Donations via private group visits to the gardens.
- Financial donations and/or sponsorship from businesses.

Section F Other optional information

- (i) The Trust does not allow itself to run an overdraft or have loans or leases.
- (ii) To enhance a strict financial discipline regular accounts are generated for Trustees and Advisers.
- (iii) The Trust is registered with HMRC for Gift Aid, and has its own customised donation forms/receipts which are issued to donors.
- (iii) The Trust does not permit itself to have a credit card.
- (iv) The Trust does not enter into financial association or partnerships with other organisations.

Section G Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	<i>Stephen Ben Cox</i>	
Full name(s)	Stephen Ben Cox	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair/Founder/C.E.O.	
Date	01 October 2022	

Stephen Cox Garden Trust

(registered Charity #1174239)

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

01st October 2021 to 30th September 2022

EXPENDITURE

SUBJECT	2020/2021	AMOUNT
Tools/equipment	£172. 28	£82. 35
Residential students Food	£100. 46	£413. 22
Residential students Electricity	}-↓	£ 30
Residential students Water	})£14. 86	£8
Garden paint & sealants etc	£228. 43	£183
Books	£6. 84	£---
Compost/Fertilisers/Plant aids	£28. 31	£120. 90
Postage	£--	£---
Printing	£--	£---
Telephone %	£---	£---
Internet %	£---	£20
Protective & promo clothing	£9. 99	£---
Visits/research	£	£---
Insurance	£253. 79	£259. 71
Landscaping/Building/Restoring	£1905. 94	£353. 36
Travel/Student excursions	£75	£64. 65
Repairs	£169. 30	£99. 03
Subscriptions	£---	£---
Plants/Trees/Shrubs/Fruit	£	£623. 88
Seeds	£---	£17
Stationery/Office	£46. 31	£---
Furniture/statues/clocks/fountain	£147. 89	£ 63
Replacements	£276. 97	£150
Mobile phone %	£---	£---
Residential students heating oil	£40. 56	£---
Transfer to reserve account		£100
Students pocket money		£100
TOTAL EXPENDITURE:	£3968. 43	£2686. 49

INCOME

SUBJECT	2019/2020	AMOUNT
Business sponsor donation	£---	£6171. 41
Plant sales	£---	£180
Group visits	£200	£----
Grants	£1570. 87	£----
Monthly Pledges	£---	£234.36
Bequests	£---	£ 850
Loans	£---	£ ----
Refunds	£----	£----
Private Viewing	£ ----	£---
Copyright fees	£46. 27	£102. 84
Just Giving platform	£---	£----
Gift Aid	£---	£---
Other donations	£536. 10	£1418. 999
Paypal Giving	£---	£---
Amazon Smile	£5	£5
Students accommodation	£5	£559. 11
TOTAL INCOME:	£2361. 09	£9521. 71

NOTES:

OTHER PURCHASES: Some Repairs (pond pumps etc); Seeds; Many plants; Stationery; Internet; Postage; Mobile phone; Business travel; Some paint; Cement & sand; Telephone; personally financed by Stephen Cox for the Trust (not shown here).

INSURANCE: This year monthly cost increased from £21.41 to £21. 70 incl. 'Mutual Benefit' discount

FOREIGN RESIDENTIAL STUDENTS

Residential student placements resumed as from June 2022
Places are now fully booked until Spring 2023.

RESERVE FUND

Was increased by £100 via transfer from current account

STUDENT FAMILIES CONTRIBUTION

This year some some families contributed to their off-spring accommodation

2023 SAFE PROJECTION to 01 July

Minimal anticipated expenditure/maintenance for ¾ year 2022/2023

ESSENTIAL NEEDS (funds ring-fenced):

1. Insurance (12 months) =	£260. 40
2. Residential volunteers (8 months) food=	£1248
3. Volunteer electricity/water/heat =	£200
4. Potting shed roof repair	£230
5. Portion of Internet @ £5 pcm	£45
6. Plug plants	£180
7. Paint	£130
8. Repaving exotics area	£507. 49
9. Replace exotics	£180
10. Accompany students on excursions/research	£270
11. Replace other plant losses	£430
12. Travel to sponsor's meetings	£160
13. Replacement gate/arch	£329
14. Re-turfing lawns	£373. 86
TOTAL	£4543. 75p
Balance on 30 th .September 2022	£7464. 61p
Projected Credit 1 st .July 2023 =	+£2920. 86p

LIABILITIES & CREDITORS

None in current year

ASSETS & INVESTMENTS

1. Reserve fund: £500. 92p
2. Assets (less depreciation)
Chain saw/hedge trimmer:£99. 99; Statue £99;
Short hedge trimmer: £28. 99

CLOSING STATEMENT

	2020/21	2021/22
Opening balance:	£2236. 75	£629. 39p
Income from all sources =	£2361. 09	£9521. 71p
	£4597. 84	£ 10151.10

Expenditure =	£ 3968. 45	£2686. 49p
<u>Sub-total/balance (A) =</u>	+ £629. 39	<u>+£ 7464. 61</u> (=current account closing balance)

Reserve/Savings Account= opening balance	£500. 71p
interest for year=	£ 0. 21p
Monies owing =	£----
<u>Sub-total balance (B)</u>	<u>£500. 92p</u>

Liabilities/loans=	£ ----
Creditors =	£----
<u>Sub-Total (C) =</u>	<u>£ ----</u>

CREDIT (+) or DEFICIT (-) for the year

Total D (A+B - C) = +£7965. 53 (incl.emergency reserve of £500. 92)

NOTES:

- (i) The Trust does not/will not run a Bank Overdraft.
- (ii) The Trust does not/will not have any Loans.
- (iii) The Trust does not/will not take on any Leases.
- (iv) The Trust does not/will not engage in any Share Dealing.
- (iv) The Trust does not/will not engage in any joint Financial Ventures with other parties.

Stephen Cox Garden Trust

Registered Address

84,Studley Lane, Studley, nr.Calne, Wiltshire, SN11 9NH. UK.

Registered Trustees

Stephen B. Cox; Iain Jessup; Simon Kerstan; David Meier; Ryan Miller; Nicholas Self; Colette Som;

STEPHEN COX GARDEN TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1174239

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date			Period end date				
From	01 st .	October	2020	To	30 th .	September	2021

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name	Stephen Cox Garden Trust
Other names charity is known by	Mid-Wessex Garden Trust; Stephen Cox Trust
Registered charity number (if any)	1174239
Charity's principal address	84, Studley Lane, Studley, nr.Calne, Wiltshire Postcode SN11 9NH

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	Stephen Ben Cox	C.E.O./chair		
2	Colette Som			
3	Nicholas Self			
4	Iain Jessup			
5	Simon Kerstan			
6	Ryan Miller			
7	David Meier			
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)

Stephen Ben Cox

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document <small>(eg. trust deed, constitution)</small>	Constitution
How the charity is constituted <small>(eg. trust, association, company)</small>	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods <small>(eg. appointed by, elected by)</small>	By majority approval of all Trustees via e-mail proposal from C.E.O./Founder.

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

<p>You may choose to include additional information, where relevant, about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Trust has a wide range of policies with regards to such matters as: Risk Assessment; Student Welfare; Health & Safety; Accidents; etc (14 documents in all). The student receives a written copy of all of these as part of our detailed Induction Programme prior to commencing any studies, training or volunteering with the Trust. 2. Four times a year (31Dec/31 Mar/30 June/30 Sept) the Trustees receive from the Founder Trustee/CEO a detailed Report on the activities of the Trust and also detailed Accounts (additional to Annual Accounts and lengthy detailed Annual Report). 3. Covid19: The Trustees and CEO kept in mind Government guidelines regarding teaching and visitors in all its activities. Measures were taken to cancel and/restrict these. All of our foreign volunteer educational placements were cancelled as from March 2020, and all our open days and other planned events/activities were cancelled. Some teaching re-commenced latter 2021as per Government guidelines The Trust has a policy of social distancing and face masks.
--	--

Section C Objectives and activities

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

<p>(i) To advance education in the subjects of horticulture and conservation in particular but not exclusively by providing study courses, training placements and workshops.</p> <p>(ii) Such charitable purposes for the public benefit as are exclusively charitable according to the laws of England and Wales as the trustees may from time to time determine.</p>

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)

Trustees kept in mind the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when planning our activities for the year. As a matter of course, reference was made to our agreed objectives to aid decision-making. The main activities undertaken for the public benefit were as follows:

1. Public information & guidance via its own three websites, its own YouTube channel, & Google website, and Google notices & news + FaceBook/LinkedIn/Xing/Instagram, & other professional networking media.
2. Provision of residential educational placements all year round for foreign students especially from the E.U.
3. Making available information sheets, guides etc on conservation, wildlife to the general public and to the local community.
4. Offering access to the library for local students; and post-graduate scholars.
5. University Student Manager conservation roles.
6. Offering the garden for relaxation visits by residents of nursing homes and retirement homes (under carer supervision).
7. Similarly group bookings by gardening clubs/women's institutes etc.
8. Offering training/study opportunities for young unemployed.
9. Offering the garden for supervised visits by pupils of local schools for projects/study.

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.

10. Residential Student Volunteers programme (mainly from the E.E.A) who contribute to the improvement of the garden thus increase its enjoyment for other students, visitors, as well as the disadvantaged, the elderly etc. They also interact with the local community. gain skills; improve their employability

Students on this programme come to the Trust for tuition/study holiday/language improvement/life and skills enhancement/work experience and were given free board and lodge. Each student stays for between 2 and 8 weeks.

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Covid19: The Trustees and CEO kept in mind Government guidelines regarding teaching and visitors all its activities. Measures were taken to cancel and/restrict these all out foreign volunteer educational placements were cancelled as from March and all our open days and other planned events/activities were cancelled.

Some teaching re-commenced latter 2021 as per Government guidelines The Trust has a policy of social distancing and face masks.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

1. E.U. STUDENT SUPPORT:

Ongoing mentoring/guidance given to some past residential student volunteers for their university studies etc in their home countries.

2. U.K. UNIVERSITIES

Links continued and were expanded (to now also include Oxford University) established and profile published with U.K. universities for student volunteering. These included:

University of Bath; Bristol University; Bath Spa University; and University of the West of England; Oxford University.

3. WOODLAND

Area underwent a major clearing and refurbishment with re-establishment of slate tower fountain, planting of Azaleas, and woodland plants, and preparations for a wild flower meadow area.

4. STUDENT GARDEN ROOM

A new building has been erected outside the rear of the kitchen (where the old open fronted arbour type shed used to be). It is 7' x 5' and has a desk, Wi-Fi, day-bed, bookshelves, window blinds, soft rubber flooring, easy chair, radio, ceiling light and desk light and fan.

It provides an entirely private room for the residential volunteer to study in since the bedroom does not offer much space for this.

5. PUBLIC INFORMATION & GUIDANCE

- (i) Conservation research articles by student managers
- (ii) On social media. And Websites.
- (iii) Provision/offer of guide sheets and reference on wildlife; animal habitats; conservation; organic gardening, pollinating planting.

6. GARDEN IMPROVEMENTS

Thematic improvement to landscaping of the garden:

- (i) Refurbishment of "the Beach" and also introduction of coastal planting.
- (ii) Extensive planting of collection of clematis, tubrous begonia.
- (iii) Redesign of the entire frontal drive/patio areas.
- (iv) Expansion of Herbarium with an extra 30 herbs
- (v) Development of pond and new bridge.
- (vi) Redesign of the alpine garden

This enabled ongoing transformation of the garden and enhancing its unique sculptural and compositional character and vistas. Thereby also enhancing our ability to provide public benefit and educational opportunities/advancement of education and enhancing the experience of visitors and students.

7. GERMAN STUDENTS CONSERVATION MANAGERS

Consideration is being given to expand the student manager roles and opportunities to other countries (in the E.U.). Initially discussions are taking place with German students.

8. PROMOTION

- (i) Improvement of our 3 web-sites
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9. UNIVERSITY MANAGERS- HABITATS AND WILDLIFE

There are several categories each with various subjects. Each manager chooses a category and the m, proceed to write articles in that category. The appointments lasts for one academic year and is renewable.:

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Neither the categories nor the range of subjects are exhaustive and are always being expanded. Students retain copyright of their work but the Trust has full rights of archiving/publishing etc. Students managers are given accreditation for their work and testimonials/reports/feedback is provided

10. WILTSHIRE COUNCIL EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES

Working with the Wiltshire Council Unit for your young adults with learning difficulties providing placements to enable them to gain work experience and improve skills and confidence. Recommended on 24th.July after Covid19 restrictions eased.

11. FOREIGN STUDENTS RESIDENTIAL PLACEMENTS

Residential placements were continued for foreign students to come to stay with us for study/language improvement/work and skills enhancement/life adventure etc. They came from France. And also return of a past student (Germany),

It has been of value to the local community, to international friendship and understanding. They also improved their English; completed their designated abroad placements required by their respective universities. They also often made their university applications whilst here.

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There are several categories each with various subjects. Each manager chooses a category and the m, proceed to write articles in

that category. The appointments lasts for one academic year and is renewable.:

- (A) Mitigation measures. (15 subjects) (B) Renewable energy advantages/impacts. (13 subjects)
 (C) Re-wilding. (10 subjects) (D) Landscape restoring/protection/wildlife enhancement. (17 subjects) (E) Threats to species. Extinction. Climate Change(13 subjects). (F) Individual species/threats/decline(15 subjects). (G) Damage to migration routes/breeding. (11 subjects) (H) Well being & nature. Housing etc (15 subjects). (I) Loss/damage of Habitats/special landscapes. (10 subjects) (J) Pollution (12 subjects).
 (K)Circular Economy. (7 subjects) (L) Landscape/Environment (15 subjects) (M) Landscape re-wilding (17 subjects) (N) Pollution Costs (11 subjects) (O) Oceans & Waterways (20 subjects) (P) Landscape & Economy Impacts (12 subjects)

Neither the categories nor the range of subjects are exhaustive and are always being expanded. Students retain copyright of their work but the Trust has full rights of archiving/publishing etc. Students managers are given accreditation for their work and testimonials/reports/feedback is provided

13. LIBRARY:

Modest expansion of the Library. Ongoing offer to local students for their studies, and to university and to post-graduate scholars for research.

14. UNIVERSITY MEDIA MANAGERS:

Another student managers post (this being the 3rd such managerial role) has been advertised with 5 UK universities. This is for managers to help with social media platforms, promotion, and internet. Each manager will take responsibility for one of the following:

- (i) Website design.
- (ii) YouTube channel.
- (iii) Social media profile & promotion : Instagram business account.
- (iv) Social media profile & promotion : LinkedIn business account.
- (v) Photography.
- (vi) Video about the garden. (vi). Video about the Trust.
- (vii) Video about our conservation projects.
- (viii) Podcasts.
- (ix) Webinars.
- (x) Foreign universities promo re volunteering/study holidays/college internships etc

15. SPONSORS & DONORS & GRANTS

Finances came from two sources this year:

- (i) Individual donations

Section D

Achievements and performance

- (ii) Parish Council Grant.
- (iii) Group Visit

16. GRANT FROM CALNE WITHOUT PARISH COUNCIL

£1570. 87. This grant being to cover costs for:
Rolls of sound insulation; sound panels; lining paper & paste; paint; floor covering; folding chairs & clip boards; white board & stand; wall shelves; repairs to verandah; repairs to roof; bitumistic covering to roof; floor paint to verandah. And also to prevent damage from damp to the book collection.

17. REFURBISHMENT OF SUMMERHOUSE

Following the grant by Calne Without Parish Council repairs and refurbishments have begun on this building to make it a more effective teaching area and also protect the book collection.

18. PAST STUDENTS: Residential volunteers from around Europe are staying in regular contact with the Founder and also write a quarterly report for the Trustees and Friends of the Trust about the progress of their University courses and life in general.

19. NEW WEBSITE: A brand new main website for the trust was built and published, since the previous host decided to start charging and no longer offer a free site. The new site is a vast improvement and also free. Offering lots of extra tools and features (e.g drop down menus) thus enabling a better experience for students, visitors, clients. The new main Trust site is now at:

<https://stephencoxgarden.webador.co.uk/>

(End of this section)

Section D ends.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

A reserve fund (Savings Account) was created for emergencies. This stood at **£400.71**

Details of any funds materially in deficit

NONE

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 Trust currently seeks support/income from the following sources:

Grants.
Occasional plant sales.
Donations from businesses.
Small donations from individuals.
Donations via private group visits to the gardens

Section F Other optional information

- (i) The Trust does not allow itself to run an overdraft or have loans or leases.
- (ii) To enhance a strict financial discipline quarterly accounts are generated for Trustees and Advisers.
- (iii) Strict records are maintained of all donations and receipts issued.
- (iii) The Trust is registered with HMRC for Gift Aid, and has its own customised donation forms/receipts which are issued to donors.

Section G Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	<i>Stephen Ben Cox</i>	
Full name(s)	Stephen Ben Cox	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair/Founder/C.E.O.	
Date	11 October 2021	

Stephen Cox Garden Trust

(registered Charity #1174239)

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

01st October 2020 to 30th September 2021

EXPENDITURE

SUBJECT	2019/2020	AMOUNT
Tools/equipment	£216. 25	£172. 28
Volunteers food	£148. 35	£100. 46
Volunteers Electricity	}-↓	}-↓
Volunteers Water	})£ 45	£14. 86
Garden paint & sealants etc	£99.08	£228. 43
Books	£2. 99	£6. 84
Compost/Fertilisers/Plant aids	£ ---	£28. 31
Postage	£--	£---
Printing	£--	£---
Telephone %	£---	£---
Internet %	£---	£---
Protective & promo clothing	£9. 99	£9. 99
Visits/research	£	£---
Insurance	£241. 57	£253. 79
Landscaping/Building/Restoring	£60. 47	£1905. 94
Travel	£---	£75
Repairs	£17.20	£169. 30
Subscriptions	£---	£---
Plants/Trees/Shrubs/Fruit	£62	£532. 08
Seeds	£74. 28	£---
Stationery/Office	£8. 85	£46. 31
Furniture/statues/clocks/fountain	£199. 69	£147. 89
Replacements	£ 76. 89	£276. 97
Mobile phone %	£---	£---
Workawayers heating oil	£40. 56	£---
TOTAL EXPENDITURE:	£1303. 17	£3968. 43

INCOME

SUBJECT	2019/2020	AMOUNT
Business sponsor/donations	£2171. 77	£---
Plant sales	£---	£----
Group visits	£----	£200
Grants	£---	£1570. 87
Sponsorship	£---	£-----
Bequests	£---	£----
Loans	£---	£----
Refunds	£----	£2. 85
Private Viewing	£----	£---
Copyright fees for SBC	£94. 80	£46. 27
Just Giving platform	£----	£----
Gift Aid	£---	£---
Individual donations	£147. 78	£536. 10
Paypal Giving	£---	£---
Amazon Smile	£5	£5
TOTAL INCOME:	£2419. 35	£2361. 09

NOTES:

OTHER PURCHASES: Some Repairs (pond pumps etc); Seeds; Many plants; Stationery; Internet; Postage; Mobile phone; Business travel; Some paint; Cement & sand; Telephone; personally financed by Stephen Cox for the Trust (not shown here)

INSURANCE: This year monthly cost increased from £19. 50 to £20.32 incl. 'Mutual Benefit' discount.

FOREIGN RESIDENTIAL VOLUNTEERS (Workawayers) placements suspended from 14th.March due to Covid19 .

2022 SAFE PROJECTION to 01 July

Minimal expenditure/maintenance for half year 2022 of funds currently held at 30th.September 202 (being £629. 39p)

FUNDS ALREADY SPENT £101.05:(specialist plants 18 x 6 grow on cuttings)

Balance for all of 2022 := **£528.34p**

ESSENTIAL NEEDS (funds allotted):

1. Insurance (12 months) =	£ 267. 47p
2. Residential volunteer (1 months) food	£130. 71p
3. Volunteer electricity & water etc =	£18
4. Paint brushes	£10. 30p
5. Secateurs	£ 6. 50p
6. Paint	£62. 56p

TOTAL £495. 54p

Credit 1st.July if no donations or visits=

Assuming NO expenditure for 6months **+£32. 80p**
+Likely£9.61 month donation from a Trustee:£57.66 £90. 46 credit

(2022 ½ yr SHORTFALLS)

Expected minimum needs at/from 1st.July for maintenance (funds not yet available but no commitments yet made)

Volunteers food (4 months)	£ 522. 85p
Volunteers electricity & water =	£ 72
Replacement Turf supply only	£437
Footwear	£ 28
Portion of internet	£ 12. 80p
Pump & Filter	£ 420
Spring/early summer plants	£ 48. 97p
Paint :	£ 64.
Seeds	£ 30

Minimum likely shortfall: £1635. 62p

LIABILITIES & CREDITORS

None in current year

ASSETS & INVESTMENTS

1. Reserve fund: £400. 71p
2. Assets (less depreciation)
Chain saw/hedge trimmer:£99. 99; Statue £99;
Short hedge trimmer: £28. 99

CLOSING STATEMENT

	2019/20	2020/21
Opening balance:	£1329. 57	£2236. 75p
Income from all sources =	£2419. 35	£2361. 09p
	£3739. 92	£4597. 84p
Expenditure =	£1303. 17	£3968. 45p
<u>Sub-total/balance (A) =</u>	+ £1245. 06	<u>+£629. 39</u> (current account closing balance)

Reserve/savings account= opening balance	£400. 66p
interest for year=	£ 0. 05p
Monies owing =	£----
<u>Sub-total balance (B)</u>	£400. 71p

Liabilities/loans=	£ ----
Creditors =	£----
<u>Sub-Total (C) =</u>	£ ----

CREDIT (+) or DEFICIT (-) for the year

Total D (A+B - C) = **+£1030. 10** (incl.emergency reserve of £400. 71)

NOTES:

- (i) The Trust does not/will not run a Bank Overdraft.
- (ii) The Trust does not/will not have any Loans.
- (iii) The Trust does not/will not take on any Leases.
- (iv) The Trust does not/will not engage in any Share Dealing.
- (iv) The Trust does not/will not engage in any joint Financial Ventures with other parties.

Stephen Cox Garden Trust

Registered Address

84, Studley Lane, Studley, nr. Calne, Wiltshire, SN11 9NH. UK.

Registered Trustees

Stephen B. Cox; Iain Jessup; Simon Kerstan; David Meier; Ryan Miller; Nicholas Self; Colette Som;