

FRIENDS OF BURTON MANOR GARDENS

England & Wales · Charity number 1175483

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Company number [CEO11932](#)

Registered 2017-10-31

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Burton Manor Gardens
Burton Manor
Burton Village
Neston
Cheshire
CH64 5TQ

Phone 0151 336 6154

Email burtonmanorgardens@gmail.com

Website friendsofburtonmanorgardens.chessck.co.uk

Activities

Objects: THE PROMOTION OF SOCIAL INCLUSION FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT BY PREVENTING PEOPLE FROM BECOMING SOCIALLY EXCLUDED, RELIEVING THE NEEDS OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO ARE SOCIALLY EXCLUDED AND ASSISTING THEM TO INTEGRATE INTO SOCIETY BY PROVIDING LEISURE AND EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES WITH AN EMPHASIS ON LOCAL HISTORY, HORTICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT.FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS CLAUSE 'SOCIALLY EXCLUDED' MEANS BEING EXCLUDED FROM SOCIETY, OR PARTS OF SOCIETY, AS A RESULT OF ONE OF MORE OF THE FOLLOWING FACTORS: UNEMPLOYMENT; FINANCIAL HARDSHIP; YOUTH OR OLD AGE; ILL HEALTH (PHYSICAL OR MENTAL); POOR EDUCATIONAL OR SKILLS ATTAINMENT; RELATIONSHIP AND FAMILY BREAKDOWN

Activities: The promotion of social inclusion for the public benefit by preventing people from becoming socially excluded by providing leisure and educational facilities with an emphasis on local history, horticulture and the environment.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Amateur Sport, Environment/conservation/heritage, Recreation
- **Who:** Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Cheshire West & Chester

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-11-30	£10,239	£16,639	-	-
2024-11-30	£10,872	£11,722	-	-
2023-11-30	£11,998	£4,906	-	-
2022-11-30	£14,953	£21,826	-	-
2021-11-30	£18,490	£13,260	-	-
2020-11-30	£21,020	£6,101	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
GAVIN HUNTER	Chair	2023-03-26
Carole Hann		2021-09-27
Colin Spencer		2021-09-27
Gwilym Richard Hughes		2026-03-25
Michelle Suckley		2023-03-26
PETER LAWRENCE CUNNINGTON		2023-03-26

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Chairman's Report

Another year, another annual report – which, in some ways, is a reiteration of last year's !

Thanks to all the volunteers who turn up week in, week out, come rain or shine, to look after the gardens. Weeding, planting, harvesting – that never ending cycle ! As always we could do with more volunteers. Inevitably we lose some, but this year we've gained a few more and on balance the numbers remain about the same. Unfortunately the pressures of modern life seem to preclude the younger people having the time to be involved. Welcome to those who have joined us, and everyone please continue to spread the word.

Thanks to the trustees and officials who do sterling work behind the scenes to keep the organization going. To Georgie, our honorary secretary. To Tony. Our treasurer, and his assistant, Linda, who keep control of our finances and prepare the annual returns required by the Charity Commission. Welcome to Gwilym, co-opted as a trustee this year and up for election this year along with myself, Peter and Michelle, who have all agreed to stand for re-election

A special mention goes to the team who have made a great job of renewing the raised beds, fences and paths, and have now started on the strawberry beds – all victims of time and weather. And thanks to all the other volunteers who, apart from the sizeable task of maintaining the gardens, help with cleaning, catering, and maintenance. To those who look after the bookshop, which makes a significant contribution to our finances, along with the plant stall which is always kept well stocked by Sarah.

Spring is here. Visitor number appear to be on the rise. The gardens are looking excellent. Disruption by the building work is over. The houses are all sold, apart from Mawson Lodge which remains unoccupied. The future of The Manor itself is uncertain as a result of financial difficulties of the business occupying it. Who knows what the next year will bring ? What we do know is that we're all getting older and an injection of younger volunteers must be essential to our continued existence.

So, ... on behalf of The Friends of Burton Manor Gardens, thank you to all our supporters. Keep coming !

Gavin Hunter. Chairman

March 2026

Friends of Burton Manor Gardens CIO , Charity no 1175483

Accounts for the Year Ended 30 November 2025

Receipts and Payments Account

Receipts	y/e 30.11.25	y/e 30.11.24
Subscriptions	630	646
Donations	348	317
Rent	3000	4800
HMRC Gift Aid	77	77
Bank Interest	871	893
Books	1394	1131
Plants	3026	2387
Room Hire	685	621
Courses and Events	103	0
Direct Debit Refund	<u>105</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Income	<u>10239</u>	<u>10872</u>
Payments		
Insurance	526	666
Glasshouse Repairs	8278	4491
Repairs and Renewals	120	210
Cleaning	218	569
Stationery and Computer Consumables	146	39
Catering and General	241	221
Courses and Events	0	300
Gardening Supplies	3109	1436
Fire Extinguisher Maintenance	134	0
Building Materials	1872	804
Equipment	1017	2016
Sundry items/Office/Phone	<u>978</u>	<u>970</u>
Total Expenditure	<u>16639</u>	<u>11722</u>
Surplus of Income for the Year	-6400	-850

Friends of Burton Manor Gardens CIO, Charity no 1175483

Accounts for the Year Ended 30 November 2025

Movements within the Total Funds during the Year

Funds as at 30 November 2024

Barclays Premium Account	62271	
Barclays Current Account	2744	
Petty Cash Float	<u>35</u>	
		65050
Movement within Year		65050
Surplus for the Year		-6400
Total Funds as at 30 November 2025		<u>58650</u>

Funds represented by:

Barclays Current Account	441	
Barclays Premium Account	58142	
Petty Cash Float	<u>67</u>	
Total Funds as at 30 November 2025		<u>58650</u>

FRIENDS OF BURTON MANOR GARDENS

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Friends of Burton Manor Gardens

Accounts for the Year Ended 30th November 2024

Receipts and Payments Account

	y/e 30.11.23	
Receipts		
Subscriptions	646	600
CWAC Grant	0	0
Donations	317	452
Rent	4800	6000
HMRC Gift Aid	77	157
Bank Interest	893	382
Teas and Books	1131	878
Plants and Gardening	2387	2355
Room Hire	621	1165
Courses and Events	0	0
Direct debit Refund	<u>0</u>	<u>10</u>
Total Income	<u>10872</u>	<u>11998</u>
Payments		
Insurance	666	549
Glasshouse Repairs	4491	0
Repairs and Renewals	210	210
Cleaning	569	855
Stationery and Computer Consumables	39	111
Catering and General	221	226
Course and Events	300	0
Gardening Supplies	1436	720
Fire Extinguisher Maintenance	0	0
Building Materials	804	218
Equipment	2016	898
Sundry Items/Office/Phone	<u>970</u>	<u>1119</u>
Overpayment		
Total Expenditure	<u>11722</u>	<u>4906</u>
Surplus of Income for the year	-850	7093

Friends of Burton Manor Gardens

Accounts for the Year Ended 30th November 2024

Movements within the Total Funds during the Year

Funds as at 30th November 2023

Barclays Premium Account	5362	
Barclays Current Account	60378	
Petty Cash Float	<u>160</u>	
		65900
Movement within Year		65900
Surplus for the year		-850
Total Funds as at 30th November 2024		<u>65050</u>

Funds represented by:

Barclays Current Account	2744	
Barclays Premium Account	62271	
Petty Cash Float	35	
Total Funds as at 30th November 2024		<u>65050</u>

Chairman's Report March 2025

It seems hard to credit that another year has gone by ! Another year of planting, harvesting, weeding, maintenance, and improvements. All carried out, in the main, by our intrepid band of volunteers, supplemented where necessary by contractors for some of the more specialist tasks.

Despite adverse weather during the late Winter and early Spring, we can safely say that the gardens have never looked better - for which our thanks go to the hard work of our excellent team of volunteers. We are pleased to have welcomed several new members to the group during the year but, as always, we could do with more of them. Unfortunately we are inevitably an aging group and, often due to the economic pressures of modern life, younger supporters just haven't got the time to spare. But we are always on the lookout for new volunteers !

Arrangements for the daily opening of the walled garden have had to be revised to take account of the availability of individuals to unlock and close each day. We are grateful to some of the new residents who are now helping out with this task.

Repairs to the glasshouse are on-going. More work has been carried out on the roof, heating arrangements and electrical improvements are complete, floors are about to be sanded and sealed, and new kitchen units will be installed very soon. All of which will enable us to offer our improved facilities for hire by even more local groups for their meetings and family events.

Plant and bookshop sales continue to provide a steady source of income which helps to fund supplies of compost, seed, bulbs etc. Copious quantities of wood chippings and manure are always needed, and thankfully we've been able to source these locally. Rental income enables us to replace equipment as required, as well as funding improvements around the gardens. Work is almost finished on replacing the raised beds with just some tidying up to complete. Repairs to pathways, steps, edgings etc is a never-ending task, together with the replacement of tables and benches.

The gardens continue to be very popular with visitors. Although it only applies to a small minority, there is still an issue with dog owners who don't pick up, or leave their bags in the bushes. This can make maintenance of the shrubberies or cutting grass a rather unpleasant experience, and we ask all dog owners to keep their dogs on a lead and to pick up after them.

Building of the new houses in the lower park is complete and most of them are now occupied. Work is proceeding rapidly on 'Mawson Lodge' overlooking the sunken garden and we look forward to welcoming more new neighbours in the coming year.

Finally a special thank you to the Trustees who do things way and beyond simply gardening – managing all the issues of running The Friends:- insurance, accounting, taking bookings, buying supplies, organising events, and a dozen and one other jobs that often go unrecognised. In accordance with our constitution, each year in rotation, one third of the trustees are required to retire from office. This year, after many years of serving as Trustees, Giles Nance and Georgie Harland have decided not to stand for re-election. But thankfully both will be continuing their involvement as active volunteers, both in the garden and the office for which we are very grateful.

Thank you to all the subscribing members of The Friends. We look forward to your continued support - and hopefully some more volunteers !

Gavin Hunter
Chairman FoBMG
March 2025

FRIENDS OF BURTON MANOR GARDENS

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Friends of Burton Manor – Chairman’s Report

It seems hardly credible that it’s twelve months since my report to the last Annual General Meeting. Once again it’s my pleasant duty to extend a warm thanks to all the volunteers who continue to turn up week after week to maintain and support this important community asset. Significantly only one of whom actually lives in the village ! To try and address this we are reaching out to the village organisations and to local residents to come and join us, and we hope to organise a joint event later in the year.

Special thanks must also go to the trustees and officers of The Friends for their unstinting work in organising and managing its affairs: keeping the books, carrying out the admin, managing the workforce, organising the supplies, arranging the maintenance, and ensuring we stay safe.

Each year, in accordance with our constitution, we must elect a chairman and treasurer and, in rotation, two trustees must stand for re-election. This year it’s the turn of Colin Spencer and Carole Hann, both of whom have indicated their willingness to continue in the role, together with myself as chairman and our treasurer Tony Statham.

Sadly we have lost two of our stalwart volunteers in the last few months: Terry Murthwaite who seemed to spend half his life at the gardens, always building or maintaining some part of the estate, and Dave Crelley our ace disposer of garden waste and wood. They are both remembered with affection, and trees are being planted in their memory, in addition to the tree planted to mark the King’s coronation.

Building work on the new properties has continued apace all around us but, with the co-operation of the development building team and the site owner, we’ve usually found a way through with the minimum of inconvenience and disturbance. We now look forward to working alongside our new neighbours, developing and improving the gardens. Unfortunately we have experienced increasing problems with dog fouling and are making a special appeal to our visitors to keep dogs on a lead and pick up after them. Otherwise we may have to restrict access to the walled garden where crops are being grown for sale and consumption.

As well as all the work involved in planting, pruning, harvesting, and weeding, the building maintenance work on our own property is never ending; replacing, repairing, and refurbishing. Despite only being some twenty years since the glasshouse was rebuilt we are having to undertake more major repair work on the roof and interior. We will also be taking the opportunity to renew the kitchen area which enables us to hire out the building,. Visitor numbers have remained high, and book and plant sales continue to thrive, all adding to our income and helping towards funding our many overheads. Thanks too to all the Friends of the Gardens who support us financially through their annual subscriptions, and a gentle reminder to those who haven’t paid their 2024 subscriptions yet, or haven’t remembered to increase their standing orders.

Finally a thank you to some unsung heroes – Connie who opens the gardens virtually every day, Linda who helps collect the money and takes it to the bank, and the cleaner, Janine, who keeps the visitor centre clean, in spite of the gardeners’ muddy feet ! Thank you all.

Gavin Hunter. Chairman
March 2024

Friends of Burton Manor Gardens

Accounts for the Year Ended 30th November 2023

Receipts and Payments Account

	y/e 30.11.22	
Receipts		
Subscriptions	600	699
CWAC Grant	0	0
Donations	452	810
Rent	6000	8800
HMRC Gift Aid	157	0
Bank Interest	382	22
Teas and Books	878	1157
Plants and Gardening	2355	2556
Room Hire	1165	879
Courses and Events	0	30
Direct debit Refund	<u>10</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Income	11998	<u>14953</u>
Payments		
Insurance	549	515
Glasshouse Repairs	0	14166
Repairs and Renewals	210	200
Cleaning	855	491
Stationery and Computer Consumables	111	60
Accountancy Fees	0	150
Catering and General	226	226
Course and Events	0	0
Gardening Supplies	720	1532
Fire Extinguisher Maintenance	0	50
Building Materials	218	348
Equipment	898	3252
Sundry Items/Office/Phone	<u>1119</u>	<u>836</u>
Total Expenditure	<u>4906</u>	<u>21826</u>
Surplus of Income for the year	7092	-6873

Friends of Burton Manor Gardens

Balance Sheet for the Year Ended 30th November 2023

Funds as at 30th November 2022

Barclays Premium Account	55997	
Barclays Current Account	2745	
Petty Cash Float	<u>65</u>	
		58807
Surplus for the year 2022/23		7093
Total Funds as at 30th November 2023		<u>65900</u>

Funds represented by:

Barclays Premium Account	60378	
Barclays Current Account	5362	
Petty Cash Float	<u>160</u>	
Total Funds as at 30th November 2023		<u>65900</u>

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Life in the gardens has almost returned to normal at the end of the first year free from Covid restrictions. Well almost normal ! Thankfully the majority of our volunteers survived without any lasting ill-effects and continue to work with undiminished enthusiasm planting, pruning, harvesting, and keeping the relentless weeds at bay. Beside the work of maintaining the gardens themselves, refurbishment of the glasshouse is on-going, benches have been repaired, paths relaid, the auricular theatre has been overhauled, and a new equipment store has been constructed in the lower garden.

The pandemic necessarily reduced many of our activities, however in June, along with three other gardens in Burton, we took part in the National Open Garden Scheme and welcomed many visitors through the gate. A special oak tree was planted to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, and we hope to mark the Coronation in a similar way. Our series of regular evening lectures was put on hold, but a return to a full programme will hopefully happen in the not too distant future.

Our finances are in good shape and reserve funds have been set aside for equipment and various refurbishment projects including upgrading the kitchen area. Hire of the glasshouse has provided a steady income from weekly visits by a local yoga group, and meetings of various local history and U3A groups. We experienced an increase in visitor numbers during the lockdown, which appears to have continued, reflected in the on-going sale of plants and books. We are most grateful for the donation of books to add to the stock, but have to regularly remind people that we don't accept brick-a-brack, jigsaws, or hard-backed books which experience shows just don't sell – despite how good a condition they are !

Construction of the new houses has continued throughout the period and several are now occupied. Maintaining access to the gardens has at times proved challenging, but we are grateful for the support and co-operation of the site-owner, developer, and particularly Robin, the site-agent, and his team. The condition of the Waterloo Beech continues to be a matter of concern, particularly for the safety of people accessing the site, and a decision on its future is awaited.

Finally, once again our thanks go to all the volunteers for their work: To the Trustees for all their time and effort, to the Friends for their support, to our secretary, Janet, to our treasurer, Tony, to Connie who faithfully opens and shuts the gardens every day,..... and to all the other individuals who help to make Burton Manor Gardens a success ! Thank You.

Gavin Hunter. Acting Chairman.
March 2023

Friends of Burton Manor Gardens

Accounts for the Year Ended 30th November 2022

Movements within the Total Funds during the year

Funds as at 30th November 2021

Barclays Deposit Account	60974	
Barclays Current Account	4547	
Petty Cash Float	<u>159</u>	65680
Less Accountancy fee provision		<u>-150</u>
Movement within Year		65530
Surplus for the Year		<u>-6873</u>
Total Funds as at 30th November 2022		<u>58657</u>

Funds represented by:

Barclays Current Account	2745	
Barclays Deposit Account	55997	
Petty Cash Float	<u>65</u>	58807
Less accrual provision for accountancy fees		<u>-150</u>
Total Funds as at 30th November 2022		<u>58657</u>

Friends of Burton Manor Gardens

Accounts for the Year Ended 30th November 2022

Receipts and Payments Account

	y/e 30.11.21	
Receipts		
Subscription	699	987
CWAC Grant	0	8335
Donations	810	251
Rent	8800	3000
HMRC Gift Aid	0	67
Bank Interest	22	6
Teas and Books	1157	1090
Plants and Gardening	2556	2835
Room Hire	879	175
Courses and Events	<u>30</u>	<u>1744</u>
Total Income	<u>14953</u>	<u>18490</u>
Payments		
Insurance	515	426
Glasshouse Repairs	14166	4250
Repairs and Renewals	200	188
Cleaning	491	474
Stationery and Computer Consumables	60	236
Accountancy Fees	150	150
Catering and General	226	116
Course and Events	0	1622
Gardening Supplies	1532	1488
Fire Extinguisher Maintenance	50	54
Building Materials	348	559
Equipment	3252	2990
Sundry Items/Office/Phone	<u>836</u>	<u>707</u>
Total Expenditure	<u>21826</u>	<u>13260</u>
Surplus of Income for the year	<u>-6873</u>	<u>5230</u>

FRIENDS OF BURTON MANOR GARDENS

England & Wales - Charity number 1175483

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Annual Report to AGM September 2022

Despite the everything that has been going on in the wilder world things in the gardens have continued with volunteers continuing to attend every week to work in the gardens, weeding, harvesting crops and planting. Visitor numbers have remained high, as reflected in the donations made from plant, produce and book sales. In addition new members have helped increased the income from subscriptions.

Building work around the gardens continues and we have been grateful for everyone's patience during the disruption. It is worth reminding everyone that we are the gardeners and not the developers and as such have no influence over what is being built. We do not own the gardens but rather look after them for the community. Nonetheless the developer has always done their best to accommodate our requests and we are grateful to them and their site team for the support they have given us during potentially difficult times.

Various construction projects have been undertaken around the site by the Friends. This year we have carried out essential repairs to the Glasshouse roof to address leaks and rotting timber. There is still more work to the fabric of the Glasshouse before we can get on with upgrading the kitchen area. The accounts reflect the need to keep funds in reserve to ensure this essential work can be completed. Elsewhere the Auricula Theatre has had a major overhaul, improvements and additions have been made to the seating areas in the lower gardens where a new shed has been constructed. Fencing has been erected around the rear entrance to the Icehouse but some repairs are still required to the stonework before supervised visits can be re-introduced.

Trees continue to be a concern although the gardens did not suffer much damage during the various storms. The condition of the Waterloo Beech is an ongoing concern and its condition is being kept under observation. Some trees still need to be removed but several new trees have been planted. In particular a special oak tree which was planted to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. In June, Burton Manor Gardens, along with three other gardens in the village, participated in the National Open Garden Scheme and helped raise over £4000 for the Garden Scheme charities.

The Burton Manor Bowmen, who have used the grounds at Burton Manor for their archery meetings, have notified the Friends that they have taken the difficult decision

to move their meetings to Delamere. We will be sad to see them go but understand the reasons for their decision.

The Trustees realise that the scheduling of the Annual General Meetings have resulted in delays in submitting our annual return to the Charity Commission. It was agreed at the AGM in 2019 to move the date of the meeting from January to March to avoid some of the problems encountered with completing the accounts after year-end. It was not possible to hold the meeting as planned in March 2020 and a virtual AGM was held in July 2020. The subsequent challenges experienced during the Covid pandemic and lockdowns resulted in a hastily arranged AGM in September 2021, where it was agreed that the next AGM would be within 12months.

However this schedule does not help us in fulfilling the requirements for submission of our annual return to the CC. Nor does it make much sense, in terms of good governance, to delay consideration of the accounts (year-end November) until the following September. The Trustees have therefore agreed to hold the next AGM earlier in 2023 - ideally March. This should allow time for the completion of the accounts after the year end (November 2022) whilst ensuring that there is not too much of a delay in reporting to the Charity Commission.

Accounts for the year ended 30th November 2021
Receipts and Payments

Receipts

Subscriptions	987
Small Business Rate Relief	0
CWAC Grant	8335
Donations	251
Rent	3000
HMRC GiftAid	67
Bank interest	6
Teas and books	1090
Plants and gardening	2835
Room hire	175
Courses and events	1744
Pens	0
BMRC – research and internet	0
Total income	18490

Payments

Insurance	426
Glasshouse repairs	4250
Repairs and renewals	188
Cleaning	474
Stationery & computer consumables	236
Accountancy fees	150
Catering and general	116
Courses and events	1622
Gardening supplies	1488
Fire extinguisher maintenance	54
Building materials	559
Equipment	2990
Sundry items/office/phone	702
Total expenditure	13260

Surplus of income for the year	5230
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Movements within the total funds for the year

Funds as at 30th November 2021

Barclays deposit account	60974
Barclays current account	4547
HSBC current account (closed)	0
Petty Cash float	159
	65680
Less accrual accountancy fee	-150
Total funds as at 30th November 2021	65530