

FRIENDS OF LLANFRECHFA GRANGE WALLED GARDEN

England & Wales · Charity number 1176172

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2017-12-07

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

Contact

Address Walled Garden
Llanfrechfa Grange Hospital
Llanfrechfa
Cwmbran
Gwent
NP44 8YN

Phone 07464494423

Email info.lgh.garden@gmail.com

Website <https://llanfrechfawalledgarden.wordpress.com/about-2/>

Activities

Objects: TO RE-DESIGN AND RESTORE THE WALLED GARDEN AT LLANFRECHFA GRANGE AS A RECREATIONAL OR LEISURE TIME RESOURCE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC AND HEALTHCARE STAFF WHO HAVE NEED OF SUCH FACILITIES BY REASON OF THEIR YOUTH, AGE, INFIRMITY OR DISABLEMENT, FINANCIAL HARDSHIP OR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES, OR FOR THE PUBLIC AT LARGE IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND WITH THE OBJECT OF IMPROVING THE CONDITION OF LIFE OF THOSE USING THE GARDEN.

Activities: To redesign and restore the Walled Garden at Llanfrechfa Grange as a recreational, leisure time and therapeutic horticulture resource for the benefit of the public at large and for health and social care staff and service users in the interest of social welfare and with the object of improving the condition of life of those using the garden.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Environment/conservation/heritage, Recreation
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Torfaen

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£13,761	£13,693	-	-
2024-03-31	£23,513	£21,567	-	-
2023-03-31	£10,759	£5,221	-	-
2022-03-31	£8,020	£12,248	-	-
2021-03-31	£5,928	£6,493	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
JANET MARY SMITH MBE	Chair	2017-12-07
ANGELA MARY FRY		2017-12-07
BOBINCA WILSON		2017-12-07
CHRISTOPHER JOHN PARSONS C.A.		2017-12-07
Dr UMAPATHY SIVAGAMASUNDARI		2017-12-07
JANE CHRISTINE MACDONALD NEHAUL		2017-12-07

FRIENDS OF LLANFRECHFA GRANGE WALLED GARDEN

England & Wales - Charity number 1176172

Accounts

Friends of Llanfrechfa Grange Walled Garden

Trustees Annual Report

For the period

April 2024 to March 2025



Reference and Administration

Charity name, registered number, and address

Friends of Llanfrechfa Grange Walled Garden (FoLGWG)

Registered charity number 1176172

Llanfrechfa Grange

Llanfrechfa

Torfaen

NP44 8YN

Trustees

Mrs Janet Mary Smith MBE - Chair

Mrs Jane Christine MacDonald Nehaul - Vice Chair

Mrs Angela Mary Fry – General Secretary

Mr Christopher John Parsons - Treasurer

Dr Umapathy Sivagamasundari - Volunteers Secretary

Ms Bobinca Gwynne Wilson - Membership Secretary

Structure, Governance and Management

The **Friends of Llanfrechfa Grange Walled Garden** was established as a small charity in 2015 and registered with the Charity Commission in December 2017.

The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) governed by a detailed Constitution. The current trustees are four of the founder members with a further two appointed in 2016 by the founder members. The charity is run entirely by volunteers.

Governance Arrangements

The Walled Garden is owned by the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board as a part of the larger Llanfrechfa Grange manor and The Grange University Hospital estate. The garden is an integral part of the hospital landscape providing a tranquil and inviting green space that physically links the old house to the University Hospital.

Responsibility for the redevelopment of the garden sits with the garden's Trustees who are supported by a vibrant group of volunteers. The charity enjoys a close working relationship with the Health Board Executive, the Works and Estates Department and staff based on the site.

A 10-year lease has been in place since March 2022. This is the longest term available under the NHS Wales governance rules. It will be reviewed and renegotiated ahead of its expiry in 2032.

The charity has structure and contents insurance with the National Farmers Union, and Public Liability insurance with Hiscox Business Insurance.

A Risk Policy/Register is supplemented by a 'Guidebook for Volunteers', 'Safety Instructions' and 'Principles for Working in the Garden'. These documents are reviewed periodically to reflect changes of practice in the garden and to ensure compliance with any relevant legislation.

New volunteers receive induction and safety briefings and are required to follow the safety instructions and working principles.

Associate Membership

Associate membership can be obtained on payment of an annual membership fee of £5. At 31st March 2025 the charity had 101 Associate Members. Members receive our quarterly newsletter and other garden related information and links via e-mail, including advanced notice of garden events. They also have access to a dedicated 'Members Only' part of our website where they can download minutes of meetings, learning materials and other updates on the garden. Many of our members are also active volunteers.

Volunteers

The charity has more than 71 registered volunteers, with several new ones having joined during the year. Many commit to regular sessions in the garden, some help at events, while others drop in when they can. There are teams of volunteers present in the garden every day which enables the garden to be open to the public every day of the week, with core hours being 10.00 to 13.30. Each team looks after specific parts of the garden or development projects, while all share responsibility for watering and other generic activities. Work plans are largely at their own discretion while also following agreed priorities generated from planning sessions.

Supporters

In addition to its members and volunteers the charity has continued to receive support from the Health Board's senior officers and staff, from national organisations, and from local businesses.

Objectives and Activities

The objectives of the charity are to redesign and restore the Victorian walled garden at Llanfrechfa Grange as a recreational or leisure time resource for the benefit of the public and healthcare staff who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances, or for the public at large in the interest of social welfare and with the object of improving the condition of life of those using the garden.

With due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit the Friends of Llanfrechfa Grange Walled Garden have continued to develop the garden as an uplifting green space for the benefit of all.

Formal Trustees' meetings are held quarterly interspersed with regular gatherings in the garden and WhatsApp, text and e-mail interactions. An established volunteers' WhatsApp group continues to enable daily update reports and provides a platform for social interaction, support, and light relief. Several WhatsApp sub-groups have also been established as a way of managing specific workstreams within the garden. These routine ways of working have ensured effective communication and have facilitated the maintenance and continued development of the garden.

Achievements and Performance

The garden was formally opened to the public in April 2022 and is open to visitors every day of the week. Visitor numbers in 2024/5 steadily increased and included members of the local community, Health Board staff, walking groups, other organised groups, and hospital patients and their visitors.

Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive with unsolicited comments made to volunteers by visitors and on our social platforms.

The final planting plan for the whole garden is almost complete, although of course it will continue to evolve and change over time. Maintenance of the maturing ornamental flower beds and lawn, plant propagation, and growing fruit and vegetables are now the dominant activities, while a small group of volunteers continue to progress the hard landscaping and building restoration work. Craftwork has also become an integral part of the volunteers' activities with items made being sold on craft stalls at garden events.

The costermonger's barrow sited in the middle of the garden has been joined by a timber 'sentry box' filled with second-hand books. Regularly restocked these enable visitors to purchase books, plants, and produce, using an honesty box for payments.

All four quadrants of the garden are maturing beautifully with one of the new challenges being to keep established plants under control! Many of the garden's plants are split or propagated for sale on the barrow and in the nursery. These are always popular with visitors and raise valuable funds for the garden's continued development and upkeep. The fruit trees around the garden were in full of blossom in the spring with a promise of lots of apples, pears, cherries, peaches and figs in the coming summer and autumn. The protective frame built around the wall trained peach tree last year to control fungal peach leaf curl worked a treat and so will remain in place. Step over pear trees have been added as a border to the ornamental vegetable bed, adding to the fruit harvest promised by the strawberry plants, blackcurrant bushes and raspberry canes. The kitchen garden, greenhouse, polytunnel and ornamental vegetable beds have grown enough produce for volunteers and for general sales.

Two 'flat pack' storage containers have been installed in the compound outside the east gate. These now house furniture and other items used during garden events previously stored in grace and favour rooms provided by the Health Board.

The cottage windows were replaced in March with double glazed UVPC units that matched the design of the original timber framed single glazed windows. Other building work has included the completion of the perimeter path around the Kitchen Garden and the commencement of a retaining wall which will be topped with donated stone balustrade to create an 'upper terrace' in the southeast quadrant. Replacement of the old staging in the nursery also began, using donated pallets and other salvaged timbers to build bigger and more robust tables.

Two 'hot bins' have been purchased and a donated wormery stocked with new worms. These have added new approaches to our own already successful compost making activities.

A blind electricity cable, laid into the southwest quadrant some years ago, was made live to supply power for a water feature donated by the hospital chaplaincy and installed in the bog garden. Power and water have also been laid into the poly tunnel.

Red cedar obelisks have been constructed to provide architectural features in the northwest and southwest quadrants and to provide support for summer climbers.

A garden logo has been designed by a sub-group of volunteers. Funding from Torfaen County Borough Council has enabled this to be reproduced on headed paper, business cards, and clothing for volunteers. Our new logo is proudly presented on the front cover of this report.

Events

We held our 6th 'Have a Grow Day' in June as part of the Social Farms and Gardens' UK wide celebration of community gardening. Lots of interesting things to see and do were laid on, including plant and produce sales, a propagation station, children's activities, and games for all, the latter on the big lawn outside the west wall. Several hundred visitors enjoyed a lovely sunny day in the garden with significant funds raised for its ongoing development and upkeep.

The 2024 AGM was held in the Grange University Hospital Education Centre. Attendees enjoyed a presentation 'Hydrangeas, a Gentle Obsession' from guest speaker Roger Lloyd, co-owner of a stunning local garden that opens regularly as part of the National Garden Scheme to raise funds for nursing and other health charities. The Charity's Annual Report and Annual Accounts were presented and later submitted to the Charity Commission.

Defibrillator and first aid training for volunteers was provided by Torfaen County Borough Council, a tool repair and maintenance session was provided by Keep Wales Tidy, and several art classes have been led by one of the garden's volunteers.

Throughout the autumn many volunteers turned their energies to preparing craft items and preserves to sell for Christmas with Craft Fayres held outside the Grange University Hospital during December.

Wreath making workshops have become popular events in the run up to Christmas with eight workshops held on two consecutive weekends for over 100 participants. These, together with the craft fayres are a significant source of income to the charity.

Several social events for volunteers were held throughout the year including a summer BBQ and a Diwali Festival of Light celebration. These gatherings offer an opportunity for volunteers to relax in the garden and to meet up with others who come in on different days. September also saw a lovely garden party held to celebrate the 70th birthdays of four of the gardens' volunteers.

In March a small group of volunteers were treated to a complimentary visit to 'The Newt in Somerset', courtesy of another volunteer who now runs the productive growing and market gardens at the hotel.

Administration and Planning

A Volunteers' Handbook is included in new volunteer induction.

Records are kept of any incident or accidents. These are reviewed at Trustees' meetings and action taken as appropriate.

Planning workshops are held in September and February where volunteers review progress to date and agree plans for the next 6 months.

Communications and Making Connections

The charity produces a quarterly newsletter in electronic format with paper copies available in the garden. The newsletter is e-mailed to all Associate Members and is published on the charity's website and Facebook page. The newsletter and social media sites are used to provide updates on progress, to call for volunteers and members, and to share items of interest associated with the garden. The charity also has a trifold leaflet providing brief information about the garden and our contact details.

The charity has connections with several Not-for-Profit organisations as sources of information, support, and advice. These include Keep Wales Tidy, the Community Land Advisory Service in Wales (CLAS Cymru), Tyfu Fyny, Social Farms and Gardens, local Associations of Voluntary Organisations, the Hardy Plants Society, the Wales Society of Botanical Illustrators, and the Gwent Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers. We also continue to be supported by specialists in garden design and plant choices.

The Welsh Society of Botanical Illustrators have completed numerous paintings of plants growing in the Physic Garden. In collaboration with Gwent Arts in Health (GARTH), their artwork was exhibited in the Grange University Hospital during 2024/5.

Six monthly meeting with the Health Board's CEO and Head of Communications continue to provide a forum for partnership working with the garden's landlord. Links have also been made with the Nevill Hall Hospital group of volunteers who sought advice on establishing a similar charity for that hospital's grounds.

Donations, Fund Raising and Grants

The charity has received many donations in kind during the year including plants, flowerpots, and seeds. Financial donations have also been received from individuals and groups. Monies received are used to support planting and hard landscaping plans and for the general upkeep of the garden.

Funds are raised throughout the year though the sale of plants and produce from the garden. Three major fund-raising events were also held including the 'Have a Grow' day in June, wreath workshops in November and December and craft fayres in December. These collectively raised close to £6,500.

Two successful grant applications were made during the year.

- Croesyceiliog and Llanyrafon Community Council awarded £250 towards the cost of replacing the cottage windows.
- Torfaen County Borough Council awarded £2,072 from their Community Resilience Fund for the development of a garden logo and the provision of bespoke stationery and clothing for volunteers.

The charity is grateful to all individuals and organisations for their support and generosity.

Awards

In July the garden received a **Green Flag Community Award** for a sixth consecutive year. Administered by Keep Wales Tidy the Green Flag is the international benchmark for exceptional standard parks and green spaces that are managed by volunteers.

Financial Review

The financial year end of the Charity is 31 March, with this review covering the year to 31 March 2025.

The financial position of the Charity remains strong with a balance of £15,851 at 31 March 2025 (31 March 2024: £15,782).

Balance sheet as at 31 March 2025				
£'s	31-Mar-25	31-Mar-24	Movement	
	Actual	Actual	£'s	%
Unrestricted	14,250	14,432	(181)	(1.3)%
Restricted	1,600	1,350	250	18.5%
Endowment	-	-	-	N/A
Net Cash	15,851	15,782	69	0.4%

The charity had a small surplus in the period of £69. This has been a result of fewer grants being received in the year (£2,322 in FY25 compared to £12,250 in FY24). The charity therefore has largely self-funded itself through successful events run at the garden and continued support from visitors and through plant and produce sales, donations, and membership fees. The charity has continued to purchase larger items (for example storage containers, volunteer clothing, and hot bins), along with more day-to-day expenditure.

As set out earlier in the report, the garden was the beneficiary of two of grants in the year totalling £2,322. Of this a total of £2,072, one grant, from our restricted funds was spent in the year.

At the end of the financial year the Charity has two restricted funds in place:

Bellway Homes (Wales) (£1,350) for art in the garden. This has remained unspent as the company engaged to deliver a moon-gate for the southwest quadrant ceased trading before they could deliver.

Croesyceiliog and Llanyrafon Community Council (£250) to be spent towards the cost of replacing the cottage windows. (This work was completed in March 2025 but not invoiced before year end).

Income statement for the period 1/4/24 - 31/3/25				
£'s	FY25	FY24	Movement	
	Actual	Actual	£'s	%
Income				
Unrestricted income	11,439	11,263	176	1.6%
Restricted income	2,322	12,250	(9,928)	(81.0)%
Income	13,761	23,513	(9,752)	(41.5)%
Expenditure				
Unrestricted expenditure	(11,621)	(6,507)	(5,113)	78.6%
Restricted expenditure	(2,072)	(15,060)	12,988	(86.2)%
Expenditure	(13,693)	(21,567)	7,875	(36.5)%
Unrestricted income	(181)	4,756	(4,938)	(103.8)%
Restricted income	250	(2,810)	3,060	(108.9)%
Net income	69	1,946	(1,878)	(96.5)%

Income from the charity's own sources (events, sales, membership fees and donations), increased by £2,248 from the previous year largely reflecting the hugely successful 'Have a Grow' day along with continued fantastic take up of the wreath making workshops and craft fayres.

Expenditure from the charity's own funds also increased from the prior year due to the purchase of the containers and hot bins which were self-funded, rather than grant funded.

As noted earlier, local businesses have shown generosity in providing goods and services either free of charge or at discounted rates, which has helped the garden to progress to its current stage. We would again like to thank them all for their continued support.

2024/25 was another great year as the charity and the garden continue to mature. It is a significant achievement that the garden has been able to largely self-fund itself as a direct result of the continued hard efforts and support from volunteers, members, supporters, and visitors.

Our trustees and volunteers have therefore again looked back over the year with pride and are looking forward with enthusiasm to 2025/26 and to welcoming more and more people into this now vibrant and inviting green space.

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees.

J M Smith

Janet Mary Smith
Chair
12th August 2025

J C M Nehaul

Jane Christine MacDonald Nehaul
Vice Chair
12th August 2025





Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	01/04/2024	To	31/03/2025
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Plant and produce sales	2,660	-	-	2,660	2,816
Donations	335	-	-	335	648
Membership fees	682	-	-	682	662
Event income	3,440	-	-	3,440	6,162
Other income	4,321	-	-	4,321	976
Grant income	-	2,322	-	2,322	12,250
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	11,439	2,322	-	13,761	23,513
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
N/A	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	11,439	2,322	-	13,761	23,513
A3 Payments					
Building materials	7,797	-	-	7,797	17,655
Plant and compost purchases	1,370	-	-	1,370	2,211
Refreshments	468	-	-	468	402
Garden sundries	1,386	2,072	-	3,458	884
Structure & contents insurance	290	-	-	290	232
Public liability insurance	-	-	-	-	133
Events	59	-	-	59	-
Other	250	-	-	250	50
Sub total	11,621	2,072	-	13,693	21,567
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
N/A	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	11,621	2,072	-	13,693	21,567
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 181	250	-	69	1,946
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	14,432	1,350	-	15,782	13,836
Cash funds this year end	14,250	1,600	-	15,851	15,782

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash and cash equivalents	14,250	1,600	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	14,250	1,600	-
	<small>(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))</small>	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
	N/A	-	-	-
	N/A	-	-	-
	N/A	-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	N/A		-	-
	N/A		-	-
	N/A		-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	Green house	Tesco - Green house and shed	7,349	7,349
	Shed	Tesco - Green house and shed	3,105	3,105
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	N/A		-	
	N/A		-	
	N/A		-	
	N/A		-	
	N/A		-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name		Date of approval

<i>J M Smith</i>
<i>J C M Nehaul</i>

Janet Mary Smith
Jane Christine MacDonald Nehaul

12/08/2025
12/08/2025

FRIENDS OF LLANFRECHFA GRANGE WALLED GARDEN

England & Wales - Charity number 1176172

Accounts

Friends of Llanfrechfa Grange Walled Garden

Trustees Annual Report

For the period

April 2023 to March 2024



Reference and Administration

Charity name, registered number, and address

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Registered charity number 1176172

Llanfrechfa Grange

Llanfrechfa

Torfaen

NP44 8YN

Trustees

Mrs Janet Mary Smith MBE - Chair

Mrs Jane Christine MacDonald Nehaul - Vice Chair

Mrs Angela Mary Fry – General Secretary

Mr Christopher John Parsons - Treasurer

Dr Umaphy Sivagamasundari - Volunteers Secretary

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Volunteers

The charity has more than fifty registered volunteers, several new ones having joined in year and with many committed to regular sessions in the garden. There are teams of volunteers present in the garden every day with work plans generated from planning sessions and at their own discretion. The garden is open to the public when there are volunteers on site, with core hours being 10.00 to 13.30 but much longer on most days.

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Objectives and Activities

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Achievements and Performance

The garden was formally opened to the public in April 2022 and has seen visitor numbers steadily increase over the ensuing two years. Visitors include members of the local community, Health Board staff, walking groups, other organised groups, and hospital patients and their visitors.

Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive with unsolicited comments supplemented by responses to a grant application survey question that asked visitors to describe the garden in 'just three words'. The following words were offered:-

Calming x 3	Changing	Encouraging	Excellent	Biodiverse	Phenomenal
Peaceful x 8	Soothing	Inspirational x 5	Cute /Pretty	Fabulous x 2	Atmospheric
Beautiful x 9	Creative	Community	Helpful	Comforting	Educational x 2
Pleasing x 2	Varied	Holistic	Natural	Tranquil x 3	Relaxing x 3
Intriguing x 2	Great	Uplifting x2	Well kept	Interesting x 4	Fragrant
Engaging	Delightful	Inviting x 3	Waw!	Transforming	Stimulating
Joyful x 2	Improving	Amusing	Serene x 3	Oasis x 2	Lovely x 3

Throughout 2023/24 trustees and volunteers have maintained a daily presence in the garden. While structural hard landscaping work continues much of the garden workload has now shifted into maintenance of the maturing ornamental flower beds, plant propagation, and growing fruit and vegetables. Craftwork has also become an integral part of the volunteers' activities with the wide range of items made being sold on craft stalls at garden events. A costermonger's barrow, built from reclaimed materials, is sited in the middle of the garden where visitors can purchase plants and produce using an honesty box for payments.

The northwest quadrant

The soft colour pallet of this Reflective Quadrant is now in its fourth year and maturing beautifully. An ornamental winter flowering cherry tree has been added to provide height and eventually shade, with more bulbs and new shrubs added to maximise the comforting floral impact. A red and black quarry tiled floor and a long stone bench have been built in the northwest corner, and we plan to build an open timber framed shelter against the wall above them. Bespoke robust cream metal benches have been installed in four of the paved seating areas. Designed by volunteers, the benches have laser cut backplates depicting flowers from the four seasons and were funded by a Levelling Up grant from Torfaen County Borough Council. The winding paths in this and the southwest quadrant received their final top dressing of amber self-binding gravel in September. Laid in over several very hot working party days the materials were funded by a grant from the Health Board's Charitable Funds.

The northeast quadrant

The vegetable garden has been productive throughout the year and, as it now provides both vegetable and fruit, has been renamed The Kitchen Garden. The poly tunnel cover, seriously damaged over winter, was replaced by a working party in early spring and a heated

propagation table installed to enable early seed sowing in a protected warm environment. We continue to employ 'No Dig' and 'Moon Sowing' principles for growing vegetables with a wide variety of crops raised and enjoyed by volunteers or sold to raise funds. A protective water shedding frame has been built around the wall trained peach tree which we hope will reduce the occurrence of fungal peach leaf curl next year. Work to build the long low dressed stone retaining wall around the plot began during the summer which enabled the number of vegetable beds to be increased from six to eight. The edges of all the beds were replaced with donated decking boards, paths re-laid, and the squash frames repaired and repositioned. All this work was completed in time for the busy 2024 spring sowing period.

The southwest quadrant

This quadrant houses our 'demonstration gardens' that flow from one to another around a circular lawn and winding paths. These show how different garden designs can provide differing impacts. The ornamental grasses surrounding the lawn have come into their own this year, thickening up and providing a lovely display of tall flowerheads that sway gently in the breeze. The flowering cherry trees also put on a vibrant show in late spring, followed by a growing range of attractive medicinal plants in the physic garden. Our tree fern has survived its first winter and complements the smaller ferns in the Victorian stumpery, while the wildlife garden had its first makeover this year. The planting in the Japanese Garden, rockery and scree beds have also grown and matured providing still more bright stimulating form and colour. Ornamental vegetables flank the main path through the garden, providing crops of colourful edibles, and the rainbow bed against the south wall is starting to take shape. The demonstration gardens have proved very popular with visitors providing inspiration for their own gardens.

The southeast quadrant

This quadrant houses more demonstration gardens, our large greenhouse and shed with a patio area where volunteers congregate for coffee and lunch breaks. The greenhouse has been full throughout the year, growing plants and produce for the garden and also for a local Community Council commission to fill their roadside flower planters. We supplemented the greenhouse space with temporary cold frames which have also been fully utilised and which we therefore plan to replace with permanent structures in due course. A sturdy timber pergola has been erected over the steps that run through the drought resistant Mediterranean Garden onto the middle terrace and planted with a grapevine, a summer jasmine and a Chinese trumpet vine. The Victorian Cottage Garden has been a riot of colour this year with its backdrop of the Gardener's Cottage enhanced by roof repairs and new fascia boards and guttering. Often used as our BBQ and fire pit cooking area, our catering ventures were extended this year to include a pizza oven with homemade pizza enjoyed by volunteers and even a few visitors.

The Nursery

The nursery outside the south wall has two discrete areas, one for growing on plants for the garden and the other houses plant sales tables. This has proved to be an immensely valuable addition to the garden enabling propagation of new and existing plants and contributing significantly to funds through plant sales. The beech hedge planted outside its railings to provide protection from both wind and sun has begun to mature and had its first trim in early summer.

Outside the Walls

The garden's north gate, which faces the hospital, is flanked by two climbing roses, Rosa Compassion. Planted several years ago by the Lord Lieutenant of Gwent to mark the 70th anniversary of the NHS these now provide a welcoming invitation to enter the garden. Either side of the gate spare geraniums and spring bulbs have been planted against the walls and a dwarf cherry tree added to a grassy area, while along the outside of the west wall a collection of sunflowers provide a bright summer display. The colourful beds outside the east wall provide a screen to hide our pallet built compost bins, which in turn are providing a steady supply of good quality compost and leaf mould for the garden. Seating areas in the wider grounds of the old mansion house have also benefitted from more spare plants from the garden, as our volunteers waste nothing! We have also planted a small orchard behind the house with fruit trees provided as part of a grant from Keep Wales Tidy.

Events

We supported the Social Farms and Gardens' UK wide celebration of community gardening again this year by holding our 5th 'Have a Grow Day' in June. Several hundred visitors took part in a variety of activities and enjoyed light refreshments which, together with a plant sale, raised significant funds for the garden.

The 2023 AGM was held in the garden on a lovely sunny day. The Charity's Annual Report and Annual Accounts were presented and later submitted to the Charity Commission.

Throughout the autumn many volunteers turned their energies to preparing craft items and preserves to sell for Christmas with Craft Fayres held outside the Grange University Hospital throughout December.

Wreath making workshops have become popular events in the run up to Christmas with eight workshops held on two consecutive weekends for over 100 participants. These, together with the Craft Fayres are a significant source of income to the charity.

Several social events for volunteers were held throughout the year; a BBQ; a Diwali Festival of Light celebration and a Christmas party. These gatherings offer an opportunity for volunteers to relax in the garden and to meet up with others who come in on different days.

Administration and Planning

A Volunteers' Handbook is included in new volunteer induction.

Records are kept of any incident or accidents. These are reviewed at Trustees meetings and action taken as appropriate.

Planning workshops are held in September and February where volunteers review progress to date and agree plans for the next 6 months.

Half yearly partnership meetings with the Health Board's CEO and Head of Communications are held where garden progress is shared and Health Board support/endorsements agreed.

A 'Locked In' policy and procedure has been developed and implemented in partnership with the Health Board to enable rapid action should a visitor be inadvertently locked in.

Communications and Making Connections

The charity produces a quarterly newsletter in electronic format with paper copies available in the garden. The newsletter is e-mailed to all Associate Members and is published on the charity's website and Facebook page. The newsletter and social media sites are used to provide updates on progress, to call for volunteers and members, and to share items of interest associated with the garden. The charity also has a trifold leaflet providing brief information about the garden and our contact details.

The charity has connections with several Not-for-Profit organisations as sources of information, support, and advice. These include the Community Land Advisory Service in Wales (CLAS Cymru), Tyfu Fyny, Social Farms and Gardens, local Associations of Voluntary Organisations, the Hardy Plants Society and the Gwent Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers. We are also supported by specialists in garden design and plant choices, and the 'no dig' approach to growing.

Torfaen Council Community Capacity Builder, the Health Board's Communications Team, and the Keep Wales Tidy Torfaen Environmental Project Officer continue to be communication links and sources of support when needed.

Shoosmiths Solicitors, via LawWorks, the Solicitors Pro Bono Group, has continued to provide support for the lease agreement and confirmed in January 2024 that our lease had been successfully registered with HM Land Registry.

Donations, Fund Raising and Grants

The charity has received many donations in kind during the year including plants, flowerpots, and seeds. Financial donations have also been received from individuals and groups. Monies received are used to support planting and hard landscaping plans and for the general upkeep of the garden.

Funds are raised throughout the year through the sale of plants and produce from the garden. Three major fund-raising events were also held including the 'Have a Grow' day in June, Wreath Workshops in November and December and Craft Fayres in December. These collectively raised over £6,000.

Three successful grant applications were made during the year.

- Croesyceiliog and Llanyrafon Community Council awarded £250 towards the cost of providing sun shades.
- Torfaen County Borough Council awarded £10,000 from their Community Resilience Fund for the commission and purchase of four bespoke metal benches and three sun canopies.
- Torfaen County Borough Council awarded a further £2,000 from their Community Resilience Fund to enable repairs to the garden's utility block roof and doors.

The charity is grateful to all individuals and organisations for their support and generosity.

Awards

In July the garden received a **Green Flag Community Award** for a fifth consecutive year. Administered by Keep Wales Tidy the Green Flag is the international benchmark for exceptional highest standard parks and green spaces that are managed by volunteers.

Financial Review

The financial year end of the Charity is 31 March, with this review covering the year to 31 March 2024.

The financial position of the Charity remains strong with a balance of £15,782 at 31 March 2024 (31 March 2023: £13,836).

Balance sheet as at 31 March 2024				
£'s	31-Mar-24	31-Mar-23	Movement	
	Actual	Actual	£'s	%
Unrestricted	14,432	9,675	4,756	49.2%
Restricted	1,350	4,160	(2,810)	(67.5)%
Endowment	-	-	-	N/A
Net Cash	15,782	13,836	1,946	14.1%

The charity had a net increase in cash of £1,946 in the period as a result of successful events run at the garden and continued support from visitors and through plant and produce sales, donations and membership fees.

As set out previously in the report, the garden was the beneficiary of a number of grants in the year totalling £12,250 all of which have been spent in the year along with two grants which were received in the prior year. This meant a total spend of £15,060 from our restricted funds in the year. This is significantly higher than the prior year due to the successful grant awards in the current year.

At the end of the financial year the Charity has one restricted fund in place:

Bellway Homes (Wales) (£1,350) for art in the garden

Income statement for the period 1/4/23 - 31/3/24				
£'s	FY23	FY22	Movement	
	Actual	Actual	£'s	%
Income				
Unrestricted income	11,263	7,749	3,515	45.4%
Restricted income	12,250	3,010	9,240	307.0%
Income	23,513	10,759	12,755	118.5%
Expenditure				
Unrestricted expenditure	(6,507)	(4,821)	(1,686)	35.0%
Restricted expenditure	(15,060)	(400)	(14,660)	3,665.1%
Expenditure	(21,567)	(5,221)	(16,346)	313.1%
Unrestricted income	4,756	2,928	1,828	62.4%
Restricted income	(2,810)	2,610	(5,420)	(207.7)%
Net income	1,946	5,538	(3,592)	(64.9)%

Income from the charity's own sources (events, sales, membership fees and donations), increased by £3,515 from the previous year largely reflecting a hugely successful 'Have a Grow' day along with fantastic take up of the Wreath Making Workshops and Craft Fayres.

Expenditure from the Charity's own funds also increased from the prior year primarily due to a higher spend on plants and compost.

As noted earlier, local businesses have shown generosity in providing goods and services either freely or at discounted rates, which has helped the garden to progress to its current stage. We would again like to thank them all for their continued support.

2023/24 was a great year as the Charity and the garden continue to mature. The ongoing investment in, and development of the garden is supported by members, volunteers, supporters, and visitors which has allowed the Charity to continue to align with its objectives and charitable aims while remaining financially robust.

The positive feedback, successful grant applications, and sound financial position are all gratifying and motivating. Our trustees and volunteers have therefore looked back over the year with pride and are looking forward with enthusiasm to 2024/25 and to welcoming more and more people into this now vibrant and inviting green space.

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees.

J M Smith

Janet Mary Smith
Chair
12th August 2024

J C M Nehaul

Jane Christine MacDonald Nehaul
Vice Chair
12th August 2024







Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	01/04/2023	To	31/03/2024
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Plant and produce sales	2,816	-	-	2,816	2,742
Donations	648	-	-	648	477
Membership fees	662	-	-	662	574
Event income	6,162	-	-	6,162	3,784
Other income	976	-	-	976	173
Grant income	-	12,250	-	12,250	3,010
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	11,263	12,250	-	23,513	10,759
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
N/A	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	11,263	12,250	-	23,513	10,759
A3 Payments					
Building materials	2,595	15,060	-	17,655	2,795
Plant and compost purchases	2,211	-	-	2,211	1,405
Refreshments	402	-	-	402	261
Garden sundries	884	-	-	884	332
Structure & contents insurance	232	-	-	232	206
Public liability insurance	133	-	-	133	100
Events	-	-	-	-	121
Other	50	-	-	50	-
Sub total	6,507	15,060	-	21,567	5,221
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
N/A	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	6,507	15,060	-	21,567	5,221
Net of receipts/(payments)	4,756	- 2,810	-	1,946	5,538
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	9,675	4,160	-	13,836	8,298
Cash funds this year end	14,432	1,350	-	15,782	13,836

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash and cash equivalents	14,432	1,350	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	14,432	1,350	-
	<small>(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))</small>	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
	N/A	-	-	-
	N/A	-	-	-
	N/A	-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	N/A		-	-
	N/A		-	-
	N/A		-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	Green house	Tesco - Green house and shed	7,349	7,349
	Shed	Tesco - Green house and shed	3,105	3,105
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	N/A		-	
	N/A		-	
	N/A		-	
	N/A		-	
	N/A		-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name		Date of approval

<i>J M Smith</i>
<i>J C M Nehaul</i>

Janet Mary Smith
Jane Christine MacDonald Nehaul

21/10/2024
21/10/2024

FRIENDS OF LLANFRECHFA GRANGE WALLED GARDEN

England & Wales - Charity number 1176172

Accounts

Friends of Llanfrechfa Grange Walled Garden

Trustees Annual Report

For the period

April 2022 to March 2023



Reference and Administration

Charity name, registered number, and address

Friends of Llanfrechfa Grange Walled Garden (FoLGWG)

Registered charity number 1176172

Llanfrechfa Grange

Llanfrechfa

Torfaen

NP44 8YN

Trustees

Mrs Janet Mary Smith MBE - Chair

Mrs Jane Christine MacDonald Nehaul - Vice Chair

Mrs Angela Mary Fry – General Secretary

Mr Christopher John Parsons - Treasurer

Dr Umapathy Sivagamasundari - Volunteers Secretary

Ms Bobinca Gwynne Wilson - Membership Secretary

Structure, Governance and Management

The **Friends of Llanfrechfa Grange Walled Garden** was established as a small charity in 2015 and registered with the Charities Commission in December 2017.

The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) governed by a detailed Constitution. The current trustees are four of the founder members with a further two appointed in 2016 by the founder members. The charity is run entirely by volunteers.

Governance Arrangements

The Walled Garden is owned by the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board as a part of the larger Llanfrechfa Grange manor and The Grange University Hospital estate. The garden is an integral part of the hospital landscape providing a tranquil and inviting green space physically linking the old house to the University Hospital.

Responsibility for the redevelopment of the garden sits with the gardens' Trustees who are supported by a vibrant group of volunteers. The charity enjoys a close working relationship with the Health Board Executive, the Works and Estates Department and staff based on the site.

A 10-year lease has been negotiated and was signed in March 2022. The lease includes the garden, attached nursery, Gardener's Cottage, and a strip of land outside the east wall.

The charity has structure and contents insurance with the National Farmers Union and Public Liability insurance through a block arrangement with Keep Wales Tidy.

A Risk Policy/Register is supplemented by a 'Guidebook for Volunteers', 'Safety Instructions' and 'Principles for Working in the Garden'. These documents are reviewed periodically to

reflect changes of practice in the garden and to ensure compliance with any relevant legislation.

New volunteers receive induction and safety briefings and are required to follow the safety instructions and working principles.

Associate Membership

Associate membership can be obtained on payment of an annual membership fee of £5. At 31st March 2023 the charity had 92 Associate Members, many of whom have been members for several years. Members receive our quarterly newsletter and other garden related information and links via e-mail, including advanced notice of garden events. They also have access to a dedicated 'Members Only' part of our website where they can download minutes of meetings, learning materials and other updates on the garden. Many of our members are also active volunteers.

Volunteers

The charity has more than fifty registered volunteers, several new ones having joined in year and with many committed to regular sessions in the garden. The working arrangements introduced in 2020 in response to the Covid-19 Pandemic were stood down in 2022/23 with volunteers free to come and go as they please. The daily rota, established to manage numbers attending during the pandemic has however continued, ensuring a daily presence in the garden.

Supporters

In addition to its members and volunteers the charity has continued to receive support from the Health Board's senior officers and staff, and from local businesses and organisations.

Objectives and Activities

The objectives of the charity are to redesign and restore the Victorian walled garden at Llanfrechfa Grange as a recreational or leisure time resource for the benefit of the public and healthcare staff who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances, or for the public at large in the interest of social welfare and with the object of improving the condition of life of those using the garden.

With due regard to the Charities Commission guidance on public benefit the Friends of Llanfrechfa Grange Walled Garden have continued to develop the garden as an uplifting green space for the benefit of all.

The garden had remained closed throughout the Covid 19 Pandemic with strict working arrangements in place to enable volunteers to safely continue with its development. As restrictions were lifted during the latter part of 2021/22 the gates were left open when volunteers were on site and casual visitors welcomed in. Plans to ceremonially open the garden in spring 2022 followed.

Formal Trustees meetings are held quarterly interspersed with regular gatherings in the garden and WhatsApp, text and e-mail interactions. An established volunteers' WhatsApp group continues to enable daily update reports and provides a platform for social interaction, support, and light relief. Several WhatsApp sub-groups have also been established as a way of managing specific workstreams within the garden. These now routine ways of working have ensured effective communication and have facilitated the maintenance and continued development of the garden.

Achievements and Performance

2022/23 began with a major push to make the garden inviting and safe ahead of our opening ceremony at the end of April. Several working party days throughout March saw 20 tonnes of self-binding gravel barrowed in and compacted, providing an attractive and wheelchair friendly top dressing for many paths and a large seating area. New ornate black and gold steel gates were installed, providing bold and welcoming entrances through the north and south walls. Flower borders, the vegetable plot, the tunnel and greenhouse were all kept neat and tidy as the spring growing season progressed.

On April 30th around 150 invited guests attended the grand opening ceremony. Formal presentations were made by the charity's chair, who provided a potted history of the garden from its construction in the 1850s to the present day. Dr Gill Richardson, the Health Boards previous Director of Public Health and currently the Welsh Governments' Deputy Chief Medical Officer, spoke of the health benefits of outdoor spaces and conveyed the best wishes sent by Andrew Goodall, the Welsh Governments' Permanent Secretary, and Judith Paget, Chief Executive of NHS Wales. Dr David Hepburn, Consultant in Intensive Care Medicine, cut a red ribbon spanning the north gates to declare the garden formally open to all. Both congratulated the volunteers on achieving a beautiful garden and wished them well for the future. Guests then enjoyed light refreshments in the early summer sunshine with music provided by the Newport U3A choir.

Throughout the year the trustees and volunteers have continued to work on the garden layout and planting plans, with some areas maturing nicely and other previously barren ones coming alive.

The northeast quadrant

The vegetable garden continues to employ No Dig and Moon Sowing principles, with a wide variety of crops being grown. Work has begun on building a costermonger's barrow from salvaged timbers to display the produce for sale. Concrete foundations were laid in for a long low retaining wall to be built around the plot and the wall 'dry built' using salvaged dressed stone. Work to cement these in place will begin when skills and manpower to do so become available. Unfortunately, the polytunnel cover was destroyed by winter storms but was successfully replaced by a volunteers' working party weekend in late March. A large heated propagator table has also been built inside the tunnel.

The southeast quadrant

To mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee a red, white and blue garden was created either side of the steps in this quadrant. Resplendent with a huge crown and sceptre and Max the Vax,

our 10 ft 'vaccinator' scarecrow, redressed as a Welsh Guard to preside over the Jubilee celebrations. Later in the year the planting in this area was changed to create a drought resistant Mediterranean garden.

Significant soil improvement work was undertaken in the dahlia bed to improve drainage, and a low retaining wall and ornate timber trellis added to provide a backdrop to the bed. The greenhouse had its annual spring clean and additional shelving was added to house trays of plants raised from seed.

The southwest quadrant

The demonstration beds around the lawn have matured well since planting the year before. The soil in the last bed, the previously barren area in front of the south wall, has been significantly improved and planting began to create a 'rainbow bed' of bold colours across its length.

A small number of slates on the Gardeners Cottage roof were loosened in winter storms, giving rise to safety concerns. The south gate has therefore been closed and the area cordoned off until repairs can be carried out.

The northwest quadrant

This quadrant was the first to be planted up in 2020 with a soft colour palette surrounding several seating areas. Some of the planting has been revised and new shrubs added to maximise impact. Work began on the foundations for a shelter in the corner with a red and black quarry tiled floor and a stone bench built against the wall; all constructed using salvaged materials that, once completed, will have an open timber framed shelter erected over it to provide much needed shelter from the elements. A power supply for the water feature has been laid in.

The Nursery

The nursery area outside the south wall, fenced off in 2021, has been developed with two discrete areas; one for growing on plants for the garden and the other as a plant sales area. This has proved to be an immensely valuable addition to the garden enabling propagation of existing plants and contributing significantly to income generation through sales.

Outside the Walls

New beds have been developed outside the east wall, providing a colourful screen to hide our compost bins and storage compound. Some seating areas in the wider grounds of the old mansion house have also benefitted from spare plants from the garden as our volunteers waste nothing!

Events

We hosted our 5th 'Have a Grow Day' in June as part of a UK wide celebration of community gardening organised by the Not for Profit organisation Social Farms and Gardens. Several hundred visitors enjoyed light refreshments and took part in a variety of activities which, together with a plant sale, raised significant funds for the garden.

The 2022 AGM was held in the garden on a lovely sunny day. The Charity's Annual Report and Annual Accounts were presented and later submitted to the Charities Commission.

Plant and crafts stalls were taken to the Ponthir Music Festival in August where more valuable funds were raised for the garden at this fun local village event.

Throughout the autumn many volunteers turned their energies to preparing craft items and preserves to sell for Christmas. Craft stalls were held outside the Grange University Hospital through December.

Wreath making workshops were also held on two weekends before Christmas with over 100 keen participants in total.

All of the public facing events have served to promote the garden and to raise valuable funds.

Several social events for volunteers were held throughout the year. These included a Queen's Jubilee 'street party'; a Barbecue; a Diwali Festival of Light celebration and a Christmas party. These gatherings offered opportunities for volunteers to relax and enjoy the garden and to meet up with others who come in on different days.

Administration and Planning

A new Volunteers' Handbook has been developed and was distributed in July to all existing volunteers. Copies are now included in new volunteer induction.

A new incident reporting process has been developed and implemented, with any recorded incident reviewed at Trustees meetings.

Six monthly planning workshops have been reintroduced with days held in September and February where volunteers review progress to date and agree plans for the next 6 months.

Quarterly partnership meetings have been reintroduced with the Health Board's new CEO, with the first and very positive meeting held in November.

Communications and Making Connections

The charity produces a quarterly newsletter in electronic format with paper copies available in the garden. The newsletter is e-mailed to all Associate Members and is published on the charity's website and Facebook page. The newsletter and social media sites are used to provide updates on progress, to call for volunteers and members, and to share items of interest associated with the garden.

The charity has connections with several Not-for-Profit organisations as sources of information, support and advice. These include the Community Land Advisory Service in Wales (CLAS Cymru), Tyfu Fyny, Social Farms and Gardens, local Associations of Voluntary Organisations, the Hardy Plants Society and the Gwent Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers. We are also supported by specialists in garden design and plant choices, and the 'no dig' approach to growing.

We also have welcome support as required from Torfaen Council Volunteers Co-ordinator, the Health Board's Communications Team, and the Keep Wales Tidy Torfaen Environmental Project Officer.

Our lease has been submitted for registration to HM Land Registry by Shoosmiths Solicitors. This is part of a continuing legal support arrangement via LawWorks, the Solicitors Pro Bono Group.

Donations, Fund Raising and Grants

The charity has received many donations in kind during the year including plants, flowerpots, and seeds. Financial donations have also been received from individuals and groups. Monies received are used to support planting and hard landscaping plans and for the general upkeep of the garden.

Funds are raised throughout the year though the sale of plants and produce from the garden. Three major fund-raising events were also held including the 'Have a Grow' day in June, Wreath Workshops in November and December and Craft Fayres in December. These collectively raises over £3,000.

Four grant applications were made during the year, three of which were successful.

- Llanyrafon and Croesyceiliog Community Council awarded £250 towards cost of obelisk plant supports for the northwest quadrant.
- Ponthir Community Council awarded £200 towards the cost of polytunnel repairs, and
- ABUHB Charitable Funds Committee awarded £2,560 towards the cost of top-dressing paths.

The charity is grateful to all individuals and organisations for their support and generosity.

Awards

In July the garden received a **Green Flag Community Award** for a fourth consecutive year. Awarded by Keep Wales Tidy the Green Flag is the benchmark for exceptional parks and green spaces that are managed to the highest standards by volunteers.

Since the official opening in April, the garden has received a steady daily flow of visitors from the local community as well as hospital visitors and staff. Patients have also visited the garden either under their own steam or in wheelchairs pushed by friends or relatives. Feedback from visitors has been overwhelmingly positive and at the end of 2022/23 trustees and volunteers looked back with pride on a successful first year of being open to the public. All are looking forward with enthusiasm to the continued development of the garden and to welcoming more and more people into this vibrant and inviting green space.

Financial Review

The financial year end of the Charity is 31 March, with this review covering the year to 31 March 2023.

The financial position of the Charity remains strong with a balance of £13,835 at 31 March 2023 (31 March 2022: £8,298).

Balance sheet as at 31 March 2023				
£'s	31-Mar-23	31-Mar-22	Movement	
	Actual	Actual	£'s	%
Unrestricted	9,675	6,747	2,928	43.4%
Restricted	4,160	1,550	2,610	168.3%
Endowment	-	-	-	N/A
Net Cash	13,836	8,298	5,538	66.7%

The charity had a net increase in cash of £5,538 in the period as a result of both a reduction in expenditure and an increase in revenue. Expenditure fell to a more typical level at the garden, following significant spend in the prior year. In addition, the Charity was grateful to receive grant income in the year totalling [£3,010]. This comprised:

- Ponthir & Llanyravon CC (£200) towards cost of polytunnel cover replacement.
- Llanyrafon and Croesyceiliog Community Council (£250) towards cost of obelisk plant supports for north west quadrant
- ABUHB (£2,560) for top dressing paths.

At the end of the financial year the latter two grants together with a Bellway Homes donation of £1,350 from 2020/21 for 'art in the garden' were unspent. and are carried forward as restricted funds (£4,160).

Income statement for the period 1/4/22 - 31/3/23				
£'s	FY23	FY22	Movement	
	Actual	Actual	£'s	%
Income				
Unrestricted income	7,749	8,020	(271)	(3.4)%
Restricted income	3,010	-	3,010	N/A
Income	10,759	8,020	2,739	34.1%
Expenditure				
Unrestricted expenditure	(4,821)	(11,748)	6,927	(59.0)%
Restricted expenditure	(400)	(500)	100	(20.0)%
Expenditure	(5,221)	(12,248)	7,027	(57.4)%
Unrestricted income	2,928	(3,728)	6,656	(178.5)%
Restricted income	2,610	(500)	3,110	(622.0)%
Net income	5,538	(4,228)	9,766	(231.0)%

As touched upon above, the garden has held key events during the year and these, along with the continued kind support of members, volunteers and visitors to the garden has led to sales remaining broadly consistent with the prior year.

Expenditure at the garden during the year largely funded maintenance work with smaller projects invested in. This meant that total expenditure fell by £7,047 on the prior year mainly through a reduction in building materials (£2,900), plant and compost (£2,300) and garden sundries (£1,500).

As noted earlier, local businesses have shown generosity in providing goods and services either freely or at discounted rates, which has helped the garden to progress to its current stage. We would again like to thank them all for their continued support.

The Charity has seen a return to stability in 2022/23 which has been through the continued hard work and support from members, volunteers, supporters, and visitors. This has allowed

the Charity to continue to develop the garden in line with its objectives and charitable aims while remaining financially robust. We look forward to seeing what 2023/24 brings!

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

J M Smith

Janet Mary Smith
Chair
5th September 2023

J C M Nehaul

Jane Christine MacDonald Nehaul
Vice Chair
5th September 2023





Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	01/04/2022	To	31/03/2023
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Plant and produce sales	2,742	-	-	2,742	3,163
Donations	477	-	-	477	528
Membership fees	574	-	-	574	574
Event income	3,784	-	-	3,784	1,518
Other income	173	-	-	173	2,237
Grant income	-	3,010	-	3,010	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	7,749	3,010	-	10,759	8,020
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
N/A	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	7,749	3,010	-	10,759	8,020
A3 Payments					
Building materials	2,395	400	-	2,795	5,461
Plant and compost purchases	1,405	-	-	1,405	3,810
Refreshments	261	-	-	261	254
Garden sundries	332	-	-	332	2,032
Structure & contents insurance	206	-	-	206	208
Public liability insurance	100	-	-	100	-
Events	121	-	-	121	483
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	4,821	400	-	5,221	12,248
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
N/A	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	4,821	400	-	5,221	12,248
Net of receipts/(payments)	2,928	2,610	-	5,538	4,228
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	6,747	1,550	-	8,298	12,525
Cash funds this year end	9,675	4,160	-	13,836	8,298

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash and cash equivalents	9,675	4,160	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds <small>(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))</small>	9,675	4,160	-
		OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	N/A	-	-	-
	N/A	-	-	-
	N/A	-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	N/A		-	-
	N/A		-	-
	N/A		-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	Green house	Tesco - Green house and shed	7,349	7,349
	Shed	Tesco - Green house and shed	3,105	3,105
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	N/A		-	
	N/A		-	
	N/A		-	
	N/A		-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name		Date of approval
	<i>J M Smith</i>	Janet Mary Smith		28/08/2023
	<i>J C M Nehaul</i>	Jane Christine MacDonald Nehaul		28/08/2023

FRIENDS OF LLANFRECHFA GRANGE WALLED GARDEN

England & Wales - Charity number 1176172

Accounts

Friends of Llanfrechfa Grange Walled Garden

Trustees Annual Report

For the period

April 2021 to March 2022



Reference and Administration

Charity name, registered number, and address

Friends of Llanfrechfa Grange Walled Garden (FoLGWG)

Registered charity number 1176172

Llanfrechfa Grange

Llanfrechfa

Torfaen

NP44 8YN

Trustees

Mrs Janet Mary Smith MBE - Chair

Mrs Jane Christine MacDonald Nehaul - Vice Chair

Mrs Angela Mary Fry – General Secretary

Mr Christopher John Parsons - Treasurer

Dr Umopathy Sivagamasundari - Volunteers Secretary

Ms Bobinca Gwynne Wilson - Membership Secretary

Structure, Governance and Management

The **Friends of Llanfrechfa Grange Walled Garden** was established as a small charity in 2015 and registered with the Charities Commission in December 2017.

The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) governed by a detailed Constitution. The current trustees are four of the founder members with a further two appointed in 2016 by the founder members. The charity is run entirely by volunteers.

Governance Arrangements

The Walled Garden is owned by the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board as a part of the larger Llanfrechfa Grange manor and The Grange University Hospital estate. The garden is an integral part of the hospital landscape providing a tranquil and inviting green space physically linking the old house to the University Hospital.

Responsibility for the redevelopment of the garden sits with the gardens' Trustees who are supported by a vibrant group of volunteers. The charity enjoys a close working relationship with the Health Board Executive, the Works and Estates Department and staff based on the site.

A 10-year lease has been negotiated and signed in March 2022. The lease encompasses the garden, attached nursery, Gardener's Cottage, and a strip of land outside the east wall.

The charity has structure and contents insurance with the National Farmers Union and Public Liability insurance through a block arrangement with Keep Wales Tidy.

A Risk Policy/Register is supplemented by a 'Guidebook for Volunteers', 'Safety Instructions' and 'Principles for Working in the Garden'. These documents are reviewed periodically to

reflect changes of practice in the garden and to ensure compliance with any relevant legislation.

New volunteers receive induction and safety briefings and are required to follow the safety instructions and working principles.

Associate Membership

The annual membership fee was raised from £4 to £5 in January 2022. At 31st March 2022 the charity had 90 associate members. Members receive our quarterly newsletter and other garden related information and links via e-mail, including advanced notice of garden events. They also have access to a dedicated 'Members Only' part of our website where they can download minutes of meetings, learning materials and other updates on the garden. Many of our members are also active volunteers.

Volunteers

The charity has more than fifty registered volunteers, several new ones having joined in year and with many committed to regular sessions in the garden. New working arrangements, introduced in 2020 in response to the Covid-19 Pandemic, continued throughout 2021/22. These consisted primarily of a daily rota to manage numbers attending and fulfil requirements for social distancing and hygiene.

Supporters

In addition to its members and volunteers the charity has continued to receive support from the Health Board's senior officers and staff. Local builder Adrian Waters has provided ongoing support and advice, most notably installing donated bow top fencing outside the south wall to create a secure plant nursery. Willmott Dixon, building contractors working adjacent to the garden, donated materials and transport for heavy items.

Objectives and Activities

The objectives of the charity are to redesign and restore the Victorian walled garden at Llanfrechfa Grange as a recreational or leisure time resource for the benefit of the public and healthcare staff who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances, or for the public at large in the interest of social welfare and with the object of improving the condition of life of those using the garden.

With due regard to the Charities Commission guidance on public benefit the Friends of Llanfrechfa Grange Walled Garden have continued to develop the garden as an uplifting green space for the benefit of all.

The garden remained closed to visitors for most of 2021/22 during yet another year impacted by the pandemic. We continued to comply with the Welsh Government Covid-19 Regulations through restricted numbers, social distancing, and hygiene rules. These measures enabled many volunteers to continue to attend safely. For some the garden has been the only place

they spent any time in away from home, providing enormous personal benefit. Due to the commitment of the trustees, volunteers, members, and supporters significant progress has been made and all are looking forward to a time when the garden can be fully opened to the public for more people to enjoy.

A well-established WhatsApp group enables communication between volunteers, providing a daily update report and a platform for social interaction, support, and light relief. Regular trustee meetings took place via Zoom with face-to-face meeting reinstated in the latter half of the year. These now routine ways of working have ensured effective communication and have facilitated the maintenance and continued development of the garden.

Achievements and Performance

Despite the ongoing restrictions presented by the Covid-19 pandemic the Charity has continued to make significant progress in realising the garden's design plan during 2021/22.

Championed by the trustees and volunteers the layout and planting plans have seen the established areas of the garden mature and the barren ones come alive with new designs and different plants. The southwest quadrant has been turned into a series of demonstration gardens set out around a circular lawn. These aim to show how different design and planting plans can create very different impacts. Included are a Japanese garden, a rockery and scree, a Physic Garden, a stumpary, wildlife and bog garden, an ornamental vegetable garden and a yet to be planted shrubbery.

Beds in the southeast quadrant had a major overhaul and new planting introduced or planned. Similarly, the maturing northwest quadrant was reviewed, and additional plants introduced. The northeast quadrant is dedicated primarily to vegetable growing and propagation in our large poly tunnel. This quadrant however remains in part underdeveloped with plans afoot to add walls, paths, and another greenhouse.

Below are some further events and key achievements throughout the year.

April

The spring bulbs planted last year provided a magnificent display across the garden. Dressed stone for a retaining wall around the vegetable plot continued to be salvaged from a derelict part of the old hospital site. The 'No Dig' vegetable programme got into full swing. The first plant sale of the year was held outside the Grange University Hospital.

May

The Gardener's Cottage was adorned with a false 'Door to Nowhere' that hides some service cables and appears to open onto its lovely cottage garden. Patio paving was laid in front of the greenhouse and shed providing another seating area. The installation of a second shed and enclosed storage area was commenced, and a socially distanced BBQ held in the garden for the volunteers.

June

We hosted a 'Have a Grow Day' as part of a UK wide celebration of community gardening run by the Not for Profit organisation Social Farms and Gardens. Covid driven pre booked placed brought in 140 visitors and £1,000 was raised from plant sales, refreshments, and activities.

Two 'Nye Bevan' roses were donated to the garden by two long standing members who came in to plant them either side of the steps in the southeast quadrant.

July

The 2021 AGM was held in the garden on a lovely sunny day. The Charity's Annual Report and Annual Accounts were presented and later submitted to the Charities Commission. No pre booking was required for this event, which drew in 170 visitors and raised further funds for the garden. Extensive media coverage of the day was provided by the South Wales Argus and Cwmbran Life Facebook page. We were also delighted to have been joined by members of the Wales Society of Botanical Artists who plan to develop a Florilegium pictorial inventory of garden plants.

Two of the gardens regular volunteers provided an exciting opportunity for visitors to buy freshly made Welshcakes from their Cegin Beattie stall set up once a month from July through to October. All profits were generously donated to the garden funds.

Later in July volunteers were delighted to be awarded a **Green Flag** from Keep Wales Tidy for the third consecutive year.

August

The Grange University Hospital was officially opened in August by the Right Honourable Mark Drakeford, 1st Minister of Wales. The charity was represented at the ceremony by its Chair who later gave the 1st Minister and other dignitaries a guided tour of the garden.

A scarecrow 'Max the Vax' (front cover) was built by volunteers was entered into the Caerleon Scarecrow competition.

A plant stall was taken to the Ponthir Music Festival accompanied by the Cegin Beattie Welshcake stall. More valuable funds were raised for the garden at this fun local village event.

September

Autumn brought the harvest of many fruits and vegetable, our autumn bulb fest and the start of preparing the garden for the winter ahead. An enormous pumpkin featured among the autumn crops, a Marina di Chioggia weighing in at a stunning 11.5Kg!

The Cwmbran and District branch of Soroptimists International visited the garden to see the Prunus Kanzan cherry tree they donated earlier in the year as part of their centenary year celebrations.

October

The garden was visited by explorer, writer, and covid-19 survivor Robin Hanbury-Tennison and his wife Louella, together with his nephew and Lord Lieutenant of Gwent, Brigadier Robert Aitkin and his wife Joanna. The visit was arranged to share ideas about hospital gardens as, since his recovery from covid, Robin is promoting their introduction and raising funds for hospital garden in his home county of Cornwall where he was treated. As part of Her Majesty the Queens initiative 'Plant a Tree for the Jubilee' Robin kindly planted a Ginkgo Biloba tree in the Physic Garden.

The Gwent Federation of Women's Institutes also visited to celebrate their centenary year with a donation of several fruit trees that have been planted against the inner perimeter walls.

A social event for volunteers was held where a curry lunch was enjoyed by all.

November

Throughout the autumn many volunteers had turned their energies to preparing craft items and preserves to sell for Christmas. Craft stalls were held in the garden, outside the Grange University Hospital and the Health Boards HQ earlier in the year. In November we took wreath making workshops and a huge craft stall to a Christmas Fayres at Billy Bobs Farm not far from the garden. The garden also hosted a very successful series of wreath making workshops through November and December. All served to promote the garden and to raise valuable funds.

December

The volunteers gathered together for a Christmas Social to celebrate the festive season with good food, a quiz, and even a few chilly games of croquet on our one-year-old lawn!

January

Work in the garden continued through the winter with early sowing commenced and more trees, this time Skyrocket conifers, planted for the Jubilee celebrations.

February /March

With spring fast approaching seed sowing was in full swing with the greenhouse and polytunnel filling up fast. Two Jubilee flower beds were planned with regal ornamentation that would be complimented by red, white and blue planting. A 'Moon Growing' project was also planned for the vegetable plot to explore the effect that sowing in different phases of the moon has on plant growth.

The charity also accelerated plans to hold a grand opening of the garden in April. This will allow public access to the garden every day when there are volunteers on site. Development work across the garden continued with a major focus on making as many areas as possible safely accessible to all. New gates were commissioned and installed in the north and south entrances and self-binding gravel ordered in to lay in as the final top dressing of the main paths and larger seating areas. The north gate area had a major upgrade with a natural stone apron and a slate welcome plaque mounted on granite slabs.

Communications and Making Connections

The charity publishes a quarterly newsletter in both paper and electronic format and has a website and Facebook page. All are used to provide updates on progress, to call for volunteers and members, and to share items of interest associated with the garden.

The charity has connections with several Not-for-Profit organisations as sources of information, support and advice. These include the Community Land Advisory Service in Wales (CLAS Cymru), Tyfu Fyny, Social Farms and Gardens, local Associations of Voluntary Organisations, the Hardy Plants Society and the Gwent Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers. We are also supported by specialists in garden design and plant choices and the 'no dig' approach to growing.

Torfaen Council Volunteers Co-ordinator, the Health Boards Communications Team, and the Keep Wales Tidy Torfaen Environmental Project Officer continue to be communication links and sources of support when needed.

Shoosmiths Solicitors via LawWorks, the Solicitors Pro Bono Group, has continued to provide pro bono support for the lease negotiations and contract agreement.

Donations, Fund Raising and Grants

The charity has received many donations in kind during the year including plants, flowerpots, and seeds. Financial donations have also been received from individuals and groups. Monies received are used to support planting and hard landscaping plans and for the general upkeep of the garden.

The continued generosity of local building contractor Adrian Waters has been most welcome, especially for the installation of heavy duty bow top fencing around our new plant nursery. We also continue to benefit from donations of compost and garden sundries from the Wilco distribution centre in Newport. Builders Willmott Dixon have also donated building materials.

Only one grant application was made during the year which was sadly unsuccessful.

The charity is grateful to all individuals and organisations for their support and generosity.

Awards

In July 2021 the garden received a **Green Flag Community Award** for a third consecutive year. Awarded by Keep Wales Tidy the Green Flag is the benchmark for exceptional parks and green spaces that are managed to the highest standards by volunteers.

In August we entered a 10ft 'Max the Vax' scarecrow into the **Caerleon Scarecrow Trail** and won first prize for the tallest scarecrow and second in the competition overall. Max the Vax, dressed as a covid vaccinator, then stood for the rest of the year in the Walled Garden encouraging visitors to take up their vaccine.

All in all, the garden was in a good place at the end of 2020/21 with volunteers looking forward to its formal opening and to continuing its development into the future.

Financial Review

The financial year end of the Charity is 31 March, with this review covering the year to 31 March 2022.

The financial position of the Charity remains strong with a balance of £8,298 at 31 March 2022 (31 March 2021: £12,525).

Balance sheet as at 31 March 2022				
£'s	31-Mar-22	31-Mar-21	Movement	
	Actual	Actual	£'s	%
Unrestricted	6,747	10,475	(3,728)	(35.6)%
Restricted	1,550	2,050	(500)	(24.4)%
Endowment	-	-	-	N/A
Net Cash	8,298	12,525	(4,228)	(33.8)%

The charity had a net reduction in cash of £4,228 in the period as a result of increased expenditure on the garden. The higher expenditure more than off-set growth in revenue against the previous year, which was lower due to pandemic restrictions put in place by the Welsh Government.

As the garden, along with the wider community, returned to normal the Charity has been able to receive revenue from its more controllable sales streams. Plant, produce sales and event income increased on the prior year providing a welcome revenue stream to support the continued development.

Spend on restricted projects decreased from the prior year as a result both of timing of expenditure but also fewer restricted grants being received. At the end of the financial year the Charity has two restricted funds in place:

- Bellway Homes (Wales) (£1,350) which the Trustees plan to spend on a moon gate; and
- Llanyrafon and Croesyceiliog Community Council (£200) which has since been spend on the water pump post the year end.

Income statement for the period 1/4/21 - 31/3/22		
£'s	FY22 Actual	FY21 Actual
Income		
Unrestricted income	8,020	2,777
Restricted income	-	3,151
Income	8,020	5,928
Expenditure		
Unrestricted expenditure	(11,748)	(4,892)
Restricted expenditure	(500)	(1,601)
Expenditure	(12,248)	(6,493)
Unrestricted income	(3,728)	(2,116)
Restricted income	(500)	1,550
Net income	(4,228)	(565)

As touched upon above, as restrictions have been released by the Welsh Government more events have been held in the period. With the kind support of members, volunteers and

visitors to the garden, sales have increased to levels seen before the pandemic. The ability to generate revenue from people returning to and enjoying the garden is very welcome.

Financial year 21/22 saw the largest level of investment in the garden since its foundation, which is clearly evident. Building materials increased by £4,269 from the prior year with key expenditure being made on the self-binding gravel for the paths. Plant and compost along with garden sundries have increased on the prior year by £2,212, as the garden has reached the point where increased planting and other development activities are needed.

As noted earlier, local businesses have shown generosity in providing goods and services either freely or at discounted rates, which has helped the garden to progress to its current stage. We would again like to thank them all for their continued support.

2021/22 was a significant year of income generation and investment in the garden which has been supported by members, volunteers, supporters, and visitors. This has allowed the Charity to continue to develop the garden in line with its objectives and charitable aims while remaining financially robust. We look forward to continued growth and stability in 2022/23.

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

J M Smith

Janet Mary Smith
Chair
4th August 2022

J C M Nehaul

Jane Christine MacDonald Nehaul
Vice Chair
4th August 2022



Door to Nowhere



Croquet on the lawn



'Offering up' the new north gates



Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	01/04/2021	To	31/03/2022
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Plant sales	2,909	-	-	2,909	1,174
Donations	528	-	-	528	1,883
Membership fees	574	-	-	574	304
Produce sales	254	-	-	254	195
Event income	1,518	-	-	1,518	457
Other income	2,237	-	-	2,237	445
Grant income	-	-	-	-	1,470
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	8,020	-	-	8,020	5,928
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
N/A	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	8,020	-	-	8,020	5,928
A3 Payments					
Building materials	5,461	-	-	5,461	2,162
Plant and compost purchases	3,310	500	-	3,810	3,373
Refreshments	254	-	-	254	31
Garden sundries	2,032	-	-	2,032	424
Structure & contents insurance	208	-	-	208	213
Public liability insurance	-	-	-	-	100
Events	483	-	-	483	190
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	11,748	500	-	12,248	6,493
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
N/A	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	11,748	500	-	12,248	6,493
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 3,728	- 500	-	- 4,228	- 565
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	10,475	2,050	-	12,525	13,091
Cash funds this year end	6,747	1,550	-	8,298	12,525

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash and cash equivalents	6,747	1,550	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds <small>(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))</small>	6,747	1,550	-
		OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	N/A	-	-	-
	N/A	-	-	-
	N/A	-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	N/A		-	-
	N/A		-	-
	N/A		-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	Green house	Tesco - Green house and shed	7,349	7,349
	Shed	Tesco - Green house and shed	3,105	3,105
			-	-
		-	-	
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	N/A		-	
	N/A		-	
	N/A		-	
	N/A		-	
	N/A		-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name		Date of approval
	<i>J M Smith</i>	Janet Mary Smith		04/07/2022
	<i>J C M Nehaul</i>	Jane Christine MacDonald Neuhall		04/07/2022

FRIENDS OF LLANFRECHFA GRANGE WALLED GARDEN

England & Wales - Charity number 1176172

Accounts

Friends of Llanfrechfa Grange Walled Garden

Trustees Annual Report

For the period

April 2020 to March 2021



Reference and Administration

Charity name, registered number and address

Friends of Llanfrechfa Grange Walled Garden (FoLGWG)

Registered charity number 1176172

Llanfrechfa Grange

Llanfrechfa

Torfaen

NP44 8YN

Trustees

Mrs Janet Mary Smith MBE - Chair

Mrs Jane Christine MacDonald Nehaul - Vice Chair

Mrs Angela Mary Fry - Secretary

Mr Christopher John Parsons - Treasurer

Dr Umapathy Sivagamasundari - Volunteers Secretary

Ms Bobinca Gwynne Wilson - Membership Secretary

Structure, Governance and Management

The **Friends of Llanfrechfa Grange Walled Garden** was established as a small charity in 2015 and registered with the Charities Commission in December 2017.

The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) governed by a detailed Constitution. The current trustees are four of the founder members with a further two appointed in 2016 by the founder members. The charity is run entirely by volunteers.

Governance Arrangements

The Walled Garden is owned by the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board as a part of the larger Llanfrechfa Grange estate and on which the new Grange University Hospital has been built. The garden is an integral part of the new hospital landscape plan with its high level design having been approved by the local authority planning department as part of the hospital build planning process.

Responsibility for the redevelopment of the garden sits with the gardens' Trustees who enjoy a close working relationship with the Health Board Executive, the Works and Estates Department, staff based on the Llanfrechfa Grange site and, since it opened in November 2020, the staff in the new Grange University Hospital.

A 10-year lease has been negotiated. In year amendments to the demise of the land and building have been agreed between the charity and its landlord with the final lease awaiting approval by our respective solicitors.

The charity has structure and contents insurance with the National Farmers Union and Public Liability insurance through a block arrangement with Keep Wales Tidy.

A Risk Policy/Register is supplemented by 'Safety Instructions' and 'Principles for Working in the Garden' displayed in the garden. These have been reviewed frequently during the year to ensure working practices comply with Covid-19 Regulations.

New volunteers receive induction and safety briefings and are required to follow the safety instructions and working principles.

Associate Membership

Associate membership has been held at £4 per annum and, despite access restrictions, the numbers have increased slightly during the year to 77. Members receive our quarterly newsletter and other garden related information and links via e-mail. They also received advanced notice of our only Open Day when visitor numbers were restricted and managed through pre booking. Many of our members are also volunteers.

Volunteers

The charity has more than fifty registered volunteers with many committed to regular sessions in the garden. Work was sadly halted for five weeks in response to the first Covid-19 pandemic lockdown in March 2020. The Regulations in Wales then allowed for charitable activities to resume with appropriate safety measures in place so, from early May, a slow and controlled return to the garden took place with those volunteers who were able to attend, taking up the reins again.

Supporters

In addition to its members and volunteers the charity has continued to receive support from Health Board staff and from the Grange University Hospital Supply Chain Partners involved in building the new hospital adjacent to the garden. Local builder A P Waters has also helped with transporting heavy donated materials.

Objectives and Activities

The objectives of the charity are to redesign and restore the Victorian walled garden at Llanfrechfa Grange as a recreational or leisure time resource for the benefit of the public and healthcare staff who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances, or for the public at large in the interest of social welfare and with the object of improving the condition of life of those using the garden.

With due regard to the Charities Commission guidance on public benefit the Friends of Llanfrechfa Grange Walled Garden have continued to develop the garden as an uplifting green space for the benefit of all.

2020/21 has however been a hugely different year in the garden as trustees and volunteers have striven to maintain progress with the development plan while complying with the Welsh Government's Regulations relating to the Covid-19 pandemic. Some volunteers have continued to work in the garden under strict social distancing and hygiene rules, others have

stayed away due to personal or family vulnerabilities. Numbers in the garden at any time have been restricted and adjusted in response to Covid-19 lockdowns and firebreaks.

The garden has been closed to visitors to protect the volunteers who have continued to work within its walls and there have been no large-scale working parties this year. Sadly there have been no social events either, other than a carefully managed Open Day held in September 2020 under the umbrella of the National Garden Scheme 'Great British Garden Party'.

Gatherings in the garden have been replaced by a vibrant WhatsApp group where work progress is reported daily, and where social interactions provide support, light relief and amusement. The regular trustees' meetings have taken place via Zoom with documents shared via e-mail. Design plans have been progressed in much the same way. While everyone has missed face to face contact these new patterns of working have ensured effective communication and have facilitated the continued development of the garden.

Grants have been sought and won to provide essential funds for on-going development, and a generous donation was received in July 2020 to fund artwork in the garden.

The charity has continued to produce its quarterly newsletter and to regularly update its website and Facebook pages.

In a year like no other enormous progress has been made due to the commitment of the trustees, volunteers, members and supporters. Those that have worked in the garden have benefitted enormously from being able to do so and all are looking forward to a time when the garden can be fully opened to the public for more people to enjoy.

Achievements and Performance

Realising the Plan

The Charity made significant progress in realising the garden's design plan during 2020/21. This development work has been championed by the volunteers who were able to attend the garden during the pandemic restrictions. Due to the fluctuating availability of materials, manpower and expertise however some aspects of the plan have slipped while others have progressed ahead of schedule.

Hard landscaping has included laying more paths, installing more seating areas and building retaining walls. Large areas of permanent planting were set out early in the year and have matured into beautiful flower beds surrounding the seating areas. Almost 9,000 spring bulbs were planted in the autumn with the first flowering in late February. In another section of the garden demonstration gardens have been marked out around a circular lawn that was seeded in the autumn of 2020 and three flowering cherries were planted in January as the first steps towards installing our Japanese Garden. A permanent and very productive vegetable plot was built during the year and compliments the produce from the greenhouse and tunnel.

Donated and recycled materials have been used wherever possible in the ongoing development of the garden. These have included items donated by local home owners and materials salvaged from the hospital building site together with many wonderful plants donated by garden supporters.

All in all, the garden was in a good place at the end of 2020/21 with volunteers looking forward to continuing its development into the future.

Communications and Making Connections

The charity publishes a quarterly newsletter in both paper and electronic format and has a website and Facebook page. All are used to provide readers with updates on progress, to call for volunteers and members, and to share items of interest associated with the garden and its history.

The charity has connections with several Not for Profit organisations as sources of information, support and advice. These include the Community Land Advisory Service in Wales (CLAS Cymru), Tyfu Fyny, Social Farms and Gardens, local Associations of Voluntary Organisations, the Hardy Plants Society and the Gwent Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers. We are also supported by specialists in garden design and plant choices and the 'no dig' approach to growing.

Torfaen Council Volunteers Co-ordinator, ABUHB Volunteers Co-ordinator, ABUHB Communications Team, and the Keep Wales Tidy Torfaen Environmental Project Officer continue to be communication links and sources of support when needed.

LawWorks are providing pro bono support for lease negotiations and agreement.

The ABUHB's annual volunteers' celebration event was replaced this year by a personal letter sent to all volunteers thanking them for their continued support.

Working with Artists

Volunteers have enjoyed working with a number of artists engaged in providing artwork for the new hospital. These have included a sound mapping workshop conducted via Zoom to support a composer writing pieces for the hospital's multi faith room; helping design way markers for a circular walk that will pass through the garden and bench seats that will be installed outside the old manor house; a cyanotype workshop for volunteers held in the garden created images that were later installed in the new hospital. The garden has also had a large mural painted by one of the artists on a tired section of wall.

Therapeutic Horticulture

The garden's Therapeutic Horticulture Programme was suspended in March 2020 as the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown came into place. Growing Space, our partner Charity, have been unable to provide appropriate supervision within the garden and have introduced other ways to support their autistic clients and those with mental health issue. The provision of any future Therapeutic Horticulture Programme will be reviewed during 2021/22.

Sowing to Sewing

Several of our volunteers are capable seamstresses. In response to a call from our hospitals and together with other supporters in the community we made hundreds of colourful cloth bags for patients' belongings to be taken home in. The garden was used for sharing material donations and the collecting point for finished items. This proved a simple but satisfying way to have provided some support to Covid patients and their families when hospital visiting was not allowed.

Jams and Chutneys

Many volunteers and members are also capable cooks and have made hundreds of jars of jams and chutneys from walled garden produce and donated fruit. For some volunteers who were unable to work in the garden this provided them with a way to continue to contribute from home.

No Dig Course

In January 2021 one of our trustees was enrolled on a six month 'No Dig' course being delivered via an on line platform. The tutor, Cherry Taylor, awarded our charity and several other community and school groups a free place, we just had to cover the cost of the seeds to be used during the course. Sowing began in February and all are looking forward to a productive vegetable plot throughout the coming year.

Notable Dates and Events

Due to the Covid-19 restrictions many activities that would have taken place in the garden were cancelled, including our public Annual General Meeting, which should have taken place in the summer. Similarly the farm and agricultural shows where we won many prizes the previous year were also cancelled as were other events we would normally have attended.

A major highlight of the year was our ability to open the garden in September as we took part in the Great British Garden Party organised by the National Garden Scheme. With visitor numbers controlled through a booking system and appropriate measures in place we were able to allow 140 people to enjoy the garden. We were pleased to share the funds raised on the day with the National Garden Scheme who in turn support a number of nursing and health related charities.

Funding, Grants & Donations

Membership fees and the sale of surplus materials, plants and produce provide a regular small income for the charity.

Grants have been received from the Croesyceiliog and Llanyrafon Community Council and the Ponthir Community Council to help fund the stumpery and physic demonstration gardens. Another grant, to fund a granite Japanese lantern, was awarded by the Monmouthshire Building Society Charitable Foundation.

Two 'Local Places for Nature' awards of items to attract and feed wildlife were received from Keep Wales Tidy. The seeds, plants, compost, tools and bird feeders have been used in our wildlife garden.

A substantial donation was received from Bellway Homes (Wales) to fund artwork in the garden. Lots of ideas are being explored including the possibility of a moon gate or a dragon, or both!

The Soroptimist International Cwmbran and District group funded one of three mature cherry trees planted in the Japanese garden. Their donation was made as part of an international initiative to plant trees to celebrate 100 years of Soroptimist International.

Additional smaller donations have been received throughout the year with monies received used to support planting and hard landscaping plans and for the general upkeep of the garden.

Our participation in the Newport Uskmouth Rotary Club annual charity raffle has raised several hundred pounds in the past but was unfortunately cancelled due to the pandemic.

The charity has received many donations in kind during the year including plants, flowerpots and seeds. The continued generosity of two major donors is of particular note:- Adrian Waters, a local building contractor, has provided machinery and manpower for landscape preparation work and transport for two enormous granite stones donated from the community; The Wilko Distribution Centre in Newport has donated large amounts of compost in unsalable damaged bags.

Our principle of using salvaged materials wherever possible has been boosted by the Health Board granting permission for us to salvage dressed stone from a set of small walls across the site that were collapsing and unsafe. The stone will be used to build a retaining wall around the vegetable plot.

The charity is grateful to all individuals and organisations for their support and generosity.

Awards

In July 2020 the garden received a **Green Flag Community Award** for a second consecutive year. Awarded by Keep Wales Tidy the Green Flag is the benchmark for exceptional parks and green spaces that are managed to the highest standards by volunteers.

In August we entered a 6ft Peter Rabbit, made of chicken wire and sheep wool, into the **Caerleon Scarecrow Trail** and won both the judges first prize and the Community vote.

Financial Review

The financial year end of the Charity is 31 March, with this review covering the year to 31 March 2021.

The financial position of the Charity remains strong with a balance of £12,525 at 31 March 2021 (31 March 2020: £13,091).

Balance sheet as at 31 March 2021				
£'s	31-Mar-21	31-Mar-20	Movement	
	Actual	Actual	£'s	%
Unrestricted	10,259	12,591	(2,332)	(18.5)%
Restricted	2,267	500	1,766	353.1%
Endowment	-	-	-	N/A
Net Cash	12,525	13,091	(565)	(4.3)%

The charity had a net reduction in cash of £565 in the period, as a result of both a reduction in income but also continued spend on plants and the renovation of the garden. The pandemic restrictions put in place by the Welsh Government meant that fewer events could be held which had an obvious impact on the ability of the Charity to receive revenue from its more controllable sales streams. Expenditure however remained high and in fact, non-restricted project spend actually increased on the prior year.

We received a number of generous donations and grants in the year for specific projects (classified as Restricted income). Spend on restricted projects has decreased from the prior year purely due to timing of when the grant or donation was made and the spend occurred.

Income statement for the period 1/4/20 - 31/3/21		
£'s	FY21 Actual	FY20 Actual
Income		
Unrestricted income	2,777	5,681
Restricted income	3,151	910
Income	5,928	6,591
Expenditure		
Unrestricted expenditure	(5,109)	(3,219)
Restricted expenditure	(1,385)	(3,897)
Expenditure	(6,493)	(7,116)
Unrestricted income	(2,332)	2,462
Restricted income	1,766	(2,987)
Net income	(565)	(525)

We have benefited from several small donations but would like to again highlight the following individuals and groups for their kind donations and grants received this period;

Restricted

- Monmouthshire Building Society Charitable Foundation (£970)
- Cwmbran and District Soroptimist Club (£331)
- Croesyceiliog and Llanyrafon Community Council (£250)
- Ponthir Community Council (£250)
- Bellway Homes (Wales) (£1,350)

As touched upon earlier in the report, due to the restrictions put in place by the Welsh Government fewer events which have been held in previous years could be run. This led to a reduction of £700 in sales of plants, produce and surplus stock. Despite this, we have continued to be strongly supported by members, volunteers and visitors to the garden and sales have been strong when events were held (e.g. the Open day held in September).

As is evident in the Garden, expenditure remained high in the year with spend on plants and compost increasing by £2,500 on the prior year. Spend on building materials reduced on the prior year where paths and retaining walls made a large part of the spend but have stayed

relatively high at £2,262 (2019: £4,081). During this time of uncertainty, it has been more important than ever that the Trustees remain vigilant in maintaining tight control over expenditure and we have continued to do this. As in the prior year this is helped, as noted earlier, by local businesses that have provided support and shown generosity in providing goods and services either freely or at discounted rates, which has helped the garden to progress to its current stage. We would again like to thank you all for your continued support.

2020/21 was a challenging year, but with the support from members, volunteers, supporters and visitors to the garden the Charity has been able to remain robust and indeed move forward with its objectives. We look forward to a hopefully more settled 2021/22.

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

J M Smith

Janet Mary Smith
Chair
29 July 2021

J C M Nehaul

Jane Christine MacDonald Nehaul
Vice Chair
29 July 2021





Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	01/04/2020	To	31/03/2021
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Plant sales	1,174	-	-	1,174	1,303
Donations	202	1,681	-	1,883	2,029
Membership fees	304	-	-	304	268
Produce sales	195	-	-	195	450
Event income	457	-	-	457	630
Other income	445	-	-	445	1,410
Grant income	-	1,470	-	1,470	500
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	2,777	3,151	-	5,928	6,591
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
N/A	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	2,777	3,151	-	5,928	6,591
A3 Payments					
Building materials	1,192	970	-	2,162	4,081
Plant and compost purchases	2,742	631	-	3,373	1,563
Refreshments	31	-	-	31	267
Garden sundries	424	-	-	424	887
Structure & contents insurance	213	-	-	213	212
Public liability insurance	100	-	-	100	87
Events	190	-	-	190	20
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	4,892	1,601	-	6,493	7,116
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
N/A	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	4,892	1,601	-	6,493	7,116
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 2,116	1,550	-	- 565	- 525
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	12,591	500	-	13,091	13,616
Cash funds this year end	10,475	2,050	-	12,525	13,091

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash and cash equivalents	10,475	2,050	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	10,475	2,050	-
	receipts and payments account(s)	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
	N/A	-	-	-
	N/A	-	-	-
	N/A	-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	N/A		-	-
	N/A		-	-
	N/A		-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	Green house	Tesco - Green house and shed	7,349	7,349
	Shed	Tesco - Green house and shed	3,105	3,105
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	N/A		-	
	N/A		-	
	N/A		-	
	N/A		-	
	N/A		-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name		Date of approval
	<i>J M Smith</i>	Janet Mary Smith		19/04/2021
	<i>J C M Nehaul</i>	Jane Christine MacDonald Neuhal		19/04/2021