

CULPEPER COMMUNITY GARDEN ASSOCIATION

REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 MARCH 2024

CULPEPER COMMUNITY GARDEN ASSOCIATION

REPORT OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

STRUCTURE AND OBJECTS

The Association is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). The registration of the CIO is charity number 1176277. The registered address of the association is 2 Dignum Street London N1 0FJ.

The objects of the Association are to maintain and manage an open space in the borough of Islington for the benefits of its members and local residents.

The site is held on a 50-year lease at a peppercorn rent from the London Borough of Islington and registered as a Field in Trust.

In planning our activities for the year we kept in mind the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit at our Management Committee meetings.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Seen as a model of good practice for many years, Culpeper Community Garden, established in 1982, continues to be a source of inspiration, pleasure and relaxation for members, volunteers and visitors alike. Our relatively small open space in inner London is run by members and volunteers on sustainable, organic principles.

It includes 46 plots cared for by local people without their own gardens, plots for supported community groups, and communal areas, including a pond, a wildlife area, lawns, a dry garden, a rose pergola; and a 'tea hut' for members. We have a small community building used regularly as a classroom, a meeting room for community groups, and available for rent to our members for birthday parties and weddings.

The day-to-day management of the Garden is in the hands of two part-time members of staff: Mandy Graham and Anna Jones

Funding

2024-2025 is the final year of a 5-year funding package we received from the City of London via the City Bridge Trust. We have benefitted not only financially over the past 4 years; but also from the strong commitment shown by our Grant officers at the City to our staff & trustees.

2023-2024 was the final year of a 3-year grant from The Cripplegate Foundation. We have been awarded another grant from the Foundation, to run for 2 years and 7 months. We extend heartfelt thanks for their continuing support.

Our 4-year grant from Islington Council also ended this year. We were unsuccessful in our application for continued funding for 2024-2028, however a substantial grant from the Council enabled us to instal a solar panel array on the roof of the Resource Centre which went live in February 2024, slashing our energy bill by a significant amount.

Our most local of businesses, CTO Lighting, has continued to support us with an annual donation of £1,200.

Other income came from booking out the Garden as a venue for Private Events. This included outdoor folk performances with the NEST Collective, Parties, meeting and exhibition space for local community organisations, and an accessible location for local children's parties.

Partnerships

Age UK Islington Carers group will be welcoming a new cohort of gardeners who will be supported to maintain their own Plot this Summer.

Born during the Pandemic, and shaped by Covid-19 prevention restrictions, Everyone's Music Jam is a spin off from Culpeper Choir - an outdoor Percussion Group led by a young musician from Goldsmiths, and grant aided by Tesco

Culpeper Choir itself is now independent of the Garden, due to a large grant they have received to pay for Musicians and Support Staff. Thanks to the use of the Community Store at the Angel Shopping Centre, they have a free indoor venue for the Choir. They will continue to perform in the Garden when weather permits. We wish them well as their numbers continue to grow.

Website

Our new improved Website is now much easier to navigate; with the opportunity for both new volunteers and members to sign up online and pay their subscriptions through bank transfer. This has led to a 20% increase in paid membership over the past 6 months.

40th Anniversary Celebrations

The National Lottery Awards for All small grant programme contributed to a summer of special celebrations at Culpeper. We replanted our Dry Garden and began the restoration of our beloved Rose Pergola.

We held a fabulous Garden Party for our members and the local community; followed by an evening meal plus a wonderful Live Band who performed 1980s disco hits which filled the 'dancefloor'.

We held our first free outdoor film screening; appropriately The Bee Movie. Our local children created a giant very hungry caterpillar from recycled materials to hang over the lawn; and our adult artists made giant papier-mâché bees. Culpeper Garden was beautifully reimagined in Lego and exhibited by our members. We invested in eco cups to reduce single use plastics at Events.

Open Volunteering

Our unique Volunteer Programme attracts gardeners from all over London, and even from abroad! We welcome people with any level of skill, for one single session or as a regular commitment. Our list of accessible, meaningful tasks enables everyone to contribute to the upkeep of the Garden. Regulars support new volunteers and practical work experience has led to employment for some.

Kids Summer Arts & Halloween

Our free Summer Arts programme attracted children, young people, and families from all over the borough. The sessions were led by 2 young, local artists, organised by our own staff. We provided a book corner, co-operative games, mud kitchen, clay and stone painting, the construction of a giant caterpillar, invertebrate studies, and water rockets.

Environmental education

We have continued to provide free class-sized activities for key Stage 1 Pupils from 8 local primary schools at Culpeper Garden. Children learn why we aren't buried in leaves - they meet, handle and identify the tiny creatures who turn fallen leaves into soil in a year! Habitat diversity, life cycles, pollination and native plants activities augment classroom pedagogy, and our pond and tadpole-raising project supports year 5 classes to observe life cycles first-hand.

FINANCE

Recent events in the charitable sector have shown how important it is that we continue to hold reserves equivalent to approximately six months of our running costs. In the event of reduced income in the future, this would enable us to run a basic service in the garden, while we sought future funding. It would also mean that we could meet our responsibilities to our staff if we needed to terminate their contracts.

MANAGEMENT AND STAFFING

During a busy year, a committed Management Committee directed the work of the Garden and Staff. The Committee is elected annually by the CIO's members, and is responsible for the governance and management of the Garden.

We welcomed 4 new Trustees to the Management Committee in November 2023; all of whom currently have plots at Culpeper. 6 experienced Trustees graciously agreed to stand again, including 3 plot holders and 2 members with disabilities.

In addition, there were four Trustees empowered to hold a lease from Islington Council on behalf of the Association: Peter Sutton, Kristina Glenn, Elizabeth Evans and Margaret Pitt.

As of 31 March 2024, the following were members of the Management Committee:

Sarah Falconer (Chair)	Oscar Dub	Jeff Patti	Raymond Ronchetti
Nikki Burkes (Secretary)	Holly Froy	Shakir Razak	
Stephen Mullin (Treasurer)	Sarah Hayes	Jarka Ronchetti	

In 2023 we began recruiting for a Community Gardener, with a job description of which the focus and responsibility is for the upkeep of the Garden, horticultural support for plot holders and planning seasonal volunteer and community group sessions. Anna Jones was appointed in August 2023. She has a strong horticultural background, and experience in managing staff and customer service.

After 11 years, Amanda Graham continues to provide continuity and stability for the organisation. Her excellent problem-solving attitude and a whole-hearted belief in the power of community gardening to change lives, plus her commitment to support our partners, community volunteers and members, is outstanding.

BANKERS

The Association holds a Current Account and a Deposit Account with the CAF Bank

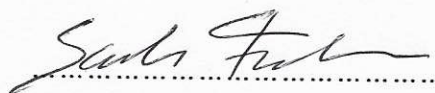
INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL EXAMINER


Martin Niemann was appointed as Independent Financial Examiner at the 2023 Annual General Meeting

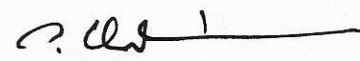
This Report was approved by the Management Committee on:

..... 29 OCTOBER2024

as a true record of the Association's activities for the year ended 31 March 2024, and signed on its behalf by:

 Sarah Falconer (Chair)

 Nikki Burkes (Secretary)

 Stephen Mullin (Treasurer)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF CULPEPER COMMUNITY GARDEN ASSOCIATION

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Culpeper Community Garden Association for the year ended 31 March 2024, which are set out on pages 7 to 10.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: 

Date: 30 October 2024

Name:

Martin Niemann FCA

Relevant professional qualification or body:

Chartered Accountant ICAEW

Address:

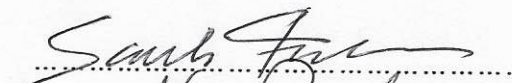
13 Broadlands, Syderstone
King's Lynn, Norfolk PE31 8ST


CULPEPER COMMUNITY GARDEN ASSOCIATION

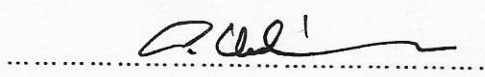
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Note	2023/2024 £	2022/2023 £
Fixed assets			
Buildings	2	164,368	152,423
Current assets			
Cash at bank and in hand	3	40,543	48,885
Cycle Scheme Loan		1,911	-
		<u>42,454</u>	<u>48,885</u>
Current liabilities			
Creditors and accrued expenses	4	4,002	4,386
		<u>4,002</u>	<u>4,386</u>
Net current assets		<u>38,452</u>	<u>44,499</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u><u>202,820</u></u>	<u><u>196,922</u></u>
Represented by:			
Unrestricted fund		36,232	33,269
Designated fund		164,366	152,421
Restricted fund		2,222	11,232
Total Funds		<u><u>202,820</u></u>	<u><u>196,922</u></u>

These Accounts were approved by the Management Committee on
 **25 OCTOBER** 2024 as a true record of the association's Balance Sheet
 and Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2024, and
 signed on its behalf by:

 Sarah Falconer (Chair)

 Nikki Burkes (Secretary)

 Stephen Mullin (Treasurer)

The notes on pages 9 and 10 form part of these accounts

CULPEPER COMMUNITY GARDEN ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds £	2023/2024 £	2022/2023 £
INCOME						
Grants received	5	21,550	-	36,883	58,433	59,338
Membership subs		2,459	-	-	2,459	1,498
Interest received		1,000	-	-	1,000	366
Fundraising events and donations		10,635	-	-	10,635	11,541
TOTAL INCOME		35,644	-	36,883	72,527	72,743
EXPENDITURE						
Salaries	6	20,669	-	21,215	41,884	48,453
Staff Cover		-	-	-	-	2,200
Electricity		2,580	-	-	2,580	934
Water rates and leakage		1,200	-	-	1,200	1,200
Insurance		1,384	-	-	1,384	1,265
Equipment		378	-	-	378	1,132
Materials		384	-	-	384	2,439
Postage, copying, stationery		704	-	-	704	800
Telephone		1,341	-	-	1,341	1,000
Fundraising & events costs		1,377	-	-	1,377	1,740
Repairs & improvements		519	-	-	519	3,161
Volunteers' expenses		799	-	-	799	1,205
Anniversary Celebration		-	-	8,287	8,287	-
Outgarden		-	-	327	327	1,301
Culpeper Choir		-	-	-	-	539
Percussion Band		-	-	-	-	1,000
Solar Project		-	-	10,873	10,873	3,938
Play Scheme		-	-	-	-	4,871
Rainbow Project		-	-	-	-	3,739
Elfrida		-	-	4,140	4,140	3,772
Environmental Education		107	-	-	107	106
Payroll processing/police checks		248	-	-	248	147
Staff training		141	-	-	141	225
Depreciation		-	5,615	-	5,615	4,597
Miscellaneous		1,774	-	-	1,774	2,832
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		33,732	5,615	44,842	84,190	92,596
NET INCOME for the year		1,913	(5,615)	(7,959)	(11,663)	(19,853)
SOLAR PANELS TO FIXED ASSETS		-	17,560	-	17,560	-
FUNDS TRANSFERS		1,051	-	(1,051)	-	-
FUND BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD		33,269	152,421	11,232	196,922	216,775
FUND BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD		36,232	164,366	2,222	202,820	196,922

The notes on pages 9 and 10 form part of these accounts

CULPEPER COMMUNITY GARDEN ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

NOTE 1: Accounting Policies

These Accounts have been prepared under the historic cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the Accounting and Reporting by Charities - Statement of Recommended Practice.

NOTE 2: Fixed Assets

During 2007/2008 Culpeper commenced a major building and paving project. In accordance with the Charities SORP this expenditure has been capitalised and included in a Designated Fund. The Trustees have decided to depreciate this expenditure evenly over 50 years.

During 2023/24 grant funded solar panels were installed and this expenditure is also included in a Designated Fund. The Trustees have decided to depreciate the expenditure on the panels evenly over 25 years and on the batteries evenly over 10 years.

	Buildings	Paving	Solar Panels	Total
Cost				
At 1 April 2023	205,496	15,500	-	220,996
Additions	-	-	17,560	17,560
At 31 March 2024	205,496	15,500	17,560	238,556

Depreciation				
At 1 April 2023	63,876	4,697	-	68,573
Charge for the year	4,282	315	1,017	5,615
At 31 March 2024	68,158	5,012	1,017	74,188

Net Book Values				
At 31 March 2024	137,338	10,488	16,543	164,368
At 31 March 2023	141,620	10,803	-	152,423

NOTE 3: Cash at Bank and in hand:

	2023/2024	2022/2023
	£	£
CAF Cash Account	2,820	3,683
CAF Gold Account	37,713	45,168
Petty cash	9	34
	40,543	48,885

NOTE 4: Creditors and accrued

HMRC	3,518	4,206
Pensions	484	180
	4,002	4,386

CULPEPER COMMUNITY GARDEN ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	2023/2024 £	2022/2023 £
NOTE 5: Grants received:		
Cripplegate Foundation	12,050	14,350
Awards for All Restricted	8,700	-
Tesco Percussion Band	-	500
Community Chest Restricted	4,900	4,900
Islington Council VCS	9,500	9,500
Islington Council Summer Play Scheme Restricted	-	7,440
Islington Council Out Garden Restricted	2,068	-
City Bridge Trust Restricted	21,215	20,626
City Bridge Trust Ex Gratia Restricted	-	2,022
	<u>58,433</u>	<u>59,338</u>

NOTE 6: Wages and salaries:

Gross salaries	39,152	46,018
Employer's National Insurance contributions	1,772	3,628
Employment allowance	(1,772)	(3,628)
Employers pension fund contribution	2,732	2,435
	<u>41,884</u>	<u>48,453</u>