

SERPENTINE COMMUNITY GARDEN SOCIETY CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1188016

Details

Other names SERPENTINE COMMUNITY GARDEN SOCIETY

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2020-02-18

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

Contact

Address Serpentine Community Garden
Burlington Road
Buxton
Derbyshire
SK17 9AR

Phone 07759275505

Email info@serpentinecommunitygarden.org

Website www.serpentinecommunitygarden.org

Activities

Objects: TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN THE SUBJECT OF HORTICULTURE AND HORTICULTURAL PRACTICES.

Activities: Our object is to advance the education of the public in the subject of horticulture and horticultural practices. We aim to teach and learn about sustainable growing practices in the High Peak climate; share knowledge with our volunteers and visitors; support the aim of long term food security; and build and maintain an environment where all people are welcome,

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Derbyshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-04-05	£103,737	£59,250	-	-
2024-04-05	£51,378	£52,995	-	-
2023-04-05	£37,389	£34,805	-	-
2022-04-05	£16,011	£10,862	-	-
2021-04-05	£28,500	£25,920	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Caitlin Janette Bisknell		2025-08-20
Carole Patricia Garner		2020-11-15
Catherine Birchall		2023-11-19
Derek William Bodey		2021-10-31
Luke Andrew Wilkinson		2024-11-17
Peter Barry Richard Brown		2020-11-15
Zoe Eloise Chaplin		2024-11-17

Accounts



SERPENTINE COMMUNITY GARDEN SOCIETY

Serpentine Community Garden Society CIO, Burlington Road, Buxton, SK17 9AR

Report of the Trustees, 6 April 2024 - 5 April 2025

Registered Charity number - 1188016

Registered office - c/o 39 Park Rd Buxton SK17 6SQ

Date of registration as a charity - 18 February 2020

Trustees

Madeline Hall	Associate	06/04/24	to	05/04/2025
Simon Fussell	re-elected	06/04/24	to	05/04/2025
Pete Brown	re-elected	06/04/24	to	05/04/2025
Carole Garner	re-elected	06/04/24	to	05/04/2025
Derek Bodey	re-elected	06/04/24	to	05/04/2025
Cath Birchall	elected	19 /11/24	to	05/04/2025
Luke Wilkinson	elected	19 /11/24	to	05/04/2025
Zoe Chaplin	elected	19 /11/24	To	05/04/2025

Solicitors

Lovedays Solicitors trading as Brooke-Taylors Solicitors
4 The Quadrant, Buxton, SK17 6AW.

Bankers

Cooperative Bank

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2. Objectives and Activities including summary of volunteer hours on site
3. Achievement and performance
4. Financial review

5. Evaluation
6. Risk Management
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1. Structure, Governance and Management

The Board currently comprises seven trustees, all of whom take an active role in organisational development, and an Associate Trustee. Further trustees - to a maximum of eleven - are actively sought to contribute expertise and experience. Recruitment is via advertising roles with a description of the key skills, knowledge or experiences being sought and an overview of the role and responsibilities of a trustee. SCGS's own networks and communication channels are used. Succession planning is an element in recruitment. Despite a good increase in volunteers contributing to practical activity, interest in volunteer trustee roles was limited. Additional events and word of mouth promotion with contacts has attracted one further trustee designate and interest from three more people with skills and experience to enrich the group.

The term of office for trustees is three years, renewable for a further three year term. After a break of a year trustees may stand for election for a return to office. For each of the first three years the longest serving trustee will resign, but may stand for a second term's appointment. Madeline Hall is now in the third year of her second term. Simon Fussell is serving the second year of his second term. Carole Garner and Pete Brown are in the first year of their second term. Derek Bodey is serving the second year of his first term. Cath Birchall is serving the first year of her first term.

Trustee meetings continue on the zoom platform, supplemented by ad hoc meetings on site. We continue to work as trustees to improve how we exchange and share information.

The Board of Trustees has sustained practice from its precursor Board of Directors of Serpentine Community Farm CIC, meeting every two months to review finance, projects and activity and to discuss long-term strategy and direction. The business plan approved in January 2020 was reviewed in detail in 2021, informed by appraisal from a financial consultant engaged with support from the Heritage Fund for Culture Recovery. The Management Risk assessment is updated annually. A further review of the Business Plan will be conducted when an Agreement to Lease the dilapidated stone buildings on site is agreed and signed. (Our landlords, High Peak Borough Council, had a target date for completion of April 2024. The timetable has slipped but we are confident that the lease will be signed early in the new financial year.)

2. Objectives and Activities

The object of the CIO is to advance the education of the public in the subject of horticulture and horticultural practices.

In addition we aim to:

- teach and learn about sustainable growing practices in the High Peak climate;
- share knowledge with our volunteers and visitors;
- introduce initiatives and practices that support the aim of long-term food security;
- build and maintain an environment where all people are welcome, enjoying what they are doing and having social interaction with others.

Our planning year for growing – for both plants and people – is a continuous cycle. These are the highlights for the reporting year,

April 2024

Nature Tots (under-5s) weekly sessions and Growing Well programmes for adults and for Burbage Junior School resumed.

May 2024

Growing Well sessions with Buxton Junior School started.

June 2024

- Buxton Garden Trail – 100+visitors.
- Exploratory meetings with Buxton Scout and Cub groups. 1st Buxton Cubs visit.

July 2024

- Summer 'Bizarre': Music, charity stalls, vegan burgers. 200+ visitors
- Bingham Trust award of £10,000 for essential surveys
- Hammond legacy grant received: £10,000
- Agreement to Lease signed 27 July 2024 (will be triggered once planning permission and funding secured).

August 2024

- Community Arts workshops with local artist
- £24,000 UK Shared Prosperity Fund award for improving site accessibility
- Mind the GAP landscaping started 12 August
- Second (week-day) Gardeniser (garden organiser) appointed
- Heritage Fund HEART (Heritage, Environment And Resources Team) application for the renovation and repurposing of derelict buildings on site submitted.

September 2024

- New accessible resin-bound pathways completed
- Arboricultural 'haircut' done by Able Trees
- Growing Well final term for all participants
- Final three weeks of Nature Tots
- Weekday Gardeniser left to do a PhD in Social Prescribing for young people in 'green' spaces
- Week-day Gardeniser took on main role with one week overlap for induction.

October 2024

- Apple Day celebrated by volunteers, members and family

- Halloween party for Moore Care clients and carers
- Donation of wood chip welcomed
- Seed potatoes and onion sets ordered through Transition Chesterfield.

November 2024

- Award of £2,499 from UK Shared Prosperity/Regeneration for further access improvements
- Baby change station installed in compost loo
- Orders for movable raised beds, recycled plastic picnic benches, perennial plants and accessibility aids drafted ready for placing in New Year
- Members' AGM endorsed acceptance of National Lottery Heritage Fund award for the Foundation project, a feasibility study for the HEART project.

December 2024

- Recruitment of Project Administrator for HEART Foundation phase
- Gathering quotations for surveyors' reports on buildings
- High Peak Borough Council (HPBC) to commission initial structural report and internal asbestos survey
- Wreath making workshops
- Winter gathering volunteer get-together.

January 2025: Laying the Groundwork

- Growing Plans discussed, developed and shared electronically and in hard copy at face to face event in our multi-purpose polytunnel
- Potatoes, onions and shallots collected from Transition Chesterfield
- Launch of a LinkedIn page and listing on Google Maps
- Job adverts for Engagement and Governance Consultants for the HEART Foundation phase went live, attracting five applicants for Engagement and three for Governance—a strong show of interest. Four candidates interviewed for the Engagement role, with one consultancy appointed
- Progress on site development: HPBC confirmed they would handle structural and asbestos surveys. Structural report received.

February 2025: Gearing Up for Action

- Seedy Saturday – donations and footfall details reflect a growing sense of community around the project.
- Governance Consultant selected for the HEART Foundation phase. Evaluation Consultant role recruitment begun.
- Asbestos survey completed.
- National Quarry Industry Services (NQIS) engaged for internal clearance of the buildings
- 1,000 views of the Garden logged on Google Maps
- Google Calendar integrated into the website.

March 2025: Breaking Ground & Nurturing Young Nature Lovers

- NQIS team started site work
- Evaluation Consultant appointed
- Media Consultant role filled by HEART project Administrator and Gardeniser as a job share
- Lab results confirmed NO asbestos in the boiler jacket insulation. Licensed contractor removed floor tiles and boiler gaskets containing ACMs (asbestos containing materials)
- Forest School sessions returned with Buxton Infants
- Nature Tots continued off-site in Buxton Library while work at the garden progressed.

Volunteer Hours and Visitor Numbers

	Volunteers and Gardenisers	Visitors	
	Hours	Numbers	Growing Well
April	486.75	12	68
May	380.5	80	173
June	682.5	177	611
July	750	170	348
August	235	1	14
Sept	355	13	90
Oct	334	30	60
Nov	199.5	2	
Dec	175.5	2	
Jan	212.5	0	
Feb	260.75	79	
March	280.25	16	4
Total	4352.25	582	1368
Gardenisers	690		
	3662.25	582	1368

3. Achievement and performance 24/25

Volunteers contributed 3,662 hours over the year in registered attendance on site. In addition unregistered, but highly appreciated, hours were invested off site on administration, publicity, planning and practical gardening enriching cultivation of a range of produce. We thank our team of volunteers for their ongoing commitment. Many go well beyond what is asked of them: supporting events, creating posters and labels, growing at home on windowsills, investing time and thought in the garden and the organisation, supporting our community in Buxton and the High Peak.

3.1 Education

We advance education in the science, art and practice of horticulture. The teaching and learning is not externally accredited but has its foundation in the authoritative gardening and horticultural advice provided by the Royal Horticultural Society. There is a particular focus on organic gardening methods based on the principles of organic gardening promoted by Garden Organic. (We are members of GO and contributors to their Heritage Seed Library.) In an informal setting, we work with volunteers to identify the skills they bring and the knowledge and skills they wish to develop. More formally, we offer regular training workshops and courses to consolidate and extend learning. All ages are covered with interventions modified to meet age and experience and to take in to account such factors as learning or social disabilities.

We promote active use of our facilities by local educational and therapeutic providers. The Growing Well programme is used and valued by local GPs, a local care home provider, a borough-wide team of CVS social prescribers, and a local primary school. Our National Lottery Community Fund award supports continuation and programme development for three years. This was the second year of funding. We look forward to the third and final year and are exploring possibilities for a funding extension to sustain additional activities.

We are making a contribution to citizen science in a number of fields and with different audiences. A long-term soil analysis and phytoremediation project supported by HPBC Climate Change and Nature Recovery funding is now in its second year. We support activities in Science Week and Wild Weeks for school children and college students.

3.2 Children and Young People

Formalising the relationship with our partners who work directly with young people (children's nurseries, child minder groups, schools and colleges) through the provision of a range of services and experiences enables the charity to introduce more young people to the site, allowing them to experience not only food growing, cooking and crafts, and all the associated benefits, but being part of a community space that they can feel a part of.

We ran an after school programme staffed by Derbyshire Wildlife Trust tutors supported by volunteers. A Nature Tots programme and family fun days are also attracting great interest and healthy numbers. A local nursery school brings groups in weekly through the summer as an element of their curriculum exploring nature.

3.3 Culture

Art and culture remains a developing strand of SCG volunteer interest. We work with locally based voluntary organisations and individual artists. The site is valued by artists as inspiration and as a welcoming space for direct interaction with communities. The site has the potential to play a significant role in delivery of a thriving cultural life in the town as a space where the public and creatives can interact and collaborate on joint projects, often bringing more investment in arts and culture to the local area in the process. We are already recognised as an excellent informal performance space and a great setting for external artworks.

Community arts activity within the Community Fund focused on willow weaving workshops for groups of school-pupils and for adults. The Well Keepers project funded by Arts Council England supported a group of women to explore their creativity through the medium of natural materials. A series of workshops offered in partnership with artists and

the local museum service culminated in open access workshops and an exhibition at Buxton's Green Man Gallery.

3.3 Accessibility

With support from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) we were able to commission a comprehensive external access audit, carried out by Jane Cooper from Access & Inclusion UK. The report provided detailed feedback, listing "quick wins" as well as medium and longer term recommendations to improve access at the Garden, including accessible pathways and seating; better directional and safety signage, and enhancements to our website and social media provision.

The audit also suggested a number of additional actions that would make the experience easier and more enjoyable for a wider range of volunteers and visitors: a hearing loop; information in alternative formats such as large print, braille and 'widgets'; magnifiers; memory box for visitors living with dementia; ear defenders for autistic visitor and a defibrillator. These are on our 'to-do' list, as and when funding allows.

Trustees immediately began to take action and we now have a smooth bonded gravel path providing easy access to a new under-5s outdoor educational play area; the tool shed; picnic space; quiet area and – crucially – our accessible composting toilet. The toilet now also has a wall-mounted changing table. The new pathways also provide access into Polytunnel 2 and the greenhouse, which now have raised level potting benches ideal for wheelchair users.

Our intention is to extend the pathways, providing easy access to the rest of the site, as part of a National Lottery funded capital project planned to restore and repurpose some derelict stone buildings which were part of the Council nursery complex (we are about to complete a feasibility study for this project and will decide this autumn whether to take the bid forward). If the capital works do go ahead, we will be applying the 'universal design principles' recommended by the access audit to ensure that the restored buildings are as accessible as possible.

We have also purchased specially adapted tools and equipment, enabling people with physical difficulties to join our volunteer team and enjoy gardening as productive members of the Serpentine community.

With regard to signage, we are systematically improving wayfinding on site and are in discussions with our landlords (High Peak Borough Council) and others to improve navigation to the Garden from Buxton and beyond.

Issues with the website have been noted and will be dealt with as part of a reworked communications strategy we are planning alongside the capital development project.

3.4 Organisation

Work on securing the future of the project continues. Our landlords, High Peak Borough Council, approved in principle the terms of two 25-year leases, one on the land, the second on the land to include stone store buildings erected in 1898. Detailed negotiation with council officers began in January 2020. The lease on the land was finally signed on 8 February 2022. Agreement to separate the two strands of the lease allowed the land lease to progress, which in turn confirmed the Charity's eligibility for the National Lottery Community Fund revenue award.

Our landlords, High Peak Borough Council, had a target date for completion of April 2024. The timetable has slipped but we are confident that the lease will be signed early in the new financial year was done in July 2025

Local press and social media were used effectively. Weekly working notes are circulated to all members and volunteers. Each month an update is circulated to all supporters.

Onsite activity has increased again with opening to volunteers and visitors on four weekday mornings plus Sundays and booked sessions for groups on a further day, early morning and after-school hours. The structure for sustaining growing on site and facilitating communication between the various user groups is proving robust. We work towards a consensus model for decision making and a dispersed 'management and supervision' model.

Links with other community groups have been strengthened. Following a consultation process initiated with volunteers about the extent and pace of steps, the Garden is now open for larger numbers of visitors, individually and in groups. The increase in provision for young people is particularly pleasing.

4. Financial review

Income for the fifth year as a charity totaled £103,737 made up of £101,072 in grant awards and £2,655 in donations including associated Gift Aid and £321 in membership subs.

There was spending on an Access Audit along with the UKSPF Levelling-up award for community infrastructure administered by HPBC. (The total project funding is £28,880 including 20% match from the charity's own resources).

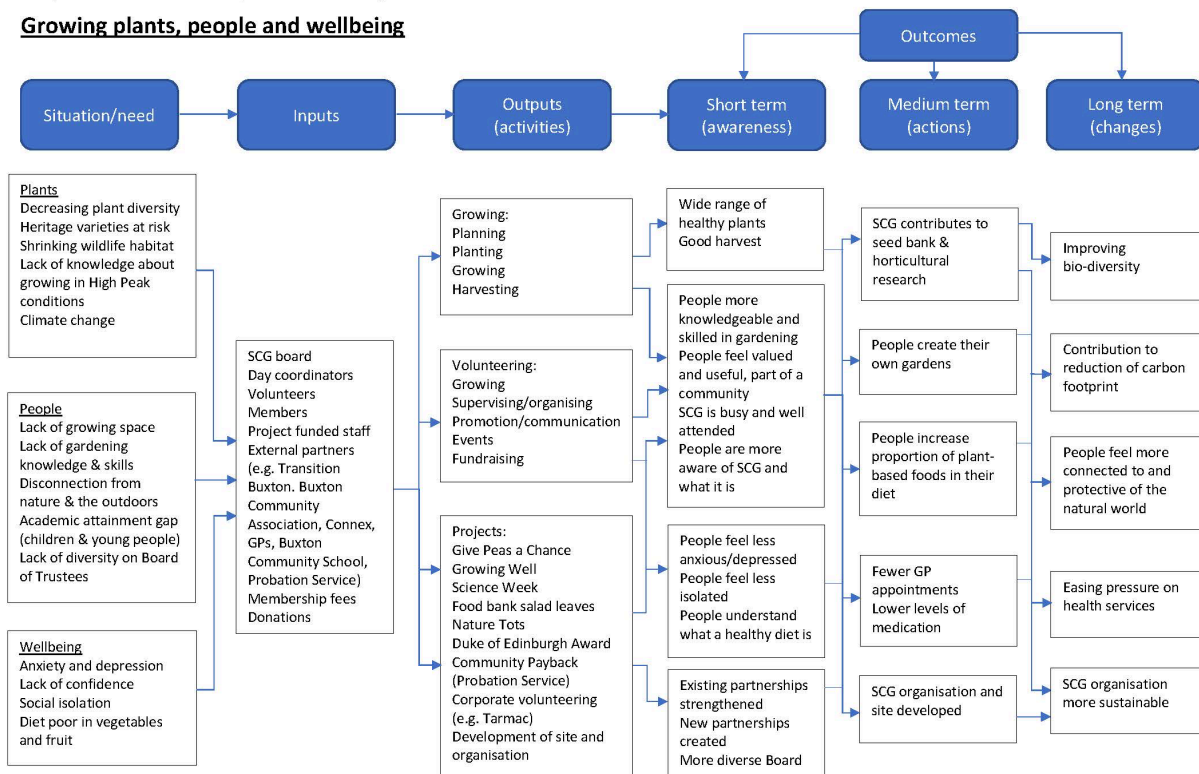
The National Lottery Community Fund award of £96,000 continued for revenue costs over three years covers consolidation of initiatives in the Community Garden and further development of the Growing Well programme. A high proportion of the funding is devoted to payments of freelance staff. The profile of spending is heaviest during the late spring and summer but in-house reserves maintain a cash cushion reserve at all times.

There was potential for a significant capital funding award once the terms of the Agreement to Lease the dilapidated stone store buildings on site were finally agreed. An initial £10,000 was received from a local charitable trust and the National Lottery Heritage Fund agreed a grant of £43,750 for the Development stage for a major capital project which commenced in January 2025 and will complete in October 2025.

5. Evaluation

Serpentine Community Garden – Logic Model for evaluation

Growing plants, people and wellbeing



We adopt a logic model for evaluation as outlined below:

6. Risk management

As Trustees, we are responsible for overseeing the charity's risk management activities. The Trustee Board manages and monitors SCGS's risks through a Strategic Risk Register which is incorporated in the Annual Business Plan. Strategic Risks are identified following the Annual General Meeting of members, drawing on response to the annual Future Strategy briefing paper.

Main risks identified:

- Security of Tenure
- Running Out of Cash
- Venue Income Down
- High Staff/Volunteer Turnover
- High Trustee Turnover
- Education Income Down
- Lack of Grant Success

- Catastrophic On-Site Event

All risks are evaluated and considered against mitigation measure in the Business plan 2025- 2030. The plan demonstrates a strong reliance on external funding, particularly for capital and revenue grants, which are essential for the refurbishment of buildings and core staffing costs. While there is a diverse range of income-generating activities planned, these are relatively modest compared to the expected grant income. The reliance on grants poses a risk if grant applications are unsuccessful or if funding bodies change their priorities.

To mitigate this, the plan includes strategies to build resilience through diverse income streams and prudent cash reserves. However, the success of these strategies will depend on effective implementation and the ability to adapt to changing circumstances. Engagement of trustees and a committed volunteer cadre and membership supports on-going review which is both sensitive and robust.

7. Future Plans

The 2025 - 2030 Business Plan includes a summary of potential futures, subject to opportunities and challenges:

Serpentine Community Garden's fundraising effort will be focused on securing large capital and revenue grants to enable the charity to refurbish old buildings whilst building its volunteer and visitor capacity over the next five years. Awarding bodies and trusts to approach include the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Community Fund, Arts Council England and Severn Trent. We will also continue to seek smaller grants to fund project work.

We intend to build in a more planned approach to grant applications. One of our trustees is setting up an online platform for not-for-profit organisations to view tailored opportunities, to access support for bid writing and to access project administration tools. We anticipate being an early adopter of the platform and a flagship for its benefits.

The prospective capital build project has attracted early pledges of significant donations from members and an earmarked sum from a legacy award to kickstart crowd funding at the appropriate time. New literature and an improved web presence will encourage more to do this, as well as one off donations for appeals and funding campaigns.

Serpentine Community Garden will seek to foster links for the provision of education, health and wellbeing services. Generally, these are not directly income generating. Children's nurseries, schools, colleges and health services have limited funds for supplementary/ complementary activity. Where resources allow, we aim to respond positively to all requests. In some cases, grant funding may be secured in partnership with other organisations.

Post 2025 Serpentine Community Garden will continue to grow and diversify, embedded in the local community and developing strong partnerships with regional and national organisations to deliver projects that help create a greener, healthier High Peak. Should targets

for securing funding and planning approvals for site buildings and infrastructure not be met, the project will continue the balance of its 25 year lease. Whilst this will not exploit the full potential of the site, it guarantees continued use and development of the land and the people who work it.

Supplementary to this plan, an income generation plan has been developed to explore how the charity can diversify its income through developing its corporate partnership, trading, individual/community giving and membership income. Implementation of the actions in this plan aim to help secure the financial diversification of the organisation.

We will continue to develop our profile and external-facing activities; improve our internal systems and processes; develop our strategy for measurement of impact in use of the logic model of evaluation; reappraise organisational risk; and plan to grasp opportunities to extend our community reach.

Trustees 24/25

Simon Fussell (Chair)

Carole Garner (Vice-Chair)

Madeline Hall (Associate - Project Management)

Pete Brown

Derek Bodey

Cath Birchall

Luke Wilkinson

Zoe Chaplin

Charity Registration Number

Registered Charity Number : 1188016

SERPENTINE COMMUNITY GARDENS

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

05 APRIL 2025

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 05 APRIL 2025

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SERPENTINE COMMUNITY GARDENS
LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 05 APRIL 2025

Trustees	Madeline Hall Simon Fussell Pete Brown Carole Garner Derek Bodey Cath Birchall Zoe Chaplin – Appointed 17 November 2024 Luke Wilkinson - Appointed 17 November 2024
Charity Number	1188016
Company Number	CE020741
Registered Office	39 Park Road Buxton Derbyshire SK17 6SQ
Independent examiners	ABS Accountancy Ltd Certified Public Accountants Suite 1 Harewood Business Centre 2 Fairfield Road Buxton Derbyshire SK17 7DW

SERPENTINE COMMUNITY GARDENS

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 05 APRIL 2025

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 05 April 2025.

Trustees' report and financial statements

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 05 April 2025. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Trustees

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Madeline Hall
Simon Fussell
Pete Brown
Carole Garner
Derek Bodey
Cath Birchall
Zoe Chaplin
Luke Wilkinson

Trustees' responsibilities statement

The trustees, who are also the directors of Charity For Serpentine Community Gardens for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

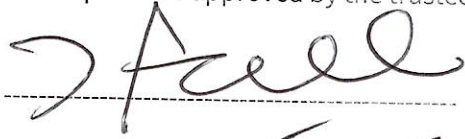
Company Law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report was approved by the trustee and signed on its behalf by:



Trustee

 S. Fussell

Date : ~~23 May~~ 2025

11 June 2025

SERPENTINE COMMUNITY GARDENS
INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 05 APRIL 2025

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 05 April 2025, which are set out on pages which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Statement of Financial Position and the related notes.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of Serpentine Community Gardens, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act'). The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an Independent Examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act and to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act; and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Independent examiners statement

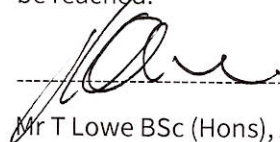
My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and the seeking of explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

I have completed my examination

I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1) accounting records were not kept in respect of Serpentine Community Gardens as required by section 130 of the Charities Act 2011; or
- 2) to prepare the accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or
- 3) the accounts do not comply with the accounting 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 this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Mr T Lowe BSc (Hons), ACPA
Certified Public Accountant
ABS Accountancy Ltd
Suite 1 Harewood Business Centre
2 Fairfield Road
Buxton
Derbyshire
SK17 7DW

Date: 03/07/2025

SERPENTINE COMMUNITY GARDENS
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 05 APRIL 2025

Recommended categories by activity	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	2	38,243.85	65,493.00	103,736.85	51,380.00
Total		38,243.85	65,493.00	103,736.85	51,380.00
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	3	363.94	-	363.94	576.50
Charitable activities	4	21,032.16	29,143.13	50,175.29	51,618.50
Other	6	8,370.69	340.00	8,710.69	799.00
Total		29,766.79	29,483.13	59,249.92	52,994.00
Net income/(expenditure)		8,477.06	36,009.87	44,486.93	(1,614.00)
Net movement in funds		8,477.06	36,009.87	44,486.93	(1,614.00)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		14,110.00	-	14,110.00	15,724.00
Total funds carried forward		22,587.06	36,009.87	58,596.93	14,110.00

SERPENTINE COMMUNITY GARDENS
BALANCE SHEET
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 05 APRIL 2025

Recommended categories by activity	Notes	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Fixed assets			
Heritage assets		19,262.50	1,400.00
Total fixed assets		19,262.50	1,400.00
Current assets			
Cash at bank and in hand	8	40,334.30	13,710.00
Creditors: due within 1 year	9	-	1,000
Total current assets		40,334.30	12,710.00
Total net assets or liabilities		59,596.80	14,110.00
Funds of the Charity			
Unrestricted funds	9	22,587.06	14,110.00
Restricted income funds	9	36,009.87	-
Endowment funds	9	-	-
Total funds		59,596.93	14,110.00


For the year ended 05 April 2025 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

The trustee acknowledges their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared and delivered in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 23 May 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

Trustee  S. Fussell
 Date 11. June 2025

SERPENTINE COMMUNITY GARDENS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 05 APRIL 2025

1. Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted by the Charity, which is a public benefit entity, in the preparation of the accounts are as follows.

1.1 Basis of preparation

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the inclusion of charitable properties and fixed asset investments and investment properties at valuation.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with “Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)” (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

These accounts are presented in pounds sterling and rounded to the nearest pound.

1.2 Going concern

The Trustees have prepared financial projections, taking into consideration the current economic conditions and have, at the time of approving these accounts, a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the accounts.

2. Income from Donations and Legacies

Analysis	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Total funds 2025	Total funds 2024
	£	£	£	£
Donation and gifts	1,807.99	-	1,807.99	2,133.00
Gift Aid	618.36	-	618.36	628.00
Grants	35,579.00	65,493.00	101,072.00	48,179.00
Membership subscriptions and sponsorships which are in substance donations	231.00	-	231.00	322.00
Other	7.50	-	7.50	118.00
	38,243.85	65,493.00	103,736.85	51,380.00

3. Expenditure on Raising Funds

Analysis	Total funds 2025	Total funds 2024
	£	£
Support Costs	363.94	576.50
	363.94	576.50

4. Expenditure on Charitable Activities

Analysis	Total funds 2025	Total funds 2024
	£	£
Projects	4,059.18	-
Charity management & administration	3,299.92	737.00
Employee costs	27,075.88	43,156.00
Legal/professional fees	12,541.12	4,000.00
Horticultural Supplies	2,067.25	3,149.00
Support Costs	1,131.94	576.50
	50,175.29	51,618.50

5. Support Costs

Analysis	Total funds 2025	Total funds 2024
	£	£
General Overheads/Utilities	349.66	784.00
Insurance	378.22	369.00
Governance Costs		
Accountants fees	768.00	-
	1,495.88	1,153.00

6. Other Expenditure

Analysis	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Total funds 2025	Total funds 2024
	£	£	£	£
Equipment Hire	-	340.00	340.00	-
Repairs & Maintenance	60.00	-	60.00	-
Depreciation Charge for the Year - Heritage asset 1	6,887.50	-	6,887.50	700.00
Other Expenditure	1,423.19	-	1,423.19	99.00
	8,370.69	340.00	8,710.69	799.00

7. Heritage Assets

	Fixtures
	£
7.1 Cost or valuation	
At 06 April 2024	3,500.00
Additions	24,750.00
Disposals	-
Revaluations	-
Transfers	-
At 05 April 2025	28,250.00
Depreciation	
At 06 April 2024	2,100.00
Charge for year	6,887.50
At 05 April 2025	8,987.50

8. Cash at bank and in hand

	Total funds 2025	Total funds 2024
	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	40,284.30	13,710.00
Petty Cash	50.00	-
	<u>40,334.30</u>	<u>13,710.00</u>

9. Charity funds

9.1 Details of material funds held and movements during the current reporting period

Fund names	Fund balances brought forward	Income	Expenditure	Fund balances carried forward
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
	14,110.00	38,243.85	29,766.79	22,587.06
Restricted income funds				
	-	65,493.00	29,483.13	36,009.87
Total	<u>14,110.00</u>	<u>103,736.85</u>	<u>59,249.92</u>	<u>58,596.93</u>

9.2 Details of material funds held and movements during the previous reporting period

Fund names	Fund balances brought forward	Income	Expenditure	Fund balances carried forward
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
	16,357.00	3,201.00	5,448	14,110
Restricted income funds				
	(633.00)	48,179.00	47,546.00	
Total	<u>15,724.00</u>	<u>51,380</u>	<u>52,944.00</u>	<u>14,110</u>

Charity Registration Number

Registered Charity Number : 1188016

SERPENTINE COMMUNITY GARDENS

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

05 APRIL 2025

SERPENTINE COMMUNITY GARDENS
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 05 APRIL 2025

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SERPENTINE COMMUNITY GARDENS
LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 05 APRIL 2025

Trustees	Madeline Hall Simon Fussell Pete Brown Carole Garner Derek Bodey Cath Birchall Zoe Chaplin – Appointed 17 November 2024 Luke Wilkinson - Appointed 17 November 2024
Charity Number	1188016
Company Number	CE020741
Registered Office	39 Park Road Buxton Derbyshire SK17 6SQ
Independent examiners	ABS Accountancy Ltd Certified Public Accountants Suite 1 Harewood Business Centre 2 Fairfield Road Buxton Derbyshire SK17 7DW

SERPENTINE COMMUNITY GARDENS

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 05 APRIL 2025

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 05 April 2025.

Trustees' report and financial statements

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 05 April 2025. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Trustees

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Madeline Hall
Simon Fussell
Pete Brown
Carole Garner
Derek Bodey
Cath Birchall
Zoe Chaplin
Luke Wilkinson

Trustees' responsibilities statement

The trustees, who are also the directors of Charity For Serpentine Community Gardens for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

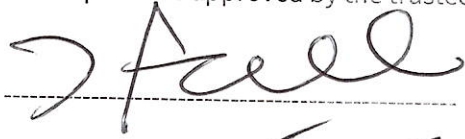
Company Law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report was approved by the trustee and signed on its behalf by:



Trustee

 S. Fussell

Date : ~~23 May~~ 2025

11 June 2025

SERPENTINE COMMUNITY GARDENS
INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 05 APRIL 2025

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 05 April 2025, which are set out on pages which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Statement of Financial Position and the related notes.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of Serpentine Community Gardens, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act'). The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an Independent Examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act and to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act; and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Independent examiners statement

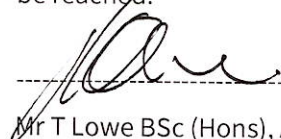
My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and the seeking of explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

I have completed my examination

I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1) accounting records were not kept in respect of Serpentine Community Gardens as required by section 130 of the Charities Act 2011; or
- 2) to prepare the accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or
- 3) the accounts do not comply with the accounting 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 this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Mr T Lowe BSc (Hons), ACPA
Certified Public Accountant
ABS Accountancy Ltd
Suite 1 Harewood Business Centre
2 Fairfield Road
Buxton
Derbyshire
SK17 7DW

Date: 03/07/2025

SERPENTINE COMMUNITY GARDENS
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 05 APRIL 2025

Recommended categories by activity	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	2	38,243.85	65,493.00	103,736.85	51,380.00
Total		38,243.85	65,493.00	103,736.85	51,380.00
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	3	363.94	-	363.94	576.50
Charitable activities	4	21,032.16	29,143.13	50,175.29	51,618.50
Other	6	8,370.69	340.00	8,710.69	799.00
Total		29,766.79	29,483.13	59,249.92	52,994.00
Net income/(expenditure)		8,477.06	36,009.87	44,486.93	(1,614.00)
Net movement in funds		8,477.06	36,009.87	44,486.93	(1,614.00)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		14,110.00	-	14,110.00	15,724.00
Total funds carried forward		22,587.06	36,009.87	58,596.93	14,110.00

SERPENTINE COMMUNITY GARDENS
BALANCE SHEET
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 05 APRIL 2025

Recommended categories by activity	Notes	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Fixed assets			
Heritage assets		19,262.50	1,400.00
Total fixed assets		19,262.50	1,400.00
Current assets			
Cash at bank and in hand	8	40,334.30	13,710.00
Creditors: due within 1 year	9	-	1,000
Total current assets		40,334.30	12,710.00
Total net assets or liabilities		59,596.80	14,110.00
Funds of the Charity			
Unrestricted funds	9	22,587.06	14,110.00
Restricted income funds	9	36,009.87	-
Endowment funds	9	-	-
Total funds		59,596.93	14,110.00


For the year ended 05 April 2025 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

The trustee acknowledges their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared and delivered in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 23 May 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

Trustee  S. Fussell
 Date 11. June 2025

SERPENTINE COMMUNITY GARDENS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 05 APRIL 2025

1. Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted by the Charity, which is a public benefit entity, in the preparation of the accounts are as follows.

1.1 Basis of preparation

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the inclusion of charitable properties and fixed asset investments and investment properties at valuation.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with “Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)” (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

These accounts are presented in pounds sterling and rounded to the nearest pound.

1.2 Going concern

The Trustees have prepared financial projections, taking into consideration the current economic conditions and have, at the time of approving these accounts, a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the accounts.

2. Income from Donations and Legacies

Analysis	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Total funds 2025	Total funds 2024
	£	£	£	£
Donation and gifts	1,807.99	-	1,807.99	2,133.00
Gift Aid	618.36	-	618.36	628.00
Grants	35,579.00	65,493.00	101,072.00	48,179.00
Membership subscriptions and sponsorships which are in substance donations	231.00	-	231.00	322.00
Other	7.50	-	7.50	118.00
	38,243.85	65,493.00	103,736.85	51,380.00

3. Expenditure on Raising Funds

Analysis	Total funds 2025	Total funds 2024
	£	£
Support Costs	363.94	576.50
	363.94	576.50

4. Expenditure on Charitable Activities

Analysis	Total funds 2025	Total funds 2024
	£	£
Projects	4,059.18	-
Charity management & administration	3,299.92	737.00
Employee costs	27,075.88	43,156.00
Legal/professional fees	12,541.12	4,000.00
Horticultural Supplies	2,067.25	3,149.00
Support Costs	1,131.94	576.50
	50,175.29	51,618.50

5. Support Costs

Analysis	Total funds 2025	Total funds 2024
	£	£
General Overheads/Utilities	349.66	784.00
Insurance	378.22	369.00
Governance Costs		
Accountants fees	768.00	-
	1,495.88	1,153.00

6. Other Expenditure

Analysis	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Total funds 2025	Total funds 2024
	£	£	£	£
Equipment Hire	-	340.00	340.00	-
Repairs & Maintenance	60.00	-	60.00	-
Depreciation Charge for the Year - Heritage asset 1	6,887.50	-	6,887.50	700.00
Other Expenditure	1,423.19	-	1,423.19	99.00
	8,370.69	340.00	8,710.69	799.00

7. Heritage Assets

	Fixtures
	£
7.1 Cost or valuation	
At 06 April 2024	3,500.00
Additions	24,750.00
Disposals	-
Revaluations	-
Transfers	-
At 05 April 2025	28,250.00
Depreciation	
At 06 April 2024	2,100.00
Charge for year	6,887.50
At 05 April 2025	8,987.50

8. Cash at bank and in hand

	Total funds 2025	Total funds 2024
	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	40,284.30	13,710.00
Petty Cash	50.00	-
	<u>40,334.30</u>	<u>13,710.00</u>

9. Charity funds

9.1 Details of material funds held and movements during the current reporting period

Fund names	Fund balances brought forward	Income	Expenditure	Fund balances carried forward
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
	14,110.00	38,243.85	29,766.79	22,587.06
Restricted income funds				
	-	65,493.00	29,483.13	36,009.87
Total	<u>14,110.00</u>	<u>103,736.85</u>	<u>59,249.92</u>	<u>58,596.93</u>

9.2 Details of material funds held and movements during the previous reporting period

Fund names	Fund balances brought forward	Income	Expenditure	Fund balances carried forward
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
	16,357.00	3,201.00	5,448	14,110
Restricted income funds				
	(633.00)	48,179.00	47,546.00	
Total	<u>15,724.00</u>	<u>51,380</u>	<u>52,944.00</u>	<u>14,110</u>

Accounts



SERPENTINE COMMUNITY GARDEN SOCIETY

Serpentine Community Garden Society CIO
Serpentine Walks, Burlington Road, Buxton, SK17 9AR

Report of the Trustees 6 April 2023 - 5 April 2024

Registered Charity number - 1188016

Registered office - c/o 39 Park Road, Buxton, SK17 6SQ

Date of registration as a charity - 18 February 2020

Trustees

Madeline Hall	re-elected	06/04/22	to	05/04/2024
Simon Fussell	re-elected	06/04/22	to	05/04/2024
Pete Brown	re-elected	06/04/22	to	05/04/2024
Carole Garner	re-elected	06/04/22	to	05/04/2024
Derek Bodey	re-elected	06/04/22	to	05/04/2024
Cath Birchall	elected	19 /11/23	to	05/04/2024

Solicitors

Lovedays Solicitors trading as Brooke-Taylors Solicitors
4 The Quadrant, Buxton, SK17 6AW

Bankers

Cooperative Bank

Contents

1. Structure, Governance and Management
2. Objectives and Activities including summary of volunteer hours on site
3. Achievement and performance
4. Financial review
5. Evaluation
6. Risk Management
7. Future Plans



SERPENTINE COMMUNITY GARDEN SOCIETY

1. Structure, Governance and Management

The Board currently comprises six trustees, all of whom take an active role in organisational development. Further trustees - to a maximum of eleven - are actively sought to contribute expertise and experience. Recruitment is via advertising roles with a description of the key skills, knowledge or experiences being sought and an overview of the role and responsibilities of a trustee. SCGS's own networks and communication channels are used. Succession planning is an element in recruitment. Despite a good increase in volunteers contributing to practical activity, interest in volunteer trustee roles was limited. Additional events and word of mouth promotion with contacts has attracted one further trustee designate and interest from three more people with skills and experience to enrich the group.

The term of office for trustees is three years, renewable for a further three year term. After a break of a year trustees may stand for election for a return to office. For each of the first three years the longest serving trustee will resign, but may stand for a second term's appointment. Madeline Hall is now in the third year of her second term. Simon Fussell is serving the second year of his second term. Carole Garner and Pete Brown are in the first year of their second term. Derek Bodey is serving the second year of his first term. Cath Birchall is serving the first year of her first term.

Trustee meetings continue on the zoom platform, supplemented by ad hoc meetings on site. We continue to work as trustees to improve how we exchange and share information.

The Board of Trustees has sustained practice from its precursor Board of Directors of Serpentine Community Farm CIC, meeting every two months to review finance, projects and activity and to discuss long-term strategy and direction. The business plan approved in January 2020 was reviewed in detail in 2021, informed by appraisal from a financial consultant engaged with support from the Heritage Fund for Culture Recovery. The Management Risk assessment is updated annually. A further review of the Business Plan will be conducted when an Agreement to Lease the dilapidated stone buildings on site is agreed and signed. (Our landlords, High Peak Borough Council, had a target date for completion of April 2024. The timetable has slipped but we are confident that the lease will be signed early in the new financial year.)

2. Objectives and Activities

The object of the CIO is to advance the education of the public in the subject of horticulture and horticultural practices.

In addition we aim to:

- teach and learn about sustainable growing practices in the High Peak climate;
- share knowledge with our volunteers and visitors;
- introduce initiatives and practices that support the aim of long term food security;
- build and maintain an environment where all people are welcome, enjoying what they are doing and having social interaction with others.

Our planning year for growing begins before the start of the financial year, and the reporting year for this project. The preparatory three-month period is a key element in successful growing - for plants and people. Activities included:

January 2023

- Growing Plans discussed, developed and shared electronically and in hard copy at face to face event in Polytunnel 3 (P3).
- Use of Friends of Pavilion Gardens' noticeboard agreed. Opening hours, directions and fliers posted behind glass.

February 2023

- Seedy Saturday. £140 donations and fresh seeds. 36 visitors. [Transition Buxton](#) mounted a stall and display stand.
- Permission granted by Arboricultural Officer for removal of overhanging willow branches in wild area behind P3.
- Two James Grieve apple trees planted in Compare and Contrast climate change project.
- Heated propagation tray loan system for volunteers introduced. Tomatoes, beans and pot marigolds sown on home windowsills.
- Seed potatoes, shallots and onion sets bought in bulk through Transition Buxton link.
- Wild flower bank on brash and reclaimed soil constructed at edge of old depot.

March 2023

- Extensive new raised beds constructed and filled in the old depot area.
- Opening four minutes of video celebrating the community garden at the heart of Buxton shared.
- Seed swap box provided in Buxton Methodist Church foyer.
- Replacement entrance gates agreed by trustees and High Peak Borough Council (HPBC) officers - Assets, Compliance, Planning.
- Peak Environmental Services conducted soil analysis survey in old depot area.
- Representatives invited to contribute to Wilder High Peak project workshop.

April 2023

- Growing Well Programme 2023 started.
- New raised beds constructed. New entrance gate commissioned, approved and installed. Successful Expression of Interest in National Lottery Heritage Fund award.

May 2023

- [Nature Tots](#) programme launched.

June 2023

- Family fun days offered on Sundays.
- Give Peas a Chance after school programme offered thanks to support from members and volunteers.
- Open garden for Buxton Garden Trail.
- Stall at Rotary Summer Fair.
- Programme of visits for Serpentine Nursery.
- Social event for volunteers.

July 2023

- Visit from U3A.
- Volunteers install three Little Maids sculpture and lettered pots for the annual Flowerpot Trail.
- Buxton Festival Fringe event - Summer Beano. Venue for Fringe awards ceremony.
- Launch of Well Keepers project (with Arts Council England funding).

August 2023

- Permissions granted for arboriculture work in old depot area.
- Draft plan for initial clearing discussion initiated.
- Construction of 'U' shaped raised bed in old depot area.
- Joined High Peak CVS and Garden Organic (previously Henry Doubleday Association) as members.

September 2023

- Give Peas a Chance video shared.
- Second cohort of Growing Well groups for adult and adults with carers.
- First Growing Well group for primary school children launched in partnership with Burbage School.

October 2023

- Apple Day in the Community Garden.
- Cold frames repaired. Gourd crop left to dry ready for use as bird houses.
- Donation of useful gardening items collected and stored.
- Comfrey plants compressed for feed next year.

November 2023

- Well Keepers Exhibition and craft workshops in Green Man Gallery.
- Well Keepers video shared.
- Climate and Environment Conference in the Pavilion Gardens Octagon. 150+ participants from schools and colleges. SCG volunteers ran three workshops on soil science.
- Drainage improved to P3 entrance threshold and small limestone clippings spread.
- AGM - new trustee appointed.

December 2023

- Christmas event at Thorneycroft (a member's home) raised £750.
- Winter Gathering social event in the Garden.
- Interviews for contracted bookkeeping and accountancy services held.
- Discussion on growing plans initiated. Polytunnels cleaned and sheds tidied.

- Derbyshire libraries purchased six copies of War and Peas, by trustee Madeline Hall, for local history archives.

January 2024

- Growing Plans discussed, developed and shared electronically and in hard copy at face to face event in P3.
- Funding secured from Levelling Up fund for Community Infrastructure to improve on-site accessibility.
- Agreement to appoint ABS Accountancy, a Buxton based service, on a monthly contract for bookkeeping and accounts. Director of ABS Consultancy volunteered to join trustees and take on the Company Secretary role on a pro-bono basis.
- Potatoes, onions and shallots collected from Transition Chesterfield.

February 2024

- Seedy Saturday. £160 (and one rupee!) donations and fresh seeds plus £20 in Garden Organic box. 36 visitors.
- Chillis, tomatoes and basil seed planted in heated propagators in P3 and on home windowsills.
- Accessibility Audit completed. Excellent report and recommendations provided.
- Work started on repair and replacement of rotting timber on older raised beds.
- Nature Tots craft activities in Buxton Crescent Heritage Trust Assembly Room.
- Evening presentation to Burbage Gardening Society.

March 2024

- Netting frame for brassicas in containers installed.
- Strawberry 'wall' installed in suspended pots on security fencing.
- Final draft of long term lease on buildings and land agreed ready for signature by HPBC and trustees.
- Landscaping specification for improved pathway and social space surfaces agreed and offered for contractors to tender.

Volunteer Hours and Visitor Numbers

	21-22		2022-2023		2023-2024					
			Volunteers and Garden-isers	Visitors	Volunteers and Garden-isers	Visitors	Programme attendance			
							Growing Well	GPaC	Nature tots	Oth-er
April	178	286	-		369.5	35	19		13	19
May	315	532			498.5	81	20	49	15	43
June	335	350.75	30		674.75	98	73	30	31	62
July	288	322.75	215		546	90	53		30	55
August	213	305.75	39		272.5	21	20		27	49
September	270	301.5	22		545	10	44		41	67

	21-22	2022-2023		2023-2024					
October	245	391.5	24	382.5	41	52			13
November	163	260.25		345.5	5	30			4
December	68	124.75		164.5	4	8			10
January	128	179.5	5	154	9				
February	180	242.5		235.75	45				
March	196	233.25	8	257	5				
Total	2075	3530.5	343	4445.5	444	319	79	157	322
Garden- isers		690		690					
					877	Pro- grammes			
Volunteer Total	2075	2840.5	343	3755.5	1321				

3. Achievement and performance 2023 / 2024

Volunteers contributed 2,840 (2,184 in 2022-2023) hours over the year in registered attendance on site. In addition unregistered, but highly appreciated, hours were invested off site on administration, publicity, planning and practical gardening enriching cultivation of a range of produce. We thank our team of volunteers for their ongoing commitment. Many go well beyond what is asked of them: supporting events, creating posters and labels, growing at home on windowsills, investing time and thought in the garden and the organisation, supporting our community in Buxton and the High Peak.

3.1 Education

We advance education in the science, art and practice of horticulture. The teaching and learning is not externally accredited but has its foundation in the authoritative gardening and horticultural advice provided by the Royal Horticultural Society. There is a particular focus on organic gardening methods based on the principles of organic gardening promoted by Garden Organic. (We are members of GO and contributors to their Heritage Seed Library.) In an informal setting, we work with volunteers to identify the skills they bring and the knowledge and skills they wish to develop. More formally, we offer regular training workshops and courses to consolidate and extend learning. All ages are covered with interventions modified to meet age and experience and to take in to account such factors as learning or social disabilities.

We promote active use of our facilities by local educational and therapeutic providers. The Growing Well programme is used and valued by local GPs, a local care home provider, a borough-wide team of CVS social prescribers, and a local primary school. Our National Lottery Community Fund award supports continuation and programme development for three years. This was the second year of funding. We look forward to the third and final year and are exploring possibilities for a funding extension to sustain additional activities.

We are making a contribution to citizen science in a number of fields and with different audiences. A long term soil analysis and phytoremediation project supported by HPBC Climate Change and Nature Recovery funding is now in its second year. We support activities in Science Week and Wild Weeks for school children and college students.

3.2 Children and Young People

Formalising the relationship with our partners who work directly with young people (children's nurseries, child minder groups, schools and colleges) through the provision of a range of services and experiences enables the charity to introduce more young people to the site, allowing them to experience not only food growing, cooking and crafts, and all the associated benefits, but being part of a community space that they can feel a part of.

We ran an after school programme staffed by Derbyshire Wildlife Trust tutors supported by volunteers in the summer term 2023. A Nature Tots programme and family fun days are also attracting great interest and healthy numbers. A local nursery school brings groups in weekly through the summer as an element of their curriculum exploring nature.

3.3 Culture

Art and culture remains a developing strand of SCG volunteer interest. We work with locally based voluntary organisations and individual artists. The site is valued by artists as inspiration and as a welcoming space for direct interaction with communities. The site has the potential to play a significant role in delivery of a thriving cultural life in the town as a space where the public and creatives can interact and collaborate on joint projects, often bringing more investment in arts and culture to the local area in the process. We are already recognised as an excellent informal performance space and a great setting for external artworks.

Community arts activity within the Community Fund focused on willow weaving workshops for groups of school-pupils and for adults. The Well Keepers project funded by Arts Council England supported a group of women to explore their creativity through the medium of natural materials. A series of workshops offered in partnership with artists and the local museum service culminated in open access workshops and an exhibition at Buxton's Green Man Gallery.

3.3 Accessibility

We have a commitment to make our space and its facilities open to all. A sloping site with loose surfaced pathways presents some issues for people with limitations on mobility. A professional access and inclusion audit was commissioned and completed in March 2024. Recommendations for hard landscaping are being addressed with support from the UK Levelling up fund. Detailed recommendations for other sensitive upgrades for maximum inclusion will be considered for 2024-2025 and the future.

3.4 Organisation

Work on securing the future of the project continues. Our landlords, High Peak Borough Council, approved in principle the terms of two 25 year leases, one on the land, the second on the land to include stone store buildings erected in 1898. Detailed negotiation with council officers began in January 2020. The lease on the land was finally signed on 8

February 2022. Agreement to separate the two strands of the lease allowed the land lease to progress, which in turn confirmed the Charity's eligibility for the National Lottery Community Fund revenue award.

Our landlords, High Peak Borough Council, had a target date for completion of April 2024. The timetable has slipped but we are confident that the lease will be signed early in the new financial year.

Local press and social media were used effectively. Weekly working notes are circulated to all members and volunteers. Each month an update is circulated to all supporters.

Onsite activity has increased again with opening to volunteers and visitors on four weekday mornings plus Sundays and booked sessions for groups on a further day, early morning and after-school hours. The structure for sustaining growing on site and facilitating communication between the various user groups is proving robust. We work towards a consensus model for decision making and a dispersed 'management and supervision' model.

Links with other community groups have been strengthened. Following a consultation process initiated with volunteers about the extent and pace of steps, the Garden is now open for larger numbers of visitors, individually and in groups. The increase in provision for young people is particularly pleasing.

4. Financial review

Income for the fourth year as a charity totalled £51,378 made up of £48,179 in grant awards (two awards), £2,760 in donations including associated Gift Aid and £321 in membership subs.

Spending was also incurred on the first phase of a UKSPF Levelling-up award for community infrastructure administered by HPBC. (The total project funding is £28,880 including 20% match from the charity's own resources. Phase 1 of the project was for £2,500. £2,000 was transferred by HPBC retrospectively (on 10 May 2024).

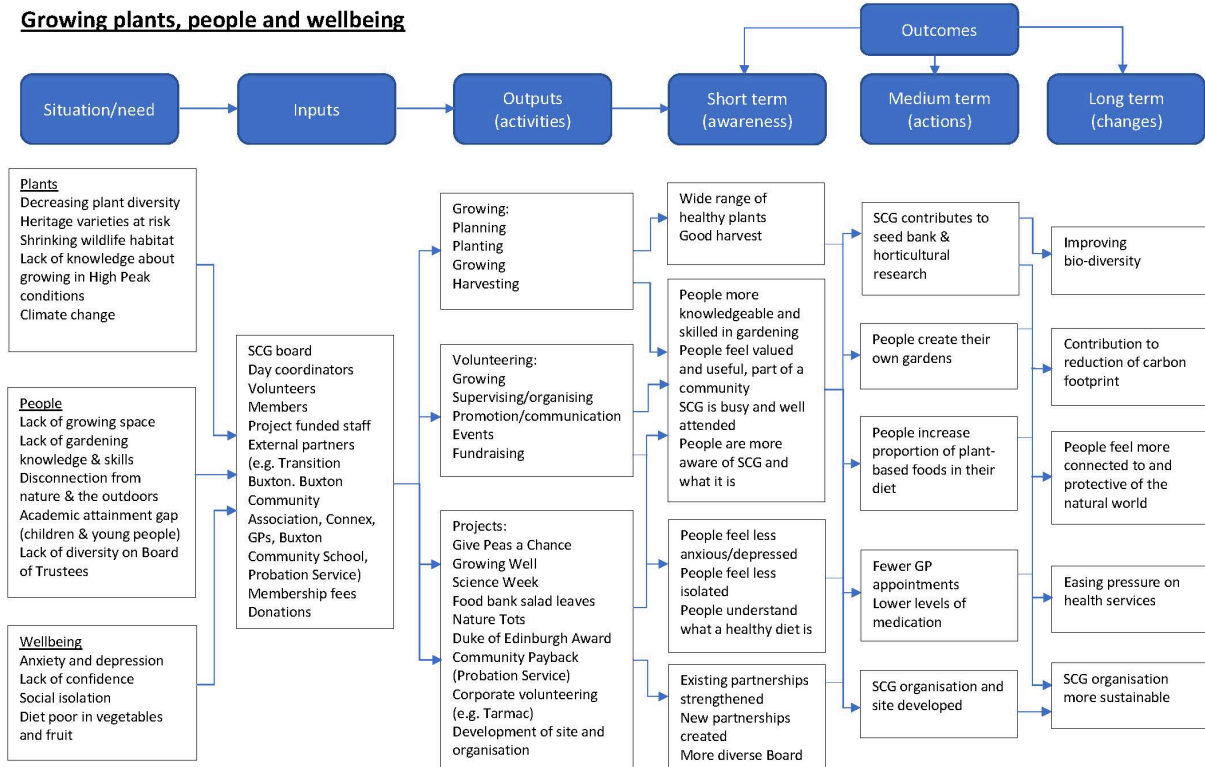
The National Lottery Community Fund award of £96,000 for revenue costs over three years covers consolidation of initiatives in the Community Garden and further development of the Growing Well programme. A high proportion of the funding is devoted to payments of freelance staff. The profile of spending is heaviest during the late spring and summer but in-house reserves maintain a cash cushion reserve at all times.

There is good potential for a significant capital funding award once the terms of the Agreement to Lease the dilapidated stone store buildings on site are finally agreed. An initial £10,000 is pledged to be released by a local charitable trust when the Agreement to Lease is signed and discussions have been progressed with the National Lottery Heritage Fund. A renewed Expression of Interest was supported and an invitation to submit (within 12 months) a full application for the funding tranche supporting projects between £250,000 and £10m issued. However, further delay with agreement of the lease caused the 12 month deadline for following up the Expression of Interest to be missed. A refreshed application for a preparatory project will be submitted once the Lease is signed.

5. Evaluation

We adopt a logic model for evaluation as outlined below:

Serpentine Community Garden – Logic Model for evaluation



6. Risk management

As Trustees, we are responsible for overseeing the charity's risk management activities. The Trustee Board manages and monitors SCGS's risks through a Strategic Risk Register which is incorporated in the Annual Business Plan. Strategic Risks are identified following the Annual General Meeting of members, drawing on response to the annual Future Strategy briefing paper.

Risk management of high-level risks that could prevent SCGS from meeting its objectives and of more routine operational matters are kept under regular review. For 2024-2025 trustees will focus particularly on reviewing good practice and policies for working effectively with people. A planned application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund in autumn 2024 will include a focus on risk assessment and management within a review of governance and organisational resilience.

Engagement of trustees and a committed volunteer cadre and membership supports on-going review which is both sensitive and robust.

6. Future Plans

Our plans for 2024/2025 involve continuing to build on the foundations laid before and since registration as a charity to sustain our focus on growing plants and growing people. We believe that the Serpentine Community Garden can become a centre for sustainability and community development in Buxton, with regional reach and national recognition. The site will provide multiple benefits to the town through the services it provides, contributing to learning and helping to raise the profile of the town and its heritage.

Trustees believe we continue to face two particular challenges in the year ahead:

- to build on and consolidate the additional impetus provided by paid staff to nurture sustainable development of all that volunteers do for us and with us now and into the future; and
- to maintain site and service development whether we secure access to the stone stores or not.

At the November 2023 AGM members endorsed a focus on:

- continued development of organisational resilience supporting our charitable education objective and good governance;
- strengthening underpinning processes and communication for collaborative working;
- final negotiation of a lease on the stone store buildings giving access on terms which would assure potential funders of the project viability and ensure realistic timelines for budget release;
- sustaining projects supported by volunteer time and member contributions;
- encouraging development of a team focused on project applications, delivery and management.

Given the sensitivity and significance of impending changes in the Board of Trustees and in the future of the stone buildings, a special meeting of members was convened for April 2024 to consider an update on the lease, governance and project activity, and to review future strategy. (Update: the lease remained unsigned in 2023-2024 but was finally agreed in July 2024.) The initial step towards a potential building project will be an application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for preparatory work on building a foundation for successful further development.

We will continue to develop our profile and external-facing activities; improve our internal systems and processes; develop our strategy for measurement of impact in use of the logic model of evaluation; reappraise organisational risk; and plan to grasp opportunities to extend our community reach.

Trustees
Simon Fussell (Chair)
Madeline Hall (Treasurer)
Pete Brown
Carole Garner
Derek Bodey
Cath Birchall

Serpentine Community Garden Society CIO

Charity 1188016

Financial Accounts

Period from 6 April 2023 - 5 April 2024

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Summary Income and Expenditure Account	2
Balance Sheet	3
Notes and Accounting Policies	4

1 Period from 6 April 2023 - 5 April 2024

The trustees have pleasure in presenting their report and unaudited financial statements of the charity.

Principal Activities

Serpentine Community Garden aims to restore the derelict Council greenhouse area in Buxton for community use in production and education.

Mission statement

We aim to transform the Serpentine Nursery. Serpentine Community Garden is a resource for local people to develop horticultural skills, grow food intensively but sustainably in a range of micro-environments, and will be a venue for formal and informal training for the whole community.

When complete the project will showcase all aspects of the sustainable food cycle from growing, to preserving, to cooking and finally to dealing with waste.

Trustees


The trustees who served the charity during the period were as follows:

Madeline Hall	6 April 2023 - 5 April 2024
Simon Fussell	6 April 2023 - 5 April 2024
Pete Brown	6 April 2023 - 5 April 2024
Carole Garner	6 April 2023 - 5 April 2024
Derek Bodey	6 April 2023 - 5 April 2024
Cath Birchall	19 November 2023 - 5 April 2024

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008).

Registered Office:
39 Park Road
Buxton
Derbyshire

Signed by order of the trustees

Total capital and reserves			£14110		
For the period ending 05/04/2024 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.					
The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.					
As annual income exceeded £25,000 an independent audit opinion was sought to confirm good practice					
The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts.					
These financial statements have been approved for issue by the Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf by:					
M A Hall			Dated	13/8/24	
Trustee / Treasurer					
Ms Madeline Alice Hall					
4 Notes and Accounting Policies - Period from 6 April 2023 to 5 April 2024					
1 Accounting Policies					
(a) Basis of preparation					
The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008)					
(b) Turnover					
Turnover represents the fair value of consideration receivable in the ordinary course of business for services provided.					
(c) Fixed Assets					
All fixed assets are initially recorded at cost.					
(d) Depreciation					
Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of an asset, less its estimated residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:					
	Polytunnels			20% straight line	
2 Company limited by guarantee					
The Charitable Incorporated Organisation is limited by guarantee and therefore has no share capital. The liability of the trustees upon winding up the company is limited to £1.					
3 Administrative expenses					
	Insurance		£369		
	Admin expenses		£1,437		
	Depreciation		£700		
	Total		£2,506		

4 Other operating income						
		Donations	£2,133			
		Membership	£322			
		Grants	£48,179			
		Sales	£118			
		Gift Aid	£628			
		Total	£51,378			
5 Restricted funding for projects						
			Award	Expenditure	Balance	
		Community Fund	£31,426	£30,794	£632	
		Arts Council England	£16,753	£16,918	-£165	SCGS contribution
5 Tangible Fixed Assets						
			Cost		Depreciation	
				Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
		Polytunnel	£3,500	£700	£700	£700
		Balance		£2,800	£2,100	£1,400

**REPORT ON THE 2023-2024 ACCOUNTS PRODUCED BY
SERPENTINE COMMUNITY GARDEN SOCIETY**

Registered Charity number - 1188016

Registered office - c/o 39 Park Road, Buxton, SK17 6SQ

Dear Madeline and Simon,

I have not conducted an audit but the cashbook examination and sampling exercise I have completed were satisfactory. I have not been informed that there have been any material changes made to the medium term Business Plan and Strategic Risk Assessment; therefore I am pleased to provide a positive opinion on the accounts I have seen.

As stated in previous years, an auditor will look to see if there are controls in the accounting system that ensure the completeness and accuracy of the records and the validity of entries made in those records. This is best done by asking questions about what could go wrong at the time data is recorded: The tests applied this year and the additional information you provided on request appear to confirm such good practices are still in place.

What Could Go Wrong	Controls Expected
Validation of purchase invoices may be lax	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Purchases are for legitimate expenses and are authorised by a responsible person.2. A control to ensure that proper invoices are kept to support the entry.3. The original invoice can be produced on demand.
Lack of controls may lead to multiple entries for the same supply.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Each purchase invoice is given a unique reference number to avoid duplicated postings.
The invoice may be entered in the wrong accounting period.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The purchase invoice date or the date of payment consistently determines the period in which the invoice is posted.
Sales invoices are not accounted for at the correct time.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The invoice date is recorded on all sales invoices and posted in the appropriate accounting period.2. Sales invoices have a sequential and unique number.3. A copy sales invoice is filed and available on demand for inspection.4. There is a sequence check (carried out by a responsible person) to ensure all sales invoice numbers are posted.
Cash sales may not be accounted for at the correct time if at all.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Cash sales are recorded in the appropriate accounting period according to the date of sale.

I suggest only that you continue to ensure that controls expected are in place. In particular, continue with the good practice of regular internal audits.

Yours sincerely,
Michael Wilde
ISEB
22/07/2024

Accounts



SERPENTINE COMMUNITY GARDEN SOCIETY

Serpentine Community Garden Society CIO
Serpentine Walks, Burlington Road, Buxton, SK17 9AR

Report of the Trustees 6 April 2022 - 5 April 2023

Registered Charity number - 1188016

Registered office - c/o 39 Park Road, Buxton, SK17 6SQ

Date of registration as a charity - 18 February 2020

Trustees

Madeline Hall	re-elected	06/04/22	to	05/04/2023
Simon Fussell	re-elected	06/04/22	to	05/04/2023
Pete Brown	re-elected	06/04/22	to	05/04/2023
Carole Garner	re-elected	06/04/22	to	05/04/2023
Derek Bodey	re-elected	06/04/22	to	05/04/2023

Solicitors

Brooke-Taylor Solicitors

4 The Quadrant, Buxton, SK17 6AW

Bankers

Cooperative Bank

Contents

1. Structure, Governance and Management
2. Objectives and Activities including summary of volunteer hours on site
3. Achievement and performance
4. Financial review
5. Evaluation
6. Risk Management
7. Future Plans



SERPENTINE COMMUNITY GARDEN SOCIETY

1. Structure, Governance and Management

The Board currently comprises five trustees, all of whom take an active role in organisational development. Further trustees - to a maximum of eleven - are actively sought to contribute expertise and experience. Recruitment is via advertising roles with a description of the key skills, knowledge or experiences being sought and an overview of the role and responsibilities of a trustee. SCGS's own networks and communication channels are used. Succession planning is an element in recruitment. Despite a good increase in volunteers contributing to practical activity, interest in volunteer trustee roles is limited. Additional promotional events are planned for 2023/2024.

The term of office for trustees is three years, renewable for a further three year term. After a break of a year trustees may stand for election for a return to office. For each of the first three years the longest serving trustee will resign, but may stand for a second term's appointment. Madeline Hall is now in the second year of her second term. Simon Fussell is serving the first year of his second term. Carole Garner and Pete Brown are in the final year of their first term. Derek Bodey is serving the first year of this first term.

Response to the Covid-19 crisis included rapid development of IT capabilities and use for meetings. Trustee meetings have been held on the zoom platform, supplemented by ad hoc meetings on site. We continue to work as trustees to improve how we exchange and share information.

The Board of Trustees has sustained practice from its precursor Board of Directors of Serpentine Community Farm CIC, meeting every two months to review finance, projects and activity and to discuss long-term strategy and direction. The business plan approved in January 2020 was reviewed in detail in 2021, informed by appraisal from a financial consultant engaged with support from the Heritage Fund for Culture Recovery. The Management Risk assessment is updated annually. A further review of the Business Plan will be conducted when an Agreement to Lease the dilapidated stone buildings on site is agreed and signed.

2. Objectives and Activities

The object of the CIO is to advance the education of the public in the subject of horticulture and horticultural practices.

In addition we aim to:

- teach and learn about sustainable growing practices in the High Peak climate;

- share knowledge with our volunteers and visitors;
- introduce initiatives and practices that support the aim of long term food security;
- build and maintain an environment where all people are welcome, enjoying what they are doing and having social interaction with others.

Activities included:

January 2022

- National Lottery Community Fund agreement for revenue support: £95,914 spread over three years.
- Two posts advertised: Gardeniser for 15 hours a week, 46 weeks a year: Growing Well Coordinator for development and delivery of four eight week programmes a year, building to five programmes in the second year and six in the third year.
- Zoom subscription renewed. On-site volunteer groups active on four days a week.
- Growing Plans discussed, developed and shared electronically and in hard copy at face to face event in P3.

February 2022

- 8 February 2022 lease on land for 25 years signed by Chair and Treasurer, signed and sealed by HPBC.
- Offer of new shed constructed by carpentry students at Leek and Buxton College accepted.
- Seedy Saturday - successful event despite storm and snow. £120 in donations.

March 2022

- Seedier Sunday - second opportunity for seed swap attracted twenty visitors and £70 in donations.
- Growing Well workshop session for previous and prospective participants.
- Programme of Science Week activities in schools.

April 2022

- Two Gardenisers and two Growing Well tutors joined on three year contracts.
- First cohort for Growing Well launched with clients from Moore Care.

May 2022

- Carers Connecting SEN group started weekly after school club: Willow and Wellies.
- Local electrician donating his time reconnected electricity supply ready for transfer of account.
- Final Give Peas a Chance cohort started.
- Registered address with Royal Mail and mounted a mail box on the gatepost. (Thank you to Transition Buxton for funding.)

June 2022

- Stall at Rotary Club Bazaar. Second cohort for Growing Well supporting people refereed by GPs and Buxton CVS social prescribers.
- £1,000 grant from Arnold Clark Foundation.
- Shed designed and built by Buxton and Leek College carpentry students donated and erected on site.

July 2022

- Flower Pot trail sculpture on a jubilee theme created and displayed in Serpentine Walks: a jubilee of eagle owls.
- Give Peas a Chance programme completed with celebration. Further funding could support annual summer courses,
- Fringe Event: Mix It Up.
- One of 30+ venues for Buxton Garden trail.
- Hosted Festival Fringe awards ceremony.
- Electricity supply went live.

August 2022

- Launch of Buxton Home Growers facebook page. Members invited to share surplus harvest for donating to local food banks - Residents of Fairfield Association and Zink Employability.
- Final session for this year of Willow and Wellies club with Carers Connecting SEN group.

September 2022

- Third Growing Well group started.

October 2022

- Fourth, and final, Growing Well group of the year started.
- Working party visited local private orchard for fruit picking expedition.
- Apple Day: pressing, drying, stewing fruit.
- Seed saving activity across all volunteer days.
- Seed exchange decorated box created by local artist from High Peaks Community Arts eARTH project.
- Members' AGM.

November 2022

- Awarded £500 from HPBC's Climate Change project fund administered by CVS. We will be planting an apple tree in poor brownfield soil and comparing its growth and produce with an identical tree planted in good quality soil in a ton bag.
- Contributed with a stall and workshops to Transition Buxton's Together for the Planet event for Buxton schools. (100 school and college students attended.)

December 2022

- Seed exchange box opened for public use in foyer of Pavilion Gardens.
- Winter Gathering on 18 December rounded off the year's activities with mince pies and hot drinks.

January 2023

- Growing Plans discussed, developed and shared electronically and in hard copy at face to face event in P3.
- Use of noticeboard established by Friends of Pavilion Gardens agreed. Opening hours, directions and fliers posted behind glass.

February 2023

- Seedy Saturday. £140 donations and fresh seeds. 36 visitors. Transition Buxton mounted a stall and display stand.
- Permission granted by Arboricultural Officer for removal of overhanging willow branches in wild area behind P3.
- Two James Grieve apple trees planted in compare and contrast Climate Change project.

- Heated propagation tray loan system for volunteers introduced. Tomatoes, beans and pot marigolds sown on home windowsills.
- Wild flower bank on brash and reclaimed soil constructed at edge of old depot.

March 2023

- Extensive new raised beds constructed and filled in the old depot area.
- Opening four minutes of video celebrating Serpentine at the heart of Buxton share.
- Seed swap box provided in Buxton Methodist Church foyer.
- Replacement entrance gates agreed by trustees and HPBC officers - Assets, Compliance, planning.
- Peak Environmental Services conducted soil analysis survey in old depot area.
- Representatives invited to contribute to Wilder High Peak project workshop.

Volunteer Hours on site

	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	
				Volunteers and Gardenisers	Visitors
April	309	184.5	178	286	-
May	471	194	315	532	
June	452	177.5	335	350.75	30
July	397.5	220.75	288.25	322.75	215
August	244.5	230	212.75	305.75	39
September	331	209	270	301.5	22
October	421	226	244.5	391.5	24
November	242	240.25	163	260.25	
December	218	153	68.25	124.75	
January	294	111.25	127.75	179.5	5
February	212	140.5	180	242.5	
March	172	304.5	196	233.25	8
Total	3764	2391.25	2074.75	2875.25	330
Gardenisers				690	
Volunteer Total	3764	2391.25	2074.75	2185.25	330

3. Achievement and performance 2022 / 2023

Volunteers contributed 2,184 (2075 in 2021-2022) hours over the year in registered attendance on site. In addition unregistered, but highly appreciated, hours were invested off site on administration, publicity, planning and practical gardening enriching cultivation of a range of produce. We thank our team of volunteers for their ongoing commitment. Many go well beyond what is asked of them: supporting events, creating posters and labels, growing at home on windowsills, investing time and thought in the garden and the organisation, supporting our community in Buxton and the High Peak.

3.1 Education

We advance education in the science, art and practice of horticulture. The teaching and learning is not externally accredited but has its foundation in the authoritative gardening and horticultural advice provided by the Royal Horticultural Society. There is a particular focus on organic gardening methods based on the principles of organic gardening promoted by Garden Organic (previously the Henry Doubleday Research Association). In an informal setting, we work with volunteers to identify the skills they bring and the knowledge and skills they wish to develop. More formally, we offer regular training workshops and courses to consolidate and extend learning. All ages are covered with interventions modified to meet age and experience and to take in to account such factors as learning or social disabilities.

We promote active use of our facilities by local educational and therapeutic providers. The Growing Well programme is used and valued by local GPs, a local care home provider and a borough-wide team of CVS social prescribers. Our National Lottery Community Fund award supports continuation and programme development for three years from 1 April 2022. We plan to embed the provision as a valued local service with sustainable funding thereafter.

We are making a contribution to citizen science in a number of fields and with different audiences. A long term soil analysis and phytoremediation project is supported by HPBC Climate Change and Nature Recovery funding. We support activities in Science Week and Wild Weeks for school children and college students.

3.2 Children and Young People

Formalising the relationship with our partners who work directly with young people (children's nurseries, child minder groups, schools and colleges) through the provision of a range of services and experiences enables the charity to introduce more young people to the site, allowing them to experience not only food growing, cooking and crafts, and all the associated benefits, but being part of a community space that they can feel a part of. A Saturday programme - Give Peas a Chance - ran for 18 months until July 2022 supported by funding from Cadent - gas infrastructure providers. Two of our members funded a continuation summer programme in 2023 and have pledged the same support for 2024 with the comment: 'It was good to see the children develop and learn. There's nothing else like this in Buxton.'

A Nature Tots programme and family fun days are also attracting great interest and healthy numbers. A local nursery school brings groups in weekly through the summer as an element of their curriculum exploring nature.

3.3 Culture

Art and culture remains a developing strand of SCG volunteer interest. We work with locally based voluntary organisations and individual artists. The site is valued by artists as inspiration and as a welcoming space for direct interaction with communities. The site has the potential to play a significant role in delivery of a thriving cultural life in the town as a space where the public and creatives can interact and collaborate on joint projects, often bringing more investment in arts and culture to the local area in the process. We are already recognised as an excellent informal performance space and a great setting for external artworks. Community arts activity within the Community Fund will be developed for the two year period 2023-2025.

3.4 Organisation

Work on securing the future of the project continues. Our landlords, High Peak Borough Council, approved in principle the terms of two 25 year leases, one on the land, the second on the land to include stone store buildings erected in 1898. Detailed negotiation with council officers began in January 2020. The lease on the land was finally signed on 8 February 2022. Agreement to separate the two strands of the lease allowed the land lease to progress, which in turn confirmed the Charity's eligibility for the National Lottery Community Fund revenue award.

Discussions over the status of dilapidated buildings on the site continue to edge forward. In principle HPBC agreed that the terms and conditions should enable the charity to apply for capital funding. However, the detailed schedule proposed by the Council included compliance with tight time deadlines. There is a risk to the charity and to potential funders of loss of investment should deadlines be unavoidably missed. A new draft has been submitted to HPBC for consideration, focused on resolving remaining issues, protecting the rights and obligations of both parties so that the intention of the agreement in principle may be honoured.

Local press and social media were used effectively. Weekly working notes are circulated to all members and volunteers. Each month an update is circulated to all supporters.

Onsite activity has increased markedly with opening to volunteers and visitors on four weekday mornings plus Sundays and booked sessions for groups on a further day, early morning and after-school hours. The structure for sustaining growing on site and facilitating communication between the various user groups is proving robust. We work towards a consensus model for decision making and a dispersed 'management and supervision' model.

Links with other community groups have been strengthened. Following a consultation process initiated with volunteers about the extent and pace of steps, the Garden is now for larger numbers of visitors, individually and in groups.

4. Financial review

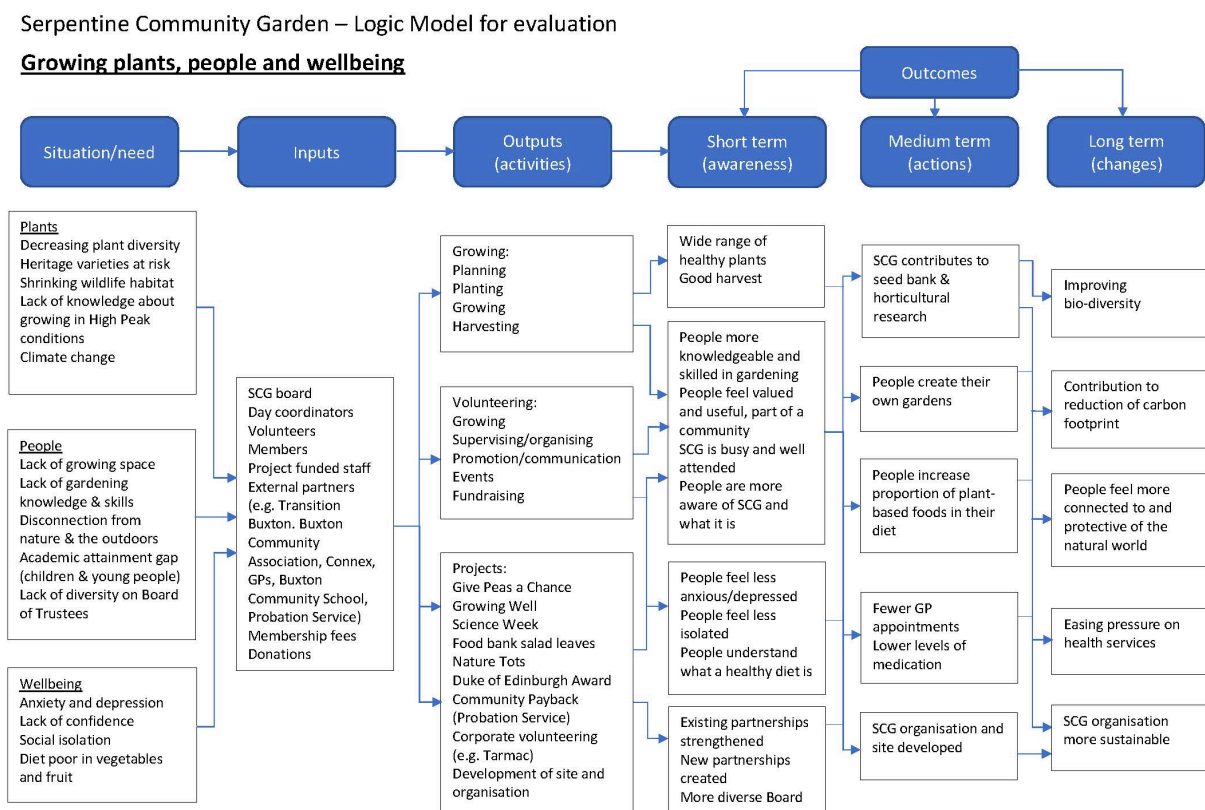
Income for the third year as a charity totalled £37,389, made up of £32,870 in grant awards (four awards), £4,324 in donations including associated Gift Aid and £195 in membership subs.

The National Lottery Community Fund award of £96,000 for revenue costs over three years covers consolidation of initiatives in the Community Garden and further development of the Growing Well programme. A high proportion of the funding is devoted to payments of freelance staff. The profile of spending is heaviest during the late spring and summer but in-house reserves maintain a cash cushion reserve at all times.

There is good potential for a significant capital funding award once the terms of the Agreement to Lease the dilapidated stone store buildings on site are finally agreed. An initial £10,000 is pledged to be released by a local charitable trust when the Agreement to Lease is signed and discussions have been progressed with the National Lottery Heritage Fund. A renewed Expression of Interest has been supported and an invitation to submit (within 12 months) a full application for the funding tranche supporting projects between £250,000 and £10m issued.

5. Evaluation

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the Annual General Meeting of members, drawing on response to the annual Future Strategy briefing paper.

Risk management of high-level risks that could prevent SCGS from meeting its objectives and of more routine operational matters are kept under regular review. For 2022-2023 trustees will focus particularly on reviewing good practice and policies for working effectively with people.

Engagement of trustees and a committed volunteer cadre and membership supports on-going review which is both sensitive and robust.

6. Future Plans

Our plans for 2023/2024 involve continuing to build on the foundations laid before and since registration as a charity and the experience of working through the challenges, and unexpected opportunities, of response to the global pandemic, to sustain our focus on growing plants and growing people.

We believe that the Serpentine Community Garden can become a centre for sustainability and community development in Buxton, with regional reach and national recognition. The site will provide multiple benefits to the town through the services it provides, contributing to learning and helping to raise the profile of the town and its heritage. Our application for a Heritage Fund capital grant will include a focus on involving more people in heritage. We are working with the Buxton local History Group to explore partnership activity in raising awareness of Buxton's horticultural heritage. (Our site is adjacent to Lismore Fields - a scheduled Heritage ancient monument where archaeological digs uncovered evidence of Mesolithic and Neolithic agriculture - the earliest known seed use for crop production in the UK.)

We will continue to develop our profile and external-facing activities; improve our internal systems and processes; develop our strategy for measurement of impact in use of the logic model of evaluation; reappraise organisational risk; and plan to grasp opportunities to extend our community reach.

Trustees
Simon Fussell (Chair)
Madeline Hall (Treasurer)
Pete Brown
Carole Garner
Derek Bodey

				Serpentine Community Garden Society CIO
				Charity 1188016
				Financial Accounts
				Period from 6 April 2022 - 5 April 2023
				Contents
				Trustees' Summary Report 1
				Summary Income and Expenditure Account 2
				Balance Sheet 3
				Notes and Accounting Policies 4
1				Period from 6 April 2022 - 5 April 2023
				The trustees have pleasure in presenting their report and unaudited financial statements of the charity.
				Principal Activities
				Serpentine Community Garden aims to restore the derelict Council greenhouse area in Buxton for community use in production and education.
				Mission statement
				We aim to transform the Serpentine Plant Nursery and old Council Depot. Serpentine Community Garden for local people to develop horticultural skills, grow food intensively but sustainably in a range of micro-environments, and will be a venue for formal and informal training for the whole community.
				When complete the project will showcase all aspects of the sustainable food cycle from growing, to preserving, to cooking and finally to dealing with waste.
				Trustees
				The trustees who served the charity during the period were as follows:
				6 April 2022 - 5 April 2023
				Madeline Hall
				Simon Fussell
				Pete Brown
				Carole Garner
				Derek Bodey
				These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008).
				Registered Office: Signed by order of the trustees
				39 Park Road

Buxton						
Derbyshire						
England						
SK17 6SQ						
					Madeline Hall	
					Trustee /Treasurer	
2	Period from 6 April 2022 - 5 April 2023					
	2021-2022 year end balance		£14,838			
	Income	Notes	Restricted	Unrestricted		Total
			(NL CF)			
	Donations			£2,937		£2,937
	Grants	4.5a	£30,870	£2,000		£32,870
	Membership subs			£195		£195
	Gift Aid			£1,387		£1,387
	Total incoming resources		£30,870	£6,519		£37,389
	Expenditure					
	Administrative Expenses			£1,119		£1,119
	Insurance			£355		£355
	Staffing	4.5b	£25,145	£1,388		£26,532
	Sundries non-horticultural		£3,400	-£576		£2,823
	Horticultural supplies		£2,397	£878		£3,275
	Depreciation	4.6		£700		£700
	Total expenditure		£30,942	£3,864		£34,805
	Net income/expenditure		-£72	£2,655		£2,583
	Net income/expenditure adjusting charity funds to cover National Lottery Community Fund over					
			£0	£2,583		£2,583
					Less liabilities (see below)	-£2,460
					Surplus for the year	£123
3	5 April 2023					
	Fixed Assets					
		Polytunnel 3 - 2021			£2,100	
	Current Assets					
		Cash at bank and in hand			£15,321	
		Total Current Assets				£17,421
	Current Liabilities (funding carried forward)					
					-£1,960	
					-£500	
						-£2,460

Total assets less current liabilities						£14,961
Capital and reserves						
	2021-2022 year end balance (cap'l & reserves, inc poly tunnel)					£14,838
	Surplus for year					£123
Total capital and reserves						£14,962
	For the period ending 05/04/2023 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.					
	The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.					
	The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts.					
	These financial statements have been approved for issue by the Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf by					
	M A Hall					
	Trustee / Treasurer					
4	Notes and Accounting Policies					
	Period from 6 April 2022 to 5 April 2023					
	1 Accounting Policies					
	(a) Basis of preparation					
	The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008)					
	(b) Turnover					
	Turnover represents the fair value of consideration receivable in the ordinary course of business for services provided.					
	(c) Fixed Assets					
	All fixed assets are initially recorded at cost.					
	(d) Depreciation					
	Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of an asset, less its estimated residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:					
		Polytunnels			20% straight line	
	2 Company limited by guarantee					
	The Charitable Incorporated Organisation is limited by guarantee and therefore has no share capital. The Trustees upon winding up the company is limited to £1.					
	3 Administrative expenses					

	Insurance	£355.20			
	Sundry expenses	£2,823.47			
	Admin expenses	£1,119.38			
	Depreciation	£700.00			
	Total	£4,998.05			
4 Other operating income					
	Donations	£4,321.59			
	Membership	£195.00			
	Grants	£32,870.00			
	Sales	£0.00			
	Total	£37,386.59			
5a Project Funding					
	NL Community Fund	£30,870.00	restricted		
	Waitrose	£500.00	unrestricted		
	Arnold Clark	£1,000.00	unrestricted		
	HPBC Nature Recovery	£500.00	unrestricted		
	Total	£32870.00			
5b Staffing					
	NL Community Fund	£25144.50			
	Give Peas a Chance	£1387.50			
	Total	£26532.00			
6 Tangible Fixed Assets					
		Cost		Depreciation	
			Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
	Polytunnel	£3,500.00	£700.00	£700.00	

**REPORT ON THE 2022-2023 ACCOUNTS PRODUCED BY
SERPENTINE COMMUNITY GARDEN SOCIETY**

**Registered Charity number - 1188016
Registered office - c/o 39 Park Road, Buxton, SK17 6SQ**

Dear Madeline and Simon,

I have not conducted an audit but the cashbook examination and sampling exercise I have completed were satisfactory. As you have informed me that there have been no material changes made to the medium term Business Plan and Strategic Risk Assessment I examined last year, I am pleased to provide a positive opinion on the accounts I have seen.

As I illustrated last year, an auditor will look to see if there are controls in the accounting system that ensure the completeness and accuracy of the accounting records and the validity of entries made in those records. This is often done by asking questions about what could go wrong at the time data is recorded:

What Could Go Wrong	Controls Expected
Validation of purchase invoices may be lax	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Purchases are for legitimate expenses and are authorised by a responsible person.2. A control to ensure that proper invoices are kept to support the entry.3. The original invoice can be produced on demand.
Lack of controls may lead to multiple entries for the same supply.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Each purchase invoice is given a unique reference number to avoid duplicated postings.
The invoice may be entered in the wrong accounting period.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The purchase invoice date or the date of payment consistently determines the period in which the invoice is posted.
Sales invoices are not accounted for at the correct time.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The invoice date is recorded on all sales invoices and posted in the appropriate accounting period.2. Sales invoices have a sequential and unique number.3. A copy sales invoice is filed and available on demand for inspection.4. There is a sequence check (carried out by a responsible person) to ensure all sales invoice numbers are posted.
Cash sales may not be accounted for at the correct time if at all.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Cash sales are recorded in the appropriate accounting period according to the date of sale.

I suggest only that you continue to ensure that controls expected are in place. In particular, continue with the good practice of regular internal audits.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Wilde
ISEB
27/09/2023

Accounts



SERPENTINE COMMUNITY GARDEN SOCIETY

Serpentine Community Garden Society CIO
Serpentine Walks, Burlington Road, Buxton, SK17 9AR

Report of the Trustees 1 April 2021 - 31 March 2022

Registered Charity number - 1188016

Registered office - c/o 39 Park Road, Buxton, SK17 6SQ

Date of registration as a charity - 18 February 2020

Trustees

Madeline Hall	re-elected	01/04/21	to	31/03/2022
Simon Fussell	re-elected	01/04/21	to	31/03/2022
Pete Brown	re-elected	01/04/21	to	31/03/2022
Carole Garner	re-elected	01/04/21	to	31/03/2022
Derek Bodey	elected	31/10/21	20	31/03/2022

Solicitors

Brooke-Taylor Solicitors

4 The Quadrant, Buxton, SK17 6AW

Bankers

Cooperative Bank

Contents

1. Structure, Governance and Management
2. Objectives and Activities including summary of volunteer hours on site
3. Achievement and performance
4. Financial review
5. Evaluation
6. Risk Management
7. Future Plans



SERPENTINE COMMUNITY GARDEN SOCIETY

1. Structure, Governance and Management

The Board currently comprises five trustees, all of whom take an active role in organisational development. Further trustees - to a maximum of eleven - will be recruited to the Board in response to a recognised skill or capacity need. Recruitment is done via advertising the role with a description of the key skills, knowledge or experiences being sought and an overview of the role and responsibilities of a trustee. SCGS's own networks and communication channels are used. Selection is through dialogue with other trustees.

The term of office for trustees is three years, renewable for a further three year term. After a break of a year trustees may stand for election for a return to office. For each of the first three years the longest serving trustee will resign, but may stand for a second term's appointment. Madeline Hall is now in the first year of her second term. Simon Fussell is serving the final year of his first term. Carole Garner and Pete Brown are in the second year of their first term. Derek Bodey is newly elected.

Response to the Covid-19 crisis has included rapid development of IT capabilities and use for meetings. As lockdown measures are eased, we continue to work as trustees to improve how we exchange and share information.

The Board of Trustees has sustained practice from its precursor Board of Directors of Serpentine Community Farm CIC, meeting every two months to review finance, projects and activity and to discuss long-term strategy and direction. The business plan approved in January 2020 has been reviewed, informed by appraisal from a financial consultant engaged with support from the Heritage Fund for Culture Recovery.

2. Objectives and Activities

The object of the CIO is to advance the education of the public in the subject of horticulture and horticultural practices.

In addition we aim to:

- teach and learn about sustainable growing practices in the High Peak climate;
- share knowledge with our volunteers and visitors;
- introduce initiatives and practices that support the aim of long term food security;
- build and maintain an environment where all people are welcome, enjoying what they are doing and having social interaction with others.

Planned activities were adapted in a rapid response to the need for precautionary measures against Covid-19 transmission. Activities included:

March 2021

New website launched.

Successful completion of Culture Recovery Fund (Heritage Fund) project.

Planning approval secured for third polytunnel: 16 letters of support including one from Stewart Medical Centre GPs.

Science Week - soil analysis project in partnership with Transition Buxton, funded by British Science Association, engaged 63 families.

Probus Buxton and District talk online.

Commissioned aerial footage of Buxton icons for introductory section of video showcasing the Community Garden's place in the town and community. Big dig working parties for polytunnel groundwork preparation.

April 2021

Groups working to an agreed sowing and growing plan created in autumn 2020.

Potager planting redesigned and sown and planted.

Garden Manager supported on Gardeniser training programme.

May 2021

Launch of Give Peas a Chance Saturday programme in partnership with Buxton Junior School.

Market stall – £250 in donations.

Polytunnel delivered.

Commissioned drone footage for intro to video. Appointed editor/interviewer/photographer for video showcasing our place in Buxton and the community.

June 2021

Recommencement of face to face workshops for groups of 12 people, booked in advance: salad growing workshop; herb workshop.

July 2021

Piloted Growing Well programme with people referred by GPs and CVS for social prescribing.

Mix it Up Festival Fringe event cancelled as Covid-19 peaked again.

Workshop – Edible Flowers.

Garden Trail weekend opening.

Club Acoustic event – live in the Garden.

Festival Fringe awards ceremony held on site.

Derbyshire Beacon of Hope award received by Steve, Alyson and Madeline.

August 2021

Workshop – Harvesting. Melissa K-G appointed by British Science Association as East Midlands Community Champion 2021-2022.

September 2021

Workshop – tomatoes and tasting.

Rotary Autumn Fair.

Duke of Edinburgh award placement supported by John and Gil began.

October 2021

Second Give Peas a Chance group recruited 13 Y6 pupils. Programme extended as Covid-19 contacts caused cancellation of several sessions.

Apple Day event for regular volunteers.

First stage invitation to apply for revenue funding from National Lottery Community Fund. Members' AGM.

November 2021

Polytunnel 3 in use.

Large shed bought and erected.

Simon and Helen J represented SCG at Derbyshire Freemason's award event, accepting cheque for £500.

Negotiations on lease pursued with vigour.

December 2021

Scaffold boards, wood chip and soil improver sourced for additional raised beds in Polytunnel 2.

Winter Gathering for regular volunteers.

Land Lease separated from Agreement to Lease and Lease on Land and Buildings to simplify negotiations on terms. (HPBC proposals for triggering the lease on Buildings considered inimical to their intended purpose - to enable the charity to access external capital funding.)

January 2022

National Lottery Community Fund agreement for revenue support: £95,914 spread over three years.

Two posts advertised: Gardeniser for 15 hours a week, 46 weeks a year: Growing Well Coordinator for development and delivery of four eight week programmes a year, building to five programmes in the second year and six in the third year.

Growing Plans discussed, developed and shared electronically and in hard copy at face to face event in P3.

February 2022

8 February 2022 lease on land for 25 years signed by Simon and Madeline, signed and sealed by HPBC.

Offer of new shed constructed by carpentry students at Leek and Buxton College accepted.

Seedy Saturday - successful event despite storm and snow. £120 in donations.

March 2022

Melissa K-G and Jim L appointed as job share Gardenisers on 2:1 ratio of 15 hours a week.

Melissa K-G and Ruby S appointed as job share Growing Well Coordinators on 3:1 ratio in year one, 3:2 in year two and equal share in year three.

All contracts effective 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2025.

Seedier Sunday - second opportunity for seed swap attracted twenty visitors and £70 in donations.

Growing Well workshop session for previous and prospective participants.

Programme of Science Week activities in schools organised by Melissa K-G.

VolunteerHours on site

	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
April	309	184.5	178
May	471	194	315
June	452	177.5	335
July	397.5	220.75	288.25
August	244.5	230	212.75
September	331	209	270
October	421	226	244.5
November	242	240.25	163
December	218	153	68.25
January	294	111.25	127.75
February	212	140.5	180
March	172	304.5	196
Total	3764	2391.25	2578.5

3. Achievement and performance 2021 / 2022

Volunteers contributed 2579 (2391 in 2020-2021) hours over the year in registered attendance on site. In addition unregistered, but highly appreciated, hours were invested off site on administration, publicity, planning and practical gardening enriching cultivation of a range of produce. We thank our team of volunteers for their ongoing commitment. Many go well beyond what is asked of them: supporting events, creating posters and labels, growing at home on windowsills, investing time and thought in the garden and the organisation, supporting our community in Buxton and the High Peak.

3.1 Education

We advance education in the science, art and practice of horticulture. The teaching and learning is not externally accredited but has its foundation in the authoritative gardening and horticultural advice provided by the Royal Horticultural Society. There is a particular focus on organic gardening methods based on the principles of organic gardening promoted by Garden Organic (previously the Henry Doubleday Research Association). In an informal setting, we work with volunteers to identify the skills they bring and the knowledge and skills they wish to develop. More formally, we offer regular training workshops and courses to consolidate and extend learning. All ages are covered with interventions modified to meet age and experience and to take in to account such factors as learning or social disabilities.

We promote active use of our facilities by local educational and therapeutic providers. The Growing Well programme was successfully piloted early in the year with local GPs, a local care home provider and a new team of CVS social prescribers. Our National Lottery Community Fund award supports continuation and programme development for three years from 1 April 2022. We plan to embed the provision as a valued local service with sustainable funding thereafter.

3.2 Children and Young People

Formalising the relationship with our partners who work directly with young people (children's nurseries, child minder groups, schools and colleges) through the provision of a range of services and experiences enables the charity to introduce more young people to the site, allowing them to experience not only food growing, cooking and crafts, and all the associated benefits, but being part of a community space that they can feel a part of. A new Saturday programme - Give Peas a Chance - launched on 1 May 2021 in partnership with Buxton Junior School has been a great success.

3.3 Culture

Art and culture remains a developing strand of SCG volunteer interest. We work with locally based voluntary organisations and individual artists. The site is valued by artists as inspiration and as a welcoming space for direct interaction with communities. The site has the potential to play a significant role in delivery of a thriving cultural life in the town as a space where the public and creatives can interact and collaborate on joint projects, often bringing more investment in arts and culture to the local area in the process. We are already recognised as an excellent informal performance space and a great setting for external artworks. As precautions against viral spread continue, the benefits of a venue in the open air are being widely recognised.

3.4 Organisation

Acceptance of our application for registration as a charity was a big step for the organisation. Alongside that recognition, work on securing the future of the project has progressed. Our landlords, High Peak Borough Council, approved in principle the terms of two 25 year leases, one on the land the the second on the land to include stone store buildings erected in 1898. Detailed negotiation with council officers began in January 2020. The lease on the land was finally signed on 8 February 2022. Agreement to separate the two strands of the lease allowed the land lease to progress, which in turn confirmed the Charity's eligibility for the National Lottery Community Find revenue award.

Discussions over the status of dilapidated buildings on the site continue. In principle HPBC agreed that the terms and conditions should enable the charity to apply for capital funding. However, the detailed schedule proposed by the Council includes compliance with tight time deadlines. There is a risk to the charity and to potential funders of loss of investment should deadlines be unavoidably missed. We hope to resolve the issues, protecting the rights and obligations of both parties so that the intention of the agreement in principle may be honoured.

Local press and social media were used effectively Weekly working notes are circulated to all members and volunteers. Each month an update is circulated to all supporters.

Constraints on onsite activity have continued as we continue to observe strong protocols to minimise risk of viral transmission. The structure for sustaining growing on site and respecting individuals' needs and personal boundaries whilst maintaining contact established shortly after the onset of the pandemic has proved robust - if more extended than anticipated.

We are working towards a consensus model for decision making and a dispersed 'management and supervision' model. This has been stress tested in practice as a core volunteer need to withdraw from hands-one activity for a six month period. Other volunteers stepped up and stepped in for a seamless transfer of responsibilities.

Links with other community groups have been strengthened as ventures arising in response to crisis have brought the importance of community mutual aid into sharp relief. In addition, discrete provision for groups and courses booked in advance has been developed to maximise use of our growing space. Consultation has been initiated with volunteers about the extent and pace of steps in 2022-2023 to open the Garden for larger numbers of visitors, individually and in groups..

4. Financial review

Income for the second year as a charity totalled £16,011, made up of £9,600 in grant awards and £6,276 in donations including associated Gift Aid.

Expenditure has been modest outside of purchase of a large storage shed and financial commitments in completing contracts, allowing £2,648 to be carried forward in cash reserves. This provides a cushion against the anticipated additional costs - rental and service charges - incurred by the lease on the land signed on 8 February 2022. In addition £2,500 has been carried forward to meet the staffing and resourcing needs of the final funded cohort of the Saturday programme, Give Peas a Chance/

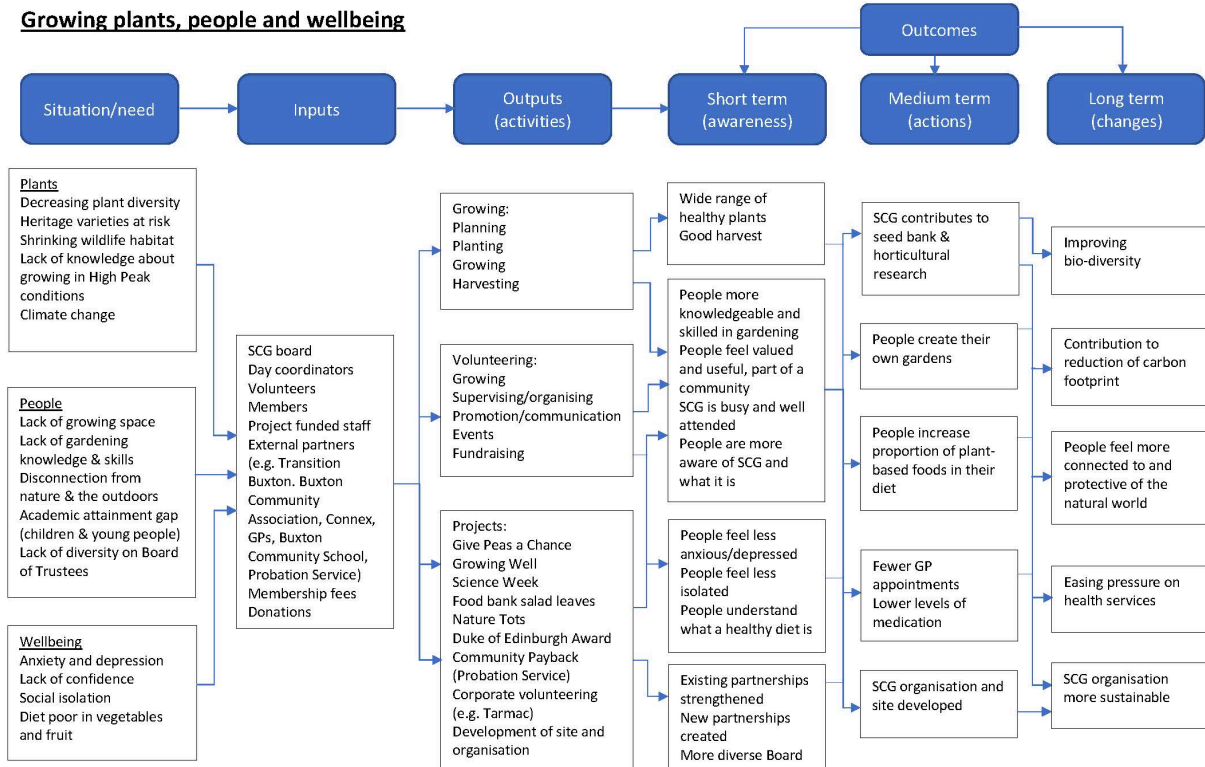
The National Lottery Community Fund award of £96,000 for revenue costs over three years covers consolidation of initiatives in the Community Garden and further development of the Growing Well programme in partnership with GPs, social prescribers and local day care centres.

There is good potential for a significant capital funding award once the terms of the Agreement to Lease the dilapidated stone store buildings on site are finally agreed. (The draft document is with HPBC's legal team.) An initial £10,000 is pledged to be released by a local charitable trust when the Agreement to Lease is signed and discussions have been progressed with major funding bodies about support.

5. Evaluation

We adopt a logic model for evaluation as outlined below:

Serpentine Community Garden – Logic Model for evaluation



6. Risk management

As Trustees, we are responsible for overseeing the charity's risk management activities. The Trustee Board manages and monitors SCGS's risks through a Strategic Risk Register which is incorporated in the Annual Business Plan. Strategic Risks are identified following the Annual General Meeting of members, drawing on response to the annual Future Strategy briefing paper.

Risk management of high-level risks that could prevent SCGS from meeting its objectives and of more routine operational matters are kept under regular review. The new risks associated with a national pandemic required a focused review in 2020-2021. For 2022-2023 trustees will focus particularly on reviewing good practice and policies for working effectively with people.

Engagement of trustees and a committed volunteer cadre and membership supports on-going review which is both sensitive and robust.

6. Future Plans

Our plans for 2022/2023 involve building on the foundations laid before and since registration as a charity and the experience of working through the challenges, and unexpected opportunities, of response to the global pandemic, to sustain our focus on growing plants and growing people.

We believe that the Serpentine Community Garden can become a centre for sustainability and community development in Buxton, with regional reach and national recognition. The site will provide multiple benefits to the town through the services it provides, contributing to learning and helping to raise the profile of the town and its heritage.

We will continue to develop our profile and external-facing activities; improve our internal systems and processes; reappraise organisational risk and plan to grasp opportunities to extend our community reach.

Trustees

Simon Fussell (Chair)

Madeline Hall (Treasurer)

Pete Brown

Carole Garner

Derek Bodey

4	Notes and Accounting Policies								
	Period from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022								
	1 Accounting Policies								
	(a) Basis of preparation								
	The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008)								
	(b) Turnover								
	Turnover represents the fair value of consideration receivable in the ordinary course of business for services provided.								
	(c) Fixed Assets								
	All fixed assets are initially recorded at cost.								
	(d) Depreciation								
	Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of an asset, less its estimated residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:								
		Polytunnels						20% straight line	
	2 Company limited by guarantee								
	The Charitable Incorporated Organisation is limited by guarantee and therefore has no share capital. The liability of trustees upon winding up the company is limited to £1.								
	3 Administrative expenses								
		Insurance		£288.74					
		Sundry expenses		£2,841.00					
		Admin expenses		£801.07					
		Depreciation		£700.00					
		Total		£4,630.81					
	4 Other operating income								
		Donations		£5,537.43					
		Membership		£135.00					
		Grants		£9,600.00					
		Sales		£0.00					
		Total		£15,272.43					
	5 Tangible Fixed Assets								
			Cost		Depreciation			Net Book	
				Year 1	Year 2	Year 3		Value	
	Polytunnel		£3,500.00	£700.00				£2,800.00	

Accounts



SERPENTINE COMMUNITY GARDEN SOCIETY

Serpentine Community Garden Society CIO
Serpentine Walks, off-Burlington Road, Buxton, SK17 9AR

Report of the Trustees 18 February 2020 - 5 April 2021

Registered Charity number - 1188016

Registered office - c/o 39 Park Road, Buxton, SK17 6SQ

Date of registration as a charity - 18 February 2020

Trustees

Anne Holloway	resigned	01/04/20	to	15/11/2020
Margot Ferris	resigned	01/04/20	to	15/11/2020
Madeline Hall	re-elected	01/04/20	to	31/03/2021
Simon Fussell	re-elected	01/04/20	to	31/03/2021
Pete Brown	elected	15/11/20	to	31/03/2021
Carole Garner	elected	15/11/20	to	31/03/2021

Solicitors

Brooke-Taylor Solicitors
4 The Quadrant, Buxton, SK17 6AW

Bankers

Cooperative Bank

Contents

1. Structure, Governance and Management
2. Objectives and Activities
3. Achievement and performance
4. Financial review
5. Risk Management
6. Future Plans

1. Structure, Governance and Management

The Board currently comprises four trustees, all of whom take an active role in organisational development. Further trustees - to a maximum of eleven - will be recruited to the Board in response to a recognised skill or capacity need. Recruitment is done via advertising the role with a description of the key skills, knowledge or experiences being sought and an overview of the role and responsibilities of a trustee. SCGS's own networks and communication channels are used. Selection is through dialogue with other trustees.

Under the terms of the constitution agreed when registering as a charity, trustees might serve on the Board for up to 3 years with a third of trustees required to stand down each year. Whilst these provisions encourage freshness and dynamism, they could create unhelpful churn. Members considered the issue at the AGM in November 2020 and again at a special meeting on 31 January 2021 to confirm the decision to amend provisions. The term of office for trustees is now three years, renewable for a further three year term. After a break of a year trustees may stand for election for a return to office. For each of the first three years the longest serving trustee will resign, but may stand for a second term's appointment.

Response to the Covid-19 crisis has included rapid development of IT capabilities and use for meetings. As lockdown measures are eased, we will continue to work with trustees to improve how we exchange and share information.

The Board of Trustees has sustained practice from its precursor Board of Directors of Serpentine Community Farm CIC, meeting every six to eight weeks to review finance, projects and activity and to discuss long-term strategy and direction. The business plan approved in January 2020 is under thorough review, informed by appraisal from a financial consultant engaged with support from the Heritage Fund for Culture Recovery.

2. Objectives and Activities

The object of the CIO is to advance the education of the public in the subject of horticulture and horticultural practices.

In addition we aim to:

- teach and learn about sustainable growing practices in the High Peak climate;
- share knowledge with our volunteers and visitors;
- introduce initiatives and practices that support the aim of long term food security;
- build and maintain an environment where all people are welcome, enjoying what they are doing and having social interaction with others.

Planned activities were adapted in a rapid response to the need for precautionary measures against Covid-19 transmission. Activities included:

February 2020: Registration as a Charity. Ash tree suffering die back felled by HPBC arborist team. Seedy Saturday - 300+ packs shared. Introductory workshop on Principles of Organic Gardening. War and Peas published in paperback. Stocked in Scriveners, Poole's

Cavern and the Pump Room. The first picking of salad was made and enjoyed to everyone's satisfaction.

March 2020 – Seeds shared from foyer of Pavilion Gardens until required to close by nationwide lockdown. Presentation to 30 GPs on well-being project for social prescribing. Covid-19 pandemic declared. Serpentine Community Garden Society Detached established in growers' home garden. SCG closed to visitors. Volunteer team established to maintain site and sustain the growing cycle. Wednesday workshop programme postponed.

April 2020 – Rota for essential growing work covers four days a week – to allow physical distance of workers when on site. 184 volunteer hours onsite – compared to 309 in April 2019.)

May 2020 – Weekly cover continued. 194 hours logged onsite. (471 in May 2019). Maximum of six volunteers on site together. Some groups chose to work with lower numbers. Hours contributed in growers' home gardens and studio (for production of signs and posters) not formally captured. Contribution of salad bags to food parcels for families in need.

June 2020 – Weekly cover continued. 177 hours logged onsite. (452 in June 2019.)

July 2020 – Weekly cover continued with slight easing of group size – maximum of ten volunteers on site. 221 hours logged. (397 in July 2019.) Old garage condemned as unsafe by DCC contractors. Emptied, locked and surrounded with security fence pending demolition. Fringe event postponed to 2021, replaced with Secret Garden event – booked tours for groups, maximum 6 per group.

August 2020 – Booked tours for groups well-received.

September 2020 – Old garage demolished by DCC contractors. Cost met by High Peak Borough Council.

October 2020 – Successful application for Cadent award – £10,000 for Give Peas a Chance Saturday programme 2021-2022.

November 2020 – Successful application for Heritage Fund award – £21,120. Successful application for Family Zone award - £1,000.

December 2020 – Appointment of part-time Garden Manager. Transition Buxton talk - online and recorded with link on website. Website developers identified.

January 2021

Application submitted for planning permission to erect polytunnel on concrete base of demolished garage. Lease negotiations continue.

Well-attended and popular fortnightly Zoom meetings established. Zoom subscription taken out.

Growing Plans discussed, developed and shared electronically and in hard copy on whiteboards. Appointment of part-time social media support worker.

Website training for webmasters and editors.

February 2021

Finance report commissioned.

Agreed partnership with Buxton Junior School for Give Peas a Chance courses.

Zoom meetings - special interest groups, online workshops.

Gardens Update padlet notice board set-up to complement whiteboards and noticeboards on site.

Additional WhatsApp group set up for coordination of herb growing. Four volunteers training as editors of new website.

March 2021

New website launched.

Successful completion of Culture Recovery Fund (Heritage Fund) project.

Planning approval secured for third polytunnel: 16 letters of support including one from Stewart Medical Centre GPs.

Science Week - soil analysis project in partnership with Transition Buxton, funded by British Science Association, engaged 63 families.

Probus Buxton and District talk online.

Commissioned aerial footage of Buxton icons for introductory section of video showcasing the Community Garden's place in the town and community. Big dig working parties for polytunnel groundwork preparation.

Serpentine Community Garden Society - Volunteer Hours on site

	2019-2020	2020-2021
April	309	184.5
May	471	194
June	452	177.5
July	397.5	220.75
August	244.5	230
September	331	209
October	421	226
November	242	240.25
December	218	153
January	294	111.25
February	212	140.5
March	172	304.5
Total	3764	2391.25

3. Achievement and performance 2020/ 2021

Volunteers contributed 2391 (3764 in 2019-2020) hours over the year in registered attendance on site. In addition unregistered, but highly appreciated, hours were invested off site on administration, publicity, planning and practical gardening enriching cultivation of a range of produce. We thank our team of volunteers for their ongoing commitment. Many go well beyond what is asked of them: supporting events, creating posters and labels, growing at home on windowsills, investing time and thought in the garden and the organisation and always going the extra mile with the work they do to support our community in Buxton and the High Peak.

Education

We advance education in the science, art and practice of horticulture. The teaching and learning is not externally accredited but has its foundation in the authoritative gardening and horticultural advice provided by the Royal Horticultural Society. There is a particular focus on organic gardening methods based on the principles of organic gardening promoted by Garden Organic (previously the Henry Doubleday Research Association). In an informal setting, we work with volunteers to identify the skills they bring and the knowledge and skills they wish to develop. More formally, we offer regular training workshops and courses to consolidate and extend learning. All ages are covered with interventions modified to meet age and experience and to take in to account such factors as learning or social disabilities.

We promote active use of our facilities by local educational and therapeutic providers. Our briefing session for social prescribing was attended by thirty local GPs. The planned well-being course, overseen by a qualified Person Centred Counsellor working alongside horticulturalists, has been postponed due to the Covid-19 crisis but will be rescheduled as circumstances allow.

Children and Young People

Formalising the relationship with our partners who work directly with young people (children's nurseries, child minder groups, schools and colleges) through the provision of a range of services and experiences enables the charity to introduce more young people to the site, allowing them to experience not only food growing, cooking and crafts, and all the associated benefits, but being part of a community space that they can feel a part of. Whilst onsite activity in this area has been constrained, work has continued with online initiatives and with planning for return of groups to the garden. (A new Saturday programme launched on 1 May 2021.)

Culture

Art and culture is a developing strand of SCG volunteer interest. We work with locally based voluntary organisations and individual artists. The site is valued by artists as inspiration and a welcoming host for direct interaction with communities. The site has the potential to play a significant role in delivery of a thriving cultural life in the town as a space where the public and creatives can interact and collaborate on joint projects, often bringing more investment in arts and culture to the local area in the process. We are already recognised as an excellent informal performance space and a great setting for external art-

works. As lockdown provision ease, the benefits of a venue in the open air are being widely recognised.

Organisation

Acceptance of our application for registration as a charity was a big step for the organisation. Alongside that recognition, work on securing the future of the project on its current site has progressed. Our landlords, High Peak Borough Council, approved in principle the terms of a 25 year lease, subject to detailed negotiation with council officers. Discussions over the status of near derelict buildings on the site have proved complex and have been frozen as other essential services were prioritised following the national lockdown. Hopes for resolution before the end of 2020 were not realised but we work towards signing the final documents before the end of 2021.

Local press and social media were used effectively for a re-branding exercise following registration as a charity. The new name is reflected in a new website domain name, a new organisational email account, an updated facebook page and updated twitter feed. We also launched an Instagram feed in January 2021. Weekly working notes are circulated to all members and volunteers. Each month an update is circulated to all supporters.

In March 2020 we set up a daily blog on the website, detailing gardening activity of our chief growers as they worked with us but at distance as they shielded from the pandemic. The blog was maintained for 100 entries between April and November 2021. Its wealth of information and interest was transferred in full to the new website, preserving an invaluable resource.

We reviewed procedures for health and safety and for volunteers and developed action plans to address improvement points. Risk assessments for Covid-19 were drawn up and reviewed regularly. Individual reviews with all active volunteers were completed.

Our organisational resilience was stress tested from the start of the reporting year. As noted above, our chief growers, along with three skilled and knowledgeable horticulturist members of the team were confined to home and their own gardens, as was our resident artist. Other core volunteers conducted personal risk assessments and decided against exposure to groups of other volunteers. The structure for sustaining growing on site and respecting individuals' needs and personal boundaries whilst maintaining contact was swiftly established and has proved robust. Links with other community groups have been strengthened as ventures arising in response to the Covid-19 crisis have brought the importance of community mutual aid into sharp relief.

4. Financial review

Income for the first full year as a charity plus six weeks of the previous year when we changed status year totalled £28,501, made up of £25,085 in grant awards and £3,416 in donations and sales. (This figure is more than the comparable income in 2019-2020 of £3097: remarkable stability in an extraordinary period.)

Expenditure has been modest outside of financial commitments in completing contracts, allowing an additional £2,581 to be carried forward in cash reserves. This provides a cush-

ion against the anticipated additional costs - rental and service charges - incurred once a lease is on force.

Prospects for significant grant funding in future are good. £10,000 is pledged to be released when our new lease is signed and discussion have been initiated with major funding bodies about potential support.

5. Risk management

As Trustees, we are responsible for overseeing the charity's risk management activities. The Trustee Board manages and monitors SCGS's risks through a Strategic Risk Register which is incorporated in the Annual Business Plan. Strategic Risks are identified following the Annual General Meeting of members, drawing on response to the annual Future Strategy briefing paper.

Risk management of high-level risks that could prevent SCGS from meeting its objectives and of more routine operational matters are kept under regular review. The new risks associated with a national pandemic required a focused review in 2020-2021. Engagement of trustees and a committed volunteer cadre and membership supports on-going review which is both sensitive and robust.

6. Future Plans

Our plans for 2021/2022 involve building on the foundations laid during 2019-2020 and the experience of working through the challenges, and unexpected opportunities, of response to the global pandemic, to sustain our focus on growing plants and growing people.

We believe that the Serpentine Community Garden can become a centre for sustainability and community development in Buxton, with regional reach and national recognition. The site will provide multiple benefits to the town through the services it provides, contributing to learning and helping to raise the profile of the town and its heritage.

We will continue to develop our profile and external-facing activities; improve our internal systems and processes; reappraise organisational risk and plan to grasp opportunities to extend our community reach.

Trustees
Simon Fussell (Chair)
Madeline Hall (Treasurer)
Pete Brown
Carole Garner

	Operational costs					£25,920.65		
	Gross Profit / (Loss)					£1,243.72		
	Net Profit					£0.00		
	Interest Receivable					£0.00		
	Tax on Profit on Ordinary Activities					£0.00		
	Profit for the Financial Period					£0.00		
	Fixed Assets							
	Apple Presses (2017-2019)					£200.00		
	Total					£200.00		
	Current Assets							
	Cash at bank and in hand					£6,910.27		
	Total Current Assets					£7,110.27		
	Current Liabilities / Credit carried forward					-£642.00		
	Total assets less current liabilities					£6468.27		
	Capital and reserves							
	Surplus for year					£0.00		
	Total capital and reserves					£6468.27		
	For the period ending 05/04/2021 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.							

	The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.						
	The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts.						
	These financial statements have been approved for issue by the Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf by						
	M A Hall						
	Trustee / Treasurer						
4	Notes and Accounting Policies						
	Period from 18 February 2020 to 5 April 2021						
	1 Accounting Policies						
	(a) Basis of preparation						
	The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008)						
	(b) Turnover						
	Turnover represents the fair value of consideration receivable in the ordinary course of business for services provided.						
	(c) Fixed Assets						
	All fixed assets are initially recorded at cost.						
	(d) Depreciation						
	Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of an asset, less its estimated residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:						
		Polytunnels/scaffolding boards (2016-2017)			20% straight line		
		Tables and Chairs (2016-2017)			20% straight line		
		Apple Presses (2017-2018)			20% straight line		

2 Company limited by guarantee				
The company is limited by guarantee and therefore has no share capital. The liability of the trustees upon winding up the company is limited to £1.				
3 Administrative expenses				
	Insurance		£264.90	
	Sundry expenses		£406.65	
	Admin expenses		£1,072.11	
	Depreciation		£0.00	
	Total		£1,743.66	
4 Other operating income				
	Donations		£3,140.30	
	Membership		£241.00	
	Grants		£25,085.01	
	Sales		£35.07	
	Total		£28,501.38	
5 Commitments carried forward to 2021-2022				
	Balance of Heritage Fund award			£2100.00
	Balance of first instalment of Cadent award			-£2742.00
	Total			-£642.00
6 Tangible Fixed Assets				
		Cost	Depreciation	Net Book
			20-21	Value
	Polytunnels/scaffolding boards (15-16)	£1,500.00		£0.00
	Polytunnels/scaffolding boards (16-17)	£1,500.00	£300.00	£0.00
	Tables and Chairs (2016-2017)	£450.00	£90.00	£0.00
	Apple Presses (2017-2018)	£1,000.00	£200.00	£200.00
	Total	£4,450.00	£590.00	£200.00

Table 1

		Budget	Spent Dec 2020	Jan 21	Feb 21	Mar 21	Balance / Excess	Notes
CRF 2020	Website	£4200.00	£2928.00	£1680.00			-£408.00	Maintenance contract - Cadent
	Garden Manager	£6780.00	£412.50	£2129.16	£2129.16	£2129.16	-£19.98	Met by SCGS
	Social Media	£4500.00	£480.00	£800.00	£1600.00	£1600.00	£20.00	
	Video	£1500.00				£1500.00	£0.00	
	Skips	£500.00				£500.00	£0.00	
	Legal Fees	£720.00				£720.00	£0.00	
	Finance Consultancy	£3000.00				£3000.00	£0.00	
	Total	£21200.00	£3820.50	£4609.16	£3729.16	£9449.16	-£407.98	10% retention released in 2021-2022
Cadent	Polytunnel	£1700.00				£1700.00	£0.00	
	Coordinator	£4200.00				£150.00	£4050.00	
	Tablets	£1000.00					£1000.00	
	Food	£750.00					£750.00	
	Tools and PPE	£250.00					£250.00	
	cooking utensils	£1000.00					£1000.00	
	Website	£1000.00				£408.00	£592.00	
	Materials	£100.00					£100.00	
	Total	£10000.00				£2258.00	£7742.00	Commitment of £5000 - £2258 carried forward

Audit Statement

	For the period ending 05/04/2021 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.					
	The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.					
	The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts.					
	These financial statements have been approved for issue by the Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf by					
	M A Hall					
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