

**WEYBRIDGE ALLOTMENT HOLDERS' AND GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION (WAHGA)**  
**CIO - Association. Registered Charity Number 1189633**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2024**

**THE OBJECTS OF THE CIO ARE:**

**1) TO PROVIDE OR ASSIST IN THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES FOR ALLOTMENTS IN WEYBRIDGE, SURREY IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE FOR RECREATION OR OTHER LEISURE TIME OCCUPATION FOR THE PUBLIC AT LARGE WITH THE OBJECT OF IMPROVING THEIR CONDITIONS OF LIFE**

**2) TO PROMOTE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC THE CONSERVATION PROTECTION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE PHYSICAL AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT IN, AND BORDERING, WEYBRIDGE ALLOTMENTS, SURREY IN PARTICULAR THROUGH THE CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES, THE IMPROVEMENT OF WILDLIFE DIVERSITY AND PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEARNING ABOUT SUSTAINABLE HORTICULTURE**

**How These Objects Were Achieved during this reporting period:**

In 2024 WAHGA was able to continue to expand the ways in which it plays an important role in the support of fruit, vegetable and flower growers in Weybridge, in the interests of social welfare. These initiatives have been both practical and educational.

Allotment gardeners benefitted from loans of suitable equipment, being able to share in bulk purchase of manure, compost and seed potatoes. In addition, locally grown and coppiced hazel poles were added to the bulk purchase list, as a more sustainable alternative to imported bamboo canes. These proved to be extremely popular. Practical advice from other WAHGA members who have gardening experience which they are keen to share was also a feature of 2024, with the ever popular Jobs for the Month, created specifically for Weybridge growing conditions was distributed to all members.

During 2024, social events, competitions, engagement with the broader community through local outreach, and the use of social media supported objectives to share knowledge and increase allotment gardeners' enjoyment of their life. WAHGA continues to look imaginatively at ways it can add to the mental health benefits that cultivation, exercise and fresh air can bring to allotment gardeners and members.

The WAHGA CIO donation process was improved during 2024, with a successful application for Gift Aid to be added to donations, and an automated donation button added to the WAHGA website.

Membership, which is open to local gardeners and allotment holders, stood at 323 at the end of 2024



## **2024 ACTIVITIES AND INITIATIVES**

### **PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEARNING ABOUT SUSTAINABLE HORTICULTURE**

Given the success and popularity of informative member email updates, and use of social media, the focus on these continued in 2024.

The WAHGA website contains high quality, relevant articles and fact sheets which are readily available to members and to the public. Horticultural tips and techniques as well as wildlife and sustainability information are focus areas. The WAHGA 'Jobs for the Month' are written specifically for the local environment and tailored each month to reflect the actual growing conditions at the time. Website and Facebook statistics as well as informal feedback shows they are very popular and helpful to growers.

The WAHGA administered Facebook group, which had increased membership to 238 members at the end of 2024, remained popular (217 posts were made during the year). The Facebook group is administered to ensure the posts are relevant and educational, as well as enhancing community engagement. Members are encouraged to post their hints, tips and requests for advice as well as offering surplus produce.

Recycling and sharing activities continued to be a major focus area so that plastic items in particular are reused, and spare seedlings and produce are shared.

### **2024 AGM - 5th April 2024**

The WAHGA AGM was attended by 49 members. After the formal part of the evening was closed, there was a fascinating, educational and very popular talk by Russell Attwood. Russell is a well respected proponent of the No Dig method of gardening as well as being a Regional Representative for the National Allotments Society (NAS). Informal networking ended the evening.

### **COMMUNITY QUIZ NIGHTS**

In order to bring the WAHGA membership together to foster an allotment holders and gardening community and to raise funds for WAHGA, a quiz night was organised in 2024. 78 members and their friends came to the 9th November Quiz night. These evening events contributed net funds of £395 to WAHGA's running costs.

### **THE BROADER COMMUNITY**

WAHGA combined with St James Church, Weybridge to contribute to their vegetable and fruit collections every Sunday morning during the summer. Members contributed generously to these collections and many crates of fruit and vegetables were delivered to the church hall over the period.

Oatlands Primary School held their annual fete on 30th June. WAHGA ran a stall and supplied plants and seeds which the children were able to plant out. No charge was made and the plants/seeds were donated by WAHGA to support this outreach programme



## **PLOT JUDGING**

In order to ensure a focus on wildlife, biodiversity and sustainability the plot judging criteria introduced in 2022 were again used as the criteria for judging plots nominated by allotment holders. An Instructor at RHS Merrist Wood and Kew Gardens was engaged for the third year to review the plots. The criteria were published well in advance of judging and plot-holders were invited to enter their plots. 15 members put their plots forward, and prizes were awarded to the best full and half plots as well as best newcomers, best plot for biodiversity and overall judge's favourite.

The judge was most impressed by plots with a large variety of vegetables and fruit, flowers and herbs which attract pollinators and plots with weeds under control, and which were well laid out. Plots were also checked for well-utilised compost bins, as well as water butts where sheds allowed for guttering to provide a supply of rain water.

To increase the opportunity for learning, all participants received a copy of the judge's scoring and comments sheet, with suggestions for the next growing season, as well as lots of positive and constructive feedback. The five category winners received vouchers for a local independent shop, and were awarded their prizes at the annual summer picnic. The judge's hints and tips were published to all members to further distill the learning points from the event.

## **WAHGA COMMUNITY PICNIC AND PRIZE-GIVING**

The summer event was held on 18th August 2024, and was attended by 26 members who brought their friends and families. WAHGA took the opportunity to award prizes to winners of the plot-judging event, and gave a summary of learning points from the plot-judging to encourage growers to improve the wildlife, diversity on their plots, and to learn more about sustainable horticulture.

## **BULK PURCHASE**

It is important that WAHGA supports the improvement of the physical and natural environment. Supporting growers to increase yields is also a priority and supports food security initiatives. Using its knowledge of high quality suppliers WAHGA managed the bulk purchase of key items, including high quality manure, peat free compost, and seed potatoes. In February and October a total of 1500 bags of manure and compost were bulk purchased at a discount.

Locally sourced and coppiced 8 foot hazel poles were the new addition of WAHGA's offerings in 2024, replacing the order for imported bamboo poles made in previous years. 600 hazel poles were purchased by 41 members.

## **ENCOURAGEMENT AND RECORDING OF WILDLIFE AND BIODIVERSITY**

WAHGA was able to make headway in the course of 2024 in the conservation, protection, and improvement of the physical and natural environment. Particular focus areas were improving soil condition, increasing yields, and a reduction in pests as a result of a healthy balanced ecosystem. Attraction of pollinators remains a key objective.

WAHGA continues to work in partnership with like minded local charities such as the Wildlife Aid Centre (where injured wildlife is taken). Their services are promoted actively to members.

#### **ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT**

WAHGA is managed by Trustees who may stand for re-election at the AGM. The charity trustees delegate some of their powers and functions to a committee, having determined the terms and conditions on which the delegation is made. The charity trustees may at any time alter those terms and conditions or revoke the delegation. Volunteers also support the trustees

#### **Trustees:**

WAHGA trustees for 2024:

Leila Brown, Caroline Freeman, Philippa Graeme, James Higgins

**Declaration:** The Trustees are satisfied that the association is being managed in accordance with its Objects and with due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit requirement. Above all, it encourages participation in the cultivation of allotments and in the preservation or enhancement of wildlife and biodiversity both aspects improve the physical, mental and social well-being of members

- The Trustees are satisfied that the association's management committee continues to manage finances in a responsible manner, spending in line with its Objects.
- The Trustees are satisfied that the accounts are presented on an accruals basis, and include sufficient reserves to provide for unexpected costs.

WAHGA became a registered charity (CIO - Association) on 22nd May 2020.

**END OF REPORT**



WEYBRIDGE ALLOTMENT HOLDERS AND GARDENERS ASSOCIATION CIO		Charity No	1189633
		Company No	N/A
<b>Annual accounts for the period</b>			
Period start date	1/1/24	To	Period end date 12/31/24

## Section A Statement of financial activities (including summary income and expenditure account)

Recommended categories by activity	Unrestricted funds £ F01	Restricted Income funds £ F02	Endowment funds £ F03	Total funds £ F04	Prior year funds £ F05
<b>Income</b>					
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	105			105	129
Charitable activities	-			-	-
Fundraising income	8,417			8,417	4,116
Interest	38			38	31
Greenspaces grant	-			-	303
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,560</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8,560</b>	<b>4,579</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>					
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Charitable activities	320			320	-
Fundraising expenses	7,413			7,413	3,106
Administrative expense	1,491			1,491	1,255
Depreciation	429			429	426
Greenspaces expenditure	-			-	303
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,652</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>9,652</b>	<b>5,090</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure) before tax for the reporting period</b>	<b>1,092</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,092</b>	<b>511</b>
Tax payable	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net income/(expenditure) after tax before investment gains/(losses)</b>	<b>- 1,092</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>- 1,092</b>	<b>- 511</b>
Net gains/(losses) on investments	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>	<b>- 1,092</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>- 1,092</b>	<b>- 511</b>
<b>Extraordinary items</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses):</b>					
Gains and losses on revaluation of fixed assets for the charity's own use	-	-	-	-	-
Other gains/(losses)	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>- 1,092</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>- 1,092</b>	<b>- 511</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>					
Total funds brought forward	20,006	-	-	20,006	20,517
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>18,914</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>18,914</b>	<b>20,006</b>

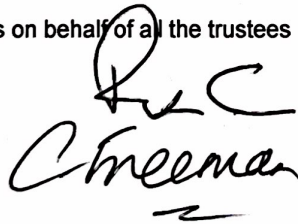
18,914

**Section B**

**Balance sheet at 31 December 2024**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Total this year £	Total last year £
<b>Fixed assets</b>				
Tangible assets	109	-	109	319
<b>Total fixed assets</b>	109	-	109	319
<b>Current assets</b>				
Stocks	-	-	-	-
Debtors	-	-	-	-
Prepayment	96	-	96	-
Cash at bank and in hand	18,708	-	18,708	20,410
<b>Total current assets</b>	18,804	-	18,804	20,410
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year -</b> (Unpaid quiz expense 2023 and 2022 Greenspaces Grant)	-	-	-	724
<b>Net current assets/(liabilities)</b>	18,804	-	18,804	19,686
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>	18,914	-	18,914	20,006
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due after one year</b>	-	-	-	-
<b>Provisions for liabilities</b>	-	-	-	-
<b>Total net assets or liabilities</b>	18,914	-	18,914	20,006
<b>Funds of the Charity</b>				
Endowment funds	-	-	-	-
<b>Total funds</b>	-	-	-	-

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

  
Caroline Freeman

Print Name	Date of approval dd/mm/yyyy
Caroline Freeman	7/8/25
CAROLINE FREEMAN	7/8/25