

FUTURE GARDENERS

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

The Trustees of Future Gardeners (FG) have pleasure in presenting their Report and Accounts covering the year 5th April 2023 to 5th April 2024

Reference and Administrative Information

Registered Charity number: 1191623

Registered Office: Ironmongers Hall, Aldersgate Street, London EC2Y 8AP

Trustees

Rex Thornborough (Chair until September 4, 2024)

Sir David Green CB KC (joined September 4, 2024, Chair from November 10, 2024)

Dr Heather Barrett-Mold OBE (retired November 17, 2023.)

Stephen Bernhard

Helen Firminger (retired September 2023)

Helen Potts (retired September 2023)

Michael Fitt OBE (Chair from September 4, 2024 until November 8, 2024)

Paul Rochford

Rachel Frankel

Andrew Gardner (retired October 2024)

Nicholas Woolf OBE (joined July 22, 2024)

The Master of the Worshipful Company of Gardeners April – July 2023 -John Gilbert, July 2023 – April 2024 Nicholas Woolf OBE

Bankers

The Cooperative Bank

Objectives

The charity's objective is the advancement for the public benefit of education and training in horticulture by making available, either directly or through others, education and training to enhance capabilities, competences, skills and understanding in horticulture.

Structure Governance and Management

The charity is a CIO formed on 5 October 2020. The Board of Trustees has altered over the year. In line with CC governance additional trustees are appointed following a rigorous selection process and approval by the existing Board of Trustees.

The charity itself has no staff. All those involved do so in a purely voluntary capacity.

The Future Gardeners Programme

The Future Gardeners programme is a pre-apprenticeship and pre-work horticultural training programme for those who have been long term unemployed or faced challenges in their lives and who would benefit from gaining confidence and skills and the opportunity of training and employment. The Future Gardeners Project was originally set up in 2014 after discussion by the City of London livery company The Worshipful Company of Gardeners (WCOG) in conjunction with the Royal Parks Guild, Roots and Shoots and Bankside Open Spaces Trust (BOST). The charity succeeded to WCOG's role on its formation in October 2020.

The charity, and previously WCOG, paid 50% of the running costs of the programmes delivered by BOST by paying invoices submitted by BOST. In addition 4 trustees acted as part of the operations management group which advised and steered day-to-day programme operations and provided links for the provision of meaningful work experience. Operational delivery was the legal responsibility of BOST.

The success of the Future Gardeners Programme has been that since inception, some 80% of those completing the programmes have gained employment in the Horticultural sector, where there is generally a shortage of labour.

Relationship with BOST

The charity endeavoured to engage with BOST to map out future arrangements on various occasions in the second half of 2023 and the first quarter of 2024. Those discussions did not lead to agreement and accordingly Future Gardeners advised BOST on March 28, 2024 it would not be able to continue to fund 50% of the costs of future cohorts of the Future Gardeners programmes delivered by BOST. BOST has subsequently made various claims primarily concerning intellectual property and has applied for and obtained a trademark registration of a logo incorporating the words Future Gardeners Grow Your Career. It did not notify the charity of its intention to do this.

Future strategy

The trustees are currently engaged in determining the charity's future strategy to fulfil the objective of "the advancement of education and training in horticulture by making available, either directly or through others, education and training to enhance capabilities, competences, skills and understanding in horticulture." Various options have already presented themselves.

Public benefit

The trustees have complied with the duty in Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission. All activities described in this report have been undertaken for public benefit and in pursuit of the charity's objectives.

Risks

The trustees consider the greatest risk to the charity lies in the possible failure to attract donations, a risk that is mitigated by active contact with donors, the continuing support of the WCOG, and the principle that a course will not be started with a delivery partner unless funds

have been identified. As a consequence the majority of operational risks, including the employment of staff, are born by the delivery partner.

The current disagreement with BOST is distressing and regrettable given the success of the programmes delivered by BOST since 2015 with the support of WCOG and subsequently the charity and that the charity and BOST share a common goal to help students become work ready in the horticultural sector through education and training.

Financial review.

The accounts show income and expenditure for the 12 months to April 5, 2024. It is anticipated that in the next accounting period the charity will show a reduction in income and expenditure.

It remains the intention of the charity to build up over time reserves of the equivalent of six months of normal funding expenditure.

December 17, 2024



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
Future Gardeners

On accounts for the year
ended

05/04/2024

Charity no
(if any)

1191623

Set out on pages

1

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended DD / MM / YYYY.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

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

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

Independent
examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

Date:

13/12/2024

Name:

Karen Gatward

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

FCCA

Address:

49 Northfield Road

Waltham Cross

EN8 7RF

Receipts and payments accounts

Bank Opening Balance 05/04/2023

£ 2,406.54

Donations Received

Potts H	£ 5,425.00	
Stripe Payments	£ 1,108.04	
Clarke HB	£ 50.00	
D Balfour	£ 100.00	
C Wray	£ 1,500.00	
Charities Aid Foundation	£ 500.00	
JP Rochford	£ 370.00	
Credit 16/6	£ 500.00	
Worshipful Co Gard	£ 36,451.06	
Credit 20/9	£ 50.00	
H Barrett	£ 200.00	
NCL Investments	£ 3,000.00	
Horlock Educational Trust	£ 20,000.00	£ 69,254.10

Payments Made

Bernhard Media Ltd	-£ 5,605.95	
Bankside Open Space	-£ 29,704.60	
Bankside Open Space	-£ 23,000.00	
Bankside Open Space	-£ 6,704.60	-£ 65,015.15

Closing Bank Balance 05/04/2024

£ 6,645.49