

## **FUTURE GARDENERS**

### **TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT**

The Trustees of Future Gardeners have pleasure in presenting their Report and Accounts covering the year 6th April 2024 to 5th April 2025

#### **Reference and Administrative Information**

Registered Charity number: 1191623

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

#### **Trustees**

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

Rex Thornborough (Chair until September 4, 2024)

Stephen Bernhard

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 2024-Nicholas Woolf OBE, July 2024 – April 2026 Cindy Peck

#### **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 from time to time following a rigorous selection process and approval by the existing Board of Trustees. No additional Trustees have been appointed in the current year.

During the year the charity had 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.

Until March 28, 2024, 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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **Financial review.**

The accounts show income and expenditure for the 12 months to April 5, 2025. As anticipated in this accounting period the charity has had 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.

October 14, 2025

## Future Gardeners

### Receipts and payments accounts

12 months to April 5, 2025

		£
Bank Opening Balance 06/04/2024		6645.49
Donations Received		
JN Woolf	1625	
JN Woolf	2400	
WCOG Charity	375	
JP Rochford	100	
R Thornborough	100	
JP Rochford	1500	
	6100	6100
Payments made		
Bankside Open Spaces Trust	-10000	
JobLadder Ltd	-375	
	-10375	-10375
Bank closing balance 05/04/2025		2370.49





# CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

## Independent examiner's report on the accounts

### Section A

### Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/  
members of

Charity Name  
Future Gardeners

On accounts for the year  
ended

05/04/2025

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 05 / 04 / 2025.

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:

19/09/2025

Name:

Karen Gatward

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

FCCA

Address:

49 Northfield Road

Waltham Cross

EN8 7RF