

**THE WONKY GARDEN**

Charity number 1204849

**Annual Report and Financial Statements  
for the year ending 31 March 2024**



Greater Merseyside Community  
Accountancy Service

# **THE WONKY GARDEN**

## **Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ending 31 March 2024**

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**Prepared by the Greater Merseyside Community Accountancy Service**

## **THE WONKY GARDEN**

### **Trustees' report**

The Trustees during the year were:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
Angele Hayler	Trustee
Emily Allen	Trustee
Sarah Parker	Trustee

### **Method of appointment**

Election annually by AGM, or interim appointment by trustees until next AGM.

### **Principal address**

Ditton Community Centre  
Dundalk Road  
Widnes  
WA8 8DF

### **Bankers**

Lloyds Bank plc  
23-24 Albert Square  
Widnes  
Cheshire  
WA8 6JW

### **Governing document**

CiO Registered 21st September 2023

### **Objects of the organisation**

To advance the education of the public in horticulture and floriculture and in the conservation of the environment. To provide or assist in the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disability, financial hardship or social circumstances with the object of improving their conditions of life.

### **Independent examiner**

on behalf of:

### **Greater Merseyside Community Accountancy Service**

St Marie's  
Lugsdale Road  
Widnes  
WA8 6DB



## THE WONKY GARDEN

### Trustees' report continued

The Trustees of The Wonky Garden CIO present their annual report and accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

The Trustees who have held office since the initial charity registration on 20 September 2023 are:

Angela Hayler – Founder/Chair/Trustee  
Sarah Parker - Trustee  
Millie Allen - Trustee

All Trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no salary from the charity.

#### Legal Structure/Governance

The Wonky Garden is registered at Ditton Community Centre, Dundalk Road, Widnes, WA8 8DF. The first charity trustees were appointed 20<sup>th</sup> September on the following terms:

Angela Hayler – 4 years

Sarah Parker – 3 years

Millie Allen – 3 years

Decisions are taken at a meeting or through written communication including suitable electronic means. The charity is governed by its constitution and is incorporated as a CIO. The charity has appropriate Public, Employer, Trustee and Property Insurance in place to insure its activities, visitors, property and assets.

The Chair manages the overall strategy of the Charity with the support of the two additional Trustees. In addition, there are approximately 30 volunteers who attend the Charity each week who undertake flexible roles to support its aims and objectives. The Trustees discuss day to day and project initiatives with volunteers to seek their input and inclusion.

The role of the Trustees is to ensure that:

- The aims, purpose and vision for The Wonky Garden are clear and agreed in addition to ensuring that the charity is managed with integrity, ethical principles and compliance with any appropriate legal, policy or funding requirements. The Trustees are accountable for finance, fundraising, developing and maintaining relationships within the community network, developing and refining activities against feedback from volunteers and the community.
- Actions are aligned to the constitution and are compliant with policies, procedures and any legal requirements.
- All money and resources are responsibly and properly used, reported (including other bodies as required) managed and accounted for. All funding and donations are used to run the project, no individual benefits financially from its work.
- Appropriate policies and procedures are in place for volunteers.

#### Operation, Objectives and Achievements

##### The charity's objectives are:

- To advance the education of the public in horticulture and floriculture and in the conservation of the environment.
- To provide or assist in the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disability, financial hardship or social circumstances with the object of improving their conditions of life.

The Charity's operation is undertaken at its registered address, it is a space of approximately 2/3rds of an acre with a 10-year lease acquired from Halton Borough Council. The land wraps around a vibrant community centre and comprises of herbaceous/therapy garden with greenhouse and potting shed, children's garden, allotment/cut flower garden and activity yard with greenhouse, workshop, cut flower beds and a 'Friendship Garden'.

The charity transitioned from a constituted voluntary organisation in September 2023 and the focus since then has been on fundraising and completing its infrastructure whilst continuing to support the community through:



## THE WONKY GARDEN

### Trustees' report continued

Continual development and maintenance of a much-loved community green space for all to enjoy, focussing on enhancing the environment, wildlife and biodiversity using sustainable methods. The gardens are open all year.

The provision of nature-based therapy; food education; best practice low carbon/wildlife friendly gardening; development of life skills through garden and DIY activities based around horticulture, growing edibles and cut flowers.

Providing space and activities for a diverse range of groups within the community network on a one-off or regular basis.

Supporting food poverty through gifting 80% of the produce, cut flowers and plants grown.

Leading a community growing network, supporting other groups with planning and working together to help build skills and confidence and providing a central hub to grow and learn together. These groups take their learnings back to their own green space to grow and enjoy.

Providing open days to the community and beyond through participation in the National Garden Scheme. The objective for these days is to raise funds for the National Garden Scheme Charity (Hospice UK, Parkinson's, Marie Curie, McMillan Cancer Support, Carers Trust) to celebrate achievements, invite feedback and ideas to further support the community and develop the space.

Supporting a church group of pensioners that have known each other for most of their lives, aged between late 80's and early 90's. Without the charity's support to transport them to the community centre to facilitate an afternoon with lunch together 2-3 times a year.

Supporting and including volunteers, focussing on their physical and mental wellbeing in addition to provide opportunities to learn new skills and involvement in activities being provided to other groups and participation in open days. Additional 'thank you' events are organised to show appreciation (day trips, birthday celebrations and Christmas party).

The charity has benefitted from funding and support from a number of different sources to support its endeavours to complete its infrastructure prior to becoming a registered charity.

Since registering, it was awarded National Lottery funding to complete the infrastructure and a contribution towards running costs for four years, Bruce Wake Funding and funding from The National Garden Scheme to create a Friendship Garden space. In addition, the charity benefits from Pennies Funding sponsored by Notcutts Rivendell Garden Centre.

#### How the charity supports the natural environment:

The charity focuses on minimising impacts on the environment, improving biodiversity and smart low carbon practices. For example; increasing stock through growing from seed/division and propagation methods, rainwater harvesting, recycling of garden materials, using perennial planting vs annual planting or bedding, no chemicals, peat free composting and creating its own compost. The gardens have areas dedicated to wildlife habitats with hedgehog houses, bird boxes, a pond and bug houses.

#### Examples of groups benefiting from activities or the provision of produce/flowers/plants:

St Peters and Pauls Secondary School  
St Basils Primary School  
Chestnut Lodge SEND Primary School  
Riverside Tech Carpentry/General Construction SEND students  
Riverside Tech Gardening 101 SEND students  
Children's Disabled Services  
Ditton Family Hub  
Grangeway Community Centre Garden  
Castlefields Community Centre  
Ditton Community Centre  
Halton Supported Housing

## **THE WONKY GARDEN**

### **Trustees' report continued**

Halton Carers  
Halton Cancer Centre  
Medaille Hostel for Victims of Modern Slavery  
Arden Community Garden  
Asylum Link Liverpool  
Growing Health Community Garden  
Halton & St Helens Voluntary Community Action  
Bereavement Café  
Wellbeing Enterprises  
Girl Guides  
St Marks Church Group  
Women's Centre  
Trewan Dementia Nursing Home  
Madeline McKenna Care Home

#### How the charity's volunteers have benefitted:

- Improved physical and mental health.
- Learning new skills.
- Making new friends – both within the group and because of network signposting to other groups and activities.
- Reduced loneliness and isolation and bereavement support – eight volunteers have experienced bereavement in the last few years.
- Successful completion of Duke of Edinburgh Award.

#### The charity has formed strong relationships with local businesses, for example:

- ASDA, Tesco, Co-op and Wickes Community Champions
- Travis Perkins Builders Merchants
- Notcutts Rivendell Garden Centre (the charity is their community network champion, liaising with other groups to ensure any charitable offerings are distributed across Halton)
- Cronton Garden Centre
- Halton Borough Council Health Improvement Team
- Halton Housing
- Wellbeing Enterprises
- UPS Construction Ltd

The Charity is also an Affiliate of the Royal Horticultural Society and is identified as a 'Outstanding/Garden of Distinction'. It is also part of the National Garden Scheme (the charity opens 2-3 times each year to support NGS).



## **THE WONKY GARDEN**

### **Trustees' report continued**

#### The charity has delivered the following:

- Approximately 100 group activities
- Church Group lunches
- Flower vases for various local community group activities
- Monthly flower vases and plants to the local Bereavement Café
- Weekly flowers in the Community Centre
- Approximately 500 bouquets and plants have been gifted to individuals through the charity's local network
- Gifted wildlife friendly plants and bulbs its community growing network group
- Co-ordinated distribution of hundreds of bulb sets on behalf of Notcutts Garden Centre to the community
- Delivered educational workshops to the community growing network group
- Gifted edibles to a local social supermarket
- Provided flowers for local funerals

## **THE WONKY GARDEN**

### **Independent examiner's report on the accounts of THE WONKY GARDEN for the year ending 31 March 2024**

I report on the accounts of the charity set out on pages 8 to 11

#### **Respective responsibilities of the Management Committee and the examiner**

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

It is my responsibility to:

- ☐ examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- ☐ to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioner under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- ☐ to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

#### **Basis of independent examiner's report**

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 seeking 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.

#### **Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:

- ☐ to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
  - ☐ to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
- have not been met; or

2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Jane Williams  
MAAT  
Greater Merseyside Community Accountancy Service  
St Marie's  
Lugsdale Road  
Widnes  
WA8 6DB

14th November 2024



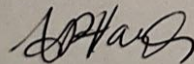
**THE WONKY GARDEN**  
**Statement of Financial Activities**  
**for the year ending 31 March 2024**

	Notes	2024 Unrestricted funds £	2024 Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £
<b>Receipts</b>				
Grants and donations	(2)	3,152	34,489	37,641
Bank Interest received		117	-	117
Other Income		-	-	-
<b>Total receipts</b>		<u>3,269</u>	<u>34,489</u>	<u>37,758</u>
<b>Payments</b>				
Materials and Capital Assets		-	9,150	9,150
Activities		-	862	862
Office Costs		2,967	8,276	11,243
Professional fees		-	480	480
<b>Governance Costs</b>				
Independent Examination		225	-	225
<b>Total payments</b>		<u>3,192</u>	<u>18,768</u>	<u>21,960</u>
<b>Net receipts / (payments)</b>		<u>77</u>	<u>15,721</u>	<u>15,798</u>
<b>Transfers between funds</b>		-	-	-
<b>Cash fund balances brought forward</b>		<u>4,574</u>	<u>17,026</u>	<u>21,600</u>
<b>Cash fund balances carried forward</b>		<u>4,651</u>	<u>32,747</u>	<u>37,398</u>

**THE WONKY GARDEN**  
**Balance sheet**  
**as at 31 March 2024**

	2024 Unrestricted £	2024 Restricted £	2024 Total £
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Tangible Assets	-	23,373	23,373
<b>Total fixed assets</b>	-	23,373	23,373
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Debtors and prepayments	-	-	-
Cash at bank and in hand	4,876	9,374	14,250
<b>Total current assets</b>	4,876	9,374	14,250
<b>Current liabilities:</b>			
amounts falling due within one year			
Creditors and accruals	225	-	225
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	225	-	225
<b>Net current assets / (liabilities)</b>	4,651	9,374	14,025
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>	4,651	32,747	37,398
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due after one year</b>	-	-	-
<b>Net assets</b>	4,651	32,747	37,398
<b>Funds</b>			
Restricted Funds		32,747	32,747
Unrestricted funds	4,651		4,651
<b>Total Funds</b>	4,651	32,747	37,398

The financial statements were approved at a meeting of the trustees held on 14th November 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Angela Hayler  
Trustee



**THE WONKY GARDEN**  
**Notes to the accounts**  
**for the year ending 31 March 2024**

**1 Accounting Policies**

**a Basis of accounting**

The Trustees have taken advantage of section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and have prepared the accounts on a receipts and payments basis.

**b Taxation**

As a registered charity the organisation benefits from rates relief and is generally exempt from income tax and capital gains tax but not from VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the cost of those items to which it relates.

**c Fund accounting**

Funds held by the charity are either:

**Unrestricted general funds**

These are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.

**Restricted funds**

These are funds that can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

**Designated funds**

These are funds set aside by the trustees out of unrestricted general funds for specific future purposes or projects.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the accounts.

## THE WONKY GARDEN

### Notes to the accounts continued for the year ending 31 March 2024

#### 2 Grants and Donations

	2024	2024	2024
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	funds	funds	funds
	£	£	£
ASDA	-	3,000	3,000
Bruce Wake	-	2,500	2,500
Co-Op	-	2,882	2,882
Halton Borough Council	-	4,000	4,000
Notcutts	2,067	-	2,067
The Steve Morgan Foundation	-	9,572	9,572
The National Lottery	-	12,535	12,535
Wellbeing Enterprises	300	-	300
Masons	600	-	600
Donations	185	-	185
	<u>3,152</u>	<u>34,489</u>	<u>37,641</u>

#### 3 Trustee remuneration and expenses

	£
Total amount paid	<u>-</u>

No trustees received any expenses during the period.

#### 4 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions to report during the accounting period.