

# **THE WONKY GARDEN**

Charity number 1204849

## **Annual Report and Financial Statements** **for the year ending 31 March 2025**

**gmcas**

Greater Merseyside Community  
Accountancy Service



# **THE WONKY GARDEN**

## **Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ending 31 March 2025**

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



# THE WONKY GARDEN

## Trustees' report

The Trustees during the year were:

| Name          | Position |                     |
|---------------|----------|---------------------|
| Angela Hayler | Trustee  |                     |
| Emily Allen   | Trustee  |                     |
| Sarah Parker  | Trustee  | Till 2nd April 2025 |

### 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

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

Angela Hayler – Founder/Chair/Trustee

Sarah Parker - Trustee; resigned 2nd April 2025

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; resigned 2nd April 2025

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

The charity has now completed its infrastructure and focusses on the following areas:

- 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 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.
- As part of a local hedgehog rescue/treatment and release group the charity works together with them to educate the local community, encouraging them to create biodiverse and hedgehog friendly habitats. The garden is a key release site given the richness of the location including the adjacent parkland. The charity provides supplementary food during seasonal challenges.
- 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. Additional funds raised by the charity on these days is generally allocated to one or more of the groups within their network that need support.
- Supporting a church group of pensioners that have known each other for most of their lives, aged between late 80s and early 90s with lunches, flowers and plants. Without the charity's support this group would not be able to meet due to transport and frailty challenges.
- 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. The charity now has a social team focussing on organising events throughout the year for volunteers to thank them and support those that experience loneliness and isolation.

The charity continues to benefit from funding and support from a number of different sources in addition to fundraising to support its activities.

### How the charity supports the natural environment:

The charity focuses on minimising impacts on the environment, focussing on 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, pond and bug houses.

In addition to composting garden waste (5 cubic metre bins of regular and 3 of leaf mould), the charity also has a Community Composting initiative, whereby volunteers, Community Centre workers and their families bring kitchen waste and deposit into 3 'hot boxes'.



# THE WONKY GARDEN

## Trustees' report continued

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

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Local primary schools/SEND students                         | Medaille Hostel for Victims of Modern Slavery |
| Riverside Tech Carpentry/General Construction SEND students | Arden Community Garden                        |
| Riverside Tech Gardening 101 SEND students                  | Growing Health Community Garden               |
| Children's Disabled Services                                | Halton & St Helens VCA                        |
| Ditton Family Hub   | Bereavement Café                              |
| St Marks and Holy Family Churches                           | Dementia Cafe                                 |
| Halton Queens Award   | Girl Guides                                   |
| Halton Community Centres                                    | St Marks Church Group                         |
| Halton Supported Housing                                    | Madeline Mckenna Care Home                    |
| Halton Carers   | Trewan Care Home                              |
| Halton Cancer Centre  | Bold in Bloom                                 |
| Women's Centre  |   |

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

The charity continues to nurture 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).

In summer 2024, BBC North West interviewed the charity, BBC Gardeners World filmed and The Royal Horticultural Society requested and filmed the garden and volunteers as representing their Friendship theme for the year.

The Charity was nominated for The Kings Award for Voluntary Services (outcome will be announced in November 2025).



# **THE WONKY GARDEN**

## **Trustees' report continued**

The charity has delivered/facilitated the following:

- Approximately 250 group activities
- Gifted 80% of food to Foodbank
- Church Group lunches
- Flower vases for various local community group activities
- Monthly flower vases and plants to the local Bereavement and Dementia Cafés
- Weekly Community Centre flowers
- Remembrance Day Wreath for Halton & St Helens VCA
- Approximately 1000 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 thousands of bulb sets on behalf of Notcutts Garden Centre to the community
- Delivered educational workshops to the community growing network and visiting groups
- Provided flowers for local funerals
- Christmas trees decorated with natural products to community centres and a hostel for victims of modern slavery



# THE WONKY GARDEN

## Statement of Financial Activities for the year ending 31 March 2025

|   | Notes | 2025<br>Unrestricted<br>funds<br>£ | 2025<br>Restricted<br>funds<br>£ | 2025<br>Total<br>funds<br>£ | 2024<br>Total<br>funds<br>£ |
|---|-------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Receipts</b>                           |       |                                    |                                  |                             |                             |
| Grants and donations                      | (2)   | 6,788                              | 27,310                           | 34,098                      | 37,641                      |
| Bank Interest received                    |       | 156                                | -                                | 156                         | 117                         |
| Other Income                              |       | -                                  | -                                | -                           | -                           |
| <b>Total receipts</b>                     |       | <u>6,944</u>                       | <u>27,310</u>                    | <u>34,254</u>               | <u>37,758</u>               |
| <b>Payments</b>                           |       |                                    |                                  |                             |                             |
| Materials and Capital Assets              |       | 3,473                              | 8,330                            | 11,803                      | 9,150                       |
| Activities                                |       | 357                                | 3,710                            | 4,067                       | 862                         |
| Office Costs                              |       | 1,645                              | 13,322                           | 14,967                      | 11,243                      |
| Professional fees                         |       | 1,461                              | -                                | 1,461                       | 480                         |
| Depreciation of charity assets            |       | 5,121                              | 5,763                            | 10,884                      | -                           |
| <b>Governance Costs</b>                   |       |                                    |                                  |                             |                             |
| Independent Examination                   |       | 135                                | -                                | 135                         | 225                         |
| <b>Total payments</b>                     |       | <u>12,192</u>                      | <u>31,125</u>                    | <u>43,317</u>               | <u>21,960</u>               |
| <b>Net receipts / (payments)</b>          |       | <u>(5,248)</u>                     | <u>(3,815)</u>                   | <u>(9,063)</u>              | <u>15,798</u>               |
| <b>Transfers between funds</b>            |       | -                                  | -                                | -                           | -                           |
| <b>Cash fund balances brought forward</b> |       | <u>20,372</u>                      | <u>17,026</u>                    | <u>37,398</u>               | <u>21,600</u>               |
| <b>Cash fund balances carried forward</b> |       | <u>15,124</u>                      | <u>13,211</u>                    | <u>28,335</u>               | <u>37,398</u>               |



# THE WONKY GARDEN

## Balance sheet

as at 31 March 2025

|  | 2025<br>Unrestricted<br>£ | 2025<br>Restricted<br>£ | 2025<br>Total<br>£ | 2024<br>Total<br>£ |
|--|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Fixed Assets</b>                                  |                           |                         |                    |                    |
| Tangible Assets                                      | -                         | 10,642                  | 10,642             | 23,373             |
| <b>Total fixed assets</b>                            | -                         | 10,642                  | 10,642             | 23,373             |
| <b>Current Assets</b>                                |                           |                         |                    |                    |
| Debtors and prepayments                              | -                         | -                       | -                  | -                  |
| Cash at bank and in hand                             | 15,259                    | 2,569                   | 17,828             | 14,250             |
| <b>Total current assets</b>                          | 15,259                    | 2,569                   | 17,828             | 14,250             |
| <b>Current liabilities:</b>                          |                           |                         |                    |                    |
| <b>amounts falling due within one year</b>           |                           |                         |                    |                    |
| Creditors and accruals                               | 135                       | -                       | 135                | 225                |
| <b>Total current liabilities</b>                     | 135                       | -                       | 135                | 225                |
| <b>Net current assets / (liabilities)</b>            | 15,124                    | 2,569                   | 17,693             | 14,025             |
| <b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>         | 15,124                    | 13,211                  | 28,335             | 37,398             |
| <b>Creditors: amounts falling due after one year</b> | -                         |                         |                    |                    |
| <b>Net assets</b>                                    | 15,124                    | 13,211                  | 28,335             | 37,398             |
| <b>Funds</b>   |                           |                         |                    |                    |
| Restricted Funds                                     |                           | 13,211                  | 13,211             | 17,026             |
| Unrestricted funds                                   | 15,124                    |                         | 15,124             | 20,372             |
| <b>Total Funds</b>                                   | 15,124                    | 13,211                  | 28,335             | 37,398             |

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

 30/9/25  
Angela Hayler  
Trustee

 30/9/25  
Millie Allen  
Trustee



# THE WONKY GARDEN

## Notes to the accounts

for the year ending 31 March 2025

### 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 2025

### 2 Grants and Donations

|                             | 2025<br>Unrestricted<br>funds<br>£ | 2025<br>Restricted<br>funds<br>£ | 2025<br>Total<br>funds<br>£ | 2024<br>Total<br>funds<br>£ |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ASDA                        | -                                  | -                                | -                           | 3,000                       |
| Bruce Wake                  | -                                  | -                                | -                           | 2,500                       |
| Co-Op                       | -                                  | 500                              | 500                         | 2,882                       |
| Halton Borough Council      | -                                  | 5,000                            | 5,000                       | 4,000                       |
| Notcutts                    | 5,548                              | -                                | 5,548                       | 2,067                       |
| The Steve Morgan Foundation | -                                  | -                                | -                           | 9,572                       |
| The National Lottery        | -                                  | 17,380                           | 17,380                      | 12,535                      |
| National Garden Scheme      | -                                  | 2,730                            | 2,730                       | -                           |
| UK SPF Fund                 | -                                  | 1,700                            | 1,700                       | -                           |
| Wellbeing Enterprises       | -                                  | -                                | -                           | 300                         |
| Masons                      | 150                                | -                                | 150                         | 600                         |
| Donations                   | 1,090                              | -                                | 1,090                       | 185                         |
|                             | <u>6,788</u>                       | <u>27,310</u>                    | <u>34,098</u>               | <u>37,641</u>               |

### 3 Trustee remuneration and expenses

|                   | £        | £        |
|-------------------|----------|----------|
| Total amount paid | <u>-</u> | <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.