



GROW LEWISHAM TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT 2024

1ST January 2024 to 31ST December 2024

Charity name: Grow Lewisham

Charity Registration Number: 1206030

1. Objectives and Activities

1.1 Summary of the purposes of the charity

- *To work towards all Lewisham residents and surrounding areas having access to regenerative urban growing spaces within their local areas.*
- *To support the local and wider community by providing the skills and resources they need to support themselves and those in need to grow and share their knowledge of growing practices.*
- *To provide fresh organic sustainable food to those most in need and who suffer from food poverty through linking up with community food providers e.g. food banks/ community kitchens.*
- *To develop and increase regenerative urban growing to mitigate the effects of climate change through local production, reduced food miles, soil regeneration and increased biodiversity.*
- *To work with partners to build a network that connects with existing food and growing groups to make a sustainable borough wide food system.*
- *To promote community cohesion and mutual aid within the borough of Lewisham.*

1.2 Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.

The main activities of Grow Lewisham during 2024 have been:

- Maintaining The Plot Community Garden
- Supporting the Herbal Plot and other community growing spaces
- Supporting and taking an active role in the Lewisham Food Growing Network
- Recruiting and supporting volunteers

- Campaigning for the 'Right to Grow' and to stop the use of herbicides / pesticides in Lewisham
- Fundraising
- Working with local partners and communities to promote local food growing
- Running free workshops and events thereby increasing skills and supporting further activities
- Becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with the Charity Commission and setting up required systems and policies, including improving our financial systems.
- Creating a new community orchard space
- Producing and delivering fresh produce to Lewisham Foodbanks

1.3 Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit

The Trustees have regarded the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

1.4 Additional information

Contribution made by volunteers:

Volunteers are involved across all of Grow Lewisham's activities from the individual growing sites to the Steering Group. Whilst we keep records of numbers of volunteers attending sessions and activities we don't at present record the numbers of hours monthly / annually that are contributed.

2. Achievements and Performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.

During 2024 Grow Lewisham achieved the following:

● **The Plot**

Holding workshops, regular gardening sessions and social events. Made links with Lewisham foodbank and grew and donated over 70kg of food crops. Connecting with local residents offering personal or communal growing space. We are increasing biodiversity with the renovated pond and are a partner of the London Blue Chain Project run by Froglife.

● **The Orchard**

We have started the preparations for the community orchard at the end of the Oldstead road allotment site. The plans were agreed. flood management and clearing took place and pathways agreed. Planting will take place in Autumn 25

● **The Herbal Plot**

The Herbal Plot involved residents and volunteers and has links with the sensory garden at Lewisham Hospital. It has extended further to incorporate an orchard area and more growing spaces around the carpark. Julian has completed a course with the Orchard Project, and has made further connections with local groups and organisations.

● **Bridgehouse Gardens**

Bridgehouse Gardens has grown into a forest garden, running regular gardening sessions for the local community. It has completed work on an outdoor classroom. BHG is working towards becoming independent of GL.

● **Staffing and Volunteers**

We employed two part time Lead Gardeners and a Project Manager with funding from the National Lottery - this extends until the end of 2025 giving us the opportunity to plan ahead. Based on the success and learning from this we are working on applications for further funding to increase the hours and duration of the posts. We were able to arrange and pay local practitioners to run free workshops over the sites. Workshops were attended by between 13 and 40 people per session.

● **Working with local people, groups, communities and organisations**

We have made links with the local community at the Plot, including The Queens Walking Group, local residents and the Oldstead Road Allotment Group, enabling us to consult on fruit trees and ideas for the Orchard. We are working with Lewisham Local on the Food Growing Network, linking different growing groups and organisations in the borough. We advised The National Trust on a community growing project at Sayes Court in Deptford, working with Lewisham Refugee and Migrant Network, and have worked with artists, including featuring in a high profile exhibition at the Hayward Gallery focused on the environmental and climate crisis.

● **Building a borough wide food growing network**

We have been working with Lewisham Local to build a borough wide food growing network, connecting different growing groups together to share events, workshops, resources and best practice. We help support the quarterly network meetings that take place at different locations across the borough.

● **Initiating and supporting campaigns**

We have been involved in initiating and supporting the Right to Grow in Lewisham - co-ordinating and sharing ideas with other London Boroughs and Capital Growth. We have started mapping the borough to find suitable places and are working with LL, the food network and Lewisham councillors to push this forward and increase accessibility to Food Growing in the borough. We are supporting a campaign to ban the use of glyphosates by Glendale / LBL.

● **Fundraising**

We successfully secured National Lottery funding to recruit paid workers - a Project Manager and 2 Lead Gardeners. We were funded to build a new shed, providing paid carpentry workshops free to volunteers. We also started work on the outdoor kitchen.

The activities of Grow Lewisham have benefited Lewisham residents in the following ways:

- Offering free accessible food and growing related activities, workshops and events
- Providing free healthy organic food to volunteers and visitors
- Increasing and sharing skills related to food
- Activating and improving public green spaces
- Working in partnership with other groups and organisations in order to maximise reach and benefit
- Providing volunteering opportunities
- Providing fresh produce to the most needy Lewisham residents.
- Providing paid work opportunities
- Providing activities and spaces that are welcoming and bring people together
- Bringing resources into the Borough through fundraising.

3. Financial Review

See separate report – to be added here for submission to the Charity Commission



Annual Financial Statements

31 December 2024

Charity number 1206030



CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name		No (if any)		CC16a
Receipts and payments accounts				
For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date	
	1/1/2024		31/12/2024	

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Groundwork London		5,000	-	5,000	15,000
Lewisham Local			-	-	4,820
Metropolitan Parks and Gardens Association			-	-	1,013
National Lottery		19,640	-	19,640	
Lewisham Homes			-	-	
Transition Network		4,992	-	4,992	
LB Lewisham			-	-	
Donations		300		300	54
The Merchant Taylo		1,770		1,770	
Kathleen Faragher	20			20	
Teggin J T	20		-	20	
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	40	31,702	-	31,742	20,887

A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
None in either year	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-

Total receipts	40	31,702	-	31,742	20,887
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A3 Payments

Project management (Bridgehouse Gardens and Growing Network)		600	-	600	13,810
Project management		1,722	-	1,722	
Building materials		9	-	9	4,645
Coordinator role		300	-	300	4,413
Events		296	-	296	3,698
Workshop delivery	115	2,158		2,273	3,621
Lead grower		1,275		1,275	2,475
Compost	50	293		343	641
Administrative	142	1,144		1,286	368
Seeds and plants		82		82	359
Insurance	359			359	303
Miscellaneous		-		-	83
Field trip	-	-		-	44
Fixed assets - bike		-	-	-	-
Rent		-	-	-	-
Fixed assets		-	-	-	-
Tools	35		-	35	-
Repairs		-	-	-	-
Transport		-	-	-	-
Garden sessions		300	-	300	-
Materials		401	-	401	-
Materials/refreshments		1,012	-	1,012	-
Refreshments	42	5	-	47	-
Workshop		1,323	-	1,323	-
Workshop materials	8		-	8	-
Workshop BHG		525	-	525	-
Workshops		552	-	552	-
Sub total	751	11,997	-	12,748	34,460

A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)

Grow Lewisham bike	-	-	-	-	
Herbal Plot infrastructure	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	751	11,997	-	12,748	34,460

Net of receipts/(payments)	- 711	19,705	-	18,994	- 13,573
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-

A6 Cash funds last year end	1,745	3,254	-	4,999	18,545
Cash funds this year end	1,034	22,959	-	23,993	4,972

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Grow Lewisham bank account	1,034	22,960	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	1,034	22,960	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	Agreement Error	OK
	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	None.	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets	None.		-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)

**B4 Assets retained
for the charity's own
use**

Grow Lewisham bike	Restricted	3,361	-
Herbal Plot infrastructure	Restricted	459	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B5 Liabilities

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
None.		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
K Shipp	Kathryb Shipp	4/4/2025
I Slater	Imogen Slater	4/4/25

Charity Name			No (if any)		CC16a
Receipts and payments accounts					
For the period from		Period start date	To	Period end date	
		1/1/2024		31/12/2024	

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £
A1 Receipts				
Groundwork London	5,000		-	5,000
Lewisham Local			-	-
Metropolitan Parks and Gardens Association			-	-
National Lottery		19,640	-	19,640
Lewisham Homes			-	-
Transition Network		4,992	-	4,992
LB Lewisham			-	-
Donations		300		300
The Merchant Taylo	1,770			1,770
Kathleen Faragher	20			20
Teg	20		-	20
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	6,810	24,932	-	31,742

A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).				
None in either year	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-

Total receipts	6,810	24,932	-	31,742
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A3 Payments				
Project management (Bridgehouse Gardens and Growing N		600	-	600
Project management		1,722	-	1,722
Building materials		9	-	9
Coordinator role		300	-	300
Events		296	-	296
Workshop delivery	115	2,158		2,273
Lead grower		1,275		1,275
Compost	50	293		343
Administrative	142	1,144		1,286

Seeds and plants		82		82
Insurance	359			359
Miscellaneous		-		-
Field trip	-	-		-
Fixed assets - bike		-	-	-
Rent		-	-	-
Fixed assets		-	-	-
Tools	35		-	35
Repairs		-	-	-
Transport		-	-	-
Garden sessions		300	-	300
Materials		401	-	401
Materials/refreshments		1,012	-	1,012
Refreshments	42	5	-	47
Workshop		1,323	-	1,323
Workshop materials	8		-	8
Workshop BHG		525	-	525
Workshops		552	-	552
Sub total	751	-	-	12,748

A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)				
Grow Lewisham bike	-	-	-	-
Herbal Plot infrastructure		-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-

Total payments	751	11,997	-	12,748
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Net of receipts/(payments)	6,059	12,935	-	18,994
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	1,745	3,254	-	4,999
Cash funds this year end	7,804	16,189	-	23,993

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the pe

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Grow Lewisham bank account	7,804	16,190
		-	-
		-	-
	Total cash funds	7,804	16,190
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	Agreement Error
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds

	Details	to nearest £	to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	None.	-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)
B3 Investment assets	None.		-
			-
			-
			-
			-
			-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Grow Lewisham bike	Restricted	3,361
	Herbal Plot infrastructure	Restricted	459
			-
			-
			-
			-
			-
			-
			-
			-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)
B5 Liabilities	None.		-
			-
			-
			-
			-
			-

Signed by one or two trustees	Signature		Print Name
on behalf of all the trustees			

The account for the year 2024 shows a positive financial outcome and a continuo grown in activity. / compared with £20,887 in the previous year 2023 it shows an increase of 52%.This raise suggest m £19,640 and the transition network £4,992.

Total expenditure decreased significantly from £34,460 to £12,748, reflecting lower project and mate were completed in the previous period.

As a result, the Organization achieved a net surplus of £18,994, healthy result and improved reserve The year end cash balance increased from £4,999 to £23,993, showing improved liquidity and good tricted funds for specific project, and £7,804 represents unrestricted funds available for general use.

Grow Lewisham Charity holds no liabilities at the end of the financial year, and all income and expenses are accurate.

Overall, the figures indicate a healthy financial position with good prospects for continuing operations:

Last year
to the nearest £

15,000
4,820
1,013
54
20,887

-
-
-

20,887

13,810
4,645
4,413
3,698
3,621
2,475
641
368

[illegible]

34,460

-13,573
-
18,545
4,972

riod

Endowment funds
to nearest £

	-
	-
	-
	-
OK	

OK

Endowment funds

to nearest £

-
-
-
-
-
-

Current value
(optional)

-
-
-
-
-

Current value
(optional)

-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-

When due
(optional)

Date of
approval

	9/1/2025
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As the table above shows Gross income of £31,742,
mainly due to the income received from National Lottery

material costs during the year as several major projects

MS.

financial management of this, £16,189 relates to res-

iditure have been checked against underlying record

S.