

THE HARDY PLANT SOCIETY

England & Wales · Charity number 208080

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 1964-04-07

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Basepoint Business Centre
Crab Apple Way
Vale Park
Evesham
WR11 1GP

Phone 01386 710317

Email admin@hardy-plant.org.uk

Website <http://www.hardy-plant.org.uk>

Activities

Objects: TO ADVANCE THE CULTURE, STUDY AND IMPROVEMENT OF HARDY HERBACEOUS PLANTS OTHER THAN ROCK GARDEN PLANTS.

Activities: The advancement of the culture, study and improvement of hardy herbaceous plants; the preservation of older rarer and lesser known hardy plants; to advance knowledge of hardy plants; to organise visits to places of interest in connection with the study of hardy plants.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research
- **What:** Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** WORLDWIDE
- Scotland
- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£139,773	£204,230	-	-
2023-12-31	£120,516	£199,408	-	-
2022-12-31	£112,127	£127,623	-	-
2021-12-31	£110,240	£100,294	-	-
2020-12-31	£115,354	£106,309	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Steven David Bustin	Chair	2024-09-07
Andrew Philip Raymond Degg		2026-05-08
Ann Franks		2024-09-07
Carolyn White		2025-09-13
David Reginald Peter Gorman		2024-09-07
James Michael Miller		2024-09-07
Janice Vaughan		2024-09-07
Maliya Ann Price		2024-09-07
Martin David Leigh		2024-09-07
Nicholas Hales		2023-05-16
Robert Mark Swallow		2026-01-20
Samantha Jane Cook		2025-09-13

THE HARDY PLANT SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 208080

Accounts



TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

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CHARITY INFORMATION

Trustees	Heather Farquhar	
	Graham Farquhar	
	Tom Fenton	From 7 September
	Ann Franks	From 7 September
	David Gorman	From 7 September
	Lynne Hackett	Until 7 September
	Nicholas Hales	
	Martin Leigh	From 7 September
	James Lennox	From 7 September
	James Miller	From 7 September
	Tricia Newton	Until 7 September
	Keith Scott	Until 7 September
	Jan Vaughan	From 7 September
	Saul Walker	
Chairman	Pamela Clark	Until 7 September
	Steve Bustin	From 7 September
Vice Chairman	Mike Millington	From 7 September
Hon. Treasurer	Stuart Senior	
Hon. Secretary	Helen Curtis	Until 7 September
	Maliya Price	From 7 September
Hon. Secretary (Trustees)	Linda Hall	Until 7 September
Office Manager	Clare Powell	
Charity Registration No.		208080
VAT Registration No.		472-9285-14
Registered Office	Basepoint Business Centre, Crab Apple Way, EVESHAM, WR11 1GP	
Independent Examiner	Cooper Parry Sky View, Argosy Road, East Midlands Airport, Castle Donington, Derby, DE74 2SA	

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

The Trustees present their Annual Report and the Financial Statements of the Society for the year ended 31 December 2024 in compliance with current statutory requirements and the charity's governing documents.

Status

The Society is registered by the Charity Commission as a charity (number 208080) and operates under the provisions of a constitution approved by AGM on 26/03/2011 and amended at AGMs on 30/03/2019 and 31/07/2020.

The objects for which the Society was established are to:

- advance the culture, study and improvement of hardy herbaceous plants;
- preserve the older, rarer and lesser-known hardy plants, cultivars and varieties from being forgotten and lost to cultivation;
- advance the knowledge of and foster public interest in hardy plants by the publication of information, by exhibitions or displays, by stimulating research and experiment and by awarding bursaries open to public competition;
- provide expositions of hardy plants at horticultural gardens and/or gardens open to the public, and to provide facilities for giving advice on the culture of hardy plants;
- organise visits to places of interest in connection with the study of hardy plants and to co-operate with other bodies having similar or sympathetic aims; and
- do such acts as shall further the active and corporate life of the Society and which may lawfully be done by a public body established only for purposes recognised by the laws of the United Kingdom as charitable.

Trustees

The Society is managed by a committee of Trustees comprising up to twelve members each elected for a period of four years, plus any co-opted members and, additionally, four officers who are elected annually.

Activities

Introduction

At the end of 2024 The Hardy Plant Society is in a strong position with a renewed sense of purpose and energy (helped by an influx of new Trustees and Officers) to address some of the organisational and strategic challenges we need to address to ensure the society is fit for the future.

The new website has, after a few inevitable teething problems, been well received by members and helped streamline a lot of membership processes. We are about to make major steps forward in progressing towards CIO status, much needed to give legal and financial protections. These major projects have taken up a lot of time and resources but help to give us a solid base on which to grow.

Attention is now being paid to establishing and communicating the wide range of member benefits already offered by the national part of the organisation and developing new ones to enhance the member experience further. We are particularly focusing on member

communications and have established a new monthly email newsletter which is well read by members and is generating responses to a range of calls for action and help.

The Board are already starting to look ahead to what the Hardy Plant Society will look like in three, five or even ten years' time, to ensure we have the resources and strategy in place to enable us to serve our charitable objectives and our members – and the members of the future.

The Office and Administration

The Office, efficiently managed by Clare Powell, maintains strong relationships with Trustees, postholders, and members. While annual renewals were completed smoothly, some initial challenges with the new technology were encountered. Address data for the Seed Exchange and leaflet mailings is well-managed, with timely deliveries. Data management is under review for GDPR compliance and office procedures are being reviewed to ensure adherence to information security. The introduction of rolling memberships is positively impacting membership numbers. The office move being managed by Clare will produce considerable on-going savings to the Society.

The Hardy Plant (*THP*) Journal

Contributions to the Journal in 2024 were better than hoped for, with a good range of articles from well known, and less well known, authors. It's also a nice bonus to receive good, high resolution images. As ever, the main effort has been to provide interesting, readable articles with visual appeal. We went over our nominal 84 pages in the last issue (96 pages).

Since last year we have tweaked the look of the article title pages a little bit, and we've also abandoned the use of 'fig. no xx' in the main body of the articles. This makes it a bit more challenging in terms of image placement and captioning, but it's worth it. There has been talk of coordinating and unifying the look of all HPS publications, and this would be a positive step.

Again, no recognition for THP in the GMG Publication of the Year competition last year – we'll keep plugging away regardless. We are enjoying the renewed energy from our new trustees, including Alan Lennox who has been extremely helpful to the Journal.

Souren, our editor, has notified the Chairman that the spring 2025 issue will be his last, though he is happy to collaborate with the next editor on the autumn issue. He continues to get incredible support and service from our proof-reader, our fact-checker and our typesetter.

Newsletter (Seedlings)

In 2024, newsletter editor Mick Dunstan stepped down after 5 years at the helm and was superseded by Sarah Probert. The newsletter, which is published three times each year, has also changed its name to Seedlings and recruited a new designer. Maria Gonzales from Magrox Design has worked with the HPS previously on initial logo rebranding projects.

The new look Seedlings includes an easier-to-read layout and the introduction of QR codes to redirect members to the HPS website. It is now also working closely with Image Librarian, Alan Lennox, to increase the use of our own images rather than defaulting to stock images.

Production has mostly been to schedule, with February's edition reaching members slightly later than planned due to delays with the printing company. Feedback for the new design has been extremely positive, including a congratulatory email to the new editor from President Roy Lancaster.

Publications

There are currently nine titles in the HPS book publishing programme, with a new edition of the successful *Geraniums* title by Margaret Stone appearing at the end of 2024. This publication marked the end of Jan Craig's 7-year tenure as the Publications postholder and we would like to thank her for all her hard work, which included bringing out several new editions of existing titles and two completely new books (*Hardy Garden Chrysanthemums* and *Galanthus*). Carolyn White has now joined as Publications postholder and her first task is to undertake a detailed review of the publishing programme for the Board.

Social Media

The Hardy Plant Society's social media strategy is designed to keep existing members informed while attracting new enthusiasts to the world of hardy perennials. By sharing a dynamic mix of educational posts, member success stories, and visually compelling plant photography, we inspire engagement and foster a sense of community. Regular updates on events, workshops, and publications ensure members remain connected and well-informed, while collaborations with horticultural experts and influencers help broaden our reach. Our social media postholder, Marina Lindl, collaborates with trustees, members, and ambassadors to enhance our online presence, ensuring that our content reflects the Society's values and appeals to a wide audience. Through a consistent, professional, and engaging approach, we highlight the beauty and resilience of hardy plants, encouraging more people to join and benefit from the Society's wealth of knowledge and expertise.

Operational Support

During 2024 the Society made full use of online tools to support and promote the Society. These tools have enabled two-way communication between the members and the team which runs the Society. In prior years much of this support activity was undertaken by un-paid postholders but such is the complexity of current web and on-line payment platforms that external professional support is now required. Examples of activities and developments in 2024 have included:

- Monitoring and maintenance of the website
- Member announcements and monthly emails with videos
- A new AGM page with online booking
- A new Seed Distribution Scheme page with online payments
- The Garden Survey
- The CIO project
- The Awards Scheme

Group Liaison

The annual meeting for Group representatives was held in October and attended by about half of the Local and Special Interest Groups who were joined by the new HPS Chair, Vice-Chair and Hon. Sec. with special guest, Vice President, Val Bourne.

The general theme of the day was communication; reaching out to potential new members by promoting the Society's many activities and membership benefits whilst improving communication within the Society to ensure that current members feel connected to the wider HPS community.

This in-person meeting always provokes lively discussion and exchange of ideas and one of the topics concerned the difficulty of encouraging volunteers to take on committee roles in the groups, although most Groups have a steady membership.

Seed Distribution

This year saw a modest decline in the number of donors, types of seed and orders. Plans are being drawn up to raise the profile of the scheme in 2025. On a positive note, the motivation and enthusiasm of the scheme's volunteers, drawn from the Kent, Southern Counties, Lincolnshire, Norfolk & Suffolk and Shropshire groups, remain strong. Because of increasing costs (in particular packaging and postage) the administration charge for the 2025 distribution has been raised to £12 (there is no charge for the seed itself).

Conservation

Our annual meeting for 2024 was held in a new venue, with a slightly changed format. As National Co-ordinator, Sally Adams, tries to move these meetings around the country so that participants from all over the UK are able to attend. The new venue and half-day format seemed to work well for people.

Three new plants were added to the scheme at the meeting, two of which were pulmonarias. We are beginning a new collaboration with the HPS Pulmonaria Group to look at older and rarer pulmonarias to bulk up and make available to more gardeners. The initial plants were donated by the National Collection Holder, and it is hoped that more may be sourced in the future.

In addition to reviewing the plants on the active list, we began reviewing plants that have been previously listed as 'Successes'. It was hoped that most of these would still be readily available but given that plants go in and out of fashion, it was felt this was an urgent task to be sure good plants are not lost again. A few plants were found to be dropping in supply. The next task for the group is to source these and begin growing them again to increase availability. It is quite possible that HPS members who formally participated in the scheme will still have them in their gardens.

After the annual exchange meeting, work began on a review of the Conservation Scheme section of the HPS website. With two volunteers from the Scheme participants, we proposed several changes and additions which had been suggested by members. The aim was to refresh the pages and bring information up to date. We wanted to keep graphics and presentation in line with other pages on website, as well as make the Conservation Section easier to find. This work is ongoing, but good progress has been made.

Shows & Events

The Shows and Events team are continuing to support the local and national group to have a presence within the horticultural world at third-party and home-grown flower shows, plant fairs and major events. In 2024 we represented the society at the Garden press event in London, along with the Chair and Publicity post-holder, to promote the society and its brand update, something that was found to be very positive in terms of outreach to the wider horticultural media world and will be repeated in 2025. The ALD/AGM was held in Lincolnshire by the local group there and was successfully ran on a smaller budget than usual which was great insight into what can be achieved with a smaller outlay. In 2025 we will be in Derbyshire for what will be a great event. In 2025 we are also looking forward to the West Yorkshire group's Magic of Plants and their appearance at the Spring Harrogate Flower Show. The team also continue to emphasise the importance of both national and local events being organised with a central

calendar, curated centrally, to prevent clashes and allowing members to attend the maximum number events throughout the calendar year.

Unfortunately, a continuing trend is for groups to find it harder to stage a large presence at some of our marquee horticultural events at the country such as the RHS Flower Shows. This can be put down mostly to financial and/or lack of volunteers, so the Shows and Events team, working with the National Society board, are continuing to look at ways that we can continue to keep the HPS name and brand visible on a national level, and hope to find a sustainable way of attending future national events.

The Kenneth Black Bursary Scheme (KBBS)

In 2024 the KBBS made 33 awards of between £100 and £1000. The total awarded was £22,398 which was down on £28,458 in 2023 (this figure probably reflected a post-Covid surge). The pre-Covid 2019 figure was £22,318 and at the height of the pandemic in 2021 only £4,750 was awarded. The value of the fund currently stands at £153,290 so applications are welcomed.

Many of the recipients are students in formal education, others are at the early stages of their careers in horticulture, and a few are well established in their careers. Support has been provided for botanical study trips, short courses and symposiums, qualification course fees, and for the building show gardens.

Late in 2024 Judy Hallett, the KBBS Coordinator, and Ann Franks and James Miller discussed ways to increase awareness of the scheme. So far, the WRAG Scheme (Work and Retrain as a Gardener Scheme) and Perennial (helping people in horticulture) have agreed to include articles about the scheme in their publications.

Bursary recipients are required to submit a report on their project, and these are uploaded to the website: they make very rewarding reading. However, some reports have been extremely long with large numbers of photographs. The report guidance information sent out to applicants has been changed to encourage more concise accounts from recipients.

Dropbox

Dropbox use has continued, but plans are being developed for a possible move into the HPS OneDrive account. Tests have been carried out with our software support provider, MTech, and it appears that no costs would be involved. A test area has been created, and a draft document is in preparation for consideration by Trustees. If the prospective move goes ahead the Dropbox payment will not be required in 2026

Governance

In 2024, the Society continued with its aim to move its Charitable status to being a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO). The membership were invited via a consultation process to comment and share their views. This work is still ongoing, and an EGM will be called in the 1st quarter of 2025 to confirm the decision.

Also, as part of the governance review a complete risk analysis of all facets impacting the society will be undertaken and a unique risk register will be created for the Board.

Finance

Financial outcome 2024

Overall, the Society posted a deficit of £32,721 within which £22,698 was attributable to Bursary Scheme awards. As signalled in the 2023 report, over the past few years, we have been gradually eating into our reserves and in 2024 our investment with St. James's Place was liquidated to fund payments. Trustees have agreed increases to annual subscriptions which will be put to members at the 2025 AGM.

In prior years the membership year has been the calendar year with the membership of anyone joining the Society in October to December being valid for the following calendar year.

Historically, in the accounts, the October to December subscriptions were therefore carried forward to the following year. Now that we have introduced annual rolling membership, subscriptions will henceforth be shown in the accounts in the year in which they are paid. As a result, the 2024 subscription figures include the October to December 2024 payments which in prior years would have been carried forward to 2025.

Investment policy

The Society's approach to financial matters, and investments in particular, is one of extreme prudence given the current (and likely future) volatility of equity markets, the very modest interest rates on deposit accounts and low returns on bonds. For this reason, the Society chooses to keep approximately half of its funds as cash (in current and deposit accounts). The remainder is in fixed interest bonds and equities.

Reserves policy

The Trustees have decided that it should set a level of reserves to cover unforeseeable expenditure such as might be incurred in the very unlikely event of the Society closing down or membership declining very rapidly, or an uninsured claim being made against the Society. A level of £100,000 has been set.

Future Plans

The Society's priorities for the year ahead are to:

- continue to offer members a high quality and value-for-money range of products and services;
- encourage and support local groups in their promotion of the Society through their programme of shows and events, for the benefit of local members;
- seek ways of encouraging potential applicants for bursaries and similar grants.

Trustees' Responsibilities

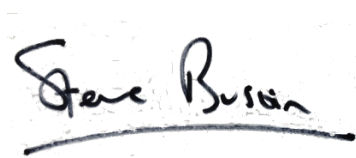
Under charity law the Trustees are required to prepare financial statements for each year which show a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities FRS102 SORP;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity. The Trustees are also required to act in accordance with the Constitution of the Society and to take such steps as are reasonable to safeguard the assets of the Society and to prevent and to detect fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in planning future activities.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Steve Bustin", with a horizontal line drawn underneath it.

Steve Bustin, Chair

20th May 2025

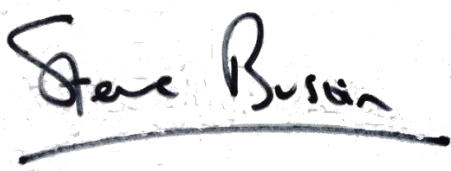
Statement of Financial Activities

				2024	2023
	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Total Funds £	Total Funds £
INCOME					
Income from generated funds:					
- Voluntary income	2	110,950	-	110,950	91,523
- Activities for generating funds	3	5,293	-	5,293	5,451
Income from charitable activities	4	12,683	-	12,683	13,447
Investment income		7,219	3,628	10,847	10,095
TOTAL		136,145	3,628	139,773	120,516
EXPENDITURE					
Costs of generating voluntary income	5	77,433	-	62,416	61,253
Charitable activities	6	69,541	-	69,541	70,969
Governance costs	7	3,722	-	3,722	4,097
Other resources expended	8	30,837	-	45,854	34,531
Bursaries etc.	9	-	22,698	22,698	28,558
TOTAL		181,532	22,698	204,230	199,408
Net Gain on investment		12,667	6,366	19,033	28,379
Net Income for the year		(32,721)	(12,704)	(45,424)	(50,513)
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(32,721)	(12,704)	(45,424)	(50,513)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Funds B/F at 1 January 2023		330,276	165,995	496,271	546,784
TOTAL FUNDS C/F at 31 December 2023		297,555	153,291	450,847	496,271

Balance Sheet

		2024	2023
Fixed assets	Note 11	1,527	1,158
Current assets			
Bank balances		207,594	191,757
Investments at cost	12	230,361	314,147
Debtors & prepayments	13	12,469	9,699
Stock (booklets)		<u>9,385</u>	<u>8,364</u>
		459,809	523,967
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year			
	14	<u>(10,489)</u>	<u>(28,854)</u>
Net current assets		449,320	495,113
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>450,847</u>	<u>496,271</u>
Financed by:			
General fund	15	297,557	330,277
Bursary fund	15	153,290	165,994
		<u>450,847</u>	<u>496,271</u>

The accounts were approved by the Trustees on 20th May 2025.



Steve Bustin
Chairman



Stuart Senior
Treasurer

The notes on pages 12 to 16 form part of these financial statements.

Notes to the Accounts

1 Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of preparation:

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) FRS102.

The accounts have been prepared on an accruals basis as they have been in previous years.

1.2 Incoming resources

Subscriptions are accounted for net of VAT and are accounted for in the year to which they relate.

Donations are accounted for gross when received.

Investment income is based on the interest receivable for the year.

Sundry sales are accounted for net of VAT and are recognised when they are invoiced.

Advertising income is accounted for net of VAT and is recognised when invoiced.

1.3 Resources expended

Costs are allocated between costs of generating funds and charitable expenditure according to the nature of the cost.

1.4 Fixed Assets and depreciation

Fixed assets for charity use are capitalised at cost, they are stated in the accounts at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is calculated to write off the cost of the fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on an individual basis.

Office equipment:	25% Reducing balance
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Computer equipment:	3 years straight line
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1.5 Investments

Investments are included in the accounts at their market value.

1.6 Stock

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

	2024	2023
	£	£
	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds
2 Voluntary income		
Subscriptions	95,079	79,342
Donations	2,136	1,586
Gift Aid	13,735	10,595
	<u>110,950</u>	<u>91,523</u>
3 Activities for generating funds		
Advertising	3,225	3,480
Booklets	2,068	1,971
	<u>5,293</u>	<u>5,451</u>
4 Incoming resources from charitable activities		
Seed distribution	5,260	4,802
Cornucopia	2,621	3,867
Enamel badges	25	70
AGM/ALD	4,777	4,708
	<u>12,683</u>	<u>13,447</u>
5 Costs of generating voluntary income		
Administration services	27,618	25,193
Operational support	15,017	-
Bookkeeping	4,919	4,385
Legal & professional	409	384
Office rent, heat & light	11,715	10,128
Printing, postage & telephone	2,607	5,347
Insurance	3,688	4,183
Publicity	5,308	1,120
Equipment rental/leasing	245	0
Depreciation of equipment	290	198
Bank charges	2,023	1,767
Software & IT support	3,595	8,548
	<u>77,433</u>	<u>61,253</u>

The average number of employees during the year was 1.

There are no employees who received total employee benefits of more than £60,000.

	2024	2023
6 Charitable activities		
Journal costs	25,000	24,578
Newsletter costs	12,886	13,673
Cornucopia costs	2,999	2,734
Booklet costs	1,920	1,328
Seed distribution expenses	8,649	8,891
AGM/ALD expenses	4,992	10,294
Conservation	1,407	1,510
Group support	4,023	4,165
Shows & Events	504	648
Website	7,161	3,148
	<u>69,541</u>	<u>70,969</u>
7 Governance costs		
Trustees' meetings	1,969	1,785
Chair's expenses	753	1,347
Independent examination	1,000	965
	<u>3,722</u>	<u>4,097</u>
Other resources expended -		
8 unrestricted		
CIO project	15,207	-
Communications Strategy	15,017	34,426
Sundry expenses	613	105
	<u>30,837</u>	<u>34,531</u>
Other resources expended -		
9 designated		
Bursaries awarded	22,398	28,458
Photo competition prizes	300	300
	<u>22,698</u>	<u>28,758</u>
10 Trustees		
None of the Trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration during the year but eight of them were reimbursed a total of £1,362 for travelling expenses (2023 £1,265).		

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Office Equipment	Computers	Total
Cost b/f	8,282	11,964	20,246
Additions	659	0	659
Cost c/f	<u>8,941</u>	<u>11,964</u>	<u>20,905</u>
Depreciation b/f	7,124	11,964	19,088
Charge for the year	290	0	290
Depreciation c/f	<u>7,414</u>	<u>11,964</u>	<u>19,378</u>
Net book value 31.12.24	<u>1,527</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,527</u>
Net book value 31.12.23	<u>1,158</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,158</u>

12 Investments

		2024	2023
Skipton Building Society	1 yr bond	75,641	71,868
St James Place	Equities	0	95,791
CCLA COIF Charities Global Equity Income Fund		154,720	128,676
		<u>230,361</u>	<u>314,147</u>

Investment income during the year was made up of:

Interest (unrestricted, general)	7,219
Interest (unrestricted, designated)	<u>3,628</u>
	<u>10,847</u>

13 Debtors

	2024	2023
Prepayments and accrued income	8,495	8,977
Other debtors	3,974	722
	<u>12,469</u>	<u>9,699</u>

14 Creditors

	2024	2023
VAT	(984)	(387)
Trade creditors	1,706	2,282
Other creditors	2,123	1,725
Seed (& subs in 2023) in advance	7,498	25,234
	<u>10,342</u>	<u>28,854</u>

15	Reserves	01.01.24 B/F	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Gains	31.12.24 C/F
	Fund Movements					
	Unrestricted general	330,277	136,145	181,532	12,667	297,556
	Unrestricted designated	165,994	3,628	22,698	6,366	153,290
		<u>496,271</u>	<u>139,773</u>	<u>199,408</u>	<u>19,033</u>	<u>450,847</u>

The unrestricted designated fund relates to the Society's Bursary and Project Support Fund. This fund arose as a generous legacy from the estate of Mr Kenneth Black who was a gardener with Enfield Council in North London.

The trustees decided that this fund should not be used for the administration of the Society but that it should be invested and the interest used to support special projects. There are two types of Bursary: one for college or university students and one for people in horticultural employment.

Funding may be awarded to projects of any sort which fit within the charitable objects of the Society and may be made to individuals or groups. More information is available on the Society's web site <http://www.hardy-plant.org.uk/> and applications are made via the Bursary co-ordinator.

Reserves are represented by:	Unrestricted General	Unrestricted Designated	Total
Fixed assets	1,527	-	1,527
Current assets	306,519	153,290	459,809
Current liabilities	<u>(10,489)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(10,489)</u>
	<u>297,557</u>	<u>153,290</u>	<u>450,847</u>

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Hardy Plant Society

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024 which are set out on pages 10 to 16.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

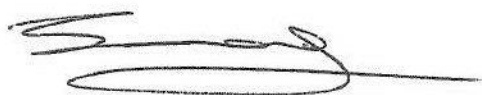
Basis of independent examiner's report

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 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Acthave 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.



James Howard FCCA ACA
Cooper Parry
Sky View, Argosy Road,
East Midlands Airport,
Castle Donington,
Derby,
DE74 2SA

01 May 2025

Accounts



TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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CHARITY INFORMATION

Trustees	Sally Adams	Until 9 September
	Jaime Blake	From 9 September
	Lynne Hackett	
	Nicholas Hales	From 16 May
	Tricia Newton	Until 9 September
	Heather Farquhar	
	Graham Farquhar	
	Keith Scott	
	Saul Walker	
	Pamela Clark	
Chairman		
Vice Chairman	Vacancy	
Hon. Treasurer	Stuart Senior	
Hon. Secretary	Helen Curtis	
Hon. Secretary	Linda Hall	
(Trustees)		
Office Manager	Clare Powell	

Charity Registration No.	208080
VAT Registration No.	472-9285-14

Registered Office	3 Basepoint Business Centre, Crab Apple Way, EVESHAM, WR11 1GP
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Independent Examiner	Cooper Parry Saggar House, Princes Drive, WORCESTER, WR1 2PG
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TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The Trustees present their Annual Report and the Financial Statements of the Society for the year ended 31 December 2023 in compliance with current statutory requirements and the charity's governing documents.

Status

The Society is registered by the Charity Commission as a charity (number 208080) and operates under the provisions of a constitution approved by AGM on 26/03/2011 and amended at AGMs on 30/03/2019 and 31/07/2020.

The objects for which the Society was established are to:

- advance the culture, study and improvement of hardy herbaceous plants;
- preserve the older, rarer and lesser-known hardy plants, cultivars and varieties from being forgotten and lost to cultivation;
- advance the knowledge of and foster public interest in hardy plants by the publication of information, by exhibitions or displays, by stimulating research and experiment and by awarding bursaries open to public competition;
- provide expositions of hardy plants at horticultural gardens and/or gardens open to the public, and to provide facilities for giving advice on the culture of hardy plants;
- organise visits to places of interest in connection with the study of hardy plants and to co-operate with other bodies having similar or sympathetic aims; and
- do such acts as shall further the active and corporate life of the Society and which may lawfully be done by a public body established only for purposes recognised by the laws of the United Kingdom as charitable.

Trustees

The Society is managed by a committee of Trustees comprising up to twelve members each elected for a period of four years, plus any co-opted members and, additionally, four officers who are elected annually.

Activities

Introduction

2023 was a year of change and development for The Hardy Plant Society (HPS).

Moving on from what, initially, seemed a straightforward website development mentioned in last year's Annual Report, opportunities presented themselves to consider many of the traditional activities of the Society without losing sight of its charitable objects, which underpin all its activities.

The Society continued to take advantage of new and improved technologies to maintain contact with members: local and special interest groups increased and improved contact through the use of email and the national Society used this method to communicate directly with members and provide news and other membership information. The result of direct member contact has enhanced the membership value for those members (over 50% of the current membership) who do not belong to either a local or special interest group.

The Office and Administration

The Office continues to be managed with great efficiency by Clare Powell, who maintains an excellent relationship with Trustees, postholders and members. Temporary help during the busy period of processing renewals and receiving seed orders was arranged, however, as the Society moves towards a new automated renewal process, 2023 will be the last year that renewals will be dealt with in the current way.

There was improved analysis of membership statistics; a monthly report is routinely sent to Officers and reported to Trustees; the membership numbers have remained stable.

Publications

The Society's three print publications and its range of booklets on specific plants are critical in sharing information about its activities, advancing knowledge on plants, and providing a way of connecting members to the Society, irrespective of their plant or gardening knowledge, their physical location, and ability to or interest in participating in group activities.

The Hardy Plant (*THP*) Journal

Looking back over last year, it feels as though much has been accomplished. We have had important contributions from high profile professionals (Rosy Hardy, York Gate), garden media (Jean Vernon on pollinators, Selwa Calderbank on coffee), our own superstars and stalwarts (Val Bourne, Judy Harry, Roy Lancaster, Ruth Baumberg, Kevin Line), and some real experts who are new or returning contributors (Mike Holcombe, Gill Heavens). For Souren, the epitome of an ideal article for *THP* was a contribution from our new Trustee Jaime Blake: relevant, real and most readable.

There have been a couple of bumps along the road: (1) some of the colours in some of the images came out a little bit lurid, and (2) our slightly formal style of numbering figures has come in for criticism. The team are addressing these.

The Society entered the GMG *Publication of the Year* competition again – again we were completely overlooked but, as in *Shawshank Redemption*, we will persist.

It is never clear whether we will have enough material for the next issue, and scouting around for future writing is a task that never ends. Souren Ala (*THP* editor) notes that the Office is now able to send emails directly to our members - perhaps such a direct appeal, suitably worded, would bring in some useful contributions?

In Spring, 2024, we will have Matthias Dejaegher's last(?) photo competition, and Souren is so grateful to him for the solid support *THP* has received from the HPS Image Library over the last five years.

The *THP*'s team of editor, proof-reader, fact-checker and typesetter is intact so far – also something to be very grateful for.

Newsletter

One of the main focuses of the Society's three-times-a-year newsletter in 2023 has been the communications strategy review. Coverage has been given to all aspects of that project, including the new website, the visual design, the switch from cheques and paper forms and the online presence of special interest local groups.

Production throughout the year has proceeded on schedule - and members continue to compliment the publication in emails to the editor. Competitions have continued to feature too - with £700 worth of prizes being on offer across the year, thanks to the generosity of Farmer

Gracy online nursery, Whichford Pottery in Warwickshire and Ashworth Nurseries in the West Midlands.

Booklets

Sales of booklets have been variable this year. Our newest booklet, *Galanthus*, has sold 98 copies in the year since it was published which is pleasing. Other popular titles have been *Geraniums*, *Ferns* and *Hardy Garden Chrysanthemums* and we are looking at reprinting these as stocks are now low.

Sales of some of the other titles have been less good which is a disappointing as they are interesting and informative. One or two, such as the excellent *Penstemons*, are beginning to look a little dated and will need an update before long.

Ordering booklets is now easy via the website and we hope this will boost sales.

Group Liaison

In October we held the annual Group Secretaries meeting at Solihull. It was a productive day with all attending group representatives making good contributions. There was a session about the new website which stimulated much debate. The question of funding speakers was a lively session with groups sharing information about how they raised their funds. A serious concern is the cost of travel for speakers which is making it more difficult to fund quality speakers who need to travel.

It is good to know that most groups are, post-pandemic, getting back to face-to-face meetings.

The new method for checking membership by membership secretaries is proving very beneficial, especially following one-to-one conversations with our Office Manager.

Seed Distribution

There was a slight increase in types of seed donated, 1702 as opposed to 1675 the season before. There were 321 new types of seed an increase of 34 from the previous year. The number of orders was reduced to 1041, around 21% of the total number of members.

Costs for courier prices, fuel (volunteer expenses) and consumables, increase year upon year. The price of the seed remains the same, which is a good selling point, but seed distribution runs at a loss. Therefore, it would be advisable for the Trustees to review the viability of the scheme in 2024.

Conservation

Through the work of the Conservation Group the Society works to advance the culture, study, and improvement of hardy herbaceous plants and to preserve older, rarer, and lesser-known hardy plant cultivars.

The Annual Exchange meeting in September was well attended, with numbers up slightly from last year. This is always a good chance for participants to discuss the plants in the scheme, ask questions and compare notes as to what works and what doesn't. It was clear that although many plants were brought to the meeting for exchange, some highly desirable ones were missing. It was agreed to have a focus on propagation in 2024, with the aim of bulking up the rarer species.

Three new plants were added to the scheme, and one archived plant brought back to bulk up numbers again. An informal review last year of past successful plants showed that some of these were no longer readily available. We will continue to review our past successes this year to determine if other plants need to be reinstated in the scheme to increase their availability again.

Image Library

The Society has increased its reputation and work in becoming a knowledge hub for plants through the development of its library of plant images, plant seeds, and plant information, such information gleaned from material provided by members submitting photographs, by writing articles on specific plants, and by contributions to the annual Seed Distribution Scheme. Through a major co-operation with The Royal Horticultural Society, HPS has a licence to access the former's information bank: this has particular importance in ensuring that the plant nomenclature used in the website is up-to-date and accurate. It is intended that, in the course of 2024, a project will be undertaken by Society members, who are expert horticulturalists, to review the current naming protocols used by the Society.

Shows & Events

For many members of the public their first experience of HPS is at the local level. This may be by attending a talk by a distinguished gardener or by coming across the Society at the many horticultural shows where groups have created floral displays. Visitors to such shows can get advice on plants and how to grow them, particularly relevant as the group creating the display is growing plants in the same conditions as the show visitors.

Having taken over as postholders, Saul Walker and Helen Brown have started to assess our Shows and Events output within the main Society. Both the logistical and financial outlay required to have major show representation can be quite restrictive for local groups, so it is hoped in 2024 to establish a more centralised organisation for attending some of the higher profile shows to increase the profile of the HPS. Local groups continue to organise or involve themselves in their local area using events as fund raisers and recruitment opportunities for both the National and Local groups, and support will continue for these on a case-by-case basis.

The Society was represented at both the RHS Malvern Spring show by the National Group and Harrogate Flower Show by the West Yorkshire, obtaining a Silver and Premier Gold respectively for their wonderful floral displays. We also had a wonderful, a well-attended Annual Lecture Day, expertly implemented by the Western Counties group, with keynote talks by John Grimshaw, Bob Brown and Steven Edney.'

The Kenneth Black Bursary Scheme

The provision of bursaries through the Kenneth Black Bursary Scheme has enabled the Society to support the work and education of, particularly, younger and newer entrants to plants and gardens. Many of the recipients are students in formal horticultural education but, increasingly, the Society has sought to provide support to those who may be in the early stages of their working life or who are undertaking a career change. Support is provided for travel to study plants in their natural habitats, for those working or volunteering in community garden projects, and for those undertaking courses of study to improve their horticultural knowledge or obtain formal qualifications.

The Scheme has returned to a pre-Covid number of applications, there being 41 made this year, two of which were declined due to them not fulfilling the criteria required. A total of £28,458 has been awarded.

Changes made this year:

- bursaries of between £100 and £1,000 are now offered;
- there is only one all-purpose application form;
- the information on the website and in the leaflet is more succinct and has been updated.

Publicity and PR activity

We continue to underpin the Hardy Plant Society's charitable objects through the communication work of the Society. During 2023 this has included working with the Shows and Events team to promote the HPS stand at the Malvern Show. We continue to build our links with the Media through press releases and responding to requests for information. The Hardy Plant Society has joined the Garden Media Guild, and our Chair attended The GMG Awards Lunch, this activity helps us to raise our profile with publishers, producers, and writers.

The HPS we will have a stand at the National Press Event in February 2024 to promote our new web page and our refreshed message. This will raise awareness of the wide range of work undertaken by the society and enable that knowledge to be shared by others.

Currently we are working on The HPS Social Media Policy in line with the Charity Commissions guidance and to reflect our increased activity on a wider range of social media platforms.

HPS Archive

The HPS archive continues to grow within the Dropbox online storage facility.

It has two principal functions:

- to provide a record store for the activities of the HPS, thus providing continuity for Officers and postholders of the Society. Important documents would otherwise be lost in an age where most items are held locally in electronic format.
- to retain an historical record of the people and activities of the Society. Since many of these people have played a significant role in horticulture since the mid-twentieth century, the records are of interest to those inside and outside the HPS who are researching such topics.

Governance

Lastly, in 2023, the Society began a review of its governance and operations. One outcome, that will continue in 2024, is the potential for the Society to become a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO). The Society is working in conjunction with the law firm, Birketts LLP, who are providing invaluable support and advice in this process. The proposal to change the status of the Society to CIO will be laid before the membership in late 2024.

Finance

Financial outcome 2023

In terms of income, 2023 showed a modest increase in subscriptions and, therefore, Gift Aid. More significantly, the year witnessed the recovery of equity markets (reversing our losses of 2022) and also saw improved interest rates on our savings accounts.

From an expenditure perspective the year was dominated by the Communications Strategy which delivered the new website and its more contemporary branding. Elsewhere it was particularly satisfying to see the return of Kenneth Black Bursary funding to pre-pandemic levels.

Over the past few years, we have been gradually eating into our reserves and Trustees will be reviewing subscriptions and the seed distribution scheme in 2024. Nonetheless, we remain in very good financial shape with total funds of £496,271.

Investment policy

The Society's approach to financial matters, and investments in particular, is one of extreme prudence given the current (and likely future) volatility of equity markets, the very modest

interest rates on deposit accounts and low returns on bonds. For this reason, the Society chooses to keep approximately half of its funds as cash (in current and deposit accounts). The remainder is in fixed interest bonds and equities.

Reserves policy

The Trustees have decided that it should set a level of reserves to cover unforeseeable expenditure such as might be incurred in the very unlikely event of the Society closing down or membership declining very rapidly, or an uninsured claim being made against the Society. A level of £50,000 has been set.

Future Plans

The Society's priorities for the year ahead are to:

- continue to offer members a high quality and value-for-money range of products and services;
- encourage and support local groups in their promotion of the Society through their programme of shows and events, for the benefit of local members;
- seek ways of encouraging potential applicants for bursaries and similar grants.

Trustees' Responsibilities

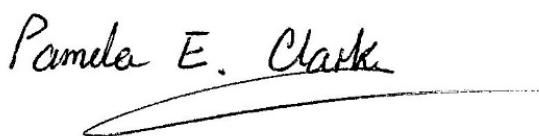
Under charity law the Trustees are required to prepare financial statements for each year which show a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities FRS102 SORP;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity. The Trustees are also required to act in accordance with the Constitution of the Society and to take such steps as are reasonable to safeguard the assets of the Society and to prevent and to detect fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in planning future activities.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:



Pamela Clark, Chair

Date: 07 May 2024

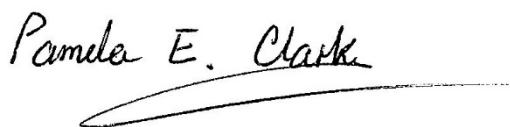
Statement of Financial Activities

			2023	2022
	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Total Funds £
INCOME				
Income from generated funds:				
- Voluntary income	2	91,523	-	91,523
- Activities for generating funds	3	5,451	-	5,451
Income from charitable activities	4	13,447	-	13,447
Investment income		6,739	3,356	10,095
TOTAL		117,160	3,356	120,516
EXPENDITURE				
Costs of generating voluntary income	5	61,253	-	61,253
Charitable activities	6	70,969	-	70,969
Governance costs	7	4,097	-	4,097
Other resources expended	8	34,531	-	34,531
Bursaries etc.	9	-	28,558	28,558
TOTAL		170,850	28,558	199,408
Net Gain on investment		18,945	9,434	28,379
Net Income for the year		(34,745)	(15,768)	(50,513)
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(34,745)	(15,768)	(50,513)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Funds B/F at 1 January 2023		365,021	181,763	546,784
TOTAL FUNDS C/F at 31 December 2023		330,276	165,995	496,271

Balance Sheet

		2023	2022
Fixed assets	Note 11	1,158	791
Current assets			
Bank balances		191,757	275,620
Investments at cost	12	314,147	285,770
Debtors & prepayments	13	9,699	9,162
Stock (booklets)		<u>8,364</u>	<u>7,618</u>
		523,967	578,170
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year			
	14	<u>(28,854)</u>	<u>(32,177)</u>
Net current assets		495,113	545,993
Total assets less current liabilities		<u><u>496,271</u></u>	<u><u>546,784</u></u>
Financed by:			
General fund	15	330,277	365,022
Bursary fund	15	165,994	181,762
		<u><u>496,271</u></u>	<u><u>546,784</u></u>

The accounts were approved by the Trustees on 07 May 2024.



Pamela Clark
Chairman



Stuart Senior
Treasurer

The notes on pages 11 to 15 form part of these financial statements.

Notes to the Accounts

1 Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of preparation:

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) FRS102.

The accounts have been prepared on an accruals basis as they have been in previous years.

1.2 Incoming resources

Subscriptions are accounted for net of VAT and are accounted for in the year to which they relate.

Donations are accounted for gross when received.

Investment income is based on the interest receivable for the year.

Sundry sales are accounted for net of VAT and are recognised when they are invoiced.

Advertising income is accounted for net of VAT and is recognised when invoiced.

1.3 Resources expended

Costs are allocated between costs of generating funds and charitable expenditure according to the nature of the cost.

1.4 Fixed Assets and depreciation

Fixed assets for charity use are capitalised at cost, they are stated in the accounts at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is calculated to write off the cost of the fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on an individual basis.

Office equipment:	25% Reducing balance
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Computer equipment:	3 years straight line
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1.5 Investments

Investments are included in the accounts at their market value.

1.6 Stock

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

	2023	2022
	£	£
	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds
2 Voluntary income		
Subscriptions	79,342	77,820
Donations	1,586	1,106
Gift Aid	10,595	10,349
	<u>91,523</u>	<u>89,275</u>
3 Activities for generating funds		
Advertising	3,480	3,015
Booklets	1,971	2,139
	<u>5,451</u>	<u>5,154</u>
4 Incoming resources from charitable activities		
Seed distribution	4,802	5,767
Cornucopia	3,867	3,412
Enamel badges	70	50
AGM/ALD	4,708	2,536
	<u>13,447</u>	<u>11,765</u>
5 Costs of generating voluntary income		
Administration services	25,193	23,000
Bookkeeping	4,385	1,664
Legal & professional	384	349
Office rent, heat & light	10,128	9,041
Printing, postage & telephone	5,347	4,394
Meetings	0	197
Insurance	4,183	4,062
Publicity	1,120	0
Depreciation of equipment	198	65
Bank charges	1,767	1,564
Software & IT support	8,548	5,015
	<u>61,253</u>	<u>49,351</u>

The average number of employees during the year was 1.

There are no employees who received total employee benefits of more than £60,000.

	2023	2022
6 Charitable activities		
Journal costs	24,578	22,175
Newsletter costs	13,673	13,517
Cornucopia costs	2,734	2,827
Booklet costs	1,328	1,446
Seed distribution expenses	8,891	7,840
AGM/ALD expenses	10,294	4,314
Conservation	1,510	1,171
Group support	4,165	3,656
Shows & Events	648	1,208
Banners	0	156
Website	3,148	544
	<u>70,969</u>	<u>58,854</u>
7 Governance costs		
Trustees' meetings	1,785	1,289
Chair's expenses	1,347	0
Independent examination	965	875
	<u>4,097</u>	<u>2,164</u>
8 Other resources expended - unrestricted		
Communications Strategy	34,426	2,500
Sundry expenses	105	205
	<u>34,531</u>	<u>2,705</u>
9 Other resources expended - designated		
Bursaries awarded	28,458	14,249
Photo competition prizes	300	300
	<u>28,758</u>	<u>14,549</u>

10 Trustees

None of the Trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration during the year but eight of them were reimbursed a total of £1,265 for travelling expenses (2022 £1,109).

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Office Equipment	Computers	Total
Cost b/f	7,717	11,964	19,681
Additions	565	0	565
Cost c/f	<u>8,282</u>	<u>11,964</u>	<u>20,246</u>
Depreciation b/f	6,926	11,964	18,890
Charge for the year	198	0	198
Depreciation c/f	<u>7,124</u>	<u>11,964</u>	<u>19,088</u>
Net book value 31.12.23	<u>1,158</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,158</u>
Net book value 31.12.22	<u>791</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>791</u>

12 Investments

		2023	2022
Skipton Building Society	1 yr bond	71,868	70,598
St James Place	Equities	95,791	86,496
CCLA COIF Charities Global Equity Income Fund		146,488	128,676
		<u>314,147</u>	<u>285,770</u>

Investment income during the year was made up of:

Interest (unrestricted, general)	6,739
Interest (unrestricted, designated)	<u>3,356</u>
	<u>10,095</u>

13 Debtors

	2023	2022
Prepayments and accrued income	8,977	8,455
Other debtors	722	707
	<u>9,699</u>	<u>9,162</u>

15 Creditors

	2023	2022
VAT	(387)	(1,262)
Trade creditors	2,282	3,474
Other creditors	1,725	5,660
Subscriptions & seed in advance	25,234	24,305
	<u>28,854</u>	<u>32,177</u>

16	Reserves	01.01.23 B/F	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Gains	31.12.23 C/F
	Fund Movements					
	Unrestricted general	365,022	117,160	170,850	18,945	330,277
	Unrestricted designated	181,762	3,356	28,558	9,434	165,994
		<u>546,784</u>	<u>120,516</u>	<u>199,408</u>	<u>28,379</u>	<u>496,271</u>

The unrestricted designated fund relates to the Society's Bursary and Project Support Fund. This fund arose as a generous legacy from the estate of Mr Kenneth Black who was a gardener with Enfield Council in North London.

The trustees decided that this fund should not be used for the administration of the Society but that it should be invested and the interest used to support special projects. There are two types of Bursary: one for college or university students and one for people in horticultural employment.

Funding may be awarded to projects of any sort which fit within the charitable objects of the Society and may be made to individuals or groups. More information is available on the Society's web site <http://www.hardy-plant.org.uk/> and applications are made via the Bursary co-ordinator.

Reserves are represented by:	Unrestricted General	Unrestricted Designated	Total
Fixed assets	1,158	-	1,158
Current assets	357,973	165,994	523,967
Current liabilities	<u>(28,854)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(28,854)</u>
	<u>330,277</u>	<u>165,994</u>	<u>496,271</u>

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Hardy Plant Society

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023 which are set out on pages 9 to 15.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- 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 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Acthave 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.



James Howard FCCA ACA
Cooper Parry
Saggar House, Princes Drive,
WORCESTER
WR1 2PG

01 May 2024

Accounts



TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

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CHARITY INFORMATION

Trustees	Sally Adams	
	Jaime Blake	From September 2022
	Karen Gimson	
	Lynne Hackett	
	Peter Howard	
	Tricia Newton	
	Heather Farquhar	
	Graham Farquhar	
	Keith Scott	
	Saul Walker	From March 2022
Chairman	Pamela Clark	
Vice Chairman	Vacancy	
Hon. Treasurer	Stuart Senior	
Hon. Secretary	Helen Curtis	
Hon. Secretary (Trustees)	Linda Hall	
Office Manager	Clare Powell	
Charity Registration No.	208080	
VAT Registration No.	472-9285-14	
Registered Office	3 Basepoint Business Centre, Crab Apple Way, EVESHAM, WR11 1GP	
Independent Examiner	Haines Watts Worcester Limited, 6 Abbey Lane Court, Abbey Lane, EVESHAM, WR11 4BY	

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

The Trustees present their Annual Report and the Financial Statements of the Society for the year ended 31 December 2022 in compliance with current statutory requirements and the charity's governing documents.

Status

The Society is registered by the Charity Commission as a charity (number 208080) and operates under the provisions of a Constitution approved by AGM on 26/03/2011 and amended at AGMs on 30/03/2019 and 31/07/2020.

The objects for which the Society was established are to:

- advance the culture, study and improvement of hardy herbaceous plants;
- preserve the older, rarer and lesser-known hardy plants, cultivars and varieties from being forgotten and lost to cultivation;
- advance the knowledge of and foster public interest in hardy plants by the publication of information, by exhibitions or displays, by stimulating research and experiment and by awarding bursaries open to public competition;
- provide expositions of hardy plants at horticultural gardens and/or gardens open to the public, and to provide facilities for giving advice on the culture of hardy plants;
- organise visits to places of interest in connection with the study of hardy plants and to co-operate with other bodies having similar or sympathetic aims; and
- do such acts as shall further the active and corporate life of the Society and which may lawfully be done by a public body established only for purposes recognised by the laws of the United Kingdom as charitable.

Trustees

The Society is managed by a committee of Trustees comprising up to twelve members each elected for a period of four years, plus any co-opted members and, additionally, four officers who are elected annually.

Activities

Introduction

Concern had been expressed during the year that one of the outcomes of the global Covid pandemic and the UK 'cost-of-living' crisis was that membership numbers might fall. While there was a decline in subscription renewals in the early months of the year all the indications were that membership would rise during the annual renewal process, and this has proved to be the case.

Like many organisations and charities, the Hardy Plant Society has seen lower attendances at local and special interest group events in some, but not all cases. Fears began to be expressed that the Society might fade away. However, the Board of Trustees had no intention of being responsible for executing a policy of managed decline. An opportunity to review the Society's existing website developed into an occasion to look at the current value of the Society and to research and analyse topics that would develop the organisation as an expert knowledge base for plants and plantsmanship. To that end a project leader, Bill Hodgson, an HPS member and recent owner of an online marketing and web development company, was engaged on a

contract basis. His detailed and extensive work and expert advice have moved what was a potential website development into a major Communications Strategy covering all areas of the Society's activities.

In late 2022 an active programme of member engagement resulted in a high turnout on briefings for group leadership teams. The 2023 plans for the initiative will actively involve members in considering, amongst other topics, future existing and new membership development; plant and gardening knowledge and information and how to deliver it across a range of media (print, online, social media technologies); media relationships; and Society branding and design.

As will be seen below, the Society's Postholders continue to provide the current range of member services and benefits, all of which support the organisation's charitable objectives. It is likely that these objectives will be examined in the course of the strategic review, referred to above, to ensure that the Society continues to fulfil them as outlined at the Society's inception and to confirm that they reflect needs and obligations almost 70 years on.

After two uncertain years under the influence of external factors, the Society finds itself in a strong position with its full complement of Postholder volunteers and with support from a growing number of members who are willing to undertake short-term projects on the Society's behalf. The Trustees enter 2023 in a positive frame of mind and look forward to the Society ensuring its place as one of the UK's leading horticultural organisations.

The Office and Administration

At the start of 2023, the Trustees created a new role and Clare Powell became our Office Manager. The job of Administrator has grown over recent years and the new job title reflects these changes. Clare will remain the first point of contact for members dealing with membership and orders, but she will also take on more varied tasks.

There has been an upgrade of some computer hardware, including a new laptop. The office is no longer dependent on a Basepoint server as the new cloud-based system will enhance working file security and further enable remote working.

The Office Manual was completed. The document will be updated regularly to reflect current procedures.

Following the pandemic, many speakers and lecturers were no longer offering talks to our Groups. Tricia Fraser volunteered to completely review the Speakers List with assistance from three members: Diana Garner, Kate Brown and Pat Hunter. The new list was welcomed by Group Secretaries and is available on the website.

HPS Journal

Unusually for the *Journal*, it appears that we have ample copy to fill the nominal 84 pages for the spring 2023 issue. We have an interesting range of articles, which is encouraging – all that's left is to make them as presentable as possible. The return of the Horticultural Advisory Team is very welcome, and our relationship with the Garden Media Guild continues to yield some new authors. The *Garden writing* feature has had its run – it's a pity publishing houses are so unresponsive; otherwise, we could include more worthy, recently published material.

The team of editor, proof-reader, fact-checker and typesetter is intact so far, and Souren is extremely grateful to have such expert and dedicated help.

Newsletter

Production of three editions of the Society's 40-page newsletter continued in 2022.

Content continues to focus on both national and local stories about events and member activities – including interviews with a range of HPS members including introducing our new trustee Jaime Blake to readers. Other profiles included the four new members of the new Horticultural Advisory Team, a Belgian GP member who shared his passion for hardy geraniums and two of the society's Special Interest Groups were also featured. Full coverage was carried of the society's first Annual Lecture Day and AGM, held in Taunton, since before Covid.

The print and mail preparation services of the newsletter went to re-tender in 2022 and the incumbent specialist company, HMCA, based in Knaresborough, retained the contract.

Booklets

Sales of booklets were fairly steady in 2022. There are currently eight booklets available and of these Euphorbias, Geraniums and Pulmonarias have all sold well. The updated version of Gail Harland's 'Peonies' was published in the Spring with many more excellent photographs. Since then Gail has been working on 'Galanthus - a guide to snowdrops' and the text and photos have now been sent to the designer. We hope to be able to launch that in the new year, during the snowdrop season.

No further booklets are planned at present but there have been several suggestions, and these are being followed up.

Seed Distribution

The Seed Distribution Scheme was more successful than last year in terms of the number of types of seed available, 1702, although there were fewer portions of seed due to the dry summer. Some donors sent apologies with their contributions saying there was less seed available to collect. The number of donors almost exactly matched last year with a continuing slight downward trend. About one hundred volunteers were involved in the various processes from seed receiving to order picking and the fulfilling of charity requests, free samples for local events and the samples that go in the packs for every new member.

There were fewer donors this year, indicating a pressing need for more publicity and the promoting of awareness within local groups.

The focus for the coming year will be the completion of a Seed Distribution Review, talks to local groups outlining the scheme and the revising of the website entry.

Conservation

The annual exchange meeting of the Conservation Scheme was well attended, with a good selection of propagated plants. Several of the local group co-ordinators were involved in checking the availability of plants in the scheme, reviewing the Plant Finder and website lists, and in some cases contacting nurseries.

In addition to meetings, the national coordinator has encouraged interest in the scheme by providing talks and displays at HPS meetings and contributing articles to the national newsletter. There has been quite a bit of interest from independent HPS members who don't currently belong to a local group. The scheme is always happy to welcome new growers as well as new plants. Arrangements have been made to introduce some *Helenium* cultivars in 2023.

Shows & Events

The Annual Lecture Day was held at Taunton and hosted by Somerset Group. Around 120 members attended the event and heard two very contrasting talks from Rosie Hardy and Keith Wiley.

Our presence at shows is an excellent way to inspire people to grow hardy perennials and publicise our charitable aims. The Society's display stand at the RHS Malvern Spring Festival 2022 attracted many visitors. The Society was awarded a silver medal and 'Best Society Stand in Show' which was presented by HRH The Princess Royal. (We must concede however, that many Societies chose not to exhibit in 2022 and there was little competition.)

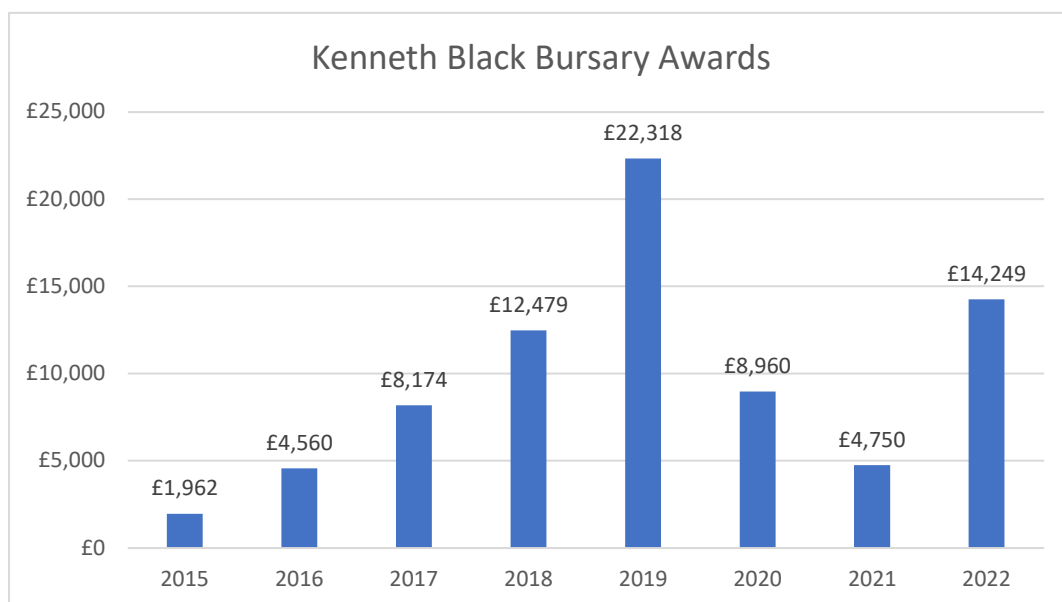
We were also well represented at the Staffordshire County Show and the Chorley Flower Show, and the West Yorkshire Group attended the Harrogate Flower Show and were awarded a Premier Gold medal (although there was no-one sufficiently royal to present it!).

Two new display banners were produced for the RHS Rosemoor Flower Show. The design can be adapted for use by Groups at other events.

Following our appeals for volunteers, we now have two Shows and Events Post Holders, Saul Walker and Helen Brown. They will work as a team to provide advice to any group considering or preparing to host an event.

The Kenneth Black Bursary Scheme (KBBS)

The number of applications increased during 2022 following two lean years of limited training opportunities and travel restrictions during the pandemic. We received applications from students studying at Kew, some requesting part funding for their travel while undertaking work experience abroad. KBBS also helped academic and postgraduate students studying taxonomy. Applications from self-employed gardeners who were seeking assistance to help them win a qualification or to attend horticultural events were warmly received. We estimate the number of bursaries awarded will increase during 2023: as at 1st January 2023, there remains £181,763 in the Kenneth Black Fund which needs to be spent!



Publicity and PR activity

The publicity postholder helps underpin the charitable objects of the HPS through communication of the work of the Society. This year has focused on building media networks to enable dissemination of HPS news and knowledge enabling it to be shared with a wider audience. This has included promotion of the new booklet, *Galanthus*, a Guide to Snowdrops, celebrating the 50th edition of *Cornucopia* and publicity support for the shows and events team. To assist local and special interest groups with publicity activities we have introduced an HPS Publicity Forum. The aim of the forum is to allow two-way communication around issues relating

to publicity and space for the team to share information and support each other. In 2022 the group created a short PowerPoint presentation, giving a clear and concise overview of the society, this is designed to sit at the start of a longer group or plant focused presentation and is now available to members through the office.

The website

The website contributes to the Society's charitable objects by making our activities more readily accessible, both to many of our members and to the wider public. This includes the image library, seed distribution and publications. Amongst other things there are around 350 recent articles written by knowledgeable, or expert, practitioners not available elsewhere, over 400 articles from past copies of The Journal and nearly 400, from Cornucopia, written by group members over the years. Website analytics typically report about 80,000 users each year.

Finance

Financial outcome 2022

The highlight of the year was the 4% increase in member subscriptions, reversing the downward trend of recent years. And following the Covid-19 years, the expenditure on our charitable objects, in particular the bursary scheme and the support to shows, all increased significantly. On a bleaker note, the 2021 gain in the value of our equity investments was effectively wiped out in 2022. So, overall, we are posting a deficit of £44,562 for 2022 of which £29,066 is attributable to the investment loss.

Nonetheless, we remain in very good financial shape with total funds of £546,784.

Investment policy

The Society's approach to financial matters, and investments in particular, is one of extreme prudence given the current (and likely future) volatility of equity markets, the very modest interest rates on deposit accounts and low returns on bonds. For this reason, the Society chooses to keep approximately half of its funds as cash (in current and deposit accounts). The remainder is in fixed interest bonds and equities.

Reserves policy

The cash flows of the Society are generally positive. Membership subscriptions are received at the beginning of the year and these, with the prior year Gift Aid payment already banked, cover the operating costs of the Society. Nonetheless, the Trustees have decided that it should set a level of reserves to cover unforeseeable expenditure such as might be incurred in the very unlikely event of the Society closing down or membership declining very rapidly, or an uninsured claim being made against the Society. A level of £50,000 has been set.

Future Plans

The Society's priorities for the year ahead are to:

- implement the recommendations of the Communications Strategy;
- continue to offer members a high quality and value-for-money range of products and services;
- encourage and support local groups in their promotion of the Society through their programme of shows and events, for the benefit of local members;
- seek ways of encouraging potential applicants for bursaries and similar grants.

Trustees' Responsibilities

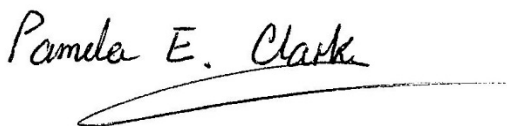
Under charity law the Trustees are required to prepare financial statements for each year which show a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities FRS102 SORP;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity. The Trustees are also required to act in accordance with the Constitution of the Society and to take such steps as are reasonable to safeguard the assets of the Society and to prevent and to detect fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in planning future activities.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pamela E. Clark". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke.

Pamela Clark, Chairman

Date: 16th May 2023

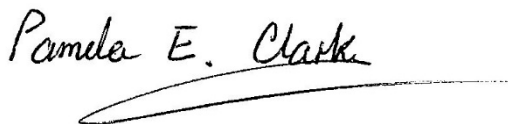
Statement of Financial Activities

			2022	2021
	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Total Funds £
INCOME				
Income from generated funds:				
- Voluntary income	2	89,275		88,206
- Activities for generating funds	3	5,154		5,621
Income from charitable activities	4	11,765		11,473
Investment income		3,883	2,050	5,933
TOTAL		110,077	2,050	112,127
EXPENDITURE				
Costs of generating voluntary income	5	49,351		42,568
Charitable activities	6	58,854		51,592
Governance costs	7	2,164		840
Other resources expended	8	2,705		251
Bursaries etc.	9		14,549	5,043
TOTAL		113,074	14,549	127,623
Net Gain/Loss on investment		(19,024)	(10,042)	(29,066)
Net Income for the year		(22,021)	(22,541)	(44,562)
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(22,021)	(22,541)	(44,562)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Funds B/F at 1 January 2022		387,042	204,304	591,346
TOTAL FUNDS C/F at 31 December 2022		365,021	181,763	546,784
		591,346		591,346

Balance Sheet

		2022	2021
Fixed assets	Note 11	791	261
Current assets			
Bank balances		275,620	290,980
Investments at cost	12	285,770	314,834
Debtors & prepayments	13	9,162	7,227
Stock (booklets)		<u>7,618</u>	<u>6,621</u>
		578,170	619,662
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year			
	14	<u>(32,177)</u>	<u>(28,577)</u>
Net current assets		545,993	591,346
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>546,784</u>	<u>591,346</u>
Financed by:			
General fund	15	365,022	387,043
Bursary fund	15	181,762	204,303
		<u>546,784</u>	<u>591,346</u>

The accounts were approved by the Trustees on 16th May 2023.



Pamela Clark
Chairman



Stuart Senior
Treasurer

The notes on pages 11 to 15 form part of these financial statements.

Notes to the Accounts

1 Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of preparation:

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) FRS102.

The accounts have been prepared on an accruals basis as they have been in previous years.

1.2 Incoming resources

Subscriptions are accounted for net of VAT and are accounted for in the year to which they relate.

Donations are accounted for gross when received.

Investment income is based on the interest receivable for the year.

Sundry sales are accounted for net of VAT and are recognised when they are invoiced.

Advertising income is accounted for net of VAT and is recognised when invoiced.

1.3 Resources expended

Costs are allocated between costs of generating funds and charitable expenditure according to the nature of the cost.

1.4 Fixed Assets and depreciation

Fixed assets for charity use are capitalised at cost, they are stated in the accounts at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is calculated to write off the cost of the fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on an individual basis.

Office equipment:	25% Reducing balance
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Computer equipment:	3 years straight line
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1.5 Investments

Investments are included in the accounts at their market value.

1.6 Stock

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

	2022 £ Unrestricted Funds	2021 £ Total Funds
2 Voluntary income		
Subscriptions	77,820	74,734
Donations	1,106	3,880
Gift Aid	10,349	9,592
	<u>89,275</u>	<u>88,206</u>
3 Activities for generating funds		
Advertising	3,015	3,060
Booklets	2,139	2,561
	<u>5,154</u>	<u>5,621</u>
4 Incoming resources from charitable activities		
Seed distribution	5,767	6,142
Cornucopia	3,412	5,354
Enamel badges	50	27
AGM/ALD	2,536	(50)
	<u>11,765</u>	<u>11,473</u>
5 Costs of generating voluntary income		
Administration services	23,000	19,650
Bookkeeping	1,664	1,949
Legal & professional	349	2,609
Office rent, heat & light	9,041	7,390
Printing, postage & telephone	4,394	3,626
Meetings	197	66
Insurance	4,062	3,875
Publicity	0	0
Depreciation of equipment	65	87
Bank charges	2,564	867
New systems project	0	1,236
Process modelling	0	452
Software & IT support	5,015	2,710
	<u>49,351</u>	<u>42,568</u>

The average number of employees during the year was 1.

There are no employees who received total employee benefits of more than £60,000.

	2022	2021
6 Charitable activities		
Journal costs	22,175	20,524
Newsletter costs	13,517	12,426
Cornucopia costs	2,827	3,085
Booklet costs	1,446	2,669
Seed distribution expenses	7,840	7,406
AGM/ALD expenses	4,314	3,301
Conservation	1,171	1,233
Group support	3,656	0
Shows & Events	1,208	0
Banners	156	0
Website	544	948
	<u>58,854</u>	<u>51,592</u>
7 Governance costs		
Trustees' meetings	1,289	40
Independent examination	875	800
	<u>2,164</u>	<u>840</u>
Other resources expended - unrestricted		
8		
Communications Strategy	2,500	0
Sundry expenses	205	251
	<u>2,705</u>	<u>251</u>
Other resources expended - designated		
9		
Bursaries awarded	14,249	4,750
Photo competition prizes	300	293
	<u>14,549</u>	<u>5,043</u>
10 Trustees		
None of the Trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration during the year but eight of them were reimbursed a total of £1,109 for travelling expenses (2021 £40).		

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Office Equipment	Computers	Total
Cost b/f	7,122	11,964	19,086
Additions	595	0	595
Cost c/f	<u>7,717</u>	<u>11,964</u>	<u>19,681</u>
Depreciation b/f	6,861	11,964	18,825
Charge for the year	65	0	65
Depreciation c/f	<u>6,926</u>	<u>11,964</u>	<u>18,890</u>
Net book value 31.12.22	<u>791</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>791</u>
Net book value 31.12.21	<u>261</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>261</u>

12 Investments

		2022	2021
Skipton Building Society	1 yr bond	70,598	70,246
St James Place	Equities	86,496	94,651
CCLA COIF Charities Global Equity Income Fund		<u>128,676</u>	<u>149,937</u>
		<u>285,770</u>	<u>314,834</u>

Investment income during the year was made up of:

Interest (unrestricted, general)	3,883
Interest (unrestricted, designated)	<u>2,050</u>
	<u>5,933</u>

13 Debtors

	2022	2021
Prepayments and accrued income	8,455	5,940
Other debtors	<u>707</u>	<u>1,008</u>
	<u>9,162</u>	<u>6,948</u>

15 Creditors

	2022	2021
VAT	(1,262)	(1,249)
Trade creditors	3,474	(52)
Other creditors	5,660	2,189
Subscriptions & seed in advance	<u>24,305</u>	<u>19,201</u>
	<u>32,177</u>	<u>20,089</u>

16	Reserves	01.01.22 B/F	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Gains & Losses	31.12.22 C/F
	Fund Movements					
	Unrestricted general	387,043	110,077	113,074	(19,024)	365,022
	Unrestricted designated	204,303	2,050	14,549	(10,042)	181,762
		<u>591,346</u>	<u>112,127</u>	<u>127,623</u>	<u>(29,066)</u>	<u>546,784</u>

The unrestricted designated fund relates to the Society's Bursary and Project Support Fund. This fund arose as a generous legacy from the estate of Mr Kenneth Black who was a gardener with Enfield Council in North London.

The trustees decided that this fund should not be used for the administration of the Society but that it should be invested and the interest used to support special projects. There are two types of Bursary: one for college or university students and one for people in horticultural employment.

Funding may be awarded to projects of any sort which fit within the charitable objects of the Society and may be made to individuals or groups. More information is available on the Society's web site <http://www.hardy-plant.org.uk/> and applications are made via the Bursary co-ordinator.

Reserves are represented by:	Unrestricted General	Unrestricted Designated	Total
Fixed assets	791	-	791
Current assets	396,408	181,762	578,170
Current liabilities	<u>(32,177)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(32,177)</u>
	<u>365,022</u>	<u>181,762</u>	<u>546,784</u>

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Hardy Plant Society

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2022 which are set out on pages 9 to 15.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- 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 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Acthave not been met; or
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James Howard FCCA ACA
Haines Watts Worcester Limited
6 Abbey Lane Court, Abbey Lane
EVESHAM, WR11 4BY

15th May 2023

Accounts



TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

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	Lynne Hackett	
	Peter Howard	
	Tricia Newton	
	Heather Farquhar	From September 2021
	Graham Farquhar	From September 2021
	Catherine Part	
	Anna Peacock	To September 2021
	Keith Scott	
Chairman	Jan Vaughan	To September 2021
	Pamela Clark	From September 2021
Vice Chairman	Pamela Clark	To September 2021
Hon. Treasurer	Stuart Senior	
Joint Hon. Secretary	Helen Curtis	
	Linda Hall	From November 2021
Office Manager	Clare Powell	
Charity Registration No.		208080
VAT Registration No.		472-9285-14
Registered Office	3 Basepoint Business Centre, Crab Apple Way, EVESHAM, WR11 1GP	
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- organise visits to places of interest in connection with the study of hardy plants and to co-operate with other bodies having similar or sympathetic aims; and
- do such acts as shall further the active and corporate life of the Society and which may lawfully be done by a public body established only for purposes recognised by the laws of the United Kingdom as charitable.

Trustees

The Society is managed by a committee of Trustees comprising up to twelve members each elected for a period of four years, plus any co-opted members and, additionally, four officers who are elected annually.

Activities

Introduction

The continued restrictions of the Covid pandemic presented many challenges for The Hardy Plant Society. However, as the year progressed, and lockdown restrictions eased, Local and Special Interest Groups put tentative toes in the water in re-establishing in-person meetings, albeit with restricted numbers. Most continued to use Zoom technology for members' and committee meetings. Sadly, two groups, Correspondents and Half Hardy closed at the end of the year due to dwindling numbers and lack of volunteers to become Officers.

Yet again, the in-person national AGM was cancelled and was held online, this year in August for the first time following an agreed date change, away from the previous Spring meetings. Our President, Roy Lancaster, took part and gave an energizing talk on the joy of studying plants even when restricted to his local area.

Most noteworthy was the continued delivery of all national Society services and members' benefits during the year and thanks are due to Office Staff, Trustees, and Postholders for their continued commitment.

The Office Systems upgrade continued. The national and local websites provided information on activities and online meetings, while the Newsletter and Cornucopia continued to update members on what was happening around the country. The Journal is held in high regard by all for the quality of its writing and for its photography. The Publications programme continued with the updating and republishing of the Euphorbia booklet: a new booklet on Paeonies is promised for 2022. The Seed Distribution Scheme found innovative and safe ways to collate seed donations, record them, and organize distribution to fulfil members' orders. Remaining seed was donated to schools, community groups, and charities. The Bursary scheme received almost no applications as educational studies continued to be disrupted and travel plans were cancelled. The Conservation Scheme was able to have an in-person meeting, thus facilitating the distribution of plants to the various local conservation schemes.

There was a significant change to the role of Hon. Secretary. It was split into two distinct functions – one supporting the Office and the other supporting the Trustees. It was intended, by this change, to manage the often heavy workload more effectively and to be less burdensome on any one individual. For the first time the Society appointed a Librarian/Archivist to take the lead in managing the Society's documents, particularly the disparate and dispersed historical records.

The Society continued to monitor any impact on membership numbers during the pandemic and proposes an analysis of the situation in the early months of 2022.

The Office

The new office systems, installed in 2020, have enabled remote working and our Administrator, Clare Powell, was able to answer membership enquiries, provide mailing lists and perform many key tasks while working from home when the office closed during lockdowns. The financial system, Xero, works well, but more work is required to embed the member management system Infoodle. Initially, some data transferred from the old system did not provide reports in the correct format for HMRC, but, after lengthy data cleansing, this has now been rectified. A process mapping exercise continues; it is hoped that this will clarify and streamline office processes and will provide the basis for an office manual in 2022.

We have purchased a second computer screen for dual screen working. The old printer broke down at a crucial time while Clare was processing orders for the seed distribution scheme; a reconditioned printer contract has been negotiated at a more favourable rate.

HPS Journal

In recent issues, an effort has been made to improve the images, mainly by making them bigger! As ever, the editor never knows whether enough material will come in the door in time for publication. But the new feature on Garden writing seems to have proved popular, so he will carry on with that. Feedback from members, although limited, has generally been favourable.

Sadly, Cathy Rollinson, who has very kindly and expertly proof-read all the Journal articles up until now, is stepping back due to an increasing workload elsewhere. Luckily, Alison Tracy, who has helped Marion Jay in the past with the Cornucopia, has offered her expertise. And the Journal continues to benefit from fact checking *par excellence* from Charles Quest-Ritson.

Finally, HPS's very own rising star, Nadine Mitschunas, HPS blogger, crack photographer and winner of the BBC Gardeners' World 'Garden of the Year' award for her allotment, has written in greater detail about some of her favourite plants in the upcoming issue. Something to look forward to.

Newsletter

Production of the society's long-standing newsletter – albeit in its new format – continued unabated in 2021. Pagination rose from 36 pages in the February edition to 40 pages for the July and November publications. Several local groups across England, Wales and Scotland now contribute regularly.

External support for prizes for the new regular competition was gained from Cranesbill Nurseries in Walsall, Niwaki scateurs, RHS award-winning Hardy's Cottage Plants in Hampshire and Bressingham Books. Entries have more than doubled since the featured debuted in 2020.

Coverage of many of the society's services continues and, during 2021, included a detailed look at the Kenneth Black Bursary Scheme, the society's Ranunculaceae Group, the growth of the society's Photo Library and the nine booklets produced over the last decade or so, covering a wide range of perennials – which resulted in a surge in orders.

Throughout the last 18 months, exquisite front-cover pictures have been supplied by Shropshire HPS member and keen photographer Marian Goody, to whom a debt of gratitude is owed.

Booklets

Sales of booklets have been good over the last year. The feature in the February Newsletter was very helpful in reminding members of the range of topics we cover. During the spring 2021 Don Witton updated his booklet on Euphorbias and this was republished in early summer with new information and many more excellent photographs. Similarly, during the Autumn Gail Harland updated the peonies booklet and this will be available in the new year, again with many more beautiful photographs. Gail also submitted a proposal to the Trustees for a new booklet on Snowdrops. The proposal was accepted, and work has begun.

Cornucopia

Cornucopia subscriptions have increased slightly, despite the price rise in 2020. The printing process for the magazine will be put out to tender in 2022, as the Editor has announced her intention to step down later this year.

A few hundred extra copies of each issue of Cornucopia are usually printed to hand out at HPS shows and exhibitions, but the pandemic has caused many of those events to be cancelled and recently it has been difficult to gauge how many surplus copies to print each time. That figure is still under consideration. As extra copies are very expensive to print it is preferable to have too many rather than too few, but not so many that they bung up vital shelf space in the HPS Office.

The dynamics of Local Group newsletters has changed since the pandemic began. Some groups ceased to produce newsletters altogether, preferring to send out basic news via email bulletins. Others did the opposite, encouraging their members to write on a regular basis, creating a rich vein of material for future issues of Cornucopia in the process.

Seed Distribution

The seed distribution scheme has largely returned to pre-Covid arrangements. There were fewer donations this year, but it was pleasing to note an increase in the number of new donors. The phytosanitary certification has not deterred two of our members from the US, who have been willing to pay for their certificates in order to receive HPS seed. Certification for seeds to Europe is not due to come in to force until March and so will not affect this year's scheme.

The focus for the coming year will be to devise ways of promoting Seed Distribution to a wider audience and to encourage more members to engage with the scheme either as donors or with seed ordering.

Conservation

The Conservation Scheme was able to hold a face-to-face meeting in 2021, something not possible in 2020. Local group co-ordinators were able to exchange plants, thus ensuring distribution of plants across the country, helping to keep rarer cultivars available. Talks were given to two local groups not currently involved in the scheme to raise awareness and interest. At least one of the groups is now going to start their own local team of conservation growers. Members are kept informed of conservation activities through articles in the HPS journal, on the national HPS website and the Conservation Facebook page.

Shows & Events

The unpredictability of circumstances around lockdowns and restrictions meant that virtually no shows were planned by organisers in which HPS members could participate. Arrangements were put in hand for an Annual Lecture Day and AGM, but at the point where they needed to be confirmed, there was too much uncertainty concerning travel from different parts of the country, whether hotels would be open for those needing overnight accommodation and how the event could be organised with social distancing requirements. Disappointingly for all concerned, the decision was taken to cancel the event and hold a virtual AGM instead.

Website

In another year affected by the Covid-19 pandemic the HPS website has been invaluable in keeping members and the public up to date with happenings and cancellations. In addition, we have two regular monthly blogs by members and other ad-hoc items.

There were some 40 on-line talks organised by various groups listed on a page created for that purpose, so that the talks were open to other groups and the public: there are already six on-line talks listed for 2022.

The Kenneth Black Bursary Scheme

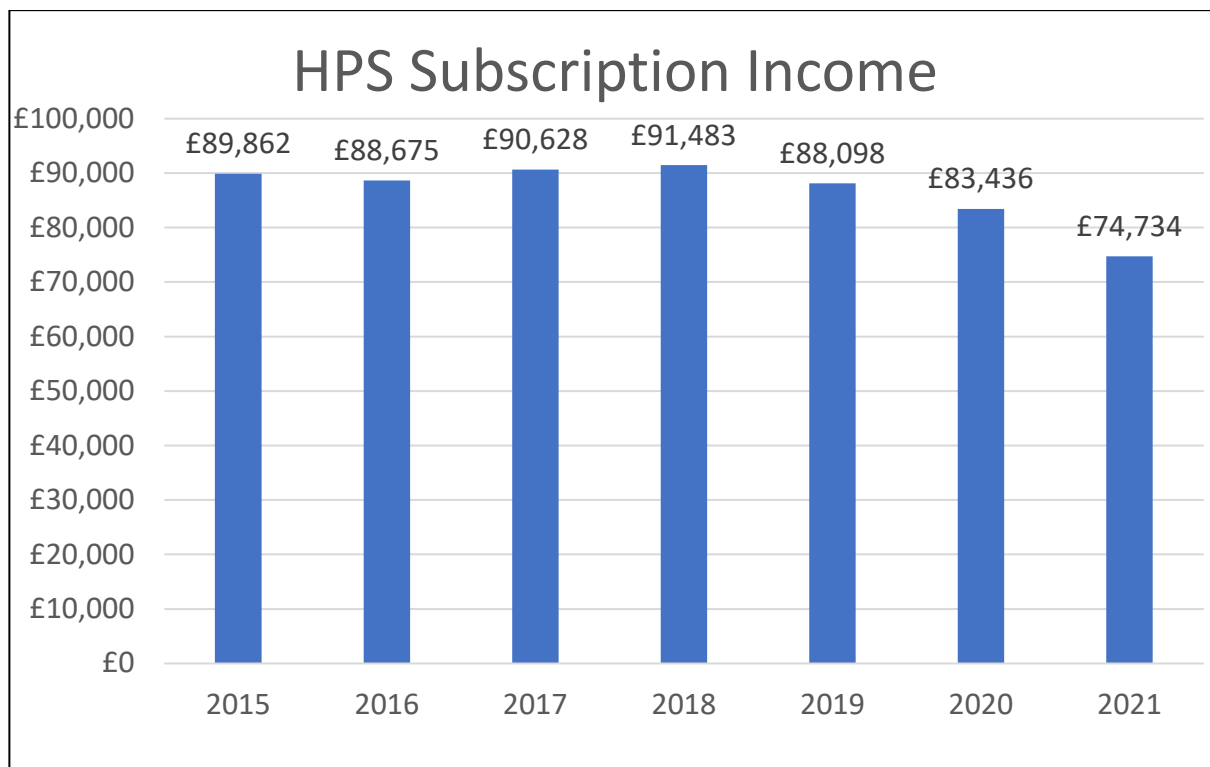
During 2021 the Bursary scheme continued to suffer from a shortage of applications due to the pandemic. Seven awards were made totalling £4,750 (£8,960 in 2020) but this well down on a 'normal' year e.g. £22,318 in 2019. The fund was augmented by the generosity of the Correspondents and Half Hardy groups which closed this year. Their final bank balances of £3,390 in total were transferred to the scheme.

Finance

Financial outcome 2021

2021 was very much like the previous year from a financial point of view with the pandemic again limiting our normal discretionary expenditure: the shows and bursaries budgets were again significantly underspent. But the extensive use of Zoom meant that the travel costs associated with our normal round of Trustee, Postholder and Group Secretaries meetings continued to be reduced. The Conservation Group managed one face-to-face meeting in the year.

The fall in subscription income by 5% in 2020 was followed in 2021 by a further decline of 10%: this continues to be a matter of concern.



As the 2020 report suggested, received wisdom was that people spent more time in their gardens during lockdown and enjoyed the physical and mental health benefits of so doing and therefore, an increase, rather than a decline, in membership might have been expected. The lack of events, both nationally and locally, may have been a contributing factor. Work will be done in 2022 to assess the impact of the pandemic on membership.

Like last year, we benefitted from a buoyant stock market. Our overall surplus was £40,008 of which £30,062 was due to the gain in the value of our investments. So, pandemic notwithstanding, the Society remains in sound financial shape and we look forward to spending our money on our charitable objects as soon as the 'new normal' allows in 2022.

Investment policy

The Society's approach to financial matters, and investments in particular, is one of extreme prudence given the current (and likely future) volatility of equity markets, the very low interest rates on deposit accounts and low returns on bonds. For this reason, the Society chooses to keep approximately half of its funds as cash (in current and deposit accounts). The remainder is in fixed interest bonds and equities.

Reserves policy

The cash flows of the Society are generally positive. Membership subscriptions are received at the beginning of the year and these, with the prior year Gift Aid payment already banked, cover the operating costs of the Society. Nonetheless, the Trustees have decided that it should set a level of reserves to cover unforeseeable expenditure such as might be incurred in the very unlikely event of the Society closing down or membership declining very rapidly, or an uninsured claim being made against the Society. A level of £50,000 has been set.

Future Plans

The Society's priorities for the year ahead are, subject to the constraints imposed by the pandemic, to:

- address the issue of declining membership numbers by continuing to offer members a high quality and value-for-money range of products and services and to encourage and support local groups in their promotion of the Society through their programme of shows and events for the benefit of local members;
- seek ways of encouraging potential applicants for bursaries and similar grants.

Trustees' Responsibilities

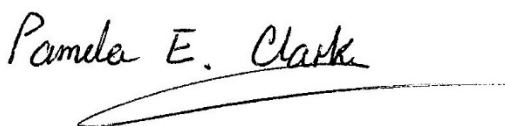
Under charity law the Trustees are required to prepare financial statements for each year which show a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities FRS102 SORP;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity. The Trustees are also required to act in accordance with the Constitution of the Society and to take such steps as are reasonable to safeguard the assets of the Society and to prevent and to detect fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in planning future activities.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pamela E. Clark". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

Pamela Clark, Chairman

Date: 10 May 2022

Statement of Financial Activities

		Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	2021 Total Funds	2020 Total Funds
	Note	£	£	£	£
INCOME					
Income from generated funds:					
- Voluntary income	2	84,816	3,390	88,206	95,389
- Activities for generating funds	3	5,621		5,621	4,870
Income from charitable activities	4	11,473		11,473	8,331
Investment income		3,205	1,735	4,940	6,764
TOTAL		105,115	5,125	110,240	115,354
EXPENDITURE					
Costs of generating voluntary income	5	42,568		42,568	47,981
Charitable activities	6	51,592		51,592	46,036
Governance costs	7	840		840	2,239
Other resources expended	8	251		251	787
Bursaries etc.	9	-	5,043	5,043	9,266
TOTAL		95,251	5,043	100,294	106,309
Net Gain on investment		19,502	10,560	30,062	25,110
Net Income for the year		29,366	10,642	40,008	34,155
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		29,366	10,642	40,008	34,155
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Funds B/F at 1 January 2021		357,676	193,662	551,338	517,183
TOTAL FUNDS C/F at 31 December 2021		387,042	204,304	591,346	551,338

Balance Sheet

		2021	2020
Fixed assets	Note 11	348	348
Current assets			
Bank balances		290,980	274,029
Investments at cost	12	314,834	284,773
Debtors & prepayments	13	7,227	6,948
Stock (booklets)		<u>6,621</u>	<u>5,329</u>
		619,662	571,079
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year			
	14	<u>(28,577)</u>	<u>(20,089)</u>
Net current assets		591,085	550,990
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>591,346</u>	<u>551,338</u>
Financed by:			
General fund	15	387,043	357,676
Bursary fund	15	204,303	193,662
		<u>591,346</u>	<u>551,338</u>

The accounts were approved by the Trustees on 10 May 2022.



Pamela Clark
Chairman



Stuart Senior
Treasurer

The notes on pages 11 to 15 form part of these financial statements.

Notes to the Accounts

1 Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of preparation:

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) FRS102.

There have been no changes to the funds held as a result of this change in accounting standards.

The accounts have been prepared on an accruals basis as they have been in previous years.

1.2 Incoming resources

Subscriptions are accounted for net of VAT and are accounted for in the year to which they relate.

Donations are accounted for gross when received.

Investment income is based on the interest receivable for the year.

Sundry sales are accounted for net of VAT and are recognised when they are invoiced.

Advertising income is accounted for net of VAT and is recognised when invoiced.

1.3 Resources expended

Costs are allocated between costs of generating funds and charitable expenditure according to the nature of the cost.

1.4 Fixed Assets and depreciation

Fixed assets for charity use are capitalised at cost, they are stated in the accounts at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is calculated to write off the cost of the fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on an individual basis.

Office equipment:	25% Reducing balance
Computer equipment:	3 years straight line

1.5 Investments

Investments are included in the accounts at their market value.

1.6 Stock

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

	2021		2020
	£		£
	Unrestricted funds	Designated Funds	Unrestricted Funds
2 Voluntary income			
Subscriptions	74,734	0	83,436
Donations			
- General	490		968
- Half Hardy Group	0	1,608	0
- Correspondents Group	0	1,782	0
Gift Aid			10,985
	<u>84,816</u>	<u>3,390</u>	<u>95,389</u>
In 2021 both the Half Hardy and the Correspondents Groups closed. They donated their closing bank balances to the Bursary Fund.			
3 Activities for generating funds			
Advertising	3,060		598
Booklets	<u>2,561</u>		<u>4,272</u>
	<u>5,621</u>		<u>4,870</u>
4 Incoming resources from charitable activities			
Seed distribution	6,142		5,201
Cornucopia	5,354		3,078
Enamel badges	27		52
AGM/ALD	<u>(50)</u>		<u>0</u>
	<u>11,473</u>		<u>8,331</u>
5 Costs of generating voluntary income			
Administration services	19,650		19,969
Legal & professional	2,609		3,004
Office rent, heat & light	7,390		7,320
Printing, postage & telephone	3,626		4,827
Meetings	66		138
Insurance	3,875		3,495
Publicity	0		2,105
Depreciation of equipment	87		116
Bank charges	867		781
New systems project	1,236		2,564
Process modelling	452		0
Software & IT support	<u>2,710</u>		<u>3,662</u>
	<u>42,568</u>		<u>47,981</u>

The average number of employees during the year was 1.
There are no employees who received total employee benefits of more than £60,000.

	2021	2020
6 Charitable activities		
Journal costs	20,524	18,333
Newsletter costs	12,426	12,906
Cornucopia costs	3,085	2,608
Booklet costs	2,669	544
Seed distribution expenses	7,406	7,113
Historic seed expenses adjustment	0	2,675
AGM/ALD expenses	3,301	665
Conservation	1,233	50
Group support	0	50
Shows & Events	0	72
Banners	0	108
Website	948	912
	<u>51,592</u>	<u>46,036</u>
7 Governance costs		
Trustees' meetings	40	1,464
Independent examination	800	775
	<u>840</u>	<u>2,239</u>
8 Other resources expended - unrestricted		
Sundry expenses	251	787
	<u>251</u>	<u>787</u>
9 Other resources expended - designated		
Bursaries awarded	4,750	8,960
Photo competition prizes	293	306
	<u>5,043</u>	<u>9,266</u>
10 Trustees		
None of the Trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration during the year but one of them was reimbursed a total of £40 for travelling expenses (2020 £1,205).		

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Office Equipment	Computers	Total
Cost b/f	7,122	11,964	19,086
Additions	0	0	0
Cost c/f	<u>7,122</u>	<u>11,964</u>	<u>19,086</u>
Depreciation b/f	6,774	11,964	18,738
Charge for the year	87	0	87
Depreciation c/f	<u>6,861</u>	<u>11,964</u>	<u>18,825</u>
Net book value 31.12.21	<u>261</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>261</u>
Net book value 31.12.20	<u>348</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>348</u>

13 Investments

		2021	2020
Skipton Building Society	1 yr 0.55% bond	70,246	69,978
St James Place	Equities	94,651	85,347
CCLA COIF Charities Global Equity Income Fund		149,937	129,448
		<u>314,834</u>	<u>284,773</u>

Investment income during the year was made up of:

Interest (unrestricted, general)	3,205
Interest (unrestricted, designated)	<u>1,735</u>
	<u>4,940</u>

14 Debtors

	2021	2020
Prepayments and accrued income	6,323	5,940
Other debtors	904	1,008
	<u>7,227</u>	<u>6,948</u>

15 Creditors

	2021	2020
VAT	(516)	(1,249)
Trade creditors	(37)	(52)
Other creditors	1,472	2,189
Subscriptions & seed in advance	27,659	19,201
	<u>28,577</u>	<u>20,089</u>

16	Reserves	01.01.21 B/F	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Gains & Losses	31.12.21 C/F
	Fund Movements					
	Unrestricted general	357,677	105,115	95,251	19,502	387,043
	Unrestricted designated	193,661	1,735	1,653	10,560	204,303
		<u>551,338</u>	<u>106,850</u>	<u>96,904</u>	<u>30,062</u>	<u>591,346</u>

The unrestricted designated fund relates to the Society's Bursary and Project Support Fund. This fund arose as a generous legacy from the estate of Mr Kenneth Black who was a gardener with Enfield Council in North London.

The trustees decided that this fund should not be used for the administration of the Society but that it should be invested and the interest used to support special projects. There are two types of Bursary: one for college or university students and one for people in horticultural employment.

Funding may be awarded to projects of any sort which fit within the charitable objects of the Society and may be made to individuals or groups. More information is available on the Society's web site <http://www.hardy-plant.org.uk/> and applications are made via the Bursary co-ordinator.

Reserves are represented by:	Unrestricted General	Unrestricted Designated	Total
Fixed assets	261	-	261
Current assets	415,359	204,303	619,662
Current liabilities	<u>(28,577)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(28,577)</u>
	<u>387,043</u>	<u>204,304</u>	<u>591,346</u>

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Hardy Plant Society

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2021 which are set out on pages 9 to 15.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

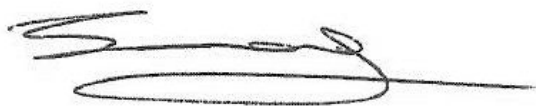
Basis of independent examiner's report

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 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Acthave 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.



James Howard FCCA ACA
Haines Watts Worcester Limited
6 Abbey Lane Court, Abbey Lane
EVESHAM, WR11 4BY

28 April 2022

Accounts



TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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Independent Examiner's Report	16

CHARITY INFORMATION

Trustees	Sally Adams	
	Colin Cutler	To February 2020
	Karen Gimson	
	Lynne Hackett	From April 2020
	Peter Howard	
	Alison Levey	To March 2020
	Tricia Newton	From March 2020
	Catherine Part	
	Anna Peacock	
	Diane Puncheon	To June 2020
	Christine Price-Morris	To June 2020
	Keith Scott	From March 2020
	Lorraine Shepherd	To June 2020
Chairman	Jan Vaughan	
Vice Chairman	Linda Crowther	To August 2020
	Pamela Clark	From August 2020
Hon. Treasurer	Stuart Senior	
Hon. Secretary	Helen Curtis	From February 2020
Administrator	Clare Powell	
Charity Registration No.		208080
VAT Registration No.		472-9285-14
Registered Office	3 Basepoint Business Centre, Crab Apple Way, EVESHAM, WR11 1GP	
Independent Examiner	Haines Watts Worcester Limited, 6 Abbey Lane Court, Abbey Lane, EVESHAM, WR11 4BY	

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

The Trustees present their Annual Report and the Financial Statements of the Society for the year ended 31 December 2020 in compliance with current statutory requirements and the charity's governing documents.

Status

The Society is registered by the Charity Commission as a charity (number 208080) and operates under the provisions of a Constitution approved by AGM on 26/03/2011 and amended at AGMs on 30/03/2019 and 31/07/2020.

The objects for which the Society was established are to:

- advance the culture, study and improvement of hardy herbaceous plants;
- preserve the older, rarer and lesser-known hardy plants, cultivars and varieties from being forgotten and lost to cultivation;
- advance the knowledge of and foster public interest in hardy plants by the publication of information, by exhibitions or displays, by stimulating research and experiment and by awarding bursaries open to public competition;
- provide expositions of hardy plants at horticultural gardens and/or gardens open to the public, and to provide facilities for giving advice on the culture of hardy plants;
- organise visits to places of interest in connection with the study of hardy plants and to co-operate with other bodies having similar or sympathetic aims; and
- do such acts as shall further the active and corporate life of the Society and which may lawfully be done by a public body established only for purposes recognised by the laws of the United Kingdom as charitable.

Trustees

The Society is managed by a committee of Trustees comprising up to twelve members each elected for a period of four years, plus any co-opted members and, additionally, four officers who are elected annually.

Activities

Introduction

In the difficult circumstances of a global Covid-19 pandemic, 2020 was a challenging year for the Hardy Plant Society. Almost all meetings and other events were cancelled with the national AGM one of the first casualties. The notice of the AGM and statement of accounts was sent to all members in the July Newsletter along with a ballot paper to be completed electronically or posted. Meetings have been conducted online and thanks to the commitment of our Postholders, HPS members have received their Newsletters and Journals. A new HPS booklet, Border Phlox, was published and has sold well.

The Office was closed during periods of national lockdown with our Administrator working from home. The planned upgrade to cloud-based systems should facilitate this in future although some tasks will continue to require an office base.

Inevitably there were constraints on other aspects of the Society's work, with almost no bursary applications as studies have been disrupted and travel plans abandoned. The Conservation Scheme has not been able to expand as a Plant Exchange was not possible, although a virtual meeting of co-ordinators took place.

The Society continues to provide information to both members and the public through the website and local HPS Groups have used websites and social media to share their gardening year and many are now hosting online meetings. It is still too early to predict the overall effect on membership numbers, but the Society is well-placed to move ahead in the coming year.

The Office

Helen Curtis came to the role of Honorary Secretary in March 2020, just as the pandemic was affecting our lives. Helen was new to the trustees and had a steep learning curve to understand how the organisation worked and to build relationships with fellow trustees, post holders and groups. Her first task was to set up online meetings so that the work of the Trustees could continue. Meetings had always taken place in London; the new online meetings proved popular as they have saved much travel time and expense. Meetings continued during a difficult year.

It was necessary to ensure the Society fulfilled its obligations as an employer and as a charity. The Society had been without an Honorary Secretary for a while so undertaking pension re-enrolment and updating our entry on the Charity Commissioner's register and filing annual returns was a priority.

Unfortunately, the office closed during the lockdown and it became clear that administration could continue, only if our systems were upgraded to allow remote working. We have implemented two integrated office systems: *Infoodle* to manage our members' records and *Xero* to manage accounts. Our Administrator can now continue to perform many tasks from home when the office is closed.

HPS Journal

Souren Ala has enjoyed, in a masochistic way, editing *The Hardy Plant* in 2020. The depth and breadth of articles which contributors have sent him have been extremely welcome: an exciting challenge to put together, and to present in the best light he can.

But he does at times feel as though he is working in isolation; it would be wonderful to receive more feedback from the membership on what they think about the content and quality of the Journal. The tiny fraction who bothered to respond have largely approved, and he is grateful for that. The quality of photographs has come in for a bit of criticism, and he is trying to address this. But he is reliant upon the quality of images received.

Covid-19 has put paid to the very valuable KBBS reports, which have been an injection of youthful vitality for our readership – and by extension it is hoped – our membership. Let's hope the scheme can get going again ASAP.

Finally, a new publisher has been selected for the Journal this year (anyone who wishes more details on this, please contact Souren directly). The hope is that they will help maintain the high standards of our Journal.

Newsletter

The Society's three-times-a-year newsletter has, in these restricted times, become a major point of contact between the organisation and its members. The layout and design was refreshed (with new typography, increased sign-posting and more extensive use of photographs) from the June 2020 issue. In the almost total absence of its usual content of regional events and national information, the focus has switched to a more friendly tone, featuring what members are

actually doing rather than just being a simple notice board. It was agreed that this approach would increase the potential for it to be a more unifying force for the Society. The November issue, which was distributed with the Society's annual seed scheme list, increased in size to 40 pages instead of the normal 32 because of enhanced feedback from local groups and individual members.

Booklets

Sales of booklets have continued through our various lockdowns. Our latest publication, *Border Phlox*, was published in late June. It was not possible, of course, to launch it at an event but Gill Mullin wrote a nice review for the Autumn edition of the Journal and we managed to get a mention in the September edition of the RHS magazine, *The Garden*. The print run was for 550 copies and by Christmas we were at 342.

Of the other booklets, *Geraniums*, *Ferns*, *Chrysanthemums* and *Peonies* have all continued to sell well during this financial year and we had to have additional copies of *Peonies* printed. No new booklets have yet been commissioned but we will need to consider this in the coming months.

Cornucopia

Cornucopia has retained steady membership numbers, with a slight increase from 2019 to 977 subscribers. The price increase of 50p in Autumn 2020 means that the magazine will make a small profit for the next 5 years or so, providing postage costs remain much the same. There have been no problems with printing or distribution during 2020. Cornucopia was featured in the HPS Newsletter in November 2020, which editor Lynne Hackett hopes will result in increased subscription numbers.

Seed Distribution

2020 has been a very challenging year for the seed distribution scheme. The Covid-19 pandemic placed restrictions on most of the practices that underpin the scheme from donation to order dispatch.

Not surprisingly, fewer donations were received, 209 with 30 new donors, probably because of the uncertainty about whether or not the scheme would complete.

In practice, instead of the very social element of most of the work done by teams in village halls and group venues, alternatives meant individuals have been doing work on their own, in their own homes. More single boxes of seed were being couriered and posted to different volunteers before going on again to the next stage, consequently tracking was of major importance. In total thirty-five thousand packets of seed will be available to complete orders, distribute at events and donate to charities.

The successful completion of the scheme for this year is solely due to the commitment and enthusiasm of the teams of volunteers who have handled seed in Norfolk, Southern Counties, Lincolnshire and Shropshire.

From February onwards in 2020 over 40 charities received seeds with more applications being received when seed was no longer available.

Photo Library

Matthias Dejaegher took over, as the HPS photo librarian, from Brian Hackett in 2019.

In 2020, there was a steady stream of people requesting images for publications. The conclusion is that, despite all the restrictions, most publications went ahead as usual. The number of newly

submitted images for the library has been quite low this year. The photo competition on the other hand had about twice as many submissions as last year so was a great success.

Progress has been made this year in reviewing the copyright message and minimum requirements for when people submit new pictures for the library but this area is a legal minefield which makes it a slow process. Progress has also been made on making the process from new submissions to finally adding the pictures to the website much simpler. This process now also has security in mind by removing certain data that is often embedded in pictures.

Conservation

The national co-ordinator maintained contact with co-ordinators in HPS Local Groups through regular newsletters and e-mails. Growers reported a good year although many propagated fewer plants with restrictions due to the coronavirus affecting meetings and thus the opportunity to exchange plants. The annual Plant Exchange was cancelled although an online meeting provided the opportunity to discuss plants on the Scheme and other matters related to conservation. The new national co-ordinator is Sally Adams, who takes over the role from Jan Vaughan. Regular updates are provided to HPS members in the HPS Newsletter and the HPS website has information on all the plants and a regular news item for HPS members and the public.

Shows & Events

The Society started 2020 with a full programme of shows and events for the year, the cumulation of many hours of planning and work put in by members of its Groups. That they were inevitably cancelled because of the pandemic was hugely disappointing, not only because of so much effort going to waste, but because the HPS is a very sociable Society and its members love to meet up at shows and swap tips and plants with each other and the wider public. The big hole left by the absence of these opportunities underlined the community and social benefits that belonging to the Society brings. The Annual Lecture Day and AGM was rearranged from the spring to later in the year, but this, too, was unable to take place.

Website

2020 has been a challenging year when the HPS website proved its worth on account of the number of cancellations of events and meetings, made necessary due to Covid-19. On the positive side it has been a good demonstration of the advantages of digital over printed media to keep members and public with up-to-date information

Apart from cancellations we were able to carry messages on the banner about office closures and other changing situations. We look forward to a return to normality later in 2021.

Dropbox

All Trustees now have either 'full' or 'read only' access to the HPS Dropbox account, according to their preference. Some tidying of the folders has been carried out over the last year to reduce the amount of material in the shared Team folder and rationalise the headings. The most active areas are Finance and Seed Distribution.

An introductory email was developed earlier this year which explains the purpose and use of Dropbox by HPS and the options available to members. This seems to have been helpful to those who are new to Trustee or Postholder roles.

The retrospective addition of HPS documents is continuing, albeit slowly.

The Kenneth Black Bursary Scheme

The Bursary Scheme had a brisk start to 2020 with 20 applications being submitted before the first lockdown in March. Another six were received in the period August to December.

Applications have switched from requesting financial help for travel to requesting support for online courses and computer software to support study from home.

Awards were made to 20 applicants totalling £8,960, well below the £22,000 budget.

Finance

Financial outcome 2020

The pandemic, not surprisingly, made a mockery of our carefully crafted 2020 budget and many areas of expenditure (for example, shows and bursaries) were significantly underspent. On a brighter note, the extensive use of Zoom meant that the travel costs associated with our normal round of Trustee, Postholder, Group Secretaries and Conservation meetings were dramatically reduced.

One area where the pandemic had an adverse impact on our costs was the 2020 seed distribution. To comply with lockdown and social distancing restrictions, additional costs for a village hall hire and some extra transport and courier costs were unavoidable.

The fall in subscription income, in 2020, by 5% (exactly in line with the fall in memberships) is a matter of concern. The impact of the pandemic on membership is unclear. Received wisdom suggests that people spent more time in their gardens during lockdown and enjoyed the physical and mental health benefits of so doing. The substantial increase in booklet sales would tend to support this and one might, therefore, have imagined an increase, rather than a decline, in membership. The lack of events, both Nationally and locally, may have been a contributing factor.

Like last year, we benefitted from a buoyant stock market. Our overall surplus was £34,155 of which £25,110 was due to the gain in the value of our investments. So, pandemic notwithstanding, the Society remains in sound financial shape and we look forward to spending our money on our charitable objects as soon as the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions allow.

Investment policy

The Society's approach to financial matters, and investments in particular, is one of extreme prudence given the current (and likely future) volatility of equity markets, the very low interest rates on deposit accounts and low returns on bonds. For this reason, the Society chooses to keep approximately half of its funds as cash (in current and deposit accounts). The remainder is in fixed interest bonds and equities. Looking ahead it is worth noting that two of the Society's historic bond providers, Cynergy Bank and Secure Trust Bank, no longer deal with charities.

Reserves policy

The cash flows of the Society are generally positive. Membership subscriptions are received at the beginning of the year and these, with the prior year Gift Aid payment already banked, cover the operating costs of the Society. Nonetheless, the Trustees have decided that it should set a level of reserves to cover unforeseeable expenditure such as might be incurred in the very unlikely event of the Society closing down or membership declining very rapidly, or an uninsured claim being made against the Society. A level of £50,000 has been set.

Future Plans

The Society's priorities for the year ahead are, subject to the constraints imposed by the pandemic, to:

- maintain membership numbers by continuing to offer members a high quality and value-for-money range of products and services and to encourage and support local groups in their programme of shows and events for the benefit of local members;
- seek ways of encouraging potential applicants for bursaries and similar grants.

Trustees' Responsibilities

Under charity law the Trustees are required to prepare financial statements for each year which show a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities FRS102 SORP;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity. The Trustees are also required to act in accordance with the Constitution of the Society and to take such steps as are reasonable to safeguard the assets of the Society and to prevent and to detect fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in planning future activities.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:



Jan Vaughan, Chairman

Date: 18 May 2021

Statement of Financial Activities

				2020	2019
	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Total Funds £	Total Funds £
INCOME					
Income from generated funds:					
- Voluntary income	2	95,389	-	95,389	100,156
- Activities for generating funds	3	4,870	-	4,870	7,900
Income from charitable activities	4	8,331	-	8,331	12,095
Investment income		4,264	2,500	6,764	4,949
TOTAL		112,854	2,500	115,354	125,100
EXPENDITURE					
Costs of generating voluntary income	5	47,981	-	47,981	45,965
Charitable activities	6	46,036	-	46,036	52,982
Governance costs	7	2,239	-	2,239	7,264
Other resources expended	8	787	-	787	256
Bursaries etc.	9	0	9,266	9,266	22,639
TOTAL		97,043	9,266	106,309	129,106
Net Gain on investment		15,830	9,280	25,110	22,842
Net Income for the year		31,641	2,515	34,155	18,836
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		31,641	2,515	34,155	18,836
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Funds B/F at 1 January 2020		326,036	191,147	517,183	498,347
TOTAL FUNDS C/F at 31 December 2020		357,677	193,662	551,338	517,183

Balance Sheet

		2020	2019
	Note		
Fixed assets	11	348	464
Current assets			
Bank balances	12	274,029	243,921
Investments at cost	13	284,773	299,663
Debtors & prepayments	14	6,948	11,887
Stock (booklets)		<u>5,329</u>	<u>4,584</u>
		571,079	560,055
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year			
	15	<u>(20,089)</u>	<u>(43,336)</u>
Net current assets		550,990	516,719
Total assets less current liabilities		<u><u>551,338</u></u>	<u><u>517,183</u></u>
Financed by:			
General fund	16	357,677	326,036
Bursary fund	16	193,662	191,147
		<u><u>551,338</u></u>	<u><u>517,183</u></u>

The accounts were approved by the Trustees on 18 May 2021.



Jan Vaughan
Chairman



Stuart Senior
Treasurer

The notes on pages 11 to 15 form part of these financial statements.

Notes to the Accounts

1 Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of preparation:

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) FRS102.

There have been no changes to the funds held as a result of this change in accounting standards.

The accounts have been prepared on an accruals basis as they have been in previous years.

1.2 Incoming resources

Subscriptions are accounted for net of VAT and are accounted for in the year to which they relate.

Donations are accounted for gross when received.

Investment income is based on the interest receivable for the year.

Sundry sales are accounted for net of VAT and are recognised when they are invoiced.

Advertising income is accounted for net of VAT and is recognised when invoiced.

1.3 Resources expended

Costs are allocated between costs of generating funds and charitable expenditure according to the nature of the cost.

1.4 Fixed Assets and depreciation

Fixed assets for charity use are capitalised at cost, they are stated in the accounts at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is calculated to write off the cost of the fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on an individual basis.

Office equipment:	25% Reducing balance
Computer equipment:	3 years straight line

1.5 Investments

Investments are included in the accounts at their market value.

1.6 Stock

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

	2020	2019
	£	£
	Unrestricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds
2 Voluntary income		
Subscriptions	83,436	88,098
Donations	968	801
Gift Aid	10,985	11,257
	<u>95,389</u>	<u>100,156</u>
3 Activities for generating funds		
Advertising	598	4,356
Booklets	4,272	3,544
	<u>4,870</u>	<u>7,900</u>
4 Incoming resources from charitable activities		
Seed distribution	5,201	6,093
Cornucopia	3,078	3,044
Enamel badges	52	107
AGM/ALD	0	2,851
	<u>8,331</u>	<u>12,095</u>
5 Costs of generating voluntary income		
Administration services	19,969	20,481
Legal & professional	3,004	3,790
Office rent, heat & light	7,320	6,433
Printing, postage & telephone	4,827	5,518
Meetings	138	103
Insurance	3,495	3,358
Publicity	2,105	785
Equipment rental/leasing	0	148
Depreciation of equipment	116	155
Bank charges	781	1,267
New systems project	2,564	0
Software & IT support	3,662	3,927
	<u>47,981</u>	<u>45,965</u>

The average number of employees during the year was 1.

There are no employees who received total employee benefits of more than £60,000.

	2020	2019
6 Charitable activities		
Journal costs	18,333	20,141
Newsletter costs	12,906	10,913
Cornucopia costs	2,608	3,043
Booklet costs	544	2,556
Seed distribution expenses	7,113	5,272
Historic seed expenses adjustment	2,675	133
AGM/ALD expenses	665	3,096
Conservation	50	1,895
Group support	50	2,844
Shows & Events	72	1,879
Banners	108	228
Website	912	982
	<u>46,036</u>	<u>52,982</u>
7 Governance costs		
Trustees meetings	1,464	6,489
Independent examination	775	775
	<u>2,239</u>	<u>7,264</u>
8 Other resources expended - unrestricted		
Sundry expenses	787	256
	<u>787</u>	<u>256</u>
9 Other resources expended - designated		
Bursaries awarded	8,960	22,318
Photo competition prizes	306	321
	<u>9,266</u>	<u>22,639</u>
10 Trustees		
None of the Trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration during the year but 12 of them were reimbursed a total of £1,205 for travelling expenses (2019 £5,465).		

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Office Equipment	Computers	Total
Cost b/f	7,122	11,964	19,086
Additions	0	0	0
Cost c/f	<u>7,122</u>	<u>11,964</u>	<u>19,086</u>
Depreciation b/f	6,658	11,964	18,622
Charge for the year	116	0	116
Depreciation c/f	<u>6,774</u>	<u>11,964</u>	<u>18,738</u>
Net book value 31.12.20	<u>348</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>348</u>
Net book value 31.12.19	<u>464</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>464</u>

13 Investments

		2020	2019
Cynergy Bank	3 yr 1.65% bond matured	0	75,000
Skipton Building Society	1 yr 0.55% bond	69,978	68,233
St James Place	Equities	85,347	70,194
Secure Trust	5 yr 3.02% bond matured	0	15,000
CCLA COIF Charities Global Equity Income Fund		129,448	48,394
		<u>284,773</u>	<u>276,821</u>

Investment income during the year was made up of:

Interest (unrestricted, general)	4,264
Interest (unrestricted, designated)	<u>2,500</u>
	<u>6,764</u>

14 Debtors

	2020	2019
Prepayments and accrued income	5,940	11,052
Other debtors	<u>1,008</u>	<u>835</u>
	<u>6,948</u>	<u>11,887</u>

15	Creditors	2020	2019
	VAT	(1,249)	874
	Trade creditors	(52)	3,119
	Other creditors	2,189	1,496
	Subscriptions & seed in advance	19,201	37,847
		<u>20,089</u>	<u>43,336</u>

16	Reserves	01.01.20 B/F	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Gains & Losses	31.12.20 C/F
	Fund Movements					
	Unrestricted general	326,036	112,854	97,043	15,830	357,677
	Unrestricted designated	191,147	2,500	9,266	9,280	193,662
		<u>517,183</u>	<u>115,354</u>	<u>106,309</u>	<u>25,110</u>	<u>551,338</u>

The unrestricted designated fund relates to the Society's Bursary and Project Support Fund. This fund arose as a generous legacy from the estate of Mr Kenneth Black who was a gardener with Enfield Council in North London.

The trustees decided that this fund should not be used for the administration of the Society but that it should be invested and the interest used to support special projects. There are two types of Bursary: one for college or university students and one for people in horticultural employment.

Funding may be awarded to projects of any sort which fit within the charitable objects of the Society and may be made to individuals or groups. More information is available on the Society's web site <http://www.hardy-plant.org.uk/> and applications are made via the Bursary co-ordinator.

Reserves are represented by:	Unrestricted General	Unrestricted Designated	Total
Fixed assets	348	-	348
Current assets	377,418	193,662	571,079
Current liabilities	<u>(20,089)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(20,089)</u>
	<u>357,677</u>	<u>193,662</u>	<u>551,338</u>

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Hardy Plant Society

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2020 which are set out on pages 9 to 15.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- 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

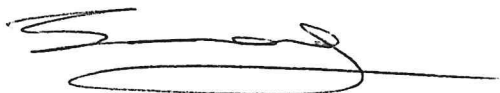
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

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 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 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.



James Howard FCCA ACA
Haines Watts Worcester Limited
6 Abbey Lane Court, Abbey Lane
EVESHAM, WR11 4BY

Date: 20 May 2021