

# **GARDENING WITH DISABILITIES TRUST**

A stylized illustration of a hand reaching into a garden of colorful flowers. The hand is light-skinned and is reaching towards a large orange flower. The garden is filled with various flowers in shades of orange, purple, red, and green. The background is a solid dark red color.

**TRUSTEES'  
ANNUAL REPORT  
&  
ACCOUNTS  
For Year Ended  
31.12.2024**

**Adapting Gardens, Changing Lives,  
Defying Disability  
since 1968**

**Charity number 255066**

**[www.gardeningwithdisabilitiestrust.org.uk](http://www.gardeningwithdisabilitiestrust.org.uk)**

# Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024

## Reference and administrative Details

**Registered Charity** 255066 (registered in England)

**Patron** Sir Roddy Llewellyn

### Trustees

Richard Capewell	Chairman
Paul Brown	(died March 2024)
Susan Clement Davies	
Stephanie Donaldson	
Sarah Keeling	
Penny Knapman	
Mark Lane	
John Mankelow	
Sue Medway	
Felicity Seton	

### Executive Committee

Felicity Seton	Chairman
Angela Goddard	Secretary
Paul Brown	Treasurer (died March 2024)
Collette Barcilon	(Joined May 2024)
Jane Evert	(Joined May 2024)
Heather Fooks	(Honorary)
Jess Bruce Lockhart	
Anna Mathews	(resigned February 2025)
Sarah Peters	
Justine Stringer	

**Principal office** P.O. Box 285  
Tunbridge Wells  
Kent TN2 9JD

**Website** [www.gardeningwithdisabilitiestrust.org.uk](http://www.gardeningwithdisabilitiestrust.org.uk)

**Independent Examiner** David Earwicker FCA  
Brooks Caring Accountants Limited  
The Studio, 1 Canons Lane  
Burgh Heath  
KT20 6DP

The Trustees and Executive Committee present their annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024. The Trustees confirm that the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's constitution, the Charities Act 2011 and the second edition of the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (SORP FRS 102). The Legal and Administrative information on page 2 forms part of this report.

### **Objectives**

The object of the charity is the relief of suffering and distress of people with disabilities by enabling them to take an active part in gardening and other leisure activities.

### **Structure, Governance and Management**

Gardening with Disabilities Trust is governed by a Constitution and Rules adopted on registration as a charity on 11 March 1968, amended on 4 May 1988, 9 April 2019 and 14 January 2021.

Trustees are appointed by resolution of the Trustees, following recommendation by the Chairman. The Trustees meet at least twice a year and receive a report from the Executive Committee on the operations of the Trust. The Trustees have delegated day-to-day management of the affairs of the Trust to an Executive Committee who meet monthly. The Trustees and Executive Committee of the charity are detailed on page 2 of this report. The charity has no staff. The services of the Executive Committee are voluntary.

Funds are raised by appeal to charitable trusts and foundations and by events organised by the Executive Committee.

### **Public Benefit**

The Trustees have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission. The activities described in this report have been undertaken for the public benefit and in pursuit of the charity's objects.

The Trust is an entirely voluntary organisation and relies on the energy and determination of the Trustees and Executive Committee. Run from the Weald of Kent, the Trust gives small grants to people and institutions all over the United Kingdom in order that they may continue to garden despite advancing illness, age or disability whether mental or physical. The annual income is spent judiciously and often transforms the recipient as well as the garden, replacing a source of frustration with a valuable therapy and sense of satisfaction.

### **Achievements and Performance**

The Trust has had another busy year with a high demand for grants. In part this reflects a catch up from the disruption of the pandemic, but it also reflects the increasing awareness of the benefits gardening can bring to those with disabilities. We have been able to help many gardeners back into their plots assisting the magic of making things grow.

We have given 136 grants (2023: 100 grants) at an average of £392 (2023: £473) for a total of £57,457, and repaid £15,000 to The Prudence Trust, where restricted funds could not be disbursed in accordance with the conditions attached to the original grant. Some grants are given to institutions, to enable gardening for their residents with disabilities whether physical or mental; accordingly, we estimate the number of people benefitting from our grants exceeds

1,200. The vast majority of beneficiaries are people whose enthusiasm for gardening remains undimmed but whose physical or mental limitations now demand substantial and costly changes to adapt their garden. Most of the projects have taken the minimum from our Trust. The basic materials alone have been funded, but usually friends, family and volunteers have all been pleased to help to create a special sanctuary for the individual or institution. Our upper limit for grants to individuals is £1,000; it is £1,500 for schools, clubs and institutions.

A passion for plants and the care they need are real diversions from the gruelling demands of many chronic illnesses. Whatever the weather or the economy may be doing, reading, choosing and planning for the gardening season to come surely helps. Gardening is a simple pleasure and gives us all an opportunity to escape from the confines of the house and wheelchair into an independent world where disability makes no odds. Encouragement, ideas and information give confidence to work wonders with a daunting patch. Money is a vital component and one where the Trust is pleased to help.

### **Fundraising and Donations**

We have had four main fund-raising events during 2024 - Garden History Talk & Tour at Chelsea Physic gardens, two open garden events, and a Plant Fair. The latter, our major fund-raising event of the year, raised £2,977. We are grateful to those who opened their gardens and those who contributed their time for our events. In total fundraising generated gross income of £5,618 with costs of £354.

We are very appreciative of our major donors which included: Savannah Trust, The 29<sup>th</sup> May Charitable Trust, The Worshipful Company of Gardeners; Stoneturn LLP and the Swire Foundation. We were extremely fortunate to also receive a legacy of £3,000. As always, the bedrock of our income is the contribution of the many people who made donations, bought our Cuttings book, or paid to attend our events. We owe an enormous debt of gratitude to all those who supported us – our thanks to them.

### **Risks**

We are very conscious of the dependency we have on the time, enthusiasm and ability of the Committee members to manage the day-to-day business of giving grants and organising fund-raising events.

Our procedures have shown evidence of suspected fraud attempts. We have tightened our controls and have taken the advice of an expert to reduce risk still further.

### **Financial Review**

We have ended the financial year with an operating deficit of £35,080 and investment gains of £9,285, giving an overall deficit of £25,795.

Total income before investment gains amounted to £49,497 of which donations totalled £31,594 (2023: £32,554). Total costs were £75,292 of which grants totalled £72,457 (2023: £47,255). Our administration expenditure, excluding fund-raising expenses, slightly increased to £2,481 (2023: £1,147) and will remain under close control.

### **Reserves**

Our reserves of £129,290 (2023: £155,085) are all unrestricted funds (except for £5,785 which has been spent subsequently in 2025) held to meet future grant funding requirements. Our aim is to generate sufficient income each year to cover our costs whilst recognising that it is prudent to also maintain an adequate liquidity buffer. The reserves

are represented in part by investments in two mutual funds, which the Trustees intend to retain for the long term.

### **Statement of Trustees' and Management Committee Responsibilities**

The Trustees and Executive Committee are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting practice). The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees and Executive Committee to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees and Executive Committee are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; 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 and Executive Committee are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the charity's constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees and Executive Committee are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:



Richard Capewell  
Chairman

09 Sep 2025

Signed on behalf of the Executive Committee:



Felicity Seton  
Chairman

09 Sep 2025

**GARDENING FOR DISABLED TRUST**  
**Statement of Financial Activities**  
**For the Year ended 31 December 2024**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<i>Unrestricted</i>	<i>Restricted</i>		
	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Rausing Trust Fund</b>	<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>Total Funds</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Income from:</b>				
Donations	21,594	10,000	31,594	32,554
Legacies	3,000	-	3,000	20,000
Fund-raising events (Note 1)	5,618	-	5,618	12,919
Dividends & Interest from investments	7,102	-	7,102	6,326
Unrealised Profit on Investments	2,183	-	2,183	-
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>39,497</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>49,497</b>	<b>71,799</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>				
Fund raising events (note 2)	354	-	354	5,252
Charitable activities:				
Grants and repay 2023 Prudence Trust Grant	68,242	4,215	72,457	47,255
Other Administrative Costs	2,481	-	2,481	1,147
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>71,077</b>	<b>4,215</b>	<b>75,292</b>	<b>53,654</b>
<b>Net (losses) on investments</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(5,244)</b>
<b>Net Income (Expenditure)</b>	<b>(31,580)</b>	<b>5,785</b>	<b>(25,795)</b>	<b>12,901</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>				
Funds brought forward	155,085	-	155,085	142,184
<b>Funds carried forward</b>	<b>123,505</b>	<b>5,785</b>	<b>129,290</b>	<b>155,085</b>

**GARDENING FOR DISABLED TRUST**  
**Balance Sheet at 31 December 2024**

	2024 £ <i>Unrestricted</i> General Fund	2024 £ <i>Restricted</i> Rausing Trust Fund	2024 £ Total Funds	2023 £ Total Funds
<b>Fixed assets</b>				
Investments (note 4)	103,562	-	103,562	111,391
<b>Current assets</b>				
Bank accounts	19,943	5,785	25,728	43,692
Petty cash	-	-	-	2
<b>Net Current Assets</b>	19,943	5,785	25,728	43,694
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>123,505</b>	<b>5,785</b>	<b>129,290</b>	<b>155,085</b>
<b>Representing:</b>				
The General Fund	123,505	-	123,505	140,085
The Prudence Trust ( 2023) refunded	-	-	-	15,000
The Rausing Trust	-	5,785	5,785	-
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>123,505</b>	<b>5,785</b>	<b>129,290</b>	<b>155,085</b>

**GARDENING FOR DISABLED TRUST**  
**Notes to the Accounts**  
**For the Year ended 31 December 2024**

**1. Income from Fund raising events**

	<b>2024</b> <i>Unrestricted</i> <b>General Fund</b>	<b>2024</b> <i>Restricted</i>	<b>2024</b> <b>Total Funds</b>	<b>2023</b> <b>Total Funds</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Plant Fair	2,977	-	2,977	5,202
Donation	-	-	-	-
Talks	1,223	-	1,223	-
Garden Visits	585	-	585	1,300
Fairlight Hall	-	-	-	1,974
Raffle	-	-	-	605
Bridge	-	-	-	3,690
Cuttings	-	-	-	25
Gloves	-	-	-	118
Other Income	833	-	833	5
Gift Aid refund	-	-	-	-
<b>Total income from fund raising events</b>	<b>5,618</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,618</b>	<b>12,919</b>
<b>2. Cost of fund raising events</b>				
Plant Fair	353	-	353	150
The Courtyard	-	-	-	-
Chevening	-	-	-	675
Fairlight Hall	-	-	-	130
Gloves	-	-	-	341
Bridge	-	-	-	3,461
Cuttings	-	-	-	211
Other Fund raising costs	364	-	364	284
<b>Total Fund Raising expenses</b>	<b>717</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>717</b>	<b>5,252</b>
<b>4. Investments</b>				
Valuation at 1 January 2024	111,391	-	111,391	116,635
Disposal of units at cost	(10,013)	-	(10,013)	-
Change in valuation:				
Unrealised net gain (loss)	2,184	-	2,184	(5,244)
Valuation at 31 December 2024	<b>103,562</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>103,562</b>	<b>111,391</b>
Comprising:				
M&G Charifund	41,393	-	41,393	49,669
Charities Property Fund	62,169	-	62,169	61,722
	<b>103,562</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>103,562</b>	<b>111,391</b>



I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of Gardening with Disabilities Trust, charity number 255066 ('the Charity') for the year ended 31 December 2024.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

*D Earwicker*

**David Earwicker FCA**  
**Brooks Carling Accountants Limited**  
Chartered Certified Accountants  
The Studio, 1 Canons Lane  
Burgh Heath  
KT20 6DP

Dated: 09 Sep 2025

# **GARDENING WITH DISABILITIES TRUST**

A stylized illustration featuring a hand holding a purple flower. The hand is light-skinned with a simple, clean design. The flower is a vibrant purple with a yellow center. Surrounding the hand and flower are various other flowers in shades of orange, red, and green, all rendered in a flat, modern style. The background is a solid dark red color.

**TRUSTEES'  
ANNUAL REPORT  
&  
ACCOUNTS  
For Year Ended  
31.12.2024**

**Adapting Gardens, Changing Lives,  
Defying Disability  
since 1968**

**Charity number 255066**

**[www.gardeningwithdisabilitiestrust.org.uk](http://www.gardeningwithdisabilitiestrust.org.uk)**