

THE LAKELAND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

England & Wales · Charity number 259847

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 1969-11-05

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

Contact

Address Holehird Gardens
Patterdale Road
Windermere
LA23 1NP

Phone 01539446008

Email secretary@holehirdgardens.org.uk

Website <http://www.holehirdgardens.org.uk>

Activities

Objects: TO PROMOTE AND DEVELOP THE SCIENCE AND PRACTICE OF HORTICULTURE WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE CONDITIONS OBTAINING IN LAKELAND AND WITHIN THE ABOVE AREA TO PROMOTE AND FACILITATE CO-OPERATION BETWEEN ALL HORTICULTURAL ORGANISATIONS AND TO SERVE THE INTERESTS OF ALL HORTICULTURISTS.

Activities: The charity promotes the science, practice and art of horticulture with special reference to the conditions pertaining in the Lake District. It also aims to promote and facilitate co-operation between horticultural organisations and serve the interests of all horticulturalists.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research
- **What:** Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** LAKELAND
- Cumbria

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-08-31	£173,448	£149,245	-	-
2023-08-31	£318,093	£136,647	-	-
2022-08-31	£163,820	£123,450	-	-
2021-08-31	£112,460	£106,685	-	-
2020-08-31	£115,620	£115,917	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Alan John Gerrard	Chair	2024-12-07
Alison Jane Sutherland Sanford		2020-12-05
Anthony Edward Willey		2020-12-05
Hayley Davidson		2022-12-03
Lorna Patricia Hillmann		2020-12-05
Pauline Aldous		2023-12-09
Sarah Hoben Burgess		2022-12-03
Stephen Sharp		2023-12-09
Susan Margaret Buckingham		2017-12-02
Wendy Thwaites		2024-12-07

THE LAKELAND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 259847

Accounts



The
Lakeland Horticultural Society

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 31 August 2024

THE LAKELAND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 August 2024

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Address: Holehird Gardens
 Patterdale Road
 Windermere
 LA23 1NP

President

Peter Hoggarth

Vice-Presidents

John Ashley
Christopher Brickell CBE VMH
Lord Cavendish of Furness DL
John Davenport
Lady Cressida Inglewood, Countess of Lonsdale
John D Main NDH DHE FIHort
Shelagh Newman
Margaret Thomas
Shelagh Todd

Council of Trustees

Officers:

Chairman:	Maggie Mees
Vice-Chairman:	Alan Gerrard
Garden Coordinator:	<i>vacant</i>
Hon Secretary:	Sue Buckingham
Hon Treasurer:	Tony Willey

Members:

Pauline Aldous
Charles Bulman
Sarah Burgess
Hayley Davidson
Alan Dickinson
Lorna Hillmann
Alison Sanford
Stephen Sharp

Report from the Chairman of Trustees – Maggie Mees

Despite challenging weather conditions for much of the year, Holehird Gardens delighted visitors again in 2024. Visitors continue to tell us how much they enjoy visiting the garden year round and once again they showed their affection for Holehird and the appreciation of the efforts of all our volunteers by voting us RHS Partner Garden of the Year for the North of England and Northern Ireland. Regular mentions of Holehird in the RHS magazine and on their website, as well as a recent podcast, have no doubt encouraged many RHS members and other garden enthusiasts to visit Holehird and to spread the word about the delights to be found there. The growth of social media is also bringing visitors who may not necessarily have a particular interest in gardening but who have been told that Holehird provides a 'good day out' – and it is free to enter! A growing challenge for us is to ensure that all visitors appreciate the true cost of maintaining the garden at the level we, and they, wish to see, and the extent to which we rely on visitor donations to do so.

The reports from our Committee Chairs which follow indicate the range of activities carried out by our LHS volunteers. The amount, and often the complexity, of work undertaken by our small band of volunteers, and the commitment shown by them is astonishing and a credit to all. People volunteer at Holehird for a variety of reasons but we all find it satisfying in one way or another. And yet we are constantly in need of more volunteers in all areas. Despite a steady trickle of new, and younger, volunteers the ageing profile of our volunteer base means that we struggle at times to cover all that needs to be done. Unless we can address the shortage of manpower by recruiting a substantial cohort of new volunteers in the near future, we may find we have to rely on external contractors to help out more than we have done in the past.

This is my last report as Chair of the LHS having been in post for 3 years, and after a total of 13 years on Council. The burden of managing an increasing workload with a shrinking workforce falls on the Council of trustees, and the current Council deserve all our thanks for the way in which they willingly take on that role. At a personal level, I thank them for their support over the last 3 years which has undoubtedly made my role easier.

I am delighted that Alan Gerrard has agreed to be nominated to replace me as Chairman. Alan's professional and voluntary background will be invaluable to the Society in the coming years, and his practical experience of working in the garden at Holehird means he is close to the needs of our volunteers, so crucial to the future of the LHS. Mark English resigned from Council earlier in the year due to increasing work commitments, while two other trustees, Charlie Bulman and Alan Dickinson, will also stand down after this meeting. All three provided valuable contributions over the years and their input on Council will be missed, although I know they all intend to continue to support LHS in other ways.

In addition to Alan Gerrard's nomination to Council, Wendy Thwaite has also been nominated to become a trustee. Including myself, therefore, 4 people will stand down while only 2 new trustees will be appointed. While the size of the new Council will still be within the parameters demanded by the Constitution, it does leave the Society's decision-making body sadly depleted, and increases even further the burden on those who make up the Council of trustees. For the LHS to continue to thrive, which is surely what we all want, we need more members to contribute to the running of the Society. We need a lot of people each doing a bit, rather than a few people trying to do everything. That was my message to the AGM immediately after I was appointed as Chair in 2021 and, sadly, it has not changed.

I still believe, as I said then, that "by being involved in, and taking some responsibility for, the running of the Society, you really do develop a greater appreciation of the fantastic work that we all do in the LHS and I would recommend it to everybody."

Treasurer's Report – Tony Willey

The Society's aim is to fund ongoing expenditure from current income and this has been achieved with an operating surplus of £24,000. Costs have increased by around 10%, mainly due to additional tree maintenance following the winter storms and the increasing cost of maintaining our ageing infrastructure. This was offset by £30,000 of interest income thanks to the current high rates, and a backdated increase in the Trust contribution arising from the inflation provisions of the lease.

Income from visitors remains stable but there has been no increase in the requested donation since 2018. Inflation has eroded the value of this income and the requested donation will be increased from £5 to £6 for the 2025 season.

It is expected that our ability to balance income and expenditure will become more difficult in future. Planned capital expenditure will reduce interest income as will the current softening of interest rates, there is uncertainty around the level of the contribution from the Trust for maintenance of the areas outside the lease once the sale of the mansion is completed and we have yet to feel the full impact of high inflation in recent years. Fortunately our cash reserves of around £700,000 will act as a cushion for some time.

Last year's AGM had to be rescheduled due to appalling weather, not the first time this has happened in recent years. To avoid this in future it is proposed that our reporting year end will be moved to 31st December, with the membership year following suit. This move has other advantages. It will eliminate the need for an expensive summer mailing of Council nomination forms and analysis of annual data will comprise a complete single season. Last but not least it will move the Treasurer's and Secretary's year end workload to January/February when there are fewer competing priorities.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Society is a registered charity governed by a constitution approved by the membership, and last modified by the AGM of December 2021. Its objects are to promote and develop the science, practice and art of horticulture, with special reference to the conditions prevailing in the Lake District, and within that area to promote and facilitate cooperation between all horticultural organisations and to serve the interests of all horticulturalists.

The management and administration of the Society is conducted by its Council, whose members are Trustees of the Charity. The Council comprises five Honorary Officers of the Society, and up to twelve elected Members. The Officers consist of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, the Garden Coordinator, the Secretary and the Treasurer. The current members of the Council are set out on page 3.

Day-to-day management is devolved to five sub-committees: Garden, Estates, Education, Publications, and Public Relations. These are governed by Standing Orders which are reviewed annually, and were last approved in October 2022.

Officers are elected at each Annual General Meeting (AGM) having, with their consent, been nominated and seconded in writing by members of the Society. They hold office until the end of the next AGM. They may be nominated for re-election but may not serve for more than six consecutive years in any one office. Elected Members having, with their consent, been nominated and seconded in writing by members, are elected at an AGM to serve a three-year term. They may be nominated for re-election, but may not serve for more than two consecutive terms. Members of Council do not receive any payment in connection with their position.

The Society operates an informal system of Trustee induction, tailored to fit the experience of the trustee. All new trustees are given a copy of all the relevant Charity Commission documents, as well as the names and contact details of their fellow trustees.

All the work of the Society is carried out by volunteers and is funded through members' subscriptions, legacies, donations, the sale of plants from the garden, and the sale of refreshments and publications written and designed by members.

Financial Review

On the basis of their review of future years' activities, and a detailed budget for the following year, Council are satisfied with the financial position at 31 August 2024. The policy on Reserves, the reason why they are held and their intended use, is set out in Note 10 to the Accounts.

Activities

Garden

The Society manages the renowned garden at Holehird which is open to the public every day of the year. This is a 10 acre garden on a hillside site near Windermere, 600 feet above sea level. The garden regularly receives up to 30,000 visitors each year, and although no formal charge is made for access, visitors are invited to make a donation. The gardens are developed and maintained to the highest standards, providing the public with practical examples of design, propagation, plant maintenance and horticultural practice in relation to specific Lake District location and climatic conditions. In various parts of the garden trees, shrubs, herbaceous perennials, bulbs and alpines are grown.

The Society also acts as the International Registration Authority for Astilbe on behalf of the International Society for Horticultural Science, and hosts the National plant collections of Astilbe, Daboecia (heathers), Hosta 'Mouse' Series, Meconopsis (the blue poppy), Polystichum (ferns) and Tanacetum coccineum (painted daisies).

Education

Gardening courses and lectures are held throughout the year, given by members of the Society and outside experts. Our volunteers act as garden guides for the many tour groups that visit Holehird, and also give a considerable number of horticultural lectures to other groups. A well-stocked library and reading room, equipped with PCs and several

microscopes, including a new high-powered model, is also available to all members, and a series of horticultural leaflets is available to the public on particular species that are grown in the garden, including the National Collections. We also have our own weather station which helps us understand the effect of varying climate on the performance of the plants in the garden. The weather records are available online to individuals and other organisations.

Media

The website, www.holehirdgardens.org.uk, shares the Society's knowledge and activities online, while "*The Lakeland Gardener*", the Journal of the Lakeland Horticultural Society, serves the same purpose in print. The Society also publishes a regular *Newsletter* for its members. The Society has a growing presence on social media.

Access for all

Within the inevitable constraints imposed by a fellside garden, the Society aims to ensure that anyone with an interest in horticulture and gardening can benefit from its work, whatever their means and limitations. Wardens are on duty daily from April to October in the Visitor Information area to welcome the public and answer questions regarding the gardens, either directly or by introducing visitors to other members of the Society.

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in s17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have regards to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Achievements and Performance

The weather has been a bit of a feature this year. A series of winter storms caused considerable damage to trees and shrubs. Most noticeably, an ancient *Magnolia soulangeana* 'Alba' on the Fellside was splayed apart by snow and winds and an Oak tree near to the entrance gates had to be felled after it had been damaged twice by strong winds. Several large branches of laurels came down over the main road and had to be cleared, the remaining laurels have been coppiced to prevent this occurring again. Two small trees in the Purdom Bed were blown over, several Camellias were damaged, along with a Prunus in the lower gardens and a Viburnum near to the gates.

The other weather feature has been the rain, an extraordinary amount of rain. Some plants have loved the rainfall, especially the spring and early summer flowering shrubs (Rhododendrons, Camellias, etc.). The daffodils in the narcissus meadow and the National Collection of Astilbes both put on a splendid display. Other plants have not fared so well, some of the spring bulbs flowered for shorter periods than usual (e.g. tulips in the Walled Garden). However, despite the rain, the garden has provided our visitors with a wonderful display of colourful planting throughout the year. This is entirely due to the work of our volunteer gardeners, propagators and the maintenance work forces (the Heavy Gang and Estate teams), who deserve considerable praise for their efforts in all sorts of weather conditions. At least we did not have a drought this summer!

As well as dealing with storm damage, other planned tree work has been completed. This includes the felling of 4 diseased Larch trees in the Shelter Belt, the removal of a dead Acer

on the fellside, a fallen *Prunus* in the South Woods, a Cypress near to the Cascade, and (most sadly) the dead *Magnolia Caerhays Surprise* in the Walled Garden. A replacement for this *Magnolia* is now being arranged and we hope to plant it very soon. In addition, 6 other trees have been planted during the year, filling in the gaps left earlier in the year.

On top of the general maintenance of the gardens (which is a major achievement in itself), several improvements have been made. For example: six Camellias were removed from the Fuchsia Bed and have been replanted in the Paddock, to form a hedge to protect the National Collection of *Meconopsis*; the removal of several large plants has opened up the views of the Cascade, and the Conservatory end of the Potting Shed has been renovated improving conditions for propagation of alpines and shrubs. In addition, a new RHS trial was started in the spring, based on two different types of Primulas.

Following last year's AGM, the Estate Committee's volunteers and those of the Heavy Gang were combined into one team for the first time. The garden's infrastructure and buildings are now showing their age, providing a significant challenge for the team. We urgently need new volunteers to assist with the many tasks that need to be done.

For most of the winter the volunteers were busy clearing the damage left by a series of storms. The deer fence to the north of the Lower Drive collapsed during this period and has been replaced. In addition, three projects were undertaken over the winter. Repairs to the retaining wall, stream channel and upper footpath around the Rock Pool Bed were completed. In the southern end of the potting shed the team stripped out the old benches, repainted the walls and installed an underfloor drainage system and new aluminium benches. The retaining wall in the Small Car Park was rebuilt. New coping stones to match those used during last year's footpath project were sourced and have been installed on top of the wall.

We are suffering from significant problems with the drainage of the estate. The system is probably over 100 years old, with later additions. Much of the system is uncharted and very difficult to maintain. Significant flooding to the Walled Garden occurred over the Christmas and New Year Period. The failure in the drainage system which caused this was identified and repaired. As a result of this and other areas of flooding, we employed a specialist contractor to map and survey the condition of parts of the Holehird drainage system. This has helped us to identify necessary upgrades to the existing pipework. Due to the complexity and extent of the existing drainage, this will be an ongoing process of survey and repair over the coming years.

There has been less demand for water this year because of the high rainfall experienced in Cumbria. Water meters have now been installed on both the United Utilities supply and that from the borehole. Average daily water consumption this year is 2,900 litres with the highest requirements being 14,000 litres in a day this year. This is much reduced from last year's highest recorded day of 23,000 litres.

A successful team effort was employed to cut down, remove the roots and shred the branches of a large conifer hedge in the paddock. This was replaced by a camelia hedge created with plants taken from other areas of the garden. Several shrubs have been cut down in different locations around the garden and their roots pulled out. Shrubs on the Lower Drive and around the mansion have been cut back extensively.

After nearly 40 years of ownership LHS replaced the Kubota B4200 tractor with a new machine. The trade-in value was probably only a little less than the original cost of the machine! We hope the new Kubota B1181 has an equally long and faithful life.

The LHS has made a significant investment and brought the estate's electrical wiring systems up to current standards. A Fire Risk Assessment has been carried out and the various recommended additional measures have been put in place.

Improvements to the visitor toilets, including a new members' disabled toilet are due to commence in October. This work will include removal of asbestos by a specialist contractor and extensive replacement and repairs of the existing slate roof. It is planned that the works will be completed to coincide with the start of the new season in early April 2025

The newly structured Education Committee has divided work into more manageable subdivisions by increasing the size of the team.

The library continues to be highly regarded due to its huge range of topics linked to horticulture and usage has increased again this year. A new printer has been installed and the new WiFi network allows more connectivity.

A range of plants have been propagated and provided for the five Garden Trails we publish. It's been a popular year for garden trails that are available in the external containers as well as when reception is open. We are hoping to use the winter as an opportunity to update and modernise some of the trails along with some of our regular visitors from nearby schools. The external information boards continue to give visitors information about our soil and weather as well as our National Collections and Plant of the Month.

The audio-visual team have been trialling recording of the mini lectures in preference to a hybrid Zoom and live audience participation. These are posted to the members' area of the website for viewing. This allows members to access the lectures from home at a date and time convenient to them.

There were three popular lectures in the first quarter of the year. In January Alan Oatway filled in at short notice for a late cancellation and talked about his trip to Oregon. February's lecture was given by the Head gardener at Lowther Castle, Andrea Brusendorf, while March saw Shelagh Todd talk about Cumbria in Bloom. All three lectures were well attended. The Marchesi Centre continues to be an ideal place to hold the main lecture programme.

Courses on 'Designing with Plants' and 'Picture Perfect Plants' were held at Holehird earlier this year and we hope to continue to offer these courses, despite the demise of NR Training next year. In house courses on Lichens, Tree identification and Seed cleaning have proved very popular.

Other popular activities this year were the Tour of Gardens of Northern Ireland, and more locally a guided tour of Lowther, with their head Gardener, organised by one of our team.

The Holehird Gardens website shows the wide range of work done by members of the at Holehird and beyond. Our social media presence continues to grow across all platforms and raises the profile of Holehird Gardens across the world! Our visitors love sharing their photos and collaborating with us on posts.

During the 2024 season, the Reception Team recorded about 2500 visitors per month. In addition there would have been a substantial number of visitors outside reception hours. The work of welcoming visitors has been done by a core group of about 50 Wardens, from a nominal list of 78 Wardens. During the summer months, Reception has been open most days. Up to time of writing, over 2000 hot drinks have been sold with a notable increase in Hot Chocolate, probably caused by the generally poor weather.

The PR Team also made arrangements for the two days on which the Gardens were open for the National Garden Scheme. There were more visitors for 'Daffodil Day' in April 2024 when the date coincided with a good display of daffodils and other spring colour. The open day in July attracted relatively few visitors, maybe because it coincided with the General Election. The Committee was supportive of withdrawal from the NGS.

35 Group Visits were booked during 2024. This number of visits is similar to previous years but the size of groups has reduced significantly. Paul Desborough's help in finding volunteers to lead guided tours has been appreciated.

The free provision of specially printed plastic carrier bags to those buying plants from the Plant Sale area was stopped when the existing supply ran out, since it did not seem consistent with current ecological standards. A small supply of plain plastic carriers has instead been made available at a charge of 10p each. The take-up has been very small, suggesting the carriers are not missed.

Membership numbers are broadly steady at 1359 at the beginning of September 2024, compared with 1376 at the beginning of September 2023. 88 new members were recruited although we sadly lost a number of long standing older members. A New Members Afternoon was held in April 2024. The membership team are standing by to work through the possible change to the membership year following the AGM.

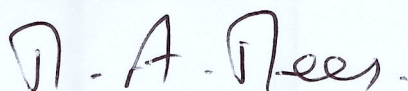
The Catering Team has continued to provide refreshments for our volunteers and has been successful in continuing to recruit sufficient volunteers to carry out its work.

Steve Mees has this year taken over as editor of *The Lakeland Gardener*. The journal has been published in spring and autumn as normal. Thanks are due to all members of the Committee who kept things running during the interim period.

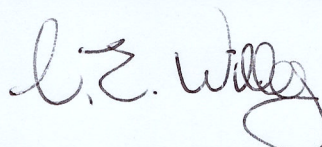
All other publications have been put on hold, mainly because of lack of storage space during building works. We will be looking at any items which are urgently needed for sale when we reopen next year.

The Newsletter has continued to be published three times a year. There is a new Membership Card which everyone should now have received.

The Trustees' Annual report was adopted by Council at its meeting on 8 October 2024 and signed on its behalf by



Maggie Mees – Chairman



Tony Willey - Treasurer

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Lakeland Horticultural Society

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2024 which are set out on pages 12 to 19.

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 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 comply with these 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 S J Sissons
Chartered Accountant
Waters and Atkinson
The Old Court House
Clark Street
Morecambe
LA4 5HR

Date 24/10/24.....

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

Incoming Resources	Note	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2024	2023
				Total	Total
		(Note 2)			
		£	£	£	£
Voluntary income	3	90,632	32,664	123,296	276,193
Other charitable income	4	19,861		19,861	20,973
Investment income	5	30,291		30,291	20,927
Total incoming resources				<u>173,448</u>	<u>318,093</u>
Resources Expended					
Garden and Estate maintenance	6	62,646	32,664	95,310	86,387
Other charitable expenditure	7	9,907		9,907	10,643
Administration costs	8	27,397		27,397	25,687
Depreciation	11	13,460		13,460	11,522
Governance costs	9	3,171		3,171	2,408
Total resources expended				<u>149,245</u>	<u>136,647</u>
Net incoming resources				24,203	181,446
Gain/(Loss) on Investments	12			0	(2,523)
Accumulated Funds B/Fwd				814,190	635,267
Accumulated Funds C/Fwd at 31 August 2024	10			<u>838,393</u>	<u>814,190</u>

There are no other gains & losses other than those disclosed above. All transactions are derived from continuing activities.

The Notes on pages 14 to 19 form part of these financial statements.

BALANCE SHEET
As at 31 August 2024

	Note	2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	11		145,111		131,784
Investments	12		0		0
			<u>145,111</u>		<u>131,784</u>
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stock			1,961		2,304
Accrued interest on bank deposits			20,280		15,892
Other debtors			353		169
Cash at bank	13		681,809		671,064
			<u>704,403</u>		<u>689,429</u>
CREDITORS – amounts falling due within one year	14		<u>(11,121)</u>		<u>(7,023)</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS			693,282		682,406
NET ASSETS			<u>838,393</u>		<u>814,190</u>
CAPITAL FUNDS					
Restricted funds	2		4,000		4,000
Unrestricted funds	2		834,393		810,190
TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUNDS	10		<u>838,393</u>		<u>814,190</u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (FRS 102) and the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities (Charities SORP (FRS 102)). They were approved by Council on 8 October 2024 and are signed on their behalf by

Maggie Mees – Chairman

Tony Willey – Treasurer

The Notes on pages 14 to 19 form part of these financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Accounting Policies

i) Basis of preparation

The financial statements of the Charity are prepared under the historical cost convention with the exception of investments, which are included at market value. They have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (FRS 102), and the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities (Charities SORP (FRS 102)). The Charity is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, its presentation currency is Sterling (rounded to the nearest £1). The Trustees believe the Society is a going-concern, and have prepared the financial statements on that basis.

ii) Incoming resources

Incoming resources represent total income receivable during the year, and comprise membership subscriptions, donations, legacies, income from educational activities, investment income and sundry other income.

iii) Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. Charitable expenditure represents the cost of maintaining the estate and garden, scientific, education and editorial activities. Support services represent membership costs, and costs relating to the general running of the Society. Governance costs include those incurred in meeting constitutional and statutory requirements, and the preparation of the financial statements.

iv) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost. Depreciation is calculated to write off that cost over the expected useful life of each asset, as follows:

Leasehold land and building costs prior to 31st May 2020, the expiry date of the previous lease, have been fully depreciated. Additions since that date are depreciated on a straight line basis to 31st March 2046, the expiry date of the current lease.

Fixtures and fittings are written down to a nominal value in the year of acquisition;

Glasshouses are depreciated on a linear basis over ten years; and

Machinery, vehicles and equipment are depreciated on a linear basis over five years.

v) Investments

Investments are stated at market value, and revaluation gains and losses are included in the Statement of Financial Activities.

vi) Stock

Stock is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. It relates to books and publications held for sale to members and visitors. It does not include plants or any work in progress.

vii) Creditors

Short-term creditors are valued at their transaction price.

viii) Taxation

The Society is exempt from corporation tax.

ix) Reserves

The policy on Accumulated Funds held as Reserves is set out in Note 10 to the Financial Statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont.)

2. Restricted and Unrestricted Funds

The Society has entered into an agreement with the Holehird Trust for the upkeep of those parts of the gardens outside its lease. This income of £32,664 can only be spent on these activities.

The Mary Miles endowment of £4,000 can be spent only *in extremis*. This is disclosed separately on the Balance Sheet as Restricted Funds.

There are no restrictions on any other income.

3. Voluntary income

	2024	2023
	£	£
Restricted donation (the Holehird Trust - Note 2)	32,664	23,000
Other donations	59,269	223,062
Membership subscriptions	22,627	22,298
Gift aid reclaimed	8,736	7,833
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	123,296	276,193

4. Other charitable income

Plant sales	14,338	15,245
Vending machine sales	4,002	3,064
Less: Cost of vending machine supplies	(1,515)	(1,578)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2,487	1,486
Sales of stationery, guides and books	1,576	1,992
Advertising sales in Society Journal	950	2,250
Income from educational courses	510	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	19,861	20,973

5. Investment income

Interest on bank deposits	<hr/>	<hr/>
	30,291	20,927

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont.)

6. Garden and Estate maintenance

	2024	2023
	£	£
Garden maintenance	26,790	35,423
Plants purchased	8,599	12,486
Estate maintenance	59,921	38,478
	<hr/> 95,310	<hr/> 86,387

7. Other charitable expenditure

Costs of publishing Journal and Newsletters	5,858	6,217
Cost of guides and books	1,476	1,918
Courses, bursaries and lectures	2,573	2,508
	<hr/> 9,907	<hr/> 10,643

8. Administration costs

Membership administration	9,017	7,727
Insurance	7,468	6,431
Publicity and Open Day	407	2,607
Website and IT costs	1,839	1,765
Other	8,666	7,157
	<hr/> 27,397	<hr/> 25,687

9. Governance costs

Independent Examination costs	2,000	1,840
AGM costs	1,171	568
	<hr/> 3,171	<hr/> 2,408

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont.)

10. Accumulated Funds

In accordance with guidance issued by the Charities Commission, the Trustees have considered whether it is appropriate for the Society to retain funds for future charitable activities. Commitments have been made for significant capital expenditure (see note 15). This will result in a substantial reduction in cash reserves. A further review will take place when these capital projects are complete.

11. Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold Land & Buildings	Fixtures & Fittings	Machinery, Vehicles & Equipment	Glasshouses	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost					
At 31 August 2023	493,472	20,539	101,089	175,557	790,657
Additions	15,362	-	11,425	-	26,787
At 31 August 2024	<u>508,834</u>	<u>20,539</u>	<u>112,514</u>	<u>175,557</u>	<u>817,444</u>
Depreciation					
At 31 August 2023	371,868	20,539	90,909	175,557	658,873
Charge for the year	6,084	-	7,376	-	13,460
At 31 August 2024	<u>377,952</u>	<u>20,539</u>	<u>98,285</u>	<u>175,557</u>	<u>672,333</u>
Net Book Value					
At 31 August 2024	<u>130,882</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>14,229</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>145,111</u>
At 31 August 2023	<u>121,064</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>10,180</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>131,784</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont.)

12. Fixed asset investments

	2024	2023
	£	£
Balance at 31 August 2023	0	100,913
Revaluation gain/loss)	0	(2,523)
Proceeds of sale	0	(98,390)
Balance at 31 August 2024	0	0

The Trustees' investment policy allows an investment of up to 15% of the total available cash in the Charities Investment Fund (COIF) split equally between accumulation and income units. These investments were sold in August 2023 and the resulting loss of £2,523 (2022: loss of £3,940) is included in the Statement of Financial Activities.

13. Cash at bank

The Trustees' investment policy is, as far as possible, to maximise the return on the Society's investments. Within this, the Government guarantee of £85,000 acts as a ceiling for funds invested in any one financial institution. This policy, and the actual investments with each institution is reviewed every twelve months.

Cash at bank includes deposits with Building Societies regulated under the Prudential Regulation Authority (part of the Bank of England) and the Financial Conduct Authority. Deposits have been placed with a maturity of between six months and two years.

14. Creditors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Examiner's Fee	2,000	1,800
Trade creditors	9,121	5,223
	11,121	7,023

All amounts are payable within one year.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont.)

15. Commitments

	2024	2023
Building improvements	190,569	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	190,569	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>

16. Trustee Remuneration

No remuneration was paid to Trustees (2023: nil) and there were no expenses incurred in their roles as trustees (2023: nil)

17. Related Party Transactions

There were no transactions with related parties (2023: none)

THE LAKELAND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 259847

Accounts



The
Lakeland Horticultural Society

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 31 August 2023

for the year ended 31 August 2023

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Address: Holehird Gardens
 Patterdale Road
 Windermere
 LA23 1NP

President

Shelagh Todd

Vice-Presidents

Christopher Brickell CBE VMH
Lord Cavendish of Furness DL
Lady Cressida Inglewood, Countess of Lonsdale
John D Main NDH DHE FIHort
Shelagh Newman
Margaret Thomas
Peter Hoggarth

Council of Trustees

Officers:

Chairman:	Maggie Mees
Vice-Chairman:	<i>vacant</i>
Garden Coordinator:	Alan Oatway
Hon Secretary:	Sue Buckingham
Hon Treasurer:	Tony Willey

Members:

John Ashley
Charles Bulman
Sarah Burgess
Hayley Davidson
Alan Dickinson
Mark English
Lorna Hillmann
Tina McIntosh
Alison Sanford

Report from the Chairman of Trustees – Maggie Mees

I am happy to report that Holehird Gardens under the stewardship of the LHS has continued to thrive in 2023. Despite some challenging weather patterns, the Gardens continued to delight visitors in all seasons. Visitors told us how much they appreciate the new paths up the Fellside, improving access to the upper garden and the stunning views across Windermere. Success as Regional Winner in the RHS Partner Garden of the Year competition in 2022 seems to have encouraged many RHS members to visit this year, perhaps for the first time. However visitor numbers overall are still down on pre-pandemic levels, a familiar situation across the Lake District. The average donation per visitor also appears to be down, a reflection perhaps of the current economic climate. Care is needed when interpreting these numbers, but we do need to monitor the trend carefully in the future.

In many respects the LHS also continues to thrive. Members continue to receive all the expected benefits of membership - lectures, garden tours, courses, etc – and we are able to provide the admin necessary to support the Society and the Gardens. A small team was established to look at recruitment, and we have continued to welcome new volunteers, mainly as gardeners. But we need a lot of gardeners to manage Holehird and we still don't have enough! Nor are there enough volunteers to support the gardeners and maintain the estate, our so-called 'Heavy Gang'. And the wardening team, the welcoming face of Holehird to visitors, is also woefully understaffed. It seems we are relying on fewer and fewer people to do more of these essential tasks. The only way the LHS will continue to thrive in the future is if more members are prepared to share the workload.

One group whose commitment cannot be faulted is the Council of trustees and I would like to thank each of them for their unstinting contribution. Special thanks also go to Shelagh Todd who stands down after 6 years as LHS President. Shelagh first came to Holehird through the LHS's long-standing connection with Newton Rigg and her practical knowledge of all things horticultural has helped us tremendously over the years. As is customary, Shelagh will become a Vice President of the Society when she stands down, and we are grateful that her practical support for Holehird gardeners will continue as before.

After many years on Council, as Secretary, Chairman and latterly as Garden Coordinator, Alan Oatway will stand down. Alan has made a huge contribution over the years but 2 achievements stand out. Firstly, the renegotiation of the lease, and secondly his vision for, and implementation of, the new path network. His experience on Council will be missed but he has surely earned time off to concentrate on Holehird's Rock Garden. 2 trustees are required to stand down having served 6 years on Council. John Ashley, has served many more than 6 years in total, also including a spell as Chairman. Council will miss John's experience and quiet wisdom but I am happy to say that he too will continue to make an active contribution in the garden. I hope the AGM will support John's election as a Vice President. Our Chair of Education Committee, Tina McIntosh also stands down. Council will miss her willingness to engage on all issues and her no-nonsense, action-driven approach. Finally, I am sorry to report that Alison Quigley has decided to stand down. A fairly recent recruit to LHS, Alison brought a new, refreshing perspective to Council.

Sorry as we will be to lose this level of experience and expertise from Council, we look forward to welcoming new trustees to our meeting in January, all with a common goal of ensuring that LHS continues to thrive well into the future.

Treasurer's Report – Tony Willey

A major boost to the Society's finances has come from the receipt of a £170,000 legacy, being 10% of the residual estate of Marita Grice. This has helped to bring our liquid reserves up to £682,000. While clearly a very strong position, it is well to remember that our reserves need to fund development expenditure through the remaining 22 years of the current lease.

With low returns on our COIF investments in recent years, the decision was made to sell them and reinvest in bank deposits where interest rates have increased significantly. At the financial year end a total of £640,000 was held on deposit with nine banks through the Flagstone charity deposit platform, all of which are covered by the £85,000 government guarantee. They are held on a range of maturity dates between 6 months and 2 years, aiming to maximise interest income while ensuring that funds will be available when required for the building refurbishment and extension project.

The Society's aim is to fund ongoing expenditure from current income, allowing reserves to be used to finance development projects. This was achieved with a surplus of £9,000 if the exceptional legacy is excluded, thanks to interest income of £21,000. There are some concerns - visitor income fell by 12%, in line with the reduction in visitor numbers experienced generally in the Lake District this year. The high inflation rate began to impact costs, which will increase further this year as long term gas and electricity supply contracts come to an end.

Membership subscriptions have been unchanged since 2021. Council is proposing an increase of 10% from September 2024. It is estimated that related costs will have increased by over 20% between 2021 and 2024.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Society is a registered charity governed by a constitution approved by the membership, and last modified by the AGM of December 2021. Its objects are to promote and develop the science, practice and art of horticulture, with special reference to the conditions prevailing in the Lake District, and within that area to promote and facilitate cooperation between all horticultural organisations and to serve the interests of all horticulturalists.

The management and administration of the Society is conducted by its Council, whose members are Trustees of the Charity. The Council comprises five Honorary Officers of the Society, and up to twelve elected Members. The Officers consist of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, the Garden Coordinator, the Secretary and the Treasurer. The current members of the Council are set out on page 3.

Day-to-day management is devolved to five sub-committees: Garden, Estates, Education, Publications, and Public Relations. These are governed by Standing Orders which are reviewed annually, and were last approved in October 2022.

Officers are elected at each Annual General Meeting (AGM) having, with their consent, been nominated and seconded in writing by members of the Society. They hold office until the end of the next AGM. They may be nominated for re-election but may not serve for

more than six consecutive years in any one office. Elected Members having, with their consent, been nominated and seconded in writing by members, are elected at an AGM to serve a three-year term. They may be nominated for re-election, but may not serve for more than two consecutive terms. Members of Council do not receive any payment in connection with their position.

The Society operates an informal system of Trustee induction, tailored to fit the experience of the trustee. All new trustees are given a copy of all the relevant Charity Commission documents, as well as the names and contact details of their fellow trustees.

All the work of the Society is carried out by volunteers and is funded through members' subscriptions, legacies, donations, the sale of plants and seeds from the garden, and the sale of publications written and designed by members.

Financial Review

On the basis of their review of future years' activities, and a detailed budget for the following year, Council are satisfied with the financial position at 31 August 2023. The policy on Reserves, the reason why they are held and their intended use, is set out in Note 10 to the Accounts.

Activities

Garden

The Society manages the renowned Lakeland garden at Holehird which is open to the public every day of the year from dawn till dusk. This is a 10 acre garden on a hillside site near Windermere, 600 feet above sea level. The garden regularly receives up to 30,000 visitors each year, and although no formal charge is made for access, visitors are invited to make a donation. The gardens are developed and maintained to the highest standards, providing the public with practical examples of design, propagation, plant maintenance and horticultural practice in relation to specific Lake District location and climatic conditions. In various parts of the garden trees, shrubs, herbaceous perennials, bulbs and alpines are grown.

The Society also acts as the International Registration Authority for Astilbe on behalf of the International Society for Horticultural Science, and hosts the National plant collections of Astilbe, Daboecia (heathers), Hosta 'Mouse' Series, Meconopsis (the blue poppy), Polystichum (ferns) and Tanacetum coccineum (painted daisies).

Education

Gardening courses and lectures are held throughout the year, given by members of the Society and outside experts. Our volunteers act as garden guides for the many tour groups

that visit Holehird, and others also give a considerable number of horticultural lectures to other groups. A well-stocked library and reading room, equipped with PCs and several microscopes, including a new high-powered model, is also available to all members, and a series of horticultural leaflets is available to the public on particular species that are grown in the garden, including the National Collections. We also have our own weather station which helps us understand the effect of varying climate on the performance of the plants in the garden. The weather records are available online to individuals and other organisations.

Media

The website, www.holehirdgardens.org.uk, shares the Society's knowledge and activities online, while "*The Lakeland Gardener*", the Journal of the Lakeland Horticultural Society, serves the same purpose in print. The Society also publishes a regular *Newsletter* for its members. The Society has a growing presence on Social Media.

Access for all

Within the inevitable constraints imposed by a fellside garden, the Society aims to ensure that anyone with an interest in horticulture and gardening can benefit from its work, whatever their means and limitations. Wardens are on duty daily from early April to the end of October in the Visitor Information area to welcome members of the public and answer questions regarding the gardens, either directly or by introducing visitors to other members of the Society.

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in s17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have regards to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Achievements and Performance

Despite a wide range of weather conditions (from weeks of freezing ice to droughts and heat waves), our volunteer gardeners and maintenance work forces have done an amazing job in creating and maintaining a colourful display of plants. Visitors have been treated to a fantastic example of what can be grown in the Lake District, their enthusiastic comments are frequently seen on social media pages (such as Facebook, Twitter) and also in the comments they leave in the book in Reception.

In addition to the essential maintenance of the gardens, one major achievement this year has been completing the planting of new bed areas around the new pathway which now runs from the Courtyard car park to the top of the Fellside. Several beds have been extended or completely renovated. Examples include the extension to the Courtyard bed which demonstrates the use of drift planting, and the greatly extended Rock Garden bed which will provide colour and interest at the top of the path. Other achievements this year include the planting of 6 new trees. Three of these have been incorporated into the new planting around the easy access path and were donated by a member of the Society. A birch tree, again donated by a member, has been planted at the bottom of the cascade, a Rowan was planted on the driveway to replace the Oak tree that fell down in the storm the

year before, and a Sorbus has been planted in front of the National Collection of Astilbes. We are very grateful for these kind donations.

Thanks are due to everyone who has volunteered as a gardener or as part of the maintenance teams over the last year. We are very lucky to have a large group of willing volunteers and their efforts are greatly appreciated. We welcomed 14 new gardeners over the course of the year.

There is always something needing the attention of Estates Committee. This past year has been no different with the small team constantly dealing with maintenance and repairs, some scheduled, others on an ad hoc basis. The borehole in general is working well but we are constantly striving to improve its efficiency. For Health & Safety reasons it was taken out of commission earlier in the year, emptied and cleaned out. Not for the first time, a storm blew down a tree, this time falling across the deer fence. The tidying up and collection of the tree led to a full inspection of the fence, and the subsequent renewal of a large section in addition to the repair.

Through prudent financial planning, we have not been too badly affected by gas and electricity increases, although this will change towards the end of the year and into the new year. We will need to seek ways of mitigating these higher costs. Planning permission having been granted for the toilet improvements and extension, the next stage will be to cost the project before moving to implementation.

Education Committee members have continued to work on a wide range of activities this year. A small group has been sorting through the LHS archive materials and considering their safe storage for future reference. The library continues to be highly regarded due to its huge range of topics linked to horticulture and usage has increased again this year. Plants have been propagated and provided for the five Garden Trails we publish and it's clear that the popularity of the Trails has increased since they have been available in the external containers as well as when Reception is open. Our external information boards continue to give visitors information about our soil and weather as well as our National Collections and Plant of the Month.

The audio-visual team has enabled hybrid Zoom and live audience participation in the mini-lectures held at Holehird which has enabled LHS members to access the lectures from home. The team has also supported our external speakers during our winter lectures at the Marchesi Centre. Our lectures have been really well attended and we are excited by the range of speakers planned for next year. Courses on 'Designing with Plants' and 'Picture Perfect Plants' have been held at Holehird this year and will continue next year as they have proved to be very popular. Another popular activity this year was the Tour of Gardens of East Anglia organised by one of the team.

LHS currently has 1,376 members, slightly down on last year. Over the year, 106 new members joined and 130 discontinued their membership.

Visitor numbers have been steady, with the total number logged at 22,724. Others visit when Reception is closed, and they are not logged. There were 37 group visits involving 930 people, an increase of 33%. A significant number of these visitors were from overseas.

We have encouraged visitors to vote for Holehird as RHS Partner Garden of the Year. An event for volunteers was held in May to celebrate our success as Regional Finalists in the 2022 competition. Holehird also featured in the RHS 'The Garden' magazine. The garden opened for the National Garden Scheme twice this year.

continue to welcome members to coffee on Wednesday mornings. They have worked with others to make sure that the refreshment needs of all the volunteers are met.

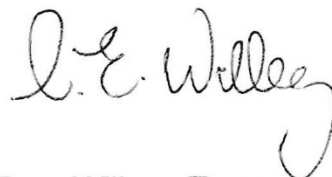
A public access defibrillator has been installed in the Walled Garden. Approximately 50 volunteers are being trained in its use.

Despite the temporary absence of an editor, Publications Committee still managed to produce two issues of The Lakeland Gardener as usual. A new editor has been appointed beginning with the Spring 2024 issue. Three Newsletters were produced as usual, including listings of LHS lectures and events. The decision was taken to sell off the Guide to Holehird at a reduced price as it is now out of date as new areas in the Gardens have been created. The plan to start work on a new souvenir booklet had to be put on hold but will be revisited next year. New cards are being prepared for sale in Reception.

The Trustees' Annual report was adopted by Council at its meeting on 10 October 2023 and signed on its behalf by



Maggie Mees – Chairman



Tony Willey - Treasurer

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Lakeland Horticultural Society

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2023 which are set out on pages 11 to 18.

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 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 comply with these 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 S J Sissons
Chartered Accountant
Waters and Atkinson
The Old Court House
Clark Street
Morecambe
LA4 5HR

Date *24.10.2023*

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

Incoming Resources	Note	Unrestricted	Restricted	2023	2022
		Funds	Funds	Total	Total
		(Note 2)			
		£	£	£	£
Voluntary income	3	253,193	23,000	276,193	138,308
Other charitable income	4	20,973		20,973	21,986
Investment income	5	20,927		20,927	3,526
Total incoming resources				<u>318,093</u>	<u>163,820</u>
Resources Expended					
Garden and Estate maintenance	6	63,387	23,000	86,387	85,421
Other charitable expenditure	7	10,643		10,643	12,312
Administration costs	8	25,687		25,687	21,259
Depreciation	11	11,522		11,522	2,220
Governance costs	9	2,408		2,408	2,238
Total resources expended				<u>136,647</u>	<u>123,450</u>
Net incoming resources				181,446	40,370
Gain/(Loss) on Investments	12			(2,523)	(3,940)
Accumulated Funds B/Fwd				635,267	598,837
Accumulated Funds C/Fwd	10			<u>814,190</u>	<u>635,267</u>

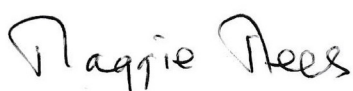
There are no other gains & losses other than those disclosed above. All transactions are derived from continuing activities.

The Notes on pages 13 to 18 form part of these financial statements.

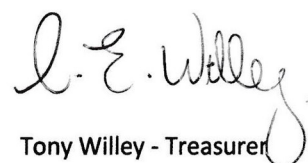
BALANCE SHEET
As at 31 August 2023

	Note	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	11		131,784		15,908
Investments	12		0		100,913
			<u>131,784</u>		<u>116,821</u>
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stock	13	2,304		4,222	
Debtors & accrued income		16,061		1,172	
Cash at bank		671,064		517,857	
			<u>689,429</u>	<u>523,251</u>	
CREDITORS – amounts falling due	14	(7,023)		4,805	
within one year					
NET CURRENT ASSETS			682,406	518,446	
NET ASSETS			<u>814,190</u>	<u>635,267</u>	
CAPITAL FUNDS					
Restricted funds	2		4,000		11,621
Unrestricted funds	2		810,190		623,646
TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUNDS	10		<u>814,190</u>		<u>635,267</u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (FRS 102) and the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities (Charities SORP (FRS 102)). They were approved by Council on 10th October 2023 and are signed on their behalf by



Maggie Mees – Chairman



Tony Willey - Treasurer

The Notes on pages 13 to 18 form part of these financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Accounting Policies

i) Basis of preparation

The financial statements of the Charity are prepared under the historical cost convention with the exception of investments, which are included at market value. They have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (FRS 102), and the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities (Charities SORP (FRS 102)). The Charity is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, its presentation currency is Sterling (rounded to the nearest £1). The Trustees believe the Society is a going-concern, and have prepared the financial statements on that basis.

ii) Incoming resources

Incoming resources represent total income receivable during the year, and comprise membership subscriptions, donations, legacies, income from educational activities, investment income and sundry other income.

iii) Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. Charitable expenditure represents the cost of maintaining the estate and garden, scientific, education and editorial activities. Support services represent membership costs, and costs relating to the general running of the Society. Governance costs include those incurred in meeting constitutional and statutory requirements, and the preparation of the financial statements.

iv) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost. Depreciation is calculated to write off that cost over the expected useful life of each asset, as follows:

Leasehold land and building costs prior to 31st May 2020, the expiry date of the previous lease, have been fully depreciated. Additions since that date are depreciated on a straight line basis to 31st March 2046, the expiry date of the current lease.

Fixtures and fittings are written down to a nominal value in the year of acquisition; glasshouses are depreciated on a linear basis over ten years; and machinery, vehicles and equipment are depreciated on a linear basis over five years.

v) Investments

Investments are stated at market value, and revaluation gains and losses are included in the Statement of Financial Activities.

vi) Stock

Stock is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. It relates to books and publications held for sale to members and visitors. It does not include plants or any work in progress.

vii) Creditors

Short-term creditors are valued at their transaction price.

viii) Taxation

The Society is exempt from corporation tax.

ix) Reserves

The policy on Accumulated Funds held as Reserves is set out in Note 10 to the Financial Statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont.)

2. Restricted and Unrestricted Funds

The Society has entered into an agreement with the Holehird Trust for the upkeep of those parts of the gardens outside its lease. This income of £23,000 can only be spent on these activities.

Donations were received in previous years to improve the heather beds. The remaining balances of £271 were spent in the year.

A donation of £7,350 towards the improvement of the fell side paths was offset against the cost of the current path improvement project.

There remains £4,000 (the Mary Miles endowment) which can be spent only *in extremis*. This is disclosed separately on the Balance Sheet as Restricted Funds.

There are no restrictions on any other income.

3. Voluntary income

	2023	2022
	£	£
Restricted donation (the Holehird Trust - Note 2)	23,000	47,839
Restricted donation (other – Note 2)	0	0
Other donations	223,062	63,051
Membership subscriptions	22,298	20,542
Gift aid reclaimed	7,833	6,876
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	276,193	138,308
	<hr/>	<hr/>

4. Other charitable income

Plant sales		15,245	16,161
Vending machine sales	3,064		3,143
Less: Cost of vending machine supplies	(1,578)		(2,000)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		1,486	1,143
Sales of stationery, guides and books		1,992	2,032
Advertising sales in Society Journal		2,250	1,610
Income from educational courses		0	1,040
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		20,973	21,986
		<hr/>	<hr/>

5. Investment income

Interest on bank deposits		<hr/>	<hr/>
		20,927	3,526
		<hr/>	<hr/>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont.)

6. Garden and Estate maintenance

	2023	2022
	£	£
Garden maintenance	35,423	32,854
Plants purchased	12,486	7,123
Estate maintenance	38,478	45,444
	<hr/> 86,387 <hr/>	<hr/> 85,421 <hr/>
7. Other charitable expenditure		
Costs of publishing Journal and Newsletters	6,217	5,640
Cost of guides and books	1,918	1,628
Courses, bursaries and lectures	2,508	5,044
	<hr/> 10,643 <hr/>	<hr/> 12,312 <hr/>
8. Administration costs		
Membership administration	7,727	5,903
Insurance	6,431	6,575
Publicity and Open Day	2,607	3,017
Website and IT costs	1,765	1,712
Other	7,157	4,052
	<hr/> 25,687 <hr/>	<hr/> 21,259 <hr/>
9. Governance costs		
Independent Examination costs	1,840	1,700
AGM Costs	568	538
	<hr/> 2,408 <hr/>	<hr/> 2,238 <hr/>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont.)

10. Accumulated Funds

In accordance with guidance issued by the Charities Commission, the Trustees have considered whether it is appropriate for the Society to retain funds for future charitable activities. Planning permission has been given for expansion, renovation and environmental improvement of the main building. This will absorb a significant but as yet unquantified proportion of current reserves. A review will be made when this project is completed.

11. Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold Land & Buildings	Fixtures & Fittings	Machinery, Vehicles & Equipment	Glasshouses	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost					
At 31 August 2022	374,555	20,539	92,608	175,557	663,259
Additions	118,917	-	8,481	-	127,398
At 31 August 2023	<u>493,472</u>	<u>20,539</u>	<u>101,089</u>	<u>175,557</u>	<u>790,657</u>
Depreciation					
At 31 August 2022	366,464	20,539	84,791	175,557	647,351
Charge for the year	5,404	-	6,118	-	11,522
At 31 August 2023	<u>371,868</u>	<u>20,539</u>	<u>90,909</u>	<u>175,557</u>	<u>658,873</u>
Net Book Value					
At 31 August 2023	<u>121,604</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>10,180</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>131,784</u>
At 31 August 2022	<u>8,091</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>7,817</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>15,908</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont.)**12. Fixed asset investments**

	2023	2022
	£	£
Balance at 31 August 2021	100,913	104,853

Revaluation gain/loss)	(2,523)	(3,940)
Proceeds of sale	(98,390)	-
Balance at 31 August 2023	0	100,913

The Trustees' investment policy allows an investment of up to 15% of the total available cash in the Charities Investment Fund (COIF) split equally between accumulation and income units. These investments were sold in August 2023 and the resulting loss of £2,523 (2022: loss of £3,940) is included in the Statement of Financial Activities.

13. Debtors and accrued income

	2023	2022
	£	£
Accrued interest on bank deposits	15,892	0
Due from credit card provider	169	482
Due from Cumbria CC	0	690
	16,061	1,172

14. Cash at bank

The Trustees' investment policy is, as far as possible, to maximise the return on the Society's investments. Within this, the Government guarantee of £85,000 acts as a ceiling for funds invested in any one financial institution. This policy, and the actual investments with each institution is reviewed every twelve months.

Cash at bank includes deposits with Building Societies regulated under the Prudential Regulation Authority (part of the Bank of England) and the Financial Conduct Authority. Deposits have been placed with a maturity of between six months and two years.

15. Creditors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Examiner's Fee	1,800	1,700
Trade creditors	5,223	3,105
	7,023	4,805

All amounts are payable within one year.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont.)

16. Commitments

	2023	2022
	£	£
Leaf vacuum and trailer		4,000
Fellside path improvement		120,000

0	124,000
---	---------

17. Trustee Remuneration

No remuneration was paid to Trustees (2022: nil) and there were no expenses incurred in their roles as trustees (2022: nil)

18. Related Party Transactions

There were no transactions with related parties (2022: none).

THE LAKELAND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 259847

Accounts



The
Lakeland Horticultural Society

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 31 August 2022

THE LAKELAND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 August 2022

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Address: Holehird Gardens
 Patterdale Road
 Windermere
 LA23 1NP

President

Shelagh Todd

Vice-Presidents

Christopher Brickell CBE VMH
Lord Cavendish of Furness DL
Lady Cressida Inglewood, Countess of Lonsdale
John D Main NDH DHE FIHort
Shelagh Newman
Margaret Thomas
Peter Hoggarth

Council of Trustees

Officers:

Chairman:	Maggie Mees
Vice-Chairman:	<i>vacant</i>
Garden Coordinator:	Alan Oatway
Hon Secretary:	Charles Bulman
Hon Treasurer:	Tony Willey

Members:

John Ashley
Sue Buckingham
Alan Dickinson
Lorna Hillmann
Tina McIntosh
Sybil Maden
Pat Murphy
Alison Sanford

Report from the Chairman of Trustees

My predecessor as Chair, Alan Oatway, started his last report by saying what an eventful year it had been, encompassing the continuing impact of the pandemic and the renegotiation of the Society's lease on Holehird Gardens. I am happy to report that this year has been much less eventful and has instead been one of steady consolidation and refocus on our core activities and objectives.

This year has seen a return to something like 'business as usual' for the Society. Amongst the many activities we had missed, Wednesday coffee mornings were reinstated; we were able to offer a series of public lectures through the winter months as well as mini lectures for members in the summer; garden visits for members and practical courses and workshops at Holehird were arranged; the first New Members' meeting for 3 years was held. We were delighted to be able to open Visitor Reception on most days throughout the summer as more wardens signed up for duty, some returning after the enforced break and, encouragingly, some new to the LHS. We welcomed quite a few new gardeners during the pandemic, and new recruits are continuing to join on a regular basis. The influx of new, often younger, volunteers with their energy, hard work and fresh ideas promises well for the future of the Society. I am delighted that some of our more recently joined members are standing for election to Council this time.

As we prepare to welcome new trustees to Council, I must take this opportunity to thank all Council members for the invaluable, and often, unsung, work they have done this year. A couple of changes occurred during the year. Anita Shelton was coopted on to Council as Assistant Secretary for a short time, during which her organisational skills were much appreciated. After many years setting up and looking after IT within the Society, for which we relied hugely on her professional expertise, Diane Fisher stood down from Council when she relinquished her role as IT Coordinator. Other changes are still to come. 2 trustees have completed their maximum 2 terms of 3 years service on Council and must stand down this time. Both Pat Murphy, with her expertise and unstinting work in the garden, and Sybil Maden, in charge of publications and editor of the Lakeland Gardener, are huge contributors to the LHS and will be much missed on Council. Charles Bulman is standing down as Honorary Secretary but has been nominated to continue as a trustee. Sue Buckingham, currently Chair of PR Committee, has been nominated to stand as Hon Secretary.

As I write this report, work on one of the major infrastructure projects we put into action after the future of the LHS was secured with the signing of the new lease, is about to begin. The rerouting and resurfacing of paths in the Upper Garden will enable more of our visitors, particularly those with limited mobility, to access more of the garden and to appreciate the wonderful views from higher up the Fellside. This project is important as a demonstration of our confidence in the future of the LHS and our belief in the public's appreciation for what we are creating at Holehird Gardens. That the LHS has emerged from the uncertainties of the last few years with such a positive outlook is due to the continued support of all its volunteers and members, for which I thank you.

Maggie Mees

Treasurer's Report

A year in which a return to more normal conditions has seen a welcome increase in visitor numbers. Donations from, and sales to, visitors increased by a third to £78,000, only slightly less than 2018/19, the last full year before Covid. The newly negotiated lease includes payment to the LHS of £23,000 per year for the maintenance of the mansion gardens, which will be reviewed periodically and increased by RPI. During the lease negotiations it was discovered that inflation provisions in the old lease had not been applied and a retrospective one-off payment of £25,000 was received. Storm and flood damage during the winter has resulted in around £20,000 of additional costs, but otherwise costs have been well controlled at similar levels to 2020/21. Stock exchanges have been adversely affected by world events this year and our investments fell in value by £4,000, reversing some of the large gains made in 2021. In summary, our reserves increased by £36,000 to £635,000, of which £519,000 is held in bank accounts.

We are fortunate to have sufficient reserves to fund the upcoming projects to upgrade the fellside paths and improve the main building. Care will be needed to ensure that cash is available for these projects while taking advantage of the current increases in interest rates for longer term bonds. The need to keep deposits with each bank below the £85,000 government guarantee also means that we spread our funds across 6 or 7 banks. We have moved to a charity deposit platform administered by Flagstone Investment Management which will considerably reduce the administrative burden of dealing with so many banks, while giving access to competitive interest rates.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Society is a registered charity governed by a constitution approved by the membership, and last modified by the AGM of December 2021. Its objects are to promote and develop the science, practice and art of horticulture, with special reference to the conditions prevailing in the Lake District, and within that area to promote and facilitate cooperation between all horticultural organisations and to serve the interests of all horticulturalists.

The management and administration of the Society is conducted by its Council, whose members are Trustees of the Charity. The Council comprises five Honorary Officers of the Society, and up to twelve elected Members. The Officers consist of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, the Garden Coordinator, the Secretary and the Treasurer. The current members of the Council are set out on page 3.

Day-to-day management is devolved to five sub-committees: Garden, Estates, Education, Publications, and Public Relations. These are governed by Standing Orders which are reviewed annually, and were last approved in October 2022.

Officers are elected at each Annual General Meeting (AGM) having, with their consent, been nominated and seconded in writing by members of the Society. They hold office until the end of the next AGM. They may be nominated for re-election but may not serve for more than six consecutive years in any one office. Elected Members having, with their consent, been nominated and seconded in writing by members, are elected at an AGM to serve a three-year term. They may be nominated for re-election, but may not serve for

more than two consecutive terms. Members of Council do not receive any payment in connection with their position.

The Society operates an informal system of Trustee induction, tailored to fit the experience of the trustee. All new trustees are given a copy of all the relevant Charity Commission documents, as well as the names and contact details of their fellow trustees.

All the work of the Society is carried out by volunteers and is funded through members' subscriptions, legacies, donations, the sale of plants and seeds from the garden, and the sale of publications written and designed by members.

Financial Review

On the basis of their review of future years' activities, and a detailed budget for the following year, Council are satisfied with the financial position at 31 August 2022. The policy on Reserves, the reason why they are held and their intended use, is set out in Note 10 to the Accounts.

Activities

Garden

The Society manages the renowned Lakeland garden at Holehird which is open to the public every day of the year from dawn till dusk. This is a 10 acre garden on a hillside site near Windermere, 600 feet above sea level. The garden regularly receives up to 30,000 visitors each year, and although no formal charge is made for access, visitors are invited to make a donation. The gardens are developed and maintained to the highest standards, providing the public with practical examples of design, propagation, plant maintenance and horticultural practice in relation to specific Lake District location and climatic conditions. In various parts of the garden trees, shrubs, herbaceous perennials, bulbs and alpines are grown.

The Society also acts as the International Registration Authority for *Astilbe* on behalf of the International Society for Horticultural Science, and hosts the National plant collections of *Astilbe*, *Daboecia* (heathers), *Hosta* 'Mouse' Series, *Meconopsis* (the blue poppy), *Polystichum* (ferns) and *Tanacetum coccineum* (painted daisies).

Education

Gardening courses and lectures are held throughout the year, given by members of the Society and outside experts. Our volunteers act as garden guides for the many tour groups that visit Holehird, and others also give a considerable number of horticultural lectures to other groups. A well-stocked library and reading room, equipped with PCs and several microscopes, including a new high-powered model, is also available to all members, and a series of horticultural leaflets is available to the public on particular species that are grown in the garden, including the National Collections. We also have our own weather station which helps us understand the effect of varying climate on the performance of the plants in the garden. The weather records are available online to individuals and other organisations.

Media

The web site, www.holehirdgardens.org.uk, shares the Society's knowledge and activities online, while "*The Lakeland Gardener*", the Journal of the Lakeland Horticultural Society, serves the same purpose in print. The Society also publishes a regular *Newsletter* for its members. The Society has a growing presence on Social Media.

Access for all

Within the inevitable constraints imposed by a Lakeland garden, the Society aims to ensure that anyone with an interest in horticulture and gardening can benefit from its work, whatever their means and limitations. Wardens are on duty daily from early April to the end of October in the Visitor Information area to welcome members of the public and answer questions regarding the gardens, either directly or by introducing visitors to other members of the Society.

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in s17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have regards to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Achievements and Performance

The stormy weather over the winter months resulted in the loss of several trees in the garden. However, compared to other local forests and gardens, we got off quite lightly. Once into Spring the weather quickly improved and the garden sprang back to life; the narcissus meadow was unusually spectacular as were the early flowering shrubs. In fact, it has been a 'blooming' good year in the garden despite some dry spells and our gardeners have done a fantastic job in maintaining a colourful display of Lakeland planting.

Several new ventures have been undertaken. In March a team of volunteers, under expert guidance, created a living willow structure which now provides a windbreak for the Hostas in the Davidia bed. Later in the year, we became guardians of another National Collection, a collection of mini Hosta (Hosta 'Mouse') which can be seen in a specially built theatre on the wall by the Nicholson gates. This is our 6th National Collection, and is already attracting a lot of comments from our visitors.

Other activities include the planting of two trees to form part of the 'Queen's Green Canopy', a nationwide tribute planned for the 70th Anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne.

We are very lucky to have a growing group of volunteer gardeners and their efforts are greatly appreciated by our visitors. 16 new gardeners joined us over the last year. Extra hands and gardeners with any level of experience are always most welcome.

Early in the financial year, with a recently signed lease and uncertainties due to the pandemic receding, thoughts turned again to major projects. The first of these was the upgrading of the visitors' toilets and the second the replacement of windows in the members' room. Discussion in Council led to these two to being combined into one project, to also include a small extension to the building. Ideas are still being developed with the architects and we hope to be able to put a planning application to the National Park planners very shortly.

Every year watering around the garden and in the greenhouses requires careful monitoring, especially following the winter shut down. The borehole has worked well and all areas benefit from this supply, with a lesser system of mains water being introduced for some prime needs during the switch off. At one point in the year we suffered a major flood from a blocked underground pipe in the walled garden. Once located, it was necessary to excavate a large area of lawn and pathway before a satisfactory repair was completed. Thank to the efforts of a small dedicated team the estate remains in satisfactory order.

We have had a busy year improving the external display area to give visitors more information about the soil and weather at Holehird; recommended plants for shade; our National Collections and details about our chosen 'Plant of the Month'. New garden trails were produced and the Tree Trail proved to be very popular, as were the plants given to young people who complete one of the trails.

Lectures continued throughout the year, both at the Marchesi Centre and at Holehird, with a varied and informative programme. Many members asked us to put our lectures on Zoom and we had our first hybrid trial in September. Although there were a few technical problems we are confident that these can be sorted for next year's programme.

Two LHS members continue to increase the social media profile of Holehird Gardens and we are now 'followed' by some very prestigious people in the world of horticulture. Our improved technology also extends to the library which now has two accessible computers loaded with lots of horticultural programmes as well as the digital microscope for detailed plant research.

A visit to RHS Bridgewater was well attended and plans for a tour in Spring to gardens in East Anglia are being put together. Looking to our past we are grateful for all the work being done on our archive.

This year we trialled a new series of in-house courses for members and gardeners in the wider community. The willingness and commitment of many of our volunteer gardeners enabled other people to gain from their knowledge and skills and hopefully has improved all our horticultural practice. Two full-day courses were also well attended as was the 'Tree Day'. We are pleased that Newton Rigg Training is currently running a winter and spring 'Design with Plants' course based at Holehird.

Public Relations Committee activities and meetings returned to a more normal format as the pandemic abated. Visitor Reception reopened in April 2022 with precautions in place to help maintain the safety of visitors and wardens. As the pandemic lessened these precautions became less obvious, although safety remained a priority. Wardens welcomed approximately 20,000 visitors to the garden, including 37 groups. Visitors were encouraged to vote for Holehird as the RHS Partner Garden of the Year. Holehird also featured in the RHS 'The Garden' magazine'.

For a variety of reasons, the number of wardens available was initially reduced, meaning that there were occasions where Reception did not open. However, we have recruited new wardens in recent months who have contributed to the team effort to welcome visitors. The Outdoor Information Point continues to provide a useful service when Reception is not open, as well as providing information for visitors who choose to experience the garden privately.

We did not organise a public Open Day this year, but hope to run one in 2023. The first New Members' meeting for several years took place in September 2022.

At the end of the membership year, there were 1,396 members, slightly up on last year's 1,359.

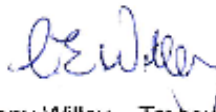
The catering team, again reduced in numbers following the pandemic, continues to welcome all members to coffee on Wednesday mornings. They try to make sure that the refreshment needs of all the volunteers, whether working in the garden or elsewhere, are met.

Two editions of *The Lakeland Gardener* were published as usual. The *Newsletter* included extra items when the Society was not doing its usual programme of events, but we were still able to publish three issues as normal. A selection of publications is available for sale to visitors. Higher than usual stock levels due to the fact that we weren't able to sell publications when the Visitors' Reception was closed meant that we did not need to print new cards, leaflets and other publications this year.

The Trustees' Annual report was adopted by Council at its meeting on 11 October 2022, and signed on its behalf by



Maggie Mees – Chairman



Tony Willey – Treasurer

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Lakeland Horticultural Society

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2022 which are set out on pages 11 to 18.

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 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 comply with these 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 S J Sissons
Chartered Accountant
Waters and Atkinson
The Old Court House
Clark Street
Morecambe
LA4 5HR

Date 18.10.2022

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

Incoming Resources	Note	Unrestricted	Restricted	2022	2021
		Funds	Funds	Total	Total
		(Note 2)			
		£	£	£	£
Voluntary income	3	90,469	47,839	138,308	88,293
Other charitable income	4	21,986		21,986	18,937
Investment income	5	3,526		3,526	5,230
Total incoming resources				163,820	112,460
Resources Expended					
Garden and Estate maintenance	6	37,582	47,839	85,421	50,812
Other charitable expenditure	7	12,312		12,312	7,836
Administration costs	8	21,259		21,259	25,417
Depreciation	11	2,220		2,220	20,564
Governance costs	9	2,238		2,238	2,056
Total resources expended				123,450	106,685
Net incoming resources				40,370	5,775
Gain/(Loss) on Investments	12			(3,940)	17,420
Accumulated Funds B/Fwd				598,837	575,642
Accumulated Funds C/Fwd	10			635,267	598,837
at 31 August 2022					

There are no other gains & losses other than those disclosed above. All transactions are derived from continuing activities.

The Notes on pages 13 to 18 form part of these financial statements.

BALANCE SHEET
As at 31 August 2022

	Note	2022		2021	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	11		15,908		10,037
Investments	12		100,913		104,853
			<u>116,821</u>		<u>114,890</u>
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stock		4,222		5,850	
Debtors		1,172		300	
Cash at bank	13	517,857		485,642	
		<u>523,251</u>		<u>491,792</u>	
CREDITORS – amounts falling due					
within one year	14	(4,805)		(7,845)	
			<u>518,446</u>		<u>483,947</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS			518,446		483,947
NET ASSETS			<u>635,267</u>		<u>598,837</u>
CAPITAL FUNDS					
Restricted funds	2		11,621		11,818
Unrestricted funds	2		623,646		587,019
TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUNDS		10	<u>635,267</u>		<u>598,837</u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (FRS 102) and the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities (Charities SORP (FRS 102)). They were approved by Council on 11 October 2022 and are signed on their behalf by

Maggie Mees – Chairman

Tony Willey - Treasurer

The Notes on pages 13 to 18 form part of these financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Accounting Policies

i) Basis of preparation

The financial statements of the Charity are prepared under the historical cost convention with the exception of investments, which are included at market value. They have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (FRS 102), and the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities (Charities SORP (FRS 102)). The Charity is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, its presentation currency is Sterling (rounded to the nearest £1). The Trustees believe the Society is a going-concern, and have prepared the financial statements on that basis.

ii) Incoming resources

Incoming resources represent total income receivable during the year, and comprise membership subscriptions, donations, legacies, income from educational activities, investment income and sundry other income.

iii) Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. Charitable expenditure represents the cost of maintaining the estate and garden, scientific, education and editorial activities. Support services represent membership costs, and costs relating to the general running of the Society. Governance costs include those incurred in meeting constitutional and statutory requirements, and the preparation of the financial statements.

iv) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost. Depreciation is calculated to write off that cost over the expected useful life of each asset, as follows:

Leasehold land and buildings have been completely depreciated prior to the 31 May 2020, the end date of the relevant lease.

Fixtures and fittings are written down to a nominal value in the year of acquisition;

Glasshouses are depreciated on a linear basis over ten years; and

Machinery, vehicles and equipment are depreciated on a linear basis over five years.

v) Investments

Investments are stated at market value, and revaluation gains and losses are included in the Statement of Financial Activities.

vi) Stock

Stock is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. It relates to books and publications held for sale to members and visitors. It does not include plants or any work in progress.

vii) Creditors

Short-term creditors are valued at their transaction price.

viii) Taxation

The Society is exempt from corporation tax.

ix) Reserves

The policy on Accumulated Funds held as Reserves is set out in Note 10 to the Financial Statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont.)

2. Restricted and Unrestricted Funds

The Society has entered into an agreement with the Holehird Trust for the upkeep of those parts of the gardens outside its lease. This income of £47,839 can only be spent on these activities.

Donations were received in previous years to improve the heather beds. £197 was spent in the year leaving a balance of £271 to be spent next year. A donation from The North East Heather Society of £585 is to be used to improve the heather beds. During the year, £216 was spent on this project, leaving a balance of £369 to be spent on heathers next year. Also included in the Society's total funds is an amount of £7,350 donated towards the improvement of the fellside paths, and a further £4,000 (the Mary Miles endowment) which can be spent only *in extremis*. All these items are therefore disclosed separately on the Balance Sheet as Restricted Funds.

There are no restrictions on any other income.

3. Voluntary income

	2022	2021
	£	£
Restricted donation (the Holehird Trust - Note 2)	47,839	17,850
Restricted donation (other – Note 2))	0	0
Other donations	63,051	44,304
Membership subscriptions	20,542	19,582
Gift aid reclaimed	6,876	6,557
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	138,308	88,293

4. Other charitable income

Plant sales	16,161	16,017
Vending machine sales	3,143	330
Less: Cost of vending machine supplies	(2,000)	(377)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,143	(47)
Sales of stationery, guides and books	2,032	1,187
Advertising sales in Society Journal	1,610	1,780
Income from educational courses	1,040	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	21,986	18,937

5. Investment income

Interest on bank deposits	3,526	5,230
	<hr/>	<hr/>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont.)

6. Garden and Estate maintenance

	2022	2021
	£	£
Garden maintenance	32,854	22,216
Plants purchased	7,123	7,348
Estate maintenance	45,444	21,248
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	85,421	50,812

7. Other charitable expenditure

Costs of publishing Journal and Newsletters	5,640	5,252
Cost of guides and books	1,628	1,068
Courses, bursaries and lectures	5,044	1,516
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	12,312	7,836

8. Administration costs

Membership administration	5,903	7,106
Insurance	6,575	6,538
Publicity and Open Day	3,017	1,452
Website and IT costs	1,712	1,618
Other	4,052	8,703
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	21,259	25,417

9. Governance costs

Independent Examination costs	1,700	1,700
AGM costs	538	356
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2,238	2,056

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont.)

10. Accumulated Funds

In accordance with guidance issued by the Charities Commission, the Trustees have considered whether it is appropriate for the Society to retain funds for future charitable activities. Given the extraordinary uncertainties created over the last 2 years, the Trustees exercised prudence by reducing expenditure, and not committing to any future capital works. Commitments have now been made for significant development expenditure (see note 15).

11. Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold Land & Buildings	Fixtures & Fittings	Machinery, Vehicles & Equipment	Glasshouses	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost					
At 31 August 2021	366,464	20,539	92,608	175,557	655,168
Additions	8,091	-	-	-	8,091
At 31 August 2022	374,555	20,539	92,608	175,557	663,259
Depreciation					
At 31 August 2021	366,464	20,539	82,571	175,557	645,131
Charge for the year	-	-	2,220	-	2,220
At 31 August 2022	366,464	20,539	84,791	175,557	647,351
Net Book Value					
At 31 August 2022	8,091	0	7,817	0	15,908
At 31 August 2021	0	0	10,037	0	10,037

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont.)

12. Fixed asset investments

	2022	2021
	£	£
Balance at 31 August 2021	104,853	87,433
New investment	0	0
Revaluation gain/(loss)	(3,940)	17,420
Balance at 31 August 2022	100,913	104,853

The Trustees' investment policy allows an investment of up to 15% of the total available cash in the Charities Investment Fund (COIF) split equally between accumulation and income units. These investments are stated at market value, and the resulting loss of £3,940 (2019: gain of £17,420) is included in the Statement of Financial Activities.

13. Cash at bank

The Trustees' investment policy is, as far as possible, to maximise the return on the Society's investments. Within this, the Government guarantee of £85,000 acts as a ceiling for funds invested in any one financial institution. This policy, and the actual investments with each institution is reviewed every twelve months.

Cash at bank includes deposits with Building Societies regulated under the Prudential Regulation Authority (part of the Bank of England) and the Financial Conduct Authority. Certain deposits are available without notice, and the others have been placed with a maturity of between one and two years.

14. Creditors

	2022	2021
	£	£
Examiner's Fee	1,700	1,700
Trade creditors	3,105	6,145
	4,805	7,845

All amounts are payable within one year.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont.)

15. Commitments

	2022	2021
	£	£
Leaf vacuum and trailer	4,000	0
Fellside path improvement	120,000	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	124,000	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>

16. Trustee Remuneration

No remuneration was paid to Trustees (2021: nil) and there were no expenses incurred in their roles as trustees (2021: nil)

17. Related Party Transactions

There were no transactions with related parties (2021: none).

THE LAKELAND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 259847

Accounts



The
Lakeland Horticultural Society

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 31st August 2021

THE LAKELAND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31st August 2021

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Address: Holehird Gardens
 Patterdale Road
 Windermere
 LA23 1NP

President

Shelagh Todd

Vice-Presidents

Christopher Brickell CBE VMH
Lord Cavendish of Furness DL
Lady Cressida Inglewood, Countess of Lonsdale
John D Main NDH DHE FIHort
Shelagh Newman
Margaret Thomas
Peter Hoggarth

Council of Trustees

Officers:

Chairman:	Alan Oatway
Vice-Chairman:	Maggie Mees
Garden Co-ordinator:	<i>vacant</i>
Secretary:	Charles Bulman
Hon. Treasurer:	Tony Willey

Members:

John Ashley
Sue Buckingham
Diane Fisher
Lorna Hillmann
Jane Lees CBE
Tina McIntosh
Sybil Maden
Pat Murphy
Alison Sanford

Report from the Chairman of Trustees

It goes without saying (but it has to be said anyway if the report is to be accurate) that this has been an eventful year for the Society. As for all other organisations, we have had to manage and plan our activities against a background of uncertainty, never knowing much in advance when a regulation or guideline might be changed that would affect our decision-making or force us to alter those already made. Naturally, this has added to the workload for all those involved in running our Society, and I am grateful to all who have helped with this work. I also appreciate the willingness of everyone to accept the actions and decisions taken with patience and understanding.

Those decisions had to be made in meetings of course, which for most of our committees have taken place throughout the year using Zoom. As restrictions have eased, a limited number of face-to-face meetings have resumed, and even some hybrid versions as well. For your Council, the lease occupied us quite frequently. Just before the end of August we signed our new lease, but with impeccable timing the solicitor for Cumbria County Council promptly went on leave! However, the delay was short, and in any case the effective date is the original renewal date of 1 April 2020.

Another matter that we continued to address was our on-going need to recruit new volunteers, to make sure we can keep being able to do all we currently do. We have added a board outside Reception, trying to encourage new volunteers, and created a new poster for display in libraries. You will read below that we have welcomed quite a few new gardeners, which is excellent news, and we know that we need to recruit into other aspects of our work as well. We hope that the publicity associated with our new lease might encourage more helpers to come forward.

Replacing those who are “retiring” from their roles, succession planning, has occupied us as part of this area of work. This time, we thank Martin Wallen, who has stood down after contributing greatly in the role of Health and Safety Officer. Happily, following an email appeal to our volunteer-force, Alan Dickinson has come forward to fill that vacancy, bringing much relevant experience and also standing as a Trustee. Susan Quayle has resigned from Council, and we thank her for her contribution since 2016. Adrian and Jane Lees both complete periods of service. Adrian has carried much of the workload of Garden Co-ordinator for the last three years, organising “heavier” tasks around the garden, securing contractors when necessary, arranging for tools to be serviced or replaced, and finding time to send a regular and informative newsletter to gardeners. Jane has served as a Trustee for six years, and in that role she has used her experience to offer valued and perceptive comment to our discussions. We thank both Adrian and Jane for their contributions.

I will also explain the thinking behind my own decision to stand for a different role. With a new lease in place, there are many projects we wish to progress as soon as we can. I feel I can best contribute to these if I am not the Chairman, as the combined workload would be too onerous. We currently have empty places on Council, so I do urge members to consider coming forward to join the team leading the Society forward. I’d like to conclude my term and my report by thanking members and trustees for all their support these last four years, it has been much appreciated.

Alan Oatway

Treasurer's Report

The easing of Covid-19 restrictions in the spring has brought a welcome increase in visitor numbers. Total donations from and sales to visitors increased by £24,000 (68%) compared with 2019/20, although still around 30% below pre-Covid levels. Holehird has shared in the increased popularity of card and text payments which now account for around 25% of payments by visitors. Last year's income was supplemented by a £20,000 bequest which was not repeated this year, leaving total income £3,000 down at £112,000.

The delay in agreeing a long-term lease with our landlords has meant a complete hold on new projects, and expenditure has been closely controlled. Total costs were £86,000, almost identical to 2019/20.

This resulted in an increase of £26,000 in our liquid assets. A provision of £20,000 was made for depreciation of fixed assets. Our investments performed well, reflecting the increases seen in stock markets during the year, and recorded a gain of £17,000. Overall, there was a £23,000 increase in funds to £599,000.

With the exception of recent purchases of machinery and fixtures which are depreciated over 5 years, our fixed assets have now been fully written down in the accounts and therefore the funds value is almost entirely made up by assets that are available to support the society in future. The majority are held in fixed term bonds and instant access accounts with a range of banks designed to ensure that funds will be available when major projects can again be undertaken.

Approximately 18% of our funds are invested with charity fund manager CCLA. During the year we transferred our investment into their Ethical Investment Fund, which restricts investment in areas such as armaments, tobacco and alcohol. It is not expected that this change will have a significant effect on performance.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Society is a registered charity governed by a constitution approved by the membership, and last modified by the AGM of December 2020. Its objects are to promote and develop the science, practice and art of horticulture, with special reference to the conditions prevailing in the Lake District, and within that area to promote and facilitate cooperation between all horticultural organisations and to serve the interests of all horticulturalists.

The management and administration of the Society is conducted by its Council, whose members are Trustees of the Charity. The Council comprises five Honorary Officers of the Society, and up to twelve elected Members. The Officers consist of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, the Garden Co-ordinator, the Secretary and the Treasurer. The current members of the Council are set out on page 3.

Day-to-day management is devolved to five sub-committees: Garden, Estates, Education, Publications, and Public Relations. These are governed by Standing Orders which are reviewed annually, and were last approved in October 2020.

Officers are elected at each Annual General Meeting (AGM) having, with their consent, been nominated and seconded in writing by members of the Society. They hold office until the end of the next AGM. They may be nominated for re-election but may not serve for more than six consecutive years in any one office. Elected Members having, with their consent, been nominated and seconded in writing by members, are elected at an AGM to serve a three-year term. They may be nominated for re-election, but may not serve for more than two consecutive terms. Members of Council do not receive any payment in connection with their position.

The Society operates an informal system of Trustee induction, tailored to fit the experience of the trustee. All new trustees are given a copy of all the relevant Charity Commission documents, as well as the names and contact details of their fellow trustees.

All the work of the Society is carried out by volunteers and is funded through members' subscriptions, legacies, donations, the sale of plants and seeds from the garden, and the sale of publications written and designed by members.

Financial Review

On the basis of their review of future years' activities, and a detailed budget for the following year, Council are satisfied with the financial position at 31st August 2021. The policy on Reserves, the reason why they are held and their intended use, is set out in Note 10 to the Accounts.

Activities

Garden

The Society manages the renowned Lakeland garden at Holehird which is open to the public every day of the year from dawn till dusk. This is a 10 acre garden on a hillside site near Windermere, 600 feet above sea level. The garden regularly receives up to 30,000 visitors each year, and although no formal charge is made for access, visitors are invited to make a donation. The gardens are developed and maintained to the highest standards, providing the public with practical examples of design, propagation, plant maintenance and horticultural practice in relation to specific Lake District location and climatic conditions. In various parts of the garden trees, shrubs, herbaceous perennials, bulbs and alpines are grown.

The Society also acts as the International Registration Authority for Astilbe on behalf of the International Society for Horticultural Science, and hosts the National plant collections of Astilbe, Daboecia (heathers), Meconopsis (the blue poppy) and Polystichum (the holly fern).

Education

Gardening courses and lectures are held throughout the year, given by members of the Society and outside experts. Our volunteers act as garden guides for the many tour groups that visit Holehird, and others also give a considerable number of horticultural lectures to other groups. A number of bursaries are granted each year to support horticultural students. A well-stocked library and reading room, equipped with PCs and several microscopes, including a new high-powered model, is also available to all members, and a series of horticultural leaflets is available to the public on particular species that are grown in the

garden, including the National Collections. We also have our own weather station which helps us understand the effect of varying climate on the performance of the plants in the garden. The weather records are available online to individuals and other organisations.

Media

The web site: www.holehirdgardens.org.uk shares the Society's knowledge and activities online, while "*The Lakeland Gardener*" – the Journal of the Lakeland Horticultural Society serves the same purposes in print. The Society also publishes a regular *Newsletter* for its members. The Society also has a presence on Social Media.

Access for all

Within the inevitable constraints imposed by a Lakeland garden, the Society aims to ensure that anyone with an interest in horticulture and gardening can benefit from its work, whatever their means and limitations. Wardens are on duty daily from early April to the end of October in the Visitor Information area to welcome members of the public and answer questions regarding the gardens, either directly or by introducing visitors to other members of the Society.

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in s17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have regards to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Achievements and Performance

Our volunteer gardeners have managed to maintain the gardens to a high level, despite the restrictions imposed by Covid-19, and the changes in the weather – from a long dry spell in the Spring, followed by a cold snap, then heavy rain, another dry spell, etc. The pleasures of walking round the Gardens have been much appreciated by our visitors, who continue to show their support for our work by their donations, purchases of plants and (increasingly) their photographs and comments on social media.

Essential maintenance (including tree felling and maintenance, grass cutting and edging, propagation, hours of weeding and compost making) has been carried out. In addition, 8 trees have been planted at various locations on the Fell Side and the lower drive area. Plans are already in place to plant more trees in the coming year, including two trees as part of the Queen's Green Canopy.

The Hydrangea Stand in the Paddock is now completed and already in use. Several new ventures have also been undertaken, such as the National Collection of *Tanacetum coccineum* (painted daisy) and a trial of *Salvias* for Which? Magazine, and we should also note the successful completion of the RHS Gentian trial.

It has also been good to welcome new volunteer gardeners to the Society, more than 14 new faces over the last year, some of whom have already taken on active roles (as Bedholders, raising our profile on social media, holders of National Collections, or helping to renovate existing areas in the Gardens).

Throughout the early lockdowns, essential works were permitted but the time volunteers spent at the gardens was greatly reduced. As restrictions steadily reduced, our estates team carried through a greater range of tasks. Much of the work involved the

watering systems. The borehole still experienced some teething problems. The boiler for the greenhouses needed a few visits by a plumber to keep it working satisfactorily. A completely new watering system for hydrangea propagation was introduced as was a necessary link around the astilbe beds to connect a supply from the borehole instead of mains water for the grasses bed. Switching on the water after the winter resulted in many minor leaks appearing, more a time-consuming nuisance than anything serious. Some of the watering systems have been in place for many years and a review prior to updating them is to start soon.

The members' building and other buildings have not been forgotten and with the lease renewed it is expected that some of the more expensive projects planned will get underway, one such being the necessary improvements to the toilets for visitors. Another is the need to repair or replace many of the windows in the members' building, with a further project being the final stage of maintenance on the south wall of the garden.

Lectures and courses have fallen victim to the pandemic to a greater extent than our gardening activities. However, we have now held an in-person Tuesday talk, and our first Saturday lecture takes place at the end of October. We hope our first practical day course will be announced soon and we have good news about courses for the future involving Newton Rigg Training Ltd. We did manage one day visit, to the new RHS Bridgewater Garden. This took place successfully and participants look forward to watching that garden's development over the coming years.

During the restricted months the Education Committee has been busy working with others to develop the information boards outside reception and improving and extending the garden trails available to visiting families. We have collaborated with the Garden Committee to produce Plant of the Month information boards, and we hope all will enjoy the colourful and informative displays next season.

The library has had a complete overhaul and lots of new books are ready and waiting to be borrowed. All the titles in the library can be searched on through the link on the members' area of the website but typing holehird.libib.com into your browser will also get you there. Surplus books are available to members so please watch out for the trolley!

As the regulations eased and following risk assessments and the development of risk management plans we felt able to re-start serving refreshments to volunteers on Wednesdays from mid-May and to the wider membership from mid-July.

The new Information Point has added another dimension which not only welcomes visitors when Wardens are not on site but also provides for those few visitors who choose to experience the garden privately. It will be particularly useful in the winter when Reception is closed. Reception itself re-opened to the public in June, with precautions in place to help maintain the safety of both visitors and wardens. For a variety of reasons, the number of people able to warden is reduced. This has meant that Reception is not open as much as previously. New volunteers for this role would be very welcome. There have been a number of successful group visits. The effort of the garden volunteers was much appreciated by these visitors.

The garden has been open twice for the National Garden Scheme. The event on July 8th was particularly successful. The organiser is grateful to all the members who helped with this day. The usual LHS Open Day for the public and new member sessions have not taken place this year.

The Society currently has 1358 ordinary members. The pandemic and its effects have had an impact on our ability to recruit new members, with 65 joining this year. This is better than the 46 who joined in the previous year but still below the numbers joining before the pandemic. The Membership Secretary and Membership Treasurer have work together closely to ensure even distribution of workload.

After a temporary pause last year, distribution of flyers advertising the garden resumed in 2021. Other publicity was limited compared to previous years, although, thanks to our Partner Garden status, Holehird did feature a number of times in the RHS 'The Garden' magazine and website. The LHS website has been updated at regular intervals to keep the public informed of any changes.

We have managed once again to produce two issues of *The Lakeland Gardener* this year. The April and July Newsletters went ahead but were reduced in size as there were few lectures and events to list. The space was usefully used to list volunteer vacancies and to list new books in the library. An autumn Newsletter is planned. The Visitors' Reception has only opened when volunteers have been available so, once again, we have sold very few publications. We therefore decided not to produce any new cards or leaflets. Our large project which will begin next year is to look at producing a souvenir booklet to replace the Garden Guide. The timescale of this will depend on any proposed changes in the Gardens over the next few years.

The Trustees' Annual report was adopted by Council at its meeting on 12th October 2021, and signed on its behalf by:

Alan Oatway

Maggie Mees

Alan Oatway – Chairman

Maggie Mees – Vice-Chairman

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Lakeland Horticultural Society

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the Accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st August 2021 which are set out on pages 11 to 18.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity 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 s 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under s 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 s130 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 Sissons

DSJ Sissons
Chartered Accountant
The Old Court House
Clark Street
Morecambe, LA4 5HR

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

Incoming Resources	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2021 Total	2020 Total
		(Note 2)			
		£	£	£	£
Voluntary income	3	70,443	17,850	88,293	93,147
Other charitable income	4	18,937		18,937	15,984
Investment income	5	5,230		5,230	6,490
Total incoming resources				112,460	115,621
Resources Expended					
Garden and Estate maintenance	6	32,742	18,070	50,812	54,920
Other charitable expenditure	7	7,836		7,836	8,334
Administration costs	8	25,417		25,417	19,652
Depreciation	11	20,564		20,564	30,697
Governance costs	9	2,056		2,056	2,315
Total resources expended				106,685	115,918
Net resources expended				5,775	(297)
Gain on investments	12			17,420	3,308
Accumulated Funds B/Fwd				575,642	572,631
Accumulated Funds C/Fwd	10			598,837	575,642

at 31st August 2021

There are no other gains & losses other than those disclosed above. All transactions are derived from continuing activities.

The Notes on pages 13 to 18 form part of these financial statements

BALANCE SHEET
As at 31st August 2021

	Note	2021		2020	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	11		10,037		30,601
Investments	12		104,853		87,433
			<u>114,890</u>		<u>118,034</u>
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stock		5,850		6,918	
Cash at bank	13	485,942		452,977	
			<u>491,792</u>		<u>459,895</u>
CREDITORS – amounts falling due					
within one year	14		<u>7,845</u>		<u>2,287</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS			483,947		457,608
NET ASSETS			<u>598,837</u>		<u>575,642</u>
CAPITAL FUNDS					
Restricted funds	2		11,818		12,038
Unrestricted funds	2		587,019		563,604
TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUNDS	10		<u>598,837</u>		<u>575,642</u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (FRS 102) and the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities (Charities SORP (FRS 102)). They were approved by Council on 12th October 2021 and are signed on their behalf by

Alan Oatway

Alan Oatway
Chairman

Tony Willey

Tony Willey
Treasurer

The Notes on pages 13 to 18 form part of these financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Accounting Policies

i) Basis of preparation

The financial statements of the Charity are prepared under the historical cost convention with the exception of investments, which are included at market value. They have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (FRS 102), and the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities (Charities SORP (FRS 102)). The Charity is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, its presentation currency is Sterling (rounded to the nearest £1). The Trustees believe the Society is a going-concern, and have prepared the financial statements on that basis.

ii) Incoming resources

Incoming resources represent total income receivable during the year, and comprise membership subscriptions, donations, legacies, income from educational activities, investment income and sundry other income.

iii) Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. Charitable expenditure represents the cost of maintaining the estate and garden, scientific, education and editorial activities. Support services represent membership costs, and costs relating to the general running of the Society. Governance costs include those incurred in meeting constitutional and statutory requirements, and the preparation of the financial statements.

iv) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost. Depreciation is calculated to write off that cost over the expected useful life of each asset, as follows:

Leasehold land and buildings have been completely depreciated prior to the 31 May 2020, the end date of the relevant lease.

Fixtures and fittings are written down to a nominal value in the year of acquisition;

Glasshouses are depreciated on a linear basis over ten years; and

Machinery, vehicles and equipment are depreciated on a linear basis over five years.

v) Investments

Investments are stated at market value, and revaluation gains and losses are included in the Statement of Financial Activities.

vi) Stock

Stock is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. It relates to books and publications held for sale to members and visitors. It does not include plants or any work in progress.

vii) Creditors

Short-term creditors are valued at their transaction price.

viii) Taxation

The Society is exempt from corporation tax.

ix) Reserves

The policy on Accumulated Funds held as Reserves is set out in Note 10 to the Financial Statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont.)

2. Restricted and Unrestricted Funds

The Society has entered into an agreement with the Holehird Trust for the upkeep of those parts of the gardens outside its lease. Income of £17,850 received under this agreement can only be spent on these activities. Two donations supporting the work on heathers still have a total of £468 available to be spent, with £220 having been used in the year being reported here. Also included in the Society's total funds is an amount of £7,350 donated towards the improvement of the fellside paths, and a further £4,000 (the Mary Miles endowment) which can be spent only *in extremis*. All these items are therefore disclosed separately on the Balance Sheet as Restricted Funds.

There are no restrictions on any other income.

3. Voluntary income

	2021	2020
	£	£
Restricted donation (the Holehird Trust - Note 2)	17,850	17,850
Restricted donation (other – Note 2))	0	585
Other donations	44,304	42,540
Membership subscriptions	19,582	21,036
Gift aid reclaimed	6,557	11,136
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	88,293	93,147

4. Other charitable income

Plant sales		16,017	12,331
Vending machine sales	330		765
Less: Cost of vending machine supplies	377		311
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		(47)	454
Sales of stationery, guides and books		1,187	1,079
Advertising sales in Society Journal		1,780	1,455
Income from educational courses		0	665
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		18,937	15,984

5. Investment income

Interest on bank deposits		<hr/>	<hr/>
		5,230	6,490

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont.)**6. Garden and Estate maintenance**

	2021	2020
	£	£
Garden maintenance	22,216	23,361
Plants purchased	7,348	6,592
Estate maintenance	21,248	24,967
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	50,812	54,920

7. Other charitable expenditure

Costs of publishing Journal and Newsletters	5,252	5,855
Cost of guides and books	1,068	83
Courses, bursaries and lectures	1,516	2,396
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	7,836	8,334

8. Administration costs

Membership administration	7,106	3,334
Insurance	6,538	6,841
Publicity and Open Day	1,452	1,555
Website and IT costs	1,618	1,868
Other	8,703	6,054
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	25,417	19,652

9. Governance costs

Independent Examination costs	1,700	1,700
AGM costs	356	615
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2,056	2,315

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont.)

10. Accumulated Funds

In accordance with guidance issued by the Charities Commission, the Trustees have considered whether it is appropriate for the Society to retain funds for future charitable activities. Given the extraordinary uncertainties created this year, the Trustees have exercised all prudence by reducing expenditure, and not committing to any future capital works. Many plans exist to utilise our reserves, but these must await a restoration of more normal circumstances.

11. Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold Land & Buildings	Fixtures & Fittings	Machinery, Vehicles & Equipment	Glasshouses	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost					
At 31 August 2020	366,464	20,539	92,608	175,557	655,168
Additions	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 August 2021	366,464	20,539	92,608	175,557	655,168
Depreciation					
At 31 August 2020	366,464	20,529	80,351	157,223	624,567
Charge for the year	-	10	2,220	18,334	20,564
At 31 August 2021	366,464	20,539	82,571	175,557	645,131
Net Book Value					
At 31 August 2021	0	0	10,037	0	10,037
At 31 August 2020	0	10	12,257	18,333	30,601

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont.)

12. Fixed asset investments

	2020/2021	2019/2020
	£	£
Balance at 31 August 2020	87,433	84,125
New investment	0	0
Revaluation gain	17,420	3,308
Balance at 31 August 2021	104,853	87,433

The Trustees' investment policy allows an investment of up to 15% of the total available cash in the Charities Investment Fund (COIF) split equally between accumulation and income units. These investments are stated at market value, and the resulting gain of £17,420 (2020: gain of £3,308) is included in the Statement of Financial Activities.

13. Cash at bank

The Trustees' investment policy is, as far as possible, to maximise the return on the Society's investments. Within this, the Government guarantee of £85,000 acts as a ceiling for funds invested in any one financial institution. This policy, and the actual investments with each institution is reviewed every twelve months.

Cash at bank includes deposits with Building Societies regulated under the Prudential Regulation Authority (part of the Bank of England) and the Financial Conduct Authority. Certain deposits are available without notice, and the others have been placed with a maturity of between one and two years.

14. Creditors

	2021	2020
	£	£
Examiner's Fee	1,700	1,700
Trade creditors	6,145	587
	7,845	2,287

All amounts are payable within one year.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont.)

15. Commitments

The Trustees have made no new commitments for 2021-2022, and a full review will be conducted on completion of a new lease and once the Covid crisis is of much less concern.

	2021	2020
	£	£
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

16. Trustee Remuneration

No remuneration was paid to Trustees (2020: nil) and there were no expenses incurred in their roles as trustees (2020: nil)

17. Related Party Transactions

There were no transactions with related parties (2020: none).

THE LAKELAND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 259847

Accounts



The
Lakeland Horticultural Society

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 31st August 2020

THE LAKELAND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31st August 2020

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Address: Holehird Gardens
 Patterdale Road
 Windermere
 LA23 1NP

President

Shelagh Todd

Vice-Presidents

Christopher Brickell CBE VMH
Lord Cavendish of Furness DL
Lady Cressida Inglewood, Countess of Lonsdale
John D Main NDH DHE FIHort
Shelagh Newman
Ian Sandwell M Hort NDH (Hons) FIHort
Margaret Thomas
Peter Hoggarth

Council of Trustees

Officers:

Chairman:	Alan Oatway
Vice-Chairman:	Maggie Mees
Garden Co-ordinator:	<i>vacant</i>
Secretary:	David Mason
Hon. Treasurer:	<i>vacant</i>

Members:

John Ashley
Sue Buckingham
Diane Fisher
Jane Lees CBE
Tina McIntosh
Sybil Maden
Amanda Mason
Pat Murphy
Susan Quayle
Mary Stebbings
Audrey Whittle (co-opted)

Report from the Chairman of Trustees

It is quite hard to remember that this extraordinary year began quite normally! The first six months saw the usual programme of activities, with new work progressing on a number of fronts. We have had a group considering issues related to Sustainability, and our desire to improve the paths in the gardens has been moved on by submitting a successful planning application for some of the works that will be necessary.

These and most other works are now held up. Our talks with our landlords to agree the terms of our lease extension are currently stalled. Whilst we have some understanding of why they might be causing this delay, we are unable to undertake major expenditures until those terms are agreed. We have applied as much pressure as we can, to no avail. It is a very frustrating situation.

Then we reached March, when all our lives were turned upside down, or inside out, or a combination of both! Balancing our responsibilities has not always been easy, but throughout, we have been mindful that our prime aim had to be to look after the welfare of all those involved at Holehird. Second, we needed to take proper care of our Society, and the wonderful gardens which it is lucky enough to call its home. And lastly, once the Lake District was able to welcome visitors once more, we wanted to be sure that the Gardens were as safe as possible for the public to return.

The response from the public has been wonderful. They have returned in good numbers, although we have been unable to open the visitor information area so we do not have a formal record of the actual number of visitors to the gardens. We have also had to rely on the "honesty box" system for both admission donations and plant sales, but we have been most encouraged by how well this has worked. As usual, the verbal feedback about the Gardens has been very positive, which reflects my understanding of the tremendous dedication of a reduced number of volunteers. From extensive watering through the unseasonably hot and dry spring to keeping the grass areas neat and tidy; from the usual weeding to propagating and stocking the plant sales tables; those volunteers who have felt happy and safe to be in the gardens have done a superb job in keeping everywhere looking beautiful. My thanks go to them all.

But many of our volunteers have correctly been shielding themselves and staying away, and it has been completely right to keep our visitor information area closed. We have also had to cancel all indoor group activities, as there is no way that lectures, courses or social gatherings of any sort could be made safe. Just as it began to look as if the end of the tunnel might be in sight, Covid cases began to increase again, making any return to these activities unlikely until well into 2021.

The importance of parks, gardens and open countryside has been all too clear during the lockdown and since, re-enforcing the value of Holehird Gardens to the local community as well as to its visitors. But for the Society itself, perhaps the strongest lesson of this period is that we rely entirely on volunteers, and although we have welcomed several newcomers, we will need to renew our efforts to attract others once more normal circumstances return. I would normally use the AGM to thank those Trustees standing down from their roles, but this time I must now include them here. First, Audrey Whittle, who was co-opted for the year

to ensure that Estates Committee had a representative on Council. Sadly, we were only able to enjoy Audrey's contributions on two occasions before Covid prevented us holding our meetings. Next, Amanda Mason has served three years, taking on the responsibility of Garden Chairman during that time. She has worked with energy and efficiency, ensuring decisions in committee were well-made, and achieving much during her tenure. Her work to make sure that our trees are attended to in a timely manner is worthy of special mention. Mary Stebbings has served for six years, taking a special interest in Equality issues in addition to her role as our Tours Organiser. Frustratingly, Covid has prevented either of this year's tours taking place, with the Northern Ireland tour cancelled at the very last moment – this prospective participant had finished his packing for it! And finally, we lose the services of our Secretary, David Mason, who has filled that position for six years. He has been meticulous in all the he has done, and he has played a huge part in the smooth running of the Society. He has always been prepared to do that bit extra too, as with his willingness to keep an eye on our finances in the absence of a Treasurer. On behalf of us all, I thank all four most sincerely for the time and skills that they have spared for our cause; without people willing to take on these tasks, the Society cannot function.

Alan Oatway

Financial Report

As the post of Treasurer is vacant, a Financial Report has been prepared instead of a Treasurer's Report.

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the accounts for the year ending 31st August 2020 has been significant. Donations from visitors to the garden were in the region of £33,000 less than last year, Plant sales were £8,000 lower and sales of refreshments, publications and advertising in the Journal were down by £5,000 in total. Fortunately, during the year the Society received a generous bequest of £20,000 and we were able to recover an additional £4,000 Gift Aid in respect of donations not previously claimed. As a result overall income was around £26,000 less than last year.

With close control being exercised over costs and project work on hold, expenditure on the garden was around £20,000 lower than last year and non-essential property maintenance was £6,000 down. Admin expenditure was £9,000 lower, accounted for in the main by a reduction in Publicity costs and the cancellation of Open Day in May 2020. Overall expenditure was £41,000 less as a result and after depreciation on Fixed Assets of almost £31,000 we were able to record a break-even situation for the year, achieving the Trustees' aim of funding day-to-day expenses from day-to-day income, but only with the benefit of the above noted bequest. With a notional gain of £3,300 on our Investments LHS total funds actually increased by a like amount over the 12 months to 31st August 2020.

The Society's finances remain in a very healthy position and we can face the future, including the continuing Covid problem, with some confidence in the knowledge that the Trustees will continue to exercise rigorous control over expenditure and we have the funds available to undertake major refurbishment of the Garden paths and our buildings once our lease has been renewed.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Society is a registered charity governed by a constitution approved by the membership, and last modified on 7th December 2019. Its objects are to promote and develop the science, practice and art of horticulture, with special reference to the conditions prevailing in the Lake District, and within that area to promote and facilitate cooperation between all horticultural organisations and to serve the interests of all horticulturalists.

The management and administration of the Society is conducted by its Council, whose members are Trustees of the Charity. The Council comprises five Honorary Officers of the Society, and up to twelve elected Members. The Officers consist of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, the Garden Co-ordinator, the Secretary and the Treasurer. The members of the Council are set out on page 3.

Day-to-day management is devolved to five sub-committees: Garden, Estates, Education, Publications, and Public Relations. These are governed by Standing Orders which are reviewed annually, and were last approved on 4th February 2020.

Officers are elected at each Annual General Meeting (AGM) having, with their consent, been nominated and seconded in writing by members of the Society. They hold office until the end of the next AGM. They may be nominated for re-election but may not serve for more than six consecutive years in any one office. Elected Members having, with their consent, been nominated and seconded in writing by members, are elected at an AGM to serve a three-year term. They may be nominated for re-election, but may not serve for more than two consecutive terms. Members of Council do not receive any payment in connection with their position.

The Society operates an informal system of Trustee induction, tailored to fit the experience of the trustee. All new trustees are given a copy of all the relevant Charity Commission documents, as well as the names and contact details of their fellow trustees.

All the work of the Society is carried out by volunteers and is funded through members' subscriptions, legacies, donations, the sale of plants and seeds from the Garden, and the sale of publications written and designed by members.

Financial Review

On the basis of their review of future years' activities, and a detailed budget for the following year, Council are satisfied with the financial position at 31st August 2020. The policy on Reserves, the reason why they are held and their intended use, is set out in Note 10 to the Accounts.

Activities

Garden

The Society manages the renowned Lakeland garden at Holehird which is open to the public every day of the year from dawn till dusk. This is a 12 acre garden on a hillside site near Windermere, 600 feet above sea level. The garden regularly receives up to 30,000 visitors each year, and although no formal charge is made for access, visitors are invited to

make a donation. The gardens are developed and maintained to the highest standards, providing the public with practical examples of design, propagation, plant maintenance and horticultural practice in relation to specific Lake District location and climatic conditions. In various parts of the garden trees, shrubs, herbaceous perennials, bulbs and alpines are grown.

The Society also acts as the International Registration Authority for Astilbe on behalf of the International Society for Horticultural Science, and hosts the National plant collections of Astilbe, Daboecia (heathers), Meconopsis (the blue poppy) and Polystichum (the holly fern).

Education

Gardening courses and lectures are held throughout the year, given by both in-house and outside experts. Volunteers act as garden guides for the many tour groups that visit Holehird, and others also give a considerable number of horticultural lectures to other groups. A number of bursaries are granted each year to support horticultural students. A well-stocked library and reading room, equipped with PCs and several microscopes, including a new high-powered model, is also available to all members, and a series of horticultural leaflets is available to the public on particular species that are grown in the garden, including the National Collections. We also have our own weather station, which was completely upgraded last year and this helps us understand the effect of varying climate on the performance of the plants in the garden. The weather records are available online to individuals and other organisations, and it is planned to move the weather station into a more visible location within the garden, so that more visitors are aware of it.

Media

The web site: www.holehirdgardens.org.uk shares the Society's knowledge and activities online, while *The Lakeland Gardener* – the Journal of the Lakeland Horticultural Society serves the same purposes in print. The Society also publishes a regular *Newsletter* for its members. The Society also has a presence on Social Media.

Access for all

Within the inevitable constraints imposed by a Lakeland garden, the Society aims to ensure that anyone with an interest in horticulture and gardening can benefit from its work, whatever their means and limitations. Wardens are on duty daily from early April to the end of October in the Visitor Information area to welcome members of the public and answer questions regarding the gardens, either directly or by introducing visitors to other members of the Society.

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in s17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have regards to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Achievements and Performance

Our usual programme of lectures and courses took place in the first part of the year, covering a range of topics including Roses, Rhododendrons, Cally Gardens and Madagascar. We hope to re-start these activities as soon as possible, using technology if

necessary. New accessions have been acquired for the library, and our librarian has digitised the catalogue which can now be inspected remotely. Sadly, the RHS course could not be completed at Holehird.

Essential upkeep and routine maintenance has continued of course but, with the exception of new pot-washing facilities at one of our propagation units, no new projects have been undertaken. This is partly due to the pandemic, with many contractors unavailable and also a desire on our part to reduce expenditure to help cope with the inevitable reduction in income. There is also uncertainty relating to our lease.

We have as usual published two full-colour journals during the year, but due to there being few activities to advertise, the Newsletter for members was not printed. A colour flyer was produced instead, to update members generally on our decisions caused by the virus. Some additional cards were added to the range available for visitors, but since we have been unable to open the information area, sales of such items have been a casualty of the situation. The latest copy of the journal provides members with the means to purchase items from our stock.

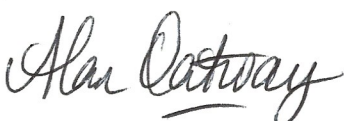
Neither our usual Open Day designed to attract new members, nor the afternoon we devote to those who have joined recently have been able to take place. We have also been unable to accept any group visits, with consequent loss of income. A review of membership categories is underway, and consideration is being given to how we might better welcome our visitors generally if the current difficulties last into the next season. Our volunteers who, in normal times, look after our information and sales area, are at the forefront of recruitment of new members throughout the season. Our review will include looking at other ways that visitors might be encouraged to become members.

Lastly, we have kept Holehird Gardens looking very good indeed. Visitors continue to speak very highly of the Gardens, the plantings, the labelling, and the standard of maintenance generally. They also take the opportunity to purchase the plants that we propagate for sale. Since we could welcome visitors back, their purchases of such plants, together with their admission donations, have gone some way to recover our income for the year.

All the Society achieves is the result of the efforts of many dedicated volunteers, who deserve much praise.

The Trustees' Annual report was adopted by Council at its meeting on 7th October 2020 and signed on its behalf by:

Alan Oatway – Chairman



Maggie Mees – Vice-Chairman



Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Lakeland Horticultural Society

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the Accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st August 2020 which are set out on pages 10 to 17.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity 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 s 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under s 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 s130 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.


DSJ Sissons
Chartered Accountant
The Old Court House
Clark Street
Morecambe, LA4 5HR

14.10.20

THE LAKELAND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31st August 2020

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

Incoming Resources	Note	Unrestricted Funds (Note 2) £	Restricted Funds £	2020 Total £	2019 Total £
Voluntary income	3	74,712	18,435	93,147	105,519
Other charitable income	4	15,983		15,983	29,970
Investment income	5	6,490		6,490	6,563
Total incoming resources				<u>115,620</u>	<u>142,052</u>
Resources Expended					
Garden and Estate maintenance	6	36,484	18,435	54,919	83,363
Other charitable expenditure	7	8,335		8,335	12,368
Administration costs	8	19,652		19,652	28,323
Depreciation	11	30,697		30,697	30,762
Governance costs	9	2,314		2,314	2,303
Total resources expended				<u>115,917</u>	<u>157,119</u>
Net resources expended				(297)	(15,067)
Gain on investments	12			3,308	7,248
Accumulated Funds B/Fwd				572,631	580,450
Accumulated Funds C/Fwd at 31st August 2020	10			<u>575,642</u>	<u>572,631</u>

There are no other gains & losses other than those disclosed above. All transactions are derived from continuing activities.

THE LAKELAND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31st August 2020

The Notes on pages 12 to 17 form part of these financial statements

BALANCE SHEET
As at 31st August 2020

	Note	2020		2019	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	11		30,601		61,298
Investments	12		87,433		84,125
			<u>118,034</u>		<u>145,423</u>
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stock		6,918		6,331	
Cash at bank	13	<u>452,977</u>		<u>422,766</u>	
		459,895		429,097	
CREDITORS – amounts falling due within one year					
	14	<u>2,287</u>		<u>1,889</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			457,608		427,208
NET ASSETS			<u>575,642</u>		<u>572,631</u>
CAPITAL FUNDS					
Restricted funds	2		12,038		12,265
Unrestricted funds	2		563,604		560,366
TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUNDS			<u>575,642</u>		<u>572,631</u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (FRS 102) and the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities (Charities SORP (FRS 102)). They were approved by Council on 7th October 2020 and are signed on their behalf by:



Alan Oatway
Chairman



David Mason
Secretary

The Notes on pages 12 to 17 form part of these financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Accounting Policies

i) Basis of preparation

The financial statements of the Charity are prepared under the historical cost convention with the exception of investments, which are included at market value. They have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (FRS 102), and the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities (Charities SORP (FRS 102)). The Charity is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, its presentation currency is Sterling (rounded to the nearest £1). The Trustees believe the Society is a going-concern, and have prepared the financial statements on that basis.

ii) Incoming resources

Incoming resources represent total income receivable during the year, and comprise membership subscriptions, donations, legacies, income from educational activities, investment income and sundry other income.

iii) Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. Charitable expenditure represents the cost of maintaining the estate and garden, scientific, education and editorial activities. Support services represent membership costs, and costs relating to the general running of the Society. Governance costs include those incurred in meeting constitutional and statutory requirements, and the preparation of the financial statements.

iv) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost. Depreciation is calculated to write off that cost over the expected useful life of each asset, as follows:

Leasehold land and buildings are depreciated on a linear basis over the period remaining on the lease (i.e. to 31st May 2020);

Fixtures and fittings are written down to a nominal value in the year of acquisition;

Glasshouses are depreciated on a linear basis over ten years; and

Machinery, vehicles and equipment are depreciated on a linear basis over five years.

v) Investments

Investments are stated at market value, and revaluation gains and losses are included in the Statement of Financial Activities.

vi) Stock

Stock is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. It relates to books and publications held for sale to members and visitors. It does not include plants or any work in progress.

vii) Creditors

Short-term creditors are valued at their transaction price.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont)

1. Accounting Policies (cont)

viii) Taxation

The Society is exempt from corporation tax.

ix) Reserves

The policy on Accumulated Funds held as Reserves is set out in Note 10 to the Financial Statements.

2. Restricted and Unrestricted Funds

The Society has entered into an agreement with the Holehird Trust for the upkeep of those parts of the gardens outside its lease. This income of £17,850 can only be spent on these activities. A donation from The North East Heather Society of £585 is to be used to improve the heather beds. During the year, £216 was spent on this project, leaving a balance of £369 to be spent on heathers next year. In addition, the heathers still have the use of a further £319 from the restricted donation in 2019. Also included in the Society's total funds is an amount of £7,350 donated towards the improvement of the fellside paths, and a further £4,000 (the Mary Miles endowment) which can be spent only *in extremis*. All these items are therefore disclosed separately on the Balance Sheet as Restricted Funds.

There are no restrictions on any other income.

3. Voluntary income

	2020 £	2019 £
Restricted donation (the Holehird Trust - Note 2)	17,850	17,850
Restricted donation (other – Note 2))	585	1,500
Other donations	42,540	56,020
Membership subscriptions	21,036	22,978
Gift aid reclaimed	11,136	7,171
	<u>93,147</u>	<u>105,519</u>

4. Other charitable income

	2020 £	2019 £
Plant sales	12,331	20,559
Vending machine sales	765	3,834
Less: Cost of vending machine supplies	<u>311</u>	<u>1,081</u>
	454	2,753
Sales of stationery, guides and books	1,079	3,438
Advertising sales in Society Journal	1,455	2,240
Income from educational courses	665	980
	<u>15,983</u>	<u>29,970</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont)

5. Investment income

	2020 £	2019 £
Interest on bank deposits	<u>6,490</u>	<u>6,563</u>

6. Garden and Estate maintenance

	2020 £	2019 £
Garden maintenance	23,361	43,671
Plants purchased	6,592	8,494
Estate maintenance	24,966	31,198
	<u>54,919</u>	<u>83,363</u>

7. Other charitable expenditure

	2020 £	2019 £
Costs of publishing Journal and Newsletters	5,855	5,821
Cost of guides and books	84	1,600
Courses, bursaries and lectures	2,396	4,947
	<u>8,335</u>	<u>12,368</u>

8. Administration costs

	2020 £	2019 £
Membership administration	3,334	5,316
Insurance	6,841	6,571
Publicity and Open Day	1,555	5,947
Website and IT costs	1,868	1,577
Other	6,054	8,912
	<u>19,652</u>	<u>28,323</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont)

9. Governance costs

	2020 £	2019 £
Independent Examination costs	1,700	1,700
AGM costs	614	603
	<u>2,314</u>	<u>2,303</u>

10. Accumulated Funds

In accordance with guidance issued by the Charities Commission, the Trustees have considered whether it is appropriate for the Society to retain funds for future charitable activities. Given the extraordinary uncertainties created this year, the Trustees have exercised all prudence by reducing expenditure, and not committing to any future capital works. Many plans exist to utilise our reserves, but these must await a restoration of more normal circumstances.

11. Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold Land & Buildings £	Fixtures & Fittings £	Machinery, Vehicles & Equipment £	Glasshouses £	Total £
Cost					
At 31 August 2019	366,464	20,539	92,608	175,557	655,168
Additions	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 August 2020	<u>366,464</u>	<u>20,539</u>	<u>92,608</u>	<u>175,557</u>	<u>655,168</u>
Depreciation					
At 31 August 2019	356,320	20,529	78,131	138,890	593,870
Charge for the year	10,144	-	2,220	18,333	30,697
At 31 August 2020	<u>366,464</u>	<u>20,529</u>	<u>80,351</u>	<u>157,223</u>	<u>624,567</u>
Net Book Value					
At 31 August 2020	<u>0</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>12,257</u>	<u>18,333</u>	<u>30,601</u>
At 31 August 2019	<u>10,144</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>14,477</u>	<u>36,666</u>	<u>61,298</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont)

12. Fixed asset investments

	2020 £	2019 £
Balance at 31 August 2019	84,125	66,877
New investment		10,000
Revaluation gain	3,308	7,248
Balance at 31 August 2020	<u>87,433</u>	<u>84,125</u>

The Trustees' investment policy allows an investment of up to 15% of the total available cash in the Charities Investment Fund (COIF) split equally between accumulation and income units. These investments are stated at market value, and the resulting gain of £3,308 (2019: gain of £7,248) is included in the Statement of Financial Activities.

13. Cash at bank

The Trustees' investment policy is, as far as possible, to maximise the return on the Society's investments. Within this, the Government guarantee of £85,000 acts as a ceiling for funds invested in any one financial institution. This policy, and the actual investments with each institution is reviewed every twelve months.

Cash at bank includes deposits with Building Societies regulated under the Prudential Regulation Authority (part of the Bank of England) and the Financial Conduct Authority. Certain deposits are available without notice, and the others have been placed with a maturity of between one and two years.

14. Creditors

	2020 £	2019 £
Examiner's Fee	1,700	1,700
Trade creditors	<u>587</u>	<u>189</u>
	<u>2,287</u>	<u>1,889</u>

All amounts are payable within one year.

15. Commitments

The Trustees have made no new commitments for 2020-2021, and a full review will be conducted on completion of a new lease and once the Covid crisis is of much less concern.

	2020 £	2019 £
Paddock frame repairs		4,500
	<u>0</u>	<u>4,500</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont)

16. Trustee Remuneration

No remuneration was paid to Trustees (2019: nil) and there were no expenses incurred in their roles as trustees (2019: nil)

17. Related Party Transactions

There were no transactions with related parties (2019: none).