



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

CONTENTS	Page
Trustees' Annual Report:	
Officers and Trustees of the Society	3
Report from the Chairman of Trustees	4
Financial Report	5
Structure, Governance and Management	5
Activities	6
Achievements and Performance	7
Independent Examiner's Report	10
Statement of Financial Activities	11
Balance Sheet	12
Notes to the Financial Statements	13 - 18

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 alpine 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.

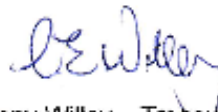
The catering team, again reduced in numbers following the pandemic, continues to welcome all members to coffee on Wednesday mornings. They try to make sure that the refreshment needs of all the volunteers, whether working in the garden or elsewhere, are met.

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').

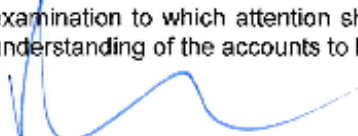
I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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
			116,821		114,890
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stock		4,222		5,850	
Debtors		1,172		300	
Cash at bank	13	517,857		485,642	
		523,251		491,792	
CREDITORS – amounts falling due					
within one year	14	(4,805)		(7,845)	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			518,446		483,947
NET ASSETS			635,267		598,837
CAPITAL FUNDS					
Restricted funds	2		11,621		11,818
Unrestricted funds	2		623,646		587,019
TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUNDS	10		635,267		598,837

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
	<u>138,308</u>	<u>88,293</u>

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)
	<u>1,143</u>	<u>(47)</u>
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
	<u>21,986</u>	<u>18,937</u>

5. Investment income

Interest on bank deposits	<u>3,526</u>	<u>5,230</u>
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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).