

Friends of Antrim Castle Gardens

Northern Ireland · Charity number 104814

Details

Status Received

Registered 2017-04-10

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

Contact

Address Antrim Castle Gardens
Randalstown Road
Antrim
Bt41 4lh
BT41 4LH

Phone 07907866628

Email friendsacg@outlook.com

Website <https://www.facebook.com/friendsofantrimcastlegardens>

Activities

Purposes: The Objects are to advance education in horticulture and gardening and to promote conservation and protection of the environment of Antrim Castle gardens and Clotworthy House for the public benefit in Antrim and surrounding districts (the “area of benefit”) by, in particular but not exclusively: 2.1 Encouraging, fostering and creating an interest in horticulture, good gardening, horticulture heritage, conservation and other related areas through maintenance of a gardening space in Antrim Castle Gardens and Clotworthy House; 2.2 providing an opportunity for members of the Society and the public to participate in organised visits to other gardens enhancing their knowledge of horticulture and providing an opportunity to foster friendships.

What the charity does: The advancement of education, The advancement of the arts, culture, heritage or science, The advancement of environmental protection or improvement

How the charity works: Education/training, Environment/sustainable development/conservation, Heritage/historical, Volunteer development

Who the charity helps: Adult training, General public, Mental health, Older people, Voluntary and community sector, Volunteers

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£10,319	£15,857	£0	0

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Anne Mcauley		
Diane Greenwood		
Eileen Black		
Mr Gary McMullan		
Mr Irwin McLaughlin		
Mr Rodney Gillen		
Mr Steve Humphrey		
Mrs Irene Moran		
Mrs Marie Bradley		

Friends of Antrim Castle Gardens

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104814

Accounts

Friends of Antrim Castle Gardens

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended

			31/08/2025	31/08/2024
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
Income				
Donations	1,849.16		1,849.16	3,120.43
Antrim and Newtownabbey BC Christmas Dinner	0.00	500.00	500.00	490.00
Antrim and Newtownabbey BC Insurance	0.00	988.95	988.95	747.04
Clothing	91.30		91.30	93.40
Enkalon	0.00		0.00	1,000.00
Lottery	0.00		0.00	6,900.00
Radius Housing	0.00		0.00	2,680.00
Asda	900.00		900.00	
Developing Healthy	908.00		908.00	
Eventbrite Operations	215.76		215.76	
John Moores Foundation	1,250.00		1,250.00	
Advisory Income	150.00		150.00	
Keep NI Beautigul	1,487.82		1,487.82	
Funday	763.74		763.74	
Garden Show Ireland	254.05		254.05	0.00
Quiz and Treasure Hunt	828.07		828.07	1,676.61
Dividends	133.11		133.11	149.12
	<u>8,831.01</u>	<u>1,488.95</u>	<u>10,319.96</u>	<u>16,856.60</u>
Expenditure				
Fees Teresa	0.00		0.00	-34.50
Fees Caroline	0.00		0.00	-548.96
Watering Payments	-345.00		-345.00	-105.00
Plants and garden materials	-2,159.46		-2,159.46	-1,566.74
Uniforms and clothing	-1,696.24		-1,696.24	-1,891.39
Tools Repairs Small items	-2,725.68		-2,725.68	-748.69
Website design	0.00		0.00	-810.90
Wreathwork	-448.69		-448.69	
Insurance	38.47	-988.95	-950.48	-747.04
Speakers	-581.00		-581.00	
Radius Housing Expenditure	0.00		0.00	-2680
Telephone	-129.89		-129.89	-98.82
AGM Expenses	-738.00		-738.00	-435.00
Christmas Dinner	-73.05	-500.00	-573.05	-754.75
Volunteer Dinner and outings	-923.26	-2,922.28	-3,845.54	-1,025.75
Sundries	-981.37		-981.37	-502.03
Change in valuation of M&G Charibond Units	0.00		0.00	134.53
Depreciation	-683.00		-683.00	-967.00
	<u>-11,446.17</u>	<u>-4,411.23</u>	<u>-15,857.40</u>	<u>-12,782.04</u>
Net movement in funds	-2,615.16	-2,922.28	-5,537.44	4,074.56
Fund balances at	31/08/2024			
Fund balances at	31/08/2025			

Balance Sheet as at

		31/08/2025	31/08/2024
Fixed Assets	Note 2	4,097.01	4,780.01

Current Assets

M&G Charibond Charities Fixed Interest Units	3,567.55		3,567.55	
Bank	14,968.60		19,978.35	
Debtors	<u>0.00</u>		<u>0.00</u>	
	18,536.15		23,545.90	
Current Liabilities				
Creditors	<u>0.00</u>	18,536.15	<u>-155.31</u>	23,390.59
		<u>22,633.16</u>		<u>28,170.60</u>
Income Funds				
Restricted		3,581.72		6,504.00
Unrestricted		<u>19,051.44</u>		<u>21,666.60</u>
		<u>22,633.16</u>		<u>28,170.60</u>

Approved by the trustees on the 01/10/2025

Anne McAuley

Chair

Page

X1

Diane Greenwood Treasurer

1 Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards and under the historic cost convention.

Depreciation is provided on tangible assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value. Over their expected useful life as follows:

Shed	20% of cost
Computer equipment	20% of cost
Hub	10% of cost

2 Fixed Assets

		Leasehold Shed	Hub	Fixtures and Computer	Total
Cost					
As at	31/08/24	950	6,829	470	8,249
Additions					0
As at	31/08/25	950	6,829	470	8,249
Depreciation					
As at	31/08/24	950	2,049	470	3,469
Charge for period			683		683
As at	31/08/25	950	2,732	470	4,152
Net book value					
As at	31/08/24	0	4,780	0	4,780
As at	31/08/25	0	4,097	0	4,097

Friends of Antrim Castle Gardens

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104814

Accounts

Financial review

The net income for the year is detailed in X1 and X2. The surplus for the year will be added to capital reserves brought forward.

Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

The Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.

They are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose, with reasonable accuracy at all times, the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the law. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The accounts have been prepared on an Income and Expenditure basis.

Signed by order of the Committee on their behalf

Diane Greenwood Treasurer

Dated 1 October 2024

Independent examiner's report to the charity's Trustees

I report on the accounts of the Friends of Antrim Castle Gardens for the year ended 31 August 2024, which are set out on pages X1 and X2.

Respective responsibilities of charity's Trustees and examiner

The charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is the independent examiner's responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- state whether particular matters have disclosed or identified

Basis of independent examiner's report

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as charity's Trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters 1 to 4 listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Name: Ian Lindsay retired Chartered Accountant

Address: 5 Marmont Park, Belfast, BT4 2GR. Date: 1 October 2024

Friends of Antrim Castle Gardens

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104814

Annual report

Friends of
**Antrim Castle
Gardens**



Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 1 October 2024

**Annual Report & Statement of Accounts
For year to
31 August 2024**

Charity No. NIC104814

M: 07907 866 628

E: info@friendsACG.co.uk

www.friendsACG.co.uk

Antrim Castle Grounds And Clotworthy House, Randalstown Road, Antrim BT41 4LH



The Trustees' Annual Report - Year Ending 31 August 2024

The Trustees present their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31 August 2024.

Structure, governance and management

The charity is a voluntary association. It is governed by a constitution and managed by a Management Committee, who are also the charity's Trustees.

The Trustees have had regard to guidance issued by the Charities Commission of Northern Ireland on public benefit in carrying out their statutory duties in the governance of the charity. The Trustees govern the activities of the charity in line with the objectives set out in the charity's constitution.

The Trustees

The Trustees who served the charity throughout the period are:

Chairperson – Anne McAuley

Vice Chair – Subhash Treon until April 2024,

Vice Chair - Irwin McLaughlin from April 2024

Secretary and Fundraiser – Marie Bradley

Vice Secretary and Coordinator – Rodney Gillen

Treasurer – Diane Greenwood

Vice Treasurer – Irwin McLaughlin

Coordinator - Steve Humphrey

Events Coordinator - Eileen Black

Donation Hub Coordinator - Irene Moran

Scarecrow Planner - Gary McMullan

Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

They are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.

They are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose, with reasonable accuracy at all times, the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the law. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Management Committee

The Committee carries out its governance role throughout the year by way of monthly meetings. These meetings enable review of the performance of the charity and make decisions regarding the charity's financial and operational matters.

The charity is registered with HMRC for tax purposes.

Objectives and activities

The objectives of the charity are:

- To advance education in horticulture and gardening; and
- To promote conservation and protection of the environment of Antrim Castle Gardens for the public benefit in Antrim and surrounding districts.

The charity carries out its activities on a 'not for profit' basis.

The strategies employed to assist the charity to meet these objectives include the following:

1. Encouraging, fostering and creating an interest in horticulture, good gardening, horticulture heritage, conservation and other related areas through maintenance of the courtyard gardens within Antrim Castle Gardens and Clotworthy House.
2. Providing an opportunity for members of the charity and the public to participate in organised visits to other gardens, enhancing their knowledge of horticulture and providing an opportunity to foster friendships.

An overview of the Charity's activities from September 2023 to August 2024

Volunteers

A massive thanks to all our volunteers for their hard work and dedication

- In September 2023 there were 25 volunteers
- 10 new volunteers joined
- 6 left
- Currently have 29 volunteers

Jean, Maureen, Jean and William 'graduated'

During volunteer week, Steve and Eileen were recognised for their role as volunteers

Diane took part in a promotional video for Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council. This will be shared in the USA and through the Council's social media platforms

Sessions held and Volunteer hours

- 4 sessions per week, Mon – Thurs 9:30 – 12:30
- Held 318 sessions
- Each session - managed by a Coordinator
- Saturday watering rota started in May

A total of 4,439 hours which included: gardening, administration and events as listed below.

Gardening activities

- Cleaned the greenhouse, the shed, the potting shed, the production area
- Created new alpine beds
- Revamped and renamed the Swap Hub – now the Donation Hub
- Erected a comment/suggestion box for the public
- Redesigned the sculpture bed with new plants, grasses, stones, bark and oiled the sculpture
- Created a fairy garden
- Weeded continually
- Shifted loads of soil, grit and stones
- Dug large and deep holes
- Painted the shed, the Donation Hub, the fence around the scarecrows
- Tested the soil
- Revamped the cottage garden with beech trees, honeysuckle and cottage plants
- Recovered and refloored the polytunnel
- Erected a trophy cabinet and Green flags
- Maintained flower beds by feeding, planting, weeding, adding bark, grit, pebbles and logs
- Planted and harvested onions, tomatoes, garlic, carrots, potatoes, courgettes, beetroot, cucumbers, strawberries and grapes
- Dressed the scarecrows – Halloween, Christmas, Valentine, Easter and Abba
- Erected new signage throughout the garden and on plants

Administration activities

- Held 10 Management Committee meetings and 3 Planning meetings
- Charity Commission and HRMC returns, Insurance renewals,
- Recording of minutes
- Accounting

- Applications forms, Induction packs, Graduation certificates.
- Posters, Notices, Signage
- Volunteer survey, WhatsApp communication, Volunteer forms renewals
- Funding applications
- Event organisation
- Social media updates and Website design. An increase in Facebook following was noted.

Total hours

A grand total of **4,439 hours**

Awards received

- At Garden Show Ireland our miniature garden received 'Highly Commended'
- We achieved the Green Flag Community Award

Funding received - £11,817

Thank you to all our sponsors:

Enaklon Foundation, Tesco, Dunsilly Hotel, National Lottery Community Fund, Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council and Radius Housing.

Fundraising income - £3,454.95

Donations received - £1,238.06

Purchases and expenditure

- Rainwear, name badges
- Trophy cabinet
- Tools, stones, paints
- Plants, vegetables
- Stationery, labels
- Gazebo, bunting, pop up stand
- Heat pads, covering for vegetables
- Fridge and refreshments
- Scarecrow clothing and lighting
- Uniforms
- Insurance
- NICVA
- Mobile phone
- Laptop security

- Microsoft office package
- Outings/transport
- Catering
- Invited speakers

Links with other organisations

- Women's Aid
- The Men's Shed
- The Ladies at The Shed, Antrim
- The Bridge Association
- Macmillan Cancer Support
- Tesco Antrim
- Enkalon Foundation
- Dunsilly Hotel
- Live Here, Love Here
- Radius Housing
- Mann's Café
- Northern Health and Social Care Trust – Day Opportunities
- Action Mental Health
- Colemans Garden Centre
- Antrim Newtownabbey Borough Council
- Devine Design
- CLG Naomh Comhghall, Antrim GAA

Future plans

- Increase sustainability through propagation, recycling and waste reduction
- Create an environment which encourages wildlife and pollinators
- Encourage volunteers to participate in courses which will enhance skills and knowledge
- Increase our involvement at Garden Show Ireland and other relevant events
- Continue to recruit new volunteers and increase sessions
- Continue to seek funding and hold fundraising events
- Invite inspirational speakers and visit other gardens
- Increase our social media coverage
- Work closely with other voluntary/statutory organisations

The Committee will continue to govern the charity in line with the constitution to achieve the objectives listed above.

The Trustees are satisfied that the performance of the charity during the year, in terms of both financial matters and operational activities, is in line with the charity's constitution and key objectives.

Financial review

The net income for the year is detailed in X1 and X2. The surplus for the year will be added to capital reserves brought forward.

Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

The Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.

They are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose, with reasonable accuracy at all times, the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the law. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The accounts have been prepared on an Income and Expenditure basis.

Signed by order of the Committee on their behalf

Diane Greenwood Treasurer

Dated 1 October 2024

Friends of Antrim Castle Gardens

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104814

Annual return

Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of Friends of Antrim Gardens

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 August 2024, which are set out on pages X1 and X2.

Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

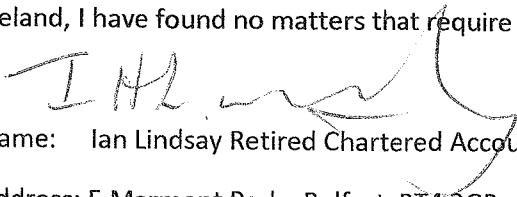
My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.



Name: Ian Lindsay Retired Chartered Accountant

Address: 5 Marmont Park, Belfast, BT4 2GR

Date: 1 October 2024

Friends of Antrim Castle Gardens

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended		31/08/2024	31/08/2023
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
Income			
Donations	3,120.43		3,120.43
Antrim and Newtownabbey BC	0.00	1,237.04	1,237.04
T Shirts and fleeces	93.40		93.40
Craft	0.00		0.00
Enkalon	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Lottery	0.00	6,900.00	6,900.00
Radius Housing	0.00	2,680.00	2,680.00
Garden Show Ireland	0.00		0.00
Quiz and Treasure Hunt	1,676.61		1,676.61
Dividends	149.12		149.12
	<u>5,039.56</u>	<u>11,817.04</u>	<u>16,856.60</u>
Expenditure			
Fees Teresa	-34.50		-34.50
Fees Caroline	-548.96		-548.96
Speakers	-105.00		-105.00
Plants and garden materials	-1,566.74		-1,566.74
Uniforms and clothing	-891.39	-1,000.00	-1,891.39
Tools Rpairs Small items	-748.69		-748.69
Website design	-810.90		-810.90
Evaluation			-950.00
Insurance	0.00	-747.04	-747.04
Craft			-1,059.41
Radius Housing Expenditure	0.00	-2,680.00	-2,680.00
Telephone	-98.82		-98.82
AGM Expenses	-435.00		-435.00
Christmas Dinner	-264.75	-490.00	-754.75
Volunteer Dinner and outing	-629.75	-396.00	-1,025.75
Sundries	-502.03		-502.03
Change in valuation of M&G Charibond Units	134.53		134.53
Depreciation	-967.00		-967.00
	<u>-7,469.00</u>	<u>-5,313.04</u>	<u>-12,782.04</u>
			<u>-14,761.31</u>
Net movement in funds	-2,429.44	6,504.00	4,074.56
Fund balances at 31/08/2023	24,096.04		24,096.04
Fund balances at 31/08/2024	<u>21,666.60</u>	<u>6,504.00</u>	<u>28,170.60</u>

Balance Sheet as at		31/08/2024	31/08/2023
Fixed Assets	Note 2	4,780.01	5,747.01
Current Assets			
M&G Charibond Charities Fixed Interest Units		3,567.55	3,433.02
Bank		19,978.35	14,916.01
Debtors		0.00	0.00
		<u>23,545.90</u>	<u>18,349.03</u>
Current Liabilities			
Creditors		-155.31	23,390.59
			0.00
		<u>28,170.60</u>	<u>24,096.04</u>
Income Funds			
Restricted		6,504.00	0.00
Unrestricted		21,666.60	24,096.04
		<u>28,170.60</u>	<u>24,096.04</u>

Approved by the trustees on the 01/10/2024

Anne McAuley Chair

Diane Greenwood Treasurer

Friends of Antrim Castle Gardens

Notes to the Financial statements for the year ended

31/08/2024

1 Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards and under the historic cost convention.

Depreciation is provided on tangible assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value. Over their expected useful life as follows:

Shed	20% of cost
Computer equipment	20% of cost
Hub	10% of cost

2 Fixed Assets

		Leasehold		Fixtures and	
		Shed	Hub	Computer	Total
Cost					
As at	31/08/23	950	6,829	470	8,249
Additions					0
As at	31/08/24	<u>950</u>	<u>6,829</u>	<u>470</u>	<u>8,249</u>
Depreciation					
As at	31/08/23	570	683	282	1,535
Charge for period		190	683	94	967
As at	31/08/24	<u>760</u>	<u>1,366</u>	<u>376</u>	<u>2,502</u>
Net book value					
As at	31/08/23	380	6,146	188	6,714
As at	31/08/24	<u>190</u>	<u>5,463</u>	<u>94</u>	<u>5,747</u>

Friends of Antrim Castle Gardens

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104814

Accounts

Friends of Antrim Castle Gardens

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended		31/08/2023		31/08/2022	
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
Income					
Donations	2,285.49		2,285.49		2,328.57
Antrim and Newtownabbey BC	0.00		0.00		241.50
T Shirts and fleeces	40.50		40.50		0.00
Craft	170.00		170.00		1,542.38
Enkalon	0.00		0.00		1,000.00
Lottery	0.00		0.00		20,299.00
Keep NI Beautiful	0.00		0.00		1,500.00
Garden Show Ireland	0.00		0.00		389.41
Lottery Business Development		0.00	0.00		10,000.00
Dividends	82.67		82.67		71.32
	<u>2,578.66</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>2,578.66</u>		<u>37,372.18</u>
Expenditure					
Fees Teresa	-4,077.83	-1,673.16	-5,750.99		-10,437.57
Fees Caroline	-1,149.09		-1,149.09		-1,992.58
Plants and garden materials	-1,252.71		-1,252.71		-5,236.93
Uniforms and clothing	0.00		0.00		-403.20
Tools repairs and small items	-339.20		-339.20		-162.72
Evaluation	-950.00		-950.00		-500.00
Insurance	-1,192.12		-1,192.12		-1,102.89
Craft	-1,059.41		-1,059.41		-2,804.74
Telephone	-150.88		-150.88		-233.39
Christmas Dinner	0.00		0.00		-360.00
Volunteer Dinner and outing	-1,280.25		-1,280.25		-656.30
Sundries	-458.95		-458.95		-416.82
Change in valuation of M&G Charibond Units	-210.71		-210.71		-345.90
Depreciation	-967.00		-967.00		-967.20
	<u>-13,088.15</u>	<u>-1,673.16</u>	<u>-14,761.31</u>		<u>-25,620.24</u>
Net movement in funds	-10,509.49	-1,673.16	-12,182.65		11,751.95
Fund balances at #####	26,278.69	10,000.00	36,278.69		24,526.74
Restatement of opening balance	8,326.84	-8,326.84	0.00		
Fund balances at #####	<u>24,096.04</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>24,096.04</u>		<u>36,278.69</u>

Balance Sheet as at		31/08/2023		31/08/2022	
Fixed Assets	Note 2	5,747.01		6,714.00	
Current Assets					
M&G Charibond Charities Fixed Interest Units		3,433.02		3,643.73	
Bank		14,916.01		26,115.95	
Debtors		0.00		0.00	
		<u>18,349.03</u>		<u>29,759.69</u>	
Current Liabilities					
Creditors		0.00	18,349.03	-195.00	29,564.69

Income Funds	<u>24,096.04</u>	<u>36,278.69</u>
Restricted	0.00	10,000.00
Unrestricted	<u>24,096.04</u>	<u>26,278.69</u>
	<u>24,096.04</u>	<u>36,278.69</u>

Approved by the trustees on the 02/10/2023

Sarah Beatty **Chair**

Diane Greenwood **Treasure**

1 Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards and under the historic cost convention.

Depreciation is provided on tangible assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value. Over their expected useful life as follows:

Shed	20% of cost
Computer equipment	20% of cost
Hub	10% of cost

2 Fixed Assets

		Leasehold		Fixtures and	
		Shed	Hub	Computer	Total
Cost					
As at	44804	950.00	6,829.00	469.99	8,248.99
Additions					0.00
As at	45169	950.00	6,829.00	469.99	8,248.99
Depreciation					
As at	44804	570.00	683.00	282.00	1,535.00
Charge for period		190.00	683.20	94.00	967.20
As at	45169	760.00	1,366.20	376.00	2,502.20
Net book value					
As at	44804	380.00	6,146.00	187.99	6,713.99
As at	45169	190	5462.8	93.99	5746.79

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Friends of Antrim Castle Gardens

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104814

Annual report

Friends of Antrim Castle Gardens

Annual Report & Statement of Accounts

For the year to August 31st, 2023

Friends of Antrim Castle Gardens – Registered Charity in N.I. No: 104814
Friends of Antrim Gardens NIC No.: 104814

The Trustees' Annual Report

Year Ended 31st August 2023

The trustees present their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st August 2023.

Structure, governance and management

The charity is a voluntary association. It is governed by a constitution. The trustees have had regard to guidance issued by the Charities Commission of Northern Ireland on public benefit in carrying out their statutory duties in the governance of the charity.

The charity is governed and managed by the Committee, who are also the charity's trustees. The trustees who served the charity throughout the period are shown below.

The Committee carry out their governance role throughout the year by way of meetings on a regular basis to review the performance of the charity and to make decisions regarding the charity's financial and operational matters. The trustees govern the activities of the charity in line with the objectives set out in the governing documents of the charity, namely the charity's constitution.

Objectives and activities

The Objectives are to advance education in horticulture and gardening and to promote conservation and protection of the environment of Antrim Castle gardens and Clotworthy House for the public benefit in Antrim and surrounding districts (the "area of benefit"). The charity carries out its activities on a "not for profit" basis.

The strategies employed to assist the charity to meet these objectives include the following:

1. Encouraging, fostering and creating an interest in horticulture, good gardening, horticulture heritage, conservation and other related areas through maintenance of a gardening space in Antrim Castle Gardens and Clotworthy House;
2. Providing an opportunity for members of the Society and the public to participate in organised visits to other gardens enhancing their knowledge of horticulture and providing an opportunity to foster friendships.

The main achievements of the charity during the year are as follows:

- **September 2022** – Sarah Beatty, Chairperson, gave a talk to the Rotary Club in Dunadry Hotel. This included the history of FoACG and what we do, the Queen's Award for Volunteers and other awards the group has won.
- Kelli arranged a visit to Helen Waddell (1889-1965 Scholar & Writer) House. Volunteers helped in the garden.
- **October 2022** – Halloween gathering. Walk and talk with Don Kelly starting from Clotworthy House and ending at Pogue's Entry. Discussing the history of the Castle and the fire almost a century ago.
- **November 2022** – Christmas Craft Fair in Larne Town Hall, organized by Kelli manned by four of our volunteers.

- Two volunteers attended the Council-organised 'Spirit of Volunteering' Awards Ceremony at the Theatre at the Mill, Mossley.
- **December 2022** – Christmas wreath making and table decorations with Caroline.
- Christmas meal outing at Ellie Mays.
- **January 2023** – Quiet time of the year for gardening but walks arranged in the grounds.
- **February 2023** – Benvarden (walled-garden) trip and lunch.
- Lottery application for funding was unsuccessful.
- Teresa O'Boyle, our garden co-ordinator, left FoACG.
- **March 2023** – Purple crocus bulbs sown in the grounds by garden volunteers. Lord Mayor took part. The bulbs were donated by The Rotary Club.
- Sarah Beatty, Chairperson, resigned. She had held this post since 2016.
- **April 2023** – Pogue's Entry cleared, It had not been available to us for more than a Year at a time. We stopped Friday craft work.
- We formed several WhatsApp groups for professional communication.
- **May 2023** – Coronation weekend. We were involved in the Community project. Deputy Mayor, councillors and the public were put to work in the garden at Clotworthy House. We appeared four times that day on local and TV national news.
- A bus trip to Seaforde Gardens and Tropical Butterfly House.
- **June 2023** – Garden Ireland Show. For all three days of the Show volunteers Provided the plant creche service for the visitors and we sold some quiz sheets.
- Plant Swap Hub – we are making it visitor friendly. Visitors have the opportunity To contact us via a comments box. Their thoughts and suggestions are welcome.
- **July 2023** – trip to Hazelbank where we had a guided tour of the new Coronation Garden.
- Ulster Bar Corner opening – volunteers attended.
- **August 2023** – Volunteer visit, which included a guided tour, to Drenagh Gardens, Limavady.
- Revised – Constitution
 - management committee terms of reference
 - volunteer and trustee roles and responsibilities
- Started helping Women's Aid in their garden in Fountain Street, Antrim.

The trustees are satisfied that the performance of the charity during the year, in terms of both financial and operational results, is in line with the charity's constitution and key objectives.

Financial review

The net income for the year was £11751.95. The surplus for the year will be added to capital reserves brought forward.

Future plans

- The Group is working on 'Back to Basics' – more time spent on gardening, concentrating on individual strengths/motivations & interests

- Annual Halloween Walk
- Initiate link with Greenmount College
- Refreshing the cut flower area and cottage bed
- Closer contact with other volunteer organisations
- Continue with seasonal adjustments in the scarecrow area
- Horticultural study trips and guided educational trips to other gardens
- Seed planting demonstrations for the public
- Christmas night out in December
- Guest speakers
- Greenhouse
- Introduce fruit bushes
- Book/seed hub – free for the public
- Start Saturday group in the garden for working people

The committee will continue to govern the company in line with the constitution in order to achieve the objectives noted above.

Trustees

The trustees, who are also the Committee, who served the charity during the period, together with those who have served since are as follows:

Mr Subhash Treon - Chairperson
 Mr Rodney Gillen - Secretary
 Mrs Diane Greenwood - Treasurer
 Mrs Eileen Black
 Mrs Pat McQuillan
 Mr. Chris Hodkinson
 Mrs Anne McAuley

Trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the Committee) are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations. The Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

The directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the law. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The accounts have been prepared on an Income and Expenditure basis.

Signed by order of the Committee on their behalf

Diane Greenwood Treasurer

Dated 2nd October 2023

Address

Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of Friends of Antrim Castle Gardens

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 August 2023, which are set out on pages X1 and X2.

Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Name: Ian Lindsay retired Chartered Accountant

Address: 5 Marmont Park, Belfast, BT4 2GR.

Date: 2nd October 2023

Friends of Antrim Castle Gardens

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104814

Annual return

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