

CHARITY NUMBER: 1133334

COMPANY NUMBER: 07030839

SHIPTON-UNDER-WYCHWOOD WILD GARDEN AND WOODS
(a company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2022

**SHIPTON-UNDER-WYCHWOOD WILD GARDEN AND WOODS
TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2022**

Reference and administrative information

Charity Name	Shipton-under-Wychwood Wild Garden and Woods
Charity Registered Number	1133334
Company Registered Number	07030839
Registered Office	New Beaconsfield Hall Station Road Shipton-under-Wychwood Oxfordshire OX7 6BQ
Trustees/Directors	Mr R Arnold Mr J Harris (resigned 15 Nov. 2021) Mr J Huntingford Mrs J Mavin Mr J Mehrtens (Treasurer) Mr J Pratt Ms C Timms Mrs C Trevers Mr J Watson (Chairman)
Reviewing Accountant	Richard Boyns ACA
Bankers	HSBC UK Bank plc 17, Market Place Banbury Oxfordshire OX16 5ED
Solicitors	Johnson and Gaunt 47 North Bar, Banbury, Oxfordshire, OX16 0TJ

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Structure, Governance and Management

The charity is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 26 September 2009, registered as a charity on 17 December 2009 and governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association, which are dated 20 September 2009. In the event of the company being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £10.

The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law.

All Trustees give their time voluntarily and received no remuneration from the charity.

The charity acts as a fund-raising body and manager of its acquired properties for the objects set out in its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

The governing body is its Board of Trustees. Trustees are elected at the Annual General Meeting or appointed by a resolution of the Trustees. At each Annual General Meeting one third of the Trustees retire, by rotation, and may offer themselves for re-election. Any member may be nominated at the Annual General Meeting to be a Trustee; the total number of Trustees allowed is set at a minimum of three with no maximum.

Principal activity

The company's principal activity during the year ended 30 September 2022 was to raise funds, to carry out necessary maintenance work and to manage the Wychwood Wild Garden as a place of public access and enjoyment.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing and approving this report.

The Trustees are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and the incoming resources and application of resources, including the net income or expenditure for the year. In preparing those financial statements the Trustees are required to:-

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements and
- Prepare financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume the company will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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Achievements and Performance

Visitor numbers are now back to normal after the disruption from COVID and membership remains at 166 with some inevitable losses and gains. Overall the year was a success in terms of feedback from visitors and volunteers. COVID restrictions aimed at limiting the number of visitors to the Garden were lifted in March 2022.

We held two successful fundraising events during the year both of which met or exceeded expectations. Open Gardens involved four gardens all loosely associated with Shipton Court providing magnificent and contrasting styles. Good weather contributed to a very successful day and our thanks go to the garden owners and the volunteers who made the afternoon such a success. We held a stall at Shipton fete, returning after three years, which provided an opportunity both for fund raising and for conversations with both current and prospective members, a number of whom subsequently joined as members.

We also hosted a photo shoot for a fashion magazine providing evergreen backgrounds for their Christmas catalogue.

The use of the Garden by the Cubs and Scouts has substantially increased, a welcome development introducing a new generation to outdoor pursuits and hobbies. Regrettably the planned access route for the Forest School from the school and pre-school has again been held up and we continue to work to try and resolve this.

During the year the volunteers have been involved in two major projects for the Garden.

A new Glade for Reflection has been created in the north-west corner of the garden on what was a rather damp area. The centre piece is a Swamp Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*), ideal for these conditions, surrounded by small trees and shrubs selected for their interest through the year and fruit bearing characteristics. Some further planting of damp tolerant plants will be carried out this autumn.

The sluice dam at the end of the canal has been substantially restored with new shaped coping stones to cut down winter flooding and an extensive repointing of the existing stones. Hopefully this will serve us well for a number of years to come.

We estimate that 65 volunteers have contributed to the maintenance and management of the garden over the year, a similar number to previous years.

Financial Review

The financial position of the charity continues to be satisfactory with cash at bank and in hand of £31,565. Net assets at 30 September 2022 totalled £81,789. Standing orders and annual pledges for the future maintenance of the Wild Garden currently stand at £8,627 per annum at the date of signing these accounts. Donations from the gate cash boxes, logs and open gardens have made useful contributions.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees have examined the charity's requirements for reserves in light of the estimated basic annual running costs of The Wild Garden. A policy has been established whereby the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets held by the charity should be at least equal to approximately 18 months expenditure on running costs. The unrestricted reserves at 30 September 2022 were £31,789 and approximately 18 months expenditure on running costs (excluding specific projects) have been estimated at £8,250. The Trustees consider that the present level of unrestricted funds is sufficient.

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Risk Review

The Trustees identify and review the major risks to which the charity is exposed and ensure that systems are in place to mitigate these risks.

The risks to which we are exposed include database management, financial, environmental, compliance and operational risks and where appropriate, systems or procedures have been established to mitigate the risks. We ensure that we have adequate insurance in place, monitor our reserves policy, monitor our financial activities, pay particular attention to keeping our members informed about our activities, and comply with company and charity law and regulation.

We complied with the appropriate COVID restrictions that were in place up to March 2022, ensuring that all volunteers were comfortable with the arrangements and were able to maintain appropriate social distance.

We provide regular newsletters to our members and invite feedback on any issues via telephone or email. Our aim is to respond to calls and emails within 24 hours.

We monitor the Wild Garden on an annual basis for signs of serious tree diseases and for invasive species. Ash Dieback will continue to be a threat for a number of years and a number of trees in particularly vulnerable areas were removed. Our management approach is selective cutting back and felling as needed. We monitor for Japanese Knotweed and Giant Hogweed, no new outbreaks were detected during the year. Signal crayfish have progressed from the Evenlode up the canals to the ponds, they will be monitored and if necessary trapped and destroyed to reduce numbers and protect the fish in these areas.

Our ponds and canals are registered as fisheries with the Environment Agency, allowing us to benefit from restocking with native fish. Care is taken to avoid any non-native species being introduced into the water system which would violate our license.

We use monitoring cameras from time to time to help identify and control anti-social behaviour, they were not used during the year.

Objectives and Public Benefit

The Trustees consider that they have complied with the Charities Act which states that charity trustees must 'have regard' to the public benefit guidance 'when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant'.

The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires charity trustees to include a statement in their Trustees' Annual Report as to whether they have complied with that duty.

The Trustees are satisfied that they have taken full regard of the public benefits guidance when making a decision to which the guidance is relevant or where they have decided to depart from the guidance, they have good reasons for doing so. We regularly review the workings and effectiveness of our governance policies and update these as needed, new policies are added as required by both law and experience.

Public Access and Participation

Our charitable objectives require that we manage the Wild Garden for the benefit of both residents and visitors to the area. There have been no physical restrictions on access during the year. We ask the public to respect the peace and tranquillity of the space and to keep children under control and dogs on leads at all times. Membership of the company is open to all who pledge an annual

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subscription of £30 or more. As at 30 September 2022 we had 166 members, including both Shipton and Milton Parish Councils as Representative Members.

Conservation, Restoration and Management

The restoration and management of the Wild Garden is guided by the Management Plan updated in September 2022. A copy of the Management Plan is available on our website. The overall objectives of the plan are to maintain the formality of the Avenue and the Round Pond, to restore the water system so that it now supports a reasonable fish stock and to maintain the remainder of the woodlands with a minimum of intervention.

Education

The key objective of the education initiatives, as set out in the Management Plan, is to encourage a responsible attitude towards, and a wider appreciation of, our local natural and physical environment. While the Garden was never intended to become an adventure playground, it should nevertheless allow popular and peaceful enjoyment of the Wild Garden by all and foster a positive approach to the environment.

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime. The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity. The Trustees are satisfied that the company is exempt from, and has not been subject to, an audit.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 20th January 2023 and signed on their behalf by:



J Michael Watson
Chairman

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**ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
SHIPTON-UNDER-WYCHWOOD WILD GARDEN AND WOODS**

I have reviewed the Trustees' Report and Financial Statements (the "Annual Report") for the year ended 30 September 2022 in light of applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice, and no matters have come to my attention that would suggest that the Annual Report does not either comply with such standards or statements, or give a true and fair view. However, the Trustees are reminded that ultimately it is their responsibility to ensure compliance and that undue reliance should not be placed upon my review in this regard.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Boyns', with a horizontal line under the name.

Richard Boyns ACA

Dated: 30th December 2022

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**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCORPORATING THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2022**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Income and endowment from				
Membership subscriptions	8,627		8,627	8,657
Donations and grants	5,238	0	5,238	9,735
Activities/Events	3,939		3,939	1,805
Interest received	14		14	1
Tax claimed under Gift Aid	2,020		2,020	2,936
Total Income and endowment	19,838	0	19,838	23,134
Expenditure on Governance and administration				
Insurance	1,545		1,545	1,530
General Expenses (Note 13)	1,551		1,551	2,668
Maintenance				
Tree work and surveys	4,650		4,650	4,447
Fuel for tractor	93		93	41
Fuel for chainsaw	142		142	65
Chainsaw repairs	60		60	0
Sundries	47		47	27
Equipment costs (Note 14)	106		106	223
Specific Projects				
Works to paths (Note 15)	0		0	3,455
Works to gates (Note 16)	0		0	112
Glade for Reflection (Note 17)	2,406		2,406	0
Dam Restoration (Note 18)	2,184		2,184	0
Total expenditure	12,784	0	12,784	12,568
Net income and endowments	7,054	0	7,054	10,566
Funds brought forward 2021	24,735	50,000	74,735	64,169
Funds carried forward	31,789	50,000	81,789	74,735

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**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2022
COMPANY NUMBER 07030839
CHARITY NUMBER 1133334**

	Notes	£	2022 £	2021 £
Fixed Assets				
Freehold Land	2		50,000	50,000
Current Assets				
Debtors	11	224		702
Cash at bank and in hand	3	31,565		24,033
		31,789		24,735
LESS Creditors; amounts falling due within one year		0		0
		31,789	31,789	24,735
Net Assets			81,789	74,735
Reserves				
Unrestricted	1		31,789	24,735
Restricted	1		50,000	50,000
			81,789	74,735

The Trustees are satisfied that the company is entitled to exemption from the requirement to obtain an audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 and that members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Act.

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The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to the accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

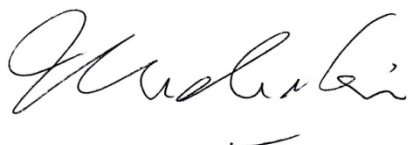
The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006, applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime. The accounts have been prepared having due regard to the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

Statement of Cash Flows and Reconciliation to Net Income	2022	2021
	£	£
Net Income for the reporting period	7,054	10,566
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	478	(294)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	0	0
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	7,532	10,272
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	7,532	10,272
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	24,033	13,761
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	31,565	24,033

The Financial Statements were approved by the Trustees on 20th January 2023



J Michael Watson
Chairman



J.I.Mehrtens
Treasurer

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2022**

1. Accounting Policies

- The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" published in 2005 and revised in the Charities SORP(FRS 102), and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2016).
- Donations and grants received are usually recognised in full in the year in which they are received.
- Resources expended are accounted for on a cash basis and have been aggregated under appropriate headings. Costs of generating funds are the expenses incurred with fund raising events. Governance and administration costs are those incurred in connection with the administration of the charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.
- Unrestricted Funds are funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.
Restricted Funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions of the donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes.
The Restricted Funds in the Balance Sheet of the charity relate to the acquisition of The Wild Garden.
- Freehold Land is carried at cost less any impairment if any.

2. The charity has purchased the Freehold of 12.5 acres of land at Shipton – under - Wychwood (known as The Wild Garden) at a cost of £50,000 with the intention of meeting the charity's objects as set out in its Memorandum of Association

3. The charity has no investments; all surplus funds are deposited with our bank.

4. The charity does not have any employees.

5. The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

6. Related Party Transactions

All transactions with trustees are carried out on an arms-length basis. There were no such transactions during the year ended 30 September 2022 apart from £1,352 reimbursed to 2 trustees in respect of costs incurred in equipment and work to paths, Glade for Reflection and sundry costs relating to The Wild Garden project, newsletters and AGM.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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7. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

No remuneration directly or indirectly out of the funds of the charity was paid or payable for the year to any trustee or to any person or persons known to be connected with them. Expenses totalling £1,352 have been incurred by trustees during the year, all of which has been reimbursed.

8. The charity is not part of a group and it does not have any subsidiaries.

9. The charity has no capital commitments, nor has it given any guarantees to any third party. Neither has it received nor granted any loans or made any ex-gratia payments.

10. Membership

At the end of the financial year we had 166 members compared to 166 at the end of the prior year.

11. Debtors

	2022	2021
	£	£
Tax reclaimed under gift aid	224	503
W.O.D.C. emptying dog bins	0	199
	<hr/> 224	<hr/> 702

12. The company does not have a share capital, being limited by guarantee.

13. General Expenses

	2022	2021
	£	£
West Oxfordshire D.C. (emptying dog bins)	797	792
AGM costs and general administrative costs	754	559
Covid costs	0	48
Hedge laying/Fencing	0	1,269
	<hr/> 1,551	<hr/> 2,668

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14. Equipment Costs

	2022	2021
	£	£
Repairs to tractor and keys for new tractor	0	122
Sundries	0	8
Saw chains	0	22
Saw	0	10
Replacement boat	0	61
Leaf fork and rake	21	0
Wheelbarrow	46	0
Chains and padlocks for Forest School gate	39	0
	106	223

15. Works to Paths

	2022	2021
	£	£
Operator	0	3,012
Gravel	0	443
	0	3,455

16. Works to gates

	2022	2021
	£	£
Generator and fuel	0	51
Paint	0	61
	0	112

17. Glade for Reflection

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trees	976	0
Gravel boards, posts and tree ties	727	0
Gravel for path	703	0
	2,406	0

18. Dam Restoration

	2022	2021
	£	£
Coping stones	1,539	0
General supplies	370	0
Trestles	120	0
Disc cutter hire	155	0
	2,184	0