

05673816 (ENGLAND & WALES)

CHARITY REGISTERED NUMBER: 1119592



DIRECTORS' AND TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2024

THE CHESHIRE GARDENS TRUST
DIRECTORS' AND TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2024

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THE CHESHIRE GARDENS TRUST
LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Company Number: 05673816 (England & Wales)

Registered Charity Number: 1119592

Patron: The Viscount Ashbrook

Directors: Susan Bartlett
Margaret Blowey
David Cash
Gordon Darlington
Martin Slack
Peter Young

Registered Office: 26 Sandford Road
Sale
Cheshire
M33 2PS

Bankers: CAF Bank Limited

THE CHESHIRE GARDENS TRUST
DIRECTORS' AND TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2024

The Council of Management presents its report with the financial statements of the charity for the Year ended 31 January 2024.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The charity is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

The objects of the Trust are:

- 1 To promote the education of the public in fine arts, crafts, sciences and all other matters connected with designed landscapes; and
- 2 To promote the appropriate action for any or all of the following: the restoration, enhancement, preservation, conservation, protection and understanding of designed landscapes that may exist or have existed in and around the pre-1974 historic county of Cheshire.

The Cheshire Garden Trust Council of Management Trustees has adopted the *Charity Governance Code for smaller charities* and is working towards ensuring that it is fully compliant with its stipulated good practice. It acknowledges, however, that it is not possible to be fully compliant at the present time in relation to the proposed maximum length of service of 9 years. Whilst this is a matter of continual review with steps being taken to ensure a regular turnover of Trustee membership, it is necessary to retain Trustee membership beyond nine years in view of the current Trustees' considerable skills and expertise.

The Trustees have reviewed the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance. The activities of the Trust fall mainly within the Charitable Purposes: advancement of education, and advancement of arts, culture and heritage. The activities of the Trust in meeting these public benefits are described in detail below. Membership of the Trust is open to everyone and members of the public do not need to be a member of the Trust to benefit from its activities.

Appointment of Trustees

The trustees who served during the year are set out on the charity information page at the front of these accounts.

Trustees are elected by the members at the AGM to serve on the Council of Management for three years. Members of the Council are restricted to two consecutive terms of three years, unless there are fewer candidates for election than places available. Council may consist of no fewer than four and no more than seven members. A further three co-options may be made.

The Council of Management encourages others to stand for election and has created an information pack for new Trustees.

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Organisation

The company is limited by guarantee and was incorporated on 12 January 2006. It was registered as a charity on 11 June 2007. The Trust is a member of the national body The Gardens Trust.

Risk policy

The trustees have examined the major strategic, business and operational risks which the charity faces and confirm that systems have been established to enable regular reports to be produced so that the necessary steps can be taken to lessen these risks. The following are in place:

- An annual budget is set and management accounts reported against budget at intervals through the year.
- Public Liability and Trustee Indemnity Insurance;
- Role descriptions and information packs for Council of Management members;
- Risk assessments are made prior to every event; During the COVID pandemic, meetings and events are held on-line;
- Site visit guidance notes and risk assessments for volunteers undertaking research and recording. Should there be a reoccurrence of the Covid pandemic then precautions would be in accordance with current Government requirements
- An information pack for research and recorders which includes guidance to minimise risk;
- Training for researchers;
- A Data Protection Policy has been drafted to ensure the Trust complies with the General Data Protection Regulation 2018.

The Council of Management also recognises that too much responsibility rests on too few volunteers and will continue to encourage members of the Trust to serve on the Council and to volunteer for the various activities it undertakes.

Achievements and performance

Membership Report February 2023 - January 2024

Total membership for this period = 153 (6 of which are Gift memberships)

This includes new members for this period = 16 (4 of which are Gift memberships)

For various reasons we have lost 11 relatively long-standing memberships but this is balanced by the gains as noted above.

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The overall picture is that our membership is slowly reducing and we ask all members to actively “spread the word” and encourage their friends to join us. Distributing our leaflets to libraries, etc. in your local areas would also be helpful.

As previously reported, only a small number of members are very actively involved in our various activities but a large proportion attend visits and talks, both on-line and live. All members receive newsletters and regular emailed news items.

Crispin Spencer Membership Secretary

Chairman

Since 1st October 2021, the Council of Management has been seeking a suitable person who is prepared to fulfil this role. In the meantime, David Cash has temporarily chaired Council of Management meetings. We continue to hope to fill the role of Chairman but this is a situation which cannot continue indefinitely

Activities

The following items were in our plans for 2023/24:

- To continue with our usual activities with a special emphasis on developing skills among the membership to help with the Conservation and Planning demands.
- To attract more members to take part in the proactive work of CGT.
- To continue the aims set out in the Strategic Review 2019.
- Only the proposed changes to the Caldwell website have been achieved, making it more accessible and with additional data added.

Strategic Review

This forward-thinking Review circulated in 2019 arrived at a series of recommendations for action. Of these, only the aims for the Website have been fully achieved and Council of Management meetings have been restructured.

Twelve months ago, we said that the remaining aims had not be achieved: replacement of Leadership roles, increasing Council of Management members, increasing active Trust Membership, particularly recruiting more assistance with Conservation & Planning activities. We then added to our list of requirements the replacement roles of Trust Chairman and new members of both the Conservation & Planning Group and Newsletter Group, stating that all these rely on success in growing and diversifying our membership and involving them directly in these essential activities of the Trust. We said that pursuing these aims had been difficult but it was hoped that more members would be able to step up to help maintain momentum.

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Unfortunately this hasn't happened to a sufficient degree. Instead, the situation has become more grave because Barbara Moth, a long serving member who has worked incredibly hard over many years and made an enormous contribution, has understandably decided to greatly reduce the amount of time she can offer Cheshire Gardens Trust. This means that both the Research and Recording Group and the Conservation and Planning Group are greatly weakened.

All these factors inevitably mean that the continuance of the all the stated aims of Cheshire Gardens Trust is now seriously in doubt.

Events Group Report : 1st February 2023 – 31st January 2024

We started the year with a further talk delivered through zoom. **Joe Wainwright**, award winning professional garden photographer, specialising in producing creative and inspiring heritage, lifestyle and tourism images, gave a delightful virtual talk, showing a wide range of images of gardens in the northwest from the Lake District to the borders of Wales and Shropshire.

In March **Laura Wildgoss** gave a superb talk on the development of the Wildegoose Nursery, held at Worleston Village Hall, a new venue for CGT. Laura spoke of her and Jack Wildgoss's dream of running a nursery and having a walled garden, turned into reality when by chance they found a neglected walled garden at Millchope Park, Shropshire. Members welcomed the opportunity to buy plants from Laura. And Worleston Village Hall proved an excellent venue!

In May we started our 2023 summer garden visits with a visit to **Bolesworth Castle** on the Sandstone Ridge in Cheshire, courtesy of the owner Diana Barbour. Andy Frostick, Head Gardener, led a fascinating walk around the garden with its Rock Walk and its lovely views to the Welsh Hills. Following refreshment, Diana concluded the visit with a brief talk on the development of the garden undertaken by herself and her late husband.

Late in June a CGT group took up the opportunity to visit the much acclaimed 6.5 acre **Mayfield Park**, Manchester's first new City Centre Public Park for 100 years. Jim Gibson, Partner, Gillespie's (Landscape Architects) guided us around the park, built on an old abandoned industrial area. Jim provided much informative detail of the history of the site, the challenging problems which had to be overcome during the construction phase, and how the area is being transformed to be one of the main focal points in the regeneration of the area for the local community.

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After lunch, the group had the added bonus to visit the **National Trust Castlefield Viaduct**. The sky garden opened to the public in July 2022 with and has a central walkway, allowing superb views of the surrounding area, including the Bridgewater Canal Basin; the area of the Roman Fort Mamucium, and a series of Victorian warehouses.

In July CGT made a return visit to **Castle Park, Frodsham**, the venue for the first meeting held to discuss the formation of Cheshire Gardens Trust twenty years ago!

Castle Park incorporates a historic manor house, an art gallery and around nine hectares of beautiful parkland and gardens which are Grade II on Historic England's Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England. At the start of the CGT visit, Kath Gee, together with Jenny Wood, both CGT Members, provided a guided tour of Castle Park and its trees. One of the major features of the park is the tree trail of protected specimen trees. After the garden walk, the group had afternoon tea with delicious cakes provided by members. The event concluded with the well-attended 2023 Annual General Meeting.

On 4th August, members and friends enjoyed a fascinating, informative tour of the **Field 28 farm** in Daresbury, near Warrington led by Romy, head of the growing team, and Jess the farm manager. The farm, with its air of enthusiasm and experimentation, has five growing team staff who keep detailed notes, observing how the crops of a full variety of vegetables are behaving. Larger flowers are grown for flower markets also and the team hope to develop as wholesalers. Field 28 is part of a group "Flowers from the Farm" to encourage the purchase of English flowers rather than those flown in from abroad.

In August also we made a return visit to **Ashton Grange** at Ashton Hayes, the home of CGT Treasurer Martin Slack and his wife Kate. The beautiful extensive garden at Ashton Grange includes extensive lawns, borders, island beds, shrubberies, a large pond, an orchard, and a kitchen garden, all of which are set against mature woodlands and a wildflower meadow! It was good to see how Ashton Grange had developed since our last visit. For the last two years Martin and Kate have successfully opened the garden under the NGS scheme, raising money for their designated charity. Thanks to Martin and Kate for their generous hospitality.

At the end of August Professor Luca Csepely-Knorr of Liverpool University invited members of the CGT to join her at **Quarry Bank** at the exhibition about the work of 20th century landscape architect, Brenda Colvin, who had been commissioned by the National Trust to plan the landscape of Styal Village. This detailed talk centred on the well-illustrated exhibition was followed by a guided walk round the village to discuss Colvin's proposals.

A guided visit to **RHS Bridgewater** was arranged in September. Whilst the walled gardens are the most visited and the most complete of the site, there is still a lot of work to do as the money becomes available. The CGT group welcomed the guided tour by the two RHS volunteers, providing so much detail on recent developments. One group focused on what

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will be the extensive development of the Chinese streamside garden, viewing the recently completed music pavilion. the first of four interlinked pavilions that will make up The Scholar's Garden, a project that draws inspiration from classical Chinese garden design due for completion in 2026.

Our final 2023 garden visit took place at **Ness Botanic Gardens** on an especially pleasant October day for a guided tour. 2023 was a double anniversary for Ness, as it marked 125 years since the gardens were founded by Arthur Bulley in 1898, and 75 years since 'Bulley's

Garden' became the University of Liverpool's Botanic Gardens in 1948. We had last visited in October 2016. Autumn is an ideal time to visit with the glorious colours, many perennial plants still in flower, the stunning berries of the sorbus, and many other trees and shrubs with a beautiful autumn glow. Our informative guide gave us a comprehensive tour of the beautiful extensive gardens.

Our 2023-24 programme of talks started in November at a meeting at Marthall Hall where **Kevin Pratt**, an experienced horticulturist qualified in botany and soil science, spoke of his long career covering many aspects of gardening. His entertaining talk not only included his passion for growing rare and unusual plants at his nursery but also his work with Arabella Lennox-Boyd at Gresgarth Hall.

The Events Team had planned two talks by zoom to be held in January and February. Whilst the zoom talk arranged for January was not possible, Liz Wright's zoom talk on smallholding and market gardening took place in February.

Detailed reports and talks are included in our CGT Newsletters that can be viewed on the website, www.cheshire-gardens-trust.org.uk, - see **Gallery tab/Events page**.

The Events Team comprises Margaret Blowey (Chair), Jackie Cawte, Gordon Darlington, Sue Eldridge, Janet Horne, Julia Whitfield, and Carolyn Yardley. We all hope that CGT members and friends have enjoyed the programme we arranged for 2023-24, and we look forward to meeting you again at the further events in the forthcoming months.

Margaret Blowey, on behalf of the Events Team events@cheshire-gardens-trust.org.uk

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Research and Recording Group Report 1st February 2023 – 31st January 2024

Research and recording has continued with four reports and an addendum issued this year including a major report on Capesthorpe Hall, a site of considerable significance which we propose to submit for inclusion on Historic England's Register of Parks and Gardens. Two

faithful members have stepped down and we are extremely grateful for their contribution; to Julia Whitfield for all the research she has undertaken in north Cheshire including the discovery of two hitherto unknown Mawson gardens, and to Liz Roberts who undertook the challenge of researching Capesthorpe.

Barbara Moth, while continuing to support researchers and issue reports is no longer coordinating meetings and this role is now being undertaken by Jackie Cawte. Jackie also represented the Trust at Cheshire Local History Day. We continue to attend the Cheshire

West and Chester Heritage Forum, now chaired by Katrina Kerr, the Leader's Champion for History and Heritage and a Councillor for Chester City and Garden Ward.

Our reports constitute a considerable body of work, referred to by others, and appreciated by Local Authority officers. They are also used by us to inform responses to planning applications, answer enquiries received through the CGT website and to provide material in support of outreach activities.

We would be very pleased to welcome new members to a meeting or site visit so that they can discover more about what we do. Our meeting dates and venue can be found on our Website Calendar.

<https://www.cheshire-gardens-trust.org.uk/?Calendar>

Alternatively, contact a Group member in person or via our Research email address: research@cheshire-gardens-trust.org.uk

Barbara Moth on behalf of the Research & Recording Group

Caldwell's Nurseries Project Report Feb 2023 – Jan 2024

The Website continues to be used on a regular basis and is now more accessible as it has been transferred to a new format. This makes it usable on a Smartphone in a way that was not possible before. In addition, a new customer report provides users with a total expenditure per customer.

Work continues on a new book provisionally entitled The World of the Early Knutsford Nurserymen.

Joy Uings <https://www.caldwellarchives.org.uk/>

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Planning and Conservation Report February 2023 – January 2024

This year CGT received and reviewed 35 planning applications and commented on 18.

Area Breakdown as follows:

Cheshire East – 21 including 2 via the Forestry Commission
Cheshire West & Chester – 11
Peak District -1
Stockport - 0
Trafford - 1
Wirral 1

Included in these figures are:

Neighbourhood Development Plans - 4
Direct Invitation to CGT for a Pre-application Consultation – 2
Registered Parks & Gardens – 24
Locally Significant Landscapes - 7

While local authorities have a statutory duty to inform the Gardens Trust of planning proposals affecting Registered Parks and Gardens, in our case we do the leg work and draft the response for the Gardens Trust to send. Historic England is only consulted regarding sites graded I and II*.

It is noticeable that over this period we were directly consulted on almost half the number of planning applications than in 2022/23. It is also significant that the greater proportion of the sites we were consulted on were for Registered Parks and Gardens. Planning applications for Locally Significant, non-Designated Landscapes were less represented during this period. To check whether you live near any of these local landscapes in your own area, go to our website here:-

<https://www.cheshire-gardens-trust.org.uk/?Non-designated-Parks-and-Gardens>

We really need to receive information from Members about planning issues related to all designed landscapes at risk in their own areas, particularly as we are not always contacted by local planning officers, as can be seen from the area breakdown above.

Here are five 'snapshots' worth mentioning:-

1. Eaton Hall 23/01387/FUL, Gardens Grade II*. This application for a new substation and trenching along one of the historic avenues at Eaton regarding which we expressed concern and a request for further information, has been withdrawn – our concerns being echoed and amplified by Cheshire Archaeology Planning Advisory Service.

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2. The Over Alderley Neighbourhood Plan, where our comments regarding the historic designed landscapes within the plan area have been taken on board and included in the latest NP.
3. We are gratified that the National Trust is continuing to consult us directly on pre-planning application proposals at Lyme Park, Grade II*.
4. Photovoltaic panels and Solar arrays are becoming a more frequent occurrence in applications – and being granted permission despite objections to the potential harm caused to historic significance. This is presumably because they help Local Planning Authorities meet their sustainability /energy policies. One to watch.
5. And finally, an issue brought to our attention by members, and that we would like everyone to be aware of, is the sale of historic estates which have been in family ownership for hundreds of years. Adlington Hall and Tushingham Hall (near Whitchurch) have both been sold recently. The Grade II* Registered landscape at Adlington is currently being minimally maintained while the consortium who purchased the property look for a new investor to take on the hall and grounds. In March this year Dorfold Hall was put up for sale. We need to remain watchful and ensure that any proposed changes to such properties do not negatively impact the significance of the historic landscape.

These Planning & Conservation activities form part of our charitable remit and need to continue with the active support and local knowledge of a larger proportion of our membership if CGT is to retain its charitable status and also to lessen the load on the current Conservation & Planning Group of two.

Barbara Moth and Sue Bartlett planning@cheshire-gardens-trust.org.uk

Networking Report February 2023 - January 2024

Networking continues in an informal way, including advertising for and joining with other Cheshire organisations' talks and also by connecting with non-members at CGT's Events.

This year the Research & Recording Group participated in two outreach events with new partners.

An exhibition, "Salt and Cheshire's Parks and Gardens" held in partnership with Cheshire West and Chester Museums at the Lion Salt Works over the summer used research on three sites, Marbury Park, Winnington Hall and Verdin Park.

Public park research was also used in a 'Heritage Open Days' event in Queen's Park Crewe, where Cheshire Gardens Trust volunteers partnered with the Gardens Trust, Cheshire Archives and Local Studies and the Friends of Queen's Park to host a pop up museum. (See CGT newsletter October 2023) <https://www.cheshire-gardens-trust.org.uk/?newsletters>

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Research on Queen's Park by Barbara Wright informed one of the special display boards. Support on the day came from other CGT members: Martin Slack who provided the marquees, Barbara Moth & Jackie Cawte from the R&R Group, Annie Coombs & Chris Driver, who took photographs, Gordon Darlington, Jo Bishop, Sue & Beric Bartlett, and Sue Eldridge.

We engaged with over 100 visitors to the park. Our grateful thanks to all who took part. The Gardens Trust will be holding an Audience Development Showcase in Sheffield later in 2024 to share learning from events such as this.

We hope members found these events interesting and enjoyable, and welcome more new ideas from members to enhance our outreach activities.

Barbara Moth and Sue Bartlett info@cheshire-gardens-trust.org.uk

Newsletter Report February 2023 - January 2024

The production of the Cheshire Gardens Trust Newsletter continued during the period of the report with four issues between February 2023 and January 2024. There have not been a great many changes during that period. For the January 2023 edition, following consultation, the format of the newsletter changed to a single column. Feedback has suggested that this makes it much easier to read. It is also

much easier to put together, apart from the front cover. Articles can be cut and paste into the main body of the newsletter and photos can be put into the Newsletter and adjusted fairly easily with the text wrap facility.

We continue to run series such as the 'Head Gardeners of Cheshire' and 'Cheshire Parks', though not necessarily in every edition and occasional articles on garden designers. We aim to cover what CGT groups are up to, conservation and planning, events, research and recording, as well as one off consultations, such as that at Lyme Park and The Sandstone Ridge. The 'Why is this here?' series continued but has now run its course.

We also of course continued to cover visits to gardens and zoom talks held over the winter. But it would still be interesting to see more articles on areas like horticultural training and apprenticeships, plant nurseries and technological development in horticulture, after all this is the life blood of gardens and horticulture in Cheshire.

We have also tried to encourage the use of external websites by using links in the newsletter, to widen peoples' interest, in particular to encourage people to use the CGT website.

During the period of this report the Newsletter Support Group NSG continued to support the Editor, but unfortunately this has now been disbanded, because of peoples' other commitments, though Freyda Taylor continues to do a fantastic job of proofreading. During the Pandemic and afterwards, members were very good at contributing articles, but this has slowed down and we no longer have a surfeit of material. I will continue as Newsletter Editor for the time being (I'm leaving the Events group to give myself a bit more time), though eventually I will have to give up.

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If you would be interested in becoming Editor I would be happy to mentor/support you for as long as needed, perhaps before a trial run as a guest editor. Otherwise volunteering to become part of a revived newsletter support group or contributing on a range of topics would be really helpful. Please get in touch if you feel you could help in any way.

Sue Eldridge - CGT Newsletter Editor newsletter@cheshire-gardens-trust.org.uk

Website Report Feb 2023 – Jan 2024

Our Website is our link to the general public through which we continue to receive enquiries from researchers and garden owners, particularly in relation to our research into Cheshire designed landscapes of local importance and to help with planning issues. The Website also attracts interest from new members, guests at our Events and neighbouring Gardens Trusts.

It is possible to search our whole site for specific topics by using the white Search window on the top right of every page. This also includes articles in our Newsletters which are being painstakingly added to our search engine by Tina Theis, to whom we offer our grateful thanks. You can also find direct links from online Newsletters to relevant parts of the Website.

In this, our 20th Anniversary Year, do take the opportunity to look back on our splendid Newsletter archive, reaching back to Issue no 1 in January 2004. These are packed with informative and enjoyable articles – well worth revisiting. Links to all these can be found by clicking on the Newsletter photo on our Home page.

<https://www.cheshire-gardens-trust.org.uk/?newsletters>

As we look forward to our 21st year, now would also be a good time for Members to remind themselves of the organisation and aims of our Trust, easily found on our About Us page.

<https://www.cheshire-gardens-trust.org.uk/?About-Us>

Reviewing our Website is a continuous process so please visit it and let us have your comments, updates, photographs or anything to help us enrich CGT's important public face.

We really need more people to help put content on the site e.g. Events details, photos on the Gallery, add to our information on Public Parks and update the Latest News section. Training would be given and spreading the load would involve only a day or less every few weeks. Please contact me if you are willing to help.

Sue Bartlett info@cheshire-gardens-trust.org.uk

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Volunteers

As we stated last year, maintaining our activities requires the input of our many volunteers. However, we are very aware that some have been undertaking their roles for more than a decade and unfortunately that means we are getting older! It is important that the Trust is refreshed by the different ideas and experiences of younger members. Everyone can help, whether occasionally or for longer periods. Please allow our long-term volunteers to take a step backward. We will still be around to offer support.

Financial review

In the year ending 31/01/2024, the Trust made a surplus of £123 and this follows the loss of £166 reported in the previous year. The total available assets at the end of the year were £16,358. The detailed figures on pages 14 & 15 show that most of our income and expenditure items continued as normal. As a charity, the Trust should not continue to build up funds and the Council of Management continues to look for appropriate projects to support.

Reserves policy

It is the policy of the charity to maintain unrestricted funds, which are the free reserves of the charity, at least at a level which equates to approximately six months unrestricted expenditure. This provides sufficient funds to meet operational costs and to fund the next two events of the Trust. Unrestricted funds were maintained well above this level throughout the year.

Looking Forward

Cheshire Gardens Trust's most pressing aim is to strengthen the Conservation and Planning and Research and Recording Groups. The operation of these groups is of vital importance to the conservation of Cheshire's many important parks and gardens because as far as we are aware, we are the only organisation which undertakes this role. It relates not only to *registered* parks and gardens but also to those which are *not on the register* and thus potentially at greater risk. Getting involved in the activities of either of these groups does not have to be a major time commitment, it can involve as much or as little time as any individual wants to commit.

Specialist knowledge is not necessary for becoming involved in the Research and Recording Group. Our experience is that having enthusiasm for the subject is the most important attribute. Guidance and advice are available.

For the Conservation and Planning Group, experience of landscape design and/or planning regulations would be ideal, but simply an appreciation of the value of designed landscapes and a willingness to learn would be very helpful – again advice and guidance are available. Several members have made important contributions to consultations simply through their knowledge

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and passion for a local landscape. In addition we are specifically looking for someone to undertake an administrative role for the C&P group; logging planning consultations, informing group members so they can respond as necessary and issuing the response.

A national review of statutory consultees (which includes the Gardens Trust) is currently taking place. We are hopeful that this may result in increased support for County Gardens Trusts' Conservation and Planning Groups.

We would really like new volunteers and to encourage potential new members to become involved in these important activities or in other roles identified under the Strategic Review. (see page 3)

As part of CGT's 'looking forward', members and guests are invited to a Garden Party on Wednesday 21st August at Ashton Grange. Apart from being a lovely social occasion in a beautiful setting, this will be an opportunity for attendees to ask questions and find out more about the Trust's activities and what is involved in volunteering.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity at the end of the financial Year and of its surplus or deficit for the financial Year. In doing so the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the policies adopted are in accordance with the Companies Act 2006 and with applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in existence.

The trustees (Council of Management) are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enables them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. 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.

This report was approved by the Council of Management on 23 April 2024.

David Cash
Trustee

THE CHESHIRE GARDENS TRUST

BALANCE SHEET

AT 31 JANUARY 2024

	Note	2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
Current assets					
Debtors and prepayments	3	30		5	
Bank Accounts		17,254		16,557	
		<u>17,284</u>		<u>16,562</u>	
Creditors					
Amounts falling due within one year	4	926		327	
		<u>926</u>		<u>327</u>	
Net current assets			16,358		16,235
			<u>16,358</u>		<u>16,235</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>16,358</u>		<u>16,235</u>
Net assets			<u>16,358</u>		<u>16,235</u>
Capital funds			16,358		16,235
Unrestricted funds			<u>16,358</u>		<u>16,235</u>
Total funds			<u>16,358</u>		<u>16,235</u>

For the year ending 31/01/2024 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The Members have not required the Company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The Directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Approved by the trustees on

Martin Slack
Trustee

David Cash
Trustee

The annexed notes form part of these financial statements

THE CHESHIRE GARDENS TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2024

Details of Incoming resources and resources used are given in the notes to the financial statements.

	Unrest'd Funds	Total Funds	<i>Unrest'd Funds</i>	<i>Total Funds</i>
	2024		<i>2,023</i>	
			<i>£</i>	<i>£</i>
Incoming resources				
Incoming Resources from generated funds:				
Voluntary income	2,816	2,816	2,624	2624
Activities for generating funds	2,091	2,091	1,834	1,834
Investment income	266	266	44	44.1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total incoming resources	5,173	5,173	4,502	4,502
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Resources expended				
Costs of generating funds	1,013	1,013	782	782
Charitable activities	3,348	3,348	3,245	3245
Governance costs	689	689	641	641
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total resources expended	5,050	5,050	4,668	4,668
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net movement in funds	123	123	-166	-166
Total funds brought forward	16,235	16,235	16,401	16,401
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total funds carried forward	16,358	16,358	16,235	16,235
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Details of Incoming resources and resources used are given in the notes to the financial statements

THE CHESHIRE GARDENS TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2024

1. Accounting policies

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention (as modified by the revaluation of certain assets) and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and with the Charities Act 2011.

Cashflow statement

The Company has taken advantage of the exemption from the requirement to produce a cashflow statement on the grounds that it is a small company.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the SoFA when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources.

2. Investment Income

	2024	2023
	£	£
Interest	266	44
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

3. Debtors and prepayments

Amounts falling due within one year:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Prepayments and Accrued Income	-	5
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

THE CHESHIRE GARDENS TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2024 (Continued)

4. Creditors

Amounts falling due within one year:-

	2024	2023
	£	£
Accruals and Deferred Income	918	314
	<u>918</u>	<u>314</u>
	<u><u>918</u></u>	<u><u>314</u></u>

5. Incoming resources

	2024	2024	2023	2023
	£	£	£	£
Voluntary Income				
Income from events and workshops	2,785		2,419	
Donations and Grants	31		205	
	<u> </u>		<u> </u>	
		2,816		2,624
Activities for generating funds				
Book and plant sales	63		0	
Membership subscriptions	2,028		1,834	
	<u> </u>		<u> </u>	
		2,091		1,834
Investment income				
Interest	266		44	
	<u> </u>		<u> </u>	
		266		44
Total incoming resources		<u><u>5,173</u></u>		<u><u>4,502</u></u>

THE CHESHIRE GARDENS TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2024 (Continued)

6. Costs of generating funds

	2024	2024	2023	2023
	£	£	£	£
Membership stationery & postage	111		125	
Newsletter stationery and postage	321		244	
Publicity	474		170	
Miscellaneous expenditure	107		243	
	<u> </u>		<u> </u>	
		1,013		782
		<u> </u>		<u> </u>

7. Charitable activities

	2024	2024	2023	2023
	£	£	£	£
Research and recording expenses	212		259	
Caldwell Project	293		184	
Conservation and planning expenses	165			
Event & workshop expenses	120			
Miscellaneous Charitable expenditure	2,557		2802	
	0		0	
	<u> </u>		<u> </u>	
		3,347		3,245

8. Governance costs

	2024	2024	2023	2023
	£	£	£	£
Returns and Registration Fees	48		48	
Council Meetings	30		-	
TGT Subscription and Insurance	556		593	
AGM	55		0	
	<u> </u>		<u> </u>	
		689		641
		<u> </u>		<u> </u>

9. Related party transactions

All directors are volunteers and receive no remuneration or other financial reward from the Trust.