



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 6 April 2021 Period start date To 5 April 2022 Period end date

Charity name: Wildlife Gardening Forum

Charity registration number: 1156608

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	<p>a) To promote the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment of gardens and their biological diversity.</p> <p>b) To advance the education of the public in the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment and biodiversity of gardens and the consequent human health and well-being benefits.</p>
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	<p>Gardens are diverse and important habitats for our declining wildlife and where the great majority of children find their first direct contact with nature. Nearly 90% of UK households have gardens and so our work can benefit a very large proportion of the public who wish to manage their gardens sustainably and with wildlife in mind. In planning and executing our work, the Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and in particular to its public benefit guidance on advancing education and on conservation of the environment.</p> <p>Object a) Promoting conservation, protection and improvement ...</p> <p>The Wildlife Gardening Forum furthers this object through issuing four newsletters per year summarising new research and best practice findings. We maintain a large website to provide access to evidence-based information on the science of wildlife gardening and on garden organisms, including practical guidance. We seek to inform</p>

	<p>the work of the many charities and other organisations within our membership and contacts. We influence decision makers through working with other charities and disseminating evidence. The influence of the Forum on social media has grown remarkably on its Facebook group and on Twitter.</p> <p>Our website has been considerably enlarged and pages updated. It contains extensive background information in garden and wildlife science and planting for wildlife, reviewing information largely unavailable to a general reader. By March 2021 the site contained over 350 pages of information and a further 120 downloadable documents. It constitutes the largest compendium of freely available information about garden biodiversity anywhere on the web.</p>
	<p>The Forum's Manifesto, available in English and Welsh on the website, provides a simple introduction to decision makers about the policy changes we would like to see to improve the status of gardens for wildlife and people. Our membership of the umbrella organisation Wildlife and Countryside Link is allowing the Forum to contribute its voice alongside other charities in environmental issues.</p> <p>Object b) To advance the education of the public....</p> <p>This object is addressed through the creation of publications and newsletters, provision of professional guidance and training for teachers and practitioners and maintaining a website to provide access for everyone to evidence-based information and advice.</p>
	<p>The Trustees ensure a powerful educational outcome by insisting on testing all statements and guidance in our material and on our website against established and published fact, giving attribution so that those who wish can have access to original work. We identify and point out areas where evidence is inadequate and have succeeded in starting research projects (such as the RHS-run "Plants for Bugs Project" investigating the relative value of native and non-native garden plants) where a major deficiency of evidence</p>

		<p>has let myths and assumptions stay unchallenged.</p> <p>While most of our focus is on biodiversity, our education objective is also concerned with the role of gardens and urban green space on human mental and physical health, and the cohesion and better function of communities. This is another relatively new field of research that has not yet become widely known among the public and decision makers but is of increasing importance as Britain becomes steadily more urban. There is great synergy between this aspect of gardens, and biodiversity conservation, and we see our role as helping to make the health research findings accessible to everyone alongside the biodiversity, and with the same standards of rigour.</p>
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The Trustees confirm that in the period covered by this report they have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p>In the eighth year of the Wildlife Gardening Forum's operation as a registered charity, restrictions of the Covid pandemic continued to limit aspects of the charity's work, with trustee meetings conducted remotely and no conferences able to be held during the period. A significant change on the Board was Trustee and Chair Dr Steve Head retiring to take up a role as Founder Patron. This meant a disruption to the capacity of the Board, but Dr Head continues to advise and to maintain and expand the website.</p> <p>The Forum was able to fulfil its core purposes in a number of ways;</p> <p>With partners Learning through Landscapes and Leicester City Council it made a significant contribution to the Polli:gen project which enabled one fifth of schools (500 children) and over 300 community group members across Leicester to create and develop pollinator-friendly grounds and gardens. Written by Forum trustees and advisors, nearly 50 'How To' guides were created</p>

		<p>which provided invaluable resources for the project and form a permanent free online resource for the public. The guides have also made the basis for a wildlife garden self-accreditation scheme, developed as a pilot within the Polli:Gen project, ready for further trial roll out in 2022.</p> <p>The Forum's Facebook community has continued to grow, doubling from the previous year to circa 82,000 members, encouraging and supporting members in over 100 countries to adopt wildlife friendly practises. The volunteer team managing the group has also increased considerably to around 15, providing cover both day and night.</p> <p>The Forum's website now has significant new sections covering garden birds, plants and wildflowers. These topics are particularly popular with and accessible to people new to wildlife gardening, an audience we have seen increase in response to the pandemic, empowering people to improve the environment around them for the benefit of biodiversity and their own wellbeing.</p> <p>Our member's quarterly newsletter has continued to inform over 2,800 gardeners, garden designers, landscapers, conservationists and other practitioners, giving them the tools to make direct changes to benefit biodiversity and the environment.</p>
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Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	<p>With no staff outgoings, the charity continues to be able to withstand the long term impact of the Covid Pandemic including its curtailing of the hosting of public conferences to maintain core income. Its online and newsletter work continues unaffected. The year ahead will see the development of a new financial strategy.</p>
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	<p>The Wildlife Gardening Forum has general funds, currently approximately equal to one (normal) year's operating costs, which the Trustees consider prudent to maintain the charity's core activities, especially given the current financial uncertainties. There are no designated or restricted funds.</p>
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£6,246

Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	N/A
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	None
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	None

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Constitution
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Appointed by existing Trustees on the basis of a Board Skills Audit

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Wildlife Gardening Forum
Other name the charity uses	n/a
Registered charity number	1156608
Charity's principal address	Mollys Lodge Little Wolford Shipston on Stour Warwickshire CV36 5NR

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Dr Stephen Head	(Chair up to October)	April-October	
2	Helen Bostock	Chair (October onwards)	All Year	
3	Karen Murphy	Hon Secretary	All Year	
4	Johan Ingles le-Nobel		All Year	
5	Mary Jackson		All Year	
6	Judith Conroy		All Year	
7	Mark Goddard		All Year	
8	David Perkins		All Year	
9				

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Hon. Treasurer	Marc Carlton	10, Portwall Road, Chepstow, NP16 5DL

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

None

Exemptions from disclosure

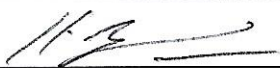
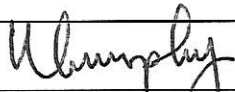
Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

Other optional information

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Helen Bostock	Karen Murphy
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	Hon Secretary

Date 1/12/2022