

COMPANY NUMBER: 07523792 (ENGLAND & WALES)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1144976

SCOTSWOOD NATURAL COMMUNITY GARDEN LIMITED

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024



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The Trustees are pleased to present their annual Directors' report together with financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024, which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a Directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Chair's Comments

As this is my first annual report, firstly I want to say a huge thank you to everyone involved in the Charity whether they are: staff, volunteers, fundraisers, funders or people who use our garden. People make a place and I am very proud to be associated with a charity that I know, and have seen, make such a difference to our local community.

Every year is different and has its own special highlights and this year is no different. While we have now gotten comfortable in our alternative offices, we have also secured the final funding to build our new eco building that will be situated in the garden itself. The new building will be such a boon for us and we will be able to be more responsive to your needs. I hope next year I will be talking about our brand new building and the exciting times ahead!

I spent a very enjoyable day with members of the staff team, as we worked on our three-year Anti-Racism, Equity, Diversity and inclusion plan. I was inspired at our team's push to ensure pure equity and will mean that we will continue to provide a place of sanctuary where you will thrive and be valued for who you are when you use our facilities.

The Garden was as busy as ever, inviting schools, groups and individuals to experience the space, whether it's gardening, education or just needing a walk away from work. We have worked on reinstating an old pond, creating more habitats and even increased our fruit production, which many of you will have enjoyed at our Apple Day and in our Sticky



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Business chutneys. And our hens and bees ensure we keep true to nature and provide a healthy diverse environment. A true permaculture project.

Our various programmes from Elderberries to youth services ensure that we instil the importance of nature in wellbeing in our younger users, and with our Elderberries we prove that it is never too late to try and experience something new.

As we move into 2024/2025 we are looking forward to our 30th Anniversary. This will be a great time to look back on how far we have come, reflect on the past and look forward, with greater vigour to the next 30 years.

I thank you all for the interest and support you have shown in our charity and I hope in reading the report you are proud too of how a small team of humans can help make a positive change in their part of the West End of Newcastle and beyond.



Helen McStravick, Chair

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Company Information

Company Number: 07523792 (England and Wales)

Status: The Company is limited by guarantee. In the event of winding-up, the maximum amount required to be contributed by each member is £1

Charity Registration Number: 1144976

Registered Address: Scotswood Natural Community Garden, John Marley Centre, Yewcroft Avenue, Scotswood, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE15 6TU

Patrons

Ed Tyler and Rob Higgins

Trustees/Directors at 31st March 2024

Christopher Francis Chair resigned 10th January 2024

Helen McStravick Chair

Stephanie Cole Deputy Chair

Miles Henderson Treasurer

Chris Warburton-Brown Secretary

Emily Clough

Sharon Hall

Anthony Milan

Shahid Rasul

Gilian Milne

2023/24 Staff

Karen Dobson Chief Executive Officer

Farah Kurji Development Manager

Claire Forman Business Development Officer

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Ann Stafford	Office & Finance Administrator
Harriet Menter	Education Manager
Rosie Tyson	Education Officer
Kay Scott	Education Officer
Umara Shahid	Education Officer
Alice Holliday	Education Officer
Nicky Sargeant	Play & Youth Manager
Amber Cooperthwaite	Deputy Youth Manager
Caroline Roach	Youth Worker
Heather Hewitt	Assistant Youth Worker
Leanne Defty	Adult Wellbeing Manager
Jenny Hopper	Adult Wellbeing Officer
Rosie Woods	Assistant Garden Officer
Sean Clay	Garden & Community Manager
Mike Whatmore	Plant Nursery Garden Officer
Claire Metcalfe	Plant Nursery Garden Assistant
Andrew Downey	Assistant Garden Officer

We also employ a number of sessional staff for volunteer, youth and education sessions.

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Scotswood Natural Community Garden was established

- To provide and maintain a public garden or gardens for the use and benefit of the inhabitants of the north east region and others in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving conditions of life for the said inhabitants:
- To advance knowledge and understanding of the environmental, economic and social dimensions of sustainability.

Mission

To inspire and promote learning about nature, the environment and sustainable living whilst having a positive impact on people's health & wellbeing.

Values

- We listen to the people in our community using their views to plan and deliver our work.
- We treat people with dignity and respect.
- We ensure equality of opportunity and access.

Strategic Objectives

- To maintain the community garden for the benefit of the wider community and provide a haven for native flora and fauna to flourish.
- To improve the health, wellbeing and fitness of the wider community.
- To support and enable people to gain new skills and knowledge and to develop their creativity.
- To develop a cohesive and sustainable community in Scotswood.
- To educate people about how to better live sustainably.
- To maintain long term sustainability of Scotswood Natural Community Garden.

Core Strands of Work 2023/24

- Adult Volunteering and Training
- Adult Wellbeing Services
- Play & Youth Programme
- Education Programme
- Community Events
- Sticky Business and Canny Plants

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Eco Building

We are thrilled to have secured the remainder of the funding for our eco-building extension from the Community Ownership Fund with a grant of £418,060 capital funding and £49,200 revenue funding. The new building will boast a training kitchen, classroom, growing atrium, lift, accessible toilets and office space and will transform the way we deliver our services. Work will begin on site towards the end of 2024. Videos of the new building based on the Architect's drawings are on our YouTube Channel.



Anti Racism, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Review

We have continued working with consultant Ngozi Lyn Cole, in partnership with West End Refugee Service, to ensure that anti discriminatory practice is embedded throughout all our work and the Garden continues to be a welcoming, safe and inclusive place for the whole community. A working group of staff and trustees have been developing a new 3-year strategy and action plan with input from staff, trustees and people who use the Garden. To inform the new strategy we ran workshops and developed a questionnaire to ask the views of adults and children who use the Garden who gave feedback on what is working well and useful suggestions for improvements.

Next Year and Beyond

We are looking forward to launching our new strategy and action plan in October 2024 and becoming an accredited Garden of Sanctuary.

Volunteering & Training Programme

Growing Together Project

Our Growing Together project, funded by Lloyds Bank Foundation and The National Lottery Heritage Fund, has continued to flourish over the last year. We have delivered 299 volunteering sessions with 83 different volunteers, who in total have contributed over 6000 hours of work to the garden. The dedication, skill and hard work of our fantastic volunteers is an essential part of the success of the whole garden. The garden team has worked hard to improve our forest gardens, adding in more fruit production and wildlife friendly planting, creating habitats and pruning and managing trees to open up new areas of the garden.



We have brought in 20 tonnes of clay to reline an existing pond and reinstate an old pond, a messy and difficult job but one that brings huge benefits for the wildlife in the garden. Our volunteers have made a big contribution to our thriving hives of bees, as well as improving paths, fencing and accessibility around the site.

Our partnership with the West End Refugee Service continues successfully, every year we welcome many refugees and people in the asylum process to volunteer with us.

We have also been grateful to host work days for volunteers from B&Q, Vet Direct and Newcastle Building Society who have helped with painting our new community hub and our forest garden improvements.

"The Garden helps me with my mental health so much"

"I love attending the sessions - the vibe of inclusivity is really strong. I like having the opportunity to learn about organic gardening"

"I like to be outside in nature. I have made a lot of friends here and learned new skills. I especially like going in the bee hives."

"Coming to the garden has helped me to get a bit of structure and see friendly people every week"

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Next Year and Beyond

Our volunteers plan to develop our beautiful Forest Garden area further to open up more areas of the Garden and make it more productive for people and for wildlife.

Canny Plants

Our plant nursery, Canny Plants, has gone from strength to strength thanks to funding from the **National Lottery Heritage Fund**. This year 125 different species have been grown using peat-free compost and pots made from recycled plastic. Plants were chosen to increase local biodiversity in a wide range of locations, throughout the year. A plant pot return scheme is working very well with thousands of pots returned for cleaning and re-use, reducing both cost and plastic waste.



The nursery has provided a weekly gardening session with our volunteers in the greenhouses and poly-tunnels. Sessions have included general nursery practice from watering and moving plants according to growth and reaction to environmental conditions, to potting on and pricking out juvenile plants, and later, the ongoing maintenance and care of mature plants. The plants have then been either planted in the Garden or sold to raise vital funds for the charity. In addition 2490 plants have been donated to local schools, community groups and in Newcastle's public parks and green spaces.

Next Year and Beyond

We plan to increase sales and the number of plants donated across the West End of Newcastle creating wildflower corridors to improve biodiversity.

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Sticky Business

Sticky Business has had a steady year with 1553 different products made and 1709 sold at our community fun days or through our stockists: The Honey Tree, The Paddock and Ernie. The wet weather has contributed to a much lower fruit yield than ever before, limiting what we could make. This year, our bestselling jam has been the gorgeous Blackcurrant & Lime Jam, closely followed by our ever popular Summer Fruit Jam. Rhubarb featured highly on our customers wish lists this year with Rhubarb & Date Chutney and Rhubarb & Ginger Cordial outselling other flavours even the newly developed Spiced Crab Apple & Sloe Cordial!



Next year and beyond

As part of the Garden's 30th birthday celebrations, we plan to develop a new limited edition preserve.

Adult Wellbeing Services

Our team has worked hard this year to develop more opportunities to support wellbeing for all adults within our community. With support from funders including the **Community Foundation Tyne and Wear (Kellett Fund, Northern Powergrid Foundation, the Partiger Trust, Prime Fund) The National Lottery Awards for All and the National Lottery Heritage Fund**, we have been able to provide a broad ranging programme with some brilliant outcomes for people and the environment:

- Improved access to green space as well as volunteering, arts, recreation, social, exercise and respite opportunities
- Improvement in health and wellbeing based on: mood, social connections, eating well, levels of stress, moving more, self-esteem, feeling less lonely, having a sense of purpose and fewer anxious/depressed thoughts
- Improved access to nature-based learning and creative activities
- more knowledge of the natural world
- people take a hands on role in project delivery and decision making

We have worked with Freedom from Torture, Hadrian Clinic, West End Refugee Service and local residential and supported living accommodations to ensure that the wellbeing benefits offered by nature are accessible to all. Over 300 sessions have been delivered over the year, reaching over 120 different people across the following projects.

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Elderberries

The ‘bread and butter’ of our wellbeing work with a focus on our older community. Elderberries consist of the Late Bloomers, Gardening for Dementia, supported volunteering, nature-based sessions and outreach work.

So much has been achieved in these groups this year in terms of learning, growing personal skills and building social networks. They have completed lots of garden planting and conservation tasks, enjoyed tasty food together, provided each other with wellbeing support, helped run our open days, grown food, created sustainable crafts, enjoyed being in nature and moved more.

Floral Fusion

A project to consolidate our knowledge and skills and to learn to make the most of the resources we have available to us in the garden. Floral Fusion consisted of a series of professional workshops in permaculture garden design, natural dyeing, willow art and floristry, alongside a trip to Dilston Physic Garden to learn about the medicinal value of plants. It has added many strings to our bow and means our groups look at our garden resources with more creativity.



Woodland Wellbeing

The same team that deliver the youth programme’s Art and Music Garden; experienced artist Sally Southern and music & movement practitioner Jo Templey, deliver a wonderfully inclusive programme of activities. They facilitate activities to support our wellbeing and set up relaxing meditative spaces and guide us in gentle movement, play and crafting to reset and focus our attention on the positive.

‘It’s good to hang up the mobiles we made in the Garden and know they’ll be hanging there all week. It’s like a piece of the garden belongs to us.’

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'The garden is amazing. You wouldn't even know this is all here from the outside. It's been so nice to see some of the residents/patients engaging with activities, and people that they wouldn't normally engage with.'

Hen Power at Scotswood Garden

A major new addition to the team this year has been our wonderful flock of hens! They have given us fresh eggs, new skills to be learned, cuddles and lots of giggles as we've welcomed them to the garden and provided them with a safe and caring home. Our thanks go to **Hen Power** for their support with developing the hens space and providing creative sessions with some wonderful artists.

Our sessions with the Hen Power artists have resulted in some brilliant, lasting pieces of art including a bespoke bench, decorative bunting, a welcome banner, a hen dust bath and some Thomas Bewick inspired paintings and prints being displayed in an exhibition at the Central Library.



'I just love the hens, they calm me and are my friends!'

'Thank you for the eggs, I can't always afford them. Especially nice to get eggs from happy hens!'

Student Placements

This year saw us welcome our first placement of Occupational Therapy students from Northumbria University. Two final year degree apprenticeship students joined the adult wellbeing team for 4 weeks and gave us a huge insight into the work of occupational therapists and how this is applied at the garden in our day to day activities. We wish them both the best in the rest of their studies and thank them for their work while with us.

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Nourish Food School

Nourish Food School in partnership with Fare Share delivered a cooking course for our volunteer team using surplus food. Participants tried certain foods for the first time and gained confidence in cooking with herbs and spices and making meals from scratch.



Ageism Action Day

We celebrated our first Ageism Action Day with support from **Centre for Ageing Better**, ensuring that at Scotswood Garden we are aware of ageism and know how to spot it and tackle it.

Over the year our Adult Wellbeing Programme achieved the following outcomes:

- A wider range of people have been involved in heritage.
- People have developed skills both in face to face and remote settings.
- People have improved knowledge about heritage of the natural world, leading to a change in ideas and actions.
- People have greater wellbeing and security particularly over the winter months.
- People have participated in social activities and improved their social connections as a result.
- Older people have taken a hands-on role in project delivery and decision making.
- The Garden spaces reflect what our older community want from their green space

Next year and beyond

The adult wellbeing team will continue to deliver a broad range of wellbeing support for adults while continuing to work on building inclusivity and diversity. We hope to have our work supported by more Occupational Therapy student placements and achieve the Green Care Quality Mark. Our Late Bloomers group has exciting plans to exhibit at Harrogate Flower Show!

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Winter Wellbeing Hubs

The winter brought challenges with the continued cost of living crisis impacting our Garden community. We continued our partnership with **Newcastle City Council** to run winter wellbeing hubs from January - March providing much-needed warm spaces, hot drinks snacks, games and company.

Community Pantry

Our new community pantry has had a busy year saving a whopping 6 tonnes of food from landfill! -4 tonnes of chilled, ambient & fresh foods and 2 tonnes of frozen food. Each month the pantry had an average of 168 uses. Potatoes and Peperami proved most popular amongst our youth group members with cheese, bananas and ready meals firm favourites of our volunteers. Runner beans were less popular along with the 2.2kg giant wheels of Cambozola cheese which we received for several weeks in a row. We had some very smelly fridges!

Education & Forest Schools

Wildlife Superheroes

Over the past year we have delivered 113 education nature-based sessions which were attended by **2413 children** along with 414 accompanying adults. Sessions are open to children from nursery up to year 6, including special schools.

We covered a wide range of nature related topics:

Seasonal Change, minibeast superheroes, life cycles, plants, habitats, bees, classification and more...

Examples of sessions include:

Plant party: Explore and identify plants in the garden including trees. Find out about the structure of plants and what plants need to grow. Plant a seed to take back to school or do some flower-related art!

Newt Lives: Pond dipping. Come and meet our resident amphibians. Find out how they live and learn about their life cycle through our newt treasure hunt. What's on the menu? Survey the garden for food sources. Play food chain tag!



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All our sessions include some play time in the woodland, as research shows that playing outdoors, in a natural environment, is important to children's wellbeing and helps them to connect with nature - something which is vital particularly post pandemic. This play time is supported by appropriate resources, but children make their own choices about what they would like to do.



To find out more about the workshops we offer, please visit [School Visits - Scotswood Garden](#).

Evaluation forms completed by teachers with input from children provide us with evidence of impact:

- The children enjoyed the wildlife activities - **98% of teachers strongly agreed** and 2% agreed
- The children learnt something new about nature - **91% of teachers strongly agreed** and 9% agreed
- Being at Scotswood Garden gave them a greater connection with, and awareness of, nature - **98% of teachers strongly agreed** and 2% agreed
- We will try to look after wildlife in the local community - **85% of teachers strongly agreed** and 15% agreed

Comments from Teachers:

"Great consolidation of classroom learning and extension. Hands on plants, planting seeds and learning about the importance of bees."

"Sheer excitement! Many of our inner city children have no regular access to nature. They were thrilled with bees, butterflies and the newts in particular."

"This was a fabulous and enjoyable opportunity to pond dip and minibeast hunt and see their joy at being surrounded by nature."

Comments from Children:

"This is the funnest thing I've ever done!"

"I loved making a den."

"Best day ever."

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Nature activities

Following their session with us, schools undertook the following activities as part of the project

- Planting pollinator friendly plants, which were provided free of charge from our own plant nursery, Canny Plants.
- Growing pollinator friendly plants from seed.
- Leaving dead leaves over winter so that insects can shelter.
- Making habitats in the school yard.
- Recycling more.
- Making bird feeders.
- Building bug hotels
- Organising litter picks
- Planting bulbs ready for the spring.

Schools of Sanctuary

We have continued to develop our Schools of Sanctuary offer, engaging with schools across the city with support from the **Wellesley Trust at the Community Foundation**.

This project focuses on harnessing the Schools of Sanctuary ethos, supporting children, teachers and schools to consider new ways in which they can be welcoming and inclusive towards refugee and asylum seeker children and their families. Sessions support children to think about ways in which they can be kind, helpful, welcoming and supportive of others. This is explored through games, woodland crafts, teamwork, nature connectedness and play. From March 2023 to March 2024, we have engaged with 8 Primary and First schools, delivering a total of **16 sessions to 211 children**.



As many of the classes have involved children who are part of the refugee and asylum seeker community, or children who have English as an additional language (EAL), there has been a rich tapestry of language, culture and lived experience that the children have been able to bring to the sessions, creating a diverse and safe space to support one another. A highlight of this was a group of 'School Buddies' from Ravenswood Primary School. Every child could speak more than one language and they each had responsibilities within their school of helping new pupils to settle in, often buddying up with EAL children whose first language they could also speak. When asked if the session linked to the school's work on Schools of Sanctuary, the teacher responded:

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'It far surpassed my expectations . . . It was so well organised with a lovely team of people to support the children. It was brilliant for our children who are on the quieter side, potentially because of language barriers to be given these opportunities to express themselves and have fun. It was lovely to have Umara there to relate to the experiences of speaking additional languages'

The sessions have either been aimed at a certain year group, or focused on a group of 'Sanctuary Friends' or school council; whichever the school chooses. Since September we have been focusing the sessions on groups of up to 15 children (rather than 30), as, through feedback and reflection, this is having the greatest impact on conveying the schools of sanctuary ethos. It also supports children to have the space and time to immerse themselves in free-play, supporting their mental health and wellbeing. In February we were granted additional funding from **the Curtin Parp fund at the Community Foundation** to enhance our offer by recruiting a team of advisors with lived experience of the asylum process to help us develop and deliver these sessions.

Friends Action North East

This year we have enjoyed a fantastic partnership with Friends Action North East, who support adults with learning disabilities and autism. We have delivered 21 sessions in our woodlands, providing a range of activities including crafts, games, green woodworking and cooking on the campfire. These sessions have been very well attended and feedback has been extremely positive.



" Maisie looked forward to the woodland group and came home happy and enthusiastic. She was eager to tell us all about the activities and repeated some of them at home."

"Ayesha has been noticeably happier since joining FANE and attending these groups. I have found that she is willing to explore and try new things which is something she has never done"

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Breeze Forest School Project, Research and Network

This year we have continued to grow and develop our Breeze project supporting schools to deliver forest school sessions and hosting 3 network meetings and 3 CPD sessions.

In the first part of the year we continued to work with our network of schools who are using forest schools to support students' social and emotional wellbeing. We supported schools by providing experienced forest school leaders to support session delivery, advising schools on developing their own sites and providing use of the garden. We supported one of our groups (Newcastle Bridges School) to work with photographer Gailen Manuel to take photos of forest school sessions, and explore what is important to them.

We arranged network meetings and CPD sessions including a full day at Kirkley Hall delivered by Jon Cree. Lucy Tiplady from Newcastle University worked with 2 schools to produce Theories of Change to help them articulate the aims of their forest school programme. For an example see <https://www.canning.newcastle.sch.uk/Forest-School/>

Newcastle University produced an impact report covering schools year 22/23. Research Lucy Tiplady collected and analysed feedback from schools in the network showed that network schools had greatly benefited from the network and valued it. Teachers appreciated the opportunity to network, to talk and connect with fellow professionals, share practice and experiences, gain new knowledge, and develop their professional practice.

School staff recognised:

“Forest School as particularly productive in enabling children and young people to develop relationships.”

School staff gave a large number of examples of children who, before Forest School, had struggled or were unable to interact with others (particularly peers) but who had developed these skills within the Forest School environment. They reported that “children and young people use skills and interests developed at Forest School elsewhere in school life, for example in the classroom, at break times and/or during special events.” All schools believed that Forest School has a positive impact on wellbeing. Examples given included enjoyment and engagement, developing relationships, increased emotional awareness and regulation and celebrating successes.



School staff also believed that Forest School had helped develop learners' environmental awareness and connection with nature. The impact report also reflected how the Breeze project had helped forest schools become embedded schools.

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'The network has supported us in keeping ideas up to date. New knowledge also has supported how I approach children and what things I offer.'

'At school he wouldn't communicate with adults or peers. He was very quiet and introverted. As the weeks progressed he has become more vocal and his confidence has grown. He has developed new friendships and talks freely now. It has been lovely to see the change in him. Also in school, he has made new friendships. There has been such a significant change in his demeanour and his confidence both socially and emotionally.'

At the end of this project we were successful in securing funding for the next stage of the project; to continue to support the network and work intensively with 3 new schools. We recruited Alice Holliday as project coordinator who started in post in January 2024. Alice has already started working in partnership with an SEMH school in Ashington to plan, deliver and review sessions to meet the social, emotional and sensory needs of their young people, and will be working with 2 additional schools. She has hosted a network meeting, consulted with network schools about their training needs, organised forest school training and specialist CPD. Our Education Manager has spoken at 2 events (both at Newcastle University) to share learning from the project over the last 6 years.

Forest School Training

We have had another fantastic year of forest school training. We delivered 3 fully booked level 1 courses including a lovely course over the summer for young leaders from two other forest school organisations.



Feedback from one of the young leaders:

'From chopping wood and crafting pendants to creating meaningful natural art mosaics with new rules like 'respect each other' and 'love nature,' every moment was filled with learning and fun. We bonded with friends made from natural materials and embraced the Forest school 3 lookafters: ourselves, each other, and nature. Exploring the woods through playful activities like making potions, enjoying garlic rosemary camembert over a fire, interacting with pet chickens, and understanding the woodland's impact on us was truly eye-opening. It's been an enriching experience, and I can't wait to share these skills and insights with others!'

We also delivered one level 3 course and started another. We continue to offer 2 half price places on all courses for people on low income, prioritising disabled people and people of colour. We have started the process of becoming a Forest School Association Endorsed Training Provider.

Youth & Play Programme

A record **326 children, young people and parents** joined us for friendship and fun learning and play opportunities in 2023-24. Delivering 7 sessions per week, our programmes have worked with the garden environment and local community to help us engage with the following beneficial themes:

More Connected - to others and nature

Well-being - mental and physical

Physical Activity - play and green exercise

Healthy Eating - access to food, trying new things and developing cooking skills

Taking Pride in Our Achievements - making, doing, learning

We have been delighted to be part of Groundwork UK's national New to Nature project, that funded a full-time paid work placement for Heather Hewitt to train and develop as a Play, Youth and Education Worker. This was such a success that Heather has secured a contracted Officer post with us.

Healthy food and refreshments were subsidised with a grant from **Tesco Community Grants**.

Nature Rangers

Our 6-9 year olds come together every Saturday morning to enjoy eating breakfast together, making friends, and learning about nature. They are supported by 3 regular Young Volunteers from the Nightshades Rangers. Favourite activities include cooking pitta pizzas on the fire, playing games and going to treasure trails around the garden. Thanks to **BBC Children in Need** for funding this work.



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Adventure Rangers

Funded by **Community Foundation: #iWillFund and George & Peggy Fund**

Like Nature Rangers, our 10-13 year olds love playing games in the garden and cooking together, but as they meet on Wednesday evenings they've been experiencing the garden in the dark and in cold frosty conditions under the winter moonlight. These young people have also been branching out into the community, funded by #iWill Fund they have been working in partnership with Friends of Denton Dene to take care of this local green space and encourage others to use it more. They took part in monthly litter picks, recorded wildlife found in Denton Dene on iNaturalist and helped to plan and deliver two free family fun day events, including the nature themed Halloween event with a Bats, Bugs & Beasties trail.

Early Explorers

Funded by the **National Lottery Heritage Fund**

Our pre-school and home educated children have been exploring and tending to the Butterfly Garden. With older children supporting the younger ones, facilitated play and creativity, connected to nature and the wonderful creatures and plants we find in the garden are helping to grow our next generation of naturalists. Other favourite activities are growing flowers and vegetables, cooking up tasty treats in the mud kitchen and brewing potions.



Art & Music Garden

Funded by the **National Lottery Heritage Fund**

We love seeing our families move, create and play together on Saturday afternoons, children with disabilities enjoy an inclusive space where they play on equal terms with their non-disable friends, peers and siblings. Parents and carers also enjoy this small oasis of nature based calm in their week and tell us how valuable this relaxed family time is. This project is a partnership with Newcastle City Council's Arts Connect Team, experienced artist Sally Southern and music & movement practitioner Jo Templey deliver a flexible programme of activities.

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In August 2023 Arts Connect worked with us to deliver Beach Connect, with 72 of our Art & Music Gardeners, Early Explorers, Nature Rangers and Adventure Rangers coming together for a day of family fun and sun at Whitley Bay.



Nightshade Rangers, (nc Young Volunteers Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scotswood Rangers)

Funded by **BBC Children in Need, Newcastle’s Make Your Mark fund, Newcastle Youth Fund and John Lewis Foundation.** Young people have enjoyed a very wide range of activities this year chosen by them, some designed to give people a glimpse of independence and life beyond school. Young people have hiked, fundraised, created videos and completed art projects as well as taking part in taster sessions to experience our two social enterprises - Canny Plants and Sticky Business.

Outreach, Community & Events

Our 3 community days at the Garden were bigger and better than ever before. **269 adults and children** enjoyed Blossom Day 2023 including 45 people from West End Refugee Service who had never been to the Garden before.

We welcomed Newcastle University who ran a popular session on wildlife identification and people also enjoyed making badges, singing and music around the fire and took part in a women in STEM trail. A fantastic day!.

Sadly our 2023 Summer Fun Day had to be cancelled owing to a yellow weather warning but we were able to run a fab Halloween Event in Denton Dene instead.

The sun shone on Apple Day though with **305 people** enjoying a Wasp trail leading to waspy activities, apple pressing, apple toss, apple hanging and a visit to the hen. People were entertained by the Bangshe drumming group while they enjoyed their free hog dogs.

Winter Wonderland was a great success with Santa giving our books and treats, our famous 12 trees of Christmas trail, elf workshop and homemade mince pies.

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Principle sources of funds

Our main sources of funding are governmental, trust funds and increasingly earned income from services.

Funders

We are very grateful for support from all our funders - they include:

- Tudor Trust
- BBC Children in Need
- The National Lottery Heritage Fund
- National Lottery Awards for All
- Lloyds Bank Foundation
- The Community Foundation of Tyne and Wear -Kellett Fund, Northern Powergrid Foundation, the Partiger Trust, Prime Fund, Wellesley Trust, Plattern Family Fund, #iWillFund and George & Peggy Fund
- Henry Smith Charity
- Newcastle City Council
- Tesco Community Grants
- Hays Travel Foundation

Reserves Policy and Investment Performance

The trustee's policy is to maintain reserves to ensure that in the event of a funding shortfall the project can continue for at least three months. The Management Committee sanctions future use of the reserve to enable the continuation of project work while continuing to seek funding. The trustees confirm that the accounts comply with current statutory requirements, the governing document and the Statement of Recommended Practice on Accounting and Reporting by Charities (2005 edition).

Bank

Scotswood Natural Community Garden Limited banks with the Cooperative Bank, P.O. Box 250, Delf House, Southway, Skelmersdale, WN8 6WT.

Accountants

The Independent Examiner is:

J T Hogg ACA of TPA Connect Ltd, 38 Stanhope Road, South Shields, NE33 4BT

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Structure, Governance and Management

The charity was an unincorporated registered charity (date of registration 30 May 2000), governed by a constitution adopted 16 December 1999 as amended 9 March 2000. On 1st April, 2012 the charity was incorporated into a company limited by guarantee. It is managed by a Management Committee which consists of the Trustees and is attended by the CEO and Administrator. Meetings are held quarterly.

Appointment of Trustees

Trustees are elected by the membership at the Annual General Meeting. The management committee may also appoint 1/3rd co-opted members. A third of trustees retire from office at the end of the Annual General Meeting following their election/appointment.

All new trustees are given an induction pack detailing the charity's constitution, strategic plans, recent annual report and accounts, Charity Commission Leaflet - CC3 (a). Trustees are advised of training on their responsibilities at the Newcastle Council for Voluntary Service.

Decision Making Process

The CEO sends a quarterly report of activities to the Management Committee. Decisions and actions are recommended and taken at this meeting.

Risks and Risk Management

The charity is dependent on grant funding for most of its income; this presents a considerable risk. The charity has a strategy in place to source alternative sustainable sources of income to reduce this risk.

Trustees' Responsibilities

Law applicable to charities in England & Wales/Scotland/Northern Ireland requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the charity's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view, the trustees should follow best practice and:

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

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The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ascertain the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with (applicable law, regulations and trust deed). 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 trustees have complied with the duty in Section 17/5 of the 2011 Charities Act to have due regard to guidance published by the Charities Commission with regard to public benefit statements.

Small Company Provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small entities.

Helen McStravick (Dec 19, 2024 12:18 GMT)

.....

On behalf of the Trustees Helen McStravick Chair

Date:

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Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Scotswood Natural Garden Limited

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Scotswood Natural Garden Limited ('the charity') for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW), which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.


J T Hogg (Dec 20, 2024 10:55 GMT)

J T Hogg
ACA
Independent Examiner
38 Stanhope Road
South Shields
NE33 4BT

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Statement of Financial Activities
(including income and expenditure account)

Year ended 31 March 2024

		Unrestricted funds	2024 Restricted funds	Total funds	2023 Total funds
	Note	£	£	£	£
Income					
Donations and legacies	5	11,816	541	12,357	14,416
Charitable activities					
Grants and contracts	6	11,973	508,118	520,091	443,603
Capital grants	7	–	110,664	110,664	146,640
Other trading activities	8	72,252	4,693	76,945	50,481
Investment income	9	2,844	–	2,844	220
Total income		<u>98,885</u>	<u>624,016</u>	<u>722,901</u>	<u>655,360</u>
Expenditure					
Expenditure on raising funds:					
Operation of the charity	10	88,983	547,219	636,202	521,824
Total expenditure		<u>88,983</u>	<u>547,219</u>	<u>636,202</u>	<u>521,824</u>
Net income		<u>9,902</u>	<u>76,797</u>	<u>86,699</u>	<u>133,536</u>
Transfers between funds		33,368	(33,368)	–	–
Net movement in funds		43,270	43,429	86,699	133,536
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		399,321	80,398	479,719	346,183
Total funds carried forward		<u>442,591</u>	<u>123,827</u>	<u>566,418</u>	<u>479,719</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 31-47 form part of these financial statements

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Statement of Financial Position

31 March 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	14	260,586	225,621
Current assets			
Debtors	15	97,391	36,275
Cash at bank and in hand		422,316	471,734
		519,707	508,009
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	(213,875)	(253,911)
Net current assets		305,832	254,098
Total assets less current liabilities		566,418	479,719
Net assets		566,418	479,719
Funds of the charity			
Restricted funds		123,827	80,398
Unrestricted funds		442,591	399,321
Total charity funds	19	566,418	479,719

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

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

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

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on, and are signed on behalf of the board by:


Miles Henderson (Dec 20, 2024 10:53 GMT)

Miles Henderson
Trustee

The notes on pages 31-47 form part of these financial statements

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Statement of Cash Flows

Year ended 31 March 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net income	86,699	133,536
<i>Adjustments for:</i>		
Other interest receivable and similar income	(2,844)	(220)
Accrued (income)/expenses	(60,772)	23,850
<i>Changes in:</i>		
Trade and other debtors	(344)	27,382
Trade and other creditors	(40,036)	81,337
Cash generated from operations	(17,297)	265,885
Interest received	2,844	220
Net cash (used in)/from operating activities	<u>(14,453)</u>	<u>266,105</u>
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of tangible assets	(34,965)	(133,695)
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(34,965)</u>	<u>(133,695)</u>
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents	(49,418)	132,410
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	<u>471,734</u>	<u>339,324</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	<u>422,316</u>	<u>471,734</u>

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Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2024

1. General information

The charity is a public benefit entity and a private company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales and a registered charity in England and Wales. The address of the registered office is Scotswood Natural Community Garden, John Marley Centre, Yewcroft Avenue, Scotswood, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE15 6TU.

2. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Companies Act 2006.

3. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through income or expenditure.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

Going concern

The charity reported total unrestricted funds at the year end of £442,591 and has already secured a significant amount of funding for the current year.

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. In making their assessment the trustees have reviewed and considered relevant information, including their annual budget and future cash flows. The trustees are of the view that the immediate future of the charity for the next 12 months is secure and that on this basis the charity is a going concern.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees to further any of the charity's purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular future project or commitment.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure declared by the donor or through the terms of an appeal, and fall into one of two sub-classes: restricted income funds or endowment funds.

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Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity; it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable and its amount can be measured reliably.
- legacy income is recognised when receipt is probable and entitlement is established.
- income from donated goods is measured at the fair value of the goods unless this is impractical to measure reliably, in which case the value is derived from the cost to the donor or the estimated resale value. Donated facilities and services are recognised in the accounts when received if the value can be reliably measured. No amounts are included for the contribution of general volunteers.
- income from contracts for the supply of services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case it may be regarded as restricted.

Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is classified under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates:

- expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, non-charitable trading activities, and the sale of donated goods.=
- expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.
- other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

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Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Resources expended *(continued)*

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis.

Volunteer help

The value of volunteer help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

Income from membership subscriptions

Membership subscriptions received in the nature of a gift are recognised in donations and legacies.

Membership subscriptions which gives a member the right to buy services or other benefits are recognised as income earned from the provision of goods and services as income from charitable activities.

Tangible assets

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. Any tangible assets carried at revalued amounts are recorded at the fair value at the date of revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

An increase in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of a revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, unless it reverses a charge for impairment that has previously been recognised as expenditure within the statement of financial activities. A decrease in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, except to which it offsets any previous revaluation gain, in which case the loss is shown within other recognised gains and losses on the statement of financial activities.

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Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Garden sculptures	-	10% straight line
Garden structures	-	10% straight line
Tools and equipment	-	25% reducing balance
Office equipment	-	25% reducing balance

Property, which is under construction, will be depreciated when completed.

Impairment of fixed assets

A review for indicators of impairment is carried out at each reporting date, with the recoverable amount being estimated where such indicators exist. Where the carrying value exceeds the recoverable amount, the asset is impaired accordingly. Prior impairments are also reviewed for possible reversal at each reporting date.

For the purposes of impairment testing, when it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, an estimate is made of the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs. The cash-generating unit is the smallest identifiable group of assets that includes the asset and generates cash inflows that largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets.

For impairment testing of goodwill, the goodwill acquired in a business combination is, from the acquisition date, allocated to each of the cash-generating units that are expected to benefit from the synergies of the combination, irrespective of whether other assets or liabilities of the charity are assigned to those units.

Financial instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the amount receivable or payable including any related transaction costs.

Current assets and current liabilities are subsequently measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received and not discounted.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

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Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

4. Limited by guarantee

The Company is limited by guarantee. In the event of winding-up, the maximum amount required to be contributed by each member is £1.

5. Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Donations			
Donations and gifts	11,816	541	12,357

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Donations			
Donations and gifts	14,416	–	14,416

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Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

6. Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Grants and contracts			
Bailey Thomas	–	6,500	6,500
BBC Children in Need	–	24,282	24,282
Charles Lewis	–	1,836	1,836
Cost of Living	–	5,000	5,000
D'oyly Carte	–	2,000	2,000
Prime Fund	–	10,000	10,000
Flag Project	–	490	490
Enterprise Dev fund	–	27,000	27,000
Floral Fusion	–	4,880	4,880
George & Peggy Fund	–	6,070	6,070
Groundwork UK	–	14,490	14,490
Henry Smith	–	74,000	74,000
Heritage Lottery Fund	–	168,713	168,713
I Will Fund	–	6,018	6,018
J Lewis Foundation	–	8,404	8,404
Karbon Homes	–	2,250	2,250
Kellett Fund	–	30,433	30,433
Lloyds Bank Foundation	–	15,333	15,333
National Lottery	–	961	961
Newcastle City Council	–	4,998	4,998
Nightshades	–	19,244	19,244
Pargiter Trust	–	3,482	3,482
Peoples Health Trust	–	2,579	2,579
Plattern Family Trust	–	6,000	6,000
Postcode Neighbourhood Trust	–	20,000	20,000
Power to Change	–	2,500	2,500
Schools of Sanctuary	–	8,086	8,086
Shears Foundation	–	1,500	1,500
Society of the Holy Jesus Child	–	9,000	9,000
Community Foundation T & W - Storage	–	4,089	4,089
Tesco Community Grant	–	1,080	1,080
Tudor Trust	–	10,000	10,000
Woodland Wellbeing	–	6,600	6,600
Other small grants	4,500	300	4,800
Other income	7,473	–	7,473
	<u>11,973</u>	<u>508,118</u>	<u>520,091</u>

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Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

6. Charitable activities *(continued)*

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2023
Grants and contracts			
Active Communities	–	15,473	15,473
Ashden Trust	–	4,918	4,918
Bailey Thomas	–	8,500	8,500
BBC Children in Need	1,100	32,040	33,140
Community Foundation T&W	750	6,127	6,877
Connected Voice-Water Collection	1,000	3,050	4,050
Apprentice Kickstart	12,374	–	12,374
Enterprise Dev Fund	–	3,000	3,000
Hayes Travel	–	1,100	1,100
Heritage Lottery Fund	–	201,587	201,587
Henry Smith	–	15,000	15,000
Joicey Trust	–	3,300	3,300
Kellett Fund	–	10,563	10,563
Lloyds - Bank Foundations	–	34,962	34,962
New to Nature	–	3,198	3,198
Newcastle City Council	–	12,964	12,964
Newcastle University	–	2,000	2,000
Postcode Local Trust	–	4,988	4,988
Power to Change	–	7,500	7,500
Schools of Sanctuary	–	9,886	9,886
Trust House	–	3,333	3,333
Tudor Trust	–	31,085	31,085
YHN	–	3,000	3,000
NE Youth Limited	3,181	–	3,181
Well Newcastle	–	1,000	1,000
Other small grants	1,566	–	1,566
Other income	5,058	–	5,058
	<u>25,029</u>	<u>418,574</u>	<u>443,603</u>

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Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

7. Capital grant income

	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
North East LEP	–	–	68,790	68,790
Community Foundation T & W	–	–	1,250	1,250
Kitchen Spacehive	–	–	8,000	8,000
Rothley Trust	–	–	1,600	1,600
HCR Hewitsons	–	–	2,500	2,500
The Clothworks Foundation	1,000	1,000	41,000	41,000
Garfield Weston	6,500	6,500	23,500	23,500
Neighbourly Foundation	1,000	1,000	–	–
Wolfson Foundation	75,000	75,000	–	–
Tudor Trust	15,000	15,000	–	–
Community Foundation T & W - Ron & Louise Fund	4,000	4,000	–	–
Locality	8,164	8,164	–	–
	<u>110,664</u>	<u>110,664</u>	<u>146,640</u>	<u>146,640</u>

8. Other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Income generating	96	–	96
Produce sales	12,315	4,693	17,009
Internal Quality Assurance	6,287	–	6,287
OCN charges	48,423	–	48,423
School visits	4,771	–	4,771
Workshop income	360	–	360
	<u>72,252</u>	<u>4,693</u>	<u>76,945</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Income generating	48	–	48
Produce sales	18,810	–	18,810
Internal Quality Assurance	4,241	–	4,241
OCN charges	27,202	–	27,202
School visits	180	–	180
	<u>50,481</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>50,481</u>

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Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

9. Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Bank interest receivable	2,844	<u>2,844</u>	<u>220</u>	<u>220</u>

10. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Direct costs			
Project staff salaries	8,433	431,666	440,099
Project staff other costs	1,093	2,132	3,225
Activities	845	5,250	6,095
Event costs	2,936	113	3,049
Garden materials and equipment	1,367	9,632	10,999
Vehicle hire	–	–	–
Other project costs	537	15,234	15,771
Food	3,403	8,705	12,108
Project Office/Admin Costs	1,642	20,938	22,580
Project Service User Costs Membership	2,053	2,663	4,716
Support Costs			
Support staff salaries	28,449	354	28,803
Support staff other costs	28	–	28
Volunteer costs	10	28	38
Office costs	9,645	5,777	15,422
Establishment costs	12,459	12,664	25,123
Repairs and renewals	6,574	105	6,679
New Building Costs	–	–	–
Professional fees	4,008	31,958	35,966
Insurance	2,697	–	2,697
Sundry	524	–	524
Depreciation	–	–	–
Governance costs			
Independent examiner's fees	2,280	–	2,280
	<u>88,983</u>	<u>547,219</u>	<u>636,202</u>

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Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

10. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities *(continued)*

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Direct costs			
Project staff salaries	4,998	318,138	323,136
Project staff other costs	1,853	1,569	3,422
Activities	–	6,243	6,243
Event costs	–	1,308	1,308
Garden materials and equipment	–	11,232	11,232
Vehicle hire	–	120	120
Other project costs	2,706	18,302	21,008
Food	–	6,713	6,713
Project Office/Admin Costs	–	12,592	12,592
Project Service User Costs Membership	–	5,969	5,969
Support Costs			
Support staff salaries	51,172	14,752	65,924
Support staff other costs	765	–	765
Volunteer costs	180	–	180
Office costs	6,372	1,978	8,350
Establishment costs	17,552	11,145	28,697
Repairs and renewals	2,824	775	3,599
New Building Costs	–	–	–
Professional fees	5,611	7,694	13,305
Insurance	–	6,897	6,897
Sundry	–	84	84
Depreciation	–	–	–
Governance costs			
Independent examiner's fees	2,280	–	2,280
	<u>96,313</u>	<u>425,511</u>	<u>521,824</u>

11. Independent examination fees

	2024 £	2023 £
Fees payable to the independent examiner for:		
Independent examination of the financial statements	<u>2,280</u>	<u>2,280</u>

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Year ended 31 March 2024

12. Staff costs

The total staff costs and employee benefits for the reporting period are analysed as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	421,910	350,923
Social security costs	29,462	23,927
Pension costs (defined contribution pension plan)	17,530	14,210
	<u>468,902</u>	<u>389,060</u>

The key management personnel of the charity, comprise the trustees and the part time CEO. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £42,811 (2023: £36,243).

The average head count of employees during the year was 26 (2023: 21). The average number of full-time equivalent employees during the year is analysed as follows:

	2024	2023
	No.	No.
Fundraising	1	1
Charitable activities	25	20
	<u>26</u>	<u>21</u>

No employee received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year (2023: Nil).

13. Trustee remuneration and expenses

None of the trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefit from an employment with their charity or related entity.

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Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

14. Tangible fixed assets

	Property Extension £	Garden Sculpture £	Office Equipment £	Garden Structures £	Tools and Equipment £	Total £
Cost						
At 1 Apr 2023	225,621	16,830	14,705	13,956	2,819	273,932
Additions	34,965	–	–	–	–	34,965
At 31 Mar 2024	<u>260,586</u>	<u>16,830</u>	<u>14,705</u>	<u>13,956</u>	<u>2,819</u>	<u>308,897</u>
Depreciation						
At 1 Apr 2023 and 31 Mar 2024	–	16,830	14,705	13,956	2,819	48,311
Carrying amount						
At 31 Mar 2024	<u>260,586</u>	–	–	–	–	<u>260,586</u>
At 31 Mar 2023	<u>225,621</u>	–	–	–	–	<u>225,621</u>

15. Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade debtors	10,094	9,750
Accrued income	87,297	26,525
	<u>97,391</u>	<u>36,275</u>

16. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	27,313	28,967
Deferred income	174,388	209,420
Accruals	2,280	2,280
Social security and other taxes	2,643	2,299
Other creditors	7,251	10,945
	<u>213,875</u>	<u>253,911</u>

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Year ended 31 March 2024

17. Deferred income

Deferred income comprises of advance payments from grants that relate to future periods

	2024	2023
	£	£
Balance brought forward	209,420	117,990
Amount released to income earned from charitable activities	(209,415)	(117,990)
Amount deferred in year	174,383	209,420
Balance carried forward	<u>174,388</u>	<u>209,420</u>

18. Defined contribution pension scheme

The amount recognised in income or expenditure as an expense in relation to defined contribution plans was £17,530 (2023: £14,210).

19. Analysis of charitable funds

Unrestricted funds

	At 1 April 2023	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2024
General funds	173,700	98,885	(88,983)	(1,597)	182,005
Designated fund - New building	225,621	–	–	34,965	260,586
	<u>399,321</u>	<u>98,885</u>	<u>(88,983)</u>	<u>33,368</u>	<u>442,591</u>

	At 1 April 2022	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2023
General funds	179,867	90,146	(96,313)	–	173,700
Designated fund - New building	91,927	–	–	133,694	225,621
	<u>271,794</u>	<u>90,146</u>	<u>(96,313)</u>	<u>133,694</u>	<u>399,321</u>

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Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

19. Analysis of charitable funds *(continued)*

Restricted funds

	At 1 April 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Ashden Trust	2,722	–	(2,928)	206	–
Bailey Thomas	448	6,500	(6,948)	–	–
BBC Children in Need	4,387	24,282	(27,240)	440	1,869
Charles Lewis	–	1,836	(1,836)	–	–
Connected voice Water	1,386	–	–	–	1,386
Community Pantry	9,085	–	(9,085)	–	–
Cost of Living	–	5,000	(5,000)	–	–
D'Oyly Carte	–	2,000	(1,604)	–	396
Elderberries Hen Project	–	10,000	(9,995)	(5)	–
Enterprise Development	–	27,000	(27,000)	–	–
Flag Project	–	490	(391)	–	99
Floral Fusion	–	4,880	(4,193)	(687)	–
George & Peggy	–	6,070	(5,375)	(643)	52
Groundwork	–	14,490	(14,589)	99	–
Hays Travel	1,100	–	(1,100)	–	–
Henry Smith	1,043	74,000	(74,561)	–	482
Heritage Lottery	–	168,709	(168,709)	–	–
I Will Fund	–	6,018	(5,359)	(659)	–
J Lewis Foundation	–	8,404	(8,210)	–	194
Karbon Homes	–	5,458	(2,507)	178	3,129
Kellett Fund	234	29,724	(26,348)	(2,005)	1,605
Lloyds Bank Foundation	–	15,333	(12,811)	–	2,522
National Lottery	–	961	(74)	–	887
Newcastle City Council	–	4,998	(5,061)	63	–
Nightshades	814	19,244	(18,540)	(1,518)	–
Partiger	1,122	3,482	(7,207)	2,603	–
Peoples Health Trust	–	2,579	–	(2,579)	–
Platten Family	–	6,000	(5,555)	–	445
Postcode Neighbourhood	4,988	20,000	(24,272)	–	716
Power to change Programmes	2,815	2,500	(5,315)	–	–
Rise-Satellite Club Funding	998	–	–	–	998
Newcastle University	2,481	3,039	(3,099)	–	2,421
Schools of Sanctuary	4,740	8,086	(13,154)	–	(328)
Shears Foundation	–	1,500	(539)	–	961
Society of Holy	–	9,000	(5,976)	–	3,024
Storage	–	4,089	(4,089)	–	–
Tesco	–	1,080	(1,073)	(7)	–
Tudor Trust	10,253	10,000	(16,051)	–	4,202
Ward Committee	1,457	–	(1,457)	–	–
Woodland Wellbeing	3,268	6,600	(9,595)	327	600
Other small Grants	2,864	–	(2,793)	28	98
New Build	24,193	110,664	(7,579)	(29,209)	98,069
	<u>80,398</u>	<u>624,016</u>	<u>(547,219)</u>	<u>(33,368)</u>	<u>123,827</u>

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Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

19. Analysis of charitable funds <i>(continued)</i>	At 1 April 2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	At 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Active Communities Peoples					
Health	–	15,473	(15,473)	–	–
Ashden Trust	–	4,918	(2,196)	–	2,722
Bailey Thomas	7,106	8,500	(15,158)	–	448
Ballinger Charitable Trust	619	–	(619)	–	–
BBC Children in Need	12,552	32,040	(40,205)	–	4,387
Best Summer Ever	313	–	(313)	–	–
Community Foundation T&W	139	–	(139)	–	4,387
Asian	734	–	(734)	–	–
Curtain PARP	214	–	(214)	–	–
Connected voice Water	–	3,050	(1,664)	–	1,386
Cooperative Foundation	(18)	–	18	–	–
Community Pantry	–	12,150	(3,065)	–	9,085
D'Oyly Carte - Marie Curie	409	–	(409)	–	–
Enterprise Development	–	3,000	(3,000)	–	–
Groundwork Youth Education	–	4,896	(4,896)	–	–
Hadrian Trust	1,457	–	(1,457)	–	–
Hays Travel	–	1,100	–	–	1,100
Henry Smith	5,458	15,000	(19,415)	–	1,043
Heritage Lottery	115	201,587	(201,702)	–	–
Joicey Trust	–	3,300	(3,300)	–	–
Kellett Fund	437	10,563	(10,766)	–	234
Lloyds Bank Foundation	3,132	34,962	(38,094)	–	–
Nightshades	–	814	–	–	814
Partiger	–	1,161	(39)	–	1,122
Postcode Neighbourhood	–	4,988	–	–	4,988
Power to change Programmes	–	7,500	(4,685)	–	2,815
Power to Change, Colours	196	–	(196)	–	–
Rise-Satellite Club Funding	1,118	–	(120)	–	998
Newcastle University	1,081	2,000	(600)	–	2,481
Schools of Sanctuary	–	9,886	(5,146)	–	4,740
Tudor Trust - Wellbeing	222	–	(222)	–	–
Tudor Trust	8,422	31,085	(29,254)	–	10,253
Trust House	11,929	3,333	(15,262)	–	–
True Colours Trust	80	–	(80)	–	–
UK Youth	51	–	(51)	–	–
Well Newcastle	607	1,000	(1,607)	–	–
Willan Charitable Trust	2,036	–	(2,036)	–	–
Ward Committee	1,457	–	–	–	1,457
Woodland Wellbeing	–	3,268	–	–	3,268
YHN	–	3,000	(300)	–	–
Other small grants	3,277	–	(413)	–	2,864
New Build	11,247	146,640	–	(133,694)	24,193
	<u>74,390</u>	<u>565,214</u>	<u>(425,512)</u>	<u>(133,694)</u>	<u>80,398</u>

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Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

19. Analysis of charitable funds *(continued)*

Purpose of major restricted funds

Restricted funds represent income resources used for a specific purpose within the charity as identified by the donor.

Bailey Thomas	Growing Together Volunteer Programme
BBC Children in Need	Detached Youth Work / Nature Rangers Youth Group
Charles Lewis	Gardening for Dementia Programme
D'oily Carte	Gardening for Dementia Programme
Prime Fund	HenPower
Enterprise Development Fund	Core Costs
Community Foundation Tyne & Wear	Flag Project
Community Foundation Tyne & Wear	Floral Fusion, Late Bloomers
Community Foundation Tyne & Wear -	
George & Peggy Fund	Youth Work
Groundwork UK	Youth & Education Assistant
Hays Travel	School Visit Programme
Henry Smith	Core Costs
Heritage Lottery Fund	Environmental renewal, contribution to several programmes
I Will Fund	Youth Work
John Lewis Foundation	Youth Work
Karbon Homes	BREEZE Forest School for wellbeing programme
Kellett Fund	Elderberries Older People's Programme
Lloyds Bank Foundation	Growing Together Volunteer Programme
Newcastle City Council	Community Pantry and Warm Space
Newcastle City Council	Nightshades Youth Group
Pargiter Trust	Gardening for Dementia Programme
Peoples Health Trust	Gardening for Dementia Programme
Platten Family Trust	Growing Together Volunteer Programme
Postcode Neighbourhood Trust	Wildlife Superheroes School Visits Programme
Power to Change Programme	Core Costs
Community Foundation T&W Wellesley Trust	Schools of Sanctuary
Shears Foundation	BREEZE Forest School for wellbeing programme
Society of the Holy Jesus Child	BREEZE Forest School for wellbeing programme
Community Foundation Tyne & Wear	Garden Storage
Tesco Community Grant	Youth & Play Programmes – Food Costs
Tudor Trust	Core Costs
Awards for All, National Lottery	Woodland Wellbeing
The Clothworks Foundation	Building Extension Work phase 2
Garfield Weston Foundation	Building Extension Work phase 2
Locality Community Ownership Fund	Building Extension Work phase 2
Neighbourly Foundation	Building Extension Work phase 1
Community Foundation T&W, Ron & Louise Fund	Building Extension Work phase 2
Tudor Trust	Building Extension Work phase 2
Wolfson Foundation	Building Extension Work phase 2

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Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

20. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	–	260,586	–	260,586
Current assets	395,880	–	123,827	519,707
Creditors less than 1 year	(213,875)	–	–	(213,875)
Net assets	<u>182,005</u>	<u>260,586</u>	<u>123,827</u>	<u>566,418</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	–	225,621	–	225,621
Current assets	427,611	–	80,398	508,009
Creditors less than 1 year	(253,911)	–	–	(253,911)
Net assets	<u>173,700</u>	<u>225,621</u>	<u>80,398</u>	<u>479,719</u>

TPA Connect Ltd
38 Stanhope Road
South Shields
NE33 4BT

Dear TPA Connect Ltd,

The following representations are made on the basis of enquiries of management and staff with relevant knowledge and experience such as we consider necessary in connection with your independent examination of the charity's financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2024. These enquiries have included inspection of supporting documentation where appropriate and are sufficient to satisfy ourselves that we can make each of the following representations. All representations are made to the best of our knowledge and belief.

General

- 1 We acknowledge that the work performed by you is substantially less in scope than an audit performed in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) and that you do not express an audit opinion.
- 2 We confirm that the charitable company qualifies as small in accordance with the conditions set out in chapter 1 of part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.
- 3 We confirm that the charitable company was entitled to exemption under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 the requirement to have its financial statements for the financial year ended 31st March 2024 audited. We also confirm that the members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the financial year in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.
- 4 We have fulfilled our responsibilities as directors / trustees as set out in the terms of your engagement letter, under the Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act 2011 for preparing financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view and for making accurate representations to you.
- 5 All the transactions undertaken by the charity have been properly reflected and recorded in the accounting records.
- 6 All the accounting records have been made available to you for the purpose of your independent examination. We have provided you with unrestricted access to all appropriate persons within the charity, and with all other records and related information requested, including minutes of all management and trustee meetings and correspondence with The Charity Commission.
- 7 The financial statements are free of material misstatements, including omissions.
- 8 The effects of uncorrected misstatements are immaterial both individually and in total.

Assets and liabilities

- 9 The charity has satisfactory title to all assets and there are no liens or encumbrances on the charity's assets, except for those that are disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.
- 10 All actual liabilities, contingent liabilities and guarantees given to third parties have been recorded or disclosed as appropriate.
- 11 We have no plans or intentions that may materially alter the carrying value and where relevant the fair value measurements or classification of assets and liabilities reflected in the financial statements.

Accounting estimates

- 12 The methods, data and significant assumptions used by us in making accounting estimates, and their related disclosures, are appropriate to achieve recognition, measurement and disclosure that is reasonable in the context of the applicable financial reporting framework.

Loans and arrangements

- 13 The charitable company has not granted any advances or credits to, or made guarantees on behalf of, directors.

Legal claims

- 14 We have disclosed to you all claims in connection with litigation that have been, or are expected to be, received and such matters, as appropriate, have been properly accounted for and disclosed in the financial statements.

Laws and regulations

- 15 We have disclosed to you all known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements.

Related parties

- 16 We are not aware of any related party matters which require disclosure in order to comply with legislative and accounting standards requirements.

Subsequent events

17 All events subsequent to the date of the financial statements which require adjustment or disclosure have been properly accounted for and disclosed.


Going concern

18 We believe that the charity's financial statements should be prepared on a going concern basis on the grounds that current and future sources of funding or support will be more than adequate for the charity's needs. We have considered a period of twelve months from the date of approval of the financial statements. We believe that no further disclosures relating to the charity's ability to continue as a going concern need to be made in the financial statements.

Grants and donations

19 All grants, donations and other income, the receipt of which is subject to specific terms or conditions, have been notified to you. There have been no breaches of terms or conditions in the application of such income.

Yours faithfully

 (Dec 19, 2024 12:18 GMT)

.....
Signed on behalf of the board of trustees

Helen McStravick

Date: 19 December 2024











Scotswood Natural Garden Limited 31.3.24 Final Accounts


Final Audit Report

2024-12-20


Created:	2024-12-19
By:	Kay Walker (kay@jfstorbitt.co.uk)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAbiQlvYud7R2iEsq36Mwxz1njHTEZdE1o

"Scotswood Natural Garden Limited 31.3.24 Final Accounts" History

-  Document created by Kay Walker (kay@jfstorbitt.co.uk)
2024-12-19 - 11:59:01 GMT
-  Document emailed to helen.mcstravick@hotmail.co.uk for signature
2024-12-19 - 12:00:59 GMT
-  Email viewed by helen.mcstravick@hotmail.co.uk
2024-12-19 - 12:15:16 GMT
-  Signer helen.mcstravick@hotmail.co.uk entered name at signing as Helen McStravick
2024-12-19 - 12:18:05 GMT
-  Document e-signed by Helen McStravick (helen.mcstravick@hotmail.co.uk)
Signature Date: 2024-12-19 - 12:18:07 GMT - Time Source: server
-  Document emailed to milesjhenderson@me.com for signature
2024-12-19 - 12:18:09 GMT
-  Email viewed by milesjhenderson@me.com
2024-12-20 - 10:51:11 GMT
-  Signer milesjhenderson@me.com entered name at signing as Miles Henderson
2024-12-20 - 10:53:08 GMT
-  Document e-signed by Miles Henderson (milesjhenderson@me.com)
Signature Date: 2024-12-20 - 10:53:10 GMT - Time Source: server
-  Document emailed to trevor@tpacc.org.uk for signature
2024-12-20 - 10:53:16 GMT

 Email viewed by trevor@tpacc.org.uk

2024-12-20 - 10:54:12 GMT

 Signer trevor@tpacc.org.uk entered name at signing as J T Hogg

2024-12-20 - 10:55:05 GMT

 Document e-signed by J T Hogg (trevor@tpacc.org.uk)

Signature Date: 2024-12-20 - 10:55:07 GMT - Time Source: server

 Agreement completed.

2024-12-20 - 10:55:07 GMT