



Somerset Gardens Trust

www.somersetgardenstrust.org.uk

UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

31 MARCH 2025

Registered Charity Number: 1008194

Company Number: 2613559

Registered Office:

Unit A
82 James Carter Road
Mildenhall
Suffolk
IP28 7DE

SOMERSET GARDENS TRUST
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - 31 MARCH 2025

CONTENTS	Page
Annual Report of the Council of Management	3-7
Statement of Financial Activities	8
Balance Sheet	9
Notes to the Financial Statements	10 - 13
Financial Summary	14
Independent Examiner's Report	15

SOMERSET GARDENS TRUST (Company Number: 2613559)

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT

The Council of Management (the Council) presents its Annual Report and the Financial Statements of the Trust for the year ended 31 March 2024, in compliance with current statutory requirements and the charity's governing documents.

Status

The Company is limited by guarantee without a share capital (company number 2613559) and is registered by the Charity Commission as a charity (charity number 1008194).

Registered Office

The registered office is Unit A, 82 James Carter Road, Mildenhall, Suffolk IP28 7DE.

Activity

The objects for which the Trust was established are to:

- promote the education of the public on matters connected with the arts and sciences of garden landscapes;
- preserve, enhance and recreate for the education and enjoyment of the public whatever garden landscapes may exist or have existed in or around the county of Somerset.

In furtherance of these objects the Trust:

- undertakes a programme of research into Somerset's designed landscape.
- promotes a programme of lectures on aspects of garden history.
- awards grants to schools for establishing gardens as an educational resource.
- awards bursaries to horticultural students to develop practical skills in the protection, conservation and re-creation of garden landscapes.
- offers advice and awards grants to garden owners for the restoration of designed landscapes in Somerset which are of historical importance.

To finance these activities, the Trust organises a programme of fund-raising events every year.

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the company's aims and objectives and in planning future activities.

SOMERSET GARDENS TRUST (Company Number: 2613559)

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT

The Council

The members of the Council are the Trustees of the Trust. They are elected at Annual General Meetings and serve for a period of three years, being eligible for re-election at the end of such period. The persons who were members of the Council during the year were:

Camilla Carter	President
Diana Hebditch	Chairman
Stuart Senior	Hon. Treasurer & Company Secretary
Vicky Banham	
Julian Gibbs	
James Harris	Retired September 2024
Anne Kaile	
Mary Lang	
Jenny Langford	
Primrose Mallet-Harris	Retired September 2024
Deborah Stanley	
Jane Warmington	
Mervyn Wilson	

Bankers

The bankers to the Trust are Lloyds Bank and Bath Building Society.

Independent Examiner

The Trust's Examiner is Mr Ian Pitman (18 Hob Close, Monkton Heathfield, Taunton, TA2 8GL).

The Council and the Training of Trustees

Each member of the Council has either been provided with copies of the Guidance Notes issued by the Charity Commission in hard copy or, after the Charity Commission ceased to publish such Guidance Notes in hard copy, has been referred to the web pages of the Charity Commission. In addition, each Member has been provided with a copy of the Trust's Memorandum and Articles of Association, and the latest report and accounts.

The Council is always looking for additional members who will actively further the Trust's aims.

SOMERSET GARDENS TRUST (Company Number: 2613559)

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT

Review of the year's activities

The Council

At the Annual General meeting on 4 September 2024 Stuart Senior was elected for a further 3-year term. Primrose Mallet-Harris and James Harris, founding members of the Trust, retired.

Other Officers

Mary ter Braak is Membership Secretary and Website Manager. Anne Kaile and Jenny Hawksley are co-chair of the Research and Conservation Committee. Jane Warmington is chair of Education committee.

Membership

At the end of March 2025, the Trust had 237 members of whom 59 were Life Members. This compares with 247 members, of whom 60 were Life Members, at the end of March 2024.

An important development of the website now allows members to renew their subscription online.

Publicity

Members are updated by emails. Through the website and social media, the Trust's activities are circulated to a wider audience. Followers on Instagram increased to some 1,400, ranging from other Gardens Trusts, NCCPG groups, gardeners/garden designers and nurseries to Somerset museums, bakeries, farm shops, holiday homes, magazines and individuals from photographers and writers.

Events Committee

The Trust's events are the principal means of raising income to support its charitable objects. A programme of 8 garden visits took place in the financial year 2024/25.

Research & Conservation Committee

Work to identify the list of parks and gardens across the county which need to be surveyed has identified some 40. Work to start the physical surveying work is planned for late Spring 2025 after training on surveying during 2024.

The work on considering planning applications is undergoing some restructuring due to several changes at national level. This is a key element of the work undertaking by this Committee, so a plan is being put into place to deal with applications going forward.

Education Committee

Applications for grants from 43 schools were considered, 29 of which the committee approved. The grant was increased to a maximum of £400 (up from the previous £350) due to increased costs of materials. All the approved plans demonstrated that pupils' learning and skills would be enhanced through designing their gardens and hands-on activities such as sowing, planting and harvesting. Feedback from schools said how useful the grants have been in supporting pupils' well-being and developing their interest in gardening and the environment.

Grants & Bursaries

Historic England has registered the Mendip Hospital Cemetery as a Grade II Park and garden of special historic interest: "they are part of a well-designed, late 19th century detached asylum cemetery that includes trees planted in 1880". SGT supported and funded the necessary work to achieve this successful outcome and were mentioned in the press release.

SOMERSET GARDENS TRUST (Company Number: 2613559)

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT

In January 2025 a request for funding was received from Dr Sarah Rutherford in support of her survey of English garden grottoes and shell houses. This will be considered at the first Council meeting of 2025/26.

Review of Financial Affairs

Investment policy

The Trust's approach to financial matters, and investments in particular, is one of extreme prudence given the current (and likely future) volatility of equity markets, the very low interest rates on deposit accounts. For this reason, plus the need for reasonably rapid access to monies in the event of a major grant request, the Trust chooses to keep the bulk of its funds as cash (in a current and a savings account). The exception to this general rule is the investment the Trust has with CCLA - Charities Global Equity Income Fund. This investment has served the Trust well with an annual yield of at least 4% (of its nominal value of £20,000) over the years.

Reserves policy

In previous years the Council has decided that it should set a level of reserves to cover unforeseeable expenditure such as might be incurred in the very unlikely event of the Trust closing down or membership declining very rapidly, or an uninsured claim being made against the Trust. A level of £10,000 has been set.

The Trust is fortunate in having a strong balance sheet and has ended the 2024/25 financial year in good shape. Council is satisfied that there are ample reserves for the Trust to survive for several years. The financial position of the Trust, including its reserves policy, will continue to be under regular review.

Financial outcome 2024/25`

The Trust recorded a deficit of £8,109 (2023/24: £829). In 2023 Council decided to maximise its spend on its charitable objects rather than build up a cash pile. So, the largest item of expenditure in 2024/25 was the £10,000 of grants to schools (2023/24: £9,014). Our investment suffered the consequences of the Trump tariff turmoil in March 2025, reversing half the gains made in 2023/24.

The deficit brings the Trust's total funds at 31 March 2025 to £56,029 (2024: £64,138). This figure is well in excess of the reserve discussed above.

SOMERSET GARDENS TRUST (Company Number: 2613559)

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT

Future Plans

The Trust's priorities for the year ahead are to:

- maintain membership numbers by continuing to offer a high quality and value-for-money programme of events;
- continue the programme to record parks and gardens across the county;
- continue the successful programme of awarding grants to schools;
- publicise the work of the Trust through the website and social media
- seek ways of encouraging potential applicants for bursaries and garden restoration grants.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of Somerset Gardens Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

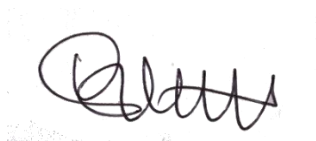
Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the income and expenditure of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP.
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements, and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

By order of the Council



Mrs Diana Hebditch, Chairman

Date: 23 July 2025

SOMERSET GARDENS TRUST (Company Number: 2613559)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (SOFA) (INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2025 Total Funds £	2024 Total Funds £
INCOME				
Income from donations (Note 2)	3,994	-	3,994	4,078
Income from charitable activities (3)	4,787	-	4,787	4,649
Investment income (4)	1,415	-	1,415	1,482
TOTAL	10,196	-	10,196	10,209
EXPENDITURE				
Raising funds (5)	3,708	-	3,708	3,907
Charitable activities (6)	12,082	-	12,082	12,688
TOTAL	15,790	-	15,790	16,595
Net Gain/Loss on investment	(2,515)	-	(2,515)	5,558
Net Income for the year	(8,109)	-	(8,109)	(828)
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	(8,109)	-	(8,109)	(828)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Funds B/F at 1 April (7)	64,138	-	64,138	64,966
TOTAL FUNDS C/F at 31 March	56,029	-	56,029	64,138

The notes on pages 10 to 13 form part of these financial statements.

SOMERSET GARDENS TRUST (Company Number: 2613559)

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
FIXED ASSETS		
Investment (8)	38,893	41,408
CURRENT ASSETS		
Prepayments (9)	0	0
Debtors (10)	716	674
Cash at bank (11)	16,921	22,496
	<u>17,637</u>	<u>23,170</u>
LIABILITIES		
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year (12)	(501)	(440)
NET CURRENT ASSETS	<u>17,136</u>	<u>22,730</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS	56,029	64,138
	<u><u>56,029</u></u>	<u><u>64,138</u></u>
FUNDS OF THE CHARITY		
Unrestricted Funds	56,029	64,138
	<u><u>56,029</u></u>	<u><u>64,138</u></u>

The company is 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 responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to small companies subject to the small companies' regime and in accordance with FRS102 SORP.

The financial statements were approved by the Council on 23 July 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:

Mrs Diana Hebditch, Chairman

Mr Stuart Senior, Hon Treasurer

The notes on pages 10 to 13 form part of these financial statements.

SOMERSET GARDENS TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following accounting policies have been consistently applied in relation to items material to the financial statements.

Charitable company status

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and does not have any share capital. The liability of the guarantors, who are the members is limited to £1 per guarantor. At 31 March 2022 the charity had 258 members. The company is registered in England and Wales. The registered office is Unit A, 82 James Carter Road, Mildenhall, Suffolk IP28 7DE.

Basis of Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with the exception of investments which are included at their market value. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the with the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: 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 (FRS102) issued October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS102), and the Companies Act 2006.

The Charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102.

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Policy for Income and Expenditure

All income is recognised once the Charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the Charity to that expenditure and it is probable that settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Membership Fees

Membership fees are credited in the financial year in which received with the exception of the 'five years for the price of four' subscriptions (introduced in 2016) where 20% is credited in the financial year in which received, and the balance held as payments in advance to be released annually (20%) in the following four years.

Taxation

Taxation will only apply to non-charitable trading activities of the Company. None has taken place nor is contemplated and therefore no provision is considered necessary.

Fixed Asset Investments

Investments are stated at market value at the balance sheet date. The statement of financial activities includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluations and disposals throughout the year.

SOMERSET GARDENS TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value.

Financial instruments

The Charity only has financial assets and liabilities that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are recognised at transaction price and subsequently at amortised cost with the exception of investments which are subsequently measured at fair value.

Critical accounting estimates and judgements

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of policies and reported amounts of assets and liabilities, income and expenses. Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. The resulting accounting estimates will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results.

The Trustees are of the opinion that there are no estimates or assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

2. INCOME FROM DONATIONS	2025	2024
	£	£
Subscriptions	3,228	3,398
Donations	50	5
Gift Aid	716	675
	<u>3,994</u>	<u>4,078</u>

All income from donations relates to unrestricted funds.

3. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES	2025	2024
	£	£
Fundraising Events		
- Self-drive visits	4,787	4,649
- Coach trips	0	0
- Lectures	0	0
	<u>4,787</u>	<u>4,649</u>

All income from charitable activities relates to unrestricted funds.

SOMERSET GARDENS TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

4. INVESTMENT INCOME	2025	2024
	£	£
Interest Received	441	450
Dividends	974	1,032
	<u>1,415</u>	<u>1,482</u>

All investment income relates to unrestricted funds.

5. EXPENDITURE ON RAISING FUNDS	2025	2024
	£	£
Events		
- Self-drive visits	3,708	3,907
- Coach trips	0	0
- Lectures	0	0
	<u>3,708</u>	<u>3,907</u>

All expenditure on raising funds relates to unrestricted funds.

6. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES	2025	2024
	£	£
Education Grants	10,000	9,014
Grants & Bursaries	0	1,440
TGT Membership	381	374
Insurance	173	156
Printing, Stationery & Postage	41	682
Committee & Travel Expenses	390	478
Midsummer Reception	223	0
Website costs	491	372
Stripe charges	7	0
Publicity	0	25
Independent Examination	100	100
Miscellaneous Expenses	210	10
Companies House filing	66	37
	<u>12,082</u>	<u>12,688</u>

All expenditure on charitable activities relates to unrestricted funds.

There were no paid employees of the Trust during the year.

7a. FUND ACCOUNTS	Income	Expenditure	Gain on Investment	Opening Balance 1 April	Closing Balance 31 March
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted Fund	-	-	-	-	-
Unrestricted General Fund	10,196	15,790	(2,515)	64,138	56,029

7b. PRIOR PERIOD FUND ACCOUNTS	Income	Expenditure	Gain on Investment	Opening Balance 1 April	Closing Balance 31 March
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted Fund	-	-	-	-	-
Unrestricted General Fund	10,209	16,595	5,558	64,966	64,138

**SOMERSET GARDENS TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

8. INVESTMENT	2025	2024
<i>CCLA - Charities Global Equity Income</i>	£	£
Market Value at 1 April	38,893	41,408
9. PREPAYMENTS	2025	2024
	£	£
None	0	0
10. DEBTORS	2025	2024
	£	£
Gift Aid	716	675
Unbanked cheques	0	0
	<u>716</u>	<u>675</u>
11. CASH AT BANK	2025	2024
	£	£
Lloyds Bank Current A/C	2,903	5,919
Bath Building Society Business Direct A/C	14,018	16,577
	<u>16,921</u>	<u>22,496</u>
12. CREDITORS	2025	2024
	£	£
Pre-paid subscriptions	400	304
Independent examination	100	100
Rounding adjustment	1	37
	<u>501</u>	<u>441</u>

13. RELATED PARTIES, TRUSTEE EXPENSES AND REMUNERATION

- a) The Trust is one of a number of Trusts who are members of The Gardens Trust (TGT).
- b) The Trust considers its key management personnel to comprise the Trustees. No remuneration was paid to the key management personnel (2024: Nil).
- c) Council's Expenses: no car mileage expenses were paid (2024: Nil).
- d) There were no other related party transactions during the year (2024: None).

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

2024	REVENUE ACCOUNT	2025
£		£
	SURPLUS	
3,398	Members' subscriptions	3,228
5	Donations	50
675	Gift Aid	716
1,482	Investment income & interest	1,415
5,558	Gain/Loss on Investment	(2,515)
742	Self-drive visits	1,079
0	Coach trips	0
0	Lectures	0
11,860		3,973
	DEFICIT	
9,014	Education Grants	10,000
1,440	Grants & Bursaries	0
682	Printing, stationery & postage	41
374	TGT membership	381
372	Website costs	491
0	Stripe charges	7
25	Publicity	0
156	Insurance	173
100	Independent examination	100
478	Committee & travel expenses	390
37	Company costs	66
0	Midsummer Reception	223
10	Miscellaneous expenses	210
12,688		12,082
(828)	NET DEFICIT	(8,109)
	BALANCE SHEET	
2024	As at 31 March	2025
64,966	Balance at beginning of year	64,138
(828)	Plus Surplus/(deficit) for year	(8,109)
64,138	Balance at the end of year	56,029
	Represented by:	
5,919	Lloyds Bank Current A/C	2,903
16,577	Bath Building Society Business Direct A/C	14,018
41,408	Investment - Charities Global Equity Income	38,893
0	Prepayments	0
675	Debtors	716
(441)	Creditors	(501)
64,138		56,029

Independent Examiner's Report for Somerset Gardens Trust.

Registered Charity Number 1008194

Company Number 2613559

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention with this examination.

These accounts have been prepared under the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011 especially regarding the size of the Trust.

The Directors of the Company are also the Trustees.

I have no concerns regarding these accounts for year 31March2025.



I R Pitman

19 May '25