Somerset Gardens Trust

www.somersetgardenstrust.org.uk

UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

31 MARCH 2026

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 2026

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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 2026, 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	Retired 4 March 2026
Anne Kaile	
Mary Lang	
Jenny Langford	
Deborah Stanley	
Jane Warmington	
Mervyn Wilson	Retired 7 August 2025

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 3rd September 2025 Diana Hebditch and Jane Warmington were elected for a further 3-year term. Mervyn Wilson and Julian Gibbs 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 the Education Committee.

Membership

At the end of March 2026, the Trust had 238 members of whom 59 were Life Members. This compares with 237 members, of whom 59 were Life Members, at the end of March 2025.

Publicity

Members are updated by emails. Through our website News section and social media, the Trust's activities are circulated to a wider audience. Followers on Instagram increased to some 1,800 and as well as posting our activities, we have advertised our schools' grants and research workshops. The local press has covered several of our projects in the past and is receptive to news releases on our education and conservation work.

Events Committee

The Trust's events are the principal means of raising income to support its charitable objects. A programme of 6 garden visits took place in the financial year 2025/26 and were supported by some 150 members.

Research & Conservation Committee

Building on the foundation of survey training in 2025, work has continued to identify and start physical surveying of parks and gardens in Somerset. Visits to parks have been particularly successful as well as a project to record the plant nurseries of Somerset.

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

Education Committee

Applications for grants up to a maximum of £400 from 69 schools were considered, 39 of which the committee approved. 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. There had been increased requests for materials. Feedback from schools had been how useful the grants had been in supporting pupils' well-being and developing their interest in gardening and the environment. In view of the popularity of this scheme and the repeat requests for funding, it had been decided that a duration of 24 months must elapse before successful schools could apply again, and that only one application per school site would be considered.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT

Grants & Bursaries

In May 2025 a grant of £400 was awarded to Dr Sarah Rutherford in support of her survey of English garden grottoes and shell houses. In March 2026 a grant of £300 was awarded to a community garden in Street to partially fund the acquisition of a mower.

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 in spite of its value fluctuating widely over recent 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 2025/22 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 2025/26`

The Trust recorded a deficit of £8,547 (2024/25: £8,109). 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 2025/26 was the £10,593 of grants to schools (2023/24: £10,000). Our investment suffered the as a consequence of the Iran conflict.

The deficit brings the Trust's total funds at 31 March 2026 to £47,283 (2025: £56,029). This figure is well in excess of the reserve discussed above.

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;
- pursue the digitisation of the Trust's research records;
- continue the successful programme of awarding grants to schools;
- 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: 22 July 2026

SOMERSET GARDENS TRUST (Company Number: 2613559)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (SOFA)
(INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2026 Total Funds £	2025 Total Funds £
INCOME				
Income from donations (Note 2)	5,895	-	5,895	3,994
Income from charitable activities (3)	3,143	-	3,143	4,787
Investment income (4)	1,165	-	1,165	1,415
TOTAL	10,203	-	10,203	10,196
EXPENDITURE				
Raising funds (5)	2,481	-	2,481	3,708
Charitable activities (6)	13,153	-	13,153	12,082
TOTAL	15,634	-	15,634	15,790
Net Gain/Loss on investment	(3,116)	-	(3,116)	(2,515)
Net Expenditure for the year	(8,547)	-	(8,547)	(8,109)
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	(8,547)	-	(8,547)	(8,109)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Funds B/F at 1 April (7)	56,029	-	56,029	64,138
TOTAL FUNDS C/F at 31 March	47,483	-	47,483	56,029

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 2026

	2026 £	2025 £
FIXED ASSETS		
Investment (8)	28,777	38,893
CURRENT ASSETS		
Prepayments (9)	0	0
Debtors (10)	661	716
Cash at bank (11)	18,570	16,921
	19,231	17,637
LIABILITIES		
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year (12)	(525)	(501)
NET CURRENT ASSETS	18,706	17,136
TOTAL NET ASSETS	47,483	56,029
FUNDS OF THE CHARITY		
Unrestricted Funds	47,483	56,029

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 22 July 2026 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.

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.

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	**2026**	**2025**
	£	**£**
Subscriptions	3,200	3,228
Donations	2,034	50
Gift Aid	661	716
	5,895	3,994

All income from donations relates to unrestricted funds.

3. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES	**2026**	**2025**
	£	**£**
Fundraising Events		
- Self-drive visits	3,143	4,787
- Coach trips		0
- Lectures		0
	3,143	4,787

All income from charitable activities relates to unrestricted funds.

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2026	2025
	£	£
Interest Received	297	441
Dividends	868	974
	1,165	1,415

All investment income relates to unrestricted funds.

5. EXPENDITURE ON RAISING FUNDS

	2026	2025
	£	£
Events		
- Self-drive visits	2,481	3,708
- Coach trips	0	0
- Lectures	0	0
	2,481	3,708

All expenditure on raising funds relates to unrestricted funds.

6. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2026	2025
	£	£
Education Grants	10,593	10,000
Grants & Bursaries	700	0
TGT Membership	366	381
Insurance	173	173
Printing, Stationery & Postage	14	41
Committee & Travel Expenses	316	390
Midsummer Reception	192	223
Website costs	584	491
Stripe & bank charges	20	7
Publicity	0	0
Independent Examination	100	100
Miscellaneous Expenses	10	210
Companies House Filing	85	66
	13,153	12,082

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	Loss on Investment	Opening Balance 1 April	Closing Balance 31 March
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted Fund	-	-	-	-	-
Unrestricted General Fund	10,203	15,634	(3,116)	56,029	47,483

7b. PRIOR PERIOD FUND ACCOUNTS

	Income	Expenditure	Loss on Investment	Opening Balance 1 April	Closing Balance 31 March
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted Fund	-	-	-	-	-
Unrestricted General Fund	10,196	15,788	(2,515)	64,138	56,029

8. INVESTMENT	**2026**	**2025**
CCLA - Charities Global Equity Income	**£**	**£**
Market Value at 31 March	28,777	38,893,

9. PREPAYMENTS	**2026**	**2025**
	£	**£**
None	0	0

10. DEBTORS	**2026**	**2025**
	£	**£**
Gift Aid	661	716
Unbanked cheques	0	0
	661	716

11. CASH AT BANK	**2026**	**2025**
	£	**£**
Lloyds Bank Current A/C	4,255	2,903
Bath Building Society Business Direct A/C	14,315	14,018
	18,570	16,921

12. CREDITORS	**2026**	**2025**
	£	**£**
Pre-paid subscriptions	352	400
Independent examination	100	100
Microsoft Licence	17	0
Moorlinch Church Hall	55	0
Rounding adjustment	1	1
	525	501

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 (2025: Nil).

c) Council's Expenses: no car mileage expenses were paid (2025: Nil).

d) There were no other related party transactions during the year (2025: None).

2025	REVENUE ACCOUNT	2026
£		£
	SURPLUS	
3,228	Members' subscriptions	3,200
50	Donations	2,034
716	Gift Aid	661
1,415	Investment income & interest	1,165
1,079	Self-drive visits	662
6,488		**7,722**
	DEFICIT	
10,000	Education Grants	10,593
2,515	Loss on investment	3,116
0	Grants & Bursaries	700
41	Printing, stationery & postage	14
390	Committee & travel expenses	316
381	TGT membership	366
173	Insurance	173
491	Website costs	584
7	Stripe charges	20
0	Publicity	0
66	Company costs	85
223	AGM	192
100	Independent examination	100
210	Miscellaneous expenses	10
14,597		**16,269**
(8,109)	**NET DEFICIT**	**(8,547)**

2025	BALANCE SHEET As at 31 March	2026
64,138	Balance at beginning of year	56,030
(8,109)	Plus Surplus/(deficit) for year	(8,547)
56,029	Balance at the end of year	**47,483**
	Represented by:	
2,903	Lloyds Bank Current A/C	4,255
14,018	Bath Building Society Business Direct A/C	14,315
38,893	Investment - Charities Global Equity Income	28,777
0	Prepayments	0
716	Debtors	661
(501)	Creditors	(525)
56,029		**47,483**

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 ended 31 March 2026.

I R Pitman

I R Pitman

22 MAY 2026