CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 6 April 2025 **Period start date** **To** 5 April 2026 **Period end date**

Charity name: Wildlife Gardening Forum

Charity registration number: 1156608

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	a) To promote the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment of gardens and their biological diversity. b) To advance the education of the public in the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment and biodiversity of gardens and the consequent human health and well-being benefits.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	Gardens are diverse and important habitats for our declining wildlife and where the great majority of children find their first direct contact with nature. Nearly 90% of UK households have gardens and so our work can benefit a very large proportion of the public who wish to manage their gardens sustainably and with wildlife in mind. In planning and executing our work, the Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and in particular to its public benefit guidance on advancing education and on conservation of the environment. Object a) Promoting conservation, protection and improvement … The Wildlife Gardening Forum furthers this

		object through issuing four newsletters per year summarising new research and best practice findings. We maintain a large website to provide access to evidence-based information on the science of wildlife gardening and on garden organisms, including practical guidance. We seek to inform the work of the many charities and other organisations within our membership and contacts. We influence decision makers through working with other charities and disseminating evidence. The influence of the Forum on social media has grown remarkably on its Facebook group and is developing on Instagram. Our website has migrated to a new platform to help meet the ambition of it becoming a 'one stop shop for scientific and practical information about gardens and wildlife'. It contains extensive background information in garden and wildlife science and planting for wildlife, reviewing information largely unavailable to a general reader. It constitutes the largest compendium of freely available information about garden biodiversity anywhere on the web. The Forum's Manifesto, available in English and Welsh on the website, provides a simple introduction to decision makers about the policy changes we would like to see to improve the status of gardens for wildlife and people. Our membership of the umbrella organisation Wildlife and Countryside Link is allowing the Forum to contribute its voice alongside other charities in environmental issues. Object b) To advance the education of the public…. This object is addressed through the creation of publications and newsletters, and maintaining a website to provide access for everyone to evidence-based information and advice.

		The Trustees ensure a powerful educational outcome by insisting on testing all statements and guidance in our material and on our website against established and published fact, giving attribution so that those who wish can have access to original work. We identify and point out areas where evidence is inadequate and have succeeded in starting research projects (such as the RHS-run “Plants for Bugs Project” investigating the relative value of native and non-native garden plants) where a major deficiency of evidence has let myths and assumptions stay unchallenged. While most of our focus is on biodiversity, our education objective is also concerned with the role of gardens and urban green space on human mental and physical health, and the cohesion and better function of communities. This is another relatively new field of research that has not yet become widely known among the public and decision makers but is of increasing importance as Britain becomes steadily more urban. There is great synergy between this aspect of gardens, and biodiversity conservation, and we see our role as helping to make the health research findings accessible to everyone alongside the biodiversity, and with the same standards of rigour.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The Trustees confirm that in the period covered by this report they have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the		The Forum trustee meetings continued to be conducted remotely, with the exception of an in-person combined Away Day/AGM.

charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	The Forum was able to fulfil its core purposes in a number of ways; A major focus for the year has been the comprehensive redevelopment of the Forum's website. Building on work initiated in the previous year, substantial progress has been made to improve accessibility and usability of the Forum's extensive content. The site contains a large volume of high-quality information, much of which has been systematically reviewed, reformatted and reorganised to make it easier for users to navigate and apply in practice. This has included the reformatting of over 100 downloadable resources and the adoption of consistent terminology conventions. Practical 'how to' guidance is now more prominently presented. The redevelopment has been led by a trustee working closely with the Founder Patron, and by year end the website is in its final testing and refinement phase. Trustees consider that this work will enable the Forum to make significantly better use of its existing knowledge base and strengthen its ability to promote its aims. The Forum delivered the now-annual Wildlife Gardening Symposium in January 2026, delivered in partnership with the Biological Recording Company. The event built on the success of previous years and continued to provide a platform for sharing current research and best practice in wildlife gardening with a wide audience. Recordings are made available via the Forum's website to extend reach and impact. The Forum's Facebook presence remained a key strength, maintaining a strong platform for engagement and information sharing through both its organisational page and its large public group. These channels continue to support a substantial national and international community of wildlife gardeners, facilitated by experienced volunteer moderators. The Forum progressed its long-term strategic planning, with trustees refining priorities following discussion at the Away Day. A ten-year vision to 2035 has been further developed, with ambitions including reaching new and more diverse audiences; becoming the leading source of trusted information on wildlife gardening for both amateur and professional audiences; developing a recognised certificate or accreditation scheme; and continuing to bring together and disseminate scientific evidence relevant to wildlife gardening. Trustees identified that while the Forum is already strong in evidence sharing and resource provision, further work and investment will be required to deliver

		expanded training and accreditation ambitions. Plans were also established to undertake a member survey to better understand audience needs and inform future priorities. Work has also been undertaken to strengthen governance. Following the previous year's review, all organisational policies have been updated, streamlined or replaced as appropriate. The risk register has been revised to support forward planning and effective oversight of the Forum's activities. The Forum's quarterly newsletter continued to be produced, with four editions during the year, providing members with updates, research insights and practical guidance. The newsletter remains an important channel for engaging a wide network of gardeners, designers, conservationists and practitioners. There were also several changes to the trustee board. A new Chair was appointed during the year and a new trustee joined the board, bringing additional skills and perspectives. One trustee stepped down temporarily. The board continued to operate with nine trustees overall.

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	The charity is in an excellent and prudent financial position. The major expense of website development, for which we were well prepared and knew would reduce our reserves, was part-funded by a very generous donation. Income from the virtual symposium helped underpin this.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	The Wildlife Gardening Forum has general funds that cover a year's operating costs with contingency, which the Trustees consider prudent to maintain the charity's core activities, especially in current financial uncertainties.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£4751 (total), of which all is unrestricted
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	**N/A**
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	**None**
Explanation of any	Para 1.23	**None**

uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern		

Structure, Governance and Management

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

Reference and Administrative details

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

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	**Office (if any)**	**Dates acted if not for whole year**	**Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)**

1	Mary Jackson	Chair	Apr 2025 – Mar 2026 (Chair) Mar 2026 (Trustee)	
2	Helen Bostock	Vice-chair	All year	
3	Adrian Thomas	Chair	Apr 2025-Mar 2026 (Trustee) Mar 2026 (Chair)	
4	Judith Conroy	Hon Secretary	Apr 2025-Nov 2025	
5	Ali Vitale		All Year	
6	Mark Goddard		All Year	
7	Clare Wright		All Year	
8	Hafsah Hafeji		All Year	
9	Stephanie Bird		All Year	
10	Andrew Jackson		Nov 2025-Mar 2026	
11				
12				
13				
14				

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		
None		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	**Dates acted if not for whole year**	
None		

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	**None**
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

	Type of adviser	**Name**	**Address**
	Hon. Treasurer	Marc Carlton	10, Portwall Road,Chepstow,NP16 5DL
	Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)		
	None		

Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

Other optional information

Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Adrian Thomas	Helen Bostock
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	Vice Chair
Date	03/09/2026	