BOTANIC GARDENS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2025

Registered Charity Number
1164497

BOTANIC GARDENS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
TRUSTEES REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2025

CONTENTS

Legal and Administrative Information	1
Trustees' Report	2-4
Independent Examiner's Report	5
Receipts and Payments Account	6
Statement of Assets and Liabilities	7
Movement in Funds	8-9

BOTANIC GARDENS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
TRUSTEES REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2025

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

CHARITY COMMISSION NUMBER

1164497

CHAIRMAN AND TRUSTEE

David Cobham

TRUSTEES

Ann Cobham
Sally Crowther
John Dodd
Alan Foxall
Joan Huyton
Clive Pickup
Gail Settle
Susan Regan
Maria Morris

ADDRESS

Botanic Gardens
Botanic Road
Churchtown
Southport
PR9 7NB

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Oliver Grills FCA
J A Fell & Co
40 Hoghton Street
Southport
PR9 0PQ

BOTANIC GARDENS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
Reg Charity No 1164497.
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DEC 2025

The Botanic Gardens Community Association Trust (incorporated) is registered with the Charity Commission (No 1164497) and constituted by Deed of Trust.

The Trustees who served during the year are as follows:-

David Cobham.	(cobhamdc@outlook.com)
John Dodd.	(mail@johndodd.co.uk)
Margaret Brown.	Resigned as Trustee Dec 31 2025.
Ann Cobham.	(anncobham43@gmail.com)
Sally Crowther.	(sally@cleverwebseo.com)
Clive Pickup.	(clive.pickup2@btinternet.com)
Gail Settle.	(botanic@madasafish.com) *
Alan Foxall.	(simplyflowersandfoliage1@gmail.com)*
Joan Huyton.	(joanhuyton2@gmail.com)*
Maria Morris.	(johnandmaria2013@outlook.com)
Susan Regan.	(susanmregan55@gmail.com)

Trustees serve on a 3 year rotation basis and may stand for re-election. *

Constitutional Objectives

1. To further or benefit the residents of Churchtown, Southport and surrounding areas, without distinction of age, sex, sexual orientation, race, or of political, religious or other opinions.

2. To provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure time occupation, with the objective of improving the conditions of life for the residents and visitors. To have power to establish a Community Centre and to Co-operate with any statutory authority in the management of such a centre for activities promoted by the Charity in furtherance of the above objectives. This we have achieved.

3. To promote for the benefit of the public at large the protection, preservation, care and maintenance of the Botanic Gardens, Churchtown Southport in co-operation with the local authority for recreational purposes to improve the health and well-being of mind and body.

Review of Activities and Achievements

The Botanic Gardens Community Association of volunteers was formed in 2012 to help the gardens to continue providing beautiful floral displays and other internal Park attractions which were in the process of being reduced, ended or closed by severe funding cuts. This has been achieved via donations and a sponsorship scheme. Funding is obtained from local associations, business and individuals which enable us to grow or source quality local plants which are designed, planted and maintained by our volunteers for dedicated Spring and Summer displays in the 5 large beds, and over 40 hanging baskets and ornamental containers at the formal part of the park. The Botanic plant Nursery has been closed for 12 years despite our great efforts to retain it, but the Volunteers have been allocated some greenhouse facilities to enable plants to be saved or nurtured out of season and, we also have an onsite plant shop involvement to bring in funds to be spent on the gardens.

We carry out general tidying jobs and minor infrastructure work such as painting and bench restoration and have a team of litter pickers with a zero litter and dog fouling policy. We hold meetings with the Bat Society and Lancashire Trust Squirrel officer.

Because of our previous success in carrying out all the above projects the Council has decided we can take over on Lease the running of the parks nationally important 1875 Victorian Fernery voted number two in the UK about 9 years ago but suffering due to finance and labour cuts and was seldom open. We are now connected with the British Pteridological Society who provide specimen Ferns advice and work with our team on a regular basis. (Cont.)

Non desirable plants etc are being removed and we are expertly planting many new Fern species which have been gifted to us by the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. A large van was hired and our project manager and Alison from the Fern Society did the 400 mile round trip to pick up the Ferns in a day, the aim is to be No1 Fernery attraction in the UK. The Fernery is now managed by BGCA volunteers on a rolling Lease.

We have renovated and taken over the running of the formally dank public toilet block, this has encouraged the return of many visitors and coach parties, especially school and special needs groups, a small entry charge funds these improvements and management. We hold many fund raising events, and offer an historical and educational walk and talk to visiting parties. Over 8000 volunteer hours are recorded each year. We work 52 weeks of the year and stage free events for the community throughout. The waste, and recycling depot is in the old Nursery area, and greenhouse run off water is saved in wells and tanks for watering use, we have a new composting area adjacent, we also look after the lake tidiness and keep an eye on its wildlife inhabitant's welfare. The former plant Nursery area is jointly occupied by an adult working group called Natural Alternatives a group with Special health and education needs. We get on with them well. As our name suggests we are an inclusive volunteer charitable organisation within the community for the community. The BGCA are proud to say we worked safely throughout the Pandemic years to keep all the floral and Aviary and public toilets open to the public as usual.

There are so many facets to the wonderful Botanic Gardens that suit all sections of the community, and we are always looking for ways to improve the free visitor experience year on year, we continue to maintain a small Rose Garden in a former neglected area in the popular Aviary. A Victorian style Stumpery with Hostas, Ferns, Hellebores and wildflowers is maintained. We have completed building a Wellness and Dementia raised bedding area in a former neglected Lakeside area of the park.

We continue restoring Heather rockery areas on the "Mulberry" island. The Botanic Gardens acts as a huge Nature classroom for all our local schools. Our aim is to do our utmost to keep the Botanic Gardens deserving of its "Jewel in the Crown" reputation and most importantly maintain its Gardens, Environmental, and Community spirited elements, so nearly lost for ever due to council funding cuts.

We have had a shared Management agreement with the council to ensure the future of the rescue Aviary. We have obtained donations to carry out extensive modernisation to the Pens And we plant and maintain an Aviary Garden area to enhance the facility including a memorial Paver initiative to raise funds.

The BGCA were awarded a coveted RHS National Certificate of Distinction in 2019.

RHS North West in Bloom awarded us 10 years of Outstanding Certificate in 2024.

We also entered in the RHS Parks category and gained a Gold Medal award.

The BGCA were featured in the BBC 2 Britain in Bloom show March 28th 2019, this full half hour show was repeated five times.

In 2023 the BGCA were awarded by the RHS a special trophy for planting the finest Bedding Displays in the North West.

In 2019 the BGCA were awarded Silver Trophies by the RHS for Best in Category and Best Overall entry. In 2025 Southport Volunteers were put forward and chosen by RHS North West in Bloom to be in the RHS Britain in Bloom National finals. The outcome was Southport were declared the winner of the Coastal Category and went on to win the Overall National Trophy which was announced live on the BBC One Show in the Grand Hotel Brighton in front of 500 other national finalists.

As there was no Britain in Bloom competition in 2020 we prepared a protracted document and entered as a Volunteer group into the 2020 Green Flag Community Awards and were successful with the highest ranked marks in 2020/21, 2022/23 and 2024/25.

For the health and enjoyment of the public we worked safely throughout Covid. Sefton Council are currently forming a bid to apply for £5m plus Heritage Lottery Funding to restore the 150 year park infrastructure, the BGCA Charity volunteers heavily involved in this Match Funding initiative.

BOTANIC GARDENS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REPORT for 2025

1. Our neighbour Churchtown Primary School carries out many projects with B.G.C.A

2. Prestfield Secondary school and College Duke of Edinburgh students carry out projects on a regular basis.

3. Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award students from Meols Cop School Youth Club worked in the Fernery on a regular basis.

4. We enter the RHS North West in Bloom and Community Green Flag awards and have attained the top outstanding rating for 11 years running. And have won many other special awards.

5. We work closely with the British Pteridological Society in our Leased Nationally acclaimed Grade 2 listed Fernery. Edge Hill University students' study in the Fernery.

6. We work with the Community Workshop, Props made by people with S.E.N.D.S. (Special Educational Needs and Disability).

7. We have had discussions with Public Health to put Parks as a Prescription for Health and Supporting North West Parks.

8. Princes Trust young people work on projects from time to time in conjunction with B.G.C.A. We work closely with the Adult special needs working group Natural Alternatives.

9. The BGCA is registered with Dementia Friends and has built a raised bedding area.

10. We continue to maintain a Defibrillator on site.

11. We are approved by and work closely with Sefton Councils officers and staff.

Financial review and reserves policy.

The financial results for 2025 are included. The trustees aim to ensure that the level of reserves held at any time would be sufficient to enable the charity to continue for two years in the event of any significant fall in income.

Risk management.

The trustees review the major risks which the charity faces on a regular basis, and are also bound by local authority dictate. BGCA is fully covered by RHS Public and Employee Liability insurance. (£10m)

Public benefit.

The charity trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers. We obtain funding via sponsorship, plant sales, donations and events to improve the park. A review of the Associations objectives, activities and achievements since formation is included, also the Finance Statements and independent examiners report.

The Trustees and members of the Botanic Gardens Community Association plan to continue and even improve on their very top award-winning initiatives for the health and wellbeing and enjoyment of Southport residents and the public at large of all ages.

David Cobham.
(Chairman) For and on behalf of the Trustees. (Feb 2026 and onwards)

D. C. Cobham

BOTANIC GARDENS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF BOTANIC GARDENS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Botanic Gardens Community Association (The Charity) for the year ended 31 December 2025 as set out on pages 6 to 9.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

13/8/2026

Oliver Grills FCA
J A Fell & Co
40 Hoghton Street
Southport
PR9 0PQ

BOTANIC GARDENS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2025 Total	2024 Total
RECEIPTS				
Regular donations and subscriptions	-	-	-	-
Donations for public toilet	-	3,394	3,394	3,607
Lake Fund	-	-	-	4,089
Events	6,639	-	6,639	6,197
Social Club	560	-	560	240
Aviary	-	7,148	7,148	11,079
Fernery	-	1,278	1,278	1,808
Flowers & Gardens	12,589	-	12,589	8,807
Heritage BID		8,675	8,675	-
Other Income	-	-	-	-
Total Receipts	**19,788**	**20,495**	**40,283**	**35,828**
PAYMENTS				
Toiletries and cleaning	-	4,608	4,608	6,219
Fernery & Aviary	-	3,758	3,758	2,002
Lake Fund	-	-	-	-
Social Club	1,400	-	1,400	1,214
Gardening expenses	7,271	195	7,466	9,461
Printing	95	-	95	60
Insurance	60	-	60	300
Repairs & Maintenance	2,387	4,617	7,004	1,042
Events	1,358	-	1,358	1,722
Accountancy	504	-	504	960
Total Payments	**13,075**	**13,178**	**26,253**	**22,978**
Excess of Receipts over payments	6,713	7,317	14,030	12,850
Total Funds at 1 January 2025	54,539	66,982	121,521	108,671
Total Funds at 31 December 2025	**61,251**	**74,299**	**135,551**	**121,521**

BOTANIC GARDENS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

	2025	2024
	£	£
CASH FUNDS		
Bank Account: Main	127,170	111,819
Bank Account: Toilet	8,381	9,702
Total bank current and deposit accounts	**135,551**	**121,521**
This figure is made up by		
Unrestricted fund	61,251	54,539
Restricted fund	74,299	66,982
	135,551	**121,521**
ASSETS RETAINED FOR THE USE OF THE CHARITY		
Laptop- 2017	520	520
Gala Tents- 2017	624	624
	1,144	**1,144**

NOTES

1. The financial statements have been prepared using the Receipts and Payments basis.

Approved by the Trustees on 30-7-26 and signed on their behalf

D.C. Cobham

David C Cobham
Chairman

M. V. Brown

Margaret V Brown
Treasurer

BOTANIC GARDENS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
MOVEMENT IN FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Flowers & Gardens	Toilets	Aviary	Fernery	Social Club	Lake Fund	Events	Heritage BID	General	2025 Total	2024 Total
INCOME											
Donation - Collection Boxes	464	-	1,598	1,278	-	-	372	-	-	3,712	3,937
Donations - Individuals & Charities	8,425	-	4,500	-	-	-	2,450	750	-	16,125	15,896
Flower Sale/Donation	3,700	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,700	3,500
Paver Scheme	-	-	1,050	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,050	2,450
Grants	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,925	-	7,925	-
Pay Entry / Events Income	-	3,394	-	-	-	-	3,817	-	-	7,211	9,804
Members Subscriptions	-	-	-	-	560	-	-	-	-	560	240
Total Receipts	**12,589**	**3,394**	**7,148**	**1,278**	**560**	**-**	**6,639**	**8,675**	**-**	**40,283**	**35,828**
INCOME ANALYSIS BY FUND											
Unrestricted Fund	12,589	-	-	-	560	-	6,639	-	-	19,788	15,244
Restricted Fund	-	3,394	7,148	1,278	-	-	-	8,675	-	20,495	20,583
	12,589	**3,394**	**7,148**	**1,278**	**560**	**-**	**6,639**	**8,675**	**-**	**40,283**	**35,827**
EXPENSES											
Accountancy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	504	504	960
Animals	201	-	853	13	-	-	-	-	7	1,074	937
Events	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,358	-	-	1,358	1,091
Flowers & Gardening	6,553	-	-	195	-	-	-	-	-	6,747	6,408
Insurance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	60	60	300
Light & Heat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	720	720	1,156
Licence & Lease fees	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	184	184	60
Miscellaneous Expenses	517	-	1,323	162	-	-	-	-	491	2,493	979
Cleaning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Printing	57	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	38	95	-
Repairs & Maintenance	2,194	107	4,274	236	-	-	-	-	193	7,004	5,031
Equipment & Materials	-	-	1,407	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,407	853
Toiletries & Cleaning	-	4,608	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,608	5,202
Total Payments	**9,521**	**4,715**	**7,857**	**605**	**-**	**-**	**1,358**	**-**	**2,196**	**26,253**	**22,977**
EXPENSE ANALYSIS BY FUND											
Unrestricted Fund	9,521	-	-	-	-	-	1,358	-	2,196	13,075	15,406
Restricted Fund	-	4,715	7,857	605	-	-	-	-	-	13,178	7,572
	9,521	**4,715**	**7,857**	**605**	**-**	**-**	**1,358**	**-**	**2,196**	**26,253**	**22,977**

RESTRICTED FUNDS	At 1 Jan 2025 £	Income £	Expenditure £	At 31 Dec 2025 £
Flowers & Gardens	-	-	-	-
Toilets	10,766	3,394	4,715	9,444
Lake Fund	30,001	-	-	30,001
Aviary	18,687	7,148	7,857	17,978
Fernery	4,392	1,278	605	5,065
Lake Bridge and Mural	3,136	-	-	3,136
Heritage BID	-	8,675	-	8,675
	66,982	**20,495**	**13,178**	**74,299**
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS				
Flowers & Gardens		12,589	9,521	
Club House		560	-	
Events		6,639	1,358	
General		-	2,196	
	54,539	**19,788**	**13,075**	**61,251**
TOTAL FUNDS AT 31 DEC 2024	**121,521**	**40,283**	**26,253**	**135,551**

BOTANIC GARDENS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
MOVEMENT IN FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2024

INCOME	Flowers & Gardens	Toilets	Aviary	Fernery	Social Club	Lake Fund	Events	General	2024 Total
Donation - Collection Boxes	-	-	2,129	1,808	-	-	-	-	3,937
Donations - Individuals & Charities	5,307	-	6,500	-	-	4,089	-	-	15,896
Flower Sale/Donation	3,500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,500
Paver Scheme	-	-	2,450	-	-	-	-	-	2,450
Grants	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pay Entry / Events Income	-	3,607	-	-	-	-	6,197	-	9,804
Members Subscriptions	-	-	-	-	240	-	-	-	240
Total Receipts	**8,807**	**3,607**	**11,079**	**1,808**	**240**	**4,089**	**6,197**	**-**	**35,828**
INCOME ANALYSIS BY FUND									
Unrestricted Fund	8,807	-	-	-	240	-	6,197	-	15,244
Restricted Fund	-	3,607	11,079	1,808	-	4,089	-	-	20,583
	8,807	**3,607**	**11,079**	**1,808**	**240**	**4,089**	**6,197**	**-**	**35,827**
EXPENSES									
Accountancy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	960	960
Animals	84	-	786	-	-	-	-	67	937
Events	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,091	-	1,091
Flowers & Gardening	6,408	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,408
Insurance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	300	300
Light & Heat	-	-	-	-	1,156	-	-	-	1,156
Licence & Lease fees	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	60	60
Miscellaneous Expenses	136	-	-	-	-	-	630	213	979
Cleaning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Printing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Repairs & Maintenance	2,832	1,017	563	225	58	-	-	336	5,031
Equipment & Materials	-	-	206	154	-	-	-	493	853
Toiletries & Cleaning	-	5,202	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,202
Total Payments	**9,461**	**6,219**	**1,555**	**379**	**1,214**	**-**	**1,721**	**2,428**	**22,977**
EXPENSE ANALYSIS BY FUND									
Unrestricted Fund	9,461	582	-	-	1,214	-	1,721	2,428	15,406
Restricted Fund	-	5,638	1,555	379	-	-	-	-	7,572
	9,461	**6,219**	**1,555**	**379**	**1,214**	**-**	**1,721**	**2,428**	**22,977**

RESTRICTED FUNDS	At 1 Jan 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	At 31 Dec 2024 £
Flowers & Gardens	-	-	-	-
Toilets	12,797	3,607	5,638	10,766
Lake Fund	25,912	4,089	-	30,001
Aviary	9,163	11,079	1,555	18,687
Fernery	2,963	1,808	379	4,392
Lake Bridge and Mural	3,136	-	-	3,136
	53,971	**20,583**	**7,572**	**66,982**
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS				
Flowers & Gardens		8,807	9,461	
Club House		240	1,214	
Events		6,197	1,721	
General		-	2,428	
Toilets		-	582	
	54,700	**15,245**	**15,406**	**54,539**
TOTAL FUNDS AT 31 DEC 2024	**108,671**	**35,828**	**22,978**	**121,521**