Arlington Garden Association

Charity Number: 1184194

Trustees' Annual Report & Financial Statements for the Period 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

October 2026

Arlington Garden Association

Trustees' Annual Report & Financial Statements

for the Financial Period from 01-Jan-2025 to 31-Dec-2025

Reference & Administration Details

Charity Details:

Name(s): **Arlington Garden Association**

Number: **1184194**

Address: **c/o Welford House, 51 Bristol Road, Keynsham, BS31 2BP**

Names of the Charity Trustees who Manage the Charity

Caroline Dix	Chair of Trustees
Richard Barnes	Trustee
Keith Rodgerson	Trustee
Nicholas Sargent	Trustee

Trustees who served during the year and resigned before approval of this report

Nil

Names & Addresses of Advisors

Role	Name	Address
Bank	Lloyds Bank	Blackheath, London
Independent Examiner	Nil	

Names of Senior Staff with Delegated Responsibilities

Name	Role
Nil	

Structure, Governance & Management

Description of the Charity's Trusts

Type of Governing Document:

Constitution

How the Charity is Constituted:

Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Trustee Selection Methods:

Informal Selection: volunteer trustees from the local community who have an interest in meeting the objects of the Charity. Volunteers who meet specific gaps in knowledge and expertise of existing trustees are particularly sought.

How New Trustees are Inducted and Trained:

All new Trustees will be provided with a copy of the Constitution, the most recent Trustees' Annual Report & Financial Statements and minutes of recent Trustees meetings.

Charity Commission Documentation will also be provided to ensure the role and responsibility of the Trustee is fully understood.

Additional Governance Issues

Nil.

Objects

Arlington Garden Association exists to promote the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment of Arlington Garden for the benefit of the local community and visitors through trustee led volunteer maintenance sessions and fundraising for restoration activity.

In addition the Association seeks to provide facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation for the public benefit by providing an area for use as a community garden for individuals in Clifton East, Bristol and the surrounding area, who have need of such facilities with the object of improving the condition of life of the local community.

The Association provides opportunities for community garden volunteers to learn about horticulture in and around the community garden.

Statutory Declaration on Public Benefit

The trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when planning and carrying out the charity's activities. The trustees believe that Arlington Garden provides significant public benefit by maintaining a freely accessible green space for local residents and visitors. The garden provides opportunities for recreation, relaxation, volunteering, social interaction, access to nature and community-led environmental improvement.

Executive Summary

8 formal volunteering sessions have taken place over the course of 2025, as well as a community family BBQ as our annual fundraising event, the garden also took part in Clifton Open Gardens event, we held the annual Community Carols in the Garden supported by St Pauls Church and we had a combined Christmas Social with the local residents association, Oakfield Residents Association (ORA). The volunteer sessions were all organised to meet the objectives of the charity; that is to improve the state of Arlington Garden as a community space for leisure and recreation of local residents and visitors.

Activities, Achievements & Performance

2025 at a glance

- 8 organised volunteer sessions held
- 4-6 community volunteers at most sessions
- Over £280 spent on new planting, plus donated plants received
- £1,218.30 raised through fundraising and donations
- Participation in Clifton Open Gardens
- Community BBQ, Community Carols and Christmas social delivered
- £10,925 CIL funding received towards path and entrance improvements
- Public access maintained throughout the year

Objectives of the charity.

During 2025 the Association set out to continue delivering iterative improvements in the state of the Garden. in order to provide improving quality recreation and leisure space for the local community in a garden context; this is particularly important as many local residents do not have access to their own garden. The Garden had not been formally maintained for over 75 years (since WW2 through to 2016) and, although foreboding at times, it has remained accessible to the public for this period. Before Arlington Garden Association commenced its work in the garden it had become a spot for flytipping, recreational drug users and rough sleepers to the concern of local residents; no other organisation is currently undertaking any maintenance of the Garden.

In addition, the Association has sought to undertake fundraising events in order to increase available funding to support our objectives. The fundraising activity enables the Association to purchase plants and tools for use in the Garden to enable us to continue to make improvements.

Activities undertaken. The Garden improvements are undertaken through volunteer sessions usually held once a month on the site (weather dependent). Each volunteer session lasts for c. 1 hour, although many volunteers choose to give more of their time with the average volunteer staying for 90minutes.

The iterative improvements over 2025 have been reduced due to the amount of improvements made in previous years that require time to mature. We continue to seed the grassed area to help maintain and thicken the grass under the shade of the trees. Over £280 worth of new plants were planted in the garden over the course of the year, as well as a number of donated plants, to help improve the quality of the garden.

The garden took part in the Clifton Open Garden event, this raised over £560 as a share of ticket sales for the overarching event.

The small oak sapling donated in 2021 by Bristol Tree Forum continues to grow and mature in a pot to enable it to get to a size suitable for planning out in the garden.

Away from specific charitable activity we were able to offer use of the Garden to support the local Church to hold some events in the garden, including a carols by candlelight event for the local residents. We additionally participated in a Christmas community social event with the local residents association, ORA.

All Charity activity took place on the Garden site at Arlington Villas with the exception of the combined local event, where another local charity premises was used.

Outcomes. The activity has enabled a recreation and leisure space within this densely populated residential area in the context of a garden space. The Garden is open for the public benefit at all times, although unlit in hours of darkness. The fundraising events are held over the summer months to enable maximum participation and have raised a sum of money to enable the Association to undertake further meaningful work in the next period. The garden having open space and a grassed area continues to be beneficial for the local community as most properties in the vicinity are in flats and have no outside space.

Fundraising. £150 was raised in membership donations, with thanks to local residents. Participation in Clifton Open Gardens weekend, alongside a community family BBQ were our fundraising activities undertaken this year. Through these events we raised £568 and £500.30 respectively. The Community BBQ Party was a great success, with huge thanks to the large number of local business who supported the endeavour, and to RARA and ORA for their donations to help the association cover costs. £500.30 was raised in total in support of the garden of which £250 was from the University of Bristol community fund and £100 was from Richmond Area Residents Association under the agreement on their closure.

Grants Awarded. Arlington Garden Association was awarded Community Infrastructure Levy funding for path and entrance improvements in 2022 after an application was made on its behalf by the local residents' association (Oakfield Residents' Association). The monies for this will not be given directly to the garden within this financial year and whilst works were due to be completed by Bristol Parks in 23/24 the project did not make the list to be completed within their financial year, nor in 24/25. Following consultation with the Council, £10,925 was transferred to Arlington Garden Association to enable progress to be made against

the grant application in the summer of 2025, after the Council removed some administration fees from the total grant value. Any funding requirement in addition to the CIL award to deliver the works will be required to be provided by the Association.

Contributions of Volunteers. Between 2 and 4 of the trustees lead each volunteer session with usual attendance from the local community of about 4-6 additional volunteers ranging in age from 30-80, in addition to the trustees. Each session is programmed for 60 minutes, although the majority of volunteers will attend for at least 90minutes, with some staying for up to 120 mins. These volunteers undertake gardening activity.

In addition volunteers have spent a cumulative 5-10 hours a month undertaking additional gardening activity in the Garden to ensure all required work is carried out. Approximately 30 hours have again been spent by trustees on a voluntary basis undertaking the administration requirements of the Charity, this has been focussed around developing the paperwork to support an application for the Garden to become a Town Green and collecting witness statements to support this application; this remains ongoing activity. This application has been finally been able to progress with thanks to Pro Bono support from Mitchelmore's Solicitors in Bristol.

The beneficiaries of the Associations activities are all those who walk by, or chose to spend time in the Garden to relax or play in; in the main this will be local residents and those who are working locally, and will be of all ages. Previous fundraising events attract a wider participation from local residents, and Clifton Green Squares and Secret Gardens have a wider audience, attracting visitors from across Bristol and beyond.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The trustees have considered the principal risks facing the charity. These include reduced volunteer participation, lower than expected fundraising income, delays to externally funded improvement works and matters affecting the safe use and enjoyment of the garden.

The charity does not own the land on which the garden is situated and, despite reasonable enquiries, ownership has not been established. The trustees therefore have limited ability to influence matters relating to the wider management of the site, including mature trees and other infrastructure. Severe weather, tree failure or other unforeseen events could adversely affect access to the garden and the charity's ability to deliver its activities. The trustees seek to mitigate these risks through regular monitoring of the site, engagement with relevant public bodies and prudent management of the charity's resources.

Plans for 2026

During 2026 the Association intends to:

- continue monthly volunteer maintenance sessions;
- progress delivery of the Community Infrastructure Levy funded path and entrance improvement works;
- undertake fundraising activities sufficient to support routine maintenance and improvement of the garden;
- continue work associated with the Town Green registration application;
- promote community involvement through volunteering and social events.

Financial Review

Statement of the Charity's Policy on Reserves

The trustees do not currently maintain a target level of unrestricted reserves. The charity's activities are planned according to available income and expected expenditure. Restricted grant funds are held separately and may only be applied for the purposes specified by the funder.

Details of Any Funds Materially in Deficit

The Trustees declare that the charity had no funds which were materially in deficit at the date of the statement of assets & liabilities.

State of the Charity's Finances

The Associations main income source is from annual fundraising events, and then through memberships and donations by local residents and business who support the aims.

The main areas of expenditure are on waste removal, gardening tools and plants/trees/seed used within the Garden by volunteers.

Restricted Funds

The Community Infrastructure Levy grant that has been made by Bristol City Council was transferred to the Charity within this financial year, these are restricted funds and may only be used for the purposes of the grant. At 31 December 2025 these funds remained unspent pending appointment of contractors and completion of the works.

Designated Funds

Nil.

Particulars of Any Outstanding Guarantee Given by the Charity

The Trustees declare that the charity has given no guarantee where potential liability is outstanding at the date of the statement of assets & liabilities.

Particulars of Any Outstanding Debt

The Trustees declare that the charity has no outstanding debts which are secured by an express charge on any of the assets of the charity at the date of the statement of assets & liabilities.

Declaration

The Trustees declare that they have approved the above report on 29 Oct 26 and authorised that it be signed on their behalf.

Signed on behalf of the trustees:



Caroline Dix
Chair of Trustees

Arlington Garden Association

Registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation, No: 1184194

Receipts & Payments Accounts
For the Financial Year Ending
31 December 2025

Prepared May 2025

Statement of Financial Activity, Financial Year Ended 31-Dec-25

	Current Financial Year,			*Last Year*
	Unrestr'd	*Restricted*	*Total*	*Total*
INCOMING RESOURCES	£	£	£	£
Donations & legacies	629		629	*0*
Charitable activities	0	11,425	11,425	*0*
Other trading activities	1,030		1,030	*1,030*
Investments	0		0	*0*
Separate material items of interest	0		0	
Other	0	0	0	*0*
TOTAL INCOME	**1,659**	**11,425**	**13,084**	***1,030***
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Raising funds	-399	0	-399	*0*
Charitable activities	-563	0	-563	*0*
Support costs	-102		-102	*-204*
Separate material items of interest	0		0	
Other	-52	0	-52	*0*
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	**-1,117**	**0**	**-1,117**	***-204***
Net income-expenditure *before gains /losses on investments*	**542**	**11,425**	**11,967**	***826***
Net gains/losses on investments	0	0	0	*0*
NET INCOME-EXPEDITURE	**542**	**11,425**	**11,967**	***826***
Extraordinary Items	0	0	0	*0*
Transfers Between Funds	0	0	0	*0*
Other recognised gains/losses	0	0	0	*0*
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	**542**	**11,425**	**11,967**	***826***

Reconciliation of Net Funds, Financial Year To 31-Dec-25

	Current Financial Year,			*Last Year*
	Unrestr'd	*Restricted*	*Total*	*Total*
Net Funds Brought Forward	4,057	-	4,057	***4,057***
Movement After Transfers	542	11,425	11,967	***0***
Total Funds Carried Forward	**4,599**	**11,425**	**16,024**	***4,057***

Movements in Funds for the Financial Period To 31-Dec-25

Cash Funds	Bt'Fwd at 01-Jan-25	Receipts in Period	Payments in Period	Transfers in Period	Cd'Fwd at 31-Dec-25
Cash at Bank & in Hand					
Bank, Current Account	3,957	12,900	-1,065	0	**15,793**
Cash Account	0	184	0	0	**184**
PayPal Account	0	0	0	0	**0**
Bank, Deposit Account	0	0	0	0	**0**
Total Cash Funds	**3,957**	13,084	-1,065	0	**15,977**
Debtors *{Unreconciled Income}*	0				**0**
Creditors *{Unreconciled Expenditure}*	0				**0**
Net Cash Funds	**3,957**				**15,977**

Non-Cash Funds	Bt'Fwd at 01-Jan-19	Additions in Period	Disposals in Period	Depr/Revals in Period	Cd'Fwd at 31-Dec-19
Assets	100	142		-52	**190**
Investments	0	0	0	0	**0**
Total Non-Cash Funds	**100**	**142**	**0**	**-52**	**190**
Total Funds ***(Net)***	**4,057**				**16,167**

Balance Sheet as at 31-Dec-25

	Current Financial Year,			*Last Year*
Assets	Unrestr'd	Restricted	Total £	*Total £*
Tangible assets	190	0	**190**	*100*
Other assets				
Stocks	0	0	**0**	*0*
Investments	0	0	**0**	*0*
Total Non-Cash Assets	190	0	**190**	*100*
Cash				
Cash at bank and in hand	4,552	22,850	**27,402**	*3,957*
Debtors	0	0	**0**	*0*
Creditors *{Due within one yr}*	0	0	**0**	*0*
Net Cash	4,552	22,850	**27,402**	*3,957*
Total assets less current liabilities	4,742	22,850	**27,592**	*4,057*
Total Fixed Assets	190	0	190	*100*
Total Current Assets	4,552	22,850	27,402	*3,957*
Net Current Assets	4,552	22,850	27,402	*3,957*

Allocation of Funds

General Fund	**4,742**			***4,057***
Net Payments in Advance	**0**			***0***
Designated Funds	**0**			***0***
Total Unrestricted Funds			**4,742**	***4,057***
Restricted Funds				
Total Restricted Funds			**11,425**	***0***
Total Funds			**16,167**	***4,057***

Money Owed to the Charity *{Other Monetary Assets}*

Gift Aid claim	0	***0***
Other	0	***0***
	0	***0***

Money Owed by the Charity *{Liabilities}*

Independent Examination Fee	0	***0***
Other	0	***0***
	0	***0***

Current Funds	**16,167**	***4,057***