CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1st April 2025 Period start date 31st March 2026 Period end date

Charity name: Ramsey Abbey Walled Garden CIO

Charity registration number: 1202958

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	(1) The primary aim is the preservation, restoration, maintenance, renovation, enhancement, enrichment, regeneration and development as necessary or advisable of the Walled Garden, its Grade 2 listed walls, arches and features of historical or architectural interest located in the grounds of Abbey College. (2) The Advancement of education among the general public in the historical and architectural value of the Walled Garden and in general horticulture skills.
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	Volunteers work in the garden keeping it tidy, managing planting, looking after trees and general gardening tasks. The garden is open weekend afternoons from 1st April to 31st October. We welcome groups by appointment. The garden is used weekly to deliver adult education courses awarding City and Guilds level 1 and 2 horticultural skills, delivered by Cambridgeshire Adult Skills. The garden fabric is maintained completing regular checks and any restitution on the electricity supply, water supply etc. Popular events such as yarn bombing and an Apple Day (in conjunction with Ramsey Rural Museum and the Wildlife Trust) were great successes. Visitor numbers increase year on year rising to about 2800 last year.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The Trustees can confirm that we have taken note of the guidance on public benefit.

Additional information (optional)
You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	

Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	The garden is maintain entirely by volunteers and we have a core team of 15 to 20 volunteers plus our trustees. The project would not function without volunteers.
Other		

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	The main achievements in the year in question include: 1.Keeping the garden in a good condition, despite some difficult weather; 2.Increasing our visitor numbers and getting very positive feedback about the garden from our visitors. The number of people who visit regularly indicate its value for visitors. 3.in addition to the regular openings we held a very popular yarn bombing weekend which also gives a focus for many of the knitting groups in the town. An Apple Day held in October organised jointly with the Wildlife Trust and Ramsey Rural Museum was a great success, attracted many visitors and was highly praised as a successful event which included activities for children. 4. Cambridgeshire Adult Skills continue to deliver City and Guilds horticultural skills courses which are very popular with the learners, many of whom go on to garden related employment. The learning environment in our peaceful garden and beautiful greenhouse has helped some learners who has previously struggled in life. 5. Having created and continuing to develop a garden which is greatly valued by our local community. We maintain free entry so everyone can benefit.

		6. We have updated policies including safeguarding, reserves policy, tidied up our record keeping.

Additional information (optional)
You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	Our financial situation remains strong due to our reserves (which were from the legacy of the late John Drake). Our accounts showed a deficit over this accounting period as the Trustees took the decision to spend some money on improving the central area of the greenhouse.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	• To ensure continuity of the project , if for any reason, income fell in one year. Keep a reserve of £12,000 equivalent to one year's income; • To cover emergencies. This could include repairs to the greenhouse which can be of the order of a small number of £1000's. More significantly, it is possible that the walls to the garden could need repair. Insurance may cover both of these eventualities but we feel it is better to have reserves available should the repairs not be covered. An estimate for rebuilding all the walls is ca £300,000. We consider this is unlikely ever to happen and that £200,000 is sufficient to keep in reserve for this and other possible emergencies which could not be covered by our annual income. • To generate income for the garden
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£200,000
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	

Additional information (optional)
You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	Our main source of funds are: Selling produce, preserves and plants in the garden; Donations from garden visitors and other individuals Payments from group visits to the garden Income from the garden used for skills training

Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	
Other		

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Charity Commission Constitution
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	CIO
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	No formal recruitment process. We have 6 trustees.

Additional information (optional)
You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Ramsey Abbey Walled Garden CIO
Other name the charity uses	Ramsey Walled Garden
Registered charity number	1202957
Charity's principal address	10 Oates Way Ramsey Huntingdon PE26 1UX
	Garden is located 450m from Ramsey Rural Museum Wood Lane Ramsey PE26 2XD

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	Christopher Vane Percy	Chair		
2	Mark Wilkinson	Secretary		
3	Jane Sills	Treasurer		
4	Valentina Steel			
5	Esmond Edwards			
6	Diana Yakeley			
7	Philip Whaites			
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Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	
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

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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)	Jane Sills	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Treasurer	
Date	28/9/2026	