THE WONKY GARDEN

Charity number 1204849

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the year ending 31 March 2026

gmcas Greater Merseyside Community Accountancy Service

THE WONKY GARDEN

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the year ending 31 March 2026

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Prepared by the Greater Merseyside Community Accountancy Service

THE WONKY GARDEN

Trustees' report

The Trustees during the year were:

Name	Position
Angela Hayler	Trustee
Emily Allen	Trustee

Method of appointment

Election annually by AGM, or interim appointment by trustees until next AGM.

Principal address

Ditton Community Centre
Dundalk Road
Widnes
WA8 8DF

Bankers

Lloyds Bank plc
23-24 Albert Square
Widnes
Cheshire
WA8 6JW

Governing document

CiO Registered 21st September 2023

Objects of the organisation

To advance the education of the public in horticulture and floriculture and in the conservation of the environment. To provide or assit in the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disability, financial hardship or social circumstances with the object of improving their conditions of life.

Independent examiner

on behalf of:

Greater Merseyside Community Accountancy Service

St Marie's
Lugsdale Road
Widnes
WA8 6DB

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Trustees' report continued

The Trustees of The Wonky Garden CIO present their annual report and accounts for the year ended 31st March

All Trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no salary from the charity.

Legal Structure/Governance

The Wonky Garden is registered at Ditton Community Centre, Dundalk Road, Widnes, WA8 8DF.
Decisions are taken at a meeting or through written communication including suitable electronic means. The charity is governed by its constitution and is incorporated as a CIO. has appropriate Public, Employer, Trustee and Property insurance in place to insure its activities, visitors, property and assets.
The Chair manages the overall strategy of the Charity with the support of the Trustees. In addition, there are approximately 40 volunteers attending each week to undertake flexible roles to support its aims and objectives. The Trustees discuss day to day and project initiatives with volunteers to seek their input and inclusion.
The role of the Trustees is to ensure that:

- The aims, purpose and vision for The Wonky Garden are clear and agreed in addition to ensuring that the charity is managed with integrity, ethical principles and compliance with any appropriate legal, policy or funding requirements. The Trustees are accountable for finance, fundraising, developing and maintaining relationships within the community network, developing and refining activities against feedback from volunteers and the community.
- Actions are aligned to the constitution and are compliant with policies, procedures and any legal requirements.
- All money and resources are responsibly and properly used, reported (including other bodies as required) managed and accounted for. All funding and donations are used to run the project, no individual benefits financially from its work.
- Appropriate policies and procedures are in place for volunteers.

Operation, Objectives and Achievements

<u>The charity's objectives are:</u>

- To advance the education of the public in horticulture and floriculture and in the conservation of the environment.
- To provide or assist in the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disability, financial hardship or social circumstances with the object of improving their conditions of life.

The charity operates at its registered address, it is a space of approximately an acre with a 10-year lease acquired from Halton Borough Council. The land wraps around a vibrant community centre and comprises of an orchard, herbaceous/therapy garden with greenhouse and potting shed, children's garden, allotment/cut flower garden and activity yard with greenhouse, workshop, cut flower beds and a 'Friendship Garden'. The charity has a second space, a small community garden comprising mixed herbaceous and allotment planting, seating, storage, greenhouse and shed.
The charity focusses on the following areas:

- Continual development and maintenance of a much-loved community green space for all to enjoy, focussing on enhancing the environment, wildlife and biodiversity using sustainable methods. The gardens are open all year.
- The provision of nature-based therapy; food education; best practice low carbon/wildlife friendly gardening; development of life skills through garden and DIY activities based around horticulture, growing edibles and cut flowers.
- Providing space and activities for a diverse range of groups within the community network on a one-off or regular basis.
- Supporting food poverty through gifting 80% of the produce, cut flowers and plants grown.
- Leading a community growing network, supporting with planning and working together to help build skills and confidence and providing a central hub to grow and learn together. These groups take their learnings back to their own green space to grow and enjoy.

- As part of a local hedgehog rescue/treatment and release group the charity works together with them to educate the local community, encouraging them to create biodiverse and hedgehog friendly habitats. The garden is a key release site given the richness of the location including the adjacent parkland. The charity provides supplementary food during seasonal challenges and builds hedgehog houses/feed stations to sell and raise funds.
- Providing open days to the community and beyond through participation in the National Garden Scheme. The objective for these days is to raise funds for the National Garden Scheme Charity (Hospice UK, Parkinson's, Marie Curie, McMillan Cancer Support, Carers Trust) to celebrate achievements, invite feedback and ideas to further support the community and develop the space. Additional funds raised by the charity on these days is generally allocated to one or more of the groups within their network that need support.

- Supporting a church group of pensioners that have known each other for most of their lives, aged between late 80s and early 90s with lunches, flowers and plants. Without the charity's support this group would not be able to meet due to transport and frailty challenges.

- Supporting and including volunteers, focussing on their physical and mental wellbeing in addition to provide opportunities to learn new skills and involvement in activities being provided to other groups and participation in open days. The charity now has a social team focussing on organising events throughout the year for volunteers to thank them and support those that experience loneliness and isolation.

The charity continues to benefit from funding and support from a number of different sources in addition to fundraising to support its activities.

How the charity supports the natural environment:

The charity focuses on minimising impacts on the environment, focussing on biodiversity and smart low carbon practices including a permaculture approach to growing food and flowers. For example; increasing stock through growing from seed/division and propagation methods, rainwater harvesting, recycling of garden materials, using perennial planting vs annual planting or bedding, no chemicals, peat free composting and creating its own compost. The gardens have areas dedicated to wildlife habitats with hedgehog houses, bird boxes, pond and bug houses.

In addition to composting garden waste (5 cubic metre bins of regular and 3 of leaf mould), the charity also has a Community Composting initiative, whereby volunteers, Community Centre workers and their families bring kitchen waste and deposit into 3 'hot boxes'.

The charity has approximately 5000L rainwater harvesting capacity.

Examples of groups benefiting from activities or the provision of produce/flowers/plants:

Examples of groups benefiting from activities or the provision of produce/flowers/plants:

Local primary schools/SEND students	Medaille Hostel for Victims of Modern Slavery
Riverside Tech Carpentry/General Construction SEND students	Frank Street Community Garden
Riverside Tech Gardening 101 SEND students	Growing Health Community Garden
Children's Disabled Services	Halton & St Helens Voluntary Community Action
Ditton Family Hub	Bereavement Café
St Marks and Holy Family Churches	Dementia Cafe
Halton Community Centres	Girl Guides
Halton Supported Housing	St Marks Church Group
Halton Carers	Madeline Mckenna Care Home
Halton Cancer Centre	Crossley Place Women's (mental health) Residential Hospital
Halton Haven Hospice	Halton Hospital
Halton Hospital	Catalyst Museum
Ormiston Bolingbrook Academy	Widnes Methodist Church
Halton Youth Justice Team	

How the charity's volunteers have benefitted:

- Improved physical and mental health.
- Learning new skills.
- Making new friends – both within the group and because of network signposting to other groups and activities.
- Reduced loneliness and isolation and bereavement support

The charity continues to nurture strong relationships with local businesses, for example:

- Local Supermarket Community Champions
- Wickes
- Travis Perkins Builders Merchants
- Notcutts Rivendell Garden Centre (the charity is their community network champion, liaising with other groups to ensure any charitable offerings are distributed across Halton)
- Cronton Garden Centre
- Halton Borough Council
- Halton Housing
- Sustainable Woodchip
- Hutchinson Engineering
- Kindling Farm

The charity is also an Affiliate of the Royal Horticultural Society and is identified as a 'Outstanding/Garden of Distinction'. It is also part of the National Garden Scheme (the charity opens 2-3 times each year to support NGS.

During the last year, the charity has been interviewed by BBC Radio Merseyside and BBC North West in addition to BBC Gardeners World re-running previous filming as a tribute to the charity winning The Kings Award for Voluntary Services.

The charity has delivered/facilitated the following:

- Approximately 300 group activities
- Gifted 80% of food to Foodbank
- Supported Riverside Technology SEND Café with their kitchen refurbishment campaign and donated canvas boards of wildlife photographed in the garden
- Flower vases for various local community group activities
- Planted a perennial garden boarder at Crossley Place Women's Hospital
- Monthly flower vases and plants to the local Bereavement and Dementia Cafés
- Weekly Community Centre flowers
- Approximately 1000 bouquets and plants have been gifted to individuals through the charity's local network
- Gifted wildlife friendly plants and bulbs its community growing network group
- Co-ordinated distribution of sacks of bulb sets on behalf of Notcutts Garden Centre to the community
- Delivered educational workshops and tours to the community growing network and visiting groups
- Created two show gardens using plants gifted by Project Giving Back/Chelsea Flower Show
- Increased food/flower growing capacity by 132 square metres
- Acted in an advisory capacity to support new community groups, allotments and Halton Industrial Estate Biodiversity Project

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Independent examiner's report on the accounts of THE WONKY GARDEN for the year ending 31 March 2026

I report on the accounts of the charity set out on pages 8 to 11

Respective responsibilities of the Management Committee and the examiner
As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act).

It is my responsibility to:

- ❑ examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- ❑ to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioner under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act: and
- ❑ to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent examiner's report
My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:

- ❑ to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
- ❑ to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act

have not been met; or

2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Jane Williams
MAAT
Greater Merseyside Community Accountancy Service
St Marie's
Lugsdale Road
Widnes
WA8 6DB

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Statement of Financial Activities

for the year ending 31 March 2026

	Notes	2026 Unrestricted funds £	2026 Restricted funds £	2026 Total funds £	2025 Total funds £
Receipts					
Grants and donations	(2)	22,172	31,271	53,443	34,098
Bank Interest received		105	-	105	156
Other Income		-	-	-	-
Total receipts		22,277	31,271	53,548	34,254
Payments					
Materials and Capital Assets		1,561	7,199	8,760	11,803
Activities		-	3,073	3,073	4,067
Office Costs		18,766	15,262	34,028	14,967
Professional fees		-	-	-	1,461
Depreciation of charity assets		800	-	800	10,884
Governance Costs					
Independent Examination		135	-	135	135
Total payments		21,262	25,534	46,796	43,317
Net receipts / (payments)		1,015	5,737	6,752	(9,063)
Transfers between funds		(2,828)	2,828	-	-
Cash fund balances brought forward		15,124	13,211	28,335	37,398
Cash fund balances carried forward		13,311	21,776	35,087	28,335

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Balance sheet

as at 31 March 2026

	2026 Unrestricted	2026 Restricted	2026 Total	2025 Total
	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets				
Tangible Assets	-	10,647	10,647	10,642
Total fixed assets	-	10,647	10,647	10,642
Current Assets				
Debtors and prepayments	-	-	-	-
Cash at bank and in hand	13,446	11,129	24,575	17,828
Total current assets	13,446	11,129	24,575	17,828
Current liabilities: amounts falling due within one year				
Creditors and accruals	135	-	135	135
Total current liabilities	135	-	135	135
Net current assets / (liabilities)	13,311	11,129	24,440	17,693
Total assets less current liabilities	13,311	21,776	35,087	28,335
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	-			
Net assets	13,311	21,776	35,087	28,335
Funds				
Restricted Funds		21,776	21,776	13,211
Unrestricted funds	13,311		13,311	15,124
Total Funds	13,311	21,776	35,087	28,335

The financial statements were approved at a meeting of the trustees held on and signed on its behalf by:

4/11/26

Angela Hayler
Trustee

3/11/26

Millie Allen
Trustee

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Notes to the accounts

for the year ending 31 March 2026

1 Accounting Policies

a Basis of accounting

The Trustees have taken advantage of section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and have prepared the accounts on a receipts and payments basis.

b Taxation

As a registered charity the organisation benefits from rates relief and is generally exempt from income tax and capital gains tax but not from VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the cost of those items to which it relates.

c Fund accounting

Funds held by the charity are either:

Unrestricted general funds

These are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds

These are funds that can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Designated funds

These are funds set aside by the trustees out of unrestricted general funds for specific future purposes or projects.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the accounts.

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Notes to the accounts continued

for the year ending 31 March 2026

2 Grants and Donations

	2026 Unrestricted funds £	2026 Restricted funds £	2026 Total funds £	2025 Total funds £
Co-Op	-	2,077	2,077	500
Halton Borough Council: HSF	-	2,000	2,000	5,000
Notcutts	4,474	-	4,474	5,548
The National Lottery	-	9,690	9,690	17,380
National Garden Scheme	-	1,140	1,140	2,730
UK SPF Fund	-	-	-	1,700
Masons	-	-	-	150
The Talent Fund	-	5,000	5,000	-
Frances Hay Foundation	-	4,000	4,000	-
John Lennon Airport	-	2,700	2,700	-
Redrow	-	1,500	1,500	-
Halton Housing	-	665	665	-
Steve Morgan Foundation	-	2,499	2,499	-
Liberate	500	-	500	-
Chapter Royal Charity	200	-	200	-
Hutchinson Engineering	1,000	-	1,000	-
A J Bell	1,000	-	1,000	-
Donations	14,998	-	14,998	1,090
	22,172	31,271	53,443	34,098

3 Trustee remuneration and expenses

	£	£
Total amount paid	-	-

No trustees received any expenses during the period.

4 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions to report during the accounting period.