

BALLYMENA GARDEN CLUB

Northern Ireland Charity Number: 103451

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

01 January 2022 to 31 December 2022

Contact address

Mr Hugh Keery
30 Ballygarvey Road
Ballymena
Co Antrim
BT43 7HB

Charity trustees

Mrs Elizabeth Boyd, Mrs Adeline Cherry, Mrs Irene Cumming BEM, Mr Hugh Keery, Mrs Elma Holdstock, Mrs Linda Kilpatrick, Mrs Paddy Loughridge, Mrs Rosslind McGookin, Mrs Anne Orr, Mrs Judith Orr, Mr Cecil Quinn (Chairman), Mrs Pamela Reade, Mr Ian Scroggy, Mrs Gladys Smyth OBE.

Trustees have had regard to the Commission's Public Benefit requirement statutory guidance when devising a programme of activities which have helped to achieve the Club's purposes and provide a benefit to the beneficiaries.

Governing document

The Club is governed by its Constitution as adopted on 2nd February 2009 by members in Annual General Meeting.

Purposes

The Club is established to:

1. Advance education and good practice in horticulture in Ballymena and the surrounding area (hereafter called the 'the area of benefit') and to promote the improvement of horticulture by the holding of horticultural shows, competitions and meetings, lectures, discussions and demonstrations; and
2. To provide facilities in the area of benefit to 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.

Main activities in support of the Club's purposes

July: Visit to Dr Tricia & Dr Mike Colohan's garden in Ballycastle

This was the first opportunity for members to meet as a group since the outbreak of COVID-19 in March 2020. Members appreciated the educational and social aspects of the visit.

August: Visit to James Burnside's garden in Upperlands

As a floral art speaker, judge and demonstrator, James pointed out that the plants in his garden provide the material for his floral art work.

October: Annual General Meeting followed by a talk "Japanese Gardens"; a talk by Ciaran Mulholland, a lecturer at Greenmount College who contrasted the Japanese style of garden design with the Western European style. A plant and book sale was well supported by attendees.

November: "Succession Gardening for a Year-round Garden"; a talk by Adrian Walsh who was "BBC Gardener of the Year" in 2001. Adrian demonstrated by PowerPoint slides of his garden that, with some forethought, one could provide something of interest in every month of the year.

December: Christmas social event held in Ballymena Bowling Club premises. A light supper was followed by musical items provided by the Loughridge family

How COVID-19 has affected the operation and activities of the Club

Taking into account the age profile of members, no group meetings were organised in the winter and spring of 2022 due to the prevalence of COVID-19. To keep members updated a Winter Newsletter was issued in February 2022.

After a long break since the outbreak of COVID-19 in March 2020 we were uncertain as to the recovery of membership. Given the age profile of the membership it transpired that we lost a few senior members during this period but were delighted to welcome nine new members.

How activities have provided a benefit to its beneficiaries

(The beneficiaries are members of the Club and their friends, together with members of the general public who attend, read or hear about the Club's public events such as flower shows and public lectures.)

The varied programme of activities has provided a range of educational and social benefits to members, their friends and the general public.

The programme of talks in October and November has enhanced members' horticultural knowledge which hopefully will translate into general environmental improvements in private and public spaces. Non-members may attend talks on payment of a small charge.

Meetings enable members to socialise with each other and with the public. This is especially important in a Club where the majority of members are seniors, some of whom have mobility problems or who are socially isolated through lack of public transport or inability to drive.

Publicity obtained through the local press and radio announcements for the Club's events helps to raise the public profile of the Club.

Club members utilise their horticultural knowledge to contribute as members or officials of local community groups.

Club members occasionally are invited to speak on horticultural topics to community groups.

The Club is represented on the Broughshane and District Community Association's committee through which it can interact with the other 34 affiliated groups in the catchment area. It also participates along with other affiliated groups in community initiatives and events.

Private benefit incidental to public benefit

There has been no private benefit incidental to the provision of public benefit.

Review of the Club's financial position as at 31st December 2022

As Club's accounts for the period demonstrate, sufficient reserves exist to meet anticipated regular expenditure. No funds held by Ballymena Garden Club were materially in deficit at the end of the year.

Signed

Date

Cecil Quinn
Cecil Quinn (Chairman)

23/01/2023

Hugh Keery
Hugh Keery (Treasurer)

23/01/2023