



# Annual Report & Accounts 2023







# Chairman's introduction

2023 saw the National Garden Scheme achieve a significant milestone in that for the first time in the charity's near-one hundred year history the gardens raised a total of more than £4 million. This was achieved thanks to the hard work and commitment of our garden owners and volunteers and, on behalf of all the Trustees, I would like to extend our sincere thanks to them all at the start of this Annual Report.

As detailed in Section 6 of the report, the increased level of garden income underpinned record donations to our beneficiaries which were distributed before the end of 2023 without any payments being carried over for distribution in the following year, as has been necessary in the previous two years.

The level of the donations emphasises our charity's ongoing, long-term commitment to our six major nursing and health beneficiaries, including our founder, the Queen's Nursing Institute. Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic and ever since, the contribution of these charities to the national health and social care system has been increasingly significant, so we are proud to continue our charity's support.

We also extended our Gardens and Health programme in 2023. In addition to our annual donations to Horatio's Garden, Maggie's and the Army Benevolent Fund, the Trustees agreed donations to Mencap, Sue Ryder and Thrive for specific garden projects that each charity will carry out. Since its inception in 2016 with the publication of the King's Fund report Gardens and Health, commissioned by the National Garden Scheme, we have donated nearly £2.3 million to different charities under this programme.

We continue with our annual donations to charities which support or train gardeners and we are very pleased to make the significant contribution to the gardening and horticultural industry which this involves. As well as our ongoing support for Perennial, one of the National Garden Scheme's most long-standing beneficiaries, we make a major contribution to English Heritage's Historic and Botanic Garden Training Programme and to the Professional Gardener's Trust, as well as funding individual apprentices at the Garden Museum and the National Botanic Garden, Wales.

The fourth area of the National Garden Scheme's charitable donations is our Community Garden Grants programme which continues to grow impressively. After an unprecedented number of applications from all over the England, Wales and Northern Ireland, the Trustees agreed to donate a total of £260,000 to fund 86 different projects. This brings the total number of community gardens supported to nearly 300, facilitating their unique combination of diversity and inclusion to communities all



over England, Wales and Northern Ireland. In many cases the projects introduce people to both gardening and to the National Garden Scheme and provide a welcome facility or refuge for many who otherwise have no access to a garden or wider green space.

Details of all these programmes and our other activities are set out in the pages of this report. One notable achievement, which came in 2023 and which will bear fruit in 2024, was the acceptance of the National Garden Scheme to have a large show garden at the 2024 Chelsea Flower Show. This has been made possible by the generous support of Project Giving Back (<https://www.givingback.org.uk/>) which accepted our proposal in April 2023 and which will fully fund the show garden. The garden is being designed by Tom Stuart-Smith who is not only one of the most internationally renowned garden designers of today but also a long-term supporter of the National Garden Scheme who will celebrate 30 years of opening his own garden in 2024. We look forward to giving full details of the show garden and the event in our 2024 Annual Report.

Rupert Tyler  
Chairman

## Trustees' Annual Report 2023

The Trustees submit their Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2023

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*The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in Note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019).*



## 1. Objectives

The primary objective of the charity is to raise money for nursing and health charities by organising the opening of gardens of quality to the public. The charity also champions the benefits of gardens for people's health and wellbeing. The achievement of these objectives is based on long-term strategic planning against which the charity's annual performance and achievements are measured.

## 2. History

The charity was founded in 1927 by the Queen's Nursing Institute, to raise funds to support district nursing which the QNI organised and managed prior to the introduction of the National Health Service. The Trustees of the QNI invited owners of outstanding gardens to open to public visitors for one day and donate the funds raised to the Institute. In 1927 some 600 gardens opened, they all charged one shilling and they raised £8,000. As well as the fundraising success, this scheme broke new social ground in offering public access to private gardens for all in return for a modest contribution to charity. This principle of inclusiveness has been a key characteristic of the National Garden Scheme ever since.

This core activity of opening private gardens to visitors has remained largely unchanged since 1927 although the quantity and variety of gardens has grown considerably. As well as traditional large country gardens, there are now large numbers of smaller gardens opening in towns and cities or together in groups in villages. The wider variety also includes allotments, school and hospice gardens. In a remarkable testament to the loyalty of garden owners, 70 of the 600 gardens that originally opened in 1927 are still opening today.

The charity was part of the Queen's Nursing Institute from its foundation until 1980 when the QNI established the National Gardens Scheme Charitable Trust. In 2005 the charity incorporated as a company limited by guarantee; and in 2017 the charity's name became the National Garden Scheme.

Ever since its establishment, the National Garden Scheme has continued to focus its annual donations on supporting nursing and health. In recent years, it has extended the donations policy to support other charities whose work is consistent with its programme for gardens and health. The 2023 donations took the total since the charity's foundation to over £70 million.

As a result of the National Garden Scheme's long-term commitment to its nursing beneficiaries, it has become the most significant cumulative charitable supporter of nursing in the country and the single largest funder of most of the individual beneficiary charities.

## 3. Strategy

Historically the National Garden Scheme's strategy has focused on growing its core activity of increasing funds raised by garden openings and the two key strategic priorities have been to increase the number of gardens opening and to reach a wider audience in order to attract more visitors.

More recently, the charity has pioneered promoting the benefits of gardens and gardening for public and individual health and well-being (see Section 9). The Trustees believe that this is an area of growing importance and one to which the charity is uniquely positioned to contribute. This includes the charity's growing commitment to supporting community gardens with an annual programme of grants to projects all over the country (see Section 8).

The effect of the pandemic on garden opening in 2020 and 2021 and the greatly increased public awareness that resulted from our other fundraising activities led to a re-evaluation of the charity's strategic priorities. Opening gardens to visitors to raise funds remains the core activity, but broadening fundraising activities and appealing to different audiences are being developed. These considerations influenced the Strategic Plan 2021-25 which has four strategic priorities:

- Widen our public reach – as we diversify our portfolio of gardens that open we will engage with an increasingly diverse audience of people opening their gardens, visitors and other supporters.
- Increase supporter engagement and loyalty – further nurture and develop our relationships with garden owners and the growing audience of visitors and other supporters.
- Transform our digital platforms and infrastructure – our activities are increasingly reliant on our digital platforms which we will continue to develop to meet demand.
- Create financial resilience – in addition to our traditional source of income from garden openings which funds our annual donations, further develop other income streams to strengthen our resilience





*A beautiful summer evening for our annual fundraising gala at Broughton Grange raised over £41,000 for the National Garden Scheme*



## 4. Operational Activities

The National Garden Scheme continues to organise the voluntary opening of gardens throughout the counties of England and Wales and, since 2022, in Northern Ireland and the Channel Islands.

The great majority of the gardens are privately owned and not otherwise accessible to visitors. Each county has a team, led by a County Organiser, who are all volunteers. They are responsible for organising and supporting garden openings within their counties, as well as for ensuring gardens are of a standard which visitors have come to expect over many decades. The National Garden Scheme provides comprehensive public liability insurance for all gardens that open.

The head office at Hatchlands Park in Surrey coordinates the charity's activities, produces the annual guidebook (The Garden Visitor's Handbook) and promotes the garden openings through the website, social media channels and the app. Both the Handbook and website provide all relevant details of gardens opening in each county. Promotion of gardens is enhanced by county booklets (containing individual county sections from the Handbook) which are distributed in their particular area.

The charity's financial operations have changed dramatically in recent years. In 2019 the charity's garden-opening operation was cash only. Funds continue to come from gardens as cash, but also through the alternative channels of cashless payments and online bookings – both of which are now available to all gardens with the charity's online booking system and card readers. In 2023 16% of net garden income was cashless and 7% came from bookings.

## 5. Fundraising, Costs and Net Income

Funds are raised from admission charges and the sale of refreshments and plants at garden openings. Gardens open on one or more specific days, and/or by arrangement. Opening by arrangement is when a garden owner specifies that during a certain period they are available to take bookings for a private visit. These are particularly appropriate for groups but are often available for individuals or small numbers of people.

A total of 3,345 gardens (2022: 3,586) opened in the year, including 1,056 (2022: 1,121) which opened as part of a group. The gardens held a total of 5,146 openings

(2022: 5,599) and 1,011 (2022: 1,120) gardens opened by arrangement – either in addition to set open days or only by arrangement.

Despite all of the above figures decreasing from the previous year, and only a modest increase in the average admission charged, the gardens achieved a notable milestone in raising more than £4 million for the first time. Garden income totalled £4,165,116 a 8.5% increase on 2022 (£3,838,254).

This includes £39,363 (2022: £42,231) distributed by garden owners to a local charity of their choice from their total admissions income. In addition, a further £227,623 (2022: £207,087) was raised on garden open days by the sale of teas and plants organised by other charities which retained the proceeds of those sales. This has resulted in a total of £266,986 being distributed nationwide for the benefit of numerous small local charitable organisations.

The charity holds a major event fundraising event per year. In 2023 it was held at Broughton Grange in Oxfordshire in September, by kind permission of the owners who open the garden regularly for the National Garden Scheme and raised £41,000. We extend particular thanks to Blue Book, the event sponsor and to Babylonstoren which generously sponsored the wine.

The 2023 Annual Lecture at the Royal Geographical Society was given by the renowned garden writer and journalist Robin Lane Fox and raised £6,210 from ticket sales. Earlier in the year we continued the popular online talks with a further series which raised £6,000.

In July, the charity organised its fourth Great British Garden Party. This was held for the first time in 2020 in response to the restrictions of the pandemic and to enable the charity to engage with a wider audience of people, beyond its core group of supporters who open their gardens. The 2023 Great British Garden Party raised more than £21,000 including £8,500 from our event partner, Talking Tables.

The charity's unrestricted income is further increased from various sources including sponsorship. We are particularly grateful to our core sponsor Investec Wealth & Investments. Royalties and donations are received from corporate partners, notably Griffin Glasshouses. Revenue also comes from sales of the Garden Visitor's Handbook and advertising in that book and County Booklets. The sale of merchandise and many individual donations also make valuable contributions. Income from all these other sources totalled £461,230 (2022: £449,440), increasing mainly due to more advertising in County Booklets and more support from commercial partnerships. We are very grateful to all

those who support the charity in this way enabling us to donate even more of the funds raised at gardens to beneficiaries.

Total unrestricted income for the year was £4,842,467 (2022: £4,593,449)

Total costs for the year were £1,512,994 (2022: £1,356,787).

Net income available for distribution to beneficiaries for 2023 was a record total of £3,364,995 (2022: £3,258,842), an increase of 3.3%. Non-garden revenues cover a significant proportion of the operating costs and consequently increase the proportion of garden revenues in the year that are donated to beneficiaries in that year. For many years, this ratio has been in excess of 80% and in 2022 it was 82%. In 2023 the Trustees decided to use some of the accumulated unrestricted reserves brought forward and some of the accumulated funds in the Legacy Fund and this increased the ratio in 2023 to 92%. The Trustees judged it appropriate and prudent to use these funds in that way as the uncertainties resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic have now largely subsided and the balance on the Legacy Fund was in excess of that needed for the charity's development projects. It is anticipated that the ratio will fall back to normal levels in future years.

## 6. Beneficiary Policy and Distributions

The Trustees carry out a triennial review of the Beneficiary Policy, last done in 2022 and the policy is available from the Chief Executive.

During the year of 2023 the Trustees agreed payment of the following distributions to the charity's group of long-term nursing and health beneficiaries

| Charity                   | £ paid            |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Queen's Nursing Institute | £475,000          |
| Macmillan Cancer Support  | £500,000          |
| Marie Curie               | £500,000          |
| Hospice UK                | £500,000          |
| Carers Trust              | £400,000          |
| Parkinson's UK            | £400,000          |
| <b>Total</b>              | <b>£2,775,000</b> |

The Trustees continued their commitment to fund specific projects as part of the charity's wider Gardens and Health agenda and, in 2023, the following Gardens and Health payments were made:

| Charity                   | £ paid          |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Maggie's Centres          | £130,000        |
| ABF The Soldier's Charity | £100,000        |
| Horatio's Garden          | £90,000         |
| Mencap                    | £50,000         |
| Sue Ryder                 | £40,660         |
| Thrive                    | £27,300         |
| <b>Total</b>              | <b>£437,960</b> |

The Trustees continued the charity's support for those working in gardens and horticulture and the training of gardeners and, in 2023, the following donations were paid to charities in this category:

| Charity                        | £ paid          |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| English Heritage               | £150,000        |
| Perennial                      | £125,000        |
| National Botanic Garden, Wales | £26,000         |
| Professional Gardener's Trust  | £20,000         |
| Garden Museum                  | £18,000         |
| <b>Total</b>                   | <b>£339,000</b> |

In recent years there has been significant growth in the charity's support for community garden projects. In 2023 86 projects were supported with a total of £259,058 (2022: 75 projects and £183,479).

## 7. Beneficiary Activities

All beneficiary charities acknowledge the level and commitment of donations from the National Garden Scheme through their active support in a variety of ways. The primary objective is to generate greater public awareness of the charity through the beneficiaries' substantial networks. This brings increased numbers of visitors to our gardens and thereby generates more funds for us to be able to distribute to them.

Every year the beneficiary charities report to the Trustees on how donations have been used and on how they have supported the National Garden Scheme, including marketing and communications activities. Our



Impact Report 2023, which is available on our website [here](#), gives details of the National Garden Scheme's charitable impact both directly to individual beneficiaries and more generally in its campaigns and communications.

## 8. Community Gardens

The charity is increasingly committed to supporting community garden projects which provide substantial benefits to local communities throughout the country. They engage and support a richly diverse range of people, including many from ethnic minorities and others living with mental or physical challenges and disabilities, or social isolation.

Equally important, many of the community garden projects funded by the National Garden Scheme are in some of the country's most socially and economically disadvantaged areas where their impact is even greater. This is especially evident in inner-city and other urban areas where private gardens are rare and involvement with a community garden offers many people their only local access to green space and gardening.

Danny Clarke, the Black Gardener, and new National Garden Scheme Ambassador added: "It's great to see this funding going to the heart of so many community projects. These are projects that will help invigorate the people they support and introduce new audiences to the huge benefits that gardens and gardening bring to their health and wellbeing and to the environment around them."

In recent years the programme has expanded dramatically, a direct reflection of the burgeoning enthusiasm for and benefits of community gardens. The Trustees consider support for community gardens to be a significant factor in the charity's commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion as set out in the Strategic Plan 2021-25 and articulated in the *Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Statement* approved in 2021 and available to read on the website.

## 9. Gardens and Health

The National Garden Scheme has championed the benefits of access to gardens and green space since the 2016 report that it commissioned from The King's Fund: *Gardens and Health, implications for policy and practice*. More recently, the pandemic greatly heightened the importance of access to gardens and green space for everyone's health and wellbeing. Faced with prolonged isolation, anxiety and in many cases real tragedy, there was a surge in popular appreciation of access to gardens and in gardening and in public realisation of the real benefits that both offer.

In May 2023 the charity organised its annual Gardens and Health Week. As well as various activities by garden owners, the highlight of the week was once again the new edition of the hugely popular e-book, *The Little Yellow Book of Gardens and Health*, packed with stories and case studies from garden owners, garden visitors and people involved with beneficiary charities who have found solace and improved health and wellbeing by immersing themselves in nature.

During 2023 we commissioned the environmental psychologist Dr Emma White to carry out research with visitors at a group of gardens on their open days. The research fed into a report written by Dr White: [\*The Wellbeing Benefits of Visiting National Garden Scheme gardens in Winter\*](#) which was published in January 2024.

The charity's commitment to Gardens and Health is deep-rooted and varied, from the vision expressed in the current Strategic Plan 2021-25, 'That everyone has access to gardens and values the benefits to their health, wellbeing and enjoyment of life', to activities in gardens, many in partnership with beneficiary charities, and substantial financial commitment in annual donations, as set out in Section 6.

The National Garden Scheme has made a long-term commitment to make a major contribution to the funding for all 11 gardens being created by the charity Horatio's Garden for spinal injuries units in hospitals around the UK. The National Garden Scheme is now the largest single funder of Horatio's Garden and the 2023 donation was the first instalment for their Belfast garden.

The National Garden Scheme has also made donations to fund gardens for Maggie's Centres for a number of years and since 2022 has a long-term commitment to support this charity. In 2023 the donation of £100,000 contributed to the garden for the Northampton Maggie's Centre.

## 10. Sustainability and Biodiversity

The National Garden Scheme is committed to advocating and activating sustainability in all areas of our lives, but particularly in gardening. We urge everyone who opens their garden in support of the National Garden Scheme, or who visits these gardens, to garden sustainably. Sustainable gardening can make a substantial contribution to the wider challenges of climate change and biodiversity.

The Sustainability Statement mentioned below, which highlights our message to garden owners, visitors and





Skool Beanz is an after school club based on an allotment in Somerset run by the inspirational Lara Honnor. It opens for the National Garden Scheme on 15 September



other supporter sets out the following priorities:

- Promoting the move to peat-free gardening by 2025
- Avoiding the use of pesticides
- Controlling the use of water
- Avoiding the use of plastic and so minimising non-biodegradable waste
- Encouraging biodiversity

Through our network of thousands of gardens and active supporters we aim to influence as wide an audience as possible, as well as through our partnerships with the Woodland Trust and the Wildlife and Wetlands Trust.

We encourage all gardeners to be conscious of the benefits of biodiversity in their garden and to encourage it wherever possible. We encourage the planting of a diverse range of plants to enrich local habitats, and to thereby support nature conservation.

## 11. Digital Channels

Digital channels continue to grow in importance for the charity's operations, marketing and communications. In 2023 we continued a long-term programme of developments to our website, financial and operating systems, as the latter have become increasingly dependent upon our IT and digital infrastructure in recent years.

The primary digital communications channels are the charity's website, weekly e-newsletters, our social media and YouTube channels.

Looking for information about gardens was once again the primary driver of visitors to the website. The weekly e-newsletters are an increasingly popular source of information, different audiences focus on different social media channels and our library of videos, both about our gardens and created to illustrate our beneficiary partners continues to be popular with an audience with a strong international element.

The weekly e-newsletter sent out via the email marketing system, containing details of gardens opening from week to week, special events and other content, saw its subscribers decline slightly from 66,700 to 62,300, but levels of engagement and response remained high.

All of the National Garden Scheme's social media channels enjoyed growth in their audiences through the year as well as growing evidence of their positive impact on garden visitor numbers. Facebook increased followers by 6% to 43,690. X (formerly Twitter) increased the audience of followers by 4.5% to 26,534. Instagram has the largest audience and growth with an increase of 16% to just less than 120,000 followers. Our YouTube channel continues with 3,400 subscribers and received 675,800 views during 2023.

## 12. Risk Management

The Trustees require that risk management forms an integral part of the charity's decision-making process. Identification and management of risks to the charity's operations and personnel, performance and reputation is essential. These risks, their potential severity and their mitigation, are set out in the Risk Register. This is reviewed and updated by the senior management team and approved by the Board annually and more frequently when circumstances require. This process is designed to regularly assess existing risks, identify new risks and to ensure that the systems and procedures in place to manage the identified risks are fit for purpose. The overriding approach to risk management and assessment is to be prudent and cautious at all times.

The Trustees have identified the major risks to the NGS's operations and financial security as follows:

- Prolonged public health crisis during a garden opening season
- Prolonged adverse weather through a garden opening season
- Loss of IT and communications systems
- Pressures on the management team given the limited number of employees
- Reputational risk

These are prioritised in the Risk Register which is updated and re-evaluated regularly, in the Disaster Recovery programme and in additional HR support. Full details of the Risk Management Policy, Risk Register and Disaster Recovery programme are available from the Chief Executive.



### 13. Investment, Distribution and Reserves Policy

The National Garden Scheme's operations result in funds accumulating through the year. These surplus funds are primarily deposited with Royal London Asset Management and invested in a range of highly liquid short-term financial instruments and deposits before being distributed to beneficiaries.

The National Garden Scheme's designated Legacy Fund investments are managed by Investec Wealth & Investment UK (which became part of the Rathbones Group in 2023) as a medium risk combination of equities and fixed interest securities.

Underpinning the charity's balance sheet from one year to the next is the policy that reserves should not ordinarily fall below 25% of the current gross annual costs. Trustees make a judgement at the time of distributions to beneficiaries, to ensure that the reserves are sufficient to give assurance that the charity will continue to operate in the light of the risks to which it is exposed, but not retain excessive amounts of cash. At the year end the unrestricted reserves stood at £438,091, designated reserves stood at £64,151 (these two represent 33% of current gross annual costs) and restricted reserves stood at £269,807.

### 14. Legacies

In 2023 the National Garden Scheme received legacy gifts totalling £36,751. The Trustees are most grateful for the generosity of individuals who decide to support the charity with gifts in their wills. The opportunity to support the National Garden Scheme with a legacy gift was highlighted in all 2023 publications and on the website.

The National Garden Scheme's Legacy Fund was formally established at the end of 2015 as a designated fund, separate from unrestricted funds. On application from the Chief Executive and at the discretion of the Trustees funds are available to finance projects to develop and enhance the charity's operations, thus avoiding drawing on funds raised at garden openings.

As part of their review of donations in 2019, the Trustees also decided that the Legacy Fund could also be used to fund the Community Gardens Award and these donations in 2023 were completely funded from the Legacy Fund.

Using legacy funds in this way demonstrates a positive, outward-facing use that will be applied at a very local level all over the country.

In 2022 we launched the Centenary Circle, inviting people to join a patron's group by committing to annual donations to recognise the charity's centenary in 2027. These donations continued in 2023 and are placed in a restricted capital fund. We would like to express our sincere thanks to those who have joined the Centenary Circle, including representatives of grant-making charitable trusts.

### 15. Constitution, Governance, Structure and Management

The National Garden Scheme is a company limited by guarantee. Details of its constitution and governance, as set out in the Articles of Association, are available on request to the Chief Executive. Key governance responsibilities are organised for the Board by the Company Secretary. They are set out in a series of policies, committee terms of reference and other documents. Policies are reviewed by the Board as appropriate.

The Directors of the Company are also charity trustees for the purpose of charity law under the Company's Articles. The governing body is the Board of Trustees. Trustees have the duty to plan and agree policy and to direct the affairs of the charity. They are responsible for good management, setting policy, approving the annual report and accounts, overseeing contact with beneficiary charities and agreeing the basis and amount of donations.

Trustees are appointed for a period of three years which is renewable by mutual agreement for a possible two further periods, meaning that a Trustee can serve a maximum of nine years. Thereafter they must stand down for at least one year before they can be considered for re-election. There is a maximum of 15 Trustees. In addition to the Chair, Deputy Chair and Honorary Treasurer, there are six Regional Chairs. Each of these Chairs has to be an active member of a county volunteer team. The other Board members are Independent Trustees who are selected to bring specific skills and experience to the Board. An induction programme is arranged for new trustees depending on individual needs.



There are two processes for Trustee selection. Regional Chairs are nominated by their fellow county team volunteers in their region; nominations are considered by the board and the appointment of the most suitable candidate is made following an interview with the Chair or Deputy Chair, and the Chief Executive. Candidates to be independent trustees are approached individually by either the Chair or the Chief Executive, on the basis of the particular relevant skills and experience needed by the Board and the charity.

The Board elects a Chair for a term of three years who, as well as chairing the Board, represents the charity and maintains contact with county volunteers and garden owners, beneficiaries and associated organisations. A Deputy Chair is similarly elected and supports the Chair, acting as Chair in their absence. Both positions are renewable for a further three years with the agreement of the Board.

The Trustees decide on key policy, management and financial matters at Board meetings, five of which are held annually. Activities at head office are managed by the Chief Executive and include strategic planning, financial organisation, support for county teams, book production, marketing and distribution, national publicity, sponsorship, and insurance. The Chief Executive, assisted by senior management and the Executive Committee, reports to the Board and is also responsible for national and regional conferences, and participation in external events.

The Executive Committee (made up of Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Honorary Treasurer, Chief Executive and one Regional Chairman in rotation) oversees the execution of the Board decisions and deals with matters delegated to it by the Board. This committee monitors the business plan and budget and operations.

The Audit Committee, chaired by the Honorary Treasurer, oversees financial reporting on behalf of the Board of Trustees. It is responsible for reviewing financial and associated risk and advising the Board on the appointment of auditors.

The Chief Executive is employed by the Board to implement policy, and to devise and execute the charity's operational strategy. He leads the Head Office staff (currently numbering 13) and together they provide the central operations, finance and marketing functions which assist and support the work of volunteers in County Teams with information, advice, supplies and other support. Most communication with garden

owners takes place through the County Organisers and other team members.

The National Garden Scheme is dependent upon the contribution of volunteers. Everyone who opens their garden does so voluntarily. In addition, the work to support the gardens opening throughout England, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Channel Islands, is carried out by nearly 600 volunteers organised in county teams. The key activities of the County Teams are:

- Finding new gardens.
- Promoting garden openings.
- Maintaining contact with existing garden owners to assist with retention and continuity of opening from one year to the next.
- Collecting funds raised at gardens and accounting to Head Office.
- Recognition and rewards.
- Managing county booklets, securing booklet advertising.

Each county team is led by a County Organiser who is responsible for the charity's activity in their county. Advice and support are available from the Chief Executive and head office staff, as well as from other county teams.

Each region holds an annual AGM in late February or in March, attended by county volunteers from that region and by the Chairman, Chief Executive and relevant members of staff. There is a biennial conference for volunteers at which they come together to learn from each other and share best practice. These alternate with conferences for the County Organisers. Smaller conferences for specialist groups are also organised by the head office from time to time.

The Trustees are enduringly grateful for the continued generosity and hard work of the garden owners, together with the dedication and commitment of county team members who provide invaluable and often specialist support for the organisation. To acknowledge special achievements of our county team volunteers, the Chairman's Award was introduced in 2020. On recommendation from County Organisers three Chairman's Awards were given out in 2023 in recognition of exceptional volunteer contribution.

The National Garden Scheme is fortunate to have a group of Ambassadors, all well known figures with a varied involvement in the world of gardens and horticulture. They support the charity in various ways, especially promoting and supporting it on social media and other channels, taking part in various events, and providing quotes and endorsements for use in the charity's various communications. The current Ambassadors are listed on page 17.

## 16. Public Benefit

The Trustees follow the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in their direction of the National Garden Scheme. The charity's principal activity, the organisation of garden opening, is expressly designed to be available to all and so by definition brings considerable public benefit. It is the charity's chief source of fundraising for donations to beneficiary charities whose principal objective is public benefit in the form of nursing, caring or other support for individuals.

As the National Garden Scheme develops its programme of promoting the benefits of gardens for public and individual health and wellbeing, there is increasing long term public benefit. The programme demonstrates a combination of specific health and wellbeing benefits as well as the added potential to reduce existing public health costs.

The expanding portfolio of community gardens funded by the National Garden Scheme will further broaden the public benefit created by the work of charity.

Given the challenging economic and financial conditions which continued through 2023, the Trustees actively prioritised affordability and accessibility which have always been priorities of the National Garden Scheme. The ability to offer an enjoyable, informative and often uplifting experience to everyone in return for a modest contribution to charity is the charity's abiding principle and one which the Trustees will continue to champion and emphasise.

## 17. Fred Carr

The Trustees would like to recognise the significant contribution made to the charity by Fred Carr, who sadly died in June 2023. Fred was responsible for the original sponsorship of the charity in 1994 by Carr Sheppards, the stockbroking firm which he led, from which there has been unbroken continuity of 30 years through a series of mergers to the current sponsorship by Investec Wealth & Investment (UK), now part of the Rathbones Group. Fred was a Trustee of the charity from 2005-2011 and was elected to the charity's group of Life Vice Presidents on his retirement from the Board.

## 18. Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial period to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company's activities during the period and of its financial position at the end of the period. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- state whether the policies are in accordance with applicable accounting standards.
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is not appropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

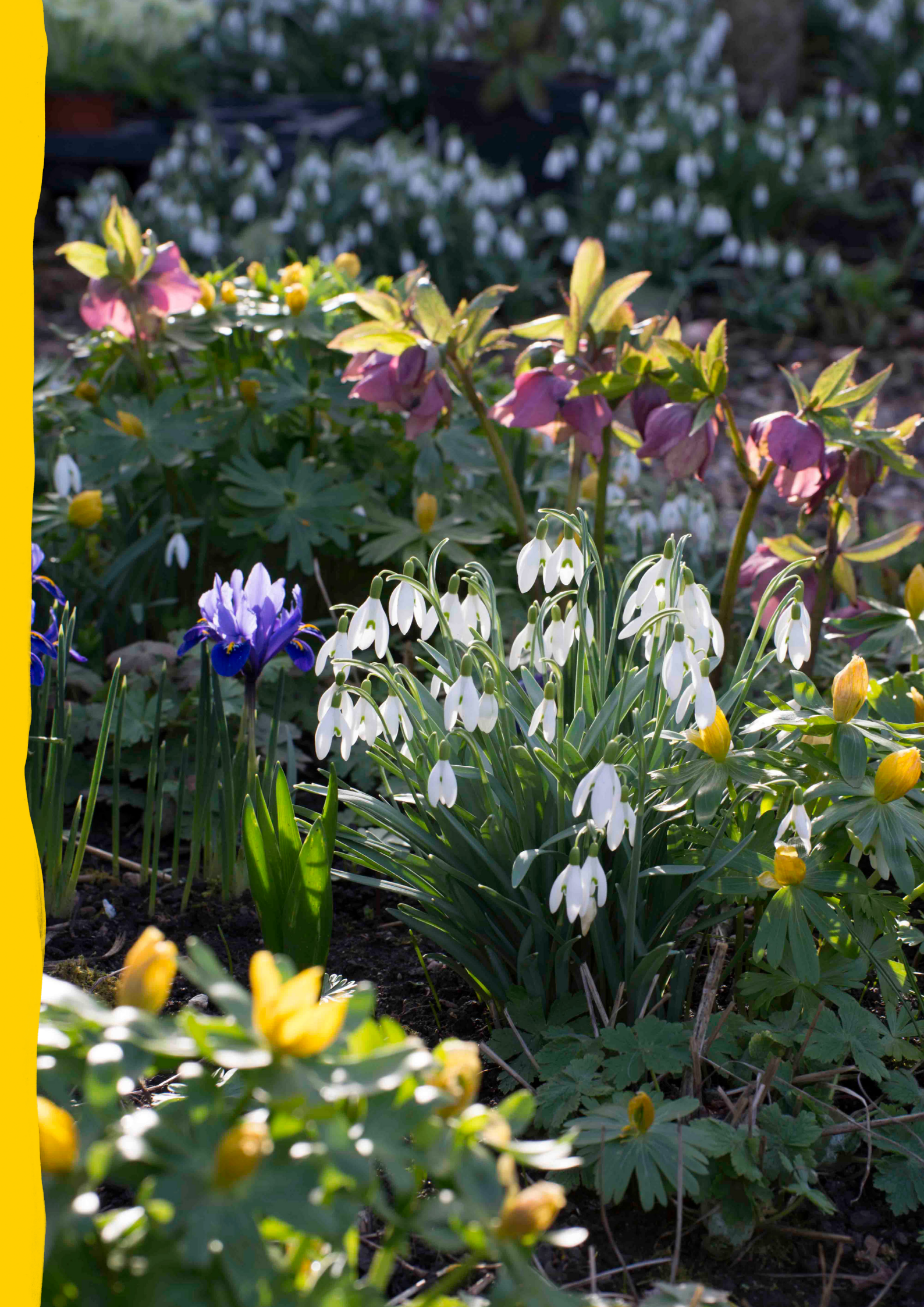
The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 1985. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The Trustees confirm that there is no information relevant to the audit of which the auditors are unaware and that the Trustees have taken the necessary steps to ensure they are aware of all relevant audit information and made sure the auditors are aware of it.





*Vice-President Penny Snell CBE with Fred Carr at an annual Season Launch for the National Garden Scheme*







# Reference and Administrative Information

**Patron** The former Prince of Wales

**President** Dame Mary Berry DBE

**Vice-Presidents**

Elizabeth Anton; Angela Azis; Ann Budden; Daphne Foulsham MBE; Martin McMillan OBE, Heather Skinner, Penny Snell CBE

**Ambassadors**

Emma Bridgewater CBE, Danny Clarke, Rachel de Thame, Alan Gray, Joe Swift, Jo Whiley

**The Board of Trustees**

**Chairman** Rupert Tyler

**Deputy Chairman** Sue Phipps\*

**Hon Treasurer** Andrew Ratcliffe FCA\*

Arit Anderson, Richard Barley MBE, Atty Beor-Roberts, Peter Clay (stood down September 2023), Susan Copeland MBE\* (stood down September 2023), Lucy Hall (appointed March 2023), Maureen Kesteven\*, Professor John Newton OBE (appointed November 2023), Susan Paynton\*, Mark Porter\*, Vernon Sanderson\*, Debbie Thomson\* (appointed November 2023), Sir Richard Thompson KCVO (stood down September 2023), Alison Wright\*.

\*Trustee who is a member of a county team

**Chief Executive** George Plumptre

**Head Office**

Hatchlands Park, East Clandon, Guildford, Surrey GU4 7RT

**Auditor**

Perrys Audit Limited, 4th Floor: 399-401 Strand, London WC2R 0LT

**Bankers**

Co-operative Bank, 9 Prescott Street, London E1 8AZ

Barclays Bank UK PLC, 147 High Street, Guildford GU1 3AG

**Solicitors**

Peachey and Co, 95 Aldwych, London WC2B 4JF

**Charity Number 1112664 Company Number 5631421 limited by guarantee**

**Auditor**

In accordance with the company's articles, a resolution proposing that Perrys Audit Limited be reappointed as auditor of the company will be put at a Board Meeting,

.....

Mr R Tyler

**Chairman of the Board of Trustees**

**Date:** .....

Left: Garden visits are popular throughout the year, starting with snowdrops and spring flowers in late January  
Photo: Clover Cottage, Cambridgeshire © Zara Napier

# Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of the National Garden Scheme

## Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The National Garden Scheme for the year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise an income and expenditure account, balance sheet and statement of cashflows, and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

## Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

## Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Members of the Board of Trustees use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate. Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

## Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.



## **Independent Auditor's Report (continued) to the Trustees of the National Garden Scheme**

### **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the Members of the Board Trustees report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

### **Responsibilities of Trustees**

As explained more fully in the statement of Members of the Board of Trustees responsibilities, the Trustees, who are also the directors of the Charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.





*The garden at Vann in Surrey has opened for the National Garden Scheme since 1970*



## **Independent Auditor’s Report (continued) to the Trustees of the National Garden Scheme**

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

We gained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the company and the industry in which it operates, and considered the risk of acts by the company that were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

We designed audit procedures to respond to the risk, recognising that the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

We focused on laws and regulations which could give rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements, including, but not limited to, the Companies Act 2006 and UK tax legislation. Our tests included agreeing the financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation and enquiries with management.

We did not identify any key audit matters relating to irregularities, including fraud. As in all our audits, we also addressed the risk of management override of internal controls, including testing journals and evaluating whether there was evidence of bias by the directors that represented a risk of material misstatement due to fraud.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council’s website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor’s report.

### **Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the charity’s trustees, as a body, in accordance with part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity’s trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor’s report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity’s trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

**Perrys Audit Limited**

.....

**Chartered Accountants  
Statutory Auditor**

4th Floor  
399-401 Strand  
London  
WC2R 0LT

## Statement of financial activities including income and expenditure account for the year ended 31 December 2023

### Current financial year

|  |       | Unrestricted<br>funds<br>2023 | Designated<br>funds<br>2023 | Restricted<br>funds<br>2023 | Total<br>2023         |
|--|-------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
|  | Notes | £                             | £                           | £                           | £                     |
| <b>Income from:</b>                      |       |                               |                             |                             |                       |
| Garden income                            |       | 4,165,116                     | -                           | -                           | 4,165,116             |
| Donations and legacies                   | 3     | 191,969                       | 36,751                      | 81,506                      | 310,226               |
| Other fundraising activities             | 4     | 461,230                       | -                           | -                           | 461,230               |
| Investment income                        | 5     | 24,152                        | 5,313                       | 3,301                       | 32,766                |
| <b>Total income</b>                      |       | <u>4,842,467</u>              | <u>42,064</u>               | <u>84,807</u>               | <u>4,969,338</u>      |
| <b>Expenditure on:</b>                   |       |                               |                             |                             |                       |
| Charitable activities                    | 7     | 3,591,324                     | 259,058                     | -                           | 3,850,382             |
| Raising funds                            | 6     | 1,139,811                     | -                           | -                           | 1,139,811             |
| Management and administration            | 10    | 373,183                       | -                           | -                           | 373,183               |
| Investment management fees               | 6     | -                             | 2,128                       | -                           | 2,128                 |
| <b>Total expenditure</b>                 |       | <u>5,104,318</u>              | <u>261,186</u>              | <u>-</u>                    | <u>5,365,504</u>      |
| Net gains/(losses) on investments        | 11    | 35,522                        | 10,901                      | -                           | 46,423                |
| <b>Net movement in funds</b>             |       | <u>(226,329)</u>              | <u>(208,221)</u>            | <u>84,807</u>               | <u>(349,743)</u>      |
| Fund balances at 1 January 2023          |       | <u>664,420</u>                | <u>272,372</u>              | <u>185,000</u>              | <u>1,121,792</u>      |
| <b>Fund balances at 31 December 2023</b> |       | <u><u>438,091</u></u>         | <u><u>64,151</u></u>        | <u><u>269,807</u></u>       | <u><u>772,049</u></u> |

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.



## Statement of financial activities including income and expenditure account (continued) for the year ended 31 December 2023

### Prior financial year

|  |       | Unrestricted<br>funds<br>2022 | Designated<br>funds<br>2022 | Restricted<br>funds<br>2022 | Total<br>2022           |
|--|-------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
|  | Notes | £                             | £                           | £                           | £                       |
| <b>Income from:</b>                      |       |                               |                             |                             |                         |
| Garden income                            |       | 3,938,254                     | -                           | -                           | 3,938,254               |
| Donations and legacies                   | 3     | 130,755                       | 500                         | 185,000                     | 316,255                 |
| Other fundraising activities             | 4     | 449,440                       | -                           | -                           | 449,440                 |
| Investment income                        | 5     | -                             | 8,059                       | -                           | 8,059                   |
| Charitable grant returned                |       | 75,000                        | -                           | -                           | 75,000                  |
| <b>Total income</b>                      |       | <u>4,593,449</u>              | <u>8,559</u>                | <u>185,000</u>              | <u>4,787,008</u>        |
| <b>Expenditure on:</b>                   |       |                               |                             |                             |                         |
| Charitable activities                    | 7     | 3,235,710                     | -                           | -                           | 3,235,710               |
| Raising funds                            | 6     | 1,027,735                     | -                           | -                           | 1,027,735               |
| Management and administration            | 10    | 329,052                       | -                           | -                           | 329,052                 |
| Investment management fees               |       | -                             | 2,236                       | -                           | 2,236                   |
| <b>Total expenditure</b>                 |       | <u>4,592,497</u>              | <u>2,236</u>                | <u>-</u>                    | <u>4,594,733</u>        |
| Net gains on investments                 | 11    | 22,180                        | 2,878                       | -                           | 25,058                  |
| <b>Net movement in funds</b>             |       | <u>23,132</u>                 | <u>9,201</u>                | <u>185,000</u>              | <u>217,333</u>          |
| Fund balances at 1 January 2022          |       | <u>641,289</u>                | <u>263,171</u>              | <u>-</u>                    | <u>904,460</u>          |
| <b>Fund balances at 31 December 2022</b> |       | <u><u>664,420</u></u>         | <u><u>272,372</u></u>       | <u><u>185,000</u></u>       | <u><u>1,121,793</u></u> |

## Balance sheet

### As at 31 December 2023

|   | Notes | 2023      |                | 2022     |                  |
|---|-------|-----------|----------------|----------|------------------|
|   |       | £         | £              | £        | £                |
| <b>Fixed assets</b>                                   |       |           |                |          |                  |
| Intangible assets                                     | 13    |           | 14,145         |          | 40,965           |
| Tangible assets                                       | 14    |           | 5,087          |          | 716              |
| Investments   | 15    |           | 233,067        |          | 222,166          |
|   |       |           | <u>252,299</u> |          | <u>263,847</u>   |
| <b>Current assets</b>                                 |       |           |                |          |                  |
| Stocks - finished goods                               | 16    | 4,576     |                | 5,296    |                  |
| Debtors   | 17    | 345,841   |                | 65,447   |                  |
| Cash at bank and in hand                              |       | 470,260   |                | 842,025  |                  |
|   |       |           | <u>820,677</u> |          | <u>912,768</u>   |
| <b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b> | 18    | (300,927) |                | (54,823) |                  |
| Net current assets                                    |       |           | <u>519,750</u> |          | <u>857,945</u>   |
| <b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>          |       |           | <u>772,049</u> |          | <u>1,121,792</u> |
| <b>Income funds</b>                                   |       |           |                |          |                  |
| Restricted funds                                      |       |           | 269,807        |          | 185,000          |
| Designated funds                                      |       |           | 64,131         |          | 272,372          |
| Unrestricted funds                                    |       |           | 438,091        |          | 664,420          |
|   |       |           | <u>772,049</u> |          | <u>1,121,792</u> |



**Balance sheet (continued)**  
**As at 31 December 2023**

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 December 2023, although an audit has been carried out under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements under the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on .....

.....

Mr R Tyler

**Chairman of the Board of Trustees**

**Company registration number 05631421**

## Statement of cash flows

### For year ended 31 December 2023

|   | Notes | 2023     |           | 2022     |          |
|---|-------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|
|   |       | £        | £         | £        | £        |
| <b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>                 |       |          |           |          |          |
| Cash (absorbed by)/generated from operations                | 20    |          | (368,895) |          | 235,868  |
| <b>Investing activities</b>                                 |       |          |           |          |          |
| Purchase of intangible assets                               |       | (18,481) |           | (50,748) |          |
| Purchase of tangible fixed assets                           |       | (6,255)  |           | (857)    |          |
| Purchase of investments                                     |       | (67,754) |           | (23,391) |          |
| Proceeds on disposal of investments                         |       | 56,854   |           | 48,448   |          |
| Investment income received                                  |       | 32,766   |           | 8,059    |          |
| <b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>                |       |          | (2,870)   |          | (18,489) |
| <b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>                |       |          | -         |          | -        |
| <b>Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents</b> |       |          | (371,765) |          | 217,379  |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year              |       |          | 842,025   |          | 624,646  |
| <b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of year</b>             |       |          | 470,260   |          | 842,025  |



## Notes for the financial statements For the year ended 31 December 2023

### 1 Accounting policies

#### Charity information

The National Garden Scheme is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is East Wing, Hatchlands, Guildford, Surrey, GU4 7RT.

#### 1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019). The Charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £1.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

#### 1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

#### 1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Designated funds are held for specific purposes determined by the trustees.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the Trustees' Report.

#### 1.4 Income

Garden income, comprising admission charges and the sale of refreshments, plants and other items at a garden opening, is recognised as income at the date of the garden opening or when received from the garden owner whichever is later.

Visiting guides revenue, comprising the sale of The Garden Visitor's Handbook and County booklets, is recognised as income at the point of sale. Advertising revenue is recognised as income in the year of the publication in which the relevant advertising appears. Income from other fundraising events is recognised when the event takes place. Sponsorship, donations and legacies are recognised as income when NGS is entitled to the relevant funds. Sale of merchandise is recognised when title to the goods passes.

## Notes for the financial statements (continued)

### For the year ended 31 December 2023

#### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

##### 1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

##### 1.6 Intangible fixed assets other than goodwill

Intangible assets acquired separately from a business are recognised at cost and are subsequently measured at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses.

Amortisation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

|          |                       |
|----------|-----------------------|
| Software | 3 years straight line |
|----------|-----------------------|

##### 1.7 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

|           |                       |
|-----------|-----------------------|
| Equipment | 3 years straight line |
|-----------|-----------------------|

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

##### 1.8 Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

##### 1.9 Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Cost comprises gift items and merchandise to be sold and any overheads incurred in bringing the stocks to their present location and condition. Items held for distribution at no or nominal consideration are measured at the lower of replacement cost and cost.

##### 1.10 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks and other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.



## Notes for the financial statements (continued)

### For the year ended 31 December 2023

#### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

##### 1.11 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the Charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

#### 2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the entity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

#### 3 Donations and legacies

|           | Unrestricted<br>funds | Designated<br>funds | Restricted<br>Funds | Total          | Total          |
|-----------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------|----------------|
|           | 2023                  | 2023                | 2023                | 2023           | 2022           |
|           | £                     | £                   | £                   | £              | £              |
| Legacies  | -                     | 36,751              | -                   | 36,751         | 500            |
| Donations | 191,969               | -                   | 81,506              | 273,475        | 315,755        |
|           | <u>191,969</u>        | <u>36,751</u>       | <u>81,506</u>       | <u>310,226</u> | <u>316,255</u> |

#### 4 Charitable activities

|                          | Charitable<br>Income<br>2023 | Charitable<br>Income<br>2022 |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
|                          | £                            | £                            |
| Advertising revenue      | 231,661                      | 188,007                      |
| Other fundraising events | 83,392                       | 106,173                      |
| Other income             | 146,177                      | 155,260                      |
|                          | <u>461,230</u>               | <u>449,440</u>               |

**Notes for the financial statements (continued)**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2023**

**5 Investments**

|                                | Unrestricted<br>funds | Designated<br>funds | Restricted<br>funds | Total         | Total        |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------|--------------|
|                                | 2023<br>£             | 2023<br>£           | 2023<br>£           | 2023<br>£     | 2022<br>£    |
| Income from quoted investments | 24,152                | 5,313               | 3,301               | 32,766        | 8,059        |
|                                | <u>24,152</u>         | <u>5,313</u>        | <u>3,301</u>        | <u>32,766</u> | <u>8,059</u> |

**6 Raising funds**

|  | Unrestricted<br>funds | Unrestricted<br>funds |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|
|  | 2023<br>£             | 2022<br>£             |
| Garden opening                                 | 579,658               | 315,521               |
| Marketing, publicity<br>and fundraising events | 560,153               | 712,214               |
|  | <u>1,139,811</u>      | <u>1,027,735</u>      |

The expenditure on generating voluntary income was less than £100,000 in both years.



## Notes for the financial statements (continued)

### For the year ended 31 December 2023

#### 7 Charitable activities

|                                 | <b>Charitable<br/>Expenditure<br/>2023<br/>£</b> | <b>Charitable<br/>Expenditure<br/>2022<br/>£</b> |
|---------------------------------|--|--|
| Nursing beneficiaries           | 2,775,000  | 2,430,000  |
| Support for gardeners           | 339,000  | 290,000  |
| Garden and health beneficiaries | 437,960  | 290,000  |
| Community Garden Awards         | 259,058  | 183,479  |
| Garden owner donations          | 39,364   | 42,231   |
|                                 | <u>3,850,382</u>                                 | <u>3,235,710</u>                                 |

#### 8 Auditor's remuneration

| <b>Fees payable to the Charity's auditor and associates:</b> | <b>2023<br/>£</b> | <b>2022<br/>£</b> |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| Accounts   | 2,900             | 4,600             |
| Audit  | 8,600             | 1,800             |
| <b>Total audit fees</b>                                      | <u>11,500</u>     | <u>6,400</u>      |

#### 9 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

|  | <b>2023<br/>Number</b> | <b>2022<br/>Number</b> |
|--|------------------------|------------------------|
|  | <u>13</u>              | <u>13</u>              |

## Notes for the financial statements (continued)

### For the year ended 31 December 2023

#### 9 Employees (Continued)

| Staff costs:                      | 2023           | 2022           |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
|                                   | £              | £              |
| Salaries                          | 462,195        | 449,196        |
| Social security and pension costs | <u>90,074</u>  | <u>75,077</u>  |
|                                   | <u>552,269</u> | <u>524,273</u> |

#### Key management personnel

Key management personnel are those persons having authority for planning, directing and controlling the activities of NGS. These comprise members of the Board and the Chief Executive. The total remuneration of the NGS's key management personnel was £112,693 (2022: £105,892) for the year of which £20,132 (2022: £8,990) was employer's pension contributions.

#### Board members

NGS board members are the Trustees of NGS for charitable law purposes. Trustees received no remuneration and waived remuneration during the year (2022: £nil). Expenses relating to travel and subsistence of £7,840 (2022: £8,090) were reimbursed to 14 (2022:12) Trustees.

The number of employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000 is as follows:

| 2023     | 2022     |
|----------|----------|
| Number   | Number   |
| 1        | 1        |
| <u>1</u> | <u>1</u> |

#### 10 Management and administration

|                               | Unrestricted funds | Unrestricted funds |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
|                               | 2023               | 2022               |
| Management and administration | 373,183            | 329,052            |
|                               | <u>373,183</u>     | <u>329,052</u>     |

#### 11 Net gains/(losses) on investments

|                            | Unrestricted funds | Designated funds | Total Unrestricted funds | Designated funds | Total        |
|----------------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------|
|                            | 2023               | 2023             | 2023                     | 2022             | 2022         |
|                            | £                  | £                | £                        | £                | £            |
| Revaluation of investments | 35,522             | 10,901           | 46,423                   | 22,180           | 2,878        |
|                            | <u>35,522</u>      | <u>10,901</u>    | <u>46,423</u>            | <u>22,180</u>    | <u>2,878</u> |



## Notes for the financial statements (continued)

### For the year ended 31 December 2023

#### 12 Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

#### 13 Intangible fixed assets

|                                    | <b>Software<br/>£</b> |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Cost</b>                        |                       |
| At 1 January 2023                  | 223,589               |
| Additions                          | 18,480                |
|                                    | <hr/>                 |
| At 31 December 2023                | 242,069               |
|                                    | <hr/>                 |
| <b>Amortisation and impairment</b> |                       |
| At 1 January 2023                  | 182,624               |
| Amortisation charged for the year  | 45,300                |
|                                    | <hr/>                 |
| At 31 December 2023                | 227,924               |
|                                    | <hr/>                 |
| <b>Carrying amount</b>             |                       |
| At 31 December 2023                | 14,145                |
|                                    | <hr/> <hr/>           |
| At 31 December 2022                | 40,965                |
|                                    | <hr/> <hr/>           |

#### 14 Tangible fixed assets

|                                    | <b>Equipment<br/>£</b> |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Cost</b>                        |                        |
| At 1 January 2023                  | 32,413                 |
| Additions                          | 6,255                  |
|                                    | <hr/>                  |
| At 31 December 2023                | 38,668                 |
|                                    | <hr/>                  |
| <b>Depreciation and impairment</b> |                        |
| At 1 January 2023                  | 31,697                 |
| Depreciation charged in the year   | 1,884                  |
|                                    | <hr/>                  |
| At 31 December 2023                | 33,581                 |
|                                    | <hr/>                  |
| <b>Carrying amount</b>             |                        |
| At 31 December 2023                | 5,087                  |
|                                    | <hr/> <hr/>            |
| At 31 December 2022                | 716                    |
|                                    | <hr/> <hr/>            |

## Notes for the financial statements (continued)

### For the year ended 31 December 2023

#### 15 Fixed asset investments

|                          | £        |
|--------------------------|----------|
| <b>Cost or valuation</b> |          |
| At 1 January 2023        | 222,166  |
| Additions                | 67,754   |
| Disposals                | (56,853) |
|                          | <hr/>    |
| At 31 December 2023      | 233,067  |
|                          | <hr/>    |

|                                     | 2023<br>£   | 2022<br>£   |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Investments at fair value comprise: |             |             |
| Fixed interest                      |             |             |
| UK equities                         | 26,242      | 23,520      |
| Overseas equities                   | 34,026      | 45,289      |
| Alternative assets                  | 129,245     | 112,611     |
| Property                            | 29,694      | 33,057      |
|                                     | 13,860      | 7,689       |
|                                     | <hr/>       | <hr/>       |
|                                     | 233,067     | 222,166     |
|                                     | <hr/> <hr/> | <hr/> <hr/> |

#### 16 Stocks

|                | 2023<br>£ | 2022<br>£ |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|
| Finished goods | 4,576     | 5,296     |
|                | <hr/>     | <hr/>     |

#### 17 Debtors

|   | 2023<br>£   | 2022<br>£   |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Amounts falling due within one year:</b> |             |             |
| Trade debtors                               | 256,473     | 4,257       |
| Other debtors                               | 1           | 84          |
| Prepayments and accrued income              | 89,367      | 61,106      |
|   | <hr/>       | <hr/>       |
|   | 345,841     | 65,447      |
|   | <hr/> <hr/> | <hr/> <hr/> |

## Notes for the financial statements (continued)

### For the year ended 31 December 2023

#### Current financial year

|  |       | Unrestricted<br>funds<br>2023 | Designated<br>funds<br>2023 | Restricted<br>funds<br>2023 | Total<br>2023         |
|--|-------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
|  | Notes | £                             | £                           | £                           | £                     |
| <b>Income from:</b>                      |       |                               |                             |                             |                       |
| Garden income                            |       | 4,165,116                     | -                           | -                           | 4,165,116             |
| Donations and legacies                   | 3     | 191,969                       | 36,751                      | 81,506                      | 310,226               |
| Other fundraising activities             | 4     | 461,230                       | -                           | -                           | 461,230               |
| Investment income                        | 5     | 24,152                        | 5,313                       | 3,301                       | 32,766                |
| <b>Total income</b>                      |       | <u>4,842,467</u>              | <u>42,064</u>               | <u>84,807</u>               | <u>4,969,338</u>      |
| <b>Expenditure on:</b>                   |       |                               |                             |                             |                       |
| Charitable activities                    | 7     | 3,591,324                     | 259,058                     | -                           | 3,850,382             |
| Raising funds                            | 6     | 1,139,811                     | -                           | -                           | 1,139,811             |
| Management and administration            | 10    | 373,183                       | -                           | -                           | 373,183               |
| Investment management fees               | 6     | -                             | 2,128                       | -                           | 2,128                 |
| <b>Total expenditure</b>                 |       | <u>5,104,318</u>              | <u>261,186</u>              | <u>-</u>                    | <u>5,365,504</u>      |
| Net gains/(losses) on investments        | 11    | 35,522                        | 10,901                      | -                           | 46,423                |
| <b>Net movement in funds</b>             |       | <u>(226,329)</u>              | <u>(208,221)</u>            | <u>84,807</u>               | <u>(349,743)</u>      |
| Fund balances at 1 January 2023          |       | <u>664,420</u>                | <u>272,372</u>              | <u>185,000</u>              | <u>1,121,792</u>      |
| <b>Fund balances at 31 December 2023</b> |       | <u><u>438,091</u></u>         | <u><u>64,151</u></u>        | <u><u>269,807</u></u>       | <u><u>772,049</u></u> |

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.





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