2025/26 ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

Report and consolidated
Financial Statements
For the year ended
31 March 2026

Garden Organic (registered as The Henry Doubleday Research Association)
Registered as a Charity in England and Wales (No. 298104) and Scotland (No. SC046767) . Registered Company No. 02188402


HERITAGE SEED LIBRARY
EST. 1975
HERITAGE SEED LIBRARY
50 years
EST. 1975
Carrot
Egmont Gold
NOT FOR SALE

CONTENTS

The trustees of Garden Organic ("the Charity") are called the Board of trustees.
They present their annual report for the year ended 31 March 2026, together with the audited financial statements for that year.

'Garden Organic' was adopted in October 2005 as the working name of the Henry Doubleday Research Association.

Garden Organic is a registered Charity in England and Wales (298104) and Scotland (SC046767) and a company (02188402) limited by guarantee.

WELCOME

From our Chief Executive and Chair of Trustees

It's been a year to be proud of at Garden Organic and the Heritage Seed Library.

We launched our 5-year strategy, focusing our work around food under the activities of food growing, composting of food waste and the conservation of vegetable seed.

The 50th anniversary of the Heritage Seed Library was marked by a 'seed relay' where a golden envelope of seed was passed on by our Seed Guardians, Growing Partners and supporters.

The relay has been all over England and Wales, and will soon be heading to Scotland, highlighting the importance of conserving seed by sharing it far and wide.

The first year of our Sow Your Seeds project across the Midlands, supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, enabled us to solidify our partnership with Warwick University. Together, we identified heritage seed varieties in the UK Vegetable Gene Bank, reconnecting with the legacy of our founder, Lawrence Hills, who was instrumental in establishing the Gene Bank at the same time as the Heritage Seed Library.

Our portfolio of work in local communities expanded this year, adding food growing and seed saving activities to our composting and food waste reduction work.

Our research and citizen science majored on local food procurement and the resilience of home grown pulses and greens.

We continue to monitor how crops are faring in the changing conditions we are experiencing, to ensure our advice is current.

Our membership remained stable, and we were pleased to see an increase in our profile in digital and print media.

We created an award-winning garden at Gardeners' World Live at the NEC in Birmingham and took part in the inaugural Yeo Valley Organic Gardening Festival.

We played a pivotal role in the campaign to ban the use of peat in amateur gardening which now appears to have government support, although is not yet tabled to become law.

We began to hold members days in different regions, aided by our Growing Partners.

During the year we created and launched a new online training certificate in organic growing targeting keen amateur and early career professional gardeners. Participants take part in live webinars with us as well as completing modules in their own time.

In February we said farewell to our Chair Angela Wright after 2 years. During her tenure, Angela made an invaluable contribution to the charity's leadership and governance.

We are enormously grateful to all our trustees, staff, volunteers, funders, members and wider supporters, for their expertise, time and financial support, and for all the encouragement we receive.

We look forward to working together to meet the challenges of the year ahead.

Fiona Taylor
Chief Executive

John Varney, FRSA
Chair of Trustees

ABOUT US

We are the UK's charity for organic gardening.

Through campaigning, advice, community work and research, our aim is to get everyone growing 'the organic way'.

Underpinning this is our mission to grow a movement that takes practical action to conserve seeds, nurture soil and wildlife, and reduce waste.

Garden Organic is home to the Heritage Seed Library, the UK's National Collection of Heritage Vegetables.

We conserve more than 850 rare heritage, heirloom and landrace vegetable varieties and share them with growers across the UK.

Our HQ is Ryton Organic Gardens, where we curate an organic demonstration garden and run the Heritage Seed Library. From here we also manage volunteer-led projects in local communities including our long-running Master Composter projects.

We are a membership association, supported and governed by some 20,000 members, and bring together likeminded sustainable growers by working with local groups, our Growing Partners, and aligned organisations.

OUR VISION IS FOR A HEALTHY AND SUSTAINABLE WORLD THAT HAS EMBRACED ORGANIC GROWING.

OUR WORK IS SET OUT IN THIS REPORT UNDER OUR FIVE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

1. Engage and equip people with organic food growing, seed saving and composting skills
2. Conserve and share organic vegetable seeds for future generations
3. Determine the best possible contemporary horticultural practice
4. Attract the widest possible support for the cause
5. Deliver long-term business sustainability to underpin impact and income targets

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Garden Organic promotes organic growing and composting, conserves rare seed and conducts scientific research.

Organic practice is the fastest way to maintain and build soil health and allow insect and microbiological life forms to be restored in all growing spaces.

Garden Organic seeks to halt biodiversity loss by championing our five key Principles of Organic Gardening:

1. Build and maintain soil health
2. Encourage biodiversity
3. Use resources responsibly
4. Avoid using harmful chemicals
5. Maintain a healthy growing area

OBJECTIVES

Our objectives are to evidence and distribute our knowledge of organic gardening to our members, to community groups, to domestic and larger scale growers and to decision makers.

We know that organic gardening benefits both environmental and human health and so we seek to influence and inform people's growing choices and practices.

In addition, we hold three national plant collections, including the National Collection of Heritage Vegetables. We aim to ensure as many varieties as possible are distributed to and grown in garden and allotment settings via our Heritage Seed Library.

PRINCIPAL OBJECTS

Advance education and science for the public benefit by:

- The improvement of scientific and practical horticulture and agriculture in all their branches through the application of organic methods and principles;
- Research into and the study of organic methods and principles of horticulture and agriculture and the dissemination of the useful results thereof;
- The advancement of awareness and knowledge of ecosystems and our impact on them by demonstrating the value of organic methods on a broad education front, both in the United Kingdom and overseas;
- The preservation and protection of the charity's property at Ryton Gardens (and/or such other properties as the company may manage or acquire) and the conservation of the wildlife thereon as a centre or centres for scientific research into the practical application of organic methods of agriculture and horticulture and their influence on the wildlife using the property as their natural habitat and to make the same available for inspection and study by members of the public.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Garden Organic supports individuals to grow in their own homes, gardens and communities.

We demonstrate the positive difference organic growers make in supporting biodiversity.

We aim to grow a movement of people and organisations that take practical action to conserve seeds, nurture soil, reduce waste, share organic gardening know-how and join us in campaigning for organic growing methods to the benefit of nature and humanity.

Garden Organic prides itself on its innovative work with individuals and communities ensuring all are able to realise the benefits of organic gardening and growing.

We share practical knowledge about organic gardening which generates health, well-being and environmental benefits to a wide audience.

Our activities fall broadly into three areas:

1. campaigning and publicity
2. science and research (including seed conservation)
3. transfer of knowledge through advice, courses, demonstration sites and community projects.

As a membership organisation, over a quarter of our annual income is received from membership subscriptions. This income is used to fund the work we carry out through our agreed strategy and operational activities.

We are supported by our members, who take part in research through our citizen science programme, conducting experiments in their own growing spaces and supplying data back to the charity. Many of our members directly support our campaigning work.

We work collaboratively with a wide range of partner organisations across the voluntary, public and private sectors.

VOLUNTEERS

Garden Organic is fortunate to have the support of a large number of volunteers who help the charity to achieve its goals.

Our model is dependent on demonstration - to show people how - and our volunteers bring this to life in numerous ways.

We are extremely grateful to our hundreds of community volunteers, Seed Guardians, gardeners, researchers and office volunteers.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives, its performance and in planning future activities.

When reviewing annual performance progress against the agreed business plan, the trustees considered the range of beneficiaries that Garden Organic works with: our members, supporters and the numerous individuals reached through our charitable activities.

OUR FIVE PRINCIPLES OF ORGANIC GROWING

Build and maintain soil health

Encourage biodiversity

Use resources responsibly

Avoid using harmful chemicals

Maintain a healthy growing area

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

1. Engage and equip people with organic food growing, seed saving and composting skills

As an educational charity first and foremost, giving people the tools to succeed in their garden has always been our strength. We strive to support people at every stage of their gardening experience, and within any type of growing space.

GOAL: THE GO-TO FOR FORMAL AND INFORMAL LEARNING

One of the highlights of this year was the launch of our Introduction to Organic Growing online course, designed for early career growers and amateur gardeners. Fronted by our head of organic horticulture Chris Collins, the six-module course is delivered fully online, with self-guided modules and regular live webinars.

This course increases our formal training offer within the professional horticulture market, upping the opportunities for those keen to learn purely sustainable methods.

Launched in December 2025, by the end of March 2026 our first cohort of learners were enrolled and so far feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. We're looking forward to developing our formal learning offer in the coming months and years.

Through the year we continued to offer free informal, 'micro-learning' by sharing videos and advice through our communications channels, and our short online courses.

Growers seek out our expertise as a reliable source within an increasingly-crowded market. Advice on seed saving, including the methods we follow at the Heritage Seed Library, proved incredibly popular.

We are proud to provide professional training to a number of organisations, including the Society of Garden and Landscape Designers, HM Prison and Probation Land Management Service and Flagship Housing. That these employers trust us to train their staff is testament to the expertise and professionalism of our team.

GOAL: A WELL-KNOWN COMMUNITY PRESENCE WITH REACH ACROSS THE WHOLE UK

Every week during the growing season, we're working in communities up and down the country, from inspiring visitors at our organic garden, to supporting volunteers to help their communities succeed with home composting.

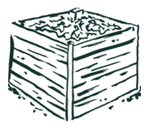
By far the biggest proportion of our community work is delivered through our Local Authority-funded volunteer contracts.

During the year we were commissioned to deliver contracts in Buckinghamshire, Gloucestershire, North Somerset, Worcestershire, Suffolk, Cumbria, Leicestershire, Norfolk, Rugby and Shropshire.

Each of these projects follows similar principles; we support passionate local volunteers who, in turn, help their communities to compost their green waste, grow organic food and save and share heritage seeds.

Volunteers choose who to support based on local needs and their own expertise, and may be found helping a school compost their food waste, engaging with shoppers at a farmers' market, writing advice articles for a community magazine and much more.

This year, our Master Composter volunteers collectively amassed an incredible 17,213 conversations about composting, each providing simple, practical and actionable advice to reduce the amount of green waste that ends up in landfill.



17,213
home composting conversations

SIXTY
learners completed our online courses

We also support wider collaborative work, like the Public Health funded Grow Cook Eat project which supports more than 30 community growing spaces within Northamptonshire. This initiative, delivered in partnership with Hope Centre and Community Health Works promotes gardening and cooking within communities, empowering people to grow their own food, cook nutritious meals, and share skills locally.

The Greening Campaign, funded by the National Lottery, is another excellent collaborative project helping Hampshire residents take steps to a more sustainable lifestyle. This year, the Greening Campaign created more than 450m² of community growing space, supporting 20 communities and 40 community growing champions. We are delighted that our involvement in The Greening Campaign had been extended.

We also support the Local School Nature Grants programme, led by Learning Through Landscapes This project helps schools and early years settings transform their outdoor spaces by providing a selection of resources to choose from. We provide a range of practical organic growing kits and advice, including online training for teachers and support staff.

2025/26 saw the launch of a number of new projects. We were delighted to be a part of a successful bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund, for the Coventry Green for All Nature Town project, and are partners in the EON Coventry Grows project.

Each project has a positive and lasting impact on hundreds of individuals, supporting growers to lead projects in their communities, using methods and locations they know will work best for them.

Outside of our formal contracted work, we have been focused on building a community presence through our Growing Partners. This network highlights locations that demonstrate one or more of our principles of organic growing, showcasing places to see sustainable gardening in practice.

Launched in the summer, we ended the year with 21 registered Growing Partners, including well-known sites such as Painswick Rococo and Barnsdale Gardens, a number of fantastic community gardens and a selection of compost demo sites, where visitors can see a range of composting methods in action.

As part of our work with this network, we were delighted to launch first of a series of members' days, hosted by Growing Partner Nant y Bedd, where owner Sue Mabberley provided a small group of members with a private tour. As well as learning from this fantastic garden, members enjoyed meeting each other – making connections and sharing tips with local likeminded growers.

We have ambitious aims to increase this network of Growing Partners, allowing us to build a wider community of sustainable gardens and gardeners.

Case Study Case Study Case Study

ALBANIAN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION

PART OF THE GROW! COOK! EAT! PROGRAMME

The Albanian Cultural Association joined the Grow! Cook! Eat! programme as part of its commitment to improve health, wellbeing and community engagement among local families.

Many of the people supported by the organisation face challenges including social isolation, low income, language barriers and limited access to healthy lifestyle opportunities.

Over the past two years, participants have developed practical growing and cooking skills, built new friendships and become more engaged in healthy lifestyle activities.

Many have shared what they learned with family members, helping to encourage healthier eating habits and a greater interest in food growing within the wider community.

The project has also strengthened community cohesion by bringing together people from different backgrounds in a welcoming and inclusive environment.

GOAL: COMMUNITIES ENGAGED IN THE VITAL WORK OF THE HERITAGE SEED LIBRARY

New for this year, we encouraged communities to take on guardianship of a local variety from the Heritage Seed Library, giving the double benefit of a new way to engage growers, and increased support for our seed conservation work.

We piloted this approach in Hampshire as part of The Greening Campaign, and were heartened by the response. This model of encouraging communities to support a local variety is a key priority to increasing local resilience, and boosting seed saving skills and conservation support for the future.

Our Sowing Your Seeds project, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, really ramped up during the spring.

The Midlands-based project is designed to identify new varieties to safeguard within the Library, and engage people in seed saving and sharing.

By the end of the year we had received 30 new varieties, including heritage broad beans and peas, as well as some less traditional varieties, such as quinoa, which has proved to thrive in the Midlands.

Ten seed samples came from our collaboration with Warwick Crop Centre and included two more new species; orach and purslane.

Of the 30 new varieties, 19 were trialed in 2025, with 11 added to the collection this year.

One of the new varieties we took on was Red orach. This plant is of particular interest due to its dimorphic seed - where a plant produces two distinctly different types of seed on one plant.

In the case of Red orach it produces a large brown seed and a small black seed.

The brown seeds have a larger embryo, a thinner seed coat. They sprout quickly and usually have a very high germination rate so will be the first to emerge in spring.

The smaller black seeds have a thicker coat and deeper physiological dormancy. They emerge later in the season and help the plant survive unpredictable weather by germinating slowly over time, making them excellent for self-seeding.

This clever technique increases the plant's likelihood of survival by giving it twice the chance of germination. Red orach is the first dimorphous seed adopted into the collection, and has been a useful variety for us to learn about.

Further collection of seeds and their stories will continue into 26/27.

Elsewhere in the UK, we supported 49 seed swap events, of which we either attended or sent seeds and resources to more than 30.

We also launched our first ever 'seed relay' to highlight the benefits of seed swapping - you can read more about this on page 11.

TEN
Local Authority-funded projects

49
seed swap events supported

450M²
of community growing supported by The Greening Campaign

21
Growing Partners available to visit

"The experience has been really positive, I'm learning a lot and feel like I'm helping to make a meaningful impact."
Garden Organic volunteer


Gardener Richard at BBC Gardeners' World Live


Volunteer Jenny at The Growing Together Allotment

Master Composters at Yeo Valley festival


Fiona interviewing Kate Bradbury at Yeo Valley festival


Master Composter Emma at Ludlow market

Master Composters Ian & Hanni at Project Grow


Members' tour at Nant y Bedd garden


Gloucestershire Master Composters

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

2. Conserve and share organic vegetable seeds for future generations

This year marked 50 years of the Heritage Seed Library (HSL), and kick-started a number of pieces of work to secure the Library for the next 50 years.

GOAL: A WORLD-CLASS COMMUNITY LED SEED PRODUCTION AND SAVING FACILITY

The 2025 growing season was built around an ambitious plan to grow more than 100 varieties on site, including a record 38 growing assessments of potential new additions to the collection. By the end of the year, 104 varieties were grown, and 27 were added to the collection.

With such a high number of varieties, and taking into account the collection size required for each vegetable, this took our growing space to capacity. Our expert horticulturists have worked hard to maximise every possible inch of growing space.

This includes trailing beans over other crops within the polytunnels, underplanting tomatoes with chillies, and boosting fruit and seed production through hand pollination and buzz pollination with tuning forks.

Our grow-out work is supported by more than 200 volunteer Seed Guardians. We're indebted to these individuals, who take on an 'orphan' variety to grow and return seed to the Library.

To support with this endeavour, we increased the training we provide via webinars to assist throughout the growing year.

In April 2025 Garden Organic completed registration as a professional operator with the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA). This reflects our expert seed health standards, supported by regular independent inspections, and means our seed can be accompanied by an appropriate plant passport where needed.

As part of this work we have developed new acid extraction methods and protocols for tomato seed production which will be implemented in 2026.

This year we launched our annual seed list earlier and kept it open for longer to allow more people to access our varieties. In total, we dispatched 4,542 seed requests, accounting for more than 27,000 packets of seed. Overall the most popular vegetables were French bean (4,569 requests), pea (2,540) and carrot (1,983).

GOAL: A SECURE AND PERMANENT HERITAGE SEED LIBRARY

Our 50th anniversary presented a perfect opportunity to raise awareness of this work with a year of activities.

In October we kicked off the first in a series of 'seed relays' - sending a golden parcel of HSL seed packets from our original home in Bocking, Essex, to Ryton Gardens to highlight the importance of seed sharing. The relay was launched by former Directors Alan Gear MBE and Jackie Gear MBE, alongside representatives from the local organic group – South East Essex Organic Gardeners. This initial leg was followed by a relay through Wales and the borders.

Each stop took a packet of seeds to grow, save and share themselves.

We have been thrilled by the response, and have seen the parcel pass from members and community gardens, to some of the best known locations in the UK - Hampton Court Palace, St Fagan's National Museum of History and National Botanic Gardens of Wales to name just a few.

The relay will continue into 2026/27, heading through Scotland from Scone Palace right up to the Shetland Isles, before returning to Ryton Gardens for a celebration in autumn 2026.

An anniversary is the perfect time to reflect on past achievements, and look ahead to the future. 50 years on, the Heritage Seed Library is more vital than ever. But there are a number of challenges to overcome. We need more growing space to meet

the demand for seed, speed up our grow-out rotation and trial more varieties currently on our waiting list of potential adoption into the collection. A ten-year vision is under development, shored up by strategic partnerships and an income generation push for 2026/27.

GOAL: HERITAGE SEED LIBRARY RECOGNISED AS A RESOURCE OF NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC IMPORTANCE

The strength of the Heritage Seed Library is the community of peers, partners and supporters who we work alongside.

We paired community activity with industry engagement, including hosting a panel discussion with the UK Vegetable Gene Bank and Irish Seed Savers Association at the Oxford Real Food and Farming Conference, and presenting at the US Seed Savers Exchange virtual conference. We also supported seed swaps around the country, attending some in person, supporting new ones to launch and encouraging our supporters to attend their local one.

Through the year we were involved in industry events and collaborations, including the UK Plant Genetic Resources Group and the Plant Heritage Conservation Committee, plus the European special assembly for Let's Liberate Diversity, in Luxembourg.

Providing professional training to large scale seed producers is a key way that we support seed conservation.

We were proud to deliver a series of webinars and on-site technical training as part of the GAIA Seed Sovereignty Programme, and have strengthened our relationship with the Irish Seed Savers Association, who we now meet with monthly to problem solve and share best practice.

We know that our collection holds a wealth of untapped knowledge on growth performance and resilience. We continue to collect and collate basic phenotype data from volunteer Seed Guardians to help build a picture of variety performance and ran a citizen science project to bolster our knowledge about the Carlin pea (read more on page 13).

To share our learnings, in June we delivered a poster presentation on citizen science as a research methodology for 'Legumes in Science and Practice' at the University of Reading.

Case Study Case Study

GEORGE'S DELIGHT TOMATO
NEW TO THE HERITAGE SEED LIBRARY

Added to the collection in autumn 2025 was tomato George's Delight.

This variety was named after our donor's father who carefully selected it from the commercial favourite Gardeners' Delight.

After the war George had a very successful career in horticulture; plant breeding, running a market garden, and teaching and conducting research at the Plant Biology Field Station at University of London's Queen Mary College.

George's Delight was a project he carried out at home, over a period of 25 years in order to find his perfect tomato. Having grown and tasted it ourselves, we think it definitely merits a place in the collection and space in members' veg patches.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

3. Determine the best possible contemporary horticultural practice

Research is the thread that has run through our work since the charity was founded as the Henry Doubleday Research Foundation in 1958.

GOAL: VALUED RESEARCH PARTNER FOR FOOD GROWING, SEED PRESERVATION AND COMPOSTING WORK

Today, our research work is primarily undertaken through academic partnerships and citizen science. We have a close working relationship with our two local universities – Coventry and Warwick.

Our relationship with Warwick University dates back to the very start of the Seed Library so it feels fitting that, in the Seed Library's 50th year, we have cemented our commitment to work together on seed and vegetable research with a signed Memorandum of Understanding.

Our work with Coventry University is currently with their Centre for Agroecology Water and Resilience, who we work closely with on the Procurement for Good project (see overleaf).

A total of 1,588 growers took part in our experiments and surveys. In 2025, the experiments conducted included 'Revival of the Carlin Pea', 'Build a better veg calendar', 'How well do you know your soil?' and 'How did your veg grow?'

The 'Build a better veg calendar' work will provide data that helps growers to adapt their timings of planting better to their region and track longer term trends relating to climate change. We are working in partnership with gardening app Fryd, to provide a quick online way to collect this data, and support their work tracking the impact on climate change on veg growing.

'How well do you know your soil?' was a questionnaire to evaluate people's perception and understanding of soil health and to what extent they prioritised it in their own gardens. A key finding was that experienced gardeners were significantly more likely to prioritise soil health than those with less experience. This highlights the need to stress the importance of soil health to new gardeners who are starting out. It was encouraging many gardeners valued aspects of soil biology over chemistry with more associating a healthy soil with words such as 'organic', 'worms' and 'life' rather than 'nutrients'.

The 'How did your veg grow?' survey was the fourth annual review of the performance of 10 common vegetable crops. 2025 was a very hot dry season and earned the title 'Year of the aphid'!

Traditional crops such as runner beans, lettuces and brassicas struggled in the heat and many people had to adapt their practices such as using mulches and more frequent successional sowing.

All our citizen science work is being demonstrated in our organic demonstration garden, to show visitors this aspect of our work.

REVIVAL OF THE CARLIN PEA
CITIZEN SCIENCE EXPERIMENT

Carlin peas have a similar nutty taste to chickpeas. In most areas of the UK, they are a forgotten food, but they can still be found in specific regions, where they are eaten sprinkled with salt and vinegar.

The aim of the 'Revival of the Carlin Pea' experiment was to evaluate this crop as a home-grown source of protein that provided an alternative to importing chickpeas.

Although the hot dry conditions were a challenge for many, some growers were able to produce yields that exceeded typical commercial crops of drying peas.

Most participants found them easy to grow and more than half agreed that they made a suitable alternative to chickpeas. We would definitely recommend giving them a try.

GOAL: DEVELOP A BEST-IN-CLASS NETWORK WITH WORLD LEADING PEOPLE AND INSTITUTIONS

As with many areas of our work, aligned partnerships are so important when it comes to research and knowledge sharing.

We sit on the UK Plant Genetic Resources Group, with secretariat provided by Defra. We partner with the Irish Seed Savers and Austria's Arche Noah for exchange of learning and best practice.

We were pleased to strengthen our partnership with the Organic Growers' Alliance by planning new collaborations and ways of working together.

The Procurement for Good project went from strength to strength this year. We continued to build links with colleagues at Coventry University's Centre for Agroecology Water and Resilience (CAWR), across the Procurement for Good consortia and with our Food Hubs.

As part of this project we completed a policy report, a food hub explainer and a literature review, and we have begun to scope out five papers on public food procurement. This project continues until 2028.

Our Every Garden Matters report has continued to be a valuable tool to engage a wide audience, evidencing the collective impact that gardens could deliver for nature recovery.

We welcomed our President, Professor Tim Lang, to a joint learning session on food security with Coventry University and local authority and farming colleagues to discuss his report 'Just in Case: narrowing the UK civil food resilience gap', commissioned by the National Preparedness Committee.

GOAL: COMPREHENSIVE SOURCE OF EVIDENCE-BASED, CONTEMPORANEOUS ORGANIC GROWING, COMPOSTING AND SEED SAVING INFORMATION

Our founder Lawrence Hills was a pioneer, leading research and advice for organic growing practices. As our climate evolves, we strive to stay at the forefront, developing our practical advice based on our research, and that of our peers.

To support this work, we established our Horticultural Advisory Team. This group actively engages with ongoing development of our advice, reviewing and updating the information we share, and investigating new technologies on the market.

We ensure we are providing practical demonstration of information via our garden at Ryton, which also showcases a range of varieties from our Heritage Seed Library.

We welcomed several hundred visitors, including groups from community gardens, project partners and press. We also delighted in showing members of the public around, including those who drop in on a weekday, join one of our tours, or visit on a National Garden Scheme open day.

For those unable to visit us, we share our organic growing advice through a range of channels, including through our volunteers, our website, podcast, members' magazine, press articles, social media and major events.

A highlight for us this year was creating a garden at BBC Gardeners' World Live. Sponsored by Ecotalk, our 'Rooted in Nature' garden (pictured) showed visitors how they can create a small garden that balances food growing and wildlife habitats, without compromising on beauty.

During the four-day show we spoke to thousands of visitors, including many new gardeners, and were delighted to receive a silver-gilt award.

We were also thrilled to be part of the first Yeo Valley Garden Festival, where our North Somerset volunteers encouraged visitors to compost their green waste, and we raised the charity's profile within an audience of like minded festival goers.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

4. Attract the widest possible support for the cause

Our members, supporters, partners and wider audience are crucial to our ability to deliver impact and rally support for our campaigns.

GOAL: CLEARLY DEFINED, MEASURED AND SHARED IMPACT – EXPRESSING THE DIFFERENCE WE ARE MAKING

Articulating the impact we are having on nature, biodiversity, seed conservation and health and wellbeing is an important part of ensuring we are undertaking the right work, and spending our income to best effect.

Towards the end of the year we began the process of identifying an external partner to help us scope out a new framework of impact measures.

This work will continue into 2026/27 and will remain an essential tool for self-evaluation, benchmarking and improvement.

GOAL: SUPPORT RALLIED FOR PARTICIPATIVE CAMPAIGNS THAT PROTECT BIODIVERSITY AND PROMOTE GENETIC DIVERSITY IN PLANTS

We engaged in a number of ongoing campaign and policy activities through 2025/26.

The campaign to ban peat from horticulture rumbled on. As members of the Peat Free Partnership, we monitored and reacted to updates from government and industry on the use of peat within bagged composted and potted plants.

In February, we joined our campaign partners to deliver a petition with more than 13,500 signatures to Downing Street, highlighting just how many growers want to see change.

Frustratingly, and despite decades of campaigning from us and aligned organisations, legislation to support a ban is still outstanding. However, industry reports show that gardeners are speaking with their wallets, with sales of peat-free compost rising considerably.

Campaigning against the use of pesticides, including insecticides and herbicides, will remain a priority for the charity until we succeed with a total ban.

We were pleased to join the campaigning collaboration, Wildlife and Countryside Link, and through their Pesticides Working Group, connected with other campaigning organisations to co-ordinate activity asking for a ban of glyphosate ahead of a relicensing decision in December 2026.

This campaign will run through the summer of 2026, providing ways for consumers to show their support for a ban on the use of glyphosate within gardens and public spaces.

GOAL: INCOME GENERATED TO SUPPORT DELIVERY OF THE CHARITY'S MISSION

We remain incredibly grateful for the funding we receive from our supporters, whether that's from our members, donors, funders or commissioning partners.

We were particularly heartened by our supporters' response to two match funding campaigns, run via The Big Give, to raise funds for the Heritage Seed Library. Match funding campaigns like this mean the impact of each donation is doubled, thanks to support from The Big Give. Through these two campaigns we raised in excess of £90,000 – thank you to everyone who supported this.

We were fortunate to have the support of a number of aligned companies, including a long-standing relationship with Viridian Nutrition, and partnerships with Yeo Valley, Evengreener and a number of other companies.

These relationships generate valuable income and gifts in kind for Garden Organic and the Heritage Seed Library, and also help us amplify our reach via their own audiences.

In late 2025 we increased our income generation capacity with the appointment of a full time fundraising coordinator. This move provided an opportunity to focus on our income generation through trusts and foundations, as well as corporate support.

GOAL: A FORWARD-THINKING MEMBER/ SUPPORTER OFFER, RAISING BRAND AWARENESS TO MAXIMISE ENGAGEMENT AND INCOME

We ended the year with the support of 21,200 memberships, of which 7,600 were for the Heritage Seed Library and 25 are groups. This represents a stabilising of our supporter base.

At the start of 2026 we launched a major research project to improve understanding of our audiences, strengthen engagement and develop more sustainable income streams.

This project has provided incredibly valuable insight into needs and wants of our existing members, where we are meeting expectations and where we could be doing more.

We will be following this with research into our wider audience, to identify potential new members and supporters, and inform how and where we can engage with them. This information will provide the foundations of a supporter growth strategy for 2026/27.

Whilst this research is ongoing, we continue to raise awareness of the work of the charity, recruit new supporters to our cause and share our organic growing, composting and seed saving advice.

Our activities engage with millions of individuals each year, through events, press coverage, social media and wider communications activities such as our magazine, The Organic Way, monthly email newsletter, website and podcast. During the year we covered a wide range of topics within our own communications channels and via partnerships with others.

We were pleased to feature high profile guests on our podcast such as Raymond Blanc OBE and Kate Bradbury, plus experts from organisations including Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and the Bat Conservation Trust.

Within The Organic Way magazine we covered topics including regenerative farming, growing pulses and crop rotation. We also write regularly for several gardening consumer magazines - ensuring our messages spread beyond our own audience. We were pleased to work with the Royal Household on a two-page feature in The Telegraph on His Majesty The King's lifelong passion for heritage vegetables.

By the end of the financial year our email newsletter hit a record distribution list of 33,800, bolstered by people signing up through partnerships and promotions. This opted-in distribution list is an essential way for us to provide organic growing advice, and rally support for our campaigns.

During the year, we took the decision to leave the social media platform, X, instead focusing on our growing Instagram presence, and launching on Blue Skies and Threads.

We have seen a change in our website visitor behaviour, influenced by the increase in AI-led search. We continue to monitor this, and look for ways to make sure our messages are reaching the widest possible audience.

137,768
podcast listens

93,791
followers on social media

I have over the years taken an enormous amount of good, sound advice on how to be a more conscientious gardener and allotment holder.
Podcast listener

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

5. Deliver long-term business sustainability to underpin impact and income targets

During this financial year, we continued to strengthen the foundations required to deliver our strategic ambitions, making progress across financial sustainability, organisational capability and charity governance.

Partnership working remains central to our sustainability and ability to deliver impact. By collaborating with funders, universities, local authorities, community organisations and delivery partners across the UK, we extend our reach, share expertise, maximise resources and amplify impact.

These relationships play a vital role in supporting both organisational resilience and mission delivery.

GOAL: A LONG TERM FINANCIALLY VIABLE BUSINESS MODEL

During the year, Garden Organic continued to develop a more sustainable and resilient income model through membership, donations, grants, charitable activities, commercial activities and investment income.

Grant-funded activity increased during the year, supporting the delivery of research, education and charitable programmes.

The Charity reviewed its approach to cost allocation, providing greater visibility of the full cost of delivering services, including an appropriate share of organisational overheads.

This helps ensure resources are focused on activities that deliver the greatest charitable impact.

We also continued to invest in the organisational infrastructure required to support long-term sustainability. During the year, staff completed the migration of day-to-day files from our legacy server system to SharePoint and cloud-based storage. This significant project has improved efficiency, strengthened collaboration and enabled more effective sharing of information both within and beyond the organisation.

Our telephone system was also upgraded to Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP). Both projects were delivered without disruption to our normal business operations, reflecting careful planning and implementation.

As digital technologies evolve, we continue to prioritise cyber security and encourage a culture of vigilance and shared responsibility across the organisation.

The growth of artificial intelligence has also prompted consideration of new ways of working, and our approach remains firmly ‘human first, human last’, ensuring technology supports rather than replaces human judgement and expertise.

GOAL: A GREAT ORGANISATION TO WORK AND VOLUNTEER FOR

Garden Organic recognises that its staff, volunteers and associates are central to delivering its charitable objectives. We remain committed to creating a supportive, inclusive and rewarding environment in which people can thrive and contribute to our mission.

During 2025/26, we completed a staff survey and incorporated the resulting feedback into organisational plans. This has helped identify opportunities to strengthen communication, engagement and the overall working environment.

We actively seek and respond to staff feedback and continue to embed effective internal communications through strong line management and collaborative teamwork.

We retained our Thrive at Work Silver Award, remained a Disability Confident Employer and continued our commitment to the Mental Health Charter for Employers.

Supporting professional development remains a priority. During the year, we rolled out a management training programme for all managers and held two staff strategy days at Ryton, focused on organisational priorities and future direction.

Regular team workshops encourage collaboration across departments, helping to share knowledge, align resources and support joint problem-solving.

We also held a summer staff gathering with colleagues from Coventry University, where our President, Professor Tim Lang, delivered the keynote address.

Our commitment to best practice in people management continues to build on the comprehensive review of HR policies undertaken in recent years.

For the fourth consecutive year, we retained specialist HR consultancy support, providing expert guidance on employment matters, legislative developments and organisational good practice.

Following several years of work towards a more equitable pay structure, the Charity's pay ratio is now 3:1 between the highest and lowest paid employees, an achievement that reflects our organisational values and commitment to fairness. We also remain an accredited Real Living Wage Employer.

Volunteer numbers increased during the year, extending the Charity's capacity to deliver activities and engage supporters. Garden Organic benefits from the dedication of volunteers across a wide range of activities, including community composting, seed stewardship for the Heritage Seed Library, governance, gardening and administrative support. We are deeply grateful for the time, skills and enthusiasm they contribute.

We are also supported by a network of 35 associates working on our behalf to advance organic growing and sustainable food production.

Their expertise and local knowledge enable Garden Organic to support communities across the UK and significantly extend the reach and impact of our work.

GOAL: STRONG GOVERNANCE AND STRATEGIC STAKEHOLDER RELATIONSHIPS

During the year, Trustees, Board committees and the Executive Team continued to work collaboratively to provide effective oversight, strategic challenge and support.

Financial performance, risk management, investment decisions and strategic priorities remained areas of regular review, ensuring the organisation remained focused on both short-term performance and long-term resilience.

The Charity continued to maintain strong relationships with members, supporters, funders, partners and regulators.

These relationships are essential to delivering our mission and achieving our strategic objectives.

We recognise that lasting impact can only be achieved through effective collaboration, and we continue to invest in partnerships that strengthen our reach, influence and organisational sustainability.

> *The people behind Garden Organic are special*
> Garden Organic volunteer

> *I think you are doing splendidly. I love the fact that you are all so approachable and friendly.*
> Garden Organic volunteer

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

As we embark on a new five-year business plan, organic growing is more important than ever for the health of our environment.

During the coming year we seek to build on our key partnerships. We hope to establish a funded workstream with Warwick University, looking at the resilience of seeds held in the Heritage Seed Library and UK Vegetable Gene Bank.

We want to widen participation in scientific experiments with small scale food producers alongside gardeners, and, via our project funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund we plan to highlight seed conservation in communities across the Midlands and beyond.

Working closely with our President and Vice Presidents, we will strengthen our thought leadership work to shine a light on the vital importance of enabling individuals and communities to grow some of their own food. This is especially important at a time when the fragility of our food system and the need for greater food security have entered the public consciousness.

We will deploy more resource towards grant funding, as our mission is critical – enabling people to grow some of their own food is a positive and sustainable act, and aligned to the stated purpose of a wide variety of funders.

We want to scope out the possibility of expansion of the Heritage Seed Library – establishing how much land is needed and considering the addition of regional conservation spaces.

We must accelerate our growing out of the collection on rotation, so the seeds are given the chance to adapt to changing climate conditions.

Following many years of working closely with PAN UK and other aligned NGOs, we will lead the campaign to ban the use of glyphosate in gardens, parks and public spaces, as part of a much wider mobilisation to call for an end to its use in farming.

We have undertaken a comprehensive research piece in recent months to understand how we can better meet the needs of our members and supporters. This year we will improve our systems and processes as well as maximising all opportunities to meet our members.

We will do this via our regional members days, attending the events that our members attend, providing a smoother digital journey on our website, improving our podcast and email communications, and finding innovative ways to share organic gardening methods through our wider channels.

The coming year will be pivotal in ensuring Garden Organic and the Heritage Seed Library are recognised as highly effective actors in local, regional and national circles, in order for us to have greater impact and to enable much needed positive action.

FOLLOW OUR PROGRESS

@GardenOrganicUK @HeritageSeedLibrary

WWW.GARDENORGANIC.ORG.UK

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

The financial year ended 31 March 2026 covers a twelve-month period. The comparative figures relate to the previous reporting period of fifteen months ended 31 March 2025, following the extension of the Charity's financial year.

Consequently, direct comparison between the two periods should be made with caution.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Total income for the year was £1.71 million (2024/25: £3.22 million over fifteen months). The reduction compared with the previous year primarily reflects the exceptional legacy income received in the fifteen month 2024/25 reporting period.

Income from donations, membership and legacies remained the Charity's principal source of funding, generating £1.15 million during the year.

Membership subscriptions continued to provide a reliable source of unrestricted income, supported by the continued commitment of Garden Organic's members, donors and supporters.

Income from charitable activities increased to £476k (2024/25: £426k), supported by growth in charitable and research grant funding.

During the year, the Charity secured increased external funding to support research, education and public engagement activities, demonstrating continued confidence from funders in Garden Organic's work.

Government and public authority contracts remained an important contributor to charitable activities, while trading income and sponsorship provided lower level support.

The Trustees remain committed to maintaining a diverse and sustainable income base through membership, donations, legacies, grants, commercial activities and investment income.

This approach reduces reliance on any single funding source and strengthens the Charity's long-term financial resilience.

Total expenditure for the year was £2.06 million (2024/25: £2.36 million over fifteen months).

Of this, £1.51 million was invested directly in delivering charitable activities, including education and training, the Heritage Seed Library, research and community projects.

During the year, the Charity continued to invest in its core charitable programmes, with increased activity in research supported by growth in externally funded projects.

Management maintained a strong focus on financial discipline, ensuring resources were prioritised towards activities delivering the greatest charitable impact while maintaining appropriate financial controls.

The Charity recorded net expenditure of -£347k before investment gains and actuarial movements. This compared with a budgeted deficit of £265k and reflected lower than anticipated income during the year, including reduced grant income against forecast.

The Trustees continue to focus on strengthening sustainable income streams while ensuring expenditure remains aligned with available resources.

Investment gains of £48k and an actuarial gain of £143k arising from the defined benefit pension scheme improved the overall movement in funds.

FINANCIAL POSITION

At the year end, the Charity held net assets of £1.12 million, including investments valued at £1.60 million.

The investment portfolio remains an important source of financial resilience. During the year, the Charity drew down £275k from its investment portfolio to fund projects supporting the delivery of our charitable objectives and associated operational needs.

The portfolio continued to be actively managed, balancing the need for liquidity with the preservation of long-term capital.

Cash and cash equivalents at the year end were £159k (2024/25: £273k). The movement in cash reflects the operating deficit, working capital movements and the planned use of investment resources.

The Charity continues to monitor liquidity carefully, taking account of future operational requirements, pension commitments and planned investment in infrastructure and charitable activities.

A significant positive movement during the year was the reduction in the defined benefit pension liability from £442k to £214k following the latest actuarial valuation.

This strengthened the Charity's balance sheet, while recognising that future deficit recovery payments remain an important financial commitment.

RESERVES

The Trustees review the Charity's reserves policy annually to ensure sufficient financial resilience is maintained while enabling the Charity to continue investing in the delivery of its charitable objectives.

The Trustees have determined that a minimum general reserve of £500,000 remains appropriate. This represents approximately three months of unrestricted, non-trading expenditure and is considered sufficient to provide protection against unforeseen financial pressures.

In assessing available reserves, the Charity follows Charity Commission guidance and calculates these available funds by taking its unrestricted, undesignated funds and excluding its tangible fixed assets used in operations, designated funds and other commitments not available for general spending.

This means at 31st March 2026, the charity had available funds in surplus of £1,098,024 (2024-25 surplus £2,595,050) to meet its reserves. During the year, the trustees reviewed the calculation methodology used in assessing free reserves to ensure it more accurately reflects funds available for general use. As a result, the current year's reserves figure is not directly comparable with the prior year balance.

The Trustees are satisfied that the Charity continues to maintain adequate reserves to support its ongoing operations and future commitments.

Restricted funds at the year-end totalled £2,364 (2024/25: £1,885) and relate to specific projects supported by restricted grants and donations.

These funds are not available for general use and are applied only for the purposes for which they were provided. During the year, restricted income of £68,893 was received and applied to eligible project expenditure.

INVESTMENTS

Garden Organic's investment portfolio is managed by LGT Wealth in accordance with an investment policy approved by the Board of Trustees.

The Finance and Investment Committee regularly reviews investment performance, asset allocation, liquidity requirements and the Charity's longer-term financial needs.

Investment performance is monitored against appropriate benchmarks, with advice sought from professional advisers where required.

During the year, the Charity adopted a prudent approach to investment management, recognising the need to balance operational funding requirements with long-term capital preservation. A planned drawdown of £275k was made from investments to support operational requirements while maintaining a substantial investment base.

Despite continued uncertainty in global financial markets, the portfolio generated investment gains of £48k during the year.

Looking ahead, the Trustees have reviewed the investment strategy for 2026–2028 to ensure that the portfolio remains aligned with the Charity's reserves policy, financial commitments and long-term objectives.

The strategy seeks to maintain an appropriate level of liquidity to support operational requirements, pension commitments and unforeseen expenditure, while investing remaining assets to generate sustainable long-term returns.

Investment allocations will continue to be reviewed regularly by the Finance and Investment Committee to ensure they remain aligned with the Charity's financial position, risk appetite and charitable objectives.

FUNDRAISING

Garden Organic is registered with the Fundraising Regulator and is committed to ensuring that all fundraising activities are carried out responsibly, transparently and in accordance with regulatory requirements.

Fundraising activities are undertaken directly by Charity employees and volunteers. We do not use professional fundraising agencies or commercial participators to raise funds on its behalf.

Appropriate processes are in place to ensure fundraising activities are not intrusive and that supporters, including those who may be vulnerable, are treated fairly and respectfully. No fundraising complaints were received during the year.

The Charity continues to develop its fundraising capability through grant applications, membership development, appeals and individual giving, recognising the importance of maintaining a broad and sustainable funding base.

PENSION SCHEME

Garden Organic operates a defined contribution pension scheme for current employees.

The Charity also has obligations arising from a legacy multi-employer defined benefit pension scheme, which closed to future accrual in 2008. The associated liability is recognised in accordance with FRS 102.

The Charity continues to make deficit recovery payments under an agreed schedule with the pension scheme trustees. The actuarial valuation during the year resulted in a significant reduction in the recognised liability, strengthening the Charity's overall financial position.

GOING CONCERN

The Trustees have reviewed the Charity's financial forecasts, cash flow projections, reserves position and principal financial risks.

Taking account of the Charity's diversified income streams, investment portfolio, available liquidity and reserves position, the Trustees are satisfied that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

Accordingly, the financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Garden Organic is governed by its Articles of Association. These were updated in 2021 and adopted by members on 17th September 2021. Garden Organic is a company limited by guarantee.

The Board of trustees is responsible for the overall governance of the charity.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Trustees are elected by the membership or co-opted by the Board, where a skills gap is identified. The total number of trustees may not exceed 11 and each may serve a maximum of three terms of office, with each term being for a period of three years.

All trustees must be members of Garden Organic. Trustee vacancies are advertised via The Organic Way magazine.

New trustees undergo an induction process, meeting fellow trustees and senior members of staff. Relevant information on the charity, the role of a trustee and other background information that is considered useful by the Chair and Chief Executive is shared.

The Board of trustees meets formally at least four times a year, to discuss the strategic plan, to consider performance and policies and to manage the overall governance of the charity. Topics discussed during the year included finance, strategy, risk, governance, performance, impact, income generation, policies, the following year's budget and the business plan.

The trustees who served during the period up to the date of this report are as follows:

- Chair: Angela Wright (23.02.24 to 01.02.26 resigned after one term served)
- Interim Chair: Joe McIndoe (appointed 02.02.26 to 01.05.26)
- Vice-Chair: Joe McIndoe (appointed 28.06.25 to 02.02.26)
- Vice-Chair: Mark Mitchell (resigned 22.10.25)
- Treasurer: Keith Arrowsmith
- Rhiannon Davies (resigned 04.09.25 after one term served)
- Catherine Dawson (resigned 19.05.26 after one term served)
- Leslie Robinson (resigned 04.09.25)
- Nadia Mazza
- John Varney
- David Bond
- Caroline Bosher
- Will Dennis (appointed 24.02.26)

EXECUTIVE TEAM

The Board of trustees works closely with the Chief Executive and Executive Team to ensure the charity is managed effectively. The Chief Executive is responsible for the day-to-day management of the charity and for implementing policies agreed by the Board of Trustees. The Executive Directors assist the Chief Executive and meet regularly through the year.

The Executive Team who served during the period up to the date of this report are as follows:

- Fiona Taylor, Chief Executive
- Rizwan Ali, Director of Finance and Corporate Resources
- Hannah Bolger, Director of Membership, Marketing and Communications
- Colette Bond, Director of Communities
- Bruce Pearce, Associate Director of Horticultural Science (freelance)

STAFF

Garden Organic aims to be an organisation where people feel part of a team and work together for a shared purpose. Staff meetings are held regularly, with reports from the Executive and Management Teams on matters both strategic and financial, and with updates from colleagues, information on relevant topical horticultural issues and as well as health and well-being information.

Garden Organic supports equal opportunities and has a policy of recruitment and promotion on the basis of aptitude and ability without discrimination. We are proud to be a Disability Confident Employer and endeavour to make our sites as accessible as possible. We have also signed the Mental Health Charter for Employers.

PAY POLICY FOR KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

The Board of trustees and the Executive Team make up the key management personnel of the charity. They are responsible for directing and controlling, running and operating the charity.

All trustees give their time freely and no trustee received remuneration in the year. Details of their expenses are disclosed in note 9 to the accounts.

The Board of trustees approve the overall salary policy. They set the pay for the Chief Executive and work with the Chief Executive to set the salaries of the Executive Team.

They benchmark salaries and benefits against pay levels for roles in similar organisations, adjusting for any variation in the level of responsibility within the role.

GROUP STRUCTURE

The charity has a wholly owned subsidiary, Organic Enterprises Limited. The subsidiary carries out trading activities to raise funds which it gift aids to the charity, and during the financial period it made an operating profit of £898 (2024/25: £9,368).

The charity has another wholly owned subsidiary, Garden Organic Limited. This is a dormant company.

Other than the subsidiary companies, the charity does not have any other related parties and therefore has no related party transactions to disclose.

SUB-COMMITTEES AND SUBSIDIARY BOARDS

The Board of trustees delegates the exercise of certain powers in connection with the management and administration of the charity as set out below.

Regular reporting to the Board of trustees controls this. The full Board of trustees makes all significant decisions on recommendations from sub-committees and working groups.

Each sub-committee comprises trustees who are independent of the management and free from any relationship that, in the opinion of the Board of trustees, would interfere with the exercise of independent judgement as members of the sub-committee.

ORGANIC HORTICULTURE SUB-COMMITTEE

The Organic Horticulture sub-committee advises on science and research, the Heritage Seed Library, organic growing demonstration, advice and community outreach.

FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

The Finance sub-committee is responsible for overseeing and reviewing all financial aspects of the charity's activities, including its operational and strategic plans, to ensure its short and long term viability.

INVESTMENT SUB-COMMITEE

The Investment sub-committee is responsible for overseeing the external investment manager and reviewing the charity's investment performance.

This sub-committee is made up of the trustees on the Finance sub-committee,

AUDIT AND RISK SUB-COMMITTEE

The responsibilities of the Audit and Risk sub-committee were absorbed by the full Board from 16 October 2025, with support from the Finance sub-committee.

This was due to two unforeseen resignations which resulted in the trustee board being diminished in number for a period of time.

It is anticipated that this sub-committee will be reinstated during 2026/27.

ORGANIC ENTERPRISES LIMITED BOARD

The Organic Enterprises Limited Board is made up of trustees, Executive Team members and independent directors.

This board acts 'at arm's length' from the charity. It is responsible for overseeing the charity's commercial and trading activities with the aim of generating a profit to be gift aided to charity.

COMMERCIAL SUB-COMMITTEE

This sub-committee is made up of the same Trustees who sit on The Organic Enterprises Board and advises the charity in commercial matters.

GARDEN ORGANIC LIMITED BOARD

Garden Organic Limited's Board is made up of one Trustee. Since this company does not trade, its Board meets only once per year.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Board of Trustees, working with the Senior Management Team, oversee the charity's risk management. Risk registers are maintained across the charity to monitor risk and, where possible, to identify mitigating actions to reduce the impact of adverse events.

CHARITY GOVERNANCE CODE

The Board of Trustees follows the Charity Governance Code, which sets out the principles and recommended good practice for effective governance in charities.

The board is looking to improve diversity in its trustee recruitment process which has yielded some younger board members and a wide range of experience and skills. The charity regularly updates its governing documents, policies and descriptions for trustee roles.

AUDITORS

A resolution to authorise the Board of Trustees to appoint auditors and fix their remuneration will be proposed at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITY

The trustees (who are also directors of Garden Organic for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for the year.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (Charities SORP (FRS 102));
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006.

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.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (Charities SORP (FRS 102)).

By Order of the Board of Trustees

Signed by:

F335D9AA842844C...

John Varney, Chair of Trustees
Date: 9/18/2026

REFERENCE & ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

The following details are current at the date of signing the accounts:

Patron: His Majesty The King

President: Professor Tim Lang, PhD, FFPH

Vice-presidents:
- Thelma Barlow
- Raymond Blanc OBE
- Jane Davidson
- Susan Hampshire
- Pam Whittle CBE

The Board of Trustees:
- John Varney (Chair)
- Joe McIndoe (Vice-Chair)
- Keith Arrowsmith (Treasurer)
- Nadia Mazza
- Caroline Bosher
- David Bond
- Will Dennis
- Louisa Ziane
- Hannah Rhodes

Chief Executive: Fiona Taylor

Executive Directors:
- Colette Bond (Director of Communities)
- Rizwan Ali (Director of Finance & Corporate Resources)
- Hannah Bolger (Director of Membership, Marketing and Communications)
- Bruce Pearce (Associate Director of Horticultural Science - freelance)

Registration Numbers:
Charity Commission in England & Wales 298104
Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator SC046767
Companies House 02188402

Registered office: Ryton Organic Gardens, Ryton on Dunsmore, Coventry, CV8 3LG

Charity Advisors

Auditors: Azets Audit Services Ltd
Chartered Accountants
2nd Floor, Regis House, 45 King William Street, London, EC4R 9AN

Bankers: Lloyds TSB
Southpoint House, Harcourt Way, Meridian Business Park, Leicester, LE19 1WF

Investment Advisors: LGT Wealth
14 Cornhill, London EC3V 3NR

'Garden Organic' was adopted in October 2005 as the working name of the Henry Doubleday Research Association.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES AND MEMBERS

As at 31 March 2026

Company Number 02188402

OPINION

We have audited the financial statements of The Henry Doubleday Research Association (the 'parent charitable company') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the period ended 31 March 2026 which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, the Consolidated and Charitable Parent Company Balance Sheet, the Consolidated Cash Flow Statement 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 group's and parent charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2026, and of the group's incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, 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, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulations 6 and 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 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 group and parent charitable company 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 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 group's or parent charitable company'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 trustees 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, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, 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.

OPINIONS ON OTHER MATTERS PRESCRIBED BY THE COMPANIES ACT 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report incorporating the directors' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY EXCEPTION

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the group and parent charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the parent charitable company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the parent charitable company's financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the directors' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees (who are also the directors of the parent charitable company for the purposes 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 groups and parent charitable company'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 group or parent 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 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and under the Companies Act 2006 and report in accordance with the Acts 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.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which these are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims as well as actual, suspected and alleged fraud;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Assessing the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations considered to have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the company through enquiry and inspection;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management bias and override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for indicators of potential bias.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/Our-Work/Audit/Audit-and-assurance/Standards-and-guidance/Standards-and guidance-for-auditors/Auditors-responsibilities-for-audit/Description-of-auditors-responsibilities-for audit.aspx. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

USE OF OUR REPORT

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006, and to the charitable company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Regulation 10 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members and its 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 charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body and the charitable company's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

John Howard (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of Azets Audit Services, Statutory Auditors, 5th Floor, 16 Great Queen Street, Covent Garden, London, WC2B 5DG

Date: 9/22/2026

Signed by:
John Howard
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CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

As at 31 March 2026

Company Number 02188402

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2025-26 12 Months £	Restricted Funds 2025-26 12 Months £	Total Funds 2025-26 12 Months £	Total Funds 2024-25 15 Months £
Income from					
Donations, Membership and legacies	3	1,150,726	-	1,150,726	2,706,402
Charitable activities	4	406,608	68,893	475,501	426,227
Other trading activities	5	18,280	-	18,280	32,863
Investments		63,960	-	63,960	46,096
Other income		1,854	-	1,854	4,614
Total		**1,641,428**	**68,893**	**1,710,321**	**3,216,202**
Expenditure					
Raising funds	6	543,757	-	543,757	877,881
Charitable activities	7	1,444,956	68,414	1,513,370	1,480,199
Total		**1,988,713**	**68,414**	**2,057,127**	**2,358,080**
Net Income/(Expenditure)		**(347,285)**	**479**	**(346,806)**	**858,122**
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		**(347,285)**	**479**	**(346,806)**	**858,122**
Net gains on investments	11	47,953	-	47,953	16,123
		(299,332)	**479**	**(298,853)**	**874,245**
Actuarial gain on defined benefit pension schemes	17	143,000	-	143,000	201,823
		(156,332)	**479**	**(155,853)**	**1,076,068**
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		1,276,584	1,885	1,278,469	202,401
Total funds carried forward	18	**1,120,252**	**2,364**	**1,122,616**	**1,278,469**

All of the results are from continuing activities and include all gains and losses recognised in this period and last year.

Unrealised gains on investments have been included in the statement of financial activities as required by the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities".

The surplus for the period for Companies Act purposes comprises the net incoming resources for the period plus realised gains of £12,121 (2024-25: £18,483) on investments and was (£191,685) (2024-25: £1,073,708).

The notes on pages 33 to 49 form part of these financial statements.

BALANCE SHEETS

As at 31 March 2026 Company Number 02188402

		Group		Charity	
		2025-26	2024-25	2025-26	2024-25
		12 Months	15 Months	12 Months	15 Months
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible fixed assets	*10*	22,228	57,581	22,228	57,581
Investments	*11*	1,600,324	1,767,259	1,600,333	1,767,268
		1,622,552	1,824,840	1,622,561	1,824,849
Current assets					
Debtors	*13*	82,351	104,104	82,776	113,472
Cash at bank and in hand		142,865	257,189	142,489	247,844
		225,216	361,293	225,265	361,316
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	*14*	(467,179)	(421,068)	(467,237)	(421,100)
Net current assets		(241,963)	(59,775)	(241,972)	(59,784)
Total assets less current Liabilities		1,380,589	1,765,065	1,380,589	1,765,065
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	*15*	(43,973)	(44,596)	(43,973)	(44,596)
Provisions for liabilities	*17*	(214,000)	(442,000)	(214,000)	(442,000)
Net assets		**1,122,616**	**1,278,469**	**1,122,616**	**1,278,469**
Reserves	*18*				
Restricted funds		2,364	1,885	2,364	1,885
Unrestricted funds:					
- other charitable funds		1,120,252	1,276,584	1,120,252	1,276,584
		1,122,616	**1,278,469**	**1,122,616**	**1,278,469**

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 9/21/2026 and signed on their behalf by:-

Signed by:

Keith Arrowsmith

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Keith Arrowsmith
Honorary Treasurer

The notes on pages 33 to 49 form part of these financial statements.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

As at 31 March 2026 Company Number 02188402

	Notes	2025-26 12 Months £	2024-25 15 Months £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by operating activities	**19**	(393,172)	906,014
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest income		63,960	46,096
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		-	-
Proceeds from sale of investments		1,944,386	499,767
Purchase of investments		(1,729,101)	(1,553,404)
		279,245	(1,007,541)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the period		**(113,928)**	**(101,527)**
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of period		272,796	374,323
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period		**158,868**	**272,796**

Analysis of cash and cash equivalents	31 December 2025-26 12 Months £	31 December 2024-25 15 Months £
Cash in hand and in hand - Bank Accounts	142,865	257,189
Cash in hand and in hand - Liquidity Funds	-	-
	142,865	257,189
Cash held in investments.	16,003	15,607
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period	**158,868**	**272,796**

The notes on pages 33 to 49 form part of these financial statements.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

As at 31 March 2026 Company Number 02188402

1. Accounting policies

a) General information and basis of preparation

Garden Organic (Registered as the Henry Doubleday Research Association) is a charitable company limited by guarantee in the United Kingdom. In the event of the Charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member of the Charity. The address of the registered office is Ryton Organic gardens, Ryton on Dunsmore, Coventry, CV8 3LG. The nature of the Charity's operations and principal activities are given within the Trustees' Annual Report.

The Charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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) issued on 16 July 2014, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 and Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the Charity.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all periods presented unless otherwise stated.

b) Basis of consolidation

These financial statements consolidate the results of the Charity and its wholly owned subsidiaries Organic Enterprises Limited and Garden Organic Limited on a line-by-line basis in accordance with FRS 102 section 9 and the SORP (FRS 102) section 24.

Details of the subsidiaries are given in note 12 of the financial statements.

A separate statement of financial activities for the charitable company has not been presented because the charitable company has taken advantage of the exemption afforded by section 408 of the Companies Act 2006.

c) Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charitable company to be able to continue as a going concern.

d) Funds

Restricted funds – these are funds that can only be used for specific restricted purposes within the objects of the Charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Unrestricted general funds – these are funds that can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the Trustees.

Designated funds – these are funds that have been set aside by the trustees for purposes.

e) Income
All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the Charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Membership subscriptions are accounted for on an accruals basis providing an allowance for deferred income for subscriptions received in advance.

Legacy income has been accounted for based on cash received, or where receipt of written confirmation of the Charity's entitlement to a legacy has provided certainty of receipt.

Income from grants, including capital grants, is included in incoming resources when these are receivable unless entitlement is conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the Charity.Where donors impose conditions that must be met before the Charity has unconditional entitlement, the income is deferred and not included in incoming resources until the pre-conditions for use have been met.

Donations are accounted for when received and treated according to the donor's wishes. Donated facilities are included at the value to the Charity where this can be quantified, and a third party is bearing the cost. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

f) Expenditure
Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis.Any irrecoverable element of VAT is included with the item of expense to which it relates.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the Charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Governance costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the Charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

g) Tangible fixed assets
Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, other than freehold land, at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation, less estimated residual value, of each asset evenly over its expected useful life, or lease period if shorter, as follows: -

Fixtures and fittings	20% straight line
Website	25% straight line

Assets are only capitalised if cost is greater than £1,000.

h) Fixed asset investments
Investments held as fixed assets are stated at market value at the balance sheet date. The Statement of Financial Activities includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluations and disposals throughout the period.

i) Debtors
Other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

j) Cash at bank and in hand
Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar accounts.

k) Creditors
Creditors are recognised when there is a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably.

Other creditors and accruals are recognised at their settlement amount due.

l) Loans and borrowings
Loans and borrowings are initially recognised at the transaction price including transaction costs. Subsequently, they are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method, less impairment. If an arrangement constitutes a finance transaction it is measured at present value.

m) Pension costs
During the period, the Charity contributed to a defined contribution stakeholder scheme available to all. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company in independently managed funds. The pension costs charge represents contributions payable by the Charity to the funds.

The Charity also contributed to a multi-employer defined benefit pension scheme for certain individuals. This scheme was closed to future accruals on 31 December 2008. See note 17.

n) Taxation
The charitable company is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charitable company is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part II Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

o) Finance and operating leases
Assets obtained under hire purchase contracts and finance leases are capitalised as tangible assets and depreciated over the shorter of the lease term and their useful lives. Obligations under such agreements are included in creditors net of the finance charge allocated to future periods. The finance element of the rental payment is charged to the profit and loss account on a straight-line basis.

Rentals under operating leases are charged against income on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

p) Judgement and key sources of estimation uncertainty
The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumption about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and underlying assumptions are based on historical experiences and other factors that are considered relevant.

Accounting estimates and assumptions

(i) Multi-employer defined benefit pension scheme.

The Charity has an obligation to pay a deficit funding arrangement in respect of the multi-employer defined benefit pension scheme. The deficit is calculated based on an actuarial estimation of the liability and the principal assumptions are included in note 17. The present value of the obligation depends on a number of factors including the RPI rate and the discount rate on corporate bonds. This deficit is valued every three years.

(ii)Useful economic lives of tangible assets

The annual depreciation charge of tangible assets is sensitive to changes in the estimated useful economic lives and residual values of the assets. The useful economic lives and residual values are re-assessed annually. They are amended when necessary to reflect current estimates, based on technological advancement, future investments, economic utilisation, and the physical condition of the assets. See note 10 for the carrying amount of the fixed assets and note 1(g) for the useful economic lives for each class of assets.

2.	**Net income/(expenditure) for the period:**	**2025-26 12 Months £**	**2024-25 15 Months £**
	This is stated after charging:		
	Depreciation on owned tangible fixed assets	35,353	70,720
	Operating lease rentals – Plant and machinery	1,618	2,022
	Auditors' remuneration - audit services (Charity: £12,500)	12,500	12,000
	-Other services	3,100	4,000
	(over)/Under provision in prior periods		

3. Income from Donations, Membership and Legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	**Restricted Funds £**	**Total Funds 2025-26 12 Months £**	**Total Funds 2024-25 15 Months £**
Donations and gifts	208,890	-	208,890	300,553
Legacies	166,094	-	166,094	1,446,385
Membership	629,414	-	629,414	758,299
Gift aid recovery	146,328	-	146,328	201,165
	1,150,726	**-**	**1,150,726**	**2,706,402**

In 2025-26, all of the income from donations, memberships and legacies was attributable to the unrestricted fund.

4. Income from Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2025-26 12 Months	Total Funds 2024-25 15 Months
	£	£	£	£
Fees for gardening projects	37,991	-	37,991	30,127
Government and public authority payments	310,604	-	310,604	366,664
Charitable grants	58,013	68,893	126,906	29,436
	406,608	**68,893**	**475,501**	**426,227**

In 2024-25, £406,791 of the charitable activities income was attributable to the unrestricted fund and £19,436 was attributable to the restricted funds.

5. Income from Other Trading Activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2025-26 12 Months	Total Funds 2024-25 15 Months
	£	£	£	£
Income from trading activities	9,980	-	9,980	27,113
Sponsorship	8,300	-	8,300	5,750
	18,280	**-**	**18,280**	**32,863**

6. Expenditure on Raising Funds

	Activities undertaken directly	Support costs (Note 8)	Total Funds 2025-26 12 Months	Total Funds 2024-25 15 Months
	£	£	£	£
- Membership	185,833	125,533	311,366	483,085
- Fundraising and publicity	112,734	95,279	208,013	366,186
- Other trading activities	9,027	15,351	24,378	28,610
	307,594	**236,163**	**543,757**	**877,881**

7. Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	Activities undertaken directly £	Support costs (Note 8) £	Total Funds 2025-26 12 Months £	Total Funds 2024-25 15 Months £
- Education and training	289,860	250,540	540,400	589,202
- Heritage Seed Library	241,961	279,886	521,847	564,014
- Research	100,586	74,581	175,167	48,579
- Ryton Gardens	80,722	126,820	207,542	255,081
	713,129	**731,827**	**1,444,956**	**1,456,876**

8. Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	Management & Marketing £	Governance & Finance £	IT & Human Resources £	Premises £	Total Support costs 2025-26 12 Months £	Total Support costs 2024-25 15 Months £
- Membership	46,228	46,722	20,406	12,177	125,533	115,006
- Fundraising and publicity	33,331	35,453	20,406	6,089	95,279	197,483
- Other trading activities	6,260	3,002	-	6,089	15,351	10,014
- Education and training	75,883	89,085	61,217	24,355	250,540	82,505
- Heritage Seed Library	113,659	82,795	40,811	42,621	279,886	82,755
- Research	29,251	29,038	10,203	6,089	74,581	17,731
- Ryton Gardens	60,397	26,764	15,304	24,355	126,820	41,967
	365,009	**312,859**	**168,347**	**121,775**	**967,990**	**547,461**

Basis of Apportionment of Support Costs

- Management, marketing, governance and finance staff costs are apportioned based on direct staff costs.
- Management, finance and pension non-staff costs are apportioned based on direct costs (staff and non-staff).
- Marketing non-staff costs are allocated based on actual marketing expenditure.
- IT and Human Resources costs are apportioned pro rata based on staff headcount.
- Premises costs are apportioned pro rata based on the usage of the grounds/offices.

Change in basis of apportionment of support costs

During the year, the Trustees reviewed the methodology used to allocate support costs to charitable activities to ensure that allocations more accurately reflected the consumption of resources by each activity. The revised methodology applies appropriate allocation bases for each category of support cost, including direct staff costs, total direct costs, staff headcount, floor area and actual marketing expenditure, where relevant.

The revised approach provides a more appropriate reflection of the resources supporting each activity. Comparative figures have not been restated as the change relates to the allocation of support costs between activities only and has no impact on total expenditure, net assets, funds or the overall results of the charity. Consequently, the current year analysis is not directly comparable with the prior year.

9. Analysis of Trustee and Staff Remuneration

The aggregate payroll costs were:	**2025-26 12 Months £**	**2024-25 15 Months £**
Wages and salaries	1,129,816	1,281,610
Social security costs	128,618	106,256
Employer's contribution to defined contribution pension scheme	82,118	93,035
Operating costs of defined benefit pension scheme	66,999	85,474
	1,407,551	**1,566,375**

The average number of staff employed by the group during the financial period amounted to:

	No.	**No.**
Total number of staff:		
Raising Funds	1	1
Charitable Activities	33	32
Support Staff	9	10
	43	43

The Trustees received no remuneration during the period under review. Travelling, subsistence and accommodation expenses were reimbursed to 2 Trustees totalling £436.8 (2024-25: £361 to 2 Trustees).

During the period, one employee received total emoluments over £70,001 (2024-25 one over £70,001). Pension contributions relating to this employee of £6,000 (2024-25: £6,000) were paid into the auto enrolment pension scheme and nil into the historic defined pension contribution scheme.

The key management personnel of the Charity comprise the Trustees, the Chief Executive Officer and the Executive Team as noted on page 12. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel for 12 months period were £279,979 (2024-25 for 15 months: £407,053).

10. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Fixtures & Fittings	Website	Total
	£	£	£
Group and Charity			
Cost or Valuation			
At 1 April 2025	268,747	88,254	357,001
Additions	-	-	-
At 31 March 2026	268,747	88,254	357,001
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2025	248,103	51,317	299,420
Depreciation charge	13,290	22,063	35,353
At 31 March 2026	261,393	73,380	334,773
Net Book Value			
31 March 2026	**7,354**	**14,874**	**22,228**
31 March 2025	20,644	36,937	57,581

11. Investments

Investments managed by Investment Manager	2025-26 12 Months £	2024-25 15 Months £
Market Value		
At 1 April 2025	1,751,652	682,182
Additions	1,729,101	1,553,404
Disposals at opening market value	(1,944,386)	(500,057)
Realised and unrealised profit on investments	47,954	16,123
	1,584,321	1,751,652
Cash held by Investment Manager	16,003	15,607
At 31 March 2026	1,600,324	1,767,259

The additions/disposals figures above include an initial investment into the cash liquidity fund.

The historical cost of the investment portfolio (including cash) at 31 March 2026 was £1,541,579.90 (2024-25 - £1,756,317

All the investments are held primarily to provide an investment return for the charity.

	2025-26 12 Months £	2024-25 15 Months £
Fixed asset investment split		
Equities	433,144	197,506
Fixed Interest – UK	175,992	146,094
Property	12,160	10,136
Alternatives	32,695	38,138
Sterling Liquidity Funds	930,330	1,359,778
	1,584,321	1,751,652
Cash held by Investment Manager	16,003	15,607
	1,600,324	1,767,259

The following investments comprise of more than 5% of the value of the total portfolio:

	Market Value (2025-26)	% of Portfolio	Market Value (2024-25)	% of Portfolio
ABR LIQ FUND (LUX) SICAV STER L1 GBP DIS			1,317,850	74.57%
Main: BLACKROCK ICS STG LQDTY PREM GBP DIS	230,000	26%		
Liquidity: BLACKROCK ICS STG LQDTY PREM GBP DIS	700,000	100%		

Investments in Group Undertakings

	Group		Charity	
	2025-256 £	2024-25 £	2025-26 £	2024-25 £
Shares in group undertakings	-	-	9	9

12. Net income from the subsidiary trading activities

Organic Enterprises Limited is a 100% subsidiary with company number 0178247 whose registered office is Ryton Organic Gardens, Ryton On Dunsmore, Coventry, West Midlands, CV8 3LG. It has a share capital of £2. This company has not traded during the period of review.

The results for this subsidiary were as follows:

	2025-26 12 Months £	2024-25 15 Months £
Profit and Loss account		
Turnover	-	26
Cost of sales	-	-
Gross profit/(loss)	-	26
Other income	1,031	19,658
Administrative and other expenses	(133)	(10,316)
Net profit prior to gift aid to the Charity	**898**	**9,368**
Net assets at 31 March 2026	**7**	**7**

Garden Organic Limited is a 100% subsidiary with company number 07269077 and registered office at Ryton Organic Gardens, Ryton On Dunsmore, Coventry, West Midlands, CV8 3LG. It has a share capital of £2. This company has not traded during the period under review.

Investments in group undertakings comprise:	**£**	**£**
Organic Enterprises Limited	7	7
Garden Organic Limited	2	2
	9	**9**

13. Debtors

	Group		Charity	
	2025-26 12 Months £	2024-25 15 Months £	2025-26 12 Months £	2024-25 15 Months £
Trade debtors	55,498	54,456	55,440	54,456
Amount owed from group undertakings	-	-	483	9,368
Other debtors	11,865	38,395	11,865	38,395
Prepayments	14,988	11,253	14,988	11,253
	82,351	**104,104**	**82,776**	**113,472**

14. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Group		Charity	
	2025-26 12 Months £	2024-25 15 Months £	2025-26 12 Months £	2024-25 15 Months £
Trade creditors	28,173	27,511	28,262	27,541
Amount owed to group undertakings	-	-	2	2
Other taxation and social security	48,913	36,920	48,880	36,920
Other creditors	10,100	10,100	10,100	10,100
Accruals and deferred income (note 15)	379,993	346,537	379,993	346,537
	467,179	**421,068**	**467,237**	**421,100**

15. Deferred income

	£
Deferred income at 1 April 2025	364,858
Released during period	(455,056)
Deferred in 2025-26	461,012
Deferred income at 31 March 2026	**370,814**

	Group		Charity	
	2025-26 12 Months £	2024-25 15 Months £	2025-26 12 Months £	2024-25 15 Months £
Deferred income due within one year	326,840	320,262	326,840	320,262
Deferred income due after more than one year	43,973	44,596	43,973	44,596
	370,813	**364,858**	**370,813**	**364,858**

16. Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	Group		Charity	
	2025-26 12 Months £	2024-25 15 Months £	2025-26 12 Months £	2024-25 15 Months £
Accruals and deferred income (note 15)	43,973	44,596	43,973	44,596
	43,973	**44,596**	**43,973**	**44,596**

17. Pension Schemes

Defined Benefit Scheme

Garden Organic together with its subsidiary, Organic Enterprises Limited, and other institutions participate in the Mercury Provident Pension Scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of Garden Organic, being managed by the Mercury Provident Pension Scheme trustee.

On 1 September 2020, Garden Organic's share of assets and liabilities within the scheme were segregated from those of other employers and are now being managed in a separate, stand alone, section – the HDRA Section of the Mercury Provident Pension Scheme (the Scheme).

The scheme was revalued in December 2024 and the value restated in the 2023 Annual return. This valuation is undertaken every three years with the next due in December 2027.

Pension benefits are linked to the members' final pensionable salaries and service at their retirement (or date of leaving if earlier). The Trustee of the Scheme is responsible for running the Scheme in accordance with the Scheme's Trust Deed and Rules. The Trustee is required to act in the best interests of the beneficiaries of the Scheme.

There are two categories of Scheme members:

- Deferred members: members who have left pensionable service with benefits which have yet to come into payment.
- Pensioner members: members in receipt of pension.

Future Funding Obligation

The Trustee is required to carry out an actuarial valuation every three years. An actuarial valuation of the Scheme was performed by the Scheme Actuary for the Trustee as at 29 December 2024. However, FRS102 valuation as of 31st March 2026 is used for this period calculation.

The Charity agreed with the Trustee to pay contributions each month towards clearing the shortfall by 30 June 2034. Contributions will increase annually by 5% on each 1 January.

However, the Charity's contribution requirement will be reassessed once the results of the next formal actuarial valuation being carried out for the Scheme as at 29 December 2027 are known.

The total cost recognised in the period was as follows:

	2025-26 12 Months £	**2024-25 15 Months £**
Contributions paid	152,000	181,000
Administrative expenses	(44,000)	(48,000)
Settlements in respect of orphan debt	-	-
Net interest	(23,000)	(39,000)
Recognised in net income/expenditure	**85,000**	**94,000**
Pension revaluation	143,000	201,823
Recognised in other gains/losses	**143,000**	**201,823**
Total cost recognised	**228,000**	**295,823**

Amounts recognised in the balance sheet are as follows:

	2025-26 12 Months £	2024-25 15 Months £
Market value of assets held at 31 March 2026	1,760,000	1,604,000
Liabilities to members at 31 March 2026	(1,974,000)	(2,046,000)
Deficit	**(214,000)**	**(442,000)**

Defined Contribution Scheme

Garden Organic also makes contributions to a defined contribution stakeholder scheme. The pension cost charged to the financial statements in the period in respect of this scheme was £85,000 (2024-25: £ 94,000). At the end of the period there were no outstanding contributions payable. The next formal valuation of the scheme is due 29 December 2027.

18. Reserves

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted Funds (note 21) £	Total Funds £
Fund balances at 31 March 2025	1,276,584	1,885	1,278,469
Surplus/(deficit) for period	(156,332)	479	(155,853)
Fund balances at 31 March 2026	**1,120,252**	**2,364**	**1,122,616**

19. Reconciliation of net income/expenditure to net cash flow from operating activities

	2025-26 12 Months £	2024-25 15 Months £
Net income for reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	(298,853)	874,245
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	35,353	70,720
(Gains)/losses on investments	(47,953)	(16,123)
Interest received	(63,960)	(46,096)
Decrease in debtors	21,753	13,071
Increase in creditors	45,488	104,197
(Decrease) in defined benefit pension scheme liability	(85,000)	(94,000)
Net cash provided by operating activities	**(393,172)**	**(906,014)**

20. Restricted funds – current period

	Balance at 1 April 2025 £	Movement in Resources & Transfers £	£	Balance at 31 March 2026 £
Projects:				
Social Therapeutic Horticulture	1,519	-	-	1,519
Heritage Fund-Sowing your seeds	-	42,200	(41,583)	617
Tyfi Dyfi Project	265	-	-	265
The National Lottery Community Fund	101	21,573	(21,711)	(37)
The Art of Seed Saving	-	5,120	(5,120)	-
Total restricted funds	**1,885**	**68,893**	**(68,414)**	**2,364**

21. Restricted funds – prior period

	Balance at 1 January 2024 £	Movement in Resources & Transfers £	£	Balance at 31 March 2025 £
Projects:				
Social Therapeutic Horticulture	1,519	-	-	1,519
Heritage Fund-Sowing your seeds	-	307	(307)	-
Tyfi Dyfi Project	265	-	-)	265
The National Lottery Community Fund	3,988	19,129	(23,016)	101
Total restricted funds	**5,772**	**19,436**	**(23,323)**	**1,885**

Projects:

The National Lottery Community Fund

The Greening Campaign tackles climate change at a community level where everyone is invited, and everyone has a role to play in making their community more resilient to future challenges. Garden Organic supports communities to grow their own food, highlighting the benefits of eating locally grown organic produce, and to take steps to reduce the amount of waste being sent to landfill.

Sowing your Seeds: Heritage Crops for a Resilient Future

A two-year project, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, to find, conserve and share heirloom vegetable seeds in Midlands communities.

The Art of Seed saving – Peter Sowerby Foundation

This project raises awareness and engagement in seed skills and local vegetable conservation, positively impacting biodiversity and learning

Social Therapeutic Horticulture

A project looking at how we can use organic horticulture to improve different people's lives, including carers and young people.

Tyfu Dyfi Project

A multi-partner project running in mid-Wales funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the Welsh Government, demonstrating how communities can be involved with their local food systems.

22. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2025-26 12 Months	Total Funds 2024-25 15 Months
	£	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 March 2025 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	22,228	-	22,228	57,581
Investments	1,600,324	-	1,600,324	1,767,259
Current assets	222,852	2,364	225,216	361,293
Current liabilities	(467,179)	-	(467,179)	(421,068)
Creditors amount falling due after more than one year	(43,973)	-	(43,973)	(44,596)
Provisions for liabilities	(214,000)	-	(214,000)	(442,000)
Total net assets	**1,120,252**	**2,364**	**1,122,616**	**1,278,469**

23. Operating lease commitments

At 31 March 2026 the total future minimum lease payments for the Group under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2025-26 12 Months	2024-25 15 Months
	£	£
Expiry:		
Within one year	1,050	1,618
Between one and five years	1,378	2,428
	2,428	**4,046**

24. Capital commitments

There were capital commitments of £nil (2024-25: £nil) at the period end.

25. Related Party Transactions

There are no related party transactions during the period (2024-25: £nil).

Signed on behalf of Garden Organic registered as The Henry Doubleday Research Association

John Varney, Chair of Trustees

Signed by:

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9/18/2026

Signed on behalf of Azets Audit Services

John Howard, Senior Statutory Auditor

Signed by:

John Howard

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9/22/2026

WITH GRATEFUL THANKS

We are deeply grateful to all the organisations, grant givers and individuals who support us - especially our regular donors, those who respond to our appeals, and our volunteers, members, and supporters. Your efforts, including fundraising through garden openings, seed swaps and gardening group events, make a significant difference to the impact we have. We also hold a huge debt of thanks to those who remember the charity in their will and through in memory donations.

THE FOLLOWING ORGANISATIONS FUNDED OUR WORK IN 2025/26:

TRUSTS AND FOUNDATIONS

- Duke of Portland Charitable Trust
- Edward and Dorothy Cadbury Trust
- Fisherbeck Charitable Trust
- Finnis Scott Foundation
- Garfield Weston Foundation
- H D H Wills 1965 Charitable Trust
- Kaye Pemberton Charitable Trust
- Peter Sowerby Foundation
- Plan Aid
- Rowlands Trust
- The Anson Trust
- The Association for Horticultural Learning Working for Gardeners, George Cadbury Trust Bursary
- The National Lottery Community Fund (in partnership with The Greening Campaign project)
- The National Lottery Heritage Fund
- The Organic Family Foundation
- The Ratcliff Foundation
- The Reed Foundation and The Big Give
- The Saintbury Trust
- The Stanley Smith (UK) Horticultural Trust
- The William Dean Countryside & Educational Trust

GOVERNMENT

- Ministry of Justice HM Prison & Probation Service

ACADEMIC/RESEARCH

- UKRI Economic and Social Research Council

CORPORATE SUPPORTERS

- Andermatt Home & Garden
- Breedon Gravel
- Ecotalk
- EON, working in partnership with Coventry City Council
- Evengreener
- Flahavan's Irish Oats
- Fryd
- Gardening Naturally
- Hedges Direct
- HotBin
- Immediate Live
- Le Manoir Aux Quat'Saisons
- Melcourt Industries
- Mid-Counties Co-op
- Nutscene
- Orbis Investments
- Organic Bulbs
- Rolawn
- Tamar Organics
- The Doyle Collection
- The Wildlife Community
- Twool
- Veolia
- Vinceremos Wines
- Viridian Nutrition
- Wild Water
- Yeo Valley

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

- Buckinghamshire Council
- Coventry City Council (Nature Towns and Cities is a partnership between Natural England, the National Trust and The National Lottery Heritage Fund)
- Cumberland Council
- East London Waste Authority
- Essex County Council
- Gloucestershire County Council
- Leicestershire County Council
- Norfolk County Council
- North Somerset Council
- Rugby Borough Council
- Shropshire Council
- Suffolk County Council
- Warwickshire County Council
- Westmorland and Furness Council
- Worcestershire County Council
- West Northamptonshire Council (Public Health)

OTHER FUNDERS

- Asthma & Lung UK
- Caldmore Community Garden
- Community Heathworks CIC
- British Library Living Knowledge Network
- Flagship Housing Group
- Hope Centre, Northampton
- Learning Through Landscapes
- Plant Heritage UK
- Rugby Almshouse
- Shropshire Good Food Partnership
- Sizzle / Enrich the Earth
- The Gaia Foundation's Seed Sovereignty Programme
- YMCA (Heart of England)