



REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES  
&  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2023

Registered office Cobblestones, Chelmsford Road, Felsted, Essex, CM6 3EP

Registered Charity No. 1057876

Company No. 3233796

ESSEX GARDENS TRUST  
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2023

President:                   The Lord Petre                   Vice President                   Marion Swetenham

Trustees and Members of the Management Committee:

Chair	Vacant
Honorary Treasurer and Company Secretary	Stephen Ogle
Emma Cannell	Laura Chase
Adrian Gascoyne	Tricia Moxey
Jane Palmer	Patricia Sinclair
Carol White	

Co-opted Members of the Management Committee:                   Jill Plater, David Andrews, Megan Lloyd-Regan and Katie Tumber

Administration Manager:                   Katie Tumber

Artist in Residence:                   Jane Frederick

Communications Team:                   i) Jane Palmer, ii) Carol White

Conservation Officers:                   i) David Andrews, ii) Megan Lloyd-Regan

Events Coordinator:                   Laura Chase

Journal Editor:                   Vacant

Membership Secretary:                   Carol White

Publicity Officer                   Vacant

Research Team Leader:                   Emma Cannell

Special Projects:                   i) Laura Chase, ii) Carol White

Website Editor:                   Ross Pullar

Writer in Residence                   Siobhan Pierce

EGT Representative on Warley Place Management:                   i) Ailsa Wildig, ii) Fiona Tittensor

Patrons:                   Adrian Gascoyne, Dr David Hessayon, Jill Plater, Prof. Tim Middleton

The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

### **OBJECTIVE**

The Trust's descriptor is 'Caring about our green spaces', and its objective 'Sharing our love of gardens and landscapes, their history, their design, their making and the stories that surround them; and fostering that love in others' by:

Organising visits, talks, and communications for the education, interest and enjoyment of our members and friends;

Protecting the precious green spaces of Essex, past and present, and influencing their future by identifying and recording their details, publishing that information freely and using our knowledge to provide informed comment on relevant plans for development.

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

Essex Gardens Trust (EGT) has seen many highlights in the last year, including:

- Commencement of work on the Southend Inventory of historic gardens and landscapes;
- Sold copies of our latest publication, The Lost Gardens of Thurrock, now total 120;
- A new Writer in residence;
- The launch by our Artist in Residence of the Garden Seekers project;
- The Essex Women's Commemoration Project;
- The EGT/Beth Chatto Writing competition;
- A full events programme including face-to-face talks and a coach trip;
- Return to New Hall from where EGT was launched 27 years ago;
- Attendance at the Gardeners' World Show at Audley End and the Orsett Show;
- The continuing support of many volunteers.

The Management Committee were also pleased to welcome Katie Tumber as Administration Manager. However, there remain several important vacancies which are hindering our progress.

Patricia Sinclair stood down as Chair at the end of 2022 after four years of much appreciated commitment. A new Chair has yet to be found.

The position of Journal Editor and the newly created role of Publicity Officer also need to be filled.

## **REVIEW OF THE YEAR**

### **Research and Garden History**

We were keen to build on the success of the Thurrock project and the enthusiasm of the volunteers involved. The next logical District was Southend.

The Southend Inventory Project was launched on April 24<sup>th</sup>. Southend Parks and Open Spaces Department had kindly provided us with a fantastic venue in Southend which was the perfect setting for this meeting. It was wonderful to see so many potential volunteers at the launch, including old friends from Thurrock as well as members of a range of historic and community groups in Southend. Patricia Sinclair, Ian Brown (Southend City Council) and Emma Cannell gave a brief introduction about Essex Gardens Trust, why this project is necessary for Southend and what an inventory is. Dr Twigs Way then gave a fascinating and entertaining introduction to landscape history. Phil Lobley (EGT researcher) described some of his research into the Belhus site as part of the Thurrock project and why English Heritage became so interested in this important location. There was also an opportunity for people to look at Jill Plater's collection of old postcards based on Southend sites which provoked much discussion. We displayed information regarding the Thurrock Inventory to inspire our potential volunteers. The launch was successful resulting in a sizeable group of volunteer researchers ready to unearth historic green space in Southend.

During May, the Southend Research Team began their training with Twigs including sessions on 'Landscape History and Terminology' and 'Mapping' where they learned about the incredible number of maps available and some of the software that we can use to overlay different types/age of map. The team also had their first site visit to Priory Park. Emma Cannell, our Research Team Leader, knew this site very well through work on her PhD and planned a session focusing on many of the resources necessary for field research, including historic Ordnance Survey maps, Tree Protection Order maps and images of the site from the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. While exploring the site we measured the girth of a number of trees at the 'Cuckoo Corner' end of the Park and, with Rob Adam's assistance, confirmed the likely age of the trees according to OS maps and images. Many of the team were not regular visitors to this site and commented on how well used the park was as well as it being an attractive location. Following our first two training sessions, the team chose their sites. Some of our volunteers possess a great knowledge of Southend so have added further information to our site list.

As well as compiling our initial inventory list, Jill Plater has collated a comprehensive handbook for each volunteer with a range of information including why inventory research is so important, how we have arrived at the inventory list, how to format an inventory entry and where to access resources in Southend and the Essex Records Office. Our volunteers were provided with digital copies of this document.

The research team completed their training during June. Twigs Way led an informative session discussing the various methods available when accessing information regarding a site. Many of our 'Southend' based researchers have a fantastic knowledge of where to retrieve information within the city which has proved invaluable for the whole team. Several researchers have commented on how well resourced the local history section of the Central Library is, resulting in fewer trips to the Essex Records Office. Our final session focused on writing up our research into an inventory format. Twigs had asked the team to share their research and was delighted at how motivated the team are as we had so many sites and images to discuss. Emma has joined many of our team on their site visits to provide support and advice, something which will be ongoing throughout the project. Twigs and Emma also organised a site visit for the whole team in August. This was an opportunity for everyone to share their information as well as to reconnect and retain their enthusiasm for the project. It was lovely to meet up in person again. Sometimes writing up can be challenging, so we arranged a further training session focusing on how to complete their inventory entries.

The majority of potential sites are under investigation now. As some sites are discarded due to a lack of existing landscape or archival information, the outstanding locations will be taken up. Once we know which sites to reject, the final inventory list will begin to take shape. The final document should be completed by December.

In July, we were delighted to be awarded a grant of £3,000 by the Essex Heritage Trust (EHT). A board member of EHT told us she was impressed both with our application but also with the intention of the project and asked if she could join us on a site visit!

## **Conservation**

Recent planning applications have mostly been householder ones for properties in the vicinity of registered or inventoried landscapes where only minor works such as an extension are proposed. As such they have not warranted comment or objection. Others, where more significant interventions have been involved, have not seemed objectionable in view of the likely ensuing public benefit, in line with the criteria of balancing harm against benefit as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework. The county seems to be under increasing pressure from applications for solar farms, including the approved Longfield site, the largest in the country, but so far these have not impinged on historic landscapes.

## **Education**

We were delighted to receive an invitation to the Writtle University College Design Degree show in May which celebrated the creative work of their postgraduate students completing their Masters in Landscape Architecture. Although always a special occasion, this year was particularly poignant as it was the final exhibition. Sadly, the design department is closing. The evening was, nevertheless, a wonderful occasion. It was joyous to see so many friends and family supporting the students and celebrating their achievements.

Essex Gardens Trust were very pleased to sponsor the People's Choice Award, a prize voted for by visitors to the exhibition. The standard of work was incredibly high and covered a range of topics based on locations both in Essex and further afield. Each student had spent an incredible amount of time researching their site before exploring and then designing an imaginative and thoughtful piece of work. Ecological considerations were evident in many designs as was the importance of open space to our mental health.

Essex Gardens Trust People's Choice - Winner

Lissy Moriarty

'Stories of belonging: Discussing Place Attachment through landscape narratives'

Essex Gardens Trust People's Choice – Runner Up

Martin Smith

'Reconnecting people to nature through urban recreational landscapes'

In 2022, EGT made a grant to Manningfield Primary School to help them in establishing a school garden. This year two EGT trustees Laura Chase and Carol White visited the school and were very impressed with what has been achieved.

## **The EGT/Beth Chatto Writing Competition and EGT Writer in Residence**

Having been postponed following the sudden death of Bella D'Arcy Reed who initiated it, the competition finally took place, and the winning entries were announced on the 15th October 2022 at a delightful event in Beth Chatto's Gardens. The winning entry was 'Bill's Garden' by Clare Shaw and the runners-up were 'The Restorative Gardens' by Siobhan Pierce and 'Guerilla Gardening' by Nancy Stvenson. The winning stories have also been published on the Essex Gardens Trust and Beth Chatto websites. Siobhan Pierce subsequently agreed to become EGT's new Writer in Residence and has contributed poems to EGT's monthly E-Newsletter.

Siobhan also organised a garden-inspired poetry workshop on 23 June led by Wivenhoe poet Elelia Ferrero at Beth Chatto's Plants and Gardens in Elmstead Market. Participants enjoyed exploring the gardens and crafting poems inspired by the different garden habitats.

### **The Garden Seekers: an artistic lens on the gardens of Essex**

Since her appointment as Essex Gardens Trust Artist in residence in early 2021, Jane Frederick has been working with gardeners, archivists and curators associated with six of the region's most treasured gardens: Audley End, Easton Lodge, Markshall Estate, Warley Place, Cressing Temple Barns and the Gibberd Garden. All the gardens appear on the Essex Inventory of Historic Designed Landscapes prepared by Essex Gardens Trust.

Jane has developed an installation of drawing, painting and film which responds to the featured gardens and is currently on exhibition for the whole season at Audley End House and Gardens in the Robert Adam Dining Parlour and Tapestry room. The exhibition has been supported by Curator Dr. Peter Moore and Head Gardener Louise Ellis and generously funded by the Friends of Audley End.

An accompanying programme of eight 'Tour & Draw' workshops has been developed by Jane and supported by garden experts and volunteers at each of the garden venues which encourage participants to engage mindfully with gardens through drawing. Two of the workshops were promoted by EGT. Additionally, similar drop-in workshops were offered to Gardeners' World Live visitors in 2022 and most recently to English Heritage Members. Jane is currently planning a collaborative workshop with EGT Writer in residence Siobhan Pierce which will be offered to visitors to the Essex Gardens Trust/Gardens Trust stands at Gardeners' World Live in September.

### **Essex Women's Commemoration Project**

As described in last year's AGM report, four 'blue commemorative plaques' were unveiled to honour the legacies of Helen Robinson of RHS Hyde Hall, Ellen Willmott of Warley Place and Beth Chatto and Pamela Underwood.

These plaques are part of an Essex-wide project aimed at commemorating significant and influential women whom history may have overlooked. There have been many women over the years who have contributed to our county's gardens, landscapes, and horticultural heritage and who feature in the research work and publications of EGT. Celebrating and commemorating their achievements felt very much in keeping with EGT's aims. The women to be commemorated were chosen through an online poll of our members and our thanks go to all those who took part.

## **Publicity, Communication and Publications**

EGT has three social media accounts, and numbers following and interacting with us continue to grow. Followers on Facebook have increased over the last year by 92 to 546. The Twitter (now X) account has grown more slowly, but we now have 173 followers. For a younger audience, we also have an Instagram account. All are useful for reaching non-members and members of other organisations and county gardens trusts.

For members and others who have requested to receive information from us, we send out a monthly E Newsletter and occasional Events update.

The website continues to be an important part of our publicity and as a method to inform the public about us. Numbers of visits to the website have remained steady at over 11,000 between September 2022 and August 2023.

In September 2022, EGT were delighted to be invited to the Orsett Show by the Thurrock Historical Society. With an estimated footfall of 12,000, this very popular show provided us with a significant opportunity to raise the profile of our charity and spread the word about its important work - protecting valuable parks, gardens and landscapes throughout all our county. We were also able to meet with other local, heritage-based organisations as well as promote (and sell) our most recent publication 'Lost Gardens of Thurrock'. Following on from this success, we will be returning to the Orsett show on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2023.

Also in September 2022, but this time alongside The Gardens Trust, EGT had a stall at the Gardeners' World Live show at Audley End which enabled us to showcase our tours, lectures, research and garden conservation advocacy work. Our Artist in Residence, Jane Frederick, was also there to engage people in garden-themed, creative activities. We will again be present at this year's show.

## **Events**

After receiving such a warm reaction to the highly successful 'Tour and Draw' days in 2022, organised and run by Jane Frederick, our Artist in Residence, we held another three events at Audley End, Warley Place and Gibberd Garden.

As in 2022 Jane arranged a private talk and guided tour around the gardens, and then helped participants sketch their chosen aspects of the garden through general demonstrations of technique and then 'one to one' guidance. It is a different, and very satisfying, way to engage more closely with a beautiful landscape.



ESSEX GARDENS TRUST  
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2023

On Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> August, our private evening visit to Markshall, Coggeshall, started with a guided tour by Ian Chandler, their Senior Arborist at Markshall. He gave us an overview of 1,000 years of the history of the estate and explained how Thomas Phillips Price, the last owner of Markshall Estate could see the global importance of growing & understanding of nature, biodiversity and sustainable land management. With his strong ties to Kew Gardens, he wanted to ensure that nature is always protected and managed sustainably at Markshall Estate.

We visited Audley End on 14<sup>th</sup> September where our members and guests enjoyed a private guided tour around the splendid series of gardens which surround one of the finest Jacobean houses in England. Louise Ellis, Head Gardener (and EGT member), introduced us to the history of the house and estate and explained how Capability Brown was brought in to create a dramatic change to the landscape.

Our winter lecture series began in December with a fascinating lecture at Writtle College on Essex's geology and its shaping of the landscape by regular lecturer, garden historian Alison Moller. Instead of the EGT's usual focus on gardens created in the last few centuries, Alison turned the focus back millions of years to show how geology shaped future landscapes by laying down successive layers of new soil, water and rocks which determined the contours and habitats of today's Essex.

Our next two lectures were held at New Hall School, which provided a welcoming new venue for events on a site steeped in history stretching back to its time as Beaulieu, Henry VIII's Tudor palace. New Hall was where the first meeting of the newly formed Essex Gardens Trust was held in 1966. After each of these lectures, knowledgeable New Hall guides showed attendees around the grounds, pointing to the clues in the landscape and built fabric which revealed its uses as a home to the Boleyn family and Henry VIII prior to its use from 1799 as a Catholic school.

The February lecture was given by EGT researcher and Trustee, Dr Emma Cannell, on 'The History of the English Park Movement, Philanthropy and Priory Park, Southend'. Emma's story of the development of parks followed their growth through over a thousand years' of social history to the present day. Emma then turned to Priory Park in Southend which was created thanks to one man and is still enjoyed by the residents of Southend City today.

EGT returned to New Hall School in March for a lecture by garden historian Dr. Twigs Way entitled, "A Garden Historian's Paradise: Menton and the Riviera". Following a trip to Menton, funded in part by an EGT Bursary, Twigs shared with us her knowledge of the beautiful gardens and landscapes in this commune tucked away in the south-east of France. Her photos from the trip captured the lovely light and atmosphere which has captivated many artists, plant collectors and garden designers over the years.

ESSEX GARDENS TRUST  
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2023

EGT launched its summer garden visits schedule with a tour of the idyllic Gardens of Easton Lodge in May. They have been partially restored by a group of dedicated volunteers to bring back selected features of their Edwardian heyday.

Following a gap caused by Covid, EGT was pleased to resume the annual coach trip with a visit to the Horniman Museum which was named '2022 Museum of the Year', The Museum boasts 16 acres of gardens with stunning views over London and a wide variety of trees, plants and designed spaces. These include a Grasslands Garden, with a naturalistic planting scheme devised by Olympic Park designer Professor James Hitchmough. Other areas include a Medicine Garden, a Dye Garden, a pond area and an Arts and Crafts style Sunken Garden that was built in 1936. The visit included a private tour by Head Gardener Errol Fernandez who provided fascinating insights into the design, development and maintenance requirements of a public garden, open free of charge, with many visitors as well as to the challenges of an increasingly hot and dry future.

EGT members and guests enjoyed an informative tour on 28<sup>th</sup> June of the lovely gardens at Peacocks in Margaretting. Peacocks' owner, Phil Torr, guided the group through the gardens he's gradually expanded over the last quarter century of his stewardship of the property. A particular treat were the series of garden rooms, each with a particular design theme and an inconspicuous entrance into the next garden. The last room led on to a meadow and orchard which was covered in wildflowers thanks to Phil's careful preparation of the soil over the last decade to ensure its suitably, under-nourished condition for annual wildflowers.

### **Membership**

Once again, it is encouraging to be able to report that our membership continues to increase year on year. During our last financial year (1.7.22 to 30.6.23), EGT membership has increased from 182 to 195 total members. New members have come from the volunteer research teams, including the new team documenting the Southend Inventory, people who have attended our events, such as the highly successful Garden 'Tour & Draw' events at Audley End. Several new members also joined on the recommendation of friends and after visiting our website. People wishing to join can access an EGT membership form on our website; and we are hoping to add a facility to allow people to join online shortly.

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

Unrestricted grants and donations totalled £78 (2021/22 £194).

Sale of 'Lost Gardens of Thurrock' and other publications amounted to £884 (2021/22: £618).

Income from membership fees and gift aid at £2,167 and £428 in the year to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023 were slightly lower than those for the previous year (£2,268 and £474, respectively).

Income and expenditure from events were both lower than the previous year due to a different programme. Overall the 2022/23 programme resulted in a surplus of £1,072 (2021/22: £1,369).

The cost of grants and awards included the Essex Women's Commemoration project (£1,542) the Writing Competition (£449) and the Writtle University student awards (£150), totalling £2,141 (2021/22: £745). Entry fees and donations to the Writing Competition totalled £220.

Communication and administration costs rose to £2,064 from £1,890. Additional costs included the purchase of two banners.

Overall, unrestricted income exceeded unrestricted expenditure by £768 in the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023 compared to £2,273 in the previous year.

Research work on the Thurrock inventory had been completed in 2021/22. This financial year work was started on the Southend district. Since the year end we have been awarded a grant of £3,000 by the Essex Heritage Fund towards this work. £2000, has been transferred from Unrestricted Fund to cover the balance of the project budget.

After this transfer there was a net deficit of £1,232 on Unrestricted reserves which at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023 amounted to £16,843 (30<sup>th</sup> June 2022: £18,075).

### **Reserves**

The Trustees consider that the Trust should hold reserves equal to two years' average running costs, which would amount to around £7,000. The additional reserves enable the Trust to invest in new research or outreach activities.

## **RISK REVIEW**

The Trustees have considered carefully the risks which face the Trust in particular in relation to organised events and research activities involving visits to private property and have put in place measures to mitigate them.

### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

The governing document of the Essex Gardens Trust is its Memorandum and Articles of Association. Its Trustees are elected by the members in general meeting. The Trustees may co-opt persons to the Board; any person so co-opted must stand for election at the next Annual General Meeting. The Trustees who are in office at the time of signing this report are listed on page 1. Linda Fell was appointed a trustee on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2021 and resigned on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

### **PUBLIC BENEFIT**

The Charities Act 2011 obliges the Trust to demonstrate public benefit in the work that it undertakes. The Trustees believe that the work of the Essex Gardens Trust demonstrates public benefit by its activities on behalf of the public in respect of gardens and landscapes in Essex.

### **STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES**

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of company's affairs as at the end of the financial year and of the profit or loss of the company for that period. In preparing these accounts the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- follow applicable accounting standards, subject to any material departure disclosed and explained in the accounts;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Companies Act. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Board of Trustees approved this report on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees by:

*Stephen Ogle*    Company Secretary

ESSEX GARDENS TRUST  
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2023

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES		Unrestricted funds 2023	Restricted fund Southend research 2023	Total Funds 2023	Unrestricted funds 2022	Restricted fund Thurrock research 2022	Total Funds 2022
	Note	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Income</b>							
Donations		78		78	194		194
Membership fees		2,167		2,167	2,268		2,268
Gift aid		428		428	474		474
Garden History activities	2	884		884	618	5,045	5,663
Events		3,326		3,326	4,483		4,483
Bank interest		137		137	33		33
Writing Competition		220		220			
Other		35		35			
<b>Total</b>		<b>7,275</b>		<b>7,275</b>	<b>8,070</b>	<b>5,045</b>	<b>13,115</b>
<b>Expenditure on charitable activities</b>							
Garden History activities	3		1,434	1,434		9,035	9,035
Grants and awards	4	2,141		2,141	745		745
Events		2,254		2,254	3,114		3,114
Communication and administration	5	2,064		2,064	1,890		1,890
<b>Governance costs</b>	6	48		48	48		48
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>6,507</b>	<b>1,434</b>	<b>7,941</b>	<b>5,797</b>	<b>9,035</b>	<b>14,832</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>768</b>	<b>-1,434</b>	<b>-666</b>	<b>2,273</b>	<b>-3,990</b>	<b>-1,717</b>
<b>Transfer</b>		<b>-2,000</b>	<b>2,000</b>		<b>-240</b>	<b>240</b>	
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>-1,232</b>	<b>566</b>	<b>-666</b>	<b>2,033</b>	<b>-3,750</b>	<b>-1,717</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>							
Total funds brought forward		18,075		18,075	16,042	3,750	19,792
<b>Total funds at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023</b>		<b>£16,843</b>	<b>£566</b>	<b>£17,409</b>	<b>£18,075</b>	<b>£-</b>	<b>18,075</b>

ESSEX GARDENS TRUST  
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2023

**BALANCE SHEET**

**AS AT 30<sup>TH</sup> June 2023**

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors and prepayments	7	794	917
Short term deposits		9,912	9,860
Cash at bank and in hand		6,868	7,623
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>17,574</b>	<b>18,400</b>
Creditors and income in advance: amounts falling due within one year	8	165	325
<b>Total assets less liabilities</b>		<b>17,409</b>	<b>18,075</b>
<b>Funds of Essex Gardens Trust</b>			
Unrestricted funds		16,843	18,075
Southend research		566	
<b>Total funds</b>		<b>£17,409</b>	<b>£18,075</b>

The company is entitled to exemption from audit under s477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit or independent examination in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

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

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to small companies subject to the small companies regime and in accordance with FRS102 SORP.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

*Stephen Ogle* FCA (Honorary treasurer)

## **Notes forming part of the Financial Statements**

### **1. Accounting Policies**

The principal accounting policies are summarised below. The accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the year and in the preceding year.

#### **(a) Basis of Accounting**

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the provisions applicable to small companies subject to the small companies regime and in accordance with FRS102 SORP.

#### **(b) Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of Essex Gardens Trust. The restricted Thurrock and Southend research funds are restricted to the purpose agreed with the grant providers.

#### **(c) Incoming Resources**

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when Essex Gardens Trust is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income,

Voluntary income is received by way of grants, donations and membership fees and is included in the Statement of Financial Activities when received. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by Essex Gardens Trust, are recognised when Essex Gardens Trust becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant. The value of donated services, including those provided by volunteers has not been included in these financial statements.

Investment income is included as earned.

#### **(d) Resources expended**

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by Essex Gardens Trust in the delivery of its activities. It includes the direct costs of such activities

Governance costs include those direct costs associated with the constitutional and statutory requirements of Essex Gardens Trust.

#### **(e) Stocks**

No monetary value is attributed to stocks of publications for sale or held to support research activities.

ESSEX GARDENS TRUST  
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2023

**Notes forming part of the Financial Statements (continued)**

Note	Total Funds 2023	£	Total Funds 2022	£
<b>2</b>	<b>Income from Research activities</b>			
	<i>Unrestricted</i>			
		850		525
		34		93
	<i>Restricted – Thurrock research</i>			
				5,045
	<b>884</b>		<b>5,663</b>	
<b>3</b>	<b>Research activities</b>			
	<i>Restricted</i>			
	Southend inventory			
		1,300		
		134		
	Thurrock inventory			
				3,020
				840
				118
	Lost Gardens of Thurrock			
				2,572
				2,139
				346
	<b>1,434</b>		<b>9,035</b>	
<b>4</b>	<b>Grants and awards</b>			
	<i>Unrestricted</i>			
		150		200
		449		
		1,542		
				345
				<b>100</b>
	<b>2,141</b>		<b>745</b>	



ESSEX GARDENS TRUST  
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2023

		Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
		£	£
5	<b>Communication and administration</b>		
	<i>Unrestricted</i>		
	Journal, newsletters, printing and stationery	443	475
	New banners	204	70
	Website	267	205
	Subscription to The Gardens Trust	297	294
	Postage, telephone and ZOOM	399	264
	Insurance	238	367
	Bank charges	68	104
	Other	148	111
		<b>2,064</b>	<b>1,890</b>

There are no salaried staff. Travel expenses amounting to £66 were reimbursed to one trustee (2021/22 £72)

6	<b>Corporate Governance</b>		
	<i>Unrestricted</i>		
	Registration fees	48	48
		<b>48</b>	<b>48</b>

7	<b>Debtors and prepayments</b>		
	Prepayments	438	388
	Accrued interest receivable	18	8
	Other	338	521
		<b>794</b>	<b>917</b>

8	<b>Creditors and income in advance</b>		
	Creditors	165	245
	Income in advance		80
		<b>165</b>	<b>325</b>

9 **Essex Gardens Trust is limited by guarantee.**