

Reports for small non-company charities

Charity Name: Gerddi Bro Ddyfi Gardens

Date when we adopted current legal status: 23/06/2022

Registration number: 199433

Address: Gerddi Bro Ddyfi Gardens, Plas Grounds, Machynlleth, SY20 8ER

Trustees: Donna Pybis (chair), Eleanor Larmour, Angela Paxton, Sally Richards, Mike Williams, Jeanette Gray, Anna Fisher

Structure and details of how managed including how it recruits Trustees

The charity is managed by the Trustee team of 6 Trustees and one staff member (Project Manager). Monthly committee meetings are held to agree priorities and progress actions. Regular communications and smaller decisions are discussed over email.

Trustees are recruited by approaching all interested parties to advertise the role and via online adverts on social media channels. Potential Trustees are initially invited to attend some committee meetings and are later asked to become a Trustee if they are a suitable fit.

Activities and objectives in the year

Rounding up *Growing Together*

- This National Lottery Community Fund project at the end of September 2022. Until which date we ran two weekly therapeutic gardening sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:30-4pm, and ran a series of popular monthly workshops open to the public (the list of which can be seen below). A total of 2127 hours were given to this project by volunteers.

Planning for the future

- In the winter, we reduced drop-in sessions to just Thursdays 1pm-4pm. These have been consistently well attended, with a core group of around 5 volunteers attending each week.
- Over the winter we developed fundraising strategy, write several funding applications, and designed a plan year ahead.

New beginnings in 2023

- We were successful in multiple fundraising efforts (details below in fundraising section).
- This allowed us to begin our Herbs for Healing group, which has got off to a successful start. Bringing a new, different group of beneficiaries to the gardens.
- Money raised to now hire a second staff member, to restart the Tuesday drop-in sessions.

Achievements and performance including reporting on its public benefit

Public benefit:

- Drop-in sessions continue: Group of around 10 volunteers coming to drop-in sessions – most sessions average out to around 5 attendees.
- Herbal group: Group of 45 people on the mailing list keeping up to date with the group, and each session having between 8-10 attendees.
- Other community groups making use of the site: Blwm, Bushcraft, Junior Herbalists Club (from Sept)
- Approximately 80 visitors to the gardens each day; Lots of positive feedback about how the space is cherished as a community resource.
- Site developments: container provides space and resources for community groups to use; new lawn area where old shelter was, provides space for social events and workshops; pond area has been developed and is very popular with people coming to sit for quiet time.
- BioBlitz 2022: popular event with 150 attendees over the weekend; followed by a series of art workshops over the summer and the construction of some new sculptures, related to the wildlife found at the event.
- Positive change in vandalism – only one incident recorded this year (wood burning). Removal of shelter a very positive step, getting lots of community feedback that the gardens feel safer now.

Workshops delivered:

- Whittling Workshop, 23rd June
- 17 wildlife activities over 24 hours at Bioblitz event eg. moth night, bats, dawn chorus, mammal trapping, hymenoptera, mosses and lichens. 25th-26th June.
- 'Summer School' workshops with Year 8, Ysgol Bro Hyddgen Uwchradd: 8th June, 15th June, 22nd June, 29th June (Powys Training Health Board).
- Wildlife Graffiti workshop with GCSE Art pupils from Ysgol Bro Hyddgen Uwchradd, 13th July.
- Bridge building with Year 10 pupils from Ysgol Bro Hyddgen Uwchradd, 13th July.
- Scything workshop with Anita O'Flynn, at Scything Fair, 13th August.
- Make a wildlife pond, 16th August.
- Wildlife art drawing and collage workshop. 19th August.
- Children's Clay workshop. 23rd August.
- Wood carving workshops . 25th and 30th August.
- Children's wildlife mini bug sculpture and floral crown workshop. 13th September.
- Living Sculpture Workshop, Saturday 24th September.
- Winter Warmer, Saturday 3rd December

2023

- Forest Bathing, Thursday 23rd March
- Herbs for Healing group, commenced Tuesday 11th April.
- 6 week program of sessions for 27 teenage boys to be led on Wednesdays by Sian Davies at Blwm.

Networking

- Different organisations offering to give referrals: Ecodyfi, Kaleidoscope 68, Cyfle Cymru
- BioBlitz: fostered stronger relationship with town council and Machynlleth Biodiversity Group
- Mailing List: 207 subscribers to our quarterly newsletter.
- Market stalls: 4 planned in 2023, selling plants to raise money – has been a great way of connecting with the community, meeting new beneficiaries and other local groups.
- Social Media: 1.3k likes on Facebook – posts always very popular; Instagram has 253 followers, still needs building, but has been a useful way to connect to a different audience (e.g. herbal group attendees).
- Started membership: 32 people on membership email list. To be re-launched at AGM this year to make more use of this network.
- Donations from community – tools from Vinci Facilities, Dolau Dyfi, and multiple offers from people in the community.
- Corporate volunteers: Vinci Facilities brought 3 staff members to help us lay a new gravel path at the gardens. Our volunteers enjoyed working with them, and Vinci have said they would like to return again this year.
- Donations of support from local businesses: Penrallt Books, Café Chakra, Plas Talgarth, Griffiths

Finance

- Developed new fundraising strategy, encouraging a wider range of income sources. Successfully attracted more private donations this year, reducing dependency on grants alone.

Income and Expenditure GBDG Core	
Income	
Donations	5,739.08
Powys SLA	1,040.40
Come to Your Senses Project	1,887.50
Herbs for Healing Project	9,110.00
Total	17,776.98
Expenditure	
Gardeners	5,174.65
Rent	328.75
Other	987.73
Total	6,491.13

Financial review including any debt and details of reserves policy (if applicable)

No debt.

Details of any funds held as a custodian Trustee

None