

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 03256311 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1060697

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30 SEPTEMBER 2015
FOR
YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST**

UHY Calvert Smith
Chartered Accountants
31 St Saviourgate
York
YO1 8NQ

YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2015**

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YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2015

The Yorkshire Gardens Trust was incorporated in September 1996, became a registered charity in February 1997 and is a company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number
03256311 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number
1060697

Registered office
31 St. Saviourgate
York
North Yorkshire
YO1 8NQ

Trustees

The subscribers to the Memorandum and Articles of Association (The Council of Management) who held office during the year were as follows:-

Mrs Val Hepworth	Chairman, Company Secretary, Conservation, Events, Vice President Association of Gardens Trusts (AGT) until merger.
Mrs Fiona Barlow	Events. Co- opted 11 November 2014 and resigned 21 March 2015
Mrs Penelope Dawson-Brown	Conservation, Archives, Schools Education
Mrs Jane Furse	Nominated Trustee to the Wentworth Castle & Stainborough Park Heritage Trust, Conservation
Ms Kath Gibson	Conservation, YGT Voting Delegate to Gardens Trust [Formerly AGT].
Mrs Jenni Howard	Conservation, Resigned 21 March 2015
Ms Linda Smith	Conservation. Co- opted 11 November 2014 and resigned 21 March 2015
Mr Malcolm Barnett	Pippa Rakusen Bequest, Company Secretary assistance, Co- opted 11 November 2014. Appointed 21 March 2015
Mr Tony Cleaver	Newsletter Editor, appointed 21 March 2015
Mr David Tiptaft	Honorary Treasurer

The Charity Trustees are the Directors of the limited company.

Since the AGM 2014 there has been a vacancy for a Vice Chairman and also a Secretary to Council. Mrs Elizabeth Ann Simson (not a trustee) resigned as Company Secretary in November 2014 and officially on 21 March 2015. Mrs Val Hepworth assisted by Mr Malcolm Barnett took over that role.

Some Council meetings have been attended by Vice-presidents Peter Goodchild and Lady Legard. Vice-president Martin Page resigned 21 March 2015.

Mrs Louise Amende has continued to undertake her remunerated role as Administrator for Events bookings, Membership Secretary and assisting the Council, due to the continued lack of further volunteers.

YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2015

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Independent examiner

UHY Calvert Smith
Chartered Accountants
31 St Saviourgate
York
YO1 8NQ

Solicitors

Wrigleys
19 Cookridge Street
Leeds
LS2 3AG

Bankers

Yorkshire Bank
46 Coney Street
York YO1 1NQ

CAF Bank
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
W Malling
Kent ME19 4JQ

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The Governing Instrument is the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Yorkshire Gardens Trust. This document sets out the specific restrictions regarding the application of the income and property of the Trust and the investment of monies of the Trust. The affairs of the Trust are managed by the Council of Management. Members of this Council are termed Trustees.

Recruitment, appointment and training of new trustees

The Directors of the Yorkshire Gardens Trust are also Charity Trustees for the purposes of charity law and under the company's articles are also Members. Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association one third (or the number nearest one third) of Trustees must retire at each AGM. Retiring Trustees can be re-elected. There is no fixed term of office for Trustees. Expertise has been built up and contributed by Trustees over the past nineteen years. The specialised work of the Trust welcomes the input from these Trustees but it also encourages the support of skilled and knowledgeable members and other professionals and partners. The latter can be co-opted to work with the sub-committees which are: Conservation, Communications, Schools Education, Events, Finance/ Business Planning, Research and Recording and Archives.

Trustees with interests and skills which can help the Trust's objectives are usually elected at an Annual General Meeting. Where this is not possible the Council of Management may co-opt a Trustee prior to election at the following AGM. Current Trustees encourage Trust members and others with helpful skills, to consider becoming Trustees but despite a warm welcome, becoming a charity trustee is frequently perceived as being too much of a responsibility. Trustee training is by mentoring from established Trustees. These personal links are aided by documentation with relevant information and leaflets e.g. Essential Trustee: What you need to know: CC3, other Charity Commission updates, and information on the YGT and its achievements.

Information from the Charity Commission is regularly e-mailed to the Trust and circulated to all Trustees as necessary. Assistance has also continued to be sought and given by the Trust's Accountants and Solicitor. The updating of a range of governance documents to clarify the role of the Trustee, along with the production of explanatory documents is being led by the Chairman and another trustee.

YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2015

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Organisational structure and management

The Council of Management comprised seven members [three additional members were co-opted for the period between November 11 2014 and March 21 2015 so trustee numbers were ten at that time], who met four times during the year. Questions, including policy and strategy, arising at any meeting are decided by a majority of votes. The Trust has sub-committees taking a special interest in each of the working areas named above, ie conservation, schools education etc. These groups met according to need and each sub-committee either included at least one Council member or a designated link Trustee, whose role is to report the work of their sub-committee to the Council of Management before the Council meeting. Council then discusses any proposals and makes decisions reporting back to the sub-committee and sending them the minutes.

Funding allocation for the activities of the various sub-committees are discussed by each group, including the budget allocation and projection, action plans and performance review set out in the Business Plan 2013-16. This is agreed by the Council of Management. The Officers and the Trustees for the sub-committees are elected either at the first Council of Management Meeting following the AGM or the preceding meeting. No person/body appoints Trustees.

The Trust is a member of The Gardens Trust [following the merger of the Association of Gardens Trust (AGT) and the Garden History Society (GHS) in 2015] and sends a voting delegate to its Business Meetings and the AGM. A capitation levy is payable for this membership and YGT insurance is organised through this national body. Throughout the protracted merger discussions, the YGT membership was kept informed of progress via the Newsletter and Trustees spent considerable time reading documents, attending meetings and discussing the implications before finally voting in favour of the merger. Through the Gardens Trust, the Trust is also a member of 'Heritage Alliance', the national body for organisations concerned with all aspects of the historic environment. One Trustee represents historic parks and gardens issues on the Historic Environment Forum for Yorkshire and Humber. The YGT also has a Nominated Trustee for the Wentworth Castle and Stainborough Park Heritage Trust who continues to take a very active role as a skilled advisor and Vice-chairman of trustees, for this nationally important site. (The only Grade I Registered Park and Garden in South Yorkshire).

The last Annual General Meeting took place at Pool-in-Wharfedale Village Memorial Hall, followed by a visit to Farnley Hall, Wharfedale, on Saturday 21 March 2015. The Council of Management met on 11 November 2014, 3 February 2015, 14 April 2015 and 15 July 2015.

Due to some difficulty recruiting new trustees the Council of Management proposed that it would be good governance to reduce the minimum number of trustees from seven to five – although a greater number would be most welcome. Therefore a Special Resolution was passed at the AGM on 21st March 2015 that article 31 of the Charity's Articles of Association be amended by deleting the current wording and inserting the following: '31. The affairs of the Trust shall be managed by the Council of Management. The number of the members of the Council shall be not less than five nor more than twenty.'

The next AGM will be held at Scampston Hall on Saturday 19 March 2016.

A Special Council meeting to consider the Pippa Rakusen Bequest was held on 25 June 2015. At this meeting Council considered the content of a summary report that had been prepared by one of the Trustees, following a formal request for ideas that were required to be submitted by 19 May 2015. All members of the Trust were kept informed and asked for any ideas via the Newsletter. The proposals from the Special Council meeting were discussed in Council on 15th July and a conservative strategy agreed.

Minutes of Council meetings are archived and accessible at the Borthwick Institute, University of York.

Risk management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2015

AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Risk management continued

Set up in 1996 by people concerned with the need to protect, conserve and treat appropriately the designed landscapes, parks and gardens of Yorkshire; these aims and objectives remain constant. Our membership numbers have fallen again slightly in 2014/15.

The Trustees are aware of the guidance published by the Charity Commission on Public Benefit and the guidance is taken into account when the aims, objectives and activities are reviewed.

Aims

Wherever possible the Trust works to promote the conservation of historic designed landscapes, parks and gardens and raise awareness of the appropriate treatment of these unique places, with private owners, planners, archaeologists, gardeners, horticulturists and other professionals. Through its work with schools, the Trust hopes to develop the interests of children (and teachers) in these landscapes. To further this, the Trust has established links with other heritage organisations, local authorities and other bodies with complementary aims.

Objectives

The Memorandum and Articles of Association 1996 describe the objects for which the Trust is established as follows:

- 4.1. To promote the education of the public on matters connected with garden land
- 4.2. To promote the protection, conservation and appropriate treatment of whatever garden-land may exist or have existed in and around the counties of North Yorkshire, South Yorkshire, East Yorkshire and West Yorkshire for the education and enjoyment of the public.

The Trust has educational and conservation links with:

The Yorkshire Philosophical Society	Other County Gardens Trusts
The Folly Fellowship	Royal Horticultural Society
The Harewood House Trust	Royal Forestry Society
The Gardens Trust	Historic England
Wentworth Castle and Stainborough Park Heritage Trust	Yorkshire Local Authorities
The Yorkshire Dales National Park	The National Trust
The Borthwick Institute, University of York and other educational institutions.	
The Yorkshire Consortium for Conservation and Craftsmanship	
National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Society (NADFAS)	
Some local history groups	

Co-operation with these organisations is maintained in pursuit of the Trust's charitable objectives.

To achieve its objectives, the Trust endeavours to organise a range of activities and to establish and maintain the resources necessary for this. It maintains communication with members, professionals in related fields, private land-owners and public authorities, heritage bodies, the wider public and also with Government through the Gardens Trust. Overall the strategy is one of promoting advocacy and consultation.

To support these activities the Trust encourages the active participation of all of the members, seeks to recruit new members and endeavours to manage its budget to maximum effect.

YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2015

AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Activities

Much activity and planning goes on behind the scenes. This work will, in future, be assisted and supported with funding from the Pippa Rakusen legacy. There are still matters which could adversely affect the Yorkshire Gardens Trust, in particular the increasing need for the specialist knowledge that the Trust holds as government funding is cut to local authorities and Historic England, (formerly the policy and advisory section of English Heritage,) set against the falling number of YGT volunteers and a slightly falling and ageing membership. Also from the merger, into a single body, of the Association of Gardens Trusts (AGT) and the Garden History Society (GHS); whilst the merger of the AGT and GHS to form the Gardens Trust took place during 2015, the work to fully develop and establish the new Trust is still on-going. Trustee Kath Gibson representing YGT continues to carefully monitor and to input to this on-going process assisted by the Chairman and trustees. The current Business Plan [2013-16] is due for renewal during 2016. This will present the Trust with an opportunity to review its operations and budgets and the risk of matters that may adversely affect its work and future well-being.

During 2016, a major activity and highlight will be the CB 300 Project, the Tercentenary of Lancelot ‘Capability’ Brown. Member Karen Lynch has continued to act as the YGT link with the Gardens Trust [and previously the AGT] to keep the Trust informed about the ultimately successful national application for Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) funding, exhibitions etc. Karen, ably supported by Vice-President, Lady Legard, has continued to work tirelessly during the year to research and curate YGT’s major regional CB 300 Exhibition to be held at the Mercer Gallery in Harrogate from 25 June- 11 September, *Noble Prospects, Capability Brown and the Yorkshire Landscape*. This is a milestone effort between a county gardens trust and a gallery. Peter Goodchild (YGT Vice-president) is also actively involved in CB 300 through his role as a Garland Trustee & a representative of the International Committee on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS).

The activities of each sub-committee are described below.

Research and Recording

The YGT project to identify, research and record significant, mainly unregistered, parks and gardens started in 2012 with the East Riding. Work continues here by YGT volunteers who are making site visits to record surviving features and then completing ‘Statements of Significance’ for each of the 20 sites. It is anticipated that this will be completed by the end of 2016.

In February 2015, Council gave its approval to the expansion of this vital research work into the Selby District of North Yorkshire, based upon the successful pilot in the East Riding. The Selby Research Project formally commenced on 8 April and throughout 2015, the Research and Recording team have recruited additional volunteers from outside YGT, mainly from local history groups. This project will focus on 19 sites that have been selected as being worthy of further research based on their history and current state. The Trust is grateful for a grant from North Yorkshire County Council to support the expansion of this research. There are now 13 sites being actively researched with the aim that they will be completed by the end of 2016.

YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2015

AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Research and Recording – continued

The Trust is also optimistic that further progress with its research work will be made with support from the membership during the coming year, when it is proposed that unregistered sites in the Hambleton district of North Yorkshire will be researched and recorded. This work is linked to the review of the District's Local Development Framework and will be shared, like other areas, with District planners and conservation officers. The historic information on the sites will continue to be added to the Parks and Gardens UK Database and to the YGT website and the Historic Environment Record.

Conservation and Planning

The Conservation sub-committee work encompasses: Planning Applications and Policy, Casework and Enquiries, Small Grant Scheme.

Planning Application lists are sent from The Gardens Trust (TGT) [formerly The Garden History Society (GHS)] each week and sites within the whole of Yorkshire are listed for possible comment by YGT. These may be of high or relatively low importance but can and do involve a level of expertise and judgement in addition to time and voluntary travel resources to enable comment to be made. During the year comments and advice have been given on various planning applications including those affecting Bretton Hall, Harewood House, St Ives Estate Bradford, Ledston, Nostell Priory, Undercliffe Cemetery, Bradford and comments have been made on proposals for Thorpe Perrow, and Eagle Hall Pateley Bridge. Comments have also been made on various local authority planning policy documents, and the Brodsworth Hall Draft Conservation Plan. Support was provided to a request from the Friends of Robert Park to support an application to Historic England to upgrade the status of Roberts Park, Saltaire to II* on the basis that it is an integral part of the world heritage site 'model village'.

The Small Grant Scheme. The Council is grateful for a very generous donation to the Small Grants Scheme to enable it to continue in 2015, without drawing on the general funds of the YGT. This enables us to offer £2,000 in grants in the current year. Last year the dating in the title for the Small Grants Scheme was altered to simplify understanding and to correlate with the YGT accounts year. Thus this year it is now 'Small Grants Scheme 2015' (not as it would have been in the past, Small Grants Scheme 2014-15). The Grant Application Form is available on-line on the YGT website and is sent out electronically to Historic England, Historic Environment Forum, Civic Societies, Local Authority departments and Heritage Champions, professional bodies and other organisations and voluntary groups. For 2015 there were four applications of which two were allocated; for Fishpond Wood, Bewerley and for the Walled Garden, Ripon. It has been a special year for 2 projects in nationally significant historic parks and gardens that received a small grant in recent years [2012-13 and 2014]. The renewal and repair of the Ionic Temple at Duncombe Park was completed and the long journey to restore Scampston conservatory and the adjacent bothies and to develop them as a Heritage and Learning centre has reached its destination.

Conservation meetings continued to be held in York, the meeting room kindly provided by the York architects, Ferrey & Mennim. The sub-committee chairman reported fully on all of the three areas of the Conservation sub-committee's work.

YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2015

AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Conservation and Planning - continued

The YGT also has a nominated representative as a Trustee for the Wentworth Castle and Stainborough Park Heritage Trust (WC & SPHT); Jane Furse who is Vice Chair of the WC & SPHT Charity, Chair of the Estates and Heritage Sub Committee and also sits on their new Steering group and Archives Committee. November 4th, 2014 was a very significant day, and marked an important milestone in the on-going work [that has so far continued over more than 14 years] to restore and regenerate this very important site, when the team welcomed the Duke of Gloucester to formally open the beautifully restored Conservatory. That day also marked the publication and issue of the site's new guidebook to which Jane contributed all the horticultural content. Funding from the HLF and significant funding from other organisations in match funding has allowed the Trust to use this colourful new guide to include and thus to publicise the breadth of research that it has fostered [since 2001] to a much wider audience. The Trust is understandably proud of the guide and of all their achievements.

Events

This year we have had a new team arranging events. Long-established member Ray Blyth returned to the committee joined by John and Liz Barker, new member Fiona Barlow and the Chairman, who between them ensured a wide range of carefully chosen and well-timed lectures and visits to gardens, landscapes and sites of historic interest. Details of all events are written up and feature in the twice-yearly newsletters. In November our Chairman spoke about the history of Cottage Gardens at a lecture and social afternoon. Visits included Tudor Croft, Guisborough, Farnley Hall, Drointon Nurseries Norton Conyers, Beacon Hill House Langbar Ilkley, Temple Grounds Richmond, Old Rectory, Scrayingham, Littlethorpe Manor, Ripon, The White House Husthwaite, Friarwood Valley Gardens and Historic Pontefract, Shibden Hall and Dove Cottage Halifax, and Aske Hall Gardens and Park Richmond. Some of the visits were at garden/landscapes owned by YGT members who gave the event to the Trust to assist with funds; we are very grateful for their support. Some events also supported other charities such as the National Gardens Scheme. The visit to Littlethorpe Manor was a special joint visit that we organised with our members and a visiting group of forty members of the Welsh Historic Gardens Trust. In April the Trust hosted a day at RHS Harlow Carr for about 75 members of the Leeds Refugee Forum, organised by trustee Jane Furse with the help of some 12 YGT members. Many families enjoyed a warm day in the gardens with members of the Trust who provided the refreshments. At the AGM the Events Committee asked attendees to complete a short questionnaire about their attitudes to events. This confirmed that the biggest desire was to visit gardens which are not open to the public, with visiting historic parks and designed landscapes a close second; much in line with what we are currently doing. The most useful information was suggestions of where our members would like YGT to organise visits and events.

YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2015

AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Events - continued

YGT was represented at the three-day Joint Annual Conference and AGM of the Association of Gardens Trust and The Garden History Society in Newcastle in July 2015. In the period leading up to this event, Council of Management submitted comments on the draft constitution of the merged body and on the draft business plan to the Transitional Committee that was undertaking the merger process. Council's concerns remained that the merged organisation needed to have in place a realistic and deliverable business plan at the point of any agreement decision being made. At Newcastle, both the AGT and the GHS held their AGM's concurrently and, following a positive vote in favour by both organisations, there followed an AGM of The Gardens Trust to immediately elect a new Board to manage the new organisation and to establish the new organisational and Committee structure for handling the work. Aside from these serious matters, County Gardens Trust members and their new Garden History Society colleagues from all over the country enjoyed a full weekend of lectures and landscape and garden visits in both County Durham and Northumberland, hosted by the Northumbria Gardens Trust as well as taking the opportunity to meet and to make new friends.

Communications

The Trust's website, www.yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk, newsletters and e-mail notices help it to keep in touch with all its members and appeal to new members who discover it on-line, through the membership brochure or from talks given by some Trustees. If you have a place to display or distribute copies of the membership brochure then please contact Louise Amende or a Council member for copies. Council is keen to take the special opportunities provided in 2016, with the major CB 300 exhibition at the Mercer Art Gallery and, in 2017, with the celebration of 21st birthday of the Trust, to attract new members. It is also keen to exploit a variety of means to achieve this end and new members using Facebook and Twitter.

YGT recognises the importance of having a web-site that is attractive, informative, easy to use and reflects good practice and modern technology. With this in mind, it took the decision, in 2015, to refresh and to upgrade and update the web-site. We are very grateful to Louise Wickham, the YGT Webmaster, for leading and for overseeing this on-going work, together with web-designer Pat Gibb. We also appreciate all Louise's work, with input from others active for the Trust, to continue to keep the web-pages up to date and looking fresh and interesting.

During 2015, we were very grateful to Louise Amende for stepping in to assist with the editing of the Newsletter, during a period when our editor Tony Cleaver was ill. Thankfully, Tony is now fully recovered and able to resume his editorial duties. Louise's period of temporary editorship has now led on to change in responsibilities for the layout and preparation of the newsletter for printing. This is now being done by Louise instead of the print company, as occurred previously, which will lead to even closer control on the preparation for the printing and a financial saving to the Trust. The Editor would be pleased to have your thoughts, ideas, articles and comments for future Newsletters. The newsletter remains a major cost to the Trust but is an invaluable asset.

Schools Education

Nicola Harrison, ably assisted by Lucy Porritt and Sue Lindley, now has 40 schools enrolled on the YGT schools membership register. This year, two School Grounds Development Awards of £250 each were selected. The schools selected, judged on where YGT could make the most difference to their success, were Marwood C of E Infant School, Great Ayton and Ingleby Arncliffe C of E Primary School, Northallerton. Funding for these awards was enabled by a generous donation of £1,000 made to the Trust to support the continuation of the work of the Schools Education Committee, without drawing on the reserves of the Trust.

YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2015

AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Schools Education - continued

'Cool Plants' was selected as the theme for 2015. This was one of the projects featured in the RHS Ready Steady Grow book given to schools by the Trust over the summer. During the dark month of February, 14 out of the 40 enrolled schools chose to receive a gift of a grow your own mushroom kit from YGT. Great feedback was received and the children's excitement watching the mushrooms visibly grow day by day and then the joy of eating them was so vivid in the responses received. During the Summer Term, all schools were offered a 'Jungle in a Box' seed growing kit, which again allowed many children to get involved in growing their own unusual plants. The 'Cool Plants' theme continued by offering carnivorous plant workshops to four lucky schools. Crossley Hall Primary in Bradford, Swainby and Potto Primary near Northallerton, Royston St John Baptist C of E Primary, Barnsley and St Joseph's RC Primary, Keighley received entertaining and informative workshops given by a small North Yorkshire company, Wack's Wicked Plants. This year one of the Trust's early members John Hampshire, gave a donation in memory of his late wife who very much enjoyed all YGT's activities. The first Joyce Hampshire award was made in September, consisting of a set of Joseph Bentley Gardener's Apprentice tools. The recipient school was Clapham C of E Primary School, North Yorkshire which was delighted with the award.

The members of the Schools Education sub-committee have on request given help and advice on garden design, growing, harvesting, cooking and craft projects arising from the garden awareness promoted by the YGT. Visits have been carried out to encourage work on the gardens, and plant-selection advice offered. The YGT Newsletter is sent to schools via e-mail links along with other lesson plans and ideas from other sources. The 40 school members, at present, are sufficient work-load for the three volunteers and no further new schools are being actively sought. All seeds etc. costs have been allocated within the annual education budget for the year.

Archives

The Yorkshire Gardens Trust has an archive at the Borthwick Institute, University of York and further papers were deposited by Liz Simson, former chairman, secretary and company secretary.

Membership

The income from subscription is essential for the funding of the Trust. The membership at the year-end 2015 was slightly lower than last year:

66 Double memberships, 120 Single memberships, 14 Honorary memberships (includes researchers from other organisations who have been made honorary members whilst they work for YGT, both for goodwill and insurance purposes), 3Associations, 1Corporate membership, 25 Life members, 1Honorary life-member, 40 School members.

Business Planning

The Business Plan 2013-16, in three volumes or sections, was completed and adopted by Council in 2014.

Information is available on the website; the summary is on the public area and the full documents in the member's area. The Plan will be reviewed in 2016.

YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2015

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Council of Management and the Trust's paid part-time administrative help have worked hard this financial year to find ways to reduce costs. Whilst aiming to make events affordable, the events team has succeeded in continuing the good surplus in order to offset administration costs and add to the voluntary income. Membership subscriptions do not cover the Trust's outgoings so the surplus is vital and with an ageing membership we need to work harder at recruiting more and younger members. We are hopeful that YGT's very active contribution to the Brown Tercentenary, particularly the exhibition at the Mercer Gallery will give the Trust a good opportunity to recruit new members in 2016. Plans are also in hand for next year's event's programme and to continue our efforts to create a good surplus for our work, and the Council remains aware of the value of the Business Plan and its use as a tool in any approaches for grant funding for specific projects. However receiving the wonderful legacy from one of our founders, the late Mrs Phillipa Rakusen, has made the Trust's financial position much stronger and will enable us to achieve more for Yorkshire's historic parks and gardens. The Council has developed a conservative strategy for the legacy.

The Trust resources comprise its members, their skills and willingness to assist the Trust, the wealth of information it holds and the funds largely, but not solely, from subscriptions. However, the Trust continues to rely on the services of a few unpaid volunteers and donations in kind of office facilities, postage, telephone, printing, copying and the non-claiming of travelling expenses etc., to augment the Council's expenses included in the financial statements. The lack of active volunteers continues to be a major risk for the Trust and this under constant review by the Council.

Appropriate insurance remain in place including professional indemnity insurance covering trustees and Vice-presidents. Non-YGT new members of the Research and Recording sub-committee are also made members of the Trust so that they are covered by our insurance. The Trust's assets held in cash are available and adequate to fulfil the obligations of the charity.

Reserves policy

The Trust endeavours to retain the necessary level of reserves and to continue to plan the prioritisation of expenditure with care to further the aims and objectives of the Trust and secure its future.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 2 February 2016 and signed on its behalf by:

Mrs Valerie Hepworth - Trustee

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

I report on the accounts for the year ended 30 September 2015 set out on pages twelve to twenty.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees (who are also the directors for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act)) and that an independent examination is required.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under Section 145 of the 2011 Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under Section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of the independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statements below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of Sections 394 and 395 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities

have not been met; or

- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Mr H Priest
UHY Calvert Smith
Chartered Accountants
31 St Saviourgate
York
YO1 8NQ

Date: 3 February 2016

YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2015**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2015 Total funds £	2014 Total funds £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary income	2	51,206	8,000	59,206	22,692
Investment income	3	19	-	19	27
Incoming resources from charitable activities					
Functions, events	4	6,329	-	6,329	8,457
Sale of books		<u>37</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>-</u>
Total incoming resources		57,591	8,000	65,591	31,176
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Charitable activities					
Functions, events		2,457	-	2,457	4,467
Grants, donations		2,568	1,000	3,568	21,247
Capability Brown Celebrations Costs		-	445	445	-
Governance costs	6	9,187	-	9,187	10,451
Other resources expended		<u>20</u>	<u>274</u>	<u>294</u>	<u>-</u>
Total resources expended		14,232	1,719	15,951	36,165
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES		43,359	6,281	49,640	(4,989)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		25,654	3,000	28,654	33,643
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>69,013</u>	<u>9,281</u>	<u>78,294</u>	<u>28,654</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

**BALANCE SHEET
AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2015**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2015 Total funds £	2014 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	9	50	-	50	60
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	10	129	-	129	-
Cash at bank		<u>70,040</u>	<u>9,281</u>	<u>79,321</u>	<u>30,372</u>
		70,169	9,281	79,450	30,372
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	11	(1,206)	-	(1,206)	(1,778)
		<u>68,963</u>	<u>9,281</u>	<u>78,244</u>	<u>28,594</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS					
		<u>68,963</u>	<u>9,281</u>	<u>78,244</u>	<u>28,594</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES					
		<u>69,013</u>	<u>9,281</u>	<u>78,294</u>	<u>28,654</u>
NET ASSETS					
		<u>69,013</u>	<u>9,281</u>	<u>78,294</u>	<u>28,654</u>
FUNDS					
Unrestricted funds	12			69,013	25,654
Restricted funds				<u>9,281</u>	<u>3,000</u>
TOTAL FUNDS					
				<u>78,294</u>	<u>28,654</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

**BALANCE SHEET - CONTINUED
AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2015**

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 30 September 2015.

The members have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2015 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small charitable companies and with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008).

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 2 February 2016 and were signed on its behalf by:

Mrs Valerie Hepworth -Trustee

Mr David Howard Palmer Tiptaft -Trustee

YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2015

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008), the Companies Act 2006 and the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included on the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Resources expended

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure includes VAT which is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year-end date are noted as a commitment but not accrued as expenditure.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Plant and machinery etc - 15% on reducing balance

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

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

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

2. VOLUNTARY INCOME

	2015	2014
	£	£
Members subscriptions, donations	4,410	3,175
Legacies	46,223	-
Gift aid	543	1,517
Donations	530	3,000
Grants	<u>7,500</u>	<u>15,000</u>
	<u><u>59,206</u></u>	<u><u>22,692</u></u>

YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2015

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2015	2014
	£	£
Deposit account interest	<u>19</u>	<u>27</u>

4. INCOMING RESOURCES FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2015	2014
	£	£
Functions, events income	6,329	8,457
Functions, events costs	<u>(2,457)</u>	<u>(4,467)</u>
Functions, events surplus	<u>3,872</u>	<u>3,990</u>

5. GRANTS PAYABLE

	2015	2014
	£	£
Grants, donations	<u>3,568</u>	<u>21,247</u>

The total grants paid to institutions during the year was as follows:

	2015	2014
	£	£
Schools Project	665	1,016
Scampston Conservatory Preservation Company	903	15,000
East Riding Designed Landscapes Project	-	472
Friends of Friarwood Valley Gardens, Pontefract	-	1,000
Gledhow Valley Gardens, Leeds	-	600
Friends of Boston Park, Rotherham	-	1,000
Friends of Peasholm Park, Scarborough	-	943
Friends of Physic Garden, Whitby	-	216
Duncombe Park, Ionic Temple	-	1,000
Garden of Remembrance, Todmorden	1,000	-
Upper Nidderdale Landscape, Harrogate	<u>1,000</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>3,568</u>	<u>21,247</u>

YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2015

6. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	2015	2014
	£	£
Accountancy	936	924
Newsletter, printing, postage, stationery	2,763	3,766
Secretary	3,810	4,420
Affiliation fee, subscription	534	527
Insurance	225	225
Sundries	10	37
Travelling, meeting expenses	<u>909</u>	<u>552</u>
	<u><u>9,187</u></u>	<u><u>10,451</u></u>

7. NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES

Net resources are stated after charging/(crediting):

	2015	2014
	£	£
Depreciation - owned assets	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>

8. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 30 September 2015 nor for the year ended 30 September 2014.

Trustees' expenses

During the year, trustees' travelling expenses of £57 were reimbursed (2014 - Nil).

YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2015**

9. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Plant and machinery etc £
COST	
At 1 October 2014 and 30 September 2015	<u>1,032</u>
DEPRECIATION	
At 1 October 2014	972
Charge for year	<u>10</u>
At 30 September 2015	<u>982</u>
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 30 September 2015	<u>50</u>
At 30 September 2014	<u>60</u>

10. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2015	2014
	£	£
Other debtors	<u>129</u>	<u>-</u>

11. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2015	2014
	£	£
Other creditors	<u>1,206</u>	<u>1,778</u>

YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2015**

12. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1/10/14 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 30/9/15 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	6,735	45,927	15,656	68,318
Yorkshire Gardens Trust Small Grant Fund	11,726	(1,903)	(9,823)	-
Yorkshire Gardens Trust Schools Project	<u>7,193</u>	<u>(665)</u>	<u>(5,833)</u>	<u>695</u>
	25,654	43,359	-	69,013
Restricted funds				
Yorkshire Gardens Trust Conservation and Education Fund	3,000	(1,000)	-	2,000
North Yorkshire County Council	-	1,226	-	1,226
Pursuit of Capability Brown celebrations in 2016 Fund	-	5,555	-	5,555
Joyce Hampshire Awards Grant	<u>-</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>500</u>
	3,000	6,281	-	9,281
	<u>28,654</u>	<u>49,640</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>78,294</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	57,591	(11,664)	45,927
Yorkshire Gardens Trust Small Grant Fund	-	(1,903)	(1,903)
Yorkshire Gardens Trust Schools Project	<u>-</u>	<u>(665)</u>	<u>(665)</u>
	57,591	(14,232)	43,359
Restricted funds			
Yorkshire Gardens Trust Conservation and Education Fund	-	(1,000)	(1,000)
North Yorkshire County Council	1,500	(274)	1,226
Pursuit of Capability Brown celebrations in 2016 Fund	6,000	(445)	5,555
Joyce Hampshire Awards Grant	<u>500</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>500</u>
	8,000	(1,719)	6,281
	<u>65,591</u>	<u>(15,951)</u>	<u>49,640</u>

YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2015

12. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Unrestricted funds

Yorkshire Gardens Trust Small Grant Fund is for conservation projects.

Yorkshire Gardens Trust Schools project is for schools gardening projects.

Restricted funds

A grant of £1,500 was received from North Yorkshire County Council with the stipulation that the grant be applied for the research and recording purpose only.

A donation of £3,000 was received in 2014 specifically for conservation and education. This has been treated as a restricted donation.

The trust also received grants of £6,000 with the stipulation that the grant be applied for the celebrations of 300th anniversary of Capability Brown.

The trust received a donation during the year of £500 for the Joyce Hampshire Awards Grant this is awards for schools but for the special provision of Gardener's Apprentice Tools suitable for young hands.

Transfers between funds

During the year, the trustees decided to transfer £9,823 from the Yorkshire Gardens Trust Small Grant Fund (an unrestricted designated fund) to the General Fund.

During the year, the trustees decided to transfer £5,833 from the Yorkshire Gardens Trust School Project (an unrestricted designated fund) to the General Fund.

YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2015

	2015	2014
	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES		
Voluntary income		
Members subscriptions, donations	4,410	3,175
Legacies	46,223	-
Gift aid	543	1,517
Donations	530	3,000
Grants	<u>7,500</u>	<u>15,000</u>
	59,206	22,692
Investment income		
Deposit account interest	19	27
Incoming resources from charitable activities		
Functions, events	6,329	8,457
Sale of books	<u>37</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>6,366</u>	<u>8,457</u>
Total incoming resources	65,591	31,176
RESOURCES EXPENDED		
Charitable activities		
Functions, events	2,457	4,467
Capability Brown celebration costs	445	-
Grants to institutions	<u>3,568</u>	<u>21,247</u>
	6,470	25,714
Governance costs		
Accountancy	936	924
Newsletter, printing, postage, stationery	2,763	3,766
Secretary	3,810	4,420
Affiliation fee, subscription	534	527
Insurance	225	225
Sundries	10	37
Travelling, meeting expenses	<u>909</u>	<u>552</u>
	9,187	10,451
Support costs		

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

**DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2015**

	2015	2014
	£	£
Management		
Research & Recording payments	<u>294</u>	<u>-</u>
Total resources expended	15,951	36,165
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Net income/(expenditure)	<u>49,640</u>	<u>(4,989)</u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements