

Barracks Lane Community Garden Project Ltd



Presented at AGM for year ended 31st March 2022

Company Registration Number: 05945388

Charity Number: 1116544

Our funders and supporters in 2021 - 2022:



Members of the Board and Professional Advisors

Registered Charity Name:

Barracks Lane Community Garden Project

Charity Number: 1116544

Company Registration No.: 05945388

Registered Office:

c/o 38 Kenilworth Avenue
Oxford, OX4 2AN

Trustees (Directors) as of April 2021

Jenny Creese

(Chair of Governors)

Helen Osborn (Treasurer)

John Green (Company Secretary)

Jennifer Tamargo Johnson

Nicole Pohl

Trustee (Company Secretary):

John Green

Bankers:

Co-operative Bank
PLC

P.O. Box 101

1 Balloon Street Manchester
M60 4EP

Barracks Lane Community Garden Project Ltd

Chairperson's Annual Report - Year ended 31st March 2022

The Chairperson on behalf of the Trustees, also Directors for the purposes of company law, present the report and financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2022.

The Trustees

The current Board of Trustees appoints new Trustees at a General Meeting, and the decision is duly minuted. One third of Trustees are obliged to retire by rotation at each Annual General Meeting and offer themselves for re-election if that is their wish.

Governance and Management

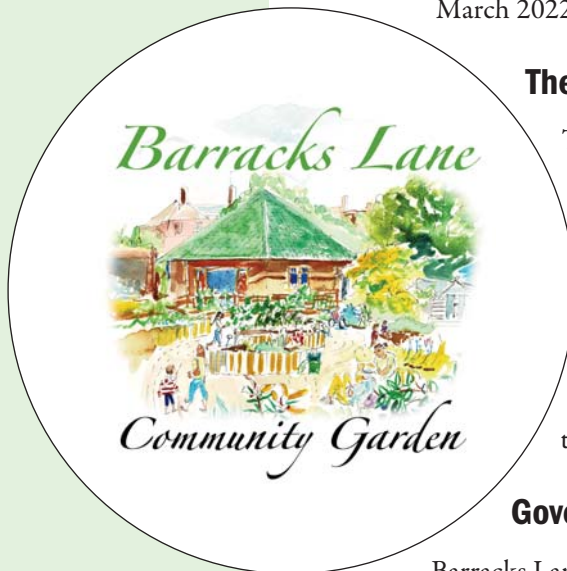
Barracks Lane Community Garden Project was originally registered as a charity in 2005 and became a company limited by guarantee and incorporated in September 2006. The company reg number is: 05945388. Our Charity number is: 1116544.

The Memorandum of Association and Articles of Association govern the Charity

The day to day work of the Charity is undertaken by the Charity Chairperson and Trustee Directors.

They are responsible for ensuring that the strategic aims of the Charity, as determined by the Trustees, are achieved to their satisfaction.

The Charity employs a part-time Coordinator, Gardeners and a Caretaker for project development and programme delivery.





Chairperson's Summary

Jenny Creese

This report reflects on the achievements and progress made during the period April 1st 2021 to March 31st 2022.

It was wonderful to see the garden so busy this year after being only able to run limited events and projects the previous year due to the Covid 19 pandemic. We are truly grateful to all our funders who have enabled us to run some wonderful projects and make infrastructure changes to the garden. We built **new raised beds** that will be specifically used for growing food, we completed the work on the pillars in the outdoor kitchen, we ran workshops to create a **mini-beast safari**, ran **singing for wellbeing** sessions, a full programme of events and opened the garden more regularly via our **Garden Guardians** and **Community Engagement Gardeners**.

A beautiful film was made for the **singing group**. You can watch it here:
<https://vimeo.com/652364322/e8c307db2>



We were excited to work with **Flo's Nursery** to provide an outdoor learning space/nursery during the summer term and be an offsite classroom for EMBS.

Moving forward we secured funding from Pye Charitable Settlement to have a **Community Engagement Gardener** in the garden regularly and from the Arts Council (via OCF) to run an event for the Queen's Jubilee.

The future looks really bright for the garden. If anything positive has come from the past 2 years of the pandemic it is our appreciation of green spaces, especially those in urban areas. I hope that the coming year brings more people through our gates to experience what the garden has to offer.

The garden would not have had such an amazing year without the hard work of all the team - thank you Hannah, Roger, Beth, Tom, Dan, our Trustee team and fabulous visitors.

Jenny Creese, April 2022

Thanks to our Funders

We would particularly like to thank our funding bodies and community fundraisers:

- **University of Oxford Community Grant** – Built two new raised beds
- **National Lottery Fund** – work to outdoor kitchen, Garden Guardians, Community Engagement Gardeners and caretaking
- **National Lottery Fund** – Singing and Sharing Project and purchase of camera
- **CAG Oxfordshire** – contribution to Fermenting Workshop and Composting Workshop
- **Good Food Oxfordshire** – contribution to Plant and Seed Swap and Harvest Festival
- **Neighbourly** – supported the mini-beast safari
- **OCF** – Singing for Wellbeing

Funding granted in 2021-22 financial year for activities continuing into 2022 – 23 financial year:

- **TOE** – building raised beds made from recycled plastic for food growing
- **National Lottery Fund** – work to outdoor kitchen, Garden Guardians, Community Engagement Gardeners and caretaking

All the people, groups and organisations that have booked the garden for their own events – this provides an essential part of our income.

All those who give donations to the garden and offer their time and skills. Oxford City Council who are our landlords and charge a peppercorn rent.

Objectives & Activities

The objectives of the charity are:

1. To provide and maintain a public Garden or Gardens for the use and the benefit of the inhabitants of the Oxford area and others (the beneficiaries) in the interests of social welfare and with the objects of improving conditions of life for the said beneficiaries and to promote develop and support community led Gardening initiatives in the Oxford area generally.
2. The advancement of public education in the area of the environmental, economic and social dimensions of sustainability and biodiversity by the development and delivery of educational activities including vegetable and flower growing, waste management and the use of renewable energy sources.

To achieve this the garden project:

1. Has built and maintains a garden for all members of the community and general public to use free of charge for recreation and leisure.
2. Offers the garden to organisations and individuals who want to hold their own events for their members, for courses and for private functions.
3. Works in partnership with other organisations to facilitate events and activities that benefit certain community groups in particular those who are disadvantaged socially, economically, through disability or life circumstance.
4. Puts on events and activities open to everyone to encourage general use of the garden.
5. Uses the garden as a venue to demonstrate and encourage a greater understanding of sustainable and environmentally friendly ways of urban living. In particular to demonstrate sustainable and environmentally friendly ways of building, growing food, managing water, managing waste and the use of renewable energy sources.



The weekly singing group was such a success we are bringing it back this year

Summary of Achievements & Highlights (2021-2022)

This year saw the garden move towards focusing on **growing food**, with the creation of **raised beds** and the purchase of a **polytunnel**. One of the raised beds has become home to part of the **mini-beast safari** as the garden recognises the role insects, reptiles and birds play in supporting a healthy ecosystem.

The Singing and Sharing project, supported by the National Lottery, gave the garden the opportunity to support members of our community who had felt lonely and isolated over the past year. The success of this project led the garden to apply for a grant from OCF to run it again, and the garden will fund the next phase of singing from its own reserves.

Towards the end of the financial year the garden was awarded a grant from TOE, for **Wild Edges part 2**. This project sees the garden continue its use of recycled plastic to create new raised beds and planters in the garden to support food growing. The Garden has been kept safe and beautiful with the work of **Dan Thorpe** (Maintenance), **Hannah Jones** (Coordinator), **Beth Astle** and **Tom Wells** (Community Engagement Gardeners) and **Roger Felton** (volunteer Caretaker). It is fantastic to have the continuity of their service to the Garden.

1. Use by the community

We are thrilled to report that although numbers of community member using the garden is not back to pre-Covid levels, we saw a healthy 3,750 during the year. As in previous pre-Covid years most visits came via private bookings for community events and gatherings. We are delighted that we could provide a safe, green space for our long term and regular users of the garden who continue to play such an important part in the garden such as:

- Name It Youth Group
- Woodcraft Folk and Woodcraft Pioneers
- EMBS
- Flos Nursery
- Oxford Triratna

We were glad to welcome new users using the cabin for singing groups and choirs, children's parties, management away days and training sessions.

2. Making the garden suitable for everyone

Keeping people safe while they are in the garden is important to us and we make regular checks that we provide a garden that is suitable for all the community. We listen to the feedback from our users and respond to identified needs and problems as they arise. Dan Thorpe has kept up the running repairs. We have identified that one of the compost toilet bays needs to be externally drained, there is some additional work to be done to the outdoor kitchen to improve its function and we need to review the soakaway.

Wreath Workshop

Sunday 28th Nov 2021

10-12 noon
or 1-3pm

We ask for a \$25 donation per person. This includes all wreath making materials, a hot drink and a mince pie. This can be paid on the day or in advance. Concessions available.

The garden will be open 10am - 3pm for community members who are not taking part in the workshop to also enjoy the garden, sandpit and outdoor kitchen. Soft + Hot drinks and mince pies will be available for a donation. We accept cash or card.

Places for the workshop are limited and must be booked in advance by emailing: barrackslanegarden@yahoo.co.uk

www.barrackslanegarden.org.uk

A popular wreath-making workshop from November

3. Developing our volunteer programme to support and care for the garden

The two Community Engagement Gardeners (Beth Astle and Tom Wells) have worked industriously during the year to keep the garden in such good shape. On the days that they worked in the garden, the garden was also open to the community, which enabled them to work with groups of volunteers e.g. from Crisis, and individuals. People were able to volunteer for a variety of gardening tasks to suit different abilities, or just enjoy being in the garden, so vital for people's wellbeing.



The living roof on the kitchen is doing well

As an alternative to having organisations in the garden for corporate volunteer days the garden ran several Community Work Days. It is envisaged that as Covid restrictions further lift during 2022/23 then the garden will engage with organisation such as Good Gym and via Neighbourly to have work groups in the garden.

The start of 2022 saw the garden begin to work with Oxford Brookes University to host two work placement students from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Science. The actual work placements took placement in April 2022 so further details will be included in the next annual report.



Fire-side fun at our Festival of Fire & Light 2021

4. Events, workshop and celebrations

Because of grants, community fundraising, donations, trustee and Community Work Days we have been able to celebrate the renewal of the infrastructure of the Garden. It was wonderful to be able to offer an exciting programme of workshops and events this year and be open more regularly with the Garden Guardians and Community Engagement Gardeners. This will continue in 2022-23.

This year we ran:

- Composting Workshop
- Build a Raised Bed Workshop
- Plant and Seed Swap
- Fermentation Workshop and Harvest Festival
- Festival of Fire and Light
- Homes for our Flying Friends
(building bird and bat boxes)



Bird & Bat boxes



Bug motel got a make-over



Octagonal got re-varnished



5. Communications

Our website and a linked **Yahoo calendar** and **Facebook** and **Instagram** page, as well as our **Mailchimp** Newsletter, informs people of the Garden, promotes our events, and allows booking the Garden and other resource. We've also started using Twitter to reach people **@BarracksLaneOX**

We produce posters and flyers as a way of reaching people not connected to digital media. Thank you Tim Pullen (web), Stig (design & print) and Computer Assistance for enabling this to happen.



The BLCG website homepage designed by Tim Pullen

6. Special Projects

Funding from TOE allowed the garden to build two more raised beds from recycled plastic that will be used for food growing and the generous funding from the National Lottery Community Fund allowed the garden to carry out infrastructure work, open more regularly and run a singing group.

Funding from the University of Oxford enabled us to build two raised beds at a Community Workshop, supporting our move to focusing on horticultural production moving forward. A grant from Neighbourly helped the garden to create its min-beast safari and micro grants from CAG Oxfordshire and Good Food Oxfordshire supported our community events.

Looking Ahead

Planning for the future

An important aspect of the trustees' work is to plan ahead to ensure the garden's future. The garden was very successful in being awarded grant funding this year which enabled the day to day activities of the garden to be funded, support the core aims of the garden, and run new projects and adding to the infrastructure of the garden.

We have seen our social media presence grow this year which bring this unique venue to the widest groups of users in our diverse community.

Moving forward we are looking to encourage new, regular groups to the garden. We have made plans to ensure the infrastructure of the Garden remains safe and that items are replaced when they are no longer serviceable.

We have submitted several funding bids for 2022-23 which if successful will ensure we continue to make the Garden a welcoming space when the Community Engagement Gardeners are onsite to provide a sustaining cup of tea and snacks, a newspaper to read as well offering suitable gardening tasks for those who have come to offer their physical support in the upkeep of the Garden.

Financial review and reserves including capital reserves policy

Our total funds increased by £2,424 in the year to 31 March 2022. Total reserves at the end of March 2022 were £40,909, of which £35,935 were unrestricted.

The charity is dependent on a mixture of grant funding, donations and other fundraising efforts. Reserves are retained in order to allow the charity to be able to continue to cover its operating costs for at least the next six months and continue as a going concern in the event that incoming donations are unexpectedly reduced for a period of time.

The unrestricted cash equivalent reserves of £32,279 at the year-end represents just over three years of core operating costs.

Signed:



John Green (Company Secretary)



Jenny Creese (Chair)

Date: 30 October 2022

Barracks Lane



Community Garden