

# METROPOLITAN PUBLIC GARDENS ASSOCIATION



Annual Report and  
Accounts 2024



*Berkeley Square, City of Westminster  
London in Bloom Award recipient*



# ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2024

## CONTENTS

- 02 OFFICERS
- 03 INTRODUCTION FROM PRESIDENT
- 04 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
- 06 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
- 07 LONDON SPADE AWARD
- 08 GRANTS 2024
- 20 ADDITIONAL AWARDS
  - London Open Gardens
  - London City Farms
  - London in Bloom
- 24 BULBS FOR LONDON
- 25 ELMS4LONDON
- 27 FOUNTAINS
- 30 2025 UPDATE
- 31 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
- 38 JOIN THE MPGA

*Front cover picture: The newly restored original drinking fountain in Coronation Gardens, Southfields, LB Wandsworth with bronze figurine of Fanny Wilkinson by sculptor Gillian Brett*

## OFFICERS

### President

Hugh Johnson OBE

### Vice Presidents

The Marchioness of Salisbury  
Sir David Howard Bt  
The Master, The Worshipful Company of Gardeners  
Rosie Atkins FL  
Joyce Bellamy MBE  
Alistair Gould  
Wesley Kerr OBE  
Christopher Woodward

**Chairman** Rex Thornborough (resigned October 2024)  
Nicolas Evans FCIHort (from October 2024)

**Hon Treasurer** Tara Healy-Singh (resigned April 2025)

**Hon Secretary** Elspeth Hyams

**Hon Grants Officer** Keith Cranwell

**Hon Minutes Secretary** Nicola Freshwater FCA

### Executive Committee

The Officers as above  
Shirley Brihi, Benedict Bull, Marjorie Dowbiggin, Ruth Lin Wong Holmes,  
Jodie Jones, Mark Lane LVO, Graeme Maynard, Cindy Peck (WCoG Master),  
Annabel Ward, Marc Forestier

**Hon Legal Adviser** Patricia Robertson KC

### Trustees

Rex Thornborough MStJ RD, Alistair Gould, Nicholas Evans

**THE CHARITABLE PURPOSE** of the MPGA is the protection, preservation and enhancing of public gardens, disused burial grounds, churchyards and open spaces or land situated within the Metropolitan Area of Greater London; the provision of seats and the planting of trees within places of public resort and the encouragement of public interest in the cultivation of gardens or similar public areas.

Edited by Annabel Ward  
Assisted by Shirley Brihi

Website [www.mpga.org.uk](http://www.mpga.org.uk)

Email [secretary@mpga.org.uk](mailto:secretary@mpga.org.uk)

 [MPGA@MPGA](mailto:MPGA@MPGA) London

Registered Charity Number 303330



## INTRODUCTION FROM PRESIDENT Hugh Johnson OBE

As we approach our 143rd AGM, it's a good time to reflect on the MPGA's past and present achievements. We already have one of the world's greenest Capitals, but we know there is always more that can be done. We also recognise the importance of community participation, which makes a big difference to morale, aesthetics and mental health.

We have several schemes in place to help us achieve our goals. Firstly through our grants, which are available to London's gardening amenity groups for the purchase of materials, bulbs, plants, trees etc. Secondly, our Elms4London scheme is a good example of how the Association has successfully engaged with individuals and local authorities to plant disease resistant Elm trees in most London boroughs. Another remarkable success is our Bulbs for London initiative, thanks to the generous support of our

partners Taylors Bulbs. This has enabled us to offer thousands of free bulbs to a wide variety of organisations, which in turn has made the Capital a much greener and more colourful City.

We always like to hear from communities keen to improve their local green space, the majority of them run by dedicated volunteers. We encourage them to be imaginative and take a moment to think how adding a tree, some shrubs, plants or bulbs would make a lasting impact. All grant applications are considered by our Executive Committee and their advice can often turn ideas and plans into reality.

Over the generations the MPGA has certainly honoured the memory and fulfilled the intentions of our Founder, Lord Meath and as a result London is a far greener and more pleasant city.



Queens Parade, LB Kingston



# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

## Nick Evans FCIHort

I would like to begin my annual report by first acknowledging and thanking Rex Thornborough for his tenure as Chairman. It was always going to be a challenging period due to Covid but, despite the many restrictions, work continued remotely allowing us to support Grants applications. Since its inception in 1882, the MPG has acknowledged and supported the importance of having access to outdoor space, which today, as then, is recognised as crucial to our overall health and wellbeing.

Our thanks also go to our former Treasurer, Tara Healy-Singh, who has decided to focus on her other commitments having given the MPG her generous support for several years. Fortunately, Executive Committee Member Marc Forestier, stepped forward and took over the role with the Trustees' endorsement.

We continue to approve Grants to support projects within Greater London, a core criteria of the MPG. Application requests often exceed the financial resources generated from our investments. The Executive Committee are aware of the reasons for this. Which include inflation and the impact of worldwide events. It is therefore fundamental that we explore future initiatives to generate further funds.

Recently the MPG attended two events celebrating the unveiling of two restored historic fountains. The first was at Christ Church in Southwark and the second at Coronation Gardens in Wandsworth. Both parks were originally designed by Fanny Wilkinson and both fountains provided by the MPG. These recent restorations were both funded by the Heritage of London Trust (HOLT), partnered with others, and a full report on both events can be found on Page 20.

The MPG was also given the opportunity to comment on London's Planning Policies. CPRE was clear in its responses, endorsing the London plan to use Brown Field sites over Green Belt. However, they felt there was undue pressure placed on the Green Belt for developers to landbank both Brown Field and Green Belt land which may affect new habitat, wetlands drainage, river pollution management and agriculture close to the City during the life of the Plan. The full CPRE response by John Sadler is available at [www.cprelondon.org.uk](http://www.cprelondon.org.uk).

London in Bloom volunteers have been busy judging Parks, Gardens and Community areas across London. Many of the past award winners have received Grants from the MPG and I must applaud the dedication of those involved for their major contribution.

Finally, I would like to thank Christopher Woodward for his generosity in offering the Garden Museum for our AGM this evening. We are delighted to be back here. We would also like to thank our Sponsors who make a significant difference to the MPG. Their positive encouragement, continued inspiration and support is much appreciated.



Brook Green, LB Hammersmith & Fulham



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024

Chairman Rex Thornborough welcomed everyone to the meeting which was held at the Garden Museum. This was Rex's last AGM as Chairman, he thanked the committee for their support and announced he would be handing over to Nick Evans.

Rex also thanked President Hugh Johnson, the Vice Presidents, and the MPGA's sponsors: Taylor's Bulbs, Fred Foot and Bulldog Tools, Finnis Scott, CBRE, the Royal Warrant Holders Association, the Worshipful Company of Gardeners, their Master, and Joseph Rochford Gardens.

Minutes of the previous AGM, and the 2023 Annual Report and Accounts were approved, as were the appointment of officers and committee members.

President Hugh Johnson remarked how great it is for London to have a museum dedicated to gardens, and expressed his thanks to Christopher Woodward. He had been admiring some monumental elm trees in Cambridge, and thought that everyone should have a favourite elm. He noted that the new hybrids are doing well but wondered if they will look like traditional elm trees in years to come.

Mark Lane updated the meeting on the Elms4London initiative, which aims to bring back elm trees to London. Over the past three years, 220 disease resistant elms have been planted on 80 sites across 27 boroughs. Mark is aware of 600 existing elms in London, and aims to create nature corridors by planting new trees between these.



*Guests at the Garden Museum*



*Rex Thornborough and Jodie Jones*

*Rosie Atkins*



*Graeme Maynard, Nicola Freshwater, Annabel Ward*

## THE LONDON SPADE AWARD

The London Spade, donated by Bulldog Tools was presented to Dr Todd Longstaffe-Gowan for his contribution to horticulture. This was followed by a talk from Todd on his exhibition 'The Lost Gardens of London' at the Garden Museum.

Many of the lost gardens belonged to grand private houses and a 17th century map of London revealed elaborate gardens along the Strand, which would have given a spectacular impression when viewed from the river. The last surviving of these was Northumberland House which caused a public sensation when it was demolished in 1874. It was the first time the Thames had been visible from the Strand in 400 years. Other lost gardens included Montague House, one of the grandest ever built in London, which became the British Museum in the 1750s.

Not all the lost gardens were private. Public sites included the Surrey Zoological Gardens in Walworth, and a huge RHS garden on the site of what is now Imperial College. Also lost was, Peerless Pool, London's first outdoor public swimming pool. It was built near the Old Street junction in the mid 18th century and remained open till the mid 19th century.

Five gardens around Euston Station were lost to redevelopment, the most recent in 2017. These sites are still under threat and require constant monitoring. Todd went on to say that it was not only the grand private gardens but also the small local spaces which are important.



*Hugh Johnson awarding the London Spade to Dr Todd Longstaffe-Gowan, author of Lost Gardens of London*



# GRANTS 2024

## ALLOTMENTS

### Wayne Avenue Allotments

LB Hounslow

Riana Development Network was initially set up to establish a programme for vulnerable people to become self-reliant and to encourage them to achieve their future ambitions. The site of Waye Avenue is surrounded by a park which provides access to a 64 acre allotment space where 118 individual plots allow the public to experience a vast area of greenery, promoting a harmonious opportunity for community gardening. Each plot shows the diversity of choice and covers everything from growing flowers, vegetables, encourages water-saving initiatives, eco-projects and implementing sustainable practices. School children are encouraged to join structured educational sessions and the Growing Communities project, supported by a small army of volunteers, enables disadvantaged local people full use of the allotments for well-being activities, mental and physical health development and social benefits.

The MPGA contributed to their fund to purchase gardening equipment which included a polytunnel, a metal shed, a wheelbarrow, pots and raised beds for growing vegetables. As the programme progresses, it shows the benefits of getting outside and actively growing your own produce whilst providing a location to develop valuable friendships and learn about the local environment.



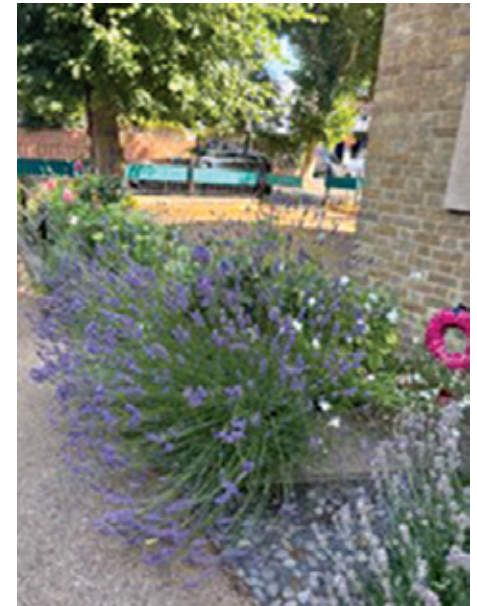
Mayor of Hounslow presenting awards to Riana representatives for their dedication to the community

## CHURCHES

### St. Etheldreda's Church Garden

LB Hammersmith & Fulham

St Etheldreda's Church is a prominent landmark, easily recognised by its tall tower along Fulham Palace Road and the team there planned to create an insect-friendly garden of sanctuary next to the church, where passers-by, neighbours and loved ones could have a moment in nature. The grant was used to buy plants for this space including Digitalis, Pittosporum and Pulmonaria and the garden is maintained by an established team of garden volunteers, as well as local community groups such as almshouses, primary schools and Mencap.



St. Etheldreda's Church, LB Hammersmith & Fulham

## St Leonard's Priory

LB Tower Hamlets

This historic churchyard, sole remnant of a religious site dating back to the 11th century, is being revitalised by Bow Church and local people as a community garden. It is situated in a densely occupied and economically deprived part of the borough, providing much needed green space for relaxation for local residents away from the traffic. Volunteers have cleared over 1000m<sup>2</sup> of brambles and nettles to make space for sustainable planting and have installed six raised beds for growing vegetables. The MPGA has provided funding for herbaceous perennials, wildflower plugs and tools to complete the revitalisation of the site with a mixed planting scheme designed to provide attractive colourful flowers and foliage, broaden the range of species on site, and increase biodiversity.



St. Leonard's Priory, Bromley-by-Bow, LB Tower Hamlets

## COMMUNITY GARDENS

### Calthorpe Community Garden

LB Camden

Calthorpe Community Garden is an open garden and community hub in Kings Cross, serving over 30,000 local people. Recognised as an inner-city oasis, the garden has been bringing together people of different ages, cultures, and abilities to enjoy open green space and recreational facilities in the concrete centre of London for 40 years. Activities delivered on the site include gardening and food growing, cooking and eating, environmental education, crafts, sport and festivals. The garden's tools were at the end of their life and needed replacing. The MPGA awarded funds to purchase shears, pruners, forks, rakes, brushes and a lawn mower.



Calthorpe Community Garden, LB Camden

### Common Growth Community Garden

LB Lewisham

Bold Vision is a registered charity working in the Telegraph Hill area of south London to foster community links and develop new community resources and spaces. One key element of this initiative is the Common Growth Community Garden, which was established in 2009 on the site of former garages and infill, which was subsequently transformed into a vibrant 40 square metre garden which is run by volunteers and open to the public and for school visits. The site includes raised beds used for community food growing and to supply the local food bank, but these have degraded in the 15 years since they were created. The MPGA awarded a grant to purchase and install new raised beds made of high quality durable timber.



Common Growth Community Garden, LB Lewisham

### Core Arts Community Garden

LB Hackney

Core Arts is transforming an underused green space behind St Barnabas Church in Homerton into an accessible community garden for all to enjoy. Their vision for the space is to maximise its beauty, improve its connection with the local community, showcase replicable climate change mitigation techniques, and increase biodiversity. The new garden includes an open lawn area, accessible seating, community food-growing, a micro-plant nursery, herbaceous borders, wild areas, a pond and a sheltered teaching space. The garden is maintained by weekly volunteer sessions through a gardening workshop for people needing health-based support. Core Landscapes has a proven track record for delivering community-based horticulture training and green education. The MPGA awarded funds to purchase two accessible picnic benches to ensure that the garden is open to all to enjoy.



Core Arts Community Garden, LB Hackney

## Kingswood Arts Community Garden

LB Southwark

Kingswood Arts in Southwark offers free and affordable creative arts activities for young people and families from the Kingswood Estate and surrounding areas. They are based in Kingswood House, a Victorian mansion once owned by John Lawson Johnston, the inventor of Bovril, and approached the MPGA for funds to facilitate the creation of a community garden in an unused space down one side of the building. The grant allowed the creation of a series of large, raised beds and pergola structures, which have transformed the space and now form the focus for twice-weekly garden club sessions, where everyone from the local community is welcome to come along and learn how to plant, propagate and, most importantly, harvest their own produce.



Kingswood Arts Community Garden, LB Southwark

## Savernake Road Bridge Garden

LB Camden

Savernake Road Bridge Garden is a busy community garden and wildlife corridor, managed by Heath Hands in agreement with Camden Council. Since 2021, Heath Hands volunteers have transformed the footbridge from a bare, litter-strewn walkway into a wildlife-friendly garden. The space is often used for education, where youth volunteers or visiting SEND students are taken to introduce them to gardening. The group wanted to plant a mixture of pollinator-friendly perennials, to continue to enhance the display for many years to come. To keep the plants healthy, they would mulch the beds well and maintain the garden through regular volunteering sessions. Funds were awarded by the MPGA to purchase plants chosen to suit the differing conditions within the garden, including dry shade, partial shade and full sun.



Savernake Road Bridge Garden, LB Camden

## CITY FARMS

### Clitterhouse Farm Garden

LB Barnet

Our Yard at Clitterhouse Farm is a vibrant community hub in the London Borough of Barnet. An MPGA grant was used to create a wildlife area with logs added for people to sit down and enjoy the calming space under the large trees. New drought-tolerant perennials were purchased to make their garden more sustainable, with added native wildflowers to enhance biodiversity. New pond plants were also added to the existing pond. Children attending the regular gardening sessions have shared their excitement, with one saying they “really like sitting under the mulberry tree - it feels like being in a tent and the branches will protect me from the outside world”. These small moments of joy are a powerful reminder of the value of creating welcoming, nature-rich spaces for everyone to enjoy.



Wildflowers Clitterhouse Farm Garden



Clitterhouse Farm Garden, LB Barnet

## Deen City Farm

LB Merton

Deen City Farm works to engage the local community with animal husbandry and the rural environment. The five-acre farm includes almost an acre of gardens, which had suffered from lack of resources in recent years. The organisers applied to the MPGA for a grant to improve ornamental areas, making the environment more pleasant for farm visitors and volunteers alike, with initiatives including the replacement of benches and the installation of water butts. A grant was awarded to the charity to fund both this work and a project to develop an allotment site for the cultivation of fruit and vegetables. The allotment now provides a focus for volunteering and practical lessons in horticulture for visiting groups, and produce is sold in the farm shop, raising money which is invested back in the gardens.



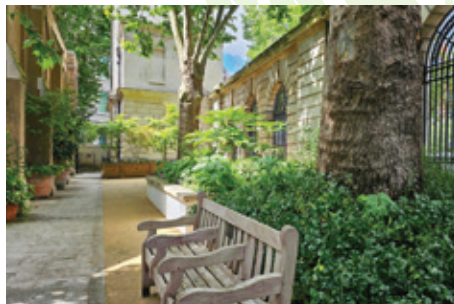
Deen City Farm, LB Merton

## HOSPITALS & HOSPICES

### St Bartholomew's Hospital Princess Alice Garden

City of London

The Princess Alice Garden at St Bartholomew's Hospital offers a much-needed facility for tranquillity and reflection for patients and staff at the hospital as well as for passers-by. It is maintained by the volunteer Guild of the Royal Hospital of St Bartholomew. In 2001, it was decided to name the garden in honour of HRH Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, on the occasion of her 100th birthday. HRH Princess Alice had been Patron and President of the Guild since 1937, and she provided a great deal of support throughout her 67-year association with the Guild until her death in 2004. One of the much used benches serving the garden had deteriorated beyond repair, and the MPGA was pleased to award funds to purchase a replacement.

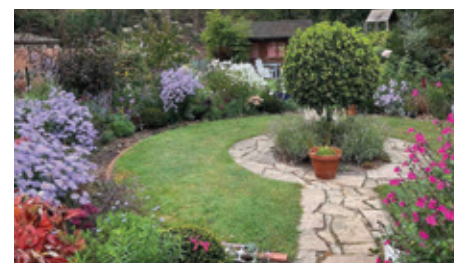
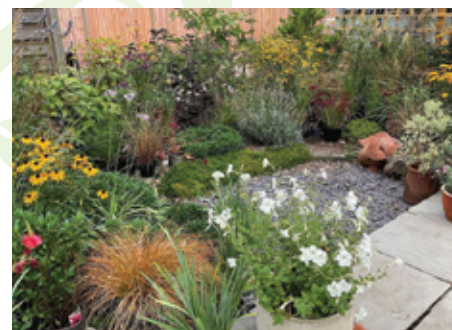


Princess Alice Garden, St Bartholomew's Hospital, City of London

## St Christopher's Hospice

LB Lewisham

St Christopher's Hospice provides expert, compassionate end-of-life care across the London boroughs of Bromley, Croydon, Lambeth, Lewisham and Southwark, supporting over 5,000 patients each year, but receiving only 35% of its income from the NHS. The organisers approached the MPGA for funds to enhance the main hospice entrance sites, which were stark and devoid of plants. Their gardening volunteers had developed plans to rejuvenate three key areas which they felt would make the hospice feel more welcoming and vibrant, and so improve the experience of arriving patients and their visitors. We were pleased to make a grant for the purchase of large planters, compost, tools and plants, which were carefully chosen to create an attractive and resilient year-round display.



St Christopher's Hospice, LB Lewisham

## MUSEUMS

### Dr Johnson's House

City of London

The courtyard garden at Dr Johnson's House is situated in Gough Square and is a popular destination for tourists throughout the year. An MPGA grant was awarded to renovate the garden and has been a crucial step towards creating a more welcoming green space for visitors, staff and volunteers. Improvements to the garden were intended to improve the aspect of Gough Square seen by office workers and tourists whilst sitting around the statue of Dr Johnson's cat, Hodge, to eat their lunch. MPGA funding enabled the purchase of a substantial quantity of compost and fertiliser and a selection of shade-loving perennials for the raised beds and containers.



Dr Johnson's House, City of London

## Little Holland House Garden Museum

LB Sutton

Little Holland House (LHH) is a small local authority run historic house museum, with Grade I listing status from Historic England and full Museum Accreditation from Arts Council England. The gardens are cared for by a dedicated team of volunteers who meet each Friday. Whilst there are a variety of established small to medium sized trees, as well as some older shrubs and grassed areas, there was a need within the garden for more planting to fill beds to make it more manageable for the volunteer garden team throughout the year. A grant was awarded for drought tolerant, wildlife friendly perennials, designed for year-round interest.



Little Holland House Garden, LB Sutton

## Museum of Brands

RB Kensington and Chelsea

The Memorial Garden at the Museum of Brands was developed in 1990 as part of the London Lighthouse. The award-winning garden gives free access to the public seven days a week. Many people use the garden regularly to study, have quiet meetings, pray, rest, watch the birds and fish and meet with family and friends. A new greenhouse and potting shed were built in 2024, and the Museum was seeking funds to equip these as an accessible learning centre with the necessary tools for adults and children. The greenhouse gives winter shelter for their collection of tender plants and is a learning site for children and adults and a workspace for the volunteers who maintain the garden. The MPGA was pleased to give a donation towards the purchase of these tools.



Museum of Brands, RB Kensington & Chelsea

## NATURE RESERVES

### Mycenae Gardens

RB Greenwich

Mycenae Gardens is a site owned by the Royal Borough of Greenwich but maintained and improved by a vibrant Friends group of volunteers, which has been listed as a Site of Special Scientific Interest for Nature Conservation. As council budgets have been cut, the gardens have become increasingly depleted, and The Friends of Mycenae Gardens approached the MPGA to help fund the first phase of their five-year programme of work to return the site to its former glory as an attractive and valued community recreation space. A grant was awarded to finance new areas of ornamental planting and an enhanced meadow area designed to increase the diversity of flora and fauna in the gardens.



Mycenae Gardens, LB Greenwich



Friends of Mycenae Gardens, LB Greenwich

## ORCHARDS

### Surrey Canal Road Fruit Commons

LB Lewisham

The Surrey Canal Road Fruit Commons initiative set out to enhance the predominantly derelict borders of the old Surrey Canal, focusing on the industrial basin of the waterway in north Lewisham. The organisers were inspired by the sight of local children scrambling to reach cherries on two existing trees, and went on to create an urban mini-orchard and soft fruit garden which has proved extremely popular with residents in the area. They approached the MPGA for funding when they received landlord permission to garden the off-road space in front of five adjacent warehouses, creating the opportunity for a new phase of planting. A grant was made to allow the purchase of heritage apple trees, plums and greengages, as well as a selection of soft fruit bushes, herbaceous perennials and bulbs, which are now being managed by their vibrant volunteer gardening group.



Surrey Canal Road Fruit Commons, LB Lewisham



Surrey Canal Road Linear Park, LB Lewisham

## PARKS & COMMONS

### Horn Park

RB Greenwich

Horn Park, located in a deprived area of the Royal Borough of Greenwich, is a Green Flag Award winning site. The park spans over 6 hectares and features attractive views and wildlife, including many butterflies and bats. The Friends group has built bug houses, bat boxes, planted many saplings, and undertakes regular weekly community gardening sessions. The MPGA grant was used to create a new wildflower and bulb border along a newly installed path. Bulbs planted included anemones, snowdrops, Star of Bethlehem and English bluebells.



Horn Park Friends, RB Greenwich

### Mitcham Common

LB Merton

Mitcham Common is a large, diverse open space in south London, spanning 182 hectares across the boroughs of Merton, Croydon, and Sutton. It's a Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation and a part of the Wandle Valley Regional Park. The Friends Group applied for a grant for a new bench to replace one that had been removed for safety reasons. The bench is located on Mill Hill with attractive views over the Common. The Common is number three of ten 'Wandle Valley Vistas', where you can enjoy a near 360 degree view encompassing Mitcham Common with Wandle Valley landmarks on the horizon. The Vista can now be enjoyed from the new bench, funded by the MPGA.



Mitcham Common, LB Merton

## SCHOOLS

### Springfield Community School

LB Hackney

The school applied for a grant to build a large raised bed at an accessible height to their already established vegetable garden area. The school asked a group of pupils, including a majority from their SEND register, to participate in the planting of the herbs when the bed was ready. Their sustainability squad are now in charge of maintaining the bed and it

is often used with many pupils for self-regulation breaks (weeding, identifying the herbs, comparing smells and tastes).



Springfield Community School, LB Hackney

### The Garden Classroom

LB Islington

The Garden Classroom provides urban children and adults with transformative outdoor experiences devised to encourage active lifestyles, promote self-discovery, inspire growth and stimulate respect for nature. As well as working with schools, their Green Guardians sessions encourage volunteers to help out with caring for their local green spaces. Their aim is to increase biodiversity, improve wildlife habitats and create imaginative gardens that will promote nature connection for everyone to enjoy. Weekly sessions at Newington Green have been supported by the MPGA with funds to purchase tools including wheelbarrows, loppers, hand tools, gloves and kneeling pads, and also compost to add to the planting beds.



The Garden Classroom, LB Islington

## STREET SCAPES

### Lambeth Living Streets

LB Lambeth

Effra Green Streets is a collective borne out of the Lambeth branch of the national charity Living Streets, which was set up to do something practical to improve the public realm in a busy area south of Brixton town centre. With a focus on improving neglected planters and flower beds blighted by litter and minor vandalism, the organisers approached MPGA for a grant to expand their planting initiatives, following the successful creation of a small orchard and a highly ornamental Hot Garden of cannas, crocosmias and other vibrant ornamentals along a 50m section of pavement. We were impressed by their level of community involvement, and made an award to fund the creation of a corresponding Cool Garden of white and blue woodland plants, wildflowers and bulbs, complete with small ponds made from recycled water tanks.



Effra Green Streets Team



Effra Green Streets, LB Lambeth

## ADDITIONAL AWARDS

### London Open Gardens

In 2024 we were delighted to once again support London Open Gardens, which falls over one weekend in June. The event is organised and run by London Parks and Gardens. It gives London residents and visitors the opportunity to visit some of the capital's private, secret, and little-known gardens. This is a very special opportunity and one which we look forward to and enjoy each year.

This year there were several new gardens on the list, including Barkston Gardens (RB Kensington & Chelsea), Highbury Quadrant Estate Nature Garden, the Hoxton Trust Islington, Hyde Park Square, Quill St Allotment Hendon, Gloucester Square. With only two days and the gardens scattered all over London, it's always a difficult decision as to where to go. This year we plumbed for Inner Temple Gardens, Mecklenburgh Square and the West London Bowling Club.

The Inner Temple Garden is part of the Inner Temple, one of the four Inns of Court and houses the professional association for Barristers and Judges. It has a long horticultural legacy and was once home to the RHS Chelsea Flower Show. It has an interesting history going back to the 12th Century. With its wildflower meadows, it's well known for its experimental planting and its focus on biodiversity. The deep herbaceous borders around the garden feature many unusual plants, alongside old favourites such as Foxgloves, Alliums and Sweet Rocket. The garden is a little haven which runs along the embankment. This regal boardwalk, with its avenue of historic London planes, offers unrivalled views of the Thames and Big Ben.

The MPGA has a long connection with the Inner Temple. In fact, in 2007 our AGM was held in their beautiful parliament chamber. In the same year we awarded them (with the Middle Temple) the London Spade for their efforts in enhancing their gardens and in increasing their accessibility to the public.

Mecklenburgh Square in Bloomsbury is a beautiful Georgian Square, very close to two public gardens with which we have a long association and have visited frequently, ie Coram Fields and Brunswick Square. Mecklenburgh Square is different in that it is closed to the public, except for this one weekend each year, and we have often tried to visit. Finally, this year we managed a visit and were very pleasantly surprised. The two acre garden, laid out between 1809-1810 remains close to the original design. It is run by a Garden Committee made up from local residents and is very well maintained. The garden comprises formal lawns, gravel paths, a fern bed, a herb garden, mature plane trees and other ornamental trees. The east side of the square contains plants native to New Zealand, including some rare species. Again, this is a peaceful oasis, away from the various universities, student residencies, hospitals and businesses which are all within a short walking distance.

West London Bowling Club is an absolute gem and the only bowling club in Kensington and Chelsea. It was established in 1903 and has since been a vibrant and successful members Club where they offer bowls, croquet and pétanque. Unfortunately, the garden suffered a long period of neglect, until 2015 when the Club's volunteers started work on restoring the areas around the green, planting several new roses and fruit trees. They still maintain the bowling

green, the gardens and the Clubhouse and over the years the garden has won several awards. We have often wondered what lay behind the gates of the Club, as it is tucked away in the midst of a residential area. We were very pleased, therefore, to have the opportunity to visit and explore this hidden treasure with its well maintained green space and garden. This is another very good example of how volunteers can make a big difference in their particular corner of London.



Mecklenburgh Square, LB Camden



Hyde Park Square, City of Westminster

### London City Farms

#### London City Farms Harvest Festival 2024

The London City Farm & Community Gardens Association Harvest Festival is an event which the MPGA has long and enthusiastically supported. Every September, young people and supporters from many of London's community farms and gardens come together to celebrate at this joyful community festival. Unfortunately, due to an administrative issue, the MPGA was unable to make a direct financial contribution during 2014, but the event was as well attended and full of fun as always. In the horticultural categories, Phoenix Farm in White City won First Prize for their Display of Seasonal Produce and Muclarks Community Garden won First Prize for their Potted Annual. The overall winner was Lambourne End, and their garden instructor Sam Williams, proudly displayed the ceremonial plate on behalf of the whole team.



Muclarks Community Garden  
First Prize, Potted Annual

## London in Bloom

In 2024, London in Bloom entered a new and exciting chapter, particularly in areas such as community gardens and the expansion of involvement by local people in public parks and gardens. This was not just about numbers, it showcased the incredible spirit of people coming together. Their enthusiasm injected new life into many public green spaces, which was appreciated by residents and visitors across the capital.

The annual Awards Ceremony was held at the RHS Gardens at Wisley and was very well attended, with around 350 participants celebrating their achievements and enjoying the benefits of free entry to the beautiful gardens.

During the afternoon, the Trustees presented a wide range of awards covering the outstanding contributions made to horticulture, gardening and conservation of our vital natural landscapes. Our congratulations go to those who received Gold awards in their category, among them several London Boroughs including Westminster, Tower Hamlets, Greenwich, Islington, City of London, Kensington & Chelsea and the two overall winners - the London Boroughs of Havering and Lambeth.

The MPGA was pleased to see that the Rookery, LB Lambeth, was chosen as the Gold winner of the Small Parks Group, as back in 2013 the Rookery had received our London Spade Award (see Report 2013). We have helped several other gardens featured, including St Quintin's Kitchen Garden, St Mary's Secret Garden, Cody Dock, Arlington Square, The Hill Garden, King Henry's Walk Garden and Raynes Park Station. Back in 2011,

we also presented the Spade to Roots and Shoots, which this year received two awards, one of which was for winning the category 'Gardening with Young People'.

It's always interesting to see which park has won the Large Park Award as the competition is very strong. This year we were pleased to see that eighteen parks across the Capital had received a silver gilt or gold award. These included Kennington Park (LB Lambeth), Alexandra Park (LB Haringey), Beckenham Place Park (Lewisham), Holland Park (RB K&C), Gladstone Park (LB Brent), with the overall winner being West Ham Park which is looked after by the City of London.

In addition, we were delighted that several Fanny Wilkinson gardens had been awarded Gold in various categories, ie Paddington Street Gardens, St Luke's Church Gardens, Myatts Fields, Coronation Gardens, Duncan Terrace Gardens and Vauxhall Park. All these gardens very much deserve the recognition, as they continue to be looked after beautifully - Fanny would be delighted!

We applaud the commitment of London in Bloom, as well as their mentoring programme and the way in which they encourage greater participation. They actively promote eco-friendly gardening practices and inspire participants to adopt methods that reduce their environmental impact.

London in Bloom's aims are very much aligned with our own and we congratulate them, particularly Peter and Anne Holman, and are delighted to continue with our support.



*Paddington Street Gardens, City of Westminster*



*Rookery Gardens, Streatham Common, LB Lambeth*



*The Garden at 120, Fenchurch Street, Winner of Gold Award London in Bloom, City of London*

## BULBS FOR LONDON

It was probably inevitable that we would have an overwhelming response for bulbs this year as 2023 had been a very quiet year. We were only able to supply three sites, due to outstanding sales at Taylors! It was therefore good news to hear in November 2024 that the BfL scheme was fully back on track with Taylors offering us bulbs for 75 gardens.

This meant that we could supply a wide range of sites across the London Boroughs. These included Warren Gardens Wildlife Haven in Richmond, the Belsize Wood Nature Reserve in Camden as well as a good number of community gardens including Ananas Garden in Lambeth, Caxton House in Islington, Walworth Garden in Southwark and Stonegrove Community Orchard in Barnet. Bulbs also went to several parks such as Eastbrookend Park in Barking, Wendell Park in Hammersmith and Tower Gardens in Haringey.

It's good to hear that guerilla gardening is still going strong in London and this year Effra Green Streets in Lambeth were lucky recipients. Bulbs also went to several streetscapes including Brook Green in Hammersmith as well as Grove Park Parade in Chiswick. Streetscapes are always very popular with local residents and we've had some excellent feedback. Along with the photographs sent to us in the Spring, we received many heartwarming notes of appreciation which can be seen below.

We also fulfilled requests from Homerton Hospital in Hackney, several Social Housing groups, London Squares and a number of Primary Schools, including Christchurch School in Greenwich, Cromer Road School in Barnet and Anson School in Brent.

The Bulbs for London Scheme has been running now for thirteen years, during which

time Taylors have supplied us with more than 1 million bulbs, which we have passed on to over 1300 parks, gardens and green sites across the 33 London boroughs - an amazing achievement! Eye catching clusters of daffodils and colourful beds of beautiful spring bulbs, have made a huge impact brightening up large swathes of London for the benefit of residents and visitors alike.

The real stars are Taylors and we thank them for their continuing commitment and incredible generosity.

### Volunteers Comments:

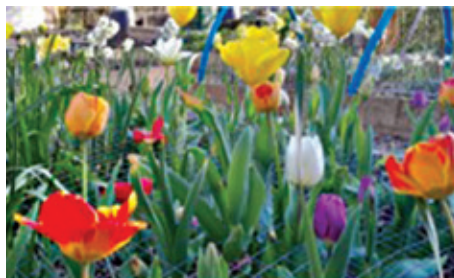
Meadow Orchard: *The daffodils have brought so much colour, delighting our volunteers and visitors. We've now got a spectacular display of colour from our ... bulbs, which look magnificent in the spring sunshine.*

Grove Park Planters: *They look splendid. Thank you again for arranging, we are most grateful.*

Brook Green: *Thanks again to you and Taylors bulbs for the generous offer!*  
ATURE RES

Raynes Park Station Embankment: *The bulbs we received in 2023 have bloomed again and make a very positive impact ... Thank you all at MPGA and Taylors Bulbs for helping the Friends ... to enhance the area around our station.*

**Shirley Brihi**



Meadow Orchard Project, LB Haringey



Wendell Park, LB Hammersmith & Fulham



Grove Park Parade Chiswick, LB Hounslow



Edmundsey Estate, LB Lambeth

## ELMS4LONDON



Mark Lane

The Elms4London campaign continues to promote the idea of restoring elms to the urban landscape and, in the process, it has helped raise the profile of the Metropolitan Public Gardens Association as well. Mark Lane, Chair of Elms4London, reports on another record-breaking year for the initiative and predicts it will continue to gather momentum in the future with increasing sponsorship and ever wider distribution.

The 2024/5 MPGA Elms4London campaign was launched on 6th October 2024 at the George VI public house in Chiswick High Road at a combined event launching Arit Anderson's book *The Essential Tree Selection Guide* (co-authored with Henrik Sjöman) and David Shreeve's book *Great British Elms* (co-authored with Mark Seddon). There was an audience of about 100 who had bought tickets for this event.

As in previous years, our friends at London in Bloom publicised the campaign through their contacts and I wrote to all previous tree recipients making them aware that more trees were available. The website is updated regularly with news items to keep the campaign alive and current.

With sponsorship from The Finnis Scott Foundation, The Bartlett Tree Experts Company, The Royal Warrant Holders Association and CBRE, and the support

we receive from The Tree Musketeers, we were able to reserve and then purchase 165 disease-resistant elm trees from our partner nurseries, Langthorns Plantery and Joseph Rochford Gardens. The campaign finished on 10th January 2025 with all the trees allocated to 27 recipients across 18 London boroughs. This is the largest number of elm trees we have been able to distribute in any one year and brings the total planted so far to more than 420.

Where space is available, we encourage recipients to plant 'elm hubs' of anywhere between five and ten trees to encourage the White-letter hairstreak butterfly. The following sites have created elm hubs this year: High Elms Country Park (Bromley), Chiswick House and Gardens (Hounslow), Dulwich Estate (Southwark), Brent Council, Sutton Parks Department, Gladstone Park (Brent), Seear's Park and Perretts Field (Sutton), Blythe Hill Fields (Lewisham), Biggin Hill Park (Bromley), Lambeth Tree Services, Lee Valley Regional Park Authority, Gunnersbury Park (Hounslow/Ealing) and Mill Hill Preservation Society.

In addition, a good number of recipients applied for fewer trees, and we are grateful to them for thinking of this species when planning their tree planting programme, which helps ensure a wider spread of elms across the capital.



Volunteers from the Dulwich Society planting *Ulmus 'Lutece'*



One of the 10 new trees planted at Perretts Fields in Sutton to create a new Elm Hub

### Committee

- Mark Lane (Chair)
- Rex Thornborough
- Ruth Holmes
- Jodie Jones
- Nick Evans
- David Shreeve (Conservation International)
- Tony Leach (Parks for London)



## FOUNTAINS

Since Victorian times we've had a vested interest in the drinking fountains installed in many of the London parks with which we were involved – see our Annual Reports of 2021 and 2022. Many of the donors who funded these fountains were MPGA members - perhaps the best known being John Passmore Edwards, who contributed to several on behalf of the MPGA. Unfortunately, today barely 20% of these fountains survive, of which only a few are functioning.

Recently, thanks largely to the Heritage of London Trust (HOLT), things are changing. HOLT are helping to restore some of these historic fountains and more importantly bringing fresh drinking water to residents and visitors alike.

Two of the fountains with which the MPGA was originally involved have been in the news this year ie Christ Church Garden in Southwark and Coronation Gardens in Wandsworth.

### Christ Church Drinking Fountain, Southwark

In March, two Committee Members, Rex Thornborough and Secretary Elspeth Hyams, attended the opening of this newly restored drinking fountain. HOLT partnered with Southwark Council and developer Delancey Real Estate to complete the restoration of this fountain, situated at the south end of Blackfriars Bridge. The fountain was funded in 1900 by John Passmore Edwards, a prominent publisher, journalist and philanthropist in Victorian London. He was a passionate advocate for improving the lives of the working class with his aim "to place drinking-water within reach of many of the poorest".

In the same year, the churchyard was landscaped by Fanny Wilkinson, our resident garden designer, and opened as a public garden by the MPGA commemorated by a plaque still in evidence on the garden wall. Unfortunately, the church was destroyed by bombing in 1941 but the fountain survived. A century later in 2000 the MPGA was involved in a further renovation of Christ Church Garden – again recorded with a plaque, placed adjacent to the earlier one seen in the picture below. It was interesting to learn that the London Spade Award for 2000 was presented to the Christ Church Garden Group, led by project Architect Marcus Beale. Full details of the event can be found in our 2000 Annual Report.



The Mayor of Southwark, Councillor Harry Canagasabay, unveiled the plaque recording the restoration of Christ Church Garden on 16th June 2000 – beside the plaque commemorating the original opening of the garden after its creation by the Metropolitan Public Gardens Association on 16th June 1900, watched by Architect Marcus Beale, who accepted the London Spade Award for the project on behalf of the Christ Church Garden Group, and the Rev. John Paxton, Vicar of Christ Church, who hosted the Group's meetings.

Earlier this year HOLT stepped forward to fund the refurbishment of the Christ Church fountain. The effects of the wartime bombing meant that the fountain had partially sunk into the ground, the roof damaged and the fountain was not working. The restoration has provided free fresh drinking water once again in this historic part of Southwark. Not only will it save on buying bottled water and reduce plastic bottle litter, it will also encourage more community use of this green space.

During the restoration, 130 young people from local schools and youth groups visited the fountain, met conservators and enjoyed creative and stonemasonry workshops as part of HOLT's Proud Places youth engagement programme. Rex and Elspeth enjoyed meeting several members of HOLT as well as the other guests from Southwark Council and Delancey Real Estate. This is an important site and we offer our sincere thanks to those involved.



*Christ Church Drinking Fountain, Southwark*

**Coronation Gardens, Southfields, Wandsworth**

Our second visit, which took place in July, was to Coronation Gardens where we were invited by the Chairman of the Friends, Charles Runcie, to attend the unveiling of the newly restored Fanny Wilkinson fountain. Coronation Gardens were formally opened by the then Mayor of Wandsworth, William Hunt, to commemorate the Coronation of King Edward VII in 1902. The previous Mayor (1901-1902) was Sir William Lancaster, a businessman, politician and philanthropist. He gave the land to the

people of Wandsworth in perpetuity and soon after Fanny Wilkinson, landscape designer to the MPGA, laid out the gardens, the cost of which was borne by Sir William who was a member of the MPGA. The Fanny Wilkinson layout has changed very little over the years, with the original entrance gate on Merton Road still in place. Suffice to say the MPGA paid a decisive role in the early days of this garden, pulling together various people and funding to complete the work, including the provision of twelve seats in 1903.

The drinking fountain, which was made of rough hewn granite and installed in 1903 as part of the original garden design, was donated by the sisters of Sir William Lancaster. In recent years the fountain had become derelict and lost its original allegorical figure. It was decided, with the help of HOLT and other parties, to return a relevant figure to the fountain. This is where Fanny Wilkinson comes back into the story. The sculptor Gillian Brett, was commissioned to design a statue of Fanny to be mounted on the fountain to replace the original. We are delighted that it was decided to commemorate Fanny's work in this way, in one of the many parks which benefited from her design and creativity.

On the morning of the unveiling the park looked magnificent. Charles had gathered together a very interesting group of guests, several of whom made speeches. The HOLT team were there in force including Nicola Stacey as well as the MPGA represented by Committee Member Shirley Brihi. Shirley met the HOLT team and several of the Friends of Coronation Gardens, as well as the local MP Fleur Anderson, the Mayor of Wandsworth, Cllr Jeremy Ambache, Dr Elizabeth Cassons and also Gillian Brett.

A BBC crew was also there interviewing several people and a clip was shown on

television the following evening. Charles had invited several schools to participate. Two of the children spoke about Fanny and seemed to have an excellent knowledge of her life and work, which was very impressive.

We've since heard that this very successful event garnered much favourable publicity for all participants. We were delighted to be involved and take this opportunity to thank Charles Runcie and his team for all their hard work as well as Nicola and her team at HOLT who are doing a fantastic job with the refurbishment of these historical fountains – they can both be justly proud!



*Coronation Gardens Fountain, Southfields, Wandsworth*



*Coronation Gardens, Southfields LB Wandsworth*



*Children at the unveiling*

## 2025 UPDATE

Back in 2023 we had booked the Essex Church in Notting Hill Gate for our AGM but, due to a threatened rail strike, we were forced to cancel at the last minute and instead held the meeting on Zoom. In 2024 we returned to the Garden Museum, which as always was a great success (see page 6). This year we have taken the Essex Church again. We thank them for their help and cooperation and hope there will be no strikes this time!

### Committee Meetings

Our Committee Meetings have in the past been held at the Guildhall. However, as it was becoming increasingly difficult to reserve a room there, we were delighted to take up the offer of an excellent alternative at the offices of Charles Stanley, very close to the Guildhall.

### Virtual Office

For many of the tasks facing the MPGA, it was felt that a virtual office was needed. This was set up by our Treasurer, Tara Healy-Singh, before she retired from the Committee. It was felt that a virtual office would be especially valuable when fundraising or writing letters of support for various planning protests etc.

### Membership

One item which the Committee started to look into this year, with the help of our new Secretary Elspeth Hyams, is the question of membership. This included communication, membership management, a membership drive and Gift Aid. This is a work in progress and the Committee will continue to give it their attention.

### Data Storage and Archiving of Records

At the moment Committee members and Trustees cannot access documents and core information as we do not have a central storage system. It was therefore decided to look at the issues involved and a well-researched paper has been put together by Ruth Holmes, Nicola Freshwater and Shirley Brihi. The matter is under discussion and we have contacted online storage facilities. There are many protocols to follow to ensure that our core information is stored securely and not lost when someone steps down. The very comprehensive paper will hopefully help the Committee to make a decision and move forward.

### Website

We are often congratulated on our website, which is regularly updated. Our thanks go to our webmaster, Justin Swabey, who is extremely competent and helpful and responds very promptly to our requests. The two outstanding website matters which needed to be resolved are almost finalised. The 'Donate' button will be up and running by the end of October. This means donations can be made on our website and also Members will be able to join and make payment on line. We are also making progress with the Legacy Form but it needs more work.

### Database

The work on the database is ongoing but the good news is that we have started using it internally. Our thanks go to our volunteer database specialist Dr Hazel Russman, who has helped us hugely in getting the database off the ground. It's proving its worth after all the hard work put in by Dr Russman and we are very pleased with the result. The database has been especially helpful when researching London's Victorian fountains. It also gives information on every London garden with which we've been involved since our inception in 1882.

There is still much work to be done but we're making good progress.

### Archive Records And Queries

We regularly receive archive queries from various sources, some from academics overseas, but the majority from people interested in a particular London site. For example, recently we have had many enquiries about the Fanny Wilkinson gardens, as she becomes better known through the 75 London gardens which she designed between 1882 and 1904. The database is a very helpful tool which enables us in most cases to answer the archive queries we receive.

### Meetings Attended

Our Committee members have attended three external meetings in the past year, all of which were interesting and worthwhile. Our Secretary, Elspeth Hyams, attended an LFGN meeting, which was held for the London Friends Groups, and gave her an insight into some of the problems they face plus the more positive rewards. Elspeth's report to the Committee concluded that "despite the constraints, volunteer groups appear to be achieving a lot with very little and very thin resources". Keith Cranwell, our Grants Officer, joined us in October 2024 and attended the AGM of the London Forum where he heard a wide range of views on the Green Belt and other London planning issues, which are of the utmost importance to us all. Finally, Nicola Freshwater attended a meeting on 'Front Gardens on the Line', and pointed out that, although private gardens are not within the MPGA's remit, the principles involved were relevant for us when evaluating grant applications, eg use of reclaimed/ recycled materials, rainwater management, use of permeable surfaces and wildlife-friendly sites. These external meetings are extremely useful as, apart from what we learn, we much enjoy meeting up and supporting our friends in the London gardening world.

# MPGA FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 31 DECEMBER 2024

## Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ended 31 December 2024

	Notes	2024 Income £	Capital £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>					
Gross dividends received		14,216	-	13,716	13,522
Deposit Account interest and Gift Aid interest		321	-	274	-
Subscriptions with Gift Aid Recoveries		225	-	400	-
Donations & subscriptions (Individuals)	2	6,885	-	805	6,980
Corporate Donations	3	11,000	-	13,750	-
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>		<b>32,647</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>28,945</b>	<b>20,502</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>					
Grants	1	23,803	-	17,738	10,738
AGM & related expenses		3,912	-	905	2,837
Office Expenses, including web design & IT		310	-	1,789	1,344
Special Projects (ELMS)		4,434	-	9,681	1,816
		<b>32,459</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>30,113</b>	<b>16,735</b>
<b>Net Incoming/(Outgoing)</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>188</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-1,168</b>	<b>3,767</b>
<b>Balances at 01/01/2024</b>		19,477	-	20,818	-
(cash held at METRO bank)					
(investments: M&G+CCLA)		-	350,627	-	-
(CCLA/COIF: cash deposit)		-	6,416	-	-
<b>Balances carried forward 31/12/2024</b>		<b>19,655</b>	<b>348,840</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

## Balance Sheet

31 December 2024

Note	2024 £	2023 £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>		
Investments at M&G + CCLA	4 350,627	342,424
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash at Bank and in hand	27,807	19,650
CCLA/COIF Cash Deposit	6,416	6,416
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>34,223</b>	<b>26,066</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Creditors	-	-
<b>Net Current Assets</b>	<b>34,223</b>	<b>26,066</b>
<b>Total Assets Less Current Liabilities</b>	<b>384,850</b>	<b>368,490</b>

Approved

Nicholas Evans  
ChairmanMarc Forestier  
Hon. Treasurer

## Notes to the Accounts

31 December 2024

## ACCOUNTING POLICIES

- (a) Expenditure is dealt with on an accruals basis, which includes making provision at the yearend for grants approved which have not yet been paid.
- (b) Dividends, interest and life subscriptions receivable are credited when received.
- (c) Investments are shown at their market value at the year end. Realised and unrealised gains or losses on investments are credited or debited to the Capital account.
- (d) Contributions received as a result of appeals for capital are credited to the Capital Account.
- (e) **Policy on reserves.** The total of grants approved over any given period is chosen to keep income and expenditure broadly in balance and avoid the accumulation of large cash balances. It is therefore not appropriate to specify a precise level of reserves to be maintained.

## 1. RESOURCES EXPENDED

## GRANTS

Name	Amount (£)
Charity	50.00
London in Bloom	1,000.00
St Bartholomew's Hospital, Princess Alice Garden	865.00
Deen City Farm	1,281.85
St Christopher's Hospice	865.00
St Leonard's Priory	1,283.00
Friends of Mitcham Common	800.00
The Garden Classroom	700.00
St Etheldreda's Church Garden	500.00
Dr Johnson's House	570.00
Little Holland House Garden	395.85
Surrey Canal Road Fruit Commons	1,000.00
Core Arts Community Garden	650.00
Waye Avenue Allotments (Riana DN)	1,349.48
London Open Gardens 2024	1,100.00
Kingswood Arts Community Garden	1,270.00
Clitterhouse Farm Garden	1,500.00
Our Yard Clitterhouse Farm	1,500.00
London Open Gardens 2025	1,000.00
Calthorpe Community Garden	1,073.54
Lambeth Living Streets	1,000.00
Common Growth Community Garden	750.00
Springfield Community School	800.00
Horn Park	500.00
Savernake Road Bridge Garden	1,000.00
Mycenae Gardens	1,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£23,803.72</b>

## Notes to the Accounts

31 December 2024

## AGM AND RELATED EXPENSES

The cost of catering and venue hire for the AGM is higher than in 2023. The venue was free but the overall cost of the AGM, as well as catering and IT support, includes printing cost for the AGM Annual Report and Accounts previously included as part of the office expenses'

## INCOMING RESOURCES

## 2. MEMBERSHIP AND INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS

This is made up of £585 of individual membership as well as £6,300 from individual donations, including a £500 donation from Mr Rex Thornborough, £5,000 from Mr Hugh Johnson and £500 from a private benefactor. The Elms4London project received £300 from a kind benefactor.

## 3. CORPORATE DONATIONS

Joseph Rochford Gardens Ltd donated £500 to the MPGA Grants Trust. The Elms4London project received three corporate donations: £5,000 from the Trustees of Finnis Scott, £3000 from the RWA Charity Fund and £2,500 from Bartlett Tree Limited.

## 4. INVESTMENT ASSETS

As at 1 January 2024

As at 31st December 2024

Holding in Units

M&G Equities Investment Fund for Charities	COIF Income Units	COIF Deposit Account	Total
£	£	£	£
134,315	208,109	6,416	348,840
137,816	212,811	6,416	357,043
9,360	10,486.77	-	-



**Christ Church Disused Burial Ground, Blackfriars Road, S.E.**  
Laid out and opened by the Association in 1900.



## GET INVOLVED AND JOIN THE METROPOLITAN PUBLIC GARDEN ASSOCIATION

The MPGA is a long established charity founded by Lord Meath in 1882, which has remained true to its principal objective - the protection and improvement of public spaces across the London boroughs.

How the MPGA does this has evolved over the years, but our hard-working team of volunteers still remain committed to providing modest grants and expertise to the many dedicated local groups who create, maintain, beautify and improve the Capital's parks and green spaces.

Diminishing government funding and growing development is putting huge pressure on our green spaces, large and small. We endeavour to monitor all public gardens and green sites under threat and support campaigns and petitions where we feel we can make

a difference. This all takes time, effort and of course funding.

If you are passionate, as we are, about the environment and protecting London's parks and green spaces for ourselves and future generations, do make a donation towards our work and become a member of the MPGA. Full details are on the form overleaf and our Annual Report will also keep you abreast of our activities.

**Our Membership Form can be found overleaf or downloaded from our website [www.mpga.org.uk](http://www.mpga.org.uk)**



## JOIN THE MPGA

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Post Code \_\_\_\_\_

Tel day \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### SUBSCRIPTION RATE - ANNUAL

Adult £25     Student/over 60 £15

### LIFE SUBSCRIPTION - single payment

Adult £250     over 60 £150  
 Corporate £500  
 Donation £ .....

Cheque/Banker's Order enclosed £ .....

I want the MPGA to treat all my donations as **Gift Aid**. I am a UK Taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax/Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year, it is my responsibility to pay any difference. *Please tick box.*

### BANKER'S ORDER FORM/DETAILS FOR BACS

Bank \_\_\_\_\_

Branch Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Post Code \_\_\_\_\_

Sort Code \_\_\_\_\_ Acc No \_\_\_\_\_

Acc Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please pay MPGA the sum of £ \_\_\_\_\_ immediately and again on 1 January 20 \_\_\_\_\_ and on 1 January each subsequent year until further notice.

**BANK METRO    Sort Code 23 05 80    Acc No 31202116**  
**Acc Name    Metropolitan Public Gardens Association**

### RETURN FORM WITH CHEQUE/BANKER'S ORDER TO:

Metropolitan Public Gardens Association,  
Office One, 1 Coldbath Square, Farringdon, London EC1R 5HL

**ALTERNATIVELY, make a BACS payment and email the Treasurer with your details [mpga.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:mpga.treasurer@gmail.com)**



*Whitehall Gardens, City of Westminster  
Bulbs for London recipient*

# BULBS FOR LONDON



BY APPOINTMENT TO  
HIS MAJESTY THE KING  
BULB GROWERS  
O.A. TAYLOR & SONS BULBS LTD  
HOLBEACH

# Taylor's

**BULBS**

QUALITY ASSURED SINCE 1919



**Proud to Support London's Green Spaces**

Taylor's Bulbs, Washway House Farm, Washway Road, Holbeach, Lincs. PE12 7PP  
Tel: 01406 422266 • Email: [sales@taylor's-bulbs.com](mailto:sales@taylor's-bulbs.com)