

**Report of the Trustees and
Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023
for
Castle Bromwich Hall and Gardens Trust**

Castle Bromwich Hall and Gardens Trust
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Castle Bromwich Hall and Gardens Trust**Contents**

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Castle Bromwich Hall and Gardens Trust**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

The Trustees, who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, are pleased to present their report together with the financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31 December 2023 which are also prepared to meet the requirements of a Directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (updated 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The objects of the Trust are to promote the permanent preservation and restoration of the Gardens (including any structures and buildings contained therein), which adjoin Castle Bromwich Hall, for the benefit and education of the public generally.

The Trust continues to restore and maintain the Gardens and keep them open to the public. Fundraising events take place throughout the year.

The Trust depends upon the contribution of a large number of volunteers who work across the whole range of its activities.

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, including the guidance 'public benefit: running a charity (PB2)', when reviewing the Charity's aims and objectives and in planning future activities.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE - AFTER EGM 5TH JUNE

As the dark shadow of the pandemic began to fade in people's minds, 2023 felt a little like a more 'normal' year.

Garden and wildlife activities were back at full pace across the whole year, events and family activities proved as popular as ever, especially with a year-long franchise to use the popular children's book character Percy the Park Keeper across the Gardens.

Although the weather remained a critical and sometimes interrupting factor, visitor and user figures continued to grow (up 7.8% on 2022 and 44% up on pre-pandemic levels).

Nevertheless, the negative effect of nationally rising prices and the financial squeeze on many of our local communities' pockets provided further challenges for the Gardens Trust as it tried to navigate sustainable growth.

In parallel to the national situation, 2023 was the first year in the Trust's history operation without any regular core funding support, so building on previous years' marketing and outreach, the focus was on increasing earned income, which saw just a modest growth of 4%.

As ever the tiny team of staff and volunteers juggled their time, ably and enthusiastically, across multiple areas; gardening, conservation, visitor and community engagement and culturally based programming.

Having no proper indoor space is still a major issue, but we are pleased that the character of our events and the welcome given by our people, seems, for the most part, to counterbalance this major restriction. Both footfall and earnings continued to rise across all seasons, including during winter!

Castle Bromwich Hall and Gardens Trust

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

The outdoor Courtyard Café is not yet a 'destination' in its own right, but a growing proportion of our visitors (7%) come just for the cake, community and conviviality - a sort of 'social prescribing' through chat.

Our values of prioritising local, homemade, artisan and organic food and goods progressed during the year. Volunteer made cakes, jams, pickles and honey are always popular - and very special! We use, and champion, local bakeries for our other fresh food and stock locally handmade goods in the shop.

The Trust's established vision requires us to 'focus on the environmental message of the Garden throughout all areas of offer'. In 2023 we became full members of Sustainability West Midlands and committed to their Net Zero Business Pledge and will, in 2024, be working towards the Green Tourism Award. As part of that journey, we have now changed all our internal cleaning materials, toilet rolls, cups and cutlery to 'eco', recycled and returnable. Early in 2024 we introduced a publicly accessible 'refill' station in the shop for eco cleaning products – we believe we are still the only source of this facility within 2 miles.

Schools, informal learning and families

The post pandemic revamp of our formal education programme – to a more nature based 'workshop' style experience for primary children and homeschooling families - has been successful in enticing back schools, especially for those who have no substantial outdoor spaces. School visits tripled in 2023 with a plan to have more than 1000 children visiting annually within two years. With transport costs still an issue, subsidy to keep the per pupil price at a reasonable level is being sought.

With financial support from Think Active and the Together Fund we were able to run free to access After School Activities and Food for some of the spring and summer months. We were aware that children often need to let off steam after school. We ran informal after school outdoor activities for 3 days a week and provided a small warm snack. The programme was generally well received and was popular on 'good weather days', but the unpredictability of attendance meant that volunteer time and food went to waste too often. Without funding to cover the substantial extra costs (including staff and volunteers) we decided not to continue the provision. Over the summer holidays, however we were able to issue free 'family summer passes to the Gardens' to families with children on free school meals thus providing access to our green spaces and everyday activities all summer long (funded through the Solihull Holiday Activities and Food scheme) . 2024 both Easter and Summer passes will be issued.

A franchise to use the popular children's book character Percy the Park Keeper during the year was a popular addition to both the casual family visitor and for the those booking on special workshops (including Christmas 2022) with sellouts across the year, the visit by author and illustrator Nick Butterworth in August being particularly popular. Percy's character; full of love for nature and wildlife and with an emphasis on kindness, was a good fit to the Gardens and the family offer.

Although franchising characters is costly, such is the reputation, and affection, for such characters that we were able to attract a much wider, and newer, set of families and storybook enthusiasts to discover the Gardens and no doubt supported the general increase in visitors for the year.

Pre-booked family workshops in the varied Unplug and Play programme, which includes play, learning and regular forest school sessions now constitutes more than 13% of Gardens users and visitors.

Plans for 2024 include the launch of a new education webpage and increased direct marketing with schools, the installation of a permanent woodland play area (funding permitting). We also continue to develop our relationships with Home Education community and have already delivered double the amount of sessions in early 2024.

Castle Bromwich Hall and Gardens Trust

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

Parkland progress

2023 saw the start of our West Midlands Combined Authority Greener Grants funded project. During the 12 month project a huge amount of restoration work on the much neglected wetland and 'at risk' acid grassland was completed, supported by substantial (792.5 hours) volunteer and community engagement.

In early spring Reed Warblers were recorded in the wetland (a joint Parkland and WMBRG survey.) This is the first recording of them using the site that we have, so a positive sign that the work being carried out is improving fauna biodiversity. Further Mammal Surveys during the Autumn discovered that the population of Muntjac Deer in the Parkland has grown to about 10/12 individuals. HS2 displacement has also probably been the cause of the increase of other mammals.

In August we hosted the, then, Mayor of West Midlands Andy Street, Solihull Councillors & WMCA environmental team, for a guided walk of the Parkland discussing urban conservation and the Parkland project and in November presented the project at WMCA Annual Environmental Conference.

We are particularly pleased that increasing involvement and positive feedback indicates we are providing a good space for people as well as wildlife. Actively looking after the site; litter picking, regular eco-gym and foraging sessions really contributes to wellbeing as well as better community feeling. While anti social behaviour continues to be an issue on the Parkland, particularly in warmer weather, it appears to be decreasing.

Plans for 2024/25 will be entirely dependent on gaining funding, and working with our partners (Birmingham City Council and Historic England) to carry on the vital conservation work to maintain the protected ecology and public spaces. The focus over the next few years is likely to be on urban trees and woodland management.

Gardens

As usual, Denise Seckham and Tanya Upton, our professional Gardeners worked tirelessly to maintain the magnificent and complex Gardens, often in the face of both internal and external challenges.

Battling ageing machinery and climate change affected growing is becoming the norm. But highlights of the year include a new, funded, greenhouse enabling not only more volunteer training but also supporting some reduction in costs: we are able to buy annual plants at a cheaper, earlier stage and grow them on. Spring and summer flower displays continue to delight and small incremental changes are being made to hedging and other areas affected by box moth and honey fungus. In the coming years, further tree work and managing on the overgrown boundary vegetation will become more and more urgent, while the Batty Langley kitchen garden will benefit from various funded projects supporting and sharing our organic food growing with users and the public.

The historic fabric

During the year funding was gained to support the continued maintenance and restoration of our extensive and protected historic features, mainly the Music Room, the Orangery, many metres of walls, stone steps and more.

Although the Music Room has benefitted from more than £30,000 of work since 2020, there is still much to be done in keeping and retaining its integrity. Funding towards repair and maintenance on the Orangery was also gained during the year, but such is the demand for specialist conservation architects and builders that surveys, permissions have been slow to turnaround and work will not start until at least late 2024. In the meantime, funded work, augmented with corporate volunteers, was carried out to improve access and the groundwork in the Melon Ground and courtyard. We are grateful to the Aurelius Trust, Finnis Scott Trust and Rowlands Trust for their financial support (and patience) for these works.

Castle Bromwich Hall and Gardens Trust

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

Walls. As previously reported, any rebuilding of the collapsed walls needs to be part of a much larger project involving extensive MasterPlanning encompassing the wider needs of the Trust for new visitor buildings and will entail fully planned and multi-year fundraising efforts. During 2023 the Trustee Board failed to focus on such long term issues and has subsequently lost some trustees with appropriate skills. A change of direction and increasing the skillsbase of Trustees in the coming period will be essential to prevent the Gardens important heritage being put at risk.

More positively, a long awaited 'bricks and mortar' learning project with SPAB (Society for Protection of Ancient Buildings) is scheduled for June 2024 - hopefully resulting in newly skilled volunteers to undertake more regular preventative maintenance on all our brickwork.

During Birmingham Heritage Week, September '23, a small exhibition and activities on the theme of 'perspectives and viewpoints' was devised and based in the Music Room. The exhibition explored art historical and garden design aspects of perspective as well as including personal 'viewpoints' of people from the Gardens past and present.

VAT, trading subsidiaries and Governance Reviews

We go from strength to strength in pleasing and increasing our users and visitors, and earned income is becoming embedded in our operations, but the short term financial challenge becomes rather more worrying. There is no doubt that without the 'working capital' of core funding nor endowment to anchor operations, post-pandemic costs have drained the Trust's meagre reserves and potentially put our heritage at financial risk.

Growth in café sales and hire in 2022 and 2023 alerted the finance team to check the necessity of registration for VAT.

While the sales increase is a very positive reflection of growth, the administration of VAT for (heritage) charities is complex, involving charging VAT on entrance and activity fees, considering whether purchases and activities are grant funded/ part grant funded, prime purpose trading or... As many other similar heritage sites do - the option of setting up an additional Trading Company as a subsidiary to the Trust is to be considered. The complexity and breadth of activities which come within the VAT sphere has severely tested the knowledge and strength of both staff and trustees.

From May 2023 much time and some expense was expended on professional and specialist advice to find the best way forward, this included extensive work with charity VAT specialists and a robust Review of the governing documents to ensure that the Trust's governance was compliant with current legislation and strong enough to support these changes and increased pressures going forward.

Finance staff and the accountant, Steve Breese, have worked exceedingly hard across the year and into 2024, additionally to their normal duties, in order to integrate new systems, liaise with HMRC, train staff and to make recommendations to Trustees. The Gardens were retrospectively registered for VAT (Feb 2022) and will, alongside newly incurred VAT obligations, make payments to cover a retrospective bill of £26,000 over a two-year period.

Such a hit to the meagre reserves of the Trust is not easy to bear. Staff have increased the prices charged for goods and services, and plan to incrementally increase these further to cover extra costs. But we are acutely aware that many of our visitors, including those using the café as a place of welcome and company, would struggle to manage large hikes in costs.

Castle Bromwich Hall and Gardens Trust

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Taking into account grant funding across financial years and unrealised gains and losses on investments the charity ends the year with restricted reserves of £193,142 and unrestricted reserves of £172,294, which provides the Trust with the ability to continue its charitable activities into the following year.

Although the tight control over expenses remains, a budget for the current year was set which includes more investment into operational site improvements. The forward financial plan due to be delivered during the coming year with take into account the continued changes enforced by the previous pandemic. It recognises the continued need for investment and growth in order to set a track for an improved financial position in future years.

Funds And Reserves Policy

Funds of the Trust at the end of the financial year are as follows:

	2023	2022
	Total	Total
	£	£
General Funds	142,184	214,839
Designated fixed asset fund	30,110	39,214
Restricted funds - Projects	48,497	25,625
Restricted funds - Workshop & Gardeners Mess	144,645	149,632
	<u>365,435</u>	<u>429,310</u>

The Workshop & Gardeners Mess Fund represents historic amounts that were used to create some of the existing buildings of the Trust, are represented by fixed assets and will be used to fund future depreciation of the assets concerned.

Investment Policy

The Trustees' policy for the investment of funds is to obtain a balance between capital growth and income with medium risk. A proportion of the funds are held on interest bearing deposits which enable the funds to be readily available.

Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

Castle Bromwich Hall and Gardens Trust**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023****Future Plans****Governance Review**

As part of the research into the efficacy of creating a Trading Subsidiary in response to growth, we asked the national body, Association for Independent Museums, for help and advice. Through their scheme to support Trusts and better governance we were allocated one of the leading national consultants in the field (Hilary Barnard).

His subsequent Review and discussions with members, trustees and funders led to a robust commentary and set of recommendations, which was launched at the Trust's AGM in June 2023.

One of the major outcomes of the Review was to remind the Trustee Board that due diligence requires such reviews should take place more often (the last was 15 years ago) and that the structure of the Trust, while appropriate when it was set up in the mid 1980s, is now well below current governance standards and out of kilter with existing charity law.

It has previously been reported that divisions and disruptive behaviour within the Trustee Board has been instrumental in the resignations of some skilled Trustees who felt they were not able to fully use their skills for the Trust due to the unpleasant nature of Board meetings.

Despite the effort of some Trustees to work constructively together, the general lack of focus on recruiting more Trustees or a leading chair, a total absence of Trustee led Forward Planning or input in fundraising has resulted in a stagnant, dysfunctional Board.

Despite this difficult atmosphere, the Governance Review's recommendations were considered by a small working group set up to process and progress the advised changes. As recommended in the Review, the Charity Commission, Membership and Founder Members were consulted extensively over 10 months, culminating in an EGM in June 2024, where all the proposals were accepted by an overwhelming majority.

Further efforts to find new Trustees with appropriate skills, experience and enthusiasm has borne some fruit and it is hoped by the time of the AGM in 2024, there will be some new trustees to welcome..

It is hoped that going forward into 2024, and the 40th anniversary year of 2025, that a newly invigorated and constructive Board of Trustees can support the staff and work together on far reaching sustainable plans for the future of the Trust.

Castle Bromwich Hall and Gardens Trust**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023****STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT****Governing Document and Organisational Structure**

Castle Bromwich Hall and Gardens Trust, a charitable trust set up in 1985, is a Company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital.

The Trust is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association, which were revised in 2008.

The following organisations, being Foundation Members, are entitled to nominate and appoint Trustees; Birmingham City Council (2), Castle Bromwich Parish Council(1), The National Trust (1), St Mary and St Margaret's Castle Bromwich Parochial Church Council (1), Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (2).

The Earl of Bradford, or a person appointed by him, is entitled to be a Trustee.

At the Annual General Meeting up to three. Ordinary Members, or such other number as may be set out in the Bye Laws, shall be entitled to be elected to be Trustees.

All Trustees have power to co-opt for such period they think fit any member, who in their opinion is able to contribute to the objects of the Trust, as an addition to the existing Trustees provided the total number of Trustees does not exceed twenty-five. At present, as well as the necessary formal paperwork there is an informal process of induction for new Trustees carried out by the General Manager and a small sub group of Trustees. From time-to-time Trustees participate in further training and information sessions regarding governance issues.

The administration and regular operations of the Trust is affected by the staff team with the support of the Trustees, who meet quarterly and participate in task and finish groups.

Key Management Remuneration

The board of directors, who are the charity's trustees comprise the key management personnel of the charity, in charge of directing, controlling, running and operating the charity on a day to day basis. No directors were remunerated for services provided to the charity for this reporting period.

Risk Management

Trustees on an ongoing basis examine the major business and operational risks which the trust faces, these are regularly reviewed during trustee meetings and procedures are established and followed to minimise and mitigate against the major risks identified.

Castle Bromwich Hall and Gardens Trust**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023****REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

Company Number:	01944650 (England & Wales)	
Registered Charity Number:	516855	
Registered Office:	Castle Bromwich Hall and Gardens Trust Chester Road Castle Bromwich Birmingham B36 9BT	
Accountants:	SAB Accountancy Services Ltd 102 Hamstead Road Birmingham, B43 5BN	
Independent Examiners:	Pearl Accountancy Services Ltd 61 Bridge Street, Kington, HR5 3DJ	
Bankers:	Lloyds Bank Plc 248 Stratford Road, Shirley, B90 3AE	
Investment Managers:	M&G Investments 10 Fenchurch Avenue London EC3M 5AG	CCLA Fund Managers Senator House 85 Queen Victoria Street London, EC4V 4ET

Trustees

Trustees The current Trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of the Companies Act, are as follows:

Richard, Earl of Bradford

Pauline Sylvia Allen

Diane Donaldson

Helen Johnson

George Edward Richards

Martin McCarthy

Alan Feeney (Appointed 14th March 2024)

Marjorie Bridle

Ian Wykes (Resigned 14th December 2023)

Advolly Richmond (Resigned 14th December 2023)

Nominated by Castle Bromwich Parish Council

Nominated by Birmingham City Council

Nominated by Solihull MBC

Nominated by Birmingham City Council

Castle Bromwich Hall and Gardens Trust**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023****STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES**

The trustees (who are also the directors of Castle Bromwich Hall and Gardens Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the report of the trustees and the financial statement in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom accounting standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make reasonable and prudent judgements and estimates;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees

Trustee, Ted Richards 20 June 2024

Castle Bromwich Hall and Gardens Trust**Independent Examiner's Report
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023****INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT**

To the members of Castle Bromwich Hall and Gardens Trust

We report to the trustees on our examination of the accounts of the above charitable company for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on pages 3 to 11.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the charity's trustees (and also its directors for the purpose of company law), you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act").

Having satisfied ourselves that the financial statements of the Charitable Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, we report in respect of our examination of your charity's financial statements as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act"). In carrying out our examination, we have followed the directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In completing our examination, we can confirm that no material matters have come to our attention in connection with the examination giving us cause to believe that:

The accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or

The accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or

The accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

We have no concerns and have not identified any matters during the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Samantha Woollett
Independent Examiner
Pearl Accountancy Services Limited

Date: 21 June 2024

Castle Bromwich Hall and Gardens Trust

Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2023 Total funds	2022 Total funds
	Notes	£	£	£	£
INCOME FROM					
Donations, Grantmaking Trusts and Legacies	2	47,138	102,320	149,457	129,619
Charitable activities	3	35,057	-	35,057	36,181
Other trading activities	4	91,527	-	91,527	85,269
Investment income	5	4,389	-	4,389	3,324
Total income		178,111	102,320	280,430	254,393
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	6	46,931	9,179	56,110	67,093
Charitable activities	7	202,608	84,362	286,970	269,609
		249,539	93,541	343,080	336,702
Net Income/(Expenditure) and Net movement in funds for year before investments gains/(Losses)		(71,428)	8,779	(62,650)	(82,309)
Net gains/(losses) on investments		(1,225)	-	(1,225)	(3,075)
		(72,654)	8,779	- 63,875	- 85,384
Total funds brought forward		254,053	175,257	429,310	514,694
Transfer between funds		(9,106)	9,106	-	-
Total funds carried forward		172,294	193,142	365,435	429,310

CONTINUING OPERATIONS

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised during the year. All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

Castle Bromwich Hall and Gardens Trust

Balance Sheet
At 31 December 2023

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2023 Total funds	2022 Total funds
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets					
Tangible Fixed Assets	10	30,110	144,645	174,755	188,845
Investments at market value	11	50,915	-	50,915	52,139
		81,025	144,645	225,670	240,984
Current Assets					
Cash at bank and in hand		126,042	48,497	174,539	189,384
Debtors	12	5,372	-	5,372	16,229
		131,414	48,497	179,910	205,613
Creditors					
Amounts falling due within one year	13	(40,145)	-	(40,145)	(17,286)
		(40,145)	-	(40,145)	(17,286)
Net Current Assets		91,268	48,497	139,765	188,327
Total Assets		172,294	193,142	365,435	429,310
Funds of the Charity					
Unrestricted Fund	15	172,294	-	172,294	254,053
Restricted Fund		-	193,142	193,142	175,257
Total Charity Fund		172,294	193,142	365,435	429,310

Castle Bromwich Hall and Gardens Trust

**Balance Sheet
At 31 December 2023**

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023 CONTINUED

For the year ended 31 December 2023 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors / Trustees responsibilities:

- The members have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006. In accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 the accounts have been examined by an independent examiner whose report appears on page 12

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

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

Approved by the Trustees on 20 June 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

Ted Richards, Trustee

Castle Bromwich Hall and Gardens Trust**Notes to the Financial Statements****At 31 December 2023****1 Accounting Policies****Basis of preparation****A. Company Status**

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and in the event of it being wound up the liability of each of the members shall be for a sum not exceeding £1.

B. Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (updated 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Castle Bromwich Hall and Gardens Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

C. Going Concern Assumption

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis which assumes that the charity will continue to operate. The validity of this assumption is dependent upon the continuance of support from the charity's key funders and stakeholders and upon increasing admission to the gardens and income from events. The charity's business plan shows that the charity will be able to operate in the foreseeable future. Based on this understanding the director trustees believe that it remains appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis. The financial statements do not include any adjustments, which would result from the basis of preparation being inappropriate.

D. Charitable Status Castle Bromwich Hall and Gardens Trust is a registered charity and is exempt from corporation tax and capital gains tax provided its income and gains are applied for charitable purposes.

E. Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charitable company is legally entitled, ultimate receipt is probable, and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

For donations to be recognised the charity will have been notified of the amounts and the settlement date in writing. If there are conditions attached to the donation and this requires a level of performance before entitlement can be obtained, then the income is deferred until those conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of those conditions is within the control of the charity, and it is probable that they will be fulfilled.

Income relating to future periods, as a result of donor-imposed conditions specifying the time period, has been treated as deferred income.

F. Donated Gifts and Services

Donated gifts and services (in kind) are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from use by the charity of the items is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. On receipt, donated goods and services are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity, namely at the equivalent cost to the donating organisation. A corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure for the period.

Castle Bromwich Hall and Gardens Trust**Notes to the Financial Statements****At 31 December 2023****G. Expenditure**

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charitable company to the expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under the following activity headings:

- Raising funds comprise the direct cost associated with generating other trading income and raising funds from Trusts and other funding bodies.
- Charitable expenditure comprises the direct costs of activities undertaken to further the purposes of the charity, including grants payable and all associated support costs.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

H. Tangible Fixed Assets

Depreciation of fixed assets is calculated to write off the cost of each asset, less any residual value over its estimated useful economic life. The depreciation charge recognised each year relates to the class of the asset, the rates and classes are as follows:

Permanent buildings - *50 years straight line*

Composting toilet - *5 years straight line*

StackaStage - *3 years straight line*

Fixtures & fittings - *5 years straight line*

Tractor Mower- *5 years straight line*

Courtyard building - *5 years straight line*

Gardeners store - *10 years straight line*

Fixed assets are capitalised where their value exceeds £500 unless otherwise determined by the Trustees

I. Investments

Investments held as fixed assets are valued at mid-market value at the balance sheet date and the gain or loss taken to the Statement of Financial Activities.

Realised gains or losses on sale of investments are calculated as the difference between the amount at which the investment was valued at the beginning of the year, or cost if purchased during the year, and sale proceeds.

Gains or losses on investments which have not been realised through sales have been taken to the statements of financial activities as unrealised gains or losses on investment assets.

J. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash at bank and in hand and short term deposits repayable on or within a three month notice period.

K. Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

Castle Bromwich Hall and Gardens Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

At 31 December 2023

L. Creditors

Creditors are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably.

M. Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are expendable at the discretion of the Trustees in the furtherance of the objects of the charity. Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors.

N. Pensions

The Charity contributes to employee's individual personal pension plans. The total contributions to the scheme in 2023 were £5,239 (2022 £4,635) and are charged to the statement of financial activities as incurred.

O. Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in paragraph 1 schedule 6 of the Financial Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the Charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received, within categories covered by Chapter 3, Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such applied exclusively to Charitable Purposes.

2 Income From Donations And Legacies

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Donations	2,416	-	2,416	7,967
Gift Aid	12	-	12	2,049
Legacies	14,709	-	14,709	1,000
Grants	30,000	102,320	132,320	118,603
	47,137	102,320	149,456	129,619
			2023	2022
			£	£
Unrestricted:				
Seventh Earl of Bradford's Charitable Trust			-	3,000
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC).			-	2,667
The Foyle Foundation			30,000	-
Total unrestricted			30,000	5,667

Castle Bromwich Hall and Gardens Trust

**Notes to the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

2 Income From Donations And Legacies

	2023	2022
	£	£
Restricted:		
29th May 1961 Trust	5,000	-
AIM/Brighter Day	-	3,873
Aurelius Trust	4,000	-
Book Restoration - Out of the cupboard	968	-
Creative Communities	-	4,950
Dame Mary Bridgeman	1,224	2,324
Heart of England Jubilee	-	9,630
Home is Here Now (AIM)	-	14,850
Grimmett Trust	1,200	-
Severn Trent Community Award	2,000	18,000
Birmingham Airport Community Trust	4,500	-
Arconic Foundation - Bounty On Your Doorstep	38,816	20,536
Green Recovery Fund/Defra/NLHF	-	33,063
The Arts Society	2,840	-
Kickstart Apprentice Grants	-	5,710
Rowlands Trust	3,000	-
Saintbury	2,000	-
The Finnis Scott Foundation	4,000	-
Think Active	4,835	-
Vinci Foundation	5,000	-
WMCA Greener	22,937	-
Total restricted	<u>102,320</u>	<u>112,936</u>

Castle Bromwich Hall and Gardens Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**3 Income From Charitable Activities**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Entry Fees	25,461	-	25,461	25,784
Memberships	9,594	-	9,594	10,397
	35,056	-	35,056	36,181

4 Other Trading Activities

	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Sale of goods	41,931	43,737
Hire of facilities	22,731	19,090
Events	26,866	22,442
	91,527	85,269

5 Investment Income

	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Dividends	3,045	2,957
Bank Interest	1,344	367
	4,389	3,324

6 Total Expenditure On Raising Funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2023 Total	2022 Total £
Raising Funds:				
Cost of events	15,240	8,525	23,765	37,554
Cost of goods sold	20,903	655	21,558	23,175
Hire costs	10,788	-	10,788	6,364
	46,931	9,179	56,110	67,093

Castle Bromwich Hall and Gardens Trust

**Notes to the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

7 Total Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Charitable Activities:				
Staff costs - Garden	36,952	5,650	42,602	42,304
- Front of house	28,786	2,772	31,558	25,614
- Management & Admin	37,717	10,035	47,752	53,549
- Visitor engagement & Delivery	6,651	19,611	26,262	20,388
- Digital & Marketing	2,835	3,994	6,829	5,957
Site Maintenance, Development & Cleaning	14,212	23,050	37,262	42,764
Consultancy & Freelance Staff	8,458	800	9,258	12,793
Project Delivery	-	-	-	4,298
Equipment	9,999	2,444	12,442	757
Insurance	8,092	-	8,092	5,818
Light, Heat & Water	5,533	-	5,533	6,015
Security	2,528	99	2,627	1,989
Publicity	7,028	1,239	8,267	10,594
Office Supplies & Sundries	10,951	577	11,527	15,064
Depreciation	-	14,091	14,091	15,215
Accountancy & Examination Fees	9,772	-	9,772	6,490
Irrecoverable VAT	13,095	-	13,095	-
	202,608	84,362	286,970	269,609

8 Staff Costs

	2023 £	2022 £
Salaries	131,188	125,707
Social Security Costs	18,576	17,470
Pensions	5,239	4,635
	<u>155,003</u>	<u>147,813</u>

During the year the Trust employed the full-time equivalent of 1.6 gardeners (2022– 1.6), a 0.8 fte general manager (2022 - 0.8), 1.2 employees in the office (2022 – 1.2), 0.2 fte of an education officer (2022 – 0.2), 0.8 fte family and outdoor activity manager (2022 – 0.8) and front of house hired 4 casual workers on variable hours throughout the year.

No employee earned more than £60,000 in either year.

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the trustees and the General Manager, Trustees receive no remuneration or other benefits from the charity. The remuneration of key management personnel for the year was £36,123 (2022: £36,157), including pension and employers' national insurance contributions

Castle Bromwich Hall and Gardens Trust

**Notes to the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

9 Trustees Remuneration and Benefits

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 December 2023 nor the year ended 31 December 2022.

Trustees' Expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 December 2023 nor the year ended 31 December 2022 with the exception of out of pocket expenses relating to activities undertaken by the charity.

10 Tangible Fixed Assets

	Permanent Buildings	Courtyard Building	Gardeners Store	Fixtures & Fittings	Composting Toilet	Stackastage	Solar Panel Installation	Tractor Mower	Total
Cost									
At 1 Jan 2023	249,374	20,482	23,562	6,656	5,000	2,484	4,800	5,624	317,982
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Additions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 Dec 2023	249,374	20,482	23,562	6,656	5,000	2,484	4,800	5,624	317,982
Depreciation									
At 1 Jan 2023	99,743	8,193	4,712	5,060	3,000	2,484	320	5,624	129,137
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Charge for year	4,987	4,096	2,356	1,331	1,000	-	-	320	14,091
At 31 Dec 2023	104,730	12,289	7,068	6,391	4,000	2,484	320	5,944	143,228
NBV at 31 Dec 2022	149,631	12,289	18,850	1,596	2,000	-	4,480	-	188,845
NBV at 31 Dec 2023	144,644	8,193	16,494	265	1,000	-	4,480	- 320	174,754

Castle Bromwich Hall and Gardens Trust

**Notes to the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

Freehold Land

The land relating to the gardens passed into the ownership of the Trust by Deed of Gift from the Earl of Bradford dated 31 December 1986. As the land is to be retained indefinitely for the use of the Trust and cannot be sold, it is considered to be an inalienable asset and is excluded from the balance sheet. There is no reliable information about cost available and the costs involved in obtaining a valuation would not produce additional benefits to the user of the accounts.

11 Fixed Asset Investments

	2023	2022
	£	£
Market Value at beginning of year	52,140	55,215
Unrealised Investment gain/(loss)	(1,225)	(3,075)
Market Value at end of year	<u>50,915</u>	<u>52,140</u>
Historical cost at end of year	<u>50,000</u>	<u>50,000</u>

12 Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Gift Aid Recoverable	-	2,049
Accrued income	451	5,904
Prepaid expenditure	4,922	8,276
	<u>5,373</u>	<u>16,229</u>

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade Creditors	2,764	7,044
Accruals	5,333	3,937
Deferred income	4,200	4,600
Taxes & NI Liabilities	27,848	2,244
	<u>40,145</u>	<u>17,826</u>

Deferred income comprises:	2023	2022
	£	£
Balance at beginning of year	4,600	1,500
Released to income in year	(4,600)	(1,500)
Deferred in year	4,200	4,600
Balance at end of year	<u>4,200</u>	<u>4,600</u>

Deferred income relates to deposits held for events in the next financial year.

Castle Bromwich Hall and Gardens Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

14 Commitments

	2023	2022
	£	£
Expiring:		
Between one to two years	421	163
	<u>421</u>	<u>163</u>

15 Movement in funds

	Balance at start of year	Income	Expendit ure	Investme nt gains/los ses	Transfers	Balance at end of year
	£	£	£	£	£	£
2023						
Restricted Funds:						
29th May 1961 Trust	-	5,000	(5,000)	-	-	-
AIM/Brighter Day	953	968	(1,921)	-	-	-
Arconic - Bounty on Your Doorstep	15,768	-	(15,768)	-	-	-
Arconic 4	-	38,816	(6,800)	-	-	32,016
Aurelius Trust	-	4,000	(4,000)	-	-	-
B'ham Airport	-	4,500	(4,500)	-	-	-
Dame Mary Bridgeman	-	1,224	(1,224)	-	-	-
Grimmett Trust	-	1,200	(1,200)	-	-	-
Rowlands Trust	-	3,000	(3,000)	-	-	-
Saintbury	-	2,000	(2,000)	-	-	-
Severn Trent - Going with the flow	8,904	2,000	(10,904)	-	-	-
The Arts Society 2023	-	2,840	(2,840)	-	-	-
The Finnis Scott Foundation	-	4,000	-	-	-	4,000
Think Active	-	4,835	(4,835)	-	-	-
Workshop & gardeners Mess	149,632	-	(4,987)	-	-	144,645
Vinci Foundation	-	5,000	(4,311)	-	-	689
WMCA Greener	-	22,937	(11,145)	-	-	11,792
	<u>175,257</u>	<u>102,320</u>	<u>(84,435)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>193,142</u>
Unrestricted funds						
General fund	214,839	178,109	(250,764)	-	-	142,184
Designated Fund	39,214	-	(9,104)	-	-	30,110
Total unrestricted funds	<u>254,053</u>	<u>178,109</u>	<u>(259,868)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>172,294</u>
Total Funds	<u><u>429,310</u></u>	<u><u>280,428</u></u>	<u><u>(344,303)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>365,435</u></u>

Castle Bromwich Hall and Gardens Trust**Notes to the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

The designated fund represents funds utilised for the purpose of capital expenditure, depreciation is charged against the designated fund for each asset purchased.

Transfers relate to restricted funding used for the purchase of fixed assets.

29th May 1961 Trust

Provided funds to support our charities core costs.

AIM/Brighter Day

For the restoration of two 18th century Gardening books belonging to the Gardens, their proper storage and display.

Arconic Foundation

The Arconic Foundation (2) Opening up to Nature: First Encounters for City Dwellers;
2021- 8/2023

New entrance from the Gardens to the Parkland, increase in family activities around nature and the wild.

The Arconic Foundation - Bounty at your Feet;

Sept 22 – June 23,

Community growing, harvesting and engagement.

Aurelius Trust

Restoration of the music room.

The Dame Mary Bridgeman Trust

Pond safety Fencing and Bench repair. Heating for new outdoor café and event spaces

Grimmett Trust

Supportive project for the creative programme in the garden, including unplug and play family outdoor activities.

Rowlands Trust

Restoration of the music room.

Saintbury

Funds to support our events programme.

Severn Trent Community Green Grants: "Going with the Flow"

Extending Parkland improvements and public engagement and installing rainwater harvesting system in the Gardens.

The Arts Society 2023

Funded photography workshops towards creating visitor voices and views to be part of a new tour guide.

The Finnis Scott Foundation

Funds to support the restoration work on the Melon ground, Orangery as well as providing training in heritage skills.

Castle Bromwich Hall and Gardens Trust

**Notes to the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

Think Active

Funded after school activities for local families.

Vinci Foundation

Funded resources to support community growing projects work in our new greenhouse.

WMCA Greener

Funded restoration work on wildlife habitats on the parkland and in the gardens as well as activities working with community groups.

Castle Bromwich Hall and Gardens Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

Comparative Movement in funds

	Balance at start of year	Income	Expenditure	Investment gains/losses	Transfers	Balance at end of year
2022	£	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted Funds:						
AIM/Brighter Day	-	3,873	(2,920)	-	-	953
Creative Communities	-	4,950	(4,950)	-	-	-
Dame Mary Bridgeman	318	2,324	(2,642)	-	-	-
Heart of England Jubilee	-	9,630	(9,630)	-	-	-
Home is Here Now	-	14,850	(15,445)	-	595	-
NLHF/Defra Lyric Partnership	(3,305)	33,063	(24,958)	-	(4,800)	-
Severn Trent Community Award	-	18,000	(9,096)	-	-	8,904
Stanley Smith (UK) Horticultural Trust	1,698	-	(1,698)	-	-	-
Arconic Foundation	17,304	20,536	(22,072)	-	-	15,768
Historic England	934	-	(934)	-	-	-
Workshop & gardeners	154,619	-	(4,987)	-	-	149,632
Big Lottery	1,446	-	(1,446)	-	-	-
Kickstart Apprentice Grants	12,618	5,710	(18,328)	-	-	-
Total restricted fund	185,632	112,936	(119,106)	-	(4,205)	175,257
Unrestricted funds						
General fund	284,420	141,457	(207,367)	(3,075)	(595)	214,839
Designated Fund	44,642	-	(10,228)	-	4,800	39,214
Total unrestricted funds	329,062	141,457	(217,595)	(3,075)	4,205	254,053
Total Funds	514,695	254,393	(336,701)	(3,075)	-	429,310

16 Controlling Interest

The Charitable company is controlled by its trustees.

17 Related Party Transactions

There were no related party transactions during the year or in the previous financial year.

Castle Bromwich Hall and Gardens Trust

Comparative statement of Financial Activities
For year ended 31 December 2022

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2022 Total funds	2021 Total funds
	£	£	£	£
INCOME FROM				
Donations, Grantmaking Trusts and Legacies	16,683	112,936	129,619	278,135
Charitable activities	36,181	-	36,181	24,211
Other trading activities	85,269	-	85,269	59,983
Investment income	3,324	-	3,324	2,517
Total income	141,457	112,936	254,393	364,846
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	46,193	20,900	67,093	37,957
Charitable activities	171,402	98,207	269,609	325,790
	217,595	119,107	336,702	363,747
Net Income/(Expenditure) and Net movement in funds for year before investments gains/(Losses)	(76,138)	(6,171)	(82,309)	1,099
Net gains/(losses) on investments	(3,075)	-	(3,075)	6,515
	(79,213)	(6,171)	(85,384)	7,614
Total funds brought forward	329,062	185,632	514,694	507,081
Transfer between funds	4,205	(4,205)	-	-
Total funds carried forward	254,053	175,257	429,310	514,695

Castle Bromwich Hall and Gardens Trust

Comparative Balance Sheet
For year ended 31 December 2022

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2022 Total funds	2021 Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets				
Tangible Fixed Assets	39,214	149,631	188,845	199,261
Investments at market value	52,139	-	52,139	55,215
	91,353	149,631	240,984	254,476
Current Assets				
Cash at bank and in hand	163,758	25,626	189,384	200,480
Debtors	16,229	-	16,229	75,674
	179,987	25,626	205,613	276,154
Creditors				
Amounts falling due within one year	(17,286)	-	(17,286)	(15,935)
	(17,286)	-	(17,286)	(15,935)
Net Current Assets	162,701	25,626	188,327	260,219
Total Assets	254,053	175,257	429,310	514,695
Funds of the Charity				
Unrestricted Fund	254,053	-	254,053	341,680
Restricted Fund	-	175,257	175,257	173,015
Total Charity Fund	254,053	175,257	429,310	514,695