



Annual Report for the year ending December 2014

Registered Office: 15, Boddington Road, Wendover, Buckinghamshire HP22 6HY.

Registered Charity No.: 1153868.



Report of the Trustees for the year ending December 2014

1. Objectives & Activities

To assist in the treatment and care of persons suffering from mental or physical illness of any description or in need of rehabilitation as a result of such illness, by the provision of horticulture and gardening activities to help them change their lives.

Lindengate provides a wide range of gardening-related activities in an outdoor environment. We are developing the site to cater for our users' evolving needs, whilst creatively using the existing layout to maximum benefit.

The activities are offered over a full year (not seasonally restricted) and the underlying benefits to our service users arise through the implementation of a structured Social and Therapeutic Horticultural Programme (STH). We facilitate this through four key outcome areas:

- To promote and maintain mental health and well-being
- To promote social inclusion
- To improve self-esteem
- To develop transferable skills for employment, including leadership, practical skills and taking responsibility.

Current plans cater for 20 users per working day. This figure has the potential to increase, as there is sufficient space and resources to allow future expansion.

2. The Public Benefit and Need

The charity's primary benefit is the provision of horticultural and gardening activities for those dealing with mental health issues. The running of such services in an outdoor environment is widely perceived as a constructive means of meeting the needs of those with mental health issues. This service will also meet the growing recognition of the need for early intervention to limit the effect of mental health issues and to aid recovery.

The public benefit arises primarily in the area of advancement of health.

Lindengate is a Buckinghamshire-based charity and whilst there is no express geographical restriction most users will be referred via local authority and related social and care agencies, its agents and local GP surgeries. The age restriction of 18 upwards is appropriate, as other services exist for children. We will review this age limit once we have been established for a sufficient period to assess demand.



3. Who benefits from our activities?

The beneficiaries are those with mental health needs, whether dealing with stress or depression, on the autistic spectrum or other mental health issues triggered by events such as head injury, heart attack or stroke. Though mental health issues received more political focus during 2014 from the major parties (and the NHS recognises that it needs to be given parity with physical health), this is a group that has limited variety of provision in this field.

Lindengate provides access to gardening and horticultural activities in a structured outdoor environment that will increasingly be chosen directly by users, as part of efforts to give day care users more individual choice over the type of activities that they want to do. This 'self-directed support' (SDS) gives users a strong influence by creating a personal budget to use some of the money allocated for their social care needs.

It also offers the opportunity for valuable respite time to carers and their families. By helping to support our users towards their sustainable and continued recovery there should also be a reduction in overall stress within their family and support network. We have also begun to assess how we can support those in older age, particularly with dementia or in care homes.

4. Achievements & performance

Lindengate was conceived in 2012 and initial discussions with interested parties began soon after. Lindengate became a Registered Charity in September 2013.

In May 2014 a 10-year Lease was signed with The Garden Centre Group (now Wyevale Garden Centres) for a 5-acre site adjacent to the World's End Wyevale Garden Centre in Wendover, Buckinghamshire.

5. Service Users - 'Gardeners'

The real achievement of the year was the arrival of the first of our service users in November 2014. As a reflection of our approach we prefer to use the term 'Gardener' to refer to our service users and this is the term we will use elsewhere in this Report.

It was no surprise to us, but nonetheless very pleasing, that the parents of our first Gardener were effusive in their praise, citing the significant change in their son's behaviour, who himself expressed enjoyment in coming to Lindengate and telling all and sundry about us!

Access Policy

Users over the age of 18 are offered daily or half-day sessions between 9.30 am and 4pm, working either in a group or on a one-to-one basis. Users initially come from the Buckinghamshire/Hertfordshire/Oxfordshire area. There is no time-limit on attendance.



6. Site Development

In order to be ready to give our Gardeners a constructive environment we undertook an enormous amount of work on site. We gained full access to the site in June and given that our first Gardeners arrived in November this was a substantial achievement!

The work focussed on clearing 4 of the 5 acres of 6' high weeds, clearing rubbish and other back-breaking work, carried out cheerfully by our ever-willing volunteers.



The next major event was the arrival and installation of a 60' Portakabin which became our 'home' and provides welfare and facilities for our Gardeners and Volunteers.

One is fitted out to provide all-weather horticulture and craft facilities, with a concrete base. The other is a 58' long, 28' wide and 13' high and provides a large growing space and a range of horticultural facilities.



Importantly, we also erected over 400' feet of solid fencing to give our Gardeners privacy, as well as provide site security.



7. Support from organisations working in Mental Health-related sectors

An enormous amount of work was undertaken in 2014 to establish Lindengate as a known organisation and to develop links with a wide range of local and regional bodies. It is fair to say that we exceeded our initial targets for awareness and support, as the concept seemed to make sense to all organisations and we have received strong support from a wide range of bodies.

Many of these organisations (education, social and health agencies/NHS/GP's) are able to refer potential users to Lindengate on a fee-per-session basis. Others are influential advocates for us, 'sign-posting' Lindengate to service users and to other organisations.

What has stood out is just how broad the base of support and encouragement has become and how different organisations can see how the concept can work for their own clients. As an example, we have seen strong interest from those working in the heart attack/stroke sector, as well as those working with Dementia and the much wider area of support for Carers. This goes well beyond our original expectations but reflects the broad base of 'triggers' for mental ill-health.

By the end of 2014 we had direct relationships with over 30 organisations related to our activities.

The Trustees regard 2014 as an extremely successful year in raising awareness of Lindengate and in making direct connections with key Providers and referring bodies.

8. Community Support and Volunteers

Strong local support has been freely given from many organisations and people.

The key to our continuing success are our Volunteers. During the year this rose to over 60, providing support in specific areas such as horticulture, support for Gardeners, events and fundraising and practical site works, including the erection of two very large polytunnels.



Linked to clearing and development of the site alone, over 2,500 hours were given by our volunteers between June – December 2014.

Other volunteer groups have helped with the development of the site including Vale Countryside Volunteers, The Chiltern Society, Wendover Woods Conservation Volunteers and the Rotary Club of Aylesbury Hundreds.



During the year we received direct and tangible support from our local MP, David Lidington and from a range of Parish, District and County Councillors. Lindengate regularly presented to local groups such as Rotary, Lions, Women's Institute and churches, including St Mary's, Wendover and St Nicholas, Chearsley.

Our Patron, The Bishop of Buckingham; The Right Reverend Dr. Alan Wilson, continued to provide tangible support as well as hosting our very first (and successful) Garden Party.

9. Partnerships

As part of our community approach we have developed practical working relationships with a number of regional organisations. In addition to practical support we can respectively 'sign-post' service users and organisations to each other, depending upon the circumstance and need.

10. Fund-raising and Grant Awards

During the year we raised £100,000 from fund-raising, personal donations and grant awards. Reflecting broad support it is interesting to note that £30,000 was raised from personal donations, (30% of income), with £58,000 from Grant Awards (58% of total income). Other fund-raising activities and income from Gardeners totalled £12,000.

During 2014 we received grants/awards from:

- Aylesbury Vale Community Chest
- Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation
- Buckinghamshire Community Foundation (Prevention Matters)
- Community Leaders Fund (Bill Chapple)
- Lionel Abel-Smith Trust
- Paradigm Foundation
- St Mary's, Wendover, Buckinghamshire
- St Nicholas, Chearsley, Buckinghamshire
- The Rothschild Foundation
- Wendover Parish Council.

In addition, we also recognise several substantial personal donations made by local supporters during 2014.

11. Communications

A specific leaflet was designed for potential Gardeners, explaining our services and this has proved to be successful.



A website was developed, together with a stronger presence on Facebook and Twitter. A substantial Newsletter was produced and sent to all Volunteers and supporters. It was well-received and will be repeated in 2015.

Lindengate featured regularly in the Wendover News and other local publications and newspapers. Radio interviews were done with BBC Three Counties and Mix96 in Aylesbury.

12. Financial Review

The accounting and banking structure is set up on a calendar-year basis.

For the period 1st January – 31st December 2014 income was £102,177 and expenditure £70,480. The balance was carried forward to fund ongoing activities. No funds were held as reserves.

As regular income from user fees commenced in November 2014 the primary source of funding in 2014 was through grant awards, fundraising and personal donations.

13. Reserves Policy

As income increases during 2015 the Trustees will review an appropriate level of operating reserves. Its initial policy is to build-up to and hold funds equivalent to 3 months of operating costs.

14. Reference & Administrative details

Name:	Lindengate
Address:	The Old Allotment Site, next to Wyevale Garden Centre, Aylesbury Road, Wendover HP22 6BD
Registered Address:	15, Boddington Road, Wendover, Bucks. HP22 6HY
Telephone:	020 8144 4291
Email:	info@lindengate.org.uk
Website:	www.lindengate.org.uk
Legal status:	Registered as a charity No. 1153868.
Constitution:	Constitution dated 25 th August 2013.
Bankers:	Lloyds Bank, Market Square, Aylesbury
Insurers:	Markel (UK) Ltd.



15. Trustees

At the beginning of 2014 the Trustees were:

- Philip Chattle
- David Medcalf
- Siân Chattle
- Claire Dracott-Hope
- Michael Chattle
- Peter Louis

During the year the Chair passed from David Medcalf to Phil Chattle; Claire Dracott-Hope and Siân Chattle resigned as Trustees in August 2014. Siân took up another role within Lindengate and Claire moved out of the area. Angela Cattermole joined as a Trustee in April.

All Trustees gave of their time freely and no remuneration or expenses were paid in the year.

Appointment of Trustees:

The Trustees require a range and depth of experience when carrying out their role. Lindengate recruits locally, through community groups and provider organisations as well as appropriate local advertising. Though passion is the primary requirement the Trustees look to the following skills and experience:

- Social care experience
- Horticulture experience
- Education experience
- Disability needs experience
- Senior business experience
- Financial/accounting experience

It is recognised that a Trustee may have more than one appropriate area of experience. There is the expectation that there will be a mix of male/female Trustees, as well as range of ages. The same expectations are for membership of the Management Committee.

16. Structure, governance and management

The Trustees are responsible for the overall management and control of Lindengate. They meet regularly throughout the year, with a minimum of two meetings a year. The work of implementing policy is undertaken through the Management Committee of Lindengate. This comprises of the Trustees plus:

- Charlotte Powell (Co-Founder and Horticultural Manager)
- Siân Chattle (Co-Founder and Service User Manager)
- Jane Gellatly (Administration Manager)



LINDENGATE

- Diane Kolonko (Volunteer Co-ordinator)
- Alix Daley (Specialist support).

This Management Committee meets very regularly and at least once per month.

Training is provided to all volunteers, employees and Trustees appropriate to the need. Significant training of volunteers and staff was undertaken in 2014, reflecting the sensitivity, confidentiality and personal needs of Gardeners. All volunteers, staff and Trustees have undertaken DBS checks.

The evolving policies and procedures of the charity were drafted in light of the Quality Assurance framework devised by 'Thrive', as the recognised leader for training and management of organisations working in the Social & Therapeutic Horticulture sector.

The Trustee and Management Committee received specialist advice from a range of volunteers working in the fields of Psychology, Occupational Therapy and mental health nursing.

17. Employees

During the year three paid part-time posts created.

18. Health, Safety and Welfare

There were no safety incidents or reportable accidents during the year.

A Safeguarding Policy and suitable procedures are in place.

Training is provided to all volunteers, employees and Trustees appropriate to the need. Significant training of volunteers and staff was undertaken in 2014, reflecting the sensitivity, confidentiality and personal needs of Gardeners. All volunteers, staff and Trustees have undertaken DBS checks.

19. Risk Management

During the year the Trustee reviewed its business risks and approved a formal policy for its control. The risks are managed and reviewed under the headings of:

- Governance
- Financial
- Operational
- External/Environmental
- Compliance.



20. Future Plans

The first part of 2015 will see the steady expansion in the number of Gardeners, with a significant user base by June 2015.

There is a formal launch planned for April 2015 to both promote Lindengate but also to thank those involved.

There will be development of the site to provide a variety of areas for Gardeners with an emphasis on sustainable, organic and wildlife gardening, helping to reinforce the links between outdoor activities and the natural environment, an outcome rated highly by users.

The initial costs of site set-up in 2014 were met from donations and grant awards. It is our expectation that once Gardener numbers are at planned levels then our fixed costs will be met from user-fee income, providing a long-term and sustainable basis for the charity and its beneficiaries. It is expected that this run-rate will be achieved during 2016 with 2017 on a full-year basis..

Approved by Lindengate Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Phil Chattle (Chair)

27th March 2015