



Royal
Horticultural
Society

RHS Annual Review 2008

www.rhs.org.uk

The RHS, the UK's leading gardening charity



From the President

Welcome to the Annual Review for 2008.

I became the President at the end of 2008 due to the very sad death of Peter Buckley who had been in post since 2006. Peter was tremendously involved in all aspects of the work of the Society, and was rightly proud of our successes during last year.

At the beginning of the year we finalised masterplans for each of our gardens which set out exciting developments for the next 15 years. Masterplans had in part been produced for some of the gardens already, but this time a great many more people were consulted and our new plans include not only horticulture, but education, science, catering and retailing infrastructures. Each plan builds on the garden's strengths, providing exemplars of horticultural excellence whilst taking account of the specific geographical features of the region. These will enable us to share with many more gardeners our expertise in dealing with the challenges and opportunities of gardening in the 21st Century.

Our flower shows were once again successful. We know that the shows are a partnership between our dedicated staff and the skill and expertise of the exhibitors, whether their stand is in the formal marquee or they have designed and built a large show garden. There is a wonderful spirit of sharing amongst the exhibitors which typifies the huge generosity of gardeners.

The Campaign for School Gardening celebrated its first year anniversary in September, and we now have two dedicated regional advisors working with schools to help us inspire young minds about plants and gardening. Together with record numbers of children visiting our gardens, we are delighted to be nurturing the horticulturists of tomorrow and connecting children to the natural world.

As part of the plans, new learning centres were proposed for Rosemoor and Harlow Carr. Planning approval has been granted for Harlow Carr and the 'ground breaking' ceremony took place in January 2009. Construction also commenced on our new visitor's centre and car park at Hyde Hall, which will provide greatly improved facilities to welcome our visitors.

Such a successful year would not have been possible without the support and hard work of thousands of people and I would like to say a big thank you to our members, sponsors, donors, committee members, judges, volunteers, and especially to our loyal staff for their dedication, commitment and the enormous part they have played for horticulture in 2008.

Although we have managed to navigate the last year successfully, we are living in challenging times. We recognise the next two years are likely to be difficult; we will need to be prudent and this is reflected in our plans for 2009.

Giles Coode-Adams
President



Giles Coode-Adams
President

A year past, a year ahead



Inga Grimsey
Director General

2008 was the start of one of the most challenging economic periods we have had to face in most of our lifetimes. It was also a year when the UK started to reconnect with gardening. Economic and environmental threats caused us as a nation to reconsider our values and take pleasure in some of the simple, natural things in life, like plants, gardens and gardening.

As we embarked on the first year of our new three year strategy we were able to support this sea change and bring new audiences to gardening. Each month, six hundred thousand people visited our website accessing the wealth of information and advice we have created to support them in their gardens – whether it be growing their own fruit and vegetables for the first time or comparing notes and expertise on perennial propagation.

Gardens and gardening also enabled communities to come together. Nearly ten thousand volunteers, from small neighbourhoods to entire cities, participated in our Britain in Bloom campaign, working together to improve their environments. The enthusiasm of these volunteers and the impact that they have made in their own patch is a true testament to the power of gardening.

In order to ensure that there are gardeners now and in the future, making these vital contributions to the UK landscape, we have brought the joy of gardening to tens of thousands of children. Over 6800 primary schools signed up to our Campaign for School Gardening in 2008; this number grows each week. Children across the country have felt the wonder of planting a seed and watching it grow. They have also become more aware of their environment and enthused about their role in caring for it. We can be confident that we are starting to build a new generation of gardeners, connected with nature and aware of their responsibility as stewards of plants and gardens for the future.

We have continued to provide inspiration to gardeners, demonstrating the best in horticulture through our shows, gardens and publications. Our unique blend of horticultural and scientific expertise has enabled us to create and share beautiful spaces and offer advice and formal and informal learning opportunities.

We look forward to 2009 as a year of opportunity where we can support and inspire many more to garden, be they children, communities, or expert horticulturists. We have laid the foundation, through the first year of our strategy, of a Society ready to seize this opportunity and demonstrate to all the true value that gardens and horticulture bring to individuals, communities and wider society. The economic climate will continue to present us with challenges but we believe with the continued support of our members and the gardening public, we will be able to deliver more in the way of our charitable purpose to the young and not so young, beginner and expert.

**Inga Grimsey
Director General**



Main borders at RHS Garden Harlow Carr



Pupils from Beaucroft Primary School open the Edible Playground Garden sponsored by Dorset Cereals at the Hampton Court Palace Flower Show 2008



The Savills Garden at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2008

Securing a healthy future for gardening



ABOVE: The Maize Maze, a hit with visitors to RHS Garden Wisley

The RHS is the UK's leading gardening charity, dedicated to inspiring people to get into gardening and giving them the skills to be better gardeners. We believe that gardening is fundamentally a force for good; good for everyone's health and wellbeing, good for the environment and good for society. We help people across the UK to share our passion for plants through our gardens and flower shows; we work directly with communities to help them create better places to live through gardening; and we invest in research to improve horticultural knowledge, then share all the information we have through our books, our web site, our libraries and our help lines.

We entered 2008 with a new three year strategy to build on the value of horticulture to contemporary life and

help more people get more out of gardens and gardening. Our first objective is to bring the joy of gardening to a significant number of children. Involving young people in gardening is central to our role as a charity. It is also essential to the long term success of the RHS; children are the gardeners – and potential RHS members – of the future. Gardening is the perfect way to connect them with the natural world – a connection too often lacking in modern society.

Seasoned gardeners are keenly aware of the changes in our environment, and the effects we have on it. Our second objective is to raise the RHS's environmental game and respond to public concerns about climate change, sustainability and resource consumption.

Our third objective is to generate growth in RHS membership. Member support accounts for more than half of our funding to deliver the RHS mission to improve the science, art and practice of horticulture in all its branches. Increasing our membership is the most effective way we can share our passion for gardens and gardening with as many people as possible, work as the voice of horticulture and deliver public benefit. In return for this support, we provide our members with access to a range of services and activities such as free entry to our gardens and over 140 recommended gardens; reduced admission prices to our shows; a monthly magazine; and additional plant advisory services.

We also set ourselves some tough targets in terms of financial and management performance, to strengthen business planning, staff development and communications, generate efficiency savings and deliver value for money internally and for our beneficiaries.

During 2008, we have made significant progress towards our objectives, despite the recent extraordinarily harsh winds of change in the economy. Although we have not met all of our ambitious targets the RHS is now better placed to ride the storm. We will continue to work hard to provide an affordable and accessible safe haven for all who value gardens and gardening.



LEFT: RHS gardeners and advisors provide advice for visitors to RHS gardens and shows as well as millions online

BOTTOM: Involving young people in gardening is central to our role as an educational charity



Inspiring and informing horticulture

Our gardens provided inspiration to more than 1.3million visitors during 2008



OUR GARDENS

The RHS mission to be the leading organisation demonstrating excellence in horticulture and promoting gardening remains at the heart of everything we do. Nowhere is our commitment to excellence more apparent than at the four renowned RHS Gardens at Wisley in Surrey, Hyde Hall in Essex, Harlow Carr in Yorkshire and Rosemoor in Devon. Each holds an astonishing diversity of plants (Wisley alone is home to an internationally important collection of more than 30,000 different types of plant), grown in imaginative planting designs for all kinds of garden situations to illustrate a wide range of proven horticultural practices and techniques.



We want each one of our sites to appeal to all with an interest in gardens, from the visitor keen to enjoy a day of leisure in beautiful surroundings, to the seasoned gardener seeking specialist plant knowledge. During 2008 we made enormous progress towards securing this for the long term, with the completion of new masterplans which set out the vision for the development of each garden for the next 15 years. Each plan builds on the local geographical character and the unique sense of place in each garden.

TOP LEFT: The new Robinson Garden at RHS Garden Hyde Hall

BOTTOM LEFT: The Square Garden at RHS Garden Rosemoor

We want children and families to feel welcome in our gardens and to be encouraged to have a go themselves when they return home. In order to achieve this we have introduced new features at all the gardens. At Rosemoor, the Beatrix Potter exhibition and the Mr McGregor's veg patch (right) created to support it proved a magnet to new visitors old and young alike from far afield. At Wisley, the Maize Maze, and the butterfly extravaganza in the tropical section of the Glasshouse during the icy depths of winter were hits that we plan to repeat in 2009/10. Pirate themed events at Harlow Carr (below) and scarecrow days at Hyde Hall also helped to draw crowds and introduce them to the fun of gardening.



Mr McGregor's veg patch at RHS Garden Rosemoor



Families flock to the pirate themed event at RHS Garden Harlow Carr

At Hyde Hall, famous for its dry garden in a region which enjoys less rainfall than Jerusalem, work commenced on the new entrance approach, visitor facilities and garden development that will significantly increase the number of guests we can welcome to the 210 acre site from 2009. Already, visitors to Hyde Hall are extending their stays to take in the enhanced Hill Top Garden, with the renewed Robinson Garden, and the extended wildwood (made possible by generous support from our members) linking the perimeter of the estate to the wider rural landscape.

At Rosemoor the Square Garden re-opened with a revitalised 'hot', high summer border scheme which had photographers snapping and visitors scribbling favourite plant combinations into notebooks. The new Alpine House at Harlow Carr, the largest in any RHS garden, was constructed, and will open to the public in May 2009.

The RHS Grow Your Own Veg campaign, launched in 2007 with the best-selling RHS book and BBC series of the same name, built momentum in 2008, as more people sought to reconnect with nature and traditional horticultural skills in their own gardens. More than 13,000 people signed up to receive our free Grow Your Own electronic newsletters and we had record attendances at free RHS themed Grow Your Own events in March and the Taste of Autumn themed events in October. With the continued support of National Savings & Investments we are redoubling our Grow Your Own campaign during 2009 with a new focus on fruit.



ABOVE: The Great Pavilion at RHS Chelsea Flower Show continues to be a visitor favourite

RHS FLOWER SHOWS

The RHS flower shows play a central role in fulfilling our mission. The RHS awards encourage and reward ever higher standards from exhibitors displaying the very best of the science, art and practice of horticulture. With their focus on the latest gardening trends and innovations and issues affecting gardens and the wider public, shows are a great way to connect people with the value of gardening in contemporary life, and they play a key part in our strategy to reach new audiences.

In 2008 the RHS organised 16 shows across the country which together attracted a total of 657,000 visitors

Crucially, they also generate significant income to offset the very substantial costs of mounting the shows programme and other charitable activities.

Millions of people who did not make it in person to our shows were able

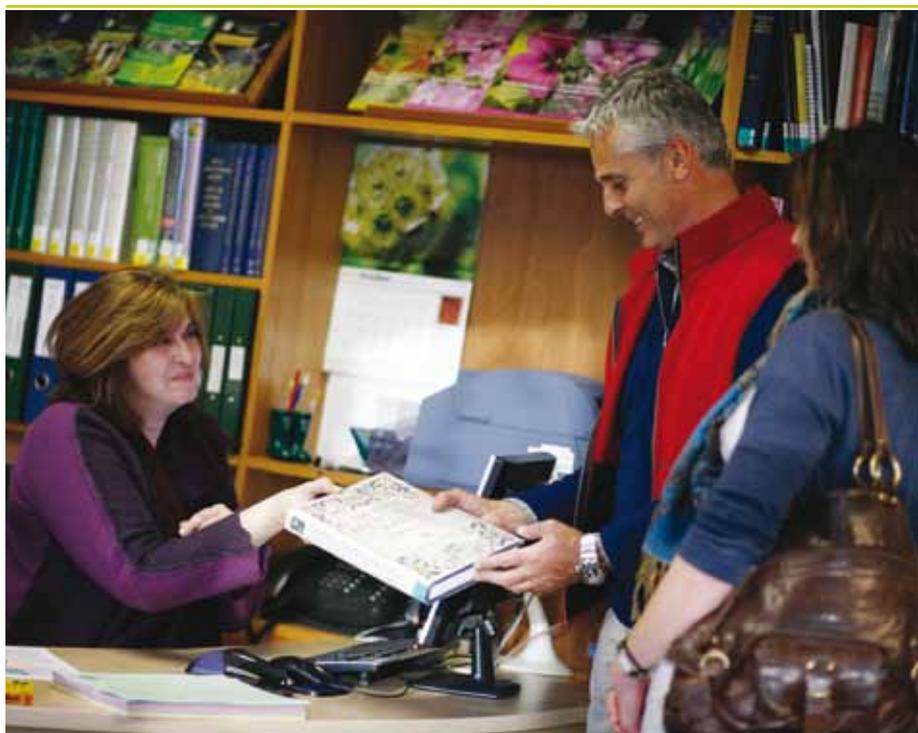
to enjoy them through the extensive media coverage, including dedicated TV programmes broadcast by BBC as our broadcast partner. During 2008 we agreed a new five year contract with the BBC to provide coverage of our shows until 2013.

SHARING EXPERT INFORMATION AND ADVICE

The RHS website enables us to share our knowledge and build understanding of our charitable work with the widest possible audience. In 2008 we completed the first two phases of the exciting site redesign to further enrich content and improve interactivity and ease of use. We also set up a cross-organisational network project to ensure that we can be fully engaged with the online community. Further development of the site will be completed in 2009.

In addition to helping millions of online visitors, the RHS advisory service continues to provide personalised bespoke help and advice to RHS members and to the public at our shows and gardens.

During 2008 our advisory team answered 60,000 individual enquiries by phone, letter, email and face-to-face. This unique service, connecting expert scientific knowledge with horticultural practice, helps the RHS to keep in touch with – and respond to – gardeners' concerns. A key concern during 2008 was the effect of contaminated manure on plant growth. We were made aware of the issue through enquiries to our advice service. Because of this we were able to raise the alarm nationally about the problem, prompting action from government and industry. Having raised awareness by collaborating with the media, our advisory team gave support to hundreds of gardeners about how best to manage the problem in their own gardens.



Each month 600,000 people visited our website to access the wealth of information we have created to support them in their gardens

RHS publications, especially the monthly members' magazine, *The Garden*, are also an important channel for sharing the work and knowledge of the RHS with a large and increasingly diverse audience. In 2008 we strengthened editorial coverage online and in print to better reflect our charitable activities and strategy. New books for gardeners included *The New Encyclopedia of Gardening Techniques*, *Grow Your Own Fruit* with Carol Klein, and *Grow It Eat It*, a book full of fun projects to get children growing their own. **Altogether, over one million RHS gardening books were sold around the world.**

The RHS Lindley Library, which houses one of the finest collections of horticultural literature, botanical paintings and important archives in the world, welcomed 43,800

visitors. We made significant progress in cataloguing the core collections to make them more easily accessible, and undertook a preservation assessment of the collection to inform our conservation plans.

DEVELOPING HORTICULTURAL SKILLS

One of the main aims of the RHS has always been to train gardeners of the future – from sparking an interest, to developing a skill, to creating fully fledged professional horticulturalists. Our extensive programme of short courses, demonstrations, workshops and guided walks helped well over two thousand adults take their gardening skills up a level. Students have been learning their craft at Wisley since 1907, and more recently at our other three other gardens. In 2008, 39 horticultural trainees had the opportunity to work alongside RHS professionals in our gardens. We also supported individual plant exploration, horticultural study tours and conference attendance around the world through dedicated bursary funds.

ABOVE: 25,000 people visited the library at RHS Garden Wisley throughout 2008

BELOW: Paeonia whittmanniana by Lilian Snelling is one of the most popular images now available on the RHS Print website



Caring for our environment



ABOVE: The RHS has completed a study of the recently introduced pest, the red lily beetle

As the champions of good gardening, we must ensure that our work remains relevant to contemporary needs, and respond to the opportunities and threats facing gardens and gardening today. Issues of sustainability, resource consumption and climate change are foremost in the minds of many gardeners, and indeed the general public. The RHS is determined to reflect and represent these concerns, and provide advice on how gardening can meet and help to tackle them.

We have made good progress towards our objective of transforming our own environmental credentials, in order to better understand the issues and advise gardeners. We have conducted environmental audits at all our sites to establish targets for reduction of environmental impact. Our retail division has implemented an ethical and environmental sourcing policy which applies to all suppliers. Our catering teams have significantly reduced the use of harmful chemicals and increased use of locally sourced seasonal food. In our gardens we have reduced the use of peat by 10% (a reduction of 73% in total since 2001), WHO hazard rated pesticide by 10%, and mineral fertiliser by 5%. We have repaired and

improved the efficiency of water systems as part of our new responsible water use plan. All our shows demonstrated our commitment to environmental sustainability, with greatly increased recycling, the introduction of biodegradable cornstarch bags, and 80% of the food sold by caterers sourced in Britain.

We also identified five key environmental themes to which we will align our research priorities and our key organisation partnerships. The themes are: climate change and gardening; biodiversity in the garden; plant conservation; the contribution of gardens to sustainable urban environments; sustainable gardening.

As horticultural trade extends ever more globally, the Society's international reputation in leading the development of the universal system of naming for cultivated plants gains in significance. In 2008, we have continued to develop the authoritative and extensive RHS database, underpinned by unique collections and taxonomic research that helps us manage the hundreds of thousands of names applied to tens of thousands of plants in cultivation.

The RHS has joined forces with the National Biodiversity Network to encourage UK gardeners to help map the spread of four non-native pests causing serious damage to popular garden plants.

People can upload sightings of red lily beetle, hemerocallis gall midge, berberis sawfly and rosemary beetle onto the RHS website, which has accompanying images for easy identification.

Information on these invasive garden pests will improve advice provided to gardeners and enable an assessment of the threat they pose in the garden and the wider environment. The input from visitors to the web-based surveys is invaluable to understand where these pests are and how they are spreading.

For more information: www.rhs.org.uk/Learning/Research/project_pest.htm

We launched a landmark report on the disease risks associated with imported plants, on behalf of a special working group of experts and stakeholders. Our work on garden problems has developed through the year with special emphasis on the fungal disease *Phytophthora*, implicated in the loss of many woody plants, and a thorough study of lily beetle – a scourge of recent origin but spreading rapidly – has been completed. Our team of scientists has worked closely with our advisory and media teams to ensure that gardeners across the country are aware of and equipped to deal with the problems posed by pests and diseases, as well as exerted pressure on Government to take a more robust approach in tackling these issues.



Biodiversity in the garden is one of our five key environmental themes

Inspiring a new generation



If we are to ensure a healthy future for gardening, we must cultivate the next generation of gardeners. Getting children and young people involved with gardens and gardening is central to our role as a charity providing learning opportunities for people of all ages and levels of ability. Even more importantly, we believe that gardening is a gateway for children to connect with the natural world, and their role within it.

The RHS welcomed record numbers of children to its gardens, shows and educational programmes in 2008. The introduction of free entry for children at our shows and gardens, coupled with more family-friendly activities helped to bring 112,500 young visitors to our gardens, and 11,400 to our shows.

The Campaign for School Gardening celebrated its first year anniversary in September with over 6,800 schools signed

up (against a target of 4,000) and using gardening to teach all kinds of subjects on the curriculum to over a million children. Teachers involved have told us that they have seen an increase in their pupils' learning skills, an upturn in wanting to care for the wider environment and a desire to eat healthier food – for as one school said, **“Children who refused to eat any kind of fruit and vegetables in the past, now have school meals packed with healthy bites. Even more excitingly, they are eating things they would not have tried before. And it's all thanks to us having a school garden.”**

This is an exciting rate of uptake and bodes well for our longer term objective to lead the march in establishing access to gardens and gardening as a key component for a positive childhood. We appointed regional advisors to develop programmes with schools in the East of England and Yorkshire; we plan to develop further regional programmes subject to funding.

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Following a rebuild and pupil consultation four years ago, Stoughton Infant School in Surrey, decided to implement their pupils' wish and build a school garden. Having been one of the first schools to sign up to the RHS Campaign for School Gardening and received free seeds, advice and lesson plans, the school garden began to bloom even more. Four months later it became the first school in the country to reach the top of the Campaign, achieving benchmark five, realising the Campaign's aim that a school garden should be integrated into the school day and serve the pupils' learning needs in all lessons.

The garden is now comprised of a sensory space for plants with texture and visually bright coloured flowers, a smelly bed for herbs like thyme and rosemary and beds for plants that make sounds. The children have also worked to create a role play garden, a wildlife garden and an allotment. Maths, English and Science lessons regularly use the garden as a teaching space, while parents are volunteering to help with the landscaping during the winter months. The garden is such an integral part of the school that many pupils can not remember how lessons used to run without it.

23,700 children attended RHS gardens on school visits in 2008. We saw a tremendous increase in school visits at Wisley where the recently opened Clore Learning Centre and teaching garden adjacent to the Wisley Glasshouse was running at capacity. Building on this success, plans and fundraising for new learning centres at Harlow Carr and Rosemoor also took shape. Construction at Harlow Carr has begun and designs prepared and put forward for planning permission at Rosemoor.

In September 2008 we celebrated the Campaign's first birthday with 20 school tea parties held across the country, complete with vegetable birthday cakes made from school grown produce.

RHS Director General, Inga Grimsey and Blue Peter gardener Chris Collins returned to the Campaign's original launch school, St Leonard's in Streatham, London, to see how the children had got on one year on. In just twelve months they had turned their school garden into a grower's paradise; complete with raised beds for every kind of vegetable imaginable, recycled containers planted up with bulbs for autumn colour and a grey water recycling system.

Alan Titchmarsh joined the children from the local Beckwithshaw Primary School to launch the construction of the innovative Learning Centre and Library at Harlow Carr in January 2009 (*below*). The Learning Centre will be one of the 'greenest' buildings in the UK and is expected to gain the highest rating used to recognise the UK's top sustainable buildings. Designed to inspire people of all ages to understand gardening and grow a greener future, the new learning centre will increase our capacity for free school visits more than threefold, enabling the garden to welcome more than 10,000 schoolchildren a year. It will also provide a base to expand our outreach programmes locally and in the wider region, to engage with hard-to-reach communities and schools. The project will also allow for a broader programme of educational workshops for all gardeners and visitors to Harlow Carr.



We believe that gardening enriches people's lives and contributes to the creation of strong, sustainable communities. A key part of our strategy for growth as a charity is to demonstrate and promote the value of horticulture in contemporary life, and widen the circle of people who benefit from gardens and gardening. We are particularly keen to help new audiences develop horticultural skills and know-how – especially those that would not usually come into contact with the RHS.

The RHS is the national organising body for Britain in Bloom, the world's biggest and longest running community gardening campaign. The annual **Britain in Bloom campaign involves tens of thousands of volunteers and benefits over 2.2m residents in every kind of community, from coastal resorts to inner city estates.** During 2008 **1,700 communities**

participated in Britain in Bloom or its companion Neighbourhood Awards scheme. In the past year we have realigned the campaigns with our strategy and given Britain in Bloom a fresh face to be launched in 2009. We have revised the judging criteria to make it more relevant to the way people live now, with increased emphasis on community involvement and a sustainable approach to the local environment, as well as horticultural excellence.

The RHS also supports local horticultural societies across the UK through its affiliation programme. In 2008 we registered 2,761 affiliated societies. We are exploring ways to strengthen relationships with existing affiliates to create closer links between their work and that of the RHS, and to capitalise on the wealth of skills these societies hold within their local communities.

BELOW LEFT: Proud residents of Stevenage

BELOW RIGHT: A beautifully presented top balcony in Bury St. Edmunds

Transforming communities





The borough of Tameside in the North West of England covers nine towns which had until recently suffered socially due to a decline in business and a drop in tourism. In a bid to take action and reclaim a sense of civic pride, local officials joined together to create Tameside in Bloom, pulling together local residents, members of the community, schools and youth groups. After only four years of working together the nine towns, now one big community, won a silver medal in the 2008 RHS Britain in Bloom campaign.

A star in the community was, and still is, Taff Jeffry, who lives on the Central Estate in Dunkifield. Once renowned as a place devoid of community where people were so worried about the crime on the estate that they refused to enter it and newsagents wouldn't deliver the local paper, it is now a thriving place to live. Taff and his wife formed a local residents group and between them they planted over 232 troughs with sustainable plants which were hung from railings across the estate. They removed graffiti, picked up litter and invited children to join in their activities. Tameside in Bloom is now well on its way to representing the North West in future Britain in Bloom competitions.

ABOVE: Central Estate in Dunkifield, once renowned as a place devoid of community is now a thriving place to live

Money matters



ABOVE: An artist's impression of the Learning Centre at RHS Garden Harlow Carr

Overall the net income of £3.1 million for the year ended 31 January 2009 presents no mean achievement for the Society. Faced with the extremely poor weather of 2008, particularly in the Spring and the effects of the economic climate to achieve budget was mainly due to the RHS's cost reduction initiatives, since income growth was small.

Despite the challenges described above, our garden visitor numbers saw some growth year on year. However, this was due to the constancy of our membership rather than attracting paying visitors, whose absence in turn meant there was little opportunity to recruit new members. Our shows visitor numbers held up well due to the investment in Hampton Court and Tatton Park content, enabling us to grow our audience, demonstrate some fantastic horticulture and financially break even.

Our trading companies have had a challenging year. Retail sales have fallen dramatically at all our sites, reflecting high street trends. The change of caterers at Wisley and the move to in-house catering at Rosemoor have meant that our catering incomes have been improved at these sites, offsetting the downturn experienced by Betty's at Harlow Carr. The lettings of our conference and exhibition facilities have also felt the effects of the downturn, but our advertising sales held at 2007/8 levels despite a severely depressed market. In all of these areas, a rigorous control of cost has been maintained, enabling each business to make a positive contribution to funding the Society's charitable activities. During the year, it was decided for reasons of increased effectiveness and efficiency to merge the trading companies, Horticultural Halls Limited and RHS Publications Limited with RHS Enterprises Limited, creating two new divisions, RHSE Hospitality and RHSE Media. The assets and liabilities of the two companies were transferred to RHS Enterprises Limited on 30th April 2008.

Development of membership numbers in the year was disappointing, but we are looking to vary the membership offering to address this over the coming year.

Work is now underway on the learning centre project at Harlow Carr with the building of the learning centre at Rosemoor also due to commence later in 2009/10. Progress on the Hyde Hall roads and the new visitor centre is good, with the new facilities starting to come into service in the Spring. In addition we now have master plans, establishing the future design and development in place for each of the gardens, which are being evaluated for their financial requirements.

Having reviewed the risks to the Society and the challenges to and calls upon its finances Council has decided to maintain its Reserve Policy fund at £7.5 million. Charity Commission guidance is that reserves should cover 3-6 months of charitable expenditure depending on the nature of the charity's activity. Our reserve represents just under 2.5 months of the Society's charitable expenditure. We believe that this level of reserve is appropriate given our commitments, but we recognise that we cannot plan to draw down against it faced with the current challenges, since the fund would be severely under pressure should one of the identified risks crystallise.

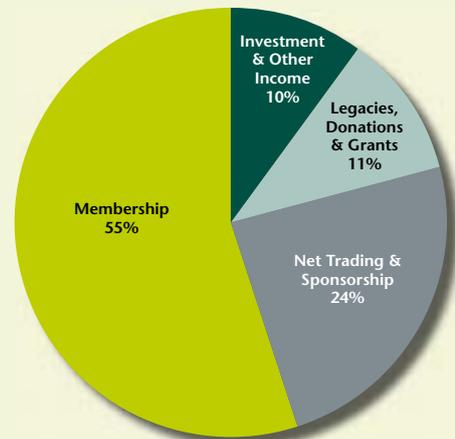
The charitable capital expenditure in the year of £2.4 million includes £1 million on the Hyde Hall development. Its completion and our further future commitments amount to £6.3 million.

With the help of our membership, sponsors and donors the Society will be able to fund this activity. However, we need to achieve higher net income levels going forward to secure our future, faced with the significant challenges of the short to medium term. To look for income growth in the immediate short term is not an option. Accordingly we are looking to reduce all areas of discretionary expenditure while maintaining the delivery of our charitable activities in the gardens, shows, science and learning.

We continue to be vulnerable to the weather as well as the economy, but are actively striving to reduce the impact of this exposure. We are most grateful to all our supporters and members for helping us do this.

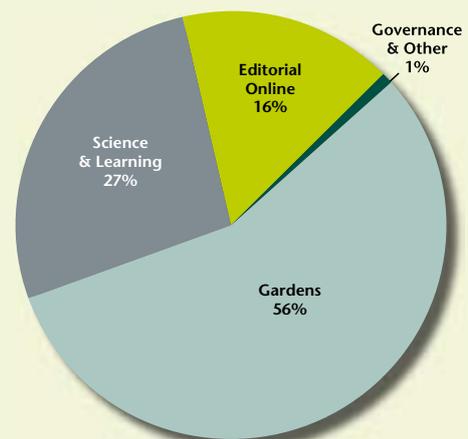
HOW WE RAISED OUR CHARITABLE FUNDS

NET INCOME £m	2008/9	2007/8
Legacies, Donations & Grants	2.5	2.4
Net Trading & Sponsorship	5.3	5.9
Shows	0.0	0.3
Membership	11.9	11.0
Investment & Other Income	2.3	1.3
Total	22.0	20.9



HOW WE USED OUR CHARITABLE FUNDS

NET COST £m	2008/9	2007/8
Gardens	10.5	9.6
Science & Learning	5.1	5.0
Editorial/RHS Online	3.1	2.8
Governance & Other	0.2	0.2
Total	18.9	17.6
Total Net Income	3.1	3.3
Charitable Capital Expenditure	2.4	6.2
Future Commitments	6.3	11.8



This summarised financial information is extracted from the full statutory Annual Report and Accounts. It may not contain sufficient information to allow for a full understanding of the financial affairs of the Society. For further information, the full accounts, the Auditor's Report on these accounts and the Trustees' Annual Report should be consulted.

Copies of these can be obtained from the Secretary, RHS, 80 Vincent Square, London SW1P 2PE or RHS Online. www.rhs.org.uk



www.rhs.org.uk