

THE FORESTERS HERITAGE TRUST

(Registered Charity No. 1109859 in England and Wales)

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31st December 2024

Introduction

This is the seventeenth report. The period covered by the Report is 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024.

Details of the Trust

The name of the registered charity is **The Foresters Heritage Trust**.

The number of the registered charity is 1109859.

The principle office of the Trust is at Station Chambers, The Boulevard, Tunstall, Stoke-on-Trent ST6 6DU

The address for email contact is www.forestersheritagetrust@outlook.com

The website address is www.forestersheritagetrust.org

Constitution of the Trust

The Trust is constituted by a Trust deed dated **19th April 2025**.

The Trust was registered by the Charity Commission for England and Wales on the 3rd June 2005 with the following objects.

"The Trustees shall hold the trust property and apply it to provide education in the history and background of the friendly society movement in Great Britain (in particular that of the Ancient Order of Foresters Friendly Society) by the collection and maintenance of relevant materials, artifacts and publications and to make such materials, artifacts and publications freely available for public inspection."

Public Benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have had regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

Trustees consider that the following responses to the questions posed in the Charity Commission's public benefits guidance demonstrate their understanding of the Public Benefit Requirements.

- What the charity is set up to achieve – this is known as the charity's purpose
Providing education in the history of the friendly society movement.
- How the charity's purpose is beneficial – this is the "benefit aspect of public benefit
Development of a wider knowledge of the history of the friendly society movement.

- How the charity's purpose benefits the public or a sufficient section of the public – this is the "public aspect" of public benefit. **Extending the understanding of the role of the friendly society movement by the population at large.**
- How the trustees will carry out the charity's purpose for the public benefit – this is what is known as "furthering" the charity's purpose for the public benefit. **Providing a fully accessible Research Enquiry Service, Website and Museum and archive.**

Tenure Information

The Trust purchased Station Chambers, The Boulevard, Tunstall, Stoke-on-Tren ST[^] 6DU in March 2023.

Details of Trustees in post at the date the Annual Report was signed:-

Andrew J Pooley	Chairman
Kevin G. Carpenter	
Janet S Pooley	
Cheryl P Eagleson	
Anthony R E Lewis	
Michael J Charlton-Hubble	

Appointment of new Trustees

The appointment of new Trustees is provided for in the Trust Deed. As and when it becomes appropriate existing Trustees issue invitations for anyone wishing to service as a Trustee to make an application in writing. Such applications are considered and voted on by the Board of Trustees.

One Trustee is appointed annually (ex-officio) by the Ancient Order of Foresters, however all applicants for a post are advised to familiarise themselves with the guidance issued by the Charity Commission for England and Wales as to fitness and suitability.

The day-to day administration of the Trust for the period 1st January 2024 – 31st December 2024 was carried out by Janet Pooley, Trustee who also held the role of Treasurer.

The provision of front-line services was provided by Peter Nixon (Curator).

Income and Expenditure

The gross income of the Trust during 2024 amounted to £53,949.38 (2023 - £99,520.92), with total expenditure of £98,916.11 (2023 - £43,808.39). A copy of the 2024 Accounts is appended.

Principle Sources of Funding

The major financial funding received by the Trust during 2023 came from three sources.

The first was derived from delegates to the Foresters Friendly Society Annual National Conference in July 2023 passing a resolution authorising financial support from Branch funds as at the end of 2022. The amount paid into the Trust's Bank Account in 2024 was £40,054.52.

The second came from donations by Branches of the Foresters Friendly Society (£6,210) and the third from Fund Raising (£5,889.03).

Policy on Reserves

The Trustees agreed that £30,000 should be invested in a suitable interest-bearing investment and that a maximum of £10,000 be invested in Units and £20,000 in deposits.

However this is on hold pending urgent repairs to Station Chambers, The Boulevard, Tunstall, Stoke-on-Trent ST6 6DU.

Funds in Deficit

None of the funds of the Trust are in deficit.

Independent Examination of Accounts

The Trust uses R.K. Lawrence & Co for the examination of its annual account. A copy of the report is appended.

Progress of the Foresters Heritage Trust during 2024

The Trustees continue to hold face to face or virtual meetings at least four times a year and otherwise when necessary.

The Museum is open to the public on the first and third Saturday of each month and groups can be accommodated on other days by arrangement with the Curator.

The Trustees applied for the registration of the Foresters Heritage Trust as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation in 2024.

Continuing activity

Work continues with the acquisition, preservation and stabilization of exhibits.

Digitalization of documents held by the Museum to aid research and the preservation of records was commenced after a contract was signed at the end of 2024 with a major company which provides such services to other museums and institutions.

Conclusion

The Trustees continue to manage the Trust and promote education in the history and background of the friendly society movement with the museum being the focus of this activity.

Enquiries continue to be received for information on the history and people involved in the friendly society movement and for the loan of material held by the Trust for exhibitions and Meetings around the Country.

Declaration

The Trustees declare that they have approved the above Trustees Report

Signed on behalf of the Charity's Trustees:

Signature.....



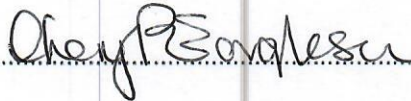
Full Name.....

ANDREW JONES

Position

Trustee

Signature.....



Full Name.....

PATRICIA EAGLESON

Position

TRUSTEE

Date.....

29/10/2025

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

For the year ended 31st December 2024

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
<u>Income</u>		
Hire Income	40054.52	39673.62
Donations	6210.00	3170.00
Other Donations (Inc Gift Aid where App)	0.00	55601.39
Sale of Books & Publications	41.96	135.34
Interest	1753.87	940.57
Fund Raising	5889.03	0.00
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	53949.38	99520.92
 <u>Expenditure</u>		
Tunstall Building Running Costs	16917.43	11248.74
Tunstall Curator Services	11912.40	12378.70
Trustees Indemnity Insurance	2754.39	2936.54
Aquisitions & Preservation	58837.31	6100.48
Storage	0.00	3138.78
Equipment & Website	3078.78	2063.04
Business Rates	2604.78	2848.31
Postage & Telephone	386.50	49.99
Travel, Food & Accommodation	1607.52	2142.06
Setting up costs (Tunstall	0.00	0.00
Sundries	5.00	307.75
Professional fees	812.00	594.00
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	98916.11	43808.39
 Surplus/Deficit for the year	 £ -44966.73	 £ 55712.53
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The Foresters Heritage Trust

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2024

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Fixed Assets		
Station Chambers Museum	16000	16000
Current Assets		
Debtors & Prepayments	0.00	0.00
Bank	0.00	0.00
Instant Access acc	99462.49	147708.62
Current Acc	26041.14	22749.74
Prepayments (ins)	0.00	0.00
Cash at Bank and in Hand	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
	125503.63	170458.36
Current Liabilities		
other	0.00	0.00
Creditors	810.00	798.00
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	£ 140693.63	£ 169660.36
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Represented by:

General Fund

Balance at 1.01.24	185660.36	129947.83
Surplus/Deficit for the Year	<u>-44966.73</u>	<u>55712.53</u>
	140693.63	185660.36
	0.00	0.00
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	£ 140693.63	£ 185660.36
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I have examined the books and vouchers in support of the above Balance Sheet and attached Income and Expenditure Account and have obtained any explanations that were necessary to complete the audit and in my opinion the Balance Sheet gives a true and fair view of the financial affairs of the Committee at 31st December 2024

J Lee M.A.A.T. *J Lee*
94 Brook Street
Erith
DA8 1JF

I report on the accounts of The Foresters Heritage Trust for the year ended 31st December 2024, set out on the attached page.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for the year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- * Examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act.
- * To follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)b) of the Charities Act, and
- * To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. Any examination includes review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an Audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiners statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, and material aspect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

R.K.Lawrence & Co
94 Brook Street
Erith
Kent
DA8 1JF
J.Lee MAAT

27/10/2025

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

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