

Objectives and Activities

Contents of the Annual Report and Accounts 2025

To further promote the gardens and to ensure that the gardens are open to all and to ensure that the gardens are open to all and to ensure that the gardens are open to all

## THE WALSHAM LE WILLOWS OPEN GARDENS TRUST

Charity number: 1147893

## ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2025

We seem to have the weather back on our side (fingers crossed for 2026) and once again enjoyed two perfect days for our visitors and the many Walham Le Willows volunteers. Our garden was open to all in order to sample the year's delights — and they certainly did! The garden was open to all in order to sample the year's delights — and they certainly did! The garden was open to all in order to sample the year's delights — and they certainly did!

Flower Power Project adorned the churchyard with a display of local flowers and plants. The garden was open to all in order to sample the year's delights — and they certainly did! The garden was open to all in order to sample the year's delights — and they certainly did!

In St Mary's church, there was another fantastic art exhibition and sale of local crafts. The garden was open to all in order to sample the year's delights — and they certainly did! The garden was open to all in order to sample the year's delights — and they certainly did!

This year we also had music in some of the gardens themselves, enjoyed by performers and visitors alike. The garden was open to all in order to sample the year's delights — and they certainly did! The garden was open to all in order to sample the year's delights — and they certainly did!

— there's a small class in the range of the bell ringing and the church organ. The garden was open to all in order to sample the year's delights — and they certainly did! The garden was open to all in order to sample the year's delights — and they certainly did!

Music Dancing friends were also seen and the traditional brass bands with their traditional tunes. The garden was open to all in order to sample the year's delights — and they certainly did! The garden was open to all in order to sample the year's delights — and they certainly did!

Visitors continue to remark on the quality, variety and value of the experience. The garden was open to all in order to sample the year's delights — and they certainly did! The garden was open to all in order to sample the year's delights — and they certainly did!

Some just for the day, the garden was open to all in order to sample the year's delights — and they certainly did! The garden was open to all in order to sample the year's delights — and they certainly did!

including the much-loved Walham Le Willows garden. The garden was open to all in order to sample the year's delights — and they certainly did! The garden was open to all in order to sample the year's delights — and they certainly did!

at the time, the garden was open to all in order to sample the year's delights — and they certainly did! The garden was open to all in order to sample the year's delights — and they certainly did!

still packed at the end of each day. The garden was open to all in order to sample the year's delights — and they certainly did! The garden was open to all in order to sample the year's delights — and they certainly did!

for their garden and the garden was open to all in order to sample the year's delights — and they certainly did! The garden was open to all in order to sample the year's delights — and they certainly did!

None of this would be possible without the support, help and encouragement we receive from locally. The garden was open to all in order to sample the year's delights — and they certainly did! The garden was open to all in order to sample the year's delights — and they certainly did!

hundreds of Walham Le Willows residents who have volunteered and given their time and support. The garden was open to all in order to sample the year's delights — and they certainly did! The garden was open to all in order to sample the year's delights — and they certainly did!

to the committee, amazing effort. The garden was open to all in order to sample the year's delights — and they certainly did! The garden was open to all in order to sample the year's delights — and they certainly did!

Once again, it was a pleasure to have you all here and we hope you enjoyed the day. The garden was open to all in order to sample the year's delights — and they certainly did! The garden was open to all in order to sample the year's delights — and they certainly did!

want to thank you all for the garden and the garden was open to all in order to sample the year's delights — and they certainly did! The garden was open to all in order to sample the year's delights — and they certainly did!

flower beds and the garden was open to all in order to sample the year's delights — and they certainly did! The garden was open to all in order to sample the year's delights — and they certainly did!

looking at the garden and the garden was open to all in order to sample the year's delights — and they certainly did! The garden was open to all in order to sample the year's delights — and they certainly did!

our garden and the garden was open to all in order to sample the year's delights — and they certainly did! The garden was open to all in order to sample the year's delights — and they certainly did!

Your warm welcome and garden was open to all in order to sample the year's delights — and they certainly did! The garden was open to all in order to sample the year's delights — and they certainly did!

and we will return next year. The garden was open to all in order to sample the year's delights — and they certainly did! The garden was open to all in order to sample the year's delights — and they certainly did!

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

### Objectives and Activities

Objects of The Walsham le Willows Open Gardens Trust (the "Trust"):

To further general charitable purposes for the benefit of the inhabitants of Walsham le Willows and the surrounding area and in particular but not exclusively by:

- 1) Advancing the Christian religion by providing financial assistance to St Mary's Parish Church, Walsham le Willows; and
- 2) Promoting for the benefit of the inhabitants of Walsham le Willows and the surrounding area the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances or for the public at large in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving the condition of life of the said inhabitants.

### Achievements and Performance

#### ANOTHER HUGE SUCCESS

We seem to have the weather firmly on our side (fingers crossed for 2026) and once again enjoyed two perfect days for our visitors and the many Walsham volunteers. Church bells pealed as the visitors poured in, eager to sample this year's delights — and they certainly weren't disappointed, with 44 open gardens and spaces on offer, a new record. The Village Market was back at the Church Farm entrance and the Flower Power Project adorned the churchyard wall to welcome our guests.

In St Mary's itself, there was another fantastic art exhibition and sale of local artists' work, a floral display on the theme of *Children's Story Books* which was breathtaking, and fantastic music by visiting performers.

This year we also had music in some of the gardens themselves, enjoyed by performers and visitors alike — despite a small clash in the timings of the bell ringing and the clarinet quartet, for which I apologise! Our Morris Dancing friends were here again and the traditional brass bands with quintessentially English sounds drifted over the village on these idyllic summer days. The now traditional rare tortoises, vintage cars, birds of prey in the churchyard and much, much more delighted our visitors.

Visitors continue to remark on the quality, variety and value of the refreshments — indeed, some say they come just for these! The Memorial Hall and Priory Room once again served their famous lunches and teas, including the much-loved Walsham meringues. Pimms in one of the gardens, and the pizza, BBQ and bar at the Elms, delighted the public, serving fine locally sourced food cooked to perfection — with the garden still packed at the end of each day. Our teams at all of our food venues are to be congratulated once again for their dedication and cheerfulness, which visitors value so much.

None of this would be possible without the support, help and encouragement we receive from literally hundreds of Walsham residents, who throw themselves into the event and give their wholehearted support to the committees' amazing efforts.

Once again, it was exhausting at times, but we hope you enjoyed the event as much as we did, and we want to thank you all: the garden owners, the volunteers at the car park, the flower arrangers, the Flower Power team, the art sales folk, the raffle ticket sellers, the helpers at the refreshment venues, the cake makers, the bell ringers, the musicians, the tent erectors (and dismantlers), the traffic cone providers, all our sponsors who advertised in the lovely programme — and many, many more.

Your warm welcome, smiles and generosity shone through, leaving visitors mightily impressed — and we're confident many will return next year.



We are still paying bills and sorting out the accounts, but at this stage we know that we had a record income and we believe that, once again, in excess of £20K has been raised for the village. As always, 50% will go to the fabric fund of the Church, with the rest used to support the many Walsham clubs and organisations who will be invited to submit bids in due course. Look out for the accounts to be published in the *Observer* once all is collected and accounted for.

Once again, a big **THANK YOU** to you all for your support. I do hope that whatever you were involved with, you got completely immersed, enjoyed the whole experience, and came away with a "well-charged community spirit" — plus that warm feeling of being part of the fellowship that is Walsham le Willows, in the beautiful County of Suffolk.

*Collen Baker*

Chair of the Walsham le Willows Open Gardens Trust  
September 2025

## **Financial Review**

Gate money was up 8% (£858) to £12,554 (2024 £11,611), which equates to roughly 107 additional visitors, so yet another successful result.

Total catering receipts were up £565 (+4%) however catering costs were up £936 (20%) hence the net catering result was down £370 (3%), equivalent to 57 Ploughman's Lunches!

Fridge hire cost decreased 15% to £960 and advertising was down 19% to £1,420.

Funds available at year end were £38,131. Deducting the General Reserve (see below) of £11,874 and outstanding grant commitment of £2,000 results in £24,257 being available for Grant Disbursements of which 50% will be paid to St Mary's Church, Walsham le Willows, leaving £12,129 available for other causes in line with the Objectives of the Trust.

## **Reserves policy**

Given that much of the annual expenditure for the annual open gardens event is committed before the event, it is the Trustees aim to maintain a General Reserve to protect the Trust against unforeseen circumstances, for example bad weather. The Trustees agreed that this reserve should be set at 50% of the most recent Total Payments (excluding "Independent Projects"). For 2025, this is 50% of £23,747 or £11,874.

Garth Harlow  
Hon. Treasurer

## Structure and Governance

The method of appointment of Trustees is set out in the Declaration of Trust dated 14<sup>th</sup> June 2012. The members of the Trust are set out below.

### Trustees

Collen Baker – Chairman

Garth Harlow – Hon. Treasurer

Frances Jenner – Trustee

John Stebbing – Secretary

### Committee members

Michael Cousins

Nick Parsons (resigned 6/3/2025)

Grant Robinson

Beverly Rust

Cath Knowles

Dawn Bramham

Tracey Gorzelak

### Administrative information

The contact details for the Trust are:

Mr John Stebbing, Secretary, 2 Vine Cottages, The Street, Walsham le Willows, IP31 3AZ

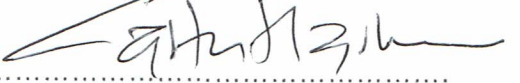
Mr Garth Harlow, Hon. Treasurer, The Rookery, Wattisfield Road, Walsham le Willows, IP31 3BD

Bankers: Barclays Bank plc, Abbeygate Street, Bury St Edmunds, IP33 1LB

Approved by the Trustees on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026 and signed on their behalf by

.....  


Chairman

.....  


Hon. Treasurer

**THE WALSHAM LE WILLOWS GARDENS TRUST**  
**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

RECEIPTS	2025 £	2024 £	PAYMENTS	2025 £	2024 £
Weekend Event (see note A)	43,127.67	41,438.30	Weekend Event (see note A)	-18,439.57	-17,282.13
Bank interest	344.30	289.49	Churchyard Roses		-135.85
			Insurance	-623.20	-580.69
			Administration	-217.48	-45.99
			Repairs & Renewals	-157.42	-1,113.34
			CAPEX - General	-867.41	-1,209.00
			CAPEX - Car Park		
			CAPEX - MVH	-263.29	
			CAPEX - Priory Room	-367.11	
			CAPEX - Elms	-1,668.93	
			CAPEX - Art Show	-367.22	
			Millstone Project	-223.96	
			Friday Party	-551.49	-293.66
			Licencing		-21.00
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>43,471.97</b>	<b>41,727.79</b>	<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>-23,747.07</b>	<b>-20,681.66</b>
less Payments	-23,747.07	-20,681.66			
<b>NET PROFIT</b>	<b>19,724.90</b>	<b>21,046.13</b>			

**DISBURSEMENTS**

**FROM PRVEIOUS YEAR'S SURPLUS**

St Mary's fabric fund	-10,617.00	-8,015.00
Cricket Club	-1,156.25	
Walsham Wild Wood	-815.00	-130.32
Walsham Allotments	-459.98	-800.00
History Group	-439.91	-554.70
Womens Institute	-102.09	
Churchyard Hedging	-419.40	
Rural Coffee Caravan	-300.00	
Walsham Allotments - SURPLUS REFUND	1,297.00	
Flower Power Project		-244.72
Walsham Pre-School		-1,500.00
Elodie Day		-250.00
St Mary's Clock		-1,500.00
Xmas Tree		-216.25
Walsham Sports Club		-1,500.00
The Priory Room/Walsham Arts Group		-330.45
Up to £2,000 to Sports re hedge		
War Memorial Flowers	-90.00	
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>-13,102.63</b>	<b>-15,041.44</b>
<b>NET AFTER DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>6,622.27</b>	<b>6,004.69</b>

**FUNDS STATEMENT**

	2025	2024
Barclays Opening Balance	31,508.81	25,504.12
Income	43,471.97	41,727.79
Expenditure	-23,747.07	-20,681.66
Dispersements	-13,102.63	-15,041.44
<b>CLOSING BALANCE</b>	<b>38,131.08</b>	<b>31,508.81</b>

<b>Represented by: (as at)</b>	<b>31/12/2025</b>	<b>31/12/2024</b>
Barclays Current Account	20.83	235.97
Barclays Deposit Account	38,110.25	31,272.84
<b>TOTAL FUNDS @ YEAR END</b>	<b>38,131.08</b>	<b>31,508.81</b>

Balances at Barclays Bank at year end have been increased by £1,143.11 due to Gift Aid in relation to 2025 being received post year end.



**THE WALSHAM LE WILLOWS OPEN GARDENS TRUST**  
**NOTES TO THE RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

1. The accounts of the Trust have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 using the receipts and payments basis.
2. Further analysis of Receipts and Payments

NOTES										
Note A: Weekend Event										
	2025	2025	2025	2025	2025	2024	2024	2024	2024	2024
	Receipts	Payments	Result	GPM	Inc Costs	Receipts	Payments	Result	GPM	Inc Costs
	£	£	£	%	%	£	£	£	%	%
Entrance Fee	12,553.73	-41.54	12,512.19	100%	-67%	11,610.87	-126.15	11,484.72	99%	99%
MVH Car Park	459.90		459.90	100%		544.50		544.50	100%	
MVH Catering	6,823.89	-1,639.09	5,184.80	76%	28%	6,740.33	-1,280.15	5,460.18	81%	2%
Priory Room	3,515.66	-480.23	3,035.43	86%	-21%	3,306.77	-605.83	2,700.94	82%	-2%
Elms BBQ	5,942.63	-3,566.47	2,376.17	40%	25%	5,669.53	-2,863.66	2,805.87	49%	24%
Elms Bar	5,255.21	-2,940.81	2,314.40	44%	39%	4,743.94	-2,121.30	2,622.64	55%	13%
Elms Classic Cars	125.00		125.00	100%		85.00		85.00		
Art Show	2,640.25	-2,028.00	612.25	23%	-9%	2,827.81	-2,219.44	608.37	22%	2%
Pimms Stall	805.29	-234.53	570.76	71%	99%	541.12	-117.95	423.17	78%	-9%
Village Market	600.00		600.00	100%		560.00	0.00	560.00	100%	-100%
Raffle	1,504.00	-304.08	1,199.92	80%	27%	1,265.59	-239.20	1,026.39	81%	37%
Ice Cream	0.00		0.00			180.00		180.00		
Nancy & Freya Plants	16.00		16.00							
Donations/Sponsorship	358.00		358.00			328.34		328.34		
Programme Advertising	1,385.00		1,385.00			1,420.00		1,420.00		
Gift Aid	1,143.11		1,143.11			1,614.50		1,614.50		
MVH Hire		-607.50	-607.50		0%		-607.50	-607.50		0%
First Aid		-550.00	-550.00		5%		-525.00	-525.00		5%
Fridge Hire		-960.00	-960.00		-15%		-1,130.00	-1,130.00		96%
Toilet Hire		-528.00	-528.00		0%		-528.00	-528.00		57%
Bands/Music		-450.00	-450.00		0%		-450.00	-450.00		0%
Advertising		-1,420.80	-1,420.80		-19%		-1,749.80	-1,749.80		18%
Printing		-1,689.00	-1,689.00		-3%		-1,745.60	-1,745.60		4%
Transport		-760.00	-760.00		12%		-680.00	-680.00		3%
Flowers		-214.20	-214.20		-3%		-220.50	-220.50		530%
Helpers		-25.33	-25.33		-65%		-72.05	-72.05		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>43,127.67</b>	<b>-18,439.57</b>	<b>24,688.10</b>			<b>41,438.30</b>	<b>-17,282.13</b>	<b>24,156.17</b>		

## Assets retained by the Trust:

### ASSET REGISTER

Item	Cost £	Date Purchased £	Estimated Replacement Value £
Mains operated coin counter			200.00
Pizza Oven (wood fired)			800.00
Marque			450.00
Blue Gazebo (3m x 6m)			330.00
Catering equipment (various)			850.00
8 x advertising signs (2400x1200mm)			1,000.00
Numerous smaller signs			500.00
8 x folding metal road signs			800.00
8 x large fold up timber tables			800.00
40 x stacking plastic chairs			1,200.00
Shed located at Priory Room			450.00
Art Peg Boards	180.60	10/08/2022	180.00
UniFlame 6 Burner Gas Grill BBQ and cover	462.95	29/05/2022	460.00
8 x SumUp card readers	200.00	27/07/2022	200.00
4 x large PVC Banners	760.00	01/08/2023	760.00
Various crockery & glasses (Hubbard)	285.00	08/08/2023	285.00
Capital investment storage container WSC	1,000.00	25/10/2023	1,000.00
Dough Roller	544.56	01/07/2024	544.56
2 x A4 Pavement Sign	90.00	17/06/2024	90.00
3 X SumUp Solo	140.40	16/12/2024	140.40
50x white chairs	665.50	06/08/2025	665.50
9x white tables	360.00	06/08/2025	360.00
3m Robusta Gazebo	396.00	30/07/2025	396.00
24 Aprons (MVH & PR)	372.00	28/07/2025	372.00
			<u>12,833.46</u>

# **INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE WALSHAM LE WILLOWS OPEN GARDENS TRUST**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Walsham le Willows Open Gardens Trust (the "Trust") for the year ended 31 December 2025.

## **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

## **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Alison Roberts FMAAT

Acorn Accounting  
Acorn House, Chapel Road,  
Wattisfield, Diss, IP22 1NY

10 March 2026