



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

| From | Period start date | | | To | Period end date | | |
|------|-------------------|---------|------|----|-----------------|----------|------|
| | 1 | January | 2024 | | 31 | December | 2024 |

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name THE FRIENDS OF CRESSING TEMPLE

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any) 1166431

Charity's principal address

CRESSING TEMPLE BARNS

WITHAM ROAD

BRAINTREE

ESSEX

Postcode

CM77 8PD

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

| | Trustee name | Office (if any) | Dates acted if not for whole year | Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any) |
|---|---------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1 | Suzanne Lowe | Chair | | |
| 2 | Jane Palmer | Membership Secretary | | |
| 3 | David Andrews | | | |
| 4 | Lesley Killin | | | |
| 5 | Monika Curry | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
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Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

| Name | Dates acted if not for whole year |
|------|-----------------------------------|
| | |
| | |
| | |

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

| Type of adviser | Name | Address |
|-----------------|------|---------|
| | | |

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| | | | |
| | Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information) | | |
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| | | | |

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution) | Constitution dated 4 th August 2015 as amended on 12 th December 2020 | |
| How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company) | Unincorporated small company charity | |
| Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by) | Elected at the AGM | |

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

We have a strong working relationship with Essex County Council, owners of the Cressing site. They are supportive of our work and appreciate the contribution our volunteers and fundraising bring to Cressing Temple.

The trustees do not consider there are any major risks as there are no liabilities, other than those covered through our insurance. There is a dependency on the voluntary efforts of the members and officers. This year has seen the resignation of the Treasurer, a role we filled toward the end of 2024. We are also reliant on the support of the two horticulturalists employed by Essex County Council.

We are an unincorporated charity and are currently exploring the potential to move to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation in the next year. We believe this will help in attracting further Trustees.

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

To conserve, enhance and develop the historic site at Cressing Temple, including the Walled Garden, the Cullen Garden and the Jubilee Orchard, as a unique historical, social and horticultural record and educational resource.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

In deciding our programme of activity and development the Trustees have paid due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit.

The Trustees aim to further develop an inclusive culture in the charity's ways of working. Valuing diversity and equality and ensuring equal opportunities.

One of the Friend's objectives is to raise money in support of the site and gardens. We have carried on from last year in growing our activities and income streams.

We have experienced a good year in regard to income through grants and fundraising/trading activities.

We held a successful Apple Day again in October, in spite of the weather. To avoid a costly cancellation we took the forecast of wind and rain into consideration and adapted our activities. Our income this year on the event was down, but we still made a healthy profit on the day. This event is the main focus for our community facing events that helps us raise our profile locally whilst giving back to the local community.

Apple day and plant sales remain our main sources of income with both down this year - Apple day as before, and plant sales due to reduction in supplies.

Our regular rhythm of workshops, such as willow weaving, continues and income has remained stable from these and sales of garden produce, honey and craft items.

The number of garden volunteers is 46, and the number of Friends including volunteers, members, committee and Trustees is 90. Volunteers play a key role in sustaining the high standard of the gardens and increasingly in activities relating to the heritage of the site such as digitising the vast archive documents and restoration of farm machinery.

This public benefit is embedded in our constitution and at the forefront of the Trustees and officers' activity. All give their services voluntarily and in the interests of the charity and its objectives and draw no personal fiduciary benefit from their roles.

The gardens provide both historical and environmental interest to the local community and wider society with hands-on experience and involvement. We have firmly established partnerships with two local mental health charities who provide weekly sessions for their clients reflecting the benefit and impact gardening and environmental activities can provide for growing skills, providing time with nature and tackling isolation. Unfortunately we have seen one of the charities scale back their activities during this time, including their Cressing session.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

As said previously the Friends of Cressing Temple could not operate without the generous and willing help of all our volunteers.

A total of 4,330 volunteer hours were recorded this year, the equivalent of 619 days or approx. 3 fulltime posts and calculated at minimum wage an equivalent of a valuable £49,535.

The number of volunteer hours is a slight decrease from last year.

Volunteer activities and opportunities range across an increasing variety of activities at the core is garden planting and maintenance work in the Tudor, Cullen and Community gardens and Jubilee orchard, increasingly in this year heritage focused work grew such as digitising the archive and restoration of old farm machinery. We also have a growing craft group providing items for sale to assist with fundraising. Alongside, the essential supervision, management and administrative activities and duties incumbent on a successful charity.

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

This year has seen an income of £42,538 down £5,043 on last year but still £10,270 ahead of 2022 income

We have secured two grants this year to support garden volunteering and improvements to the community space in the community garden and sponsorship from a local company to support our newly established working farm project and a slight increase in donations. These alongside donations, subscriptions and interest totalling £14,074.

Plant and herb sales continue to be our main source of trading income. This year's total of £11,087 is an 18% decrease in sales from last year, maintaining the profit margin of 30% as last year.

Sales of craft, books and honey was £5,551 a slight decrease on last year.

We held our Apple Day in October. The day was attended by over 1200 people raising a total net income after costs of £4,233 which is less than last year but on par with 2022 and not the loss it could have been if the forecast gales had appeared.

The use of contactless payments via sum-up and PayPal continues to increase and we have seen higher donations this year facilitated by the Payaz terminal purchased last year. We have again increased the number of sum up machines to assist our events.

Section D

Achievements and performance

We have received several grants this year for volunteer support, outside landscaping for the community garden and support for refurbishment of donated farm machinery. We worked on a grant application to the Arts Council for the Farm machinery.

Work continues to digitise the archive material, with close liaison with the Essex Record Office, to ensure preservation and accessibility of the rich historical records we have of Cressing Temple.

We have strong partnership working established with Abberton Rural Training and Trustlinks who provide weekly therapeutic gardening sessions for their beneficiaries on site.

We continue to provide governance via regular committee meetings, all now in person and we held our AGM in April.

Our key priorities for 2025 are;

- to plan and raise funding for a new community building in the Community Garden.
- to apply to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.
- to secure a lease with Essex County Council for the Community Garden building area.
- To plan for celebrations to mark the 30th Anniversary of the Tudor Walled garden restoration and opening.
- to plan and deliver a successful 2025 Apple Day.
- to apply to the Arts Council for funding for the working farm/farm machinery project focusing on several machines.
- to grow our outreach locally and within Braintree District.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Reserves are held in the named Co-operative Bank account for the sole use and purpose of the Organisation as defined in the Aims & Objectives of its constitution. The Friends Reserves Policy requires that sufficient unrestricted financial reserves are held in order that the charity can continue to operate and meet the needs of the visitors in the event of unforeseen and potentially financially damaging circumstances arising.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

None, and not possible under the constitution.

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

All fundraising is to support the gardens and wider site and is mainly achieved through trading, member activities, members fees, donations and grants.

We are grateful for the funding received from Essex Community Foundation, Indaver and Braintree District Council this year.

We are grateful to our partners – Trustlinks, Essex County Council, Braintree District Council, Cressing Community Shed, Braintree Beekeepers, Essex Beekeeping Association who all continue to support and provide a thriving community hub at Cressing and we are seeing increasing partnership working.

The charity's activities provide benefit and interest to the local and wider society with hands on experiences and involvement. The gardens demonstrate the power of horticulture and other skills to improve people's lives.

Section F Other optional information

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Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

SMLowe



Full name(s)

SUZANNE LOWE

Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)

CHAIR

Date

12th August 2025

The Friends of Cressing Temple
Registered charity number 1166431
Receipts and payments accounts
For the year to 31 December 2024

| | Year Ended 31 Dec 2024 | | | Year Ended 31 Dec 2023 |
|--|---|---|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Unrestricted funds to the nearest £ | Restricted funds to the nearest £ | Total funds to the nearest £ | Total funds to the nearest £ |
| Receipts | | | | |
| Braintree District Council | - | 2,450 | 2,450 | - |
| Essex Community Foundation | - | 7,750 | 7,750 | - |
| Contributions towards Working Farm Project | - | 1,520 | 1,520 | - |
| Finnis Scott Foundation | - | - | - | 1,500 |
| Contributions towards NatSol | - | - | - | 11,386 |
| Donations | 1,786 | - | 1,786 | 1,456 |
| Membership subscriptions | 330 | - | 330 | 350 |
| Bank Interest Received | 238 | - | 238 | 59 |
| Total Grants, Contributions and Donations | 2,354 | 11,720 | 14,074 | 14,751 |
| Fundraising Activities | | | | |
| Apple Day & Sales | 5,324 | - | 5,324 | 7,031 |
| Quiz Evening | - | - | - | 540 |
| Events / Workshops / Tours | 3,939 | - | 3,939 | 3,929 |
| Trading Activities | | | | |
| Plants / Herbs Sales | 11,087 | - | 11,087 | 13,615 |
| Community Garden Sales | 2,268 | - | 2,268 | 1,491 |
| Books / Crafts / Honey Sales | 5,551 | - | 5,551 | 5,997 |
| Volunteer Uniform Sales | 145 | - | 145 | 187 |
| Other | 150 | - | 150 | 40 |
| Total Receipts from Activities | 28,464 | - | 28,464 | 32,830 |
| Total Receipts | 30,818 | 11,720 | 42,538 | 47,581 |
| Payments | | | | |
| Working Farm Project | - | 1,020 | 1,020 | - |
| NatSol Compost Toilet | - | - | - | 15,324 |
| Essex Community Fund Equipment | - | - | - | 566 |
| Community Garden | 453 | - | 453 | 478 |
| IT Equipment | 1,455 | - | 1,455 | 270 |
| Tools & Equipment | 1,900 | - | 1,900 | 1,080 |
| Total Assets Purchased | 3,808 | 1,020 | 4,828 | 17,718 |
| Plants / Herbs cost | 7,905 | - | 7,905 | 9,537 |
| Volunteer costs | 356 | - | 356 | 348 |
| Events / Workshops / Tours | 1,152 | - | 1,152 | 1,258 |
| Apple Day cost | 1,091 | - | 1,091 | 1,225 |
| Plants & Equipment Garden | 4,533 | - | 4,533 | 4,398 |
| Books / Crafts / Honey cost | 2,450 | - | 2,450 | 1,679 |
| Contract worker | 4,793 | - | 4,793 | 7,047 |
| Office consumables | 779 | - | 779 | 586 |
| Insurance & Professional Fees | 426 | - | 426 | 519 |
| Other | 505 | - | 505 | 472 |
| Total Payments | 27,798 | 1,020 | 28,818 | 44,787 |
| Net of receipts/(payments) | 3,020 | 10,700 | 13,720 | 2,794 |
| Total Funds Brought Forward | 18,713 | - | 18,713 | 15,919 |
| Total Funds Carried Forward | 21,733 | 10,700 | 32,433 | 18,713 |
| Cash Funds at end of the period | | | | |
| Bank | 21,427 | 10,700 | 32,127 | 18,520 |
| Cash | 306 | - | 306 | 193 |
| Total Funds | 21,733 | 10,700 | 32,433 | 18,713 |

Signed on behalf of all the trustees

Signature
Print Name
Position
Date of Approval


SUZANNE LOWE
CHAIR OF TRUSTEES
12th August 2025



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

THE FRIENDS OF CRESSING TEMPLE

On accounts for the year
ended

31 December 2024

Charity no
(if any)

1166431

Set out on pages

1-7

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2024.

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 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 (~~other than that disclosed below *~~) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

Date:

12th August 2025

Name:

DEREK WOTTON

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

CHARTERED MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTANT ACMA CGMA

Address:

54 QUEENSBERRY AVENUE

COPFORD COLCHESTER

ESSEX CO6 1YN