



# Annual Report 2024-2025

## Introduction

It is our 9th year at the garden and as in recent years the weather has been challenging at times with long dry spells during the summer that has restricted the growth of the outside vegetables. However, we continue to try new organic gardening techniques and the volunteers are learning all the time and enjoying their time at the garden.

## Activities

In early March packets of seeds were taken home by the volunteers and sown where conditions are warmer than in the Polytunnels at the garden. Tomatoes, Peppers, Chillies, Leeks and Cucumbers were sown. These were then taken to the garden for pricking out and growing on. To prevent as much frost damage and loss as possible we used a mini hot bed technique. This was used last year with a lot of success. For those that are unsure what this is, plastic bread trays are lined and filled with fresh locally sourced horse manure and this continues to rot, producing heat. Seedlings are then stood on this compost and covered with garden fleece at night, thus retaining the heat and helping ward off the cold and frost. This system protects the seedlings down to at least -8c outside temperature.



Later in the spring Beetroot, Onions, Dwarf Green Beans, Runner Beans, French Beans, Cabbage and Broccoli were grown. The seed Potatoes were placed in egg boxes in the caravan to start them growing (chitting). During early 2024 we had a regular attendance of about 10 volunteers and by June 2024 this had risen to 16 volunteers in a week. We had a stall at the May Day market and sold plants of Tomatoes, trays of Strawberries, Cabbages, Leeks and Chillies. A total of £241 was raised and thanks go to the volunteers who helped out on the day with the transport of the plants to market and for taking turns standing at the stall for sales and giving gardening advice to customers.



The first Strawberries were picked on 5th June followed by Raspberries and Blackcurrants on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July, Cucumbers and Chillies also did well. In recent years we have had the problem of the Pigeons eating the young Pea plants. To combat this we decided to grow two rows of Peas in the top Polytunnel and this was a great success with pea pods being picked in June. It was observed that wet Winter conditions had continued well into the Spring and apart from a few fair days in May and June Summer didn't really start until mid-July.





The Onions were a poor crop once again due to the mainly dry conditions in Summer but the Beetroot was a good crop and the Cabbages, Sprouts and Broccoli grew well that season, however by October the plants were touching the netting, allowing the birds to land on them and peck the leaves. The first new Potatoes were dug up in late July and a few Peaches and Nectarines were picked in August. The Summer of 2024 was the first where we had the benefit of the seven bulk rainwater containers at the top of the plot. The rain was collected from the roof of the caravan and this enabled us to keep the indoor plants well watered throughout the season and maximise the crops.

In the Autumn the plots were cleared and green manure was sown to keep the soil active over the Winter months. In the Winter the greenhouses and polytunnels were washed down to clean off the algae that had grown on the glass and polythene.

In December plot A was covered in flattened cardboard boxes to keep weeds from germinating

Monthly planning meetings were held in the caravan where the volunteers discussed what we were going to grow in the new season and other gardening matters.



On the Sunday before Christmas we had a get together in the caravan where we enjoyed mince pies, snacks and cakes along with tea and mulled wine.

In the New Year wet or frosty weather stopped us from working on the soil, on milder days we continued to weed out the perennial weeds such as Bindweed, Thistles, Dandelions and Docks and straightened the edges of the plots. Logs were chopped up and stored in the wood store and on cold days the fire was lit to keep the caravan warm.

As Winter progressed the fruit trees were pruned and the wooden plant labels were repainted in the polytunnel. In the first week of February Lettuce and Rocket seed were sown direct to the soil in the top greenhouse and kept moist until the seedlings appeared. The Summer fruiting Raspberry canes were pruned to the ground and the Peach and Nectarine trees were pruned. The compost bags from the back of the toilet were taken to the Fruit tree rootstock area to use as an organic fertilizer. By mid-February we had laid out the seed Potatoes into egg boxes in the caravan windows to start them growing. On the 16<sup>th</sup> February we held a Grafting workshop in the caravan and watched the cut stem being attached to the Rootstock in the garden. In the final week of March the Herbs were potted on and moved to the upper polytunnel for storage. The soil was dug and weeded in the top polytunnel and the Pea Netting was put up before the Peas were sown. 3 bags of Multi-Purpose compost were donated by B&M Bargains. French Beans and Sunflower seeds were sown in pots in the lower Polytunnel. We were having fine dry days and Spring had finally sprung at the Inspire Community Garden.

Mike Thompson, Chair of the trustees

7th September 2025

## **2024-25 Finance Report**

At the start of the year, we had a healthy balance of £4,611.75.

Expenditure during the year was £850.98, with the largest expenses being the insurance and purchase of a 'fruit cage' which has been extended temporarily so

that we can use it to protect the brassicas. If it is robust enough to survive the winter winds, a further cage may be purchased to cover the whole plot.

As our Charities funds were sufficiently robust and no significant expenditure was anticipated for some time, it was decided to save £3,000 in a savings account with the Mansfield Building Society. At the end of December, this had accrued interest of £32.05.

Income during the year included two reasonable donations from the Community Growth team (£452) and from a Women's Collaborative (£360) which enabled a group of women to meet in environmentally social surroundings. We also received £196 from DCC for the pipework to connect additional IBCs for water collection. In addition, we made £241 from sales of plants at the Mayday market and on a day at the garden where we also sold pizzas (£188).

Gift Aid will be claimed during 2025-26 for the previous 2 years of 'gifts' & sales.

This leaves a balance of £2,203.35 plus £3,032.05 invested to start the 2025-26 Financial year.

Lindsey Fallon 31st August 2025

## **THE FUTURE**

We hope to continue the Community Garden with the help of a healthy number of regular volunteers.

The past few years have proved that foot access only has not restricted the use and possibilities of the Garden, rather that the focus has had to change. We continue to get a limited number of visits from external organisations, including the Scouts, walking groups and Homeless Charities looking at what both sides can do for each other. Also, the garden has become a successful place for people directed there by their doctor to improve their fitness and wellbeing. People gain from the outside environment and the social interactions with new friends being made.

We would like to encourage anyone who is interested in community activities in a safe environment to get in touch and come along and see what the garden has to offer by way of a peaceful, calm environment. If you would like to be involved in growing and sharing produce, then perhaps we could persuade you to join our team of volunteers working on the plot.

Contact can be made via email to [InspireCommunityGarden@gmail.com](mailto:InspireCommunityGarden@gmail.com) or come to look around on Sundays 10am to 3pm or Wednesdays 1pm to 3pm. During the Summer, Thursdays 6.15pm to 8pm. Access is via the footpath that is between Chester Street and Alexandra Road West. First gate on the right from Mecca Bingo or last gate on the left if coming from Chester Street. Just push the gate to see if we are open (it looks locked), then wander up the site where you will find us working or just chatting. No commitments, just come and look. Inspire are also open for new or returning volunteers to come and join us. There is no set requirement to attend, just as and when you can spare some time on a Sunday or a Wednesday afternoon.

Financial Statement for Year Ending 31st March 2025



Receipts and Payments Account for year ending 31st March 2025

	Unrestricted	Mansfield BS Account	Total	Last Year Total
<b>Receipts</b>				
<b>B/Fwd (cash in bank &amp; petty cash)</b>	<b>£4,611.75</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£4,611.75</b>	<b>£4,145.06</b>
Grants	£196.00		£196.00	£0.00
Donations (organised groups)	£812.00	£3,000.00	£3,812.00	£450.00
Events	£0.00		£0.00	£311.50
Donations (individuals & plants & others)	£193.48		£193.48	£187.56
Sales (plants, clothing & compost)	£241.10		£241.10	£515.25
Interest (BS Account)	£0.00	£32.05	£32.05	£0.00
Gift Aid claimed	£0.00		£0.00	£252.25
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>£1,442.58</b>	<b>£3,032.05</b>	<b>£4,474.63</b>	<b>£1,716.56</b>
<b>Payments</b>				
Expenses supporting groups	£0.00		£0.00	£0.00
Mansfield BS Account	£3,000.00		£3,000.00	£0.00
Tools and other equipment	£24.90		£24.90	£23.93
Fruit trees, soft fruit, plants and seeds	£185.89		£185.89	£129.70
Compost / Manure	£0.00		£0.00	£0.00
Major Items	£159.99		£159.99	£0.00
Buildings / Infrastructure support costs	£69.98		£69.98	£0.00
Web services	£0.00		£0.00	£0.00
Insurance & Rent	£231.12		£231.12	£203.34
Miscellaneous	£179.10		£179.10	£892.90
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>£3,850.98</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£3,850.98</b>	<b>£1,249.87</b>
<b>Excess of receipts over payments</b>	<b>-£2,408.40</b>	<b>£3,032.05</b>	<b>£623.65</b>	<b>£466.69</b>
<b>C/Fwd (cash in bank &amp; petty cash)</b>	<b>£2,203.35</b>	<b>£3,032.05</b>	<b>£5,235.40</b>	<b>£4,611.75</b>

Statement of Assets

Cash in Hand	£97.28	£58.86
Cash at Bank & BS	£2,106.07	£4,552.89
Mansfield BS Savings	£3,032.05	£0.00
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>£5,235.40</b>	<b>£4,611.75</b>

In my opinion the above Receipt and Payments have been properly prepared from the charity's records.

Date

Lindsey Fallon  
21/09/2025

Treasurer