

Friends of Doncaster Mansion House

Charity Number: 1171398

Trustees' Annual Report & Financial Statements for the Period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

**Friends of Doncaster Mansion House
Trustees' Annual Report & Financial Statements
for the Financial Period from 1 April 2023 to 31st March
2024**

Reference & Administration Details

Charity Details:

Number: 1171398

Names of the Charity Trustees who manage the Charity

Name

Adrian Hunt - chair	Appointed 4 April 2024
Kevin Finnegan	Appointed 4 April 2024
Brian Barber	Appointed 4 June 2024
Joanne Webb	Appointed 4 June 2024
Marion Johns	Appointed 20 March 2018
Yvonne Woodcock	Appointed 14 October 2016
Jackie Gladden	Appointed 15 February 2023
John Weston	Appointed 8 July 2025
John Holmes	Resigned 6 September 2024
Miriam Clarke	Resigned 13 May 2025

Names & Addresses of Advisors

Bank: HSBC, High Street, Doncaster, DN1 1EE

Treasurer: John Weston – appointed as treasurer by the Trustees on October 2nd, 2020, and confirmed at each subsequent AGM.

Structure, Governance & Management

Type of Governing Document: Constitution

How the Charity is Constituted: Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Trustee Selection Methods: Election at Annual General Meeting

How New Trustees are Inducted and Trained: New trustees are given a copy of the Charity's constitution, previous minutes, reports and policies and given briefings by the current trustees

Objects

Summary of the Objects of the Charity as set out in its Governing Document

(1) The promotion for the public benefit of the conservation of Doncaster Mansion House and its associated artefacts

(2) To advance the education of the public in general (and particularly amongst young people) on the subject of the Doncaster Mansion House including by facilitating public use of the Doncaster Mansion House for education purposes and by promoting research for the public benefit in all aspects of the Doncaster Mansion House and publishing the useful results of that research.

(3) To advance the education of the public about the life and work of James Paine, the architect of Doncaster Mansion House.

Statutory Declaration on Public Benefit

The trustees declare that they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers or duties.

Activities and Achievements

Governance

We were very pleased to welcome our member Major Adrian Hunt DL as a trustee and were very grateful when he agreed to be our new chair. We were also very pleased to welcome two of our volunteers Kev Finnegan and Joanne Webb as trustees.

The membership as at the end of March 2024 stood at 33 members.

Local Authority

Representatives of the Friends have met on a regular basis with officers of the Local Authority.

We are grateful for their support in providing training for our volunteers, help with printing our leaflet, and particularly to Helen Foster for attending our volunteers' meetings, keeping us up to date with developments and for her cheerful appreciation of the work of our volunteers.

Conservation Plan

We were pleased to learn that the Place Directorate of the Council had commissioned a new Conservation Plan for the Mansion House because we hoped that this document would provide an informed basis for future maintenance and improvements and for planning activities, and it was a necessary step in securing funding. We received a questionnaire from the company commissioned to carry out the work and held a special meeting of the trustees and volunteers to discuss our response. Three trustees then attended a consultation event in November 2024. As at the end of March 2025 we await the completed document.

Activities undertaken to fulfil our objects

(1) Conservation of the Mansion House and its associated artefacts

We have been in discussion with staff at Heritage Services regarding the paintings in the back committee room. Apart from a painting of a St Leger winner belonging to the Earl of Lonsdale, whose portrait is in the ballroom, the current pictures do not depict people, places or events which are linked to Doncaster. One of our volunteers investigated alternatives from the Doncaster Art Gallery stores, and plans were made for changes, but issues regarding the rehanging and work associated with the Conservation Plan has delayed implementation.

(2) Advancing education of the public and facilitating the public use of the Mansion House and promoting research

The regular monthly Open Days have taken place, and our volunteers have enjoyed welcoming people to the Mansion House and sharing their knowledge of the wonderful building. A total of 1402 people visited the Mansion House on the Open Days.

The Friends were also pleased to carry out nine tours for groups visiting the Mansion House, including the Friends of Cusworth Park, a visiting group from the U3A in Ilkley, a cadet group and a scout group, a group from the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and a group of local veterans.

We only had one school visit, from Balby Primary, and whilst this was a great success, we are having discussions with staff at Heritage Services about how we can bring more young people into the Mansion House.

This year the Doncaster Civic Trust put together a brochure listing the events taking place locally for national Heritage Open Days. We supported the working group, and our own events in the week were a talk following the AGM by Professor Jim Watt, Professor of English Literature and the Director of the School for Eighteenth Century studies at the University of York, and a special Open Day with some of our volunteers in period costume and a workshop on Regency Dancing. The two events together attracted 230 visitors.

We could not do our work without our valued team of knowledgeable and enthusiastic volunteers. We have held three volunteers' meetings where new ideas and suggestions for improvement are aired.

Our guidebook continues to sell steadily at Open Days, group visits, talks and via the Tourist Information Office. All profits are used by the Friends for their charitable purposes.

Two editions of the newsletter were produced in May and November 2024 and provide a platform for original research. Articles included the visit to Doncaster by the Duke of Sussex in the early nineteenth century, the life of Sarah Siddons whose portrait hangs in the Drawing Room, the work of William Lindley and a visit to Doncaster of the Yorkshire Agricultural Show with events in the Mansion House. The illustrations reproduced are the earliest known drawings of the Mansion House interior as built.

The Friends are happy to give illustrated talks to outside groups about the Mansion House, and this year one was given to the Barnby Dun Ladies Group.

The Friends continued to maintain an active Facebook page, and we are grateful to Frank Carpenter for maintaining the site.

We had a stall at the Doncaster and District Heritage Association Heritage Day to promote the Mansion House.

We are grateful to Ian Moore at 20-20 design for his help with our website. New articles have been added including one relating to H.M.S. Andromeda by our volunteer Richard Cuell.

We continue to advocate with the Council for the return of the very popular afternoon teas and also for the tea dances which were such a helpful social exercise activity for the people who attended.

Christmas at the Mansion House

Some of the Christmas decorations were looking very tired and the Friends made a donation of new decorations for the hall and staircase.

We held a Christmas concert in the Mansion House in December with the Cusworth Singers. It was a great success despite the awful weather on the night, bringing in around 60 people and the Friends made over £600. It was a great pleasure to share the Mansion House dressed on its Christmas finery with new visitors, and we hope to repeat the concert in December 2025.

(3) Advancing education about James Paine

The Friends' display about James Paine was displayed at Cusworth Hall and the Friends have maintained their website which contains a wealth of information about James Paine and photographs of all three of James Paine's books of architectural engravings.

Volunteer Hours

Our volunteers have put in considerable time in delivering the objectives of the Friends, both in the regular Open Days and private tours and in the special projects undertaken this year.

Open Days and private tours	534
Volunteer meetings	115
Christmas decorations	23
Trustee meetings and admin	134
Council Liaison	25
Newsletter and research	270
Facebook and publicity	50
Finance	57
Administration and reports	125
Christmas concert	70
Total	1403

Financial Review

Statement of the Charity's Policy on Reserves

The Trustees have determined to keep no less than £500 as a reserve fund.

Details of Any Funds Materially in Deficit

The Trustees declare that the charity had no funds which were materially in deficit at the date of the statement of assets & liabilities.

State of the Charity's Finances

The small but regular income from bucket collections at Open Days helps our resources, and the income from the Christmas Concert was very welcome.

The Friends are aware of a pending legacy and are in touch with the executor of the will.

Restricted Funds

The current restricted funds are a small remaining amount from the John and Ruth Howard Charitable Trust for a new Mansion House brochure, which will be used to print a large print copy, and from the Doncaster Lions, the Frenchgate Centre and the Civic Trust to support school visits.

Designated Funds

The Friends have designated £300 of their funds to support school visits.

Particulars of Any Outstanding Guarantee Given by the Charity

The Trustees declare that the charity has given no guarantee where potential liability is outstanding at the date of the statement of assets & liabilities.

Particulars of Any Outstanding Debt

The Trustees declare that the charity has no outstanding debts which are secured by an express charge on any of the assets of the charity at the date of the statement of assets & liabilities

Declaration

The Trustees declare that they have approved the above report and authorise that it be signed on their behalf.

Signed 

Date 12 Nov 25



CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

Charity Name
Friends of Doncaster Mansion House

On accounts for the year ended

31/03/2025

Charity no
(if any)

1171398

Set out on pages

(ie current page and the page number of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2025.

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 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:

David W Theyers

Date:

17/5/2025

Name:

David W Theyers

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

CENG;M I Mech E

Address:

4 Hindburn Close

DN4

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.



Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

01.04.2024

To


31.03.2025

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Subscriptions	158	-	-	158	130
Bucket donations	327	-	-	327	296
Brochures	324	-	-	324	210
Raffle	-	-	-	-	-
JG Speaker fee	50	-	-	50	50
Other donations	373	-	-	373	562
Frenchgate Cetre School transport	-	-	-	-	300
Concert	606	-	-	606	-
Gift Aid	123	-	-	123	175
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	1,961	-	-	1,961	1,723
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	1,961	-	-	1,961	1,723
A3 Payments					
Insurance general	214	-	-	214	205
Mansion House Brochures	-	-	-	-	1,325
Clocks Advice and report	-	-	-	-	2,100
Web maintenance	87	-	-	87	87
Raffle license	20	-	-	20	20
Subscriptions	10	-	-	10	10
Christmas decorations	287	-	-	287	-
Room Hire	-	-	-	-	-
Pipers and Waites musicians	-	-	-	-	50
Plaque	-	-	-	-	-
Kings Picture Frame etc	-	-	-	-	97
Dance workshop	60	-	-	60	-
Sundries	16	-	-	16	112
Speakers' expenses	23	-	-	23	50
Bank charges	66	-	-	66	73
Sub total	783	-	-	783	4,129
A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	783	-	-	783	4,129
Net of receipts/(payments)	1,178	-	-	1,178	- 2,406
A5 Transfers between funds					
A6 Cash funds last year end	2,520	763	-	3,283	5,689
Cash funds this year end	3,698	763	-	4,461	3,283

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Current account	3,652	763	-
	Cash	46	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	3,698	763	-
(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))				
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds

B2 Other monetary assets	Details	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
			-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
		A Hunt	19.9.25	