

Friends of the Harris Garden - Chairmans's Report 2025

The Friends of the Harris Garden had an AGM on 29th January 2026. During the meeting the Chairman, Jordan Bilsborrow, highlighted the challenging circumstances that the Friends have found themselves in since the pandemic. Outlining the following key points:

- The Friends of the Harris Garden are no longer able to provide the benefits previously received by members, such as the Grassroots newsletter, garden open days and events (aside from BBC Gardener's Question time on 14 April 2024).
- As such, subscriptions are now deemed to be voluntary donations. The website has undergone an update to reflect this. It is expected that our income will begin to decrease accordingly. More substantive donations for the Harris Garden can be administered by the University of Reading.
- The University of Reading Grounds department have now taken the leading role in organising and giving appropriate support to the volunteers who work in the garden.
- Despite our best efforts, it has been difficult to recruit new members to the committee, and it is felt that running the charity is no longer sustainable.

It was therefore agreed at the AGM that the Friends of the Harris Garden will be wound up during 2026. The following proposal was made to the 20 attendees.

Dissolution of the Charity

It is proposed that in accordance with clause 29 of the Friends of the Harris Garden constitution that the Friends of the Harris Garden be dissolved in 2026. The trustees would hereby be authorised to take all necessary steps to wind up the charity's affairs and distribute the remaining assets in accordance with the dissolution clause.

The resolution will be enacted following the meeting either:

- a) By a resolution passed by a 75% majority of those voting, or
- b) By a resolution passed by decision taken without a vote and without any expression of dissent in response to the question put to the general meeting.

There were no expressions of dissent. It was therefore accepted that the trustees are responsible for wind up the charity in 2026.

Following the discussion for the dissolution of the Friends of the Harris Garden, the charity funds were discussed. It was proposed that the remaining funds (approximates) are allocated as follows:

Funding towards a permanent structure in the Outdoor Learning Garden (walled garden redevelopment)	£50,000
Funding committed towards plant orders in 2025 (not yet invoiced)	£1,947
Funding placed in the University of Reading Harris Garden account, only to be used to support the Harris Garden and volunteers	£9,719

This did not receive sufficient backing to pass. Clarification and guarantees around access to the Outdoor Learning Garden need to be sought. Reduced funding for the Outdoor Learning Garden was also discussed and therefore new proposals will be made to the membership in the first quarter of the year for a vote.

Jordan Bilsborrow, Friends of the Harris Garden - 30th January 2026

Income and Expenditure

	2024/2025	2023/2024
Income		
Subscriptions	£490	£490
Interest Lloyds deposit a/c	£545	£428
Donations (general)	£10	£103
Donations (legacy)	£0	£15,056
Income Total	£1,045	£16,077
Expenditure		
Transport		
Photocopying and Postage		
Refreshments	£84	£123
Plants	£0	£121
UoR costs		
Web Hosting	£36	£94
Affiliation fees	£65	£65
Auditor fee	£50	£100
Expenditure Total	£235	£502
Income - Expenditure	£809	£15,575

Balance Sheet

	2024/2025	2023/2024
Lloyds Current A/C		
Balance brought forward	£17,596	£846
Transfers from UoR	£0	£2,000
Payments/deposits	£108	£14,750
Transfer to Lloyds Saving a/c	£12,000	
Year end balance	£5,488	£17,596
Lloyds Savings A/C		
Balance brought forward	£40,656	£40,227
Transfer from Lloyds Current A/C	£12,000	
Interest Received	£545	£428
Year End Balance	£53,200	£40,655
University of Reading A/C		
Balance brought forward	£2,575	£4,177
Subscriptions	£373	£398
Transfer to Lloyds	£0	£2,000
Year end balance	£2,947	£2,575
Total assets	£61,636	£60,826
Total assets at year start	£60,826	£45,251
Income minus expenditure	£809	£15,575
Total assets at year end	£61,636	£60,826

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 15/12/2025