

THE GOLD FROM THE STONE FOUNDATION
TRUSTEES REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED MARCH 31 2025



The Gold from the Stone Foundation

Charity No. 1175167

**Trustees' Annual Report
& Unaudited Receipts and
Payments Accounts for the period
1st January 2024 to 31st March 2025**

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**THE GOLD FROM THE STONE FOUNDATION
REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION DETAILS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED MARCH 31 2025**

Charity Name: The Gold from the Stone Foundation

Registered Charity Number: 1175167

Trustees: Angela Samata (Chair)
Lemn Sissay
Parvinder Sohal
Alison Janet Shedlock
(joined 24 June 2024)
Kari Elan Anson (joined 9 Dec 2024)
Norman Terence Galloway
(joined 9 Dec 2024)
Matthew Sean Taylor
(joined 9 Dec 2024)

Charity's Principal Address: Room SL10
The Martin Harris Centre
The University of Manchester
Oxford Road
Manchester
M13 9PL

Independent Examiner Peter Smith BA FCA DChA
Peter Smith Accountancy Services
9 Polruan Rd
Chorlton
Manchester M21 9NR

Bankers: CAF Bank
25 Kings Hill Ave
Kings Hill
West Malling
ME19 4JQ

**THE GOLD FROM THE STONE FOUNDATION
TRUSTEES REPORT
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED MARCH 31 2025**

Structure, Governance and Management

Type of Governing Document:	Constitution
How the Charity is Constituted:	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee Selection Methods:	Trustees can only be appointed by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees.

Objectives and Activities

The Foundation's principle focus is the support of projects that help address the needs of young people who are, or have been, in care.

The Trustees have complied with section 2(1)(b) of the Charities Act 2011, having due regard for the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Foundation's aims and objectives, when setting the grant-making policy and in making awards.

The Foundation's main focus is offering support to individuals and agencies working to address the disadvantages faced by those in care and care experienced young adults. The Foundation's main focus is The Christmas Dinners. Founded in 2013, the Dinners are a nationwide initiative organised by teams of volunteers who come together to provide a magical, fun-filled day, complete with special presents and a scrumptious dinner on Christmas Day to care experienced young adults aged between 18 and 25. Each of the Dinners is independent of the Foundation, overseen a steering group of volunteers who come together to make a Dinner in their local community. The Foundation supports these teams to make their dreams a reality offering guidance, advice and support, networking opportunities and funding.

The founder of the Dinners, Lemn Sissay OBE says: 'Many care leavers are sat in flats, B&Bs and hostels, away from family, or sofa-surfing, and some are indeed living on the streets on their own at Christmas. Christmas is a reminder of everything they never had... I know because I've shared their experiences... But since 2013, thanks to passionate groups of volunteers supported by generous donations, we've been able to put on scrumptious Christmas meals and create a magical day to remember... The Christmas Dinners will be a life-changing and life-saving experience.'

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Achievements and Performance

There were twenty-four steering groups providing Christmas Dinners to 659 young care leavers from towns, cities and counties across England and Wales.

There were 218 volunteers working across the Dinners network in the steering committees, with an additional 309 volunteers on Christmas Day.

Our input and support resulted in local Dinner teams undertaking fundraising activity which raised a further £111,939 from groups and individuals local to their Dinners. This funding, plus the grants and support that the Foundation invested was in part used to cover Dinner costs such as transportation, food and gifts. As well as fundraising campaigns, many Dinners made use of online gift lists to secure some of the gifts for their Guests; the value of the gifts and food donated or purchased this year is estimated at £72,887. It should also be acknowledged that many of the Dinners received a considerable amount of support in kind, or benefited from significantly discounted (and in some cases, donated) food for the main meal.

While these figures are impressive, the key measure should be the experience of the Guests, and is perhaps best summarised with a few testimonials shared from volunteers from a few locations; from Barnsley: "The dinner was a huge success again this year for our 7th year running, the young people was filled with joy, interacting with each other and finding peace that they was not alone on Christmas Day"

From Bristol: "One young person who attended is a trans woman, and had asked for a wig for her Christmas gift. We wanted to get her something really special, and a member of the steering group managed to find a friend of a friend with a wig-making business for film and theatre. The wig-maker styled and donated a hand-sewn, human hair wig, which we wrapped and gave to our young person along with wig care materials purchased with some of our grant money. Our guest was so thrilled with her present, she said she couldn't believe it when she opened the box, and it was exactly what she had wanted but never thought she'd be able to own".

From Huddersfield: "All those in attendance enjoyed the day, and have shared this in their qualitative feedback. There was a fantastic atmosphere and a real Christmas spirit, thoroughly enjoyed by the participants and volunteers. The hampers and gifts handed out were greatly appreciated and well-received. A lot of smiles and laughter in the room. The event gave the young people an opportunity to come together and enjoy themselves, including those with young children."

**THE GOLD FROM THE STONE FOUNDATION
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FOR THE PERIOD ENDED MARCH 31 2025**

We should also acknowledge the immense contribution in time and energy made by the volunteers who acted as Dinner Steering Group members, as well as Helpers and Hosts.

Not all Dinners receive financial support from the Foundation, as many have become self-funding local projects, driven by volunteers in communities local to the people they serve. This is entirely in keeping with our ethos. While we don't provide funding to all the Dinners, we do provide networking, support, guidance and learning and development opportunities for Dinners to be a part of a wider community of care and support.

We continued to work closely with Quilts 4 Care Leavers, sharing contact information and leads in the run up to Christmas. Q4CL have their own support and supply agreements with each of the Dinners, which enables them to manage the logistics of distribution.

For a third year John Lewis/Waitrose worked with the Foundation through November and December to distribute hamper food for all the Dinner. Each of the Dinners was linked with a Waitrose/John Lewis in their locality and the goods were delivered on pallets to the stores. The Foundation made an offer to support the Dinners with any transport or storage costs that may arise from this arrangement, but none took up the offer.

Operational

Since the Foundation was established in 2017 the number of Dinners has continued to capture the imagination of people across the UK.

Following a year Simon Ruding stood down from his role as CEO of the Foundation in August 2024. He continued to work in a freelance capacity until December 2024, to support a smooth transition to interim consultant Sarah Sansom, who joined to support the transition, and facilitate a board development process, with the knowledge that in 2025 some of the trustees exceed their terms.

In December 2024 three new trustees joined the board; all professionals with lived experience of the care system. This development ensures that the charity's voice is informed by the lived experience with whom we aim to serve. This is an exciting development for the charity.

**THE GOLD FROM THE STONE FOUNDATION
TRUSTEES REPORT
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED MARCH 31 2025**

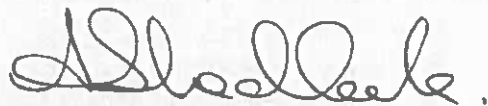
Financial Review

Reserves Policy

The reserves that we have set aside provide the means for the funding of our principal activity, The Christmas Dinners project, for one year. We intend to maintain our unrestricted reserves at a level which is at least equivalent to £30,000.

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees



Allison Shedlock - Trustee

Date: 22nd September 2025

**THE GOLD FROM THE STONE FOUNDATION
INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED MARCH 31 2025**

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the period January 1st 2024 to 31st March 2025, set out on the next page.

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").

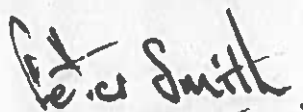
I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention 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.



Peter Smith BA FCA DChA
Peter smith Accountancy Services
9 Polruan Road
Chorlton
Manchester M21 9NR

Date: 11/09/25

**THE GOLD FROM THE STONE FOUNDATION
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS
FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1 2024 TO MARCH 31 2025**

	Unrestricted to the nearest £	Restricted to the nearest £	Endowment to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	2023 to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Individual Donations	23,769	-	-	23,769	18,163
Company Donations	-	8,000	-	8,000	27,039
Trusts & Foundations	-	11,600	-	11,600	-
Refunded Grants	7,800	-	-	7,800	1,135
Other	-	-	-	-	7,800
Bank Interest	167	-	-	167	162
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for	31,736	17,600	-	49,336	53,999
A2 Asset and Investment sales,					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	31,736	17,600	-	49,336	53,999
A3 Payments					
Christmas Dinners	40,000	-	-	40,000	41,790
General Management	-	-	-	-	3,013
Staff cost	9,698	-	-	9,698	-
Fees & consultancy	28,831	-	-	28,831	18,818
Accuracy fees	1,848	-	-	1,848	-
Marketing & Communications	2,706	-	-	2,706	-
Other Costs	3,638	-	-	3,638	1,767
charged to restricted funds	31,769	31,769	-	-	-
Sub total	65,648	31,769	-	97,416	63,388
A4 Asset and Investment					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	65,648	31,769	-	97,416	63,388
Net of receipts/(payments)	23,810	14,280	-	38,170	8,400
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	80,813	18,260	-	99,073	78,373
Cash funds this year end	28,703	8,000	-	31,703	88,873

THE GOLD FROM THE STONE FOUNDATION
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT MARCH 31 2025

		Unrestricted to nearest £	Restricted to nearest £	Endowment to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Bank Balance	28,703	5,000	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	28,703	5,000	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))			
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Grants returned	2,200	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities		Fund to which	Amount due	When due
			-	-
			-	-

Approved by the trustees on September 22, 2025
 And signed on their behalf by:

Allison Shedlock - Trustee

