



Growing Community Wellbeing

Annual report and Accounts 31st March 2025

Charity's principal address: Summers Road
Godalming
Surrey
GU7 3BF

Trustees: Helen Farmer (Chair)
Dr Martin Brunet
Deepa Craig
Dr Karen Jones

Aims and Objectives

Farncombe Community Garden is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). The charitable objectives are stated in its constitution: -

To provide facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation by providing an area for use as a community garden for individuals in Farncombe and the surrounding area who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances or for the public at large in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving the condition of life of the said inhabitants.

Farncombe Community Garden is an ambitious project which aims to bring the local community together in the creation of a vibrant, beautiful, productive, and wildlife-friendly garden. It will be inclusive to all, seeking to share the health and well-being benefits of the outdoors, connecting people more closely to the natural world on our doorstep and encouraging community cohesion as individuals of all ages and backgrounds work together towards a common goal.

Vision and Mission

The project vision is to establish a working community garden within Farncombe for all the local residents to benefit from, whether it is through taking up gardening for the first time to aid recovery from a physical or mental health problem, finding purpose by volunteering in support

of the project, enjoying passing on a passion for gardening to others, or in education as people of all ages are encouraged to learn about horticulture and the importance of encouraging and supporting wildlife in an urban environment.

In planning the charity's activities the trustees have regarded the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Organisational Structure

As well as the four trustees to oversee and give strategic direction to the project, there is a management team who meet regularly consisting of 6 volunteers with different areas of expertise.

The garden is run entirely by volunteers, who donate their time, skills and expertise to make the garden a welcoming, beautiful space for everyone to enjoy and learn from. We are very grateful for their support and commitment without which the garden would not exist.

Achievements and performance

The third year of the charity continued to be productive and transformative, both in terms of the site and also in promoting the garden to a wider audience. Over 100 different people have visited the garden over the past year and we are also increasing our numbers of regular visitors.

During the third year of the charity the key activities were as follows: -

- Erecting a building, the Lambert Lodge, named in memory of a long-serving local district nurse. The addition of the building will provide a warm space for people in the colder months, extend the range of activities we can offer, and provide income opportunities to help fund the garden's activities;
- Developing growing areas by installing more raised beds, preparing space for a cut flower garden, and adding an espalier walk formed with fruit trees;
- Developing a pond area to benefit wildlife and provide other opportunities for people to interact with and appreciate nature;
- Creating a fire pit area with seating to extend the opportunities for social activities;
- Hosting Broadwater School's bee hives on the site to support their educational programme and our wildlife;
- Continuing to promote the garden through local fairs, articles, talks and events so that numbers of visitors and regular volunteers continues to increase;
- Increasing our regular gardening sessions to 3 per week year-round, with 4 sessions during the summer.
- Holding our second open day which attracted 289 people including families and the local Mayors.

Our key achievements were as follow:-

We continued our out-reach activities and extended our links with local organisations including local uniform groups, local schools, the Surrey Youth Justice Service, National Autism Society,

Learning Spaces, Meath Epilepsy Charity. The garden was also used for forest-bathing sessions for unpaid carers, through an initiative by Roots for the Future. Through these partnerships we ensured that some of the most vulnerable people in the local area are accessing and benefiting from the garden. One example is someone who previously did not go out at all, but now attends a weekly garden session after encouragement from their family. Another example, is someone with autism who couldn't find a suitable 'fit' elsewhere for volunteering activities, who is now a regular visitor and expresses their enthusiasm for the project.

We also continued to promote volunteering and continued to host a number of Duke of Edinburgh student volunteers.

The building has been the most significant addition to the garden and was completed in March 2025 by Nordic Room. This space has been designed with accessibility in mind, and will allow us to have a warm, sheltered space to offer our visitors. We are grateful for the public support we received for this project, and for the grant funding from Your Fund Surrey plus a donation from the Broadwater Lodge care home, which enabled this amazing space to be realised. The prominence of the building has helped to raise our public profile, and will certainly help to increase our visitor numbers, and the scope of what we can do.

We also won 'Best Community Garden' in the Godalming in Bloom awards in 2024.

We conducted our second survey of garden attendees in Spring 2025. Respondents ranged in age group, gender and employment status.

People responded that they are learning new gardening skills and that the garden is a good source of knowledge. The survey highlighted that people want to know more about future plans and progress on projects. Activities around creative projects were also suggested.

Future Plans

Over the next year our aims are to achieve the following:

- Finish developing the wildlife pond;
- Develop the wood-working area and associated workshops to offer different learning opportunities for people to engage with the garden;
- Try and ensure that the garden is used most days during the week and that the building is fully utilised and supports our charitable objectives;
- Continue to work towards making the site accessible for all – install more seating around the site, and provide clear signage;
- Continue to develop the annual plan of activities for the garden;
- Continue to develop links with other local charities, schools and services, and involve the wider community through workshops and events;
- Continue to evidence the impact of what we do, evaluating and continually improving.

Challenges may include:

- Trying to ensure a wide range of people can access the garden – this will be helped by developing our partnerships;

- the successful recruitment and retention of Lead Volunteers so that we can maintain and extend our opening;
- Ensuring that the necessary skills/expertise is available to meet high needs groups/individuals – this may mean employing a qualified professional, and volunteer training.

Financial Review

The charity received grants from the Your Fund Surrey grants programme which was supported by Cllr Penny Rivers; and donations from the Denningburg Centre, Gorrings Funeral Directors and Waitrose.

We also received fruit tree donations from the Surrey County Council Tree Grant scheme for the espalier walk. The garden also benefitted from volunteer time, plants and seeds from Network Rail and Octavius and their staff.

We have been fortunate to receive wonderful support from local organisations, including Squires through their 'Love where you live' scheme.

Donations were also received from individuals through various initiatives, including a sponsored walk undertaken by a volunteer, a quiz night, plant sales and a wreath-making workshop.

The garden has managed to build up unrestricted reserves to cover running costs for at least 6 months.

This report was approved by the trustees on 25/9/25 and signed on their behalf by:

H. Farmer

Helen Farmer
(Chair of Trustees)

FARNCOMBE COMMUNITY GARDEN**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT****TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE FARNCOMBE COMMUNITY GARDEN**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Farncombe Community garden (the charity) for the period to 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 as set out on pages 6 to 7.

Responsibilities and basis of report

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The Charity's trustees consider an audit is not required for this financial period under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- To follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met: or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

P. I. Vickerman. 30/09/2025

P I Vickerman FCA
Practising Accountant
31a Nightingale Road
Godalming
Surrey
GU7 2HP

Receipts and payments accounts

Year to 31st March 2025

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	TOTAL FUNDS	2024
	£	£	£	£
RECEIPTS				
Income from operations - Workshops	-	-	-	886
Grants	-	103,300	103,300	47,931
Donations	10,157	599	10,756	3,131
Fundraising events	3,280	-	3,280	2,342
Bank interest	443	-	443	167
Other income	60	-	60	-
Total receipts	13,939	103,899	117,838	54,458
PAYMENTS				
Buildings/ Structures	-	122,047	122,047	20,036
Groundworks	-	-	-	64,789
Landscaping	-	2,566	2,566	9,146
Planning and Other legal	145	2,963	3,108	1,094
Garden equipment and running costs	1,085	5,783	6,867	1,479
Fundraising costs	775	-	775	284
Administration, marketing and insurance	2,520	790	3,310	225
Total payments	4,525	134,149	138,674	97,054
Net of receipts/(payments)	9,414	(30,250)	(20,836)	(42,596)
Cash funds brought forward	3,931	38,901	42,832	85,428
Cash funds carried forward	13,345	8,651	21,996	42,832

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31st March 2025

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	TOTAL FUNDS
	£	£	£
Assets			
Cash at bank	13,345	8,651	21,996
Total	13,345	8,651	21,996
Liabilities			
Amounts due in respect of rent to Surrey County Council	282	-	282
Total	282	-	282

The notes on page 7 form part of these financial statements.

Approved by the trustees on 25/9/25 and signed on their behalf by:

Name: H. Farmer

Notes to the Financial Statements

31st March 2025

1. Fixed assets

Assets are only capitalised when future income or cost reduction from their acquisition can be identified. Sundry equipment is written off in the year of acquisition.

In the year the Garden acquired a Community Building which will enhance existing and increase the facilities.

	£
Cost of Building (excluding planning, construction and services)	84,050

2. Restricted Fund Analysis

	Balance B/fwd	Total received in 2024/5	Total Expenditure £	Balance C/f £
Postcode Society Trust	1,555		(1,555)	-
Community Foundation for Surrey	27		(27)	-
Donation from individual	30,000		(17,010)	12,990
Royal Horticultural Society - Connected Communities Network	4,564	-	(4,453)	111
Waitrose - Young people/food production grant	-	1,000	-	1,000
Assura - Pond dipping platform	1,893	-	(1,893)	-
Donations from individuals - sensory garden & plants	862	349	(1,211)	-
Donations from individuals - pond plants		250		250
Your Fund Surrey		102,300	(108,000)	(5,700)
	<u>38,901</u>	<u>103,899</u>	<u>(134,149)</u>	<u>8,651</u>
Buildings	30,000	102,300	(125,010)	7,290
Compost Toilet	27		(27)	-
Senses Garden	862	349	(1,211)	-
Pond Development	1,893	250	(2,143)	250
Connected Communities Network	4,564	-	(4,453)	111
Unspecified	1,555	1,000	(1,555)	1,000
	<u>38,901</u>	<u>103,899</u>	<u>134,399</u>	<u>8,651</u>

3. Related Party Transactions

In the year, Trustees made donations of £342 (2024: £100).

4. Gifts in Kind

In the year, goods received or services provided to the garden with a value of £300 were provided to the garden free of charge.

Cost of Building (excluding planning, construction and services)		£	
		84,050	
1. Restricted Fund Analysis		Total received in 2024/25	
		Total Expenditure	
		Balance B/fwd	
Postcode Society Trust		1,252	
(1,252)			
Community Foundation for Surrey		17	
(17)			
Donation from individual		30,000	
(17,010)			
Royal Horticultural Society - Connected Communities Network		4,504	
(4,452)			
Waitrose - Young people/food production grant		1,000	
Aesara - Pond dipping platform		1,893	
(1,893)			
Donations from individuals - sensory garden & plants		862	
(1,311)			
Donations from individuals - pond plants		350	
You Fund Surrey		102,300	
(108,000)			
Buildings		30,000	
(152,010)			
Compost Toilet		17	
(17)			
Sensory Garden		862	
(1,311)			
Pond Development		1,893	
(5,143)			
Connected Communities Network		4,504	
(4,452)			
Unspecified		1,252	
(1,252)			
		38,901	
		103,899	
		174,399	