

THREADS IN THE GROUND

England & Wales · Charity number 1204411

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2023-08-21

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

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Whitley Bay
Tyne And Wear
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Activities

Objects: TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN THE CONSERVATION OF THE PHYSICAL AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE, BY CURATING AND DELIVERING PUBLIC CREATIVE ACTIVITY PROJECTS INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO PUBLIC WORKSHOPS AND THEATRE PERFORMANCES.

Activities: We are a climate hope organisation - unearthing powerful climate stories to help more people be good ancestors. Our goal is to engage 8 million people in climate hope by 2030. We do this through arts, culture and education focused activity with communities. Our programme ranges from the world's first fungal sculpture trail, to a volunteer-led sustainable feast series.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Throughout England

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£46,864	£45,035	-	-
2024-03-31	£11,380	£7,971	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Thomas Gerald Agar	Chair	2023-08-21
Anisa Saleh		2023-08-21
Anna Victoria Disley		2023-08-21
Bhavisha Kukadia-Moran		2023-08-21
Julia Rawlins		2023-08-21
Miki Yasha Lentin		2023-08-21
Scott McFarlane Liddell		2023-08-21
Stuart Macalister		2023-08-21

THREADS IN THE GROUND

England & Wales - Charity number 1204411

Accounts

Charity registration number 1204411 (England and Wales)

THREADS IN THE GROUND CIO
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

THREADS IN THE GROUND CIO

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees

Thomas Gerald Agar
Anna Victoria Disley
Miki Yasha Lentin
Anisa Saleh
Stuart Macalister
Julia Rawlins
Bhavisha Kukadia-Moran
Scott McFarlane Liddell

Charity registration

England and Wales 1204411

Independent examiner

RMT Accountants & Business Advisors Ltd
Finchale House
Belmont Business Park
Durham
DH1 1TW

THREADS IN THE GROUND CIO

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THREADS IN THE GROUND CIO

CHAIR'S STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The hardest album for any new brand is its second. As the freedom, freshness and novelty of the first release recedes into the rear-view mirror, it is replaced by the hard graft of growth and increasing expectations from outside.

The challenges of the second year of any new charitable organisation are similar. The truly hard work has begun, as teams settle into a pattern of regular delivery, and attempt to drive towards a vision with consistency when the world around is changing. The day-to-day realities of funding applications, resource limitations, and time constraints, begin to bite. Dreams must be shaped by deliverability.

It is for this reason that I am immensely proud of our second year in operation. To have already begun to make a mark on communities in the north-east and beyond, to have delivered tangible outputs and impact towards our mission of engaging 8 million people in climate hope, is testament to the hard work, creativity and passion of our Director, Adam, and to the generosity and support of our partners and supporters, and the guidance of our Board of Trustees.

Our revenue growth from £11,000 in 2023/24 to £44,000 in 2024/25 is a leap in scale. We're delighted to have the confidence of funders like the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and the Tyne and Wear Community Foundation, alongside organisations who have commissioned our work - all of this within a hugely challenging economic context. This support has enabled us to work more closely with communities around the North East - questioning, challenging and co-creating ambitious climate hope work.

This year has underlined the importance and power of climate hope in stimulating real engagement, creativity, and play. Participants across our programme have told us that our way of working has made them feel heard, motivated, and actively involved in shaping the future. We are seeing these ideas and messages cutting through - this is our 2nd year that Threads in the Ground work has been covered in national media, including The Guardian, various BBC programmes and many more.

Our mission, never completely static but always our guide, has helped us to be responsive when possible, and firm and decisive when needed.

Our second album has been a pleasure to work on. We hope you like it.

.....

Tom Agar

Chair of the board of Trustees

Date: 11 March 2026

THREADS IN THE GROUND CIO

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (Effective 1 January 2019).

Objectives and activities

Threads in the Ground is a climate hope organisation. We unearth powerful stories to help more people be good ancestors.

Mission:

To help 8 million more people to think and talk about climate change in hopeful, playful ways by 2030.

Our Programme:

We build our work around a set of chosen themes, some of the main deliverers of the climate and biodiversity crises, and fertile ground for storytelling and engagement.

Our programme themes are: Carbon heritage; Built environment; Food systems; and human connections to nature.

From these themes we have built a programme under 3 standards:

1. Carbon heritage: creative projects and commissions which diversify understanding of our living carbon heritage - the cultures and systems humans have built around extraction and burning of fossil fuels.
2. Food Futures: communal exploration and experimentation with the ideas and technology which are shaping the new food systems humans will build in our lifetimes.
3. Mushroom Sculpt: communities and schools playing and sculpting with bio materials. They gain a deeper understanding of our connections to nature and the impact of the built environment.

Public benefit

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

THREADS IN THE GROUND CIO

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Our Values

Good Ancestors: The climate crisis will play out for thousands of years. What we do (or don't do) right now will echo and echo, louder and louder for each generation that comes after us. This means we are powerful, and we are privileged. Let's honour that, let's be good ancestors.

Hopeful Action: Fear isn't a good motivator. People have lots of different drivers, different things they find rewarding. We can make climate action inspiring and accessible. that is the best way to mushroom climate action.

Creativity and playfulness are key: Creative work (books, theatre, music, art...) help us make sense of the world. We feel good art on a deeper level than thought. We can sit alongside people we disagree with, both enjoy and come away changed by it. Creative work will help us explore our climate futures.

Non-ego: The need to feel right, to win the argument, to get credit.... there are a lot of unhelpful (and very human!) emotions and drivers around climate work. We work at believing that Threads is the least important part of everything we do. We want the focus to be on communities we work with.

Long-term Commitment: When we offer to work with a community, we commit to a long-term relationship lasting many years. Proper impact takes time and care and collaboration.

Curiosity: We think that being Good Ancestors requires curiosity. Curiosity pointed at the difficult and uncomfortable stuff - including how we're doing, what we could be getting better at. All our best work and learning comes from the work that is curiosity.

Achievements and performance

Significant activities and achievements against objectives

- Created the world's first book shop "grown" from bookshop waste
- Approximately 3,000 people experienced The Mushroom Sculpt sculpture installations, created with children and young people at 3 different schools in the North East
- Commissioned by Sunderland Culture House to create a new community- designed mycelium sculpture for Sunderland
- Threads delivered talks and workshops at events including the Urban Green Festival, Festival of Thrift, and No Time For Waste, for approximately 400 people
- Ancestral Reverb was commissioned by the Durham Miner's Association. A draft of the audio piece was premiered at the Durham Book Festival,
- Coverage of Ancestral Reverb included The Guardian, BBC Radio 4, BBC news, ITV Tyne Tees, and many more,
- An excerpt of Ancestral Reverb with an accompanying film was screened to open the Net Zero North East conference
- The Joseph Rowntree Foundation supported us with unrestricted grant funding, expected to develop into long term collaboration and financial support.
- We were delighted and grateful to receive the support of the Community Foundation North East, as well as an invitation for our Director, Adam, to speak at their annual conference.

THREADS IN THE GROUND CIO

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Progress towards our goal

We are guided by our goal to help 8 million more people to think and talk about climate change in hopeful, playful ways by 2030. This ranges from in-depth work with small groups and communities, right up to re-shaping our national narrative - this year has seen success in both. We have worked with 100s of participants across the region, and the work we have co-produced has been platformed to audiences of millions through national media outlets.

"It's been a real highlight working with Threads in the Ground through our regional work. Their approach to transitions - centred on climate hope, creativity and community - balances urgency with deep care. Their inclusive approach to bringing people with different perspectives together to explore what climate hope can mean has opened powerful new conversations across the region.

We're so grateful for their thought leadership, creativity and partnership in shaping hopeful futures for the North East"

- Victoria Hughes, Associate Director, Joseph Rowntree Foundation

"The imagination-expanding Threads in the Ground hosted a welcoming, open, engaging, nurturing and thoughtful workshop. They encouraged participants to design & share ideas about the sculptures shape, materials, purpose, social value & location. It was genuine community consultation at its best. A rare refreshing beast."

- Katy, Mushroom Sculpt Participant

Mushroom Sculpt

Mushroom Sculpt is our programme of sculpture trails and installations grown from bio materials. We collaborate with schools and community groups to design and grow the mushroom sculpt pieces - each project is unique, exploring the stories and ideas that are important to its participants.

National Trust commission

Threads in the Ground has been commissioned by the National Trust to deliver a Mushroom Sculpt programme - testing the methodology in 3 different education settings: a specialist autism school, a primary school and Durham 6th Form. Each institution will design and grow their own sculpture trail, each to be hosted at a different National Trust site. The learning from the project will feed into the creation of a new set of NT / Threads co-branded digital resources.

Blackhall / No more Nowt Commission

No More Nowt commissioned us to run a series of workshops at Blackhall Community Centre to design and grow a mycelium installation in the centre garden. The participants created a miniature Blackhall village, which was gently nestled amongst the bushes by participants at a candle-lit evening.

Sunderland Culture House Commission

Culture House is a new £27m cultural hub in the city of Sunderland, and home to the city library. The new building is due to open in 2026. The CH team commissioned a series of artists and organisations to deliver work that would showcase the kind of cultural activity Culture House will host when open. Threads in the Ground were specifically invited to apply for this programme.

We were commissioned to run a series of public workshops in Sunderland to co-design a sculpture. The concept was for something made from 25 pieces, representing each of Sunderland's 25 electoral wards. The concept developed with community participants was for a sculpture representing a ring of railway sleepers, which will eventually be embedded in a community garden.

The Sculpture is due for completion in mid 2025.

THREADS IN THE GROUND CIO

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

We created the world's first fungal book shop, grown from bookshop waste. This was a collaboration between Threads in the Ground and lots of 'mushroom curious' members of the wonderful North East Community.

We were chatting with the manager of The Bound independent book shop in Whitley Bay. They told us that their small bookshop has to recycle 2 tonnes(2 rhinos!) of waste cardboard boxes every month.

That left us thinking - how can we make this into a hopeful climate conversation - one that embraces the real life challenges of consumerism. Well, we'd built some stuff from mycelium mixed with hemp already. so could fungify some cardboard instead?

Cardboard is a brilliant material, and recycling is great. Way better than making things from new. But recycling isn't magic, it still has a cost. Pulping and reforming those 2 rhinos emits about 800kg of CO2. This is a good example of how climate action is complicated, and requires a total re-think of all systems, processes and technologies.

We have been collecting binned bookshop cardboard and collaborating with people around the region to grow and craft an immersive mycelial space where you can contemplate beautiful and hopeful ideas of climate change and action. The mushroom bookroom is a space to read, to think, to play, and to chat climate hope - our connections to nature; capitalism and waste; and the unique ancestral power we hold by being alive in this crucial climate moment.

The Mushroom Bookroom was visited by over 1,800 member of the public on it's opening weekend at the biscuit Factory. The structure is now available for loan and has appeared at the Booksellers Association Conference and the Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art. We continue to design and grow additional shelves and features for this living structure.

Future Foods

Our Future Foods programme is a volunteer-led exploration of food futures. We work with volunteers to co-create public feasts and workshops, home meals, and discussion: all exploring the changing shape of our food systems.

The Future Foods project has been designed following our research and conversations with organisations including Sustainable Food Trust, WePlanet, Newcastle University and more.

Our first pilot of Future Foods was run in partnership with the Festival of Thrift. We worked with the Festival of Thrift to recruit 10 volunteers from across Teeside and the wider area. We ran a series of workshops and training days for the volunteers, introducing them to emerging ideas and discussions around sustainable food, and even took the for a rare tour at the Quorn factory in Billingham.

We then supported the volunteers to plan and host their own meals - most hosted in their homes, but some at community centres and a church hall. Each meal explored a different theme or idea of food sustainability. The volunteers were involved in designing engagement workshops hosted at their Festival of Thrift.

The workshop included Sustainable Sausage: participants use an array of ingredients to stuff their own sausage to take home and eat. Their options of protein include Quorn, beans, or... crickets; and Future Mocktail: participants created reimagined classic mocktails using abundant seasonal British ingredients such as brambles and courgette.

THREADS IN THE GROUND CIO

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Carbon Heritage

"Carbon Heritage" is more than billions of tonnes of coal our families have burnt into the atmosphere.

It's more than the generations of innovation and engineering, the train-tacks, engines, and wealth. It's the remembered feel of granda's callouses, the tobacco and dust smell. It's the coal feel of the trumpet mouth-piece on your lips. It's the generations of campaigning and demonstration that built our civil rights.

It's more than that. It's what we inherit. It's what we're doing now, what we pass on. So what is your carbon heritage?

Threads in the Ground was invited to become the first ever "Artist residence" at Redhills - the pitmans parliament and home of the Durham Miner's Association. Redhills reopened in 2025 after 4 decades of lying dormant, and we were deeply privileged to have the opportunity to take time and space to explore ideas of Carbon Heritage and how Redhills can unearth and tell these stories.

Through the residency, our Director, Adam Cooper, spent time meeting and interviewing Redhills staff, board, and volunteers; retired mine workers and their families, academics, and members of the wider Redhills community.

From the residency we have developed the Ancestral Reverb project - an exploration of Carbon Heritage through sound and words. Drawings on archival recordings of the colliery brass bands, interviews with miners and their families, and digitally captured mine reverb. We plan to release the Ancestral Reverb sound piece in winter 2025.

Financial review

During the year we raised income of £43,785 (2024: £11,380) and spent £41,982 (2024: £7,971) on our work. This resulted in an unrestricted surplus for the year of £1,803 (2024: £3,409). The unrestricted reserves to carry forward into 2026 is £5,212.

We projected in 2023/24 that our income would dramatically rise year-on-year, with a mix of income from grants, commissions and earned income through product and event sales and training.

Our most significant grant income for 2024/25 was £15,000 from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, and of £5,000 from the Tyne and Wear Community Foundation. We have very good relationships with both of these funders, so hope for their continued support.

We had a particularly strong year for commission income. With a commission of £10,000 from the National Trust, £8,000 from the Durham Miners' Association, and £5,000 from the Festival of Thrift. Unlike Grant income, it is far less likely that commissions are repeated. Though we expect to continue attracting commissions from new clients.

We will not quadruple income again in 2025-26. It is difficult to predict the timings of increased support from grant funders and larger commissioning opportunities, but based on conversations with funders and commissioning partners and our consistent national press interest we do predict Threads will reach a £100,000 income threshold around 2027.

The main financial risks of Threads in the Ground are our ability to consistently achieve fundraising targets. We are a micro-organisation currently, with no fixed core expenditure. This means failure to achieve fundraising targets results primarily in reduction or pause in project delivery. Our goal is to secure multi-year core funding to establish a regular staff team.

We have an ambitious plan for growth, and warm conversations with multiple significant funders.

Our financial processes and procedures will develop as the organisation grows, stewarded by Scott Liddell, Trustee.

Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

THREADS IN THE GROUND CIO

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Reserves policy

Reserves are those funds not invested in fixed assets and designated to restricted funds. It is Charity Commission guidance on best practice that a reserves policy is reviewed annually in line with budget setting based on salary and accommodation overheads for a three-month period.

We are a young organisation which has not yet reached its stable size and model. We are working towards developing reserves of £8,000 - approximate level of funds required to maintain activity for 3 months.

Structure, governance and management

Threads in the Ground is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), first registered on 21 August 2023, and has a constitution as its governing document.

The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Thomas Gerald Agar

Anna Victoria Disley

Miki Yasha Lentin

Anisa Saleh

Stuart Macalister

Julia Rawlins

Bhavisha Kukadia-Moran

Scott McFarlane Liddell

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

Our founding board of Trustees were recruited through a public campaign, stewarded by our founding Chair, Tom Agar, along with Director Adam Cooper, supported by Anna Disley of New Writing North.

The board of Trustees meets regularly. The Trustees are a highly skilled and experienced group from a diverse range of backgrounds.

Each Trustee has worked 1:1 with the Director on at least 1 initiative, ranging from support with project design, developing policies, fundraising, and establishing a communications plan.

Board meetings are run digitally, with Trustees joining from across the UK and internationally.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Thomas Gerald Agar

Chair of Trustees

11 March 2026

THREADS IN THE GROUND CIO

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THREADS IN THE GROUND CIO

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Threads In The Ground CIO (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011.

Independent examiner's statement

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared the financial statements in accordance with the relevant version of the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn. I understand that this has been done in order for the financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Charities Act 2011.
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of financial statements set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the financial statements give a true and fair view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

David Holloway BA Hons FCA DChA
RMT Accountants & Business Advisors Ltd
Finchale House
Belmont Business Park
Durham
DH1 1TW

19 March 2026

THREADS IN THE GROUND CIO

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Income from:					
Charitable activities	2	23,785	20,000	43,785	11,000
Other trading activities	3	-	-	-	380
Total income		<u>23,785</u>	<u>20,000</u>	<u>43,785</u>	<u>11,380</u>
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	4	21,982	20,000	41,982	7,971
Total expenditure		<u>21,982</u>	<u>20,000</u>	<u>41,982</u>	<u>7,971</u>
Net income and movement in funds		1,803	-	1,803	3,409
Reconciliation of funds:					
Fund balances at 1 April 2024		<u>3,409</u>	-	<u>3,409</u>	-
Fund balances at 31 March 2025		<u>5,212</u>	-	<u>5,212</u>	<u>3,409</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

THREADS IN THE GROUND CIO

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025 £	£	2024 £	£
Current assets					
Cash at bank and in hand		5,212		3,409	
		<u>5,212</u>		<u>3,409</u>	
Net current assets			5,212		3,409
			<u>5,212</u>		<u>3,409</u>
The funds of the charity					
Unrestricted funds	10		5,212		3,409
			<u>5,212</u>		<u>3,409</u>
			<u>5,212</u>		<u>3,409</u>

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 11 March 2026

Thomas Gerald Agar
Chair of Trustees

THREADS IN THE GROUND CIO

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Threads In The Ground CIO is a charitable incorporated organisation registered in England and Wales.

1.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (Effective 1 January 2019). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The CIO was incorporated in August 2023, therefore the prior period is a shorter period as such the comparative amounts presented in the financial statements (including the related notes) are not entirely comparable

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared using the cash basis of accounting.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

1.4 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

2 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Climate hope						
Grants	-	20,000	20,000	5,000	-	5,000
Commissions	23,785	-	23,785	6,000	-	6,000
	<u>23,785</u>	<u>20,000</u>	<u>43,785</u>	<u>11,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,000</u>

THREADS IN THE GROUND CIO

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

2 Income from charitable activities (Continued)

Performance related grants analysis

	Climate hope 2025 £
Joseph Rowntree Foundation	15,000
Community Foundation North East	5,000
	20,000
	20,000

3 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Earned income	-	380
	-	380
	-	380

4 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Climate hope 2025 £	Climate hope 2024 £
Direct costs		
Staff costs	30,248	5,940
Creator costs	3,775	827
Materials	3,660	697
Equipment	677	-
Marketing and communications	723	-
Research	7	-
Travel	405	-
	39,495	7,464
Share of support and governance costs (see note 5)		
Support	2,487	507
	41,982	7,971
	41,982	7,971
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	21,982	7,971
Restricted funds	20,000	-
	41,982	7,971
	41,982	7,971

THREADS IN THE GROUND CIO

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

5 Support costs allocated to activities

	2025	2024
	£	£
Insurance	152	-
IT and subscriptions	1,479	430
Other	442	77
Print	294	-
Training and development	120	-
	<u>2,487</u>	<u>507</u>
Analysed between:		
Climate hope	<u>2,487</u>	<u>507</u>

6 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any expenses, remuneration or benefits from the charity during the current or prior year.

7 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2025	2024
	Number	Number
Total	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

Employment costs

	2025	2024
	£	£
Consultants	<u>30,248</u>	<u>5,940</u>

No staff are employed within the CIO, costs are for consultants only.

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

8 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

THREADS IN THE GROUND CIO

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

9 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 April 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£
Community Foundation North East	-	5,000	(5,000)	-
Joseph Rowntree Fund	-	15,000	(15,000)	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>20,000</u>	<u>(20,000)</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>20,000</u></u>	<u><u>(20,000)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>

Community Foundation North East

The grant was receivable to cover directors salary costs.

Joseph Rowntree Foundation

The grant was receivable to cover project costs which will focus on R&D with miners and their families, understanding their carbon heritage past and supporting future action to support green transitions.

10 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 April 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£
General funds	3,409	23,785	(21,982)	5,212
	<u>3,409</u>	<u>23,785</u>	<u>(21,982)</u>	<u>5,212</u>
Previous year:	At 1 April 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£
General funds	-	11,380	(7,971)	3,409
	<u>-</u>	<u>11,380</u>	<u>(7,971)</u>	<u>3,409</u>
	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>11,380</u></u>	<u><u>(7,971)</u></u>	<u><u>3,409</u></u>

11 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2024 - none).

THREADS IN THE GROUND

England & Wales - Charity number 1204411

Accounts

THREADS IN THE GROUND

Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Charity Number: 1204411

Annual Report

August 2023 - March 2024

We are Threads in the Ground

This is our first ever Annual Report.

Enjoy.

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Reference And Administrative Details

Threads in the Ground, a Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Trustees:

Anisa Saleh, Trustee & Safeguarding Lead, (Appointed 21 August 2023)

Anna Victoria Disley, Trustee, (Appointed 21 August 2023)

Bhavisha Kukadia-Moran, Trustee, (Appointed 21 August 2023)

Julia Rawlins, Trustee, (Appointed 21 August 2023)

Miki Yasha Lentin, Trustee, (Appointed 21 August 2023)

Scott McFarlane Liddell, Secretary, (Appointed 21 August 2023)

Stuart Macalister, Trustee, (Appointed 21 August 2023)

Thomas Gerald Agar, Chair, (Appointed 21 August 2023)

Charity Registered Number: 1204411

Registered Office: Whitley Bay Big Local, 158 Whitley Road, Whitley Bay, Tyne And Wear, NE26 2LY

Company Secretary: Scott McFarlane Liddell

Chief Executive Officer: Adam Cooper

Bankers: The Co-operative Bank, 131 - 135 Northumberland St, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 7AG

Chair's Statement

Building a new charity or company from scratch is a challenge, especially when its purpose is to make a major contribution towards addressing the most urgent crisis in modern human history.

Threads in the Ground was established as a new type of response to the climate emergency. Our approach will use creativity, play, and above all, hope to engage 8 million people across the UK and beyond in climate change, helping them to become good ancestors and spur their own communities into action. Our work will engage many with issues around climate for the first time, while for others it will deepen their creativity and confidence, helping forge climate leaders of the future.

We've made excellent initial progress in our first year. We've brought together a talented board of trustees to guide our progress and growth. We've established Threads as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) to ensure our mission remains our motivation in the future. Our new Impact Framework will help us measure our progress towards our goals.

Through exploration and testing we've refined our mission and objectives, and started delivering an emerging programme of activity with children and communities across the North East. While the delivery has been rooted in local communities, our message has begun to be amplified to a national audience. Our activities have included:

- Mushroom Sculpt trail co-created by the 200 children of Rockcliffe First School, their teachers and parents
- The Mushroom Bookroom, with the support and technical expertise of our Trustee Stuart MacAlister
- Starting our Carbon Heritage residency with Redhills CIO, a privilege for Threads as their first "artist in residence" organisation
- A new partnership with the Festival of Thrift around Warm Grain, our sustainable food futures programme
- National and regional media coverage via BBC Online, Look North, and BBC Radio Newcastle

None of this would have happened without the support of New Writing North, our core partner whose support has been invaluable. We are also hugely grateful to programme partners Redhills and Festival of Thrift.

Threads in the Ground really has just begun. We have put in place important foundations for our growth next year that will see us broker new partnerships, expand our reach, and engage larger numbers of people. This is going to begin with a long-term partnership with the National Trust early next year.

We will secure further core support to allow us to build our team of producers, coordinators, partners, and volunteers, helping us to expand and scale activities rapidly and sustainably.

Our ambitious project plans, centered on powerful stories, will help more people find hope and play in climate change exploration and action.

At a time of fear, anxiety, and disengagement around climate issues, our approach has never been more urgently needed. While the hard work has barely begun, I can't wait to see what comes next.

With warm wishes of hope and play,

Tom Agar, Chair of Trustees.

Trustees' Report

Year End March 2024

The trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements of the charitable company for the 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024. The charity was established in August 2023, so this report covers a short financial year.

The trustees confirm that the annual report and financial statements of the charity comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charity's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Since the charity qualifies as small under section 382 of the Companies Act 2006, the strategic report required of medium and large companies under the Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Directors' Report) Regulations 2013 has been omitted.

Objectives and Activities

Threads in the Ground is a climate hope organisation. We unearth powerful stories to help more people be good ancestors.

Mission:

To help 8 million more people to think and talk about climate change in hopeful, playful ways by 2030.

Our Programme

We build our work around a set of chosen themes, some of the main drivers of the climate and biodiversity crises, and fertile ground for storytelling and engagement. The themes are: Carbon heritage; Built environment; Food systems; and Human connections to nature.

From these themes we have built a programme under 3 strands:

- 1. Carbon Heritage:** creative projects and commissions which diversify understanding of our living carbon heritage - the cultures and systems humans have built around extraction and burning of fossil fuels.
- 2. Food Futures:** communal exploration and experimentation with the ideas and technology which are shaping the new food systems humans will build in our lifetimes.
- 3. Mushroom Sculpt:** communities and schools playing and sculpting with bio materials. They gain a deeper understanding of our connections to nature and the impact of the built environment.

Core Beliefs

These are the beliefs which shape what Threads is.

Good Ancestors: Global warming and climate change will play out for thousands of years. What we do (or don't do) right now will echo and echo, louder and louder for each generation that comes after us. This means we are powerful, and we are privileged. Let's honour that, let's be good ancestors.

Hopeful Action: Fear isn't a good motivator. People have lots of different drivers, different things they find rewarding. We can make climate action inspiring and accessible. That is the best way to mushroom climate action.

Creativity is Key: Creative work (books, theatre, music, art...) help us make sense of the world. We feel good art on a deeper level than thought. We can sit alongside people we disagree with, both enjoy and come away changed by it. Creative work will help us explore our climate futures.

Guiding Principles

These are the principles we remind ourselves of when planning and evaluating our work.

1. **We are interested in systemic change.** Our starting point is usually hyper-local, but our thinking should always trend towards scale. "How do we better amplify and cascade" can be a constant guiding governance question and project requirement.
2. **We are engagers, rather than campaigners.** Our work is about democratising climate hope and action - making more opportunities for more people to shape and guide societal shift. We don't advocate particular policy or action ourselves.
3. **We want communities to internalise stories of climate hope** - we want climate hope ideas and stories to become normalised, for more people and communities to take for granted that they are powerful, that they have urgent work to do in reshaping what it is to be human, and that they are well able to do so.
4. **Our goal is not the alleviation of anxiety.** The reduction of climate distress could be achieved with a programme of distraction and minimisation. Reduction in anxiety and distress might be a metric of interest, but we do not want to build our impact thinking around it.
5. **Long-term Commitment:** Wherever possible, we commit to long-term relationships with communities, lasting many years. Significant change takes time and care and collaboration.

Achievements and Performance

Mushroom Sculpt

Mushroom Sculpt is our programme of sculpture trails and installations grown from bio materials. We collaborate with schools and community groups to design and grow the mushroom sculpt pieces - each project is unique, exploring the stories and ideas that are important to its participants.

In our first year, we worked with Rockcliffe First School to create our first ever school sculpture trail. The children at Rockcliffe came up with the concept of the Mushroom Kingdom - a fairytale land of fungal fairy houses and a castle which were placed in shops, public gardens and parks through Whitley Bay.

“From the beginning to the end of the project, the children were at the centre of every decision. Threads are unique, it’s clear that their goal is for the children to lead their own climate education and action.”

- Sharron Colpitts-Elliot, Head Teacher, Rockcliffe First School

The Rockcliffe project was picked up by BBC Radio Newcastle, BBC1 Look North, and BBC Sunday Morning Live.

We also ran pop-up Mushroom Sculpt workshops at Festival of Thrift, No Time for Waste Festival, and at National Trust properties.

We developed a range of open-source Mushroom Sculpt curriculum tools for primary school setting including lessons on materials and how-to guides.

The Mushroom Bookroom

The Mushroom Bookroom project was completed in May 2024, beyond the scope of this report...but our design process and first workshops are within scope, and we couldn't leave out this brilliant project from our first annual report!

We created the world's first fungal book shop, grown from bookshop waste. This was a collaboration between Threads and lots of 'mushroom curious' members of the wonderful North East Community.

We were chatting with the manager of The Bound independent book shop in Whitley Bay. They told us that **their small bookshop has to recycle 2 tonnes (2 rhinos!) of waste cardboard boxes every month.**

That left us thinking - how can we make this into a hopeful climate conversation - one that embraces the real life challenges of consumerism. Well, we'd built some stuff from mycelium mixed with hemp already, **so could we fungify some cardboard instead?**

Cardboard is a brilliant material, and recycling is great. *Way* better than making things from new. But recycling isn't magic, it still has a cost. Pulping and reforming those 2 rhinos emits about **800 kg of CO2**. This is a good example of how climate action is complicated, and requires a total re-think of all systems, processes and technologies.

We have been collecting binned bookshop cardboard and collaborating with people around the region to grow and craft an immersive mycelial space where you can contemplate beautiful and hopeful ideas of climate change and action.

The mushroom bookroom is a space to read, to think, to play, and to chat climate hope - our connections to nature; capitalism and waste; and **the unique ancestral power we hold by being alive in this crucial climate moment.**

The Mushroom Bookroom was visited by over 1,800 members of the public on its opening weekend at the Biscuit Factory. The structure is now available for loan and has appeared at the Booksellers Association Conference and BALTIC. We continue to design and grow additional shelves and features for this living structure.

Warm Grain / Future Foods

Our Future Foods programme is a volunteer-led exploration of food futures.

We work with volunteers to co-create public feasts and workshops, home meals, and discussion: all exploring the changing shape of our food systems.

The strand of work began life as “Dry Foods”, then became “Warm Grain”. We now just call it “Future Foods”. Which still isn’t quite right, but will do for now!

The Future Foods project has been designed following our research and conversations with organisations including the Sustainable Food Trust, WePlanet, Newcastle University, and more.

Our first pilot of Future Foods was run in partnership with the Festival of Thrift. The pilot concluded in September 2024 (outside the scope of this report), but was started in late 2023.

We worked with the Festival of Thrift to recruit 10 volunteers from across Teesside and the wider area. We ran a series of workshops and training days for the volunteers, introducing them to emerging ideas and discussions around sustainable food, and even took them for a rare tour at the Quorn factory in Billingham. We then supported the volunteers to plan and host their own Warm Grain meals - most hosted in their homes, but some at community centres and a church hall. Each meal explored a different theme or idea of food sustainability.

“I enjoyed exploring food past and thinking about its future sustainability whilst meeting the public who were participating. These fun and thoughtful activities, that were well planned, organised and delivered by Threads in the Ground, brought the community together to discuss pertinent issues of food sustainability in a world of climate change.” - Katharine, Warm Grain Volunteer

The volunteers were then involved in designing engagement workshops hosted at the Festival of Thrift.

We are continuing to work with the Festival of Thrift to design the next stages of Future Foods, incorporating all our Pilot learning.

Carbon Heritage

“Carbon Heritage” is more than the billions of tonnes of coal our families have burnt into the atmosphere.

It’s more than the generations of innovation and engineering, the train-tracks, engines, and wealth built up over the sigh of an empire. It’s the remembered feel of granda’s callouses, the tobacco and dust smell.

It’s the cold feel of the trumpet mouth-piece on your lips. It’s the generations of campaigning and demonstration that built our civil rights.

It’s more than that. It’s what we inherit. It’s what we’re doing now, what we pass on. So what is your carbon heritage?

Threads in the Ground was invited to become the first ever “Artist in Residence” at Redhills - the pitmans parliament and hope of the Durham Miners’ Association. Redhills is due to reopen in 2025 after 4 decades of lying dormant, and we were deeply privileged to have the opportunity to take time and space to explore ideas of Carbon Heritage and how Redhills can unearth and tell these stories.

“Threads have done a brilliant job of deepening our understanding of how heritage organisations can and should be engaging communities in the climate crisis – unearthing the stories and ideas that help our communities connect with their climate heritage.”

- *Nick Malyan, CEO, Redhills CIO*

Through the residency, our Director, Adam Cooper, spent time meeting and interviewing Redhills staff, board, and volunteers; retired mine workers and their families, academics, and members of the wider Redhills community.

From the residency we have developed the Ancestral Reverb project - an exploration of Carbon Heritage through sound and words. Drawing on archival recordings of the colliery brass bands, interviews with miners and their families, and digitally captured mine reverb. We plan to release the Ancestral Reverb sound piece in 2025.

Financial Review

During August 2023 and March 2024 we raised income of £11,380 and spent £7,971.27 on our work. This resulted in an unrestricted surplus for the year of £3,408.73.

We confidently expect income to dramatically increase year-on-year, with a mix of income from grants, commissions, and earned income through product and event sales and training.

The main financial risks for Threads in the Ground are our ability to consistently achieve fundraising targets. We are a micro organisation currently, with no fixed core expenditure. This means failure to achieve fundraising targets results primarily in reduction or pause in project delivery. Our goal is to secure multi-year core funding to establish a regular staff team.

We have an ambitious plan for growth, and warm conversations with multiple significant funders.

Our financial processes and procedures will develop as the organisation grows, stewarded by Scott Liddell, Trustee.

Reserves

Reserves are those funds not invested in fixed assets and designated and restricted funds. It is Charity Commission guidance on best practice that a reserves policy is reviewed annually in line with budget setting, based on salary and accommodation overheads for a three-month period.

We are a very new organisation which has not yet reached its stable size and model. With this first annual report in place we can now create and monitor a reserves policy.

At the end of the 23/24 financial year, we hold unrestricted reserves of £3,408.73.

Going Concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

Principal Funding

New Writing North

Threads in the Ground was established with the support of New Writing North. Our Founder, Adam Cooper, worked on staff at New Writing North as a Creative Associate while establishing Threads in the Ground. The support of Adam was further extended to the new Charity with a grant of £5,000.

“New Writing North employed Adam Cooper as a Creative Associate during which time he developed and delivered a range of innovative Climate Hope projects, helped us with our climate thinking and laid the ground for Threads in the Ground. I was delighted to join the organisation as a Trustee and remain so excited about the imaginative approaches Threads in The Ground takes in exploring and communicating the issue of our age. Adam Cooper, the founding Director of Threads in the Ground wears his deep knowledge lightly, is a brilliant climate communicator and most importantly finds provocative, fun and thoughtful ways to make the issue of climate change relevant in everyday people's lives. New Writing North remains committed to supporting Thread's in the Ground's hopeful approach.”

*- Anna Disley, Executive Director (Programmes) at New Writing North.
Trustee, Threads in the Ground*

We are forever grateful to New Writing North for their support. Everything we achieve, now and in the future, is thanks to them.

Redhills

We were delighted to take up the opportunity to be the first Artist in Residence at Redhills - the ancestral home of the Durham Miners' Association, known as the Pitman's Parliament, due to reopen its doors to the public in 2025 after 4 decades of hibernation.

Redhills have committed to a programme that explores their own inherited responsibility and power in the climate crisis, and appointed Threads in the Ground on a dual brief - to make a novel creative piece inspired by our Carbon Heritage research, and to provide a report for Redhills with recommendations on future residency opportunities and structure.

Redhills supported *Threads* financially with a commission fee of £6,000 in the financial year.

Future

We are delighted to report that both the Tyne and Wear Community Foundation, and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation have committed to supporting *Threads in the Ground* in future financial years. And that the National Trust has commissioned *Threads* to work on a long-term climate hope education and engagement project.

Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

Threads in the Ground is registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

Governance

Our founding board of Trustees were recruited through a public campaign, stewarded by our founding Chair, Tom Agar, along with Director Adam Cooper, supported by Anna Disley of New Writing North.

The Trustees are a highly skilled and experienced group from a diverse range of backgrounds. The board meets regularly, with monthly meetings during the first 6 months of establishing *Threads*. They have been heavily involved in establishing the strategy, core principles and thinking that have guided us through this first year. Each Trustee has worked 1:1 with the Director on at least 1 initiative, ranging from support with project design, developing policies, fundraising, and establishing a communications plan.

Board meetings are run digitally, with Trustees joining from across the UK and internationally.

Declaration

The Trustees declare they have approved the Trustees report. Signed on behalf of the Trustees.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Tom Agar', written in a cursive style.

Tom Agar, Chair of Trustees

31.01.2025

Statement of Financial Activities

August 2023 - March 2024

Income

Grant Support, New Writing North	£ 5,000.00
Commission, Redhills CIO	£ 6,000.00
Earned Income - Events	£ 380.00
Total Income	£11,380.00

Expenditure

IT and Website	£ 430.22
Project Fees	£ 827.80
Project Materials	£ 696.65
Staff Costs	£ 5,940.00
Other	£ 76.60
Total Expenditure	£ 7,971.27

Balance **£ 3,408.73**