



Annual report & financial statements

for the period ending
28 February 2025

Registered Charity in England No: 1205802

Annual Report
Financial Report
Independent Examiner's Report

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Name of Charity: Friends of the Storey Gardens

Registered Charity No: 1205802

Address: Friends of the Storey Gardens
C/o 23 Regent Street, Lancaster LA1 1SQ

Trustees:

Lucas Introna	(Chair)
Diane Lamb	(Secretary)
Dave Brookes	(Treasurer)
Sue Pope	
Alan Sandham	
Bridget Cook	(from 29/10/2024)

Bankers: Lloyds Bank Limited
PO Box 1000, Andover, Hampshire, BX1 1LT

Independent Examiner: Jane Parker, Greenways, Sunnyside Lane, Lancaster, LA1 5ED

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Structure: Friends of the Storey Gardens was registered as a charity on 20 November 2023.

Governing Documents: Constitution adopted 20 November 2023.

Trustees: Trustees are elected each year at the Annual General Meeting, and are eligible for re-election at the expiry of their term of office (normally three years). In addition Trustees may be co-opted during the year.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Aims and Objects

To restore, preserve, improve and enhance the area known as the Storey Gardens in Lancaster, Lancashire, for the benefit of the local community and the wider public.

Public Benefit

The trustees consider that the above aims and objects have been carried out in such a manner throughout the year as to have complied with their duties under s.17 of the Charities Act 2011, having due regard to the Charity Commission public benefit guidance. Further details of activities available is given in the review of the year.

Reserves and investment policies

The Trustees consider that in the absence of any contractual obligations, the charity should hold a minimum level of reserves of £1000 to cover any unforeseen urgent expenditure.

The Trustees' investment policy has been to choose the best interest bearing instant access savings account available from the Trustees' existing bankers. General funds are kept in the current account and restricted funds in the savings account.

The Trustees will review these policies on a regular basis.

Risk assessment

The Trustees do not believe that they are subjected to any substantial risks beyond the liabilities disclosed in the Report and Accounts.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

1. Governance

Bridget Cook was co-opted as a trustee to represent the gardening team on the board of trustees. To better guide and focus our work, we have developed a long-term *development plan*. This plan outlines FOSG's medium- and long-term objectives and will serve as the foundation for our annual planning and fundraising efforts. Additionally, FOSG has renewed its Memorandum of Understanding with Lancaster City Council, the owners of the gardens.

2. Volunteer engagement

Volunteering is central to everything FOSG does, with a dedicated group generously contributing 4607 volunteer hours over the past financial year. These hours are distributed as follows:

- Trustee and governance: 305 hours
- Gardening: 2566 hours
- Fundraising: 320 hours
- Special events: 1021 hours
- Webpages & Social Media: 190 hours
- Special projects: 205 hours

Based on the 2024 average volunteer hourly rate in England of £17.76, the total value of FOSG's volunteer contributions approximately £81 864 for the year. This figure highlights the significant economic and community impact of the volunteers.

3. Gardening

In line with our charitable mission to restore, preserve, improve, and enhance the Storey Gardens for the benefit of the public, a great deal of effort goes into their ongoing care and development. Alongside regular tasks such as garden maintenance, planting, preparing plants for sale, and welcoming visitors, several new initiatives were also introduced.

- The project to document the plants in the gardens — including their locations, flowering period and seasonal care — continues to make good progress.
- Work on a scale plan of the Bee and Butterfly border is also advancing well.
- A new strategy for managing the wildflower meadows is being developed in collaboration with David Redmore.
- A hot composting site is being established in partnership with FoodFutures to process food waste from the PrintRoom Café. This site will be overseen by some of the FOSG volunteers.
- Funding of £1540 from the National Garden Scheme's Community Garden Grant has been secured to install two new benches and wheelchair ramps in the Storey Gardens.

4. Recreating and Maintaining the Artwork

A major ongoing project for FOSG is the recreation of *The Tasting Garden*, an artwork originally created by environmental artist Mark Dion. The following main activities were undertaken:

- **Fundraising:** This year's fundraising efforts focused on the resurfacing of the paths in *The Tasting Garden* with self-binding gravel. We made a concerted effort to raise funds for this project, resulting in successful bids to the Lancashire Environmental Fund (£25000), The Finnis Scott Foundation (£3000) and the Lancashire County Council Members Grants (£250).
- **Recreation activities:** Thanks to the success of last year's fundraising campaign, we installed seven new fruit sculptures in The Tasting Garden. Each sculpture features a sandstone column engraved with the fruit's name, topped with a beautifully carved fruit sculpture in Portland stone by local sculptor Alan Ward. The sculptures are positioned near the corresponding fruit trees, creating a meaningful and visually striking connection between art and nature.

All work is being carried out in consultation with Mark Dion and his UK representative, Robert Williams, to remain faithful to the original vision of the artwork.

5. Special Events

The Storey Gardens hosts a variety of special events throughout the year. Recent highlights include:

- **Heritage Open Days:** Held on 7 and 14 September 2024, with the theme 'Routes, Networks and Connections,' attracted around 300 visitors. A key feature was the Discovery Trail, available both in-person and virtually, guiding participants on a short walk around the block to explore the connections between commerce, architecture, and philanthropy in the area surrounding The Storey. To mark 200 years of continuous technical education in the local area, FOSG members and friends created a series of new textile designs inspired by the original oilcloth patterns produced by the Storey Brothers' mills, celebrating both the history of technical education and the spirit of the gardens.
- **Light Up Lancaster:** From 7 to 9 November 2024, The Storey Gardens hosted "The Matter of the Heart," a captivating installation featuring 70 illuminated cubes arranged across the upper and lower levels of the Copper Beech Garden. Each cube pulsed in sync with real-time heartbeats of Lancaster community members, creating an immersive and moving experience. Visitors were invited to explore the installation, moving among the light cubes and reading the names and personal connections to Lancaster that each represented. Over two evenings, thousands of guests attended, reflecting the event's popularity and impact. FOSG continues to enjoy a strong collaboration with The Dukes and looks forward to working with them again.

6. Other Engagement Activities

FOSG collaborates with a variety of charity and community groups that use the gardens to deliver their programmes. This includes, for example:

- **Lancaster University Art Department:** *The Tasting Garden* was again used as a teaching resource for undergraduate students on the Art, Site and Interaction course. Students explored how artistic practice can respond to specific places. The course included the creation of pop-up installations, performances, and other site-specific works within the garden.
- **Dallas Road School:** Sixty pupils visited the gardens twice to experience the changing seasons, taking part in a range of activities designed to help them engage with and explore nature firsthand.
- **Other organisations:** The gardens were used by groups such as Ludus Dance, wellbeing walking groups, the annual Buddhist meeting, and various parent-and-toddler groups.

7. Web and social media

Engaging with our online audience is an important part of our work as a small charity, and we are encouraged by the positive trends in our engagement analytics. The FOSG website received 3151 unique visits, with 7398 pages viewed and an average of 2.35 pages viewed per unique visitor. Our Facebook account has 634 followers, and our Instagram account has 420 followers.

In summary: This has been a vibrant and rewarding year for FOSG, filled with activity, growth, and community involvement. We are deeply grateful to our incredible volunteers, whose generosity, time, and dedication have helped make the Storey Gardens a welcoming and inspiring space for everyone to enjoy. Our heartfelt thanks also go to Lancaster City Council for their continued support and partnership—together, we are making a real difference.

Prof. Lucas Introna (Chair) - April 2025

ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees are responsible for preparing financial statement for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the Trustees' financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

1. select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
2. make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
3. state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures and explained in the accounts.
4. prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Trustees will continue on that basis.

The Trustees are responsible for

1. keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable it to ensure that the annual financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011.
2. safeguarding the Charity's assets and hence for taking reasonable steps for preventing and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Trustees on 22nd April 2025

and signed on their behalf by:

Chair

Signature

Lucas Introna

Treasurer

Signature

Dave Brookes

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

Receipts and Payments (Unrestricted)

General Fund	<u>2025</u>		<u>2025</u>
<u>Income</u>		<u>Expenditure</u>	
Membership donations	165	Artwork restoration	13447
Plant sales	850	Tools & garden supplies	391
Income via Donate	427	Publicity materials	40
Open day donations	111	Web domain & hosting	209
General donations	604	Composting project	1020
Artwork donations	4225		
Spacehive campaign	11761		
Gift Aid	2325		
Grants	3000		
Bank interest	148		
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	<u>23616</u>		<u>15107</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) of Income over Expenditure (before fund transfers)	8509		
Balance at 19/11/2023	4781		
Net transfers from/(to) funds	(9788)		
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Balance at 28 Feb 2025	<u>3502</u>		

RESTRICTED FUNDS

Lancashire County Council Members Grants (2014)

Balance b/f 20/11/23	Income	Expenditure	Balance c/f 28/02/25
990	-	-	0

Lancashire County Council members awarded grants totalling £990 for garden design in 2014. This was not spent at the time due to a change in policy direction. Return of the grant monies was offered but declined. The grant was spent in 2024 on design work for the composting project.

Lancaster University Wind Turbine Community Benefit Fund

Balance b/f 20/11/23	Income	Expenditure	Balance c/f 28/02/25
1650	-	1650	0

Lancaster University Wind Turbine Community Benefit Fund awarded a grant of £1650 to contribute to the costs of restoring The Tasting Garden fruit sculptures.

Lancashire County Council Members Grants (2023)

Balance b/f 20/11/23	Income	Expenditure	Balance c/f 28/02/25
-	1113	1113	-

Lancashire County Council members awarded grants totalling £1113 to contribute to the costs of restoring The Tasting Garden fruit sculptures.

Artwork donations

Balance b/f 20/11/23	Income	Expenditure	Balance c/f 28/02/25
275	4225	-	4500

Donations were received from Lancaster University and a number of private donors totalling £4225 to contribute to the costs of restoring The Tasting Garden artwork.

Spacehive crowdfunding campaign

Balance b/f 20/11/23	Income	Expenditure	Balance c/f 28/02/25
-	11761	11761	0

The Spacehive crowdfunding campaign raised £11761 to contribute to the costs of restoring The Tasting Garden artwork.

Gift Aid

Balance b/f 20/11/23	Income	Expenditure	Balance c/f 28/02/25
-	2325	36	2289

Gift Aid was claimed on eligible artwork and Spacehive donations and treated as restricted funds to contribute to the costs of restoring The Tasting Garden artwork.

Finnis Scott Foundation

Balance b/f 20/11/23	Income	Expenditure	Balance c/f 28/02/25
-	3000	0	3000

The Finnis Scott Foundation awarded a grant of £3000 to contribute to the costs of restoring the Tasting Garden paths.

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Funds

	<u>2025</u>		<u>2025</u>
Unrestricted Funds		Bank Accounts	
- General Fund	3502	- Current Account	3502
		- Savings Account	9789
Restricted Funds			
- LCC Members 2014	-		
- LU Wind Turbine	-		
- Artwork donations	4500		
- Spacehive campaign	-		
- Gift Aid	2289		
- Finnis Scott Foundation	3000		
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	13291		13291
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Approved by the Trustees on 22 April 2025

and signed on their behalf by:

Chair

Signature

Lucas Introna

Treasurer

Signature

Dave Brookes

Notes to the Accounts:

1 Accounting Policies

1.1 Basis of preparation

These financial statements have been prepared on an income and expenditure basis in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (Charities SORP March 2005). The Trustees have taken advantage of the provisions not to disclose minor departures from the SORP given that the total income of the Charity is below £100,000.

1.2 Income, grants and donations receivable

A donation or grant to the Friends of the Storey Gardens is recognised when received.

1.3 Bank Interest

Bank interest is recognised when received. All bank interest is treated as unrestricted income to the General Fund.

1.4 Fund accounting

General funds represent the funds of the Trustees that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use, and are available for application on the general purposes of the Trustees.

Where income is received for a specified purpose, the amount concerned is treated as a 'restricted' and is applied to the appropriate 'restricted fund'.

The Trustees do not hold any capital/endowment funds at the present time, and therefore no figures are shown in these accounts.

All transactions have been applied to the appropriate fund.

2 No Trustee received any remuneration in connection with their activities.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Friends of the Storey Gardens Charitable Incorporated Organisation ("the CIO")

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the CIO for the period from 20th November 2023 to 28th February 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of the report

As the charity trustees of the CIO 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 CIO's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5) (b) of the Act.

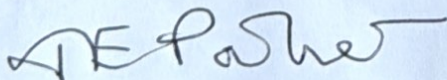
Independent examiner's statement

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

a) accounting records were not kept in respect of the CIO as required by section 130 of the Act; or

b) the accounts do not accord with these records.

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 accounts to be reached.



Jane Parker

Greenways, Sunnyside Lane, Lancaster LA1 5ED

24th March 2025