

Friends of Durham Botanic Garden

Report of the Trustees for the Period Ended 31 October 2025

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Legal and Administration

The Friends of Durham Botanic Garden (FoDBG) is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) that was incorporated on 12 August 2024. This is our first Annual Report.

CIO Number: 1209560

Registered Office: Durham Botanic Garden
Hollingside Lane
South Road,
Durham
DH1 3TN

Trustees: Lynne McAdam (chair)
David Ritchie (treasurer)
David Spence (membership secretary)
Tony Adey
Brenda Johnson appointed 27 November 2025
Margaret Pescod
Alex Taylor
Maureen Wheatley appointed 27 November 2025

Bankers: Barclays Bank
1 Churchill Place
London
E14 5HP

The Trustees are appointed or reappointed annually from and by the membership of the FoDBG, at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) held in November. In addition to the first trustees Brenda Johnson and Maureen Wheatley were appointed as Trustees at the AGM.

The Objects of the Charity can be summarised as: To advance public education in botany, horticulture, ecology and environmental science at Durham University Botanic Garden. These Objects could not be achieved without the voluntary contributions made by many of our members to the events and activities provided.

The Trustees have complied with the duty set out in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006. The public benefit being described in the following report.

Trustee Report

Since its incorporation the FoDBG have funded new gates for the Alpine Garden and a decorative handrail for the woodland path. Additionally, rhododendrons for the Winter Garden and hand tools, for use by the FoDBG Volunteers, have been purchased. A total of £19,640 was contributed to Durham University Botanic Garden.

Day trips were organized for members: the first, in June, to Floors Castle and Heighley Gate Garden Centre; the second, in August, to Wentworth Woodhouse and gardens. Many members joined the guided walks led by Peter Thomsson, Garden Manager, or one of his team. These took place on the last Wednesday of each month, between March and October. The last of these coinciding with the annual planting of tulips for display on the Terrace in the Spring. A varied programme of monthly evening talks by outside speakers was provided and well attended. Titles included: A land of wooded vales and limestone hills; Can the dead tell us anything; Some stories from our ancestors' bones; Wildlife in County Durham; Experimental Biology in the Botanic Garden; The making and remaking of Beamish Museum; History of the creation of RSPB Saltholm; Snowdrops.

The FoDBG's regular events went ahead as normal, all were very successful: the Easter Chick Hunt was a big hit again: people of all ages took part and seemed to really enjoy it. The atmosphere around the garden was lovely.....very friendly and engaged. The FoDBG also ran its annual plant sale during the Botanic Garden Funday in May.

The Volunteer Group, working alongside the University's gardening team, met on Wednesday mornings throughout the year. Alongside weeding beds and maintaining paths they continued to work on the eradication of Himalayan Balsam from within the Garden. Other tasks included clearing up after storms, planting bulbs for the Marie Curie Remembrance Garden and tidying the bamboo collection in the Japanese Garden. The Seed Group have continued their work, cleaning and packing seeds for sale within the Visitors Centre and preparing Juliet Percival's maps. Together the sale of seeds and maps has raised, over £1,700 towards supporting FoDBG's charitable objects.

Signed and dated on behalf of the charity's trustees

Lynne V. McAdam

Lynne McAdam
Chair FoDBG Trustees

22/4/26

Date

Friends of Durham University Botanic Garden

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE PERIOD 12 AUGUST 2024 - 31 OCTOBER 2025

2023-24			2024-25
01.11.23 - 31.10.24			Aug'24-Oct'25
		INCOME	
£	6,832.00	Subscriptions	£ 7,188.00
£	2,825.00	Contributions from Friends toward Group Visits	£ 4,011.00
£	1,392.70	Contribution from Friends towards Group Activities	£ 1,304.12
£	680.00	Fundraising Events	£ 715.98
£	1,548.86	Donations: Seeds, Guides, Bug Unit, Maps	£ 1,717.87
£	861.14	Donations: other	£ 550.63
nil		Other Income	nil
£	1,065.24	Loans Pool and Deposit Interest	£ 861.95
£	15,204.94		£ 16,349.55
		EXPENDITURE	
£	220.00	Speaker and Demonstration Fees & Expenses	£ 259.90
£	2,308.00	Friends Group Visits	£ 4,226.40
£	1,178.25	Friends Group Activities	£ 1,137.20
£	117.00	Fundraising Events	£ 234.70
£	1,736.80	Administration Expenses	£ 1,634.68
£	705.86	Friends Garden Expenses	£ 315.45
£	45.00	Other Expenses	£ 92.80
£	6,310.91		£ 7,901.13
£	8,894.03	SURPLUS	£ 8,448.42

The Friends of Durham Botanic Garden

Registered Charity Number 1209560

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION FOR PERIOD 12 AUGUST 2024 - 31 OCTOBER 2025

2023/24

01.11.23 -

31.10.24

2024/25

12.08.24 -

31.10.25

CURRENT ASSETS

£ 6,630.75

£ 31,997.93

£ 72.90

£ 38,701.58

University Loans Pool

Cash at Bank and in hand

+ Bal 12.08.24-31.10.24

Sundry Debtors

£ -

£ 23,649.35

-£ 133.04

£ 6,888.69

£ 30,405.00

CURRENT LIABILITIES

£0.00

Sundry Creditors

£0.00

£ 38,701.58

£ 30,405.00

REPRESENTED BY:

GENERAL RESERVE:

£ 54,865.59

£ 105.00

£ 8,894.03

£ -

£ (25,163.04)

£ 38,701.58

Balance Brought Forward

Unpresented cheques cancelled

Surplus 2024/25

Restricted Funds

Less Contribution to the Botanic Garden

£ 38,701.58

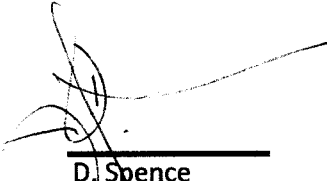
-£ 105.00

£ 8,448.42

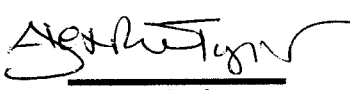
£ 3,000.00

£ (19,640.00)

£ 30,405.00


D. Spence
Trustee

6/05/2026
Date


A.R.W. Taylor
Trustee

6 May 2026
Date