

Report of the Trustees and Financial statements

For the year ended 28 February 2025

For

Forfar Open Garden

Forfar Open Garden (Registered Charity SC045844)

Trustees Annual Report

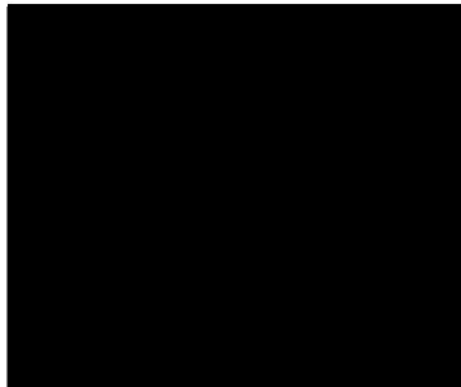
For the year ended February 2025

The Trustees have the pleasure in presenting their report and the Financial Statements for year ended 28 February 2023

Reference and administrative information

Charity name	Forfar Open Garden
Charity number.	SC045844
Address.	Forfar Open Garden 36 Lochside Road Forfar Angus DD8 3JD

Trustees (as at 01/03/2025)



Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

Forfar Open Garden is a Scottish Charitable incorporated organisation (SCIO) it was registered as a charity from 28 July 2015

Appointment of Trustees

At August 2024 AGM, the following Trustees change was made:

Tracy Henderson resigned as trustee and Treasurer

Helen Robbie joined as trustee and took over as Treasurer

There is a minimum requirement for 3 Trustees

Forfar Open Garden 2024/2025



Purpose

Forfar Open Garden (FOG) charity was set up to provide the Forfar and surrounding area in Angus, with a community garden. Our aim is to positively impact socially isolated individuals, those with a physical, mental health disability, those with special needs or conditions such as neurodiversity and dementia, through involvement in the therapeutic benefits of gardening and nature-based activities. Anyone with a passion for Gardening and supporting those less fortunate are encouraged to get involved.

Chairpersons Report 2024-2025

FOG is a small therapeutic gardening charity, founded 11 years ago by Eleanor Gledhill. Over those years our garden was created, originating from a bare plot of land made freely available by a supporter of the project, and transformed to provide a peaceful and productive garden environment to support our community. Following notice terminating the lease of our current site, the trustees pulled together with our volunteers to form Project Keep FOG to secure a new site, funding and local support for the move and to relocate the garden so we could save our much-loved community garden and grow our services to Forfar and the surrounding area in Angus.



This year has been a year where we have been running Project Keep FOG in parallel with managing and delivering services through our current garden site.

FOG continues to thrive within the community, and this year in May we welcomed the Adult Autism Social Group to the garden who now meet with us every Friday. Visiting groups have included U3A(a local women's support group), Arbroath Flower Club, Forfar Horticultural Society, Kilry Gardening Club as well as the local Guide and Scout groups. We are delighted to continue to support regular visits from local primary schools, nurseries, care homes, a home-schooling group and the Change Mental Health support group. Forfar Academy has joined the regular visitor groups this year with pupils undertaking projects with us such as photographs for creative card making and drone footage to create a time lapse video of our new site transformation. We are delighted to have been awarded a 5 – outstanding rating from Scotland's 'Its your neighbourhood' and we are registered with the Young Person's Guarantee Scheme (DYW). A quick thank you to the Northwood Charitable trust for their support for increasing our community engagement and funding our new logo seen above.

Following last year's success, we opened 2 days for Scotland's Garden Scheme which helped boost our plant sales along with our continued partnership with Murton Trust and Alba Explorers who use our plants to support their projects at local schools. We are very pleased to produce most of our plant sales ourselves either from seed, cuttings or plan division. Fruit and Vegetable sales have also continued to be a great source of income, with many complements on the quality of our produce. Fun days held with examples including Chocolatia recording a podcast from our garden and letting our lucky volunteer's sample their chocolates, Apple pressing and juice consumption along with Pumpkin Carving, grown from last years seed, and of course our annual Volunteers picnic which was a lovely sunny day made special by all the volunteers and their individual contributions.



Forfar Open Garden 2024/2025



Latterly, our focus turned to preparing for the Garden move with bulbs being lifted and dried and plants being dug up and potted and placed back in the soil to keep our garden presentable. Our volunteers have been engaged providing ideas for the new garden as well as completing the 'Zen Den' which is already a much-loved place of tranquillity and will be incorporated to our new site.

██████████ has been training to take on the project management for Keep FOG and to step up to take on overall lead for the new garden as Jen steps back to focus on her health and support funding and community engagement. We continue to support our apprentice Lewis Torrie who has really grown with his role and have taken on 2 temporary project workers on a 6-month contract to help us manage the current garden while preparing the new site for with the move.

Project Keep FOG - The team worked with Angus council to firstly identify then, thanks to our trustee Liz, secure a lease for a suitable new site for our garden. After nearly a year of discussions and negotiation our new site, approx. 400m from our current location was secured with Angus council on 30 January. In parallel we secured appropriate planning permissions. ██████████ one of our trustees worked with a local architect, ██████████ who volunteered, to help secure both permissions

The move funding initially proved very challenging however in early October our luck turned when firstly we secured a postcode lottery grant to cover staff costs to support the move, then a capital grant from the National Lottery to cover demolition, site clearance and a UK Government grant through Angus Council to cover security fencing, gates and disability pathway materials.

Work started the day after we secured our lease to clear, secure and prepare our new site. Due to the knock-on impact of getting utilities into our new site we have managed to get agreement to delay our existing site exit until 5 September 2025. Currently our aim is to move buildings over the summer and start the journey to plant and re-create our much-loved garden late summer 2025. Progress can be followed on social media and on our website: <https://www.forfaropengarden.co.uk>

A special thank you to the support from our amazing trustees, volunteers and gardening team they have worked incredibly hard this year to make such fabulous progress. The donations and offers of help from the local community have been amazing and we look forward working with them over the coming months.

Our garden is sustained through the generosity of numerous individuals (you know who you are) and local donors (The original Factory Shop, Asda). Core Grant funding has been secured again from the Mental Health and Wellbeing fund, Baille- Gifford and project support from the Essentia Foundation.

██████████ our Treasurer stepped down at our AGM in August. We welcomed ██████████ a regular volunteer at our garden as our new treasurer, she had been shadowing and supporting ██████████ since the beginning of the financial year. I'd like to thank ██████████ for her support, for simplifying the way in which day to day cash payments were recorded and to welcome Helen to her new role.

I would also like to thank everyone who funds, donates and contributes to our Forfar Open Garden for their generosity and continued support.

Thank you.

Treasurer's Report on 2024-25 accounts

The total income for the year was £82,133 broken down as follows:

	Income	Expenditure	Balance
Keep FOG	£32,600	£13,980	£18,620
Core.	£49,533	£55,414	-£5,881

Leaving a total surplus of £12,739

Bank balance as at 28/02/2025 £33,162

Wages

Annual staff wages was £52,022 including LTU for Lewis and £4,972 was claimed back from Angus Council. Wages has increased by £5,416 with £1,380 overtime for KeepFOG.. The increase of just over 11% is mainly due to increased hours worked and the Long Term Unemployed scheme for █████ ended in October 2024.

Core funding

Significant amounts received were:

- Montrose community hub £1,000
- Postcode lottery trust £8,000
- Tayside health board £6,240
- Essential foundation £3,000
- Mental health & wellbeing £20,000
- Northwood charitable trust £5,000

Keep FOG

KeepFOG is expected to be a one off cost to move the charity to a new location over 24/25 and 25/26. We would like to thank the following parties for their grant funding without which we could not achieve project Keep FOG.

- Mental Health & Wellbeing £5,000
- Change for Good £1,000
- National Lottery £1,400
- Angus Council £10,200
- Postcode lottery £10,000 (allocated additional wages for KeepFOG)

Angus Council Community Capital Fund – this fund was received for Project Keep Fog Secure and Pave and has received £35,000 capital grant from the UK Government through the Angus Council Community Capital Fund and will largely cover the materials and contractors to support securing our premises and creating disability pathways. Funding to be released on receipt of invoice and evidence of payment. £10,200 was paid in respect of fencing for new premises. The remainder will be released 25/26 period pending further invoices.

National Lottery – Community Fund (£45,000 Capital and £65,000 Revenue) this significant grant will cover the main contractor cost on Project Keep FOG – Prepare and provide funds for materials and specialist contractual services during Project Keep FOG – Move. Funding to be released on receipt of invoice with £1,400 paid in respect of Eco composting toilet. A deposit of £1,092 has been paid for the new Welcome building and the reimbursement from the National lottery will be included in next year's accounts.



I took over the role of treasurer in August 2024 and would like to thank [REDACTED] for the smooth handover of accounts.

One change I have made with Richard is to devise an excel spreadsheet of the hours worked/holidays/sickness etc and this is now used to be sent to VAA(Voluntary Action Angus) to process wages and stored electronically.

Helen Robbie



Forfar Open Garden
Scottish Charity SC045844

Receipts and payments account for the year ended 28 February 2025

		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
	Note			£	£
Receipts					
Donations	2	1,345		1,345	1,888
Grants	2	25,240	50,572	75,812	51,155
Fundraising		17		17	50
Charitable Trading		4,929		4,929	3105
Bank interest		31		31	-
Total Receipts		31,561	50,572	82,133	56,198
Payments					
Charitable Activities	2	1,607		1,607	1,882
Trading Activities		195		195	-
Staff Costs	2	27,061	24,961	52,022	46,606
Expenses		1,177	14,392	15,570	2,704
Misc				-	
Total Payments		30,040	39,353	69,394	51,192
Excess of receipts/(payments) over (payments/receipts in the year)		1,520	11,219	12,739	5,006

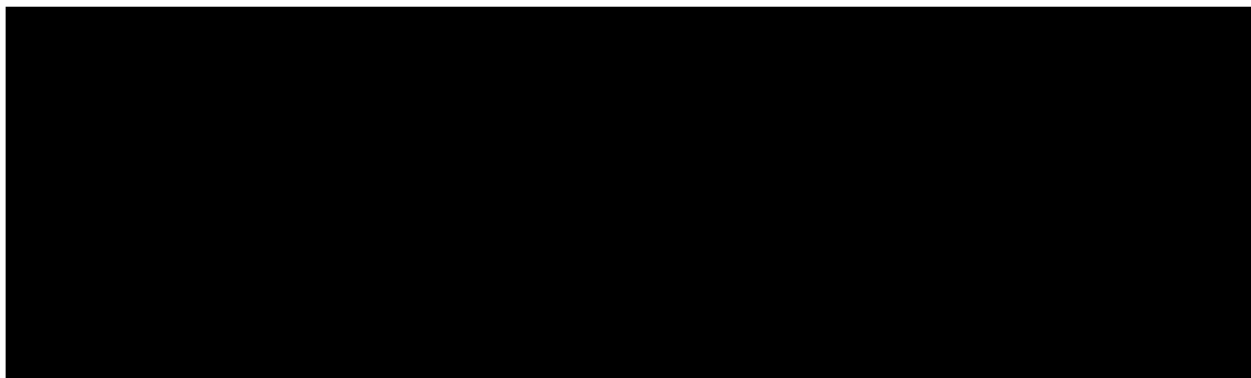
**Forfar Open Garden
Scottish Charity SC045844**

Statement of Balances as at 28 February 2025

			Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Cash at Bank and in hand				
Bank and Deposit balances brought forward	9,365	11,058	20,423	15,417
Movement in year				
Excess of receipts over payments for the year	1,520	11,219	12,739	5,006
Bank and Deposit balances carried forward	10,886	22,277	33,162	20,423
Represented By:	Bank		33,162	20,423
	Petty Cash		-	-
			33,162	20,423

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on

31 July 2025



Forfar Open Garden
Scottish Charity SC045844

Notes to the financial statements

1 Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

These financial statements have been prepared on the receipts and payments basis in accordance with the Charities & Trustees Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

2 Grants and Donations Received	Balance Brought Forward at 1/3/24	Income	Expenditure	Balance at 28/2/25
Restricted				
Angus Council		15,172	15,172	-
Northwood		5,000		5,000
VAA - MH&WF		25,000	21,200	3,800
Essentia Foundation		3,000	489	2,511
National Lottery Fund	-	1,400	2,492	1,092
Change for Good		1,000		1,000
Unrestricted				
Postcode Lottery	6,329	18,000	11,004	13,325
Foundation Scotland	2,500		2,500	-
Co-op	2,229		2,229	-
Montrose Community Hub		1,000	1,000	-
Tayside Health Board		6,240	-	6,240
Asda		500	500	-
Alba Explorers		117	117	-
	11,058	76,429	56,704	30,783

3 Transactions with Related & Connected Persons

During the year no trustees (2024 2) received remuneration or expenses (2024 £58)

**Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees of Forfar Open Garden
Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC045844**

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 28th February 2025, which are set out on the accompanying pages.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) 2005 Act and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the Account Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. 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 seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

- which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - To keep accounting records in accordance with section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and
 - To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations

have not been met, or

- to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

