THE FORESTERS HERITAGE TRUST

(Registered Charity No. 1109859 in England and Wales)

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31st December 2025

Introduction

This is the eighteenth annual report. The period covered by the Report is 1st January 2025 to 31st December 2025.

Details of the Trust

The name of the registered charity is **The Foresters Heritage Trust.**
The number of the registered charity is 1109859.
The principal office of the Trust is at Station Chambers, The Boulevard, Tunstall, Stoke-on-Trent ST6 6DU
The address for e-mail contact is www.forestersheritagetrust@outlook.com
The website address is www.forestersheritagetrust.org

Constitution of the Trust

The Trust is constituted by a Trust Deed dated **19th April 2005.**
The Trust was registered by the Charity Commission for England and Wales on the 3rd June 2005, with the following objects.

"The Trustees shall hold the trust property and apply it to promote education in the history and background of the friendly society movement in Great Britain (in particular that of the Ancient Order of Foresters Friendly Society) by the collection and maintenance of relevant materials, artifacts and publications; and the make such materials, artifacts and publications freely available for public inspection."

Public Benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have had regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

Trustees consider that the following responses to the questions posed in the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance demonstrate their understanding of the Public Benefit Requirements.

- What the charity is set up to achieve – this is known as the charity's purpose **Providing education in the history of the friendly society movement.**
- How the charity's purpose is beneficial – this is the "benefit aspect of public benefit **Development of a wider knowledge of the history of the friendly society movement.**
- How the charity's purpose benefits the public or a sufficient section of the public – this is the "public aspect" of public benefit. **Extending the understanding of the role of the friendly society movement by the population at large.**

- How the trustees will carry out the charity's purpose for the public benefit – this is what is known as "furthering" the charity's purpose for the public benefit. **Providing a fully accessible Research Enquiry Service, Website and Museum and Archive.**

Tenure information

The Trust purchased Station Chambers, The Boulevard, Tunstall, Stoke-on-Trent, ST6 6DU in March 2023.

Details of Trustees in post at the date this Annual Report was signed:-

Andrew J Pooley Chairman
Kevin G Carpenter
Janet S Pooley
Cheryl P Eagleson
Anthony R E Lewis
Michael J Charlton-Hubble

The Trustees wish to place on record their sorrow at the death of Malcolm Prechner, Trustee, whose enthusiasm and support helped the Foresters Heritage Trust expand its role to bring an understanding of the friendly society movement to a wider audience.

Appointment of new Trustees

The appointment of new Trustees is provided for in the Trust Deed. As and when it becomes appropriate existing Trustees issue invitations for anyone wishing to serve as a Trustee to make an application in writing. Such applications are considered and voted on by the Board of Trustees.

One Trustee is appointed annually (ex-officio) by the Ancient Order of Foresters, however all applicants for a post are advised to familiarise themselves with the guidance issued by the Charity Commission for England and Wales as to fitness and suitability.

The day-to-day administration of the Trust for the period 1st January 2025 – 31st December 2025 was carried out by Janet Pooley, Trustee who also held the role of Treasurer.

The provision of front-line services was provided by Peter Nixon (Curator).

Income and Expenditure

The gross income of the Trust during 2025 amounted to £48,334.50 (2024 – £53,949.38), with total expenditure of £133,772.32 (2024 - £98,916.11). A copy of the 2025 Accounts is appended.

Principle Sources of Funding

The major financial funding received by the Trust during 2025 came from delegates to the Foresters Friendly Society annual national conference in June 2024 passing a resolution authorising financial support from Branch funds as at the end of 2023. The amount paid into the Trust's Bank Account in 2025 was £40,050.28.

Policy on Reserves

The Trustees agreed that £30,000 should be invested in a suitable interest-bearing investment and that a maximum of £10,000 be invested in units and £20,000 in deposits.

However, this is on hold following urgent repairs to Station Chambers, The Boulevard, Tunstall, Stoke-on-Trent ST6 6DU.

Funds in Deficit

None of the funds of the Trust are in deficit.

Independent Examination of Accounts

The Trust uses R.K. Lawrence & Co for the examination of its annual account. A copy of the report is appended.

Progress of the Foresters Heritage Trust during 2025

The Trustees continue to hold face to face or virtual meetings.

The Museum is open to the public on the first and third Saturday of each month and groups can be accommodated on other days by arrangement with the Curator.

Continuing activity

Work continues to acquire, preserve and stabilise exhibits some of which have been donated by members of the Foresters Friendly Society, members of the public and the friendly society movement.

Following the appointment of a specialist company, digitalisation of the documents held by the Museum including "Miscellany" published since the later 1800s is almost complete. Other documents and exhibits such as photographic records will be digitalised to aid research and preserve them for future generations.

Conclusion

The Trustees continue to manage the Trust and promote education in the history and background of the friendly society movement with the museum being the focus of this activity.

Declaration

The Trustees declare that they have approved the above Trustees Report.

Signed on behalf of the Charity's Trustees:

Signature.....

Full Name ANDREW JAMES POOLEY Position TRUSTEE

Signature.....

Full Name CHERYL PATRICIA EAGLESON Position TRUSTEE

Date 27/10/2026

The Foresters Heritage Trust Charity Registration No. - 1109859

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

For the year ended 31st December 2025

		2025		2024
Income				
Hire Income		40050.28		40054.52
Donations		7350.00		6210.00
Other Donations (Inc Gift Aid where App)		0.00		0.00
Sale of Books & Publications		281.95		41.96
Interest		652.27		1753.87
Fund Raising		0.00		5889.03
		48334.50		53949.38
Expenditure				
Tunstall Building Running Costs	88363.98		16917.43	
Tunstall Curator Services	11912.40		11912.40	
Trustees Indemnity Insurance	2952.25		2754.39	
Aquisitions & Preservation	24213.00		58837.31	
Storage	0.00		0.00	
Equipment & Website	1127.51		3078.78	
Business Rates	2604.78		2604.78	
Postage & Telephone	611.46		386.50	
Travel, Food & Accommodation	1162.94		1607.52	
Setting up costs (Tunstall	0.00		0.00	
Sundries	14.00		5.00	
Professional fees	810.00		812.00	
		133772.32		98916.11
Surplus/Deficit for the year	£	-85437.82	£	-44966.73

The Foresters Heritage Trust

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2025

		2025		2024
Fixed Assets				
Station Chambers Museum		16000		16000
Current Assets				
Debtors & Prepayments	0.00		0.00	
Bank	0.00		0.00	
Instant Access acc	37114.76		99462.49	
Current Acc	2951.05		26041.14	
Prepayments (ins)	0.00		0.00	
Cash at Bank and in Hand	0.00	40065.81	0.00	125503.63
Current Liabilities				
other		0.00		0.00
Creditors		810.00		810.00
	£	55255.81	£	140693.63
Represented by:				
General Fund				
Balance at 1.01.25		140693.63		185660.36
Surplus/Deficit for the Year		-85437.82		-44966.73
		55255.81		140693.63
		0.00		0.00
	£	55255.81	£	140693.63

I have examined the books and vouchers in support of the above Balance Sheet and attached Income and Expenditure Account and have obtained any explanations that were necessary to complete the audit and in my opinion the Balance Sheet gives a true and fair view of the financial affairs of the Committee at 31st December 2025

J Lee M.A.A.T.
94 Brook Street
Erith
DA8 1JF

J Lee

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE FORESTERS HERITAGE TRUST

The Foresters Heritage Trust **Charity Registration No. - 1109859**

I report on the accounts of The Foresters Heritage Trust for the year ended 31st December 2025, set out on the attached page.

Respective responsibilites of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for the year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my resposibility to
* Examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act.
* To follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section145(5)b)of the Charities Act, and
* To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examinatin was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. Any examination includes review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking 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 no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiners statement

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

1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, and material aspect, the requirements:
   - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act and
   - to prepare accounts which accord with the accouting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have 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.

R.K.Lawrence & Co
94 Brook Street
Erith
Kent
DA8 1JF
J.Lee MAAT

22/10/2026

The Foresters Heritage Trust Charity Registration No. - 1109859

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