Registration number: 11114549
Charity number: 1185617

Elvaston Castle
and Gardens Trust

ELVASTON CASTLE AND GARDENS TRUST

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2025

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

Members/Directors

P Robinson	(Chair)	(M) (D)	
T Liddle	(Deputy Chair)	(M) (D)	
C Manning	(Treasurer)	(M) (D)	
D Ashton		(M) (D)	
J Brown		(M) (D)	Appointed 17 October 2025
C Hallam		(M) (D)	
S Pattison		(M) (D)	Resigned 12 December 2025
C Razzell		(M) (D)	

Key

(M) Member of the Company

(D) Director/Trustee of the Company

Company Number: 11114549
Charity Number: 1185617
Company Secretary: Alison Buckley

Registered Office: Estate Office
Elvaston Castle & Country Park
Borrowash Road
Elvaston
Derby
DE72 3EP

DIRECTORS' REPORT

The Directors are pleased to present their Annual Report together with the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Structure & Management

Constitution

Elvaston Castle and Gardens Trust is a company limited by guarantee (no. 11114549), incorporated on 15 December 2017. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the company and is governed under its Articles of Association. On 4 October 2019 Elvaston Castle and Gardens Trust became a registered charity (no. 1185617).

The number of Directors of the Trust shall not be less than seven but shall not be subject to any maximum.

The Directors of the company are also charity Trustees for the purposes of charity law and under the company's Articles are known as members of the Management Committee. Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association the members of the Management Committee are elected to serve for a period of three years after which they must be re-elected, no member may serve for more than 12 years.

During such time that Derbyshire County Council provides funding to the Trust, Derbyshire County Council may appoint one Trustee. This Trustee, if appointed, may not hold the post of either Chair or Vice-Chair of the Trust.

All members of the Management Committee give their time voluntarily and received no benefits from the charity. Any expenses reclaimed from the charity are set out in note 4 to the accounts.

Members Liability

Each member of the Trust undertakes to contribute to the assets of the Trust in the event of it being wound up while they are a member, or within one year after they cease to be a member, such as may be required, not exceeding £1, for the debts and liabilities contracted before they ceased to be a member.

The Directors act as the overall management board for the organisation. They have ultimate responsibility for the running, operations, and finances of the Trust.

DIRECTORS' REPORT (continued)

Statement on Governance

The Trust's board of Directors meet at least four times a year and are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity. At present the Committee has seven members from a variety of professional backgrounds.

Director Induction and Training

All new Directors are given full copies of meeting minutes, the Articles of Association, and the governing documents prior to their initial meeting Additionally, new Directors are given time at the first meeting to ask any questions and spend time in conversation with the Chair asking any further questions and familiarising themselves with the charity operations. These conversations cover:

- The obligations of Management Committee members;
- The main documents which set out the operational framework for the charity including the Memorandum and Articles;
- Resourcing and the current financial position as set out in the latest published accounts; and
- Future plans and objectives.

New Directors are also provided with an opportunity to meet with relevant staff and Officers working with the Trust and an in-depth tour of the estate.

New Directors taking up a core post (Treasurer, Chair, or Secretary) are additionally given time with the outgoing role holder to familiarise themselves with the role and ask any questions.

All new Directors are also signposted to the Charity Commission's guide "the Essential Trustee" as a follow up to these sessions. This is distributed to all new Directors along with the Memorandum and Articles.

Risk Management

The Management Committee has conducted a review of the major risks to which the charity is exposed. A risk register is established and is updated at least annually.

DIRECTORS' REPORT (continued)

Objectives & Activities

Elvaston Castle and Gardens Trust (ECGT) is a hands-on charity working in partnership with Derbyshire County Council to secure a sustainable future for Elvaston through restoration, education and conservation. Our core aim is to ensure Elvaston Country Park remains open to the public and accessible, providing vital green space, leisure facilities, and inclusive community events for the people of Derbyshire and beyond. We are committed to delivering lasting improvements that protect and enhance the estate, while also supporting educational opportunities which will in turn facilitate the development and restoration of the estate.

The Trust's charitable objectives are enshrined within the Articles of Association, and are as follows:

- To promote for the benefit of the public the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment of Elvaston Castle, gardens, estate, country park and surrounding area;

- To advance the education of the public in the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment in particular, but not limited to, in relation to Elvaston Castle, gardens, estate and country park; and

- To promote for the benefit of, but not limited to, the inhabitants of the county of Derbyshire the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances or for the public at large in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving the condition of life of the said people.

Achievements & Performance

The Trust's strategic objectives for the year 2025 were:

1. Implement a new volunteering strategy to expand roles, skills and community participation across the estate.

2. Increase fundraising through corporate partnerships and income-generating events to support estate projects.

3. Broaden public access by opening additional historic spaces and developing new tours and experiences.

Achievements & Performance (continued)

4. Strengthen partnerships with diverse community groups to enhance inclusion and representation in all activities.
5. Deliver engaging heritage and community events that attract new audiences and deepen local connections.
6. Launch the oral history project to capture and share personal stories connected to Elvaston's history.
7. Advance the cataloguing and preservation of the estate's historic archives for education and public research.
8. Develop innovative educational opportunities to engage schools, families and lifelong learners.

The following activities were particular highlights in 2025:

Conserving Elvaston

- Successfully launched the Elvaston Community Allotment, creating new volunteering opportunities, engaging a wider range of community participants and supporting health and wellbeing through community growing and outdoor activity. The project was made possible through funding from The National Lottery Awards for All programme.
- Expanded partnerships with local businesses through paid corporate volunteering days, generating unrestricted income whilst delivering significant conservation, habitat management and estate improvement projects across Elvaston.
- Strengthened the Trust's educational and conservation programme through a partnership with the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB), hosting two specialist two-day historic brickwork courses that promoted traditional building conservation skills and helped safeguard Elvaston's built heritage.
- Worked collaboratively with Derbyshire County Council to support the development of the Estate Management and Enterprise Plan, strengthening strategic partnership working and contributing to the long-term sustainable future of the Elvaston Estate.

Inspiring Learning

- Increased public access to the estate's historic buildings and gardens through Open House events, enabling visitors to experience areas not normally accessible whilst learning more about Elvaston's rich history and heritage.
- Successfully delivered the annual Apple Day celebration, bringing together volunteers, community groups and visitors to celebrate Elvaston's historic orchards through traditional apple pressing, heritage demonstrations, family activities and educational experiences.

- Strengthened community partnerships by working with organisations including Surtal Arts to deliver creative engagement projects, including a community lantern-making workshop as part of Derby's Season of Light, encouraging participation from new audiences and celebrating the cultural diversity of the local community.
- Continued to expand heritage learning and interpretation opportunities through volunteer-led interpretation, community engagement activities and the development of the Trust's oral history and archive projects, helping preserve and share Elvaston's heritage for future generations.

Bringing Communities Together

- Modernised the Trust's volunteer programme through the implementation of the Volunteero volunteer management system, improving volunteer coordination, communication, reporting and collaboration whilst supporting continued growth in volunteering across the estate.
- Received the South Derbyshire Volunteer Group of the Year Award, recognising the outstanding contribution of the Trust's volunteers, who collectively contributed over 11,470 volunteer hours during 2025 in support of conservation, heritage, education and community engagement across the estate.
- Successfully delivered the annual Village Fete and Well Dressing, bringing together local organisations, volunteers, performers and visitors to celebrate community, heritage and creativity whilst encouraging wider engagement with the Elvaston Estate.
- Hosted the Trust's annual Christmas community event, providing seasonal heritage experiences, family activities and opportunities for volunteers, supporters and local residents to come together and celebrate the estate during the festive period.

Together, these achievements demonstrate the Trust's continued progress in delivering its charitable objectives by conserving and enhancing the Elvaston Estate, advancing education and heritage, and creating opportunities for volunteering, recreation and community participation. Through the commitment of its volunteers, staff, Trustees and partners, the Trust has continued to strengthen the estate's role as a valued heritage, environmental and community asset for the benefit of current and future generations.

DIRECTORS' REPORT (continued)

Public Benefit Statement

The Directors confirm that they have given due regard to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Trust's aims and objectives and in planning future activities.

The Trust works in partnership with Derbyshire County Council to support the management and development of Elvaston Country Park, which remains free for public access on foot. The Trust is committed to securing a sustainable future for the estate as a vital community asset, serving both the local area and the wider county and region.

Through ongoing development and reinvestment, the Trust continues to create opportunities for training, education, and community engagement, delivering broad social, cultural, and economic benefits. All surplus funds are reinvested into the estate to improve facilities, enhance the visitor experience, and support an inclusive programme of community and heritage events.

Throughout 2025, the Trust continued to deliver public benefit by protecting and enhancing the estate's historic and natural environment whilst increasing opportunities for people to engage with its heritage. During 2025 volunteers contributed more than 11,470 hours towards conservation, heritage, education and visitor engagement activities, helping to improve the estate whilst developing new skills, confidence and wellbeing.

The Trust expanded opportunities for learning and community participation through initiatives including the Elvaston Community Allotment, Open House events, Apple Day, the Village Fete, Christmas community activities and partnerships with organisations such as the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB), Derbyshire Mind and Surtal Arts. These activities encouraged people of all ages and backgrounds to learn about Elvaston's heritage, develop practical skills, improve health and wellbeing, and strengthen connections with the estate.

Alongside these activities, the Trust continued to develop its oral history and archive programmes to preserve Elvaston's rich social and cultural heritage for future generations. By collecting community stories, protecting historic records and improving public access to these resources, the Trust is creating lasting educational and research opportunities whilst strengthening the estate's role as a shared community asset.

All surplus funds generated by the Trust are reinvested directly into the estate to support conservation, education, volunteering and community engagement activities, ensuring that the Trust continues to deliver lasting public benefit in accordance with its charitable objectives.

Plans for 2026:

The Trust's strategic priorities for 2026 are as follows:

1. Strengthen and expand the Trust's volunteering programme by embedding volunteering workstreams, increasing volunteer leadership opportunities and broadening volunteering across conservation, heritage, education and visitor engagement.
2. Diversify and strengthen the Trust's income through grants, corporate partnerships, sponsorship, donations and sustainable income-generating activities, reducing reliance on any single funding source and strengthening the Trust's long-term financial resilience.
3. Expand public engagement with Elvaston's heritage by developing new guided tours, educational experiences and opportunities for visitors to access and explore the estate's historic buildings, landscapes and collections.
4. Maintain and develop strategic partnerships that support the long-term conservation, sustainability and community benefit of the Elvaston Estate.
5. Deliver high-quality community events and wellbeing activities that celebrate Elvaston's heritage and natural environment whilst encouraging participation, improving wellbeing and strengthening community connections.
6. Develop the Trust's oral history and archive programmes, preserving and interpreting Elvaston's social and cultural heritage whilst improving public access for education, research and community engagement.
7. Strengthen the Trust's organisational capacity and governance, ensuring appropriate systems, processes and resources are in place to support sustainable growth and effective delivery of the Trust's charitable objectives.
8. Expand educational opportunities for schools, families, volunteers and lifelong learners through heritage, environmental and skills-based learning programmes, supporting greater understanding and appreciation of the Elvaston Estate.

Financial Report for the Year

The Trustees gratefully acknowledge the continued financial support provided by Derbyshire County Council. During the period April to December 2025, the Council provided grant funding of £21,000 in support of the Trust's charitable activities. This funding contributed to the delivery of conservation, volunteering, education and community engagement programmes across the Elvaston Estate.

Investment Policy

The cash balances held by the Trust have not enabled significant investment to take place during 2025 with funds being held on deposit with the bank in interest bearing accounts.

The Directors will seek to invest surplus funds in a manner to obtain the best possible return and these are invested with reputable investors.

DIRECTORS' REPORT (continued)

Reserves Policy

The Trust has reserves totalling £35,131 (2024: £32,452) at the end of the year. These are split between the unrestricted and restricted reserves and will be used to fund the development of the Trust into 2026 and beyond to fulfil the Trust's charitable objectives.

No funds are held on behalf of others.

The Directors' Report (incorporating the Trustees' Report) was approved by the Members on 17 July 2026 and signed on its behalf by:



Mr C Manning (Treasurer)

Independent Examiner's report to the Trustees of Elvaston Castle and Gardens Trust

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 December 2025, which are set out on pages 12 to 16.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The Trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and have elected for an independent examination to be undertaken.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. 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 seeking explanations from you as 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 next statement.

Independent examiner's statement

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

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities

have not 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



Mr Robert Lucas
Thistle Grove, Derby
FCA
24 September 2026

Statement of Financial Activities (including Income & Expenditure Account) for the year ended 31 December 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Incoming Resources					
Incoming Resources from Generated Funds:					
Voluntary Income		7,676	21,000	28,676	46,407
Activities for Generating Funds		114	-	114	306
Investment Income		462	-	462	166
Incoming Resources from Charitable Activities		-	-	-	-
Other Incoming Resources		17,265	-	17,265	6,386
Total Incoming Resources		25,517	21,000	46,517	53,265
Resources Expended					
Costs of Generating Funds:					
Costs of Generating Voluntary Income		3,729	-	3,729	1,990
Charitable Activities	2	8,081	31,528	39,609	35,045
Governance Costs		500	-	500	532
Other Resources Expended		-	-	-	-
Total Resources Expended		**12,310**	**31,528**	**43,838**	37,567
Net Incoming/(Outgoing) Resources		**13,207**	(10,528)	**2,679**	15,698
Gross Transfers Between Funds		-	-	-	-
Other Recognised Gains/(Losses)		-	-	-	-
Net Movement in Funds		**13,207**	**(10,528)**	**2,679**	15,698
Total Funds Brought Forward		13,605	18,847	32,452	16,754
Total Funds Carried Forward		**26,812**	**8,319**	**35,131**	32,452

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the year. All incoming resources and expended derive from continuing activities.

Balance Sheet
31 December 2025

	Notes	31 Dec 2025 £		31 Dec 2024 £	
Fixed Assets			-		-
Current Assets					
Debtors		8,334		1,117	
Cash at bank & in hand		26,945		31,620	
		35,279		32,737	
Current Liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		(148)			(285)
Net Current Assets			35,131		32,452
Net Assets			**35,131**		32,452
Funds					
Unrestricted Fund			26,812		13,605
Restricted Fund			8,319		18,847
Total Funds			**35,131**		32,452

For the year ending 31 December 2025 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476,

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Approved by the Trustees on 17 July 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

C Manning (Treasurer)

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 1: Accounting Policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Companies Act 2006 and Financial Reporting Standard for Small Entities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the company.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the Directors for particular purposes.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of a fundraising appeal.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the company is entitled to, and virtually certain to receive, the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following policies are applied to particular categories of income:

Voluntary income is received by way of grants, donations and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.

Investment income is included when receivable.

Incoming resources from charitable trading activity are accounted for when earned.

Incoming resources from grants, where related to performance and specific deliverables, are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance.

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the Trustees' annual report.

Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates:

Costs of generating funds comprise the costs associated with attracting voluntary income and the costs of trading for fundraising purposes.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity, the costs of Trustee meetings and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity.

Note 2: Total Resources Expended

	Notes	2025	2024
		£	£
Staff Costs	3	33,420	24,412
Other Costs		6,189	10,633
		39,609	35,045

Note 3: Staff Costs

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	32,804	24,082
Social security costs	-	-
Pension costs	616	330
	33,420	24,412

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

Note 3: Staff Costs (continued)

The average number of persons (headcount) employed by the Trust during the year was as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Business Development Officer	1	1
Co-ordinating Manager	1	-
Volunteer Co-ordinator	-	1
	2	2

Note 4: Trustee Remuneration & Related Party Transactions

No members of the Trust received any remuneration during the current or prior year. £36 (2024: £81) of expenses were reimbursed to members during the year.

No related party transactions took place during the current or prior year.