

FONC Treasurer's review

Year ended 31 March 2025

This is a written review intended to accompany the accounts presented at the AGM.

Thanks

I would like to thank Carol Stevenson and Jane Hart for their work to make sure I have information on both membership receipts and money received through the Publication and Education Desk (PED) when it happens.

Financial Policy

The FONC Financial Policy can be found here: <https://www.fonc.org.uk/fonc-policies/> . It has been reviewed in the year where necessary.

Basis of accounting

The Charity Commission allows a charity of our size to prepare accounts using the receipts and payments method. This means that we account for income when we receive it, and costs as we pay them. This is a simplified approach for smaller charities which is easier to administer.

Do we have the funds we need to do what we want to do?

At 31 March 2025 FONC had £189,000 (held across two banks to mitigate risk). This effectively represents savings accumulated over more than 40 years with the main objective of contributing to the East Lodge project.

The surplus in 2024/25 can be explained as follows:

Income and expenditure from day to day activities		£
Income	Publications, subscriptions, donations, interest	15,163
Costs	Administrative and running costs	(3,498)
		11,665
Events and one off purchases		
Event surplus	Open day stalls, carol singing, open house, remembrance	4,255
Purchases	Contrib to PA system, 5l flasks for events & small items	(653)
Items to sell	Costs of printing books and buying ceramic leaves	(998)
	Surplus from normal activities	14,269
Other		
	Monument repairs (reserved and designated funds)	(14,400)
	Grant receipt (from employer of a trustee)	8,049
	Total surplus for the year	7,918

It should be noted that we expect the current year (2025/26) to be the last year in which we receive a grant from the employer of one of our trustees.

At 31 March 2025 FONC had no reserved funds. Our expectation of how our reserves will be used is listed on the face of the accounts.

Is everything in good order?

The Charity Commission does not require a charity of our size to have the accounts reviewed by a third party. However FONC has chosen to include the requirement for the accounts to be reviewed by an independent examiner in our constitution. Their report is elsewhere in the AGM papers.

Items of note

Event income – Gate counters indicate that we had over 5,000 people at the 2024 Open Day. This volume of people is reflected in our income from the event where sales of plants, refreshments and ceramics (thank you Carol Stevenson) generate the majority of the income. Stall fees hover around £1,000 a year, but as these are accounted for when they are received the annual accounting can show some variance.

Gift Aid – this is usually claimed on an annual basis. It is an area in which we miss the expertise of Simon Mercer and transitioning the arrangements has led to us not making the claim in the year. We are working on this and are well within the time limits to catch up in the current year.

Event costs – Of the total, approx. £3,700 relates to Open Day. As with other lines of the accounts these can be affected by the timing of payments. In the year to March 2025 Open Day costs include table and chair hire £980, City Farm for two years £1,200, refreshment costs £726, First Aid £225, posters and replacement banners (one off expense) to publicise the event £540 and an event license. The costs of the portaloos were offset by a grant received from Southwark.

Other event costs include wreaths for the Remembrance service and supplies for the Carol singing.

Meeting costs – minor, but always attracts some interest. In 2024/25 this includes £78 for the use of Zoom for Trustee and other meetings and £35 for food provided by FONC at the Christmas Social.

Purchases – these are the various items that we purchase to support FONC activities and the cost can be quite variable from year to year. In the year to March 2025 we had a grant from Southwark which enabled us to buy a new ramp for access to the Chapel, and a PA system for use at events. FONC paid £384 towards the cost of these items to make sure we got exactly what we wanted. We bought two 5 litre flasks to support providing mulled wine at carol singing, some storage boxes for publications and various small items.

Items to sell – This varies from year to year. In 2024/25 we have reprinted “Death in tragic circumstances” and printed “Nunhead Notables vol V” (both thanks to Ron Woollacott and Michèle Louise Burford) and also bought some more ceramic leaves for sale on the PED desk.

Other expenses – this total represents the costs that don’t fit neatly into any other category. This year it includes website fees to allow us to run the FONC website and to hold a couple of related domain names, membership of the National Federation of Cemetery Friends, Association of Significant Cemeteries in Europe, and the National Council of Voluntary Organisations. A donation to the Royal Free Hospital in memory of our longstanding membership secretary, Simon Mercer, and a modest gift to allow us to thank George Young for his long service as our Independent Examiner.

Monument repairs – we aim to spend an average of around £6,000 a year on monument repairs. Due to changes in contractors in the previous year we were unable to commission any work. Fortunately Southwark has helped us to find a way round the issue and we effectively paid for two years of repairs in 2024/25. We expect the same arrangements to hold in the current year and so will continue to fund repairs in the cemetery.