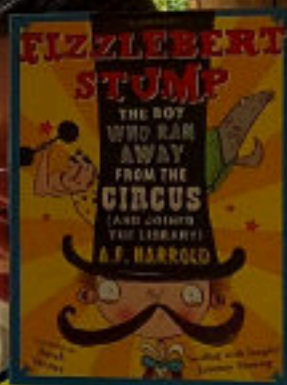




Annual Report

2023 - 2024







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"We LOVE Wiston! You guys are so understanding of our needs and the needs of the young people we work with. Your Kindness, welcoming and supportive attitude is exactly what we need as facilitators bringing a group here."

The Green Team



Update from our Trustees

Building a Future Rooted in Growth and Community

As Trustees of Wiston Lodge, we take great pride in the profound impact this special place continues to have on the lives of so many.

During 2023-24 we have witnessed moments of challenge, perseverance, and transformation—all woven together by the unwavering dedication of our staff, volunteers, and visitors.

In line with all outdoor education providers, we are working in a difficult fiscal environment where costs continue to escalate, alongside the need to provide services to more visitors at an affordable and accessible level.

Whether it's young people discovering their confidence through outdoor activities, vulnerable groups finding solace in nature, or educators and facilitators shaping unforgettable experiences, we remain committed to ensuring that everyone who walks through our doors feels safe, valued, and inspired.

This year, we celebrated important milestones, from the revitalisation of our garden to the renovation of our kitchen and campers toilet block, making Wiston Lodge a more sustainable and welcoming environment for our visitors. We also strengthened partnerships with schools and charities, and overcame setbacks like storm damage—emerging stronger, more determined, and ready for the future.

We could not do this without the generosity of our funders, the dedication of our staff, and the support of every individual who believes in what Wiston Lodge stands for. Your contributions—whether financial, practical, or through shared experiences—are what allow us to continue creating life-changing opportunities for those who need them most.

Thank you for being part of this journey.





"Six months of digging, pruning, and patience has turned this forgotten space into something useful again. It's not perfect, but seeing fresh produce grow makes the effort feel worthwhile."

Simon - Gardener



A Place to Grow Again



After several years lying dormant, the Wiston Lodge garden sprang to life once more.

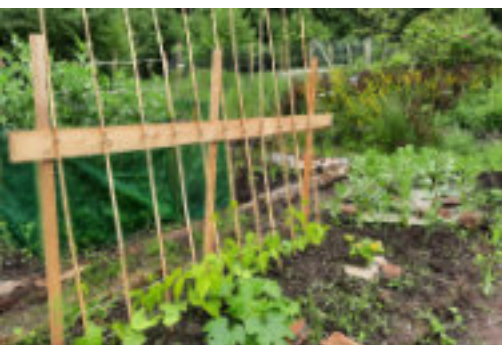
After several years of lying dormant, the overgrown and unproductive garden at Wiston Lodge was brought back to life with help of our new gardener Simon.

Simon brought new energy and drive to the garden along with a wealth of horticultural knowledge. Work started by clearing the overgrowth and assessing what could be salvaged and utilised. Within weeks, signs of new life began to emerge and vegetables, fruit, berries and herbs that could one day be utilised in the Wiston Lodge kitchen were planted. Simon also introduced organic practices, encouraging natural pest control and soil regeneration.

The results speak for themselves. Today, the garden supplies a regular flow of seasonal fresh, nutritious produce to our kitchen including potatoes, lettuce, cabbage, tomatoes, cucumbers, aubergines along with various berries, apples and other fruit. To get so much produce out of the garden in the first year is a real testament to our garden team and their hard work which has allowed us

to serve healthy meals to our customers with ingredients grown on site. The impact has been felt beyond the kitchen too; the garden has become a space of learning, healing, and we have exciting plans we hope to take forward in the coming years to further utilise the space.

Thanks to Simon and the garden team, what was once an overgrown plot is now flourishing again. Their work has not only revived a garden, but also reconnected people with the land, with each other, and with the idea that small changes can grow into something truly meaningful.



Kitchen Renovation



An all-new kitchen allows us to continue delivering the tasty, nutritious food Wiston Lodge is famous for - now from our garden too.

This year, one of the most exciting transformations at Wiston Lodge has been the complete renovation of our kitchen - a much-needed upgrade that has already made a huge difference to our day-to-day operations.

With generous help in the form of a loan from Social Investment Scotland, we were able to strip out the outdated fixtures and install a bright, modern, and fully functional kitchen that better serves the needs of our visitors and staff.

The old kitchen had become increasingly unfit for purpose, with limited space, aging appliances, and poor storage. The new design maximises space and efficiency, featuring industrial-grade equipment, energy-efficient lighting and appliances, and improved ventilation - all within a welcoming, hygienic environment.

The renovation wasn't just about aesthetics. For many of our visiting groups - including school parties, youth groups, and vulnerable young people - shared meals are a vital part of their stay, bringing everyone together and helping build confidence and community. With our new kitchen, we can now cater more effectively to larger groups and accommodate a wider range of dietary needs. It also allows us to expand our cooking-based educational sessions, teaching essential life skills in a safe and supportive environment.

We're proud of this achievement, and even prouder of what it represents: our ongoing commitment to providing a warm, safe, and inclusive space where people of all ages and backgrounds can grow, learn, and thrive. The kitchen is the heart of our centre - and now, it truly feels like it.









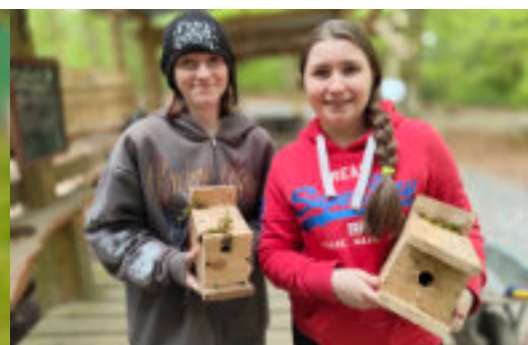
Year in Review

The world continues to bring it's challenges for charities, but our customers keep coming back, and bringing new ones with them.

In a time of ongoing uncertainty and shifting habits, loyalty has never meant more. We're continually inspired by the resilience of our community and grateful for the trust our customers place in us. Despite rising costs, and the cost of living crisis generally, we've seen familiar faces return time and again.

This continued support isn't something we take for granted. It's a testament to the relationships we've built and the consistent experience we strive to provide. Word-of-mouth has become one of our strongest assets, as satisfied customers share their positive experiences and bring others along to see Wiston Lodge for themselves. Whether it's a recommendation on social media or a casual conversation, these moments have helped us grow stronger, together.

We know that challenges will keep coming, but we remain committed to adapting, listening, and delivering value. As we look ahead, we're excited to welcome even more new faces—while making sure our loyal regulars always feel right at home.





"Arriving at Wiston is like coming home after an extremely hard and difficult time in the real world. It's like a warm blanket that just wraps itself around you and makes you feel safe, loved and cared for"

Adoption UK Weekend

Group Spotlight



Connecting people through shared experiences, stories, and lasting impact.

Wiston Lodge thrives on the diversity of our customers – people of all ages from all walks of life enjoy us and all that we offer. We love to hear stories about people's time with us, and are keen to share the impact that our work has on our visitors. Each experience is unique, and we're proud to create a space where personal growth, connection, and lasting memories can flourish. By celebrating these stories, we hope to inspire others to discover what makes Wiston Lodge such a special place. We also want to say a big thank you to our customers who return year after year – groups like South East Scotland Quakers, Tinto Music and Arts, Women Singing and McCoco.

Year in Numbers

5610

Total Number of Visitors

205

Total Number of Groups

637

Young people with ASN

87

Youth/School Groups

1052

Community Event
Attendees



"Wiston Lodge was a very positive experience, the children came back to school buzzing, parents were delighted with the photos, tales and experiences of the children"

Teacher, St Athanasius Primary



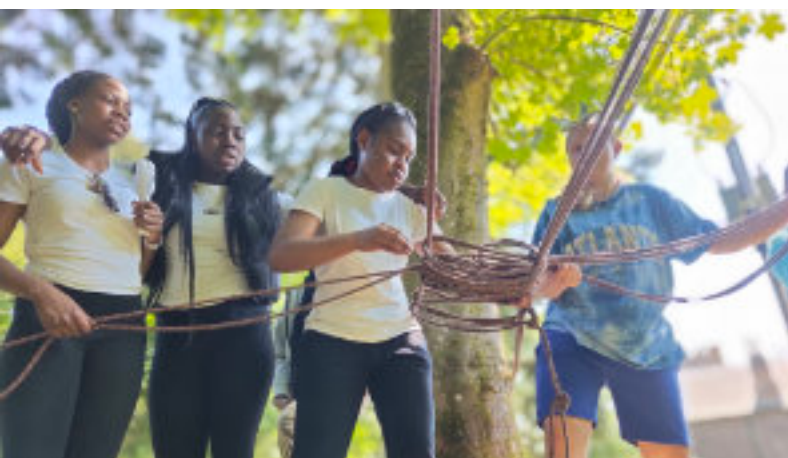
VASlan

We welcomed the staff team from our local third sector interface VASlan for a team development day. Working with 2 of our development workers, we took the team through a day of personal and team challenges. Providing this work for other charity organisations is rewarding work for us and highlights our strong partnerships with other local organisations.



Royal Botanic Students

For the last few years we have welcomed students from Edinburgh Botanic Gardens studying plant analysis and learning new techniques. Wiston Lodge's 54 acres provide a wealth of opportunity to explore a wide range of flora. It also gives us the opportunity to learn more about our grounds and the interesting plants and trees we are custodians of.



Cassiltoun Housing

Cassiltoun Housing Association brought a group of young people away for a day of teambuilding and fun in the summer as part of their events calendar for their residents. The day provided a valuable opportunity for young people to build confidence, strengthen friendships and develop new skills. Staff from Cassiltoun were on hand to support and encourage everyone, making it a truly memorable experience for all involved.



Bearsden Academy

Bearsden Academy have been visiting Wiston for over 15 years at this point and are a staple of our calendar. Their school orchestra spends the weekend practicing together and making memories that will last a lifetime. The weekend is always filled with energy and creativity. Alongside the focused rehearsals, there's always time for laughter, shared meals, and bonding moments that help to create a strong sense of community among the group.



Community Events at Wiston Lodge

In 2023 we organised several events for the local community, starting with a popular Halloween celebration with spooky trail, pumpkin carving, and storytelling. The success of this event paved the way for the Green Santa Christmas event, which focused on sustainability and festive fun. Children

met Green Santa on a festive light trail and learned about nature in a joyful, inclusive setting. With strong local support, dedicated staff, and volunteers, we began building lasting connections and meaningful experiences that continue to thrive today.



Employability and Youth Volunteer Programmes

At Wiston Lodge we have a long history of supporting young people to gain the skills needed to get ahead in life. We continued this work in 23-24, welcoming our usual cohort of young volunteers to assist us on our school holiday activities, as well as at our community events. They gained experience in working with and supporting children, as well as training

in child protection. We also worked with organisations like Ocean Youth Trust to give young people hands on skills in industries they may not have realised were open to them in the outdoors; this is work we will be continuing to develop within new areas like the garden. We want to say a big thank you to all of our volunteers for their support this year.



Freelance Development Workers

Our freelance development workers expertise, passion, and flexibility ensure we provide high-quality, engaging experiences that inspire and challenge participants. They bring diverse skills and fresh perspectives, enriching our programmes with energy and professionalism. Whether

leading canoeing or facilitating a team-building session, their commitment to safety, learning, and personal, social and emotional development underpins everything we do. We want to say a huge thank you to our dedicated team for their hard work this year.



Funded Projects

The Path of the Little People continues to grow and flourish, becoming a central feature of our local community events. This imaginative and inclusive project has evolved into much more than a sensory trail—it now serves all of our groups as a space to explore and connect with nature and one another. Thanks to generous 3-year funding of £88,059 from the National Lottery

Young Start programme, the newly recruited Project Coordinator Jacqui has been able to introduce new, exciting features along the Path and run events that encourage even greater community involvement. This ongoing development ensures the Path of the Little People continues to inspire, educate, and bring joy to all who visit and take part.



Board of Trustees



Amanda Burguaer
Chair



George Sutherland
Trustee



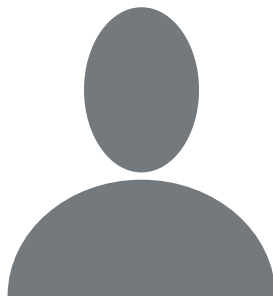
John Moffat
Treasurer



Judy Russell
Trustee



Ian Edwards
Trustee



Jane Robison
Trustee

Our Funders



The National Lottery Community Fund



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot



Accounts



Financial Activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2024 Total Funds	2023 Total Funds
INCOME & ENDOWMENTS FROM				
Donations & Legacies	58,285	194,627	252,912	223,915
Charitable Activities				
Incoming resources from charitable activities	389,599	-	389,599	320,429
Investment income	733	-	733	702
Other income	28,073	-	28,073	248,395
Total	476,690	194,627	671,317	793,441
EXPENDITURE ON				
Charitable Activities				
Charitable Activities	618,195	47,786	665,981	687,793
Governance Costs	8,000	-	8,000	10,473
Total	626,195	47,786	673,981	698,266
NET INCOME (EXPENDITURE)	(149,505)	146,841	(2,664)	95,175
	132,760	(132,760)		
Net movement in funds	(16,745)	14,081	(2,664)	95,175
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Total funds brought forward	1,967,577	113,320	2,080,897	1,985,722
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	1,950,832	127,401	2,078,233	2,080,897

Balance Sheet

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2024 Total Funds	2023 Total Funds
Fixed Assets				
Tangible Assets	2,284,993	-	2,284,993	2,121,053
Current Assets				
Debtors	99,606	73,218	172,824	198,384
Cash at bank and in hand	3,245	54,183	57,428	144,128
	102,851	127,401	230,252	342,512
CREDITORS				
Amounts falling due within one year	(240,762)	-	(240,762)	(247,065)
NET CURRENT ASSETS	(137,911)	127,401	(10,510)	95,447
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	2,147,082	127,401	2,274,483	2,216,500
CREDITORS				
Amounts falling due after more than one year	(196,250)	-	(196,250)	(135,603)
NET ASSETS	1,950,832	127,401	2,078,233	2,080,897
FUNDS				
Unrestricted funds			1,950,832	1,967,577
Restricted funds			127,401	113,320
TOTAL FUNDS			2,078,233	2,080,897



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