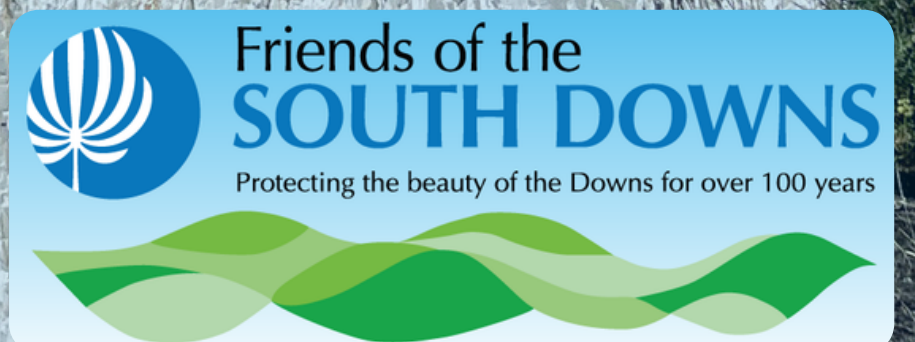


FRIENDS OF THE SOUTH DOWNS

Summary Report
for 2025



Friends of the South Downs is an independent charity with over 1,300 members, founded in 1923, working to protect and enhance the natural beauty of the South Downs National Park.

We share our love of the South Downs by:

- ▶ Valuing the landscape, to safeguard it for the future
- ▶ Promoting nature recovery
- ▶ Engaging people, so that everyone has the opportunity to learn about and love the South Downs.

OUR WORK IN 2025

This document is a summary of the charity's annual report and accounts for 2025 which is available on our website.

During 2025, our work included nature recovery and environmental projects, activities to interest children in the Downs, monitoring planning applications, and improving access to the countryside.



NATURE RECOVERY & ENVIRONMENT

We funded nature recovery projects at Noar Hill in Hampshire and Ebernoe in Sussex. Noar Hill is a beautiful chalk downland nature reserve and a Site of Special Scientific Interest. We are funding a survey of invertebrates, the creation of scrapes to encourage wildlife, and no-fence cattle collars to make livestock conservation grazing easier.

Ebernoe is a varied ancient woodland pasture with ponds, streams, meadows and reclaimed arable land under conversion back to woodland. Here too we are funding no-fence cattle collars to facilitate grazing and scrub clearance to improve the habitat for nightingales.

We are supporting citizen science projects through funding and volunteers to monitor the water quality in the Ouse and Adur and Western Sussex Rivers.

CHILDREN

We want children, especially those who do not usually visit the Downs, to learn about the landscape so that they will value it in the future. We gave over 1,500 children the opportunity to experience the Downs on day trips or overnight stays. We are running a project mainly funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund to provide children with a greater insight into the nature and culture of the Downs.



PLANNING & CONSERVATION

We monitor planning applications and commented on seventeen that we thought would have unacceptable effects on the natural beauty, wildlife, cultural heritage or communities of the Park. We commented on the South Downs National Park Authority's review of the South Downs Local Plan.

ACCESS

In addition to arranging an extensive programme of walks, we promote access to the countryside by replacing stiles with gates and providing benches.

YOUNG PEOPLE

We particularly want to involve young people and have introduced a free young adult membership for those aged 18 to 30. We are delighted that in 2025, 104 young adults joined the Friends via the initiative.

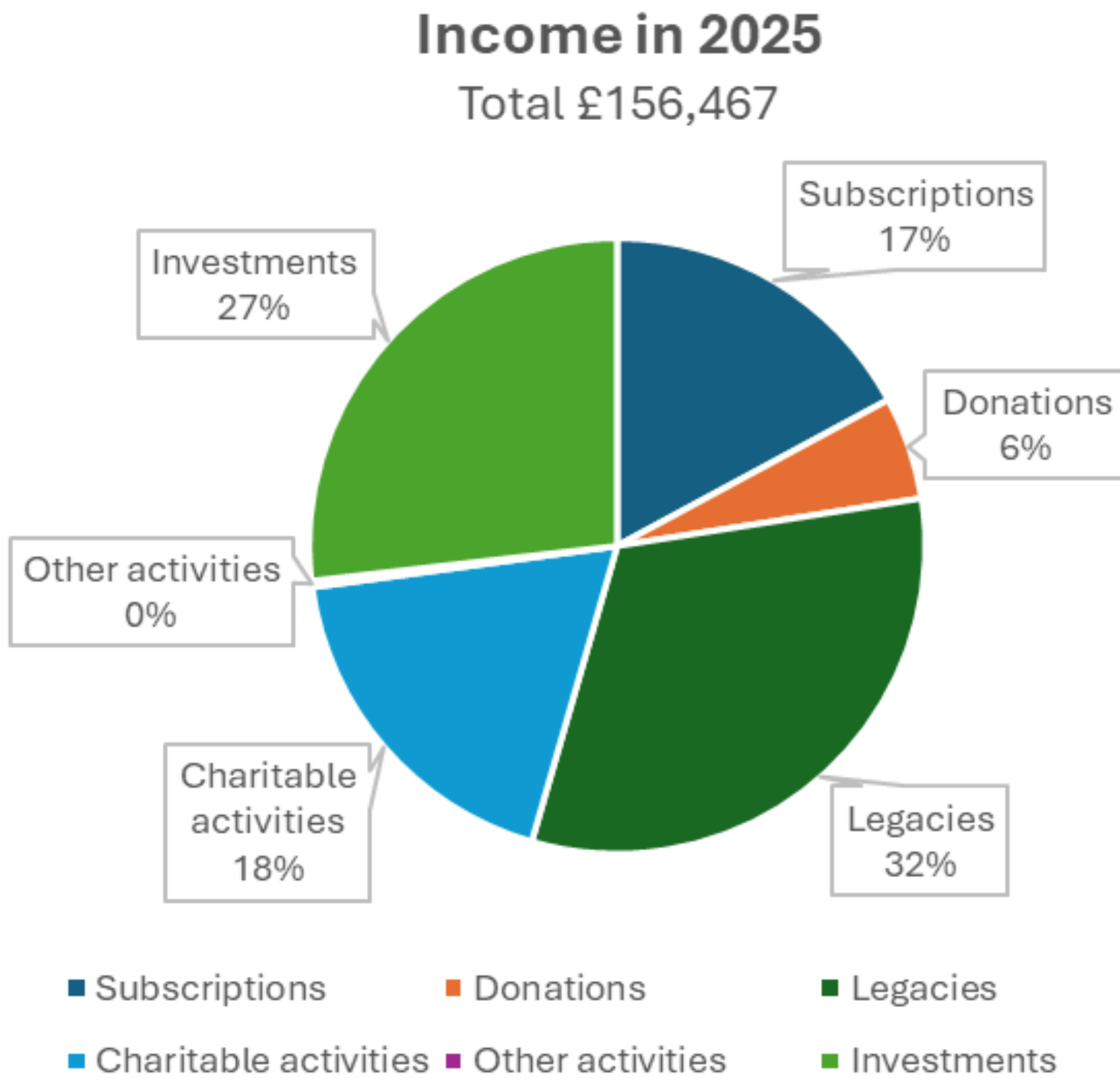
FINANCE

The Friends uses its financial resources to help achieve its charitable objective of conserving and enhancing for the public benefit the beauty and amenities of the South Downs in and within the vicinity of the South Downs National Park.

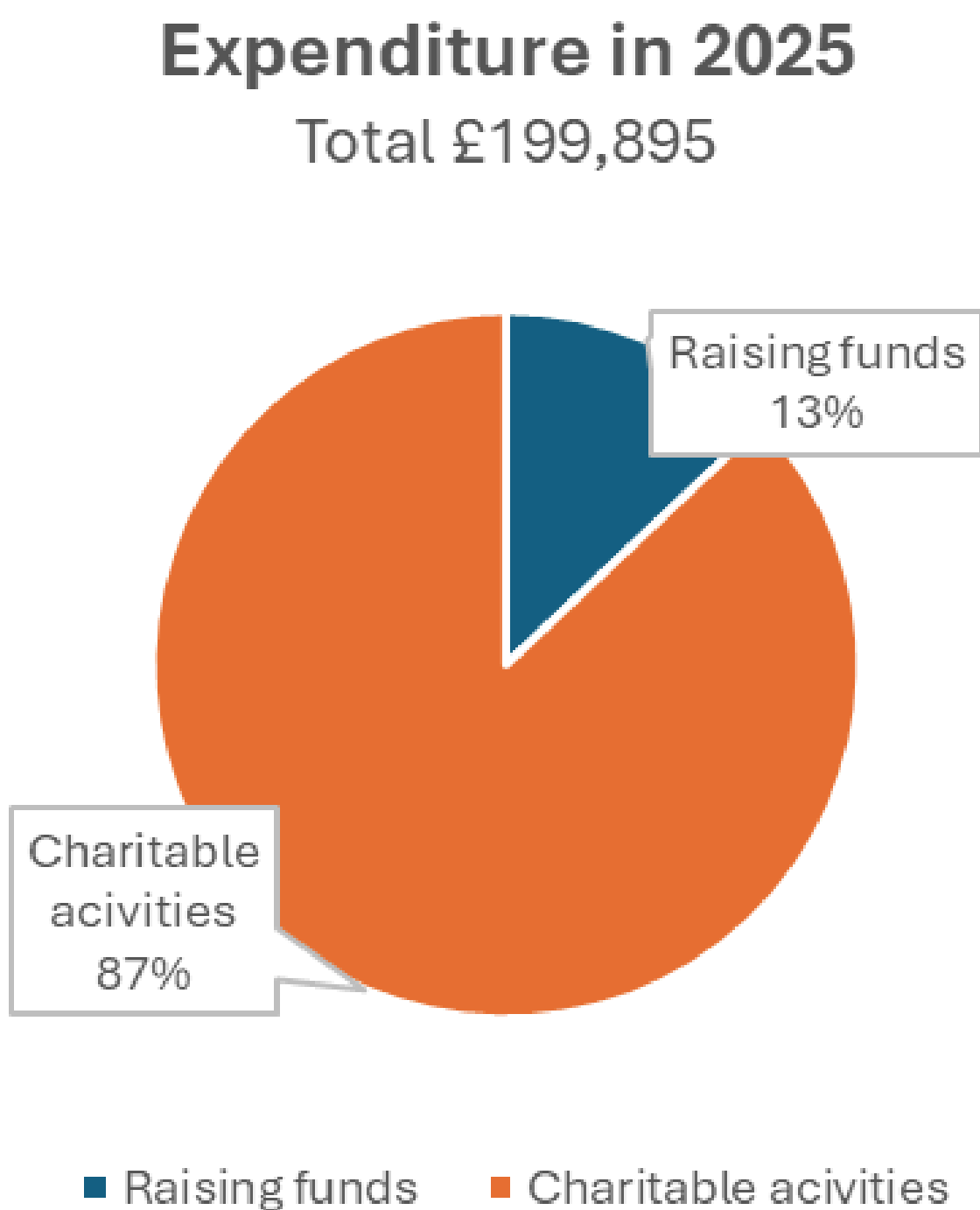
During 2025, expenditure exceeded income by £43,428 (2024: surplus of £31,471). The charity received legacies totalling £50,000 and spent £174,009 on charitable activities. The market value of investments rose by £52,301 (2024: rise of £27,585), resulting in an overall increase in funds of £8,873 (2024: increase of £59,056). At the year end total funds stood at £927,841 (2024: £918,968).

The Friends maintains its funds at a level to provide income to support activities which would not otherwise be affordable and to fund projects which are consistent with its objectives.

A breakdown of income in 2025 is shown below. Legacies made a big difference to our finances in 2025.



The chart below shows our expenditure in 2025. By far the greater part of expenditure is on our charitable work.



SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Summary financial statements for year ended 31 December 2025				
Balance sheet				
As at 31 December 2025				
		2025		2024
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets				
Investments		839,629		787,328
Current assets				
Stock				957
Debtors	8,400			8,350
Cash at bank and in hand	99,838	108,238	162,477	171,784
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		(20,026)		(40,144)
Net current assets		88,212		131,640
Net assets		927,841		918,968
Funds				
Unrestricted funds		927,841		918,968
Total funds		927,841		918,968



SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Statement of Financial Activities			
(including income and expenditure account)			
For the year ended 31 December 2025			
		2025	2024
		£	£
Income from:			
Subscriptions, donations and legacies		85,247	127,637
Charitable activities		28,748	21,702
Other trading activities		526	1,508
Investments and interest		41,946	41,522
Total		156,467	192,369
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds		25,886	24,503
Charitable activities		174,009	136,395
Total		199,895	160,898
Net income/(expenditure)		(43,428)	31,471
Other recognised gains/(losses)			
Gains/(Losses) on investment assets		52,301	27,585
Net movement in funds		8,873	59,056
Reconciliation of funds			
Total funds brought forward		918,968	859,912
Total funds carried forward		927,841	918,968





Friends of the **SOUTH DOWNS**

Protecting the beauty of the Downs for over 100 years



Members may wish to contact the Friends of the South Downs' office to request a full copy of the annual report and accounts or download the documents via the website.

Friends of the South Downs is a company limited by guarantee, registered no 319437, and is a registered charity no 230329

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