

Rose Garden Café Partnership

Sharing with you our progress this year



IN THIS ISSUE OF OUR NEWSLETTER

2025 – looking back at the year

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The latest summary of all our fund-raising efforts

Design Update

Where we have got to in terms of design and the exciting next steps

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By Chris Hallam - Chair



"I would like to extend enormous thanks to every single person who has donated so far to our campaign, it really does have an influence. Once again, the people of the city have shown how proud they are of our heritage and how much they are prepared to support this cause."

"The Partnership has had an extremely busy and productive year in 2025. It has been an absolute pleasure to work with such a willing and capable group of volunteers and professionals that make up our group."

"Whether this be in terms of Grant applications, expertly martialled by Caroline Dewar, fundraising under the creative eyes of Liz Hnat and Andy Kershaw and our wider fundraising team, events in the park generously supported by Catherine McDougall and Simon Ross, the huge support of Julie Collins and her team at Dukes, the heritage walks led by David Hartlebury, the operation and maintenance of the café today led by Nathan Rodgers or the design of the restored Café itself led by Rebecca Nixon, Chris Hill and Alan Nock we have in each group a mixture of partnership members, professionals and other committed volunteers. It really does show what can be achieved when people work towards a common cause."

"Next year will see us look to get planning approval as we corral the funds to get started on the building work! Personally, I can't wait to see what we can achieve!"

Restoration and Design Progress

- The partnership advanced through RIBA Stage 1 and Stage 2 design reviews, with detailed reports shared in January and February. These included multiple design options and cost plans for the café's restoration and refurbishment. We are now ready to seek planning consent for the Café restoration.

2. Fundraising Achievements

- **Donations and Just Giving** - Just Giving online and offline donations = £26,659 + £2,586 gift aid = £29,245. This includes coffee RGC donations, walks, talks, events such as a pie and pea supper and quiz, as well as individual donations. The goal is £37,500 which will unlock funding for the first restoration phase.
- **Grants** - The combined total so far is £23,000 - Grants generously awarded so far from: The Hugh Neill Charity, The Freshgate Trust Foundation, The J G Graves Charitable Trust, The Sheffield Town Trust.
- **SCC Contributions** - Essential Compliance and Maintenance fund. £150,000. Donations from local area committees: £25,000.
- **Other Community Support** – “Gifts in kind” for outside terracing, work/materials up to £30,000.

Expenditure to date - Partnership has spent or committed £106,996.79, some of this is included in the £738,760 Phase 1a spend (front wall restoration etc).

3. Public Engagement and Community Support

- A public meeting was held on 10th February, aimed at sharing plans and gathering feedback.
- Easter craft stalls and other community-led initiatives helped maintain momentum and visibility for the project.
- A public meeting is being planned for early 2026.

4. Funding Applications and Strategic Partnerships

- In September, discussions with the National Lottery Heritage Fund began, focusing on a pipeline of funding applications for Sheffield City Council projects, including Rose Garden Café.
- By November, the partnership secured its first two grant pots, a major milestone proving that the project is worthy of grant support.

5. Governance and Reporting

- Regular updates were provided to the Charity Trustee Sub-Committee, with progress papers scheduled for March and ongoing collaboration across task groups.

6. Key Meetings and Milestones

- Partnership meetings were held throughout the year (January, April, June, September, November), each focusing on design reviews, funding strategies, and community engagement.
- Task and finish groups continued to meet throughout the year to deliver work on fundraising, grant applications and design phases.

The members would like to thank all our supporters for their efforts in 2025...here's to 2026!