

STANDEN FRUIT FARM COMMUNITY ORCHARD ASSOCIATION

England & Wales · Charity number 1152055

Details

Other names	SFFCOA
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2013-05-16
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Tarifa Fairglen Road Wadhurst TN5 6JL
Phone	01892782419
Email	thaigoulton@btinternet.com
Website	www.SFFCO.org.uk

Activities

Objects: (A)TO PROMOTE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC THE CONSERVATION, PROTECTION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE PHYSICAL AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT IN THE STANDEN FRUIT FARM COMMUNITY ORCHARD; (B)TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN THE CONSERVATION, PROTECTION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE PHYSICAL AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT IN THE STANDEN FRUIT FARM COMMUNITY ORCHARD.

Activities: Activities included the maintenance and conservation of the Standen Fruit Farm Orchard, including grazing, mowing, pruning, protecting trees, picking fruit and holding an Apple Day for invited members of the public to pick fruit on the Association's plot, to make apple juice and to sample cider and honey from the orchard.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Education/training, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** KENT
- Kent

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£68,739	£21,376	-	-
2024-08-31	£15,292	£17,735	-	-
2023-08-31	£11,835	£9,485	-	-
2022-08-31	£14,231	£12,259	-	-
2021-08-31	£11,049	£10,962	-	-
2020-08-31	£10,942	£19,221	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Simon Spanswick	Chair	2018-08-14
Charles Reed		2022-11-11
Karen Christopherson		2014-10-01
Kristina Edwards		2019-03-12
Michael Brown		2015-04-26
Peter Hawkins		2022-11-11
Rebecca Cassidy		2022-11-11
Susan Armstrong		2019-03-12
THAI GOULTON		2012-12-10

STANDEN FRUIT FARM COMMUNITY ORCHARD ASSOCIATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1152055

Accounts



Standen Fruit Farm Community Orchard Association

Annual Report for the year to 31 August 2025

The past year has again been one of hard work and quiet progress in the Orchard, with the Trustees and volunteers contributing several hundred hours both on site and at home to ensure the continued care and development of this remarkable community asset.

We begin with an apology. Our communications with members and supporters have been sparse over the past year, largely because of the need to rebuild and update the membership database. This has taken far longer than expected, but we are pleased to report that the system is now being brought fully up to date. We have a clear plan in place, and members can look forward to more regular and informative updates in the coming year, and Jane Pyne has kindly volunteered to keep membership records up to date.

Orchard Management and Maintenance

The routine care of the Orchard has continued under the experienced supervision of our Orchard Manager, Guy Pullen, who has again worked throughout the seasons with Trustees and volunteers on pruning, mowing, hedging and general site upkeep. The winter pruning programme was completed across the central blocks, with follow-on summer pruning in fields 5 and 6, and selective restoration of veteran trees in fields 3 and 4. Much of this work has been supported by volunteers, as well as the teams of Sam Winter and Paul Haralambie, with guidance from Guy.

The ongoing creation of deadhedging from pruning debris continues to enhance biodiversity and protect young trees. A trial area of new hedging was established following historic boundary lines, combining hawthorn and other traditional species, with protective fencing and natural screening. New tree planting, supported by grants from Sussex Lund and Countryside Stewardship, will begin in earnest later this year once sites have been finalised in consultation with the Orchard Manager.

The sheep have again played an important role in grass control, while the mechanical mowing by James Barrow ensured access tracks and open areas were kept clear—particularly in preparation for Apple Day.

Recently we have undertaken work on the benches in the orchard which have been deteriorating. Walkers, plot owners and supporters can now rest on the seats without fear of collapse!

Land and Plots

The Association now owns sixteen orchard plots, with one further purchase pending registration at the Land Registry. We continue to facilitate sales between owners wishing to sell and those on our waiting list, and where appropriate to acquire plots to consolidate





Standen Fruit Farm Community Orchard Association

community stewardship of the Orchard. We were grateful to members who donated or sold their plots at favourable rates to the Association during the year.

The Trustees also considered longer-term options for acquiring adjoining plots and other areas, recognising that such purchases would strengthen protection of the Orchard as a whole. While significant funding would be required, possible approaches to benefactors or grant funders are under review.

Grants and Finance

The Association's finances remain in good order, with support continuing from the Countryside Stewardship, Farming in Protected Landscapes and Sussex Lund schemes. These have covered pruning, hedge management, and other conservation works. The Association also opened a new Cambridge and Counties savings account during the year to earn interest on reserve funds, providing a more secure base for future maintenance and renewal.

Partnerships and Community

We again took part in the Hawkhurst and Sandhurst Heritage Project coordinated by The Amelia in Tunbridge Wells, contributing material and expertise about the Orchard's history for the community almanac published in 2024. The Trustees were delighted to see Standen featured in this attractive record of local heritage.

Apple Day

Apple Day 2024 was held immediately following the AGM in September and attracted a lively crowd of around 200 visitors. The new layout worked well, with stalls offering local produce, refreshments and entertainment, including the much-loved ukulele band and vintage tractor display. Particular thanks go to all who helped organise the day and to those who provided equipment and manpower before and after the event. Recommendations from this successful gathering—including improved visitor sign-in and extra straw bales—are being acted upon for Apple Day 2025, scheduled for 12 October 2025.





Standen Fruit Farm Community Orchard Association

For this year's apple day, guests are in for a bumper crop of fruit. 2025 has proved an extraordinarily good year for apples and the orchard is no exception. There's an immense variety still left on the trees as I prepare this report, so I think that everybody is going to enjoy walking and gathering across the orchard.

Acknowledgements

As chair, I wish to place on record my sincere thanks to Susie Armstrong, Michael Brown, Rebecca Cassidy, Karen Christopherson, Kristina Edwards, Thai Goulton, Peter Hawkins and Charles Reed for their many hours of voluntary work throughout the year, and to Guy Pullen for his continued dedication as Orchard Manager. Together they have spent countless hours—often unseen—ensuring that the Orchard remains a healthy, beautiful and secure landscape for all who value it.

Looking Ahead

In the year ahead, our priorities are to:

- Complete planting of the new heritage apple trees;
- Continue the rolling hedge-management programme;
- Expand ecological surveying and mapping of the Orchard;
- Re-establish regular newsletters and digital updates to members; and
- Strengthen the Association's ownership and protection of the land.

Despite the inevitable challenges of maintaining such a large and historic site, the past year has shown once again what a committed volunteer team can achieve. The Orchard continues to flourish—an enduring example of shared community responsibility and the quiet rewards of stewardship.

Simon Spanswick
Chairman of the Trustees
September 2025

Charity Registration No. 1152055

STANDEN FRUIT FARM COMMUNITY ORCHARD ASSOCIATION - ACCOUNTS 1st Sept 2024 - 31st August 2025

Income		
	2025	2024
Grants	66,372.83	8,166.62
Membership	1,168.88	1,329.16
Donations	625.00	5,199.50
Apple & log sales	268.00	492.00
Grazing	-	-
Interest	304.20	104.92
Extraordinary income	-	-
Governance costs	-	-
TOTAL INCOME	68,738.91	15,292.20

Expenditure		
	2025	2024
Governance costs	826.50	2,331.76
Publicity & promotions	-	-
Travel to meetings	-	-
Fuel for orchard work	-	-
Equipment & repairs	1,000.00	1,693.61
Orchard Manager	8,961.25	4,120.00
Other labour	-	-
Grass cutting	2,160.00	2,280.00
Tree pruning and maintenance	6,379.00	6,780.00
Insurances	160.54	-
Planning fees	-	-
Soil Association fees	-	-
Liming	-	-
Purchase of plots	1,888.64	-
Purchase of assets	-	-
Training	-	-
BCTV fees	-	-
Bees	-	-
Other Purchases	-	529.28
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	21,375.93	17,734.64

Balance

Brought forward from deposit a/c	8,773.37
Brought forward from current a/c	500.59
Income for year 2024-25	68,738.91
Expenditure for year 2024-25	21,375.93
Current balance	<u>56,636.94</u>
Balance carried forward to deposit a/c	56,271.35
Balance carried forward to current a/c	365.59
Total carried forward	56,636.94

Treasurer:	
Date:	

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Standen Fruit Farm Community Orchard Association

Charity Name: Standen Fruit Farm Community Orchard Association

Charity Registration Number: 1152055

Financial Period Ended: 31 August 2025

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The trustees of Standen Fruit Farm Community Orchard Association are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act and for ensuring that they give a true and fair view of the charity's financial activities.

I have been appointed under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 to carry out an independent examination of the accounts.

My responsibility is to examine the accounts and to state whether any matters have come to my attention which give me reasonable cause to believe that:

1. Accounting records were not kept in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act;
2. The accounts do not accord with those records;
3. The accounts do not comply with relevant statutory requirements;
4. There is any other matter to which attention should be drawn to ensure a proper understanding of the accounts.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011.

An independent examination includes reviewing the accounting records maintained by the charity, comparing the accounts presented with those records, and considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts. It does not constitute an audit and therefore I do not express an audit opinion.

Independent Examiner's Statement

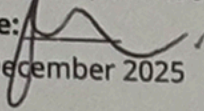
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements to
- keep accounting records in accordance with the Charities Act, and
- prepare accounts that are consistent with those records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act have not been met; or
- to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Examiner's Details

Name: Nick Ditton FIFA

Address: Suite 4, 1st Floor Unit 2, Crown Yard, Bedgebury Estate, Goudhurst TN17 2QZ

Signature: 

Date: 4 December 2025

STANDEN FRUIT FARM COMMUNITY ORCHARD ASSOCIATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1152055

Accounts



Standen Fruit Farm Community Orchard Association

Annual Report for the year to 31 August 2024

The past year has been busy across the Orchard, and the Association has a range of good news to tell members.

We must begin with an apology. We migrated the membership records to an online database to make it easier to manage. However, things did not go as well as expected, resulting in a loss of the data and the need to rebuild the membership records. As a result, the flow of information to members has been less than we would have liked. We're now back on track, so keep an eye on your in box for more regular updates.

The Association has been fortunate enough to purchase several plots from owners who have decided to sell. In addition, we have facilitated the sale of some other plots to the list of those who want to have a plot in the Orchard. We will continue to broker sales between those who want to sell and those who are interested in buying, and when plots come up and we don't have anyone on the waiting list, the Association will strive to acquire them.

Following a couple of years of pruning demonstrations by Guy Pullen, the Trustees have engaged Guy as part-time Orchard Manager to handle routine maintenance across the 50 or so acres. Guy brings a range of skills and expertise to the Orchard, and his efforts are clear to see across the site.

Guy joined a number of Trustees and volunteers during the late winter in laying hedges on the boundaries of the Orchard – hard work that's nonetheless an important maintenance task, for keeping the sheep in as much as the aesthetics.

The sheep have been welcome residents for much of the year, helping to keep the grass under control and providing a truly rustic look to the Orchard. We undertook a major programme of fitting protectors for trees to prevent the sheep – and indeed other animals – causing damage by eating the bark of trees.

We have deployed mechanical cutting as well, with brother and sister team of James and Harriet Barrow keeping the main pathways clear. Over the past few days, they have managed to mow the entire orchard in time for Apple Day. With the sheep stopping the grass from getting too high, the motorised mowing is easier than it would be without them.

Fundraising has been a major undertaking, and thanks are due to Kristina Edwards and Rebecca Cassidy in particular for the considerable amounts of work undertaken to secure grants.

Sussex Lund, Farming in Protected Landscapes and Countryside Stewardship have made grants for restorative pruning across the orchard and for installing protective tree netting to prevent the deer, sheep and rabbits from munching the bark of trees. Management of hedgerows is also covered by a grant.

We have been lucky enough to gain a grant to plant new trees in part of the Orchard. Around 100 young heritage variety trees are to be supplied by Mayfield nursery Heron's Folly, and these will be planted in stages over the winter months in the open area in fields 9 and 10. The new trees will add to the stock of trees we have growing in the Orchard and replace some that are now starting to



Standen Fruit Farm Community Orchard Association

show their age. This work is part of an ongoing programme of Orchard renewal that will maintain the tree stock across the site.

The Amelia Museum in Tunbridge Wells selected Hawkhurst and Sandhurst to join a two-year project to raise awareness of the natural environment, and the orchard has been approached to be involved with this. A representative of the Museum will be at the Apple Day and will be happy to answer questions about the project.

In all, it has been a busy year for the Association and thanks are due to the immense amounts of work contributed by the volunteer Trustees: Susie Armstrong, Michael Brown, Rebecca Cassidy, Karen Christopherson, Kristina Edwards, Thai Goulton, Peter Hawkins and Charles Reed.

Without this remarkable team, the Orchard would not be in such a good state or have secured the specialist grants for maintenance work to protect this very special place.

Simon Spanswick
Chairman of the Trustees
22 September 2024



Standen Fruit Farm Community Orchard Association

SFFCOA accounts 2023-2024V1 ▼

2024 Accounts

STANDEN FRUIT FARM C			1September 2023 to 31 August 2024		
	2024	2023		2024	2023
Income			Expenditure		
Grants	8,166.62	8,634.01	Governance costs	2,331.75	1,460.26
Membership	1,329.16	807.68	Publicity & promotions	0.00	0.00
Donations	5,199.50	0.00	Travel to meetings	0.00	0.00
Apple & log sales	492.00	614.00	Fuel for orchard work	0.00	0.00
Grazing		0.00	Equipment & repairs	1,693.61	766.90
Interest	104.92	37.21	Orchard Manager	4,120.00	0.00
Extraordinary income	0.00	215.00	Other labour	0.00	0.00
			Grass cutting	2,280.00	1,130.00
			Tree pruning and maintenance	6,780.00	4,471.00
			Insurances	0.00	0.00
			Planning fees	0.00	0.00
			Soil Association fees	0.00	0.00
			Liming	0.00	0.00
			Purchase of assets	0.00	1,500.00
TOTAL INCOME	15,292.20	10,307.90	Training	0.00	0.00
			BCTV fees	0.00	0.00
			Bees	0.00	0.00
			Other Purchases	529.28	0.00
			TOTAL EXPENDITURE	17,734.64	9,328.16
Balance					
Brought forward from deposit a/c		11,233.36			
Brought forward from current a/c		428.59			
Income for year 2022/2023		15,292.20			
Expenditure for year 2022/2023		17,734.64			
Current balance		<u>9,219.51</u>			
Balance carried forward to deposit a/c		8,718.92			
Balance carried forward to current a/c		500.59			
Total carried forward		9,219.51			
Treasurer:					
Date:					

STANDEN FRUIT FARM COMMUNITY ORCHARD ASSOCIATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1152055

Accounts

Standen Fruit Farm Community Orchard Association

Chairman's Report 2022-23

The past year has been busy and fulfilling for everyone involved in the Standen Fruit Farm Community Association with much activity.

After the 2022 AGM we held the traditional Apple Day, welcoming members and their guests to the Orchard where there was music, cider, cakes, hot food, children's competitions, archery and more. It was a great day for all the family, and we were delighted to see so many regular faces and newcomers during the afternoon.



At the end of 2022 two new Trustees were welcomed to the board of the Association: Rebecca Cassidy and Charles Reed. In addition, former chairman and long-standing supporter of the Orchard Peter Hawkins joined as a Trustee. Their combined expertise and wisdom are great assets to the Association and its members.

As always, keeping the Orchard in good repair is the Association's major task. We have been fortunate to have sheep helping to keep the grass under control across many parts of the 50+ acres, although this sometimes means we discover holes in fences that need to be repaired rapidly, adding to the list of work we need to do with associated costs, of course.

We have been working to give the opportunity for members of the Association to be involved in our maintenance work, as well as using the wonderful resource of the Orchard for the local community. In January, we hosted three days of pruning with local expert Guy Pullen. These were well attended and provided the chance to learn about the best ways to prune fruit trees as well as helping us to tackle some of the constantly needed pruning of our trees.

Items as mundane but important (and costly) as gate repairs (pictured right before the repair) have been undertaken, and the installation of tree guards to protect the trees from predators (possibly the sheep, but more likely rabbits and deer that enjoy visiting the Orchard!).

The Association received funding for the purchase of new trees to help fill part of the large open areas in fields nine and 10. The trees have been ordered and will be planted in the autumn of 2023. One of the challenges of planting new trees in the Orchard is the lack of water supplies in the different fields to keep the young trees alive. This is an issue that we will have to address.



Our multi-year project to identify the wide range of varieties we have in the Orchard continues under the expert leadership of Richard Wheeler. It's a mammoth task that

demonstrates the need for accurate record keeping of what you plant and where. The challenge is further compounded by the lack of landmarks within the various fields and the disappearance over the years of the original trackways which makes logging which variety is where more complex than we would like. It is hoped that this exercise will provide an accurate register of the tree varieties that we have.

Our fund-raising work continues apace, led by Kristina Edwards and Rebecca Cassidy who have been busily researching grants that might help the work of the Orchard both in maintenance and in ecologically sound development, such as planting new trees and preserving the areas that are havens for wildlife, such as field 12.

We have discovered that many trees in the cherry orchard have died this year, perhaps because of the extremes of weather that we've experienced and the lack of watering. The Trustees are going to consider how best to restore the cherry orchard – the problem of having no water supply exists in the cherry orchard, just as it does in fields three to 12 and we need to bear this in mind when considering the best course of action. The cherry trees have always been plundered by the birds as soon as the fruit starts to ripen, depriving owners of their cherries, so perhaps it is time to consider another fruit type such as plums to add variety to the Orchard and supplement the extensive apple harvest. Suggestions from members, particularly those with plots in the cherry orchard, are most welcome.

I pay tribute to all my fellow Trustees and thank them for the extraordinary amount of time that each of them gives to the Orchard. Without this small band of dedicated volunteers, the Orchard would not be in such good condition as it is today – it is a considerable task to manage 50 or so acres on an entirely voluntary basis and the sterling efforts of Trustees and a small but indefatigable group of supporters who wield chainsaws and scythes must be applauded.

I must conclude my report with two apologies to members of the Association:

Firstly, we have taken the decision not to hold Apple Day in 2023. We discovered that the date we had picked clashed with a range of other events in the locality meaning that we could not get stalls booked. In addition, this year's unpredictable weather means that the crop has ripened earlier than usual so a large proportion of the crop may already have been picked or have fallen by the date we had selected. In 2024, we will be back with a bigger and better Apple Day to make up for this year and we will also try to hold other events during the year to involved owners, members and their friends and families.

Secondly, we have been less than effective than we should at communicating what's been happening at the Orchard. I must accept much of the responsibility for this as I moved house shortly before the 2022 AGM and a great deal of my spare time has been taken up with getting my new home ready and this has meant that the work of keeping members up to date has, regrettably, taken something of a back seat. Now that the work of getting sorted in the new house has been mostly completed, I have more time and will endeavour to get back to providing more regular updates to members.

Despite these two items of less than positive news, I hope that members will appreciate the work that has been undertaken in the past 12 months and will continue to support the Association and its Trustees as we work on everyone's behalf to protect and enhance this wonderful piece of English countryside.

Simon Spanswick

STANDEN FRUIT FARM COMMUNITY ORCHARD ASSOCIATION - ACCOUNTS 1st Sr N ACCOUNTS 1st SEPTEMBER2022 - 31st AUGUST 2023

Income		2023	2022	Expenditure		2023	2022
Grants		10,124.14	10,865.13	Governance costs		760.26	497.12
Membership		788.26	1,208.61	Publicity & promotions			49.32
Donations		.	1,617.59	Travel to meetings			-
Apple & log sales		670.00	25.00	Fuel for orchard work			
Grazing				Equipment & repairs		766.90	850.19
Interest		37.21	3.69	Orchard Manager			-
Extraordinary income		215.00	572.27	Other labour			435.00
				Grass cutting		1,130.00	3,992.75
				Tree pruning and maintenance		4,471.00	6,131.00
				Insurances		157.28	233.41
				Planning fees			-
				Soil Association fees			
				Liming			
				Purchase of assets		700.00	
				Training			
				BCTV fees			
				Bees			
				Other Purchases		1,500.00	
				TOTAL EXPENDITURE		9,485.44	
TOTAL INCOME		11,834.61	11,049.17				12,388.79

Balance

Brought forward from deposit a/c		11,883.02
Brought forward from current a/c		428.59
Income for year 2022/2023		11,834.61
Expenditure for year 2022/2023	-	9,485.44
Current balance		<u>14,660.78</u>
Balance carried forward to deposit a/c		
Balance carried forward to current a/c		
Total carried forward		

10/09/2023

Treasurer:

Date:

STANDEN FRUIT FARM COMMUNITY ORCHARD ASSOCIATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1152055

Accounts



Standen Fruit Farm Community Orchard Association

Chairman's report 2021-22

I am pleased to report that the Association has enjoyed another year filled with positive developments at Standen Fruit Farm.

After last year's AGM, we held an immensely successful Apple Day. Toffee apples, apple rings, wood carvings, music and good food were among the delights on offer on an occasionally damp autumn day - which made up for the somewhat paltry apple harvest of 2021.

We had a thoroughly impressive number of visitors. We ensured that word about the Orchard was spread far and wide, firstly by Association members, then by the Trustees and finally by harnessing for the first time the power of social media advertising. For a modest investment of less than £40, we reached Facebook users across Kent and into Sussex and Surrey. As a result, large numbers of first-time visitors joined the Apple Day festivities. One of the children who came and took part in the colouring competition and biggest apple competition said that it was the "best day out ever". She had travelled from the Chatham area with her family for their first visit to the Orchard!



The 2022 Apple Day will be as splendid, we hope - and the apple crop is so much better than in 2021 so the event will live up to its name.



Maintaining the Orchard

A great deal of pruning was undertaken in Autumn 2021, with Sam Winter concentrating on looking after about 40 of the veteran trees, and a team of Romanian pruners with chainsaws doing the less delicate pruning of younger, more vigorous trees. This left us with vast amounts of branch debris to deal with, but perhaps also resulted in this year's bumper crop of huge apples.

Volunteer days were held on the second weekend of every month and moved from a Saturday to a Sunday morning. Plastic guards which were strangling trees were removed, brambles and other weeds were cut away from around the bases of trees, a disused and rotting eco-toilette in the cherry orchards was torn down, and some of the branch debris from pruning was piled into stacks.



Standen Fruit Farm Community Orchard Association

These monthly volunteer meetings have been successful as they bring together true orchard enthusiasts and there's a great deal of fun alongside the hard work of keeping the orchard under control. I think I should pay particular tribute to Wendy and Tony Tremenheere who have wielded scythes with greater style and success than Poldark can manage.



Keeping the grass across the entire 50-acre site under control has been one of the Trustees' greatest worries. With escalating fuel prices, the cost of mowing with a tractor has, naturally, increased. For this reason, we are extremely pleased that sheep are now grazing in larger parts of the Orchard, and we are confident that their number will be even greater in the coming year, enabling us to save mowing costs while at the same time reducing the Orchard's reliance on fossil fuel. Watching the sheep grazing contentedly among the trees is a wonderful sight that's enjoyed by all plot owners and their friends who visit the Orchard, as well as by walkers using the paths that cross the Orchard.



Other work by the Trustees has included further fund-raising by the indomitable Kristina Edwards whose skill at seeking out and then unlocking grants helps the Association to keep the Orchard in good condition. There are further details of grants in the Trustees' report.

We have an increasing number of people who are putting their names down to acquire one or more plots in the Orchard. We are working to trace as many of the absent owners as possible, to see whether they are interested in selling their plot or plots either to those on the waiting list or to the Association itself. Where we successfully trace an owner, we are sometimes surprised that in spite of not visiting the Orchard for years (and in some cases decades), they are reluctant to sell, even after they have initially suggested they are interested in disposing of a piece of land they don't use. It's a shame, as we'd like greater numbers of active plot holders who will contribute to life across the Orchard.

Funding and membership

A perennial concern for the Trustees is income for the Association to support the work of maintaining the entire Orchard for the benefit of plot owners and the local community. As the average age of members increases, membership subscriptions become less regular and in a good many cases cease. The Trustees are endeavouring to grow the number of members through new activities such as this Spring's inaugural Blossom Day. However, we need to be able to offer potential Association members who are not plot owners something that delivers return on their annual subscription. There are ideas that the Trustees have, and of course we welcome suggestions from plot owners and members. Between us, we can devise a worthwhile package.

The Orchard at Standen Street remains a wonderful place to spend time. It's peaceful, full of wildlife and produces some remarkable and often unusual varieties of apples. The Trustees are committed to the continued successful management of the Orchard for all – whether plot owners or those who walk the paths, or our local neighbours.

In conclusion, I must thank all my fellow Trustees for devoting so much time to the Orchard. Without their efforts, it's difficult to imagine how the Orchard would look. I'd also like to pay tribute to Rebecca Cassidy, Charles Reed, Peter Christopherson and his boys, Lisa Wheeler, Peter Hawkins and Kent Barker for their unstinting work and helpful advice and historical knowledge.

Simon Spanswick
Chairman
October 2022

**STANDEN FRUIT FARM COMMUNITY ORCHARD ASSOCIATION
ACCOUNTS 1 September 2020 - 31 August 2021**

Income	2022	2021
Grants	£10,865.13	£6,900.00
Membership	£1,208.61	£1,313.00
Donations	£1,555.67	£1,700.69
Apple & log sales	£25.00	£894.70
Grazing		
Interest	£3.69	£0.83
Extraordinary income	£572.27	£237.95
TOTAL INCOME	£14,230.37	£11,047.17

Balance

Brought forward from deposit a/c	£7,858.53
Brought forward from current a/c	£420.87
Income for year 2020/2021	£11,049.17
Expenditure for year 2020/2021	£12,258.54
Current balance	£7,070.03
Balance carried forward to deposit a/c	£7,853.53
Balance carried forward to current a/c	£420.87
Total carried forward	£8,274.40

Treasurer

Date

Expenditure	2022	2021
Governance costs	£567.12	£2,146.40
Publicity & promotions	£49.32	£154.35
Travel to meetins		
Fuel for orchard work		
Equipment & repairs	£850.19	£41.45
Orchard Manager		
Other labour	£435.00	£2,160.00
Grass cutting	£3,992.50	£557.50
Tree pruning & maintenance	£6,131.00	£5,300.50
Insurances	£233.41	£201.60
Planning fees		
Soil Association fees		
Liming		
Purchase of assets		£400.00
Training		
BCTV fees		
Bees		
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£12,258.54	£10,961.80

STANDEN FRUIT FARM COMMUNITY ORCHARD ASSOCIATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1152055

Accounts



Standen Fruit Farm Community Orchard Association

Chairman's report 2021



I am pleased to be able to tell you that the past year has been busy, productive, and successful for the Association.

The Trustees have worked hard to keep on top of maintenance issues throughout the Orchard. Immense strides have been made in the cherry orchard – known as fields one and two (right) – with this area of around seven acres was cleared and brambles that had engulfed many of the trees cut down. We have been extremely pleased that the cherry orchard became fully accessible for the first time in several years.



In the rest of the Orchard, our now regular winter pruning took place. We believe that it is important to keep the trees under control to stop them from getting too big and to encourage effective, sustainable growth. There is a handful of plot owners who do not want their trees to be cut by the Association and of course we respect their wishes.

The pruning effort is expensive. We are fortunate that we have over the past couple of years been awarded grants to cover the costs of for some of this work. And the Association has been rewarded with positive feedback from plot owners and from neighbours who use the Orchard paths, many commenting that the Orchard looks better than it has done for a number of years. It is the intention of the Trustees to continue this work for the benefit of everyone who is involved in, or who uses, the Orchard.

We introduced a monthly Saturday volunteer morning at the Orchard to undertake other work around the 50 or so acres. These have proved successful and enjoyable. Brambles have been tackled, overgrown areas thinned, and fallen trees cleared. It's not just about the work, though. The first Saturday of the month sessions are about meeting people who are passionate about the Orchard – something that has been particularly beneficial after the lockdowns and curtailments on normal life that everyone has endured. Personally, I have found it great to meet some of the wide range of people who care about the Orchard and who are prepared to devote a couple of hours a month to keeping it going!



One particularly notable Saturday work day involved putting traps up for our contribution to a national noble chafer beetle survey. On a gloriously sunny day in June a group of volunteers placed traps on around 20 trees in fields 3 and 4 to see whether the rare noble chafer beetle lives in the Orchard.

Little Standen, Standen Street, Iden Green, Kent TN17 4LB, United Kingdom



Standen Fruit Farm Community Orchard Association

With such a wide range of ages of trees, it was quite possible that the Orchard has the ideal habitat for this rare and reclusive insect. They depend on decaying wood within live trees and as a result in the decline in traditional orchards like Standen Street, they are vulnerable, facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild.



The traps were moved around the Orchard, with a group of volunteers checking them for signs that the beetle had taken the bait. Sadly, after a couple of months there were no signs of the beetle. However, it is possible that they do live in the Orchard and we will look to repeat the survey in the future.

This work underlines the fact that the Orchard is a very special place that's worth preserving as it is a haven for wildlife and flora. Maintaining it in the way that we are will help to ensure its survival on behalf of all plot owners and the wider community.

Last autumn we were approached by a London-based juice start-up that was sourcing apples from small, traditional orchards around the country to create a "grown-up" apple juice. At rather short notice, and late in the season, we arranged the picking of considerable quantities of apples that were collected and turned into juice. We also provided crab apples to the firm and they produced a mixed apple and crab juice (right).

We also sent some of last year's harvest to Ringden Farm who pressed the fruit and made around 120 bottles of apple juice. We sold this to local people and raised a small amount. This is something we intend to repeat in 2021.

This is also why it is so important that we raise the profile of the Orchard locally and further afield, to encourage more people to become involved through the purchase of plots when they come up for sale, and to support through membership of the Association the work that's undertaken throughout the year.

To spread the word further, we relaunched our website to provide more information on the history of the Orchard, provide information about the Association's work and to encourage greater participation. The occasional videos we publish help draw people's attention to the Orchard and of course they also keep plot owners – some who live a long way from Standen Street – informed about what the Orchard looks like on a regular basis.

We have also developed our local outreach work with attendance for the second year at the Hawkhurst Makers Fair where we had early crop apples available and Standen Apple Juice for sale. We raised around £140 – about one tenth of the cost of one cut of the grass in the Orchard. As one supermarket commercial used to say: "every little helps".

As an Association, we have also been able to purchase a couple of plots from people who no longer want or need their plots. In addition, we are maintaining a growing list of people who want to buy plots for themselves and we will put sellers and buyers in direct contact when we learn of plots for sale.





Standen Fruit Farm Community Orchard Association

This report can only summarise the work that goes on throughout the year to keep Standen Street Fruit Farm from falling into disrepair. The growing interest of people who want to acquire a plot indicates, I believe, that the Association is getting something right. With the support of Association Members, we can continue to ensure that the Orchard has a great future.

In conclusion, I must thank my fellow Trustees and our enthusiastic supporters who have contributed so much over the past year. It is by working together that we can ensure and secure that the Orchard remains such a wonderful place to visit and spend time.

Simon Spanswick

Chairman

Standen Fruit Farm Community Orchard Association

September 2021

STANDEN FRUIT FARM COMMUNITY ORCHARD ASSOCIATION - ACCOUNTS ACCOUNTS 1st SEPTEMBER 2020 - 31st AUGUST 2021

Income	2021	2020
Grants	6,900.00	8,395.41
Membership	1,313.00	715.41
Donations	1,700.69	472.80
Apple & log sales	894.70	-
Grazing	-	
Interest	0.83	70.81
Extraordinary income	237.95	1,287.63
TOTAL INCOME	11,049.17	10,942.06

Expenditure	2021	2020
Governance costs	2,146.40	2,298.11
Publicity & promotions	154.35	145.25
Travel to meetings		
Fuel for orchard work		75.26
Equipment & repairs	41.45	6,635.48
Orchard Manager		
Other labour	2,160.00	
Grass cutting	557.50	1,000.00
Tree pruning and maintenance	5,300.50	8,849.56
Insurances	201.60	217.80
Planning fees		
Soil Association fees		
Liming		
Purchase of assets	400.00	
Training		
BCTV fees		
Bees		
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	10,961.80	19,221.46

Balance

Brought forward from deposit a/c	7,858.53
Brought forward from current a/c	420.87
Income for year 2020/2021	11,049.17
Expenditure for year 2020/2021	10,961.80
Current balance	8,366.77
Balance carried forward to deposit a/c	10,519.83
Balance carried forward to current a/c	- 757.59
Total carried forward	9,762.24

Treasurer:

N. M. Goulton

Date:

4 September 2021

STANDEN FRUIT FARM COMMUNITY ORCHARD ASSOCIATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1152055

Accounts

STANDEN FRUIT FARM COMMUNITY ORCHARD ASSOCIATION - ACCOUNTS 1st SEPTEMBER 2019 - 31st AUGUST 2020

Charity number 1152055

Income	2020	2019
Grants	8,395.41	10,509
Membership	715.41	350
Donations	472.80	410
Apple & log sales	-	
Grazing	-	63
Interest	70.81	62
Extraordinary income	1,287.63	70
TOTAL INCOME	10,942.06	11,464

Expenditure	2020	2019
Governance costs	2,298.11	133.25
Publicity & promotions	145.25	
Travel to meetings	-	-
Fuel for orchard work	75.26	-
Equipment & repairs	6,635.48	904
Orchard Manager	-	-
Other labour	-	
Grass cutting	1,000.00	600
Tree pruning and maintenance	8,849.56	630
Insurances	217.80	201
Planning fees	-	
Soil Association fees	-	-
Liming	-	-
Purchase of assets	-	
Training	-	-
BCTV fees	-	-
Bees	-	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	19,221.46	2,468

Balance

Brought forward from deposit a/c	16,374.72
Brought forward from current a/c	723.80
Income for year 2019/2020	10,942.06
Expenditure for year 2019/2020	19,221.46
Current balance	8,819.12
Balance carried forward to deposit a/c	8,516.19
Balance carried forward to current a/c	302.93
Total carried forward	8,819.12

Treasurer: Helga-Maria Goulton

Date: 1 September 2020

STANDEN FRUIT FARM COMMUNITY ORCHARD ASSOCIATION
ACCOUNTS 1st Sept 2019 - 31st August 2020

ASSETS (major items)

Item	Purchased	£ Amount or value if donation
Field 4, plot 29, K803609	2001	£300.00
Tractor Ford Dexta 1957, serial no. 957E 7005 T4	2019	£4,000.00
Field 2, plot 36, K385702 - donation by Mr & Mrs Saunders	2013	£300.00
Field 12, plot 29, K385717 - donation Ms Noreen Ellis	2015	£400.00
Field 12, plot 9, K385433 - donation by Ms Rowena Rudkin	2015	£300.00
Various items: chainsaw, pole pruner etc	various	£1,000.00
Field 10, plot 39, K386178, purchased from Mr. Pilbeam	2016	£300.00
Field 7, plot 8, K391822, purchased from Silvia Lovett estate	2016	£300.00
Field 2, plot 38, K380693 purchased from David Nichols	2019	£400.00
Field 9, plot 23, K416413 purchased from A. Bhattacharya	2020	£350.00
Field 11, plot 13 K402767 purchased from I. Dawwkins and Jane Norfolk	2020	

INCOME CATEGORY								ROW TOTALS	check balance (should be zero)
Donations	Apple & log sales	Grazing	Interest	Extraordinary items					
								20	0
								10	0
								10	0
45.00								115	0
								100	0
40.00								70	0
10.00								20	0
								20	0
50.00								50	0
								10	0
								1885.41	0
								6510	0
								25	#REF!
								50	0
50.00								110	0
55.00								135	0
20.00								80	0
5.00								15	0
								19.12	0
0.01								0.01	0
				37.63				37.63	0
								21.29	0
								70	0
								10	0
187.79								187.79	0
				1,250.00				1250	0
10.00								40	0
			70.81					70.81	0
								0	0
								0	0
								0	0
								0	0
								0	0
472.80	-	-	70.81	1,287.63	-	-	-	10942.06	Sum of column 1
								10942.06	Sum of row total

