

Olive Community Project

Charity Number: 1155574

{For Charitable Incorporated Organisation}

Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

January 2024

Reference & Administration Details

Charity name: Olive Community Project

Charity number: 1155574

Charity's operating address: Olive Branch, 2c Castle Street, Edgeley, Stockport
SK3 9AB

Names of the Charity Trustees who Manage the Charity *(Add extra rows as required)*

	<i>Trustee Name</i>	<i>Office (if any)</i>	<i>Appointed</i>	<i>Retired</i>
1:	Rev Stephen Hough	Chair (Jan 23)		
2:	Ms Sarah Booth			
3:	Rev Ken Livingstone	Treasurer (Jan 23)		
4:	Mrs Margaret Jones		Jan 23	
5:	Mrs Ann Dawber			

Names & Addresses of Advisors *(Delete rows which are not relevant)*

	<i>Name</i>	<i>Address & Postcode</i>
Bank:	The Cooperative Bank	PO Box 250, Skelmersdale, Lancs WN8 6WT
Inspector of Accounts	Mrs Jane Hollins	12 Withypool Drive, Stockport SK2 6DT

Names of Senior Staff with Delegated Responsibilities *(Add extra rows as required)*

<i>Name</i>	<i>Role</i>
Mrs Christine Cheetham	Project Manager

Structure, Governance & Management

Description of the Charity's Trusts

Type of Governing Document:	Foundation Model Constitution
How the Charity is Constituted:	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee Selection Methods:	Trustees are actively identified from among existing trustee networks for their particular skills and experience, and invited to stand for election.
How New Trustees are Inducted and Trained:	Prospective new trustees are invited to attend a board meeting as an observer before deciding whether to stand for election. They are inducted informally through discussion with existing trustees and the Project Manager.

Objectives & Activities

Summary of the Objects of the Charity as set out in its Governing Document

The objects of the CIO are:

1. To promote for the benefit of the inhabitants of Edgeley, Stockport and the surrounding area the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances or for the public at large in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving the condition of life of the said inhabitants.
2. The relief of those in need, by reason of old age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage in Edgeley, Stockport, through signposting or introducing them to health, social and other services, and assisting and supporting them in accessing such services, both through traditional means and via the internet.
3. To promote social inclusion in Edgeley, Stockport for the public benefit by preventing people from becoming socially excluded, relieving the needs of those people who are socially excluded and assisting them to integrate into society.

For the purpose of this clause 'socially excluded' means being excluded from society, or parts of society, as a result of one or more of the following factors: unemployment; financial hardship; youth or old age; ill health (physical or mental); substance abuse or dependency including alcohol and drugs; discrimination on the grounds of sex, race,

disability, ethnic origin, religion, belief, creed, sexual orientation or gender reassignment; poor educational or skills attainment; relationship and family breakdown; poor housing (that is housing that does not meet basic habitable standards; crime (either as a victim of crime or as an offender rehabilitating into society)

4. To advance the Christian religion in Edgeley, Stockport for the public benefit by such means as the trustees may determine.

Summary of the Main Activities Undertaken for the Public Benefit in Relation to the Charity's Objects

Olive Community Project began operating as a registered charity in January 2014, having emerged from a group of local people who had been talking, planning and developing low key, community-focused work for a couple of years before that. OCP had formed in response to recognised needs among the people of Edgeley, a community near central Stockport.

Our concern is for those who, for whatever reason, are isolated or excluded, whether because they lack money, skills, good health or access to technology. They have often slipped through the existing formal safety nets.

Our mission is to support these people through simple, practical means. This may simply mean listening, helping people access relevant services or develop basic skills, involving them socially and through volunteering, or offering emergency support.

Specifically, during the accounting period, OCP carried out the following activities in line with its charitable purposes:

1. Provision of a drop-in centre where lonely members of the community are welcome without cost.
2. Provision of workshops for arts, crafts and activities, to develop social interaction and creative abilities.
3. We provide some measure of relief for those experiencing financial hardship, for whatever reason, through a foodbank, clothes bank and household equipment store. We liaise with local charity shops, charities and churches to acquire essential furnishings for those who are trying to rebuild their lives.
4. A monthly help desk in partnership with TPA, Pure Innovations and Stockport Community and Inclusion Team, supporting and signposting the local community in areas of housing, benefits, health and debt .
5. We offer a weekly Mental Health self-help group.
6. We offer computers and free wifi for those needing online access for benefits, housing or employment support. We also make appointments for those who have no telephone access, and we help with form filling and letter writing.
7. We use our kitchen to provide breakfast, and take away meals for our homeless visitors and provide laundry facilities to wash and dry clothes and sleeping bags.
8. We process the surplus vegetables delivered to us from a local supermarket to make nourishing soups and lunches for our visitors. We also put this food outside the Olive Branch for members of our local community to take without the embarrassment of having to ask.
9. We celebrate birthdays with cards and a cake, especially valued by those who have no family to celebrate with. We mourn as a family over those of our visitors who pass away, supporting where possible by attending funerals.
10. We offer our surplus food and clothes to other small charities who are supporting the marginalised of our community, women suffering abuse, those inadequately housed and those who are struggling with addictions.

Support offered during the accounting period (number of people involved):

Daily drop-in	30+
Part time paid staff	2
Volunteer team	14

Activities

Knit and Natter

Craft activities

Advice Desk

Food bank in partnership with Chelwood Foodbank plus

Mental Health self-help group

Olive Sanctuary – jointly, ladies and men for health and wellbeing support

Olive Woodland Garden - individual gardening on the plot

Lunch and sandwich provision delivered for homeless visitors

Gazebo Days – re-introduced for fund raising to provide a community defibrillator

Fundraising for the Olive Branch by personal donations

Macmillan Fundraising - personal donations since September 2020

Partnership with “Loaves and Fishes”

Values

Olive Community Project is motivated by the inclusive Christian faith of those at its centre. For our inspiration we look to Jesus of Nazareth, in particular the radical Jesus whose intense humanity enabled him to transcend the nationalist, religious, social and gender boundaries of his day and include into his world those who were otherwise excluded.

While some of our volunteers are similarly motivated, we do not exclude people from volunteering for reasons of faith, gender, sexuality, race or age, nor do we restrict our support on any basis.

Statutory Declaration

The trustees declare that they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the commission in exercising their powers or duties.

Summary of the Main Achievements of the Charity for the Year

During the accounting period:

1. The Olive Branch, our shop window on the high street and point of contact with the local community, has held "open days" in the form of gazebo days, inviting shoppers to come and see what we offer. We have used these not only as a point of contact but as a way of raising funds to buy a community defibrillator. This year we were delighted that our Iranian volunteers formed a band and performed "songs of home" for us, which was an attraction to passers-by.
2. This year we were able to host two Occupational Therapy students from Sheffield Hallam University who were able to observe and offer us their own intervention of a walking group and led a session of the Mental Health group on CBT (Cognitive Behavioural Therapy), *The Stress Pot* and *The Worry Tree*.
3. During the summer of 2022, we linked with a local church, Stockport Baptist Church and a visiting church from New York, Living Faith Christian Church, in participating in "Fun in the Park" which was a community fun event over several days in a local park. Some of our volunteers and our Olive Branch families joined in this. The teams also took part in hosting a gazebo day and a new initiative known as Mix and Mingle, which has continued on a once monthly basis, where local support agencies in the area visit the Olive Branch to front help desks. Thus it is possible for the local community to access help from representatives such as the Police, Age UK, GWP, Housing and Public Health.
4. In November we opened the Olive Branch over lunchtime to join in with the "Warm Space" initiative, providing soup and sandwiches and the favourite bacon butties. We were also needed to help with supporting phone calls for those who were unable to access adequate heating. At this point our "Clothes Bank" was in demand providing extra layers of clothes, blankets, scarves, hats and gloves.
5. We continued to collect and sort clothes, working in partnership with Loaves and Fishes, providing for our community but also for local asylum seekers and those who were being housed in the Britannia Hotel. During this winter there was a very obvious need for sleeping bags and tents and we were very grateful for the donations from members of local churches and charity groups such as "The Lamplighters". We were also able to distribute a great number of Christmas presents to asylum seekers' children in the hotel, as well as to other families in need.
6. We encountered a new crisis during this period, which was local people living in inadequate, rented housing, and facing issues with damp, broken boilers and no electricity. We were called upon to write to local councillors and MPs and act as intermediaries for the growing number of the voiceless in our community.
7. During the later period of last year, the property next to the Olive Branch became vacant, and it was decided to facilitate the acquisition of the property in partnership with Chelwood Foodbank Plus and to move our current Foodbank into that property. This created room for an office and counselling space in Olive Branch and an emergency Foodbank service whilst linking with Chelwood Community Hub next door, to continue our signposting service for those whose needs were more complex than just food.
8. The "Hub" is also used by Loaves and Fishes as a base for a counselling and support service for asylum seekers, together with an ethnic Foodbank. This has been of great advantage to asylum

seeking visitors to the Olive Branch, as there is an immediacy to understanding and supplying need which did not exist previously.

9. One of our volunteers M has struggled to survive while bringing up seven children, always drowning in debt and fighting drug and alcohol addiction. After working as a volunteer in the Olive Branch she felt she needed to return to work, growing dissatisfied with many years of existing on benefits. She took the brave decision to train with Stagecoach to become a bus driver, battling with the rigours of classroom training which she had not experienced since leaving school, 36 years previously. M had to manage on a training salary and working shifts, but she showed great determination, paying off historic debts, and facing the challenges of many tests. She is now a fully qualified driver! M is still part of OCP, calling in for a coffee when she is working split shifts. She has become a great role model for other visitors who are broken and defeated. She is happy to share both her triumphs and her struggles.

Financial Review

Brief Statement of the Charity's Policy on Reserves

The trustees have not agreed a reserves policy, believing the current levels of income and expenditure, and the nature of the charity's activities, do not merit one at present.

Financial Review Details

During the accounting period, income of £25,685 lagged expenditure of £35,033, a deficit of £9,348. This has resulted in depleted unrestricted funds at year end, now standing at £6488 compared with £22,810 the previous year, a situation the Trustees feel is a more appropriate level. Alongside that, restricted funds now stand at £8249, which is mostly available for the coming year's investment in its work with people facing mental health issues.

Historically, the bulk of the charity's unrestricted income has been from regular giving by a number of individuals to whom we are very grateful, alongside one or two small grant-making trusts who make regular welcome contributions with 'no strings attached'. The charity's partnership arrangement with Futurekraft, a funding and development agency, continued to work towards securing additional funding from several grant-making bodies. The following grants were received.

Awarding body	Amount	Purpose	
Awards for All	9998	Mental Health Group	For Jan – Dec 23
ASDA	1300	Food for community	Dec 22 – Mar 23

Several other bids were successful, for work planned during April 23 – Mar 24.

Statutory Notes to the Accounts

Nothing to declare.

Other Optional Information

Risk Management

The trustees regularly consider the risks associated with running the charity, and risk management is a standing agenda item at board meetings. Trustees have prepared a risk register which covers potential risks at all levels of the charity. In particular, given the challenging client group with which the charity works, a risk assessment of day-to-day on-site risks has been developed to ensure the safety of staff and customers. The project manager informs trustees of any incidents that occur, and the actions taken. Regular staff and volunteer training takes account of such situations.

Management



Mrs Christine Cheetham has managed the Olive Branch day to day since 2015. She had done so with great commitment, energy and compassion and has earned great respect from the people of Edgeley, putting Olive Branch firmly on the map. During 2023, 13 years after establishing, and subsequently managing, the charity, she finally made the decision to retire from her role, so on 30 March 2023 Christine stepped down as Manager. The Trustees are hugely grateful for all that she has done for the people of Edgeley through Olive Branch. First, for her vision and quiet determination to get it up and running. Second for her unwavering support and encouragement to those on the margins of the community, many of whom have been helped significantly through her care.

And, we are delighted to report that, after a well deserved break, Christine will join the Board of Trustees. For the time being, Mrs Jaine Curley, who has worked with Christine primarily on mental health issues, will take on the role of Interim Manager.

Declaration

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' Report above.

Signed on behalf of the Charity's Trustees

Signature(s):		
Full Name(s):	STEPHEN HOUGHTON	KEN LIVINGSTONE
Position(s):	TRUSTEE	TREASURER
Date:	22/01/2024	22/01/2024



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Olive Community Project

1155574

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

01-Apr-22

To

31/03/20223

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Personal donations	6,760	1,482	-	8,242	6,208
Grants	5,000	11,698	-	16,698	16,472
Sundry	92	-	-	92	500
Rental income	653	-	-	653	992
Gift Aid recovered	-	-	-	-	2,380
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	12,505	13,180	-	25,685	26,552
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	12,505	13,180	-	25,685	26,552
A3 Payments					
Fundraising costs	1,504	-	-	1,504	2,231
Project Management	7,680	-	-	7,680	7,680
Building costs	780	-	-	780	758
Rent&rates	5,322	-	-	5,322	3,894
Insurance	539	-	-	539	524
Training	-	-	-	-	64
Marketing	757	-	-	757	381
Sundry costs	627	-	-	627	810
Utilities	1,144	1,064	-	2,208	1,304
Admin & IT	203	-	-	203	387
Projects	7,865	2,735	-	10,600	4,960
Olive Branch Community	1,679	-	-	1,679	2,752
Grants paid	1,500	1,634	-	3,134	-
Sub total	29,600	5,433	-	35,033	25,745
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	29,600	5,433	-	35,033	25,745
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 17,095	7,747	-	- 9,348	807
A5 Transfers between funds	773	- 773	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	22,810	1,275	-	24,085	23,278
Cash funds this year end	6,488	8,249	-	14,737	24,085

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Project Management Fund	-	-	-
	Fuel Fund	-	400	-
	Mental Health Group		7,499	
	Defibrillator Fund		350	
	Development Fund			
	Cash at bank	6,488		-
	Total cash funds	6,488	8,249	-

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

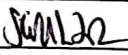

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Kitchen installation	Kitchen Fund	-	-
	Toilet installation	Toilet Fund	-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	SARAH BLOOM	22/5/23
	STEPHEN HOUGH	22/5/23



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the
trustees/directors/
members of

Olive Community Project

On accounts for the year
ended

March

2023

Charity no.:

1155574

Company no.:

Set out on pages

1 - 2

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended .

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law), you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act").

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited for this year under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act"). In carrying out my examination, I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent
examiner's statement

~~[The company's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [] if not applicable.~~

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; or
- the accounts do not accord with such records; or
- the accounts do not comply with relevant accounting requirements under section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed: Jane Hollins Date: 22/12/2023

Name: JANE HOLLINS

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

Address:

12 WILTHYPOOL DRIVE
STOCKPORT
SK2 6DT.

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.