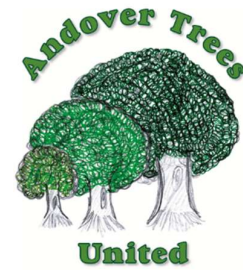


**ANDOVER TREES UNITED**  
**Registered Charity Number 1167574**  
**Trustees' Report and Financial Statements**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2023**



**Principal address**

Westcott  
Old Salisbury Road  
Abbotts Ann  
Andover SP11 7NH

**Trustees**

John Baxter	resigned 5 September 2022
Wendy L Davis	
Daniel J Lobb	
Susan Risdale	
Tim Rolt	
Elizabeth B Scrace	(Treasurer)

**Structure, governance and management**

Andover Trees United became a registered charity on 9 June 2016. The charity is governed by its constitution dated 31 May 2016.

*Trustee selection methods*

Potential trustees are interviewed by the board of trustees. All trustees are appointed at the Annual General Meeting and serve for a period of up to one year. The board may co-opt people to serve as trustees until the next AGM.

*Risk Management*

The trustees are responsible for identifying and managing risks to the charity. The trustees consider that they have complied with the Charity Commission's guidance on managing risk. When appropriate, systems or procedures are established to mitigate risks faced by the charity. Where risk cannot be eliminated the charity purchases insurance cover.

*Public benefit*

The trustees confirm that they have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission.

*Organisational structure*

The trustees meet bi-monthly, with responsibility for day-to-day delivery of the charity's activities delegated to a management team of volunteers, at least 3 of whom are trustees, who meet fortnightly.

**Objectives and activities**

The charity's constitution sets out the objectives as:

- The conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment for the public benefit by the establishment and maintenance of woodland in Andover.
- The advancement of education of the public in the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment in Andover and the Test Valley area including by promoting the woodland as a means for the community to learn about wider environmental issues such as: sustainability, climate change, ecology and the mitigating need for trees.

#### **The main activities during the year were:**

- The completion of the construction of the exterior of the woodland classroom and community space. (The interior of the building is due to be completed by mid-November 2023.)
- Planting of approximately 1500 tree whips by 1000+ children from 25 schools and several hundred adults at the Test Valley Borough Council Bury Hill nature reserve. Approximately 750 tree whips planted into new hedgerows at the Diamond Wood and a number of special commemorative trees. All tree plantings added to the Queen's Green Canopy initiative and included:
  - one of the 'Tree of Trees' that had stood outside Buckingham Palace as part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations
  - a magnificent Silver Birch from the 2022 Chelsea Flower Show, which we dedicated to former Trustee and Andover Mayor Barbara Long
  - a tree that had belonged to the late Paul Sartin, planted in his memory by fellow musicians, family and friends.
- A new fence constructed from timber surplus to the Cabin build was installed to protect the 2012 Diamond Jubilee planting including the tree planted by Princess Anne. The fence also supports a new pictorial timeline of the creation of the community wood 2012-2022.
- Approximately 1000 wildflower plants, raised by ATU volunteers from seed, were planted in the community orchard on Hedge End Rd, as well as new areas of wildflower seeded in Harmony Woods.
- The continuation of the programme to broaden the availability of volunteering opportunities to work in the natural environment, by delivering weekly workdays at Harmony Woods and the allotment as well as monthly weekend workdays. Volunteer opportunities continue to include regular sessions for the extensive citizen science programme. Coppicing at nearby Trinley Estate resumed and several training days saw returning and new volunteers take part.
- The '6 Trees & 6 Flowers' partnership with five local schools to develop an environmental education programme, was reduced to four post-pandemic. Supported by Dr Jane Goodall's Roots and Shoots programme, the remaining 4 core schools received funding to undertake field study trips to investigate what lives in Harmony Woods.
- A new 'Nature/ Nurture' project, devised and led by the Nature & Community Officers, offered nature-based activities to children and young people in new collaborations with a number of local organisations; volunteer-led activities in the wood continued to support many local scouting and guiding groups.
- During the year, supported by a number of charitable foundations, we worked with professional musicians and artists to offer workshops and performance opportunities for children and young people via our partner schools as well as for the wider local community. Detailed reports of these projects can be found on our website.
- Using surplus timber felled locally for the cabin build, a series of woodworking craft workshops sponsored by National Lottery & Ikea provided an opportunity to learn skills and construct a variety of products including stools and birdboxes. A detailed report can be found on our website.
- The 3-year 'One Ash' project culminated in an exhibition, curated by CAS, of over 100 pieces crafted from the 'One Ash' by 30 professional and amateur workers-with-wood from across the UK. A detailed report can be found on our website.
- Former ecology intern, Alex, completed her ATU-collaborative internship to People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES) which investigated the effects of climate change on the at-risk Small Heath butterfly. An intern position continued to be offered during 2022-23, which allowed us to continue to run the annual programme of citizen science 'Nature in Harmony' events.
- The Nature in Harmony Exchange programme for young people 14-17 years and the link with the Corcovado project in Costa Rica has been maintained with a number of the group travelling to Costa Rica to volunteer during the summer of 2022. Organised and accompanied by ATU volunteers, the trip was funded by the young people themselves, who had also undertaken to offset the flights' carbon emissions by finding ways of reducing their own and their families' carbon footprints.

#### **Achievements and performance**

- During 2022-23 the charity continued to pursue its objective of establishing a woodland in Andover with the planting of young trees, the construction of a second wildlife pond and new area for native chalk-loving wildflowers. These form part of a dedicated Habitats Trail. The school planting programme continued at a new site within the Test Valley Borough Council Bury Hill nature reserve. Wildflower planting also extended beyond the Diamond Wood to include the Hedge End Rd

community orchard. Further opportunities for education in the natural environment continued with the four core partnership schools as part of the 4-year 6 Trees and 6 Flowers development programme and as part of the new Nature/ Nurture project and, for adults, in the form of coppicing, wildflower propagation, tree planting, citizen science activities and species identification.

- Improved interpretation in the wood helps visitors to appreciate how the wood has developed.
- The town centre allotment lease continued where, on a regular basis, volunteers are able to propagate wildflowers and nurture saplings for later transfer to the woodland.
- A lease was signed with Hampshire County Council to transfer the management of the whole of the Diamond Wood to Andover Trees United.
- Work continued on the woodland classroom and community space with the external structure completed so that the building is now secured.
- Collaborations with national and international environment groups – the Woodland Trust, Dr Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots, youth-led UNEP Plant-for-the-Planet – were resumed.
- The development of strong relationships with local businesses continued, in particular volunteering and funding from Abel & Cole, the Coop, SimplyHealth, Stannah, Wessex Woodland and BeWiser.
- The Ecology Intern Programme continued with the appointment of a 3<sup>rd</sup> successive intern.
- Two full time Nature and Community Officers and one part time Admin Officer were appointed during the year which has started to deliver the 'Branching Out' strategy and widen the scope of community activities which are available. This was made possible by a National Lottery 'Reaching Communities' Grant.
- A Landrover was purchased allowing the charity to transport trees, tools and equipment as part of its day-to-day work. This was made possible by a National Lottery 'Reaching Communities' Grant.
- The strong community-led management team continued to work well.
- The completion of 10 successful years was marked with a series of music and arts workshops, a celebration concert in Harmony Woods in July 2022 and an exhibition at Chapel Arts Centre of the arts and crafts pieces made from a single Ash tree.

#### **Financial review**

The incoming resources in 2022-23 amounted to £109702 (2021-22 £147625) and total resources expended amounted to £142351 (2021-22 £89906) leading to an excess of expenditure over income for the year of £32649 (2021-22 surplus £57719). The charity maintains one Unrestricted General Fund and six Unrestricted Designated Funds, and at 31 March 2022 thirteen Restricted Funds. The total funds balance was £81543 of which the balance of Restricted Funds at 31 March 2023 was £69944. No funds were in deficit at 31 March 2023 and sufficient funds are held to enable each fund to be applied in accordance with any restrictions.

#### **Declaration**

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

#### **THANK YOU**

The Trustees would also like to take this opportunity to formally thank all volunteers and supporters who have given generously of their time over the past 12 months and without whom few of the achievements described in this report would have been possible.

Signed on 30 August 2023 on behalf of the charity's trustees

Wendy Davis  
Trustee

**Andover Trees United**  
**Receipts and Payments Account**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2023**

Charity No 1167574

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2023 Total	2022 Total
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Local Authority grants	3525	6000	9525	44000
Grants and donations	5091	85336	90427	50600
Fundraising	1805	7944	9749	30275
Other income		0	0	22750
Interest income		2	2	0
	<u>10421</u>	<u>99281</u>	<u>109702</u>	<u>147625</u>
Expenditure				
Trees planting and site maintenance	850	1156	2006	3415
Transport	0	3504	3504	2721
Equipment	0	16643	16643	2838
Equipment hire	0	635	635	1042
Events	394	14399	14793	3300
Staff and Intern	0	44187	44187	7199
Volunteer costs	1417	0	1417	2261
Insurance	3043	0	3043	1387
Administration & publicity	1150	0	1150	1034
Study Centre	0	52179	52179	56657
Vehicle running costs	1588	0	1588	0
Environmental Studies	0	0	0	7008
Youth Work	0	65	65	611
Fundraising costs	0	1142	1142	433
	<u>8442</u>	<u>133909</u>	<u>142351</u>	<u>89906</u>
Excess of expenditure over income	<u>1979</u>	<u>-34628</u>	<u>-32649</u>	<u>57719</u>
Transfer between funds	0	0		0.00
Balance at 1 April 2022	9620	104572	114192	56473
Balance at 31 March 2023	<u>11599</u>	<u>69944</u>	<u>81543</u>	<u>114192</u>
Cash at bank	11534	69944	81478	114137
Cash in hand	65	0	65	55
	<u>11599</u>	<u>69944</u>	<u>81543</u>	<u>114192</u>

The receipts and payments account was approved by the Board of Trustees on 30 August 2023 and was signed on its behalf by:

Wendy Davis  
Trustee

Elizabeth Scrace  
Treasurer

## **Independent Examiner's Report**

I report to the trustees of Andover Trees United (charity No 1167574) on my examination of the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 set out on page 1.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which give me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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

Mrs E Giles

Signed

Date 6<sup>th</sup> August 2023

Mrs Emma Giles  
8 Aster Court  
Floral Way  
Andover  
Hampshire  
SP10 3QD