

HEADINGTON ACTION

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 2023

Headington Action's aims as set out in our constitution may be summarised as to:

- promote the area and create civic pride
- carry out community projects
- make environmental improvements
- support education and leisure provision
- reduce social deprivation

This year our priorities have been to:

Develop and support two key community projects

Connected Communities

Working closely with the social prescribing staff attached to our local GP practices, we obtained a National Lottery grant to compile a directory of activities of community and health groups in the area (known as the Community Activities Directory). This was successfully released in the Autumn. In addition to the CAD project, we have continued to extend a network of street contacts. We offer support for local street parties through provision of advice and materials.

Improve Headington Centre

Working with our sister organisation, Headington Neighbourhood Forum (HNF), we engaged consultants to prepare a plan for the improvement of Headington Centre. That plan was completed and outlines a range of potential projects of varying scale and cost to improve the centre. These range from shop front and façade improvements to the redesign of London Road. The implementation of the plan is being driven by HNF with our support. It was discussed with the City and County Councils who are taking steps to incorporate the ideas in their own plans.

Continue to operate and expand the Headington Market

The market has operated very successfully throughout the year and has enjoyed steady growth. Our market manager left early in the year to take up a new post and we appointed one of the existing traders as a replacement.

Provide a Summer Festival weekend

In June, Headington Festival took place in central Headington. Attendance was high, perhaps the highest ever. It followed its usual format of an extended market on the Saturday morning and a fete-type event in Bury Knowle Park on the Sunday. It was well supported by the usual sponsors (too many to list here). We lost our main financial sponsor but thanks to the generous support of Oxford Round Table financial exposure was limited.

Manage the Winter Lights and celebrate Christmas

Once again this year, from Diwali in mid November through to the end of the Christmas period in early January, six natural trees in central Headington were illuminated by thousands of led lights. Posters drew attention to festivals of light that are observed by four major faiths during this period and comments from traders and shoppers indicate that our intention to be inclusive of all of these festivals was warmly welcomed. The central event during this period was the lighting of the traditional Christmas tree at the beginning of December, for which we purchased a replacement set of lights. This is now increasingly well attended and very much an annual Headington fixture. The experience is enhanced by musical groups, carol singing round the tree and food provided by local businesses. We are grateful to several organisations and Councillors who provided the additional funding that ensured the financial viability of this successful event and to the Lord Mayor for her encouraging presence.

In addition we have carried out a range of activities including

- Awarding a grant to Friends of Headington Hill Park (but this was not required because other funds were obtained).
- Encouraging applicants and managing the Community Infrastructure Levy fund for Headington, in particular supporting the development of sports and leisure facilities in our local park.
- Supporting a variety of greening projects done by other members of the community, including Friends of Cheney School with CIL funding.

- Providing the annual summer flower baskets in Headington Centre – using CIL funding.
- As a committee we continued to meet every other month, with Exec meetings in intervening months.

Conclusion

In summary, 2023 was a successful year for Headington Action. We are well organised and financially sound. However, we must work to extend our capacity by recruiting new active members and finding a permanent Chair.

As Trustees of Headington Action, during the past year we have had good support from the Committee. We are well served by several excellent local City and County councillors. Brookes University has been a keen supporter of HA and provided facilities for our meetings. Our thanks to you all.

HA Trustees March 2024

HEADINGTON ACTION (CHARITY NUMBER: 1170517)
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 01 January 2023 to 31
December 2023

Notes

	YEAR 01/01/23 to 31/12/23	YEAR 01/01/22 to 31/12/22	YEAR 01/01/21 to 31/12/21	
RECEIPTS	£	£	£	
Festival	12,103	6,540	4,290	
Market	7,981	9,543	9,188	
Grants				
Headington Neighbourhood Forum (HNF)				
Christmas/Winter Lights	2,200	6,966		
Flower baskets Projects		796	1,740	
Coop Bank Interest	131	155	169	
Street Champion			9,800	2
Community Directory	5,835			2
Headington Centre Improvement		47,900		2
Councillors - tree fund			1,959	2
Councillors - planters		2,000		2
Cheque repaid by HSBC		18,645		
TOTAL RECEIPTS	28,250	92,545	27,146	
Excluding Specific Reserves (Note 2)	22,415	42,645	15,387	
PAYMENTS	£	£	£	
Festival	14,086	9,134	549	
Market	993	2,191	4,107	
Grants		782	1,579	
HNF	110	227	50	
Christmas/Winter Lights	4,650	9,841	223	
Flower baskets				
Projects		1,123	1,392	
Expenses	319	464	230	
Admin	887	720	785	
Insurance	1,211	1,177	1,012	
Street Champion	2,303	2,213	1,242	2
Community Directory	3,380			2
Headington Centre Improvement	9,761	41,354		2
Councillors - tree fund			1,231	2
Councillors - planters	1,790			2
Cheque issued later repaid by HSBC		18,645		
TOTAL PAYMENTS	39,489	87,871	12,400	
Excluding Specific Reserves (Note 2)	22,255	44,304	9,927	
NET RECEIPTS/ (PAYMENTS) IN THE YR	-11,239	4,674	14,746	
Excluding Specific Reserves (Note 2)	-3,055	-1,659	5,460	
Summary by Activity, 2023	Receipts	Outgoings	Difference	
Festival	12,103	14,086	-1,983	

Market	7,981	993	6,988	
Grants			0	
HNF		110	-110	
Christmas/Winter Lights	2,200	4,650	-2,450	
Flower baskets				
Projects				
Expenses		319	-319	
Admin		887	-887	
Insurance		1,211	-1,211	
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Headington Centre Improvement		9,761	-9,761	2
Councillors - tree fund				2
Councillors - planters		1,790	-1,790	2
Totals	28,250	39,489	-11,239	
Excluding Specific Reserves (Note 2)	22,415	25,470	-3,055	
MONETARY ASSETS	31/12/23	31/12/2022	31/12/2021	
Co-op Depcsit Account	8,883	8,752	8,597	
HSBC Bank Current Account	11,763	23,133	18,615	
TOTAL ASSETS	20,646	31,885	27,212	
Excluding Specific Reserves (Note 2)	13,211	25,552		
ASSET CHANGE	-11,239	4,673	14,746	
Excluding Specific Reserves (Note 2)	-3,055	-1,659		

Notes to accounts

Note 1: Accounts prepared on a receipts and payments

Note 2: Specific reserves

	Balance held at £	Balance held at £
Street Champions	4,042	6,345
Community Directory - Lottery grant £5,835 received 2023	2,455	
Headington Centre Improvement - HA provided an additional £3,215		6,545
Councillors - tree fund	728	728
Councillors - planters	210	2,000
	<u>7,435</u>	<u>15,618</u>

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I have examined these
accounts and am satisfied
that they present a true
picture

Charles Young
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