

PEACE OAK ASSOCIATION

England & Wales · Charity number 1172221

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2017-03-23

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

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Website <https://eynsham.org.uk/org.aspx?n=Peace-Oak-Association>

Activities

Objects: TO PROMOTE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE INHABITANTS OF EYNSHAM 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, IN PARTICULAR BY THE PROVISION OF LAND FOR AN OPEN SPACE FOR GROWING FRUIT TREES, PROVIDING ALLOTMENTS AND THE PROVISION OF OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Activities: Preservation of locally developed Apple Varieties.Cultivation of Allotments.Development of Family Apple trees (3 varieties on 1 tree) for small gardens.Social events related to fruit trees and their products (Apple Day, Wassail Party, etc)

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, Environment/conservation/heritage, Economic/community Development/employment, Recreation, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities

Geography

- Oxfordshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£4,307	£5,785	-	-
2024-12-31	£10,231	£4,047	-	-
2023-12-31	£2,602	£2,055	-	-
2022-12-31	£2,131	£1,443	-	-
2021-12-31	£2,161	£1,376	-	-
2020-12-31	£2,793	£2,130	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Dr David Knight		2022-01-20
Kalani Seymour		2026-01-28
Lesley Swarbrick		2025-01-14
Philip Snelling		2022-01-20
Ursula Howard		2026-01-28

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Peace Oak Association

(Charity No 117221)

Registered Office: 74 Acre End Street, Eynsham, OX29 4PD

Annual Report 2025

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Management Committee and Trustees

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The Management Committee and Trustees

The Trustees set the strategic direction of the Charity and are elected for three year terms. They are assisted in the day to day management of the Peace Oak by other members of the Association in the Management Committee.

Trustees in 2025

Hywel Edwards

David Knight

Sue Raikes

Phil Snelling

Les Swarbrick (from January 2025)

Other members of the Management Committee

Sarah Couch

Ursula Howard (from January 2025)

Ian Middleton (until November 2025)

Kalani Seymour (from January 2025)

Report from the Board of Trustees

2025 was a busy year for the Peace Oak Orchard and the Trustees and management committee would like to thank everyone who has been involved in making the Peace Oak a key community space in our village. Our members, management committee, volunteers, plot holders, partner organisations and visitors highlight the importance of the Peace Oak Orchard as a space where we can express our commitment to our fellow community members, whether that's a community of place, a community of growers or a community of interest such as willow weavers or wood carvers.

At the heart of this community activity are our monthly field days, held on the second Saturday. Here the maintenance and development tasks that keep the orchard functioning can be carried out, such as weeding, managing the pond and wild flower area or turning the compost heaps.

Such days are a testament to joyful togetherness, usually powered by delicious cake. We are also helped by Duke of Edinburgh students who are seeking their volunteer badge and we thank them for their input. We would love to see more members join our field days to help keep the space a hotspot for nature, a great place to grow food and a peaceful, welcoming spot to hang out.

One of the major tasks throughout the year is to cut the grass around the site and management committee member Ian Middleton has been a committed grass cutter for the past several years. Family commitments means he has stood down from this role. It is such an important task and we thank Ian for his contribution. We are looking for new volunteers to help us with this task in 2026.

We have also been able to borrow the scythes of Eynsham's Nature Recovery Network to cut and rake the grass manually as well. it's so exciting to keep traditional methods such as this alive and for our scythers to get a whole body workout too!

Our field day volunteers also helped us harvest our willow patch earlier in 2025, under the guidance of Charlotte, Paul and Andy from Willow Coppice. Willow withies grown at the Peace Oak orchard have been used for community projects and art installations during the year.

The drought of 2025 meant it was not a good year for our vines but with the help of a keen group of volunteers we kept them pruned and watered throughout the year with hopes of a better harvest in 2026. Many thanks to Ian Middleton for all of his work in this area.

Despite the dry weather, our fruit trees had a bumper year, perhaps helped by the expert pruning workshop Peace Oak members undertook with fruit tree expert Chris Lanczak from Waterperry Gardens who did the apple pruning session. Chris encouraged participants to be bold in their pruning which created much cut apple branches and twigs. In true Peace Oak fashion none of this cut wood was wasted and some was used in Craft Club carving sessions and the rest was great kindling for the fire.

During the year we encourage other groups to use the Peace Oak. The Eynsham Guides were one of our visiting groups and thanks to their efforts our bug hotel was moved into a sunnier spot and refurbished to create five star accommodation for our invertebrate friends.

We also welcomed the staff and volunteers of FarmAbility to a development session where participants carved butter knives from willow sourced at Hill End Outdoor Education Centre. FarmAbility is an Eynsham-based charity that runs a farm-based programme for adult with autism or learning disabilities on working farms and green spaces around Oxfordshire. We hope to welcome FarmAbility's co-farmers to the Peace Oak in 2026.

At the heart of the Peace Oak site are a series of allotment plot spaces and the wide range of fruit, vegetables and flowers our plot holders grow is always inspiring. The management

committee has been splitting plots as they become free so that more people can manage a plot land at the Peace Oak.

The investment in our well several years ago really paid off in a year like 2025, providing plot holders and our fruit trees with water throughout the summer. Our band of active volunteers kept our vines and apple trees watered through the hot dry Spring and Summer and their efforts were rewarded with an amazing apple crop.

The Peace Oak was the venue for a range of events through the year, some for members and others open to the whole community.

In January we held our now traditional wassail, toasting the apple trees with cider and clattering our pots and pans to scare away the spirits that could have hexed our crop. It seemed to be successful, given the boughs heaving with fruit in the autumn. Many thanks to Eynsham Community Choir and Eynsham Morris for their music and song.

In June we held our family picnic and enjoyed making elderflower fritters over the open fire and foraging for ground ivy to make tea. Many thanks to Millie for engaging the children in their hunt for this aromatic plant.

Craft Club ran from May to August, with participants enjoying the warmth and light of long summer evenings. Our tutors put on a fine choice of courses. The demand for Alison Holmans' coiled pots was so high we ran two sold-out sessions. Participants also enjoyed making leaf platters, wet felting, exploring plant and animal fibres, and making willow crown supports and beautiful willow balls.

For our Friday night Craft Club sessions we also encouraged folks to come and enjoy the ambience around the camp fire and perhaps enjoy their own crafting and it was lovely to see folks enjoying the space.

Our plant sale helped to raise important funds for the Peace Oak [bit more detail here]

October we held our biggest event of the year, Apple Day. With a range of activities and stalls well over 200 participants were able to enjoy the Peace Oak Orchard in all of its autumnal glory. Generating apple juice was highly popular but a special thanks is in order to Julie Macken of Neve's Bees who donated all of her sales taking on the day to the Peace Oak. We are very grateful.

The Apple Day indicated the importance of two other community groups in the village who are very important to the work of the Peace Oak. Members of Green TEA organised a wonderful plant-based food competition and Eynsham's Nature Recovery Network had an amazing interactive stall. We are proud to be in their company as community-based organisation championing the environment.

At the end of November management committee member set up shop at the Peace Oak shed to give away a bare rooted trees donated by the International Tree Foundation as part of the Big Garden Tree Giveaway. Folks came from across the County to pick up their trees and with several Eynsham residents visiting the Peace Oak for the first time it was a valuable event for raising our profile. We were able to use the left-over trees at our next field day to thicken the hedges at the Peace Oak too.

Our final event of the year was an informal gathering for the Winter Solstice, with mulled wine, mince pies and roasted chestnuts. We celebrated the solstice with winter torches. The hardy souls who braved the winter weather enjoyed the event which may become a fixture in our calendar.

Throughout the year Management Committee members have been moving forward with our plan to replace the current shed on site with a new building that is more flexible for our needs. After a successful community workshop in 2024 we worked with Trevor Taw of TawFitzwilliam architects in the village to draw up a pre-planning application, which we submitted to West Oxfordshire District Council to iron out any possible concerns before a full application is submitted.

One major decision for the Committee was the type of toilet that we should have on site. Our loo sub-committee put in many hours investigating options from sites across the County, including the new compost loo at the Eynsham allotments, the new septic tank loo at Bridewell Organic Gardens and possible connections to the mains sewer system. This was a big decision to make and we have decided to go with a modern compost loo design that will be part of the main structure of the property.

After feedback from Council planning officers we have revised our draft plans for the shed and these are now being drawn up into a formal planning application by colleagues at TawFitzwilliam. It is our intention to consult on the draft planning application with our site neighbours, members and the Parish Council early in 2026 before the planning application is formally submitted. If we are successful in our application then a significant amount of effort will be expended in fund-raising for the new shed and considering the construction process.

The Trustees and Management Committee

The Peace Oak Association has trustees who are formally responsible for the governance of the charity but run the Peace Oak Orchard with a larger management committee who take on key roles to help things run smoothly.

Sue Raikes and Hywel Edwards will step down as trustees as we enter the New Year. Sue was a founding trustee for the Peace Oak Association from March 2017 and in recent years has been the Chair of trustees. She has provided sensitive and thoughtful leadership to the management committee over several years and her network of contacts in the community has been of immense help in guiding the success of our events and activities.

Hywel joined as a trustee in June 2018 and has been an exemplary treasurer of the Charity as well as leading on field days and mentoring Duke of Edinburgh students. Hywel has helped secure the sound financial position of our charity and his galvanising of volunteer effort on site to make our Community Orchard as welcoming and pleasant as it is has been crucial to our success as a green oasis at the heart of Eynsham.

The Management Committee has been pleased to welcome Ursula Howard and Kalani Seymour as members. Both have immediately thrown themselves into the work of the charity and taken the lead in key areas.

Finances

Our expenditure exceeded our income by £1478 this year as we spent some of the donations received last year to take forward the shed project.

Core income comes from membership and plot fees. Other income included further donations towards the shed project as well as sales and net income from Craft Club activities after tutors fees were paid.. Membership grew again from 120 to 127 total meters including individual and family members.

Our expenditure of £5785 was higher than last year as it included further shed fees and important safety work on the trees on site, an activity that happens every couple of years following a comprehensive tree safety survey. Mowing fees were higher than last year. Our general reserves stand at £3,341, our Project Shed reserves £3,174 and our Contingency fund unchanged from last year at £1,750.

Peace Oak Association Management Committee , December 2026

	From To	1 Jan 2025 31 Dec 2025	1 Jan 2024 31 Dec 2024
Income			
Donations		238	203
Donations for Shed		1,220	5,000
Sales/Events		300	810
Net receipts Craft Club		301	245
Subscriptions (ending 2024)		-	1,543
Subscriptions (ending 2025)		1,605	110
Subscriptions (ending 2026)		95	-
Allotment Plots		86	78
CAG Grant		-	580
Gift Aid		462	1,662
Total		4,307	10,231
Expenditure			
Construction		24	-
Equipment		-	-
Plants/Tree work		3,194	-
Material		65	-
Mowing		414	268
Planking		-	-
Room hire/Meeting expenses		-	-
Fencing		-	-
Events		29	142
Miscellaneous		51	-
Shed		1,746	3,331
Insurance		262	306
Total		5,785	4,047
Surplus		(1,478)	6,184
Surplus brought forward		9,743	3,559
Surplus carried forward		8,265	9,743
Balance sheet			
Cash		54	257
Bank		8,211	9,486
Total reserves		8,265	9,743
General reserves		3,341	4,594
Shed reserves (see below)		3,174	3,399
Contingency reserves		1,750	1,750
Shed Reserves			
<i>B/f</i>		3,399	
<i>Donations</i>		1,220	5,000
<i>Grant from CAG</i>			480

<i>Gift Aid</i>		1,250
<i>Transfer from general reserves</i>	301	
<i>Expenditure</i>	<u>(1,746)</u>	<u>(3,331)</u>
	3,174	3,399

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The Management Committee and Trustees

The Trustees set the strategic direction of the Charity and are elected for three year terms. They are assisted in the day to day management of the Peace Oak by other members of the Association in the Management Committee.

Trustees in 2024

Secretary	Adrienne Beavis	From Jan 23 to Nov 23
	David Knight	
Treasurer	Hywel Edwards	
Secretary	Kate Shaw	To Jan 23
	Phil Snelling	
Chair	Sue Raikes	

Other members of the Management Committee

Ian Middleton	
Les Swarbrick	From April 24
Sarah Couch	

Report from the Chair of the Board of Trustees

Looking after the land seems to expand each year - and members have been busy with monthly working parties, tending apple trees, tackling weeds, cutting back overexuberant growth and providing delicious refreshments. We have some regular and dedicated attendees but as ever we could do with more. You can just roll up and you will be welcomed and supported in any tasks, finishing with cake!

Many of you have commented on the wonderful wildflowers this year. We have been lucky to have the continuing support of Long Mead, supplying fantastic locally raised plants, specialist tools and expertise. Thanks to some key enthusiasts, the mowing regime, planting, sowing and collection of seeds we have seen a notable increase in wildflowers and biodiversity in a widening area.

The vines had a tough year, but the young grafted apples have done very well - and we sold all the family trees grafted with three different varieties that were ready to go this autumn. A great achievement and good for our income. Huge thanks to Jonathan Ferrier. The communal Fruitful Hedge did well, but needs more regular attention to achieve its full potential.

The popular Craft Club ran sessions for enthusiastic crafters in the summer - willow, wood, leather, pottery, nettles and more - all carefully transformed into beautiful and useful objects.

The Apple Day in October was again a great success with some 200 people attending including lots of families with young children discovering the Peace Oak for the first time. They were enlightened and entertained by talks, games, wonderful displays by the Eynsham Nature Recovery Network, Green TEA's plant-based food and competition, Julie Macken's bees, Trevor Taw giving an update on the design of our new and better shed, a display of our growing crop of Eynsham apples, apple identification, juicing and of course hands on activities by the Craft Club.

A task for the coming year is to improve the area of the original individual plots with an emphasis on smaller plots and integrating the land and the people more in the work of the Peace Oak as a whole.

We have continued to welcome groups such as the Guides to enjoy the field and we hope to be able to support them better with improved facilities in due course. Volunteers from the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme, together with some parents, have been busy throughout the year and swelled attendance at our Field Days.

During the year, with the help of local architects Taw Fitzwilliam and generous support from Jonathan Ferrier, we have been developing our ideas for a replacement for our trusty shed so that we will have a building more suited to our various activities and needs. We are very grateful to members who have shared their ideas and attended our co-design workshop. We have an outline plan which is shortly to be shared with WODC for their pre application advice. More on this at the AGM.

The Committee

The Trustees and committee have met quarterly for formal meetings but a lot of work also goes on between meetings and we would welcome additional members. Thanks should go to Adrienne Beavis who did sterling work as our Secretary until illness intervened. We were delighted that Les Swarbrick has taken on this role.

Finances

The substantial increase in our income over that of previous years is due primarily to the donation towards Project Shed and the gift aid it attracted. We are also grateful for the grant from CAG Oxfordshire in addition to their normal contribution towards our insurance costs. The unspent element of this income is held in reserves to cover pre-planning costs and we will expand our efforts in fundraising in 2025. The sale of the family trees generated a welcome £810 and the Craft Club £245 net income. Membership continued to grow, we now have 82 households and 38 singles, 120 in total compared with 115 in 2023. Of our expenditure of £4,047 included £3,331 spent on Project Shed meaning that our other expenses were down to £716. This is because we had no major tree work unlike 2023 and the weather conspired to reduce our mowing activities. Our general reserves stand at £4,594, our Project Shed reserves £3,399 and our Contingency fund at £1,750.

Sue Raikes, December 2024

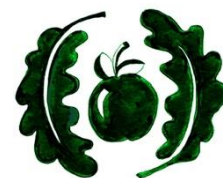
Accounts for the period 01/01/24 to 31/12/24

	From To	01/01/2024 31/12/2024	01/01/2023 31/12/2023
Income			
Donations		203	224
Donation for Project Shed		5,000	-
Sales/Events		810	30
Net receipts Craft Club		245	196
Subscriptions (ending 2023)		-	1,525
Subscriptions (ending 2024)		1,543	70
Subscriptions (ending 2025)		110	-
Allotments		78	84
CAG Grant		580	100
Gift Aid		<u>1,662</u>	<u>372</u>
Total		10,231	2,602
Expenditure			
Equipment		-	65
Plants/Tree work		-	1,259
Material		-	16
Mowing		268	313
Room hire/Meeting expenses		-	56
Events		142	50
Miscellaneous		-	54
Project Shed		3,331	-
Insurance		<u>306</u>	<u>242</u>
Total		4,047	2,055
Surplus		6,184	547
Surplus brought forward		3,559	3,012
Surplus carried forward		9,743	3,559
Balance sheet			
Cash		257	61
Bank		<u>9,486</u>	<u>3,498</u>
Total reserves		9,743	3,559
General reserves		4,594	2,059
Project Shed reserves (see below)		3,399	-
Contingency reserves		<u>1,750</u>	<u>1,500</u>
Total		9,743	3,559
Shed reserves			
Donation		5,000	
Grant from CAG		480	
Gift Aid		1,250	
Expenditure		<u>(3,331)</u>	
Total		3,399	

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Trustees in 2023

Treasurer	David Knight	
	Hywel Edwards	
Secretary	James Bird	Resigned Jan 23
	Kate Shaw	
	Phil Snelling	
Chair	Sue Raikes	

Other members of the Management Committee

Adrienne Beavis	From October 23
Ian Middleton	
Sarah Couch	

Report from the Chair of the Board of Trustees

There has been much activity at the Peace Oak this year with regular working parties on Saturday mornings, four events for members and non – members and the return of the very popular Craft Club.

Field Days have gone well, though more people would be welcome - there is always work to do to care for the site but it's not all hard physical work and contributions to the food and jollity are very welcome.

On the land we have completed the work on the large trees identified in the survey last year and with the help of Duke of Edinburgh volunteers we are getting on top of the scrub and the ivy on the east side of the field.

The fruitful hedge increasingly reflects its name and produces raspberries, strawberries plums and more for all to share.

We followed a more relaxed mowing regime during 2023 to encourage wildflowers and to maintain the look and feel of a natural meadow. Mowing and the removal of cuttings is a significant task, and scheduling is often complicated by our unpredictable weather. The machinery rental makes this one of our larger expenses. The wildflower meadow by the gate benefits from our new mowing regime which allows the seeds to fall and take root. The result is an increasing diversity of flowers and insects.

Some of our first planted vines achieved sufficient maturity to produce our first grapes in 2023. Black Hamburg, Muscat Blu and Ortega varieties are currently the most successful. Hopefully the majority will survive the winter and grape juicing will become a significant part of future Apple Days.

The drought last year took its toll on the apple trees – we lost two of the Wastie trees in the avenue which will be replaced this winter. Grafting new trees is a touch of magic in the orchard. Grafting with more than one variety continues – and we will have a few “family trees” in a year or so for members to buy. Our priority now is to graft with Eynsham varieties hoping these will be popular with our members and others of the community.

We have subdivided some of the larger plots in the allotment area so we can offer space to more emerging growers. We now have seventeen plotholders.

One highlight of the year was the return of the Craft Club with seven sessions on activities such as willow weaving, belt making and wood carving. In addition to people attending the sessions others also came to enjoy the fire, to finish projects, or to demonstrate other crafts. The Craft Club has become a key part of our summer – numbers are limited and some session are oversubscribed so keep a look out for the launch next year. We would welcome more crafters who could extend what we offer.

The Craft Club has prompted ideas about improving the spaces we have for activities and events. We are investigating replacing the stable building at some point in the next five years and are looking at involving our members and the Eynsham community in that process - more about this at the AGM

The real highlight of the year was the Apple Festival – with our local expert from Waterperry in great demand identifying apples. As ever the juicing was very popular and we had a great display of many local varieties. Green TEA ran a Plant Based Food stall and competition, the Nature Recovery Network were busy explaining their successful meadows, bird surveys. Water surveys and recruiting more active helpers. Children's games were popular and involved exploring the woodland areas. We

estimate 150 visitors which we think is a record – and included many new people who we hope will now be inspired to join us.

Attached to the “Gables” is a covenant over the Peace Oak land and prior to its sale we agreed with the Ferriers an amendment to its terms to ensure we had the right to replace and hopefully enhance the shed. The new owners of the “Gables”, the Shorts, have already shown their interest in and support of our work.

The Committee

The Trustees and committee have met quarterly for formal meetings but a lot of work also goes on between meetings. We are very grateful to all for their hard work but particularly to Kate Shaw, our Secretary, who will be resigning at AGM.

Finances

Our income of £2,602 compares favourably with that of 2022 with the primary difference being due to the increase in membership fees. We now have 75 household members and 41 individual members. The Craft Club generated £196 net income and compensated for a drop in donations. We continue to be grateful to CAG Oxfordshire for their support towards the cost of our insurance. Of our expenditure of £2,055 the major elements were plants/ tree work and mowing. The former includes £1,128 spent on safety work with the pollarding of a poplar and the trimming of an acacia. Mowing is an increased expense as we are now less reliant on the generosity of Jonathan Ferrier and are having to hire some of the equipment required. The surplus generated, £547, is split between our general funds and our contingency reserves.

Sue Raikes, January 2024

Accounts for the period 01/01/23 to 31/12/23

	From 01/01/2023 To 31/12/2023	01/01/2022 31/12/2022
Income		
Donations	224	454
Sales/Events	30	90
Net receipts Craft Club	196	
Subscriptions (ending 2022)	-	1,034
Subscriptions (ending 2023)	1,525	10
Subscriptions (ending 2024)	70	-
Allotments	84	84
CAG Grant	100	100
Gift Aid	372	360
Total	2,602	2,131
Expenditure		
Construction	-	8
Equipment	65	-
Plants/Tree work	1,259	695
Material	16	44
Mowing	313	83
Room hire/Meeting expenses	56	-
Events	50	84
Miscellaneous	54	300
Insurance	242	229
Total	2,055	1,443
Surplus	547	688
Surplus brought forward	3,012	2,324
Surplus carried forward	3,559	3,012
Balance sheet		
Cash	61	172
Bank	3,498	2,840
Total reserves	3,559	3,012
General reserves	2,059	1,762
Contingency reserves	1,500	1,250

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The Management Committee and Trustees

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Trustees in 2022

Treasurer	David Knight	From Jan 22
	Hywel Edwards	
	James Bird	
Secretary	Jonathan Ferrier	Resigned Jan 22
	Kate Shaw	
	Phil Snelling	From Jan 22
Chair	Raymond Evans	Resigned Jan 22
	Sue Raikes	

Other members of the Management Committee

Ian Middleton	
Sarah Couch	
Zoli Homoki	Resigned Nov 22

Report from the Chair of the Board of Trustees

An eventful year

The year started in the traditional boisterous and tuneful fashion with the Wassailing in January. The Morris, the community choir, Skylarks choir, the noise makers, the fire juggling, the cider and the toasters made for a joyful evening and ensured that the crops were spared the effects of evil spirits throughout the year.

The drought through the summer posed a challenge for plot holders and the apple trees and we are very grateful for the well and the pump installed last year. One casualty of the drought was the apple festival planned for October, but we enjoyed a couple of apple pressing days in September. The family trees raised by Jonathan Ferrier are now reaching the stage where they can be sold, fulfilling our objective of spreading horticultural knowledge whilst generating some income for the Peace Oak.

The regular Field Days have gone well with gradually more people involved and enjoying the fire and barbecue on Friday evenings. We would like to see more members at the Field Days as there is always work to do to care for the site – it's not all hard physical work and contributions to the food and jollity are very welcome.

We now have two Duke of Edinburgh volunteers working on the field under the supervision of Hywel Edwards.

The enlarged Fruitful Hedge is developing well into a communal area for fruit with the strawberries being particularly appreciated.

We have a number of new plot holders this year following the allocation of smaller spaces - and plotholders had a fruitful social meet up with the committee.

Following concerns about the safety and longer term use of the shed we explored a number of options. We shored it up and anticipate that it should last a further five years but we accept that we will need to raise funds for a more permanent solution.

As you will know the Gables has been on the market this year, another reminder of the generosity of Jonathan and Kate Ferrier which has secured our wonderful space in perpetuity. We recognised this by presenting them with a wonderful painting of the Peace Oak done by Julia Loken.

We have also commissioned a survey of the trees which has identified some safety work to be done in 2023.

Various groups have booked to use the field this year, including Scouts, Cubs, Guides, Brownies, the Community Choir, XR, Alice Walker's art class and more. The field has also been used for a private party with a donation to our funds.

Protecting and Promoting Biodiversity

The challenge of keeping up a mowing regime whilst also protecting and encouraging areas for wildflowers is a constant area of discussion. We are very lucky to still have use of the smaller tractor but in future will need to hire a larger machine two or three times a year.

The wildflower areas either side of the entrance are doing well with help from the yellow rattle and removal of docks. We have extended the area using saved seed and planted out wildflowers propagated by the Peace Oak and the Nature Recovery Network (NRN) team at Long Mead. We are very grateful for the support of the NRN and the use of their special tools. A botanical survey of wildflowers and grasses in the patches has been carried out with the NRN as part of its wider surveying in the village. Formal results are still to come but NRN are impressed by the number of different varieties already evident.

Pond-dipping has identified lots of interesting things living in and around the pond, including dragon fly larvae, water boatmen, leeches and many other pond-dwelling insects, and a young newt.

Events and Crafts at the Peace Oak

The Craft Club which was so successful in 2021 took a break this year and we are determined to build on its success in 2023, supporting the programme and branching out to encourage more craft based activities led by volunteers. Ideas and offers welcome!

The Seed and Plant swap day in the Spring, with Easter egg hunt, was a successful reintroduction of an open event for members after two Covid years. The Midsummer event was less successful prompting a review of such events for 2023 when we plan to hold four weekend events with a focus on art and crafts and activities for children.

In September we also ran an event as part of the Great Big Green Week focussing on crafting for the climate with spinning, hand stitching, pole-lathe turning and carving.

The Committee

The Trustees and committee have met quarterly for formal meetings but a lot of work also goes on between meetings. We are very grateful to all for their hard work but particularly to Kate Shaw, our Secretary. To relieve her workload we are looking for someone to help with publicity and to develop our profile on social media. We will start with a piece in Eynsham News saying who we are, what we do, how to be involved, and publicize our need for someone with social media skills.

Finances

As the accounts show our income of £2,131 was roughly in line with that of 2021 and with our expenditure of £1,443 we yielded a surplus of £688. We have however committed to spend £1,152 on tree work in 2023 which will cut substantially into our reserves. That, coupled with the need to invest in a solution to the mowing problem and to build up our contingency reserves has led to the decision to raise the membership fees in the new year.

Sue Raikes, January 2023

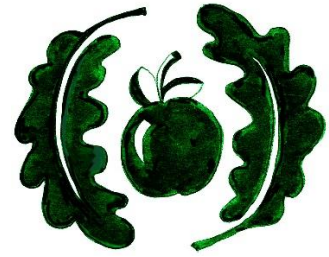
Accounts for the period 1/1/22 to 31/12/22

	From To	01/01/2022 31/12/2022	01/01/2021 31/12/2021
Income			
Donations		454	382
Well Grant/fund		-	267
Sales/Events		90	5
Subscriptions (ending 2021)		-	1,006
Subscriptions (ending 2022)		1,034	64
Subscriptions (ending 2023)		10	-
Allotments		84	93
CAG Grant		100	100
Gift Aid		360	244
Total		2,131	2,161
Expenditure			
Construction		8	48
Equipment		-	169
Plants/Tree work		695	111
Material		44	30
Fuel		83	125
Room hire		-	20
Events		84	-
Miscellaneous		300	12
Well		-	644
Insurance		229	217
Total		1,443	1,376
Surplus		688	785
Surplus brought forward		2,324	1,539
Surplus carried forward		3,012	2,324
Balance sheet			
Cash		172	262
Bank		2,840	2,062
Total reserves		3,012	2,324
General reserves		1,762	1,324
Contingency reserves		1,250	1,000

PEACE OAK ASSOCIATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1172221

Accounts



PEACE OAK ASSOCIATION

(Charity No 1172221)

Annual Report 2021

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Report from the Chair of the Board of Trustees

Our committee has met five times this year and we are delighted to welcome David Knight as a new committee member. There are two vacancies for trustees to be elected at the AGM – we would prefer to have any nominations in advance.

Despite a difficult year and the constraints of Covid 19 the Peace Oak Association has flourished with much progress on the land and popular new activities for members. We have encouraged members to visit and enjoy the field and participate in social and purposeful events when the restrictions allowed. We postponed the AGM for 2020 until April in the hope that we could meet in person – but in the end the AGM was held on Zoom.

We completed the well thanks to the generosity of members and a grant from TOE (Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment) and now have a continuous supply of water pumped into the storage tank with a solar powered pump. We have planted more trees along the beech hedge, replaced a number of vines and extended the area of the edible hedge – which is intended as gentle grazing of the fruit in season for members. We have recently allocated four shared plots within the existing boundary.

One of our objectives is to increase the biodiversity on the land and this has involved changes to the mowing regime, wildflower surveys in conjunction with the Nature Recovery Network and the expansion of wildflower areas. Slow worms continue to thrive and the pond is a haven for dragon fly larvae, water boatmen and newts. Several members participated in the NRN's very successful series of Tiny Talks.

A highly successful new initiative is the Craft Club which met fortnightly through the summer providing an opportunity for members to share skills and enjoy each other's company outdoors with a focus on green woodworking and willow weaving – thanks to David Knight, Andy Goodwin, Charlotte Holmes and Paul Turner. The Willow Cathedral initially made for Artweeks has become a permanent feature – and the exhibition From The Ground Up, put on in Oxford, generated more artistic creations in willow and a concertina book of the Peace Oak Centenary Poems illustrated with printed leaves. Weaving and stitching, working with clay, pole lathing, children's science experiments, yoga and meditation were part of the Great Big Green Week activities and the Peace Oak field was open to all for eight days on the GBGW trail.

The Craft Club highlighted the need for some shelter on the field. We decided that activities should focus around the shed and fire area, leaving the wood area on the eastern boundary for birds and other wildlife. A clear out of the shed revealed the need for temporary repair which has now been done, but we are aware that serious structural work or better, a replacement, is needed in the long term. Since then we have been given a useful large gazebo.

The field is also used by the Scouts and Guides on a regular basis through the summer and on occasions for other community groups including art classes.

When Covid regulations allowed gatherings of 30 outside we held three events aimed at encouraging our members to explore the field, picnic etc. The Fungi Foray in October was a huge success alongside our annual apple juicing. We do hope we will be able to have more regular events this year.

We are very grateful to about a dozen active members who have come to the monthly maintenance parties developing and looking after the land – working in pairs or groups of six as regulations allowed. Thanks also to others who have pruned apple trees, planted vines, potted wildflowers and scattered wildflower seeds.

We are very keen to involve our members in the various activities and in helping with particular events and activities. At present we rely on a handful of people who undertake maintenance of the field but we would like our monthly Saturdays to be more social and have wider appeal – maybe with food and drinks at the end. We recognise that attending weekend working parties is not everyone's cup of tea and there are lots of tasks that don't involve heavy digging and can be done at more flexible times. We have experimented with other times to see if that suits more people.

We don't want to make helping out a condition of membership and it may be that some members who don't have time might help with fundraising or add a bit to their membership fee? We would like to discuss this at the AGM – meanwhile there is a list of ways in which you can contribute attached.

Thanks to all for another great year!

Sue Raikes, January 2022

Accounts for the period 1/1/21 to 31/12/21

	From 01/01/2021 To 31/12/2021	01/01/2020 31/12/2020
Income		
Donations	382	311
Well Grant/fund	267	685
Events	5	380
Subscriptions (ending 2020)	-	634
Subscriptions (ending 2021)	1,006	40
Subscriptions (ending 2022)	64	
Allotments	93	187
CAG Grant	100	100
Gift Aid	244	456
Total	2,161	2,793
Expenditure		
Construction	48	555
Equipment	169	-
Plants	111	326
Material	30	96
Fuel	125	125
Room hire	20	-
Events	-	301
Miscellaneous	12	100
Well	644	419
Insurance	217	208
Total	1,376	2,130
Surplus	785	663
Surplus brought forward	1,539	876
Surplus carried forward	2,324	1,539
Balance sheet		
Cash	262	135
Bank	2,062	1,404
Total reserves	2,324	1,539
General reserves	1,324	352
Well (including gift aid)	-	437
Contingency reserves	1,000	750

Ways to contribute or get involved

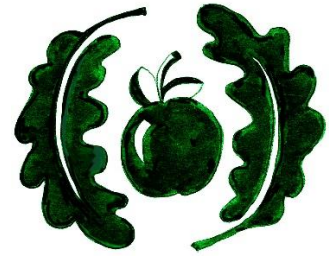
All the work of the Association is carried out by volunteers and our aim is that members should feel involved in some way. Here are some ideas... by no means exhaustive!

- Come along to one of our monthly maintenance meetings (aka working parties) and be part of a small group working in the field – clearing, planting, pruning, composting... it's not all heavy work.
- Join a sub group tending to a specific aspect of the field – eg vines, the pond, apple growing. If you are interested in a particular area and would like to join or even manage a small group of volunteers we would love to hear from you.
- Share your expertise – insects, animals, trees, pond life – it's great to do surveys and have people to show others round on open days.
- Help with labelling and record keeping – especially of the orchard.
- Help with running a survey or monitoring to promote biodiversity.
- Help with planning or running events.
- Help with publicity – are you a keen social media user?
- Help with writing funding applications or running fundraising stalls.
- Bring along a cake or biscuits to share at an event, or even a working party.
- We realise that for some people contributing time is difficult, so as an alternative you could add a donation to your subscription on renewal – all funds go towards the maintenance and improvement of the orchard and towards events and the running of the Association.

PEACE OAK ASSOCIATION

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Report from the Chair of the Board of Trustees

This has, of course, been a very strange year for the Peace Oak Association and for our members. This time last year we had plans for four major events for members and others during the year and for a series of projects to enhance the field.

We were able to hold the Wassailing in January 2020, followed by the very successful Hedgehog Talk and Bird Box making before lockdown in March. With much regret we gradually cancelled events planned for Easter, midsummer and the October apple harvest. We continued to encourage you to visit and enjoy the field on your own or with your family. Some of us have clearly enjoyed the quiet space and occasionally met, as allowed, with one other person.

But all this gives a far from accurate impression of what has actually been going on as anyone visiting can see!

We suspended all working parties, although there have been periods of time in the year when up to six people have been able to work together to complete particular tasks. At times we have been able to work in pairs to make sure that essential maintenance and developments have gone ahead as planned. We were delighted to join the Nature Recovery Network in a reptile survey... and even more excited to find that slow worms are well established in the field.

The weather also proved challenging during the last year. In May the late frost caught just over a third of our new vines and it is now clear that they will not recover so we are planning to replace them this spring. The long hot summer made watering difficult for both the young trees, grafts and for the individual plots. Thanks to the hard work of a small group of people the damage to trees was minimal.

The drought did however demonstrate our vulnerability to climate change and as a result we explored the possibility of a well. When it was clear that there was some potential we approached you for funds. Huge thanks to all of you who responded so generously to our request for money and we were delighted to secure funds through TOE (Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment) towards the final stage of installing the solar panels, pump and storage within the next couple of months. (The grant is supported by TOE with funding from Grundon Waste Management Ltd from their own funds and through the Landfill Communities Fund.)

We have introduced a new mowing regime to encourage biodiversity and protect the wildflower areas. We prepared and extended the wildflower area on the north side of the field, replaced some of the beech, and have created a sitting area for groups in the spinney.

A major and exciting development has been the pond, excavated and created in the early part of the year... but then suffering from a lack of rain to fill it naturally. The area around the pond has been cleared and in January 2021 volunteers in pairs created the stunning willow woven fence which is both stylish and extremely practical.

The Guides, Brownies and Scouts managed a couple of meetings when limited numbers were allowed. Sadly, we have not been able to have any Farmability groups during the year but we are hoping that these will restart when Covid restrictions allow.

We held two very successful green woodworking events (in line with the rule of six) now leading to plans to create space and shelter for green woodworking and willow weaving groups.

The shared plots are all looking fantastic and the energy and commitment of the thirteen plot holders has been crucial for all the achievements this year. We are looking forward to restarting monthly working parties in April with the rule of six.

It will be wonderful to see our members returning and enjoying the field over the coming months.

Thank you and well done!

Sue Raikes, March 2021

Accounts for the period 1/1/20 to 31/12/20

	From To	01/01/2020 31/12/2020	01/01/2019 31/12/2019
Income			
Donations		311	608
Well fund		685	
Events		380	
Subscriptions (ending 2019)		-	548
Subscriptions (ending 2020)		634	110
Subscriptions (ending 2021)		40	
Allotments		187	24
CAG Grant		100	
Gift Aid		456	265
Total		2,793	1,556
Expenditure			
Construction		555	417
Plants		326	382
Material		96	139
Fuel		125	50
Room hire		-	100
Events		301	150
Miscellaneous		100	1
Well		419	
Insurance		208	
Total		2,130	1,239
Surplus		663	317
Surplus brought forward		876	559
Surplus carried forward		1,539	876
Balance sheet			
Cash		135	100
Bank		1,404	776
Total reserves		1,539	876
General reserves		352	376
Well (including gift aid)		437	
Contingency reserves		750	500

Chair

Secretary

Treasurer