



Peace Oak Association

(Charity No 117221)

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

Annual Report 2024

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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	