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# Bee Sanctuary Movement Fifth Year Report 2024 - 2025



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## Opening Remarks

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In the fifth year of our Charity we have developed the work with Corporate volunteering and have had successful volunteer teams and individuals coming from Transport for Greater Manchester, Autotrader, Network Rail, Atkins Realis, Bird and Brew, N.G.Bailey Engineering, Civil Servants, as well as Booking.com coming on at least 11 occasions. This has enabled us to expand our horizons and work outside the Bee Sanctuary, initiating **“Levenshulme in Bloom”**. In its inception year, **“Levenshulme in Bloom”** has been a great success, both in greening the A6, and encouraging green groups to work together, creating green routes for bees, and cheering everyone up.

Our Green Roof has been built with a Bat loft, and Swift nesting boxes, as well as Sedum on the roof and wildflower growing area, and water collection. We now have a secure yard at the rear of the Volunteer Centre to store Wheelbarrows and gardening tools. Our project to develop a cornfield area and a Hay meadow on Marbury farm has progressed after being drowned out the previous year. We are actively working towards increasing our educational role, getting more schools involved, and developing materials. To that end we have begun a Pilot study funded through One Manchester, and prioritizing BioBlitz and citizen scientist recording biodiversity adopting the iNaturalist app ( an app which is creating a world biodiversity map)

The “Steering Group for Highfield Country Park concluded its final consultation on the 106 money, and in general we are pleased with the improvements to paths and access. Our campaigning for saving the green and blue spaces, the Bullrush area, and Secret lake continues, and we continue to try to fund an Ecologist to progress our work in this area, as well as expand our active research.

### The Future

The entrances will be improved and the Bee Sanctuary formally signed. We will be ever more closely linked with other green projects and have sponsored traders, through “Levenshulme in Bloom 2025”. Hopefully we will also have our own Ecologist to advocate for our Movement

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## **Bee Sanctuary Movement Fifth Year Report**

### **Treasurer's Report**

### **Brian McGill - Trustee**

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#### **Treasurer's Report**

Every year at the Bee Sanctuary seems to be different, and the last financial year was no exception. The key topics of last year were the green roof for the volunteer centre, and the establishment of the Levenshulme in Bloom project as a spinoff from the Bee Sanctuary.

Every week as I passed by the volunteer centre, I watched its transformation as its roof was augmented by a structure which will eventually lead to it becoming one of the seven wonders of the modern world to rival the hanging gardens of Babylon of antiquity.

The high street of Levenshulme was also transformed by a proliferation of planters all along its length. This was the fruit of the Lev in Bloom project. Each participating business was given one or two planters and some plants to put in them. This made Levenshulme a much more pleasant area to walk around in and provided a corridor for wild bees.

The South Yard and Acadia project were each given £1400 to transform their allotted area as part of the Lev in Bloom project. Emma Hitchens: a local volunteer, was also given a fund to buy plants for the project; she now has over £1500 to spend. One final extant fund covers other expenses.

It was decided that the project would be run by the community, rather than the Bee Sanctuary giving top down orders. This led to a sense of pride and achievement to those who participated.

This was probably the year with the greatest turnover for the Bee Sanctuary. We spent nearly £15K over the course of the period. The greatest expense being materials and labour. This was spent mostly on the green roof and the Lev in Bloom project. Another major source of expense was the seed and plants to fill the planters along the A6.

The Sanctuary continues to grow every year and we are now considering employing a part time worker to help run the organisation. Sheila has suggested hiring an ecologist. Her reasons were that we needed to support recent graduates in ecology by providing them with a job, and to document the transformation in wildlife by the sanctuary's efforts. She was particularly interested in documenting the Bulrush Area; a piece of land adjacent to the Secret Lake, rich in natural wildlife.

In conclusion, the Bee Sanctuary Movement continues to grow and flourish. As its fame spreads, it continues to attract new sources of funding. For instance a local organisation named Bird and Blend has raised over £1800 over the last financial year, through the sale of its champagne blend, which it has donated to the project.

We have also attracted a number of corporate volunteers, who continue to work at the sanctuary and provide funding. These include Avanti West Coast, Booking.com and One Manchester.

The project's finances are in a healthy state, and we continue to look for new ways in which we can improve the environment in Levenshulme and surrounding areas.

Brian McGill  
13-04-2025

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## **Bee Sanctuary Movement Fifth Year Report Coordinators Report Sheila Standard - Trustee**

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The co-ordinator's role is to keep everyone updated with information, and to co-ordinate events and activities

We Use.....

- My phone number is used on posters etc
- Whatsapp group **Bee Sanctuary Volunteer Group** (70 members)
- Trustee Whatsapp group **Bee Sanctuary Movement** for alerts and passing information
- Emails of invites and discussion points are forwarded. To deter excessive emails I will alert people on Whatapp and invite for discussion.
- Documents are saved on Google Drive.

New Trustees will need to use these tools.

Information for New Trustees....

- CRB Check, enhanced DBS if you will be working with children on your own
- Background reading, Annual reports and Policies and Procedures which you will find at the bottom of the home webpage, <https://beesanctuarymovement.org>
- read the Trustees code of conduct, print and sign at the meeting, fill in the Trustee conflict of interest form.

- Please write a short paragraph introducing yourself for our next Annual Report. Add it to file for the Annual 23-24 report for inclusion.
- You are expected to attend Trustee meetings as frequently as you can because it is a democratic decision making body, and also a place to keep up with current events. The Trustee meeting makes strategic decisions, but the Volunteer Group which meets every Sunday, as well as working groups listed below also make important decisions.

We invite volunteers to become Trustees when we feel that we require an expertise which is missing. However, we recognise that the key volunteer activities which take place are carried out by Lead Volunteers, and their role is equally important. Being a Lead Volunteer does not carry the burden of email/meetings. It should be easy to step in and out of the Trustee role, as and when you are available.

### **Working Groups and special roles.**

### **Grant funding.**

- Autumn- Analysing and rewriting failed bid to Awards from All concerning Ecologist role
- Helen- managing One Manchester spending
- Emma- managing spending on Levenshulme in bloom plant fund
- Sheila- managing NIF funding for Levenshulme in Bloom

### **Design**

- Marcus, Certificate. Stencil, gate.
- Kel invite to Christmas fair
- Robin, notices in the Bee Sanctuary

## **Social media**

- Sheila- Facebook Blog about group
- Marcus- Instagram blog about group
- Micheal- blog about Willow ponds
- Sheila/Brian- updating Website

**Banking and accounts including financial services to other projects** Brian

**Financial oversight**, Brian, Sheila more oversight sought

**Submitting Annual Report and accounts** Brian, Sheila

**Policies and Procedures** Helen

**Holding Data** Brian

**Paypal** Brian

**Charity Aid Foundation** Brian

**CRB Checks** Helen

**Insurance renewed on 21 February 2025 Markel Direct (£187.04)** Sheila

**Health and Safety** need a policy, and someone to take overall responsibility. Sheila

**Minutes** Brian

**Email respondent** [beesanctuary@outlook.com](mailto:beesanctuary@outlook.com) Sheila

**Highfield Steering group attendees** Sheila, Kel, Helen, Robin, (Jaqueline)

**Liaison with Avanti Geoff** Sheila/Helen

**Liaison with woodchip James and Leo** Sheila

**Liaison with metal worker John** Sheila

**Levenshulme in Bloom (and MCC Team) which has its own Whatsapp group**

Sheila, Emma, Hannah, Marcus

**Green roof** Marcus, Autumn, Sheila, Micheal.

**Work on the Bee Sanctuary** It was a terrible year for insects with a cold wet summer, and we decided not to do major clearing so as to save as much insect life as possible. Helen and her granddaughters made a new Bee Hotel, and we started to plant ferns in the north east area above Robin pond. The willow had grown sufficiently to make the arch at the N.E. entrance, and Marcus carved a lovely bird feeder to go beside it. Jackie and Fiona cleared the bramble on the West side of *Forget-me-not wood* in the Autumn, and this gave us the opportunity to create another wildflower area, and Micheal, who only joined us in October, made a wonderful double hazel fence around it and has also built hazel fences around the ponds as well. I scarified the area to the left of the gravel path and sowed it with Yellow rattle. Also made seed bombs and sowed other areas, although Yellow Rattle has become very well established in most areas.

Up until August, some of us took part in Levenshulme in Bloom along the A6, and the Bee Sanctuary is a depot for soil and chippings for everyone to use. We encourage groups to collect wild flower seed from our area, particularly the Yellow Rattle.

We were kept busy from September onwards building the Green roof, and the water capture system. We had a great time lifting the substrate on, and then rolling out the sedum blanket over  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the area. We added vermiculite to the mix to help with drought resistance. The remaining  $\frac{1}{3}$  we covered in woodchip, and filled pots with soil and seeded with wild flowers. We hired John the welder to make a secure yard at the rear of the Volunteer Centre, which will enable us to move out most of the gardening tools and make the Centre a place for storing Bioblitz equipment etc.

### **Developing work with the North West RHS**

We have earned **Outstanding** for the 4th year running in the NWRHS '*In Your Neighbourhood*' Category', and also the Silver Award for '*Levenshulme in Bloom*' which we were largely responsible for coordinating and supporting through the '*A6 collective*'. We have worked with the MCC team to connect over 26 green projects in Levenshulme to work together on this project, raising £6400 in funding to place 13 planters along the A6, and work on cheering up the existing planters. We held a feedback meeting in August and fed this into reporting to Avanti NW who gave us funding for green routes and also our green roof.

### **Working with the Council and other bodies.**

Other progress to look forward to in the year ahead is the improvements to Highfields infrastructure, including paths, signage, seating etc. I am proud to say that BSM have been

instrumental in following the correct 106 money procedure of ensuring consultation at each stage of the design and roll out process. We have achieved this by ensuring that the change of Park Ranger personnel did not delay the consultation through the Highfield Steering Group. The longer term Park Management Plan will be published this year, giving a blueprint along with the Biodiversity Management plan of 2022, as to where we are headed.

We have a new Park Ranger Ricky Martin, who is dedicated to getting it right working with the community, (along with his boss, Jenni). We have had fruitful discussions about various issues that I have raised, the chief one being Health and Safety, as well as Personal safety.

We have continued to campaign for the 'Bullrush Area' to be protected and have been led by Richard Lund (volunteer) working with our Neighbourhood Officer, with the Health and Safety Executive, and Environment Agency on dangerous ingress into this area by nearby companies. An ongoing struggle, and frustrating struggle. We have managed to get the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit to take a closer look at this area, and it will possibly be declared a site of Biological Interest in the near future.

### **Enhancing and Protecting Local Green Spaces**

BSM works for the future of Bees and other pollinators, trying to bring people along on our journey. We have found different ways to do this, encouraging direct practical action as the inspiration, networking and bringing people together. We have had success so far because we are all volunteers. However the protection and campaigning work has highlighted to me as Co-ordinator that it would be a progressive step to employ a trained ecologist who could progress matters and give BSM more clout, a seat at the table, and give us the ability to work towards ever greater protections of Nature. This is a project which I will pursue in the immediate future. With the 4th year of published accounts and a successful record we are in a strong position to apply for funding for this.

### **Social Media**

- **Facebook** "Bee Sanctuary Movement Group" has increased its following from 431 to 469 people, not such a big increase as last year, but we now have an active Instagram. Great for blogging. A source of volunteers through messenger.
- **The website** <https://beesanctuarymovement.org> is updated regularly, and we have had a professional web designer look over it, and got high praise. Brian is the web master, but we are all able to update.
- **I love Manchester** article created in collaboration [From neglect to nature - the inspiring story of Bee Sanctuary Movement \(ilovemanchester.com\)](https://www.ilovemanchester.com/2021/05/20/from-neglect-to-nature-the-inspiring-story-of-bee-sanctuary-movement/)



- **I love Manchester video**  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/httpsbeesanctuarymovement.org/permalink/1172611913727734/>
- **Instagram** developed by Marcus “The Bee sanctuary Movement Group”

## Volunteers

- **WhatsApp Bee Sanctuary Volunteers**, a large group of people (65) but a smaller proportion end up coming out to volunteer. Not all volunteers are on the Whatsapp group. Also used for nature observations which is becoming increasingly important.
- **Volunteer hours**. Our estimate for this year is in the region of 1000 hours for the year for our Tuesday and Sunday sessions.
- **Bee Sanctuary Volunteers** who have taken an active role this year (not including corporate groups, or scout groups) is 43; including: Brian, Janet, Kel, Mark, Sasha, Natalia, Helen T, Jacqui, Jackie, Fiona, Asa, Nigel, Cathy, Ali, Nat, Kath, Peter, Hannah, Hafsah, Millie, Marie, Mike, Richard L., Richard P., Helen S, Pam, Connie, , Laura, Luce, Maeve, Marcus, Autumn, Raddon, Tim, Robin, Sheila, Mike, Sam, Rosie, Imi, Emily, Micheal, Pascal, Kath, and many more corporate volunteers.
- **Avanti NW Christmas fair** was cancelled due to dangerous high winds
- **RHS Judging event July 2023** we gained “*Outstanding*”

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## Bee Sanctuary Movement 2024-2025 year Report

### Statement of thanks and tribute to outgoing Trustees

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We would like to thank everyone who has volunteered 2024-2025, including our expanded team of Trustees. Thanks also to...

**James**(Tree Surgeon) for the logs and chippings.

MCC officers, particularly **Will White** who supplies us with bulbs and whips, and liaises with RHS, as well as **Tudor Baker**,(MCC Climate Change) and **Emily** our Neighbourhood Officer. Working alongside these Officers helped us to bring Levenshulme in Bloom into being.

We say goodbye to **Kel Degnen**, who has decided to step down as a Trustee in order to concentrate her efforts on her own wonderful growing project Marbury Community Farm, She has done so much for us, as a knowledgeable trustee, and volunteer, we will continue to work closely together. We welcome onboard new trustees, (Cathy and Ali) who will share the role between them.

We would also like to thank everyone who has donated money, or materials.

The **Community Team of Avanti NW** has raised a staggering £4700 in sales of *bee merchandise* on their platforms. **Bird and Blend** raised £1814 through giving us the profits on their Champagne blend. We received £280 through anonymous donation via CAF. This has enabled us to put money towards buying perennials for "*Levenshulme in Bloom*", as well as contributing towards increasing our tools, equipment for outreach, and wild flower seeds for developing new areas. .

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## **Bee Sanctuary Movement 2024-2025 year Report**

### **Receipts and Payments Account 05/04/2025**

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	<b>General Fund (£)</b>	<b>Restricted Funds (£)</b>	<b>Total (£)</b>	<b>Total from Last Year (£)</b>
Receipts				
Council Grants	0.00	3,200.00	3,200.00	1,896.69
Other Grants	0.00	11,920.00	11,920.00	1,000.00
Gifts	6,807.72	0.00	6,807.72	920.23
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>6,807.72</b>	<b>15,120.00</b>	<b>21,927.72</b>	<b>3,816.92</b>
Payments				

Materials & Labour	1,968.09	8,813.56	10,781.65	906.80
Hospitality	18.00	285.00	303.00	261.55
Insurance	187.04	0.00	187.04	186.04
Internet Services	81.55	0.00	81.55	151.20
Seed and Plants	292.41	2,070.66	2,363.07	96.75
Tools amd Equipment	1,035.95	0.00	1,035.95	0.00
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>3,583.04</b>	<b>11,169.22</b>	<b>14,752.26</b>	<b>1,897.84</b>
<b>NET RECEIPTS LESS PAYMENTS</b>	<b>3,224.68</b>	<b>3,950.78</b>	<b>7,175.46</b>	<b>1,919.08</b>
<b>TRANSFERS</b>				
Transfer Plant Fund 3	-656.00	656.00		
Transfer Green Routes	-100.56	100.56		
	<b>-756.56</b>	<b>756.56</b>		
Cash Funds from Last Year End	879.51	1,887.55	2,767.06	
<b>CASH FUNDS THIS YEAR END</b>	<b>3,347.63</b>	<b>6,594.89</b>	<b>9,942.52</b>	

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## The Bee Sanctuary Movement

### Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 5/04/2025

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	Current Account - Co-op		9,878.78
	Cash		63.74
Total Cash at Bank and in Hand			9,942.52
<b>Total monetary assets</b>			<b>9,942.52</b>
Unrestricted Funds	General Fund		3,347.63
Restricted Funds			
	Acadia NIF 2800		1,400.00
	Emma Plant Fund Lev in Bloom		1,600.38
	Forever Manchester		515.01
	Lev in Bloom 400 2025		400
	One Manchester		1354.35
	South Yard NIF 2800		1325.15
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>			<b>9,942.52</b>
<b>Non-Monetary Assets and Liabilities</b>		donated by	Estimated Value
	1 event shelter	BSM	230
	1 gas tank	BSM	78
	1 2.2K Champion generator		580
Tools			
	Large Ego Mower	BSM	500
	Small Flymo Mower	BSM	
replaced head	Multi-cutter Tool with 3 heads	BSM/Sheila/Brian	500

	Ego Batteries 2x2.5 A and 1x 7.5A	BSM	430
	scarifying blade for flymo	BSM	17
	1 pair drill driver/impact driver	BSM	150
tools inside	7 assorted saws one spare blade	BSM	50
	2 hand trimmers horizontal and vertical	donation	15
	Claw hand fork	donation	7
	Japanese hand scythe	BSM	15
	Hand hoe	donation	7
	6 secateurs	donation	60
	2 Mattocks	BSM	50
	6 Loppers	BSM/Donation	120
	1 boltcutters	Sheila	15
	4 assorted rakes	?	40
	4 garden forks	?	25
	2 x racheting loppers		45
	1 60cm level	donation?	
	3 pointy shovels		36
	2 small pointy shovels		13
	1 large coal shovel		10
	1 garden spade	?	15
	10 assorted buckets	Sheila	60
	4 wheelbarrows	Sheila,Robin BSM	160
	3 watering cans		40
	3 sweepingbrushes		15
	1 hose on a reel		25
	1 dibble		5

	crowbar	donation	10
	scissors/6 saws	Sheila	70
	Toolbox with tools aetc	Sheila	120
	1 step drill bit		19
	PPE, 2 Faceshields, assorted gloves, 1 pr waders	BSM	100
	laminator and pouches	Bsm	25
	microscope	BSM	45
Sundries	Painting equipment, rollers trays sandpaper etc	BSM	40
	String cord tapes etc	?	20
	event materials, bunting model bees etc	Avanti/ teresa	50
	garden lime	BSM	20
Exhibitions	1 Park fence exhibition	BSM/NIF	350
	1 Highlights of 2021 Exhibition	Sheila	250
Volunteer Centre	20' Container and Mural		8,052
	Green roof with water collection		3,000
Interior	with lighting powered by 12 V car battery	Marcus/BSM/Sheila	60
	<b>Accessible toilet fitted with</b>		
	composting toilet and fan powered by 12V battery	BSM	1,026
	support bars	BSM	130
	sink with cold water supply	Barbara	30
	tap connected to water container	Sheila	20
	Mirror	Sheila	20
	Toilet roll holder	Sheila	10

	Shelf with supports	Sheila	20
	First Aid box Large on wall and small transportable	BSM	40
	Spare toilet rolls and tissues/soap etc	Avanti/Booking.com	30
	green waste bin	donation	7
	<b>Tool Store fitted with</b>		
	Rack to store mobile exhibition	BSM	40
	Tool hanging racks	Sheila	10
	Shelves	BSM/Sheila	20
	<b>Hospitality area fitted with</b>		
	room divider, and frontage with door	BSM	140
	built in bench	BSM	25
	Built in cupboard with work top	Sheila	25
	vinyl flooring		125
Exterior	Bike rack and gravel area	BSM	1,000
	Rear secure yard with 2x 1000L water containers on a stand	BSM	2,300
Literature	Good Bee Book 1 copy	BSM	6
	BSM Leaflets	BSM	0
	Seed left over from last year, spring mix and field mix		12
	sand for mixing	<b>Robin</b>	12
<b>Gross non monetary assets</b>			<b>19,714</b>
Debtors			0
Creditors			0
<b>Net non monetary assets</b>			<b>19,714</b>

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