

RREGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1196372

FRUIT & NUT VILLAGE

Unaudited Annual Report and Financial Statements

Period Ended 30 September 2024

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered office

126 Newlands Run
Stirchley
B30 2RH

Current Trustees

H Tomkins (Chair)
D Edmonds
A Connock
E Hamnett (from 1/2/24)

Registered Charity number and Constitution

1196372. The Charity has been constituted as a Charitable Interest Organisation.

Independent Examiner

Andrew Hopkins
BVSC Accountancy Services
Latham House
33-34 Paradise Street
Birmingham
B1 2AJ

Bankers

Unity Trust Bank
PO Box 7193
Planetary Road
Willenhall
WV1 9DG

TRUSTEES REPORT

PERIOD ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

The trustees present their report and unaudited financial statements of the charity for the period from 1 October 2023 to 30 September 2024.

TRUSTEES

The trustees who served during the period and up to the date of signature of the unaudited financial statements were:

H Tomkins (Chair)
D Edmonds
A Connock
E Hamnett (from 1/2/24)

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The Memorandum and Articles of Association govern the charity together with the policies made by the trustees.

The charity is constituted as a Charitable Interest Company limited by guarantee. The members of the company are the trustees. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity.

We have a registered constitution which states that we are governed by a structure of volunteer trustees (also known as Board members) Board members are legally responsible for the charity and meet a minimum of 4 times a year (including committee meetings).

Methods of appointment or election of Trustees

Trustees can be appointed by the Board of Trustees, subject to confirmation at the next Annual General Meeting or nominated and elected at an Annual General Meeting.

Organisational structure and decision-making policies

The Board of Trustees meets a number of times throughout the year to oversee the charity's strategy, finance and legal obligations.

The Executive Board meets more frequently and is responsible for the day-to-day running of the Charity including idea acquisition, projects, fundraising, website and social media, and networking and collaboration. The Executive Board reports to the Board of Trustees.

Risk management

A risk register has been established with regular reporting by the Executive Board to the Board of Trustees.

TRUSTEES REPORT

PERIOD ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

Objectives of the CIO

- (i) To provide or assist in the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disability, financial hardship or social circumstances with the object of improving their conditions of life.
- (ii) To advance education for the public benefit in particular by providing opportunities for learning about horticulture and perennial food growing.

Methods of engagement

As a CIO we have sought funding from a range of sources in order to deliver our objectives from a range of different Birmingham locations. Income levels have varied between different sources, with our three largest income streams being Hall Green Neighbourhood Network Scheme to work across Balsall Heath with residents aged over 50 or 18-49 with a specific need, Selly Oak Neighbourhood Network Scheme to deliver work with over-55s and Severn Trent Water to work broadly across the community in Stirchley. Friends of The Earth supported us in our Balsall Heath work by funding a Postcode Gardener role in the neighbourhood. Significantly, we have received income for delivering propagation workshops in the community with Midlands Art Centre and Birmingham Hippodrome and we have delivered fruit tree care sessions to Community Environment Trust, Friends of Edgbaston Reservoir and Incredible Surplus. We seek to include all-comers to our activities, therefore, even where targeted at certain sectors of the community we will ideally allow other individuals to take part in the work we carry out. Working across three different, non-contiguous, neighbourhoods of Birmingham we expect that our volunteers will involve themselves in their local neighbourhood. We do, however, have a certain level of “cross pollination”, whereby volunteers attend work sessions in neighbourhoods where they do not live or work. We also, often, have people attending work sessions, community events and work days who are not from one of our focus neighbourhoods. We reach out to people in many ways, including through conversations with passers-by on-site during work sessions, through door-knocking campaigns, through our social media platforms, our neighbourhood WhatsApp groups and posters, we continue to target people as potential volunteers when we meet them casually and to request referrals from social care workers. Word-of-mouth plays a significant role for us in bringing new interest to the project. Our monthly Bulletin is at the core of our outreach and network creation and this serves to keep people interested, engaged and informed about our activities. We have a YouTube channel that has been added to over the year. There continues to be no expectation on a session attendee to carry out physical work. Attendees regularly choose to attend just to watch or to enjoy a hot drink and a biscuit with us.

Activities carried out

Our activities broadly fall into four categories

- i) regular (often weekly) maintenance sessions
- ii) planting days
- iii) workshops (e.g. propagation) and
- iv) community events (e.g. Wassails)

Over the 12 months, up to the end of September 2024, we delivered the following sessions:

Balsall Heath – 101 with average 9 attendees

Castle Vale – 3 with average 10 attendees

Druids Heath – 55 with average 5 attendees

Edgbaston – 2 with average 10 attendees

Lozells – 1 with 10 attendees

Stirchley – 184 with average 11 attendees

In total we delivered 346 sessions with 3182 separate attendances. We almost delivered as many sessions as there were days in the year. We estimate that 850 separate individuals have been engaged with our charity over the period.

Sessions included tree and bush planting, orchard care, grafting and propagation workshops, training and pruning workshops, site preparation sessions, community bike rides and walks, story-telling events, Wassail events, fruit tasting and identification workshops.

Achievements

We continued to maintain the work we had already initiated in Balsall Heath, Druids Heath and Stirchley alongside our small involvement in Castle Vale, Lozells and Edgbaston. Growing sites have seen significant development and increased in significance to local people and their lives.

We began a new project working alongside Friends of The Earth, working in Balsall Heath to deliver a Postcode Gardener project.

Our charity has raised its local profile and this is evidenced by the multiple requests we have received to work alongside establishments such as Birmingham Hippodrome and Midlands Art Centre.

Fruit & Nut Village has increased its coverage by becoming more active in the neighbourhoods of Druids Heath and Balsall Heath. Although sites in these locations are less well-developed than sites in Stirchley, they are becoming more recognised and more relevant to local people. In these two neighbourhoods we have gained much new interest from local people. In Stirchley we expanded our Newlands Run linear orchard with a second row, bringing 59 attendees over a weekend to plant up a 150-metre row of trees into a very water-logged field. We brought family members and friends of, the recently deceased, Professor Benjamin Zephaniah to the second day of planting and we planted a pear tree in his honour. Later in the year we worked at a Benjamin Zephaniah memorial event at Midlands Art Centre, propagating edible perennial plants. Our Tu B'Shvat planting day, in its second year, attracted 83 attendees to Calthorpe Park in Balsall Heath. We brought together local people, asylum seekers and members of the Jewish, Christian and Muslim communities for an inter-faith planting day. Our Postcode Gardener worked at the session and we were fed delicious Syrian food after the trees had been planted.

We made multiple appearances on local Radio WM and also appeared on BBC West Midlands television one summer evening; our work in both Balsall Heath and Stirchley was highlighted in this report. We appeared in The Birmingham Mail newspaper in December 23 and in The Guardian in August 24; our work with Retrofit Balsall Heath was highlighted. Significantly, we installed an information board at our most well-renowned site, Kingdom Forest Garden. The board comprises a map, details of our project and the site, some guidance on site use and attractive images of the site itself. This board was significant in bringing new interest to our work since it contains contact details for the charity.

We ran two Wassails, one of which attracted approximately 120 participants, a Summer Solstice story-telling event with around 50 attendees and several community walks and rides. The walks and rides are particularly useful in bringing people to new areas to view the work that has already been carried out and to become inspired by what we are aiming to achieve. Working with both homeless and vulnerably-housed people through Birmingham City Mission and asylum and refugee groups has seen us broaden our participant base in a direction that we strongly hope to continue.

Other organisations and groups can “own” our work due to its public nature, and in September 24 Friends of Stirchley Library hosted a walking tour through some of our growing spaces. This walk quickly brought new volunteers to us. Our work in Druids Heath began to be delivered more regularly, with sessions taking place almost every week, and sessions occurring predictably through the weeks.

Delivering almost one session per day for this year has been a significant achievement, as has hosting an average group of almost 10 individuals at each session.

Summary

Significantly, we have increased the number of sessions we deliver per week from 4.9 to almost 7. We have continued to work at all the sites where we were previously active. We have planted new plants and expanded growing areas in almost all of our growing sites, with new orchards and forest gardens having been worked upon.

Volunteers are continually being recruited and we have much success at engaging with new people and recruiting them to take part in our activities. We are increasingly well-known and seen in a positive light not just across our neighbourhoods, but across the city of Birmingham and even beyond.

Next Steps

Our next challenge is to stabilise the involvement of our Area Managers in Fruit & Nut Village, by looking to employ them as staff members. Alongside this we need to expand out social media and other communications work to upgrade out internet presence, ensure information available on-line is always up-to-date and as attractively presented as possible.

Maturing orchard and forest garden sites are now offering themselves as local community resources in many ways e.g. meeting places, food production, nature-connectivity, skills learning, community integration. The significance of these sites for academic research and as models for future city planning is only just beginning to enter the fore, and we expect to see this develop.

We work to a 2040 Plan where we aim to have Fruit & Nut Villages across every Birmingham ward, with intermediate targets set around 2030 to expand into each constituency.

The work at Druids Heath continues to be tough to deliver since the area is undergoing extensive redevelopment and many homes there are ear-marked for demolition. We intend to develop our sites here in a solid, forward thinking way, and to maintain our position as part of the process of neighbourhood development and remodelling.

We will continue to deliver large numbers of high quality, well-managed, engaging and welcoming work sessions and community events across our three neighbourhoods. We will continue to work at bringing more individuals to the work that we carry out and to our growing sites.

Stability of income is high on the charity's agenda over the coming year and beyond.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Performance during the period

During the period the charity has sustained its income with grants and donations giving the charity an income of £93,777.

Expenditure has been spread over the charity's direct spending on projects and support costs. All of these activities were accommodated within an expenditure of £72,787.

TRUSTEES REPORT

PERIOD ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

Reserves policy

The reserves policy of the charity is based on an understanding of income streams (including the risk profiles of these); projected activities and contractual commitments to expenditure; and the overall risk environment in which the charity operates. Any designations and/or re-designations of the charity's reserves will be agreed by discussion and recorded in the minutes of meetings of the trustees and Annual General Meeting of the charity.

Currently the policy is to hold an amount equivalent to approximately six months expenditure (approximately £36,000). The free reserves at the period end £39,646, representing approximately 6.5 months of normal levels of expenditure. The trustees will be reviewing the policy in the context of future plans to consider if this remains an appropriate policy.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

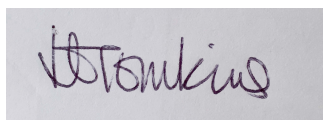
Law applicable to Charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the charity's financial activities during the period and of its financial position at the end of the period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees follow best practice and:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'H Tomkins', is shown on a light-colored background.

H Tomkins (Chair)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF FRUIT & NUT VILLAGE

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Fruit & Nut Village for the period ending 30 September 2024, which are set out on pages 9 to 14.

This report is made solely to the Charity's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. My independent examination work has been undertaken so that I might state to the Charity's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charity and the Charity's Trustees as a body, for my independent examination work, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

Respective Responsibilities of the Trustees and Examiner

The Charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this period under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act") and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

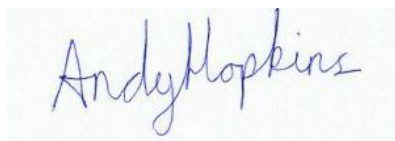
Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and the seeking of explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently, no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (35) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act; have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Andrew Hopkins
BVSC Accountancy Services
Latham House
33-34 Paradise Street
Birmingham
B1 2AJ

15 July 2025

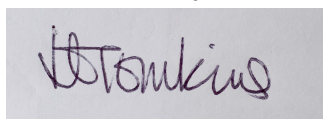
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
PERIOD ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

	Note	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Total
		2024	2024	2024	2023
		£	£	£	£
<u>Income from:</u>					
<u>Charitable activities</u>					
Grants and Donations	3	93,777	-	93,777	36,740
Total income		<u>93,777</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>93,777</u>	<u>36,740</u>
<u>Expenditure on:</u>					
<u>Charitable activities</u>					
Charitable expenditure	4	72,787	-	72,787	42,233
Total charitable expenditure		<u>72,787</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>72,787</u>	<u>42,233</u>
Net income for the period/Net movement in funds		20,990	-	20,990	(5,494)
Opening fund balance		17,936	-	17,936	23,430
Closing fund balances		<u>38,926</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>38,926</u>	<u>17,936</u>

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

		2024 £	2023 £
	Notes		
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	7	-	-
Cash at bank and in hand		39,646	18,656
		<u>39,646</u>	18,656
CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	8	<u>(720)</u>	(720)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>38,926</u>	17,936
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>38,926</u>	17,936
FUNDS			
Unrestricted funds		38,926	17,936
Restricted		-	-
TOTAL FUNDS		<u>38,926</u>	17,936

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 11 July 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:



H Tomkins (Chair)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

PERIOD ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included on the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Goods donated are recognised when the sale of these items occurs.

Resources expended

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

2. CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND JUDGEMENTS

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates. The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
PERIOD ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

3. DONATIONS AND GRANTS

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	Total
	2024	2024	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Donations	14,280	-	14,280	5,810
National Lottery	19,763	-	19,763	-
Cole Charitable Trust	-	-	-	1,500
Groundwork UK	-	-	-	1,000
Greensquare Accord	14,824	-	14,824	4,000
Conservation Education	-	-	-	-
Severn Trent Water	23,695	-	23,695	-
Birmingham City Council	7,015	-	7,015	24,430
Friends of the Earth Trust	14,200	-	14,200	-
	<u>93,777</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>93,777</u>	36,739
Analysis by fund				
Unrestricted			93,777	
Restricted			<u>-</u>	
			<u>93,777</u>	

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
PERIOD ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

4. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Direct costs £	Support costs £	Governance costs £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Expenditure on charitable activities	38,332	33,735	720	72,787	42,233
Support costs					
Wages and salaries (Note 5)		24,000	-	24,000	12,344
General office			-		
Accounting and other professional fees		8,899		8,899	12,367
Bank charges		72	-	72	72
Insurance		764	-	764	745
		<u>33,735</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>33,735</u>	<u>25,529</u>
Governance costs					
Independent examination		-	720	720	720
		<u>-</u>	<u>720</u>	<u>720</u>	<u>720</u>
				2024 £	
Analysed by fund					
Unrestricted funds				72,787	
Restricted				-	
				<u>72,787</u>	

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

PERIOD ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

5. TRUSTEES

Remuneration and benefits

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the period.

Expenses

The trustees (or any persons connected with them) received £ in expenses from the charity during the period. These relate principally to the reimbursement of costs for attendance at Board meetings.

6. EMPLOYEES

	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	24,000	12,344
Social security costs	0	0
	<u>24,000</u>	<u>12,344</u>

The average number of employees during the period was 1. No employee received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

There is a volume of willing volunteers who help the charity in its activities. It is not possible to estimate their total numbers.

7. DEBTORS

	2024 £	2023 £
Accrued income	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

8. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024 £	2023 £
Accruals	720	720
	<u>720</u>	<u>720</u>

9. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There were no related party transactions during the period.