

Halstead Community Shed

Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 10th February 2025

Legal and Administrative Information

Trustees

Dave Gronland

Helen Catley

Heather Pryke

Janet Caton

Alan Jackson

Chairman

Kevin Pryke

Vice Chairman

Philip Catley

Registered charity number

1198208

Registered office

Halstead Community Shed
Fenn Road
Halstead
Essex
CO9 2HG

Independent Examiner

Mick Radley
Portway Court
Halstead
Essex
CO9

Bankers

Lloyds Bank Braintree
2-4 Bank Street
Braintree
CM7 1UN

Solicitors

Holmes & Hills Solicitors
A12 Commercial Hub
London Road
Marks Tey
CO6 1ED

Halstead Community Shed Trustee Report

For the year ended February 2025

The Trustees present their report along with the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended February 2025. The financial statements have been prepared following the charity's accounting policies and comply with the Charity's Constitution and applicable law.

Objectives

To improve the mental and physical health, and wellbeing of the local community through self-help strategies. These activities will be either directly supported and operated by the Trust or in cooperation with other local groups or charities.

We do this by providing:

Facilities

By providing sustainable facilities and activities that can be used to improve the health and wellbeing of local residents through self-help strategies.

Activities

We provide a variety of activities that help develop relationships and opportunities for residents to improve their Health and Wellbeing and reconnect with the community.

Opportunities

We offer people the opportunity to learn new activities and skills in a non-judgmental atmosphere.

Values

- Sincerity and devotion to improving health and wellbeing.
- Honesty and integrity in all our activities.
- Wisdom in applying technology and innovation.
- Respect for the value added by teamwork and participation.
- Appreciation of the value of contributions by partners and sponsors.
- Responsibility and generosity in giving back to the community.
- Shared responsibility and willingness, to accept delegated work.
- That there is no shame in asking

Formation

The Trust was formed in February 2022, to improve the mental and physical health, and wellbeing of the local community through self-help strategies.

Background

The Trust initial aim was to establish a Community Men's Shed in Halstead. In their search for suitable premises, they discovered the St John's Ambulance Station on Fenn Road which had been vacant for 3 years. They approached St John's Ambulance in the hope of renting the workshop, only to learn the organisation planned to sell the building.

After failing to find alternative premises, the Trust approached Braintree District Council about purchasing the Ambulance Station and asked for their support. Through multiple meetings with Braintree's Community Services, the Trust was advised that securing grant funding would require a comprehensive project and business plan encompassing the entire building.

Reassessment

The Trust spent the next few months developing the "Wellbeing at the Shed" project that would not only encompass the whole building but also protect the building for the future by creating a focal point for health and wellbeing in Halstead, whilst still incorporating its aim to establish a Community Men's Shed in Halstead.

Renovation

After successfully securing funding and purchasing the ambulance station in December 2023. The trust with assistance from members of the Men's Shed set about renovating the station, this included repaint, relighting and reflooring the training rooms, toilets, kitchen and office.

The garages were renovated to house the Men's Shed. The Men's Shed volunteers installed new concrete fencing, pouring over 4 tons of concrete, setting up a new 10,000-litre water tank for the allotment holders, and adding new front to workshop, ceilings, walls, and flooring. They've also replaced the guttering and fascia, and that was just the beginning,

The Trust would like to recognise the hard work and unselfish commitment and dedication of the members of its Men's Shed to the project.

Activities

Halstead Men's Shed?

Community Sheds, Men's Sheds, or simply Sheds, provide a space similar to a garden shed - a place for pursuing practical interests, practicing skills, and enjoying making and mending. However, the key difference is that while garden sheds foster solitary activities, Sheds are centred around social connections, friendship building, and the sharing of skills and knowledge, often accompanied by laughter. Most importantly, Sheds have proven effective in reducing loneliness, isolation, and depression, ultimately improving men's mental health and wellbeing.

Halstead Community Shed remains dedicated to enhancing health and well-being through self-help initiatives. We are committed to expanding and improving the variety of activities accessible to individuals of all genders and ages, ranging from 3 to 83 years old.

Our activities include:

- Yoga
- Pilates
- Keep Fit
- Meditation
- Dance

To support the women in our community, we have a Menopause Support Group and a Ladies Craft Group designed to alleviate feelings of loneliness and isolation.

Additionally, we host a Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) dance group on Saturday mornings.

We collaborate with Hearing Help Essex and Essex Sight, which provide essential support to some of the most vulnerable members of our community.

Furthermore, our Men's Shed continues to expand and support other groups and charities, and the wider community.

Visitors

The number of visitors has consistently risen throughout 2024/2025, with Halstead Community Shed recording over 7,000 visits. Currently, we are accommodating around 200 visitors per week and expect this number to grow in 2025/2026.

Moving Forward

The year 2024/2025 has been a remarkable period, witnessing the development of the building and the rapid increase in visitor numbers. In the upcoming year, our priority will be to establish a robust systems and structures that can effectively accommodate the demands on the Trust and its premises, while also ensuring our financial stability as we progress.

Objectives for 2025/2026

The Trustees and Volunteers have several objectives - our main objectives for 2025/2026:

- To continue to expand and develop the "Wellbeing at the shed" project.
- The introduction of a Community Allotment.
- To expand and develop cooperation with other Groups and charities in Halstead
- To develop and improve internal system and procedures
- To expand and develop Halstead Community Shed

Financial Review

Grants

In 2024/2025 the Trust received the following grants:

- Eastlight and Braintree District Council Fund grant of £10,000.
- Braintree District Council £1000
- Cllr James Bond £500

These grants have helped the Trust with its operating costs and allowed us to support groups such as, Halstead Rotary, Crafty Girls, Hearing Help Essex, Sight Essex and Halstead Men's Shed.

Income

In 2024/2025 we received the second part of our grant from Eastlight and Braintree District Council fund of £10,000 and £1500 from Braintree District Council. Our rental income has also grown during 2024/2025 following the partial open of building in March 2024 followed by the official opening in September 2024.

Our total combined annual income for 2024/2025 was £18,039. This is significantly lower than previous years income £306,703 for 2023/2024, which was boosted by the grant we received from Halstead Community Fund to purchase, renovate and equip Halstead Community Shed.

The Trust had anticipated and planned for the drop in income and finances remain within budgeted forecasts.

Expenditure

Total expenditure for 2024/2025 reduced to £87,886. This is significantly lower than previous year following the purchase of Halstead Community Shed. This figure will continue reducing during 2025/2026 as the Trust completes its renovation works.

Assets

Our total fixed assets increased during 2024/2025 to £287,060 and is due to the purchase and renovation works completed on Halstead Community Shed premises.

Profit and Loss Report

Profit and Loss Report for period 10th February 2024 to 9th February 2025 before adjustment for depreciation, shows a net operating profit of £752.52. Once depreciation has been taken into consideration this shows a net operating loss of £4601.48. It has been recommended that once all renovation works are completed a revaluation of the property should be completed.

Reserves policy

The Trustees' policy is to maintain a sufficient level of general reserves to enable the charity to continue in normal existence for three months, followed by an orderly curtailment of activities over the following three months if necessary. The Trustees aim to review this policy on an annual basis. The Trustees therefore aim to hold up to six months of expenditure as unrestricted funds.

Structure, governance and management:

Governing document

Halstead Community Shed is registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) under its constitution dated 10 February 2022.

Tax status

As a registered charity, number 1198208, Halstead Community Shed is exempt from Corporation Tax and Income Tax on its charitable activities.

Trustees

The Board of Trustees who held office during the year were as follows:

Helen Catley
Philip Catley
Janet Caton
Dave Gronland
Alan Jackson
Heather Pryke
Kevin Pryke

Appointment of Trustees

The charity's constitution requires a minimum of three Trustees. Trustees are appointed for a term of three years and are invited to join the Board and are elected by a resolution of the Trustees.

Public benefit statement

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, 'Charities and Public Benefit'.

Reference and administrative details

The principal addresses and details of professional advisers are included in the information sheet at the front of these accounts.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to financial statements

The law applicable to Charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which gives a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the Charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently.
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP.
- make judgments' and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees must maintain accurate, up-to-date accounting records that reflect the Charity's financial position. This enables the Trustees to ensure the financial statements adhere to the Charities Act 2011, Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, and the Trust Deed. Additionally, the Trustees are responsible for safeguarding the Charity's assets and taking reasonable measures to prevent and detect fraud or other irregularities.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 6th May 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

Kevin Pryke - Chair of Trustees



and

Helen Catley - Trustee and Treasurer

