

HANSLOPE COMMUNITY ORCHARD

England & Wales · Charity number 1200266

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2022-09-05

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

Contact

Address The Barn
Pindon End
Hanslope
Milton Keynes
MK19 7HN

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Website www.linktr.ee/hanslopeorchard

Activities

Objects: 1) FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT THE CONSERVATION, PRESERVATION, PROTECTION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE PHYSICAL AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT, IN PARTICULAR THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF A COMMUNITY ORCHARD IN HANSLOPE AND THE SURROUNDING AREA WHICH SUPPORTS A DIVERSE ECOSYSTEM AND IS SPECIES-RICH. 2) TO PROMOTE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE INHABITANTS OF HANSLOPE 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.

Activities: Hanslope Community Orchard grows heritage fruit trees for the community to enjoy behind the village hall. We are a group of like minded residents of Hanslope village, looking to reclaim and re-introduce heritage fruit trees in a non-cultivated corner of a local farmer's field. Our long-term aim is for the orchard to be a recreational, inclusive space for all village residents; harvesting fruits,

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space
- **What:** Education/training, Environment/conservation/heritage, Recreation
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Buckinghamshire
- Milton Keynes

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£3,908	£4,408	-	-
2024-03-31	£4,191	£798	-	-
2023-03-31	£1,938	£1,263	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Christine Patricia Elvins		2025-01-16
Kathleen Marjorie Santiago		2026-05-15
Nicola Wilcox		2022-07-01

HANSLOPE COMMUNITY ORCHARD

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Accounts

Hanslope Community Orchard Annual Trustee Report 2024/25

Registration number: 1200266

Registered Charity Address: 18 Park Road, Hanslope, MK19 7LT

Orchard address: Adjacent to Hanslope Village Hall, Newport Road, MK19 7NZ

Charity Structure:

We are comprised of 3 Trustees who meet every 6 months or as required throughout the year. The Trustees are Nici Wilcox, Chrissy Elvins and Vicky Crawford.

The Trustees are accountable for decisions made. We also have a committee structure that feeds into trustee decision making. This committee is called Hanslope Community Orchard Members. The Hanslope Orchard Community Members meet every 6-8 weeks throughout the year.

The Trustees approve or decline decisions and recommendations made by Hanslope Community Orchard Members, and are ultimately accountable for the orchard's operation in accordance with health and safety, financial viability and the rules of our constitution.

We regularly send out an email newsletter via our mailing list and social media. We aim to recruit more volunteers and trustees from within the parish boundary of Hanslope village.

Activities and objectives in the year:

Our aims as a CIO for 24/25 were to

1. Use grant funding to establish a legal lease of land for the orchard site.
2. Expand the orchard by converting a new section of unused agricultural land adjacent to the existing site.
3. Use the expanded site to make tree sponsorship available to more local residents.
4. Maintain and enhance the willow tunnel, plant new bulbs and perennials. Restore benches and install bug hotel.
5. Increase our core membership for both maintenance volunteers as well as committee members.

All of the above objectives were achieved, with further detail provided below:

1. Following the verbal agreement of the lease with the land owner in 2022/23 and having secured funds from the Parish Council in 2023/24 for the legal costs, the Trustees took forward the legal process to acquire the land on a 50 year lease. The legal title of land was secured in November 2024.
2. A new section of land (adjacent to the original orchard) included in the lease was cleared of weeds and rubble over the winter of 2024/25 and prepared for cultivation by volunteers.
3. In February 2025 local residents were given the opportunity to sponsor 13 heritage trees on the newly cultivated site. This is in addition to the 42 trees planted in February 2023.
4. Our willow tunnel built in February 2024 became well established over its first year, with local volunteers increasing the height of the tunnel in spring 2025. Biodiversity was further enhanced with new bulbs, perennial planting and the installation of a bug hotel created by a local artist. Public access and leisure opportunities were increased with the installation of newly restored benches.

Our core membership was increased this year with a replacement of trustee Avril Francome with Chrissy Elvins and 3 new committee members. We wish to publicly thank Avril for her contributions in setting up the Orchard. Chrissy brings a wealth of experience to our trustee team. Our committee membership now comprises Simon Thorp, Helen Capel and Angela Poole as well as the Trustees. Our work party volunteers remain strong with a core of approximately 10 local residents who attend work parties to help maintain the site. These volunteers also feed in suggestions and ideas for the enhancement of the orchard to the Hanslope Orchard Members and Trustees.

Achievements for public benefit:

- Hanslope village residents continue to have free access to an environmentally considered and managed village space. The space is inclusive and accessible to all, regardless of income or social status.
- All residents of Hanslope are invited to join in with our workdays which are enjoyable community events.

- The meandering mowed pathways encourage local children and families to wander around the orchard and have summer picnics on the reclaimed benches. Hanslope Pre School who use the adjacent Village Hall have been regularly taking nature walks in the orchard. They are often seen having stories told in the story telling area which includes a giant's chair made by a local artist. The chair was kindly donated by a Hanslope resident in 2023.
- Our tree sponsorship options in Feb 2025 offered more affordable monthly direct debit payment options.

Financial review 2024/25:

Expenses

	Planned	Actual
<i>Totals</i>	£0.00	£4408
Landscaping contract - Parker		£607
Willow Coppice		£400
Restored Benches		£413
Tree planting		£350
Local Giving annual sub		£360
Pub Liability Insurance		£131
Tree labels		£75
Solicitors fees for lease		£2043
Hanslope Village Hall hire		£29

Income

	Planned	Actual
<i>Totals</i>	£0.00	£3908
Tree Sponsorship		£616
Solicitor fees refund		£131

Local Giving gift aid		£1
Donations		£3160

All funds are held in our charity bank account with Metro Bank. No other funds are held by custodian trustees.

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Accounts

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Registration number: 1200266

Registered Charity Address: 18 Park Road, Hanslope, MK19 7LT

Orchard address: Behind Hanslope Village Hall, Newport Road, MK19 7NZ

Charity Structure:

We are comprised of 3 Trustees who meet every 6-8 weeks throughout the year. The Trustees are Nici Wilcox, Avril Francome and Vicky Crawford.

The Trustees are accountable for decisions made. We also have a Committee structure that feeds into trustee decision making. This committee is called Hanslope Community Orchard Members Meetings; and we also meet every 6-8 weeks throughout the year.

The Trustees approve or decline decisions and recommendations made by Hanslope Community Orchard Members Meetings, and are ultimately accountable for the Orchard's operation in accordance with health and safety, financial viability and the rules of our constitution.

We regularly send out an email newsletter via our mailing list and social media, whereby we aim to recruit more volunteers and trustees from within the parish boundary of Hanslope village.

Activities and objectives in the year:

Having only been established as a CIO in September 2022; our aims for 23/24 were to:

- Source grant funding to pay for legal costs associated with establishing a legal lease on the orchard site.
- Publicise our activities more widely on a national charity donation website.
- Replace any heritage tree saplings that died in the first year.
- Establish mown wildflowers paths and install reclaimed benches across the orchard.
- Plant 1000 spring bulbs.

All of the above objectives were achieved, with further detail provided below:

During 2022/2023 Robert Beesley, a local landowner, offered to lease us a portion of his farmer's field behind Hanslope Village Hall for 50 years for a peppercorn amount. However, in order to ensure that this position is maintained without ambiguity, the trustees and Robert Beesley verbally agreed that a formal lease was necessary. We started the ball rolling with this

in 2023/24 by securing funding from Hanslope Parish Council to pay the associated legal costs. This legal process began during 2023/24.

We set up a fundraising platform on Local Giving.co.uk allowing us to directly access small community grants. In August 2023 we successfully applied for a £500 grant which paid for reclaimed benches and spring bulbs. We are now also able to directly receive gift aid donations from this website when we launch a fundraising project. We launched one such project in Autumn 2023 to pay for a willow tunnel in memory of one of our founding members. Around £800 was raised in donations and gift aid via this website.

In February 2023 39 heritage fruit trees were sponsored and planted on the site, with some tree saplings failing to survive the late frost and water logging in Spring 2023. Thanks to excess funds from tree sponsorship we were able to replace all trees that died with new saplings and relocate them to more suitable planting sites.

Achievements for public benefit:

- 2800 Hanslope village residents now have free access to an environmentally considered and managed village space. The space is inclusive and accessible to all, regardless of income or social status. The spring bulbs planted by volunteers provide year round interest, and the reclaimed benches around the site provide year round respite. The willow tunnel offers a sensory escape and place of reflection for all.
- 25+ local residents have joined our whatsapp maintenance group; regularly keeping fit by watering the site and having maintenance days.
- Local children and families were encouraged to run around the meandering mown paths and have summer picnics on the reclaimed benches. A giant's chair carved from reclaimed wood was also donated to encourage story telling.
- A village meeting was held in June 2023 to publicise our achievements to date.
- A 10 metre willow tunnel was installed in Feb 2024 in memory of one of our founding members; with village residents being invited to learn how to plant willow as a skills share.

Financial review 2023/24:

Expenses

	Planned	Actual
<i>Totals</i>	<i>£0.00</i>	<i>£798.29</i>
Landscaping maintenance		£71.87
Village Hall booking		£23.00
1000 Spring bulbs		£165.12
Yorkshire Willow Installation		£358.70
Simply Business Pub Liability Ins		£110.72
Replacement tree saplings		£68.88

Income

	Planned	Actual
<i>Totals</i>	<i>£0.00</i>	<i>£4,190.67</i>
Hanslope Gardening Club		£25.00
Parish Council Grant		£2,500.00
Local Giving Community Grant		£500.00
Donation from Garden4Good		£250.00
Nov donations		£675.34
Dec donations		£147.48
Jan donations		£38.45
Feb donations		£52.74
March donations		£1.66

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Accounts

- your charity's name, registration number, address and trustee names
- its structure and details of how it is managed, including how it recruits trustees
- its activities and objectives in the year
- its achievements and performance, including reporting on its public benefit
- a financial review including any debts and details of your reserves policy (if applicable)
- details of any funds held as a custodian trustee

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Orchard address: Behind Hanslope Village Hall, Newport Road, MK19 7NZ

Charity Structure:

We are comprised of 3 Trustees who meet every 6-8 weeks throughout the year. The Trustees are Nici Wilcox, Avril Francome and Vicky Crawford.

The Trustees are accountable for decisions made. We also have a Committee structure that feeds into trustee decision making; comprised of a Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Trustees and members of the Orchard Maintenance Team. This committee is called Hanslope Members Meetings; and we also meet every 6-8 weeks throughout the year.

The Trustees approve or decline decisions and recommendations made by Hanslope Community Orchard Members Meetings, and are ultimately accountable for the Orchard's operation in accordance with health and safety, financial viability and the rules of our constitution.

We hold open meetings 2-3 times per year in Hanslope Village Hall, and regularly send out an email newsletter via our mailing list and social media, whereby we aim to recruit more volunteers and trustees from within the parish boundary of Hanslope village.

Activities and objectives in the year:

Having only been established as a CIO in September 2022; our initial aims for the remainder of this financial year were to:

- Identify a viable piece of land in Hanslope Village for planting trees.
- Involve the village community in sponsoring and planting trees.
- Set up a bank account and register for gift aid.

- Choose heritage tree varieties to encourage cross pollination and a revival of ancient species diversity.
- Fundraise the cost of compost, fertiliser and 39 fruit trees.
- Pay for public liability insurance for the orchard site and risk assess orchard events such as the tree planting day.

All of the above objectives were achieved, with further detail provided below:

During 2022/2023 Robert Beesley, a local landowner, offered to lease us a portion of his farmer's field behind Hanslope Village Hall for 50 years for a peppercorn amount. However, in order to ensure that this position is maintained without ambiguity, the trustees and Robert Beesley verbally agreed that a formal lease was necessary. Securing the lease is an aim for 2023/24.

In February 2023 39 heritage fruit trees were sponsored and planted on the site. We were able to register for Gift Aid, and secured £800 fundraising from tree sponsorship which paid for the cost of the trees. The orchard planting day was well attended and covered by a local photographer; resulting in publicity in Milton Keynes Citizen and a local magazine.

We gave a talk to the local Horticulturalists group explaining our plans to encourage heritage species diversity; with background info on some of these ancient varieties of apple, pear, plum, medlar, hazelnut and cherry.

Achievements for public benefit:

- 2800 Hanslope village residents now have free access to an environmentally considered and managed village space. The space is inclusive and accessible to all, regardless of income or social status.
- 50+ local residents young and old were involved in the planting day and community fair held in the Village Hall on 26th February 2023.
- Local residents with properties backing on to the orchard were consulted individually; with their views and preferences incorporated in the orchard design.
- A village meeting was held in early February and was well attended by interested

villagers.

Financial review:

Expenses 2022/23:

Expenses:				Income:	
				Charity Calendar sponsorship	£200.00
Publicity for planting day	£50.00				
Invoice for Trees	£725.00				
Tree stakes and guards	£114.00		Tree sponsorship		1738
Engraved tree label mock up	£8.50				
1 tonne bag of Horticultural Loam	£90.00				
Public Liability Insurance	£90.72				£1,938.00
Cost of professional tree labels	£185.00				
		£1,263.22			
Balance:	£674.78				

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