

Kent Men of the Trees CIO

Trustees Report for year ended 31 December 2024

This has been the first year of operation of the CIO; membership and all assets and liabilities were accepted from the KMOTT Trust Fund from 1 January.

- **Membership transition and recruitment**

During the year the transition was completed requiring significant work through the year by our Administrator to support our members making changes to their bank payment standing orders, as well as updating our membership and gift aid documentation. Sadly, but not unexpectedly, during this process a number of our existing members decided, for understandable reasons, not to continue their support for the charity.

We have had some success in encouraging new membership; with 4 new personal members and 4 corporate members signed up to join in January. We are hoping to re-build the corporate membership list through a new project...more on which later.

We will be encouraging guests to our activities

- **Activities**

There were 4 very well-attended day visits in Kent last year, to Sandling Park, Hole Park, Palmstead Nursery and Knole Park. Our annual long trip – to Somerset – was a great success and included visits to a number of very interesting estates as well as to the national Oak collection. In Somerset we met with representatives from Dorset Men of the Trees, where a discussion around their schools project was the spur to consider a new approach to engagement with schools in Kent - more on this later.

Two talks were set up for the Winter season – Elm Reintroduction project and Challenges of Fruit Farming, to which non-members were invited.

- **Finances**

The charity is still not financially stable; whilst the annual deficit has reduced year on year, the direction of travel is still unacceptable and your Trustees have the situation under constant review. Some notes:

- the year 2024 membership fee income was affected by the discounts offered to members on transition to the CIO to reflect the move to a consistent annual renewal date (January) from any other historical renewal dates .
- We have sought funding to support our tree gift costs. The Tree Council Branching Out Fund has approved a grant of £858 which was paid in April 2025 and a donation of £150 from HGPS for the additional trees that were provided.
- We have submitted a Gift Aid claim for £577 which we hope will be supported by HMRC and a claim will be repeated annually reflecting the donations received during the year

- We will use funding specifically to support our new projects as far as possible

We hope to be able to bring the Charity finances into balance in 2025 and to work on a sustainable financial basis going forward.

- **Looking Forward**

2025 looks to be an exciting year ahead; all the “normal” activities are in planning or announced. We have the following new projects which we hope to launch this year:

- Tree of the Year – a competition where the suggestions / submissions are received from membership, the public and local communities for the best tree in Kent meeting predetermined criteria.
- Schools project - working in partnership with a Community Interest Company near Aldington , we would offer 2 or 3 primary schools in the Ashford / Folkestone & Hythe Districts Council areas the opportunity for environmental education on site and the opportunity for the children to grow a seedling tree through their first 6 years at school.

- **Social Media**

It is time that Kent Men of the Trees took to publicising our activities on social media – specifically Facebook and Instagram.

All the projects discussed above are designed to bring our charity more into public focus and hopefully attract more membership or visitors / guests to our activities.

With your support the charity will continue to thrive and to bring pleasure education and appreciation of trees across a much wider audience.

The Kent Men of the Trees CIO - Charity No 1203852
Receipts and Payments Account
Period from 5th July 2023 to 31st December 2024

2024

Receipts

Subscriptions	2341
Corp Subscriptions	145
Donations	733
Members Annual Tour	18650
Day Trips	131
Members Lunch	805
Natwest Compensation	350
Other Refunds	76
Deposit a/c interest	157

Total Receipts

23,387

Payments

Trees	2336
Admission/Trip Fees	125
Members Annual Tour	16967
Admin/Treasurer Fees	4790
Meeting Costs	95
Postage	227
Travel	23
Marketing	0
Insurance	179
Stationery/Printing	248
Website	250
Arbor Magazine	824
Examiner	0
Other FP Refund	14
Members Lunch	690

Total Payments

26,768

Net increase / (Decrease) in assets in the period **-3,381**

Accumulated Surplus / (Deficit) brought forward **0.00**

Transfer from KMOTT Trust Fund **24,440**

Accumulated Surplus / (Deficit) carried forward **21,059**

Represented by

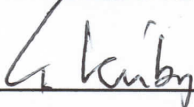
Natwest Bank Current Balance	5,997
Unity Instant Access	63
UTB Fixed deposit account	15,000

Total Net Assets

21,059

On behalf of the Trustees of CIO Kent Men of the Trees, we hereby accept, adopt and approve the Annual Accounts


Chairman



Dated

25/3/2025

Trustee



Dated

25/3/2025

Notes to the accounts

1. This is the first set of accounts for CIO Kent Men of the Trees. Registration date 5th July 2023.

- The CIO with Charity Commission Approval has accepted the transfer of all business and assets from The Kent Men of the Trees Trust Charity No. 1309008. Trustee resolution by both sets of Trustees signed 27th November 2023 to transfer all assets including existing members from the Trust to the CIO.

- CIO Bank account opened 28th November 2023

- Trust bank accounts have been retained to ensure the Charity does not forego any donations and payments made during transition period

2. This Receipts and Payments account has been prepared on a cash basis