

SUSTENANCE

Registered Charity Number: 1209111

Annual Accounts

for the

For the period 14th July 2024 to 30th September 2025

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SUSTENANCE
Organisational Structure
For the period 14th July 2024 to 30th September 2025

Registered charity number: 1209111

Legal form:

Governing document: CIO Registration - 12th July 2024

Address: C/O Jackson Hall
Portland Place
Hastings
TN34 1QN

Trustees: James Bennett (Chair)
Madeleine Mason
Celia Wilson

Independent Examiner: Louise Cavill, Independent Examiner
Cavill & Cruikshank Accountants and Tax Advisors

Objects and Activities:

1. The relief of poverty and the preservation and promotion of good nutrition, good health and social improvement among people who are suffering from social or economic distress in Hastings and surrounding area;
2. The advancement of the education of the public in reclamation of waste food, preparing and preserving health food;
3. The promotion and enhancement of human health through providing information and advice in relation to health eating and nutrition;
4. The conservation, protection and improvement of the environment for the public benefit by the promotion of reduction of food waste, use of recycled food products and the use of surplus food.

SUSTENANCE

F O O D S U P P O R T

Trustees' Annual Report July 2024 to September 2025

1. About Sustenance

Charity name: Sustenance

Charity structure: Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

Charity number: 1209111

Registered address: Sustenance, Jackson Hall, Portland Place, Hastings, TN34 1QN

Trustees in 2025:

- James Bennett (Chair)
- Madeleine Mason
- Celia Wilson

Sustenance is a community-led food charity based in St Leonards and Hastings. We exist to improve food security, nutrition and connection for people experiencing hardship, while reducing food waste locally.

2. How we are run

Sustenance is governed by a board of trustees who are also the CIO's members, as set out in our constitution. The trustees oversee the charity's strategy, finances and risk. Day-to-day delivery is carried out by volunteers, supported by systems and processes developed during 2024–2025.

We had no salaried staff in this period. However, to support the service during a period of growth, we engaged a freelance project coordinator on a short-term basis to manage specific parts of the work. This was an interim measure while we continued to build a stable financial base.

We plan to appoint our first part-time staff member in 2026 to strengthen consistency and sustainability as the service grows.

3. What we did in 2024 and 2025

Our core service runs weekly and is built around repurposing surplus food and turning it into nutritious meals and fresh produce bags for people facing food scarcity in our community.

In summary, this year we:

- Collected 32,209 kg surplus food from local retailers and growers
- Served 1,956 three-course meals
- Distributed 2,648 shopping bags of fresh produce to take home
- Created a safe and welcoming social space
- Connected our members with local support services such as Citizen's Advice, Sussex Energise, and Hastings Advice and Representation Centre
- Coordinated a 60+ volunteer team who deliver the service with care and consistency

These activities are shaped by Sustenance's five core values: **Purpose, Sustainability & Place-Based Growth, Innovation, Contribution, and Empathy & Respect.**

4. Public benefit and the difference we made

The Charity Commission asks all charities to explain how their work delivers public benefit.

In 2024 and 2025, Sustenance's work contributed to:

- **Reduced food waste**, by repurposing surplus from supermarkets and growers
- **Reduced loneliness and increased social connection**, especially for refugees and residents experiencing hardship
- **Improved nutrition and wellbeing**, by offering fresh, healthy meals and produce
- **Stronger links with local support services**, improving access to advice and practical help

Community consultation carried out in 2025 showed that people value Sustenance not only for food, but also for company, safety, dignity and a sense of belonging.

5. Highlights and achievements

In our first year operating as a charity we:

- Strengthened partnerships with local organisations offering advice and support
- Gathered community feedback that directly shaped improvements to our service
- Continued to refine Sustenance's long-term service model and business plan
- Developed and strengthened our relationship with local food producers and suppliers
- Secured storage and cooking facilities to support our service

These achievements demonstrate strong alignment with our outcomes around health, environment, community cohesion and early access to support

6. Financial review

Income: £88,042

Expenditure: £39,347

Funds carried forward: £48,694

Our income came from small grants, donations and community-based fundraising. Expenditure covered food, essential supplies, volunteer costs, hall hire, kitchen use and basic operational costs.

Reserves

We aim to hold a small reserve to ensure we can continue weekly delivery even when funding is uncertain. If reserves are low, this reflects the reality of meeting immediate community needs.

Debts

The charity held **no debts** at year-end.

Custodian funds

We did not hold any funds as a custodian trustee.

7. Plans for 2026

Our priorities for next year include:

- Recruiting our first part-time staff member
- Improving kitchen space and equipment
- Enhancing volunteer training (including inclusion, anti-racism and trauma-informed practice)
- Developing impact measurement tools
- Exploring satellite or outreach services in neighbourhoods with the highest need
- Preparing to follow **SORP 2026**, which applies to charities for accounting periods starting on or after 1 January 2026

8. Trustees' responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing this report and the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charity Commission's reporting requirements for small charities. They must ensure financial records are kept properly and that the charity's resources are used only to further its purposes.

9. Approval of the report

Approved by the trustees on:

Date:

Signed:

James Bennett, Trustee

SUSTENANCE
Receipts and Payments Accounts
For the period 14th July 2024 to 30th September 2025

	Current Year				Previous Year
	Restricted	Designated	Not Restricted	Total Funds	
Receipts					
Donations		20,000.00	22,343.12	42,343.12	-
Grant income			35,892.00	35,892.00	-
Grant income - Chalk Hill	5,000.00		-	5,000.00	-
Transfer from Karmabank			4,902.54	4,902.54	-
Interest income			4.03	4.03	-
TOTAL RECEIPTS	5,000.00	20,000.00	63,141.69	88,141.69	-
Expenditure					
Food costs			11,420.73	11,420.73	-
Direct costs			587.89	587.89	-
Advertising & Marketing			749.35	749.35	-
Accountancy fee			192.00	192.00	-
Bank Fees			0.61	0.61	-
Cleaning			45.43	45.43	-
Computer Equipment			22.80	22.80	-
Consultancy	1,500.00		13,690.00	15,190.00	-
Entertainment			266.89	266.89	-
General Expenses			770.73	770.73	-
Insurance			246.40	246.40	-
IT Software and Consumables			213.34	213.34	-
Motor Costs			807.27	807.27	-
Postage			77.74	77.74	-
Printing and Stationery			743.13	743.13	-
Rent			7,236.50	7,236.50	-
Repairs and maintenance			347.15	347.15	-
Staff Training			101.14	101.14	-
Subscriptions			2.07	2.07	-
Website costs			244.80	244.80	-
Travel			81.42	81.42	-
			-	-	-
TOTAL PAYMENTS	1,500.00	-	37,847.39	39,347.39	-
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	3,500.00	20,000.00	25,294.30	48,794.30	-
Fund Balances B/F	01/10/2024	-	-	-	-
Fund Balances C/F	30/09/2025	3,500.00	20,000.00	25,294.30	48,794.30

SUSTENANCE
Statements of Assets and Liabilities
For the period 14th July 2024 to 30th September 2025

2025			
Current Assets			
Current Account	@	30/09/2025	39,004
Deposit Accounts	@	30/09/2025	10,001
Cash in hand	@	30/09/2025	<u>2</u>
			49,007

Less Current Liabilities

Accruals		<u>213</u>
		<u>48,794</u>

Represented by:

Accumulated Fund B/F	-
Restricted Grant - Chalk Hill	3,500
Designated Fund - Van	20,000
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	<u>25,294</u>
	<u>48,794</u>

Other Assets

An inventory of assets is held by the Treasurer and is available on request.

Charity Law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which comply with the regulations set out in the Charities Act 1993. The trustees have elected to take advantage of the provisions that apply to small charities and have prepared a Receipts and Payments account and Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

Approved by the Trustees on

and signed on behalf by

James Bennett

01 / 05 / 2026

SUSTENANCE

For the period 14th July 2024 to 30th September 2025

Independent Examiner's Report to the Committee of Sustainance

I report on the accounts of Sustainance for the fourteen month period ended 30th September 2025

Respective responsibilities of committee & 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 year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act), and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility:

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

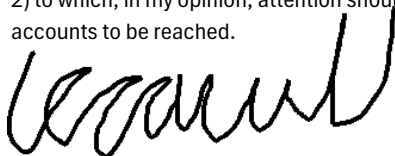
Basis of independent examiner's report

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 supporting documentation presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the 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:

- 1) 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 Charities Act
to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the
accounting requirements of the 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.



Louise Cavill FCCA ACA
Chartered Accountant
Cavill & Cruikshank Accountants and Tax Advisors
7 Henderson Close
Hastings
TN34 2DU

Dated: 3rd March 2026

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