



The Howe Trust (Wheatley)

Charity number 203536

The Trustees present their report for the year ended 31 January 2025.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Howe Trust (Wheatley) (the "Trust") was constituted by a deed of trust dated 11 November 1974 as amended by Charity Commissioner Scheme documents dated 20 October 2016, 2 October 2020, 29 July 2021 and 1 December 2024.

It is a registered charity with number 203536.

Its principal address is Windyridge, Ladder Hill, Wheatley, Oxford OX33 1HY.

The body of Trustees has a maximum of nine persons. It is made up of three Nominative Trustees and six Co-optative Trustees. The Nominative Trustees are appointed by the Parish Council of Wheatley with a term of four years each. Nominative Trustees may be but need not be members of the Parish Council. Every Co-optative Trustee is appointed for a term of five years. All appointments are made by application to the Trust and decided via a resolution of the Trustees passed at a special meeting of which not less than 21 days' notice has been given.

The Trustees who served during the year ended 31 January 2025 and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Margaret Fyffe
Celia Pagel
Wendy Stanton
Alison Sercombe (resigned 13 August 2025)
Paul Gregory (resigned 19 June 2025)
Angela Julian (appointed 14 March 2024)
Tim Dixon (appointed 14 March 2024)

Objectives and Activities

The Trust provides small grants for local people in need and to advance the education of pupils at local schools and nurseries. It also manages 26 acres of agricultural land in Wheatley. The land, known collectively as The Howe, includes some 100 allotments, an orchard and memorial tree area as well as grassland, hedgerows and woodland. Working

with other local and charitable organisations, the Trust manages the land for biodiversity and the benefit of the community.

The Trust is continuously engaged in the maintenance of infrastructure such as entrance areas, signage, steps, paths, fences, storage sheds, equipment, safety equipment and water supply. The Trust also engages in land maintenance activities relating to fields, various woodland copses and hedgerows and four wildlife ponds. The Trust has created new features to enhance biodiversity and the enjoyment of visitors. It liaises with grazing tenants and oversees the allotment association community. It offers financial support for village organisations and individuals.

The Trustees have had regard to the need to ensure public benefit in our work. All of the land maintenance tasks described above and below mean that the nature of the land has been enhanced, both in terms of the features and the wildlife associated with it and by broadening its use (by school children for example) and improving its accessibility. Some 100 financially disadvantaged families (approximately 500 people) benefit from the Christmas Hamper Campaign and the individual grants given to pupils of the local schools further help support many groups working with pupils with special needs as well as individual pupils.

Achievements and Performance

During the year, the Trust continued to maintain the agricultural land for the benefit of the community. Activities included maintenance of infrastructure including mowing the paths, mending fences, installation of a new farm gate and kissing gate. Also planting and renovation of hedges throughout the 26-acre site and the creation of four new wildlife ponds.

The Trust also organised its annual Christmas Hamper campaign, which provides the ingredients for a Christmas meal to families eligible for free school meals, and gave grants to various individuals suffering hardship.

Small grants were given to individual villagers highlighted by the local social prescriber who are suffering financial hardship as well as to help disadvantaged primary school children with mental health challenges so they could attend treatments and therapy. The Trust also gave a grant to "Space2Be", which is an internal support provision for students at Wheatley Park School who have Special Educational Needs (primarily Social, Emotional, and Mental Health needs). Money was also given to pay for the City of Oxford Silver Band to attend the Wheatley village Christmas Fair and to give support for the Wheatley Play Scheme, an activity-based event aimed at educating and providing recreational support for children from our community.

Financial Review

During the year, the Trust received a grant of £9,187 from the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment (TOE) to support the creation of the new ponds. It also received investment income of £6,264, donations for the Christmas Hamper campaign of £6,419, allotment rental

income of £3,124, grazing income of £700, gift aid of £75 and other sundry donations of £123. Total income was therefore £25,892.

Expenditure comprised pond project construction costs of £9,467, Christmas Hamper campaign supplies of £3,857, land maintenance costs of £8,352, insurance costs of £1,042 and other administrative costs of £982. Grants of £2,472 were paid out to local causes. Total expenditure was therefore £26,172.

This resulted in a net deficit for the year of £280 which has been charged against reserves.

Total reserves carried forward at 31 January 2025 amounted to £94,562, which included long term investments with a cost of £40,991 and market value as at 31 January 2025 of £96,982 (an unrealised gain of £55,991). The Trustees consider it necessary that a minimum of unrestricted reserves of £100,000 (including the unrealised gain) should be held as security for future land management contingencies.

The Trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:

M. E. Fyffe

Margaret Fyffe (Chair)

Celia Pagel

Celia Pagel (Treasurer)

Date: 7.1.26

The Howe Trust (Wheatley) Accounts for the Year ended 31 January 2025
Registered Charity number 203536

	2025	2024
	£	£
Receipts & Payments Account		
Receipts		
Investment income	6,264	5,772
Rental income	700	700
Grant received - SODC for pond project	-	256
Grant received - ASDA for Community Garden	-	535
Grant received - TOE for pond project	9,187	-
Wayleave income	58	58
Allotment Association income	3,124	3,242
Donations for Xmas Lunch Campaign	6,419	5,125
Donations for Coronation Copse Project	15	1,846
Other donations	50	-
Giftaid recovery	75	70
Total receipts	25,892	17,604
Payments		
NFU Insurance	1,042	978
NFU consultancy subscription	364	352
Website set up & maintenance	98	2,602
Clerk's Honorarium	150	150
Donations made	2,472	2,925
Expenses of Xmas Lunch Campaign	3,857	4,261
Land Development	2,254	3,068
Mower maintenance	164	2,482
Allotment Association costs	725	946
Pond project	9,467	1,587
Coronation Copse project	64	2,227
Water Monitoring	250	250
Tree maintenance	3,120	-
Hall hire for meetings	75	-
Promotional Material	1,775	-
Other	295	49
Total payments	26,172	21,877
Net (deficit)/surplus for the year	(280)	(4,273)
Surplus brought forward at 1 February 2024(2023)	94,842	99,115
Surplus carried forward at 31 January 2025 (2024)	94,562	94,842

Statement of Assets

Assets		
Virgin Money	24,536	24,208
Allotment Association Bank Account	892	993
Scottish Widows	10,433	10,269
Lloyds Bank Account	17,710	18,381
Investments at cost	40,991	40,991
Total Assets as at 31 January 2025 (2024)	94,562	94,842

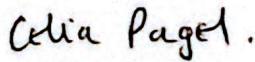
Market Value of Investments				
	no of units	unit price	Current yr value	prior yr value
M&G Charifund	6,129.035	1,472.40	90,244	87,951
Black Rock Charities UK Bond Fund A	4,211.900	141.78	5,972	5,897
Black Rock Charities UK Bond Fund A	540.480	141.78	766	757
Total			96,982	94,604

As at 31 December 2024
As at 31 December 2024
As at 31 December 2024

Gift Aid of £156.72 was received from HMRC on 24 February 2025

Approved by the Trustees on 3rd April 2025:


Margaret Fyffe
Trustee


Celia Pagel
Trustee

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Howe Trust (Wheatley)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Howe Trust (Wheatley) (the "Trust") for the year ended 31 January 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the "2011 Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: *Graham J. Smith*

Name: Graham Smith MA ACA (member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales)

Address: 5 Roman Road, Wheatley, Oxford OX33 1UU

Date: *7th January 2026*