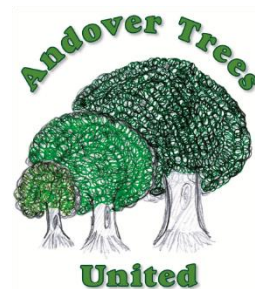


ANDOVER TREES UNITED
Registered Charity Number 1167574
Trustees' Report and Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 March 2023



Principal address

Westcott
Old Salisbury Road
Abbotts Ann
Andover SP11 7NH

Trustees

John Baxter	resigned 5 September 2022
Wendy L Davis	
Daniel J Lobb	
Susan Risdale	
Tim Rolt	
Elizabeth B Scrace	(Treasurer)

Structure, governance and management

Andover Trees United became a registered charity on 9 June 2016. The charity is governed by its constitution dated 31 May 2016.

Trustee selection methods

Potential trustees are interviewed by the board of trustees. All trustees are appointed at the Annual General Meeting and serve for a period of up to one year. The board may co-opt people to serve as trustees until the next AGM.

Risk Management

The trustees are responsible for identifying and managing risks to the charity. The trustees consider that they have complied with the Charity Commission's guidance on managing risk. When appropriate, systems or procedures are established to mitigate risks faced by the charity. Where risk cannot be eliminated the charity purchases insurance cover.

Public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission.

Organisational structure

The trustees meet bi-monthly, with responsibility for day-to-day delivery of the charity's activities delegated to a management team of volunteers, at least 3 of whom are trustees, who meet fortnightly.

Objectives and activities

The charity's constitution sets out the objectives as:

- The conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment for the public benefit by the establishment and maintenance of woodland in Andover.
- The advancement of education of the public in the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment in Andover and the Test Valley area including by promoting the woodland as a means for the community to learn about wider environmental issues such as: sustainability, climate change, ecology and the mitigating need for trees.

The main activities during the year were:

- The completion of the construction of the exterior of the woodland classroom and community space. (The interior of the building is due to be completed by mid-November 2023.)
- Planting of approximately 1500 tree whips by 1000+ children from 25 schools and several hundred adults at the Test Valley Borough Council Bury Hill nature reserve. Approximately 750 tree whips planted into new hedgerows at the Diamond Wood and a number of special commemorative trees. All tree plantings added to the Queen's Green Canopy initiative and included:
 - one of the 'Tree of Trees' that had stood outside Buckingham Palace as part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations
 - a magnificent Silver Birch from the 2022 Chelsea Flower Show, which we dedicated to former Trustee and Andover Mayor Barbara Long
 - a tree that had belonged to the late Paul Sartin, planted in his memory by fellow musicians, family and friends.
- A new fence constructed from timber surplus to the Cabin build was installed to protect the 2012 Diamond Jubilee planting including the tree planted by Princess Anne. The fence also supports a new pictorial timeline of the creation of the community wood 2012-2022.
- Approximately 1000 wildflower plants, raised by ATU volunteers from seed, were planted in the community orchard on Hedge End Rd, as well as new areas of wildflower seeded in Harmony Woods.
- The continuation of the programme to broaden the availability of volunteering opportunities to work in the natural environment, by delivering weekly workdays at Harmony Woods and the allotment as well as monthly weekend workdays. Volunteer opportunities continue to include regular sessions for the extensive citizen science programme. Coppicing at nearby Trinley Estate resumed and several training days saw returning and new volunteers take part.
- The '6 Trees & 6 Flowers' partnership with five local schools to develop an environmental education programme, was reduced to four post-pandemic. Supported by Dr Jane Goodall's Roots and Shoots programme, the remaining 4 core schools received funding to undertake field study trips to investigate what lives in Harmony Woods.
- A new 'Nature/ Nurture' project, devised and led by the Nature & Community Officers, offered nature-based activities to children and young people in new collaborations with a number of local organisations; volunteer-led activities in the wood continued to support many local scouting and guiding groups.
- During the year, supported by a number of charitable foundations, we worked with professional musicians and artists to offer workshops and performance opportunities for children and young people via our partner schools as well as for the wider local community. Detailed reports of these projects can be found on our website.
- Using surplus timber felled locally for the cabin build, a series of woodworking craft workshops sponsored by National Lottery & Ikea provided an opportunity to learn skills and construct a variety of products including stools and birdboxes. A detailed report can be found on our website.
- The 3-year 'One Ash' project culminated in an exhibition, curated by CAS, of over 100 pieces crafted from the 'One Ash' by 30 professional and amateur workers-with-wood from across the UK. A detailed report can be found on our website.
- Former ecology intern, Alex, completed her ATU-collaborative internship to People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES) which investigated the effects of climate change on the at-risk Small Heath butterfly. An intern position continued to be offered during 2022-23, which allowed us to continue to run the annual programme of citizen science 'Nature in Harmony' events.
- The Nature in Harmony Exchange programme for young people 14-17 years and the link with the Corcovado project in Costa Rica has been maintained with a number of the group travelling to Costa Rica to volunteer during the summer of 2022. Organised and accompanied by ATU volunteers, the trip was funded by the young people themselves, who had also undertaken to offset the flights' carbon emissions by finding ways of reducing their own and their families' carbon footprints.

Achievements and performance

- During 2022-23 the charity continued to pursue its objective of establishing a woodland in Andover with the planting of young trees, the construction of a second wildlife pond and new area for native chalk-loving wildflowers. These form part of a dedicated Habitats Trail. The school planting

programme continued at a new site within the Test Valley Borough Council Bury Hill nature reserve. Wildflower planting also extended beyond the Diamond Wood to include the Hedge End Rd community orchard. Further opportunities for education in the natural environment continued with the four core partnership schools as part of the 4-year 6 Trees and 6 Flowers development programme and as part of the new Nature/ Nurture project and, for adults, in the form of coppicing, wildflower propagation, tree planting, citizen science activities and species identification.

- Improved interpretation in the wood helps visitors to appreciate how the wood has developed.
- The town centre allotment lease continued where, on a regular basis, volunteers are able to propagate wildflowers and nurture saplings for later transfer to the woodland.
- A lease was signed with Hampshire County Council to transfer the management the whole of the Diamond Wood to Andover Trees United.
- Work continued on the woodland classroom and community space with the external structure completed so that the building is now secured.
- Collaborations with national and international environment groups – the Woodland Trust, Dr Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots, youth-led UNEP Plant-for-the-Planet – were resumed.
- The development of strong relationships with local businesses continued, in particular volunteering and funding from Abel & Cole, the Coop, SimplyHealth, Stannah, Wessex Woodland and BeWiser.
- The Ecology Intern Programme continued with the appointment of a 3rd successive intern.
- Two full time Nature and Community Officers and one part time Admin Officer were appointed during the year which has started to deliver the 'Branching Out' strategy and widen the scope of community activities which are available.
- The strong community-led management team continued to work well.
- The completion of 10 successful years was marked with a series of music and arts workshops, a celebration concert in Harmony Woods in July 2022 and an exhibition at Chapel Arts Centre of the arts and crafts pieces made from a single Ash tree.

Financial review

The incoming resources in 2022-23 amounted to £109702 (2021-22 £147625) and total resources expended amounted to £142351 (2021-22 £89906) leading to an excess of expenditure over income for the year of £32649 (2021-22 surplus £57719). The charity maintains one Unrestricted General Fund and six Unrestricted Designated Funds, and at 31 March 2022 thirteen Restricted Funds. The total funds balance was £81543 of which the balance of Restricted Funds at 31 March 2023 was £69944. No funds were in deficit at 31 March 2023 and sufficient funds are held to enable each fund to be applied in accordance with any restrictions.

Declaration

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

Signed on 30 August 2023 on behalf of the charity's trustees

Wendy Davis
Trustee