



REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2014-15

The Trustees of Brighton Permaculture Trust are pleased to present their annual report and financial statements for the year from 1st July 2014 until 30th June 2015, along with a Review¹ - the Management Group's evaluative summary of the year's achievements and highlights.

Permaculture is based on an ethical framework (described as "Earth Care, People Care and Fair Shares") and promotes a design approach to living in harmony with nature, to enable the sustainability of human activities for many generations to come. It teaches, demonstrates and promotes permaculture design for the benefit of all, working with natural systems rather than in competition with them. The website of the national charity The Permaculture Association offers more information about permaculture <http://www.permaculture.org.uk/> as does the Brighton Permaculture Trust website: <https://www.brightonpermaculture.org.uk/permaculture>

THE CHARITY'S AIMS, Objectives and Activities

Aims and Objectives

1. To promote sustainable development for the benefit of the public by:
 - a. the preservation, conservation and the protection of the environment and the prudent use of resources;
 - b. the relief of poverty and the improvement of the conditions of life in socially and economically disadvantaged communities;
 - c. the promotion of sustainable means of achieving economic growth and regeneration.
2. To advance the education of the public in subjects relating to sustainable development and the protection, enhancement and rehabilitation of the environment and to promote study and research in such subjects provided that the useful results of such study are disseminated to the public at large. sustainable development means development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the generations to meet their own needs.

¹ The Business Sections are in black font, and the Review is indicated in a green font, so that readers can quickly identify sections of interest.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT

Brighton Permaculture Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee; it was incorporated on 15th September 2000 and amended by Special Resolution dated 16th April 2012. Brighton Permaculture Trust was formally accepted as a Charity in England and Wales on 14th February 2013.

Brighton Permaculture Trust was established under a Memorandum of Association, which describes the objects and powers of the charitable company; it is now governed under its Articles of Association, as required by The Charity Commission. Under those Articles, the Trustees are elected by the votes of members at the AGM, standing in a cycle based on longevity of service, as long as there is a minimum of three Trustees at any one time. This allows for resignations and reappointments as necessary.

The Members have guaranteed to contribute a maximum of **£10** each in the event of the company being wound up. Since incorporation all members of the Trustee Board have given their time voluntarily and received no benefits from the charity. Any expenses reclaimed from the charity are set out in note 2 to the accounts.

Governance, organisational structure and decision making

The Board of Trustees governs Brighton Permaculture Trust and meets a minimum of three times a year to discuss and review strategy, planning, development and financial matters.

Day-to-day management of the organisation is delegated to a project-representative management group (10 people) that meets on a monthly basis. Decisions related to overall operational matters are made in this forum.

Proposals that require policy or strategic decisions are discussed at these meetings also, and then passed to the trustees with recommendations to accept or reject. Normally a representative of the trustees is present at these meetings, which allows information to be passed in two directions, and to give context to items requiring decisions.

Recruitment, appointment, induction and training of trustees

The Trustee Board has established some procedures for recruiting and supporting trustees, as reported last year, and available to read on the BPT website:

<https://brightonpermaculture.org.uk/getinvolved/trustee>

Services and activities we provide

Brighton Permaculture Trust (BPT) is a provider of educational courses about permaculture design, and specific skills-related practice around food growing, eco-building, sustainable living, and community development. 95% of attendees are from the south-east region, with the majority of people coming from Brighton and Hove, and the wider Sussex area. As last year, we have had visitors from Europe & beyond for several of our eco build & other specialist courses; these and a few other specialist courses continue to attract people from all over the UK.

We run some of our learning events in partnership with local authorities and with selected non-profit distributing organisations. The annual Apple Day event, established in 2007, and other regular events attract a wide range of participants, from families and individuals to people from professions such as

architecture, gardening, community development, etc. We have established a series of projects in Brighton and Hove, supported by various funding 'pots': planting occurred at 12 school / community orchards bringing the total number of orchards supported across the Sussex to date to over 110, and a 'front-garden-food' project has been piloted with our support. Collecting local fruit – the Scrumping project – and turning it into saleable products caught the imagination of participants; this was supported by the Brighton & Hove Food Partnership, Local Food Fund initially and has become self-funding since.

How Brighton Permaculture Trust activities deliver public benefit

- 1)
 - a. Brighton Permaculture Trust runs public courses in permaculture and sustainable design, promoting the use of strategies and methods that have minimal negative impact on the local and global natural environment, so extending the resources that people need for living sustainably. BPT manages and supports projects for growing food, particularly fruit including heritage varieties and orchard management. Work is carried out in schools and with communities across Sussex. We directly manage orchards and other projects around Brighton the produce from which is made available to volunteers and the general public.
We also help in the running of community education facilities and local grass-roots organisations to provide these learning opportunities and experiences to the public.
 - b. BPT's educational activities in the community have the aim of enabling people's skills and knowledge to be increased, to help them discover sustainable ways out of poverty. For example, we support the alleviation of food poverty by teaching people to grow it for themselves, offering access to sharing this task with others and to promote collaboration, yielding more than simply food by fostering an attitude of self help & community reliance. An example is the development of the community orchard work, described elsewhere in this report and on the website.
We encourage this newfound confidence to spread into other areas of people's lives through the concentration of our resources to some geographical areas of Brighton & Hove that come under this definition, such as low income areas (part of a neighbourhood regeneration agenda). Similarly, practical sustainability skills, self-sufficiency and knowledge development can have an impact on the ability to rise above fuel poverty, can offer confidence in job-related contexts, whether seeking work or developing oneself within an occupation, helping to build resilience into the local economy.
Practically, many of our events are free to the public, and we offer a sliding scale for our courses. Some courses have received ESF funding owing to purpose aligned to their objectives
 - c. BPT's training events are largely self-funding. They provide work for local trainers and provide volunteers with opportunities for informal learning, to give them skills to help them become more economically active, help them grow their own food, and reduce energy use in their home and at work. BPT works in partnership with compatible organisations where appropriate to share and maximise resources - for example, with the Low Carbon Trust and Brighton and Hove City Council Sustainability Team to run Eco Open Houses, a showcase event that encourages people to engage with the sustainable building sector, to renovate their homes for lower energy use. We are partnered with the Brighton and Hove Food Partnership, supporting community food growing on various sites across the city, including the Racehill project which provides support for one of the areas that rank highly on the deprivation indices for the city.

2) BPT provides public courses in permaculture and sustainable design. It runs educational projects in schools, to improve children's understanding of how food is grown and sustainability issues. We are developing our public education courses to cover a wide range of subjects and a deeper level of understanding, including the training and support of teachers.

BPT is a member and local partner of the Permaculture Association, the national charity with educational and research aims for the whole of the UK. Through this link we provide accredited courses of study, we are part of network of learning and demonstration sites (LAND) and we engage in the common research areas, be they regarding practical experimentation within sustainable food production systems or answering such questions as "how can Britain feed itself?"

A REVIEW OF BRIGHTON PERMACULTURE TRUST'S ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2014/15

Trusteeship & staffing

Last year's plans for the year included a desire to increase the number of Trustees on the Board. Currently we are four in number, and having established the recruitment and training procedure, we are in the process of recruiting, hoping for a minimum of two new members of the Board over the next year.

The makeup of the management group has changed a little this year, with some members stepping down owing to other commitments in their working and personal lives. This coincided with a plan for restructuring the management team, using the potential of Sociocracy as an advisory structure for the management of the organisation, at several levels within the trust.

Since the beginning of 2015 several full-staff/volunteer meetings have been put in place, enabling us all to learn about the process for inclusive decision-making in semi-autonomous groups, each within terms of reference, and agreed objectives and lines of accountability. This will allow people with the expertise to take on definitive responsibility for the projects, rather than having to wait for management group approval. An important aim of these changes is the reduction of an operational workload for Bryn Thomas, so that he can be directed to more strategic work. It has resulted in formalising his Coordinator's role, with the plan for the Trust to develop it into a dedicated CEO role in its future structure. It has also led to the decision to recruit for experienced professionals to paid positions to manage areas where the Trust's public activities have expanded. The Trustees believe this will result in more resilience for the Trust and its reputation, as well as taking unsustainable burdens from shoulders of volunteers and the acting CEO.

These sessions have been run by Trustees, with the invaluable inclusion of Julian Howell as the 'expert within' the Trust, leading on the theory and practical demonstration of Sociocracy.

In addition two new small working groups have got into their stride: the Finance Group, and a Human Resources group, with a mix of staff and trustees, to monitor the situation as and when necessary. The HR group was, for example, able to start the process of considering HR issues and employment of key employees, further work on risk assessments and services agreements. It is developing job descriptions for the restructuring process, including the Apple Day Coordinator, where a standard inclusive recruitment process was followed, leading to an appointment. It will cover the proposed Course & Events coordinator later in the year. It has identified that training around the Data Protection Act is a priority for next year.

The finance group supports administration and CEO positions, so that management group meetings can be supplied with appropriate information and resources for decision-making.

The charity's five six administrative and communications staff contractors feel BPT is running a smoother administration and publicity operation; the new upgraded integrated database (CIVI-crm) and the new website means that clearly defined roles are now in place, and the initial technical costs of the investment have been justified.

Cath Lawrence has consolidated her role as administering the course and events work, and now also supports the management team's administration. This has meant that Kate Greenhalf, as overall administrator, has been able to direct her time more efficiently, including delegation of tasks, and membership of working groups. Despite 'core' budget difficulties, which are being addressed in the new financial year, they are committed to working with Trustees and management group to make changes to the organisational set up, such as clearer job descriptions for new people to help manage projects.

Volunteers Strategy

Volunteers play a major role in BPT, supporting our main objectives by providing help to the organisation where needed, a position across diverse activities and requiring flexibility and skill. It also supports BPT's other objectives by providing free informal access to learning, skill development and other opportunities. Last year's systematizing of the database & communications has increased the efficiency of volunteers sign up to projects, and the activities and events report good levels of volunteers covering a range of tasks. The costing of this activity is reducing, because of the use of the database, and will in the year 2015-2016 be allocated through accounting to each project budget. For the future, getting adequate notice from each project team about when volunteers are required needs continuous improvement.

Permaculture in Pubs (PiP) is a monthly social organised to recognise the contribution made by the members and volunteers for the charity; these evenings have been well attended, with two BPT volunteer members always hosting the events. Volunteers also benefit from discounts on courses, sometimes helping out as people willing to share their enthusiasm and experiences.

STANMER PROJECTS

The past few years has seen a primary role for BPT in the development of fruit-products and orchard-related work, alongside the Plot demonstration-site, as part of our Permaculture Association LAND activities. Thus, although variously funded, much of the activity is located at Stanmer Park in the main. The three-dimensional intertwining of some of the projects allows for individuals' and projects' support, like a web of beneficial connections, a typical Permaculture principle. This makes it difficult sometimes to differentiate between projects, given that the success of one creates an impact on the success of another – sometimes the 'edges' are only detectable in the financial accounting procedures!

BPT Plot and the link to Stanmer Organics

The BPT plot was handed over to new co-ordinators in November 2014. Vikki Mill, Hannah Wilde and Sarah Davenport are following the Diploma in Applied Permaculture Design, and the plot has a joint design focus, with active designing on the ground, monthly meetings and allocated tasks around supporting volunteers for the Thursday plot day. Fran Pickering has returned from a sabbatical to support this group with the rocket stove & representation on the BPT management team. Volunteer

numbers are consistent throughout the year with an average of 8 people each week. The team are maintaining the site, creating a visually appealing space for volunteers and visitors, planning planting schemes and carrying out the garden's work. Some of the activities from the previous year are continuing, for example. developing the Forest garden areas, working with the Forest Schools programme, etc. The team are working on an integrated business plan to make the plot financially sustainable.

Challenges were mainly related to communication issues when establishing the new team at the beginning of the year, lack of connection, and minimal finance. The knock-on effects are therefore that it has taken some time to build a picture of the plot's role within the Trust, and to gather resources to work as effectively as wished. Needs have been identified, both material (for example, rabbit fencing would cut down on product losses) and personnel-related, such as training for some skills. Another limiting factor is matching the requirements of the site (seasonal-related tasks, for instance) with the volunteers' time and availability.

Promoting sustainability: The team promote permaculture design methods to members of the public to apply at home. They actively promote the preservation, conservation and protection of the environment by educating the volunteers on permaculture methods e.g. no dig method, etc.

The plot provides an ideal setting for actively promoted discussions around sustainable means of achieving economic growth and regeneration. Like-minded people from a variety of backgrounds and professions are able to meet in an open space to discuss alternative ideas and solutions.

Public education: The plot has been visited by over 500 people in the past 12 months, including plot day volunteers and those who have visited for courses, workshops and special events over weekends.

Although outside the reporting period, the subsequent International Permaculture Day, Stanmer Organics Open Day and Apple Day all benefitted from momentum gained from the volunteer group's enthusiasm, including increasing the number of volunteers.

Many students from diverse educational backgrounds utilise the plot as part of their course, such as local media, horticulture and agriculture students. Agricultural students from The Hague visited the UK during the summer and used the plot as part of their case study.

We observed that people thinking about doing a permaculture design course have attended a plot day before signing up. The plot team represented BPT at Seedy Sunday, The Level Festival and University of Sussex 'World Cafe'. This extended their reach further, signing up more people to become volunteers & generating a small income through selling plants or products.

The volunteers themselves come with a variety of needs, and we feel the plot gives them a space to interact with people in the community that they usually wouldn't have contact with, helping to alleviate 'normal' social boundaries. The plot also provides a free educational space for people who otherwise wouldn't be able to afford to learn or spend time outdoors.

Scrumping project

This educational project helps BPT meet its charitable objectives by harvesting fruit at Stanmer and collecting fruit grown around Brighton & Hove, mostly fruit that would otherwise go to waste, and processing it into juices, chutneys etc. Its objectives are to promote sustainable food and drink, and to be self-financing. This year it was run by four BPT contractors and two regular volunteers. The main successes of the year have been related to the compliance issues identified last year. Although the challenge was to make the Scrumping project financially viable with no external funding and no catering/processing kitchen we have successfully gained registration as a food producing business with

the Brighton & Hove Council, meaning we can be named suppliers. In addition we gained a five-star food hygiene rating.

Education of the public is carried out by the juicing activities we do in their full view, at Stanmer Park – this always leads to fascinated observation by families and others, discussions about sustainable food, and sales of the products. Juicing workshops are also carried out in schools and at community events. We gain enthusiastic volunteers and course participants through this public education activity.

Two tonnes of waste fruit were collected from orchards and processed into products including:

- Apple and pear juice, delicious and nutritious fresh juice as well as a pasteurised juice that can be kept in the cupboard until you want to enjoy it
- Jams, chutneys and preserves, a seasonal range based on what we can harvest of apples, pears, damsons, and cherry plums

The products we make are unique in their freshness, truly local in production, and made with the help of volunteers and in public view, contributing to our educational aims. We have run this scrumping project for six years on a small scale, with pop-up production at events and using community kitchens. They have proven to be fantastically popular, inspiring us to seek ways to "scale up the scrump."

The Fruit Factory

During the year we started work on the construction of a straw bale kitchen inside a disused barn at Stanmer Park, using our straw bale building courses to impart skills and knowledge at the same time as having the kitchen built, allowing for materials and equipment to be reused. It is just 50m from the new entrance into our Home Farm Orchard. A five-year lease has been secured on the tractor shed which will preclude any capital funding. Just over £13,000 was raised from donations, mostly through a crowd funding campaign, towards the cost of the building.

The kitchen will:

- Provide a home for our Scrumping project and put it on a firm footing. With a proper base at Stanmer the project will be self-financing from sales, visitors to Stanmer Park can enjoy seeing food made and volunteering opportunities will be secured.
- Enable us to support community and schools by providing a training venue for orchard skills. Over the last 12 years we have been involved in the planting of over 110 community and school orchards across Sussex. The building will allow us to meet demand to learn orchard management and fruit processing skills. We will also start a programme of activities for visiting school groups to learn about orchards, biodiversity, fruit and cookery.
- Bring a vibrant community use to at least one of the disused and decaying farm buildings at the heart of Stanmer Park

Home Farm Orchard

In September 2013, the collection of Sussex apple varieties planted at the orchards of Stanmer Park and managed by the Brighton Permaculture Trust became a National Collection. At Stanmer Park, the Home Farm Orchard and the orchards within Stanmer Organics now contain 26 of the Sussex varieties with a further 2 trees added to the collection this year. The two sites allow at least two of every variety to be planted, which ensures the continuity of the collection. However it was identified that a new site would be desirable to ensure that at least full full-sized long-lived trees of each variety could be planted. As well as illustrating the wide variety of colour, shape and taste of Sussex apples, the collection demonstrates the different growth rates, habit of growth and resistance or susceptibility to disease of

each variety. The collection therefore forms an important genetic resource and reference site for commercial growers and gardeners.

Most of the Sussex varieties are now propagated by Peter May at Cooksbridge. The apple varieties are grafted onto a rootstock and then grown on for one or two years before being planted out in their final position. The nursery at our plot at Stanmer Organics has been downsized and is being used for training courses in fruit tree propagation; also, fruit tree growing skills are demonstrated here and in the orchards. There are many fine varieties of apple found in the collection, including the marvellous *Saltcote Pippin*, *Tinsley Quince* and *Golden Bounty*. Some are local to one specific area of the county, such as *Hawkridge* from Hawkridge Farm near Herstmonceux or *Forge* from the East Grinstead area. Before our work propagating all the different Sussex varieties, some were very rare. *Bossom*, a large yellow-green eating apple, was perhaps the rarest but can now be found at Stanmer Park and in many locations in Sussex. We have also been helping schools and communities to plant orchards including Sussex apple varieties.

The Home Farm Orchard, Stanmer Old Orchard and orchards at Stanmer Organics continue to be managed for fruit production, biodiversity, education and enjoyment of the public.

The Brighton Earthship and Stanmer Organics

We have worked with our partners, Low Carbon Trust and Stanmer Organics, to achieve a workable lease renewal from Brighton & Hove City Council (BHCC). Low Carbon Trust has secured a long lease for the Earthship site that should enable funding and investment to be secured to renovate and upgrade the building. Brighton Permaculture Trust will work in partnership with Low Carbon Trust to support the management of the building. Unfortunately Stanmer Organics has been offered a long lease but with a break clause after just 4 years, which will make securing capital funding nearly impossible.

Stanmer master plan

The future of Stanmer Park is still undecided after more than 2 decades in limbo. BHCC continues their master planning process. A BHCC first stage Heritage Lottery Fund bid for the development of the park has been successful and more detailed plans are being developed the results of which may affect our orchards and plot at Stanmer Organics. A failed BHCC bid for the Home Farm buildings leaves their future undecided which includes the Fruit Factory and the small barn we use for storage. Having engaged in a variety of consultations and attended a number of meetings Brighton Permaculture Trust awaits news on the council's plans, but no significant action is expected before 2018. We hope that food-growing, heritage orchards, volunteering and education will remain key parts of the plans.

OUTREACH, COMMUNITY AND SCHOOLS

Eco Schools project

Successes:

- Roundabout nursery: Following on from last year's fruit-tree planting days, a paid-for permaculture designed forest garden and vegetable bed area was created, with the involvement of the school community. A wild flower and perennial food plant planting was put in place on a steep bank of the nursery site. A chicken run is planned for next year.

- City Academy, Whitehawk: An outside classroom with perennial food plants established on a couple of volunteer days.
- Hertford Juniors school: maintaining the existing, long-term project of the forest garden, with a series of community volunteer days.

The main challenge is the reduction in the number of projects due to limited funds available to schools and the time it takes to work at securing more schools and funding.

Orchards planting projects

Brighton Permaculture Trust increased its work in planting trees in schools and community spaces working with a number of partners, with a total of 3733 across last winter - 228 grafted fruit or nut trees and 3,505 seedling trees (planted for fruit, nuts, wildlife and shelter).

Brighton Permaculture Trust raised much of the funding for this work and began planting orchards sponsored by Infinity Foods.

An update on the various projects we've been involved with this winter:

Brighton and Hove

- Racehill Community Orchard, Whitehawk
Here we continued working in partnership with the Racehill Community Orchard Group and Brighton & Hove Food Partnership to plant more trees. Much more rubbish has been cleared from the site, 56 more grafted fruit trees were planted, and 1,100 trees have been planted in shelter hedges, including many more cherry plums, which are a much valued feature of the site. More fruit trees will be planted next winter.
- Hollingdean Estate
Working with local residents and the Hollingdean Development Trust, we planted 80 fruit trees, 11 nut trees and 50 seedling trees around the estate this winter.
- Meadowview
Four Sussex apple trees, 4 Normandy apple trees and 30 shelter trees were planted with residents, school children and our partners from Normandy.
- Craven Vale Estate
Craven Vale Residents Association were helped to plant 6 more fruit trees around the estate.
- Bevendean Recreation Ground and Walmer Close
Four fruit trees were planted at Walmer Close, and 50 shelter trees were planted at Bevendean Recreation Ground with residents of Bevendean.
- Stanmer Park
Two rare Sussex apple trees were planted near Earthship Brighton as part of our National Collection of Sussex apples. Five fruit trees were planted at our plot, and 110 assorted seedling trees were planted around Stanmer Organics.

West Sussex

- **Barlavington Estate, Duncton**
Working with Brighton Permaculture Trust, the estate has started work on the creation of a collection of Sussex apples adjacent to a public footpath. The collection will act as a valuable second collection and will contain two trees of each of the Sussex apple varieties. This will complement our collection at Stanmer Park. Last winter 17 trees of 9 varieties were planted.
- **Buckingham Park Primary School, Shoreham**
Funded by Infinity food, 11 fruit trees were planted. The day may have been wet and muddy, but the enthusiasm of the staff and pupils wasn't dampened.
- **Herrington's Field Community Orchard, Arundel**
The orchard is managed by Herrington's Field Community Orchard Group and Arun District Council. Previously we helped plant 20 assorted fruit trees here and 150 native shelter trees, mostly alders, to protect the orchard from the south westerly winds and provide wildlife habitat. Last winter we planted 10 more fruit & nut trees including apple, crab apple, plum & cob nut.
- **Roots to Growth, Washington**
Working with volunteers from the group and our partners from Normandy, we planted 6 Normandy and 6 Sussex apple trees.

East Sussex

- **Big Park Project, Peacehaven**
Last winter saw the start of an exciting new project with Lewes District Council and Peacehaven Town Council. Within the new 'Big Park' a 4-acre area has been made available for a community orchard. The site has good soil and a southerly aspect but is exposed, so this winter we started on site by planting 2,165 shelter trees around the site. A large diversity of species were planted. Fast growing species include Italian alder and Monterey pine; native trees include oak and beech; nut bearing species walnut and chestnut; fruiting species include cherry plum and crab apple. Next winter the plan is to plant around 100 hardy fruit trees in the area within the shelter trees.
- **Ditchling Community Orchard**
A quince and another apple were planted with HKD Transition group.

Thanks to our supporters

All orchards were planted in partnership with local organisations, and we would particularly like to thank Brighton & Hove Food Partnership for working in partnership on a number of projects. Most of the planting would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of our volunteers or other volunteer groups. The following organisations and people helping to make these various plantings and associated activities possible:

- Barlavington Estate
- Biffa Award
- Big Tree Plant

- Buckingham Park Primary School
- Craven Vale Community Association
- European Social Fund Community Grants South East Region
- Herrington's Field Community Orchard
- Lewes District Council
- Infinity Foods
- Interreg, European Development Fund
- John Horsfield
- Off the Ground local governance pilot project
- People's Health Trust
- Turner Dumbrell Foundation
- Veolia Environmental Trust

Our thanks also go to the following local authorities for their support:

- Arun District Council
- Brighton & Hove City Council
- Lewes District Council
- Peacehaven Town Council

Orchards Without Borders

This joint project between Brighton & Hove Food Partnership, Brighton Permaculture Trust and the Collines Normandes CPIE ended this year. The project shared learning and expertise on the sustainable management of orchards and fruit processing for local consumption. We planted further small school/community orchards on both sides of the Channel, participated in each other's public events, including Apple Day, organised discussions around biodiversity and apples alongside a film on the origins of apples, – all aimed at spreading the word on the 'how and why' of orchards as part of a sustainable food system. Our French partners had a presence at Apple Day 2014 and early winter visits to both Sussex and Normandy saw the planting of the orchards. Orchards without Borders was selected under the European Cross-border Cooperation Programme INTERREG IV A France (Channel) – England, co-funded by ERDF.

COMMUNITY EVENTS FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC:

Apple Day and related events

As in previous years the 2014 Apple Day event was run on the last Sunday in September, a fine day. About 7000 people came, so the public are coming in increasing numbers each year. There were about 65 volunteers involved, which is up on last year. This year there were dedicated marquees for particular activities, bringing similar projects together in spaces. The Entertainments on offer were more numerous because of a dedicated volunteer in Mark Denson. There was a large French presence from the Normandy partnership Orchards without Borders. The event broke even, financially, and one of its strengths is showcasing and promoting local sustainable businesses, organisations and schemes – this helps BPT's objectives relating to economic growth and regeneration as well as disseminating local resource information to a significant number of local public, and getting the public to experience local food initiatives

Challenges: The main issue was recycling and traffic management problems. We set as priorities for the 2015 event economic contingency for bad weather and improved communication with attendees. We recognised that it needs a dedicated coordinator, so we began the process of recruitment that resulted in Natasha Padbury being appointed for 2015 Apple Day.

A successful tour of the HFO was organised in May to coincide with blossom time. The beauty of the orchard in blossom made a good backdrop for discussions about the importance of bees for pollination of many food crops and how diversity achieves greater food security.

We ran 12 school and community apple-juicing events (Hertford Infants, Hertford Junior, Cedar Centre Special Needs School, Buckingham Park Primary, Moulsecomb Primary, Whitehawk Primary, Meadowview Nursery, Roundabout Nursery, Roots to Growth community food project, Big Park Project launch, Stanmer Organics Open Day and Apple Day).

Eco Open Houses

Brighton Permaculture Trust in partnership with Low Carbon Trust - Eco Open Houses weekends in Brighton & Hove. We contributed expertise relating to volunteer supervision, event bookings and publicity.

Specialist events for professionals and practitioners:

We have run Green Architecture Day as an annual event since 2002. The 2014 event was held in spring and attracted over 80 participants. The day's programme focused on natural materials and building techniques with 7 speakers.

COURSES:

Permaculture courses

There is a suite of events related to the course provision, and although it might appear to be investment-heavy, this approach has again reaped a successful harvest.

Two Permaculture Courses information sessions were run, in July 2104 and January 2015, with 35 participants. We invited people who have attended an Introduction to Permaculture course before they embark on the longer (13-day) PDC course and to facilitate this.

We ran five Introduction to Permaculture courses, totalling 64 students. Five tutors (Chloe Anthony, Christine Wiltshire, Fran Pickering, Stephan Gehrels, Tracy Hind) were involved in these courses, rotating co-teaching to gain experience and practice of working with all team members. This is a team of five people who completed BPT's Trainee Teacher pathway (a mix of Diploma holders and Apprentices, and who have achieved Level 3 PTLLS, the standard adult learning/teaching qualification) and continue to develop the teaching team and working together.

This approach resulted in enough students for BPT to run its version of the "Full" Permaculture Design course twice, the Autumn course having 11 participants and the Spring course, 19. For this course there is a team of five long-term experienced tutors (Chloe Anthony, Bryn Thomas, Daniel Holloway, Pippa

Johns, Tracy Hind) and at least three guest teachers are involved (Ben Law, Howard Johns, Stephan Gehrels, who bring their own specialisms to the course.) A total of 7 students also received the 12 credit Award at level 3 that this course offers, in addition to a Permaculture Association completion certificate.

For both sets of courses, there are clearly set out aims, materials and resources, available to all tutors, the C&E manager and the wider organisation via the BPT management resource (DropBox). Permaculture Design Courses are evaluated by participants at the end of each course day, mid-way through the course and at the end, as well as a little while after the course with an online survey – these are discussed by the tutor and supporter teams as a whole in team meetings. The course is ‘tweaked’ in response - in general, evaluation of the course continues to be very positive.

Fruit and gardening courses

11 one or two-day courses were run over the year in 10 subjects, attracting 97 participants:

- Planning and planting a small orchard
Fruit tree selection and planting techniques
- Fruit tree planting workshop
Learn how to plant a fruit tree so that it will flourish
- Care of fruit trees (ran twice in the year)
Learn how to care for fruit trees and orchards
- Pruning old fruit trees
Hands-on course in an old apple orchard
- Fruit tree grafting
Learn how to propagate fruit trees by grafting
- Pruning old apple trees workshop
Half-day workshop on the basics of winter pruning
- Mushroom cultivation
Grow shiitake, oyster mushrooms & other tasty fungi
- Forest gardening
Grow a mini woodland of fruit, nuts, herbs & veg
- Scything
Cut grass & weeds without a lawnmower or strimmer
- Practical permaculture gardening
Create beautiful, productive, wildlife-friendly gardens

Online evaluation after each course indicated a high level of participant satisfaction.

Some of these courses were run in conjunction with various partners from the voluntary and charity sectors, notably Brighton & Hove Food Partnership. All used contracted trainers.

Eco-building courses

13 one, two or three-day courses were run over the year in 8 subjects, attracting 208 participants:

- Building with straw bales (ran three times in the year)
A low impact way of making your own house

- Rendering on straw bales
Learn how to render with clay and lime
- Building with rammed earth and chalk
Build strong walls using only the ground beneath your feet
- Building with cob
Make a cob pizza oven
- Building with hemp lime
Hempcrete walls, finishes and insulation
- Green roofs
Build your own green roof
- Self-building an Earthship (ran four times in the year)
How tyres, bottles and earth make it possible to live off-grid
- Eco renovate your home
Make your home warmer, healthier and cheaper to run

Again online evaluation after each course indicated a high level of participant satisfaction.

Most of these courses were run in conjunction with various partners from the voluntary and charity sectors, notably Low Carbon Trust . All used contracted trainers, such as a green roof builder.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Total incoming resources for the year was £187,798 (2014 £162,037). Resources expended for the year amounted to £208,169 (2014 £172,422).

Expenditure is analysed into three main categories; charitable activities, governance and management of the charity, and costs of generating funds. Charitable activities comprise the main work of the charity. Expenditure on charitable activities for the year was £206,144 (2014 £171,377).

Expenditure on the governance of the charity contains the cost of complying with regulations such as the independent examination, as well as the AGM and trustees' expenses. Expenditure for the year was £1,763 (2014 £1,045).

The financial year ended with a deficit of £20,371 (2014 deficit £10,385) and unrestricted funds were in deficit by £1,173 at 30 June 2015 (2014 surplus £19,198).

During the years 2013 -2014 and 2014 - 2015 the expenditure of the charity exceeded its income. Reasons for this have been varied but can be summarised as a rising expenditure associated with indirect costs and unfinanced work; this is against a backdrop of reduced income available to spend on indirect costs. More specifically these can be detailed as:

- Brighton Permaculture Trust has increased its charitable work which is not directly financed in such areas as communications, volunteer opportunities and demonstration sites
- Funding from a number of funding sources which have not covered many of their direct and indirect costs
- The short term nature of many funding streams secured has made management, scheduling work and effective planning difficult
- Complexities in managing multiple interrelated projects with differing funding criteria and periods has led to increased costs

- All the match funding for Orchards Without Borders was not secured resulting in a loss on this project

In order to combat these problems the following decisions were made during the year 2014-2015 and implemented at the beginning of the year 2015-2016:

- A 46% reduction in the budget for staff/contractors engaged in indirect activities has been set for the year which will be achieved by a reduction in work hours and rates of pay
- A number of fundraising targets have been set
- Income streams for each project will be sought to cover direct and indirect costs
- Income streams will be diversified
- No new projects will be taken on that are not fully financed from the outset, including indirect costs

Reserves

The trustees have examined the charity's requirements for reserves in light of the main risks to the organisation. The trustees will continue to review the financial affairs of the charity with the aim to increase income, cut costs and to improve overall control of its operations.

The majority of costs incurred by the charity are either directly related to charitable activities or support costs. The trustees try to ensure that any activities undertaken are fully funded. However, the trustees continue to work towards a reserves policy based on 3 months current expenditure of the charity.

The trustees consider that the present level of funding will be adequate to support the continuation of the charity and for it to fulfil its obligations. The board of trustees monitors the level of reserves quarterly.

PLANS FOR THE FORTHCOMING YEAR

The trustees and management group have identified the following plans for the year 2015-2016:

1. To increase the number of Trustees on the Board, to an optimum five in 2015-16.
2. To maintain a reserves policy of a quarter of annual running costs, and endeavour to increase levels of reserves to support the continuation of the charity.
3. To complete the Fruit Factory project, making it operational by the summer of 2016.
4. To continue the restructuring of the management of the organisation, using a sociocratic mechanism, to support greater autonomy and accountability of projects within BPT.
5. To recruiting specific project managers, to support the activity of the said projects.
6. To identify and explore opportunities for future orchard planting and an extension of the Sussex Heritage Apple Collection.
7. To continue to support the work carried out by projects related to local and resilient food provision, by direct management of working groups running relevant projects.
8. To evaluate and celebrate the profile, role and reputation of the Trust, and contribution to the sustainability of the City of Brighton and Hove, and the surrounding area.