HEADINGTON ACTION

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 2025

Headington Action (HA)'s purpose is to benefit those who live, work and study in Headington by working with local people, together with voluntary, commercial and other organisations and local authorities to promote the area, increase civic pride, undertake community projects and environmental improvements. We implemented this remit through an action plan agreed by our membership and through meetings of our members every other month, with Executive meetings in intervening months.

Governance and management

We have reached a point at which long standing trustees and members of the management team are stepping down. There is thus some risk to the continuity of HA, certainly a risk to our effectiveness. A small working group was set up to explore the issue in summer 2024, this group reported back in early February and March 2025. At the March AGM one new Trustee was appointed and one resigned.

The statutory nature of the Headington Neighbourhood Forum (HNF) means that the Forum is able to access Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding from Oxford City Council. There is a transparent process with a scrutiny group which comprises members of both HNF and HA. The scrutiny group makes its recommendation to the HA committee which includes all elected City and County Councillors for the Headington area. If agreed by this committee the application is sent to Oxford City Council which makes the final decision. The step by step process is set out on the HA and HNF websites.

This process allowed Headington Action to access funds to implement HNF defined projects that aligned with HA objectives and which are vital to HA achieving its aims.

Communications

We continued as an umbrella body for organisations and groups in Headington. This entailed the usual routine of committee meetings for members, circulation of matters of interest, liasing with councillors and other bodies as appropriate and realistic. We continued to maintain the website as a useful resource and communicated through our constituent organisations, social media and other means.

Market

The Saturday market has continued. It is well liked; it supports the vitality of Headington; it is our main source of operational funds. Profitability is down somewhat due to slightly reduced stall numbers but there is no viability concern.

Connected Communities project

The objectives of the Connected Communities project are to reduce loneliness and social isolation and increase neighbourliness. We continued to develop two main strands.

1. We maintained and improved the Community Activity Directory (CAD). We developed the website to make data maintenance easier and transfer of data to print more efficient and less error prone. A printed version was produced during the year to help make this resource available to the widest audience. The directory is proving to be a valuable resource for social prescribers at local GP surgeries as well as to the public at large.

2.The list of street contacts is being maintained and is a communication channel for local information. A list of which streets have contacts is planned to be available on the HA website. Street party equipment is stored and made available to local groups. Advice on how to run a street party is also available.

Headington Festival

We were pleased that after the break from the annual Festival in 2024 we had a very successful Festival in summer 2025 with many attendees. This included two open air films enjoyed by a large audience on the Saturday. A very wide variety of stalls, entertainers and activities from local organisations and traders were enjoyed on the Sunday.

Festive lights and Christmas event

The annual winter lights display and Christmas tree celebrations were held as usual. Attendance at the lights-on event was good despite wet weather for most of the day. We are grateful for the help from some Oxford Brookes students, Round Table members and Santa.

Grants

We awarded a Small Sparks Grant to Bateman Street/Norton Close to help develop wildflowers on grassland at the junction between these streets.

We have received several grants from local City and County councillors, also from local organisations.

Environmental activities

We support local community initiatives through small scale grants, talks and communications. This year we:

• Had conversations with the Headington Wombles who arrange local litter picking sessions

• Arranged the annual summer flower baskets in Headington centre.

• Supported an Oxford Brookes undergraduate project on Wildlife corridors.

•Supported the Friends of Lye valley CIL bid for an Invertebrate survey in Lye Valley.

The hot dry summer caused damage to trees, plants and bushes around the area and future plantings will need to take into account more erratic weather patterns.

Planning and transport

This is largely the domain of our sister organisation, the Headington Neighbourhood Forum (HNF). We supported HNF with communications to our members and provided small scale financial support. HA continued the policy of only exceptionally taking a collective view of planning and transport applications/policies but encouraging our members to contribute to major plans of which we are aware and to inform their members.

Conclusion

In summary, 2025 was a good year for Headington Action. We hope to appoint a new permanent Chair imminently. This will help us review activities to support our aims; review policies and procedures and maintain financial stability. Review will be particularly necessary once changes in local government structures are finalised. During the past year we have had good support from our members, including several local City and County councillors. Oxford Brookes University is a keen supporter of HA and provided facilities for our meetings.

HA Trustees and Exec committee March 2026

HEADINGTON ACTION (CHARITY NUMBER: 1170517)
Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025

	Year 01/01/25 to 31/12/25	Year 01/01/24 to 31/12/24	Year 01/01/23 to 31/12/23	Note
RECEIPTS	£	£	£	
Festival	11746		12,103	
Festival 2026	2600			2, 4
Market	7280	4693	7,981	3
Grants		450		
Headington Neighbourhood Forum (HNF)				
Christmas/Winter Lights	3900	1847	2,200	
Flower baskets Projects				
Coop Bank Interest	277	221	131	
Community Activities Guide	1500	2550	5,835	2
Councillor's - planters		2000		2
TOTAL RECEIPTS	**27303**	**11761**	**28,250**	
Excluding Specific Reserves (Note 2)	**23203**	**7211**	**22,415**	
PAYMENTS	£	£	£	
Festival	11789	45	14,086	
Market	2288	220	993	
Grants	53	940		
HNF	38	281	110	
Christmas/Winter Lights	5520	5429	4,650	
Flower baskets				
Projects				
Expenses	306	609	319	
Admin	828	1071	887	
Insurance	1317	1282	1,211	
Streel Champion	1395	2132	2,303	2
Community Activities Guide	3514	3422	3,380	2
Councillor's - planters	720	1132	1,790	2
TOTAL PAYMENTS	**27768**	**16563**	**29,729**	
Excluding Specific Reserves (Note 2)	**22139**	**9877**	**22,256**	
NET RECEIPTS/ (PAYMENTS) IN THE YR	**-465**	**-4802**	**-11,240**	
Excluding Specific Reserves (Note 2)	**1064**	**-2666**	**-3,056**	

Summary by Activity, 2025	Receipts	Outgoings	Difference	
	£	£	£	
Festival	11746	11789	-43	
Festival 2026	2600		2,600	2, 4
Market	7280	2288	4,992	3
Grants		53	-53	
HNF		38	-38	
Christmas/Winter Lights	3900	5520	-1,620	
Expenses		306	-306	
Admin		828	-828	
Insurance		1317	-1,317	
Coop Bank Interest	277		277	
Street Champion		1395	-1,395	2
Connecting Communities	1500	3514	-2,014	2
Councillors funds		720	-720	2
Totals 2025	**27303**	**27768**	**-465**	
Excluding Specific Reserves (Note 2)			**1,064**	

	31/12/2025	31/12/2024	31/12/2023
MONETARY ASSETS			
Co-op Deposit Account	9382	9104	8,883
HSBC Bank Current Account	5999	6741	11,763
TOTAL ASSETS	**15381**	**15845**	**20,646**
Excluding Specific Reserves (Note 2)	11611	**10,546**	**13,211**
ASSET CHANGE	**-464**	**-4,801**	**-11,239**
Excluding Specific Reserves (Note 2)	**1,064**	**-2666**	**-3,055**

Notes to accounts

Note 1: Accounts are prepared on a receipts and

Note 2: Specific reserves

	Balance held 31/12/25	Balance held 31/12/24	Balance held 31/12/23
	£	£	£
Connecting Communities	84	3493	6,497
Festival 2026	**2600**	0	0
Councillors funds	1086	1806	938
	3770	**5299**	**7,435**

Specific reserves at 31/12/25	5,299	7,435
Movement in year to 31/12/25	-1,529	-2,136
Specific reserves at 31/12/25	**3,770**	**5,299**

Note 3: Stallholder cash received
In 2024, stallholders paid fees in cash totalling £3515 which were not banked to the HA current account. It was received as a lump sum on the 19th March 2025 and is therefore reflected in the 2025 accounts.

Note 4: Funds received for Headington Festival

In 2025 a total of £2,600 was received to fund the Festival in 2026. This sum is therefore reserved for 2026 expenditure.

Note 5: These accounts are for approval at AGM subject to scrutiny

I have examined the accounts, and based on the information provided, confirm they show the correct position as at the 31st December 2025.
The accounts and notes consist of two pages.

S.C. PAINTER.

TRUSTEE

ROSEMARY R. BELTON

HEADINGTON ACTION (CHARITY NUMBER: 1170517)
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