Charity registration number: 1190656

Ashwood Charitable Trust

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 January 2026

Ashwood Charitable Trust

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Ashwood Charitable Trust

Trustees' Report

The trustees present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 January 2026.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The trusts purposes are:
a) the encouragement and improvement of the science, art and practice of horticulture in all its branches
b) to advance such charitable purposes as the trustees see fit from time to time by making grants to other charities

Objectives, strategies and activities

In order to encourage and improve the science, art and practice of horticulture in all its branches the charity will arrange lectures which are open to the public and provide training grants and mentoring to targeted individuals.
The charity will use any further donations received to provide financial grants to horticulture and other charities as the trustees see fit each year.

Public benefit

The benefits of the lectures will be to increase the horticultural knowledge, skills and capabilities of individuals to pursue and thrive in horticultural careers, benefiting both those individuals and also the field of horticulture. Discussions are taking place with Great Dixter in East Sussex with regard to a joint student sponsorship scheme with a potential donor.

The charity will also seek to help other worthwhile causes in achieving their purposes by giving grants to UK registered horticultural and other charities.

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Grant making policies

Grants may be provided to individuals for the purposes of horticultural training.

All other grants the charity makes will be UK registered horticultural and other charities, which are known and supported by the trustees, carefully selected on the basis of need, effectiveness and the charity's available funds each year.

In terms of other charities, the charity currently has a preference for local or national charities with an emphasis on research and/or palliative care. This could include charities providing facilities for care and well-being such as emergency services, local hospices and schools providing facilities for those with disabilities or learning difficulties. Priority would be given to those where funding by government or local authorities is inadequate or totally absent.

Achievements and performance

The 2025 season

A large proportion of the funds raised have continued to come from the opening of John's garden on Saturdays from early February (for snowdrops) until late in November (for autumn colour).The weather always has a big influence on numbers attending and the prolonged warm dry spring and summer did help numbers initially, especially in March and April. However the continuing cost of living crisis did create a reluctance to spend amongst some potential visitors. All proceeds are split on a 50/50 basis between out 'Charity of the Year' and the Adam Greathead Award scheme. Some private donations have been received as well as a grant of £2,500 from the Studley Castle Foundation to support our AGA student training.

The final figures show that £16,792 was donated to Horatio's Garden, our 'Charity of the Year' for 2025. This charity maintains an accessible garden adjoining the spinal injuries unit at the Oswestry Hospital, Patients can enjoy the garden in their wheelchairs and even their hospital beds. Mr John Massey and Philip Baulk (chair of trustees) visited the hospital and were very impressed with the quality and maintenance of the garden and were able to speak with many of the patients who were enjoying the outdoor space on a very warm sunny day. The staff hold courses to help patients rehabilitate and adjust to their life changing injuries. Staff and volunteers also visited John's Garden to talk to visitors about their work with patients at the hospital in which they seek to both encourage an active lifestyle and improve their mental health.

The Adam Greathead Award offers a student the chance to work and learn in two renowned gardens, namely John's Garden at Ashwood and Great Dixter in East Sussex. The successful student spends six months at each garden. Laura completed her year at Great Dixter on 31st October 2025, and has now gone on to further her career in horticulture. Our next student Ella, began her award at John's Garden on 3rd November 2025. The Adam Greathead Award pays the students living wage whilst at Great Dixter, whilst accommodation is provided by Great Dixter on site. During their twelve months, students receive practical training with the garden teams and have other opportunities to experience commercial horticulture, attend masterclasses and events, and complete plant identification tests. There is a severe shortage of well- trained horticultural staff, and the situation is expected to get worse in the foreseeable future. A total of £18,093.92 was raised for the Adam Greathead Award which covered all expenses during the year, with a small surplus of £472.46.

Looking ahead to 2026

The trustees selected Beth's Sunflowers for our 'Charity of the Year' for 2026 as it covered both elements of the Trust's mission. This charity was created in memory of a young girl who suffered from an aggressive form of Leukaemia and died just before her 21st birthday. Since then her mother has worked tirelessly to raise money to fund both research into leukaemia at Birmingham University and support families going through a similar experience by funding holidays for the whole family in an NHS approved lodge in Norfolk. They also go into schools and distribute sunflower seeds for the students to grow themselves. Beth was her only child.

Our present Adam Greathead Award student, Ella, will complete her time at John's Garden at the end of April, and will then transfer to Great Dixter for the next six months of her award. She has progressed exceptionally well during her first few weeks. We expect to select another student to start at John's Garden in September or October 2026.

Reference and Administrative Details

Charity Registration Number:	1190656
Principal Office:	Ashwood Lower Lane Ashwood Kingswinford West Midlands DY6 0AE
Independent Examiner:	H Crumpton 101 Dixons Green Road Dudley West Midlands DY2 7DJ

Trustees and officers

The trustees and officers serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Trustees:	Mr P D Baulk
	Ms K P Gilbert
	Mr N A Westwood
	Mr C J Cartwright
	Mr R Vernon
	Mr R Cartwright

Structure, governance and management

Nature of governing document

The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and is governed by the CIO Foundation Constitution

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

The initial trustees comprised four individuals who had knowledge of horticulture or other expertise beneficial to the trust. The initial trustees were appointed for terms between 2 and 5 years.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, and the provisions of the constitution. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 5 November 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

.....
Mr P D Baulk
Trustee

Ashwood Charitable Trust

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Ashwood Charitable Trust

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Ashwood Charitable Trust for the year ended 31 January 2026.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Ashwood Charitable 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 Ashwood Charitable Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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.

.....
H Crumpton MAAT

101 Dixons Green Road
Dudley
West Midlands
DY2 7DJ

5 November 2026

Ashwood Charitable Trust

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 January 2026

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Total 2026 £	Total 2025 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and legacies		34,885	34,885	42,346
Investment income	3	444	444	254
Total income		35,329	35,329	42,600
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities		(32,921)	(32,921)	(25,101)
Total expenditure		(32,921)	(32,921)	(25,101)
Net income		2,408	2,408	17,499
Net movement in funds		2,408	2,408	17,499
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		17,065	17,065	(434)
Total funds carried forward	7	19,473	19,473	17,065

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The funds breakdown for 2025 is shown in note 7.

Ashwood Charitable Trust

(Registration number: 1190656)
Balance Sheet as at 31 January 2026

	Note	2026 £	2025 £
Current assets			
Debtors		690	690
Cash at bank and in hand		31,998	29,590
		32,688	30,280
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year		(13,215)	(13,215)
Net assets		19,473	17,065
Funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		19,473	17,065
Total funds	7	19,473	17,065

The financial statements on pages 6 to 12 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 5 November 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

.....
Mr N A Westwood
Trustee

1 Accounting policies

Statement of compliance
The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the second edition of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

Basis of preparation
Ashwood Charitable Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

Going concern
The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Income and endowments
Voluntary income including donations, gifts, legacies and grants that provide core funding or are of a general nature is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Donations and legacies

Donations and legacies are recognised on a receivable basis when receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

Grants receivable

Grants are recognised when the charity has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

Expenditure
All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset’s use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Grant provisions

Provisions for grants are made when the intention to make a grant has been communicated to the recipient but there is uncertainty about either the timing of the grant or the amount of grant payable.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside for specific purposes at the discretion of the trustees.

2 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds Designated £	Total 2026 £	Total 2025 £
Donations and legacies;			
Donations from individuals	32,385	32,385	26,846
Grants, including capital grants;			
Grants from other charities	2,500	2,500	15,500
	34,885	34,885	42,346

3 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2026 £	Total 2025 £
Interest receivable and similar income;			
Interest receivable on bank deposits	444	444	254

4 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Note	Unrestricted funds Designated £	Total 2026 £	Total 2025 £
Grant funding of activities		32,921	32,921	25,101

5 Trustees remuneration and expenses

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

No trustees have received any reimbursed expenses from the charity during the year.

6 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

7 Funds

	Balance at 1 February 2025 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 January 2026 £
Unrestricted funds				
General	254	444	-	698
Designated	16,811	34,885	(32,921)	18,775
Total funds	17,065	35,329	(32,921)	19,473

	Balance at 1 February 2025 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 January 2026 £
Unrestricted funds				
Designated				
Charity of the year	3,769	16,792	(15,300)	5,261
Adam Greathead Award	13,042	18,093	(17,621)	13,514
	16,811	34,885	(32,921)	18,775

	Balance at 1 February 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 January 2025 £
Unrestricted funds				
General	-	254	-	254
Designated	(434)	42,346	(25,101)	16,811
Total funds	(434)	42,600	(25,101)	17,065

7 Funds (continued)

	Balance at 1 February 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 January 2025 £
Unrestricted funds				
Designated				
Charity of the year	-	11,903	(8,134)	3,769
Adam Greathead Award	(434)	30,443	(16,967)	13,042
	(434)	42,346	(25,101)	16,811