



Sustainable Community Gardening to
Educate and Improve Wellbeing



2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Financial Statements and Trustees' Report
1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

www.communigrow.org.uk
Charity No. 1159534

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Charity Number

1159534

*appointed January 2025

**appointed December 2025

+resigned June 2025

++resigned December 2025

Chair's Introduction

It is with great pleasure that I introduce Communigrow's 2025 report and accounts for a year of significant achievements and on which we can look back with pride.

Our work is about teaching people how to grow food in a sustainable way. A key focus therefore is on teaching children and young people about growing fresh food, about healthy diets and how to cook what they grow through our Field to Fork programme. We want to help them to realise the positive benefits that this brings which is so important in an age of easily accessible unhealthy and processed food. Our beneficiaries include local schools, children and young people with special education needs, home educated children and families.

Since gardening activities have proven physical and mental health benefits, we are also ideally placed to provide opportunities for adult beneficiaries to participate in our therapeutic gardening programmes, all within a local community setting.

Sustainability is a common thread woven through all we do: not only in the way we practice horticulture and in our teaching in the Field School, but also in how we operate our site.

In 2025 our staff achieved Carbon Literacy Certification and we are now an accredited training provider offering this training to others.

We are constantly striving to improve our services and activities and to reach more people to support and in 2025 we achieved some significant milestones.

We appointed our first Horticulture Apprentice, offering training to a young person embarking on his career in horticulture, and a School Outreach Lead to engage local schools.

We are proud to have again received external endorsements of our work. This includes our first

national award - the Community Award in the Adobe Express Your Innovation competition run by The Telegraph Media Group.

One of our objectives is to diversify our income streams and ensure the charity's financial sustainability. Whilst our charitable activities, social enterprise activities and events generate income, a large part of our income comes from grants, donations and sponsorship.

What of our plans for 2026? The Field School will continue to welcome students from SEND schools and colleges but with greatly enhanced kitchen facilities for the Field to Fork sessions. We also have a full programme of whole class day visits from local schools, expanding on last year's numbers.

A new woodland area adjacent to our existing site will provide additional space for the Field School and give us a dedicated area for therapeutic gardening with a refurbished container providing the indoor space. All of which means that we will have even better facilities to offer which will make an even greater difference to beneficiaries.

Our horticultural side is to expand with more areas under production and for teaching. Mindful of how important a flourishing and healthy ecosystem is, we will be improving our wildflower meadow and wildlife areas and expanding our pond.

We would not be able to do what we do without our volunteers who bring a wealth of skills and experience to Communigrow. Nor would we be able to do so without our hardworking and dedicated staff on whom so much of the success of Communigrow depends. Therefore, I finish with my sincere thanks to volunteers, staff and to my fellow Trustees for all they do for the continued success of Communigrow.

Caroline Pearce

Chair of the Board of Trustees



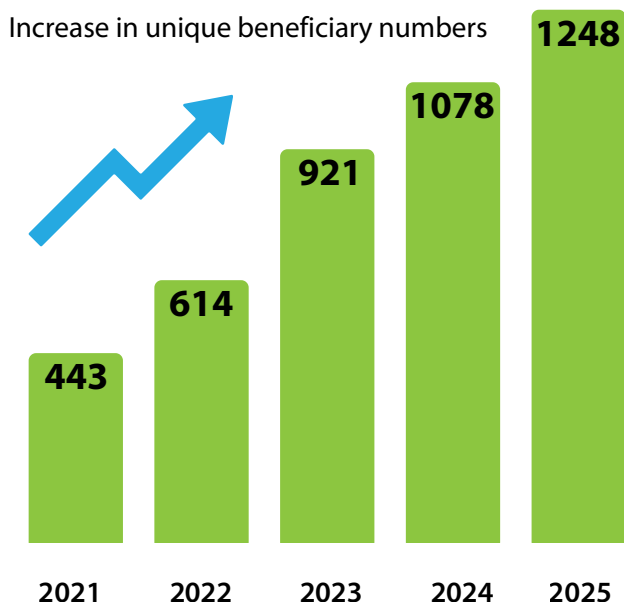
About Communigrow

Sustainable Community Gardening to Educate and Improve Wellbeing

Communigrow is a sustainable food education charity providing a vital link between sustainable horticulture and community health. We operate from our Community Garden in East Malling and across communities in Kent and Medway. We teach children, young people and adults how to grow naturally produced food using sustainable methods.

Our aim is also to make a lasting difference to mental and physical health through Therapeutic Gardening and to create a sense of belonging through outdoor community activities.

Communigrow's beneficiaries include children and young people with special education needs, local schools, people from under-resourced communities, young carers, adults with health conditions, older adults experiencing social isolation, veterans and emergency services workers and people coping with bereavement.



Communigrow is a fantastic, hidden gem, in my own parish of East Malling. Their work highlights the benefits of sustainable food production to our physical and mental wellbeing, whilst keeping in harmony with the natural environment. Their field school is a beautiful outdoor learning environment for children and young people, of all abilities, to enjoy hands-on learning opportunities.

Amidst an emerging world of global shortages, where food security is a vital part of the national agenda, Communigrow offers essential learning and guidance to communities and individuals.



Helen Grant, MP for Maidstone and Malling



MP Helen Grant visits Communigrow, July 2025

In 2025, we are very proud to have supported 1,248 people to lead healthier and happier lives in our green and inclusive community charity.

Public Benefit



CommuniGrow Theory of Change

As a charity we have a responsibility to provide a public benefit. Our operations are governed by a robust Theory of Change, adopted in 2022, which ensures that our programmes are measured against six core pillars: physical, educational, psychological, social, and economic wellbeing. Through rigorous KPI monitoring we can review and improve the effectiveness of our programmes delivering the best return on investment for our community.

The impact of our work reaches beyond our primary beneficiaries to associated families, carers and wider communities, including local authorities and other partners. Our evidence-based model of social and therapeutic gardening is recognised by the NHS and UK Government as part of the solution for mental and physical healthcare.



2025 Highlights

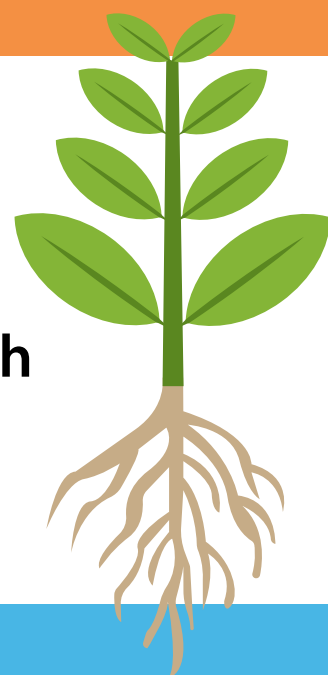
All staff achieved Carbon Literate Certification.

In addition we became an accredited training provider with the Carbon Literacy Project to help other organisations reduce their carbon footprint.



Won the Community Award in the Adobe Express Your Innovation national competition run by The Telegraph Media Group.

Improved our SEND provision with our Young Roots group for young adults with additional needs.



11

Expanded our whole class School Visits offer with support from The National Lottery Community Fund from three schools in 2024 to eleven in 2025.

2025 Highlights

Appointed our first apprentice, Logan, who went on to win Kent Life Magazine's Young Gardener of the Year.



Received two awards at the Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council Community Awards.
Outstanding Community Group and Environmental contribution.

Increased our Therapeutic Gardening offer for adults, with our new Garden Gate bereavement group and Time Out group for veterans and emergency services workers in addition to our existing Gardening to Feel Great group.



The Communibees

Introduced two hives of bees to our garden and produced 120 jars of our own honey for sale in the community.

The Field School



The Field School encompasses our educational and therapeutic work with young people. By prioritising an inclusive atmosphere, our experienced tutors ensure that all participants - including those with neurodiversity or complex needs - find a sense of belonging at Communigrow. Through practical learning and nature-based activities, we help our learners grow in confidence and enjoy the benefits that come with spending time in nature.

Field to Fork

A standout feature of our curriculum are our 'Field to Fork' workshops. Completing the loop of food education by using vegetables grown and harvested at Communigrow, young learners enjoy outdoor cookery; working together to create nutritious dishes that develop more adventurous palates and an enjoyment of fresh, healthy food.

In 2025 this was much enhanced with the addition of a dedicated outdoor Field Kitchen. Looking ahead to early 2026 we plan to install solar panels on the roof of the Field Kitchen to power our appliances - integrating environmental stewardship directly into the student experience.



Students from Grow 19 College making soup in the kitchen

Local Schools



Searching for minibests in the wildflower meadow

2025 saw exceptional interest in our educational day trips, reflecting a rising demand for high-quality, outdoor-based learning. We increased the number of participating schools from three in 2024 to eleven in 2025, with a high rate of re-bookings already secured for 2026.

Our whole-class visits are carefully designed to complement the Key Stage 1 and 2 National Curriculum, providing tangible, real-world applications for Science, Design & Technology (DT), Geography, and Sustainability. As well as looking at plant life cycles, bespoke sessions for each school include options such as pond dipping and preparing dishes from vegetables harvested on site.

14 School Partnerships.



“

What a truly amazing day! From pond dipping to preparing and cooking food outdoors, every part of the day was thoughtfully planned and beautifully delivered.

”

Kent Family Hub visit

Special Schools and SEND

Communigrow remains an important partner to local SEND schools and colleges, providing purposeful outdoor learning experiences that foster confidence, communication, and vocational readiness. We are proud to host weekly Field School sessions for Five Acre Wood School, Bower Grove School and Grow 19 College.

Our curriculum is highly individualised, offering a diverse range of horticultural and site-management tasks - from propagation and bulb planting to basic maintenance skills and woodchip path construction. Beyond technical skills, activities are designed to develop communication and social interaction. Students are supported to engage with the wider Communigrow community through active roles, such as preparing and serving soup to celebrate the official opening of our Field Kitchen.



Weeding the pizza bed with Field School volunteer Ann

In addition, we continue to deliver weekly gardening enrichment sessions at The Rosewood School, supporting students navigating complex medical, mental health or physical challenges, many of whom are also socially disadvantaged as a result of periods of absence from education.

In July 2025, we furthered this impact by providing supportive work experience placements for 29 pupils from The Rosewood School.



Ready for action with students from Five Acre Wood School



137

**sessions
for children & young
people with SEND**

“

The group of our pupils that come to your onsite provision each week at Communigrow are having a fantastic time.

It was such a delight to talk with a pupil who I know has extreme eating anxieties and to hear that he had made pumpkin pancakes, let alone eaten, them was astonishing!

Your team are so passionate and enthusiastic which has really filtered down to our school.

Thank you for all your efforts.

”

Maz Cleave, Head Teacher, Bower Grove School
Special School for children and young people aged 4-16

A Space for Growth Toby's Story*

“The gardening makes me feel more relaxed. I always feel better being outside.”

Toby's story illustrates the profound impact of social and therapeutic horticulture on neurodivergent young adults.

When Toby first joined Communigrow for weekly sessions with his SEND college, his ADHD, autism and significant mental health struggles made teamwork and instruction difficult to navigate. High levels of anxiety led to inconsistent engagement; he found it hard to take direction, could challenge staff instructions and always felt that he 'knew best'. Toby would either throw himself completely into physical tasks - often to the point of over exertion - or be very reluctant to get involved.

The Intervention:

Through the consistent, calm rhythm of the Field School garden, Toby has undergone a great change. He is able to focus for longer periods on activities such as transplanting seedlings - a task requiring a level of patience and fine-motor focus that once seemed out of reach. During the weekly sessions our staff encouraged Toby to "check in" with his emotions.

By learning to voice his feelings and to take genuine pride in his work, Toby has moved from a place of defence to one of cooperative teamwork. Tasks like propagation and site maintenance provided a structured yet flexible framework for him to practise focus and cooperation.

The growth in these key social and communication skills - teamwork, emotional regulation, and accountability - has prepared him for his next milestone at College: a people-facing vocational role.

In Toby's Words:

"I'm not doing very well today. I've just got out of the wrong side of the bed," Toby shared with our Field School Manager, Naomi, during a particularly low morning.

However, after a few hours tending to the wildlife area, the shift was visible. "It's been really good. I feel really chill. The gardening makes me feel more relaxed... I always feel better being outside."

*names have been changed



Home Education

Our Home Education programme provides a dynamic, outdoor learning environment for learners aged 4 to 16 to gain practical food growing skills and learn about nature and the environment through a programme of study that incorporates Science, Food Technology, Sustainability and Geography. In addition we provide basic carpentry sessions for older students.

Beyond the academic benefits, these sessions are an opportunity for peer-to-peer communication and collaborative problem-solving, helping learners develop the social confidence and teamwork skills essential for their future pathways.

Family Workshops

In 2025 we delivered 20 affordable family workshops at weekends and in school holidays including our 'Get Set, Grow!' Saturday workshops. These sessions offer a rare opportunity for intergenerational learning, where families step away from digital distractions and into the natural world, gaining practical skills to grow food at home and learning how to care for the environment.



Family workshop with local residents

“ Getting outside is so good for the children, otherwise they are just on screens or watching TV!

They're also far more interested in eating vegetables and trying new food at home, having grown, harvested and cooked their own veg at Communigrow.

”

Parent at Get Set, Grow!

Community Outreach

East Malling remains a top two priority area for Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, with governmental Indices of Deprivation data identifying parts of East Malling as among the 16% most income-deprived in England. We take pride in delivering high-impact, nature-based interventions where they are needed most in this community.



This includes hosting free nature based activities and cookery for children alongside the Community Pantry at the East Malling Centre, a local partner charity. In 2025 we also ran weekly subsidised Communigrow Tots sessions here, using nature-based tasks to encourage physical activity, healthy eating and a love of nature in toddlers.

Workshops for Partner Charities

Our collaboration with partner charities Space 2 Be Me, IMAGO, and Involve Kent highlights the important role Communigrow plays in the wider community. This year, we hosted 9 'Field to Fork' workshops specifically designed for young people navigating the challenges of additional needs or the responsibilities of being a young carer. These sessions allow participants to step away from daily pressures, enjoy time with others and benefit from the restorative power of nature. The young people harvest and prepare a communal meal with produce grown in the garden and always enjoy ending the session with a game of welly wanging!



Field to Fork session with Families from Involve Connect, a group for neurodivergent young people

Therapeutic Gardening for Adults

Backed by research from the NHS and the Royal Horticultural Society, gardening interventions are proven to deliver accessible and cost effective psychological and physiological health benefits. Collective food-growing has additional positive effects in generating community engagement and our programmes for adults are especially effective for those experiencing social isolation.

In 2025 we added three new gardening groups for adults in response to needs in our local area.

Gardening to Feel Great

With funding from Involve Kent, this year we helped 25 people aged 55+ or who have health conditions improve their mental and physical wellbeing, boost their confidence and combat social isolation. Participants meet new people in a friendly and relaxed outdoor environment and take part in gardening activities, promoting physical activity to suit all abilities and social connection.

In the colder months the group takes part in nature based crafts in our heated yurt.



Gardening to feel Great - a supportive community preventing loneliness with winter crafts in the yurt

Garden Gate Bereavement Group

Following a successful crowdfunding campaign in late 2024, CommuniGrow launched its Bereavement Support Group at the start of the year. Recognising that grief can often be a solitary experience, we designed this programme to offer a community-based pathway toward healing. Led by our qualified psychotherapeutic counsellor, the group offers purposeful horticultural activities working alongside others who share a similar experience. The programme demonstrates the unique power of "Green Therapy": providing a safe space where conversation and healing can grow naturally alongside the plants.



Young Roots enjoying a sunny December day in the garden

Young Roots

Thanks to funding from the UK Government's People and Skills Fund via Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, our Young Roots group provides supported volunteering opportunities for younger adults who require greater support. This may be because they have mild-moderate learning difficulties, are neurodivergent with support needs, may be socially anxious or have other mental health concerns or who have little or no experience of work or volunteering. The group helps young adults become more physically active, improve their confidence, social skills and mental wellbeing, as well as developing skills that can help them access the workplace. Most importantly group members are part of a supportive and inclusive community.

It's been a lifesaver

Alice's Story*

Alice, who has physical and mental health conditions including EDS, FND, chronic fatigue syndrome, neurodivergence, anxiety and depression, was initially referred to Communigrow's Gardening to Feel Great group by another local charity that had been supporting her.

Alice told us, "I have nothing but praise for the team at Communigrow. Everyone is so warm and friendly, and I have been treated with such kindness. It's been a life saver really; the thing I look forward to each week.

I was brought up in the countryside, but I was beginning to feel trapped by my health issues. Being outside in this safe space is just heartwarming for me - a real freeing experience. It was just such a relief when I first joined.

I've loved all the activities, particularly building the dead hedge together - it was so creative and satisfying, like putting together a jigsaw.

“ I've built a group of friends at Communigrow which has made me feel like a human again. Just things like having the Christmas dinner together or having a coffee in the breaks is really important. I never get invited to things normally and have been made to feel different, excluded and lazy because of my disabilities in the past. This group is the opposite of that.

There is so much give and take in the group - you speak, you listen, you are listened to. It's disability friendly, you go at your own pace and focus on what you can do.”

*names have been changed



Time Out

Supported by the UK Government's People and Skills Fund, Communigrow delivered a specialised programme of Therapeutic Gardening sessions in 2025, designed for veterans and emergency services personnel. This initiative supported 26 individuals, providing a vital sanctuary for those navigating the long-term impacts of service, including veterans managing PTSD following deployments in Afghanistan.

The success of this programme is evidenced by its lasting legacy. We were pleased to support veterans at the nearby Royal British Veterans Enterprise Village build their own allotment, which was inspired by their sessions at Communigrow. Furthermore, our partnership with Larkfield Fire Station has provided frontline crews with a quiet space for reflection and decompression, following the intensity of challenging shifts.



Larkfield Fire Crew taking some Time Out in our Sensory Garden



Signing The Armed Forces Covenant with Deputy Mayor of Tonbridge and Malling, Cllr Chris Brown, Armed Forces Champion, Cllr Dave Davis, and Royal British Veterans Enterprise Engagement Manager, Kerry Locke.

Vicky's Story

"Joining the Time Out group at Communigrow has hugely helped with my recovery of PTSD after I was medically discharged from the army in 2019.

Having a place like Communigrow to go to every week has been fantastic. I have really taken a lot from attending the community.

Everyone is very friendly and welcoming. It's a safe place to go that gives you a sense of achievement - you can do as much or as little as you like, there is no pressure which is great.

Just sitting having a cup of tea and chat is great for my health; I've really noticed a difference, thank you."

Moving On

Communigrow provides unique 'moving on' opportunities for beneficiaries attending Therapeutic Gardening groups. Participants often move on to become committed Communigrow volunteers, making a long term commitment to both their health and to being part of our team.

Hope after bereavement Chrissie's Story

“ Communigrow gives hope, self belief,
peace, encouragement, joy and laughter. ”

“I was introduced to Communigrow by my husband Jeff's Cancer Care Support Assistant, Jo. After Jeff lost his brave battle, Jo always stayed in contact. Jo knew I would find sitting in a room for counselling too painful and she contacted me to say she had come across Communigrow.

My life changed from that point on. I arrived at Communigrow full of anxiety, but desperate to find not only some peace, but the courage to step out and hopefully to find a way forward. I was greeted with kindness and reassurance, given a guided tour around the most beautiful hidden oasis and met some of the hardworking team.

For the first time in months after Jeff's passing and being in an almost robotic state putting one foot in front of the other, I felt peace. I took a deep breath and I knew immediately that Communigrow would help me find my way - that's now an understatement.

Communigrow has given me a large part of my life back. It has taught me to have courage, the realisation that bereavement albeit a painful, lonely place can be shared openly with other friends you meet along the way in the Communigrow community.

Communigrow, and my friends from the group, gave me the self belief and courage to go on a short trip on my own recently and I have even booked another short trip for next year.

The Communigrow Team must never be underestimated in all the hardwork, compassion, patience, nurturing they freely and unconditionally give for the entire community of all ages which surround us. They give hope, self belief, peace, encouragement, joy and laughter for all of us on our individual onward journeys.

Thank you so much for giving me my life back.”



Volunteering

Volunteers are the vital force that sustains Communigrow's mission. In 2025, we were supported by a dedicated cohort of 82 regular volunteers across all operational areas, further boosted by 120 corporate volunteers who contributed to specific projects. This collective generosity represents a staggering economic value of £115,033 - a contribution that enables us to redirect vital funds toward our beneficiary programmes.

Our volunteers bring a wealth of professional experience and enthusiasm that enriches our team. In return for their support we provide a welcoming and inclusive experience, with dedicated volunteering events, opportunities to acquire new skills, make friends and of course enjoy unlimited cups of tea!

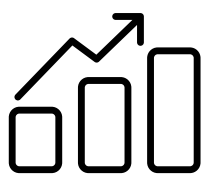
6,690

Number of volunteer hours donated to Communigrow



£115,033

Estimated monetary value of these volunteer hours



202

People who supported Communigrow by donating their time



17



New regular volunteers welcomed in 2025



Celebrating five years of volunteering with Chris and Anne

A landmark moment in our 2025 calendar was the celebration of Volunteers' Week in June, where we were privileged to present long-service awards to five remarkable individuals who have dedicated five years to our growth.

Communigrow's achievements this year are a testament to the passion of our volunteers; we wholeheartedly thank them for their vital role in our growth and sustainability.



Horticultural volunteers planting brassicas

Volunteering at Communigrow

Ian's Story

"I approached Communigrow when I made the decision to retire and immediately I was met with great enthusiasm, signing up to volunteer regularly on Fridays. What really appealed was the social side of volunteering, the sense of being able to give something back and the opportunity to enhance my knowledge of horticulture. Certainly the community element is a big part of volunteering, particularly when retired, having been used to working in a team in a large organisation, in a customer facing role.

Communigrow offers the perfect environment really. For those who just want peace and quiet or an escape, the environment allows that, but also allows important social interaction, if desired, while working on tasks and during the coffee breaks.

Immediately after retirement I faced a particularly challenging family situation and having somewhere to come and feel at ease with nature, to be able to enjoy the company of others was actually very therapeutic.

It's comforting to be in a space where you have other people to talk to if you need it and I can see why it's so beneficial for the bereavement group and wellbeing groups to come here.

I've been mentoring a young man with additional needs. It is great seeing him blossom from someone who was fairly quiet at the start to someone who is happy interacting with the group and has a great sense of humour. I've been so impressed with his horticultural knowledge and how keen he is now to finish the tasks we work on. It's a very rewarding part of volunteering at Communigrow - seeing people from all backgrounds, age groups, with different needs, abilities and skills working together and flourishing in a community.

The way Communigrow has developed in recent years in terms of the improvements to the site and gardens makes me feel proud that I'm part of that and it makes me feel like I want to do more.

It's a lovely space - magical at times."



“ It’s a really rewarding part of volunteering at Communigrow - seeing people from all backgrounds, age groups, with different needs, abilities and skills working together and flourishing in a community. ”

Sustainability

Environmental sustainability at Communigrow is not only a key teaching pillar, it is also integral to our organisational values. Communigrow provides space to learn about sustainable food growing.

Rain water harvesting

4,000

litres water storage

Carbon Literacy Training

Our staff and many volunteers took part in Carbon Literacy Training with the Carbon Literacy Project, achieving Carbon Literate Certification.

We are now an accredited training provider to other businesses and organisations.

Certified Carbon Literate



Solar Power

We are off grid with 30 solar panels and we no longer use fossil fuel powered equipment.

Award Winning

In 2025 we won the Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council Environmental Contribution Award and the Wilder Kent Gold Award.

26 varieties of veg

All proudly chemical free.

Composting toilets

eliminate water use and reduce strain on sewage systems.

Malling Repair Cafe

In 2025 we hosted the Malling Repair Cafe at Communigrow giving household items a new life and preventing them from going to landfill.

Bee Hives

Our Communibeas produce honey and are excellent pollinators.

Composting

We use a wide range of composting techniques and teach these to others.

Companion planting helps pollination and is a natural form of pest control.

'No dig' approach protects soil health, improves drainage and prevents carbon release from the soil.

Wildlife habitats

such as wildflower meadows, log piles, insect hotels and dead hedges encourage pollinators and other invertebrates to thrive and our wildlife ponds are a haven for frogs, newts, toads and beetles.

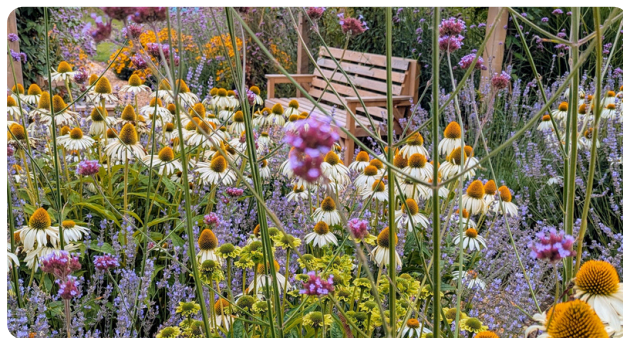
Native hedgerows

increase biodiversity by providing food and shelter to invertebrates, birds and mammals.

Fundraising

The generosity of our funders and supporters has enabled us to achieve the following substantial progress in the development of our charitable aims. In particular, we were fortunate to receive £91,000 of funding from The National Lottery Community Fund, part of a 5 years funding award totalling £275,000, to expand our services and support our operating costs and implement our medium term priority of improved financial stability and reduced grant reliance.

- Deliver skills and Therapeutic Gardening sessions to 1,248 children, young people and adults - a 16% increase on 2024.
- Establish three new Therapeutic Gardening groups for adult beneficiaries.
- Appoint a Horticultural Apprentice, providing a career opportunity for a young person.
- Employ a Schools Outreach Lead to increase the number of schools we work with.
- Install a dedicated Field Kitchen to improve our field to fork offering.
- Build a new Field Shelter near our pond to support our school visits experience.
- Increase our growing area with a new propagation polytunnel.
- Expand our programmes to reach new communities through partnerships established with local house builders and social housing providers.
- Help cover core staffing costs and the running of the charity.



We are very grateful to all of our organisations for the support they have provided this year.

- Barratt Redrow Foundation
- The Chapman Charitable Trust
- The CLA Charitable Trust
- Clarion Futures
- The Cobtree Charity Trust
- The Cole Charitable Trust
- East Malling and Larkfield Parish Council
- East Malling Picnic in the Park
- East Malling Trust
- The Finnis Scott Foundation
- The Garfield Weston Foundation
- The Henry Smith Foundation
- Involve Kent
- The Kenora Charitable Foundation
- Kings Hill Rotary Club
- The Lawson Trust
- The Leigh Trust
- Malling Lions
- McCrone Charitable Trust
- The National Lottery Community Fund
- The Philip & Connie Phillips Foundation
- Retirement Villages Group
- South Park Community Coffee Morning
- Tesco Cooking for All
- Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council
- Tongswood Chamber Choir
- Warburtons Community Fund

Fundraising

Corporate Partners

In addition to income from trusts and foundations, corporate partners provide both in-kind and direct support that helps to reduce our reliance on grant funding.

These partnerships are often mutually beneficial, helping our corporate friends to achieve their social and environmental aims.

In particular, we are hugely appreciative of the support we have received from:

Long term supporters, **Perrys Chartered Accountants**, who held their third Charity Golf Day in aid of Communigrow, and also supported us with a volunteering day. The funds raised from this will help provide solar panels for our Field Kitchen.

Fielder Filter Systems, who generously funded our Field Kitchen and Get Set Grow family workshops, while also donating their time with two volunteering days at Communigrow.



Team from Fielder jet washing out yurt carpet in the sun



Great fun being had at Perrys Charity Golf Day

Local B-Corp **Scrummi**, who sponsored our Open Day, kept us stocked up with their compostable hand towels and worked hard on our overgrown pumpkin patch.

We are also very grateful to:

- Adobe Express
- Apogee Corporation
- Atwood Benefits UK Limited
- B&Q Aylesford
- Balance with SJ
- Baxter Storey
- Belu
- Bridgewood Manor Hotel
- CWB Property Limited
- East Malling Trust
- Great Comp Gardens
- Kent Case Management
- Kent Wood Flooring
- Kings Hill Management
- Kingswood Group
- New Earth Solutions
- NIAB
- Schrodgers
- Sharpe Pritchard
- Shipbourne Farmers Market
- Sinclair & Rush
- Telegraph Media Group
- Tesco Lunsford Park and West Malling
- The Swan West Malling

Plans for 2026

The Field School

Continue to expand our Schools Visits offer, increasing the number of children that visit Communigrow to develop their knowledge of how food is grown, to understand the importance of healthy eating, engage more in physical outdoor activities and connect with nature and the outdoor world.

Achieve the LOtC Quality Badge - Council for Learning Outside the Classroom.

Create a woodland area to allow us to bring our Communigrow Tots sessions on site.

Therapeutic Gardening & Community Engagement

Appoint a dedicated Therapeutic Gardener to lead our Therapeutic Gardening sessions for adults.

Deliver a Health Intervention gardening group for adults with hypertension or type 2 diabetes, working with local GPs and other health care providers.

Create a dedicated indoor wellbeing space with a wellbeing garden area for our Therapeutic Gardening groups.

Partner with local leisure trust to reach more beneficiaries.



Horticulture

in response to customer demand and with the benefit of new growing areas, grow new types and varieties of vegetables.

Using hydroponics as a different growing technique, establish a dedicated polytunnel for growing chillies and peppers.

Improve the wildflower meadow and wildlife area by creating a natural boundary with dead hedges and traditional gate entrance.

Plant lavender beds to encourage pollinators and support our Therapeutic Gardening activities.

Work more closely with educational establishments to provide horticultural work skills with, for example, Hadlow College.

Environment

Expand our Carbon Literacy Training courses, allowing us to help more external partners reduce their carbon footprint.

Increase our wildlife habitats by adding more dead hedges, resowing the wildflower meadow, planting more trees and enlarging the wildlife pond area.

Install 8 solar panels to power our Field Kitchen.



Governance & Organisational Structure

Communigrow is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation incorporated in 2014 and is governed by its constitution.

Leadership and Management

The board of trustees manage the affairs of the charity. They meet every other month and are responsible for the charity's activities, for monitoring progress and policies, developing the charity's strategy and for risk management. The trustees recognise that they are required to meet the objects of the charity and provide a public benefit. In making their decisions, they follow the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. We are very fortunate in having a skilled and active board of trustees who are passionately committed to Communigrow and its work. In January 2025, we added to our board of trustees with the appointment of Natasha Stille with PR, marketing and communication skills, Georgia Bozekova, an HR professional and until December 2025, Paul Jones with charity fundraising skills. In addition, the board of trustees is supported by a full-time Operations Manager and also a Field School Manager, Head Community Gardener, Development Manager and a Community Engagement consultant.

When recruiting trustees, the board of trustees identifies any skills gaps and looks for individuals who can provide expertise and leadership and is seeking to recruit a fundraising trustee. The principal means of recruiting new trustees is by public advertisement of the role. Under the charity's constitution, trustees are appointed for a fixed three year term (or such lesser period as the trustees decide) and are then eligible for re-election for up to two further three year terms. There is an induction programme for new trustees and all trustees undertake training.

Major Risks Statement

The trustees have assessed the major risks of the charity including, governance, operations, financial and external risks. They are satisfied that systems and procedures are in place to mitigate the major risks.

Review of Financial Position

The income of the charity for 2025 was £256,873 (2024: £174,915) and expenditure was £207,682 (2024: £197,550). Total funds as at 31 st December 2025 were £260,803 (2024: £211,612) of which £219,502 (2024: £156,399) were restricted funds and £41,301 (2024: £55,213) were unrestricted funds with year-end bank balance of £267,878 (2024: £156,399). The trustees consider this a satisfactory position for the charity to be in. The charity has invested £14,450 during the year (2024: £12,824) in facilities at the field to improve visitor experience.

Reserves Policy

The charity needs reserves to enable it to progress to completing both its long term projects and its current activities and fluctuations in receipts and payments. The trustees consider that £40,000 of unrestricted funds should be held in reserve, this is the estimated amount needed to allow for an orderly closure of the charity should this ever be necessary. The level has also been set to take account of the following:

1. Contingency: unexpected expenditure in the event of an emergency;
2. Cash-flow: situations where a bill has to be paid before the money to cover it has been received;
3. Commitment: a commitment to expenditure which cannot be covered by the annual income.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

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

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales 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 year.

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 operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping sufficient accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable it to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of its constitution. They 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.

Trustees

Caroline Pearce, Chair
Georgia Bozekova*
David Field+
Paul Jones*++
Elizabeth Lockwood
Martin Long, Finance Trustee++
Nathan Omane, Finance Trustee**
Alan Piper
Dr Rebecca Prince
Natasha Stille*

Registered Address

Hazel Hall
Church Road
West Peckham
Kent
ME18 5JL

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

Signed:



Date: 21/04/2026

Caroline Pearce, Chair

*appointed January 2025

**appointed December 2025

+resigned June 2025

++resigned December 2025

COMMUNIGROW
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Income from					
Charitable Activities		24,740	581	25,321	22,208
Community fundraising		11,188	-	11,188	10,112
Corporate Donations		7,717	28,889	36,606	22,115
Donations		4,552	-	4,552	8,069
Sponsorship		2,600	-	2,600	-
Grants		1,767	170,155	171,922	108,124
Vegetable Sales		2,886	-	2,886	1,985
Other income		1,798	-	1,798	2,302
Total		57,248	199,625	256,873	174,915
Expenditure on					
Admin / Utilities		2,122	4,854	6,976	6,377
Consumables		3,252	4,027	7,279	9,760
Equipment and Depreciation		17,789	2,674	20,463	19,901
Fundraising & Business		17,166	17,798	34,964	21,966
Insurance & Rent		674	3,553	4,227	3,612
Marketing		265	1,008	1,273	1,380
Services (including Salaries)		29,892	102,608	132,500	134,554
Total		71,160	136,522	207,682	197,550
Net income		(13,912)	63,103	49,191	(22,635)
Total funds brought forward		55,213	156,399	211,612	234,247
Total funds carried forward		41,301	219,502	260,803	211,612

The Statement of Financial Activities include all the gains and losses in the year and therefore a statement of total recognised gains and losses has not been prepared.

All the above amounts relate to continuing services.

Comparative information is shown in note 10.

**COMMUNIGROW
BALANCE SHEET
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

	Notes	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	2	<u>53,578</u>	<u>56,641</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	3	6,051	393
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>267,878</u>	<u>156,399</u>
		<u>273,929</u>	<u>156,792</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	4	66,704	1,821
Net current assets		<u>207,225</u>	<u>154,971</u>
Total net assets		<u>260,803</u>	<u>211,612</u>
Funds of the Charity			
Restricted income funds		219,502	156,399
Unrestricted funds		<u>41,301</u>	<u>55,213</u>
Total funds		<u>260,803</u>	<u>211,612</u>

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

Comparative information is shown in note 11.

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 21st April 2026 and signed on their behalf by: Caroline Pearce

Signed: 

Date: 21/04/2026

The notes on page 26-32 form part of the Financial Statements

COMMUNIGROW
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

1. Principal accounting policies

Accounting convention

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with "Accounting and reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (Second Edition)" and the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The Charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102.

Communigrow is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered in England and Wales.

Going concern

Communigrow, at 31 December 2025, had unrestricted funds of £41,301 and a cash balance of £267,878 as such the trustees consider it appropriate to prepare the accounts on a going concern basis.

Incoming resources

Income is accounted for when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Resources expended

Expenditure is included on an accrual basis once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets costing £500 or more are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably.

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. All costs incurred to bring a tangible fixed asset into its intended working condition should be included in the measurement of cost.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, using the straight-line method.

The notes on page 26-32 form part of the Financial Statements

Depreciation is provided on the following basis:

Field property - 20% straight line

General equipment - 33 % straight line

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term deposits with a maturity of three months or less.

Liabilities

Creditors are recognised when the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any discounts due.

2. Tangible fixed assets

	Field property £	General equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1st January 2025	74,500	4,298	78,798
Additions	10,744	3,706	14,450
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31 December 2025	85,244	8,004	93,248
Depreciation			
At 1st January 2025	20,206	1,949	22,155
Charge for the year	<u>15,868</u>	<u>1,646</u>	<u>17,514</u>
At 31st December 2025	36,074	3,595	39,679
Net book value			
At 31 December 2025	<u>49,169</u>	<u>4,409</u>	<u>53,578</u>
At 31 December 2024	<u>54,294</u>	<u>2,347</u>	<u>56,641</u>

3. Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Amounts falling due within one year		
Other debtors - VAT	<u>6,051</u>	<u>394</u>

The notes on page 26-32 form part of the Financial Statements

4. Creditors	2025	2024
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year		
Accruals and deferred income	<u>66,704</u>	<u>1,821</u>

5. Funds

Unrestricted funds

Comprise those funds which the trustees are free to use in accordance with the charity's general purposes.

Current year	Opening balance 1.01.2025	Income	Expenditure	Closing balance 31.12.2025
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds	55,213	57,248	71,160	41,301

Prior year	Opening balance 1.01.2024	Income	Expenditure	Closing balance 31.12.2024
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds	79,620	50,000	74,407	55,213

Restricted funds

Restricted funds comprise donations and grants for specific activities intended by the donor.

Current year	Opening balance 1.01.2025	Income	Expenditure	Closing balance 31.12.2025
	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds	156,399	199,625	136,522	219,502
Of which material funds are:				
National Lottery Community Fund	-	77,360	41,955	35,405
The Finnis Scott Foundation	-	11,000	-	11,000

Prior year	Opening balance 1.01.2024	Income	Expenditure	Closing balance 31.12.2024
	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds	154,627	124,916	123,144	156,399
Of which material funds are:				
National Lottery Community Fund	16,913	22,500	39,413	-
Bereavement Group	-	14,124	19	14,105

6. Independent examiner's remuneration

The independent examiner's remuneration amounts to an independent examiner fee of £ Nil (2024 - £ Nil).

7. Trustees' remuneration

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2024 - £Nil).

8. Staff costs and pensions

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme

	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	114,204	119,938
Social security costs	12,279	9,014
Contribution to defined contribution pension scheme	6,017	5,602
	<u>132,500</u>	<u>134,554</u>

The notes on page 26-32 form part of the Financial Statements

The average number of persons employed by the charity during the year was as follows:

	2025	2024
	No	No
Staff	6	5
Contractors	12	13
	18	18

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in either year.

Wages and salaries include wages and payments that have been made for contracted services.

9. Related party disclosure

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 December 2025 (2024 - £Nil).

10. Comparative information – Statement of financial activities

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Income from					
Charitable Activities		17,031	5,177	22,208	25,873
Community fundraising		9,532	580	10,112	1,584
Corporate Donations		5,000	17,115	22,115	27,230
Donations		7,633	436	8,069	3,113
Sponsorship		-	-	-	-
Grants		6,517	101,607	108,124	153,760
Vegetable Sales		1,985	-	1,985	972
Other income		2,302	-	2,302	2,009
Total		50,000	124,915	174,915	214,541
Expenditure on					
Admin / Utilities		619	5,758	6,377	5,009
Consumables		520	9,240	9,760	7,592
Equipment and Depreciation		17,415	2,486	19,901	10,725
Fundraising & Business		15,528	6,438	21,966	21,340
Insurance & Rent		144	3,468	3,612	3,210
Marketing		5	1,375	1,380	2,019
Services (including Salaries)		40,176	94,378	134,554	144,000
Total		74,407	123,143	197,550	193,894
Net income		(24,407)	1,772	(22,635)	20,647
Total funds brought forward		79,620	154,627	234,247	213,600
Total funds carried forward		55,213	156,399	211,612	234,247

The notes on page 26-32 form part of the Financial Statements

11. Comparative information – Balance sheet

	Notes	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	2	56,641	59,412
Current assets			
Debtors	3	393	3,070
Cash at bank and in hand		156,399	172,169
		156,792	175,239
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	4	1,821	404
Net current assets		154,971	174,835
Total net assets		211,612	234,247
Funds of the Charity			
Restricted income funds		156,399	154,627
Unrestricted funds		55,213	79,620
Total funds		211,612	234,247

The notes on page 26-32 form part of the Financial Statements