

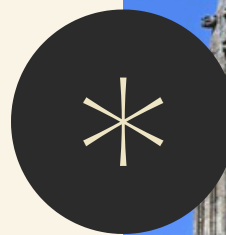
IMPACT REPORT 2024/25



REFLECTING ON A YEAR OF CONNECTION AND CREATION AT BRAZIERS PARK

From new roles and responsibilities to communal initiatives - what we co-created in a year of intentional community.

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WELCOME MESSAGE



Committee of Management 2024-25

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Una Kipps

Vice Chair

Diane Forster

Trustees

Clifford Jordan

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Bryan Harrison

Katarina Cooper

Secretary

Ian Hare

Treasurer

Meri McTague

This booklet gives a flavour of how the Society has been working to achieve the Objects of the Society through the energy of the resident community over the past year and a half. But it also highlights the huge financial challenges we face going forward: we hope that, from immersing yourself in this offering, you will share our enthusiasm to ensure that Braziers can continue towards its centenary on a secure financial basis. We thank you in advance for any help you can give towards matching potential grant funding.

Please visit our website to find opportunities to come and experience the magic of Braziers.

***Una Kipps, Chair of Braziers
Park School of Integrative
Social Research***

Reading this report and remembering just how much we did last year makes me happy and hopeful. It shows clearly that the educational impetus of the 1950 founders is alive and well. Also, it shows how we have more properly resourced ourselves (e.g. creating and filling some critical roles with talented people) and how that is paying off: the needs of the historic buildings and old infrastructure are steadily being met, and we are making good progress towards being able to accommodate more people who wish to live here, and more activities that align with our mission. It's an exciting time to be part of Braziers Park!

***Sam Settle, Community
Coordinator***

LIVING IN COMMUNITY

Some photographic highlights from the past year of communal living...



Dress up Fridays



Celebrating **Caro's** birthday



Murder Mystery Night



Bonfire in West Park, for the Witches and Wizards Wider Community Weekend



Nor's medieval themed evening



A group photo from May 2024, featuring a mix of residents and volunteers. Through our volunteer programme at Braziers Park, we've welcomed 55 residential volunteers between January 2024 and April 2025, each staying for up to three months. We are deeply grateful — Braziers couldn't thrive without their energy, commitment, and support!



Group photo March 2024



Performing Edgar Allen Poe's 'The Raven' for Gothic Night

How would you describe the community at Braziers Park?

“Most prominently, ever changing. Even without new members coming and old ones leaving, those who are here morph and change as they stay. It is fascinating to observe the dual relationship – how the legacy of Braziers Park impacts the current community, but then how the current community goes on to shape the future legacy. Currently, I would say the community is dynamic, fun-loving but also conscientious and keen to explore all facets of our relationship, as the founder would say “becoming conscious of the system of which we are a part”. Another aspect prominent at the moment is the juxtaposition of the urgency to make Braziers a “going concern” in the current financial crisis with a persistent desire to buck conventional trends and embody the values of not only the current members, but also the ghosts of those who have shaped Braziers as it is today. Each member in the community brings different and valuable angles on all these problems and as such, make up a dynamic, sometimes chaotic, self reflective body.”

Heather Banyard, Lodger and Resident



Hugh's 94th Birthday



Trip to King William Pub, March 2025



Kelly and Chris, Christmas 2024

Wider Community Engagement

From members, associates, community guests, friends and family, we have welcomed more than **7000 guests** through our door this past year...

We regularly host Wider Community Weekends, offering a hands-on experience of communal living through shared skills, experiences, and experimental workshops. Alongside BnB and community guests, we also welcome local families for monthly forest school sessions and Mum and Baby groups, while Ipsden Early Days Nursery holds weekly woodland play sessions.

SINCE JAN 2024, WE HAVE HOSTED:

19	Retreats
13	Gatherings
5	Workshops
6	Festivals (including Wood Festival, Om&Bass and Supernormal



Mara immersed in the garden

Midweek Volunteers

At present, midweek volunteers work in the garden on a Tuesday, in exchange for training, an experience of community life, and meals and refreshments while volunteering. We are hugely thankful for their hard work and dedication!

ACRE Programme

ACRE (Academic and Creative Research) residents are community members who come to live at Braziers as lodgers, usually on a short-term basis (from one month to one year) and contribute to the community (in part) through a wide range of research and creative projects. Braziers Park School was founded with the goal of offering a living laboratory for the exploration of relationships, both interpersonal and ecological. Many researchers who come to visit the community are interested in what can be learned from (usually participant) observing community life to see how it offers alternatives to more familiar ways of living.

However ACRE is intended to invite researchers to consider how they might understand and create knowledge through an integrative lens and respond to the needs, opportunities and challenges offered by the specific context of Braziers Park as a community. Topics explored so far include post-consumerism, inter-community collaboration, sharing, and change in intentional community.

ACRE Residents 2024-25



Tabitha Gammer

During her ACRE residency, Tabby realised a series of six mixed media works on paper exploring the aesthetics of candid imagery at Braziers. Using the community as a case study by depicting residents' unguarded moments, the works are an attempt to reveal something about how the conflicts in our relationships, with each other and the environment, affect the aesthetic world we experience.

Sarah Kaye

Sarah's project explores the communal learning systems at Braziers Park—particularly Gardening Wednesdays and Shared Meals—as ecopedagogical practices that blend art, nature, and community. It proposes a “cookbook” of inclusive, adaptable educational frameworks inspired by these practices, aiming to challenge Western-centric models through ecophenomenology, decolonial thought, and sustainable living. Here is a link to some of her insightful reflections, titled [On Living Together—the Necessity of Entanglement](#)

Phoenix

For Phoenix's ACRE project, he focused on writing the CEC (Climate Emergency Centre) Handbook and fundraising grants for climate emergency centres which he sets up across the country. Click [here](#) to access the CEC website.

Joe Walsh

Joe's proposal centers on exploring human-plant relationships through drawing, filmmaking, and tea-based workshops, using sensory and embodied practices to foster new ways of thinking—particularly in relation to neurodiversity and cultural diversity. At Braziers, he aims to deepen this work through garden-based research, creative production, and communal living, positioning plants as ancient technologies that support personal and collective transformation.

Florence Brighton

For her ACRE project, Florence wrote a dissertation exploring the relationship between degrowth, diverse economies, and intentional communities (ICs hereafter), focusing on how communal living arrangements align with degrowth principles, such as reduced consumption and increased sustainability, while engaging in diverse forms of exchange.

Tim Fry

Tim's ACRE study explored community members' relationship to Braziers Park and why Braziers is like it is through 18 interviews and two workshops. Research helped facilitate reflections on what it is like to live in community, with common feelings expressed that Braziers can provide emotional security and the opportunity to be challenged and grow while the amount of new faces, knowledges and activities makes our relationship with Braziers one that needs constant renewal.

Catriona Dooley

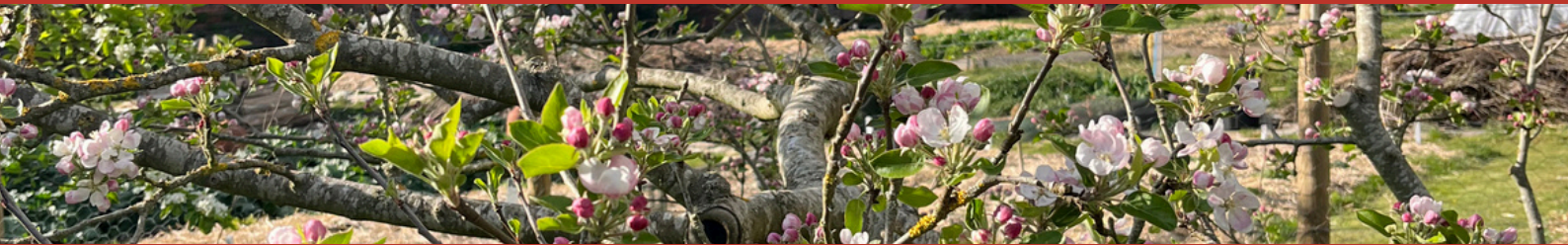
Cat is working with poet Katie Craik on a project which is a combination of and a dialogue between text and image. The main themes of the project are around femininity, motherhood, fairytales and the forest.



Sarah's dumpling making session



Two of Tabby's artworks depicting Braziers



2024–25 EDUCATION PROGRAMME

Since Jan 2024 , our education programme has evolved through two key themes...

The Power of Place

‘Our education programme was centred around ‘The Power of Place’ throughout 2024. This concept was created by Nor Greehalgh, during her stint as Education Coordinator.

Place - and land-based projects are often the focus of efforts to build a better world. From ecological restoration, to community food growing, to reclamation of disused urban spaces: the craving for a renewed connection to ‘place’ seems stronger than ever.

Braziers Park itself is a powerful place which has been drawing visionaries through its doors for over 70 years. At the same time, the meaning and context of place is being reevaluated, with the colonial contexts of English places and their power structures being questioned as never before.

“The power of place” can also be coercive: knowing your place, or being out of place, socially or geographically. The programme in 2024 explored the contradictions and ambivalent meanings of place today.

We are deeply grateful to Nor for her creativity, vision, and hard work in developing this programme.



Walking and Drawing with Eleanor Minney



Snowdrop Teas



Opening to Silence



Heather's Woolly Workshop

Soil, Soul and Society

After Nor stepped down as Education Coordinator in March 2024, the role was taken by Caroline Vitzthum, with Julia and Duda working alongside her. Together, the education team came up with the new theme of 'Soil, Soul and Society'. Hannah Drayson first sowed the seed for this concept back in 2022, based on the writing of Satish Kumar, but it was finally implemented by the education team in August 2024.

SOIL explores our (human) relationship with the natural world; heightening our awareness and senses towards other living beings; re-defining our understanding of what it means to be human and our role within this complex web of relations; developing an environmentally conscious mindset. "I put soil first because it represents nature and sustains the entire life-system. Everything comes from soil and returns to the soil."

SOUL relates to the inner dimension, creating harmony within ourselves. It is about living a life of "elegant simplicity", which means having enough of what we really need, with balance and comfort. Soul relates to practicing integrity between theory and practice: A living example of what we believe and build together. "Be the change you want to see in the world" - Mahatma Gandhi Soul is also about uniting the care for the external world with the care for ourselves, the inner world. We need to include care of the soul as a part of care of the planet.

SOCIETY relates to social relationships. Care of the Soil and Soul needs to be extended to include care for society. Social justice, equality, human dignity leading to the wellbeing of all. 'We are already highly obliged to society. We were totally defenceless and weak when we were born. It is society that looked after us and brought us up, we should therefore serve it.' Architecture, literature, poetry, music, paintings, philosophy, science and technology. And now is our turn to contribute to that culture and civilization to ensure that no child in our human family goes without food, no sick person is left unattended, no country or community is afflicted by war, exploitation and torture.

All of us need to engage in all three types of action simultaneously. In a nutshell, we need to live a spiritual way of life and engage in the protection of Earth, enlightenment of the self and restoration of social justice.

So far, this theme has been unfolding successfully - we are excited to continue building on this momentum throughout the rest of the year!

We initiated:

4 Educational Events, including UK Communities Conference and BIFF (Braziers International Film Festival)

4 Open Days (including May Fayre and Snowdrop Teas)

19 Residential Weekends

23 Workshops



'Soul' Wider Community Weekend



OOPs Audio Event



Self-Led Residency Woodland Cinema

Collective Efforts



New Paid Roles

Grants Coordinator

Responsible for securing grant funding for activities at Braziers. Alice Gale-Feeny began this role in September 2024.

Buildings and Development Manager

Responsible for working closely with our grants officer to project manage vital repairs to our main building, as well as leading our work to bring empty spaces back into use for the community. Nor Greenhalgh began this role in October 2024.

Heritage Convenor

Responsible for giving a greater focus to our built, social and environmental heritage, and generating a heritage management plan. Aggie Forster began this role in January 2025.

Education and Events Support Worker

Responsible for supporting the education and office team with programming, promoting and facilitating events. Sophy Cullington began this role in February 2025.

Garden/Kitchen Link

Responsible for liaising with the kitchen coordinator and head gardener, cooking guest meals and ensuring the best use of the food we grow and buy. Alex Rudgalvis began this role in April 2025.

- Additionally, our '**Vision for the Future**' plan was conceptualised in May 2024, as a long-term strategy (10 Year Plan) to unify our vision as a community. The community came together to discuss our aims, our mission, our buildings and estate (what will it look like?) and our fundraising targets.



New Specialist Volunteer Roles

Campsite Support Specialist Volunteer

Responsible for helping Lucy (estate manager) prepare the grounds for summer festivals. **Harry Robson** began this role in April 2025.

Garden Apprentice Specialist Volunteer

Responsible for helping Sarah (head gardener) manage the garden. **Mara Arts** began this role in April 2025.

In 2024-2025 we raised over £57,579



2 Grants

1 Legacy

+ over £3000 in small individual donations

The Creation of a Strategic Business Plan

In 2022 it became clear we were facing financial problems and developed a Business Plan to address this.. The Strategic Plan includes our intentions to do more than solely improve our finances. Contact admin@braziers.org.uk to get a copy of our Strategic Plan.

Improved Spaces:

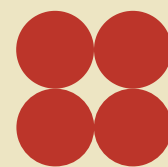
- Volunteer bedrooms - Room 24 and Garden Office
- The Old Laundry
- The Carlite
- Insulation of the Potting Shed
- The Cabin
- Barn Kitchen
- Wheelchair ramp by the Old Barn
- Garden Cottage back room

Finally, we would like to thank **Julia** and **Asia** for their work beginning to categorise the **Braziers archive!**



Everyone who worked on redecorating Room 24!

75TH ANNIVERSARY FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN



As we celebrate 75 years, we are keen to improve the education and acre programmes, wider community engagement and our commitment to inclusivity - however, we are also faced with a big challenge highlighted by a recent report on the condition of our main building.

Over the next ten years **we need to raise £1.5 million** to conserve and restore our built heritage.

Please donate to help match the funds for our National Lottery Heritage application.

Our project will:

- **Save our built heritage:**

Undertake crucial works on the building; improve deteriorating roofs, walls and windows to prevent water damage and ensure our building poses no safety risk.

- **Unlock new knowledge:**

Commission surveys to create a long-term conservation management plan so we can sensitively preserve and make use of our historically important buildings while evolving environmentally sound solutions.



- **Improve access and engage everyone in our history and surrounding environment:**

Create engaging educational handouts and digital resources that tell our story and enable participation in Braziers today.

Parts of the building date back to 1688 and much of our estate contains listed structures. Our main building is a rare example of Strawberry Hill Gothic architecture. We take great care of the site and our footprint has been light. However, due to the buildings' age we need to act now to prevent further deterioration.

We are grateful to **CPRE Oxfordshire Buildings Preservation Trust** and **The Pilgrim Trust** who (combined) have contributed **£35,000** to our fundraising efforts. Their generosity has allowed us to fund the crucial first phase of conservation work. We are also grateful to **Margaret Frances Brown** for her legacy of **£21,400**, and to all our other donors.

Help Braziers Park thrive for another 75 years, by ensuring our buildings stay functional and welcoming for generations to come.

Ways to Give:

- Single Donation
- Bank Transfer
- UK Gift Aid
- For regular giving, international transfer or leaving a legacy, please email Alice at funding@braziers.org.uk

Our bank details :

Bank: Unity Trust Bank
Account name: Braziers Park School of Integrative Social Research
Sort code: 60-83-01
Account number: 20385213

Donate:



Any amount you can give is greatly appreciated - thank you! *

**We have every intention to spend donations on match funding for our Heritage Lottery bid. If we are unsuccessful with our funding application first time round, all donations will go towards us reapplying, in order to achieve our project aims outlined above.*

BPSISR is a charitable Community Benefit Society, registered with the Financial Conduct Authority under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014.

Under our Rules, the Objects of the Society are for the public benefit:

1.1 To operate Braziers Park as a residential adult college maintained and facilitated by a small resident community;

1.2 To provide:

Education and research in effective communication and co-existence;

Education and research in the protection of the environment;

Education in culture, the arts, heritage, and science.

1.3 To maintain and preserve the buildings and estate of Braziers Park for the purposes of the college and for the enjoyment of the visiting public.



**THANK
YOU!**

Created by:

Sophy Cullington & Julia Bonet

Please find us online:

Website: www.braziers.org.uk

Instagram: [@brazierspark](https://www.instagram.com/brazierspark)

Facebook: [@Braziers Park](https://www.facebook.com/BraziersPark)

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