

Annual Return (AR30) form

Section 1 – About this form

An Annual Return must be completed by all societies registered under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014 ('the Act') (including any societies previously registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act 1965) or the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act (Northern Ireland) 1969 ('the Act') (including any societies previously registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act 1969). The Annual Return must include:

- this form;
- a set of the society's accounts; and
- where required, an audit report or report on the accounts.

A society must submit the Annual Return within 7 months of the end of the society's financial year. Failure to submit on time is a prosecutable offence.

Please note that this form, including any details provided on the form, will be made available to the public through the Mutuels Public Register <https://mutuals.fca.org.uk>.

For guidance on our registration function for societies under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014, which includes guidance on the requirement to submit an Annual Return, please see here: <https://www.fca.org.uk/publication/finalised-guidance/fg15-12.pdf>

Section 2 – About this application

Society name	Big Apple Association Ltd
Register number	8294
Registered address	Woodcroft, Putley, Ledbury, Herefordshire, UK
Postcode	HR8 2RD

2.1 What date did the financial year covered by these accounts end?

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Section 3 – People

3.1 Please provide the names of the people who were directors of the society during the financial year this return covers. Some societies use the term 'committee member' or 'trustee' instead of 'director'. For ease of reference, we use 'director' throughout this form.

Name of director	Month and year of birth	
Stephen Swaithe	June	1949
Norman Stanier	December	1947
Jacqueline Denman	September	1952
David Murdoch	October	1957

Continue on to a separate sheet if necessary.

3.2 All directors must be 16 or older. Please confirm this is this case:

All directors are aged 16 or over

3.3 Societies are within the scope of the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986 (CDDA). Please confirm that no director is disqualified under that Act:

No director is disqualified

3.4 Please state any close links which any of the directors has with any society, company or authority. 'Close links' includes any directorships or senior positions held by directors of the society in other organisations.

Jacqueline Denman, Director, Marcher Apple Network Norman Stanier, Director, Bees and Trees Ltd..
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3.5 Please provide the name of the person who was secretary at the end of the financial year this return covers. Societies must have a secretary.

Name of secretary	Month and year of birth	
Jacqueline Denman	September	1952

Section 4 – Financial information

4.1 Please confirm that:

- accounts are being submitted with this form
- the accounts comply with relevant statutory and accounting requirements
- the accounts are signed by two members and the secretary (3 signatures in total)

4.2 Based on the accounts, please provide the information requested below for the financial year covered by this return.

Number of members	72
Turnover	£5690.00
Assets	£7279.00
Number of employees (if any)	None
Share capital	£72
Highest rate of interest paid on shares (if any)	None

4.3 What Standard Industrial Classification code best describes the society's main business? Where more than one code applies, please select the code that you feel best describes the society's main business activity. You will find a full list of codes here: <http://resources.companieshouse.gov.uk/sic/>

82301 (Activities of exhibition and fair organisers)

Section 5 – Audit

Societies are required to appoint an auditor to audited unless they are small or have disapplied this requirement. For further guidance see chapter 7 of our guidance: <https://www.fca.org.uk/publication/finalised-guidance/fg15-12.pdf>

5.1 Please select the audit option the society has complied with:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Full professional audit | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Auditor's report on the accounts | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Lay audit | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| No audit | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

5.2 Please confirm the audit option used by the society is compliant with the society's own rules and the Act

We have complied with the audit requirements

5.3 Please confirm any audit report (where required) is being submitted with this Annual Return

Yes

Not applicable

The information below impacts the level of audit required of the society's accounts. Please provide answers to the following questions.

5.4 Is this society accepted by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) as a charity for tax purposes?

Yes

No

5.5 If the society is registered with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) please provide your OSCR registration number.

Not applicable

OSCR number:	
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5.6 Is the society a housing association?

No Go to **section 6**

Yes Go to question **5.7**

5.7 Please confirm which housing regulator you are registered with, and provide the registration number they have given you:

		Registration number
Homes and Communities Agency	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Scottish Housing Regulator	<input type="checkbox"/>	
The Welsh Ministers	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Department for Communities (Northern Ireland)	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Section 6 – Subsidiaries

6.1 Is the society a subsidiary of another society?

Yes

No

6.2 Does the society have one or more subsidiaries? (As defined in sections 100 and 101 of the Act)

Yes Continue to question 6.3

No Continue to Section 7

6.3 If the society has subsidiaries, please provide the names of them below (or attach an additional sheet)

Registration Number	Name

6.4 Please provide below (or on a separate sheet) the names of subsidiaries not dealt with in group accounts (if any) and reasons for exclusions: (the society must have written authority from us to exclude a subsidiary from group accounts)

Registration Number	Name	Reason for exclusion

Section 7– Condition for registration

All societies are registered meeting one of two conditions for registration. These are that the society is either:

- a bona fide co-operative society ('co-operative society'); **or**
- are conducting business for the benefit of the community ('community benefit society').

A society must answer the questions set out in either Section 7A or Section 7B of this form, depending on which condition of registration it meets.

If you are not sure which condition for registration applies to the society please see chapters 4 and 5 of our guidance:

<https://www.fca.org.uk/publication/finalised-guidance/fq15-12.pdf>

Section 7A - Co-operative societies

Co-operative societies must answer the following questions in relation to the financial year covered by this return.

7A.1 What is the business of the society? For example, did you provide housing, manufacture goods, develop IT systems etc.

n/a

7A.2 Please describe the members' common economic, social and cultural needs and aspirations. In answering this question, please make sure it is clear what needs and aspirations members had in common.

7A.3 How did the society's business meet those needs and aspirations?

You have described the society's business answer to question 7A.1, and in question 7A.2 you have described the common needs and aspirations of members. Please now describe how during the year that business met those common needs and aspirations.

7A.4 How did members democratically control the society? For example, did the members elect a board at an annual general meeting; did all members collectively run the society.

7A.5 What did the society do with any surplus or profit? For instance, did you pay a dividend to members (and if so, on what basis); did money get reinvested in the business; put into reserves; used for some other purpose?

Section 7B - Community benefit societies

Community benefit societies must answer the following questions in relation to the financial year covered by this return.

7B.1 What is the business of the society? For example, did you provide social housing, run an amateur sports club etc.

The primary activity of the Big Apple Association is stated as the organisation of events to celebrate, promote and educate about the orchards, apples, cider, perry and juices of our area. In a normal year, we expect to run two weekends of public events, 'Blossomtime' in early May and 'Harvestime' in mid-October. We also have the Big Apple Cider and Perry Trials, which take place over the early May Bank Holiday weekend in conjunction with Blossomtime.

With the emergence of a more relaxed approach to the risk of COVID-19, we were able to plan for a safe, secure and enjoyable experience at both Blossomtime and Harvestime, taking advantage of the outside nature of many of our activities. Many familiar venues took part, submitting detailed risk assessments including a focus on avoiding or minimising the risk of spreading COVID-19. Our programme of special events included guided walks, orchard tours, hands-on craft activities, pruning demonstrations, musical interludes, tutored tastings, tool sharpening workshops, and several iterations of a hands on pressing of perry pears.

We have continued to maintain contact with our stakeholders, be they members, participants, volunteers, local organisations, past and future visitors or local residents. We have used our website, supported by social media and an email communication service, to keep everyone informed and engaged.

Directors met once during the course of 2022, while the Operations Committee (consisting of ten members including the Directors) has met seven times.

7B.2 Please describe the benefits to the community the society delivered? Here we are looking to see *what* the benefits to the community were. Community can be said to be the community at large. For example, did you relieve poverty or homelessness through the provision of social housing.

The return of our Cider and Perry Trials to its usual slot at the end of April 2022 was a welcome opportunity to bring together our community of cider- and perry-makers in a carefully managed way. Our excellent team of volunteers gave everyone a real appreciation of the importance of camaraderie built around a shared interest in the special qualities of orchards, cider and perry.

We were delighted to welcome Jane Peyton, award winning writer and drinks expert, to present the prizes at the Cider and Perry Trials. The following morning, Jane spoke to a packed shed at Dragon Orchard.

Our Blossomtime event in early May and Harvestime event in October saw visitors enjoy outstanding outdoor experiences. This was a great opportunity for our volunteers and members of the local community to extend their understanding of all things to do with orchards, apples, cider and perry.

We held five events for volunteers and members during 2022, including our Wassail and Annual General Meeting. In April, Norman Stanier organised an evening's introduction to the three guided walks around Putley and Aylton that were to be offered at Blossomtime, resulting in eight volunteers stepping up to lead or backstop one of the walks. An introduction to perry pears and perry at Gregg's Pit was arranged in August in conjunction with an evening picnic and attended by 22 volunteers. In November, 23 volunteers assembled at the Crown Inn, Woolhope for a tasting of apple juice, dessert and cooked apples and desserts featuring local apples, all making use of single and named varieties.

7B.3 Please describe how the society's business delivered these benefits? The business of the society must be conducted for the benefit of the community. Please describe *how* the society's business (as described in answer to question 7B.1) provided benefit to the community.

We continued to make good use of our website, social media and local press to keep the local community informed and involved in our activities. In addition to generating income of our own through the Cider and Perry Trials, Blossomtime and our Harvestime weekend, we also offered local groups the opportunity to add to the visitor experience while raising funds of their own, including for Putley Parish Hall, Ledbury Young Farmers, Tarrington Brownies, Putley WI, Little Marcle Church Development Group, Aylton Church, Megan Baker House, Pixley Festival Church, Much Marcle Memorial Hall, St Bartholomew's Church, Much Marcle Guides, Tools for Self-Reliance, Herefordshire Wildlife Trust and the Midlands Air Ambulance.

7B.4 Did the society work with a specific community, and if so, please describe it here? For instance, were the society's activities confined to a specific location; or to a specific group of people? Please note that in serving the needs of any defined community, the society should not inhibit the benefit to the community at large.

As confirmed in our secondary rules (adopted by the Board on its meeting on 9th March 2020 under para. 85 of the Rules of the society), the activities of the Big Apple Association are focussed on the seven Herefordshire parishes of Aylton, Little Marcle, Much Marcle, Munsley, Pixley, Putley and Woolhope (known locally as the Marcle Ridge parishes). As described above, we also engage with a wider group of stakeholders.

7B.5 What did the society do with any surplus or profit? For instance, did you donate the money; did money get reinvested in the business; put into reserves; used for some other purpose?

The sum of £1250, being the profit made from our activities in 2022, has been set aside for distribution for social and community purposes which will benefit one or more parishes of the Marcle Ridge, or residents thereof.

7B.6 Please state any significant commercial arrangements that the society has, or had, with any other organisation that could create, or be perceived as creating, a conflict of interest. Please tell us how you ensured that any such conflict of interest did not prevent the society from acting for the benefit of the community.

The Big Apple Association Ltd has no significant commercial arrangements with any other organisation.

Section 8– Declaration

The secretary of the society must complete this section.

Name	Jacqueline Hazel Denman
My signature below confirms that the information in this form is accurate to the best of my knowledge	
Signature	
Position	Secretary
Date	23 rd March 2023

Section 9 – Submitting this form

Please submit a signed, scanned version of this form along with your accounts and any auditor’s report by email to: mutualsannrtns@fca.org.uk.

Or you can post the form to:

Mutual Societies
Financial Conduct Authority
12 Endeavour Square
London
E20 1JN

This form is available on the Mutuals Society Portal:

<https://societyportal.fca.org.uk>

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