Annual Report

2023

Walnut Tree Walk, Kennington, SE11 6DN
Charity number: 1064070

Report to the Trustees

For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

Achievements and Performance

This year has proved to be both busy and successful in all areas of the charity's activities. The trustees have overseen a very productive year with continued support from our funders including the Department of Education, local councils that support our High Needs funding. Various charitable trusts have funded our additional projects to enhance the facilities we offer to our young people and the community.

The year also saw a rigorous two day inspection by two Ofsted inspectors. Our educational managers and staff team have been consistently working hard on all aspects of our educational provision to ensure that Roots and Shoots was working to the highest educational standards across the organisation. As our students are vulnerable young people, Roots and Shoots has a rigorous and active Safeguarding policy that is reviewed annually (along with our other policies). The Trustees and staff undertake ongoing Safeguarding, as well as Health and Safety training as part of their key duties, the inspectors were highly satisfied that the required high standard was met and awarded us 'Good' across all areas of the inspection framework.

This inspection included meeting and speaking to our students at local businesses that support our charity by providing work experience for our students, this provides them with an insight into the 'world of work'. Inspections were very complimentary on how our young people progress and are supported during their time at Roots and Shoots, so that when they complete their training they feel confident to apply for a job or move on to another meaningful destination.

Our School Links provision for local special schools continues to be very popular with school pupils, most of these school pupils live in deprived boroughs of Lambeth and Southwark in poor housing conditions. Their access to the educational facilities at Roots and Shoots is often their only opportunity to enjoy 'green' surroundings with the opportunity to experience 'campfire' cooking and other outside practical activities. Two schools have had to reduce some of their sessions from our programme due to reduction in school funding, but other schools have come forward to take their place.

Our new comprehensive website was launched in may and has been very well received. It reflects all our charitable activities including quotes from suer groups. Potential students and their families can make contact for enrolment and also receive advice regarding Health and Social Care Plans.

It has been very helpful for booking venue hire for charities wishing to hire our hall and meeting rooms, it clearly shows what we can offer in terms of facilities and catering etc. Our venue hire has also had a successful year with a wide range of charities including MacMilan

Cancer Care, Women and Girls Network etc. The rest of our users include statutory organisations such as Lambeth Council, Defra and Natural England, and many other Whitehall departments. This also gives the opportunity for our students to work alongside the chefs in the (venue hire) kitchen to prepare the food for the events as part of their educational enrichment programme and use some of the home grown salad and herbs from our gardens to enhance the menu offered to our clients.

As part of our venue hire provision we also support ';The Grounding Project'. This is an NHS initiative to provide horticultural therapy and psychotherapy to refugees who have suffered torture. Our staff and students have built a small garden for this project so they can grow vegetables and flowers as part of their therapeutic practice.

We also have corporate volunteers on a regular basis throughout the year that come and work in our gardens and help with various gardening projects such as weeding and mulching, digging, etc. This helps with the maintenance of our large garden areas. A weekly core team of local garden volunteers drawn from the local community also attend weekly gardening sessions on site.

Next year we will be working towards the Matrix Standard that will be evaluated by an external assessor. This national training standard is to identify that across the organisation that all staff help develop meaningful work experience placements for students that supports individual's development and guides them into work when they finish their training at Roots and Shoots.

Linda Phillips MBE AoH, Director of Roots and Shoots



Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ended 31 August 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	**31.8.23 Total funds £**	31.8.22 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	3	**79**	**1,065,821**	**1,065,900**	1,007,716
Charitable activities	6				
Charitable activities		**-**	**2,760**	**2,760**	2,218
Other trading activities	4	**101,984**	**183,012**	**284,996**	241,853
Investment income	5	**560**	**2,266**	**2,826**	134
Total		**102,623**	**1,253,859**	**1,356,482**	1,251,921
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities	7				
Charitable activities		**14,033**	**1,193,723**	**1,207,756**	1,092,309
Other		**-**	**32,760**	**32,760**	32,760
Total		**14,033**	**1,226,483**	**1,240,516**	1,125,069
NET INCOME		**88,590**	**27,376**	**115,966**	126,852
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		**291,312**	**1,038,492**	**1,329,804**	1,202,952
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		**379,902**	**1,065,868**	**1,445,770**	1,329,804

Balance Sheet

31 August 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.8.23 Total funds £	31.8.22 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	13	-	**812,072**	**812,072**	855,286
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	14	-	**69,385**	**69,385**	33,770
Cash at bank and in hand		**379,902**	**217,424**	**597,326**	461,453
		379,902	**286,809**	**666,711**	495,223
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	15	-	**(33,013)**	**(33,013)**	(20,705)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		**379,902**	**253,796**	**633,698**	474,518
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		**379,902**	**1,065,868**	**1,445,770**	1,329,804
NET ASSETS		**379,902**	**1,065,868**	**1,445,770**	1,329,804
FUNDS	16				
Unrestricted funds				**379,902**	291,312
Restricted funds				**1,065,868**	1,038,492
TOTAL FUNDS				**1,445,770**	1,329,804

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

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and were signed on its behalf by:



V A Stapleton - Chair of Trustees