Annual Report

2024

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

Report to the Trustees

For the Year Ended 31 August 2024

Achievements and Performance

There have been 63 students enrolled in the 24-25 academic year, and we are on track this year for more referrals than ever before, a reflection of the outstanding work of our education team, who both met and exceeded our contractual requirements for the Department of Education. Each Roots and Shoots student receives a bespoke program according to need and interests, with a range of holistic support and a dedicated manager who directly supports students and their families with ongoing safeguarding and welfare issues. This year we are working towards the Matrix Standard as part of our development of the Careers Programme, enabling our students to build their work-readiness skills and find employment at the end of their training.

The Study Programme Horticultural students work extensively onsite and for other community groups to positively impact the local area, this year winning several awards from the RHS and other gardening organisations for their work.

Our School Links programme has grown, following successful funding for a 3-year rolling programme benefitting pupils of the Lambeth SEN schools Lansdowne, Turney and Elmcourt. This helps to build our relationships with local SEN secondary schools, and provides a funnel for future Study Programme recruitment. We have also begun to further collaborate with other local SEN colleges to enhance opportunities for young Londoners with SEN.

Our comprehensive building and maintenance programme this year included renewal of all electrical, heating (including solar), security and lift systems, as well as improving disabled access to all external doors and the accessible toilet, making the buildings up-to-date, sustainable and efficient. We have completed our new Horticulture Classroom, now called ‘the Barn’, increasing our capacity for horticulture students on both our existing programmes, and the new BOST Future Gardeners programme, as well as for community use. The onsite shop, used for Customer Service training, was renovated to be more accessible for students, and more attractive to student’s potential customers.

Our website, launched mid-2023, has directly supported the promotion of all aspects of our work across education, venue hire, volunteering and community engagement, and brought in new funding streams via greater numbers of donating individuals, corporate groups and foundations.

Post-covid, we have fully returned to running biannual community open day events, which promote environmental education in the community with horticultural, wildlife-focused and creative activities, with around 400 people attending each event. We invite environmental

charities to take part in these events to further promote awareness of environmental issues and ways everyone can support nature locally.

Our corporate volunteering programme is focused on doing practical activities which help underpin the high standard of our gardens. This year we hosted 34 volunteer groups, made up of 394 individuals. Volunteers get up-close with nature, as another form of environmental education which reaches an audience who are otherwise nature-deprived.

This year we collaborated with Butterfly Conservation ona successful art project with the Grounding Project, an NHS horticultural therapy programme for refugees and asylum seekers suffering from PTSD. As part of Lambeth Council's Bee Roads Project, we developed part of the neighbouring Lambeth Walk Doorstep Green into a wildflower meadow, improving local biodiversity and engaging over 100 students, locals and corporate volunteers who created the meadow.

Linda Phillips MBE AoH, Director of Roots and Shoots



Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ended 31 August 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	**31.8.24 Total funds £**	31.8.23 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	3	-	**1,068,121**	**1,068,121**	1,065,900
Charitable activities	6				
Charitable activities		-	**3,401**	**3,401**	2,760
Other trading activities	4	**146,342**	**99,393**	**245,735**	284,996
Investment income	5	**4,678**	**5,163**	**9,841**	2,826
Total		**151,020**	**1,176,078**	**1,327,098**	1,356,482
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities	7				
Charitable activities		**3,135**	**1,284,669**	**1,287,804**	1,207,756
Other		-	**32,760**	**32,760**	32,760
Total		**3,135**	**1,317,429**	**1,320,564**	1,240,516
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		**147,885**	**(141,351)**	**6,534**	115,966
Transfers between funds	16	**(37,214)**	**37,214**	-	-
Net movement in funds		**110,671**	**(104,137)**	**6,534**	115,966
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		**379,902**	**1,065,868**	**1,445,770**	1,329,804
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		**490,573**	**961,731**	**1,452,304**	1,445,770

Balance Sheet

31 August 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	**31.8.24 Total funds £**	31.8.23 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	13	-	**834,836**	**834,836**	812,072
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	14	-	**42,164**	**42,164**	69,385
Cash at bank and in hand		**490,573**	**100,982**	**591,555**	597,326
		490,573	**143,146**	**633,719**	666,711
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	15	-	**(16,251)**	**(16,251)**	(33,013)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		**490,573**	**126,895**	**617,468**	633,698
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		**490,573**	**961,731**	**1,452,304**	1,445,770
NET ASSETS		**490,573**	**961,731**	**1,452,304**	1,445,770
FUNDS	16				
Unrestricted funds				**490,573**	379,902
Restricted funds				**961,731**	1,065,868
TOTAL FUNDS				**1,452,304**	1,445,770

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