# Annual Report

2025

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

# Report to the Trustees

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

## Achievements and Performance

There have been 47 students enrolled in the 25-26 academic year. Each Roots and Shoots student receives a bespoke program according to need and interests, with a range of holistic support. The Education Management team directly supports students and their families with ongoing safeguarding and welfare issues. This year we achieved the Matrix Standard as part of the development of our Careers Programme, we will continue to refresh this on an annual basis to ensure that high standards of careers guidance is embedded throughout the organisation.

The Study Programme's Horticulture students work extensively onsite and for other community groups to positively impact the local area, this includes church gardens in the locality. This year we formalised our hospitality training by providing the Entry 3 Introduction to the Hospitality Industry course.

Our School Links programme continues, following successful funding for a 3-year rolling programme from The Walcot Foundation benefitting pupils of the Lambeth SEN schools Lansdowne, Turney and Elmcourt. We are looking to develop new funding streams for our School Links programme and to develop a wider base of schools to engage with this programme. 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 upgraded restroom facilities and extensive exterior maintenance of the main building, providing long term benefits for the site.

A successful funding bid resulted in our students cooking once a week for disadvantaged members of the community at Bonnington Cafe, funded by the Covent Garden Market Authority. This has been very well received and attended by customers.

We have launched a new environmental education programme called "**City Saplings**". Funded through the income raised by our corporate volunteering programme and donations, its goal is to benefit local primary and nursery schools who have little or no access to green spaces by providing access to nature and activities in our Wild Garden.

Our venue hire business continues to support charities and not-for-profit organisations by providing all their needs for training and meeting facilities. We also provide an extensive catering menu, prepared and cooked on site by our chefs and students as part of their training, using ingredients grown on our site whenever possible. Below are some quotes from our venue hire clients feedback:

*"Thank you to the team for the fabulous venue! We were made to feel welcomed and looked after, nothing was too much trouble. The food was delicious and we had some great feedback from our attendees. It was important to us that we held our event in a venue which aligned with*

*our own values and we felt that Roots and Shoots met this brief, we are so glad to have used your lovely venue and will be recommending it going forward."*

*"Such a wonderful venue, with a brilliant team. Everyone we interacted with was so kind and helpful. The garden tour was a real highlight and you have created a very special place!"*

*"Thank you for providing a beautiful oasis for our team away day - the environment really contributed to a sense of stress-free creativity and team building. … The staff were all really kind, cheerful and helpful - and the food was absolutely delicious… We would definitely choose to use Roots and Shoots again for future team away days."*

We regularly run biannual community open day events, "Roots Goes Wild" and "Flourishfest". These events promote environmental education in the community with horticultural, wildlife-focused and creative activities, which continue to grow in popularity, with around 500 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, and develop underused parts of the site. This year we hosted 36 volunteer groups, made up of 414 individuals, who have supported us in developing the final part of the Wild Garden into an outdoor classroom and sensory garden, which we expect to be ready for use in 2026. Volunteers get up-close with nature, as another form of environmental education which reaches an audience who are otherwise nature-deprived. We also have a group of skilled individual volunteers, drawn from the local community who volunteer on a weekly basis to help maintain the gardens.

This year we collaborated on a successful art project with the Grounding Project, an NHS horticultural therapy programme for refugees and asylum seekers suffering from PTSD. Four large planters were decorated with colourful mosaic patterns all produced on site with the help of staff and volunteers as part of a celebration for World Refugee Day.

In collaboration with Lambeth Council, in recent years we have been developing the neighbouring Lambeth Walk Doorstep Green horticulturally. We began in 2023 by planting a wildflower meadow and native hedgerow which we continue to maintain, and this year horticulture students and corporate volunteers have planted a community orchard, for the benefit of the community and wildlife.

*Linda Phillips MBE AoH, Director of Roots and Shoots*

# Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ended 31 August 2025

| | Notes | Unrestricted funds £ | Restricted funds £ | **31.8.25 Total funds £** | 31.8.24 Total funds £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM** | | | | | |
| Donations and legacies | 3 | - | **1,475,722** | **1,475,722** | 1,068,121 |
| **Charitable activities** | 6 | | | | |
| Charitable activities | | - | **5,378** | **5,378** | 3,401 |
| Other trading activities | 4 | **165,278** | **109,444** | **274,722** | 245,735 |
| Investment income | 5 | **4,994** | **6,265** | **11,259** | 9,841 |
| **Total** | | **170,272** | **1,596,809** | **1,767,081** | 1,327,098 |
| **EXPENDITURE ON** | | | | | |
| **Charitable activities** | 7 | | | | |
| Charitable activities | | **1,864** | **1,346,076** | **1,347,940** | 1,287,804 |
| Other | | - | **33,726** | **33,726** | 32,760 |
| **Total** | | **1,864** | **1,379,802** | **1,381,666** | 1,320,564 |
| **NET INCOME** | | **168,408** | **217,007** | **385,415** | 6,534 |
| **RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS** | | | | | |
| Total funds brought forward | | **490,573** | **961,731** | **1,452,304** | 1,445,770 |
| **TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD** | | **658,981** | **1,178,738** | **1,837,719** | 1,452,304 |

# Balance Sheet

31 August 2025

| | Notes | Unrestricted funds £ | Restricted funds £ | 31.8.25 Total funds £ | 31.8.24 Total funds £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **FIXED ASSETS** | | | | | |
| Tangible assets | 13 | - | **855,444** | **855,444** | 834,836 |
| **CURRENT ASSETS** | | | | | |
| Debtors | 14 | - | **44,696** | **44,696** | 42,164 |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | **658,981** | **382,820** | **1,041,801** | 591,555 |
| | | **658,981** | **427,516** | **1,086,497** | 633,719 |
| **CREDITORS** | | | | | |
| Amounts falling due within one year | 15 | - | **(104,222)** | **(104,222)** | (16,251) |
| **NET CURRENT ASSETS** | | **658,981** | **323,294** | **982,275** | 617,468 |
| **TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES** | | **658,981** | **1,178,738** | **1,837,719** | 1,452,304 |
| **NET ASSETS** | | **658,981** | **1,178,738** | **1,837,719** | 1,452,304 |
| **FUNDS** | 16 | | | | |
| Unrestricted funds | | | | **658,981** | 490,573 |
| Restricted funds | | | | **1,178,738** | 961,731 |
| **TOTAL FUNDS** | | | | **1,837,719** | 1,452,304 |

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 and authorised for issue on 26/02/26 and were signed on its behalf by:



*V A Stapleton - Chair of Trustees*