

BRIDGES

England & Wales · Charity number 1029169

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 1993-11-24

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Bridges Centre
High Street
Edenbridge
Kent
TN8 5AJ

Phone 01732 868186

Email hello@bridgescentre.org

Website www.bridgescentre.org

Activities

Objects: THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH AND IN PARTICULAR TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN AN ECUMENICAL CENTRE IN EDENBRIDGE.

Activities: The BRIDGES Centre is a Christian project intended to be available to serve all members of the community and build bridges between all sections of it. The core use is as a pop in centre but it is also available for such groups as schoolchildren after school, young people during the evening, people learning household and cookery skills, and arts and crafts and the appreciation of them.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Religious Activities, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Amateur Sport, Economic/community Development/employment
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** "EDENBRIDGE" MEANS THE TOWN OF EDENBRIDGE IN THE COUNTY OF KENT AND THE DISTRICT SURROUNDING IT.
- Kent

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£68,165	£62,412	-	-
2023-12-31	£78,448	£66,156	-	-
2022-12-31	£67,637	£50,077	-	-
2021-12-31	£40,249	£45,238	-	-
2020-12-31	£52,927	£47,734	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Richard Jonathan Dyson	Chair	2019-04-23
BARBARA FRANCES ABEL		2016-01-28
DAVID CHRISTOPHER WIDDRINGTON STAFFORD		
Deborah Garden		2024-05-22
SUSAN ELFRIDA OLDFIELD		
Shirley Homan		2025-05-04

BRIDGES

England & Wales - Charity number 1029169

Accounts

BRIDGES

(Charity No. 1029169)

Trustees Report & Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2024

BRIDGES

(Charity No. 1029169)

Trustees and Officers who served during 2024

TRUSTEES

Richard Dyson - Chair
David CW Stafford
Barbara Abel
Michael Musgrove - Secretary
Susan E Oldfield
Debbie Garden (from 22nd May 2024)

TREASURER

John Southworth

CENTRE MANAGER

Mary Perrett

DEPUTY MANAGER

Rachel Hobson (from 7th November 2024)

CENTRE COMMITTEE

Mary Perrett – Chair
Stella Bundred
Dot Francis
Jan Lewis
Marylynne Lolley
Chrissie Stephens
Dorothy Sutton
Judy Webb

CONSULTANTS

Ronald V Sutton
Dorothy Sutton

ADDRESS

Bridges Centre
High Street
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Telephone 01732 868186

BRIDGES

(Charity No. 1029169)

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2024

Objectives

BRIDGES was established as a registered charity in 1993. It purchased and refurbished a former chapel in the centre of the High Street, Edenbridge, Kent in order to fulfil its core purpose of running an ecumenical Centre for the benefit of the whole community.

Staffed by volunteers under the supervision of a paid manager, the BRIDGES Centre offers a familiar and accessible place for people to meet, a listening ear, friendship, rest and refreshment, with particular regard for the needs of parents with young children, the aged, the unemployed and those who are lonely or distressed. Its aim is to bring together all sections of the community to their mutual benefit as visitors or volunteers, without discrimination, and to 'bridge the gaps' in local provision that are not being addressed by existing statutory or voluntary agencies. To that end BRIDGES provides specialist advice clinics, which give local people access to information and services without needing to travel to larger towns.

BRIDGES aims to demonstrate Christian faith in action through creating a welcoming community where anyone can find, or be, a 'good neighbour'. It maintains a Christian ethos of inclusivity and service, and encourages people to develop their creative and practical abilities.

BRIDGES priorities are:

- to overcome social isolation and strengthen communities
- to co-operate with other local organisations
- to build a sense of worth in volunteers and visitors alike
- to help find solutions to pressing personal needs
- to encourage Christians in the practice of their faith
- to create sustainable communities both locally and globally
- to encourage understanding and tolerance between people of different faiths and backgrounds

BRIDGES is committed to implementing high standards of care to volunteers and visitors who are children or vulnerable adults and, additionally, to ensuring that its policies and procedures meet current legislative requirements. There have been no breaches of BRIDGES safeguarding standards reported to the trustees in 2024.

Organisational Structure

The Trustees met six times in 2024, to review strategy, policies and finance, and to receive reports from committees and working groups chaired by Trustees.

The BRIDGES Centre Committee (BCC), chaired jointly by the manager and a trustee, oversees the day-to-day running of the Centre on a daily basis. Volunteers become members of BRIDGES after a period of three months' service and, at the Annual Review, elect up to seven of their number to serve on the BCC.

Activities During 2024

During 2024-5, the combined efforts of BRIDGES' Trustees, Staff and Volunteers achieved significant expansion of the services BRIDGES provides in response to the needs of our visitors and the loss of facilities in our town. The cost-of-living crisis, cuts in public transport and the fact that much information is now only available online caused difficulties for many BRIDGES' visitors, especially those who are retired or care for young children. As its 30th anniversary approached, Trustees reviewed the management and structure of the charity, to update it for the digital age, and to delegate responsibilities among a larger staff team.

It was pleasing that Saturday morning opening had resumed by 19th April 2025, enabling BRIDGES' Manager to welcome many local residents to celebrate 30 years of providing hospitality, supportive friendship, and access to specialist services that otherwise would require journeys to larger towns. Saturday morning opening ceased in 2020 with Covid, which also

decimated BRIDGES' volunteer force. This year the persistent efforts of BRIDGES' Manager bore fruit as the number of volunteers topped 50 once more.

BRIDGES' mission continues to build up community networks, bring in professional sources of help, and encourage social activity, so that feelings of isolation and lack of resources are addressed locally, making life altogether more manageable for many.

The Trustees' strategy review in March 2023 identified that BRIDGES would need more paid staff to sustain the level of service which, pre-Covid, had been achieved with volunteers. After three unfruitful advertisements, BRIDGES eventually appointed a Deputy Manager in Nov 2024, and by March 2025 a Communications Officer and a Kitchen Supervisor had joined the Centre's leadership team. These new posts assist the Manager in providing stability and continuity of service to the public. BRIDGES now opens Mon-Sat throughout the year, while online publicity has improved local engagement with the Charity.

BRIDGES' core strength lies in the dedicated team work of staff and 50-60 volunteers, whose friendship provides a social life for regular visitors and newcomers to our growing town. Trustees have sought to expand their number to fill skills gaps. They have reviewed and updated BRIDGES' policies, and sought advice on the long-term maintenance of the listed 1805 building with a view to improving its resilience to climate change.

Notable additions to BRIDGES' services this year include

- Compaid's weekly provision of free personal tuition in digital skills, teaching people how to book appointments online, make a food order on a mobile phone, or email relatives on a tablet. This voluntary service has been a great boon to those who had previously struggled to master their mobile phone.
- Crosslight's Debt Advice volunteer increased his sessions from 1 to 2 days per week – a sad reflection on our times.
- BRIDGES' Lego Club received funds for a second year of free sessions for children aged 8-12. It is especially rewarding for some who struggle at school to see their creations on display.
- "Edenbridge Crafters" enjoy various types of handwork on Tuesdays 2-3pm,
- BRIDGES Bookshelf added a novel interactive dimension with residents who donate books to be read over coffee, or borrowed, or bought!
- Three young people doing their Duke of Edinburgh Award joined the volunteers on Saturdays and in school holidays.
- The Saturday Markets provide outlets for selling craft work, jams, cakes and bric-a-brac. May's Plant Sale was particularly popular with newcomers to gardening.

Several longstanding volunteers retired from active service this year, but return as visitors!

Dandelion Café, supporting those living with dementia, was interrupted by the organiser's ill health, and the closure of a local residential home, but resumed early in 2025.

Narcotics Anonymous moved its sessions temporarily to Hurst Green, but hopes to return to BRIDGES in 2025.

The local churches piloted a Bereavement Café in Marsh Green, which expects to move to BRIDGES' more central location.

Friday's Place of Welcome attracts about 20 regular visitors for an informative talk, tea and chat. A Music session for pre-school children is in the pipeline for 2025.

Trustees are deeply grateful to Kent Community Foundation, the Great Stone Bridge Trust, Sevenoaks District Council, Edenbridge Town Council, local churches, Drake Oil Syndicate, Edenbridge Bonfire Society and many local organisations and individuals for their financial and practical assistance to BRIDGES. The Annual Quiz Night, Plant Sale, Pre-loved Clothing sale, donations from regular supporters, and unanticipated legacies to BRIDGES, have contributed significantly to BRIDGES' financial sustainability. The Trustees also take this opportunity to thank everyone whose financial donations have helped BRIDGES meet the huge increase in Utility prices this year.

Financial Results

The 2024 accounts saw the finances of the Trust remain stable, with income from the Centre, donations and fundraising broadly unchanged in total, while successful grant applications were slightly down. The Trust saw net income after expenditure down, reflecting in part higher staffing costs, with the recruitment of a new Deputy Manager. Overall, the Trust generated a surplus of £5,753 (2024: £12,293). The detailed 2024 financial statements are set out on pages 7 to 8 that follow.

Reserves Policy

It is an objective of the Trustees to set a financial plan each year and to ensure that operating costs are covered annually by the receipt of income from the Centre, together with donations, grants and fundraising activities.

The Trustees believe that the charity should hold in unrestricted reserves a sufficient cushion of funds to enable it to:

- a) meet the cost of exceptional expenditure that may be incurred from time to time on major maintenance or improvements to the BRIDGES Centre and/or
- b) continue to exist in a period of reduced income and, should it be necessary, to cease to operate and wind up in an orderly fashion.

The Trustees consider the desirable level of reserves for this purpose to be one year's operating costs and £30,000 for the building repairs and plan to generate annual operating surpluses in order to build reserves to this level, without impairing the quality of services provided. At 31 December 2024, the Trustees' unrestricted reserves of £73,844 less £30,000, i.e. a net £43,844 represented 81% of the operating costs.

Investment of funds surplus to immediate requirements

The Trust Deed allows the Trustees to invest surplus funds in securities of whatsoever nature as the Trustees shall in their absolute discretion think fit. Interest rates have continued to be historically low and it has been challenging to find deposit rates that yield reasonable returns, whilst at the same time maintaining an acceptable risk profile.

Statement of Trustees Responsibilities

Under the Trust Deed of the charity and charity law, the Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations. The financial statements are required by law to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the excess of income over expenditure for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, generally accepted accounting practice entails that the Trustees:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- state whether the financial statements comply with the trust deed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are required by law to act in accordance with the trust deed of the charity, within the framework of trust law. They are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, sufficient to disclose at any time with reasonable accuracy, the financial position of the charity at that time, and to enable the Trustees to ensure that, where any statements of account are prepared by them

under section 132(1) of the Charities Act 2011, those statements of accounts comply with the requirements of regulations under that provision. They have general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the charity and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the BRIDGES Trust (Charity No. 1029169)

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 1 to 6

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility:

- to examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act) and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

D Bellwood

The Bridges Centre
Financial Activities Comparison
January - December 2024

			Total	
	Centre	Restricted	Jan - Dec 2024	Jan - Dec 2023 (PY)
Income				
1 Bridges Cafe				
10 Sales	30,126		30,126	27,496
11 Purchases	- 8,926		- 8,926	- 5,424
Total 1 Bridges Cafe	21,200		21,200	22,072
2 Centre Hiring Charges	3,586		3,586	3,579
3 Donations	9,182		9,182	6,095
4 Tax recovered				909
5 Fundraising and Events	3,029		3,029	5,164
6 Grants	13,368		13,368	13,773
7 Grants - Dandelion		3,729	3,729	8,814
8 Grants - Place of welcome				2,802
9 Grants Creative cafe		3,005	3,005	3,071
90 Grants - Kent Community	10,500		10,500	6,000
91 Bank Interest	566		566	745
Total Income	61,431	6,734	68,165	73,025
Expenditures				
12 Utilities	10,262		10,262	12,102
14 Repairs and Maintenance	1,542		1,542	1,187
15 Insurance	2,506		2,506	2,399
16 Cleaning costs	1,557		1,557	1,197
21 Staff Costs	31,777		31,777	28,999
22 Office/General Admin	349		349	236
24 Marketing	546		546	1,349
25 Stationery				35
26 Sundries	323		323	82
27 Training				349
28 Cafe equipment	5,208		5,208	280
30 Dandelion		7,259	7,259	8,814
31 Creative Art Workshops		1,008	1,008	3,071
32 Crosslight				500
33 Creative kids				20
40 Bank charges	75		75	112
Total Expenditures	54,145	8,267	62,412	60,732
Net Income/(Expenditure)	7,286	-1,533	5,753	12,293

The Bridges Centre

Balance Sheet As of December 31, 2024

	TOTAL	
	AS OF DEC 31, 2024	AS OF DEC 31, 2023 (PY)
Fixed Asset		
Tangible assets		
Freehold Property	215,000	215,000
Furniture and Fittings	6,094	6,094
Total Tangible assets	£221,094	£221,094
Total Fixed Asset	£221,094	£221,094
Cash at bank and in hand		
CAF 60 day deposit account	10,130	10,130
CAF 60 days notice GOLD ACC	16,328	18,897
CAF current account	3,706	451
CAF deposit	0	0
Cash on hand	30	30
Journal bank account	0	-200
Lloyds	39,447	36,974
Total Cash at bank and in hand	£69,641	£66,282
Current Assets		
Investments	8,143	8,174
Prepayments	1,800	1,800
Total Current Assets	£9,944	£9,975
NET CURRENT ASSETS	£79,585	£76,256
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		
Current Liabilities		
Unspent grants	0	2,424
Total Current Liabilities	£0	£2,424
Total Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	£0	£2,424
NET CURRENT ASSETS (LIABILITIES)	£79,585	£73,832
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	£300,679	£294,927
TOTAL NET ASSETS (LIABILITIES)	£300,679	£294,927
Charity funds		
Fixed Asset Fund	221,082	221,082
Restricted Funds	0	0
Retained Earnings	0	0
Unrestricted Funds	73,844	61,551
Surplus/(Deficit)	5,753	12,293
Total Charity funds	£300,679	£294,927

BRIDGES

England & Wales - Charity number 1029169

Accounts

BRIDGES

(Charity No. 1029169)

**Trustees Report & Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2023**

BRIDGES

(Charity No. 1029169)

Trustees and Officers who served during 2023

TRUSTEES

Richard Dyson - Chairman
David CW Stafford
Barbara Abel
Michael Musgrove - Secretary
Susan E Oldfield

TREASURER

John Southworth

CENTRE MANAGER

Mary Perrett

CENTRE TREASURER

Elizabeth Richmond

CENTRE COMMITTEE

Mary Perrett – Chair
Stella Bundred
Dot Francis
Janet Lewis
Marylynne Lolley
Michael Musgrove
Chrissie Stephens
Dorothy Sutton
Judy Webb

CONSULTANTS

Ronald V Sutton
Dorothy Sutton

ADDRESS

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Telephone 01732 868186

BRIDGES

(Charity No. 1029169)

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2023

Objectives

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Organisational Structure

The Trustees met six times in 2023, to review strategy, policies and finance, and to receive reports from committees and working groups chaired by Trustees.

The BRIDGES Centre Committee (BCC), chaired jointly by the manager and a trustee, oversees the day-to-day running of the Centre on a daily basis. Volunteers become members of BRIDGES after a period of three months' service, and elect at the Annual Review up to seven of their number to serve on the BCC.

Activities During 2023

2023 saw a welcome increase in the pace of BRIDGES' post-Covid recovery. Visitor numbers continued to grow, and several new volunteers were recruited for the Community Café bringing the total number of helpers to about 50. However, this was still not enough to offer lunches daily, so the opening hours Mon-Thurs remained at 10-12.30. The Friday lunchtime shift merged into the Place of Welcome, offering free refreshments and a Warm Space for anyone to drop in to socialise or find information. The monthly Saturday Markets have been well supported, but finding helpers to open every Saturday has been unsuccessful.

A survey of visitor numbers in November 2023 showed at least 140 different people visited BRIDGES Community Café that week (excluding volunteers). 42% of Visitors came at least weekly, with 1 in 3 coming several times a week, indicating that BRIDGES played an important

part in their lives. 42% of respondents were aged 67-79 with 25% being over 80, and 32% having a disability of some kind.

In the afternoons, **Creative Café** continued to offer monthly informal art therapy sessions. **Dandelion Café** extended its invitation to lunch and sociable entertainment, to residents living at Edenbridge Manor, the new residential care home, and at Home Farm Trust, because transport for those living with dementia in the community was difficult to find. The Friday afternoon **Place of Welcome** continued to grow in popularity, and more men have joined in. The monthly **Folk Music** sessions have been full to capacity! On Wednesday mornings the Centre was abuzz with activities, **Knit & Natter** occupying one corner, the **Health Walkers** sitting at several tables enjoying post-walk refreshments, and the **Crosslight** Debt Advisor available in the privacy of the Quiet Room. **Hi-Kent** succeeded in recruiting more volunteers to hold two sessions per month at BRIDGES from September, to meet the demand. **Girl Guiding** began a new Edenbridge branch at BRIDGES, while BRIDGES' term time Lego Club and the Grace Community Church's **Laser Light Club** continue to be popular among children aged 6-11. **Alcoholics Anonymous**, and **Narcotics Anonymous**, offer invaluable support to adults from a wide area.

Monthly exhibitions by local artists continued to provide interest for visitors and a chance to buy original paintings. BRIDGES is particularly indebted to the late Terry Carter for allowing his artwork to be used on BRIDGES' website, and for the great pleasure his paintings have given visitors over many years. His last visit to BRIDGES was to the celebration of **Mary Perrett's 20th anniversary** as BRIDGES' Manager. She was rendered speechless with delight to be presented with one of his pictures! Earlier in the year **Sevenoaks District Council** awarded Mary a **Youth and Community Award**, for Making a Difference, with the **New Youth Café** she organised at BRIDGES to support young people affected by the isolation of Covid Lockdowns. BRIDGES not only retained its **5* certificate for Food Hygiene**, but was also chosen as **SDCs Voluntary Group of the Year!**

Trustees took time for a **Strategy Review** in the Spring, to identify priorities for the next year and 5 years. Building Maintenance will require significant funding, and consideration will be given to paying staff to open on Saturdays, as it has been so difficult to recruit volunteers. It was agreed to recruit a Deputy Manager as soon as possible. Huge increases in Utility prices, a faulty smart meter, and the closure of the local Post Office had serious unwelcome consequences for BRIDGES, making time-consuming extra demands on staff and volunteers. Our new Treasurer John Southworth aims to improve the use of IT throughout management, and we were delighted to welcome Deborah Garden to the Trustee Board, with her wealth of experience in Youth Work, Charity governance, and grant applications. Trustees are deeply grateful to Kent Community Foundation, the Great Stone Bridge Trust, Sevenoaks District Council, Edenbridge Town Council, Hever Parish Council, local churches, Rochester Diocese, Drake Oil Syndicate, Casey & Associates, Edenbridge Bonfire Society and many local organisations and individuals for their financial and practical assistance to BRIDGES. The Annual Quiz Night, Plant Sale, Pre-loved Clothing sale, and Christmas Lottery, contributed significantly to BRIDGES' financial sustainability.

In the year that the local hospital closed and the new medical centre opened, BRIDGES' town centre location and close links with the Food Bank and Citizens' Advice, provided excellent opportunities to support the health and wellbeing of Edenbridge residents. The visitor survey identified that over 80% of visitors felt that coming to BRIDGES relieved their loneliness, provided helpful information, and helped them find friendship, improving their quality of life as they faced the relentless unprecedented changes of the digital revolution, and cost of living crises. We look forward to developing this work as BRIDGES enters its 30th year of service to the community.

Financial Results

2023 saw the finances of the charity remaining stable. The café had a full years activity with visitors and volunteers returning.

Overall the trust's activities resulted in a surplus of £12,293 (2022:surplus £16,949), with total funds standing at £295,226 (2022 £292,772) at the year-end. Of this total £221,094 (2022: £221,094) related to fixed assets and £74,132 (2022 £71,678) to unrestricted reserves, available for use by the trustees as the need arises. Restricted funds represent the balances remaining unspent against 6 conditional grants, totalling £2,424 (2022 : £9,839).

The detailed 2023 financial statements are set out on pages 6 to 7 that follow.

Reserves Policy

It is an objective of the Trustees to set a financial plan each year and to ensure that operating costs are covered annually by the receipt of income from the Centre, together with donations, grants and fundraising activities.

The Trustees believe that the charity should hold in unrestricted reserves a sufficient cushion of funds to enable it to:

- a) meet the cost of exceptional expenditure that may be incurred from time to time on major maintenance or improvements to the BRIDGES Centre and/or
- b) continue to exist in a period of reduced income and, should it be necessary, to cease to operate and wind up in an orderly fashion.

The Trustees consider that the desirable level of reserves for this purpose to be one year's operating costs and £30,000 for the building repairs and plan to generate annual operating surpluses in order to build reserves to this level, without impairing the quality of services provided. At 31 December 2023, the Trustees' unrestricted reserves of £74,132 less £30,000 net £44,132 represented 81% of the operating costs.

Statement of Trustees Responsibilities

Under the trust deed of the charity and charity law, the Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations. The financial statements are required by law to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the excess of income over expenditure for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, generally accepted accounting practice entails that the Trustees:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
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- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
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Basis of independent examiner's statement

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D Bellwood

The Bridges Centre

Financial Activities

January - December 2023

			Total	
			Jan - Dec 2023	Jan - Dec 2022
	Centre	Restricted		
Income				
1 Sales	27,496		27,496	22,627
2 Centre Hiring Charges	3,579		3,579	1,365
3 Donations	6,095		6,095	8,183
4 Tax recovered	909		909	495
5 Fundraising and Events	5,164		5,164	5,441
6 Grants	13,773		13,773	29,503
7 Grants - Dandelion	0	8,814	8,814	
8 Grants - Place of welcome	2,802		2,802	
9 Grants Creative cafe	0	3,071	3,071	52
90 Grants - Kent Community	6,000		6,000	
91 Bank Interest	745		745	340
Revaluation of Investments	0			-971
Total Income	66,563	11,885	78,448	67,035
Expenditures				
11 Purchases	5,424		5,424	3,637
12 Utilities	12,102		12,102	3,800
14 Repairs and Maintenance	1,187		1,187	948
15 Insurance	2,399		2,399	2,172
16 Cleaning supplies	1,197		1,197	355
21 Staff Costs	28,999		28,999	24,338
22 Office/General Administrative Expenditures	236		236	440
24 Marketing	1,349		1,349	0
25 Stationery	35		35	564
26 Sundries	82		82	664
27 Training	349		349	203
28 Small equipment	280		280	52
30 Dandelion	0	8,814	8,814	8,009
31 Creative Art Workshops	0	3,071	3,071	1,594
32 Crosslight	500		500	
33 Creative kids	20		20	248
40 Bank charges	112		112	12
Depreciation	0			3,050
Total Expenditures	54,271	11,885	66,156	50,086
Net Operating Income	12,293	0	12,293	16,949

The Bridges Centre
BALANCE SHEET as at 31 DECEMBER 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
Freehold Property Bridges Hall	221,094	221,094
Cash funds	66,582	61,996
Investments	8,174	8,174
Prepayments	1,800	3,019
	76,556	73,189
Creditors	- 2,424 -	1,511
Unrestricted Reserves	74,132	71,678
Total Funds	295,226	292,772

BRIDGES

England & Wales - Charity number 1029169

Accounts

BRIDGES

(Charity No. 1029169)

Trustees Report & Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2022

BRIDGES

(Charity No. 1029169)

Trustees and Officers who served during 2022

TRUSTEES

Richard Dyson - Chairman
David CW Stafford
Barbara Abel
Michael Musgrove - Secretary
Susan E Oldfield
François Meunier – Treasurer (resigned 30th November 2022)
Adenike Omoregbee (resigned 13th July 2022)
Rebecca Jordan (resigned 25th May 2022)

TREASURER

John Southworth (from 30th November 2022)

CENTRE MANAGER

Mary Perrett

ASSISTANT TO THE CENTRE MANAGER

Elizabeth A Martin-Lawrence (resigned 28th February 2022)

CENTRE TREASURER

Elizabeth Richmond

CENTRE COMMITTEE

Mary Perrett – Chair
Barbara Abel
Stella Bundred
Dot Francis
Janet Lewis
Marylynne Lolley
Chrissie Stephens
Dorothy Sutton
Judy Webb

CONSULTANTS

Ronald V Sutton
Dorothy Sutton

ADDRESS

Bridges Centre
High Street
Edenbridge
Kent TN8 5AJ

Telephone 01732 868186

BRIDGES

(Charity No. 1029169)

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2022

Objectives

BRIDGES was established as a registered charity in 1993. It purchased and refurbished a former chapel in the centre of the High Street, Edenbridge, Kent in order to fulfil its core purpose of running an ecumenical Centre for the benefit of the whole community.

Staffed by volunteers under the supervision of a paid manager, the BRIDGES Centre offers a familiar and accessible place for people to meet, a listening ear, friendship, rest and refreshment, with particular regard for the needs of parents with young children, the aged, the unemployed and those who are lonely or distressed. Its aim is to bring together all sections of the community to their mutual benefit as visitors or volunteers, without discrimination, and to 'bridge the gaps' in local provision that are not being addressed by existing statutory or voluntary agencies. To that end BRIDGES provides specialist advice clinics, which give local people access to information and services without needing to travel to larger towns.

BRIDGES aims to demonstrate Christian faith in action through creating a welcoming community where anyone can find, or be, a 'good neighbour'. It maintains a Christian ethos of inclusivity and service, and encourages people to develop their creative and practical abilities.

BRIDGES priorities are:

- to overcome social isolation and strengthen communities
- to co-operate with other local organisations
- to build a sense of worth in volunteers and visitors alike
- to help find solutions to pressing personal needs
- to encourage Christians in the practice of their faith
- to create sustainable communities both locally and globally
- to encourage understanding and tolerance between people of different faiths and backgrounds

BRIDGES is committed to implementing high standards of care to volunteers and visitors who are children or vulnerable adults and, additionally, to ensuring that its policies and procedures meet current legislative requirements. There have been no breaches of BRIDGES safeguarding standards reported to the trustees in 2022.

Organisational Structure

The Trustees met six times in 2022, to review strategy, policies and finance, and to receive reports from committees and working groups chaired by Trustees.

The BRIDGES Centre Committee (BCC), chaired jointly by the manager and a trustee, oversees the day-to-day running of the Centre on a daily basis. Volunteers become members of BRIDGES after a period of three months' service, and elect at the Annual Review up to seven of their number to serve on the BCC.

Activities During 2022

2022 has been a year of mixed fortunes. More people have been using the BRIDGES Centre during the week, but there have still been too few volunteers for the Community Café to resume its pre-Covid opening hours.

Volunteer numbers increased from 35 to 40, so the **Community Café** was open Mon-Thurs 10-12.30, and 10-2 on Fridays with the **Place of Welcome** open from 2-4pm. A survey of visitor numbers in September 2022 showed at least 135 different people visited that week (excluding volunteers). The daily average number of visitors rose from 22 in September to 50 by January 2023. The Minstrel Café closed in January 2023, leaving BRIDGES and Costa the only café

alternatives to the pubs. Quarterly Saturday Markets resumed. One school student came for a week's work experience in July.

Creative Café drew a wider clientele for art therapy, and **Dandelion Café** continued to provide elderly isolated people and those in residential care with a monthly outing for lunch and entertainment. The **Place of Welcome** offered a cool space during the heatwave and a **Warm Space** once the rise in energy prices caused people to seek warmth and food in public places to reduce their own heating costs. The monthly **Folk Music** sessions quickly regained their popularity, filling BRIDGES to capacity from July onwards! **Knit & Natter** resumed, making a magnificent knitted mannequin which was raffled. **Art Displays** by local artists continued to attract people to the Centre. The withdrawal of the circular bus route round the town's outskirts severely affected residents who relied on free public transport to get to the town. BRIDGES noticed that people from one estate had reduced their visits from daily to weekly, as a return taxi ride cost £10.

Hi-Kent's monthly hearing aid repair clinic at BRIDGES became oversubscribed as **Hi-Kent** stopped its clinic at the Eden Centre due to a lack of volunteers. **Alcoholics Anonymous** weekly sessions continued on Thursday evenings. In June 2022, **Narcotics Anonymous** started a weekly face-to-face support meeting at BRIDGES on Mondays, which has attracted over 30 regular attendees. Grace Community Church continued to run its popular **Laser Light Club** for primary-aged children, while older teenagers enjoyed 8 weeks of activities at BRIDGES' **New Youth Club** sponsored by Sevenoaks District Council. Aimed at mentoring teenagers who had been particularly affected by isolation during the pandemic, this club offered social activities and advice to help build skills, e.g. writing CVs and practice interviews. One teenager has subsequently been appointed as BRIDGES' Marketing Assistant, producing posters and managing BRIDGES social media publicity.

BRIDGES' Manager's Assistant left in February 2021, to take on a Managerial role elsewhere, leaving the Manager and volunteers to cover her 12 hours pw. An Administrative Assistant was appointed in April but left unexpectedly in August, leaving BRIDGES' Manager and volunteers to cover the work.

It is pleasing that in 2022 the projects identified in BRIDGES' 2020 **Hope for our Community Appeal** to help Edenbridge recover from the Covid Lockdowns have come to fruition. **Crosslight's** monthly debt advice sessions are available, the **Place of Welcome** is open on Fridays, and vouchers can be issued for Edenbridge Food Bank. Though West Kent MIND was unable to staff a support group at BRIDGES, a survey of visitors to the **Community Café** in Sept 2022, identified overwhelmingly (92% of 135 respondents) that BRIDGES helped visitors to maintain their mental, physical and social wellbeing. BRIDGES retained its **5* certificate for Food Hygiene**, and in was awarded 2nd place **Highly Commended** in the Older Person's Group of the Year category of SDC's **Voluntary and Community Awards**, an accolade which was richly deserved by staff and volunteers alike.

Financial Results

2022 saw the finances of the charity remaining stable. The café had a full years activity with visitors and volunteers returning. The Covid 19 support package of £13,500 financed the centre which enabled the trust to make a surplus of £18,000.

Overall the trust's activities resulted in a surplus of £18,348 (2021: Deficit of £4,989), with total funds standing at £293,773 (2021: £276,241) at the year-end. Of this total £224,133 (2021: £221,082) related to fixed assets and £63,516 (2021 restated: £42,973) to unrestricted reserves, available for use by the trustees as the need arises. Restricted funds represent the balances remaining unspent against 6 conditional grants, totalling £9,839 (2021 : £11,228).

The detailed 2022 financial statements are set out on pages 6 to 11 that follow.

Reserves Policy

It is an objective of the Trustees to set a financial plan each year and to ensure that operating costs are covered annually by the receipt of income from the Centre, together with donations, grants and fundraising activities.

The Trustees believe that the charity should hold in unrestricted reserves a sufficient cushion of funds to enable it to:

- a) meet the cost of exceptional expenditure that may be incurred from time to time on major maintenance or improvements to the BRIDGES Centre and/or
- b) continue to exist in a period of reduced income and, should it be necessary, to cease to operate and wind up in an orderly fashion.

The Trustees consider that the desirable level of reserves for this purpose to be one year's operating costs and £30,000 for the building repairs and plan to generate annual operating surpluses in order to build reserves to this level, without impairing the quality of services provided. At 31 December 2022, the Trustees' unrestricted reserves of £61,851 less £30,000 net £31,851 represented 97% of the operating costs.

Statement of Trustees Responsibilities

Under the trust deed of the charity and charity law, the Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations. The financial statements are required by law to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the excess of income over expenditure for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, generally accepted accounting practice entails that the Trustees:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- state whether the financial statements comply with the trust deed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are required by law to act in accordance with the trust deed of the charity, within the framework of trust law. They are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, sufficient to disclose at any time with reasonable accuracy, the financial position of the charity at that time, and to enable the Trustees to ensure that, where any statements of account are prepared by them under section 132(1) of the Charities Act 2011, those statements of accounts comply with the requirements of regulations under that provision. They have general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the charity and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

BRIDGES
(Charity No. 1029169)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (Including Income and Expenditure Account)
Year ended 31 December 2022

	Note	CENTRE	TRUST	Fixed Assets Fund	Sub Total - Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL 2022	2021
		£	£	£		£	£	£
INCOME								
Donations		-	8,183	-	8,183	-	8,183	5,728
Grants		13,500	-	-	13,500	16,003	29,503	23,608
Bridges Centre sales		22,627	-	-	22,627	-	22,627	8,386
Centre hiring charges		1,365	-	-	1,365	-	1,365	1,104
Miscellaneous activities		52	-	-	52	-	52	390
Fundraising and events		-	5,441	-	5,441	-	5,441	205
Bank interest income		-	174	-	174	-	174	61
Investment income		-	166	-	166	-	166	189
Tax recovery		-	495	-	495	-	495	903
Revaluation of Investments		-	(971)	-	(971)	-	(971)	(325)
TOTAL INCOME		37,545	13,488	-	51,034	16,003	67,037	40,249
EXPENDITURE								
Purchases		3,490	-	-	3,490	147	3,638	1,625
Staff costs	2	17,125	-	-	17,125	7,213	24,338	25,719
Utilities		3,800	-	-	3,800	-	3,800	2,023
Cleaning supplies		355	-	-	355	-	355	220
Telephone		440	-	-	440	-	440	420
Stationery		564	-	-	564	-	564	199
Marketing		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Improvements to Centre		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Repairs and Maint.		948	-	-	948	-	948	416
Small equipment		52	-	-	52	-	52	142
Large equipment		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Training		203	-	-	203	-	203	337
Creative Art Workshops		-	-	-	-	1,594	1,594	1,174
Creative Kids		-	-	-	-	248	248	1,670
Dandelion		-	-	-	-	8,009	8,009	4,393
Sundries		484	-	-	484	180	664	631
Insurance	3	-	2,172	-	2,172	-	2,172	2,158
Depreciation		-	-	3,050	3,050	-	3,050	4,111
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		27,900	2,172	3,050	32,686	17,392	50,077	45,238
SURPLUS /(DEFICIT)		9,645	11,316	(3,050)	17,911	(1,389)	16,522	(4,989)
Transfer Centre result to Trust		(9,645)	9,645	-	-	-	-	-
Purchase of fixed assets		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		-	20,960	(3,050)	17,911	(1,389)	16,522	(4,989)
Funds Balance - beginning of year		-	40,889	224,133	265,022	11,229	276,251	281,240
FUNDS BALANCE - END OF YEAR		-	61,849	221,083	282,933	9,840	292,773	276,251

BRIDGES

(Charity No. 1029169)

BALANCE SHEET as at 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Note	2022 £	£	2021 £
Tangible Fixed Assets	4			
Freehold Property		215,000		215,000
Furniture, Fixtures and Fittings		<u>6,082</u>		<u>9,133</u>
			221,082	<u>224,133</u>
Current Assets				
Debtors and Prepayments	5	3,019		2,471
Bank Balances and Cash in Hand	6	<u>61,996</u>		<u>42,169</u>
		65,016		44,640
Current Liabilities				
Creditors	7	<u>(1,499)</u>		<u>(1,667)</u>
Net Current Assets			63,517	42,973
Longer Term Assets over one year				
Investments	8		8,174	9,145
			<u>8,174</u>	<u>9,145</u>
Total Net Assets			<u>292,774</u>	<u>276,251</u>
Funds held for charitable purposes	9			
Fixed Asset Fund				
Opening balance		224,133		228,243
Current year increase / (decrease)		<u>(3,050)</u>		<u>(4,110)</u>
			221,083	<u>224,133</u>
Unrestricted funds				
Opening balance		40,889		41,276
Current year increase / (decrease)		<u>20,962</u>		<u>(387)</u>
			61,851	<u>40,889</u>
Restricted Funds				
Opening balance		11,229		11,720
Current year increase / (decrease)		<u>- 1,389</u>		<u>(491)</u>
			9,839	<u>11,229</u>
			<u>292,774</u>	<u>276,251</u>

Approved by the Trustees on 27 October 2023 and signed on their behalf

Richard Dyson
Chairman of Trustees

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the BRIDGES Trust (Charity No. 1029169)

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out on pages 1 to 6

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility:

- to examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act) and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

D Bellwood

27 October 2023

BRIDGES

England & Wales - Charity number 1029169

Accounts

BRIDGES

(Charity No. 1029169)

Trustees Report & Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2021

BRIDGES

(Charity No. 1029169)

Trustees and Officers who served during 2021

TRUSTEES

Richard Dyson - Chairman
David CW Stafford
Barbara Abel
Michael Musgrove - Secretary
Susan E Oldfield
François Meunier – Treasurer
Adenike Omoregbee
Rebecca Jordan

CENTRE MANAGER

Mary Perrett

ASSISTANT TO THE CENTRE MANAGER

Elizabeth A Martin-Lawrence

CENTRE TREASURERS

Elizabeth Richmond
Gwen Chappell

CENTRE COMMITTEE

Mary Perrett – Chair
Barbara Abel
Stella Bundred
Dot Francis
Janet Lewis
Elizabeth A Martin-Lawrence
Chrissie Stephens
Judy Webb
Dorothy Sutton

CONSULTANTS

Ronald V Sutton

ADDRESS

Bridges Centre
High Street
Edenbridge
Kent TN8 5AJ

Telephone 01732 868186

BRIDGES

(Charity No. 1029169)

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2021

Objectives

BRIDGES was established as a registered charity in 1993. It purchased and refurbished a former chapel in the centre of the High Street, Edenbridge, Kent in order to fulfil its core purpose of running an ecumenical Centre for the benefit of the whole community.

Staffed by volunteers under the supervision of a paid manager, the BRIDGES Centre offers a familiar and accessible place for people to meet, a listening ear, friendship, rest and refreshment, with particular regard for the needs of parents with young children, the aged, the unemployed and those who are lonely or distressed. Its aim is to bring together all sections of the community to their mutual benefit as visitors or volunteers, without discrimination, and to 'bridge the gaps' in local provision that are not being addressed by existing statutory or voluntary agencies. To that end BRIDGES provides specialist advice clinics, which give local people access to information and services without needing to travel to larger towns.

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- to co-operate with other local organisations
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Organisational Structure

The Trustees met six times in 2021, to review strategy, policies and finance, and to receive reports from committees and working groups chaired by Trustees.

The BRIDGES Centre Committee (BCC), chaired jointly by the manager and a trustee, oversees the day-to-day running of the Centre on a daily basis. Volunteers become members of BRIDGES after a period of three months' service, and elect at the Annual Review up to seven of their number to serve on the BCC.

Activities During 2021

During the first half of 2021 the country was still in the grip of the Covid-19 pandemic. BRIDGES staff could not be furloughed, and their salaries were being supported by Resilience Grants from the National Emergency Trust. They continued to provide online and phone support to volunteers and regular visitors, while taking online training courses, and preparing the programme of Post-Covid projects which had been identified as the core aims of the *Hope for Our Community* online appeal in October 2020. In total the BRIDGES Centre was operational for only 31 of the 52 weeks in 2021.

On 17.5.21 when the Government's *Roadmap to Recovery* was implemented, BRIDGES was able to resume its activities, but could only open the Community Café for 2½ hrs Mon-Fri, because almost half the volunteers were unable to return as a result of the pandemic. People who lived alone flocked back at the earliest opportunity. The *Creative Café Art Therapy* group was the only group activity that continued to function throughout the periods of lockdown, either socially-distanced at the Centre, or on zoom, as it could be classified as a 'support group'.

The BRIDGES Centre continued to operate as a Covid-Safe workplace, having previously installed sneeze-screens, completed risk assessments, reviewed new operational procedures, provided protective clothing (PPE) and refreshed training for staff and volunteers. Enough volunteers were available to open the Community Café from 10.00-12.30 on Mon-Fri with a simplified menu. The Government formally ended *Track and Trace* recording, though the Centre's maximum capacity remained reduced by Social Distancing requirements from 50 to 20 visitors at any one time. Only 2 volunteers at a time could assist the Manager, due to the limited space in the kitchen and servery. BRIDGES found itself in competition with every other voluntary group trying to recruit new volunteers, but people were scared of mixing in public, and the limited response was mostly from people still on furlough. Visitor numbers slowly increased from their lowest average of 15 per day in July-Aug 2020, but further growth remained restricted by the Centre's limited opening hours.

The first of the Post-Covid projects was launched on 4.6.21 with the opening of the first **Place of Welcome** in West Kent. As part of a national network of such places BRIDGES committed to being open to all-comers with free refreshments, friendship, active listening, and information every Friday afternoon between 2-4pm. This proved a valuable hub especially for those living alone who had been most vulnerable to deteriorating mental health during the pandemic. It provided a forum for people to learn about new activities that were springing up in Edenbridge, and became a focus group to develop further ideas. About 1/3 of attendees had not been to BRIDGES prior to the pandemic.

Also in June, the *Dandelion Café* for people living with dementia, the *Creative Café* offering Art Therapy, and *Hi-Kent Hearing Aid* servicing resumed their regular activities at BRIDGES. The *Laser Light Club* for Primary school children restarted in September, and *Alcoholics Anonymous* resumed their meetings in November. Groups which had previously hired the Centre regularly gradually returned. It was a relief that Committee meetings could be held in person again, though the post-Brexit departure of the Treasurer to his native Belgium in July caused inevitable interruption to familiar procedures, as all communication with him had to continue by e-mail or zoom. BRIDGES has been so grateful for his willingness to continue looking after the accounts while Trustees search for someone local to take on the role.

Of the normal activities at the BRIDGES Centre which had been supported in 2019 by some 70 volunteers aged from teens to eighties, only the ones in **green** below were able to take place during the periods in 2021 when the Centre was allowed to open. Those in **blue** re-opened during 2021.

- volunteering experience for the Duke of Edinburgh award schemes
- comprehensive induction training for volunteers
- food hygiene training to maintain 5* hygiene standards and Covid-Safe Workplace stand
- providing a selection of home-made refreshments, including special diets, at affordable prices
- thought-provoking displays on Third World, local and ethical issues
- work experience for school children and adults
- Spring plant sale
- Morris's Friends folk group session
- Displays of art and photographs by local artists
- BRIDGES Community Market: table-top sale of crafts, produce etc. October & November
- Knit and Natter on Wednesday mornings.

It remained impossible for people with learning difficulties living in residential care to volunteer and develop independent living skills, as the local care homes were still maintaining strict precautions against Covid 19.

Staff and volunteers continued with training courses on Zoom. The Manager participated weekly in Sevenoaks District Council's zoomed Volunteer Forum, and held discussions with the Foodbank organiser and other local support agencies to address the town's post-Covid needs. **Alcoholics Anonymous** was the first regular hirer to return to weekly meetings at BRIDGES, and new hirers have begun to replace those who have not returned.

Occasional events

The Community Café could only open occasionally on a Saturday morning. Gradual steps towards socialising began in April with takeaway refreshments at an outdoor *Plant Sale*, successfully repeated in May.

A Saturday *Board Games Workshop* was held in August, a Coffee Morning for Cancer Research in September, and a Christmas Market during the Town's Christmas Event in November.

'Your Space' at BRIDGES provided young people a weekly opportunity to drop in for a chat with the local youth workers, reaching out to those affected by the effects of Covid and lockdowns.

West Kent MIND began discussions with BRIDGES to offer a Parent Support Group, and to meet there after a Memory Walk. Sadly, WK MIND was unable to staff these initiatives.

Edenbridge Bonfire Night was cancelled for a second year, and BRIDGES was again unable to hold a Christmas Lunch.

New Developments in 2021

Thanks to the funds raised by the community through BRIDGES' 2020 **Hope for Our Community Appeal**, the Manager was able to progress discussions with other agencies so that

- A weekly **Place Of Welcome** opened on 4th June 2021 and subsequent Fridays
- **Crosslight (West Kent Debt Advice)** could use BRIDGES' facilities
- **Involve Kent** (Social Prescribing for mental wellbeing) carried out a survey of need, & made follow-up visits to the *Place of Welcome*
- **Age UK** began *Monthly Chair Exercise sessions* at the *Place of Welcome*
- BRIDGES joined the **Edenbridge Chamber of Commerce**.

Financial Results

The 2021 accounts saw the continued impact of Covid-19 through the closure of the Centre for the first few months of the year, resulting in lower Centre income, partly offset by lower Centre costs. However, thanks to various grants and generous donations, including the Kent Community Foundation Resilience Grants, the Centre deficit was considerably reduced and enabled Bridges to continue its work. The Eden Church Christmas Bauble Appeal will also allow Bridges to enter 2022 on the right foot. There were no major improvements to the Centre related in 2021.

The Creative Café and Dandelion initiatives continued to be financed by Sevenoaks District Council and Kent Community Foundation respectively but also through the Great Stone Bridge Trust. Bridges is grateful for all donations and grants awarded. Investment and other income of the trust were down on previous years reflecting continued lower market interest rates on bank deposits as well as the cancellation of events such as markets, exhibitions and plant sales, due to Covid.

Overall the trust's activities resulted in a deficit of £4,989 (2020: surplus of £5,193), with total funds standing at £276,251 (2020: £281,040) at the year-end. Of this total £224,133 (2020: £228,243) related to fixed assets and £40,889 (2020 restated: £41,276) to unrestricted reserves, available for use by the trustees as the need arises. Restricted funds represent the balances remaining unspent against 6 conditional grants, totalling £11,229 (2020 restated: £11,720).

	Creative Café	Dandelion	Creative Kids	Covid-19	Makaton & Food Hygiene Training	Place of Welcome	Microwave	Flooring	Total
b/f Restricted Funds	906	2,311	1,670	6,740	336	-	(300)	58	11,720
Restricted Funds Additions	960	10,975	-	6,042	-	1,250	300	-	19,527
Restricted Funds Spending	(1,174)	(4,393)	(1,670)	(12,782)	-	-	-	-	(20,018)
c/f Restricted Funds	692	8,893	-	-	336	1,250	-	58	11,229

The net cost of running the Centre was £7,871, compared to the 2020 figure of £18,396. The Centre's total income increased marginally compared to last year at £9,880 (2020: £9,360) again, due to Covid restrictions. We were able to cover c.£13k of Centre costs by restricted grants, and are very grateful to the Great Stone Bridge Trust and Kent Community Foundation for their support. Total Centre costs decreased to £31,689 (2020: £35,787), mostly impacted by reductions in repairs and maintenance (-£2,400), purchases (-£993), and Marketing (-£680).

The detailed 2021 financial statements are set out on pages 6 to 11 that follow.

Reserves Policy

It is an objective of the Trustees to set a financial plan each year and to ensure that operating costs are covered annually by the receipt of income from the Centre, together with donations, grants and fundraising activities.

The Trustees believe that the charity should hold in unrestricted reserves a sufficient cushion of funds to enable it to:

- a) meet the cost of exceptional expenditure that may be incurred from time to time on major maintenance or improvements to the BRIDGES Centre and/or
- b) continue to exist in a period of reduced income and, should it be necessary, to cease to operate and wind up in an orderly fashion.

The Trustees consider that the desirable level of reserves for this purpose to be one year's operating costs and plan to generate annual operating surpluses in order to build reserves to this level, without impairing the quality of services provided. At 31 December 2021, the Trustees' unrestricted reserves of £40,889 represented 121% of the operating costs (2020 restated - £41,276 represented 109% of 2020 operating costs).

Investment of funds surplus to immediate requirements

The Trust Deed allows the Trustees to invest surplus funds in securities of whatsoever nature as the Trustees shall in their absolute discretion think fit. Interest rates have continued to be historically low and it has been challenging to find deposit rates that yield reasonable returns, whilst at the same time maintaining an acceptable risk profile.

A £10,130 one-year term deposit earning 0.9% matured in May 2021. With a continued focus on liquidity, with the Centre being closed due to Covid-19 in the first few months of 2021, this was re-positioned in another 60 days' notice account, one-year term deposit at a fixed rate of 0.4% with CAF Bank. The investment in the M&G Charibond Fixed Income Fund, a unit trust with charitable status, has continued to earn an acceptable overall return but decreased in value by £325 in 2021 (2020 – increase of £108).

Statement of Trustees Responsibilities

Under the trust deed of the charity and charity law, the Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations. The financial statements are required by law to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the excess of income over expenditure for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, generally accepted accounting practice entails that the Trustees:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- state whether the financial statements comply with the trust deed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are required by law to act in accordance with the trust deed of the charity, within the framework of trust law. They are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, sufficient to disclose at any time with reasonable accuracy, the financial position of the charity at that time, and to enable the Trustees to ensure that, where any statements of account are prepared by them under section 132(1) of the Charities Act 2011, those statements of accounts comply with the requirements of regulations under that provision. They have general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the charity and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

BRIDGES

(Charity No. 1029169)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (Including Income and Expenditure Account)

Year ended 31 December 2021

	Note	CENTRE	TRUST	Fixed Assets Fund	Sub Total - Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL 2021	2020
		£	£	£		£	£	£
INCOME								
Donations		-	5,728	-	5,728	-	5,728	5,901
Grants		-	4,081	-	4,081	19,527	23,608	21,992
Bridges Centre sales		8,386	-	-	8,386	-	8,386	8,416
Centre hiring charges		1,104	-	-	1,104	-	1,104	626
Miscellaneous activities		390	-	-	390	-	390	317
Fundraising and events		-	205	-	205	-	205	14,262
Bank interest income		-	61	-	61	-	61	177
Investment income		-	189	-	189	-	189	226
Tax recovery		-	903	-	903	-	903	900
Revaluation of Investments		-	(325)	-	(325)	-	(325)	108
TOTAL INCOME		9,880	10,842	-	20,722	19,527	40,249	52,927
EXPENDITURE								
Purchases		1,625	-	-	1,625	-	1,625	2,618
Staff costs	2	12,937	-	-	12,937	12,782	25,719	25,353
Utilities		2,023	-	-	2,023	-	2,023	2,008
Cleaning supplies		220	-	-	220	-	220	58
Telephone		420	-	-	420	-	420	416
Stationery		199	-	-	199	-	199	504
Marketing		-	-	-	-	-	-	680
Improvements to Centre		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Repairs and Maint.		416	-	-	416	-	416	2,816
Small equipment		142	-	-	142	-	142	314
Large equipment		-	-	-	-	-	-	400
Training		337	-	-	337	-	337	274
Creative Art Workshops		-	-	-	-	1,174	1,174	1,459
Creative Kids		-	-	-	-	1,670	1,670	1,007
Dandelion		-	-	-	-	4,393	4,393	2,823
Sundries		633	-	-	633	-	633	347
Insurance	3	-	2,158	-	2,158	-	2,158	2,148
Depreciation		-	-	4,111	4,111	-	4,111	4,510
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		18,951	2,158	4,111	25,220	20,018	45,238	47,734
SURPLUS /(DEFICIT)		(9,071)	8,684	(4,111)	(4,498)	(491)	(4,989)	5,193
Transfer Centre result to Trust		9,071	(9,071)	-	-	-	-	-
Purchase of fixed assets		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		-	(387)	(4,111)	(4,498)	(491)	(4,989)	5,193
Funds Balance - 31 Dec-2020 - Restated		-	41,276	228,243	269,520	11,720	281,240	276,047
FUNDS BALANCE - 31 Dec-2021	9	-	40,889	224,133	265,022	11,229	276,251	281,240

BRIDGES

(Charity No. 1029169)

BALANCE SHEET as at 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Note	2021		2020
		£	£	Restated £
Tangible Fixed Assets	4			
Freehold Property		215,000		215,000
Furniture, Fixtures and Fittings		<u>9,133</u>		<u>13,243</u>
			224,133	228,243
Current Assets				
Debtors and Prepayments	5	2,471		2,595
Bank Balances and Cash in Hand	6	<u>42,169</u>		<u>42,334</u>
		44,640		44,929
Current Liabilities				
Creditors	7	<u>(1,667)</u>		<u>(1,402)</u>
Net Current Assets			42,973	43,527
Longer Term Assets over one year				
Investments	8		9,145	9,470
			<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total Net Assets			<u>276,251</u>	<u>281,240</u>
			<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Funds held for charitable purposes	9			
Fixed Asset Fund				
Opening balance		228,243		229,373
Current year increase / (decrease)		<u>(4,111)</u>		<u>(1,130)</u>
			224,133	228,243
Unrestricted funds				
Opening balance		41,276		40,263
Current year increase / (decrease)		<u>(387)</u>		<u>713</u>
			40,889	41,276
Restricted Funds				
Opening balance		11,720		6,411
Current year increase / (decrease)		<u>(491)</u>		<u>5,609</u>
			11,229	11,720
			<u> </u>	<u> </u>
			<u>276,251</u>	<u>281,240</u>
			<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Approved by the Trustees on 31 October 2022 and signed on their behalf

Richard Dyson
Chairman of Trustees

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

1 Accounting Policies

Basis of preparation of financial statements and accounting standards

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (UK GAPP), Accounting & Reporting by Charities' Statement of Accounting Practice (SORP 2005), the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities (Accounts & Reports) Regulations 2008. The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds comprise general funds that are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Trust.

Restricted funds are funds that are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Trust for a specific purpose.

Income and Expenditure

Income, including donations received, and expenditure for direct and support costs are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) on an accruals basis.

Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets costing more than £250 are capitalised and included at cost, or in the case of land and buildings at the most recent valuation.

Depreciation is provided on tangible assets at 15% on a straight line basis to write off the cost over their respective useful lives. The freehold land and building was revalued at 31 December 2003 and the difference between the historic cost and the revalued amount included in the balance sheet within the fixed asset fund.

Investments

Investments are held by the Trust in order to generate income for the support of charitable activities and to provide assets to meet the needs of reserves. They are included at market value at the balance sheet date.

2 Staff costs

	2021	2020
	£	£
Salaries and wages	24,830	24,477
Social Security	1,235	1,214
Government Employment Allowance (introduced in 2014)	(1,235)	(1,214)
Pension	889	876
	<u>25,719</u>	<u>25,353</u>

3 Insurance

	2021	2020
	£	£
Prepaid - brought forward	1,643	1,600
Cost of premiums	2,057	2,191
Prepaid - carried forward	(1,543)	(1,643)
	<u>2,158</u>	<u>2,148</u>

BRIDGES

(Charity No. 1029169)

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2021 (continued)

4 Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold Property £	Furniture and Equipment £	TOTAL ASSETS £
Cost or valuation			
At the beginning of year	215,000	56,453	271,453
Additions during the year	-	-	-
Disposals during the year	-	-	-
Total at year end	<u>215,000</u>	<u>56,453</u>	<u>271,453</u>
Depreciation			
At the beginning of the year	Nil	43,210	43,210
Added during the year	Nil	4,111	4,111
Total at year end	<u>Nil</u>	<u>47,320</u>	<u>47,320</u>
Book value at 31 Dec-21	<u>215,000</u>	<u>9,133</u>	<u>224,133</u>
<i>Book value at 31 Dec-20</i>	<u>215,000</u>	<u>13,243</u>	<u>228,243</u>

5 Debtors - amounts receivable in less than one year

	2021 £	2020 £
Interest receivable - CAF	25	57
HM Revenue & Customs - Gift Aid income tax	903	895
Insurance prepaid	1,543	1,643
	<u>2,471</u>	<u>2,595</u>

6 Bank Balances and Cash in Hand

	2021 £	2020 £
CAF Bank	29,227	27,684
CAF - 60 day notice	10,130	10,130
Lloyds Bank	2,782	4,490
Cash in Hand	30	30
	<u>42,169</u>	<u>42,334</u>

BRIDGES

(Charity No. 1029169)

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2021 (continued)

7 Creditors - amounts payable in less than one year	2021	2020
	£	£
HMRC - PAYE and NI	741	716
Creative Counselling	635	571
Sundry supplies	291	115
	<u>1,667</u>	<u>1,402</u>

8 Investments	2021	2020
	£	£
M&G Fixed Interest Common Investment Fund (Charibond)		
Valuation at 31 Dec-20	9,470	9,362
Revaluation	(325)	108
	<u>9,145</u>	<u>9,470</u>

9 Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

	Unrestricted General Fund £	Unrestricted Fixed Asset Fund £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS £
Tangible Fixed Assets	-	85,449	-	85,449
Property Revaluation Reserve	-	138,684	-	138,684
Long-term Investment	9,145	-	-	9,145
Current Assets	32,777	-	11,863	44,640
Current Liabilities	(1,032)	-	(635)	(1,667)
Net Assets at 31 Dec-21	<u>40,889</u>	<u>224,133</u>	<u>11,229</u>	<u>276,251</u>
<i>Net Assets at 31 Dec-20 - Restated</i>	<u>41,276</u>	<u>228,243</u>	<u>11,720</u>	<u>281,240</u>

10 Trustees

The Trustees receive no remuneration or expenses for their services (2020 - nil).

11 Commitments and Contingent Liabilities

At the balance sheet date there were no outstanding capital commitments (2020 - none) and in the opinion of the Trustees there were no contingent liabilities (2020 - none).

BRIDGES

(Charity No. 1029169)

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2021 (continued)

12 Cash Flow Statement	2021 £	2020 £
Cash inflow from operating activities	(4,989)	5,193
Non-cash items included above		
Revaluation of investments	325	(108)
Depreciation	4,111	4,510
Capital expenditure and financial investment		
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets	-	(3,381)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	123	880
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	265	188
	<u>(165)</u>	<u>7,284</u>
Bank Balances and Cash in Hand		
At the end of the year	42,169	42,334
At the beginning of the year	(42,334)	(35,050)
	<u>(165)</u>	<u>7,284</u>

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the BRIDGES Trust (Charity No. 1029169)

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 December 2021, which are set out on pages 1 to 11.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility:

- to examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act) and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

N Marshall
Chartered Accountant

31 October 2022

Accounts

BRIDGES

(Charity No. 1029169)

Trustees Report & Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2020

BRIDGES

(Charity No. 1029169)

Trustees and Officers who served during 2020

TRUSTEES

Richard Dyson - Chairman
David CW Stafford
Barbara Abel
Michael Musgrove - Secretary
Susan E Oldfield
Dorothy E Sutton (until 23 September 2020)
François Meunier - Treasurer
Adenike Omoregbee
Rebecca Jordan (from 18 November 2020)

CENTRE MANAGER

Mary Perrett

ASSISTANT TO THE CENTRE MANAGER

Elizabeth A Martin-Lawrence

CENTRE TREASURERS

Elizabeth Richmond
Gwen Chappell

CENTRE COMMITTEE

Mary Perrett – Chair
Barbara Abel
Stella Bundred
Dot Francis
Janet Lewis
Elizabeth A Martin-Lawrence
Chrissie Stephens
Judy Webb
Dorothy Sutton

CONSULTANTS

Ronald V Sutton

ADDRESS

Bridges Centre
High Street
Edenbridge
Kent TN8 5AJ

Telephone 01732 868186

BRIDGES

(Charity No. 1029169)

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2020

Objectives

BRIDGES was established as a registered charity in 1993. It purchased and refurbished a former chapel in the centre of the High Street, Edenbridge, Kent in order to fulfil its core purpose of running an ecumenical Centre for the benefit of the whole community.

Staffed by volunteers under the supervision of a paid manager, the BRIDGES Centre offers a familiar and accessible place for people to meet, a listening ear, friendship, rest and refreshment, with particular regard for the needs of parents with young children, the aged, the unemployed and those who are lonely or distressed. Its aim is to bring together all sections of the community to their mutual benefit as visitors or volunteers, without discrimination, and to 'bridge the gaps' in local provision that are not being addressed by existing statutory or voluntary agencies. To that end BRIDGES provides specialist advice clinics, which give local people access to information and services without needing to travel to larger towns.

BRIDGES aims to demonstrate Christian faith in action through creating a welcoming community where anyone can find, or be, a 'good neighbour'. It maintains a Christian ethos of inclusivity and service, and encourages people to develop their creative and practical abilities.

BRIDGES priorities are:

- to overcome social isolation and strengthen communities
- to co-operate with other local organisations
- to build a sense of worth in volunteers and visitors alike
- to help find solutions to pressing personal needs
- to encourage Christians in the practice of their faith-
- to create sustainable communities both locally and globally
- to encourage understanding and tolerance between people of different faiths and backgrounds

BRIDGES is committed to implementing high standards of care to volunteers and visitors who are children or vulnerable adults and, additionally, to ensuring that its policies and procedures meet current legislative requirements. There have been no breaches of BRIDGES safeguarding standards reported to the trustees in 2020.

Organisational Structure

The Trustees met six times in 2020, to review strategy, policies and finance, and to receive reports from committees and working groups chaired by Trustees.

The BRIDGES Centre Committee (BCC), chaired jointly by the manager and a trustee, oversees the day-to-day running of the Centre on a daily basis. Volunteers become members of BRIDGES after a period of three months' service, and elect at the Annual Review up to seven of their number to serve on the BCC.

Activities During 2020

The Trust's core activity of providing a Drop-in Centre in Edenbridge flourished for 10 weeks from 4.1.20 - 16.3.20, before the first Lockdown, ordered by the Government to address the Covid-19 pandemic, came into force on 23.3.20. BRIDGES opened for a further 14½ weeks during the summer, 20.7.20 - 4.11.20 for 2 ½ hrs Mon-Fri, which was of greatest benefit to people who lived alone. It closed again when Kent went into Tier 4, and was unable to reopen for the remainder of 2020. In total the Centre has functioned for only 24½ of the 52 weeks in 2020. The 'Creative Café' Art Therapy group was the only group activity that could continue at the Centre throughout the periods of lockdown.

Operating as a Covid-Safe workplace required the installation of sneeze-screens, the completion of risk assessments, new operational procedures, the provision of protective clothing (PPE) and re-training for staff and volunteers. Enough volunteers were available to open BRIDGES from 10.00-12.30 on Mon-Fri with a simplified menu, and with the assistance of two Duke of Edinburgh Award students who undertook the Track and Trace recording. 9 new volunteers were recruited to replace 11 who were shielding themselves or family members. The Centre's maximum capacity was reduced by Social Distancing requirements from 50 to 20 visitors at any one time. Only 2 volunteers could assist the Manager, due to limited space in the kitchen and servery. Average Visitor numbers fell from 44 per day in 2018 to 15 per day in July-Aug 2020. The second Lockdown began on 5.11.20 and ended on 2.12.20. Re-opening of Bridges took place on 17.5.21 as the Government's Roadmap to Recovery was not delayed by worsening infection statistics.

Of the normal activities at the BRIDGES Centre which had been supported in 2019 by some 70 volunteers aged from teens to eighties, only the ones in green below were able to take place during the periods in 2020 when the Centre was allowed to open.

- volunteering experience for the Duke of Edinburgh award schemes
- comprehensive induction training for volunteers
- food hygiene training to maintain 5* hygiene standards and Covid-Safe Workplace stand
- providing a selection of home-made refreshments, including special diets, at affordable prices
- thought-provoking displays on Third World, local and ethical issues
- work experience for school children and adults
- training in independent living skills for volunteers with learning difficulties

ALL occasional events including the Celebrations of BRIDGES 25th Anniversary of opening were CANCELLED

- Spring plant sale
- A fundraising concert by The Victorious River Band
- Opening on Bonfire Night to support people watching the procession in the High Street
- A Christmas appeal in aid of the Parish Nurse and God's Hands Food Bank
- Hosting the annual Christmas Day lunch for people who would otherwise be on their own
- A six-week 'Makaton for Beginners' signing course
- Food for Thought – dinner and discussion
- 'Alive With Flavour' – cooking session for primary children.

ALL regular monthly activities in 2020 were CANCELLED except the Art Therapy Mental Health support group – Creative Café

- Morris's Friends folk group session
- Homeopathy Advice Clinic
- Displays of art and photographs by local artists
- 'Carers First' – advice and support for carers of all ages
- 'Hi-Kent' – routine servicing of hearing aids and advice for people with impaired hearing

- Craft Circle – afternoon gatherings to sew, crochet, knit or design their individual project
- Knitting Group meet on Wednesday mornings – for beginners and advanced knitters
- BRIDGES Community Market: table-top sale of crafts, produce etc.
- BRIDGES' Creative Café – therapeutic art activities for people living with mental health issues, or life-changing circumstances.

ALL the groups hiring the Centre regularly in 2020 were UNABLE to function in person at BRIDGES. Meetings of the Trustees and BRIDGES Centre Committee moved to Zoom.

- Alcoholics Anonymous
- Sustainable Edenbridge
- Pilates classes
- Spanish classes for young children
- Eden Christian Trust youth group - 'Banter @ BRIDGES'
- The Edenbridge Partnership - networking group.
- The DANDELION CAFÉ lunch club for older adults to socialise in a nurturing creative environment.
- CREATIVE KIDS art therapy workshops for primary school children
- MAKE A SCENE drama group for young people and adults with learning difficulties.

New Developments in 2020

Throughout the Lockdown periods BRIDGES' Managers and committee members have taken Zoom training courses in Safeguarding, Mental Health First Aid, Youth Suicide Awareness, Money Management, and Digital Publicity amongst others. The Staff have attended Sevenoaks District Council's regular Volunteer Forum, and networked with local support agencies to prepare projects that will address the town's post-Covid needs. The Manager offered BRIDGES' premises for the benefit of the local Food Bank, registered the Centre as a Place of Welcome ready for reopening in 2021, and began discussions with West Kent Debt Advice (Crosslight) to bring face-to-face money management advice to Edenbridge, to help those who cannot access it online. She has kept in touch with groups that hired BRIDGES previously, and has sought new hirers e.g. MIND for new mental health support groups in 2021.

Financial Results

The 2020 accounts saw the impact of Covid-19 through the closure of the centre for the majority of the year, resulting in significantly lower Centre income, partly offset by lower Centre costs. However, thanks to various grants and generous donations, culminating with the LocalGiving appeal, the Centre deficit was turned into an overall surplus, allowing Bridges to enter 2021 on the right foot. A noted improvement to the Centre related to the new flooring.

The Creative Café and Dandelion initiatives continued to be financed by Sevenoaks District Council and Kent Community Foundation respectively but also through the Great Stone Bridge Trust. Bridges is grateful for all donations and grants awarded. Investment and other income of the trust were down on previous years reflecting continued lower market interest rates on bank deposits as well as the cancellation of events such as markets, exhibitions and plant sales, due to Covid.

Overall the trust's activities resulted in a surplus of £5,193 (2019: surplus of £4,505), with total funds standing at £281,240 (2019: £276,047) at the year-end. Of this total £228,243 (2019: £229,373) related to fixed assets and £40,976 (2019: £40,263) to unrestricted reserves, available for use by the trustees as the need arises. Restricted funds represent the balances remaining unspent against 6 conditional grants, totalling £12,020 (2019: £6,411).

	Creative Café	Dandelion	Creative Kids	COVID-19	Makaton & Food Hygiene Training	Flooring	Total
b/f Restricted Funds	915	4,134	1,026	-	336	-	6,411
Restricted Funds Additions	1,450	1,000	1,650	14,772	-	3,120	21,992
Restricted Funds Spending	(1,459)	(2,823)	(1,007)	(8,032)	-	(3,062)	(16,383)
c/f Restricted Funds	906	2,311	1,669	6,740	336	58	12,020

The net cost of running the Centre was £18,396, compared to the 2019 figure of £6,139. The Centre's total income decreased significantly compared to last year at £9,360 (2019: £33,021) again, due to Covid restrictions. We were able to cover c.£8k of Centre costs by restricted grants, and are very grateful to the Great Stone Bridge Trust, Kent Community Foundation, and Sevenoaks District Council for their support. Total Costs remained relatively stable in comparison at £35,787 (2019: £39,159), with the main decrease being reduced purchases of food and supplies as well as utilities. However, these savings were partly offset by an increase in repairs and improvements.

The detailed 2020 financial statements are set out on pages 6 to 11 that follow.

Reserves Policy

It is an objective of the Trustees to set a financial plan each year and to ensure that operating costs are covered annually by the receipt of income from the Centre, together with donations, grants and fundraising activities.

The Trustees believe that the charity should hold in unrestricted reserves a sufficient cushion of funds to enable it to:

- a) meet the cost of exceptional expenditure that may be incurred from time to time on major maintenance or improvements to the BRIDGES Centre and/or
- b) continue to exist in a period of reduced income and, should it be necessary, to cease to operate and wind up in an orderly fashion.

The Trustees consider that the desirable level of reserves for this purpose to be one year's operating costs and plan to generate annual operating surpluses in order to build reserves to this level, without impairing the quality of services provided. At 31 December 2020, the Trustees' unrestricted reserves of £40,976 represented 108% of the operating costs (2019 - £40,263 represented 97% of 2019 operating costs).

Investment of funds surplus to immediate requirements

The Trust Deed allows the Trustees to invest surplus funds in securities of whatsoever nature as the Trustees shall in their absolute discretion think fit. Interest rates have continued to be historically low and it has been challenging to find deposit rates that yield reasonable returns, whilst at the same time maintaining an acceptable risk profile.

A £10,000 three-year bond earning 1.85% completed its third year with United Trust Bank and matured in May 2020. In order to improve liquidity to protect Bridges from cash depletion with the Centre being closed due to Covid-19, this was not re-positioned on long-term deposit. A one-year 1.40% fixed rate deposit of £10,000 matured in May and was placed back with CAF Bank on a 60 days' notice account, earning 0.90%. The investment in the M&G Charibond Fixed Income Fund, a unit trust with charitable status, has continued to earn an acceptable overall return and increased in value by £108 in 2020 (2019 - increase of £145).

Statement of Trustees Responsibilities

Under the trust deed of the charity and charity law, the Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations. The financial statements are required by law to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the excess of income over expenditure for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, generally accepted accounting practice entails that the Trustees:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- state whether the financial statements comply with the trust deed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are required by law to act in accordance with the trust deed of the charity, within the framework of trust law. They are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, sufficient to disclose at any time with reasonable accuracy, the financial position of the charity at that time, and to enable the Trustees to ensure that, where any statements of account are prepared by them under section 132(1) of the Charities Act 2011, those statements of accounts comply with the requirements of regulations under that provision. They have general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the charity and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (Including Income and Expenditure Account)
Year ended 31 December 2020

	Note	CENTRE	TRUST	Fixed Assets Fund	Sub Total - Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL 2020	2019
		£	£	£		£	£	£
INCOME								
Donations		-	5,901	-	5,901	-	5,901	8,480
Grants		-	-	-	-	21,992	21,992	11,520
Bridges Centre sales		8,416	-	-	8,416	-	8,416	25,826
Centre hiring charges		626	-	-	626	-	626	4,774
Miscellaneous activities		317	-	-	317	-	317	2,420
Fundraising and events		-	14,262	-	14,262	-	14,262	2,737
Bank interest income		-	177	-	177	-	177	330
Investment income		-	226	-	226	-	226	211
Tax recovery		-	900	-	900	-	900	1,673
Revaluation of Investments		-	108	-	108	-	108	145
TOTAL INCOME		9,360	21,575	-	30,935	21,992	52,927	58,117
EXPENDITURE								
Purchases		2,471	-	-	2,471	147	2,618	6,882
Staff costs	2	18,139	-	-	18,139	7,213	25,353	25,611
Utilities		2,008	-	-	2,008	-	2,008	2,930
Cleaning supplies		58	-	-	58	-	58	64
Telephone		416	-	-	416	-	416	465
Stationery		504	-	-	504	-	504	199
Marketing		680	-	-	680	-	680	-
Improvements to Centre		-	-	-	-	-	-	(278)
Repairs and Maint.		2,816	-	-	2,816	-	2,816	1,702
Small equipment		222	-	-	222	91	314	415
Large equipment		-	-	-	-	400	400	758
Training		274	-	-	274	-	274	531
Creative Art Workshops		-	-	-	-	1,459	1,459	1,312
Creative Kids		-	-	-	-	1,007	1,007	124
Dandelion		-	-	-	-	2,823	2,823	5,639
Sundries		167	-	-	167	180	347	1,056
Insurance	3	-	2,148	-	2,148	-	2,148	2,049
Depreciation		-	-	4,510	4,510	-	4,510	4,153
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		27,756	2,148	4,510	34,414	13,320	47,734	53,612
SURPLUS /(DEFICIT)		(18,396)	19,427	(4,510)	(3,479)	8,672	5,193	4,505
Transfer Centre result to Trust		18,396	(18,396)	-	-	-	-	-
Purchase of fixed assets		-	(318)	3,381	3,062	(3,062)	-	-
		-	713	(1,130)	(417)	5,609	5,193	4,505
Funds Balance - beginning of year		-	40,263	229,373	269,636	6,411	276,047	271,542
FUNDS BALANCE - END OF YEAR	9	-	40,976	228,243	269,219	12,020	281,240	276,047

BALANCE SHEET as at 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Note	2020 £	£	2019 £
Tangible Fixed Assets	4			
Freehold Property		215,000		215,000
Furniture, Fixtures and Fittings		13,243		14,373
			228,243	229,373
Current Assets				
Debtors and Prepayments	5	2,595		3,475
Bank Balances and Cash in Hand	6	42,334		35,050
		44,929		38,526
Current Liabilities				
Creditors	7	(1,402)		(1,214)
Net Current Assets			43,527	37,312
Longer Term Assets over one year				
Investments	8		9,470	9,362
Total Net Assets			281,240	276,047
Funds held for charitable purposes	9			
Fixed Asset Fund				
Opening balance		229,373		226,771
Current year increase / (decrease)		(1,130)		2,602
			228,243	229,373
Unrestricted funds				
Opening balance		40,263		38,830
Current year increase / (decrease)		713		1,433
			40,976	40,263
Restricted Funds				
Opening balance		6,411		5,941
Current year increase / (decrease)		5,609		470
			12,020	6,411
			281,240	276,047

Approved by the Trustees on 24 November 2021 and signed on their behalf

Richard Dyson
Chairman of Trustees

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2020

1 Accounting Policies

Basis of preparation of financial statements and accounting standards

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (UK GAPP), Accounting & Reporting by Charities' Statement of Accounting Practice (SORP 2005), the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities (Accounts & Reports) Regulations 2008. The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds comprise general funds that are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Trust.

Restricted funds are funds that are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Trust for a specific purpose.

Income and Expenditure

Income, including donations received, and expenditure for direct and support costs are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) on an accruals basis.

Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets costing more than £250 are capitalised and included at cost, or in the case of land and buildings at the most recent valuation.

Depreciation is provided on tangible assets at 15% on a straight line basis to write off the cost over their respective useful lives. The freehold land and building was revalued at 31 December 2003 and the difference between the historic cost and the revalued amount included in the balance sheet within the fixed asset fund.

Investments

Investments are held by the Trust in order to generate income for the support of charitable activities and to provide assets to meet the needs of reserves. They are included at market value at the balance sheet date.

2 Staff costs	2020	2019
	£	£
Salaries and wages	24,477	24,750
Social Security	1,214	1,178
Government Employment Allowance (introduced in 2014)	(1,214)	(1,178)
Pension	876	861
	<u>25,353</u>	<u>25,611</u>

3 Insurance	2020	2019
	£	£
Prepaid - brought forward	1,600	1,516
Cost of premiums	2,191	2,134
Prepaid - carried forward	(1,643)	(1,600)
	<u>2,148</u>	<u>2,049</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2020 (continued)

4 Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold Property £	Furniture and Equipment £	TOTAL ASSETS £
Cost or valuation			
At the beginning of year	215,000	53,073	268,073
Additions during the year	-	3,381	3,381
Disposals during the year	-	-	-
Total at year end	<u>215,000</u>	<u>56,453</u>	<u>271,453</u>
Depreciation			
At the beginning of the year	Nil	38,699	38,699
Added during the year	Nil	4,510	4,510
Total at year end	<u>Nil</u>	<u>43,210</u>	<u>43,210</u>
Book value at 31 December 2020	<u>215,000</u>	<u>13,243</u>	<u>228,243</u>
<i>Book value at 31 December 2019</i>	<u>215,000</u>	<u>14,373</u>	<u>229,373</u>

5 Debtors - amounts receivable in less than one year

	2020 £	2019 £
Interest receivable - CAF	57	81
Interest receivable - United Trust Bank	-	123
HM Revenue & Customs - Gift Aid income tax	895	1,671
Insurance prepaid	1,643	1,600
	<u>2,595</u>	<u>3,475</u>

6 Bank Balances and Cash in Hand

	2020 £	2019 £
CAF Bank	27,684	12,707
CAF Bank - 1 year fixed rate	-	10,000
CAF - 60 day notice	10,130	-
Lloyds Bank	4,490	2,313
United Trust Bank - 1 year bond	-	10,000
Cash in Hand	30	30
	<u>42,334</u>	<u>35,050</u>

BRIDGES

(Charity No. 1029169)

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2020 (continued)

7 Creditors - amounts payable in less than one year	2020	2019
	£	£
HMRC - PAYE and NI	716	590
Creative Counselling	571	-
Sundry supplies	115	374
Purchases	-	250
	<u>1,402</u>	<u>1,214</u>

8 Investments	2020	2019
	£	£
M&G Fixed Interest Common Investment Fund (Charibond)		
Valuation at 31 December 2019	9,362	9,217
Revaluation	108	145
	<u>9,470</u>	<u>9,362</u>
Valuation at 31 December 2020		

9 Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

	Unrestricted General Fund	Unrestricted Fixed Asset Fund	Restricted Funds	TOTAL FUNDS
	£	£	£	£
Tangible Fixed Assets	-	89,559	-	89,559
Property Revaluation Reserve	-	138,684	-	138,684
Long-term Investment	9,470	-	-	9,470
Current Assets	32,909	-	12,020	44,929
Current Liabilities	(1,402)	-	-	(1,402)
Net Assets at 31 December 2020	<u>40,977</u>	<u>228,243</u>	<u>12,020</u>	<u>281,240</u>
<i>Net Assets at 31 December 2019</i>	<u>40,263</u>	<u>229,373</u>	<u>6,411</u>	<u>276,047</u>

10 Trustees

The Trustees receive no remuneration or expenses for their services (2019 - nil).

11 Commitments and Contingent Liabilities

At the balance sheet date there were no outstanding capital commitments (2019 - none) and in the opinion of the Trustees there were no contingent liabilities (2019 - none).

BRIDGES**(Charity No. 1029169)****Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2020 (continued)****12 Cash Flow Statement**

	2020	2019
	£	£
Cash inflow from operating activities	5,193	4,505
Non-cash items included above		
Revaluation of investments	(108)	(145)
Depreciation	4,510	4,153
Capital expenditure and financial investment		
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets	(3,381)	(6,756)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	880	(1,143)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	188	(513)
	<u>7,284</u>	<u>101</u>
 Bank Balances and Cash in Hand		
At the end of the year	42,334	35,050
At the beginning of the year	(35,050)	(34,949)
	<u>7,284</u>	<u>101</u>

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the BRIDGES Trust

(Charity No. 1029169)

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 December 2020, which are set out on pages 1 to 11.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility:

- ☐ to examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- ☐ to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act) and
- ☐ to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:

- ☐ to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
- ☐ to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

