HIGHBURY VALE-BLACKSTOCK TRUST

England & Wales · Charity number 1029704

Details

Other names	ELIZABETH HOUSE
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	02849848
Registered	1993-12-06
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust Elizabeth House 2 Hurlock Street London N5 1ED
Phone	02076901300
Email	info@elizabeth-house.org.uk
Website	www.elizabeth-house.org.uk

Activities

Objects: TO PROVIDE FACILITIES FOR RECREATION WITH THE OBJECTS OF IMPROVING THE CONDITIONS OF LIFE AND SOCIAL WELFARE OF THE INHABITANTS OF THE LONDON BOROUGHS OF ISLINGTON, HARINGEY AND HACKNEY ("THE AREA OF BENEFIT") ; B). TO PROVIDE A COMMUNITY CENTRE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THOSE LIVING IN THE AREA OF BENEFIT; C). TO ADVANCE EDUCATION FOR THOSE LIVING IN THE AREA OF BENEFIT; D). TO RELIEVE POVERTY BY PROVIDING ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE TO THOSE IN NEED; E). TO DO ANY OTHER CHARITABLE ACTIVITY.

Activities: Elizabeth House is a multi-purpose community centre in the heart of a socially diverse neighbourhood in North London. The Charity's aims are to improve local residents quality of life, connect people together, provide practical support and create opportunities for local people. The charity prioritises children, young people and families, but we are an inclusive space offering activities for all.

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Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Disability, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Amateur Sport, Economic/community Development/employment, Recreation
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** IN PRACTICE ISLINGTON, HARINGEY AND HACKNEY.
- Camden
- Hackney
- Haringey
- Islington

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£582,782	£621,422	£789,387	16
2024-03-31	£630,631	£544,008	£828,027	15
2023-03-31	£634,947	£615,859	£741,404	14
2022-03-31	£560,257	£456,372	£722,316	14
2021-03-31	£455,618	£394,463	-	-

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Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Andrew Baxter		2024-05-08
Edward Glasier		2024-05-08
Garry Luxford		2015-05-28
Jonathan Gore		2024-03-05
Lis Rideal		2024-05-08
Lucilia Falsarella Pereira		2022-12-07
Roshni Shah		2025-03-10
Tsigereda Tekletsadik		2025-03-10
Valerie Bossman-Quarshie		2019-09-17

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HIGHBURY VALE-BLACKSTOCK TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1029704

Accounts

Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust
Elizabeth House Community Centre

Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Company No. 2849848
Charity No. 1029704

Elizabeth House Community Centre, 2 Hurlock Street, London N5 1ED

Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust

Trustees' Report

For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

The trustees present their report and accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025. They have complied with the duty to have due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission.

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Charity name:	Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust (also known as "Elizabeth House")
Charity registration number:	1029704
Company registration number	2849848
Registered office and operations address	Elizabeth House, 2 Hurlock Street, London N5 1ED
Trustees (Directors)	
Chair	Garry Luxford
Treasurer	Garry Luxford (until December 2024) Lis Rideal (appointed on 8 May 2024, Treasurer since 2 Nov 2024)
	Lucilia Falsarella Pereira (Secretary) Valerie Bossman-Quarshie Jonathan Gore Andrew Baxter (appointed on 8 May 2024) Ned Glasier (appointed on 8 May 2024) Roshni Shah (appointed on 10 March 2025) Tsigereda Tekletsadik (appointed on 10 March 2025) Jeremy Corbyn, MP (retired on 2 Dec 2024, appointed as Patron) Carol Glover (retired on 2 December 2024) Lee-Anne Richardson-Pring (retired on 2 December 2024)
Chief Executive	Nathalie Renaud
Independent Examiner	Harry Nicolaou Of Harry Nicolaou & Co Limited Chartered Accountants 21 Brendon Way, Enfield, EN1 2LF
Bankers	CAF Bank Limited PO Box 289, West Malling, Kent ME19 4TA

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE

As we reflect on the past year at Elizabeth House, we do so with both pride and urgency. Our charity continues to serve a growing and diverse community of residents through a wide-ranging programme of services, activities, and support. Every day, we are inspired and driven by the strength, creativity, and resilience of our community members.

We cannot ignore the mounting challenges that shape our work. The cost of living crisis, housing insecurity, and the increasingly hostile environment for people from migrant backgrounds are not abstract issues; they are daily realities for many in our community. These pressures are compounded by rising physical and mental health needs, growing loneliness and isolation, and the increasing difficulty older residents face in living independently with dignity.

At the same time, securing long-term, core, and restricted funding is a growing struggle. Despite such challenges, our commitment to being a welcoming place of dignity, and opportunity has never been stronger. We want to offer more: more spaces, more services, more chances for connection and lasting change. But to do so, we must find new ways of working. We believe that real change must be driven by our community members themselves, and that community centres like Elizabeth House must become enablers of local organisation and action, not just providers of services.

We want to be a champion for our community, a dynamic space that is deeply rooted, relevant, and responsive. A place that contributes to a happier and healthier neighbourhood, not one that is seen as a last resort. We know the social value we bring is immense. Our impact is visible in every conversation, every shared meal, every Youth Club member who returns week after week, every child who says we are a second home for them.

We would like to extend our deepest thanks to our community members, volunteers, team, and trustees; for trusting us, for stepping up and taking responsibility, for boosting our capacity, and for your unwavering commitment to working alongside local residents to build a stronger, more connected community. We also want to express our gratitude to all the individual donors, Trusts, Foundations and Islington Council for their essential funding and support.

Garry Luxford, Chair

Nathalie Renaud, Chief Executive



Annual community party
October 2024

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 2 September 1993 and registered as a charity on 6 December 1993. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which defined the objects and powers of the charitable company. It is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up, members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law. The trustees have developed a policy for the recruitment of trustees that ensures their collective experience, and skills are best able to meet the needs of the charity. New Trustees are appointed by Board members.

Potential candidates for the Board of Trustees receive a briefing pack about the roles and responsibilities of a Trustee and have the opportunity to attend a Board meeting and visit Elizabeth House to understand its work before offering themselves for appointment. Trustees are invited to meet senior staff members and visit as many activities or projects as they are able to once they are elected.

Organisational Structure and Governance

The Board of Trustees is responsible for overall strategy and management of the organisation. The day-to-day management of the charity, including staff and financial matters, is delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, who is supported by a Deputy Centre Manager, Community Leader, Administrator, Operations Officer, Community Coordinator and Senior Youth Worker. Other employed staff and volunteers fulfil other roles in the organisation. The Chief Executive Officer reports directly to the Board of Trustees, who are also members of the organisation.

The Board of Trustees meets on a quarterly basis at Elizabeth House and online. This year, Trustees met four times, including the AGM. Meetings were well attended, and trustees have continued to take an active role in supporting the staff team. Four new Trustees were appointed in 2024-25 and we will continue to recruit actively to increase representation and ensure succession of Trustees who are coming to the end of their term.

Risk Assessment

The Trustees periodically undertake a review of the major risks to which the charity is exposed. Each year when considering the operating budget and strategic plan, the Trustees review the associated organisational and operational risks. The senior management team also review operational systems and procedures and service area risk assessments to manage risks that are in place. We review and update our risk assessments, business continuity and emergency contingency plans when needed.



Elizabeth House, 2 Hurlock Street, London N5

BACKGROUND AND AIMS OF THE ORGANISATION

Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust was established in its present form in 1993 to operate Elizabeth House Community Centre.

Our Vision

The Charity's vision is for everyone in the local community around Elizabeth House Community Centre to have a better quality of life through access to and participation in key activities, whilst building cohesion, and a stronger and more resilient local community.

Our mission

Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust is a charity dedicated to:

- Providing inclusive and flexible services for families, children and young people, as well as the wider community.
- Delivering meaningful and positive support to the local community and contribute to improving people's quality of life.
- Meeting the needs of the local community, especially people with high needs or who are underserved.

Our values

Inclusive – community members come first in everything we do.

Collaborative – we work in partnership with like-minded organisations who share the same goals to serve the local community.

Respect – all people making up our diverse community and team have unique qualities, abilities, needs and experience.

Flexible – we aspire to work flexibly to adapt to changing needs within the community.

Through our community-based approach - acting as a community 'anchor' – we build trust and bring people together so that we can connect residents to practical support and opportunities.

From 2025, Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust will be guided by a new 3-year strategic plan ensuring our vision, mission and objectives are relevant, but also ambitious and realistic. As a Charity and community-based organisation, we want to work with local people to provide support, to create connections and to make change happen. Our new strategy will look at both external and internal improvements as well as very tangible targets to make an impact in our community.

"I have been to a lot of community centres in my time and nothing compares to this one. Always being taken care of. I'd like to discuss how I can become a Friend of Elizabeth House to support you." Regular member

"We are so lucky to have Elizabeth House. It's a wonderful place and amazing people work there. Some community centres you don't know how they can call themselves that. But Elizabeth House isn't like that, there's always people who really care and there's always lots to do." Women's Goup member

Thank you, Elizabeth House

Oh, I sometimes feel dismayed
When I hear the latest news.
Or maybe for no reason,
I seem to have the blues.

Well, there's a place where I can go.
There are people that I know,
Who welcome me with smiles, and they are kind.

I can do some gentle yoga,
Ease my body, calm my mind.

Have a laugh, sing a song,
In a place
Where I belong.

Pat O'Driscoll

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES - FACTS AND IMPACT

At Elizabeth House, our teams work hard every year to ensure the centre is providing an inclusive and comprehensive programme of services for as many local residents as possible to access.

The Food Hub

Our food provision launched in March 2020 continues to respond to critical needs in our community. We support community members from our local area, with cooked meals and essential food and household items through a weekly pop-up Food Hub stacked with purchased and surplus food (distributed by The Felix Project and City Harvest London). In 2024-25, we worked hard to alleviate the persistent cost of living crisis experienced by many Londoners:

- 762 unique beneficiaries supported, 561 adults and 201 children.
- 278 active households.
- 79 new households registered over this period, including 218 new individuals (157 adults and 61 children).
- 2,246 food bags distributed.
- Overall there were 6,331 visits to the Food Hub over 12 months.
- All members can access additional services at Elizabeth House, plus advice and information from partner organisations.
- Monday Meals service has enabled the distribution of 1,885 meals in one year.
- 40+ local volunteers supports the Food Hub (representing 4,200 volunteer hours).
- Members pay a small subscription of up to £3 if they can.

The Food Hub has been funded through small grants from Trusts, regular donations from generous local residents and unrestricted funds. This is an essential offer for community members. Our inclusive food provision is an excellent opportunity for our team and volunteers to identify residents with other needs and create connections at Elizabeth House and with other services residents may not access. The impact of the Food Hub is much greater than any of the data can express.

“Elizabeth House helps me to do my weekly shopping, and I really like coming here. It's amazing what we do here, helping others who can't afford to shop and all the staff and people who come here are very nice people.” Volunteer and Food Hub member

"I come here for the energy! I can volunteer, learn English and get a good lunch.” Food Hub member and volunteer

“I come also for the vibes, but the food is always so fresh, it lasts me at least a week.” Food Hub member

"I don't just come for the food, I come to see all your smiling faces.” Food Hub member

"This food place is so real, it’s a lifeline for so many local people.” Food Hub member

Community Services

Elizabeth House offers a rich programme of activities and support services for the local community, including an over 50’s Lunch Club, access to nature activities, a Women’s Group, women-only sports sessions, referrals for children and adult mental health support, and a Winter Wellness programme to share health and support information with residents aged 65+.

Ann (her name was changed) is a bright-eyed woman in her mid-70’s, who was quiet when she first began coming to Women’s Group and apologised for not contributing as heartily as the lively longstanding cohort. But she was not put off and her thoughtful contributions soon commanded the attention of the group.

Ann now also attends the Blue House Club for for Chair Yoga and lunch on Wednesdays, and notably gave a heartfelt testimonial for the Home Library Service when they visited. Despite being softly spoken in conversation, she has come out of her shell in a dramatic fashion – performing a poem about ageism at our Age Without Limits event, warning us all that her poem would be a little controversial. But it was in fact a very light-hearted, playful and entertaining piece – if passionately provocative. Ann also composed a song entitled *Elizabeth House* to the tune of Elton John’s Candle in the Wind, giving us the tribute she feels we deserve! She feels that while she thinks ‘not looking your age’ is meant as a compliment, it’s a pity that ageing is seen as something to be ashamed of, and hopes to fight that lazy perspective by continuing to speak out against it. We greatly value her tenacious voice in our community and generous participation.

Community Services (continued)

The team at Elizabeth House is committed and multi-disciplinary, supported by many local partners to work with as many people as possible, providing essential support, creating vital connections, improving residents' wellbeing and a healthier and happier community. Over the year ending March 2024, Elizabeth House has directly reached, supported and delivered:

- 118 local women aged 16 to 73 participated in our three weekly fitness and Zumba sessions.
- 127 members are registered with our over 50's Club, 108 women and 19 men. On average, 23 members attend per week.
- 60+ older people benefited from free chair yoga weekly sessions.
- 36 women are active members of the resident-led Women's Group, with a weekly average participation of 12.
- 654 Council tenants aged 65+ were called to receive vital information in Islington and Camden during winter months.
- 168 were referred or signposted to additional support, through 600 hours of calls and outreach by our team.
- 3 green spaces on a local estate turned into nature oasis and run for and by community members and estate residents.
- Over 100 local people took part in activities in the Nature Gardens.
- 4 community events attended by over 450 residents for social eating and building connections.
- Elizabeth House held its first two community poetry evenings, opened to all and attended by over 80 people at each event.
- 30 babies and 40 new carers or parents have enjoyed baby massage sessions.
- 18 local residents were referred for intercultural therapy with Nafsiyat (counselling provided in over 10 languages).
- 4 children were referred for free counselling sessions in January 2025 at Elizabeth House.
- Over 200 residents were referred to other agencies for advice, housing support, migration assistance, benefits information, health services.

"We are so lucky to have Elizabeth House. It's a wonderful place and amazing people work there. Some community centres you don't know how they can call themselves that. But Elizabeth House isn't like that, there's always people who really care and there's always lots to do." Regular member

"I'm really enjoying this and didn't think I would. It is very therapeutic, and I feel less stressed. I feel that my creative side is coming out." Women's Group member

"It's always so good to get together, share problems and get support, and we are always learning something new!" Blue House Club member

" Every little bit of help you can get at the moment with what's going on in this country is a bit of help. Thank you so much. Your service has helped me to know where to get help with my original concerns even if it hasn't been resolved yet." Winter Wellness resident



Nature Gardens
Highbury Quadrant estate

Children and Childcare Services

With some support from Islington Council, Elizabeth House is still a major childcare provider in the borough, both during term time and school holidays. We have a strong reputation with local families and are very proud to be able to sustain an affordable, high quality After School and holiday provisions that is inclusive and affordable.

However, following the local government's decision to reduce its subsidy substantially in 2023, we have had to review and increase the fees charged almost annually. Despite this, attendance has remained high and we operate at full capacity on most days – highlighting that the services we offer are needed and valued by local families and children:

- 177 individual children attended the After School Club, with an average attendance of 48 children per session.
- 32 children were eligible for a free place, concession rate or have Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).
- 98 children benefited from our after-school enrichment activities, such as cooking, boxing, coding and dance.
- 228 children attended our Holiday Playschemes (10 weeks).
- 20 children had free places through the Holiday and Food programme.
- 28 children had Special Education Needs.

"I liked the bouncy castle, arts/crafts, computers, the trip to the theatre to solve the murder mystery and mostly everything." Child (Playscheme 2024)

"I love Elizabeth House because everyone is so friendly!" Child (Playscheme 2025)

"I wanted to sincerely thank the whole team for putting the effort in taking care of ** during the half term. We know it might not be easy to handle his wonder around and you could have just said no, but you didn't. For this you have all our gratitude not only for the convenience you provided but more importantly for the example you are setting in the kids with special needs world (which we are discovering). Kudos to all of you." Parent (Playscheme 2024)

"Elizabeth House provides an amazing service for working parents. The professionalism of all the personnel is commendable, and the activities offered to the children, even outside of enrichment clubs, are diverse and well organised. The flexibility offered to parents in terms of attendance and booking makes Elizabeth House an even more invaluable resource for both children and parents, in particular due to the limited after-school activities offered by our child's school. I am ever so grateful for the help and support they have given us so far." Parent

"Elizabeth house is a fabulous facility. We have sent 3 of our children since 2016 and they have all loved it. The care of the staff really stands out - they really care for the kids. We don't know what we would do without Elizabeth house. Thank you so much for the amazing work you are doing!" Parent

"Staff there are absolutely wonderful and the services provided are very reasonably priced. We visit there on many occasions and have used multiple services provided and truly feel that Elizabeth House is indispensable in our community." Parent

Youth Provision

Despite huge challenges in securing funding to keep our Youth Club open over the past 10 years, the charity and its Board have always prioritised its youth provision and invested its own funds to offer a safe, supportive and fun space for young people aged 11 to 18. Some children transition naturally from our childcare provision into Youth Club members, but our success is in reaching out to local young people from least advantaged families.

Youth Provision (continued)

Our youth provision has kept its average attendance at 24 young people per session, but has grown in quality with more opportunities for outings and residential weekends for Youth Club members. Its impact shows in the following:

- Two weekly sessions for up to 25 young people.
- 36 active Youth Club members, aged 11 to 17.
- 15 girls and 21 boys, all from the local area.
- 2 young people with additional needs and 2 are home-schooled.
- 2 volunteers supporting the youth team.
- 3 qualified and experienced Youth Workers engaging with members weekly.
- Bi-weekly vegan and vegetarian cooking workshops preparing 20 young people with new skills.
- 90% of Youth Club members were from under-resourced families
- 20% of members were from families seeking asylum in the UK.
- 70% are from minoritised backgrounds.
- 2 residential trips were organised for 8 and 12 young people, as well as member-led outings.

The Youth Club continues to be complemented by our partner Peoples Place Ccommunity Partnerships (PPCP) IT and employment programme for young people aged 16+. 21CS offers IT training leading to recognised qualifications, further training and work experience. Youth Club members, Food Hub members and other local residents can enrol for free to join in-person and online training with PPCP mentors. PPCP students also offer digital inclusion support to our older members.

- 96 students enrolled between April 2024 and March 2025.
- 131 active participants.
- 31% are Islington residents.
- 36 students gained at least one qualification (63 qualifications passed in total).
- 53 students involved in work experience/placement.
- 7 graduates secured IT jobs and 1 secured an IT apprenticeship.
- 94.7% are from minoritised groups, 14% are NEET, 20% in low paid jobs

OUR BUILDING

In the summer of 2024, the Charity fundraised and financed major capital works to redecorate the community centre, both internally and externally. The works were carried out over a 3-month period with minimal disruption to our programme of activities. Members of all ages were delighted to return to a colourful and fresh-looking centre in September 2024.

Looking ahead to 2025–26, the Charity will use its building fund to upgrade the centre’s toilet facilities, an essential part of our original refurbishment plan. These improvements were postponed due to financial and logistical constraints. The works include new flooring, cubicles, and sinks, all designed to enhance comfort, accessibility, and the overall experience for everyone who visits Elizabeth House.





Building renovations in summer 2024

Elizabeth House continues to host other community groups running training sessions or classes, as well community groups looking for a space for regular meetings. There is a weekly church group on Sundays using our main hall and many residents from Islington and neighbouring boroughs hire our spaces for their private events. We also support local tenants and residents associations and other community groups by providing them space free of charge when needed.

OVERVIEW OF OUR COMMUNITY PROGRAMME

Our impact is evidenced by the large and growing number of people we reach. Our footfall during the year was slightly higher at 45,000 and over 5,500 individual people accessing activities and services, receiving support, enjoying our community meals and/or participating in our events.

Elizabeth House is also a space for groups to run classes, share skills and provide wellbeing activities. As a community organisation, we welcome grassroot organisations, newly launched or well-established groups, as long as they offer something for the local community that help connect people, improve personal development or physical and mental wellbeing. We also value groups offering different activities which we can't deliver as an organisation. We always endeavour to connect our services with the activities of others and provide support to promote or launch a new.

Aerobics class - a very dynamic and friendly class open to all every Monday.

Access to Nature – activities every Saturday for residents in Nature Gardens on Highbury Quadrant and for children during term times and holidays.

After School Club - delivered by Elizabeth House, we offer an affordable out of school childcare service for working parents for primary school children.

Baby massage group - a Bright Start-led weekly group every Tuesday morning.

Baby in baby out – baby massage and relaxation group every Tuesday afternoon.

Ballet classes - a range of weekly classes on Monday and Thursday for pre-school aged children.

Blue House Club – over 50's lunch club with chair yoga classes and social activities open to all every Wednesday.

Community Choir – open to all and offered by World Harmony Orchestra every Thursday evening.

Community Yoga - a weekly wellbeing class, every Tuesday morning.

Dance improvisation – a weekly group of experienced dancers, every Friday.

Enrichment clubs for children – after school activities including cooking, coding and boxing.

Food Hub - provision of food and essential items to local residents and families every week.

Holiday Playscheme - a popular holiday provision for children aged 4 to 14, 11 weeks per year.

IT training and employability programme - run by our partner PPCP for young people to gain qualifications and secure employment in the IT sector.

Kuk Sool Won - a popular Korean martial art class for children and adults every Thursday evening.

Nafsiyat Multicultural Therapy – an outreach project to offer multilingual counselling.

NHS North London – a closed social group for regular members every Thursday.

Reading Groups - 2 weekly reading groups every Wednesday.

Self-defence and MMA - a weekly class on Thursday mornings for women only.

Sport School - multi sports sessions for children aged 2-11 years, every Saturday.

Swing Dance – a weekly energetic dance class to make you swing, every Tuesday evening.

Women only fitness and Zumba classes - delivered by qualified coaches, 3 free weekly sessions for all abilities.

World Harmony Orchestra – offers pay what you can music lessons for the community on Friday.

Youth club - open to all young people age 11 to 18 years old, held on Monday and Friday evenings.

FUTURE PLANS

Elizabeth House will be guided by a new strategy to anchor the centre even deeper into our community. We have bold and ambitious plans to improve how we work and deliver more in satellite spaces in our community. We want to take our team and our programme to residents, as well as welcome more local people at Elizabeth House.

Our strategy for 2025-2028 will focus on the following priorities:

- To support residents by understanding their needs and providing sanctuary for and with our community.
- To connect residents by bringing them together to play, learn, grow, build relationships and support each other.
- To change by making space for residents to make change for themselves and their communities.

The team at Elizabeth House has deep collective experience and a very strong knowledge of its community, issues faced by residents, and other services and agencies to signpost residents to. Despite challenges to secure core (unrestricted) funding, Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust will continue to invest in its Community Team ensuring they are the vital bridge between our programme and the local community.

We will continue to develop partnerships and look at new ways of collaborating with more businesses, new partners including residents groups, businesses and newly established organisations, both formal and informal, to reach more people, enabling access to activities, support as well as tangible change for community members.

As always, our priority will be to diversify and grow the charity's income to be able to deliver its ambitious strategy; looking at growing our Friends of Elizabeth House group via a community campaign, prioritising grant funding, developing partnerships to seek joint-funding and co-designing new hyper-local initiatives in satellite spaces for better access.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Income received in the year reduced from £630,631 to £582,782. Expenditure increased by over 14% from £544,008 to £621,422. The net movement in funds for 2025 was an outflow of -£38,640 (2024 inflow of £86,623).

This can be explained by the timing of grants received (in 2023-24) and delivery period (2024-25), as well as the major capital works carried out in summer 2024.

Looking forward, the Charity will continue to look at ways to diversify its income and make income generation a priority to ensure activities are sustained and new projects launched. The Trustees also expect attendance and activities to continue to increase as the organisation's new strategy, communication and fundraising plans are implemented.

The total funds carried forward in 2025 are £789,387 (2024 £828,027). Cash reserves of the Trust are £573,005 (2024 £607,373). This represents just over 11 months of expenditure (2024 13.4 months).

Reserves

The trustees are aware of the need to maintain unrestricted general reserves, currently £348,305 (2024 £320,145).

The Trustees are conscious of the need to have unrestricted designated funds for building maintenance (£62,919), staffing (£15,000), staff training (£10,000), and equipment (£9,852).

Approved by the trustees on 14 July 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

garry luxford

……

Garry Luxford
Chair

THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS AND PARTNERS

We could not do it without our funders, partners, individual donors, volunteers, advisers, hirers who support Elizabeth House to deliver a rich community programme. We are very grateful to so many individuals we can't name here, but you should know who you are!

In no particular order, we want to thank:

- Our trustees
- Our team
- Our amazing volunteers
- Our community chefs
- Our physical activities coaches
- Islington Council
- St James Trust
- Trust for London
- London Youth
- The National Lottery's Community Fund
- Peoples Place Community Partnerships
- The Felix Project
- City Harvest
- Bright Start
- Bright Lives
- Islington Food Partnership
- Nafsiyat
- Arsenal Councillors
- Highbury Councillors
- Highbury Quadrant Tenants and Residents Association
- Blackstock Management Organisation
- Headley Trust
- Octopus Communities and all our fellow Community Centres in Islington
- GoodGym Islington
- Whitebrothers Greengrocers
- Sport England
- Hubbub (Nature Hub)
- Islington Faiths Forum
- NHS North London Forensic Service
- Little Angels Nursery
- Islington Sports
- House of Hodge
- Jack Petchey Foundation
- LBI Partnerships Team
- LBI Special Projects Team
- LBI Child and Young People Team
- Help on Your Doorstep
- Islington Giving
- The Cripplegate Foundation
- Hedley Foundation
- The Big Alliance
- Camden Council
- Voluntary Action Islington
- Migrants Organise Hackney
- Gillespie Primary School
- Ambler Primary School
- Age UK Islington
- Span Trust
- SHINE, Islington
- WISH+, Camden
- Urban Forest Tribe
- World Harmony Orchestra
- The Woodbine pub
- Stubbers Adventure Centre
- Seasons and Blossoms
- Age Without Limits
- Dusty Knuckles
- James Edwards Property

To volunteer, start a new community group or for more information, please email info@elizabeth-house.org.uk or call us on 020 7690 1300.

Photo credits: Elizabeth House team members





Community picnic
July 2024

Independent Examiner's report to the trustees of Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2025 set out on pages 13 to 21.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

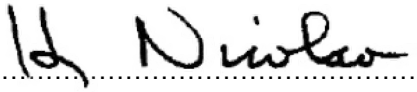
Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 you as 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 to indicate that:

- accounting records have not been kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006;
- the accounts do not accord with such records;
- where accounts are prepared on an accruals basis, whether they fail to comply with relevant accounting requirements under section 396 of the Companies Act 2006, or are not consistent with the Charities SORP (FRS102);
- any matter which the examiner believes should be drawn to the attention of the reader to gain a proper understanding of the accounts.



Harry Nicolaou FCA
Of Harry Nicolaou and Co Limited
Chartered Accountants
21 Brendon Way
Enfield EN1 2LF

19 September 2025

Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust

Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account)

For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

	Note	Restricted funds	Unrestricted funds	2025 Total funds	*2024 Total funds*
		£	£	£	*£*
INCOME FROM:					
Donations and legacies		18,843	31,946	50,789	55,219
Charitable activities:					
Grants	2	159,629	80,000	239,629	324,979
After School Club income		-	96,087	96,087	88,973
Holiday Playschemes income		-	64,664	64,664	54,723
Users hire of premises		-	59,565	59,565	49,801
Projects hire of premises		-	10,400	10,400	8,374
Management and supervision of projects		-	10,460	10,460	12,500
Other income		7,651	28,048	35,699	29,490
Investments:					
Bank interest		-	15,489	15,489	6,572
TOTAL INCOME		**186,123**	**396,659**	**582,782**	*630,631*
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Charitable activities					
Staff costs	3	107,303	255,091	362,394	312,212
Premises costs	4	19,819	74,138	93,957	64,827
Activities costs	5	101,757	36,482	138,239	140,719
Other costs	6	4,712	152	4,864	4,677
Governance costs	7	-	21,968	21,968	21,573
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		**233,591**	**387,831**	**621,422**	*544,008*
	9	**(47,468)**	**8,828**	**(38,640)**	*86,623*
Transfers between funds	16	2,818	(2,818)	-	-
Net movement in funds		**(44,650)**	**6,010**	**(38,640)**	*86,623*
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		387,961	440,066	828,027	*741,404*
Total funds carried forward	16	**343,311**	**446,076**	**789,387**	*828,027*

Net income for the year also comprises the net income for the year for Companies Act purposes.

Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust

Company No. 2849848

Balance Sheet

As at 31 March 2025

	Note	2025	*2024*
		£	*£*
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	11	261,943	*271,990*
Total fixed assets		**261,943**	*271,990*
Current assets			
Debtors	12	21,429	*26,240*
Cash at bank and in hand		573,005	*607,373*
Total current assets		**594,434**	*633,613*
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	13	(66,990)	*(77,576)*
		527,444	*556,037*
	14	**789,387**	*828,027*
The funds of the charity:			
Restricted funds		**343,311**	*387,961*
Unrestricted income funds:			
General funds		348,305	*320,145*
Designated funds		97,771	*119,921*
		446,076	*440,066*
Total charity funds	16	**789,387**	*828,027*

The directors are satisfied that the company is entitled to exemption from the requirement to obtain an audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 and that members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Act.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

Approved by the directors on ……14 July 2025……..

And signed on their behalf by:

garry luxford

……..……..……..……..……...

Garry Luxford
Chair

Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust

Statement of Cash Flows

As at 31 March 2025

	2025	*2024*
	£	*£*
Cash flow from operating activities		
Net (deficit)/surplus for the year	(38,640)	86,623
Interest received	(15,489)	(6,572)
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	10,047	10,047
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	4,811	(1,610)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(10,586)	2,846
Net cash flow from operating activities	(49,857)	*91,334*
Cash flow from investing activities		
Interest received	15,489	*6,572*
Net cash flow from investing activities	15,489	*6,572*
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	(34,368)	*97,906*
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April 2024	607,373	*509,467*
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March 2025	573,005	*607,373*

1. Accounting Policies

Basis of accounting
The accounts (financial statement) have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for twelve months from authorising these accounts and have decided that the charity is able to continue as a going concern.

Income recognition
All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, there is sufficient certainty of receipt and so it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Expenditure recognition
Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that a settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is accounted for exclusive of VAT.

Fund accounting
Restricted funds are grants, donations and other incoming resources which are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.

Unrestricted funds are grants, donations and other incoming resources receivable for the objects of the charity without further specified purpose and are available as general funds.

Governance costs
Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include costs linked to the strategic management of the charity.

Fixed assets
Fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Items of equipment and fittings are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £300.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset, less its estimated residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Buildings	2% on cost
Equipment and fittings	33.33% on cost

Debtors
Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discounts offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid after taking account of any trade discounts due.

Creditors
Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Operating leases
Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as incurred over the term of the lease.

Pension costs
The costs of the defined contribution arrangements are charged to the SOFA as incurred.

2. Grants

	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total 2025	*Total 2024*
			£	*£*
Jack Petchey Foundation	1,380	-	**1,380**	*1,900*
St James' Trust	-	30,000	**30,000**	*30,000*
LB Islington & Camden - Winter Wellness	11,500	-	**11,500**	*16,450*
LB Islington Community Investment Levy (Nature Gardens)	23,439	-	**23,439**	-
LB Islington Community Investment Levy (Capital Works)	7,000	-	**7,000**	-
LB Islington Active Spaces (Nature Gardens)	6,534	-	**6,534**	-
LB Islington - EYDCP (After School Club)	4,714	-	**4,714**	*6,717*
LB Islington - EYDCP (Playschemes)	20,224	-	**20,224**	*44,115*
LB Islington - VCS	-	50,000	**50,000**	*50,000*
LB Islington - Small Change Big Impact (Youth Club)	5,000	-	**5,000**	*5,000*
Octopus Communities	1,000	-	**1,000**	*5,383*
London Youth Federation (Digital Talent 2.0)	24,300	-	**24,300**	*10,100*
LB Islington - Local Initiatives Fund	600	-	**600**	*5,100*
Headley Trust	5,000	-	**5,000**	*10,000*
Hedley Foundation	2,680	-	**2,680**	-
Nafsiyat - Intercultural Therapy and Outreach	6,106	-	**6,106**	*4,815*
Aberdeen Park Nursery	875	-	**875**	-
Highbury Quadrant Tenants and Residents Association	4,000	-	**4,000**	-
Hubbub Foundation	9,000	-	**9,000**	-
Islington Faith Forum	8,000	-	**8,000**	-
Islington Giving - Islington Food Fund	15,777	-	**15,777**	-
Span Trust	2,500	-	**2,500**	-
Trust for London	-	-	**-**	*44,000*
Sport England	-	-	**-**	*10,778*
Sport Islington	-	-	**-**	*1,250*
National Lottery Community Fund - Cost of Living Fund	-	-	**-**	*61,000*
Stubbers Adventure Centre	-	-	**-**	*1,291*
Big Ideas Company	-	-	**-**	*750*
House of Hodge	-	-	**-**	*3,830*
NatWest Foundation	-	-	**-**	*12,500*
	159,629	**80,000**	**239,629**	*324,979*

3. Staff costs

	2025	*2024*
	£	*£*
Salaries and wages	324,852	290,727
Social security costs	22,244	18,394
Pension costs	6,096	5,433
Other staffing costs	27,899	15,584
	381,091	*330,138*
Consisting of:		
Charitable project staff costs	362,394	312,212
Charitable governance staff costs (Note 7)	18,697	17,926
	381,091	*330,138*

The average weekly number of employees during the year was 15.8

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 per annum.

4. Premises costs

	2025	*2024*
	£	*£*
Cleaning, maintenance, health and safety, repairs	54,558	*28,140*
Insurance	7,329	*6,403*
Light and heat	10,707	*9,608*
Business rates and water rates	11,316	*10,629*
Depreciation of buildings	10,047	*10,047*
	93,957	*64,827*

5. Activities costs

	2025	*2024*
	£	*£*
Management and supervision of projects	10,460	*12,500*
Office equipment, materials, printing, stationery & postage	2,396	*1,737*
Travel, volunteer, project activities, food hub, project equipment and sundry expenses	73,850	*77,366*
Telephone, internet and website	1,413	*928*
Equipment hire and maintenance	2,007	*1,358*
IT development, maintenance and support	2,091	*943*
Tutors' costs	46,022	*45,887*
	138,239	*140,719*

6. Other costs

	2025	*2024*
	£	*£*
Bank charges	135	*183*
Subscriptions	651	*1,089*
Consultancy fees	4,078	*3,405*
	4,864	*4,677*

7. Governance costs

	2025	*2024*
	£	*£*
Salaries and wages (Note 3)	18,697	*17,926*
Independent Examiner's fee	3,000	*3,500*
Telephone	48	*49*
Other expenses	223	*98*
	21,968	*21,573*

8. Transactions with trustees

No remuneration was paid to the trustees in their role as trustee during the year and no expenses were reimbursed to them. The trustees together with their family members have no beneficial interest either directly or indirectly in any contract of the charity.

9. Net incoming resources for the year

		2025	*2024*
		£	*£*
This is stated after charging:			
Depreciation	(Note 11)	10,047	*10,047*
Independent Examiner's fee:	(Note 7)	3,000	*3,500*

10. Taxation

The charity has no corporation tax liability because income from its activities is in pursuance of its charitable objectives and all income is applied for charitable purposes.

11. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings	Equipment and fittings	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1 April 2024	502,299	70,699	572,998
At 31 March 2025	**502,299**	**70,699**	**572,998**
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2024	230,309	70,699	301,008
Charge for the year	10,047	-	10,047
At 31 March 2025	**240,356**	**70,699**	**311,055**
Net book value			
At 31 March 2025	**261,943**	**-**	**261,943**
At 31 March 2024	*271,990*	*-*	*271,990*

The market value of freehold land and buildings is significantly more than the carrying value and has been estimated by the trustees to be over £1m.

12. Debtors

	2025	*2024*
	£	*£*
Prepayments and accrued income	523	*1,032*
Other debtors	20,906	*25,208*
	21,429	*26,240*

13. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	*2024*
	£	*£*
Taxation and social security	14,521	*7,361*
Deferred income	10,039	*19,658*
Other creditors	4,430	*12,057*
Accruals	3,000	*3,500*
Loan (secured)	35,000	*35,000*
	66,990	*77,576*

The loan is interest free and secured by a charge over the land and buildings.
Deferred income comprises grants and other income received in advance of the period to which they are intended.

14. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Restricted funds	Unrestricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£
Fixed assets	261,943	-	261,943
Current assets	116,368	478,067	594,434
Current liabilities	(35,000)	(31,990)	(66,990)
	343,311	**446,076**	**789,387**

15. Operating lease commitments

As at 31 March 2025 the company has total future commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2025	*2024*
	£	*£*
Not later than one year	1,834	*1,834*
Later than one year and not later than five years	5,959	*7,793*
	7,793	*9,627*

16. Statement of funds

	At 1 April 2024	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers between funds	At 31 March 2025
	£	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Restricted funds					
Building Fund	236,989	-	(10,047)	-	**226,942**
Food Hub	79,173	38,634	(56,960)	-	**60,847**
Adult Community Activities	33,925	17,606	(31,013)	-	**20,518**
Nature Connections	1,691	44,623	(29,309)	-	**17,005**
Community Events	3,515	1,685	(1,482)	-	**3,718**
PPCP/ 21CS IT Training	23,063	24,300	(47,363)	-	**-**
Holloway Mural Fund	1,105	-	-	-	**1,105**
Equipment Fund	(49)	-	-	49	**-**
Building Maintenance and Improvement	-	9,500	(9,500)	-	**-**
Children's Activities	2,837	24,938	(25,014)	(2,761)	**-**
Youth Activities	5,712	24,837	(22,903)	5,530	**13,176**
	387,961	**186,123**	**(233,591)**	**2,818**	**343,311**
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	320,145	396,659	(365,681)	(2,818)	**348,305**
Designated funds:				-	
Building Maintenance Fund	84,921	-	(22,002)	-	**62,919**
Staff Redundancy and Sickness Fund	15,000	-	-	-	**15,000**
Staff Training Fund	10,000	-	-	-	**10,000**
Equipment Fund	10,000	-	(148)	-	**9,852**
	440,066	**396,659**	**(387,831)**	**(2,818)**	**446,076**
Total funds	**828,027**	**582,782**	**(621,422)**	**-**	**789,387**

Continued

16 *continued*

Details of restricted funds

The Building Fund represents the cost and improvement of Elizabeth House less loan and accumulated depreciation.

The Children's Fund is to provide activities for children and childcare during term time and school holidays**.**

The Youth Fund is to provide free, youth-led activities for 11+.

Adult Community Fund is to cover essential community activities and staffing costs, including our over 50's lunch club, community meals, Winter Wellness calls, women-only and warm space related activities.

Food Hub Fund is to support residents affected by food insecurity and the cost of living crisis. The Food Hub is a social supermarket that provides essential food to registered residents, as well as a social hub to support local connections and facilitate access to other services and activities.

Nature Connections Fund is to provide access to nature activities for local residents and develop green spaces into thriving green areas on local housing estates, while supporting residents' wellbeing, local biodiversity and food growing.

Community Events Fund provides resources for inclusive community events at Elizabeth House and in the wider community to create deeper connections between local people.

21st Century Skills Fund was set up in partnership with PPCP to provide IT training and work experience for young people (18+) to secure jobs in the IT sector. This includes a number of projects such as Digital Talent.

Building Maintenance and Improvement Fund is dedicated for any restricted funds for capital works at Elizabeth House**.**

Holloway Mural Fund was raised by local residents to create a mural on Holloway Road. Funds are retained for future maintenance of the mural.

17. Pension costs

The charity participates in defined contribution workplace pension arrangements for members of staff. The employer contribution rate is 3% and the cost for the year was £6,096 (2024 £5,433). There was no outstanding amount at the year end.

HIGHBURY VALE-BLACKSTOCK TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1029704

Accounts

Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust
Elizabeth House Community Centre

Annual Report and Financial Statements

31 March 2024



Elizabeth House Community Centre
2 Hurlock Street, London N5 1ED

Company No. 2849848
Charity No. 1029704

HIGHBURY VALE BLACKSTOCK TRUST

Trustees' Report

For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

The trustees present their report and accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024. They have complied with the duty to have due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission.

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Charity name:	Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust (also known as "Elizabeth House")
Charity registration number:	1029704
Company registration number:	2849848
Registered office and operations address	Elizabeth House, 2 Hurlock Street, London N5 1ED
Trustees (Directors)	
Chair	Carol Glover (until 22 November 2023) Garry Luxford (from 22 November 2023)
Treasurer	Garry Luxford
	Ashley Hodges (retired November 2023) Jeremy Corbyn MP Mary Dakin (retired November 2023) Valerie Bossman-Quarshie Lee-Anne Richardson-Pring Rui Avelar Silva (retired March 2024) Lucilia Falsarella Pereira Carol Glover Jonathan Gore (appointed March 2024)
Centre Director (Chief Executive)	Nathalie Renaud
Independent Examiner	Harry Nicolaou Of Harry Nicolaou & Co Limited Chartered Accountants 21 Brendon Way, Enfield, EN1 2LF
Bankers	CAF Bank Limited PO Box 289, West Malling, Kent ME19 4TA

HIGHBURY VALE BLACKSTOCK TRUST

Trustees' Report

For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Message from the Chair

This report will again illustrate how Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust (HVBT), the charity managing Elizabeth House Community Centre, is dedicated to making our local area a better place to live for community members. Elizabeth House continues to focus on children and young people through childcare and youth provisions, ensuring they thrive and have safe spaces to play, learn and connect with others in their community.

But our services have expanded over the past 5 years. They are planned and delivered to also support local residents experiencing poverty, isolation, mental and physical health issues, including older people, people who are new to our local community, and families working hard through a cost of living crisis. We pride ourselves in having a wide offer of support and wellbeing activities for all age groups, and thankful to our partners and other community groups for making our programme richer.

This year marked Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust's 30th anniversary. Elizabeth House was saved as a community centre by local residents and personalities, who founded the charity so it could continue to be a community asset for generations to come. As an organisation, we work hard with our partners, local groups and residents to connect people together and change lives.

I was appointed as Chair in November 2023, and I look forward to work with other trustees and the team to strengthen our work and bring more positive change for the local community. Special thanks to Carol Glover, my predecessor, who gave many years to HVBT. I would like also to thank my fellow trustees, our colleagues and volunteers for their hard work and commitment to make Elizabeth House and our community a better place for all.

Garry Luxford, Chair

Message from the Executive Director

Having been in post for 8 years, I can testify to how much the organisation has achieved again this year, but also how much we have learned. It has been an honour to work with this ever-changing community, and I was excited to be celebrating the 30th anniversary of the charity HVBT founded by local residents and activists to save Elizabeth House.

30 years on, the organisation has grown in size and reputation, working with many more people, offering more activities and services, building and supporting its local community. I am very proud of our services and how adaptable we are as an organisation. But there is so much more we could do – some of which was identified through a recent independent governance review - to be more representative, to reach more underserved residents and groups, and create more connections across differences. Our physical space is starting to feel too small for all the big ideas we have to build a stronger community that can connect and change things, but we have our big local area to grow into!

People's involvement and the community we are based in are what make us stronger, better and more relevant as an organisation. I would also like to thank our great and growing team, the trustees and the many amazing volunteers - all working hard to make Elizabeth House and the local area a better place to grow up, live, study and work in.

Nathalie Renaud, Executive Director

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document
The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 2 September 1993 and registered as a charity on 6 December 1993. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which defined the objects and powers of the charitable company. It is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees
The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law. The trustees have developed a policy for the recruitment of trustees that ensures their collective experience, and skills are best able to meet the needs of the charity. New Trustees are appointed by Board members.

Potential candidates for the Board of Trustees receive a briefing pack about the roles and responsibilities of a Trustee and have the opportunity to attend a Board meeting and visit Elizabeth House to understand its work before offering themselves for appointment. Trustees are invited to meet senior staff members and visit as many activities or projects as they are able to once they are elected.

Organisational Structure and Governance
The Board of Trustees is responsible for overall strategy and management of the organisation. The day-to-day management of the charity, including staff and financial matters, is delegated to the Centre Director, who is supported by a Deputy Centre Manager, Administrator, Operations Officer, Community Coordinators and Senior Youth Worker. Other employed staff and volunteers fulfil other roles in the organisation. The Centre Director has the function of Chief Executive Officer, reporting directly to the Board.

The Board of Trustees meets approximately every three months at Elizabeth House. This year, Trustees met four times, including the AGM. Meetings were well attended, and trustees have continued to take an active role in supporting the staff team.

Risk Assessment
The Trustees periodically undertake a review of the major risks to which the charity is exposed. Each year when considering the operating budget and strategic plan, the Trustees review the associated organisational risks. The senior management team also review operational systems and procedures and service area risk assessments to manage risks that are in place. We review and update our risk assessments, business continuity and emergency contingency plans annually.

Our vision

The Charity's vision is for everyone in the local community around Elizabeth House Community Centre to have a better quality of life through access and participation in key activities, whilst building cohesion, and a stronger and more resilient local community.

Our mission

Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust is a charity dedicated to:

- Providing inclusive and flexible services for families, children and young people, as well as the wider community.
- Delivering a meaningful and positive influence on the local community, contribute to improving people's quality of life and provide practical support.
- Meeting the needs of the local community, especially people with high needs or who are underserved.

Our values

Inclusive – community members come first in everything we do.

Collaborative – we work in partnership with like-minded organisations who share the same goals to serve the local community.

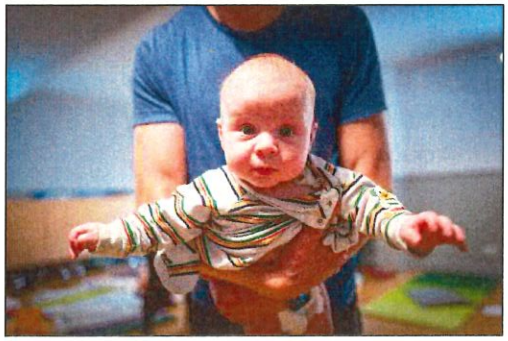
Respect – all people making up our diverse community and team have unique qualities, abilities, needs and experience.

Flexible – we aspire to work flexibly to adapt to changing needs within the community.

Through our community-based approach - acting as a community 'anchor' – we build trust and bring people together so that we can connect residents to practical support and opportunities.

Over the next year, the charity will be working on a new strategic plan for Elizabeth House and we will be updating our mission, vision and values. Following years of growth in terms of our team, our services and our impact, it is time to rethink where we want to be as a community organisation in 3 to 5 years so we can optimise our space, our offer, as well as develop our skills and ensure that we focus on what is the most important for our community.

"You won't find a more REAL community centre than this. Other places, people don't really listen. This is a really real one, not in name only."



"The food hub helps us a lot as it provides fresh food and my sons can have vitamins. It is a great help because we lack money and can't go the supermarket to buy what we want. Mentally I am relaxed when I come here because there is something I can take home, I feel less stressed. Hopefully one day I can help people like you help people. It is so important to me to be in the community helping people. It makes you feel useful."

Community activities - facts and impact

At Elizabeth House, we have worked hard to keep our programme of activities and support relevant, inclusive and diverse for as many local residents as possible to access.

The Food Hub

Through a weekly Monday Meals service and Food Hub, we support community members from our local area, with cooked meals and essential food and household items. In 2023-24, we have continued to support residents:

- 370 individual members received regular food support via the Food Hub.
- 158 households from our local area had access to food and other items, as well as support services and signposting.
- Over 100 children were among the families receiving food support in 12 months.
- 4,000+ food parcels were distributed in 12 months, with an average of £35 worth of food.
- 800+ cooked meals were distributed to Food Hub members and other residents.
- Over 40 volunteers gave 1,700+ hours in 12 months to deliver our food provision.

"Thanks for this place is all I can say! This is what helps me stay alive. There're veggies I haven't had for years (...) It's amazing! It's made a real difference. I recover better when I'm not worrying about where food will come from."

"It's not just the staff and volunteers, it's all the other people you meet here, they're so nice and help each other out. It's just a lovely place. I've always been treated so well here. I can be a bit unsteady on my feet, I put it down to age. Someone helps and sees me home afterwards. Last time young Elliot walked me home. Carried the bags."

Community Services

Elizabeth House offers a rich programme of activities and support services for the local community, including a Women's Group, women-only sports sessions, access to nature activities, a weekly lunch club for over 50's and a Winter Wellness programme to share health and support information with residents aged 65+.

This programme is delivered by our Community Team and activities are co-produced with our members. Activities include health and wellbeing workshops, arts and craft, gardening, social eating, speakers on a range of topics, referrals to statutory services and signposting to other community activities, music and multi-cultural therapy.

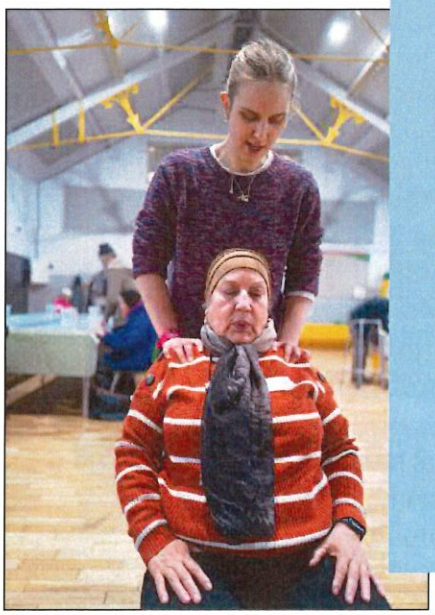
Our team is multi-disciplinary and works with many local partners to support as many people as possible, working together to connect people, improve their wellbeing and quality of life. Over this year, Elizabeth House has directly reached, supported and delivered:

- 4 community events attended by 350 residents for social eating and building connections.
- 100+ local women aged 16 to 73 participated in fitness, Zumba and self-defence sessions.
- 60+ older people benefited from free chair yoga weekly sessions.
- 70+ members are registered with the Blue House Club, with on average 23 people per week.
- 34 women are active members of the Women's Group founded in 2020, with a weekly average participation of 12.
- 697 residents aged 65+ were contacted across Islington and Camden during winter months.
- 144 were referred for additional support, through 600 hours of calls and outreach by our team.
- 10 local residents referred for intercultural therapy with Nafsiyat.
- Countless residents referred to other agencies for legal advice, housing support, migration assistance, benefits information, health services.
- 3 green spaces managed by Elizabeth House and local residents, with weekly group activities.
- 116 residents are members of the Nature Gardens to help and enjoy the beautiful spaces.
- Over 50 babies and 60 new carers or parents have enjoyed baby massage sessions.

"I heard about it from a woman on the bus. This is the BEST centre. Everybody that comes here is caring and sharing. I've been about to pass out, the people in the Food Hub made sure I got some water and something to eat. Someone actually drove me home! You know when you know somebody, and you pick up that something's not right. What I've got is Elizabeth House. Being able to be on the WhatsApp, to share things there. Wonderful, wonderful women. This group is absolutely awesome."

"I was supposed to be leaving, but I got into it and ended up staying to the end. I was feeling a bit down before but after the singing I feel a lot better. It lifts your spirits doesn't it?"





"I moved onto the estate in 2019 and joined the community gardening group in 2020. My involvement in the group has made me feel connected to my community and defines my sense of 'home' as being more than the four walls of my flat. The joy of working in the gardens is not about personal gain, rather sharing a common interest and intent to make something beautiful, to enrich the immediate environment in which we live. However, it is impossible to overlook the sense of peace and comfort I find working within the group, digging, planting, sharing our experiences and learning together as part of a team. I absolutely love working in the community garden spaces. It is very important to me."

Childcare Services

Elizabeth House is a safe and welcoming space for children and young people. We pride ourselves for having continuously provided affordable childcare to working families for over 20 years, building a reputation as a reliable and special space for children after school and during school holidays.

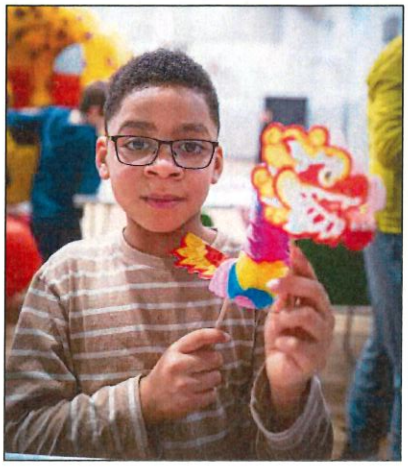
Despite local government's subsidy reducing substantially in 2023, we have been able to continue our provision, keeping fees affordable and offering some free places to underserved families (mainly with the support of the Holiday and Food programme). Children built lasting friendships at Elizabeth House, learn important social skills and, more importantly, have the opportunity to play and make friends in their community, supported by our team of Playworkers.

This year, we have sustained our attendance numbers and continued to support many local families through a range of activities:

- 122 individual children attended the After School Club, with an average attendance of 49 children per session.
- 32 children were eligible for a free place, concession rate or have Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).
- 61 children benefited from our after-school enrichment activities, such as cooking, boxing, coding and dance.
- 254 children attended our Holiday Playscheme (11 weeks).
- Over 50 children had free places through the Holiday and Food programme.
- 31 children had SEND.

"I can't recommend Elizabeth House enough. It is an absolute lifesaver for school holiday childcare cover. We have no family in the UK which makes childcare very hard for working parents. Elizabeth house is so affordable but most of all my son loves going there. It's got such a community atmosphere and the staff are wonderful. I wish they had more funding but they do the best with what they have. They are an asset to the community."

" Elizabeth House is simply fantastic. They provide a safe, fun, caring environment for so many local children. It's priced incredibly competitively at a time while childcare costs are soaring. The team are so wonderful and I feel so lucky to have this on our doorstep for after school and holiday provisions. My son absolutely loves it there."



"My children have Educational Health Care Plans and have been using Elizabeth House for years. They love it. The staff are caring and really ensure they can access all activities."

Youth Provision

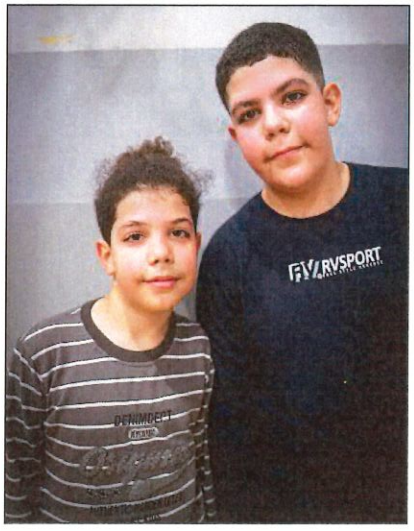
Despite huge challenges in securing funding to keep our Youth Club opened over the past 10 years, the charity and its Board have always prioritised its youth provision and invested its own funds to offer a safe, supportive and fun for young people aged 11 to 18. Some children transition naturally from our childcare provision into Youth Club members, but our success is in reaching out to local young people from least advantaged families.

Our Youth Club is complemented by our partner PPCP's IT and employment programme for young people aged 16+. 21CS offers IT training leading to recognised qualifications, further training and jobs. Youth Club members, Food Hub members and other local residents can enrol for free to join in-person and online training with PPCP mentors.

Our youth provision has kept its average attendance at 24 young people per session, but has grown in quality with more opportunities for outings and residential weekends for Youth Club members. Its impact shows in the following:

- 3 qualified Youth Workers
- 90% of Youth Club members were form under-resourced families
- 30% of members were from families seeking asylum in the UK.
- 65% are from minoritised background.
- An estimated 40% were eligible for free school meals and 25% had SEND.
- 2 regular Youth Club members were home schooled.

- 21CS is based at Elizabeth House since 2018, developed and delivered by PPCP mentors.
- 137 students enrolled since April 2023.
- 46 students gained T qualifications.
- 13 graduates secured an IT job or apprenticeship.
- 94% were from minoritised backgrounds.
- 25% were not in education, employment or training when they enrolled.



"I love the youth club and the youth workers. It's like another family because now I am so far away from my relatives and all my friends back home. The hotel room where we live is so small, and we can't cook or do anything. At Elizabeth House, we can cook, eat together, play and run. I need it!"



Overview of our community activities and reach

Our impact is evidenced by the large and growing number of people we reach. Our footfall this year was stable at 40,000 over 12 months and over 5,000 individual people accessing activities and services, receiving support, enjoying our community meals and/or participating in our events.

Elizabeth House is also a space for groups to run classes, share skills and provide wellbeing activities. As a community organisation, we welcome grassroot organisations, newly launched or well-established groups, as long as they offer something for the local community that help connect people, improve personal development or physical and mental wellbeing. We also value groups offering different activities which we can't deliver as an organisation. We always endeavour to connect our services with the activities of others and provide support to promote or launch a new.

Aerobics class - a very dynamic and friendly class open to all every Monday.

After School Club - delivered by Elizabeth House, we offer an affordable out of school childcare service for working parents for primary school children.

Baby massage group - a Bright Start-led weekly group every Tuesday morning.

Baby in baby out – baby massage and relaxation class every Wednesday.

Ballet classes - a range of weekly classes on Monday and Thursday for pre-school aged children.

Blue House Club – over 50's lunch club with chair yoga classes and social activities open to all every Wednesday.

Connections & Conversations – an English conversation group to improve language skills and connect people.

Community Choir – open to all and offered by World Harmony Orchestra every Thursday evening.

Community Yoga - a weekly wellbeing class, every Tuesday morning.

Enrichment clubs for children – daily after school activities including cooking, coding and boxing.

Food Hub - provision of food and essential items to local residents and families every week.

Holiday Playscheme - a popular holiday provision for children aged 4 to 14, 11 weeks per year.

IT training and employability programme - run by our partner PPCP for young people to gain qualifications and secure employment in the IT sector.

Kuk Sool Won - a popular Korean martial art class for children and adults every Thursday evening.

Multiply Maths Skills - a weekly maths class for adults with Capital City College Training.

Nafsiyat Multicultural Therapy – an outreach project to offer multilingual counselling.

Reading Groups - 2 weekly reading groups every Wednesday.

Self-defence and MMA - a weekly class on Thursday mornings for women only.

Sports School - multi sports sessions for children aged 2-11 years, every Saturday.

Swing Dance – a weekly energetic dance class to make you swing, every Tuesday evening.

Tiny Time – creative and community minded music sessions for 0-3 years old every week.

Women only fitness classes - delivered by qualified coaches, free weekly sessions for all abilities.

World Harmony Orchestra – offers pay what you can music lessons for the community on Friday.

Youth club - open to all young people age 11 to 18 years old, held on Monday and Friday evenings.

Zumba – a free weekly class for women and girls every Tuesday evening.

In addition, Elizabeth House has been hosting other community groups running training sessions or classes or needing a space for regular meetings. There is a regular church group on Sundays using our main hall and many residents from Islington and neighbouring boroughs hire our spaces for their private events. We also support local tenants' associations and other community groups by providing them space free of charge when needed.

Future Plans

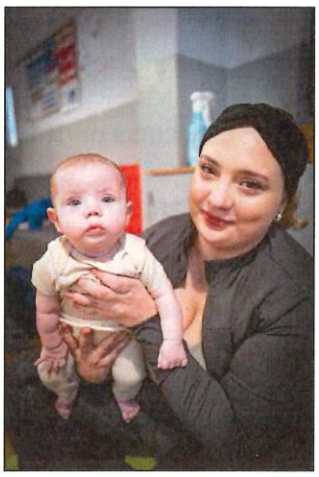
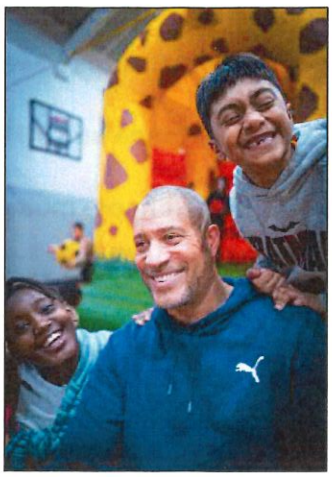
We have many plans for 2024-25 starting with implementing recommendations from an independent governance review, including the recruitment of new trustees who are all local residents and with skills and lived experience to fully represent our community. We are proud to be a community organisation led by local residents.

Elizabeth House is at an exciting stage of its existence. The charity has some reserves to invest in its capacity, and develop new ways of working with the view to support more residents and deliver better outcomes for everyone. Our Board, team, volunteers and regular members will be involved in developing a new strategic plan for 2025-28, guiding the charity to focus on key priorities.

Partnerships and collaborations with other community organisations, groups and local authorities will remain central to how we work and look at how we can achieve more and focus on the quality of our programmes, while contributing to wider community cohesion and resilience. Community organising will continue to be at the heart of how we engage with local residents and other groups to make our programme more relevant and impactful.

Another priority will be to bring back some colours and freshness to our much-loved community space. Planned refurbishments will be carried out in stages to avoid major disruptions to our services. Finally, we will endeavour to engage with our whole community, seeking support from more funders, groups, partners and growing our Friends of Elizabeth House group to sustain vital community services such as the Food Hub and wider food provision, but also new initiatives led by local people.



Financial Review

Income received in the year reduced slightly from £634,947 to £630,631. Expenditure decreased by nearly 12% from £615,859 to £544,008. The net movement in funds for 2024 was an influx of £86,623 (2023 £19,088).

Looking forward, the Charity will continue to make income generation a priority to ensure more projects are implemented as well as a larger surplus in future years. The Trustees also expect attendance and activities to continue to increase as the organisation's communication and fundraising plans are implemented.

The total funds carried forward in 2024 are £828,027 (2023 £741,404). Cash reserves of the Trust are £607,373 (2023 £509,467). This represents over 12 months of expenditure (2023 10 months).

Reserves

The trustees are aware of the need to maintain unrestricted general reserves, currently £320,145 (2023 £295,326). Further the Trustees are mindful of the uncertainty of Local Authority and grant funding on which the Trust is currently dependent to deliver services, so reserves are being maintained at a relatively high level to ensure continuity of services to the local community.

The Trustees are conscious of the need to have unrestricted designated funds for building maintenance (£84,921), staffing (£15,000), staff training (£10,000), and equipment (£10,000).

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

Approved by the trustees on 7 October 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

.....

Garry Luxford
Chair

Thank you!

We could not do it without our funders, partners, individual donors, volunteers, advisers, hirers who support Elizabeth House to deliver a rich community programme. We are very grateful to so many individuals we can't name here, but you should know who you are!

In no particular order, we want to thank:

- Our trustees
- Our team
- Our amazing volunteers
- Our community chefs
- Our physical activities coaches
- Islington Council
- St James Trust
- Trust for London
- London Youth
- The National Lottery's Cost of Living Fund
- Peoples Place Community Partnerships
- The Felix Project
- City Harvest
- Bright Start
- Bright Lives
- Islington Food Partnership
- Nafsiyat
- Arsenal Councillors
- Highbury Councillors
- Highbury Quadrant Tenants and Residents Association
- Blackstock Management Organisation
- Headley Trust
- Natwest Foundation
- Octopus Communities and all our fellow Community Centres in Islington
- GoodGym Islington
- Whitebrothers Greengrocers
- Sport England
- NHS North London Forensic Service
- Little Angels Nursery
- Islington Sports
- House of Hodge
- Jack Petchey Foundation
- Islington Council's Partnerships Team
- Help on Your Doorstep
- Islington Giving
- The Cripplegate Foundation
- The Big Alliance
- Camden Council
- Voluntary Action Islington
- Islington Faiths Forum
- Migrants Organise Hackney
- Gillespie Primary School
- Ambler Primary School
- Age UK Islington
- Access to Sports
- Made in Hackney
- SHINE, Islington
- WISH+, Camden
- Urban Forest Tribe
- Big Ideas Company
- Mayor of London
- World Harmony Orchestra
- The Woodbine
- Stubbers Adventure Centre
- Seasons and Blossoms
- Contact Impro Dance
- James Edwards Property
- Finks cafe

To volunteer, start a new community group or for more information, please email info@elizabeth-house.org.uk or call us on 020 7690 1300.

Photo credits: Tara Rudd (Community Strength project, Mayor of London)

Independent Examiner's report to the trustees of Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2024 set out on pages 12 to 23.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 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 the 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 you as 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 to indicate that:

- accounting records have not been kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006;
- the accounts do not accord with such records;
- where accounts are prepared on an accruals basis, whether they fail to comply with relevant accounting requirements under section 396 of the Companies Act 2006, or are not consistent with the Charities SORP (FRS102);
- any matter which the examiner believes should be drawn to the attention of the reader to gain a proper understanding of the accounts.



.....

Harry Nicolaou FCA
Of Harry Nicolaou and Co Limited
Chartered Accountants
21 Brendon Way
Enfield EN1 2LF

.....

8 October 2024

HIGHBURY VALE BLACKSTOCK TRUST

Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account)

For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

	Note	Restricted funds	Unrestricted funds	2024 Total funds	2023 Total funds
		£	£	£	£
INCOME FROM:					
Donations and legacies		24,588	30,631	55,219	*57,060*
Charitable activities:					
Grants	2	294,979	30,000	324,979	*310,953*
After School Club income		-	88,973	88,973	*59,668*
Playschemes income		-	54,723	54,723	*74,792*
Users hire of premises		-	49,801	49,801	*43,145*
Project hire of premises		-	8,374	8,374	*15,496*
Management and supervision of projects		-	12,500	12,500	*22,450*
Other income		6,987	22,503	29,490	*48,983*
Investments:					
Bank interest		-	6,572	6,572	*2,400*
TOTAL INCOME		**326,554**	**304,077**	**630,631**	*634,947*
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Raising funds		-	-	-	*2,903*
Charitable activities					
Staff costs	3	275,642	36,570	312,212	*293,533*
Premises costs	4	15,530	49,297	64,827	*52,827*
Activities costs	5	126,987	13,732	140,719	*244,399*
Other costs	6	1,323	3,354	4,677	*2,434*
Governance costs	7	-	21,573	21,573	*19,763*
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		**419,482**	**124,526**	**544,008**	*615,859*
Net(expenditure)/ income for the year	9	**(92,928)**	**179,551**	**86,623**	*19,088*
Transfers between funds	16	131,248	(131,248)	-	-
Net movement in funds		**38,320**	**48,303**	**86,623**	*19,088*
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		349,641	391,763	741,404	*722,316*
Total funds carried forward	16	**387,961**	**440,066**	**828,027**	*741,404*

Net income for the year also comprises the net income for the year for Companies Act purposes.

HIGHBURY VALE BLACKSTOCK TRUST

Balance Sheet

For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

As at 31 March 2024

	Note	2024	2023
		£	£
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	11	271,990	282,037
Total fixed assets		**271,990**	282,037
Current assets			
Debtors	12	26,240	24,630
Cash at bank and in hand		607,373	509,467
Total current assets		**633,613**	534,097
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	13	(77,576)	(74,730)
Net current assets		**556,037**	459,367
Total assets less current liabilities and net assets	14	**828,027**	741,404
The funds of the charity:			
Restricted funds		**387,961**	349,641
Unrestricted income funds:			
General funds		320,145	295,326
Designated funds		119,921	96,437
		440,066	391,763
Total charity funds	16	**828,027**	741,404

The directors are satisfied that the company is entitled to exemption from the requirement to obtain an audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 and that members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Act.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

Approved by the directors on 7 October 2024

And signed on their behalf by:

Garry Luxford
Chair

HIGHBURY VALE BLACKSTOCK TRUST

Statement of Cash Flows

For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
Cash flow from operating activities		
Net surplus for the year	86,623	19,088
Interest received	(6,572)	(2,400)
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	10,047	10,047
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(1,610)	2,458
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	2,846	4,612
Net cash flow from operating activities	91,334	33,805
Cash flow from investing activities		
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets	-	-
Interest received	6,572	2,400
Net cash flow from investing activities	6,572	2,400
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	97,906	36,205
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April 2023	509,467	473,262
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March 2024	607,373	509,467

HIGHBURY VALE BLACKSTOCK TRUST

Notes to the Accounts

For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

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1. Accounting Policies

Basis of accounting

The accounts (financial statement) have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for twelve months from authorising these accounts and have decided that the charity is able to continue as a going concern.

Income recognition

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, there is sufficient certainty of receipt and so it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Expenditure recognition

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that a settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is accounted for exclusive of VAT.

Fund accounting

Restricted funds are grants, donations and other incoming resources which are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.

Unrestricted funds are grants, donations and other incoming resources receivable for the objects of the charity without further specified purpose and are available as general funds.

Governance costs

Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include costs linked to the strategic management of the charity.

Fixed assets

Fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Items of equipment and fittings are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £300.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset, less its estimated residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Buildings	2% on cost
Equipment and fittings	33.33% on cost

Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discounts offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid after taking account of any trade discounts due.

Creditors

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Operating leases

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as incurred over the term of the lease.

Pension costs

The costs of the defined contribution arrangements are charged to the SOFA as incurred.

2. Grants

	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total 2024	Total 2023
			£	£
Jack Petchey Foundation	1,900	-	**1,900**	*2,380*
St James's Trust	-	30,000	**30,000**	*25,000*
LB Islington	16,450	-	**16,450**	*13,000*
LB Islington - EYDCP (After School Club)	6,717	-	**6,717**	*16,311*
LB Islington - EYDCP (Playschemes)	44,115	-	**44,115**	*42,159*
LB Islington - VCS	50,000	-	**50,000**	*50,000*
LB Islington - Small Change Big Impact	5,000	-	**5,000**	*5,000*
Octopus Communities - Stay Well Live Well	5,383	-	**5,383**	*13,319*
Trust for London	44,000	-	**44,000**	*27,500*
London Youth Federation (Digital Talent)	10,100	-	**10,100**	*29,000*
Local Initiatives Fund	5,100	-	**5,100**	*6,001*
Sports England - This Girl Can	10,778	-	**10,778**	-
Sports Islington	1,250	-	**1,250**	-
National Lottery Community Fund - Cost of Living Fund	61,000	-	**61,000**	-
Stubbers Adventure Centre	1,291	-	**1,291**	-
Big Ideas Companay	750	-	**750**	-
House of Hodge	3,830	-	**3,830**	-
NatWest	12,500	-	**12,500**	-
Headley Trust	10,000	-	**10,000**	-
Nafsiyat Multicultural Therapy and Outreach	4,815	-	**4,815**	-
CAF Resilience Fund Phase 2	-	-	-	*36,816*
Paddington Development Trust (EQUIP)	-	-	-	*19,800*
Cripplegate Foundation	-	-	-	*2,667*
The Julia and Hans Rausing Trust	-	-	-	*22,000*
	294,979	**30,000**	**324,979**	*310,953*

3. Staff costs

	2024	2023
	£	£
Salaries and wages	290,727	*277,434*
Social security costs	18,394	*19,070*
Pension costs	5,433	*4,929*
Other staffing costs	15,584	*8,115*
	330,138	*309,548*
Consisting of:		
Charitable project staff costs	312,212	*293,533*
Charitable governance staff costs (Note 7)	17,926	*16,015*
	330,138	*309,548*

The average weekly number of employees during the year was 14.8

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 per annum.

4. Premises costs

	2024	2023
	£	£
Cleaning, maintenance, health and safety, repairs	28,140	*18,175*
Insurance	6,403	*5,643*
Light and heat	9,608	*8,796*
Business rates and water rates	10,629	*10,166*
Depreciation of buildings	10,047	*10,047*
	64,827	*52,827*

5. Activities costs

	2024	2023
	£	£
Management and supervision of projects	12,500	22,450
Office equipment, materials, printing, stationery & postage	1,737	2,239
Travel, volunteer, project activities, food hub, project equipment and sundry expenses	77,366	109,445
Telephone, internet and website	928	835
Equipment hire and maintenance	1,358	1,616
IT development, maintenance and support	943	370
Tutors' costs	45,887	107,444
	140,719	244,399

6. Other costs

	2024	2023
	£	£
Bank charges	183	161
Subscriptions	1,089	1,028
Consultancy fees	3,405	1,245
	4,677	2,434

7. Governance costs

	2024	2023
	£	£
Salaries and wages (Note 3)	17,926	16,015
Independent Examiner's fee	3,500	3,500
Telephone	49	44
Other expenses	98	204
	21,573	19,763

8. Transactions with trustees

No remuneration was paid to the trustees in their role as trustee during the year and no expenses were reimbursed to them. The trustees together with their family members have no beneficial interest either directly or indirectly in any contract of the charity.

9. Net incoming resources for the year

		2024	2023
		£	£
This is stated after charging:			
Depreciation	(Note 11)	10,047	10,047
Independent Examiner's fee:	(Note 7)	3,500	3,500

10. Taxation

The charity has no corporation tax liability because income from its activities is in pursuance of its charitable objectives and all income is applied for charitable purposes.

11. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings	Equipment and fittings	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1 April 2023	502,299	70,699	572,998
At 31 March 2024	**502,299**	**70,699**	**572,998**
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2023	220,262	70,699	290,961
Charge for the year	10,047	-	10,047
At 31 March 2024	**230,309**	**70,699**	**301,008**
Net book value			
At 31 March 2024	**271,990**	**-**	**271,990**
At 31 March 2023	*282,037*	*-*	*282,037*

The market value of freehold land and buildings is significantly more than the carrying value and has been estimated by the trustees to be over £1m.

12. Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Prepayments and accrued income	1,032	551
Other debtors	25,208	24,079
	26,240	24,630

13. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Taxation and social security	7,361	622
Deferred income	19,658	13,465
Other creditors	12,057	22,143
Accruals	3,500	3,500
Loan (secured)	35,000	35,000
	77,576	74,730

The loan is interest free and secured by a charge over the land and buildings.
Deferred income comprises grants and other income received in advance of the period to which they are intended.

14. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Restricted funds	Unrestricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£
Fixed assets	271,990	-	271,990
Current assets	150,971	482,642	633,613
Current liabilities	(35,000)	(42,576)	(77,576)
	387,961	**440,066**	**828,027**

15. Operating lease commitments

As at 31 March 2024 the company has total future commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Not later than one year	1,834	1,566
Later than one year and not later than five years	7,793	36
	9,627	1,602

16. Statement of funds

	At 1 April 2023	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers between funds	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds					
Building Fund	247,036	-	(10,047)	-	**236,989**
Salaries Fund	-	50,000	(50,000)	-	-
Children Fund	-	50,832	(179,243)	131,248	**2,837**
Youth Club Fund	9,450	8,191	(11,929)	-	**5,712**
Womens' Fitness Fund	1,209	12,028	(3,367)	-	**9,870**
Greening Highbury Quadrant Fund	1,763	5,000	(5,072)	-	**1,691**
Food Hub Fund	69,287	49,315	(40,369)	-	**78,233**
Winter Wellness Fund	1,836	14,950	(8,418)	-	**8,368**
21st Century Skills Fund	11,903	54,100	(42,940)	-	**23,063**
Equipment Fund	(49)	-	-	-	**(49)**
Community Events Fund	950	4,480	(1,915)	-	**3,515**
Holloway Mural	1,105	-	-	-	**1,105**
Warm Spaces and Warm Places Fund	5,151	5,383	(150)	-	**10,384**
Community Strength Fund	-	750	(750)	-	-
COL Fund	-	61,000	(61,000)	-	-
Connection and Conversation Fund	-	3,830	(2,345)	-	**1,485**
Big Alliance Volunteer Group	-	1,880	(940)	-	**940**
Womens Group Fund	-	-	(480)	-	**(480)**
Nafsiyat Multicultural Therapy and Outreach	-	4,815	(517)	-	**4,298**
	349,641	**326,554**	**(419,482)**	**131,248**	**387,961**
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	295,326	304,077	(118,010)	(161,248)	**320,145**
Designated funds:				-	
Building Maintenance Fund	61,437	-	(6,516)	30,000	**84,921**
Staff Redundancy and Sickness Fund	15,000	-	-	-	**15,000**
Staff Training Fund	10,000	-	-	-	**10,000**
Equipment Fund	10,000	-	-	-	**10,000**
	391,763	**304,077**	**(124,526)**	**(131,248)**	**440,066**
Total funds	**741,404**	**630,631**	**(544,008)**	-	**828,027**

Continued

16. ***continued***

Details of restricted funds

The Buildings Fund represents the cost and improvement of Elizabeth House less loan and accumulated depreciation.

The Children's Fund is to provide activities for children and childcare during term time and school holidays.

The Youth Club Fund is to provide free, youth-led activities for 11+.

Women's Fitness Fund is to offer physical activities for local women who are inactive or not accessing other exercise classes. Our aim is to create a welcoming women-only space for social, mental and physical wellbeing.

21st Century Skills Fund was set up in partnership with PPCP to provide IT training and work experience to disadvantaged young people (18+) to secure jobs in the IT sector. The Summer Skills and Digital Talent Funds are linked to the same programme.

Food Hub Fund is to support residents affected by food insecurity, the Covid pandemic and the cost of living crisis. The Food Hub is a coop that provides weekly food boxes to registered residents, as well as a social hub to support local connections and facilitate access to other services and activities.

Greening Highbury Quadrant Fund is to provide access to nature activities for local residents and develop unused green space into thriving green areas on a local housing estate, while supporting local biodiversity.

Warm Spaces and Warm Places Fund is to offer activities, meals and warm space during winter months for our local community.

Community Events Fund provides resources for inclusive, social community events at Elizabeth House and in the wider community to create deeper connections between local people.

Cost of Living Fund was to cover essential community activities and staffing costs during winter 2023-24, such as the Food Hub and our Warm Space related activities, including the over 50's lunch club and community meals.

Connections and Conversations Fund was launched to provide a safe space for people to meet and improve their English skills.

Winter Wellness Fund was launched in January 2022 with funding from Islington Council to provide information and support to older residents in Islington and Camden during winter months

Holloway Mural Fund was raised by local residents to create a mural on Holloway Road. Funds are retained for future maintenance of the mural.

17. Pension costs

The charity participates in defined contribution workplace pension arrangements for members of staff. The employer contribution rate is 3% and the cost for the year was £5,433 (2023 £4,929). There was no outstanding amount at the year end.

HIGHBURY VALE-BLACKSTOCK TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1029704

Accounts

Company No. 2849848
Charity No. 1029704

Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust
Elizabeth House

Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023



Elizabeth House Community Centre
2 Hurlock Street
London N5 1ED

Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust

Trustees' Report

For the Year Ended 31 March 2023

The trustees present their report and accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023. They have complied with the duty to have due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission.

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Charity name:	Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust (also known as "Elizabeth House")
Charity registration number:	1029704
Company registration number	2849848
Registered office and operations address	Elizabeth House. 2 Hurlock Street. London N5 1ED
Trustees (Directors)	
Chair	Carol Glover
Treasurer	Garry Luxford
	Ashley Hodges Jeremy Corbyn MP Mary Dakin Valerie Bossman-Quarshie Lee-Anne Richardson-Pring Rui Avelar Silva (appointed September 2022) Lucilia Falsarella Pereira (appointed Dec 2022)
Centre Director (Chief Executive)	Nathalie Renaud
Independent Examiner	Harry Nicolaou Of Harry Nicolaou & Co Limited Chartered Accountants 21 Brendon Way, Enfield, EN1 2LF
Bankers	CAF Bank Limited PO Box 289, West Malling, Kent ME19 4TA

Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust

Trustees' Report

For the Year Ended 31 March 2023

Message from the Chair

2022-23 has been another year of outstanding achievements and successes for Elizabeth House Community Centre and Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust. Despite relentless challenges placed on the organisation and the community, including the cost of living crisis and inflation leading to higher running costs and reduced funding opportunities, the charity continues to grow from strength to strength.

This year, Elizabeth House has engaged with more people than ever. It has extended its offer as a community organisation ensuring that its programme is community oriented, relevant, affordable (free whenever possible) and inclusive, and had a successful year securing income.

Next year will mark the 30th anniversary of Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust, the charity founded to save Elizabeth House as a community space in 1993. Our offer has evolved over the years to meet demands and local priorities, always with the aim to serve those who need it the most. Children, young people and families have always been fundamental to the charity's strategic direction. However, our services now also prioritise other age groups, including some of the most vulnerable residents, and aim to address key issues for the local community such as social isolation, food insecurity, physical and mental wellbeing and employment. All contributing to make lives better for local residents.

We want to keep this report concise so you can appreciate the positive impact delivered by the essential services, initiatives and events we offered at Elizabeth House, with the support of many volunteers and donors. I hope you continue to find something for you at Elizabeth House and support our Community Centre.

We are very grateful to Islington Council and the St James Trust for their significant, multi-annual financial support. Thank you to Trust for London, CAF Resilience Fund, London Youth, the National Lottery, the Julia and Hans Rausing Trust and Jack Petchey Foundation for their vital funding over the year. The Board also wants to thank first-time funders and the many individual donors, many who give regularly to our community activities and services.

As always, I would like to thank our staff and volunteers for their hard work and commitment, as well as my fellow Trustees for their time and invaluable skills that ensure Elizabeth House Community Centre continues to be a thriving asset for many in our community.

Carol Glover
Chair of the Board of Trustees



Structure, Governance and Management

Governing document

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 2 September 1993 and registered as a charity on 6 December 1993. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which defined the objects and powers of the charitable company. It is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law. The trustees have developed a policy for the recruitment of trustees that ensures their collective experience and skills are best able to meet the needs of the charity. New Trustees are appointed by Board members.

Potential candidates for the Board of Trustees receive a briefing pack about the roles and responsibilities of a Trustee and have the opportunity to attend a Board meeting and visit Elizabeth House to understand its work before offering themselves for appointment. Trustees are invited to meet senior staff members and visit as many activities or projects as they are able to once they are elected.

Organisational Structure and Governance

The Board of Trustees is responsible for overall strategy and management of the organisation. The day-to-day management of the charity, including staff and financial matters, is delegated to the Director, who is supported by a Deputy Centre Manager, Administrator, Operations Officer, Community Coordinator and Senior Youth Worker. Other employed staff and volunteers fulfil other roles in the organisation. The Centre Director has the function of Chief Executive Officer, reporting directly to the Board.

The Board of Trustees meets approximately every three months at Elizabeth House. This year, Trustees met four times, including the AGM. Meetings were well attended and trustees have continued to take an active role in supporting the staff team.

Risk Assessment

The Trustees periodically undertake a review of the major risks to which the charity is exposed. Each year when considering the operating budget and strategic plan, the Trustees review the associated organisational risks. The senior management team also review operational systems and procedures and service area risk assessments to manage risks that are in place. We review and update our risk assessments, business continuity and emergency contingency plans annually.



Our Vision

The Charity's vision is for everyone in the local community around Elizabeth House Community Centre to have a better quality of life through access and participation in key services and activities, which build cohesion, a stronger and more resilient local community.

Our mission

Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust is a charity dedicated to:

- Providing inclusive and flexible services for families, children and young people, as well as the wider community.
- Delivering a meaningful and positive influence on the local community, contribute to improving people's quality of life and provide practical support.
- Meeting the needs of the local community, especially people with high needs or who are underserved.

Through our community-based approach - acting as a community 'anchor' – we build trust and bring people together so that we can connect residents to practical support and opportunities.

Layla (her name was changed) is an asylum seeker from the Middle East who arrived in the UK with her 2 teenage children in August 2022. They now lives in a hotel in North London while waiting for their application to be processed. She receives just £24 a week from the government for the family of 3 and she is not allowed to work while her application is being processed.

She heard about Elizabeth House through one of her friends from church. A staff member contacted her to check on her, see if she needed any support and join our weekly Food Hub. She immediately decided to start volunteering for the Food Hub as this helps her improve her English and makes her ready to find work as soon as she is allowed to. It also helps her mental health as she feels depressed since she left her country. Her 2 children are also now regulars of the Youth Club. Her daughter to volunteer at the Food Hub as part of her work experience placement for college.

She feels if she hadn't found Elizabeth House, her life and her children's lives would have been really difficult. She says that getting to know Elizabeth House and the whole team helped makes her new life in the UK so much better.

Some of Layla's friends (also asylum seekers) have also joined the Food Hub as beneficiaries and volunteers. Some of them attend our women's fitness classes. Our Community Team has been working hard to make referrals and find other opportunities, such as training, English classes and practical support (clothing and small grants).



Community activities (April 2022 to March 2023)

At Elizabeth House, we endeavour to keep our programme of activities and support varied and accessible so as many local people as possible can benefit.

The Food Hub supported **218 residents** with weekly food bags, including children, young and elderly people. Over 80 new residents registered with the Food Hub, and **3,805 food parcels** were distributed over 12 months. This is only possible with the hard work of more than 50 local volunteers who dedicated 2,800 hours to their community!

In February 2023, we launched the Monday Meals service which will prepare and share 60 nutritious, vegetarian meals with our community members each week.

At Elizabeth House, we love community events! They are excellent opportunities to bring people together, connect about pressing issues over food, improve wellbeing and reduce social isolation. We were delighted to organise **3 community feasts** at which more than 250 people participated.

The local greening Highbury Quadrant project was developed through a partnership between Islington Council and Octopus Communities to provide access to nature activities for local residents, through a membership model and with weekly sessions reaching over **100 residents, including 25 children.**

Every Wednesday, the Blue House Club welcomes people for chair yoga, a 2-course meal and a range of post-lunch activities to get active, spark people's interest, stay informed and relax. Over **50 people** were registered and participated regularly. During winter, it was an ideal 'warm space' for older people and weekly average attendance increased to **30 people per session.**

Our 'older people' offer was boosted through the second year of the Winter Wellness project commissioned by Islington and Camden Councils. Our community team connected with and supported **550 council tenants aged 65+** providing essential information and signposting to services and support locally.

"One time you phone up and I actually get help. Anything where you're communicating with elderly people like me, we're grateful, I'm very happy. Any time there's a crisis we can phone you up. I wasn't getting anywhere. I think it's a good idea. I don't know who came up with it! I'm very grateful for what you're doing."

"I have made friends with my fellow gardeners as well as residents that live near the gardens, coming out to talk about what we are doing and offer their responses and share gardening stories."

"The wonderful opportunity for me and really appreciate it, I feel home and related in this centre. I was struggling from mental health issues, depression and stresses with physical symptoms but I overcame those by coming to this centre and meeting nice and friendly people."



Children's activities and childcare services

We launched after school enrichment activities for local children so they can learn and thrive in their local area. From coding to breakdancing, yoga to our super popular cooking club, **95 children** have learned new skills, met your friends and had fun term after term. These activities are not free, but our aim is to keep them inexpensive so many children can benefit from them.

97 local families used our After School provision this year, and **127 children** aged 4 to 11 have attended our provision while their parents/carers work or study. Sadly, we had to increase our fees due to reduced funding from local government. Families desperately need to access affordable childcare and we worked hard to keep this service going despite many challenges.

We launched after school enrichment activities for local children so they can learn and thrive in their local area. From coding to breakdancing, yoga to our super popular cooking club, **95 children** have learned new skills, met your friends and had fun term after term. These activities are not free, but our aim is to keep them inexpensive so many children can benefit from them.

Our Holiday Playscheme provision is back to 'pre-pandemic numbers' with up to 75 children aged 4 to 13 attending per day during school holidays. **280 children** took part over 11 weeks, many returning holiday after holiday. Through the Lunch Bunch programme (Holiday and Food Programme), we have offered many free places to vulnerable children. **38 children with special needs and 8 children needing one to one support** joined the playschemes throughout the year. We are proud to be an inclusive provision, where all children are supported to be able to join in. We worked with a team of up to **17 Playworkers.**

"The playscheme allowed me to keep working during half term and was excellent value for money. My children really enjoyed the days they spent there and asked me when the next playscheme would be happening. They loved the crafts, bouncy castle and chance to meet other children and make friends. The staff are very welcoming (learning the children's names quickly) and engaged."

"As always the staff are very nice, open and attentive. I am happy to leave my daughter in the care of staff at Elizabeth House as the service is second to none.
I am happy the scheme is run by local people and the activities provided are exceptional. Our household are big fans of Elizabeth House!"

"I feel Elizabeth house is a very accessible and inclusive environment which provides fun and educational activities to all children my daughter loves it there."





Youth activities and training

Elizabeth House has always been a space for young people. Our open-access youth provision has grown this year with an average of 20 young people attending one or both weekly sessions. The Youth Club counted **36 regular members aged 11 to 17** (59% are boys and 41% are girls). Activities are youth-led and, in July 2022, a group went on a residential weekend, a DJ workshop was delivered by professional DJs and many other activities were on offer so local young people can learn new skills, relax and meet others in a safe and inclusive environment.

Working closely with our partner Peoples Place Community Partnerships, just over **100 students aged 16+ enrolled** on their 21CS training and employment programme based at Elizabeth House. The small team of trainers and mentors ensured that students learned essential IT skills and increase their employability. A total of **71 IT qualifications** were passed, 31 young people gained experience through work placements and **25 'graduates' of 21CS secured a better paid job in IT** and 4 more started an IT related apprenticeship. 88% are from backgrounds which are under-represented in the IT sector and this programme, now in its 5th year, has created an incredible network of young professionals, employers, community organisations which can offer more opportunities to the 21CS students.

"One of a kind experience, it doesn't get any better! In less than 2 months I have learned more technical skills than in any other workplace setting. Classes cater to beginners to advanced." "The team are amazing, patient, skilled, good with all walks of life needs and abilities very confidence boosting and motivational."



"The 21CS team are amazing, patient, skilled, good with all walks of life needs and abilities very confidence boosting and motivational."

"I enjoy youth club, it is somewhere to go and meet new people have a good time etc. I am a football player and play in a team, I also like basketball and can practice some skills at the youth club."



Services and activities in 2022-23

Our impact is evidence by the large and growing number of people we reach. Our footfall this year increased to 42,000 over the 12 months (19,000 in previous year), which demonstrates that our activities and services meet needs and demands of our local community.

Many live, study and/or work within 1 to 2 miles of Elizabeth House, including local families using our popular childcare provisions, young people and older residents living close to the centre. For the Food Hub, we had to define a catchment area in 2021 which is approximately over a 1-mile radius around Elizabeth House. For some activities, people travelled from other parts of the borough and neighbouring ones.

Elizabeth House also offers a space for other groups and individuals to use for their own activities, events and courses. Some groups have been operating at Elizabeth House for many years, but new activities start each year. We are careful that all services and activities in the centre complement each other to offer a wide range of activities for the wider community.

Here are the main activities on offer at Elizabeth House:

Aerobics class - a very dynamic and friendly class open to all every Monday.

After School Club - delivered by Elizabeth House, we offer an affordable out of school childcare service for working parents for primary school children.

Baby massage group - a Bright Start-led weekly group every Tuesday morning.

Babyin babyout – baby massage and relaxation class every Wednesday.

Ballet classes - a range of weekly classes on Monday and Thursday for pre-school aged children

Blue House Club – over 50's lunch club with with chair yoga classes and social activities open to all every Wednesday.

Community Yoga - a weekly wellbeing class, every Tuesday morning.

Enrichment clubs for children – daily after school activities including cooking, coding and breakdance.

Food Hub – provision of food and essential items to local residents and families every week.

Holiday Playscheme - a popular holiday provision for children age 4 to 14, 11 weeks per year.

IT training and employability programme - run by our partner PPCP for young people to gain qualifications and secure employment in the IT sector.

Kuk Sool Mon – a popular Korean martial art class for children and adults every Thursday evening.

Reading Groups – 2 weekly reading groups every Wednesday.

Sports School - multi sports sessions for children aged 2-11 years, every Saturday.

Swing Dance – a weekly energetic dance class to make you swing, every Tuesday evening.

Tiny Time – creative and community minded music sessions for 0-3 years old every Monday.

Wizzie Wizzie Coding Club - a free and popular computer coding club for 8-14 year-olds on Saturday.

Women only fitness classes - delivered by a qualified coaches, two free weekly sessions free for all abilities.

World Harmony Orchestra – offers pay what you can music lessons for the community on Friday.

Youth club - open to all young people age 11 to 18 years old, led by young people themselves, held on Monday and Wednesday evenings.

Zumba – a free weekly class for women and girls every Tuesday evening

In addition, Elizabeth House has been hosting many other community groups for one-off or regular activities. Many residents from Islington and neighbouring boroughs hire our spaces for private events. We also support local tenants' associations and other community groups by providing them space free of charge when needed.



Future plans

Our community 'ecosystem' is growing and benefiting more people and many groups. Elizabeth House is broadening its services - going beyond the walls of our centre - and its team's reach to ensure that we do not only offer access to group activities, but also create opportunities which will be life changing for the people we work with.

We refer to other services, work in collaboration with like-minded organisations to increase our impact, find solutions for individual and community issues, engage with people who do not yet access our services and have developed a stimulating programme that caters for people from 0 to 99.

Our priority for the coming financial year is to continue to diversify our income and to prioritise fundraising so we can sustain our services, as well as pilot and deliver new ones adapting to and caring for our local community. We will do all we can to keep our most popular services (e.g. childcare provision, wellbeing activities and Food Hub), but are fully aware that we need to identify new ways of delivering some of these services, while running costs continue to rise as well as challenges for many of our community members.

Through community organising (we employ 3 training Community Organisers), our aim is to find out what are the key issues affecting people and find solutions together to address them. Our Community Team will continue to deliver a range of services for some of our most vulnerable neighbours. Our Childcare and Youth Team will also focus on providing a safe and fun space for local children and young people, so parents and carers can work, train or study, and young people learn and thrive.

Another priority for 2023-24 will be to recruit more community members with lived experience to join the Board, and develop a new strategic plan for the Charity for 2024-27.

Finally, our centre is used every day of the year, 7 days per week. The last renovation was finalised in early 2018, nearly 6 years ago! Elizabeth House now needs some attention as soon as sufficient funds are raised for a general refurbishment.

We look forward to working with our long-term partners and new ones, including Peoples Place Community Partnerships, Octopus Communities and Islington Council, the many local residents who volunteer at Elizabeth House (you are essential!), and our donors and supporters.









Photo credits: Gary Richefond, FilmFolk (playscheme), Fran Smith, Joanne Minton and Nathalie Renaud.

Financial Review

Income received in the year increased by over 13% from £560,257 to £634,947. Expenditure increased by nearly 35% from £456,372 to £615,859. The net movement in funds for 2023 was an influx of £19,088 (2022 £103,885).

Looking forward, the Charity will continue to make income generation a priority to ensure more projects are implemented as well as a larger surplus in future years. The Trustees also expect attendance and activities to continue to increase as the organisation's communication and fundraising plans are implemented.

The total funds carried forward in 2023 are £741,404 (2022 £722,316). Cash reserves of the Trust are £509,467 (2022 £473,262). This represents over 10 months of expenditure (2022 12.4 months).

Reserves

The trustees are aware of the need to maintain unrestricted general reserves, currently £295,326 (2022 £272,709). Further the Trustees are mindful of the uncertainty of Local Authority and grant funding on which the Trust is currently dependent to deliver services so reserves are being maintained at a relatively high level to ensure continuity of services to the local community.

The Trustees are conscious of the need to have unrestricted designated funds for building maintenance (£61,437), staffing (£15,000), staff training (£10,000), and equipment (£10,000).

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to



Carol Glover
Chair

Independent Examiner's report to the trustees of Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2023 set out on pages 9 to 16.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 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 the 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 you as 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 to indicate that:

- accounting records have not been kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006;
- the accounts do not accord with such records;
- where accounts are prepared on an accruals basis, whether they fail to comply with relevant accounting requirements under section 396 of the Companies Act 2006, or are not consistent with the Charities SORP (FRS102);

  any matter which the examiner believes should be drawn to the attention of the reader to gain a proper understanding of the accounts.



.....

Harry Nicolaou FCA
Of Harry Nicolaou and Co Limited
Chartered Accountants
21 Brendon Way
Enfield EN1 2LF

21 September 2023.....

Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust

Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account)

For the Year Ended 31 March 2023

	Note	Restricted funds	Unrestricted funds	2023 Total funds	*2022 Total funds*
		£	£	£	*£*
INCOME FROM:					
Donations and legacies		24,983	32,077	57,060	*58,311*
Charitable activities:					
Grants	2	310,953	-	310,953	*327,218*
After School Club income		-	59,668	59,668	*45,800*
Playschemes income		-	74,792	74,792	*37,829*
Users hire of premises		-	43,145	43,145	*42,806*
Project hire of premises		-	15,496	15,496	*8,710*
Management and supervision of projects		-	22,450	22,450	*12,851*
Other income		17,683	31,300	48,983	*26,219*
Investments:					
Bank interest		-	2,400	2,400	*513*
TOTAL INCOME		**353,619**	**281,328**	**634,947**	*560,257*
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Raising funds		-	2903	2,903	*880*
Charitable activities					
Staff costs	3	249,016	44,517	293,533	*243,816*
Premises costs	4	18,126	34,701	52,827	*47,569*
Activities costs	5	244,399	-	244,399	*139,792*
Other costs	6	1,370	1,064	2,434	*5,094*
Governance costs	7	1,013	18,750	19,763	*19,221*
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		**513,924**	**101,935**	**615,859**	*456,372*
Net(expenditure)/ income for the year	9	**(160,305)**	**179,393**	**19,088**	*103,885*
Transfers between funds	16	106,776	(106,776)	-	-
Net movement in funds		**(53,529)**	**72,617**	**19,088**	*103,885*
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		403,170	319,146	722,316	*618,431*
Total funds carried forward	16	**349,641**	**391,763**	**741,404**	*722,316*

Net income for the year also comprises the net income for the year for Companies Act purposes.

Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust

Company No. 2849848

Balance Sheet

As at 31 March 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	11	282,037	292,084
Total fixed assets		**282,037**	292,084
Current assets			
Debtors	12	24,630	27,088
Cash at bank and in hand		509,467	473,262
Total current assets		**534,097**	500,350
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	13	(74,730)	(70,118)
Net current assets		**459,367**	430,232
Total assets less current liabilities and net assets	14	**741,404**	722,316
The funds of the charity:			
Restricted funds		**349,641**	403,170
Unrestricted income funds:			
General funds		295,326	272,709
Designated funds		96,437	46,437
		391,763	319,146
Total charity funds	16	**741,404**	722,316

The directors are satisfied that the company is entitled to exemption from the requirement to obtain an audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 and that members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Act.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

Approved by the directors on 20/09/23

And signed on their behalf by:

Carol Glover

Carol Glover
Chair

Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust

Statement of Cash Flows

As at 31 March 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
Cash flow from operating activities		
Net surplus for the year	19,088	*103,885*
Interest received	(2,400)	*(513)*
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	10,047	*10,043*
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	2,458	*(5,228)*
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	4,612	*15,800*
Net cash flow from operating activities	33,805	*123,987*
Cash flow from investing activities		
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets	-	-
Interest received	2,400	*513*
Net cash flow from investing activities	2,400	*513*
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	36,205	*124,500*
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April 2022	473,262	*348,762*
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March 2023	509,467	*473,262*

1. Accounting Policies

Basis of accounting

The accounts (financial statement) have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for twelve months from authorising these accounts and have decided that the charity is able to continue as a going concern.

Income recognition

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, there is sufficient certainty of receipt and so it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Expenditure recognition

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that a settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is accounted for exclusive of VAT.

Fund accounting

Restricted funds are grants, donations and other incoming resources which are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.

Unrestricted funds are grants, donations and other incoming resources receivable for the objects of the charity without further specified purpose and are available as general funds.

Governance costs

Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include costs linked to the strategic management of the charity.

Fixed assets

Fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Items of equipment and fittings are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £300.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset, less its estimated residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Buildings	2% on cost
Equipment and fittings	33.33% on cost

Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discounts offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid after taking account of any trade discounts due.

Creditors

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Operating leases

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as incurred over the term of the lease.

Pension costs

The costs of the defined contribution arrangements are charged to the SOFA as incurred.

Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust

Notes to the Accounts

For the Year Ended 31 March 2023

2. Grants

	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total 2023	*Total 2022*
			£	*£*
Jack Petchey Foundation	2,380	-	**2,380**	*850*
St James's Trust	25,000	-	**25,000**	*25,000*
London Borough (LB) of Islington	13,000	-	**13,000**	*21,740*
LB Islington - EYDCP (After School Club)	16,311	-	**16,311**	*15,300*
LB Islington - EYDCP (Playschemes)	42,159	-	**42,159**	*35,250*
LB Islington - VCS	50,000	-	**50,000**	*50,000*
LB Islington - Small Change Big Impact	5,000	-	**5,000**	*5,000*
Octopus Communities - Stay Well Live Well	13,319	-	**13,319**	*13,552*
CAF Resilience Fund Phase 2	36,816	-	**36,816**	*90,686*
Paddington Development Trust (EQUIP)	19,800	-	**19,800**	*16,920*
Trust for London	27,500	-	**27,500**	*15,000*
London Youth Federation (Digital Talent)	29,000	-	**29,000**	*5,000*
Local Initiatives Fund	6,001	-	**6,001**	-
Cripplegate Foundation - Islington Food Fund	2,667	-	**2,667**	-
The Julia and Hans Rausing Trust	22,000		**22,000**	-
Young Londoners Fund (Highbury Roundhouse)	-	-	**-**	*4,978*
HMRC - Job Retention Scheme	-	-	**-**	*5,044*
Mayor of London's Greener City Fund	-	-	**-**	*10,882*
Sports England - This Girl Can	-	-	**-**	*6,941*
Ambassadors for Good	-	-	**-**	*5,075*
	310,953	**-**	**310,953**	*327,218*

3. Staff costs

	2023	*2022*
	£	*£*
Salaries and wages	277,434	*232,420*
Social security costs	19,070	*14,780*
Pension costs	4,929	*4,035*
Other staffing costs	8,115	*8,221*
	309,548	*259,456*
Consisting of:		
Charitable project staff costs	293,533	*243,816*
Charitable governance staff costs (Note 7)	16,015	*15,640*
	309,548	*259,456*

The average weekly number of employees during the year was 14.5

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 per annum.

4. Premises costs

	2023	*2022*
	£	*£*
Cleaning, maintenance, health and safety, repairs	18,175	*19,220*
Insurance	5,643	*4,084*
Light and heat	8,796	*4,029*
Business rates and water rates	10,166	*10,193*
Depreciation of buildings	10,047	*10,043*
	52,827	*47,569*

5. Activities costs

	2023	2022
	£	£
Management and supervision of projects	22,450	12,851
Office equipment, materials, printing, stationery & postage	2,239	1,707
Travel, volunteer, project activities, food hub, project equipment and sundry expenses	109,445	63,860
Telephone, internet and website	835	1,341
Equipment hire and maintenance	1,616	1,616
IT development, maintenance and support	370	2,065
Tutors' costs	107,444	56,352
	244,399	139,792

6. Other costs

	2023	2022
	£	£
Bank charges	161	192
Subscriptions	1,028	247
Consultancy fees	1,245	4,655
	2,434	5,094

7. Governance costs

	2023	2022
	£	£
Salaries and wages (Note 3)	16,015	15,640
Independent Examiner's fee	3,500	3,400
Telephone	44	169
Other expenses	204	12
	19,763	19,221

8. Transactions with trustees

No remuneration was paid to the trustees in their role as trustee during the year and no expenses were reimbursed to them. The trustees together with their family members have no beneficial interest either directly or indirectly in any contract of the charity.

9. Net incoming resources for the year

		2023	2022
		£	£
This is stated after charging:			
Depreciation	(Note 11)	10,047	10,043
Independent Examiner's fee:	(Note 7)	3,500	3,400

10. Taxation

The charity has no corporation tax liability because income from its activities is in pursuance of its charitable objectives and all income is applied for charitable purposes.

11. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings	Equipment and fittings	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1 April 2022	502,299	70,699	572,998
At 31 March 2023	**502,299**	**70,699**	**572,998**
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2022	210,215	70,699	280,914
Charge for the year	10,047	-	10,047
At 31 March 2023	**220,262**	**70,699**	**290,961**
Net book value			
At 31 March 2023	**282,037**	**-**	**282,037**
At 31 March 2022	*292,084*	*-*	*292,084*

The market value of freehold land and buildings is significantly more than the carrying value and has been estimated by the trustees to be over £1m.

12. Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Prepayments and accrued income	551	*1,182*
Other debtors	24,079	*25,906*
	24,630	*27,088*

13. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Taxation and social security	622	*5,288*
Deferred income	13,465	*4,400*
Other creditors	22,143	*21,775*
Accruals	3,500	*3,655*
Loan (secured)	35,000	*35,000*
	74,730	*70,118*

The loan is interest free and secured by a charge over the land and buildings.
Deferred income comprises grants and other income received in advance of the period to which they are intended.

14. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Restricted funds	Unrestricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£
Fixed assets	282,037	-	282,037
Current assets	102,604	431,493	534,097
Current liabilities	(35,000)	(39,730)	(74,730)
	349,641	**391,763**	**741,404**

15. Operating lease commitments

As at 31 March 2023 the company has total future commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Not later than one year	1,566	1,566
Later than one year and not later than five years	36	1,602
	1,602	3,168

16. Statement of funds

	At 1 April 2022	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers between funds	At 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds					
Building Fund	257,083	-	(10,047)	-	**247,036**
Salaries Fund	-	50,000	(50,000)	-	-
Children Fund	-	83,009	(189,184)	106,175	-
Youth Club Fund	3,821	19,880	(14,251)	-	**9,450**
Womens' Fitness Fund	4,422	910	(4,123)	-	**1,209**
Stay Well Live Well Fund	4,997	9,632	(14,926)	297	-
Greening Highbury Quadrant Fund	4,892	2,308	(5,437)	-	**1,763**
Blue House Club Fund	2,312	-	(2,616)	304	-
Food Hub Fund	53,412	52,032	(36,157)	-	**69,287**
Winter Wellness Fund	5,482	11,500	(15,146)	-	**1,836**
21st Century Skills Fund	66,749	113,116	(167,962)	-	**11,903**
Equipment Fund	-	-	(49)	-	**(49)**
Community Events Fund	-	1,641	(691)	-	**950**
Holloway Mural	-	4,105	(3,000)	-	**1,105**
Warm Spaces Fund	-	5,486	(335)	-	**5,151**
	403,170	**353,619**	**(513,924)**	**106,776**	**349,641**
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	272,709	281,328	(151,935)	(106,776)	**295,326**
Designated funds:					
Building Maintenance Fund	26,437	35,000	-	-	**61,437**
Staff Redundancy and Sickness Fund	10,000	5,000	-	-	**15,000**
Staff Training Fund	5,000	5,000	-	-	**10,000**
Equipment Fund	5,000	5,000	-	-	**10,000**
	319,146	**331,328**	**(151,935)**	**(106,776)**	**391,763**
Total funds	**722,316**	**684,947**	**(665,859)**	-	**741,404**

16 *continued*

Details of restricted funds

The Buildings Fund represents the cost and improvement of Elizabeth House less loan and accumulated depreciation.

The Children's Fund is to provide activities for children and childcare during term time and school holidays.

The Youth Club Fund is to provide free, youth-led activities for 11+.

Stay Well Live Well Fund: Working with Octopus Communities and Islington-based Community Hubs, we provide community activities and events promoting health and wellbeing, supporting residents affected by food insecurity, social isolation and health issues.

Womens' Fitness Fund is to offer physical activities for local women who are inactive or not accessing other exercise classes. Our aim is to create a welcoming women-only space for social, mental and physical wellbeing.

21st Century Skills Fund was set up in partnership with PPCP to provide IT training and work experience to disadvantaged young people (18+) to secure jobs in the IT sector.

Blue House Club Fund comprises of our over 55's wellbeing activities, including gentle exercise, a lunch club and social events.

Food Hub Fund is to support residents affected by food insecurity, the Covid pandemic and the cost of living crisis. The Food Hub is a coop that provides weekly food boxes to registered residents, as well as a social hub to support local connections and facilitate access to other services and activities.

Greening Highbury Quadrant Fund is to provide access to nature activities for local residents and develop unused green space into thriving green areas on a local housing estate, while supporting local biodiversity.

Winter Wellness Fund was launched in January 2022 with funding from Islington Council to provide information and support to older residents in Islington and Camden during winter months

17. **Pension costs**

The charity participates in defined contribution workplace pension arrangements for members of staff. The employer contribution rate is 3% and the cost for the year was £4,929 (2022 £4,035). There was no outstanding amount at the year end.

HIGHBURY VALE-BLACKSTOCK TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1029704

Accounts

Company No. 2849848
Charity No. 1029704

Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust

Report and Accounts

For the year ended 31 March 2022



Elizabeth House Community Centre
2 Hurlock Street
London N5 1ED

Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust

Trustees' Report

For the Year Ended 31 March 2022

The trustees present their report and accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2022. They have complied with the duty to have due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission.

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Charity name:	Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust (also known as "Elizabeth House")
Charity registration number:	1029704
Company registration number	2849848
Registered office and operations address	Elizabeth House, 2 Hurlock Street, London N5 1ED
Trustees (Directors)	
Chair	Carol Glover
Treasurer	Garry Luxford
	Ashley Hodges Jeremy Corbyn MP Mary Dakin Valerie Bossman-Quarshie Lee-Anne Richardson-Pring
Centre Director (Chief Executive)	Nathalie Renaud
Independent Examiner	Harry Nicolaou Of Harry Nicolaou & Co Limited Chartered Accountants 21 Brendon Way, Enfield, EN1 2LF
Bankers	CAF Bank Limited PO Box 289, West Malling, Kent ME19 4TA

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

This year has been a very successful year for Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust and Elizabeth House Community Centre, despite operating through the Covid pandemic and its aftermath. Paradoxically, the difficult environment caused by the pandemic and the cost of living crisis affecting so many residents, has also meant that the role and position of Elizabeth House in the area have grown in depth and breadth, and has become even more vital for our community.

Our services are reaching more people of all ages and backgrounds, and our aim to support some of the most vulnerable people in the community is achieved through the Food Hub as well as our childcare, youth and wellbeing services.

As a charity, we were able to secure more grant income to develop some of our services and activities, whilst the scale of other income streams and services have reduced. For the first time in the life of the charity, its annual income has gone over the half a million-income mark.

We can be proud of the growth of our services and their reach, which demonstrate the resilience and strength of the organisation, especially in the current economic, political and social context.

More than ever, this could not have happened without the hard work of our staff team, volunteers and trustees, but also the trust that funders, community members and service users have given to Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust, to make Elizabeth House Community Centre an anchor for the community.

Unlike many local organisations, Elizabeth House was able to sustain its Food Hub under a more cooperative model to provide practical support to over 200 local residents on a weekly basis, and facilitate access to other services and activities. In September 2021, with the lifting of restrictions, the centre re-opened with a full programme of activities. We continued to provide essential childcare services despite many challenges and supported over 200 families over the year with affordable or free childcare. We also re-launched in-person activities for over 50's, women-only groups, young people and other community groups; always working hard to keep people safe while offering a welcoming and inclusive space for all.

We are continually grateful to Islington Council and the St James Trust for their significant, multi-annual financial support. The Board also wants to thank all the first-time funders and individual donors, many who give regularly. They have supported our work and enabled us to launch new projects and continue our essential community activities like the Food Hub.

Again, I would like to thank the committed staff and volunteers for their hard work, as well as my fellow Trustees for sharing their skills to ensure Elizabeth House Community Centre continues to be a special place for so many. We are thrilled to present this Annual Report and showcase the charity's amazing achievements.



Carol Glover
Chair of the Board of Trustees

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 2 September 1993 and registered as a charity on 6 December 1993. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which defined the objects and powers of the charitable company. It is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law. The trustees have developed a policy for the recruitment of trustees that ensures their collective experience and skills are best able to meet the needs of the charity. New Trustees are appointed by Board members.

Potential candidates for the Board of Trustees receive a briefing pack about the roles and responsibilities of a Trustee and have the opportunity to attend a Board meeting and visit Elizabeth House to understand its work before offering themselves for appointment. Trustees are invited to meet senior staff members and visit as many activities or projects as they are able to once they are elected.

Organisational Structure and Governance

The Board of Trustees is responsible for overall strategy and management of the organisation. The day-to-day management of the charity, including staff and financial matters, is delegated to the Centre Director, who is supported by an Administrator, Operations and Communication Officer, Children's Activities Coordinator and Senior Youth Worker. Other employed staff and volunteers fulfil other roles in the organisation. The Centre Director has the function of Chief Executive Officer, reporting directly to the Board.

The Board of Trustees meets approximately every two months at Elizabeth House. This year, Trustees met five times, including the AGM. Meetings were well attended and trustees have continued to take an active role in supporting the staff team.

Risk Assessment

The Trustees periodically undertake a review of the major risks to which the charity is exposed. Each year when considering the operating budget and strategic plan, the Trustees review the associated organisational risks. The senior management team also review operational systems and procedures and service area risk assessments to manage risks that are in place. We review and update our risk assessments, business continuity and emergency contingency plans annually.

BACKGROUND AND AIMS OF THE ORGANISATION

Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust was established in its present form in 1993 to operate Elizabeth House Community Centre.

Through our community-based approach - acting as a community anchor – we build trust and bring people together so that we can connect residents to practical support and opportunities. Our vision is for everyone in the local community around Elizabeth House to have a better quality of life through accessing key services.

The charity is dedicated to providing a safe and open space, as well as inclusive and flexible services for the community. We aim to have a meaningful and positive influence on the local community. Our priority is to respond to the needs of the local community, especially people with high needs or who are underserved.

Elizabeth House provides a range of services open to all, with a focus on children and young people, and a place for local people to use, as well as a space to support for other organisations to deliver their activities.

Our specific objectives are:

- Develop and deliver services that make a lasting impact on people's life and, as a Charity, invest in those who need it the most.
- Expand and improve service provision to respond to the needs in the community and improve the health and wellbeing of local people.
- Promote community cohesion and reinforce our community, by fostering positive relations and exchange, as well as providing inclusive services opened to all.
- Work in partnership with local Councils, community organisations, businesses, local residents and other groups to deliver high quality services and fill gaps in services.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Overall reach in the community

Elizabeth House offers a safe space which is open 7 days a week, 355 days a year to serve community members and groups. In 2021-22, the charity registered a footfall of 10,000 people, which is identical to our pre-pandemic records. However, some services saw a decrease in attendance and participation (e.g. childcare provision) and others have been more successful (e.g. wellbeing activities, IT training).

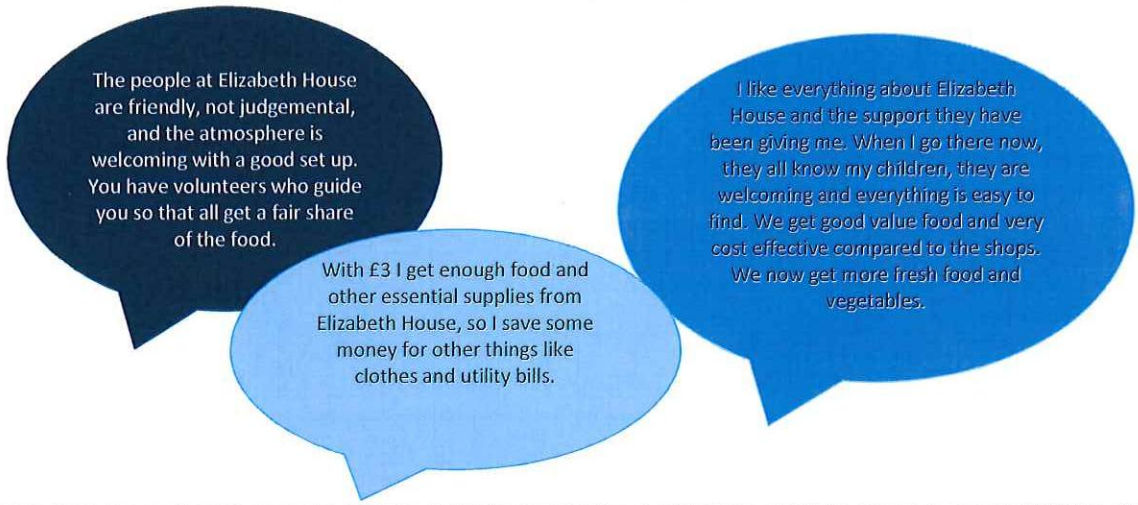
Our programme offered 33 regular activities and groups over the year, back to a similar community offer to pre-Covid period. This has been very encouraging for the Charity and outlined that people really value in-person activities and contacts, resuming their participation as soon as restrictions were lifted. All our online activities were stopped by summer 2021.

Food Hub and community support

The Food Hub remains central to the services we provide to the local community. Through food support, we are reaching some of the most vulnerable residents in our local area and can refer them to our activities and external services.

Food insecurity is a significant issue in our local area, affecting older people, unemployed, isolated people and families alike. By using food surplus re-distributed by London-based charities, and culturally appropriate food purchased by the Charity, thanks to individual donations from the community, we are able to support on average 150 residents each week. People's circumstances are varied, but many experience complex issues ranging from mental or physical health issues, unemployment, domestic violence, homelessness, social isolation and poverty.

Over the year, Elizabeth House provided over 3,400 weekly food and essential parcels and 5,885 cooked meals to 211 local residents, supported by over 40 volunteers who packed and delivered the food in our neighbourhood, giving over 1,000 hours of their time in 1 year. Food Hub users contribute up to £3 per week towards their weekly food box, and receive between £20 and £40 worth of food.



Through food, we continue to reach out to many residents experiencing a wide range of issues, who can also benefit from other activities at Elizabeth House and be referred to external services by our community team. The Food Hub is a social hub for residents who have the opportunity to meet their neighbours every week, catch up with our team, follow-up on referrals, and have refreshments and a chat with our team of priceless volunteers.

We work with local community groups and charities to broaden our offer for food and social eating opportunities. The Food Hub also combats food waste by re-distributing food surplus collected by our partners the Felix Project and City Harvest London. We also get donations from local supermarkets and local residents enabling us to diversify the food that is distributed and what we can purchase.

Since November 2020, the team is strengthened by Community Organisers who have been working hard to be the bridge between residents and Elizabeth House, but also other community services. Community Organisers not only support the Community Coordinator to deliver some of our activities, but also to have important conversations with residents at Elizabeth House and in the community. These have helped the Charity improve its services, launch new activities and provide vital wrap around support to some of the most vulnerable people in our community.

Our programme ensures that we offer something for everyone in our community. The Women Support Group, over 50's lunch club, community events, befriending calls and wellbeing activities are key offers led by the community team, ensuring Elizabeth House is a friendly, responsive and inclusive space. Over 200+ local residents have directly benefited from our weekly community services over the year.

In January 2022, with funding from both local Councils, we launched *Winter Wellness* to support Camden and Islington residents aged 65+ to stay warm, safe, active and connected over winter months. The Community team called 400 residents in winter 2022, providing essential information about health, housing, energy saving and community services.



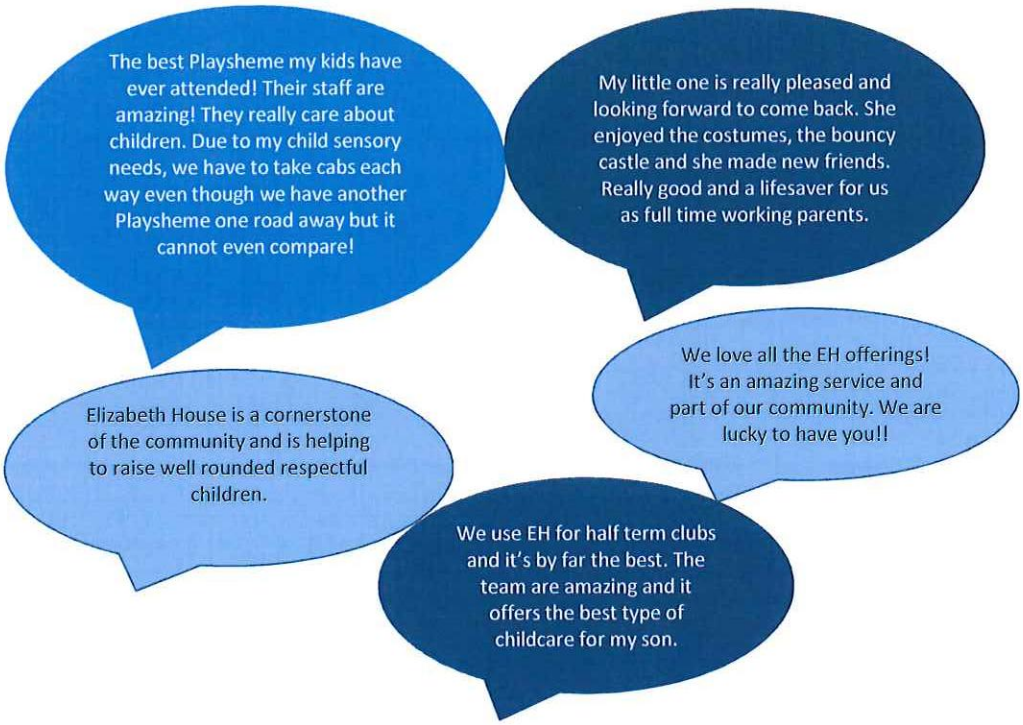
Childcare Services

Our childcare services continued to be disrupted by restrictions in the first half of the year, meaning that we could not offer as many childcare places as before. However, the Elizabeth House's After School Club and Holiday Playscheme operated 50 weeks of the year and, through the year, we developed our inclusive offer, ensuring that children with special needs and disabilities, as well as vulnerable children had places reserved. This was possible with the financial support of Islington Council and the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme, as well as through the dedication of our staff team and investment in additional SEND training.

Attendance increased compared to 2020-21, with 84 unique children accessing the After School Club during term time from 3 local schools, and 234 children benefiting from our Holiday provision over 11 weeks. We ensure that all children feel welcome, have a safe space to play and access to many fun activities.

However, despite the long standing partnerships with several primary schools, 2 local schools decided to run their own after school club from September 2021 with no prior notice, which initially impacted on our attendance numbers (average of 26 children per day). To adapt and diversify our offer for local children, we launched 2 after school cooking clubs attended by 26 children a week. Average daily attendance went up to 33.

For the first time at Elizabeth House, a week-long winter Playscheme was provided for vulnerable children during the Christmas holidays through the HAF programme, managed by Islington Council. We worked with social workers and the Family Information Service, to offer 30 free places for fun activities and lunch at a time of year where most other childcare provisions were closed.



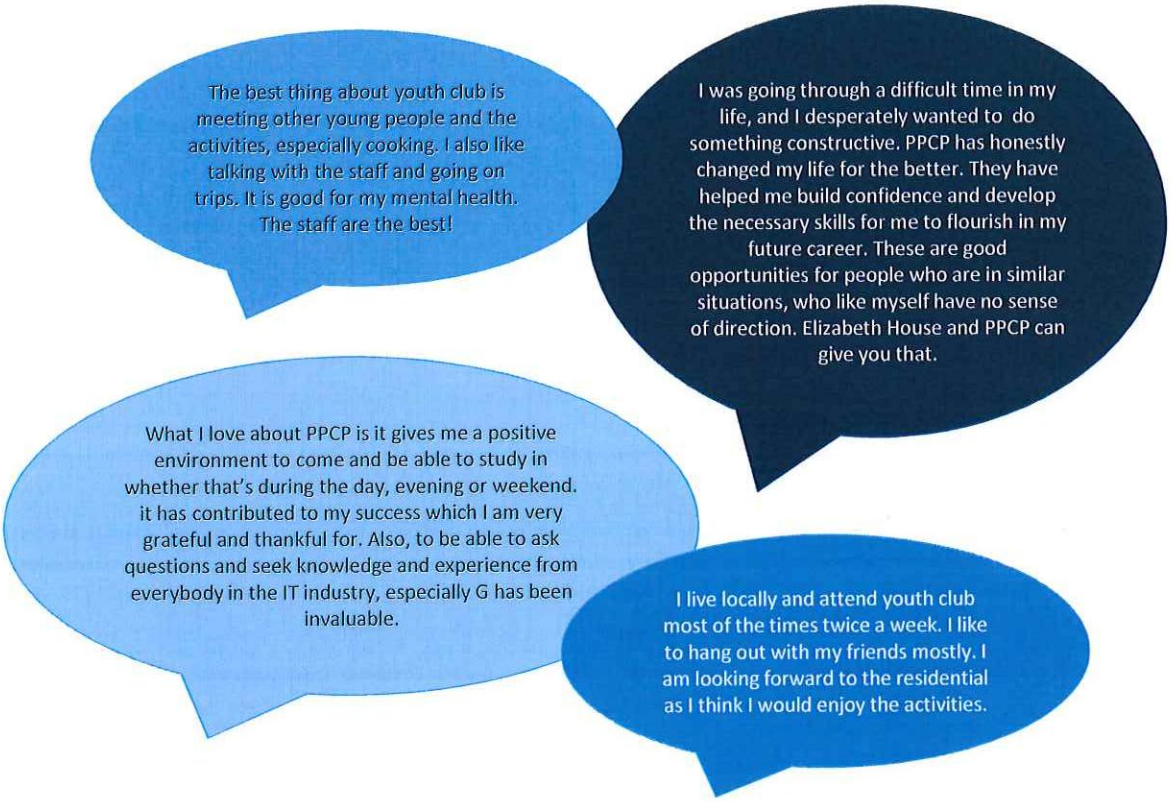
Youth Services and IT training programme

Elizabeth House's youth services include an open access youth club opened to young people aged 11 to 18 and an IT training and employment programme delivered in partnership with People's Place Community Partnership for young people age 18+.

The Youth Club is a welcoming, inclusive and safe space for young people. The team has worked hard to offer an open environment that attracts and evolves with its members. The youth workers encourage good behaviour and respect of others. The youth club members are consulted regularly about the type of activities they wish to have on offer. Having a football and basketball coach from Access to Sport attracted older boys, while the team offered a wider range of youth-led activities at each session (arts, games, cooking, table tennis, cooking and much more). The Youth Club team is strengthened by 2 volunteers who support the youth workers and have developed good relationships with the regular Youth Club members.

There were 41 young people registered as Youth Club members (59% boys and 41% girls), with an average of 21 young people per session. Young people are aged 10 to 17 (22% are aged 11 to 12 or in 'transition years'). 46% of young people are from BAME backgrounds, and the remaining 54% identified as 'white British'.

Since 2018, Peoples Place Community Partnership (PPCP) have been working hard to develop a tech-based youth employability hub, in partnership with Elizabeth House. The programme 21CS provides disadvantaged, unemployed, or low paid young people with industry relevant training, skills, and accreditations for a career in the IT sector. We target under-represented young people by offering a flexible and impactful training programme. In 2021-22, there were a total of 62 active IT students (80% men, 20% women), 49 new enrolments, 89% were from BAME backgrounds, 30% were unemployed or NEET and 35% were in low paid jobs. 27 passed at least one exam, over 30 did a work placement with PPCP or at Elizabeth House and 11 secured a job as Junior IT Technicians.

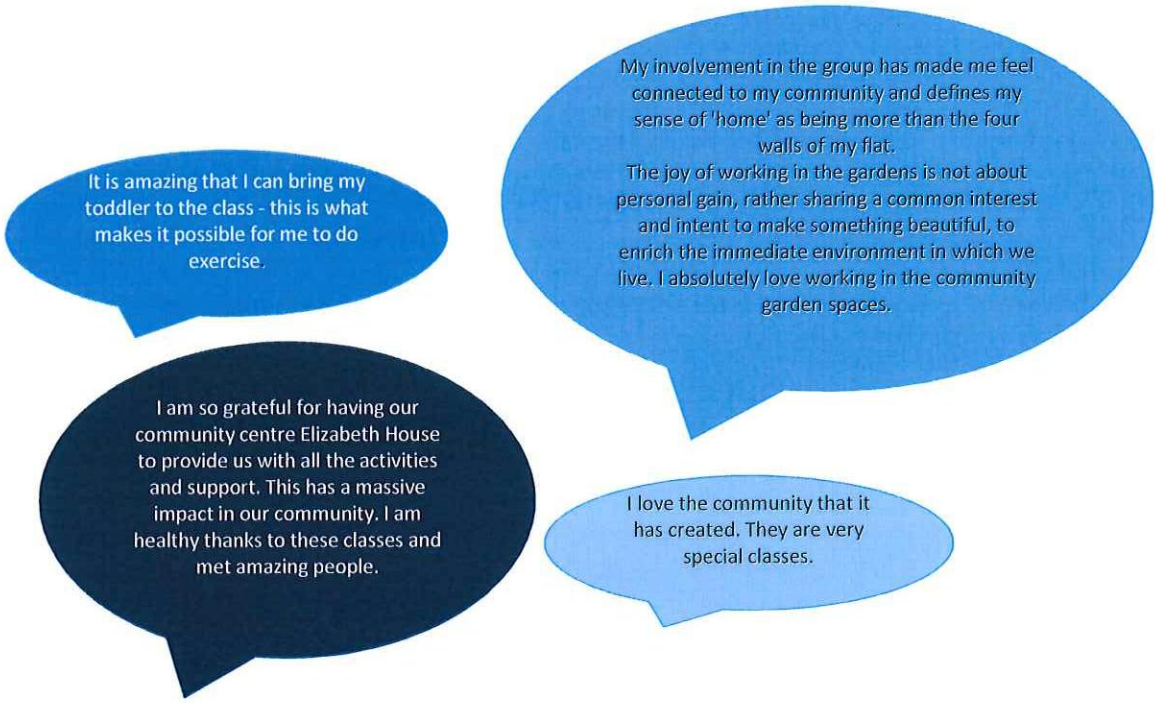


Health and Wellbeing Services

The Charity has always prioritised health and wellbeing activities at Elizabeth House, with the aim to provide a range of free or affordable activities helping residents to keep physically and mentally fit and well.

Since February 2020, Elizabeth House is part of a partnership project led by Octopus Communities (network of multi-purpose community centres in Islington) called Stay Well Live Well that enable community centres to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for their local community. Through this 3-year project, despite the challenges of operating during the pandemic, we have worked with other community organisations to provide wellbeing activities for all, such as joint community and social eating events, physical activities and support groups, as well as boosting our community team through community organising.

The Women Only Fitness classes resumed in September 2021 and they have never been so popular with local women, the majority of whom were not doing physical exercise before joining our classes. With additional funding, we launched an evening Zumba class, which was an instant hit with women of all ages and abilities. We work hard to keep these classes free so there is no barrier to accessing essential physical exercise classes.



Launched in February 2020, as part of our wellbeing offer, Elizabeth House, Octopus Communities and Islington Council have worked in partnership to improve green spaces on a local housing estate and offer access to nature activities for the local community. Our Greening Highbury Quadrant project, funded by the Mayor of London Greener City Fund, Highbury ward partnership and Islington Council, involve the community with the aim of improving knowledge about biodiversity and offer opportunities for local residents to access to green space, gardening and nature-based activities. Weekly sessions are organised and run by the Access to Nature Coordinator and residents could join as members in order to gain access to the green spaces, learn new skills and connect with their neighbours.

As part of our regular health and wellbeing programme, the centre hosts and supports other groups such as a range of yoga classes, aerobics, dance, multi sports for children and young people, as well as musical and creative groups. All of these activities contribute to enhancing the quality of life of local residents, and their wellbeing.

PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES IN 2021-22

Since September 2021, Elizabeth House was able to offer a full programme of community activities following months of a reduced service due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Working with partners and community groups, we had an exciting programme for everyone in the community:

Aerobics class - a very dynamic and friendly class open to all every Monday.

After School Club - delivered by Elizabeth House, we offer an affordable out of school childcare service for working parents for primary school children.

Baby massage group - a Bright Start-led weekly group every Tuesday morning

Babyin babyout – baby massage and relaxation class every Wednesday.

Ballet classes - a range of weekly classes on Monday and Thursday for pre-school aged children

Blue House Club – over 50's lunch club with exercise classes and social activities open to all every Wednesday.

Community Yoga - a weekly wellbeing class, every Tuesday morning.

Finsbury Park Singers – a popular choir held every Tuesday evening.

Food Hub – provision of food and essential items to local residents and families every week.

Holiday Playscheme - a popular holiday provision for children age 4 to 14, 11 weeks per year.

IT training and employability programme - run by our partner PPCP for young people to gain qualifications and secure employment in the IT sector.

Kuk Sool Mon – a popular Korean martial art class for children and adults every Thursday evening.

La Pajara Pinta - fun Spanish groups for toddlers, children and their parents on Saturday morning.

Sports School - multi sports sessions for children aged 2-11 years, every Saturday.

Wizzie Wizzie Code Club - a free and popular computer coding club for 8-14 year olds on Saturday.

Women only fitness classes - delivered by a qualified coach, two free weekly sessions free for all abilities.

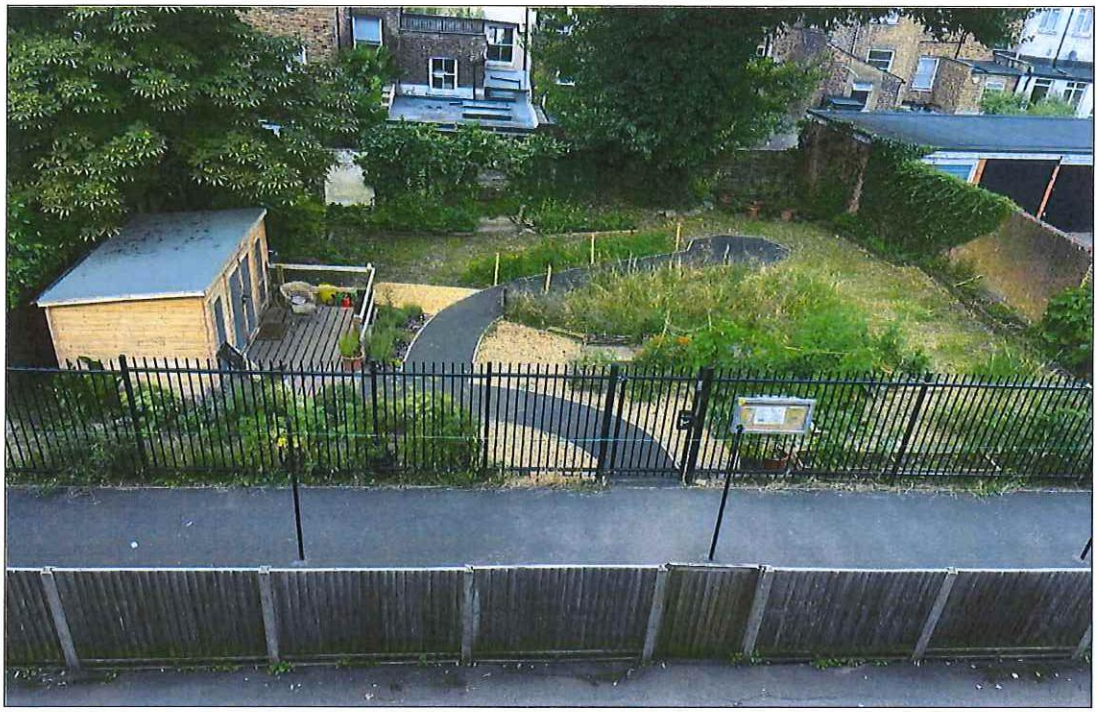
World Harmony Orchestra – offers pay what you can music lessons for the community.

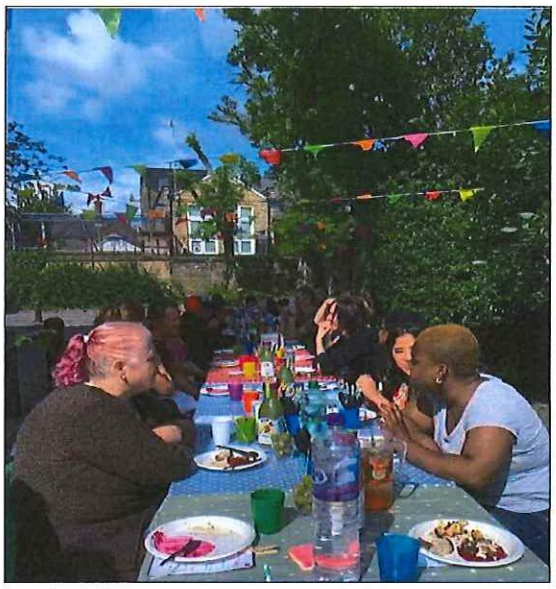
Youth club - open to all young people age 11 to 18 years old, led by young people themselves, held on Monday and Wednesday evenings.

Zumba – a new weekly class for women and girls every Tuesday evening.

In addition, Elizabeth House has been hosting other community groups running training sessions or needing a space for regular meetings. We also support local tenants' associations by providing them space free of charge when needed.

A YEAR IN PHOTOS














I'm cycling for a





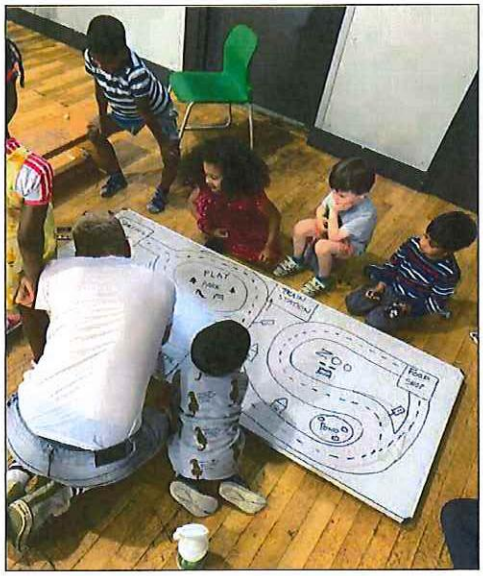
















Photos (pages 8 - 10): Highbury Quadrant nature garden, community feast, Food Hub, Blue House Club chair yoga, harvest, Curry Club chef, volunteer leaving for deliveries, volunteer at Food Hub, Holiday Playscheme, IT training students, volunteer, staff in local estate garden, women fitness class, resident at Super Soup event, community cooks, Elizabeth House's team members, children at Playscheme (2 photos), 21CS IT students, children's game and community gardening activities.

Organisational capacity

To offer services and support the local community, Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust (HVBT) employs up to 20 members of staff across its programmes.

We add social value as a local employer and create employment opportunities. Staff development is important to the Charity and we ensure staff members access training. We offer work placements for young people enrolled on the 21CS programme, so they can gain practical experience following their qualifications. As a small community organisation, HVBT is proud to be a London Living Wage employer.

Again this year, we were very fortunate to have been supported by over 60 volunteers supporting our Food Hub and other community activities. As an organisation, we really value volunteers and endeavour to give them opportunities for training, work experience and, in some cases, opportunities leading to paid employment.

FUTURE PLANS

Elizabeth House has become even more rooted in the local community thanks to increased funding to grow services and offer new ones. We pride ourselves with having developed an ecosystem whereby we provide support and services to residents by offering a wide range of services, create opportunities that will have a lasting impact on people's lives and work collaboratively to diversify and strengthen our offer.

The organisation has been extremely agile and the increase in grant funding has enabled the charity to work with more local people, and reach some of the most vulnerable.

Our aim for 2022-23 is to increase participation in all our services now that restrictions have been completely lifted. Our work will also focus on community engagement to continue to raise awareness about our services and that of other local organisations. Partnership work will remain central to how the centre operates, so we can support young people into work, provide high quality childcare and children's activities and welcome more people to Elizabeth House.

Like most frontline service providers, we are very reliant on funding and we will continue to prioritise fundraising in a climate that will certainly change dramatically after 2-years of unprecedented levels of opportunities for emergency funding and other financial support.

Elizabeth House is incredibly fortunate to be supported by very committed volunteers and generous supporters. We will work to get more local support, in-kind and financial, so our activities are not solely dependant on grant funding.



FINANCIAL REVIEW

Income received in the year increased by nearly 23% from £455,618 to £560,257. Expenditure increased by 15% from £394,463 to £456,372. The net movement in funds for 2022 was an influx of £103,885 (2021 £61,155).

Looking forward, the Charity will continue to make income generation a priority to ensure more projects are implemented as well as a larger surplus in future years. The Trustees also expect attendance and activities to continue to increase as the organisation's communication and fundraising plans are implemented.

The total funds carried forward in 2022 are £722,320 (2021 £618,431. Cash reserves of the Trust are £473,262 (2021 £348,762). This represents over 12 months of expenditure (2021 10.6 months)

Reserves

The trustees are aware of the need to maintain unrestricted general reserves, currently £302,669 (2021 £229,535). Further the Trustees are mindful of the uncertainty of Local Authority and grant funding on which the Trust is currently dependent to deliver services so reserves are being maintained at a relatively high level to ensure continuity of services to the local community.

The Trustees are conscious of the need to have unrestricted designated funds for building maintenance (£26,437), staffing (£10,000), staff training £5,000, and equipment (£5,000).

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

Approved by the trustees on 03/11/2022 and signed on their behalf by:

Carol Glover

Carol Glover, Chair

OUR FUNDERS AND PARTNERS

We could not have achieved so much without our partners and funders, including the St James Trust and many others

Independent Examiner's report to the trustees of Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2022 set out on pages 9 to 16.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 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 the 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 you as 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 to indicate that:

- accounting records have not been kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006;
- the accounts do not accord with such records;
- where accounts are prepared on an accruals basis, whether they fail to comply with relevant accounting requirements under section 396 of the Companies Act 2006, or are not consistent with the Charities SORP (FRS102);
- any matter which the examiner believes should be drawn to the attention of the reader to gain a proper understanding of the accounts.

H Nicolaou

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Harry Nicolaou FCA
Of Harry Nicolaou and Co Limited
Chartered Accountants
21 Brendon Way
Enfield EN1 2LF

4 November 2022

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Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust

Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account)

For the Year Ended 31 March 2022

	Note	Restricted funds	Unrestricted funds	2022 Total funds	*2021 Total funds*
		£	£	£	*£*
INCOME FROM:					
Donations and legacies		29,960	28,351	58,311	*21,946*
Charitable activities:					
Grants	2	322,174	5,044	327,218	*360,235*
After School Club income		-	45,800	45,800	*18,467*
Playschemes income		-	37,829	37,829	*15,981*
Users hire of premises		-	42,806	42,806	*1,137*
Project hire of premises		-	8,710	8,710	*10,967*
Management and supervision of projects		-	12,851	12,851	*8,136*
Other income		-	26,219	26,219	*17,831*
Investments:					
Bank interest		-	513	513	*918*
TOTAL INCOME		**352,134**	**208,123**	**560,257**	*455,618*
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Raising funds		-	880	880	*2,450*
Charitable activities					
Staff costs	3	194,221	49,595	243,816	*211,923*
Premises costs	4	16,725	30,844	47,569	*40,369*
Activities costs	5	118,589	21,203	139,792	*118,140*
Other costs	6	1,442	3,652	5,094	*2,984*
Governance costs	7	-	19,221	19,221	*18,597*
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		**330,977**	**125,395**	**456,372**	*394,463*
Net income for the year	9	**21,157**	**82,728**	**103,885**	*61,155*
Transfers between funds	16	39,554	(39,554)	-	-
Net movement in funds		**60,711**	**43,174**	**103,885**	*61,155*
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		342,459	275,972	618,431	*557,276*
Total funds carried forward	16	**403,170**	**319,146**	**722,316**	*618,431*

Net income for the year also comprises the net income for the year for Companies Act purposes.

Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust

Company No. 2849848

Balance Sheet

As at 31 March 2022

	Note	2022	2021
		£	£
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	11	292,084	302,127
Total fixed assets		**292,084**	302,127
Current assets			
Debtors	12	27,088	21,860
Cash at bank and in hand		473,262	348,762
Total current assets		**500,350**	370,622
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	13	(70,118)	(54,318)
Net current assets		**430,232**	316,304
Total assets less current liabilities and net assets	14	**722,316**	618,431
The funds of the charity:			
Restricted funds		**403,170**	342,459
Unrestricted income funds:			
General funds		272,709	229,535
Designated funds		46,437	46,437
		319,146	275,972
Total charity funds	16	**722,316**	618,431

The directors are satisfied that the company is entitled to exemption from the requirement to obtain an audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 and that members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Act.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

Approved by the directors on 03/11/2022

And signed on their behalf by:

Carol A Glover

Carol Glover
Chair

Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust

Statement of Cash Flows

As at 31 March 2022

	2022	2021
	£	£
Cash flow from operating activities		
Net surplus for the year	103,885	*61,155*
Interest received	(513)	*(918)*
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	10,043	*10,047*
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(5,228)	*(5,820)*
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	15,800	*6,556*
Net cash flow from operating activities	123,987	*71,020*
Cash flow from investing activities		
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets	-	-
Interest received	513	*918*
Net cash flow from investing activities	513	*918*
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	124,500	*71,938*
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April 2021	348,762	*276,824*
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March 2022	473,262	*348,762*

1. Accounting Policies

Basis of accounting

The accounts (financial statement) have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for twelve months from authorising these accounts and have decided that the charity is able to continue as a going concern.

Income recognition

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, there is sufficient certainty of receipt and so it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Expenditure recognition

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that a settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is accounted for exclusive of VAT.

Fund accounting

Restricted funds are grants, donations and other incoming resources which are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.

Unrestricted funds are grants, donations and other incoming resources receivable for the objects of the charity without further specified purpose and are available as general funds.

Governance costs

Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include costs linked to the strategic management of the charity.

Fixed assets

Fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Items of equipment and fittings are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £300.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset, less its estimated residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Buildings	2% on cost
Equipment and fittings	33.33% on cost

Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discounts offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid after taking account of any trade discounts due.

Creditors

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Operating leases

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as incurred over the term of the lease.

Pension costs

The costs of the defined contribution arrangements are charged to the SOFA as incurred.

2. Grants

	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total 2022	*Total 2021*
			£	*£*
Jack Petchey Foundation	850	-	**850**	*750*
St James's Trust	25,000	-	**25,000**	*25,000*
LB Islington	21,740	-	**21,740**	*48,813*
LB Islington - EYDCP (After School Club)	15,300	-	**15,300**	*15,300*
LB Islington - EYDCP (Playschemes)	35,250	-	**35,250**	*22,086*
LB Islington - VCS	50,000	-	**50,000**	*42,500*
LB Islington - Small Change Big Impact	5,000	-	**5,000**	*5,000*
Octopus Communities - Stay Well Live Well	13,552	-	**13,552**	*25,958*
Young Londoners Fund (Highbury Roundhouse)	4,978	-	**4,978**	*14,737*
HMRC - Job Retention Scheme	-	5,044	**5,044**	*56,140*
Mayor of London's Greener City Fund	10,882	-	**10,882**	*17,096*
CAF Resilience Fund Phase 2	90,686	-	**90,686**	*19,608*
Paddington Development Trust - EQUIP	16,920	-	**16,920**	*1,880*
Trust for London	15,000	-	**15,000**	-
Sports England - This Girl Can	6,941	-	**6,941**	-
Ambassadors for Good	5,075	-	**5,075**	-
London Youth - Digital Talent	5,000	-	**5,000**	-
Local Initiatives Fund	-	-	**-**	*1,000*
London Communities Foundation	-	-	**-**	*34,188*
Manor Gardens Welfare Trust	-	-	**-**	*3,514*
Martin Lewis Coronavirus Support Fund	-	-	**-**	*5,500*
Cripplegate Foundation	-	-	**-**	*5,000*
The Grocers Charitable Trust	-	-	**-**	*5,000*
National Lottery Community Fund	-	-	**-**	*9,999*
Tesco Bags of Help	-	-	**-**	*1,166*
	322,174	**5,044**	**327,218**	*360,235*

3. Staff costs

	2022	*2021*
	£	*£*
Salaries and wages	232,420	*205,246*
Social security costs	14,780	*12,297*
Pension costs	4,035	*4,000*
Other staffing costs	8,221	*5,380*
	259,456	*226,923*
Consisting of:		
Charitable project staff costs	243,816	*211,923*
Charitable governance staff costs (Note 7)	15,640	*15,000*
	259,456	*226,923*

The average weekly number of employees during the year was 14.

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 per annum.

4. Premises costs

	2022	*2021*
	£	*£*
Cleaning, maintenance, health and safety, repairs	19,220	*14,362*
Insurance	4,084	*3,624*
Light and heat	4,029	*2,272*
Business rates and water rates	10,193	*10,064*
Depreciation of buildings	10,043	*10,047*
	47,569	*40,369*

5. Activities costs

	2022	2021
	£	£
Hire of premises	-	10,300
Management and supervision of projects	12,851	8,136
Event fees, outings, art and craft materials etc	-	18,204
Office equipment, materials, printing, stationery & postage	1,707	2,782
Travel, volunteer, activities, food hub, project equipment and sundry expenses	63,860	33,726
Telephone, internet and website	1,341	1,057
Equipment hire and maintenance	1,616	1,616
IT development, maintenance and support	2,065	2,481
Tutors' costs	56,352	39,838
	139,792	118,140

6. Other costs

	2022	2021
	£	£
Bank charges	192	138
Subscriptions	247	109
Consultancy fees	4,655	2,737
	5,094	2,984

7. Governance costs

	2022	2021
	£	£
Salaries and wages (Note 3)	15,640	15,000
Independent Examiner's fee	3,400	3,400
Telephone	169	176
Other expenses	12	21
	19,221	18,597

8. Transactions with trustees

No remuneration was paid to the trustees in their role as trustee during the year and no expenses were reimbursed to them. The trustees together with their family members have no beneficial interest either directly or indirectly in any contract of the charity.

9. Net incoming resources for the year

		2022	2021
		£	£
This is stated after charging:			
Depreciation	(Note 11)	10,043	10,047
Independent Examiner's fee:	(Note 7)	3,400	3,400

10. Taxation

The charity has no corporation tax liability because income from its activities is in pursuance of its charitable objectives and all income is applied for charitable purposes.

11. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings	Equipment and fittings	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1 April 2021	502,299	70,699	572,998
At 31 March 2022	**502,299**	**70,699**	**572,998**
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2021	200,172	70,699	270,871
Charge for the year	10,043	-	10,043
At 31 March 2022	**210,215**	**70,699**	**280,914**
Net book value			
At 31 March 2022	**292,084**	**-**	**292,084**
At 31 March 2021	*302,127*	-	*302,127*

The market value of freehold land and buildings is significantly more than the carrying value and has been estimated by the trustees to be over £1m.

12. Debtors

	2022	*2021*
	£	*£*
Prepayments and accrued income	1,182	*2,672*
Other debtors	25,906	*19,188*
	27,088	*21,860*

13. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022	*2021*
	£	*£*
Taxation and social security	5,288	*5,387*
Deferred income	4,400	*1,914*
Other creditors	21,775	*8,311*
Accruals	3,655	*3,706*
Loan (secured)	35,000	*35,000*
	70,118	*54,318*

The loan is interest free and secured by a charge over the land and buildings.
Deferred income comprises grants and other income received in advance of the period to which they are intended.

14. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Restricted funds	Unrestricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£
Fixed assets	292,084	-	292,084
Current assets	146,086	354,264	500,350
Current liabilities	(35,000)	(35,118)	(70,118)
	403,170	**319,146**	**722,316**

11. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings	Equipment and fittings	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1 April 2021	502,299	70,699	572,998
At 31 March 2022	**502,299**	**70,699**	**572,998**
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2021	200,172	70,699	270,871
Charge for the year	10,043	-	10,043
At 31 March 2022	**210,215**	**70,699**	**280,914**
Net book value			
At 31 March 2022	**292,084**	**-**	**292,084**
At 31 March 2021	*302,127*	*-*	*302,127*

The market value of freehold land and buildings is significantly more than the carrying value and has been estimated by the trustees to be over £1m.

12. Debtors

	2022	*2021*
	£	*£*
Prepayments and accrued income	1,182	*2,672*
Other debtors	25,906	*19,188*
	27,088	*21,860*

13. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022	*2021*
	£	*£*
Taxation and social security	5,288	*5,387*
Deferred income	4,400	*1,914*
Other creditors	21,775	*8,311*
Accruals	3,655	*3,706*
Loan (secured)	35,000	*35,000*
	70,118	*54,318*

The loan is interest free and secured by a charge over the land and buildings.
Deferred income comprises grants and other income received in advance of the period to which they are intended.

14. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Restricted funds	Unrestricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£
Fixed assets	292,084	-	292,084
Current assets	146,086	354,264	500,350
Current liabilities	(35,000)	(35,118)	(70,118)
	403,170	**319,146**	**722,316**

15. Operating lease commitments

As at 31 March 2022 the company has total future commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Not later than one year	1,566	1,408
Later than one year and not later than five years	1,602	3,168
	3,168	4,576

16. Statement of funds

	At 1 April 2021	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers between funds	At 31 March 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds					
Building Fund	267,126	-	(10,043)	-	**257,083**
Salaries Fund	-	50,000	(50,000)	-	**-**
Children Fund	13,572	75,550	(127,853)	38,731	**-**
Youth Club Fund	9,798	10,828	(16,805)	-	**3,821**
Roof Renovation Fund	284	-	-	(284)	**-**
Womens' Fitness Fund	680	6,941	(2,810)	(389)	**4,422**
Stay Well Live Fund	13,126	13,552	(21,681)	-	**4,997**
Greening Highbury Quadrant Fund	-	21,197	(16,305)	-	**4,892**
Blue House Club Fund	4,500	-	(2,188)	-	**2,312**
Food Hub Fund	31,084	34,960	(12,632)	-	**53,412**
Winter Wellness Fund	-	11,500	(7,898)	1,880	**5,482**
21st Century Skills Fund	1,905	127,606	(62,762)	-	**66,749**
Equipment Fund	384	-	-	(384)	**-**
	342,459	**352,134**	**(330,977)**	**39,554**	**403,170**
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	229,535	208,123	(125,395)	(39,554)	**272,709**
Designated funds:					
Building Maintenance Fund	26,437	-	-	-	**26,437**
Staff Redundancy and Sickness Fund	10,000	-	-	-	**10,000**
Staff Training Fund	5,000	-	-	-	**5,000**
Equipment Fund	5,000	-	-	-	**5,000**
	275,972	**208,123**	**(125,395)**	**(39,554)**	**319,146**
Total funds	**618,431**	**560,257**	**(456,372)**	**-**	**722,316**

HIGHBURY VALE-BLACKSTOCK TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1029704

Accounts

Company No. 2849848
Charity No. 1029704

Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust

Report and Accounts

For the year ended 31 March 2021

Elizabeth House
2 Hurlock Street
London N5 1ED

Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust

Trustees' Report

For the Year Ended 31 March 2021

The trustees present their report and accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2021. They have complied with the duty to have due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission.

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Charity name:	Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust (also known as "Elizabeth House")
Charity registration number:	1029704
Company registration number	2849848
Registered office and operations address	Elizabeth House, 2 Hurlock Street, London N5 1ED
Trustees (Directors)	
Chair	Carol Glover
Treasurer	Garry Luxford
Secretary	Hayley Davidson (retired 26 November 2020)
	Ashley Hodges Jeremy Corbyn MP Mary Dakin Valerie Bossman-Quarshie Lee-Ann Richardson-Pring (appointed 30 September 2020)
Centre Director (Chief Executive)	Nathalie Renaud
Independent Examiner	Harry Nicolaou Of Harry Nicolaou & Co Limited Chartered Accountants 21 Brendon Way, Enfield, EN1 2LF
Bankers	CAF Bank Limited PO Box 289, West Malling, Kent ME19 4TA

Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust

Trustees' Report

For the Year Ended 31 March 2021

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

As the Chair of Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust, I would like to thank all the staff, volunteers, trustees, funders, community members and service users who are making Elizabeth House Community Centre such a vibrant space, with strong roots into our wider neighbourhood.

This unprecedented year of pandemic has impacted on our community, but Elizabeth House demonstrated its resilience and ability to adapt to support local residents. With our regular programme of frontline services being suspended in late March 2020, Elizabeth House was transformed into a Food Hub that provided much more than weekly food boxes. The team and many committed volunteers worked hard to keep a connection with some of the most isolated and vulnerable residents in our community, reaching many who we didn't have links with prior to the pandemic.

The Food Hub and our remote support services reached over 700 residents, including many families and elderly people. Our services grew exponentially over a short period of time during the first lockdown and despite a reduced team, Elizabeth House adapted to meet vital needs in our community through weekly food support, befriending calls, referrals and online activities.

Following national restrictions, Elizabeth House continued to provide essential childcare services for vulnerable children and those of keyworkers, supporting more than 80 families over the year. Our youth provision re-opened as soon as government guidelines allowed it and our partnership project to get young people into secure IT jobs moved online, both working with over 50 young people.

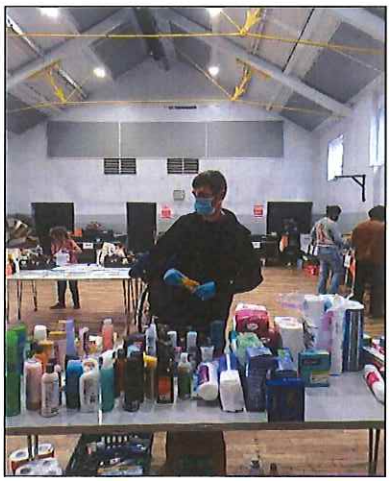
Following the Covid-19 crisis with the suspension of many of our activities in March 2020, the charity has worked hard to limit the impact on our operations, finances, staff team, service users and the wider community. Following our vital food response in the weeks and months that followed, we now have new plans for 2021-22: to empower community members and grow our Food Hub. A huge thank you to the volunteers who contributed to this much needed support network.

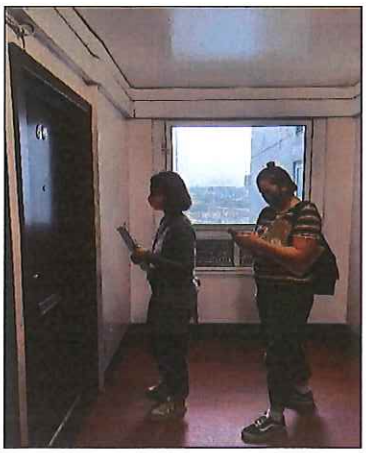
We are very grateful to Islington Council and the St James Trust for their multi-annual, substantial financial support. The Board also wants to thank all the donors that have supported our work during the pandemic and those who have enabled us to continue our community activities.

Again, I would like to thank the committed staff and volunteers for their hard work, as well as my fellow Trustees for sharing their skills and time to ensure Elizabeth House Community Centre made it through this crisis. Elizabeth House came out stronger with a strengthened team, new services, a wider reach and a stronger place in its community. We are proud of what Elizabeth House Community Centre has achieved over these 12 months.

Carol Glover
Chair of the Board of Trustees









Photos (clockwise from top left): (1) Food hub volunteers packaging meals, (2) volunteers sorting items for Food Hub, (3) Highbury Quadrant meadow transformed and (4) Community organisers doing home visits.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 2 September 1993 and registered as a charity on 6 December 1993. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which defined the objects and powers of the charitable company. It is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law. The trustees have developed a policy for the recruitment of trustees that ensures their collective experience and skills are best able to meet the needs of the charity. New Trustees are appointed by Board members.

Potential candidates for the Board of Trustees receive a briefing pack about the roles and responsibilities of a Trustee and have the opportunity to attend a Board meeting and visit Elizabeth House to understand its work before offering themselves for appointment. Trustees are invited to meet senior staff members and visit as many activities or projects as they are able to once they are elected.

Organisational Structure and Governance

The Board of Trustees is responsible for overall strategy and management of the organisation. The day-to-day management of the charity, including staff and financial matters, is delegated to the Centre Director, who is supported by an Administrator, Operations and Communication Officer, Children's Activities Coordinator and Senior Youth Worker. Other employed staff and volunteers fulfil other roles in the organisation. The Centre Director has the function of Chief Executive Officer, reporting directly to the Board.

The Board of Trustees meets approximately every two months at Elizabeth House. This year, Trustees met five times, including the AGM. Meetings were well attended and trustees have continued to take an active role in supporting the staff team.

Risk Assessment

The Trustees periodically undertake a review of the major risks to which the charity is exposed. Each year when considering the operating budget and strategic plan, the Trustees review the associated organisational risks. The senior management team also review operational systems and procedures and service area risk assessments to manage risks that are in place. We review and update our risk assessments, business continuity and emergency contingency plans annually.

BACKGROUND AND AIMS OF THE ORGANISATION

Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust was established in its present form in 1993 to operate Elizabeth House Community Centre.

Our vision is for everyone in the local community around Elizabeth House to have a better quality of life through accessing key services, engaging in activities and connecting with others in their neighbourhood.

The charity is dedicated to providing a safe and open space, as well as inclusive and flexible services for the community. We aim to have a meaningful and positive influence on the local community. Our priority is to respond to the needs of the local community, especially people with high needs or who are underserved.

Elizabeth House's activities focus on children, young people and families. Our aim is to help working families by ensuring their children can flourish in a safe and child-friendly environment, as well as offer a dedicated space and opportunities to local young people.

The Centre also provides a range of services open to all, a place for local people to use as well as a space and support for other organisations to deliver their services and activities.

Our specific objectives are:

- Expand and improve service provision to respond to the needs in the community and improve the health and wellbeing of local people.
- Promote community cohesion and reinforce our community, by fostering positive relations and exchange, as well as providing inclusive services open to all.
- Develop services that make a lasting impact on people's life and, as a Charity, invest in those who need it the most.
- Work in partnership with local Councils, community organisations, businesses, local residents and other groups to deliver high quality services and fill gaps in services.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Overall reach in the community

Elizabeth House offers a safe space which is open 7 days a week, 345 days a year to serve community members. However, this year, the centre remained opened throughout the pandemic to provide essential services to residents and for our childcare and youth provisions, but the team was reduced and many of our activities were suspended. In 2020-21, the charity registered a much lower footfall due to the pandemic and the interruption of many of our face to face services.

Elizabeth House responded immediately to the Covid crisis by developing its budding Food Hub which directly served just over 700 local residents who experienced food insecurity, health issues or were socially isolated.

The previous year, the centre offered 35 regular services, activities or groups but these went down dramatically for part of the year. The charity was able to move some of its services online such as gentle exercise, telephone befriending, IT training, women's fitness classes and cooking classes.

Services and Activities at Elizabeth House

- **Childcare Services**

Our childcare services were very disrupted during this challenging year but, following government guidelines and with the support of Islington Council's Early Years and Childcare team, we were able to run the After School Club caring for children in their school bubbles and a Holiday Playscheme. We worked hard to prioritise children of key workers and vulnerable children.

The number of children attending our services decreased dramatically because we had to limit the number of children we could care for every day. However, over the year, we supported over 80 families and cared for over 100 children with affordable or free childcare.

"Elizabeth house is a fantastic resource for the local community. It enables me to keep working and have accessible childcare. Great and professional staff team great job guys." Parent using the childcare services

"I am very grateful to Elizabeth House for supporting working parents during this pandemic. Thank you." Local parent using the After School Club

"My children always enjoyed attending Elizabeth House, the staff are extremely caring and welcoming. As a single mother, I am very appreciative of the centre because it allows me to go out to work during the half term. The only downside I would say is that I which the centre opens a bit later." Parent using the Holiday Playscheme

- **Food Hub**

The Food Hub has become central to the services we provide, enabling us to reach out to and support some of the most vulnerable residents in our local area and welcome them to other community activities.

When the centre closed to the public in March 2020, we built the Food Hub to provide essential support and weekly food parcels to residents affected by food insecurity, as well as those shielding and isolated.

Over the year, Elizabeth House provided over 3,300 weekly food and essential parcels and 5,885 cooked meals to as many as 700 local residents, supported by over 80 volunteers who packed and delivered the food in our neighbourhood, making the connection between the centre and the residents isolated at home. Through food, we were able to reach out to many residents who were isolated or experiencing complex issues. During the pandemic, our small community team worked hard to provide remote support, referring residents to other services and providing wellbeing / befriending calls.

We worked with local chefs and National Food Services London to prepare fresh meals for the community, and benefited directly from the support of the Felix Project, City Harvest, local supermarkets and local residents making food donations to distribute substantial weekly food bags to up to 350 residents per week.

Nirmala *(name has been changed) lives in N5 and has a disability which means she can't get out easily. During the first lockdown she found herself at home alone with no food in the house and unable to access the shops. She rang the council and was referred to Elizabeth House's Food Hub. We provided her with food support until March 2021 when her daughter returned and was able to shop for her. She describes her experience with the Food Hub as very good and helpful, in particular the Community Coordinator who supported her a lot during this time and was extremely helpful when she was in desperate need. 'I'm very happy. You were there to help me when I was going through a difficult time and I know you are there if I need you again'. After she asked to be removed from the support list, Nirmala sent a letter of appreciation, thanking us for our work along with a small donation.*

Melanie *(name has been changed) lost her job at the beginning of the pandemic and was struggling financially, so the food hub has really helped her. Melanie told us that it was "one less thing to be stressed about". Aside from receiving food, she felt very supported emotionally. She likes getting to know the "lovely, friendly and interesting volunteers. The staff and volunteers can't be helpful enough", wrote Melanie in a feedback form. We also secured her a laptop for job hunting which she is very grateful for. "I've been shown more kindness from strangers here than from people I've known all my life". Melanie likes that it is community based, it was very important for her to feel a sense of community during pandemic. She also appreciates the other activities offered at Elizabeth House that she can get involved in like exercise and if she needs any other kind of support, she knows that we can signpost her to relevant organisations. Finally, she mentioned that she appreciates the little things that we do, like being able to get her nails done - they really count for her. Melanie was referred to Elizabeth House's Food Hub by Help On Your Doorstep in June 2020 and she has received food support and welfare calls since.*

"I would not have known what department in the council to contact without the help I received from Elizabeth House. Everything moved quickly once I had the right support. I am happy to be able to live near my sister and my kids feel so much safer. The calls that I received from Elizabeth House just to check I was ok were so nice and really helped me to feel like I had someone to talk to. I also loved the food parcels I received and helped me at a difficult time. I also had a really nice man who delivered the food parcels to me every week. Thank you to everyone at Elizabeth House!" R, resident in N7.

In November 2020, we recruited a team of 5 part-time Community Organisers who, because of restrictions, had a caseload of residents to contact on a regular basis. As restrictions lifted, door-knocking events were organised to meet with residents, assess needs and initiate contacts. This led to the growth of the Women Support Group, some residents were referred to the Food Hub and future activities will be planned with Community Organisers to involve local 'leaders' wanting to facilitate activities for target groups within our community.

- **Youth Services**

Elizabeth House's youth services include an open access youth club opened for young people age 11 to 16 and an IT training and employability programme delivered in partnership with People's Place Community Partnership for young people age 18+.

The Youth Club had to be suspended for over 4 months but re-opened in summer 2020. Young people were very affected by the pandemic and many re-joined the Youth Club as soon as it re-opened so they could meet others and access a friendly space outside home and school. Overall, the Youth Club included 25 registered young people but attendance varied each week. The programme of activities was youth led and included a range of centre-based and community-based activities organised specifically to give young people different opportunities in a safe space and with the support of our youth team.

Mark *(his name was changed) is 13 years old and has been a member for coming up to 2 years now and sees the youth club as a place to be himself.*

The youth club has supported Mark with activities that he has asked for. He especially enjoys music and cooking. He attends a local secondary school in Islington and has had some challenges there that he discusses with our youth workers. He has a friend who also attends the same school and comes to the youth club. Mark and his friend enjoy relaxing and getting involved with youth club activities. Mark enjoys playing football and always want to know what we have planned for sessions ahead.

During the pandemic, Mark has adjusted to the changes that we have implemented so that we can open the youth club. Mark is quite aware of what is going on and he is happy to support other young people and we have observed this in his behaviour. He and his brother found it difficult to study at home during the most recent lockdown. With the support of local residents, Elizabeth House was able to give Mark and his brother a laptop each so they can study from home and do their homework. They both found that the youth club gave them a safe space to leave home for a few hours and be themselves. His family was also referred to the Elizabeth House's Food Hub during the worse of the pandemic.

HVBT and its partner Peoples Place Community Partnership (PPCP) have been working hard to develop a tech-based youth employability hub at Elizabeth House. 21CS provides disadvantaged, unemployed, or low paid young people with industry relevant training, skills, and accreditations for a career in the IT sector, meeting the needs of both young people and filling the skills shortage in the job market.

"I was unsure about my future and through the training received from PPCP I knew what I wanted to pursue career wise. The course content was straight forward and clear. The practical applications of the knowledge was also very helpful. The training made a big impact on my life and I recommend the courses to others, they too can benefit." PPCP student

Elizabeth House is home to a number of training sessions each week and work placement for IT students. In 2019-20, nearly 40 young people enrolled on the programme. More than 20 have successfully completed a qualification (e.g. Microsoft Technology Associate, CompTIA IT fundamentals or Google fundamentals in digital marketing) and over 10 are now in industry related paid employment. 21CS has a good retention rate leading to successful outcomes for participants (only 15% drop out with limited outcomes for participants). 95% of participants are from BAME and/or disadvantaged backgrounds.

"It is amazing opportunity for anyone looking to branch into the IT sector even without previous knowledge or very little knowledge on IT. It's good chance to further your career, which is why I would recommend it to anyone looking for something different or just want to advance their IT knowledge further." PPCP student

"Training with PPCP has given me a solid career path, not only in developing my IT skills but the necessary skills for being in a work environment. Once exposed to the world of IT you will realise that the career paths are endless, especially if you have a passion for computers and technology in general." PPCP student

- **Health and Wellbeing Services**

The Charity has always prioritised health and wellbeing activities to ensure local residents could have access to free or affordable activities helping them to keep physically and mentally fit and well.

Since February 2020, Elizabeth House is part of a partnership project led by Octopus Communities (network of multi-purpose community centres in Islington) called Stay Well Live Well that enable community centres to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for their local community. Elizabeth House's plan is to focus on social isolation and food insecurity by bringing residents together, as well as mood food / healthy eating and physical activities.

The Women Only Fitness Classes moved online in April 2020, but continued to be central to the centre's weekly programme and benefitted a group of more than 20 women of all ages, abilities and from diverse backgrounds.

"I have been participating in the online classes as soon as we went into the first lockdown last year and have continued to participate whenever we have had to move back to online rather than being at Elizabeth House in person. The exercise has been important to me in lockdown both in terms of keeping fit and keeping mentally positive. Seeing Ebony and my fellow classmates has been a boost, a connection with the outside world. If I don't exercise regularly, I find it harder to be motivated and positive in the day and find it harder managing home schooling. I am working at home and have 2 kids home schooling plus husband also working from home. Being confined to the house is difficult and we are all making sure that we exercise to keep fit and keep happy." L, local resident.

As part of our regular health and wellbeing programme, the centre hosts and supports other groups such as a range of yoga classes, aerobics, dance and movement, multi sports for children and young people, as well as musical and creative groups. All of these activities contribute to enhancing the quality of life of local residents, and their wellbeing. Following Covid guidelines, most activities were suspended but some moved online and others were delivered in person at Elizabeth House when restrictions were eased.

Our over 50's social club was suspended during the Covid pandemic, but we were able to support some older people through online gentle exercise classes which counted an average of 15 residents each week. Some were referred to the Food Hub and received regular befriending calls from our community team. The Blue House Club for over 50's will be relaunched as soon as Covid restrictions are lifted and residents feel it is safe to reconnect in person.

"The classes have had a big impact on my life. It's been a lifeline for me to be able to make contact with my teacher and also it's lovely to see friends that I used to meet up with at the Blue House Club." J (58 years old)

During the height of the pandemic, we were also able to provide space for essential support groups and continued to run our Women Support Group remotely so existing and new members could stay in touch, have discussion on a range of topics and be referred to other specialist services.

"I joined the women's group at quite a hard time in my life. I had been in a domestically violent relationship. My confidence was low and it felt like I didn't really have anywhere to speak about my experiences. I am so happy that I found the group. I loved making the bath salts. I really enjoyed doing an activity each week. I feel like I have a group of women that I can feel connected to!" N, resident in N5.

Launched in February 2020, as part of our wellbeing offer, Elizabeth House, Octopus Communities and Islington Council have worked in partnership to improve green spaces on a local housing estate and offer access to nature activities for the local community. Our Greening Highbury Quadrant project, funded by the Mayor of London Greener City Fund and Islington Council, involve the community with the aim of improving knowledge about biodiversity and offer opportunities for local residents to access to green space, gardening and nature-based activities. When Covid restrictions allowed it, weekly sessions were organised by the Access to Nature Coordinator and residents could join as members in order to gain access to the green spaces.

2020-21 PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES

Elizabeth House worked flexibly, following government guidelines, to ensure activities could be delivered in the safe environment reducing risk for service users to a minimum. The following activities were at times suspended or moved online following Covid restrictions:

Aerobics class - a very dynamic and friendly class open to all every Monday.

After School Club - delivered by Elizabeth House, we offer an out of school childcare service for working parents for children age 4.5 to 13.

Ballet classes - a range of weekly classes on Tuesday and Thursday for children.

Blue House Club – new over 50's lunch club with exercise classes and social activities open to all every Wednesday.

Community Yoga - a weekly open class, every Tuesday morning.

Food Hub – distribution of food and essential items for local residents and families every week, supported by volunteers.

Holiday Playscheme - a popular holiday provision for children age 4.5 to 14, 11 weeks per year, provided by Elizabeth House.

IT training and employability programme - run by the People's Place Community Partnership (PPCP) for young people to gain IT qualifications and secure employment.

Kuk Sool Mon classes – a new and already very popular martial art class launched in September 2020 and held every Thursday.

MoveMe – movement classes for all running at Elizabeth House.

Safari Kickboxing – women only Thai kickboxing class held every Tuesday evening.

Sports School - multi sports sessions for children aged 2-11 years, introducing them to a variety of sports under the supervision of qualified and experienced sports coaches.

Wizzie Wizzie Code Club - a free and popular computer coding club for 8-14 year olds who want to learn how to make their own games, websites and other programmes.

Women only fitness classes - delivered by a qualified Access to Sports coach, two weekly sessions completely free for women of all abilities.

Wunderbar – a weekly German sing along for families with babies and toddlers every week.

Youth club - open to all young people age 11 to 18 years old looking to take part in a wide range of activities, led by young people themselves, held on Monday and Wednesday

In addition, Elizabeth House has been hosting other community groups running training sessions or needing a space for meetings. We also support local tenants' associations by providing them space free of charge when needed.

Organisational capacity

To offer services and support the local community, HVBT employs up to 16 members of staff across its programmes. Our team was reduced during the pandemic and the organisation benefited from the Job Retention Scheme, ensuring that some of the team members would still be paid while services were suspended or reduced.

We add social value as a local employer and create employment opportunities. As a small community organisation, HVBT is proud to be a London Living Wage employer.

This year, we were fortunate to have had over 100 volunteers supporting our emergency response services under the Food Hub. This unprecedented involvement by members of our local community has been crucial to the Charity and its ability to support some of the most vulnerable local residents over this period. The Food Hub benefitted from over 4,000 volunteer-hours over 12 months, without which Elizabeth House could not have supported local residents on the scale it has. As an organisation, we really value volunteers and endeavour to give them opportunities for training, work experience and, in some cases, opportunities leading to paid employment.

FUTURE PLANS

Working within government guidance in the context of the pandemic, Elizabeth House remained opened throughout the Covid crisis and ensured that the most vulnerable residents in our community received some level of support.

This year has taught us that the Charity is agile and able to adapt its services to meet local needs. Through the Food Hub, Elizabeth House was able to establish links with many new residents and families from our local area who had not accessed our services prior to the pandemic. We also secured some funding to recruit Community Organisers and grow our community outreach team and are planning to prioritise community organising in order to identify local needs and community leaders who can use our space to facilitate relevant activities. We plan to train residents as Community Organisers to develop their skills and bring social change in their neighbourhood.

Our aim for 2021-22 is to develop the Food Hub to offer social eating activities, a community kitchen project, as well as launch a Food Coop as a more sustainable and dignified food support programme for the whole community. Training and employment will also be key priorities to create opportunities for local people who are unemployed, in low-paid or precarious jobs.

As a priority, the charity will seek additional funding to develop PPCP's IT training and employment programme and create more skills development and job opportunities for young people, responding to the needs of employers in the IT sectors and supporting people with low qualifications, those who are unemployed or in low paid jobs to get secure employment with recognised qualifications and skills developed through work placements in the local community.

Finally, Elizabeth House will endeavour to harness the amazing commitment of local volunteers during the Covid-19 pandemic to continue to improve access to the community centre, increase the involvement of local residents and develop new and better services.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Income received in the year increased by over 27% from £357,416 to £455,618. Expenditure increased by 13.5% from £346,980 to £394,463. The net movement in funds for 2021 was an influx of £61,155 (2020 £10,436).

Looking forward, the Charity will continue to make income generation a priority to ensure more projects are implemented as well as a larger surplus in future years. The Trustees also expect attendance and activities to continue to increase as the organisation's communication and fundraising plans are implemented.

The total funds carried forward in 2021 are £618,431 (2020 £557,276). Cash reserves of the Trust are £348,762 (2020 £276,824). This represents approximately 10.6 (2020 9.6) months of expenditure.

Reserves

The trustees are aware of the need to maintain unrestricted general reserves, currently £229,535 (2020 £197,537). Furthermore the Trustees are mindful of the uncertainty of Local Authority and grant funding on which the Trust is currently dependent to deliver services, so reserves are being maintained at a relatively high level to ensure continuity of services to the local community.

The Trustees are conscious of the need to have unrestricted designated funds for building maintenance (£26,437), staffing (£10,000), staff training £5,000,) and equipment (£5,000).

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

Approved by the trustees on 15/10/21 and signed on their behalf by:

Carol A Glover

Carol Glover
Chair

Independent Examiner's report to the trustees of Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2021 set out on pages 9 to 16.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 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 the 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 you as 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 to indicate that:

- accounting records have not been kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006;
- the accounts do not accord with such records;
- where accounts are prepared on an accruals basis, whether they fail to comply with relevant accounting requirements under section 396 of the Companies Act 2006, or are not consistent with the Charities SORP (FRS102);
- any matter which the examiner believes should be drawn to the attention of the reader to gain a proper understanding of the accounts.

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Harry Nicolaou FCA
Of Harry Nicolaou and Co Limited
Chartered Accountants
21 Brendon Way
Enfield EN1 2LF

15 October 2021

Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust

Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account)

For the Year Ended 31 March 2021

	Note	Restricted funds	Unrestricted funds	2021 Total funds	*2020 Total funds*
		£	£	£	*£*
INCOME FROM:					
Donations and legacies		21,946	-	21,946	*3,005*
Charitable activities:					
Grants	2	271,095	89,140	360,235	*175,826*
After School Club income		-	18,467	18,467	*66,776*
Playschemes income		-	15,981	15,981	*54,470*
Users hire of premises		-	1,137	1,137	*35,046*
Project hire of premises		-	10,967	10,967	*8,075*
Management and supervision of projects		-	8,136	8,136	*4,842*
Other income		-	17,831	17,831	*13,277*
Provision for doubtful debts		-	-	-	*(4,889)*
Investments:					
Bank interest		-	918	918	*988*
TOTAL INCOME		**293,041**	**162,577**	**455,618**	*357,416*
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Charitable activities					
Staff costs	3	134,255	77,668	211,923	*205,008*
Premises costs	4	17,084	23,285	40,369	*77,457*
Activities costs	5	101,275	16,865	118,140	*40,211*
Other costs	6	6,172	(738)	5,434	*5,308*
Governance costs	7	8,546	10,051	18,597	*18,996*
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		**267,332**	**127,131**	**394,463**	*346,980*
Net income for the year	9	**25,709**	**35,446**	**61,155**	*10,436*
Transfers between funds	16	3,448	(3,448)	-	-
Net movement in funds		**29,157**	**31,998**	**61,155**	*10,436*
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		313,302	243,974	557,276	*546,840*
Total funds carried forward	16	**342,459**	**275,972**	**618,431**	*557,276*

Net income for the year also comprises the net income for the year for Companies Act purposes.

Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust

Company No. 2849848

Balance Sheet

As at 31 March 2021

	Note	2021	2020
		£	£
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	11	302,127	312,174
Total fixed assets		**302,127**	312,174
Current assets			
Debtors	12	21,860	16,040
Cash at bank and in hand		348,762	276,824
Total current assets		**370,622**	292,864
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	13	(54,318)	(47,762)
Net current assets		**316,304**	245,102
Total assets less current liabilities and net assets	14	**618,431**	557,276
The funds of the charity:			
Restricted funds		**342,459**	313,302
Unrestricted income funds:			
General funds		229,535	197,537
Designated funds		46,437	46,437
		275,972	243,974
Total charity funds	16	**618,431**	557,276

The directors are satisfied that the company is entitled to exemption from the requirement to obtain an audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 and that members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Act.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

Approved by the directors on 15/10/21

And signed on their behalf by:

Carol A Glover

Carol Glover
Chair

1. Accounting Policies

Basis of accounting

The accounts (financial statement) have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for twelve months from authorising these accounts and have decided that the charity is able to continue as a going concern.

Income recognition

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, there is sufficient certainty of receipt and so it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Expenditure recognition

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that a settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is accounted for exclusive of VAT.

Fund accounting

Restricted funds are grants, donations and other incoming resources which are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.

Unrestricted funds are grants, donations and other incoming resources receivable for the objects of the charity without further specified purpose and are available as general funds.

Governance costs

Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include costs linked to the strategic management of the charity.

Fixed assets

Fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Items of equipment and fittings are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £300.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset, less its estimated residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Buildings	2% on cost
Equipment and fittings	33.33% on cost

Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discounts offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid after taking account of any trade discounts due.

Creditors

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Operating leases

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as incurred over the term of the lease.

Pension costs

The costs of the defined contribution arrangements are charged to the SOFA as incurred.

2. Grants

	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total 2021	*Total 2020*
			£	*£*
Jack Petchey Foundation	750	-	**750**	*250*
St James's Trust	25,000	-	**25,000**	*25,000*
LB Islington	15,813	33,000	**48,813**	*5,936*
LB Islington - EYDCP (After School Club)	15,300	-	**15,300**	*15,300*
LB Islington - EYDCP (Playschemes)	22,086	-	**22,086**	*10,883*
LBI (VCS)	42,500	-	**42,500**	*40,000*
Small Change Big Impact	5,000	-	**5,000**	*5,000*
Octopus	25,958	-	**25,958**	*9,843*
Highbury Roundhouse	14,737	-	**14,737**	*9,569*
Local Initiatives Fund	1,000	-	**1,000**	*500*
HMRC - Job Retention Scheme	-	56,140	**56,140**	*2,715*
London Communities Foundation	34,188	-	**34,188**	-
Mayor of London Greener City Fund	17,096	-	**17,096**	-
CAF Resilience Fund	19,608	-	**19,608**	-
Paddington Development Trust	1,880	-	**1,880**	-
Manor Gardens Welfare Trust	3,514	-	**3,514**	-
Martin Lewis	5,500	-	**5,500**	-
Cripplegate Foundation	5,000	-	**5,000**	-
The Grocers Charitable Trust	5,000	-	**5,000**	-
National Lottery Community Fund	9,999	-	**9,999**	-
Tesco Bags of Help	1,166	-	**1,166**	-
Royal Bank of Scotland	-	-	**-**	*90*
Awards for All	-	-	**-**	*9,990*
UK Power Networks Power Partner	-	-	**-**	*20,000*
Sports Islington	-	-	**-**	*975*
London Marathon Charitable Trust	-	-	**-**	*19,775*
	271,095	**89,140**	**360,235**	*175,826*

3. Staff costs

	2021	*2020*
	£	*£*
Salaries and wages	205,246	*198,241*
Social security costs	12,297	*12,201*
Pension costs	4,000	*4,117*
Other staffing costs	5,380	*5,453*
	226,923	*220,012*
Consisting of:		
Charitable project staff costs	211,923	*205,008*
Charitable governance staff costs (Note 7)	15,000	*15,004*
	226,923	*220,012*

The average weekly number of employees during the year was 14.4

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 per annum.

4. Premises costs

	2021	*2020*
	£	*£*
Cleaning, maintenance, health and safety, repairs	14,362	*50,057*
Insurance	3,624	*3,658*
Light and heat	2,272	*3,989*
Business rates and water rates	10,064	*9,706*
Depreciation of buildings	10,047	*10,047*
	40,369	*77,457*

5. Activities costs

	2021	2020
	£	£
Hire of premises	10,300	8,075
Management and supervision of projects	8,136	4,842
Event fees, outings, art and craft materials etc	18,204	8,196
Office equipment, materials, printing, stationery & postage	2,782	2,899
Travel, volunteer, food hub, project equipment and sundry expenses	33,726	6,690
Telephone, internet and website	1,057	1,277
Equipment hire and maintenance	1,616	2,194
IT development, maintenance and support	2,481	1,520
Tutors' costs	39,838	4,518
	118,140	40,211

6. Other costs

	2021	2020
	£	£
Bank charges	138	100
Subscriptions	109	1,820
Canteen expenses	-	144
Consultancy fees	2,737	2,684
Fundraising	2,450	560
	5,434	5,308

7. Governance costs

	2021	2020
	£	£
Salaries and wages (Note 3)	15,000	15,004
Independent Examiner's fee	3,400	2,500
Consultancy fees	-	1,350
Telephone	176	130
Other expenses	21	12
	18,597	18,996

8. Transactions with trustees

No remuneration was paid to the trustees in their role as trustee during the year and no expenses were reimbursed to them. The trustees together with their family members have no beneficial interest either directly or indirectly in any contract of the charity.

9. Net incoming resources for the year

		2021	2020
		£	£
This is stated after charging:			
Depreciation	(Note 11)	10,047	10,047
Independent Examiner's fee:	(Note 7)	3,400	2,500

10. Taxation

The charity has no corporation tax liability because income from its activities is in pursuance of its charitable objectives and all income is applied for charitable purposes.

11. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings	Equipment and fittings	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1 April 2020	502,299	70,699	572,998
Additions	-	-	-
At 31 March 2021	**502,299**	**70,699**	**572,998**
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2020	190,125	70,699	260,824
Charge for the year	10,047	-	10,047
At 31 March 2021	**200,172**	**70,699**	**270,871**
Net book value			
At 31 March 2021	**302,127**	**-**	**302,127**
At 31 March 2020	*312,174*	-	*312,174*

The market value of freehold land and buildings is significantly more than the carrying value and has been estimated by the trustees to be over £1m.

12. Debtors

	2021	2020
	£	£
Prepayments and accrued income	2,672	*4,715*
Other debtors	19,188	*11,325*
	21,860	*16,040*

13. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Taxation and social security	5,387	*4,993*
Deferred income	1,914	-
Other creditors	8,311	*5,269*
Accruals	3,706	*2,500*
Loan (secured)	35,000	*35,000*
	54,318	*47,762*

The loan is interest free and secured by a charge over the land and buildings.
Deferred income comprises grants received in advance of the period to which they are intended.

14. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Restricted funds	Unrestricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£
Fixed assets	302,127	-	302,127
Current assets	75,332	295,290	370,622
Current liabilities	(35,000)	(19,318)	(54,318)
	342,459	**275,972**	**618,431**

15. Operating lease commitments

As at 31 March 2021 the company has total future commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2021	*2020*
	£	*£*
Not later than one year	1,408	*1,408*
Later than one year and not later than five years	3,168	*4,576*
	4,576	*5,984*

16. Statement of funds

	At 1 April 2020	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers between funds	At 31 March 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds					
Buildings Fund	277,173	-	(10,047)	-	**267,126**
Salaries Fund	-	42,500	(42,500)	-	**-**
Children's Fund	-	62,386	(61,981)	13,167	**13,572**
Youth Club Fund	2,917	20,487	(13,606)	-	**9,798**
Roof Renovation Fund	284	-	-	-	**284**
Wildlife Fund	864	-	-	(864)	**-**
Section 106 Fund	770	-	-	(770)	**-**
Solar Panel Fund	7,086	-	(1,423)	(5,663)	**-**
Womens Fitness Fund	291	-	-	-	**291**
Stay Well Live Fund	6,510	24,291	(17,675)	-	**13,126**
Greening Highbury Quadrant Fund	1,935	17,096	(19,433)	402	**-**
Baby Massage Fund	2,208	-	-	(2,208)	**-**
Blue House Club Fund	8,821	-	(4,321)	-	**4,500**
Lunch & Play Fund	2,893	-	(3,438)	545	**-**
Active Spaces Fund	170	-	-	-	**170**
Great Get Together Fund	98	-	-	-	**98**
Energy Project (LBI) Fund	519	-	-	(519)	**-**
Energy Project (GLA) Fund	19	-	-	(19)	**-**
Feasibility Study Fund	623	-	-	(623)	**-**
Big Alliance Fund	121	-	-	-	**121**
Covid Response Fund	-	61,934	(45,233)	-	**16,701**
Food Hub Fund	-	31,693	(17,310)	-	**14,383**
Equipment Fund	-	1,166	(782)	-	**384**
IT Training and Employability Fund (in partnership with PPCP)	-	31,488	(29,583)	-	**1,905**
	313,302	**293,041**	**(267,332)**	**3,448**	**342,459**
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	197,537	162,577	(127,131)	(3,448)	**229,535**
Designated funds:					
Building Maintenance Fund	26,437	-	-	-	**26,437**
Staff Redundancy and Sickness Fund	10,000	-	-	-	**10,000**
Staff Training Fund	5,000	-	-	-	**5,000**
Equipment Fund	5,000	-	-	-	**5,000**
	243,974	**162,577**	**(127,131)**	**(3,448)**	**275,972**
Total funds	**557,276**	**455,618**	**(394,463)**	**-**	**618,431**

16 *continued*

Details of restricted funds

The Buildings Fund represents the cost and improvement of Elizabeth House less loan and accumulated depreciation.

The Children's Fund is to provide education and activities for children during term time after school and during school holidays.

The Youth Club Fund is to provide education and activities for young people.

Stay Well Live Well Fund: Working with Octopus Communities and Islington-based Community Hubs, we have launched phase 2 of the Stay Well Live Well project providing community activities promoting health and wellbeing, supporting residents affected by food insecurity and growing our food hub.

The Covid Response Fund is focussed on supporting vulnerable residents who had to shield and were isolated. The support was provided by the Elizabeth House (who had to suspend its regulare services) and by a team of Community Organisers who were recruited for this purpose.

The Food Hub Fund is a comprehensive support service for isolated residents and those affected by food insecurity. The service began when the first lockdown was announced and was supported by 100 volunteers. Elizabeth House provided weekly food packages and cooked meals to hundreds of residents each week for the duration of the pandemic.

17. **Pension costs**

The charity participates in defined contribution workplace pension arrangements for members of staff. The employer contribution rate is 3% and the cost for the year was £4,000. There was no outstanding amount at the year end.