



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1st April 2023 **To** 31st March 2024

Charity name: The Association for Creation Spirituality (GreenSpirit)

Charity registration number: 1045532

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	The Association is established to advance education in and promote or further the study of or research into religion, philosophy and science by fostering the creation-centred spiritual tradition in contemporary society in the United Kingdom and elsewhere and to disseminate the useful results of such study and research for the benefit of the public.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Holding events, experiential outdoor sessions and workshops thereby promoting environmental concern• Publishing a magazine two times a year, and a calendar: living with the seasons, sending out a newsletter and publishing a book series exploring aspects of creation-centred spirituality• Maintaining a website (www.greenspirit.org.uk) containing information and resources about GreenSpirit. There are also facebook pages, facebook groups and other social media accounts• Supporting local groups carrying out activities at a local level• Supporting other initiatives in line with the objects of GreenSpirit
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission Guidance on public benefit.

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p>The two GreenSpirit magazines, the GreenSpirit calendar: living with the seasons and newsletters continue to provide the membership and beyond with relevant news and articles. The magazine celebrated its 25th year with a special edition in Spring 2024. Membership has risen from about 239 to 268 members and the eNewsletter has grown. GreenSpirit continues to have a growing presence on Facebook and other social media accounts. All of these inspire people to take care of the Earth and all living beings.</p> <p>There are 13 books in the GreenSpirit book series with sales reaching 750 in 2023 which is the highest sales for any year. Work is being done on a book about rituals and celebrations.</p> <p>In addition to information about GreenSpirit's activities highlighted in this report, there are also book reviews, a blog, videos, resources, green action toolkit and links to other likeminded organisations. This extensive website has a great deal of resources making creation-centred spirituality available to people globally.</p> <p>The Spring Walking Retreat was held at Castleton YHA in the Peak District helping participants to connect with Nature and feel their place within the living Earth. The Snowdonia Retreat was held at Cae Mabon in Snowdonia in an inspiring location dedicated to encouraging Earth based connections. The Annual Gathering was held at The Nightingale Centre in Derbyshire with conversations around "Shamanism: Ancient Wisdom for Modern Life and Healing" on the Saturday morning. Through all of these events, participants learnt more about our connection with the Earth, all beings and our evolutionary journey. In addition, through discussions and workshops, participants learnt from each other how to live more sustainable and creation-centred lives.</p> <p>Online event were held including seasonal celebrations for the solstices, equinoxes and Celtic festivals. Climate Cafes provided a supportive environment to help participants to express their feelings about climate change. And two regular Anam Cara groups were held discussing various topics relevant to creation-centred spirituality. These online events have helped many who have not been able to attend physical events to learn more about creation-centred spirituality and inspire them to take care of the Earth.</p> <p>Talks to various groups have been given and a stall run at a Sustainable Newham event.</p> <p>GreenSpirit continues to support local groups around the country helping people at a local level to understand their connection with the Earth and to be inspired to live sustainably.</p>

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	GreenSpirit continues to benefit from a legacy donation some years ago with annual planned spending to make use of the funds available. The loss of £3,531 over the year has prompted the Trustees to start looking at fundraising. All events made a small surplus. The bursary fund (of £814) will help those who could not otherwise afford it, to come to GreenSpirit events.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	The minimum level of reserves is fixed at £10,000. This includes funding of an orderly winding up of the Association if forced to do so, and cushioning expenditure on conference organisation.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£33,273 as at 31Mar24 (excluding restricted funds).

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document	Para 1.25	Constitution
How is the charity constituted?	Para 1.25	Unincorporated association
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Trustees are elected at the AGM held at the GreenSpirit Annual Gathering. Voting for Trustees is by members of GreenSpirit. Officers (who are also Trustees) are also elected at the AGM by members. Proposals for Trustees are given to the secretary one week before the AGM and these are presented to the AGM for election.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	The Trustees (otherwise known as GreenSpirit council) are responsible for the running of the charity. Council is supported by a paid coordinator. GreenSpirit supports a number of local groups throughout the country.
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Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	The Association for Creation Spirituality
Other name the charity uses	GreenSpirit
Registered charity number	104553
Charity's principal address	137 Ham Park Road, Forest Gate, London. E7 9LE.

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity for the period 1Apr23 - 31Mar24

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Janice Every	Chair	-	Members of the charity
2	Jane Stott	Vice Chair	-	Members of the charity
3	Chris Holmes	Treasurer	-	Members of the charity
4	Hilary Norton	Secretary	1Apr23 – 1Oct23	Members of the charity
	Hilary Norton	Council Member	1Oct23 – 31Mar24	Members of the charity or Trustees
5	Richard Adams	Council Member	-	Members of the charity or Trustees
6	Elizabeth Beaven	Council Member	-	Members of the charity or Trustees
7	Jenny Leslie	Council Member	-	Members of the charity or Trustees
8	Emanuela Marchiori	Council Member	1Apr23 – 1Oct23	Members of the charity or Trustees
9	Chris Newsam	Council Member	-	Members of the charity or Trustees
10	Steve Wollaston	Council Member	-	Members of the charity or Trustees

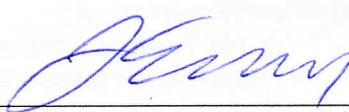
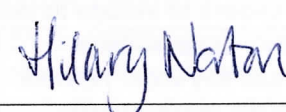
Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

Janice Every – Chair
Ian Mowll – Coordinator

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	J. EVERY	HILARY NORTON
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	CHAIR	Vice-chair

Date

16.11.24

GreenSpirit Income and Expenditure

Annual Accounts '23-'24

		restricted funds	22-23 for comparison
<i>carried forward</i>		1179	
Subscriptions	5560		4640
Donation	5547		5264
Books in a Suitcase	34		20
Interest	683		332
Magazine Sales	42		94
Events	12995		13820
3 Publications	457		301
Gift Aid	867		775
Calendar	183		316
Fundraising			15
1 Miscellaneous	64		402
Bursary Fund	115	115	215
total	26547	1294	26194
2 Magazine costs	2372		2172
Council Expenses	468		647
Online Processing	370		351
Coordinator Costs	9415		8701
Postage	175		139
Books / Suitcase - Books	11		38
Insurance	592		540
Office Expenses	78		
Calendar costs	930		791
6 Website Expense	1108		114
Publications			100
Events	13898		12512
Membership Expenses	181		17
Miscellaneous			402
Bursary fund use	480	480	
total	30078	480	26524
profit or loss	-3531	814	-330

Funds at March 31st 2024	
✓ Cooperative	£7,152
✓ Triodos	£6,222
✓ EBS	£20,533
✓ Lloyds	£180
Total Deposits	£34,087
of which £814 is restricted	

Funds at March 31st 2023	
Cooperative	5677
Triodos	10072
EBS	21199
Lloyds	670
Total Deposits	37618
of which £1179 is restricted	

Liabilities

Coordinator fees and expenses	£2316
Subscriptions paid in advance	£2320

Total	£4636
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Assets

Books contained in the suitcase	£200	(approx.)
Office supplies	£100	(approx.)

Total	£300
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Overall, GreenSpirit financial reports are considered enough for the size, complexity, and purpose of the organisation. For purposes of secure governance, the treasurer displays the accounts at each council meeting and the Chair & one or two other trustees have sight of recent bank and bank/building society statements of GS 'reserves' at council meetings. All transactions need dual authorisation.

Bank statements are reconciled and the income and expenditure (and any necessary movements of money from one account to another) is reported to the council 3 times a year at each council meeting.

We use online accounting software (Free Agent) for bookkeeping and condense the financial information from that into each report.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Restricted funds are funds set aside for a specific purpose, in this case for supporting members to attend events.

1. Overpayment subs (returned in subsequent financial year)
2. **Magazine** costs include printing, postage and image costs
3. Income from book sales
4. Coordinator cost is fees and expenses
5. Events (walking break, wild week and conference added together)
6. Website expenses include accounting software

Independent Examiners Statement

I have examined the books and records of the Association for Creation Spirituality.

Signed

(signed copies with Secretary and Chair)

Dated

OCTOBER 15 2024 20.10.24

Approved by the board of trustees at the AGM on October 20th 2024