

# THE MAIDSTONE STEINER KINDERGARTEN INITIATIVE

England & Wales · Charity number 1086476

## Details

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Other names	COBNUTS PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP, COBNUTS STEINER KINDERGARTEN
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	2001-05-03
Register	<a href="#">View on the Charity Commission register</a>

## Contact

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Address	9 Gatland Lane Maidstone Kent ME16 8PJ
Phone	01622205914
Email	<a href="mailto:enquiries@cobnutskindergarten.co.uk">enquiries@cobnutskindergarten.co.uk</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.cobnutskindergarten.co.uk">www.cobnutskindergarten.co.uk</a>

## Activities

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**Objects:** TO ADVANCE PUBLIC EDUCATION, PARTICULARLY THROUGH THE PROMOTION OF A PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP AND KINDERGARTEN, FOLLOWING EDUCATIONAL PRINCIPLES PROMOTED BY RUDOLF STEINER.

**Activities:** The charity runs a kindergarten for children aged 2 1/2 to 6 years. We use the ideas of Steiner Waldorf education, with the seasonal cycle and festivals providing the framework for creative activities and free play. The charity also runs parent and child groups for younger children. The charity also promotes our educational ideas to adults through talks and activities.

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space
- **What:** Education/training
- **Who:** Children/young People

## Geography

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- **Area of benefit:** MAIDSTONE, KENT.
- Kent

## Finances

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Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£50,242	£44,782	-	-
2024-08-31	£40,864	£41,856	-	-
2023-08-31	£39,750	£39,634	-	-
2022-08-31	£36,388	£37,024	-	-
2021-08-31	£34,215	£33,195	-	-

## Trustees

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Name	Role	Appointed
Anne Elizabeth Gillespie		2024-10-11
Cassandra Rebecca Callaghan		2020-10-12
Rosalie Townsend		2020-10-12
Tansy Watts		2025-10-15

**THE MAIDSTONE STEINER KINDERGARTEN INITIATIVE**

England & Wales - Charity number 1086476

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# Accounts

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# AGM Minutes

**AGM: Wednesday 15th October 2025, 7.30pm – Cobnuts Kindergarten**

## **Trustees in Attendance**

### **Apologies:**

### **Welcome**

### **Minutes and Matter Arising**

Minutes agreed from the last AGM.

### **Chairman's Report (Rosa)**

We have had a steady and stable year at the kindergarten. With almost every space filled, financial pressures have decreased. Staffing has remained constant and reliable, including occasional cover and regular voluntary work.

Our traditional festivals and public events have been successful and well attended, very much by new faces and old. It feels (perhaps especially from my perspective) as though in a busy, ever changing world, Cobnuts quietly and predictably holds its place and plays its part. This is a great comfort to me and I believe to many others, and something to be valued today more than ever. Children who left Cobnuts years ago still walk through the gate and feel connected to Cobnuts' unique spirit.

Despite our public events being popular, we continue to struggle with parent engagement. We observe time pressures on parents which were not so acute when Cobnuts opened 20 years ago. We no longer have any current parents on the committee and our work feels increasingly disconnected from the day-to-day life of kindergarten. Having said this, we are very fortunate to have found two new trustees to keep the committee going.

We commit to keeping the ship steady and being welcoming to new members, whatever skills and time they are able to offer.

### **Teacher's Report (Diane)**

Well gold coins were definitely the things to have in play for last year's cohort. We found them hidden in all sorts of places, you know the usual, under shelves, under the settee cushions, bags, pockets, slippers, in the dolls house bed and in socks, yes socks!



But Lauren was on the case, she could spot a child with an odd demeanor or limp, at home time from the other side of the room. These children warranted a pat down before leaving Cobnuts to find the hoard they were trying to smuggle out! Gold coins managed to go home, some returned, some didn't as I'm sure they were such a special commodity to have and admire. Play evolved and we were aware of some children who enjoyed quiet play alone or with others but withdrew if it became too boisterous around them.

The nine children with English as a Second Language (ESL) from the cohort of 16 by the end of term all made progress. This amount has dropped this year to three children at the moment. We said goodbye to our school leavers at our end of term festival and busy parents were determined to be there on the day and all expressed their gratitude for Cobnuts, which is very special to hear.

So onto this term, play was a little harder at the beginning without those bigger children but I can now see ideas being shared and friendships forming. They enjoy being busy and "doing" which inspires the imagination and play is instigated.

It is so rewarding to see a huge smile on a little one's face who last week you wondered if they would ever settle!

Lauren completed her Designated Safeguarding Lead Training (DSL) in May. She also had odd days training/updates for her role as SendCo. I still attend Steiner online collaborations and a local one too.

We meet together ( Lauren and I continue to meet on a Tuesday and Thursday afternoon) to discuss, share observations, update, consider, chat and learn together. When Eileen, Anne or Ailish are in they too contribute. We also have a supervision meeting once a term and if Anne or Ailish are around they too might join us. So Lauren, Eileen, Anne and Ailish continue to be the best Cob nutters!! They really do.

## **Parent and Child Group Report (Jacky)**

The parent and child group has continued to meet every Friday morning during term time at the kindergarten. The number of families attending has ranged from 2 to 8, with an average of 5 families per session.



Several children have moved on from the parent and child group to the kindergarten, with others planning to do so when they are old enough. There is a friendly core group of families attending, with new attendees being welcomed. Once again I have enjoyed running the group over the year.

## Treasurer's Report (Rosa)

Jacky continues to do an excellent job on the bookkeeping, and takes on much of the role of treasurer (this post has not been officially filled).

We finished our financial year with a healthy profit of around £5.5k. This is in contrast to the previous few years, where we have struggled to break even and had to use savings to cover modest losses. The change in situation is entirely due to the kindergarten being full! Credit to Diane and Cassie for skillfully managing new applications and the waiting list.

In April we increased the staff salaries again in line with the increase in the national minimum wage (£11.44 to £12.21), which increased our staff sessional rate from £51.50 to £55. The funding rate increased only slightly this year to £5.34 ph. We continue to require at least 10 children per day to cover our basic salaries, plus three more to cover the cost of an additional adult. We are pleased to have been able to keep an additional adult on at least 2 days per week.

We intend to increase the cost of the kindergarten sessions so that it is in line with the funding rate; however we've issued no invoices this year, possibly due to increased funding entitlements which are now available to working parents.

Compared to last year, other costs (e.g. utilities and food) have increased marginally. Our income from events and fundraising has been remarkably consistent!

Accounts accepted:

Seconded:

## Election of Officers

Chair: Rosalie Townsend

Treasurer: To Be elected

Secretary: Cassandra Callaghan

**Proposed:**

**Seconded:**

## Election of Trustees

Rosalie Townsend, Cassandra Callaghan, Anne Gillespie and Tansy Watts

**Proposed:**

**Seconded:**



Cobnuts Steiner Kindergarten

Charity Number: 1086476

**Any Other Business**

Signed:

Date:

# Maidstone Steiner Kindergarten Initiative

Registered Charity No 1086476

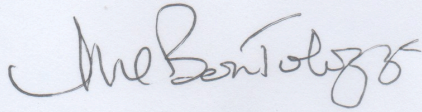
## Income and Expenditure Account to 31.08.2025

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>Year End 31/08/25</b>	<b>Year End 31/08/24</b>
Kindergarten fees	0.00	4,014.00
Parent and toddler fees	896.20	1,025.00
Kent County Council funding (fees)	42,029.51	28,021.17
Interest on deposits	182.77	190.59
Regular donations	5,160.00	5,160.00
Irregular donations	64.10	250.30
Activities	373.20	379.40
Gift aid repayments (I.R)	1,330.31	1,341.55
Fundraising	106.00	182.00
Other	100.00	300.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>50,242.09</b>	<b>40,864.01</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Wages	33,809.43	31,939.13
Rent	4,800.00	4,800.00
Gas and Electricity	989.52	975.97
Water	695.22	414.77
Telephone and post	351.79	332.35
Printing and Stationery	142.46	169.81
Equipment	343.86	195.33
Food	792.57	716.33
Materials (craft and garden)	238.16	375.04
Publicity	405.51	82.00
Cleaning and Maintenance	506.97	373.82
Staff Training	288.60	280.00
Memberships & subscriptions	784.80	547.00
Insurance	573.44	561.13
Miscellaneous	0.00	33.60
Bank Charges	60.00	60.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>44,782.33</b>	<b>41,856.28</b>
Surplus for the year	5,459.76	-992.27
Bank Balance brought forward	3,467.18	4,634.78
CAF Gold A/C brought forward	7,271.00	7,095.67
	<b>16,197.94</b>	<b>10,738.18</b>
<b>Carried forward</b>		
Current account	8,763.18	3,467.18
CAF Gold A/C	7,434.76	7,271.00
	<b>16,197.94</b>	<b>10,738.18</b>

6 Iona Road  
Maidstone  
ME15 9SX

14<sup>th</sup> November 2025

I, Maureen Bortolozzo, have examined the accounts of the Maidstone Steiner Kindergarten Initiative for the year ending 31.8.25. I confirm that they represent a true picture of the charity's financial affairs.



Maureen Bortolozzo

**THE MAIDSTONE STEINER KINDERGARTEN INITIATIVE**

England & Wales - Charity number 1086476

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# Accounts

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# Cobnuts Steiner Kindergarten

## Chairperson's Report 2023-2024

The highlight of the year was the success of the Kindergarten in the much anticipated Ofsted inspection in June 2024. An Outstanding grading was given overall and for each of the categories: The quality of education; Behaviour and attitude; Personal development; Leadership and management. The following extracts from the report illustrate some aspects of the high quality of the education offered.

Staff have extremely high expectations for all children, who are making exceptional progress. Staff follow children's interests and provide exciting activities, such as apple picking in the orchard or planting carrot seeds together.

Every moment of children's time at the kindergarten is used purposefully. Staff unfailingly implement their clear intention to give children the skills, resources and motivation to follow their own ideas. As a result, children are engaged and behave exceptionally well.

The report also explicitly acknowledges the effectiveness and value of the Steiner Waldorf approach to early years education. The result is testament to the skills, confidence and hard work of Diane and the team.

In other regards the year has been one of stability, both in staffing and the work of the Trustees in the Management Committee. The Cobnuts community celebrated the yearly cycle of festivals as usual: Harvest time featuring apple pressing; the Lantern Walk at Martinmas; the Advent Spiral; and May time. Stardust puppet theatre gave a well-received performance of the Rumpelstiltskin fairy story in February.

Looking to next year there is a desire to widen the involvement of the parent body and so we will also hold social community gatherings, which will look forward to the upcoming festivals so that plans can be laid and offers of help received.

Julian Ritchie

Chair of Trustees

# Maidstone Steiner Kindergarten Initiative

Registered Charity No 1086476

## Income and Expenditure Account to 31.08.2024

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>Year End 31/08/24</b>	<b>Year End 31/08/23</b>
Kindergarten fees	4,014.00	2,169.50
Parent and toddler fees	1,025.00	746.00
Kent County Council funding (fees)	28,021.17	28,711.66
Interest on deposits	190.59	85.67
Regular donations	5,160.00	5,160.00
Irregular donations	250.30	199.79
Activities	379.40	166.20
Gift aid repayments (I.R)	1,341.55	1,956.67
Fundraising	182.00	254.80
Other	300.00	300.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>40,864.01</b>	<b>39,750.29</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Wages	31,939.13	30,103.60
Rent	4,800.00	4,800.00
Gas and Electricity	975.97	847.43
Water	414.77	327.30
Telephone and post	332.35	264.17
Printing and Stationery	169.81	11.74
Equipment	195.33	273.18
Food	716.33	667.02
Materials (craft and garden)	375.04	440.72
Publicity	82.00	71.86
Cleaning and Maintenance	373.82	391.86
Staff Training	280.00	159.00
Memberships & subscriptions	547.00	556.00
Insurance	561.13	612.98
Miscellaneous	33.60	47.65
Bank Charges	60.00	60.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>41,856.28</b>	<b>39,634.51</b>
Surplus for the year	-992.27	115.78
Bank Balance brought forward	4,634.78	4,589.00
CAF Gold A/C brought forward	7,095.67	7,025.67
	<b>10,738.18</b>	<b>11,730.45</b>
<b>Carried forward</b>		
Current account	3,467.18	4,634.78
CAF Gold A/C	7,271.00	7,095.67
	<b>10,738.18</b>	<b>11,730.45</b>

62 Hubert Walter Drive  
Buckland Road  
Maidstone  
Kent. ME16 0BE

20<sup>th</sup> October 2024

I, Warren Haddon, have examined the accounts of Maidstone Steiner Kindergarten Initiative for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024. I confirm that they represent a true picture of the charity's financial affairs.



Warren Haddon

**THE MAIDSTONE STEINER KINDERGARTEN INITIATIVE**

England & Wales - Charity number 1086476

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# Accounts

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# Cobnuts Steiner Kindergarten

## Chairperson's Report 2022-2023

Cobnuts Steiner Kindergarten continues to thrive as a popular kindergarten setting, offering an alternative approach – based on the Steiner Waldorf curriculum – to mainstream early years provision. The setting has proved to be financially resilient over the year, with many sessions close to capacity.

The four Trustees together with a co-opted colleague and the Kindergarten Teacher/Manager form the Management Committee. This group supports the work of the Teacher through reviewing and monitoring policies and practices, with a particular focus on Child Protection. At each Committee meeting we also hear about the practical work of the children and staff and explore ways to improve the provision and address administrative issues. In Committee Meetings over the last year we have found ways to address management issues more efficiently so as to have more time to understand and support the life of the community.

The celebration of the yearly cycle of festivals is an important part of the life of the Kindergarten. Two festivals (Michaelmas and May) are opened to friends and families of kindergarten children past and present, as well as families attending the Parent and Child Group. Families considering joining us often attend these events. These social occasions take place in the garden of Cobnuts, and this year as usual were lively and well-attended.

Finally, on behalf of the Trustees I should like to thank Diane for her leadership of the Kindergarten and to acknowledge all the extra time she gives to nurture and sustain the health of the kindergarten community.

Julian Ritchie

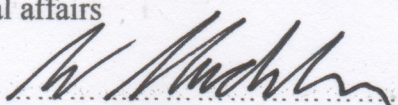
Chair of Trustees

**Maidstone Steiner Kindergarten Initiative**  
Registered Charity No 1086476  
Income and Expenditure Account to 31.08.2023

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>Year End 31/08/23</b>	<b>Year End 31/08/22</b>
Kindergarten fees	2,169.50	2,520.00
Parent and toddler fees	746.00	692.00
Kent County Council funding (fees)	28,711.66	25,205.67
Interest on deposits	85.67	5.22
Regular donations	5160.00	5160.00
Irregular donations	199.79	277.70
Activities	166.20	147.50
Gift aid repayments (I.R)	1,956.67	1,395.85
Fundraising	254.80	234.46
Other	300.00	749.09
<b>Total</b>	<b>39,750.29</b>	<b>36,387.49</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Wages	30,103.60	26,478.49
Rent	4,800.00	4,800.00
Gas and Electricity	847.43	916.82
Water	327.30	486.33
Telephone and post	264.17	170.29
Printing and Stationery	11.74	249.14
Equipment	273.18	604.26
Food	667.02	520.81
Materials (craft and garden)	440.72	265.86
Publicity	71.86	197.37
Cleaning and Maintenance	391.86	428.25
Staff Training	159.00	441.00
Memberships & subscriptions	556.00	525.00
Insurance	612.98	447.02
Miscellaneous	47.65	400.70
Bank Charges	60.00	93.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>39,634.51</b>	<b>37,024.34</b>
Surplus for the year	115.78	-636.85
Bank Balance brought forward	4,589.00	5,230.28
CAF Gold A/C brought forward	7,025.67	7,021.24
	<b>11,730.45</b>	<b>11,614.67</b>
<b>Carried forward</b>		
Current account	4,634.78	4,589.00
CAF Gold A/C	7,095.67	7,025.67
	<b>11,730.45</b>	<b>11,614.67</b>

I, Warren Haddon, have examined the accounts and can confirm they represent a true picture of the charity's financial affairs

Signed:



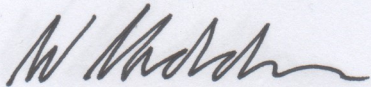
Date:

1<sup>st</sup> November 2023

62 Hubert Walter Drive  
Buckland Road  
Maidstone  
Kent. ME16 0BE

10<sup>th</sup> June 2024

I, Warren Haddon, have examined the accounts of Maidstone Steiner Kindergarten Initiative for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023. I confirm that they represent a true picture of the charity's financial affairs.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W Haddon', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Warren Haddon

**THE MAIDSTONE STEINER KINDERGARTEN INITIATIVE**

England & Wales - Charity number 1086476

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# Accounts

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# AGM Minutes

**AGM: Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2022, 7.30pm - Cobnuts Kindergarten and online participants via Zoom**

## Attendees

Julian Ritchie  
Diane Frewer  
Cassie Callaghan

Frances MacGregor via online Zoom  
Rosa Townsend  
Jacky Witt

Apologies: Eileen Whitworth

## Welcome

### Minutes and Matter Arising

Minutes agreed from the last AGM.

### Chairman's Report

At the last AGM in October 2021 our longstanding Chairperson Christopher Turner stepped down due to ill health. As the Trustees quickly discovered Christopher had done an enormous amount of work – quietly and behind the scenes – to help manage the organisation and support the work of our teacher Diane Frewer. It is very sad to report that Christopher passed away early in the year, and we send our heartfelt condolences to Jacky and her family.

Cobnuts continues to be a successful and sought-after kindergarten setting. There are presently four Trustees, but we would welcome others to join us. The Trustees are active participants in the management of Cobnuts, working alongside Diane, and we are very grateful that Jacky Turner has recently joined the management committee.

The successful Young Explorer's initiative had to stop a year ago when the leader Frances Macgregor moved out of the area. However, we were delighted when Frances then became a Trustee, bringing expertise in Steiner kindergarten approaches and deep knowledge of the statutory Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum. We are very grateful for the work of the other trustees Cassandra Callaghan and Rosa Townsend: Cassie as Secretary, has provided vital and expert administrative support to all aspects of the organisation, and Rosa was willing to step into the essential role of Treasurer and advise on human resource issues including the intricacies of maternity conditions and pay.

Finally, on behalf of the Trustees I should like to sincerely thank Diane for her leadership of the kindergarten and to acknowledge all the extra time she gives to nurture and sustain the health of the kindergarten community.

### Teacher's Report

We had some big personalities in some little children last year, exacerbated, I believe, by the covid lockdown. They needed attention, found social play difficult in various ways and some bought



undiluted play based on characters seen on screens. We had a split group. I had to say parents were good and all of the children enjoyed Cobnuts and our routines.

We had staff sickness which was covered by our team of volunteers. We also had a level 2 student which also helped keep ratios up. This student Ailish enjoyed her time with us and would have loved to have stayed on as a permanent member of staff.

Our long term supporter and Chairman Christopher who made it to our Harvest Festival in Sept 21, despite being very unwell, sadly passed away in January, peacefully and at home. His enjoyment of all things sweet (especially cake!) will always be remembered.

Lauren went on maternity leave in May and now has little Caleb as an addition in Beaumont family life.

Jodie has joined the team as maternity cover and is very much part of the fixtures and fittings. She enjoys working at Cobnuts and with our children and families and is very much appreciated by myself.

Our children have changed with this new school year and life feels more harmonious in Kindergarten. The children are finding friends, playing together and growing together.

The Management Team is doing a great job at supporting Cobnuts and I would like to express my thanks for all you do.

## **Parent and Child Group Report (Jacky)**

Jacky's parent and child groups have seen more chopping and changing this year than in previous years. The Wednesday group continued from September 2021 at Yard Cottage. Sessions were in the garden at first but moved indoors as the weather cooled and dampened. In mid-November the group moved from Yard Cottage to the kindergarten, and the day of the session changed to Fridays. It has continued to run on Friday mornings at the kindergarten, apart from a prolonged Christmas break of 6 weeks in December and January.

A small Wednesday morning group restarted at Yard Cottage in March and ran until Easter when all 3 children attending moved up to the kindergarten. Cassie took over the Friday group in March and continues to lead it.

In September 2022 the Wednesday morning group at Yard Cottage restarted. This remains small, with only 2-3 families attending (whose children may move up to the kindergarten after Christmas). If numbers do not increase, the group may be paused again soon.

## **Friday Group (Cassie)**

There has been a steady flow of families at the Parent and Child Group on a Friday, with the average of around 6 families in attendance. The most we have had is 9 families, some with several children, which was lovely and very dynamic. The relationships built over the past 6 months that I have been with the group have been wonderful with me now seeing a few of our families moving on to the kindergarten. This transition has been joyous to both observe and be a part of. Many of the crafts this term have been easily accessible to the younger hands and we continue to be mindful of this when looking at our planning.



## Friends of Cobnuts Report

As Covid restrictions began to ease, we welcomed in the community to the kindergarten with our Apple Pressing Day, this had wonderful attendance and led us on to our Lantern Walk, which was held again in the gardens at Blackthorn. This was a jovial affair and the children and adults enjoyed the calm and peaceful walk around the garden by candlelight. Not long after this was the Blackthorn Christmas Fair which Cobnuts attended. We set up tables for biscuit decorating and candle-decorating. Both activities were enjoyed by young and old. Next door to this we also held a small Childrens Christmas market which sold items that had been made by the parents, including wooden Christmas trees, packets of Christmas tea and felted mushroom badges. The Garden Gnomes continue to assist in the garden during half terms and spent much of the winter tidying the garden and getting the pots and greenhouse ready for Spring sowing

Alongside this Cobnuts applied for the COMF grant, which awarded Cobnuts a grant of £750. We used this to fund a visit from Jill Taplin who is a Steiner Early Years Advisor who came for a few days to visit the setting and give help and advice to Diane and the assistant. Jill also gave a talk in the evening to parents and the wider community. The rest of the grant was used to create story sacks which would encourage storytelling in the home and involve the whole family so they can experience this part of the kindergarten. We also funded a large amount of play equipment for the kindergarten, including a new set of scallions, apple crates, balance boards and rhythm sticks.

As we moved into 2022, it was decided to help reduce the length of the committee meetings the social side to Cobnuts would be temporarily moved into a sub committee to be known as Friends of Cobnuts (FOC). The first event organised and run by this committee was the May Day Open Day, which again was a lovely day in which many prospective parents came to see what we were all about. And new faces then began to appear at the Parent and Child Group. FOC then held a jubilee picnic in Clare Park, which was attended by current families and led to another family registering interest and their daughter joining in the September term. FOC continues to grow and since September there have been a variety of craft mornings and evenings to create items for the next Blackthorn Christmas Fair. FOC continues to look for engagement opportunities and to create a welcoming environment to the wider community that surrounds Cobnuts.

## Treasurer's Report (Rosa)

Although I have written the treasurer's report this year, I must credit Jacky with doing all of the actual work of the treasuring and bookkeeping!

We finished the year with a loss of approximately £600.

We increased staff salaries in April in line with increases in the national minimum wage, which accounts for most of the increase in expenditure over the previous year. Our energy bills have also increased by about 93% over the previous year.

We have negotiated a reduced rate for our telephone bill with our provider, Virgin

The drop in fees paid by parents (£2445) was more than offset by the increase in fees from KCC funding (£3540)

The funded hourly rate did also increase for the summer term (£4.31 per hour, £5.39 for 2 year olds). It has been agreed to further increase the session fee charged to parents from £18 to £20 for under threes from January so that it is closer to the amount we receive from KCC for funded under threes.



Our 'other' income of £749.09 was a Covid recovery grant from KCC, the majority of which we spent on an advisory visit from Jill Taplin (£400.70) which benefited the teaching staff, children and Cobnuts families

Despite having made a loss we still have healthy balances on our cash and savings accounts. We have a good number of children in the kindergarten and the balance sheet is in an unusually healthy position for the autumn term (usually we recoup losses from the autumn term later in the academic year).

We have asked for voluntary contributions from parents, suggesting £1 per session to cover the cost of food, craft materials and equipment for the kindergarten. Few families have contributed. We should be able to run our full programme of fundraising activities this year (unlike last year). The apple pressing festival in October was fairly well attended.

We attempted to switch our banking from CAF bank to Metro Bank. It was abandoned in the latter stages because of their unrealistic and unrelenting demands for paperwork! The CAF bank fees have been reduced slightly and Rosa is now a signatory on the account along with Jacky and Diane.

Accounts accepted: Jacky

Seconded: Diane

## **Election of Officers**

Chair: Julian Ritchie

Treasurer: Rosalie Townsend

Secretary: Cassandra Callaghan

**Proposed:** Jacky

**Seconded:** Diane

## **Election of Trustees**

Julian Ritchie, Frances MacGregor, Rosalie Townsend and Cassandra Callaghan

**Proposed:** Diane

**Seconded:** Jacky

## **Any Other Business**

None

Signed:

Date:

# Maidstone Steiner Kindergarten Initiative

Registered Charity No 1086476

## Income and Expenditure Account to 31.08.2022

INCOME	Year End 31/08/22	Year End 31/08/21
Kindergarten fees	2,520.00	4,965.00
Parent and toddler fees	692.00	779.00
Kent County Council funding (fees)	25,205.67	21,665.70
Interest on deposits	5.22	0.60
Regular donations	5160.00	5160.00
Irregular donations	277.70	7.00
Activities	147.50	0.00
Gift aid repayments (I.R)	1,395.85	1291.75
Fundraising	234.46	0
Other	749.09	346.11
<b>Total</b>	<b>36,387.49</b>	<b>34,215.16</b>
EXPENDITURE		
Wages	26,478.49	23,817.99
Rent	4,800.00	4,800.00
Gas and Electricity	916.82	475.30
Water	486.33	425.25
Telephone and post	170.29	325.11
Printing and Stationery	249.14	154.02
Equipment	604.26	583.57
Food	520.81	523.97
Materials (craft and garden)	265.86	313.36
Publicity	197.37	0
Cleaning and Maintenance	428.25	547.19
Staff Training	441.00	114.00
Memberships & subscriptions	525.00	523.00
Insurance	447.02	507.12
Miscellaneous	400.70	0
Bank Charges	93.00	85.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>37,024.34</b>	<b>33,194.88</b>
Surplus for the year	-636.85	1,020.28
Bank Balance brought forward	5,230.28	5,210.60
CAF Gold A/C brought forward	7,021.24	6,020.64
	<b>11,614.67</b>	<b>12,251.52</b>
Carried forward		
Current account	4,589.00	5,230.28
CAF Gold A/C	7,025.67	7,021.24
	<b>11,614.67</b>	<b>12,251.52</b>

## Maidstone Steiner Kindergarten Initiative

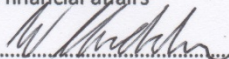
Registered Charity No 1086476

### Income and Expenditure Account to 31.08.2022

INCOME	Year End 31/08/22	Year End 31/08/21
Kindergarten fees	2,520.00	4,965.00
Parent and toddler fees	692.00	779.00
Kent County Council funding (fees)	25,205.67	21,665.70
Interest on deposits	5.22	0.60
Regular donations	5160.00	5160.00
Irregular donations	277.70	7.00
Activities	147.50	0.00
Gift aid repayments (I.R)	1,395.85	1291.75
Fundraising	234.46	0
Other	749.09	346.11
<b>Total</b>	<b>36,387.49</b>	<b>34,215.16</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Wages	26,478.49	23,817.99
Rent	4,800.00	4,800.00
Gas and Electricity	916.82	475.30
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Insurance	447.02	507.12
Miscellaneous	400.70	0
Bank Charges	93.00	85.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>37,024.34</b>	<b>33,194.88</b>
Surplus for the year	-636.85	1,020.28
Bank Balance brought forward	5,230.28	5,210.60
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	<b>11,614.67</b>	<b>12,251.52</b>
<b>Carried forward</b>		
Current account	4,589.00	5,230.28
CAF Gold A/C	7,025.67	7,021.24
	<b>11,614.67</b>	<b>12,251.52</b>

I, Warren Haddon, have examined the accounts and can confirm they represent a true picture of the charity's financial affairs

Signed: .....



Date: .....

31/10/2022

**THE MAIDSTONE STEINER KINDERGARTEN INITIATIVE**

England & Wales - Charity number 1086476

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# Accounts

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# Minutes

## AGM: Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2021, 7.30pm - Cobnuts Kindergarten and online participants via Zoom

### Attendees

Jacky Witt	Frances MacGregor via online Zoom
Diane Frewer	Julian Ritchie
Cassie Callaghan	Anne Gillespie
Rosa Townsend	Phil Beaumont
Eileen Whitworth	Lauren Beaumont

Apologies: Christopher Turner, Jennifer Barker McCarthy

### Welcome

Rosa sat in as Chair for the AGM. Everyone was welcomed.

### Minutes and Matter Arising

Minutes agreed from the last AGM.

### Chairman's Report

Last year's AGM saw the departure of two longstanding committee members, Jussara and Nadja. We were very fortunate that three new enthusiastic people joined the committee in their stead: Rosa, Cassie and Phil.

Committee meetings during the Covid pandemic took place online via Zoom and were very well attended. During the year Covid restrictions meant that several of our regular events were unable to take place or had to be modified: these included our lantern walk for St Martins, our Advent Spiral, the Stardust puppet play and our May open afternoon.

Interest in Cobnuts remained high, with families very loyal to the setting. This enabled us to remain financially stable and to retain our staff. Our new committee launched initiatives to ensure the kindergarten was well prepared for the future. These included improvements to administration, with greater use of IT allowing the committee to keep a close eye on new interest in enrolment, the ages and proposed start dates for new children. We also planned and launched a Little Explorers parent and child group on Fridays at Fant Wildlife nature reserve.

Our treasurer Warren stood down in the autumn due to the pressure of his other commitments. He left our finances very well organised, and we were fortunate that Maureen, a former treasurer, was able to take over his duties.

In April I had to stand down as chair of Cobnuts due to ill health. The rest of this year's report will be completed by our secretary, Cassie. I have recently heard that Julian Ritchie, a member of the Stardust puppet theatre and so familiar with the setting, is willing to take over as chair at the next AGM, and I wish him all the best.

Over Spring the weather warmed and a new garden working party was formed by the parents. Jobs vary across the seasons, and it is a great opportunity for gathering as a community. The Little



Explorer Group went from strength to strength from Spring to Summer, which also led to interest from attending parents about the kindergarten.

Maureen who had taken on the role of Treasurer after Warren stepped down. Also decided that it was not possible for her to fully commit to the role and so stepped down in July.

As Covid restrictions eased, it was possible to welcome new families to the kindergarten to have a look around. A successful open afternoon was held in June so prospective families had the chance to view the setting and speak to Diane and Lauren whilst adhering to Covid regulations. This led to more children being added to the waiting list for 2021 and 2022 starts.

Anne Gillespie one of our trustees and also long-standing volunteer with Cobnuts decided to retire from her role. The committee wish to express their heartfelt thanks for all the many years Anne has supported the kindergarten and the time and effort she has given. This has led to the start of a parent rota which is currently in its infancy.

Over the summer the committee worked on several administrative duties including the move of the website and updating various policies.

September saw the introduction of the new EYFS Birth to five matters, for which the kindergarten received several exemptions. Frances officially became a trustee of the kindergarten and we also officially welcomed Julian onto the committee. Grant applications have either been completed or in the process of completion in September and October. This should enable the committee to expand the reach of Cobnuts into the community.

As a final note it was heart-warming to see so many old and new faces at our Apple Pressing event. Many connections were made, and there was a sense of community. Something we perhaps haven't felt in a long time and something we hope to take forward in our forthcoming celebrations.

## Teachers Report

We started well with 15 children but lost a few as the term went on, however, these numbers were made up after Christmas. As everyone else our life was dictated by Covid 19 including our equipment usage, cleaning, child wellbeing, staff wellbeing and parents being kept at a distance. We managed but still missed certain things especially festivals and special days where we would usually get parents involved. We said hello to Eileen as a third member of our staff as numbers rose in the summer months. And we said goodbye to Anne who had been voluntarily helping for years as well as covering sickness and training days whenever she could. Thank you, Anne.

At the end of the summer term, a picnic was arranged in Claire Park with all the children and their families which was lovely. We returned in September and no longer had to rotate the equipment which was a relief, Lauren and I were over the moon when we realised this. I have had total support and understanding from our parents and committee parents. We've had work parties in the garden and a parent rota has been put in place to help cover the Thursday. We have a healthy number of children at the moment, although not quite as many as we had anticipated. We will be having four children leave in January for school or relocating abroad. So, numbers and finance will have to be clearly monitored. But until then our children are enjoying being at Cobnuts with the freedom to play imaginatively and socially together outside and inside.

## Parent and Child Group Report (Jacky)

From September last year the Wednesday parent and child group continued to run weekly in the Yard Cottage garden. The Friday morning parent and child group also transferred to the Yard Cottage Garden in September, as Covid rules made it impossible to hold it in the kindergarten. It was run at



first by Nadja, but in November when she got a full-time job and could no longer continue, Frances took over her role. The groups continued to meet up until the Christmas holidays, although it was sometimes very cold, and the lawn gradually resembled a hockey pitch! Between 3 and 8 families attended each session.

After Christmas the second Covid lockdown with stricter rules meant that we weren't able to hold the parent and child groups, but by April the rules relaxed, and we were able to restart the Wednesday morning group in Yard Cottage garden. We met each week as long as continuous rain wasn't forecast. Between 3 and 7 families attended the sessions. Since September we have continued to be outside in the garden through choice, but when the weather worsens, we are now allowed to be indoors again. The group continues to be an important social support for the families who attend, and a good introduction to the kindergarten.

## **Little Explorers Report (Frances)**

We initially intended to start up Little Explorers in Jan 2021, but the Jan lockdown happened before we were able to start and we weren't allowed to open. We had had a chance to sort out everything needed before hand including insurance, speaking and meeting with John from Fant wildlife and gaining permission to run the group there, a written risk assessment, a poster and buying all necessary equipment. This meant that when we were about to reopen in May 2021, we were all ready and set to go.

During the summer term we scheduled 10 sessions. When we first advertised the group on Facebook it seemed to go viral (on a very local scale!) with over 3000 people having been reached. We were slightly startled by this, especially, as at the time, due to covid we were only allowed a maximum of 15 people in the group (excluding under 5s). Jacky kindly offered to come along the first session in case we were inundated but we needn't have worried as we had a lovely group size of about 7 families. Over the course of the term, we always had between 3 and 8 families each session with children aged new-born - 4 years. Most families came multiple times with only 2 or 3 coming once. It was really lovely to see older kindergarten children with their younger siblings attend the little explorer's group and the different dynamics having older and younger children involved. This did take some thinking about so that I could provide something for all the ages.

We did have to cancel one session due to dangerously high wind speeds.

Unfortunately, as I have relocated to London, I am no longer able to run the group. We do hope to find someone else to take over in due course, but I think we all feel that getting the Friday group at the kindergarten started may be the priority as having the familiarity of the kindergarten room, helps the children as they settle into kindergarten when they are ready.

Even though this group was not held at the kindergarten, it was lovely to hear that some of the children from little explorers have joined/are waiting to join Cobnuts in the coming year.

## **Treasurers Report (Jacky)**

The last year has been a financially good one for the kindergarten. This is mainly because we continue to be almost full up to our limit of 15 children per session. We were able to give the staff a



pay rise in April, and to take on an extra member of staff 2 days a week from April. We finished the financial year with a profit of just over £1000.

Over the last year income from kindergarten fees and KCC funding was just over £7,400 more than the previous year. Spending on running costs was also higher than last year, mainly due to a proportionate rise in what we used (food, craft materials, cleaning materials etc) and also to an increase in insurance costs due to the new outdoor parent and child group.

We had no income from open afternoons or fundraising, as these activities were stopped due to the Covid regulations.

We have put a further £1000 into our reserve account, as this needs to be adequate to pay salaries for 3 months, should the kindergarten have to close.

Over the last several years we have been helped financially by the fact that Anne Gillespie volunteered regularly as an extra pair of hands in the kindergarten, and was frequently available to serve as staff cover should this be needed. Anne is now moving on, and we need to ensure that we have affordable staff cover, as the kindergarten would not be able to pay agency supply staff fees.

## **Election of Officers**

Anne will be stepping down from her role on the committee and therefore as a Trustee. Julian, Frances, Rosa, Cassie and Phil are happy to continue their roles on the committee and as trustees of the charity.

**Proposed:** Jacky

**Seconded:** Eileen

## **Election of Trustees**

Julian is happy to take on the role of Chair. Cassie is still happy to continue as Secretary and Rosa has agreed to become Treasurer.

**Proposed:** Jacky

**Seconded:** Eileen

## **Any Other Business**

None

Meeting closed

Signed:

Date:

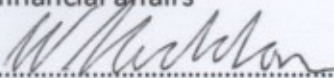
# Maidstone Steiner Kindergarten Initiative

Registered Charity No 1086476

## Income and Expenditure Account to 31.08.2021

INCOME	Year End 31/08/21	Year End 31/08/20
Kindergarten fees	4965.00	795.00
Parent and toddler fees	779.00	889.00
Kent County Council funding (fees)	21,665.70	17,617.90
Interest on deposits	0.60	9.00
Regular donations	5160.00	5,160.00
Irregular donations	7.00	314.51
Activities	0.00	207.80
Gift aid repayments (I.R)	1291.75	1,442.88
Fundraising	0	23.10
Other	346.11	7,555.27
<b>Total</b>	<b>34,215.16</b>	<b>34,014.46</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Wages	23,817.99	22,888.64
Rent	4,800.00	4,800.00
Gas, Electricity and Water	900.55	564.75
Telephone and post	325.11	326.24
Printing and Stationery	154.02	45.60
Equipment	583.57	123.59
Food	523.97	316.99
Materials (craft and garden)	313.36	135.27
Publicity	0	330.01
Cleaning and Maintenance	547.19	365.72
Staff Training	114.00	431.00
Memberships & subscriptions	523.00	523.00
Insurance	507.12	381.81
Miscellaneous	0	0
Bank Charges	85.00	60.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>33,194.88</b>	<b>31,292.62</b>
Surplus for the year	1,020.28	2,721.84
Bank Balance brought forward	5,210.60	2,497.76
CAF Gold A/C brought forward	6,020.64	6,011.64
	<b>12,251.52</b>	<b>11,231.24</b>
<b>Carried forward</b>		
Current account	5,230.28	5,210.60
CAF Gold A/C	7,021.24	6,020.64
	<b>12,251.52</b>	<b>11,231.24</b>

I, Warren Haddon, have examined the accounts and can confirm they represent a true picture of the charity's financial affairs

Signed: 

Date: 31/10/21

## **Treasurer's report 2021**

The last year has been a financially good one for the kindergarten. This is mainly because we continue to be almost full up to our limit of 15 children per session. We were able to give the staff a pay rise in April, and to take on an extra member of staff 2 days a week from April. We finished the financial year with a profit of just over £1000.

Over the last year income from kindergarten fees and KCC funding was just over £7,400 more than the previous year. Spending on running costs was also higher than last year, mainly due to a proportionate rise in what we used (food, craft materials, cleaning materials etc) and also to an increase in insurance costs due to the new outdoor parent and child group.

The drop in 'other income' from the previous year is due to the money we received in that year from the government for furlough payments (around £2,572) and from Maidstone Borough council as a discretionary grant (roughly £4,783).

We had no income from open afternoons or fundraising, as these activities were stopped due to the Covid regulations.

We have put a further £1000 into our reserve account, as this needs to be adequate to pay salaries for 3 months, should the kindergarten have to close.

Over the last several years we have been helped financially by the fact that Anne Gillespie volunteered regularly as an extra pair of hands in the kindergarten, and was frequently available to serve as staff cover should this be needed. Anne is now moving on, and we need to ensure that we have affordable staff cover, as the kindergarten would not be able to pay agency supply staff fees.