

THE ARK TRUST CIO

England & Wales · Charity number 1098204

Details

Other names	THE ARK TRUST LIMITED
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2003-06-25
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Trax Mill Ride Off Fernbank Road North Ascot SL5 8JW
Phone	01344266899
Email	info@theark.org.uk
Website	www.theark.org.uk

Activities

Objects: TO RELIEVE THE NEEDS OF:(1) (I) FIRSTLY PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND/OR LONG TERM HEALTHCONDITIONS; AND(II) SECONDLY CARERS OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND/OR LONG TERMHEALTH CONDITIONS; AND(III) THIRDLY YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT ORTRAININGWHO ARE RESIDENT IN THE SOUTH EAST OF ENGLAND.(2) SUBJECT TO THE ABOVE, PEOPLE SIMILARLY QUALIFIED WHO ARE RESIDENTOUTSIDE OF THE SOUTH EAST OF ENGLAND BY SUPPORTING THE CHARITABLE WORK OF THE ARK.(3) TO SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY SECTOR IN THE AREA OF OPERATIONOF THE CHARITY, FOR THE BENEFIT FOR THE PUBLIC AND TO ENSURE THE EQUALITY FOR ALL PEOPLE TOENGAGE IN CITIZENSHIP.

Activities: Providing access to and engagement with the arts and education for people with disabilities, older people and carers.Provide social support and activities, including holidays, for people with disabilities. Operate the community response volunteer network.Run Signal for Carers, providing support, information and activities for unpaid carers.Run a community shop and space, Forget-me-Knot

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Disability, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Economic/community Development/employment, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity, Recreation, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, Other Defined Groups

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** NOT DEFINED. IN PRACTICE BRACKNELL FOREST, READING, WOKINGHAM, SLOUGH, WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD AND SURREY
- Bracknell Forest
- Buckinghamshire
- Hampshire
- Oxfordshire
- Reading
- Slough
- Surrey
- West Berkshire
- Windsor And Maidenhead
- Wokingham

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£244,818	£276,161	-	-
2024-03-31	£284,316	£313,633	-	-
2023-03-31	£326,839	£322,155	-	-
2022-03-31	£273,958	£284,520	-	-
2021-03-31	£301,959	£301,847	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Antony Robinson	Chair	2017-08-30
Hannah Escott		2025-04-10
John Winston Horbury		2022-10-08
Kgomotso Mazibuko		2026-01-08
Muriel Hanley		2015-08-01
Neil McGiffen		2015-09-30
Peter Tobin		2021-02-02
Simon Kenton		2024-11-02
Stephanie Guest		2021-01-15
Susanna Tyrrell		2016-01-12
Zoe Robinson		2021-01-08

THE ARK TRUST CIO

England & Wales - Charity number 1098204

Accounts



The Ark Trust CIO
Trustees' Annual Report and Financial
Statements
For the Year ended 31st March 2025

Registered Charity No: 1098204



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Charity Information

Charity Number: 1098204

Address: TRAX, Mill Ride (off Fernbank Rd), North Ascot. Berkshire. SL5 8JW

TRUSTEES



Jon Codd (Resigned 23rd November 2024)



Tommy Docherty (Resigned 14th November 2024)



Hannah Escott (Co-opted 10th April 2025)



Stephanie Guest



Muriel Hanley



John Horbury



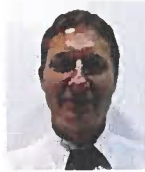
Simon Kenton (Appointed 2nd November 2024)



Neil McGiffen



Isabel Morgan (Appointed 2nd November 2024)



Antony Robinson (Chair)



Zoe Robinson



Peter Tobin



Susannah Tyrrell

MANAGEMENT



Andrea McCombie, Chief Executive



Independent Examiner

Sandra Fogwill, Camberley, Surrey. GU17 0BN

Sandra checks the money we received is spent how we said it was and that we have followed the rules.



Trustees' Report

Some words in this report might be a little difficult to understand. To help we have added a **glossary** (list of words and their meanings) at the end of this report.

Structure, Governance and Management



CHARITY COMMISSION



Since 25th August 2020 the Ark has been registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) - It has, however, been a local charitable organisation for 40 years.

The Ark has a constitution. These are the rules that say what the charity does and how it is run.



The Trustees **delegate** responsibility for the day-to-day operations and management of the charity to the Chief Executive.



Every year, at the AGM, members can put themselves forward to be elected and **appointed** to the trustee board. The board can also co-opt (ask people to join) the board during the year if needed. The maximum number of trustees the charity can have is 12.



As a user-led organisation, we work towards 75% of the trustee board being people who could use the charity's services or access its activities.



All trustees give their time for free.



Training and support for new trustees is provided and all the trustees must have a **DBS check** before their appointment is finalised.



Voting membership of the Ark costs £10 (one-off payment). In the event of the Ark stopping, this membership fee is each member's maximum contribution.

Risk Management

Risk management means that we have thought about things that could affect The Ark and found ways to reduce any possible risk.

The most serious risks to the charity are:

- Loss of key staff
- Loss of key contracts
- Incident or accident
- Changes in legislation
- Mistake or error in the advice or support given
- Data Security Breach
- A future pandemic (COVID or other virus)

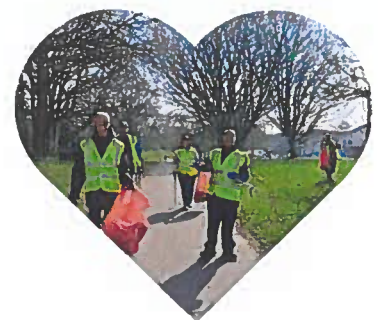
Public Benefit



The trustees confirm they have **complied** with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on the **public benefit** published by the Charity Commission, and have kept this in mind when planning the services and activities of the charity.

Social Value

The Ark takes into account the wider **economic, social and environmental impact** of its actions and, through its **Social Value** Policy, works towards ensuring these are positive.





Fundraising Policy



The Ark is a member of the Fundraising Regulator - who provide advice and guidance for charities when raising funds (money).

The Ark does not pay professional fundraisers, individuals or companies to raise money for the charity.

When fundraising or asking for contributions towards activities, The Ark is mindful that many people who use its services and attend activities are vulnerable and may also have limited income.

The Ark does, when appropriate, raise funds from the public. We also have a donation button on our website.



Acknowledgements

We would like to acknowledge and thank the following groups and organisations for providing funding and other support during the year.

Baily Thomas Charitable Trust
Berkshire Community Foundation
Berkshire Primary Care
Bracknell Forest Council
Frimley Health ICS
Google
iNet Telecoms Ltd
Levelling Up Fund

Lloyds Bank Foundation
Microsoft
Multiply Fund
NHS England
Pargiter Trust
Tesco, Martins Heron, Bracknell
Warfield Parish Council



In July 2024 the Mayor of Bracknell Forest, Cllr Jenny Penfold, named us as her charity of the year (until May 2025).

The charity would also like to acknowledge and thank the individuals who have donated to our work during the year.

Objectives and Aims

The Ark's objectives, our purpose, is to:

Work with people in the South East of England with disabilities and/or long-term health conditions, with carers of people with disabilities and/or long-term health conditions and with young people who are not in education, employment or training.

Support the community and voluntary sector in the area of operation of the charity, for the benefit of the public and to ensure the equality for all people to engage in **citizenship**.

The Ark aims to:

Advocate the value of and to enhance the lives of disabled children, young people and adults by providing access to and engagement with creative arts, digital and new media.

To use creative arts, digital and new media as a means to inform and offer training to the wider community on disability issues.

To provide information, advice and support to voluntary sector groups and individuals.

To promote user-led organisations.

As well as making sure projects, services and activities meet our objectives and aims, it is **very** important that people who use our services are involved in the planning development, delivery and evaluation of these too.





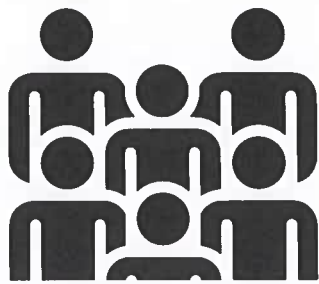
Volunteers

"Volunteering gives me a connection to the local community and makes me feel as though I am contributing to society" - Peter

Our volunteers provide many hours of support, not just to us as an organisation, but to the wider community through our HIVE projects. They are an essential part of the Ark team.



During the year, our volunteers have:



transported

162

people



carried out

2,434

journeys



volunteered

2,183

hours at the
vaccine centre



carried out

1,387

tasks such as shopping
and prescription collection

Volunteers

Our volunteers also help out at our shop Forget-me-Knot, help to run our social groups as well as volunteering at festivals through our Green Machine project.

"I got into volunteering as the Ark was there when I was in a dark place of my life and I wanted to do it as a thank you, to pay back their support and understanding" - Steph



"The look on people's happy faces and the conversations we have often turns into laughter and is my main reason and enjoyment of volunteering" - John



"Working in Forget-me-Knot has given me more confidence and I love working with the public" - Neil



THE ARK TRUST
Bracknell Forest
H I V E

Making friends

Many of our groups and sessions involve taking part in activities or learning new skills but, most importantly, are also about making and seeing friends.

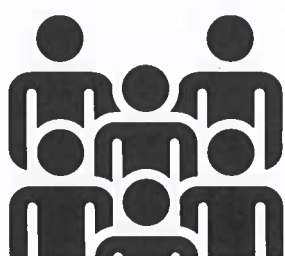
"When I go on trips with the Ark I get to go to places I wouldn't usually be able to get to, travel independent of my parents and family, socialise and meet other people who have disabilities and I feel safe, included and part of a group. Kate is fantastic, she always seems totally chilled no matter what people say or do!" - Isabel



SIGNAL 4 Carers



The SIGNAL4Carers project supports unpaid carers, such as family members of people with disabilities or long-term health conditions, in Bracknell Forest. It is mainly funded through a contract with Bracknell Council's Better Care Fund.



1,031
carers signed up



268
information sessions delivered during the year



104
carers signposted or referred to other services during the year



Our Carers Project Worker, Sharon Bowden, was nominated and won The Pride of Bracknell Adult Award in April 2024



Forget-me-knpt.



Progress on Last Year's Future Plans

Work with the Royal Holloway University of London on a research project to **evaluate** our social activities such as Friday Night Project and Night Owls. This will help us show potential funders the benefits of these groups and activities.

- *We completed the project and it has provided us with valuable evidence of the benefits of our social groups. The project also produced a video which was posted on our Facebook page.*

Look at what we are spending our money on to deliver our activities, support, services and projects and to see if there are ways we can reduce our costs.

- *We reviewed all of our costs and the companies that supply our electricity and other services and made changes to save money. We also had to make the HIVE projects manager post redundant.*

Decide if we will tender again for the Carers Support contract (the current contract ends on 31st December 2024). SIGNAL4Carers is supporting more and more people but the **contract value** has not increased for several years, and may even be reduced next time.

- *We did tender for the contract and were successful, but we have had to reduce the amount and type of support we can offer as the **contract value** was decreased.*

Look at ideas to increase Forget-me-Knot's income as it is struggling to meet it's running costs, especially with the increases in the cost of electricity and rent.

- *We had to make the shop manager post redundant. We closed the shop for 3 months to add a snack bar to increase the income.*

Look at how we can continue to and increase working in partnership with other organisations and charities. This could be to share or reduce costs or maybe to apply for funding together.

- *In February, we started to work with another local charity, The Alice Gough Memorial Homes Trust, and now provide their administration and support.*

Future plans

To seek long-term funding to support the work we do representing our members and beneficiaries on local and regional forums, panels and partnership boards. This funding would also support our independent disability information and advice work.

With the support of the Lloyds Bank Foundation, recruit a Strategic Financial Friend who will help us develop our long term financial strategy and governance.

Develop our websites and online visibility.



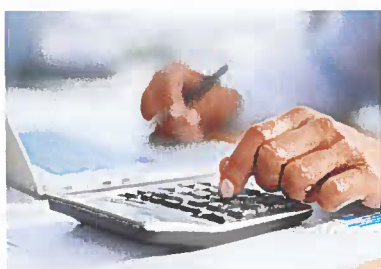
Statement of Financial Activities

Financial Review



The financial results for the year met the trustees' expectations. The loss was expected and measures were taken during the year to mitigate this going forward. The **prudence** of previous years' financial policy, to build up to the optimum (best) amount of unrestricted reserves, means the charity again enters the next financial year in a strong position to be able to survive any continuing negative financial impacts of the cost of living crisis.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities



The charity's trustees must make sure that the charity keeps a record of the money it gets in and the money it spends.

Each year the charity must prepare their accounts and get them audited or examined by someone who is not part of The Ark. This means that someone who knows a lot about money, like an accountant, makes sure the accounts are okay.



In preparing these accounts, the trustees follow best practice and:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then follow them
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- Financial statements comply with the **Charities Act 2011**



The trustees are also responsible for protecting the assets of The Ark. Assets means a useful or valuable thing.

Under section 144 of the **Charities Act 2011** the trustees consider that although an audit is not required for this year, an independent examination is needed.

Investment Policy



The trustees have the power to invest the charity's funds and have made the decision, at this time, to take no risks financially and have placed £85,000 into a 1 year **fixed rate** account, which **matured** at the end of April 2025. In addition to the operational bank account, held with CAF, there is a savings account with Redwood Bank.

Remuneration Policy for Staff



No employees received employee benefits of more than £60,000 for the reporting period.

Reserves Policy



The optimum, or best, level of **reserves** is based on 6 months turnover (income) minimum and no more than 9 months. Restricted reserves do not count towards this figure. We end this year with unrestricted reserves of £170,002 (which includes an allocation of £55,028 to cover redundancy and wind up costs if the charity was to close suddenly), which puts the charity in a good position going into 2025/26.

Restricted Funds



Restricted funds are used for specific purposes as laid down by the **donor** or contracting party. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund together with a fair allocation of management and support costs. Where funds are not specifically allocated against expenditure in that year the balance is **deferred** and added to the balance brought forward on the restricted funds. It will be used in future years in line with the restrictions placed by the donor or stipulated in the contract.

Particulars of any outstanding Guarantee given by the charity



The trustees declare that the charity has given no **guarantee** where potential liability is outstanding at the date of the **statement of assets and liabilities** other than the restricted funds detailed in the income and expenditure statement and mentioned above.

Particulars of any Outstanding Debt



The trustees declare that the charity has no outstanding debts which are secured by an **express charge** on any of the assets of the charity at the date of the **statement of assets and liabilities**.

Financial Outlook



2025/26 will continue to be challenging for many charities, including The Ark. The trustees and CEO will work hard to seek alternative funding to **subsidise** charitable work streams and to reduce costs, whilst still continuing to support the increased needs of its beneficiaries.

The additional support from the Lloyds Bank Foundation will support our long-term planning and development.

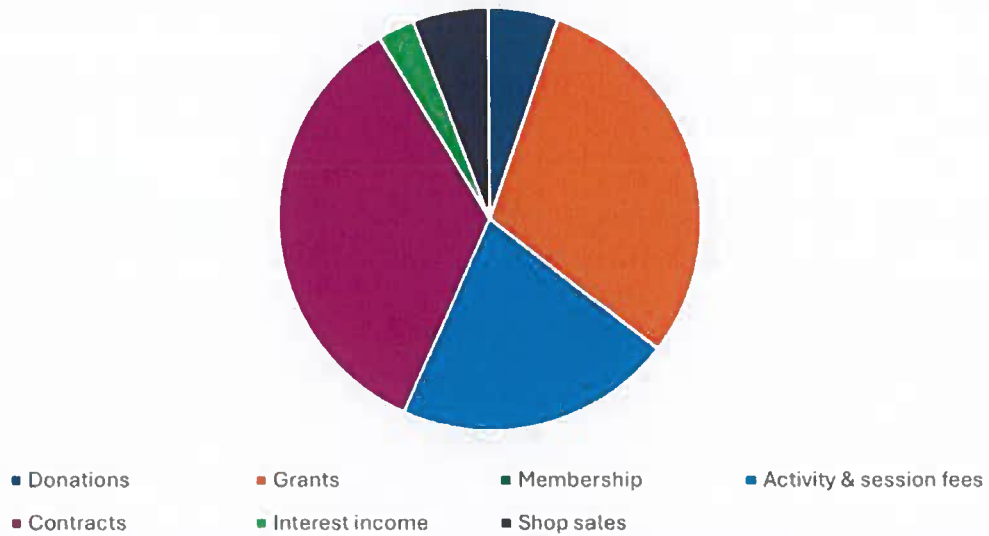


The Ark Trust CIO

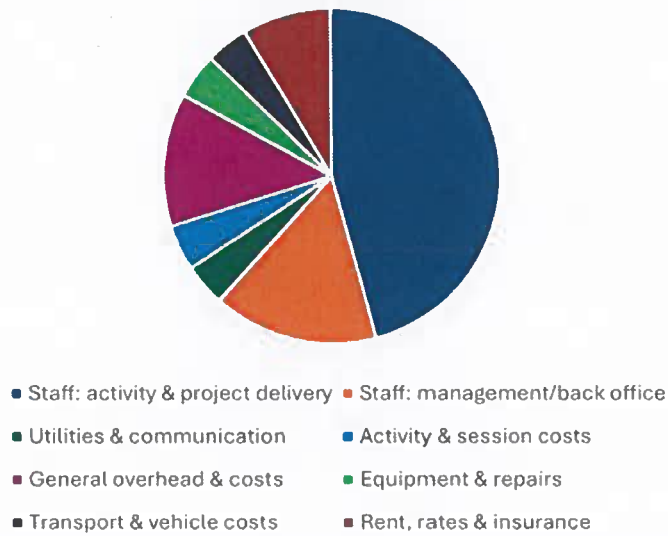
Statement of financial activities for the 12 months ended 31st March 2025

	Unrestricted funds 2025	Restricted funds 2025	Total funds 2025	Total funds 2024
	£	£	£	£
Income from:				
<i>Donations and legacies</i>				
Donations & gifts	12,912	250	13,162	7,043
Grants	26,295	47,508	73,803	118,565
membership subs	0	20	20	0
<i>Charitable activities</i>				
Activity, session & holiday fees	51,889	0	51,889	49,601
Contracts	5,644	79,248	84,892	83,400
<i>Other trading activities</i>				
Room hire	0	0	0	0
Interest income	6,926	0	6,926	2,960
Shop sales	16,950	0	16,950	24,045
Less: COGS	-2,824	0	-2,824	-1,298
Total incoming resources	117,792	127,026	244,818	284,316
Resources expended				
<i>Staff & professional fees</i>				
Activity and project delivery	37,431	89,042	126,473	156,655
Management/back office	<u>17,608</u>	<u>26,382</u>	43,990	<u>55,721</u>
	55,039	115,424	170,463	212,376
Utilities & communication	6,535	4,693	11,228	17,683
Activity, session & holiday costs	5,201	6,808	12,009	17,867
General overheads & costs	17,923	17,639	35,562	26,187
Equipment & repairs	6,776	5,321	12,097	7,449
Transport & vehicle costs	898	10,320	11,218	9,858
Rent, rates & insurance	20,261	3,323	23,584	22,213
Total resources expended	112,633	163,528	276,161	313,633
Surplus/loss	5,159	-36,502	-31,343	-29,317
Net incoming resources at 1st April 2024	183,629	21,836	205,465	
Transfers between funds	-18,786	18,786	0	
Surplus at 31st March 2025	5,159	-36,502	-31,343	
Funds at 31st March 2025	170,002	4,120	174,122	
Breakdown of unrestricted reserves:				
Allocated/committed	55,028			
Unallocated/free	<u>114,974</u>			
	170,002			

Where our money comes from £244,818



How we spend our money £276,161



Although we spent more money than we received in 2024/2025, it was expected due to the need to complete delivery of projects. Future restricted funding sought must include it's fair share of overhead funding as well as direct delivery costs (full cost recovery) based on rising costs due to the cost of living crisis.

We still have healthy reserves:

Restricted £4,120, Allocated £55,028, Unrestricted/free £114,974

Total: £174,122

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2025

	2025	2024
	£	£
Fixed Assets		
Tangible Assets	18,300	22,409
Current Assets		
Debtors	14,976	16,817
Cash at bank and in hand	181,160	206,414
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>4,087</u>	<u>6,453</u>
	200,223	229,684
Creditors		
Amounts falling due within one year	6,840	6,293
Accruals and deferred income	<u>37,561</u>	<u>40,335</u>
	44,401	46,628
Net Current Assets less liabilities	155,822	183,056
Total Assets less liabilities	174,122	205,465
Reserves		
Unrestricted fund	114,974	130,435
Allocated/committed fund	55,028	53,194
Restricted fund	<u>4,120</u>	<u>21,836</u>
Total reserves	174,122	205,465

Notes to Financial Statement



These are the statements we have to make when we file (send) our accounts to the Charity Commission. They are not easy to read. If you would like to know more so you can understand them, please contact the Ark office who will arrange for you to have a briefing session.

Basis of preparation

Basis of accounting

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statements of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1st January 2015. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

Going concern

These accounts are prepared on a going concern basis; the charity has sufficient resources and the trustees have no reason to believe that the charity will not continue to operate next year or for the foreseeable future.

Change of accounting policy

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and no changes have been made to the accounting policies adopted.

Change to accounting estimates and material errors

No changes to accounting estimates have occurred in the reporting period (3.46 FRS 102 SORP)

No material prior year errors have been identified in the reporting period (3.47 FRS102 SORP)

Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable; this is upon notification of the interest paid/payable at the bank.

Income

Recognition of income

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when:

- The charity becomes entitled to the resources
- It is more likely than not that the charity will receive the resources
- The monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability

Offsetting

There has been no offsetting of assets and liabilities, or income and expenses, unless required or permitted by the FRS 102 SORP.

Volunteer help

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

Expenditure and liabilities

Liability recognition

Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

Governance and support costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Redundancy costs

Redundancy payments of £1,595 were made during the year. These payments consisted of statutory redundancy pay and were fully funded from unrestricted reserves at the balance sheet date.

Creditors

The charity has creditors which are measured at settlement amounts less trade discounts.

Provisions for liabilities

A liability is measured on recognition at its historical cost and then subsequently measured at the best estimate of the amount required to settle the obligation at the reporting date.

Debtors

Debtors (including trade debtors and loans receivable) are measured on initial recognition at settlement amount after any trade discounts or amount advanced by the charity. Subsequently, they are measured at the cash value or other consideration expected to be received.

Assets

Tangible fixed assets for use by charity

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and cost at least £750.

They are valued at cost.

The depreciation method, other than for vehicles (which uses valuation) is straight line, spread across the assets' useful life taking into account any residual value.

	Motor Vehicles	Fixtures & Fittings	Equipment
	£	£	£
Cost or Value			
At 1st April 2024	17,500	28,618	16,759
Additions	0	1,433	2,159
Disposals	0	0	0
At 31st March 2025	17,500	30,051	18,918
Depreciation			
At 1st April 2024	5,250	19,317	15,901
Adjustment for disposals	0	0	0
Charge for the period	2,250	4,529	922
At 31st March 2025	7,500	23,846	16,823
Net Book Values			
At the start of the year	12,250	9,301	858
At the end of the year	10,000	6,205	2,095

Taxation

The charitable status of the organisation has been confirmed by the Inland Revenue. This means that the charity is not liable to corporation tax on its surplus or gains to the extent that they are applied for charitable purposes.

Trustees remuneration, expenses and related party transactions

None of the trustees received any remuneration for their role during the year and there were no related party transactions. Trustees are offered reimbursement for travel expenses incurred—to remove any barrier to prevent attendance at meetings.

Independent Examiner's Report

The Independent Examiner's report to the Trustees of The Ark Trust CIO is attached to this report.

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity trustee board by the following trustees:

Name: ANTONY ROBINSON

Signature: 

Date: 8-1-2026

Name: HANNAH ESCOTT

Signature: 

Date: 8/1/2026



Contact information



Telephone: 01344 266899



Email: info@theark.org.uk

GLOSSARY

Advocate – promote, speak up for.

Appointed – chosen to become a trustee.

Assurance – been told something to make us confident about what will happen, like a promise.

Charities Act 2011 – An Act or law that says how charities must be run and how they must operate.

Citizenship - people working together to make positive differences to the society in which they live – locally, nationally and globally.

Complied – met the requirements.

Contract value – How much we get paid for delivering a contract, like SIGNAL4Carers.

DBS Check - Disclosure and Barring Service check, is a criminal record check that employers/volunteer managers can request as part of the recruitment process.

Deferred – to put off or delay to a later time.

Delegate – to give responsibility and authority to someone.

Donor – a person or an organisation that gives money to the charity.

Economic, social and environmental impact – how the charity benefits local people financially (money), their community and the environment.

Evaluate – to look at how good/bad something is.

Express charge – using a large item, such as a building or vehicle you own, to guarantee a debt.

Fixed rate – the amount of interest paid/due remains the same for an agreed amount of time.

Guarantee – to promise or make a binding agreement.

Matures – some savings accounts pay the interest at the end of an agreed amount of time (this is when the account matures) - as long as you haven't taken any money out.

Prudence – being careful with money and financial decisions.

Public benefit – a legal requirement that the charity's work must benefit the public.

R-Bus – Bracknell Forest Council's learning disability transport service.

Remuneration – How much people (staff) are paid.

Reserves – money set aside in case needed or to spend at a future time.

Social Value – the positive impact on people and communities.

Statement of assets and liabilities – this tells us what we have (money, items) and what we owe to others.

Subsidise – fund/cover the costs of.

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of "The Ark Trust CIO"

I report on the financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 March 2025. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity trustees as a body, for my work.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees 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
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's report

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 which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Companies Act 2011
- to prepare Financial Statements which accord with the accounting records, and comply with the accounting requirements of the Companies Act 2011.

have not been met; or to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name: S Fogwill CGMA

24 Woodville Close, Blackwater, Camberley, GU17 0BN

Date: 25 January 2026

THE ARK TRUST CIO

England & Wales - Charity number 1098204

Accounts



Registered Charity No: 1098204



The Ark Trust CIO

Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st March 2024



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Charity Information

Charity Number 1098204

Address TRAX, Mill Ride (off Fernbank Road), North Ascot, Berkshire,
SL5 8JW

Trustees



Jon Codd (re-elected 18th January 2024)



Tommy Docherty



Stephanie Guest (re-elected 18th January 2024)



Muriel Hanley



John Horbury



Neil McGiffen



Antony Robinson (Chair)



Zoe Robinson (re-elected 18th January 2024)



Peter Tobin



Susanna Tyrrell

Management



Andrea McCombie, Chief Executive

Bankers

Banks look after our money

CAF Bank

25 King's Avenue
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

HSBC UK

9 High Street
Bracknell
Berkshire
RG12 1DN

Redwood Bank Limited

The Nexus Building, Broadway
Letchworth Garden City
Hertfordshire
SG6 3TA

Independent Examiner

Sandra Fogwill, Camberley, Surrey, GU17 0BN

Sandra checks the money we received is spent how we said it was and that we have followed all the rules.

Trustees' Report

Some words in this report might be difficult to understand. To help we have added a **glossary** (list of words and their meanings) to the end of this report.

Structure, Governance and Management



Since 25th August 2020 the Ark has been registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) - It has, however, been a local charitable organisation for 40 years.



The Ark has a constitution. These are the rules that say what the charity does and how it is run.



The trustees **delegate** responsibility for the day-to-day operations and management of the charity to the Chief Executive.



Every year, at the AGM, members can put themselves forward to be elected and **appointed** to the trustee board. The board can also co-opt (ask people to join) the board during the year if needed. The maximum number of trustees the charity can have is 12.



Training and support for new trustees is provided and all trustees must have a satisfactory **DBS check** before their appointment is finalised.



All trustees give their time for free.



As a user-led organisation, we work towards 75% of the trustee board being people who could use the charity's services or access it's activities.



Voting membership of The Ark costs £10 (one off payment). In the event of The Ark stopping, this membership fee is each member's maximum contribution.

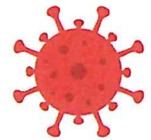
Risk Management



Risk management means that we have thought about things that could affect The Ark and found ways to reduce any possible risk.

The most serious risks to the charity are:

- Loss of key staff
- Loss of key contracts
- Incident or accident in the building/community activity
- Car accident (volunteer driver project)
- Changes in legislation
- Mistake or error in the advice or support given
- Misconduct or safeguarding issue
- Data Security breach
- Fraud or theft
- A future pandemic (covid or other virus)



Public Benefit



The trustees confirm they have **complied** with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on **public benefit** published by the Charity Commission and have kept this in mind when planning the services and activities of the charity.

Social Value

The Ark takes into account the wider **economic, social and environmental impact** of it's actions and, through it's **Social Value** Policy, works towards ensuring these are positive.



Fundraising Policy



The Ark is a member of the Fundraising Regulator—who provide advice and guidance for charities when raising funds (money).



The Ark does not pay professional fundraisers, individuals or companies to raise money for the charity.



When fundraising or asking for contributions towards activities, The Ark is mindful that many people who use it's services and attend activities are vulnerable and may also have a limited income.



The Ark does, when appropriate, raise funds from the public. We also have a donation button on our website.

Volunteers



Our volunteers provide many hours of support and help and they are an essential part of the team.

During the year our volunteers provided **3,373** hours to support our local covid vaccination centre, **2,025** volunteer car journeys, **604** community response tasks (picking up prescriptions, shopping etc.) as well as supporting our befriending project, our social groups and helping to run our shop, Forget-me-Knot.



One of our volunteers gifted us access to an online volunteering management platform, Assemble, which they helped to develop, and this allows us to keep track of all our applications, DBS checks and training. Potential volunteers can access information on volunteer roles and apply online from a link on our website.

Volunteer Spotlight

Jackie joined us as a volunteer during the pandemic as a community response area coordinator as well as undertaking tasks herself. She then also became a volunteer at the vaccine centre when it fully opened in January 2021. Jackie continues to volunteer with us as well as getting involved in other volunteering in the community with her dog Bailey, who has become a therapy dog visiting local schools.

“Volunteering has been the most wonderful & humbling thing I have ever done, combining my love of social activities and need to help people get the best out of every day. Thank you so much everyone at The Ark for making it all possible.”

When Jackie mentioned to her husband **Paul**, who was retired, that the Ark was looking for volunteer drivers he jumped at the chance as he loved driving. After completing his DBS and necessary training he started to volunteer in February 2023 and reached over 500 driving jobs in a year!

“I now enjoy the same sense of fulfilment and value to the community as Jackie does. I feel proud that I'm able to help elderly residents go out to socialise and love hearing their stories about their journey and experiences living in Bracknell.”



Acknowledgements

We would like to acknowledge and thank the following groups and organisations for providing funding and other support during the year.

Baily Thomas Charitable Trust

Microsoft

Berkshire Community Foundation

Multiply Fund

Berkshire Primary Care

National Lottery (Awards for All)

Bracknell Forest Council

Pargiter Trust

Frimley Health and Care Integrated Care System

Screwfix Foundation

Google

Tesco, Bags for Life

Gu Honey

Tesco, Martins Heron, Bracknell

iNet Telecoms Ltd

Winkfield Parish Council

Levelling Up Fund

Wokefield Golf Club

London Hearts

The charity would also like to acknowledge and thank the individuals who have donated to our work during the year.

Objectives and Aims

The Ark's objectives, our purpose, is to:



- Work with people in the South East of England with disabilities and/or long term health conditions, with carers of people with disabilities and/or long term health conditions and with young people who are not in education, employment or training.



- Support the community and voluntary sector in the area of operation of the charity, for the benefit of the public and to ensure the equality for all people to engage in **citizenship**.

The Ark aims to:



- **Advocate** the value of and to enhance the lives of disabled children, young people and adults by providing access to and engagement with creative arts, digital and new media.



- To use the creative arts, digital and new media as a means to inform and offer training to the wider community on disability issues.



- To provide information, advice and support to voluntary sector groups and individuals.



- To promote User Led Organisations.

As well as making sure projects, services and activities meet our objectives and aims, it is **very** important that people who use our services are involved in the planning, development, delivery and evaluation of these too.

Achievements and Performance



Arts, Education & Workshops



Over the year we have continued to run, loosely based on academic term times, drama and crafty coffee. These are all up to capacity (full). We would like to put on additional sessions in these but, mainly due to the lack of availability of the **R-Bus**, this is not possible.



This transport issue has also had a negative impact on shorter courses or one-off workshops. We are members of the Bracknell Forest Learning Disability & Autism Partnership and have raised this issue and highlighted it as a barrier for people wanting to attend all workshops, activities and social events—not just the Ark's.

Festival Green Machine



During the year we attended 3 festivals; Teddy Rocks, Rock 'n' Ribs and Boomtown. From feedback, next year we will focus on the smaller festivals, like Teddy Rocks, so we can provide people with the opportunity to access festivals of different types of music or focus—such as the Bear Grylls Gone Wild festivals.

This year also saw the first Green Machine wedding. Congratulations to Simon and Claire who first met as festival volunteers.

Forget-me-Knot



In some ways it has been a difficult year for Forget-me-Knot as costs, including the rent and electricity, have gone up while shop sales have gone down.



We also use Forget-me-Knot as a space for social and activity groups such as Knit & Natter and Carers Craft and these are very popular. It is also our meeting place when we arrange our regular local litter-picks and the monthly dementia carer advice drop-in service, held in partnership with Bracknell Dementia Advisory Service.

Next year we will be finishing the installation of the community defibrillator and increasing the number of groups that meet at Forget-me-Knot.



We will also be conducting a review with all staff and shop volunteers to look at ways to reduce costs, increase sales—including online—as well as looking to see if it will be possible to turn an area of the shop into a café and snack bar.

Friday Night Project



This weekly disco remains very well attended with on average 60-70 people attending every week. Fancy Dress and Party nights (Halloween, Valentine's Day, Christmas etc.) are very popular!



We found out, through the local press, that the venue we have used for over 14 years, was at risk. A search for a venue large enough, in the Bracknell or Wokingham area, available every week was started, while lobbying Wokingham Council (who own the venue). We have received **assurance** that we will be able to stay if St Crispin's School take over the lease of the building.

HIVE projects

Befriending



Funded by Frimley ICB's Innovation fund, we have been providing befriending and other support to help decrease loneliness and social isolation in the under 75s.

Community Response



Although this project no longer receives any funding, the charity is committed to continuing to run a scaled down service providing emergency, short term support; this is not intended to be a replacement for hospital discharge or social care support—which should be arranged and funded by the local authority and NHS.



The volunteer network provided **604** support tasks including shopping, prescription collection and foodbank parcel delivery during the year to local residents unable to leave their homes due to ill health.

Vaccination Centre Support



The volunteer network continues to support our local vaccination centre with all vaccine programmes, not just Covid. It has also helped support other clinics—such as the recent Prostrate Cancer screening—providing **3373** hours of volunteering.

Berkshire Primary Care (the local GP Federation organisation) cover the costs of managing these volunteers.

HIVE projects (continued)

Volunteer Transport



The volunteer transport project has had a busy year! **2025** journeys have been made, supporting **137** local residents to access social clubs, day centres, visit friends, attend the dentist etc.

Over the year 21 volunteers have been involved, supported by Ark staff who coordinate the admin and undertake assessments.

Night Owls



We have continued to offer a Night Owls event every month over the past year. Bowling, Laserquest and nightclubbing continue to be popular events. We've also included some new types of events such as Reading Pride and a karaoke evening. This has given people the opportunity to attend an evening out doing something they've not experienced before and to decide if they like it or not.



Next year we hope to recruit new volunteers, particularly drivers, so that we can increase the number of transport places we can offer.



As a Berkshire wide social group, we hope to include more events outside of Bracknell, Wokingham and Reading.

"Night Owls group I always enjoy the outings...My highlight was when we did the nightclub outing. The cinema and Tangs outing was good fun...Every occasion is very well planned for the group" (Ryan)

Out and About



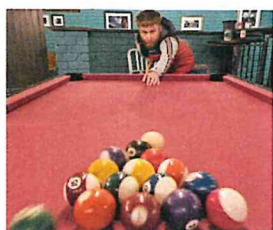
Trips or activities are held monthly and are balanced between those activities that are free/have a small cost such as picnic or walks in the local area, with the more expensive day trips such as theme parks or the theatre.



These trips are always fully booked as we can only transport a small group, and we often have to run a waiting list.

Future plans include another weekend break as the one to Bath was so popular.

Project 73 & Project 73+ (social groups for autistic adults receiving minimal or no social care support)



P73

Due to reduction in the size of the group, it now meets fortnightly with additional day trips to Comic Con up to twice a year.

The numbers have been falling because:

- Original members are now becoming too old to attend (upper age limit of 35)
- Transport, particularly after 9pm when there is a reliance on parents
- Introduction of subs to help with staff costs after initial funding finished
- Lack of appropriate signposting from local authority

Positively, at the end of the year, we had 3 requests for more information on this group. We have also made sure professionals, such as social prescribers, are aware of the group and who it is aimed at.

P73+

A monthly meet up for those aged 30 and over. The venue is South Hill Park bar, which works well, and the group will sometimes, weather permitting, also go for a walk and occasionally pop into another local pub to play pool.

Although the group is currently small, up to 6, everyone who comes has told us that they really benefit from the evening once a month.

We are also encouraging those from Project 73 to transition before they are 35; they can attend both groups between 30-35.

Radio Marmalade

Last year Radio Marmalade secured funding from the National Lottery 'Awards for All' programme to support the purchase of new equipment and the development of a user's guide, radio broadcasting lesson materials and website development.

Two of the trustees, Neil and Tommy, with the support of 2 members of staff, led on the project and the station was relaunched in November 2023 with a 73 hour sponsored live broadcast.

SIGNAL4Carers



SIGNAL provides information, advice and support to unpaid carers (family/friends). By the end of the year **935** carers (an increase of 19% on last year) and 80 recent ex-carers were registered with the service alongside 32 professionals.



Our focus has been on community engagement as well as supporting individual carers with information, advice, signposting, referrals to other services as well as support with benefit applications. Sharon Bowden, the Carers Support Worker, was nominated for a Pride of Bracknell award by many of the carers she has supported (and won the Gold award at the start of April 2024).



As well as being a Carers Trust network partner, the issues faced by carers and the people they support are highlighted at multi-agency meetings/forums such as the Safeguarding Partnership Board and in work streams such as the development of Bracknell's new All Age Carers Strategy.

Warm Welcome



With the support from the Berkshire Community Foundation we have been able to continue to run this free weekly session for people over 55.

It is a chance to meet and chat with other people, take part in activities such as bingo, craft and puzzles, and an opportunity to get information and advice from staff.



'There are no strangers here; Only friends you haven't yet met.'

William Butler Yeats



Future plans

Over the last 3 years the organisation has received support from covid related funding streams which are no longer available. Like many charities, we are also seeing increased demand for our services and rising costs—such as utilities.

During the next year we will:



Forget*me*knot*



- Work with the Royal Holloway University of London on a research project to **evaluate** our social activities such as Friday Night Project and Night Owls. This will help us show potential funders the benefits of these groups and activities.
- Look at what we are spending our money on to deliver our activities, support, services and projects and to see if there are ways we can reduce our costs.
- Decide if we will tender again for the Carers Support contract (the current contract ends on 31st December 2024). SIGNAL4Carers is supporting more and more people but the **contract value** has not increased for several years and may even be reduced next time.
- Look at ideas to increase Forget-me-Knot's income as it is struggling to meet it's running costs, especially with the increases in the cost of electricity and rent.
- Look at how we can continue to and increase working in partnership with other organisations and charities. This could be to share or reduce costs or maybe to apply for funding together.



Celebrating the King's Coronation

Statement of Financial Activities

Financial review



The financial results for the year met the trustees' expectations. The **prudence** of recent years' financial policy to build up to the optimum (best) amount of unrestricted reserves means the charity again enters the next financial year in a strong position to be able to survive any continuing negative financial impacts of the cost of living crisis.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

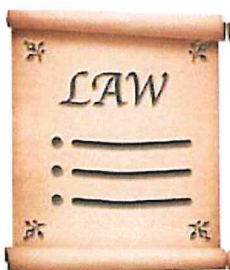
The charity's trustees must make sure that the charity keeps a record of the money it gets in and the money it spends.



Each year the charity must prepare their accounts and get them audited or examined by someone who is not part of The Ark. This means that someone who knows a lot about money, like an accountant, makes sure the accounts are okay.

In preparing these accounts, the Trustees follow best practice and:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then follow them
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- Financial statements comply with the **Charities Act 2011**



The trustees are also responsible for protecting the assets of The Ark. Assets means a useful or valuable thing.

Under section 144 of the **Charities Act 2011** the trustees consider that although an audit is not required for this year, an independent examination is needed.



Remuneration policy for key management personnel

No employees received employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) of more than £60,000 for the reporting period.

Investment policy



The trustees have the power to invest the charity's funds and have made the decision, at this time, to take no risks financially and have placed £85,000 into a high interest, 90 day notice account. During this year a further £85,000 was placed in a 1 year **fixed rate** account, which **matures** at the end of April 2024.

Reserves policy



The optimum, or best, level of reserves is based on 6 months turnover (income) minimum and no more than 9 months. Restricted reserves do not count towards this figure. We end this year with unrestricted reserves of £183,629 (which includes an allocation of £53,194 to cover redundancy and wind up costs if the charity was to close suddenly), which, although lower than last year, puts the charity in a good position going into 2024/25.

Restricted funds



Restricted funds are used for specific purposes as laid down by the **donor** or contracting party. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund together with a fair allocation of management and support costs. Where funds are not specifically allocated against expenditure in that year the balance is **deferred** and added to the balance brought forward on the restricted funds. It will be used in future years in line with the restrictions placed by the donor or stipulated in the contract.

Particulars of any outstanding **Guarantee** given by the charity



The trustees declare that the charity has given no **guarantee** where potential liability is outstanding at the date of the **statement of assets and liabilities** other than the restricted funds detailed in the income and expenditure statement and mentioned above. This includes financial support received to the following projects: Community Defibrillator, Night Owls (Stay Up Late), Transport, Befriending and Workshops.

Particulars of any outstanding debt



The trustees declare that the charity has **no** outstanding debts which are secured by an **express charge** on any of the assets of the charity at the date of the **statement of assets and liabilities**.

Financial outlook



2024/25 will continue to be challenging for many charities; in many ways more difficult than the last 4 years. The trustees and CEO will work hard to seek alternative funding to **subsidise** charitable work streams and to reduce costs, whilst still continuing to support the increased needs of its beneficiaries.

The Ark Trust CIO

Statement of financial activities for the 12 months ended 31st March 2024

	Unrestricted funds 2024	Restricted funds 2024	Total funds 2024	Total funds 2023
	£	£	£	£
Income from:				
<i>Donations and legacies</i>				
Donations & gifts	3,725	3,318	7,043	9,313
Grants	2,100	116,465	118,565	156,213
Membership subs	0	0	0	40
<i>Charitable activities</i>				
Activity & holiday fees	49,601	0	49,601	43,056
Contracts	3,400	80,000	83,400	98,515
<i>Other trading activities</i>				
Interest income	2,960	0	2,960	1,674
Sale of fixed asset (surplus)	0	0	0	600
Shop sales	24,045	0	24,045	18,428
Less: COGS	<u>-1,298</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>-1,298</u>	<u>-1,000</u>
Total incoming resources	84,533	199,783	284,316	326,839
Resources expended				
<i>Staff & professional fees</i>				
Activity & project delivery	42,731	113,924	156,655	167,454
Management/back office	<u>15,663</u>	<u>40,058</u>	<u>55,721</u>	<u>60,221</u>
	58,394	153,982	212,376	227,675
Utilities & communications	8,245	9,438	17,683	10,772
Activity & holiday costs	3,068	14,799	17,867	11,987
General overheads	8,880	17,307	26,187	31,638
Equipment & repairs	2,200	5,249	7,449	16,044
Transport & vehicle costs	394	9,464	9,858	1,825
Rent, rates & insurance	<u>16,606</u>	<u>5,607</u>	<u>22,213</u>	<u>22,214</u>
Total resources expended	<u>97,787</u>	<u>215,846</u>	<u>313,633</u>	<u>322,155</u>
Surplus/loss	-13,254	-16,063	-29,317	

The Ark Trust CIO

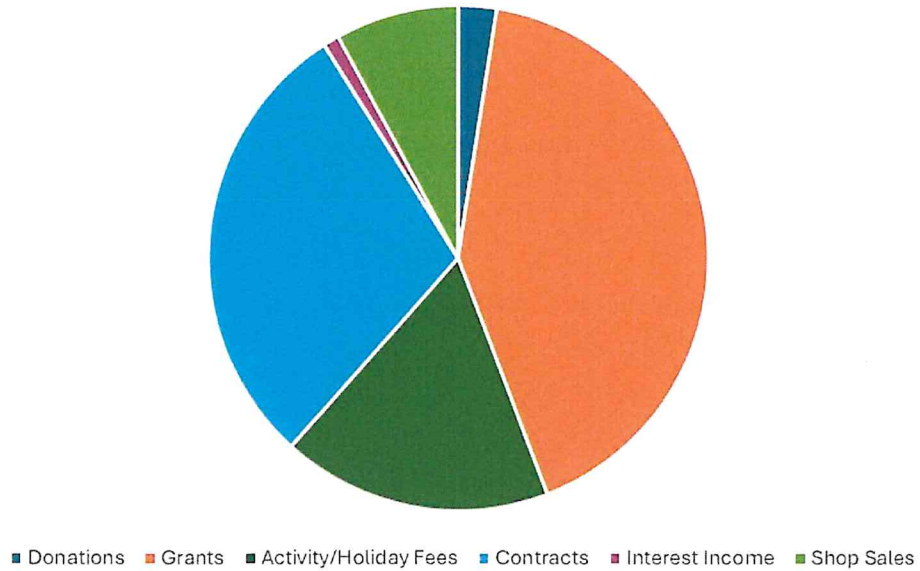
Statement of financial activities for the 12 months ended 31st March 2024 continued..

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
Net incoming resources April 1, 2023	196,883	37,899	234,782
Transfers between funds	0	0	0
Surplus at March 31, 2024	-13,254	-16,063	-29,317
Funds at March 31, 2024	183,629	21,836	205,465

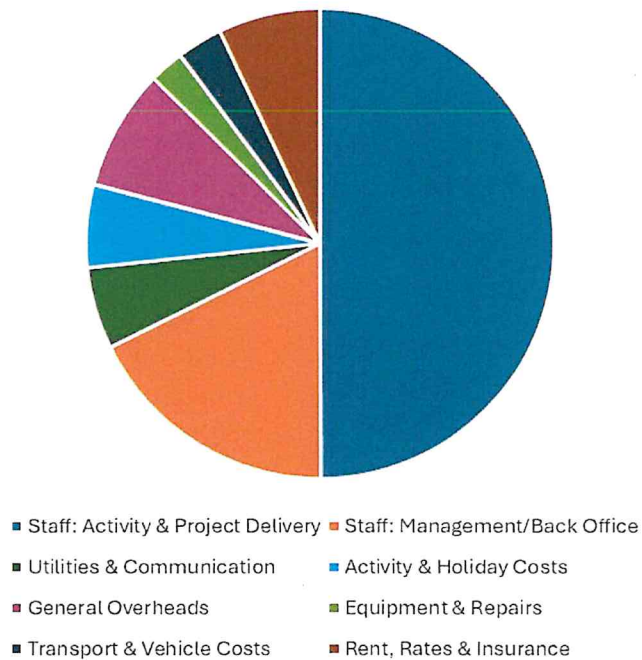
Breakdown of unrestricted reserves allocation

Allocated/committed	53,194
Unallocated/Free	130,435
Total	183,629

Where our money comes from (£284,316)



How we spend our money (£313,633)



Although we spent more money than money received in the year, this was expected and over half of it was from the restricted fund.

We still have healthy reserves.

Restricted £21,836, Allocated £53,194, Free/Unrestricted £130,435 = Total £205, 465

The Ark Trust CIO

Balance sheet as at 31st March 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
Fixed Assets		
Tangible assets	22,409	31,030
Current Assets		
Debtors	16,817	7,826
Cash at bank and in hand	206,414	256,850
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>6,453</u>	<u>7,480</u>
	229,684	272,156
Creditors		
Amounts falling due within one year	6,293	6,733
Accruals and deferred income	<u>40,335</u>	<u>61,671</u>
	46,628	68,404
Net Current Assets less liabilities	183,056	203,752
Total Assets less liabilities	<u>205,465</u>	<u>234,782</u>
Reserves		
Unrestricted fund	130,435	159,500
Allocated/committed funds	53,194	37,383
Restricted fund	<u>21,836</u>	<u>37,899</u>
Total reserves	<u>205,465</u>	<u>234,782</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements



These are the statements we have to make when we *file* (send) our accounts to the Charity Commission. They are not easy to read. If you would like to know more so you can understand them, please contact the Ark office who will arrange for you to have a briefing session.

Basis of preparation

Basis of accounting

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statements of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1st January 2015.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

Going concern

These accounts are prepared on a going concern basis; the charity has sufficient resources and the trustees have no reason to believe that the charity will not continue to operate next year or for the foreseeable future.

Change of accounting policy

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and no changes have been made to the accounting policies adopted.

Change to accounting estimates and material errors

No changes to accounting estimates have occurred in the reporting period (3.46 FRS 102 SORP).

No material prior year errors have been identified in the reporting period (3.47 FRS102 SORP)

Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable; this is upon notification of the interest paid/payable at the bank.

Income

Recognition of income

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when:

- The charity becomes entitled to the resources
- It is more likely than not that the charity will receive the resources
- The monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability

Offsetting

There has been no offsetting of assets and liabilities, or income and expenses, unless required or permitted by the FRS 102 SORP.

Volunteer help

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

Expenditure and liabilities

Liability recognition

Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

Governance and support costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Redundancy cost

The charity made no redundancy payments during the reporting period.

Creditors

The charity has creditors which are measured at settlement amounts less trade discounts.

Provisions for liabilities

A liability is measured on recognition at its historical cost and then subsequently measured at the best estimate of the amount required to settle the obligation at the reporting date.

Debtors

Debtors (including trade debtors and loans receivable) are measured on initial recognition at settlement amount after any trade discounts or amount advanced by the charity. Subsequently, they are measured at the cash value or other consideration expected to be received.

Assets

Tangible fixed assets for use by charity

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and cost at least £750.

They are valued at cost.

The depreciation method is straight line, spread across the assets' useful life taking into account any residual value.

	Motor Vehicles	Fixtures & Fittings	Equipment
	£	£	£
Cost or Value			
At 1st April 2023	17,500	28,618	16,759
Additions	0	0	0
Disposals	0	0	0
At 31st March 2024	17,500	28,618	16,759
Depreciation			
At 1st April 2023	3,500	14,676	13,671
Adjustments for disposals	0	0	0
Charge for the period	1,750	4,641	2,230
At 31st March 2024	5,250	19,317	15,901
Net Book Values			
At the start of the year	14,000	13,942	3,088
At the end of the year	12,250	9,301	858

Taxation

The charitable status of the organisation has been confirmed by the Inland Revenue. This means that the charity is not liable to corporation tax on its surplus or gains to the extent that they are applied for charitable purposes.

Trustees remuneration, expenses and related party transaction

None of the trustees received any remuneration for their role during the year and there were no related party transactions. Trustees are offered reimbursement for travel expenses incurred—to remove any barrier to prevent attendance at meetings.

Independent Examiner's Report

The Independent Examiner's report to the Trustees of The Ark Trust CIO is attached to this report.

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity trustee board by the following trustees:

Name: ZOE ROBINSON

Signature: 

Date: 02/11/24

Name: Stephanie Guest

Signature: 

Date: 02/11/24



Contact information

Tel 01344 266899

Email info@theark.org.uk

Glossary

Advocate – promote, speak up for.

Appointed – chosen to become a trustee.

Assurance – been told something to make us confident about what will happen, like a promise.

Charities Act 2011 – An Act or law that says how charities must be run and how they must operate.

Charity Commission

Citizenship - people working together to make positive differences to the society in which they live – locally, nationally and globally.

Complied – met the requirements.

Contract value – How much we get paid for delivering a contract, like SIGNAL4Carers.

DBS Check - Disclosure and Barring Service check, is a criminal record check that employers/volunteer managers can request as part of the recruitment process.

Deferred – to put off or delay to a later time.

Delegate – to give responsibility and authority to someone.

Donor – a person or an organisation that gives money to the charity.

Economic, social and environmental impact – how the charity benefits local people financially (money), their community and the environment.

Evaluate – to look at how good/bad something is.

Express charge – using a large item, such as a building or vehicle you own, to guarantee a debt.

Fixed rate – the amount of interest paid/due remains the same for an agreed amount of time.

Guarantee – to promise or make a binding agreement.

Matures – some savings accounts pay the interest at the end of an agreed amount of time (this is when the account matures) - as long as you haven't taken any money out.

Prudence – being careful with money and financial decisions.

Public benefit – a legal requirement that the charity's work must benefit the public.

R-Bus – Bracknell Forest Council's learning disability transport service.

Remuneration – How much people (staff) are paid.

Reserves – money set aside in case needed or to spend at a future time.

Social Value – the positive impact on people and communities.

Statement of assets and liabilities – this tells us what we have (money, items) and what we owe to others.

Subsidise – fund/cover the costs of.

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of "The Ark Trust CIO"

I report on the financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 March 2024. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity trustees as a body, for my work.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees 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. The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of Chartered Institute of Management Accountants.

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
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's report

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:

which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Companies Act 2011
- to prepare Financial Statements which accord with the accounting records, and comply with the accounting requirements of the Companies Act 2011.

have not been met; or

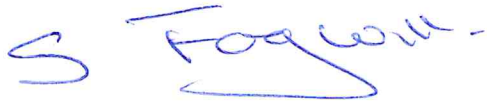
to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name: S Fogwill

Relevant professional qualification or body: Chartered Institute of Management Accountants

Address: 24 Woodville Close, Blackwater, Camberley, GU17 0BN

Date: 7 November 2024

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'S' followed by the name 'Fogwill'.

THE ARK TRUST CIO

England & Wales - Charity number 1098204

Accounts



Registered Charity No: 1098204



The Ark Trust CIO

Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st March 2023



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Charity Information

Charity Number 1098204

Address TRAX, Mill Ride (off Fernbank Road), North Ascot, Berkshire,
SL5 8JW

Trustees



Jon Codd



Tommy Docherty



Stephanie Guest



Muriel Hanley



John Horbury (elected 8th October 2022)



Neil McGiffen



Antony Robinson (Chair)



Zoe Robinson



Peter Tobin



Susanna Tyrrell

Management



Andrea McCombie, Chief Executive

Bankers

Banks look after our money

CAF Bank

25 King's Avenue
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

HSBC UK

9 High Street
Bracknell
Berkshire
RG12 1DN

Redwood Bank Limited

The Nexus Building, Broadway
Letchworth Garden City
Hertfordshire
SG6 3TA

Independent Examiner

Sandra Fogwill, Camberley, Surrey, GU17 0BN

Sandra checks the money we received is spent how we said it was and that we have followed all the rules.

Trustees' Report

Structure, Governance and Management



Since 25th August 2020 the Ark has been registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) - It has, however, been a local charitable organisation for 40 years.



The Ark has a constitution. These are the rules that say what the charity does and how it is run.



The trustees delegate responsibility for the day-to-day operations and management of the charity to the Chief Executive.



Every year, at the AGM, members can put themselves forward to be appointed to the trustee board. The board can also co-opt (ask people to join) the board during the year if needed. The maximum number of trustees the charity can have is 12.



Training and support for new trustees is provided and all trustees must have a satisfactory DBS check before their appointment is finalised.



All trustees give their time for free.



As a user-led organisation, we work towards 75% of the trustee board being people who could use the charity's services or access it's activities.



Membership of The Ark costs £10 (one off payment). In the event of The Ark stopping, this membership fee is each member's maximum contribution.

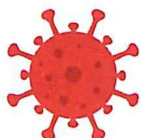
Risk Management



Risk management means that we have thought about things that could affect The Ark and found ways to minimise any possible risk.

The most serious risks to the charity are:

- Loss of key staff
- Loss of key contracts
- Incident or accident in the building/community activity
- Car accident (volunteer driver project)
- Changes in legislation
- Mistake or error in the advice or support given
- Misconduct or safeguarding issue
- Data Security breach
- Fraud or theft
- A future pandemic (covid or other virus)



Public Benefit



The trustees confirm they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission and have kept this in mind when planning the services and activities of the charity.

Social Value

The Ark takes into account the wider economic, social and environmental impact of its actions and, through its Social Value Policy, works towards ensuring these are positive.



Fundraising Policy



The Ark is a member of the Fundraising Regulator—who provide advice and guidance for charities when raising funds.



The Ark does not pay professional fundraisers, individuals or companies to raise money for the charity.



When fundraising or asking for contributions towards activities, The Ark is mindful that many people who use it's services and attend activities are vulnerable and may also have a limited income.



The Ark does, when appropriate, raise funds from the public. We also have a donation button on our website.

Volunteers



The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service

The contribution of volunteers across all of our projects and activities has always been essential; this year they received formal recognition as, during the Platinum Jubilee in June 2022, we found out we had received the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service; the equivalent to an MBE.



The organisation also received the following awards during the year:



Charity of the year: SILVER winner

Lockdown star: GOLD Winner—Andrea McCombie

Finalist for BBC Berkshire's charity category

Acknowledgements

We would like to acknowledge and thank the following groups and organisations for providing funding and other support during the year.

Baily Thomas Charitable Trust

Berkshire Primary Care

Bracknell Forest Council

Charities Aid Foundation

Frimley Health and Care Integrated Care System

Good Things Foundation

Google

Great Western Railways

Gu Honey

iNet Telecoms Ltd

Levelling Up Fund

Marks & Spencer

Microsoft

National Lottery

Pride of Bracknell

Tesco, Martins Heron, Bracknell

Winkfield Parish Council

The charity would also like to acknowledge and thank the individuals who have donated to our work during the year.

Objectives and Aims

The Ark's objectives, our purpose, is to:



- Work with people in the South East of England with disabilities and/or long term health conditions, with carers of people with disabilities and/or long term health conditions and with young people who are not in education, employment or training.



- Support the community and voluntary sector in the area of operation of the charity, for the benefit of the public and to ensure the equality for all people to engage in citizenship.

The Ark aims to:



- Advocate the value of and to enhance the lives of children, young people and adults with disability by providing access to and engagement with creative arts, digital and new media.



- To use the creative arts, digital and new media as a means to inform and offer training to the wider community on disability issues.



- To provide information, advice and support to voluntary sector groups and individuals.



- To promote User Led Organisations.

As well as making sure projects, services and activities meet our objectives and aims, it is very important that people who use our services are involved in the planning, development, delivery and evaluation of these too.

Achievements and Performance



Arts, Education & Workshops

It was a busy year with drama, crafty coffee, life skills, tovertafel, upcycling, team building and developing digital skills.

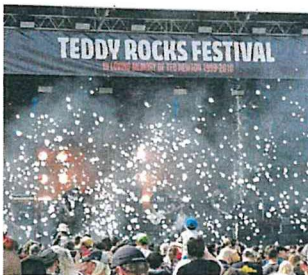


“Crafty Coffee is a great place to meet up with friends and chat while enjoying craft. Kate finds different activities that suit everyone and we also made Halloween bunting for the shop” - ST

We are planning even more sessions and workshops for next year: Healthy Relationships, Empower, Voice & Choice, Numeracy and Radio Broadcasting.

Festival Green Machine

After a break, due to the pandemic, we were able to take a crew to 3 festivals in the year: Teddy Rocks, Rock ‘n’ Ribs and Boomtown.



The festivals give an opportunity for people to experience a music festival, with the support of an inclusive team, whilst helping the festivals to recycle and make their events greener and more sustainable.

Forget-me-Knot

The shop helps to raise funds to support the charity’s work and also provides a place where people can meet up, have a ‘cuppa and a chat’, join craft and activity groups, receive information, advice and support from staff or the local Dementia Advisor.



During the year we ran a supported employment project (STEPs), the Knit and Natter group made some amazing post box toppers and we had visits from the BBC Make a Difference team and the local MP.



We have also started to sell our donated items online and to use social media, like Instagram, to make short videos to showcase our goods—and our volunteers!

Next year we need to work on increasing our sales, both in the shop and online, as well as recruiting more volunteers. We will also be working with one of our local schools to provide work experience placements to pupils with disabilities.

Friday Night Project



This weekly social event remains very popular with up to 80 people attending—plus 25+ support staff from local care and support companies.

As well as the weekly disco there were also special party events for Valentine's Day, Halloween and, at Christmas, our patron, Jamie Raven, came and performed a short magic show.

HIVE projects

Community Response



The volunteer network were still providing support with shopping, prescription collection, dog walking etc. throughout the year to local residents that remain vulnerable to covid. The project also supported people recently discharged from hospital or at risk of hospital admission through additional 'winter pressures' funding. 40+ individuals (minimum) were supported every week.

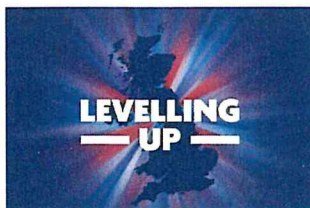
Although the funding from Bracknell Forest Council for the response and hub came to an end on March 31st, the charity is committed to continuing to run a scaled down service providing emergency, short term support; this is not intended to be a replacement for hospital discharge or social care support—which should be arranged and funded by the local authority and NHS.

Supporting the NHS



The charity's volunteers continue to support our local vaccination centre and, thanks to additional funding, we were able to support people to stay safe and socially connected in their own homes. This work has included helping to prepare someone's home when due back from hospital, befriending visits, medical equipment collections as well as the wider community response service.

Volunteer Transport



The service was fully up and running at the start of March and supported 26 individuals with 154 journeys during the month. Funding contributing to the service includes Government Levelling Up Funding received via Bracknell Forest Council.

Night Owls



The group continues to meet about once a month. Pop World and cocktails is a favourite! The group have also continued to hold occasional zoom events which does allow people who find attending events in person difficult the opportunity to take part.

Next year the focus will be on recruiting more volunteers, particularly drivers, to help support the group.

Older People —digital support & activities



As a member of Bracknell's Older People's Consortium, we work closely with our partners in the voluntary sector, as well as with health and the local authority, to support our older residents.

Our Warm Hub continued after January and is now for the over 55s, we have delivered education to help older people get online and also ran a trouble-shooting service.



Many of our carers are also older people with over 45% of them looking after someone with dementia, and we are mindful of this when planning activities and support.

Many people with learning disabilities who access our activities and services are also older people and, next year, we will look at training staff in providing support for this group and also look at targeted activities—such as a social group targeted at older people.

Out and About



Supported by funding from Great Western Railways to encourage travel independence and confidence on the railways, where possible Out and About has used the train network to visit places of interest including a weekend break to Bath.

Project 73 (social group for people with Autism but minimal support needs)



The group have met weekly in restaurants and bars as well as attending the cinema and taking part in activities such as bowling, laserquest and trampolining.

Project 73+ for the over 30s has started to meet monthly and several members of the original P73 have made the transition.

Radio Marmalade



Radio Marmalade secured funding from the National Lottery 'Awards for All' programme in November to support the purchase of new equipment and the development of a user's guide, radio broadcasting lesson materials and website development.

Two of the trustees, Neil and Tommy, with the support of 2 members of staff, are leading on the project and it will be completed during the next financial year.

SIGNAL4Carers

SIGNAL provides information, advice and support to unpaid carers (family/friends). By the end of the year 783 carers (an increase of 12% on last year) and 79 recent ex-carers were registered with the service alongside 30 professionals.

Post-pandemic we have been able to once again focus on in-person community engagement—to raise awareness of the service and the support available to carers—and have attended local events such as the borough's Community Network Day as well as giving presentations at small groups/organisations such as The Macular Society and Young People With Dementia.

Sharon, the carers support worker, continues to support benefit applications through home visits and one-to-one sessions at TRAX.—68 benefit forms were completed with carers—an increase of 183% compared to last year. So far, all 54 that have been processed by DWP have been successful.

As well as 2 carers lunch and information events, weekly carers craft groups, coffee mornings and dementia information sessions (in partnership with Bracknell Forest Dementia Advisory Service) continued. Check-in telephone calls still continued and carers remain able to access support from the community hub.

As well as being a Carers Trust network partner, the issues faced by carers and the people they support are highlighted at multi-agency meetings/forums such as the Safeguarding Partnership Board, by taking part in work streams such as the Health & Wellbeing Board's work on isolation and loneliness and support offered is strengthened by partnership working as has been demonstrated through Bracknell's Older People's Consortium. We have also taken part in, and have enabled and encouraged carers to engage with, the development of Bracknell's new All Age Carers Strategy



Future plans



Although it remains difficult to make plans with the current situation of living with the legacy of coronavirus and the cost of living crisis, we will focus on providing as much support as we can to our members and beneficiaries, particularly when gaps in services and support have been identified, and keeping the finances of the charity healthy.

In addition to funding some of our activities and projects, as part of their funding support CAF ring-fenced financial support to help develop organisational resilience.

Working with a consultant we updated our trustee training, policies, procedures and business & communication plan as well as implementing a cloud based volunteering platform.



‘Anything is possible when you have the right people there to support you.’

Misty Copeland

Statement of Financial Activities

Financial review



The financial results for the year met the trustees' expectations. The prudence of recent years' financial policy to build up to the optimum (best) amount of unrestricted reserves means the charity again enters the next financial year in a strong position to be able to survive any continuing negative financial impacts of the legacy of the pandemic and now the cost of living crisis.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

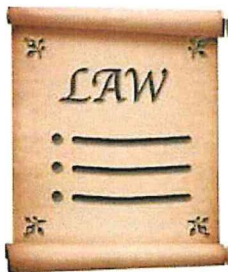
The charity's trustees must make sure that the charity keeps a record of the money it gets in and the money it spends.



Each year the charity must prepare their accounts and get them audited or examined by someone who is not part of The Ark. This means that someone who knows a lot about money, like an accountant, makes sure the accounts are okay.

In preparing these accounts, the Trustees follow best practice and:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then follow them
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- Financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011



The trustees are also responsible for protecting the assets of The Ark. Assets means a useful or valuable thing.

Under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 the trustees consider that although an audit is not required for this year, an independent examination is needed.



Remuneration policy for key management personnel

No employees received employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) of more than £60,000 for the reporting period.

Investment policy



The trustees have the power to invest the charity's funds and have made the decision, at this time, to take no risks financially and have placed £80,000 into a high interest, 90 day notice account. The trustees plan to put a further £85,000 in a similar account early next year.

Reserves policy



The optimum, or best, level of reserves is based on 6 months turnover (income) minimum and no more than 9 months.

Restricted reserves do not count towards this figure. We end this year with unrestricted, unallocated reserves of £159,500, which puts the charity in a good position going into 2023/24—which may prove very difficult financially due to reduction in funding/contract opportunities, increased demand for our services and rising costs and inflation.

Restricted funds



Restricted funds are used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor or contracting party. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund together with a fair allocation of management and support costs. Where funds are not specifically allocated against expenditure in that year the balance is deferred and added to the balance brought forward on the restricted funds. It will be used in subsequent years in line with the restrictions placed by the donor or stipulated in the contract.

Particulars of any outstanding Guarantee given by the charity



The trustees declare that the charity has given no guarantee where potential liability is outstanding at the date of the statement of assets and liabilities other than the restricted funds detailed in the income and expenditure statement and mentioned above. This includes financial support received to the following projects: Community Defibrillator, Community Hub, Radio Marmalade, Stay Up Late, Transport and Workshops.



Particulars of any outstanding debt

The trustees declare that the charity has no outstanding debts which are secured by an express charge on any of the assets of the charity at the date of the statement of assets and liabilities.

Financial outlook



2023/24 will continue to be challenging for many charities; in many ways more difficult than during the pandemic. The trustees and CEO will work hard to seek alternative funding to subsidise charitable work streams and to reduce costs, whilst still continuing to support the increased needs of its beneficiaries.

The Ark Trust CIO

Statement of financial activities for the 12 months ended 31st March 2023

	Unrestricted funds 2023	Restricted funds 2023	Total funds 2023	Total funds 2022
	£	£	£	£
Income from:				
<i>Donations and legacies</i>				
Donations & gifts	8,058	1,255	9,313	4,517
Grants	16,457	139,756	156,213	123,543
Membership subs	0	40	40	0
<i>Charitable activities</i>				
Activity & holiday fees	43,056	0	43,056	18,810
Contracts	18,515	80,000	98,515	118,545
<i>Other trading activities</i>				
Interest income	1,674	0	1,674	1,082
Sale of fixed asset (surplus)	600	0	600	0
Shop sales	18,428	0	18,428	8,798
Less: COGS	<u>-1,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>-1,000</u>	<u>-1,337</u>
Total incoming resources	105,788	221,051	326,839	273,958
Resources expended				
<i>Staff & professional fees</i>				
Activity & project delivery	39,484	127,970	167,454	
Management/back office	<u>15,811</u>	<u>44,410</u>	<u>60,221</u>	
	55,295	172,380	227,675	200,643
Utilities & communications	5,208	5,564	10,772	11,395
Activity & holiday costs	4,217	7,771	11,987	14,648
General overheads	14,876	16,762	31,638	27,396
Equipment & repairs	3,866	12,177	16,044	10,861
Transport & vehicle costs	994	831	1,825	280
Rent, rates & insurance	<u>1,371</u>	<u>20,843</u>	<u>22,214</u>	<u>19,297</u>
Total resources expended	<u>85,828</u>	<u>236,327</u>	<u>322,155</u>	<u>284,520</u>
Surplus/loss	19,960	-15,276	4,684	

The Ark Trust CIO

Statement of financial activities for the 12 months ended 31st March 2023 continued..

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
Net incoming resources April 1, 2022	176,923	53,175	230,098
Transfers between funds	0	0	0
Surplus at March 31, 2023	19,960	-15,276	4,684
Funds at March 31, 2023	196,883	37,899	234,782

Breakdown of unrestricted reserves allocation

Allocated/committed	37,383
Unallocated/Free	159,500
Total	196,883

The Ark Trust CIO

Balance sheet as at 31st March 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
Fixed Assets		
Tangible assets	31,030	18,583
Current Assets		
Debtors	7,826	7,601
Cash at bank and in hand	256,850	305,087
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>7,480</u>	<u>12,576</u>
	272,156	325,264
Creditors		
Amounts falling due within one year	6,733	5,967
Accruals and deferred income	<u>61,671</u>	<u>107,782</u>
	68,404	113,749
Net Current Assets less liabilities	203,752	211,515
Total Assets less liabilities	<u>234,782</u>	<u>230,098</u>
Reserves		
Unrestricted fund	159,500	176,923
Allocated/committed funds	37,383	0
Restricted fund	<u>37,899</u>	<u>53,175</u>
Total reserves	<u>234,782</u>	<u>230,098</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements



These are the statements we have to make when we *file* (send) our accounts to the Charity Commission. They are not easy to read. If you would like to know more so you can understand them, please contact the Ark office who will arrange for you to have a briefing session.

Basis of preparation

Basis of accounting

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statements of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1st January 2015.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

Going concern

These accounts are prepared on a going concern basis; the charity has sufficient resources and the trustees have no reason to believe that the charity will not continue to operate next year or for the foreseeable future.

Change of accounting policy

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and no changes have been made to the accounting policies adopted.

Change to accounting estimates and material errors

No changes to accounting estimates have occurred in the reporting period (3.46 FRS 102 SORP).

No material prior year errors have been identified in the reporting period (3.47 FRS102 SORP)

Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable; this is upon notification of the interest paid/payable at the bank.

Income

Recognition of income

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when:

- The charity becomes entitled to the resources
- It is more likely than not that the charity will receive the resources
- The monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability

Offsetting

There has been no offsetting of assets and liabilities, or income and expenses, unless required or permitted by the FRS 102 SORP or FRS 102.

Volunteer help

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

Expenditure and liabilities

Liability recognition

Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

Governance and support costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Redundancy cost

The charity made no redundancy payments during the reporting period.

Creditors

The charity has creditors which are measured at settlement amounts less trade discounts.

Provisions for liabilities

A liability is measured on recognition at its historical cost and then subsequently measured at the best estimate of the amount required to settle the obligation at the reporting date.

Debtors

Debtors (including trade debtors and loans receivable) are measured on initial recognition at settlement amount after any trade discounts or amount advanced by the charity. Subsequently, they are measured at the cash value or other consideration expected to be received.

Assets

Tangible fixed assets for use by charity

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and cost at least £750.

They are valued at cost.

The depreciation method is straight line, spread across the assets' useful life taking into account any residual value.

	Motor Vehicles	Fixtures & Fittings	Equipment
	£	£	£
Cost or Value			
At 1st April 2022	3,750	21,988	16,641
Additions	17,500	6,630	1,013
Disposals	-3,750	0	-895
At 31st March 2023	17,500	28,618	16,759
Depreciation			
At 1st April 2022	3,000	10,034	10,762
Adjustments for disposals	-3,250	0	-895
Charge for the period	3,750	4,642	3,804
At 31st March 2023	3,500	14,676	13,671
Net Book Values			
At the start of the year	750	11,954	5,879
At the end of the year	14,000	13,942	3,088

Taxation

The charitable status of the organisation has been confirmed by the Inland Revenue. This means that the charity is not liable to corporation tax on its surplus or gains to the extent that they are applied for charitable purposes.

Trustees remuneration, expenses and related party transaction

None of the trustees received any remuneration for their role during the year and there were no related party transactions. Trustees are offered reimbursement for travel expenses incurred—to remove any barrier to prevent attendance at meetings.

Independent Examiner's Report

The Independent Examiner's report to the Trustees of The Ark Trust CIO is attached to this report.

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity trustee board by the following trustees:

Name: *MURIEL FLANLEY*


Signature: *M Flanley*

Date: *18/1/24*

Name: *Tony Robinson*

Signature: *T Robinson*

Date: *18-1-2024*

	<p>Contact information Tel 01344 266899 Email info@theark.org.uk</p>
---	---

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of "The Ark Trust Ltd"

I report on the financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 March 2023. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity trustees as a body, for my work.

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. The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of Chartered Institute of Management Accountants.

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
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's report

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:

which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Companies Act 2011
- to prepare Financial Statements which accord with the accounting records, and comply with the accounting requirements of the Companies Act 2011.

have not been met; or

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

Name: S Fogwill

Relevant professional qualification or body: Chartered Institute of Management Accountants

Address: 24 Woodville Close, Blackwater, Camberley, GU17 0BN

Date: 9 January 2024

S Fogwill

THE ARK TRUST CIO

England & Wales - Charity number 1098204

Accounts



Registered Charity No: 1098204



The Ark Trust CIO

Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st March 2022



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Charity Information

Charity Number 1098204

Address TRAX, Mill Ride (off Fernbank Road), North Ascot, Berkshire,
SL5 8JW

Trustees



Simon Adams (Resigned 20th January 2022)



Jon Codd



Tommy Docherty



Stephanie Guest



Muriel Hanley



Neil McGiffen



Antony Robinson (Chair)



Zoe Robinson



Peter Tobin



Susanna Tyrrell

Management



Andrea McCombie, Chief Executive

Bankers

Banks look after our money

CAF Bank

25 King's Avenue

West Malling

Kent

ME19 4JQ

HSBC UK

9 High Street

Bracknell

Berkshire

RG12 1DN

Redwood Bank Limited

The Nexus Building, Broadway

Letchworth Garden City

Hertfordshire

SG6 3TA

Independent Examiner

Sandra Fogwill, Camberley, Surrey, GU17 0BN

Sandra checks the money we received is spent how we said it was and that we have followed all the rules.

Trustees' Report

Structure, Governance and Management



In 2019 The Ark Trust Ltd, which was registered as a charity on the 25th June 2003, started the process to convert (change) to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) - The Ark Trust CIO.



This was finally completed on the 25th August 2020.



The Ark has a constitution. These are the rules that say what the charity does and how it is run.



The trustees delegate responsibility for the day-to-day operations and management of the charity to the Chief Executive.



Every year, at the AGM, members can put themselves forward to be appointed to the trustee board. The board can also co-opt (ask people to join) the board during the year if needed. The maximum number of trustees the charity can have is 12.



Training and support for new trustees is provided and all trustees must have a satisfactory DBS check before their appointment is finalised.



All trustees give their time for free.



As a user-led organisation, we work towards 75% of the trustee board being people who could use the charity's services or access it's activities.



Membership of The Ark costs £10 (one off payment). In the event of The Ark stopping, this membership fee is each member's maximum contribution.

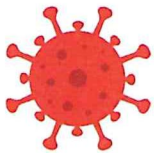
Risk Management



Risk management means that we have thought about things that could affect The Ark and found ways to minimise any possible risk.

The most serious risks to the charity are:

- Loss of key staff
- Loss of key contracts
- Incident in the building
- Changes in legislation
- Mistake or error in the advice or support given
- Misconduct or safeguarding issue
- Data Security breach
- Fraud or theft



Early in 2020 we identified that coronavirus could be a big problem and made sure the charity was as prepared as possible, this meant we could still support people and the charity remained financially stable. Coronavirus, or a similar pandemic, remains the biggest threat to the charity.

Public Benefit



The trustees confirm they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission and have kept this in mind when planning the services and activities of the charity.

Social Value

The Ark takes into account the wider economic, social and environmental impact of its actions and, through its Social Value Policy, works towards ensuring these are positive.



Fundraising Policy



The Ark is a member of the Fundraising Regulator—who provide advice and guidance for charities when raising funds.



The Ark does not pay professional fundraisers, individuals or companies to raise money for the charity.



When fundraising or asking for contributions towards activities, The Ark is mindful that many people who use it's services and attend activities are vulnerable and may also have a limited income.



The Ark does, when appropriate, raise funds from the public. We also have a donation button on our website.

Volunteers



The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

The contribution of volunteers across all of our projects and activities has always been essential; this year they received formal recognition as the organisation was nominated for a Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. The assessment process was completed in November/December 2021.

During the Platinum Jubilee in June 2022 we found out we had received the honour; the equivalent to an MBE.



In addition to our trustees, at the end of March 2022 we still had **389** active community response and vaccine volunteers and **16** volunteers that help us provide social activities, radio shows, maintain our buildings, support fund raising events and to run our shop.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world: indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." - Margaret Mead

Acknowledgements

We would like to acknowledge and thank the following groups and organisations for providing funding and other support during the year.

Arnold Clarke Community Fund

AmazonSmile

Baily Thomas Charitable Trust

Berkshire Primary Care

Bracknell Forest Council

Care Plus

Charities Aid Foundation

European Social Fund

Frimley Health and Care Integrated Care System

Get Berkshire Active

Good Things Foundation

Google

Great Western Railways

Gu Honey

iNet Telecoms Ltd

Kynock Vets, Crowthorne

Microsoft

Morrisons Foundation

NHS Charities Together

Postcode Neighbourhood Trust

Scheinberg Relief Fund

Tesco, Martins Heron, Bracknell

Winkfield Parish Council

The charity would also like to acknowledge the financial support from government in response to the covid pandemic; administered by HMRC and the local authority.

The charity would also like to acknowledge and thank the individuals who have donated to our work during the year.

Objectives and Aims

The Ark's objectives, our purpose, is to:



- Work with people in the South East of England with disabilities and/or long term health conditions, with carers of people with disabilities and/or long term health conditions and with young people who are not in education, employment or training.



- Support the community and voluntary sector in the area of operation of the charity, for the benefit of the public and to ensure the equality for all people to engage in citizenship.

The Ark aims to:



- Advocate the value of and to enhance the lives of children, young people and adults with disability by providing access to and engagement with creative arts, digital and new media.



- To use the creative arts, digital and new media as a means to inform and offer training to the wider community on disability issues.



- To provide information, advice and support to voluntary sector groups and individuals.



- To promote User Led Organisations.

When planning projects, services and activities we make sure they meet our objectives and aims. We also ask members and beneficiaries what help and support they need at events such as our AGM.

Achievements and Performance



Arts, Education & Workshops



By September 2021 all regular sessions and workshops were held in person, although during the winter wave of covid additional protection measures were introduced again.

The drama group were especially happy to be meeting in person and worked towards a show in the summer of 2022; to be performed in the community to friends and family.

Community Hub and vaccination centre support—HIVE



Volunteers at the vaccine centre over Christmas

We continued to work with Bracknell Forest Council and health partners to support local residents with tasks such as shopping and prescription collection when they are unable to do this themselves due to coronavirus, disability or ill health. **4844** tasks have been completed this year. As well as hosting a telephone support line, managing the volunteers and allocating jobs, we also provide information, advice and befriending and support our health and social care colleagues to remove barriers preventing hospital discharge.

We also manage the volunteers at one of the local vaccination centres. Over **650** volunteer hours have been given **each week**.

From the community response further projects, such as the Volunteer Transport Scheme have developed. We will manage these projects together as HIVE and will be recruiting a new member of staff.

Day Trips and Holidays—Out and About



In March we were finally able to go on our 80s holiday, after it had been postponed twice due to the pandemic. Everyone had a great time dancing to the live music and some even managed a walk to the beach — even if it was a little cold!



Under the new 'Out and About' project supported walks, day trips and activities such as Escape Rooms took place. Funding from Great Western Railways also helped us to support people to become more confident accessing the rail network.

"I have attended a few Out and About trips with The Ark which to my delight were easy to travel to and also did not cost much. It helped me talk to people I lost contact with. The trips were fun, enjoyable and made me laugh." - Steph



Festival Green Machine

Due to the risk no festivals were attended during this year, but 4 were booked in for the 2022 Festival season.

Forget-me-Knot



The shop re-opened in May but with reduced hours and restrictions in place.

In September we employed a full-time manager and, with restrictions eased, were also able to start hosting some of our community groups again — such as knit and natter.

Friday Night Project



Everyone loves a fancy dress night!

In September 2021 Friday Night Project returned. Unfortunately the venue no longer provides a bar or has a licence to sell alcohol, but there are no alternative local venues big enough that are available every week.

Between 65-75 people, and about 25 external support staff, usually attend. In January we had to close for a month due to rising numbers of covid cases.

We have had a few parties and when we hire a photobooth that is always popular.

We have tried to make Friday Night a 'Stay Up Late' event but, mainly due to lack of transport and external care company shift times, we have only managed to get to 9.15pm!

Night Owls



In June the group were finally able to meet up, initially outside, and have enjoyed events such as outdoor cinema, pub nights, bowling and Laser Quest.

All councils in Berkshire were asked how they ensure the service and support they provide enables people with learning disabilities to stay up late and receive person-centred care. The lack of meaningful responses from most areas shows there is more work to be done!

Older People's Consortium—Digital



Since the summer of 2021, we have been running a digital inclusion project on behalf of the consortium. So far the project has supported 34 people over 55. People have been supported to keep safe online, become more confident and to register with online services such as GPs, supermarkets and banks.

Successful funding applications meant we have been able to expand the project to include everyone over 18.

Project 73



In May the group were able to stop meeting on zoom and get out into the community; there was even a trip to a local Comicon. Working with some of the members, events aimed at people identifying as female were planned, but were cancelled, due to lack of interest. Plans for Project 73+ (for those over 30) are going well.

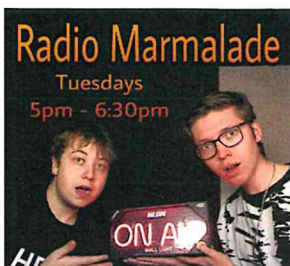
"I enjoy the activities I have been on and I enjoy the courses as well." - Peter

Quarantine Club



The group, now known as Friends of the Ark, continued until February 2022 but has now been 'paused'; if needed, it can be restarted at any time.

Radio Marmalade



5 of our regular DJs were able to return to the studio this year but supported sessions and lessons are still on hold.

The development of Radio Marmalade will be one of the priorities for 2022/23 and 2023/24.

SIGNAL4Carers

SIGNAL provides information, advice and support to unpaid carers (family/friends). By the end of the year 703 carers and 57 recent ex-carers were registered with the service.

Until June 2021 the majority of the service continued to be delivered by telephone and digitally; check in telephone calls, zoom calls and coffee mornings, newsletters, website, emails etc.

We were then able to start home visits—24 benefit forms were completed with carers and 8 other forms such as blue badge applications. Weekly carers craft groups, coffee mornings and dementia information sessions (in partnership with Bracknell Forest Dementia Advisory Service) resumed. Check-in telephone calls still continued and carers remain able to access support from the community hub.

As well as being a Carers Trust network partner, the issues faced by carers and the people they support are highlighted at multi-agency meetings/forums such as the Safeguarding Partnership Board, by taking part in work streams such as the Health & Wellbeing Board's work on isolation and loneliness and support offered is strengthened by partnership working as has been demonstrated through Bracknell's Older People's Consortium.



Future plans



Although it remains difficult to make plans with the current situation of living with coronavirus and the cost of living crisis, we will focus on providing as much support as we can to our members and beneficiaries, particularly when gaps in services and support have been identified, and keeping the finances of the charity healthy.

Last year the following plans for the organisation were made. Progress on delivery was, once again, disrupted by coronavirus but many have been achieved or work has started.

(Key: **Achieved** **Work in Progress** **Not started**)

Area of activity	Short-term plans	Longer term plans
Arts, Education & Workshops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Get all sessions back face-to-face Restart the education sessions from Umbrella (safer friendships/relationships) Look at starting multisensory work again 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Less focus on arts based activities Look at becoming a formal/accredited education provider again (Decided against) Retail skills Communication and language skills Life skills including self-advocacy Digital training
Community Hub and vaccination centre support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue to manage the covid community response and work with partners to support local people vulnerable to, or impacted by, coronavirus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To use the experience of delivering the hub to develop the HIVE projects
Day Trips and Holidays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To start a new project 'Out and About' which will provide day trips and short break holidays to small groups with shared interests Activities should be financially sustainable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look for an alternative Turkey and Tinsel venue Purchase an accessible MPV One-to-one buddies for community activities

Future plans continued...

Area of activity	Short-term plans	Longer term plans
Festival Green Machine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To get back in a field! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental training Access audits and training for external festival staff
Forget-me-Knot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-opening Recruitment of a shop manager Complete the community Defib project Online store and advertising 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop the community space and partnerships Upcycling workshops Expand supported employment and volunteering Become profitable through sales alone
Friday Night Project HIVE (community helping community)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To open again Voice and Inclusion Partnerships Community Transport Befriending Permanent community response to support disabled and older residents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To work on the launched projects; evaluate and develop into long-term sustainable projects
Night Owls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the variety of events (and locations) Volunteer transport (link to HIVE) Add <i>Stay up Late</i> tag to any event finishing after 9pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build up volunteer base Look at one-to-one activities (link up with Out and About) Campaigning Financial sustainability (membership fees etc.)
Project 73	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Making Project 73 more accessible to those who identify as female (different activities?) Financial sustainability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Start a new group for older age range Look at longer activities (weekends away etc.)

Future plans continued...

Area of activity	Short-term plans	Longer term plans
Quarantine Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none">To keep the group going for as long as needed. (Now known as Friends of The Ark)	
Radio Marmalade	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Start up DJ training again as soon as safe to do soNew websitePodcasts (including interviews with local bands)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Grow the station encouraging DJs that represent all members of our local community; varied musical tastes and types of show
Signal4Carers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Resume carer support groups and social eventsStart using the STAR outcome tool (trials showed it was not useful)Work towards the Carers Trust Quality Mark	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Secure an extension/new contract beyond Jan 2023Expand service (currently adult carers of adults)Explore the possibility of a regulated respite care service
General organisational development/business plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">NCVO Trusted Charity quality markSeek funding for organisational development and resilience workIncrease membership and participants in the Ark Assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Business plan to take the organisation through to 2027



Statement of Financial Activities



Financial review

The financial results for the year were better than the trustees' expectations and the global coronavirus pandemic confirms the prudence of recent years' financial policy to build up to the optimum (best) amount of unrestricted reserves. This means the charity again enters the next financial year in a strong position to be able to survive any continuing negative financial impacts of the pandemic and now the cost of living crisis.

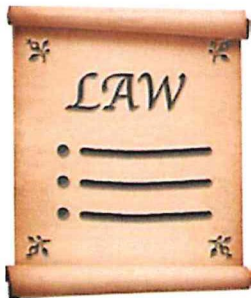


Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The charity's trustees must make sure that the charity keeps a record of the money it gets in and the money it spends.

Each year the charity must prepare their accounts and get them audited or examined by someone who is not part of The Ark. This means that someone who knows a lot about money, like an accountant, makes sure the accounts are okay.

In preparing these accounts, the Trustees follow best practice and:



- Select suitable accounting policies and then follow them
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- Financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011

The trustees are also responsible for protecting the assets of The Ark. Assets means a useful or valuable thing.

Under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 the trustees consider that although an audit is not required for this year, an independent examination is needed.



Remuneration policy for key management personnel

No employees received employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) of more than £60,000 for the reporting period.



Investment policy

The trustees have the power to invest the charity's funds and have made the decision, at this time, to take no risks financially and have placed £80,000 into a high interest, 90 day notice account.



Reserves policy

The optimum, or best, level of reserves is based on 6 months turnover (income) minimum and no more than 9 months. Restricted reserves do not count towards this figure. We end this year with unrestricted reserves of £176,923, which puts the charity in a good position going into 2022/23—which may prove very difficult financially not only due to the continuing impact of the coronavirus pandemic but with no additional financial support from Government and rising costs and inflation.



Restricted funds

Restricted funds are used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor or contracting party. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund together with a fair allocation of management and support costs. Where funds are not specifically allocated against expenditure in that year the balance is deferred and added to the balance brought forward on the restricted funds. It will be used in subsequent years in line with the restrictions placed by the donor or stipulated in the contract.



Particulars of any outstanding Guarantee given by the charity

The trustees declare that the charity has given no guarantee where potential liability is outstanding at the date of the statement of assets and liabilities other than the restricted funds detailed in the income and expenditure statement and mentioned above. This includes financial support received to the following projects: Community Defibrillator, Community Hub, Organisational Resilience, Supported Employment, Transport and Workshops.



Particulars of any outstanding debt

The trustees declare that the charity has no outstanding debts which are secured by an express charge on any of the assets of the charity at the date of the statement of assets and liabilities.



Financial outlook

2022/23 will continue to be challenging for many charities; in many ways more difficult than at the height of the pandemic. The trustees and CEO will work hard to seek alternative funding to subsidise charitable work streams and to reduce costs, whilst still continuing to support the increased needs of its beneficiaries.

The Ark Trust CIO

	Unrestricted funds 2022	Restricted funds 2022	Total funds 2022	Total funds 2021
	£	£	£	£
Income from:				
<i>Donations and legacies</i>				
Donations & gifts	4,517	0	4,517	3,329
Grants	19,205	104,338	123,543	111,431
Membership subs	0	0	0	60
<i>Charitable activities</i>				
Activity & holiday fees	18,810	0	18,810	1,297
Contracts	21,381	97,164	118,545	185,324
<i>Other trading activities</i>				
Room hire	0	0	0	20
Interest income	1,082	0	1,082	711
Shop sales	8,798	0	8,798	100
Less: COGS	<u>-1,337</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>-1,337</u>	<u>-313</u>
Total incoming resources	72,456	201,502	273,958	301,959
Resources expended				
Staff & professional fees	53,695	146,948	200,643	223,740
Utilities & communications	5,754	5,641	11,395	11,421
Activity & holiday costs	9,395	5,253	14,648	6,865
General overheads	15,895	11,501	27,396	36,876
Equipment & repairs	4,628	6,233	10,861	8,805
Transport & vehicle costs	280	0	280	826
Rent, rates & insurance	<u>16,491</u>	<u>2,806</u>	<u>19,297</u>	<u>13,314</u>
Total resources expended	<u>106,138</u>	<u>178,382</u>	<u>284,520</u>	<u>301,847</u>
Net incoming resources April 1, 2021	210,605	30,055	240,660	
Transfers between funds	0	0	0	
Surplus at March 31, 2022	-33,682	23,120	-10,562	
Funds at March 31, 2022	176,923	53,175	230,098	

The Ark Trust CIO

	2022	2021
	£	£
Fixed Assets		
Tangible assets	18,583	21,243
Current Assets		
Debtors	7,601	7,333
Cash at bank and in hand	305,087	219,209
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>12,576</u>	<u>21,054</u>
	325,264	247,596
Creditors		
Amounts falling due within one year	5,967	2,760
Accruals and deferred income	<u>107,782</u>	<u>25,419</u>
	113,749	28,179
Net Current Assets less liabilities	211,515	219,417
Total Assets less liabilities	<u>230,098</u>	<u>240,660</u>
Reserves		
Unrestricted fund	176,923	210,605
Restricted fund	<u>53,175</u>	<u>30,055</u>
Total reserves	<u>230,098</u>	<u>240,660</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements



These are the statements we have to make when we *file* (send) our accounts to the Charity Commission. They are not easy to read. If you would like to know more so you can understand them, please contact the Ark office who will arrange for you to have a briefing session.

Basis of preparation

Basis of accounting

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statements of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1st January 2015.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

Going concern

These accounts are prepared on a going concern basis; the charity has sufficient resources and the trustees have no reason to believe that the charity will not continue to operate next year or for the foreseeable future.

Change of accounting policy

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and no changes have been made to the accounting policies adopted.

Change to accounting estimates and material errors

No changes to accounting estimates have occurred in the reporting period (3.46 FRS 102 SORP).

No material prior year errors have been identified in the reporting period (3.47 FRS102 SORP)

Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable; this is upon notification of the interest paid/payable at the bank.

Income

Recognition of income

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when:

- The charity becomes entitled to the resources
- It is more likely than not that the charity will receive the resources
- The monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability

Offsetting

There has been no offsetting of assets and liabilities, or income and expenses, unless required or permitted by the FRS 102 SORP or FRS 102.

Volunteer help

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

Expenditure and liabilities

Liability recognition

Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

Governance and support costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Redundancy cost

The charity made no redundancy payments during the reporting period.

Creditors

The charity has creditors which are measured at settlement amounts less trade discounts.

Provisions for liabilities

A liability is measured on recognition at its historical cost and then subsequently measured at the best estimate of the amount required to settle the obligation at the reporting date.

Debtors

Debtors (including trade debtors and loans receivable) are measured on initial recognition at settlement amount after any trade discounts or amount advanced by the charity. Subsequently, they are measured at the cash value or other consideration expected to be received.

Assets

Tangible fixed assets for use by charity

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and cost at least £750.

They are valued at cost.

The depreciation method is straight line, spread across the assets' useful life taking into account any residual value.

	Motor Vehicles	Fixtures & Fittings	Equipment
	£	£	£
Cost or Value			
At 1st April 2021	3,750	20,988	11,641
Additions	0	1,000	5,000
Disposals	0	0	0
At 31st March 2022	3,750	21,988	16,641
Depreciation			
At 1st April 2021	2,000	6,719	6,467
Charge for the period	1,000	3,315	4,295
At 31st March 2022	3,000	10,034	10,762
Net Book Values			
At the start of the year	1,750	14,269	5,224
At the end of the year	750	11,954	5,879

Taxation

The charitable status of the organisation has been confirmed by the Inland Revenue. This means that the charity is not liable to corporation tax on its surplus or gains to the extent that they are applied for charitable purposes.

Trustees remuneration, expenses and related party transaction

None of the trustees received any remuneration for their role during the year and there were no related party transactions. Trustees are offered reimbursement for travel expenses incurred—to remove any barrier to prevent attendance at meetings.

Independent Examiner's Report

The Independent Examiner's report to the Trustees of The Ark Trust CIO is attached to this report.

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity trustee board by the following trustees:

Name: Tony ROBINSON

Signature: 

Date: 10-11-2022

Name: 

Signature: 

Date: 10.11.2022



Contact information

Tel **01344 266899**

Email **info@theark.org.uk**

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of "The Ark Trust Ltd"

I report on the financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 March 2022. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity trustees as a body, for my work.

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. The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of Chartered Institute of Management Accountants.

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
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's report

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:

which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Companies Act 2011
- to prepare Financial Statements which accord with the accounting records, and comply with the accounting requirements of the Companies Act 2011.

have not been met; or

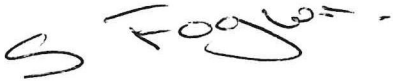
to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name: S Fogwill

Relevant professional qualification or body: Chartered Institute of Management Accountants

Address: 24 Woodville Close, Blackwater, Camberley, GU17 0BN

Date: 21 October 2022

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Fogwill', with a horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

THE ARK TRUST CIO

England & Wales - Charity number 1098204

Accounts



Registered Charity No: 1098204



The Ark Trust CIO

Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st March 2021



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Charity Information

Charity Number 1098204

Address TRAX, Mill Ride (off Fernbank Road), North Ascot, Berkshire,
SL5 8JW

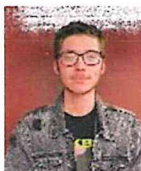
Trustees



Simon Adams



Jon Codd



Tommy Docherty



Stephanie Guest



Muriel Hanley



Neil McGiffen



Antony Robinson (Chair)



Zoe Robinson



Peter Tobin



Susanna Tyrrell

Management



Andrea McCombie, Chief Executive

Bankers

Banks look after our money

CAF Bank

25 King’s Avenue
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

HSBC UK

9 High Street
Bracknell
Berkshire
RG12 1DN

Redwood Bank Limited

The Nexus Building, Broadway
Letchworth Garden City
Hertfordshire
SG6 3TA

Independent Examiner

Sandra Fogwill, Camberley, Surrey, GU17 0BN

Sandra checks the money we received is spent how we said it was and that we have followed all the rules.

Trustees' Report

Structure, Governance and Management



In 1999 The Ark Trust Ltd, which was registered as a charity on the 25th June 2003, started the process to convert (change) to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) - The Ark Trust CIO.



This was finally completed on the 25th August 2020.



The Ark has a constitution. These are the rules that say what the charity does and how it is run



The trustees delegate responsibility for the day-to-day operations and management of the charity to the Chief Executive.



Every year, at the AGM, members can put themselves forward to be appointed to the trustee board. The board can also co-opt (ask people to join) the board during the year if needed. The maximum number of trustees the charity can have is 12.



Training and support for new trustees is provided and all trustees must have a satisfactory DBS check before their appointment is finalised.



All trustees give their time for free.



As a user-led organisation, we work towards 75% of the trustee board being people who could use the charity's services or access it's activities.



Membership of The Ark costs £10 (one off payment). In the event of The Ark stopping, this membership fee is each member's maximum contribution.

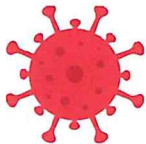
Risk Management



Risk management means that we have thought about things that could affect The Ark and found ways to minimise any possible risk.

The most serious risks to the charity are:

- Loss of key staff
- Loss of key contracts
- Incident in the building
- Changes in legislation
- Mistake or error in the advice or support given
- Misconduct or safeguarding issue
- Data Security breach
- Fraud or theft



Early in 2020 we identified that coronavirus could be a big problem and made sure the charity was as prepared as possible and this meant we could still support people and the charity remained financially stable. Coronavirus remains the biggest threat to the charity.

Public Benefit



The trustees confirm they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission and have kept this in mind when planning the services and activities of the charity.

Social Value

The Ark takes into account the wider economic, social and environmental impact of its actions and, through its Social Value Policy, works towards ensuring these are positive.



Fundraising Policy



The Ark is a member of the Fundraising Regulator—who provide advice and guidance for charities when raising funds.



The Ark does not pay professional fundraisers, individuals or companies to raise money for the charity.



When fundraising or asking for contributions towards activities, The Ark is mindful that many people who use it's services and attend activities are vulnerable and may also have a limited income.



The Ark does, when appropriate, raise funds from the public. We also have a donation button on our website.

Volunteers



The contribution of volunteers across all of our projects and activities has always been essential—but even more so this year.



Nearly **1800** members of the community volunteered at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic to help us support older people, those with disabilities and others with or vulnerable to coronavirus. At the end of March 2021 we still had **547** active community response volunteers.



Volunteers helped us support **2,548** people, performing **11,848** tasks such as shopping, collecting medication and dog walking. In December 2021 our local GPs opened a vaccination centre and The Ark agreed to deploy and manage our volunteers to support the centre—up to **40** volunteers a day were required. By the end of March 2021, our volunteers had provided **5559** hours of support to the NHS.

Acknowledgements

We would like to acknowledge and thank the following groups and organisations for providing funding and other support during the year.

AmazonSmile

Baily Thomas Charitable Trust

Berkshire Community Foundation

Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

Berkshire Primary Care

Berkshire Safeguarding Partnership Boards

Bracknell Forest Council

Google

Gu Honey

Hollywood Bowl, Bracknell

iNet Telecoms Ltd

Kynock Vets, Crowthorne

Lloyds Bank

Microsoft

PayPal Giving

Postcode Neighbourhood Trust

Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead

Shanly Foundation

Tesco, Martins Heron, Bracknell

Waitrose & Partners

Warfield Parish Council

Winkfield Parish Council

The charity would also like to acknowledge the financial support from government in response to the covid pandemic, administered by HMRC and the local authority.

The charity would also like to acknowledge and thank the individuals who have donated to our work during the year.

Objectives and Aims

The Ark's objectives, our purpose, is to:



- Work with people in the South East of England with disabilities and/or long term health conditions, with carers of people with disabilities and/or long term health conditions and with young people who are not in education, employment or training.



- Support the community and voluntary sector in the area of operation of the charity, for the benefit of the public and to ensure the equality for all people to engage in citizenship.

The Ark aims to:



- Advocate the value of and to enhance the lives of children, young people and adults with disability by providing access to and engagement with creative arts, digital and new media.



- To use the creative arts, digital and new media as a means to inform and offer training to the wider community on disability issues.



- To provide information, advice and support to voluntary sector groups and individuals.



- To promote User Led Organisations.

When planning projects, services and activities we make sure they meet our objectives and aims. We also ask members and beneficiaries what help and support they need at events such as our AGM.

Achievements and Performance



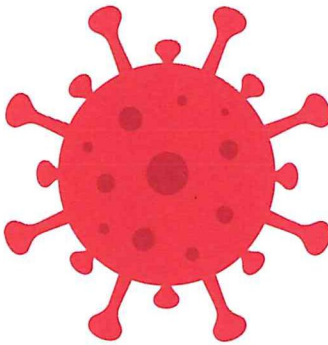
Arts, Education & Workshops



Until September 2020 we were not able to run any of our regular sessions. As covid restrictions relaxed we were able to offer some sessions such as crafty coffee. Additional safety measures such as smaller groups and the wearing of face shields were put in place.

The drama sessions started online and as many of the original group as possible were supported to participate—and we even had some new members! The group even managed to perform a virtual show for family and friends.

Community Hub and vaccination centre support



Initially under the Healthwatch service (which we ran until December 2020) and then directly under the management of the Ark, we worked with Bracknell Forest Council and other local charities, such as the Foodbank, CAB and Involve, to support local residents during the pandemic. Our role is to host a telephone support line, 7 days a week, 8am-10pm, manage the volunteers and allocate jobs. Since December 2020 we have also managed the volunteers for our local vaccination centre.

Although the hub is not as busy as earlier in the year, this vital work continues and we are also working with our partners to develop post-covid recovery projects.

Day Trips and Holidays



There were no holidays during the year as, once again, the March 80s weekend break was postponed.

As soon as it was allowed, we arranged outdoor coffee meet ups, walking groups and picnics in the local area.

Festival Green Machine



Unfortunately there were no festivals for the volunteer team to attend during this year, but we kept in contact with our volunteers and look forward to camping in a muddy field sometime in the not too distant future.

Forget-me-Knot



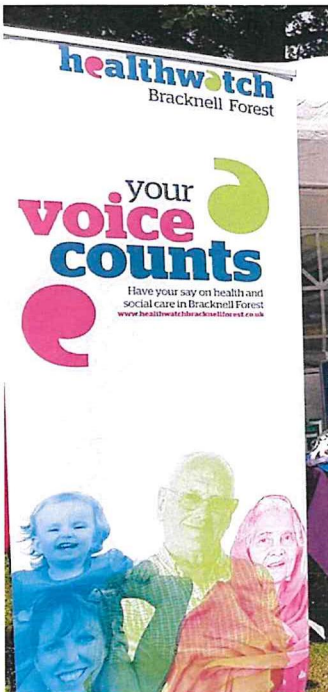
The shop remained shut during the whole year but was able to cover it's overheads due to government and local authority coronavirus financial support schemes.

Friday Night Project



Due to coronavirus restrictions we have not been able to hold Friday Night Project during the year. Staff and volunteers broadcast live on Radio Marmalade during Friday evenings as a way to stay connected to members; people can request songs and join in on the chat.

Local Healthwatch



A large part of a local Healthwatch service is to engage with the community and, other than online, we were not able to do this during the pandemic. In both areas we covered, Windsor, Ascot and Maidenhead and Bracknell Forest, we focused on becoming a trusted source of coronavirus information and signposting and referring residents to agencies for further help and support. We also assisted public health by carrying out online surveys about people's physical and mental health during lockdown and their concerns going forward. In Bracknell Forest we also managed the community hub.

In January 2021 all of the East Berkshire services were merged into one service as part of local authority cost savings. This process started in the previous year but was temporarily put on hold during the pandemic. The new service is now provided by a large regional organisation.

Night Owls



The group met regularly on zoom throughout the year. This did mean that some people, who often found transport difficult for community meet ups, were able to join in more.

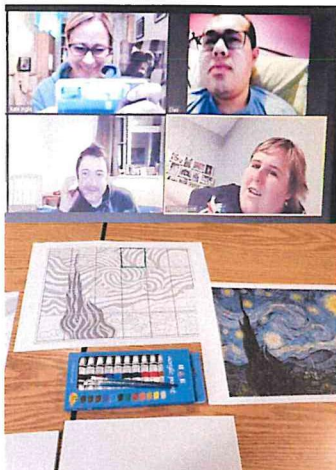
Project 73



Like all our activities, the group was impacted by coronavirus. The weekly group met online during lock down but as soon as they were able to, arranged outdoor meet ups and eventually small indoor events (until the second lock down).

The group also took part in the Aviva Crowd Funding project and were able to raise some funds. Many members also joined in with Quarantine Club and always did well in the quizzes!

Quarantine Club



At the start of the first lockdown, we set up a safe and private online group to help people who would normally come to our workshops and groups keep in touch with each other. Staff and volunteers arranged activities and made videos and got everyone involved.

We also coordinated a group art project, music video and a virtual walking challenge. Art and craft materials, activity packs and gardening sets were also delivered by staff.

At the height of the pandemic the group had almost 200 members. People tell us it helped them deal with loneliness and anxiety.

Radio Marmalade



Although we were unable to run DJ courses and lessons, Radio Marmalade was able to broadcast throughout the year. Initially this was only on a Friday evening with Ark staff volunteering to act as regular DJs—a big thank you to Chris, Kate and Mark for keeping everyone entertained— but, when restrictions allowed, our regular DJs were able to return.

SIGNAL4Carers



SIGNAL provides independent information, advice, support, training and other help for adult unpaid carers (friends, family) of adults with disabilities/health conditions in Bracknell Forest. Many of the activities, such as support groups and carers social events, were not able to go ahead during this year. Online sessions were provided but many of the carers are older people and some are not confident with going online.

At the start of the pandemic all carers were contacted to assess their risk of social isolation/support and offered ongoing phone calls. Agreement from partner organisations was also obtained that carers of people 'shielding' from the virus would also be supported by the community hub and response.

"Big thank you for all your time and support. I have been grateful for your phone calls during the last year especially as this pandemic has affected all of us."

When the covid vaccination process started, we worked with NHS colleagues to ensure all unpaid carers could access the vaccination as soon as possible and that carers medical notes were correctly coded as unpaid carers—for any future vaccinations etc.

Future plans



Although it remains difficult in the current situation of living with coronavirus to make plans, we will focus on providing as much support as we can to our members and beneficiaries, particularly when gaps in services and support have been identified, and keeping the finances of the charity healthy.

After feedback from members and beneficiaries, gaps identified while running the covid community response and a trustee planning meeting, the following plans for the organisation are:

Area of activity	Short-term plans	Longer term plans
Arts, Education & Workshops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get all sessions back face-to-face • Restart the education sessions from Umbrella (safer friendships/relationships) • Look at starting multisensory work again 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less focus on arts based activities • Look at becoming a formal/accredited education provider again • Retail skills • Communication and language skills • Life skills including self-advocacy • Digital training
Community Hub and vaccination centre support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To continue to manage the covid community response and work with partners to support local people vulnerable to, or impacted by, coronavirus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To use the experience of delivering the hub to develop the HIVE projects
Day Trips and Holidays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To start a new project '<i>Out and About</i>' which will provide day trips and short break holidays to small groups with shared interests • Activities should be financially sustainable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look for an alternative Turkey and Tinsel venue • Purchase an accessible MPV • One-to-one buddies for community activities

Future plans continued...

Area of activity	Short-term plans	Longer term plans
Festival Green Machine	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To get back in a field!	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Environmental training• Access audits and training for external festival staff
Forget-me-Knot	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Re-opening• Recruitment of a shop manager• Complete the community Defib project• Online store and advertising	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop the community space and partnerships• Upcycling workshops• Expand supported employment and volunteering• Become profitable through sales alone
Friday Night Project HIVE (community helping community)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To open again• Voice and Inclusion Partnerships• Community Transport• Befriending• Permanent community response to support disabled and older residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To work on the launched projects; evaluate and develop into long-term sustainable projects
Night Owls	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase the variety of events (and locations)• Volunteer transport (link to HIVE)• Add <i>Stay up Late</i> tag to any event finishing after 9pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Build up volunteer base• Look at one-to-one activities (link up with Out and About)• Campaigning• Financial sustainability (membership fees etc.)
Project 73	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Making Project 73 more accessible to those who identify as female (different activities?)• Financial sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Start a new group for older age range• Look at longer activities (weekends away etc.)

Future plans continued...

Area of activity

Short-term plans

Longer term plans

Quarantine Club

- To keep the group going for as long as needed. (Now known as Friends of The Ark)

Radio Marmalade

- Start up DJ training again as soon as safe to do so
- New website
- Podcasts (including interviews with local bands)
- Grow the station encouraging DJs that represent all members of our local community; varied musical tastes and types of show

Signal4Carers

- Resume carer support groups and social events
- Start using the STAR outcome tool
- Work towards the Carers Trust Quality Mark
- Secure an extension/new contract beyond Jan 2023
- Expand service (currently adult carers of adults)
- Explore the possibility of a regulated respite care service

General organisational development/business plan

- NCVO Trusted Charity quality mark
- Seek funding for organisational development and resilience work
- Increase membership and participants in the Ark Assembly
- Business plan to take the organisation through to 2027



Statement of Financial Activities



Financial review

The financial results for the year were in line with the trustees' expectations and the global coronavirus pandemic confirms the prudence of recent years' financial policy to build up to the optimum (best) amount of unrestricted reserves. This means the charity enters the next financial year in a strong position to be able to survive any continuing negative financial impacts of the pandemic.

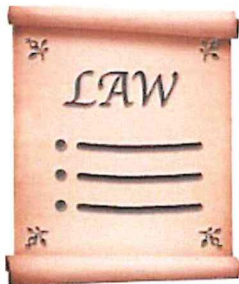


Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The charity's trustees must make sure that the charity keeps a record of the money it gets in and the money it spends.

Each year the charity must prepare their accounts and get them audited or examined by someone who is not part of The Ark. This means that someone who knows a lot about money, like an accountant, makes sure the accounts are okay.

In preparing these accounts, the Trustees follow best practice and:



- Select suitable accounting policies and then follow them
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- Financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011

The trustees are also responsible for protecting the assets of The Ark. Assets means a useful or valuable thing.

Under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 the trustees consider that although an audit is not required for this year, an independent examination is needed.



Remuneration policy for key management personnel

No employees received employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) of more than £60,000 for the reporting period.



Investment policy

The trustees have the power to invest the charity's funds and have made the decision, at this time, to take no risks financially and have placed £80,000 into a high interest, 90 day notice account.

Reserves policy



The optimum, or best, level of reserves is based on 6 months turnover (income). And no more than 9 months. Restricted reserves do not count towards this figure. We end this year with unrestricted reserves of £210,605, which puts the charity in a good position going into 2021/22—which may prove very difficult financially due to the aftermath and impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

Restricted funds



Restricted funds are used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor or contracting party. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund together with a fair allocation of management and support costs. Where funds are not specifically allocated against expenditure in that year the balance is deferred and added to the balance brought forward on the restricted funds. It will be used in subsequent years in line with the restrictions placed by the donor or stipulated in the contract.

Particulars of any outstanding Guarantee given by the charity



The trustees declare that the charity has given no guarantee where potential liability is outstanding at the date of the statement of assets and liabilities other than the restricted funds detailed in the income and expenditure statement and mentioned above. This includes financial support received, through donations and grants, to the following projects: Community Defibrillator, Community Hub, Stay Up Late, Supported Employment and Workshops.

Particulars of any outstanding debt



The trustees declare that the charity has no outstanding debts which are secured by an express charge on any of the assets of the charity at the date of the statement of assets and liabilities.

Financial outlook



2021/22 will continue to be challenging for many charities; in some ways more difficult than at the height of the pandemic. The trustees and CEO will work hard to adapt activities and seek alternative funding to subsidise charitable work streams. The charity will also continue to apply for all relevant government financial support.

The Ark Trust CIO

Statement of financial activities for the 12 months ended 31st March 2021

	Unrestricted funds 2021	Restricted funds 2021	Total funds 2021	Total funds 2020
	£	£	£	£
Income from:				
<i>Donations and legacies</i>				
Donations & gifts	1,447	1,882	3,329	8,898
Grants	110,911	520	111,431	4,060
Membership subs	0	60	60	0
<i>Charitable activities</i>				
Activity & holiday fees	1,297	0	1,297	42,427
Contracts	7,224	178,100	185,324	326,851
<i>Other trading activities</i>				
Room hire	20	0	20	905
Interest income	711	0	711	771
Shop sales	100	0	100	11,912
Less: COGS	<u>-313</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>-313</u>	<u>-3,788</u>
Total incoming resources	121,397	180,562	301,959	392,036
Resources expended				
Staff & professional fees	59,756	163,984	223,740	231,977
Utilities & communications	6,454	4,967	11,421	10,508
Activity & holiday costs	6,855	10	6,865	23,066
General overheads	18,819	18,057	36,876	39,147
Equipment & repairs	6,768	2,037	8,805	6,733
Transport & vehicle costs	813	13	826	22,824
Rent, rates & insurance	<u>11,778</u>	<u>1,536</u>	<u>13,314</u>	<u>36,042</u>
Total resources expended	<u>111,243</u>	<u>190,604</u>	<u>301,847</u>	<u>370,297</u>
Net incoming resources	200,451	40,097	240,548	
April 1, 2020				
Transfers between funds	0	0	0	
Surplus at March 31, 2021	10,154	-10,042	112	
Funds at March 31, 2021	210,605	30,055	240,660	

The Ark Trust CIO

Balance sheet as at 31st March 2021

	2021	2020
	£	£
Fixed Assets		
Tangible assets	21,243	37,969
Current Assets		
Debtors	7,333	27,789
Cash at bank and in hand	219,209	180,125
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>21,054</u>	<u>26,298</u>
	247,596	234,212
Creditors		
Amounts falling due within one year	2,760	4,842
Accruals and deferred income	<u>25,419</u>	<u>26,791</u>
	28,179	31,633
Net Current Assets less liabilities	219,417	202,579
Total Assets less liabilities	<u>240,660</u>	<u>240,548</u>
Reserves		
Unrestricted fund	210,605	200,451
Restricted fund	30,055	<u>40,097</u>
Total reserves	<u>240,660</u>	<u>240,548</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements



These are the statements we have to make when we *file* (send) our accounts to the Charity Commission. They are not easy to read. If you would like to know more so you can understand them, please contact the Ark office who will arrange for you to have a briefing session.

Basis of preparation

Basis of accounting

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statements of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1st January 2015.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

Going concern

These accounts are prepared on a going concern basis; the charity has sufficient resources and the trustees have no reason to believe that the charity will not continue to operate next year or for the foreseeable future.

Change of accounting policy

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and no changes have been made to the accounting policies adopted.

Change to accounting estimates and material errors

No changes to accounting estimates have occurred in the reporting period (3.46 FRS 102 SORP).

No material prior year errors have been identified in the reporting period (3.47 FRS102 SORP)

Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable; this is upon notification of the interest paid/payable at the bank.

Income

Recognition of income

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when:

- The charity becomes entitled to the resources
- It is more likely than not that the charity will receive the resources
- The monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability

Offsetting

There has been no offsetting of assets and liabilities, or income and expenses, unless required or permitted by the FRS 102 SORP or FRS 102.

Volunteer help

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

Expenditure and liabilities

Liability recognition

Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

Governance and support costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Redundancy cost

The charity made no redundancy payments during the reporting period.

Creditors

The charity has creditors which are measured at settlement amounts less trade discounts.

Provisions for liabilities

A liability is measured on recognition at its historical cost and then subsequently measured at the best estimate of the amount required to settle the obligation at the reporting date.

Debtors

Debtors (including trade debtors and loans receivable) are measured on initial recognition at settlement amount after any trade discounts or amount advanced by the charity. Subsequently, they are measured at the cash value or other consideration expected to be received.

Assets

Tangible fixed assets for use by charity

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and cost at least £750.

They are valued at cost.

The depreciation method is straight line, spread across the assets' useful life taking into account any residual value.

	Motor Vehicles	Fixtures & Fittings	Equipment
	£	£	£
Cost or Value			
At 1st April 2020	24,690	20,988	11,641
Additions	0	0	0
Disposals	20,940	0	0
At 31st March 2021	3,750	20,988	11,641
Depreciation			
At 1st April 2020	12,064	3,721	3,565
Charge for the period	4,688	2,998	2,852
	16,752	6,719	6,417
Net Book Values			
At the start of the year	12,626	17,267	8,076
At the end of the year	1,750	14,269	5,224
Asset disposal			
Cost or value	20,940		
Accumulated depreciation	(14,752)		
Proceeds from sale	<u>(3,000)</u>		
Profit/loss	(3,188)		

Sale of the fixed asset—this was not planned however, as the vehicle was categorised as a HGV, our permit meant that the vehicle had to be kept in a certain location. At the start of the pandemic this was suddenly no longer available to us so we had to sell, and sell quickly, so were unable to maximise the financial return on the asset.

Taxation

The charitable status of the organisation has been confirmed by the Inland Revenue. This means that the charity is not liable to corporation tax on its surplus or gains to the extent that they are applied for charitable purposes.

Trustees remuneration, expenses and related party transaction

None of the trustees received any remuneration for their role during the year and there were no related party transactions. Trustees are offered reimbursement for travel expenses incurred—to remove any barrier to prevent attendance at meetings.

Independent Examiner's Report

The Independent Examiner's report to the Trustees of The Ark Trust CIO is attached to this report.

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity trustee board by the following trustees:

Name: NEIL MCGIFFEN

Signature: 

Date: 20.01.2022.

Name: TONY ROBINSON

Signature: 

Date: 20-1-2022

	<p>Contact information Tel 01344 266899 Email info@theark.org.uk</p>
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Independent examiner's report to the trustees of "The Ark Trust Ltd"

I report on the financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 March 2021. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity trustees as a body, for my work.

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. The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of Chartered Institute of Management Accountants.

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
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's report

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:

which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Companies Act 2011
- to prepare Financial Statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Companies Act 2011.

have not been met; or

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

Name: S Fogwill

Relevant professional qualification or body: Chartered Institute of Management Accountants

Address: 24 Woodville Close, Blackwater, Camberley, GU17 0BN

Date: 17 January 2022

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Fogwill', with a horizontal line extending to the right.