EAST READING HORTICULTURAL THERAPY AND COMMUNITY BASED TRAINING LIMITED

England & Wales · Charity number 1099441

Details

Other names	RIDGELINE TRUST
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	04760734
Registered	2003-09-15
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Ridgeline Trust Therapeutic Garden 25 Whiteknights Road Reading RG6 7BY
Phone	07535 636018
Email	admin@ridgelinetrust.org.uk
Website	www.ridgelinetrust.org.uk

Activities

Objects: TO RELIEVE PERSONS, IN PARTICULAR BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY THOSE WHO ARE PHYSICALLY OR MENTALLY ILL DISABLED OR HANDICAPPED (WHETHER PERMANENTLY OR TEMPORARILY), OR WHO ARE IN NECESSITOUS CIRCUMSTANCES BY THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE USE OF LAND THROUGH HORTICULTURE, AGRICULTURE, AND GARDENING IN ALL THEIR FORMS.

Activities: Commonly known as the Ridgeline Trust, we have developed a Therapeutic Garden with meeting and teaching facilities in a pavilion at 25 Whiteknights Road, in East Reading. Supervised gardening helps people with experience of mental and or physical difficulties and other problems to regain lost skills, to learn new skills, to improve social skills and to help build confidence and self-esteem.

Downloaded from opencharities.uk/ew/1099441

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Disability, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies

Geography

- Reading
- West Berkshire
- Wokingham

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£64,383	£53,801	-	-
2024-03-31	£54,774	£46,897	-	-
2023-03-31	£43,882	£41,152	-	-
2022-03-31	£39,602	£45,338	-	-
2021-03-31	£29,211	£29,042	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Dr Stuart James Donald		2022-02-16
Jane Ruse		2022-02-16
John Collins		2006-03-16
Karine Ferreira		2024-05-21
Margaret Mary Osborne		2018-10-15
Matthew James		2024-05-21

Downloaded from opencharities.uk/ew/1099441

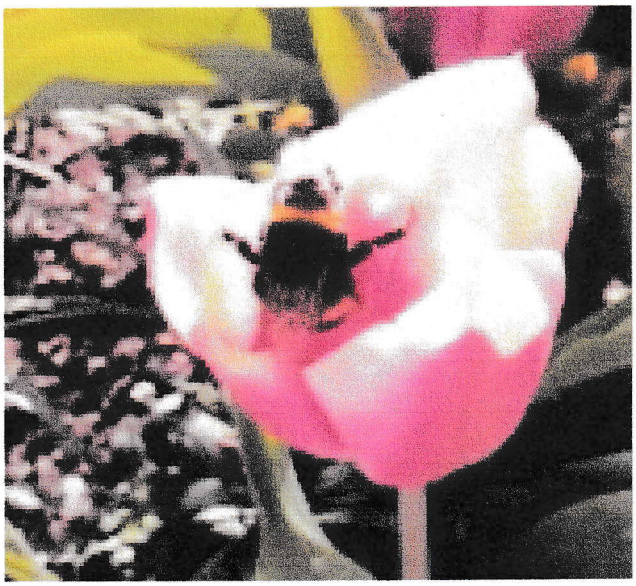
EAST READING HORTICULTURAL THERAPY AND COMMUNITY BASED TRAINING LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 1099441

Accounts

ridgeline trust
growing together

Ridgeline Trust – East Reading Horticultural Therapy and Community-Based Training Ltd



Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2025

Foreword

Ridgeline's horticultural therapy sessions directly improve the health, wellbeing, and confidence of participants, many of whom are living with long-term conditions, learning disabilities, or mental health challenges. Through structured gardening activities, they gain skills, independence, and social connections, reducing isolation. School partnerships and community events extend these benefits to young people and the wider Reading community, ensuring our charitable purposes are delivered in a tangible and measurable way.

In the year ending 31-March-2025, we grew our services by adding additional school sessions and a new session for adults on Monday mornings. We helped approximately 100 people benefit from horticultural therapy, an increase of 25 on the previous year.

We are grateful to local charities for supporting our social prescribing sessions, as well as to other sources of funding which have helped with garden developments benefiting our client gardeners. Our now established fundraisers — Daffodil Day, the Spring Plant Sale and Autumn Harvest Fête, each raised record amounts to be reinvested into delivering our objectives. We are, as always, grateful for the enthusiasm and time generously given by staff, volunteers, and supporters that make these events successful.

Due to the success of our fundraising activities, the addition of new sessions, award of grants and prudent management of expenditure, we finished the year with a surplus of £10,581. Unrestricted reserve funds at the end of March 2025 were just under £45,998. This level exceeds the minimum level the Trustees determined to be appropriate and provides resilience against fluctuations in grant funding and enables planned investments in the garden and development of our services.

The Trustees consider the charity to be a going concern, based on current funding commitments, healthy free reserves, prudent financial planning and compliance with all required regulations.

Overview

What we do

Ridgeline Trust offers social and therapeutic horticulture to people with mental or physical disabilities and other special needs. Our professionally trained horticultural therapists offer safe gardening activities all year round in our beautiful garden near Reading town centre. With our support, beneficiaries recover and develop their skills, confidence, and self-esteem and enjoy the opportunities provided for social communication in a calm, restorative environment.

We foster evidence-led approaches in the provision of social and therapeutic horticulture, delivered with a firm commitment to collaboration, inclusion and professional practice. All our activities are undertaken to further our charitable purposes for the public benefit.

Main activities during the year 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

In August 2024, the Trustees completed a review of Ridgeline's strategy by assessing internal and external challenges. This was captured in a new 2024-2027 strategy document, which was finalized in August 2024 and is published on the charity's website (Link to 2024-27 Strategy). The strategy comprises three strategic objectives each with an action plan, and progress during the year against these is described below. These objectives guide our activities and focus during the current financial year.

Strategic Objective 1: Enhance financial sustainability while retaining the focus on client gardeners who will benefit from professionally led horticultural therapy

Action plan 1: To keep our financial position under review, optimise expenditure and increase opportunities for income

- We demonstrated strong financial governance during the year, by controlling expenditure while increasing income. Unrestricted reserve funds increased compared to the previous year.
- As part of our financial planning, we introduced proportionate annual price increases for our services and made considered increases to staff salaries, based on inflation and market rates.
- We opened and actively managed a savings account to take advantage of interest rates on our bank reserves. This earned £627 in the financial year.

Action Plan 2: To obtain funds from grants and other activities

- A total of almost £8300 including £1000 from Aurum Funds was raised at the Spring Plant Sale (19th May), Harvest Fête (15th September) and Daffodil Day (23rd March) events held at the garden.
- For the second year running we participated in the Big Give Kind2Mind fundraising campaign which matched funds raised between 14th and 28th May 2024, coinciding with the Plant Sale – this resulted in a grant of £2500 which was used to fund our new Monday morning session.
- We worked closely with Social Prescribing contacts to discuss approaches to fund client gardeners they referred. Social Prescribers at Reading University Medical Centre secured funds of £11,000 from Berkshire Nurses to support Monday attendees.
- Our Treasurer and Trustee Karine Ferreira's workplace, IBM, participates in a scheme where they contributed to Ridgeline for hours that Karine volunteered, this totalled £1000 in the year 2024-2025.
- We hosted three other local groups who made donations to use the garden for their events.

Action Plan 3: To gain new client gardeners through active engagement with local providers and the regional network for social care.

- We expanded the number of sessions offered and therefore the number of client gardeners who attended Ridgeline (previous year figures in brackets):
    - We helped approximately 100 (76) people enjoy the benefits of horticultural therapy
    - We ran 294 (196) horticultural therapy sessions horticultural therapy sessions
    - We provided over 4500 (3500) hours of horticultural therapy
- We increased the number of school students who benefitted from the garden during term time. Addington School increased the number of sessions they attended from two to three per week, while The Avenue School continued to attend one session in the Autumn and Summer terms. We were also pleased to welcome a new school, Brookfields, who sent students from their Sixth Form for one session per week in all three terms.
- We trialled sessions for school students in the summer holidays and ran three successful sessions, receiving good feedback from attendees.
- We introduced a new Monday morning session and proactively investigated how to fund and recruit for this. This started in Spring 2025 with clients referred by COMPASS and Social Prescribers and was funded by The Big Give donations.

Strategic Objective 2: Maintain and develop the garden to support the mission and any diversification and expansion

Action Plan 1: To maintain the garden, pavilion, and all equipment

- Over the winter, volunteers and Tuesday clients, led by Steven Dix, rebuilt and repainted the damaged raised beds.Steven also replaced damaged fence posts and repaired the Pavilion roof.
- Our compost heaps, a fundamental part of the garden, were expanded by volunteers to improve access.
- PAT testing in the pavilion was completed, and outside lighting was fixed. Emergency lightning and flooding lights were added.
- We invested funds in new purchases to enhance the garden and its operations. These included new chairs for the Pavilion, a new router, three tier staging for the polytunnel, a new gazebo to be used at our events, and a new safety stepladder.

Action Plan 2: To implement projects that enhance the safety, attractiveness, and utility of the garden

- In February, Beechwood Tree Surgeons donated a load of wood chips that were used to create paths through the vegetable and fruit beds.
- In late summer 2025, a group of volunteers from Vodafone made four new nursery tables from pallets, as well as clearing and levelling the area behind the polytunnel.

Action Plan 3. To continue to develop our planting plans to support sales at our fundraising events

- The HTs, supported by one of the trustees, Margaret Osborne, diligently maintained and developed the planting plan which contributed to the financial success of our plant sales.

Strategic Objective 3: Commit to sound professional practice and good governance

Action Plan 1: To ensure that lean, robust policies and procedures are in place to ensure statutory compliance and efficiency of operations

- Our management structure and our policies and procedures were reviewed throughout the year.
- We revised the onboarding process for new clients with a revised welcome letter and strengthened process.
- We improved our document retention system by introducing a standard repository structure in Google Drives and moving relevant documents from Box.
- Our Financial procedures policy was updated, and we introduced the role of Lead Trustee for Finances to work with the Treasurer to enhance oversight and compliance.
- The Safeguarding policy was reviewed and strengthened.

Action Plan 2: To regularly review risks to ensure Ridgeline can continue to deliver its mission and is prepared to manage any extenuating circumstances.

- The monitoring of risks to the Charity was undertaken throughout the year in line with guidance from the Charity Commission, principally in terms of governance, external, regulatory and compliance, financial and operational risks.
- The Trustees met as a group on 12 occasions during the year. During these meetings, risks are reviewed and actions taken to mitigate these are documented and actioned.
- Health and Safety and Safeguarding issues are a standing agenda item at every Trustees' meeting.

Action Plan 3: To provide leadership and guidance to staff, to regularly review and monitor their engagement and performance, to acknowledge good performance, to assess development needs, and to provide support and training. To solicit their feedback to develop their roles and the management of our operations.

- One of our trustees (Margaret) took on the role of Garden Coordinator. Margaret conducted regular reviews with the HTs to gain regular feedback and provide support and guidance as necessary.
- Regular HT meetings took place to communicate updates, share progress, and identify improvements.
- Existing employees were provided the opportunity to take on additional responsibilities as new positions and roles were opened.

Action Plan 4: To provide support and guidance to volunteers and provide them with necessary induction and training in the implementation of new policies and procedures. To show our appreciation for their commitment and efforts and to solicit their feedback to develop their roles and the charity.

- We strengthened our volunteer oversight processes by appointing a Trustee, Jane Ruse, to take responsibility for this. Jane worked with others to develop and implement a more robust volunteer induction and management process.
- In January 2025, we hosted a celebration for volunteers and for members of the team who had recently left Ridgeline (see below).
- To further express our gratitude for our volunteers, we held a "Pimms and Scones" event for them in August.

Action Plan 5: To build and maintain sufficient capability and capacity within the group of Trustees and Staff.

- Due to the nature of the Charity, the Trustees have been required to support many operational activities, for example managing staff, premises, and volunteers. We therefore decided to delegate line management for our Horticultural Therapists (HTs) to one employee, with a subsequent increase in staff budget to account for this. We also committed to moving responsibility for regular and ongoing maintenance activities to a staff role.
- One of our HTs, Julie Roberts, left Ridgeline in October 2024. Julie was an integral member of the team and had played a key role in setting up the new Monday afternoon group. She had additional responsibilities as Garden Coordinator and led management of the nursery and planting plans. We thank Julie for her enthusiasm and commitment to Ridgeline.
- Katie Andrews joined as an HT, initially as a freelancer to cover The Avenue School sessions in Summer Term 2024, but following a recruitment process, she became an employee to support Monday sessions from January 2025, replacing Julie. Katie previously set up and managed a school garden in the USA before returning to the UK and completing her Thrive diploma with distinction. Previously she was an HT with Root and Branch in Oxfordshire.
- Sian Hooley resigned as Development Manager in October 2024. Sian had been part of Ridgeline for 6 years, and she was instrumental in developing the relationships with the Schools and the Social Prescribers. She also managed through the challenges of COVID-19 and restarting sessions post the pandemic. The Trustees thank Sian for all her invaluable contributions. Sian continues to support Ridgeline in a voluntary capacity.
- With Sian's departure, the Trustees took the opportunity to review the scope of the Garden Coordinator and Development Manager position and felt it was appropriate to combine responsibilities into a single role of Ridgeline Service Manager. This position was recruited for in December 2024.
- Penny Walters joined us in the position of Services Manager in February 2025. Penny has significant experience of running gardens and managed the Jealott's Hill Community Landshare in Warfield near Bracknell, where she has overseen the reopening of the area as a Community Interest Company and developed its outreach offer.
- Gillian Charles left as Shadow Treasurer as Karine Ferriera took on the full Treasurer role, we thank Gillian for her support in making this transition seamless.
- Ros Richards left her position as Trustee at the AGM in November 2024, we thank Ros for her contributions and diligence in handing over her responsibilities to other Trustees.
- Karine Ferriera took on full responsibility as Treasurer and was also appointed Trustee in May 2024.
- Matt James was appointed as a Trustee in May 2024.
- Margaret Osbourne was reappointed as a Trustee at the AGM as per our Articles.

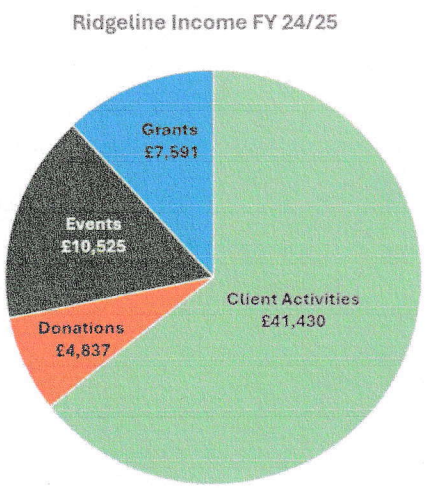
Finance

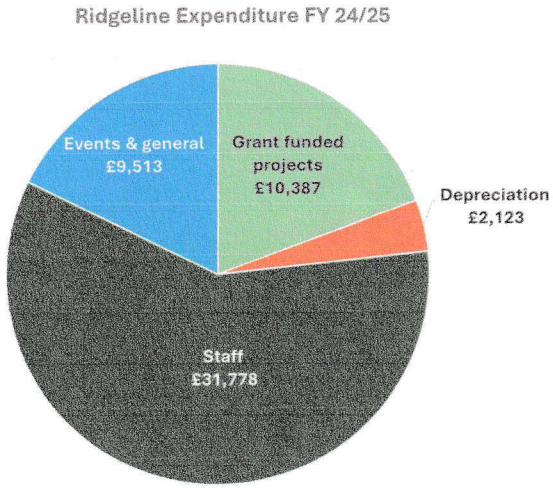
Accounts for 2024-2025

The accounts have been circulated before the AGM. All figures are subject to independent certification. Last year's figures are shown in brackets for comparison.

- **Income exceeded expenditure by £10,582 (£7,877).**
- **Income was £64,383 (£54,773).**
    - £7,590 (£8,942) came from project grants, £15,362 (£13,224) from fundraising activities and donations and £41,430 (£32,609) from charges for our services.

- **Expenditure was £53,801 (£46,987)**
    - £31,778 (£29,906) was spent on employment expenses (less staff costs attributed to the Social Prescribing Project).
    - £10,387 (£7,327) was spent on grant-funded projects, including the Social Prescribing Project with the University Health Centre, and on usage of our Special Circumstances Fund.
    - £9,513 (£7631) was spent on events and general operating expenses
    - Depreciation on the building was £2,123 (£2,123)
- **Total assets at 31 March 2024 were £82,866 (£72,305).** The Pavilion building is a fixed asset, currently valued at £25,471 (£27,594) after depreciation. Net current assets are £57,414 (£44,710). Of these current funds, £11,417 (£2,102) were treated as restricted with the remaining £45,998 (£42,608) available in reserves for running costs, general garden development and contingencies.





Grants from organizations during the financial year 2024-25

Organization	*Purpose*	*Amount*
Reading Dispensary Trust	For Social Prescribing client gardeners	£510
Berkshire Nurses Relief Fund	For Social Prescribing client gardeners	£2150
Big Give	Special Circumstances Fund for beneficiaries with mental health needs	£4931

Friends of Ridgeline Scheme

This encourages regular donations, providing a degree of reliability in our income. £2,084 (£2,434 in 23/24) was contributed by a total of 18 Ridgeline Friends. We continue in our efforts to encourage more of our supporters to join this scheme.

A further £3753 (£3,271 in 23/24) was raised in one-off donations from generous supporters of Ridgeline Trust and through Gift Aid.

Reserves Policy

Our aim, in which we have succeeded in the year under report, is always to maintain a balance of sufficient funds in the bank to enable us to continue to meet our ongoing obligations and to operate for at least three months (and preferably six months) in the event of unforeseen contingencies or failure to attract sufficient income or grant funding for providing our core Horticultural Therapy services. These reserves are regarded by the Trustees as virtually "ring-fenced" in the charity's management accounts. Three months' funding at current levels is approximately £13,000.

Governance and Organization

Governing Document

The organization is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 12 May 2003 and registered as a charity on 15 September 2003. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up, members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £10.

The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law, and under the company's Articles are known as Trustees. Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, one third of the Trustees are required to retire each year by rotation in the order of the time since their appointment. Retiring Trustees may be re-elected at the Annual General Meeting.

Organization

The charity is managed through the efforts of an enthusiastic number of regular volunteers from the local community. A brief overview of the governance arrangements is as follows:

- Members of the Charity (of whom there were 15 at 31/3/2025) who attend and are entitled to vote at all General Meetings of the Charity, are appointed by the Trustees.
- Trustees (currently six), appointed by the Members,

The Trustees are grateful to our accountant Peter Tilbury for his assistance in certifying our accounts, providing payroll services and hosting our Registered Office.

List of Trustees of the Charity

All Trustees have been appointed at a General Meeting under the Articles of Association, originally adopted on 10 May 2003, and were Directors of the Company during the period:

- Stuart Donald
- Karine Ferreira
- Matt James
- Margaret Osborne
- Jane Ruse
- Sara Uren

Companies Act requirements

For the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 the Company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The Members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question, in accordance with section 476.
- The Directors acknowledge their responsibilities to comply with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Public Benefit Statement: The Trustees have complied with their duty to have regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers and duties.

The above Directors' Report is to be presented at the Annual General Meeting of the Charity on 13 November 2025

Board of Directors/Trustees



East Reading Horticultural Therapy and Community Based Training Ltd

(Known as Ridgeline Trust) Charity No 1099441 Company limited by guarantee, number 4760734

Balance Sheet for the Year 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025

Accumulated Fund		**2024/25**	2023/24
Opening Balance as at 1st April 2024	£72,304.52		£64,427.13
Excess of Income over Expenditure (Deficit in brackets)	£10,581.80		£7,877.39
Balance carried forward		**£82,886.32**	£72,304.52
Fund Summary			
Of which Funds are Fixed		£25,471.42	£27,594.03
Of which Funds are Restricted (Special Circumstances Fund/Social Prescribing Fund)	£11,416.98		£2,101.50
Of which Funds are Unrestricted	£45,997.92		£42,608.99
Sub-Total of Current Funds		£57,414.90	£44,710.49
Total of Funds		**£82,886.32**	£72,304.52

Fixed Assets		**2024/25**	2023/24
Tangible Assets	£25,471.42		£27,594.03
			£0.00
Total Fixed Assets as at 31st March 2025		**£25,471.42**	£27,594.03
Current Assets			
Trade Debtors	£1,785.88		£1,702.04
Other Debtors	£75.29		
Debtors	**£1,861.17**		£1,702.04
Bank Balance at 31st March 2025	£67,127.62		£43,542.98
Cash in hand at 31st March 2025	£44.00		£269.00
Cash at Bank and in Hand	**£67,171.62**		£43,811.98
Total Current Assets as at 31st March 2025	**£69,032.79**		£45,514.02
Creditors	£11,497.04		£543.53
Other Liabilities	£120.85		£260.00
Net Current Assets as at 31st March 2025		**£57,414.90**	£44,710.49
Total Assets as at 31st March 2025		**£82,886.32**	£72,304.52

East Reading Horticultural Therapy & Community Based Training Limited
Accounts for the financial year 2024-2025 approved at Annual General Meeting dated 13 November 2025
For the year ended 31 March 2025 the Company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 (the Act) relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:
The Members have not required the Company to obtain an audit for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Act, The Directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts. These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

Stuart Donald
Director
9/12/2025

Karine Ferreira
Director
9/12/2025

Company limited by guarantee Company no. 4760734
Registered Office: 6 Windsor Square, Silver Street, Reading RG1 2TH

Registered Charity no. 1099441

East Reading Horticultural Therapy and Community Based Training Ltd

(Known as Ridgeline Trust) Charity No 1099441 Company limited by guarantee, number 4760734

Income & Expenditure Report for the Year 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025

Income			2024/25	2023/24
Grants for Projects				
Social Prescribing	Reading Dispensary Trust	£510.00		
Social Prescribing	Bekrshire Nurses Relief Fund	£2,150.00		
Special Circumstances Fund	The Big Give 2023/2024 Restricted	£0		
Special Circumstances Fund	The Big Give 2023/2024 Un-restricted	£0		
Horticultural Therapie new session launch	The Big Give 2024/2025	£4,930.98		
Special Circumstances Fund	Ridgeline Trust Self funded	£0		
Projects Total			**£7,590.98**	£8,941.86
Events				
Plant Sales		£3,892.35		
Harvest Sale		£3,627.87		
Daffodil Day		£756.75		
Other income		£1,620.71		
Events Total			**£9,897.68**	£7,518.71
Donations				
Friends		£2,084.00		
One off donations & Gift Aid		£2,753.35		
Donations Total			**£4,837.35**	£5,704.59
Activities				
Horticultural Therapie Sessions Client _ Individuals		£17,517.04		
Horticultural Therapie Sessions Client _ Schools		£23,912.75		
Activities Total			**£41,429.79**	£32,608.78
Investment income (interest)				
Interests received		£627.44		
Interests Total			**£627.44**	
Total Income			**£64,383.24**	£54,773.94

Expenditure			2024/25	2023/24
Spend on Grant-funded Projects				
Social Prescribing (Referred to as SP)		£3,410.00		
Special Circumstances (Referred to as SC)		£1,091.50		
Special Circumstances		£1,335.86		
Horticultural Therapie new session launch		£3,765.00		
Spend on self-funded Projects				
Special Circumstances		£784.64		
Projects Total			**£10,387.00**	£7,326.50
Events				
Plant Sales	Costs	£64.48		
Harvest Sale	Costs	£49.00		
Daffodil Day	Costs	£0.00		
Other income	Costs	£18.00		
Events Total			**£131.48**	£226.00
Operating Costs				
Staff costs (less costs attributed to SP & SC projects)		£31,777.66		
Insurance		£950.62		
Utilities & Internet		£1,322.59		
Rates		£65.87		
Garden Supplies		£1,150.42		
Craft items		£112.19		
Catering Supplies & Subsistence		£137.90		
Office Supplies & Equipment		£49.38		
Cleaning		£1,387.67		
Improvements		£368.01		
Repairs and Maintenance		£2,764.93		
First Aid, Health & Safety, Fire Precautions		£66.83		
Waste collections		£504.40		
Training		£0.00		
Memberships		£114.00		
DBS Checks		£173.90		
Accounting & Companies House fees		£48.39		
Bank Charges		£165.59		
Operating Costs Total			**£41,160.35**	£37,221.44
Depreciation	(From Fixed Assets)		**£2,122.61**	£2,122.61
Total Expenditure			**£53,801.44**	£46,896.55
Excess of Income over Expenditure (Deficit in brackets)			**£10,581.80**	£7,877.39



East Reading Horticultural Therapy and Community Based Training Ltd

(Known as Ridgeline Trust) Charity No 1099441 Company limited by guarantee, number 4760734

Fixed Assets during the Year 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025

Fixed Assets		**2024/25**	2023/24
Tangible Fixed Assets	Building		
Value as at 1st April 2024	£27,594.03	£27,594.03	£29,716.64
Additions	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Disposals	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Tangible Assets during the year	£27,594.03	£27,594.03	£29,716.64
Depreciation Basis	SL 25 years		
Depreciation Amount	£2,122.61	£2,122.61	£2,122.61
Value as at 31st March 2025	£25,471.42	£25,471.42	£27,594.03
Investments		**£0.00**	£0.00
Fixed Assets as at 31st March 2025		**£25,471.42**	£27,594.03

Creditors due within one year	**2024/25**	2023/24
Deferred Income	£9,890.00	£260.00
Accruals	£1,607.04	£500.97
Other creditors	£120.85	£42.56
Total Creditors due within one year	**£11,617.89**	£803.53

East Reading Horticultural Therapy and Community Based Training Ltd

(Known as Ridgeline Trust) Charity No 1099441 Company limited by guarantee, number 4760734

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2025

1 Accounting policies

Basis of preparation
The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with FRS 102, The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (as applied to small entities by section 1A of the standard).

Income
Income is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable, net of discounts. Income includes revenue earned from the sale of goods and from the rendering of services.

Tangible fixed assets
Tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulative depreciation and any accumulative impairment losses. Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset evenly over its expected useful life, as follows:

Building	Straight line over 25 years

Debtors
Short term debtors are measured at transaction price (which is usually the invoice price), less any impairment losses for bad and doubtful debts.

Creditors
Short term creditors are measured at transaction price (which is usually the invoice price).

Pensions
Contributions to defined contribution plans are expensed in the period to which they relate.

2 Employees

	31st March 2025	31st March 2024
Average number of persons employed by the company	4	4

3 Tangible fixed assets
See Fixed Assets sheet

4 Debtors
The breakdown of Debtors is shown on the Balance Sheet. Accrued Income relates to Grants received with restrictions on usage.

5 Other information
East Reading Horticultural Therapy and Community Based Training Ltd is a private company limited by guarantee and incorporated in England, no. 4760734
Its registered office is: 6 Windsor Square, Silver Street, Reading RG1 2TH It is also Registered as a Charity, no. 1099441

CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/directors/ members of

Charity Name
East Reading Horticultural Therapy and Community Based Training Limited (known as Ridgeline Trust)

On accounts for the year ended

31st March 2025

Charity no.:	1099441	Company no.:	04760734

Set out on pages

1 & 2
(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 / 03 / 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law), you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act").

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited for this year under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act"). In carrying out my examination, I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

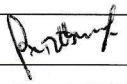
Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention ~~(other than that disclosed below *)~~ which gives me cause to believe that:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; or
- the accounts do not accord with such records; or
- the accounts do not comply with relevant accounting requirements under section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:		**Date:**	15th December 2025
Name:	Peter N Tilbury		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	Fellow of the Association of International Accountants (FAIA) (Membership Number 142181)		
Address:	6 Windsor Square, Silver Street, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 2TH		

Section B Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.	NONE

EAST READING HORTICULTURAL THERAPY AND COMMUNITY BASED TRAINING LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 1099441

Accounts



Ridgeline Trust – East Reading Horticultural Therapy and Community-Based Training Ltd

Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2024

Foreword: maintaining public trust and confidence

The national context

The Charity Commission regularly tracks public opinion of charities as part of their objectives to increase public trust and confidence and to promote charity compliance and accountability to donors, beneficiaries and the wider public. They reported in 2023[1] that charities continue to be well regarded and trusted by the public, who expect that a high proportion of funds should directly resource charity objectives, and anticipate tangible, positive outcomes to be evident. Charities are required not only to live their values in what they achieve, but also in how they do so. Research on charity transparency found that small, local charities are more inclined to be trusted, where a personal connection to the cause is apparent.

The Commission makes it clear that while charities are well-regarded, ranking second only to doctors for trustworthiness, there is no room for complacency. High standards in governance and performance must be both set and met. Such findings are crucial for informing individual charities about how to respond, develop and survive - in short, how to be agile and effective in a fast-changing world.

At Ridgeline Trust

Ridgeline has earned strong local trust and loyal support over many years and in May 2023 we proudly celebrated a significant milestone, our 20th anniversary. To mark the occasion, we held a fundraising week culminating in a garden party attended by over 300 supporters. Generous donations throughout the week were made to the Big Give Kind2 Mind campaign in aid of our Special Circumstances Fund, exceeding the £5,000 target. In September 2023 an illustrated summary of Ridgeline's first 20 years, prepared by Graham Johnson (former Chair), was presented at a Friends' tea party. This outlined the origin and growth of Ridgeline and provided an opportunity to acknowledge the contribution that so many have made to its successful development.

We are pleased to report continued growth to our services during 2023-24. We are grateful to local charities for supporting our social prescribing sessions, as well as to other sources of funding which have helped with garden developments benefitting our client gardeners. With much enthusiasm and time generously given by staff, volunteers and supporters, our popular Plant Sale in July and the Harvest Fete in September were eagerly attended by the enthusiastic local community, raising significant income for reinvesting directly into delivering our charitable objectives.

Managing our expenditure prudently remained a strong imperative. We began the financial year with a small surplus of £2,730, and built on this to achieve £7,877 in surplus at year-end 2023-24. Achieving a small annual surplus is important to demonstrate good management of our budget and enables us to fund modest, additional improvements to our services and to the garden. It is also crucial for designating funds towards maintaining our estate and in particular our all-weather pavilion, so that we can continue to offer horticultural therapy services all year round.

---

[1] www.charitycommission.blog.gov.uk/2023/07/14/trustee-and-public-trust-research/

1. Overview

1.1 What we do

Ridgeline Trust offers social and therapeutic horticulture to people with mental and/or physical disabilities and other special needs. Our professionally-trained horticultural therapists offer safe gardening activities all year round in our beautiful garden near Reading town centre. With our support, beneficiaries recover and develop their skills, confidence, and self-esteem and enjoy the opportunities provided for social communication in a calm, restorative environment.

We foster evidence-led approaches in the provision of social and therapeutic horticulture, delivered with a firm commitment to collaboration, inclusion and professional practice. All our activities are undertaken to further our charitable purposes for the public benefit.

2. Main activities during the year 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

Our activities are set out in the form of the priorities we agreed at the previous AGM, with brief comments on how well we have achieved them.

2.1 To build on the achievements of the past year to restore and expand client gardening sessions by increasing participation across all our adult groups.

This has been achieved and is ongoing through 2024 (previous year figures in brackets)**:**

- We helped 70 (55) people to enjoy the benefits of horticultural therapy
- We ran 196 (166) horticultural therapy sessions
- We provided over 3,500 (3,000) hours of horticultural therapy

2.2 To continue to look for alternative ways of funding the adult Horticultural Therapy sessions with a view to reducing our reliance on grant funding and ensuring that cost is not a barrier for those who would otherwise benefit from participation.

This has been achieved and is ongoing:

- The Social Prescribers at the University Health Centre continued to successfully identify sources of funding for some of the Monday client gardeners, with further support secured from the Berkshire Nurses Relief Fund and from Reading Dispensary Trust.
- We renewed our procedures for assessing clients to benefit from our Special Circumstances Fund and replenished this through the Big Give Kind2Mind match funding initiative in May 2023. This coincided with Ridgeline's 20th Anniversary for which we held an enjoyable garden party on 21st May, and generous donations made during the week-long campaign exceeded the £5,000 target by £1,336 (£1,898 with Gift Aid). This meant the additional income including gift aid was unrestricted in terms of how we could use it.
- The popular annual Plant Sale held in July 2023 was well attended as ever, and raised £2,709.
- Our annual Friends event was hosted by Graham and Angela Johnson on 3 September 2023. Ridgeline's 20th anniversary was marked with an illustrated summary Graham had prepared of Ridgeline's first 20 years, with the many Friends who have contributed over the years appreciated through this acknowledgement.
- The Harvest Fete in September 2023 raised a record £3,867 including a significant donation from Aurum investment specialists, in response to Marc Bartsch's guitarathon. Visitors to the garden enjoyed Marc's talented playing as they browsed the stalls and enjoyed tea and homemade cakes donated by our many volunteers and supporters.

- Now firmly established in the calendar, ”Daffodil Day" in March 2024 raised £757 through the sale of indoor, seasonal plants and refreshments.
- One of our Horticultural Therapists, Hannah Pritchard, secured £1,000 in the prior year from the Lakeland Staff Managed Charity Fund for partial funding of a new greenhouse which was erected in July 2023.
- From January 2024, one year’s financial support was pledged through Benevity by IBM, in recognition of one of their employees volunteering at Ridgeline.
- Having received an increased number of enquiries about Horticultural Therapy sessions, we planned for opening a new session on Monday mornings but this was not achieved by April 2024, owing to lack of sufficient client gardeners for the session.

2.3. To maintain careful monitoring of our finances in view of the inflationary pressures on our budget and to identify where savings can be made that do not impact the quality of service we offer.

This has been achieved and is ongoing:

- We increased our current reserves to £7,877 through careful management of income and expenditure.
- As part of our financial planning, we introduce proportionate annual price increases for our services and make considered increases to staff salaries, based on inflation and market rates.
- We continued to work as sustainably as possible - reusing, repurposing and minimising all waste. For example, work was started on a tool washing area with a washing station made from repurposed wood. Tools are dipped in a bucket containing water from a water butt before being cleaned with brushes; this is a very effective water-saving measure. Any surplus pots were taken to a local garden centre for recycling.
- Problems with the Pavilion roof and the plumbing were dealt with by local firms after research to find competitive quotes, being always mindful of the cost to the charity.
- Fundraising at the gate via bucket donations at Plant Sale and Harvest Fete events continued to be a successful means of fundraising for specific items. Visitors enjoy seeing what their donations help us provide.
- Our Wednesday maintenance volunteers continued, as ever, to support the work of the horticultural therapists and to maintain the garden to a high standard, given time constraints and the numbers involved. They represent an invaluable resource to the garden.

2.4. To achieve better outcomes by working in partnership with other organisations including schools and to continue to develop existing partnerships and establish new ones in order to achieve our objectives.

This has been achieved and is ongoing:

- As members of Reading Green Wellbeing Network (RGWN), we pay an annual membership fee of £55. We benefit from joint initiatives and sharing of useful information including funding opportunities, publicity to potential referrers, and links to relevant publications. We attended their conference at the Museum of English Rural Life (MERL) in March 2024, where we had a stand to publicise Ridgeline.
- We have benefited from our association with Reading Voluntary Action (RVA) which enabled us to advertise on their site and recruit two new trustees to Ridgeline, and a number of volunteers to support client gardening sessions.
- We attended the Pepsico Volunteering Fayre organised by Connect Reading in October 2023, to promote Ridgeline and to network with the local business community for their support. It

was held at Green Park and attended by staff from companies working there. About 40 charities and non-profit organisations attended, with 3 from RGWN - Ridgeline, Thrive and Green Health Thames Valley. Greenery from the garden enhanced our stand and attracted attention, enabling us to raise awareness of Ridgeline's work.

2.5. To continue to develop the garden so that it can provide meaningful gardening activities for an increasing number of client gardeners.

This has been achieved and is ongoing:

- Managing the garden and its maintenance by allocating each gardening group an area for which they are responsible for its maintenance and development continued to work well.
- We were sorry to say goodbye to Rachel Jarvis who resigned from her roles as Horticultural Therapy Coordinator and lead for the Addington School Groups, as she was leaving Reading. Rachel contributed much to Ridgeline's development during her involvement with the garden and school groups.
- Julie Roberts, who was appointed Garden Coordinator on the departure of Rachel Jarvis, smoothly transitioned into the role and effectively supported Margaret Osborne in leading development and maintenance of the garden.
- We were also pleased to welcome existing volunteer Catherine Watkins as the new HT lead for Addington School.
- The new greenhouse was erected in July 2023, giving more growing space and extending the growing season. It has toughened safety glass and is wheelchair accessible.
- In the garden, the Goat Willow was pruned for safety and three new steps were created from the Welcome Bed to improve access. These were built by one of our recently recruited volunteers, using repurposed materials. Client gardeners who are unsteady can now fully access the bed and as the steps are light-coloured, this also enables those who have sight difficulties to see them clearly.
- Volunteers with DIY skills continued to make a very valuable contribution to the general maintenance of the garden, for example mending benches and tables and fixing water butts.
- We were delighted to make a presentation in July 2023 to Gill Grainger and Carol Woodward for their dedicated and committed work since the garden's founding.

2.6. To commit resources and energy to professional practice and good governance.

This has been achieved and is ongoing:

- The Trustees met regularly, every 4-6 weeks throughout the year, and sometimes with the wider Planning Group. At these meetings, progress on our objectives was monitored and a number of policies and procedures were reviewed according to schedule.
- Our finances were closely monitored by our volunteer Treasurer, Gillian Charles, and through her excellent reporting and helpful financial analysis we were able to achieve a positive year-end outturn. After 5 years of excellent service much appreciated by the trustees, Gillian stood down as treasurer at the year-end in April 2024.
- We welcomed Karine Ferreira into the treasurer role, initially as a volunteer and subsequently as a trustee.
- We welcomed Matt James as a new trustee. Matt brings current HR experience and knowledge.
- We reviewed our procedures for volunteer recruitment and improved our induction materials and practice.

- We embarked on a document management project, to make fuller and better use of Google Workspace, to ensure current and historical information is logically categorised and can be retrieved more efficiently and effectively.

3. Brief summary of significant activities and developments since the end of the financial year, for information:

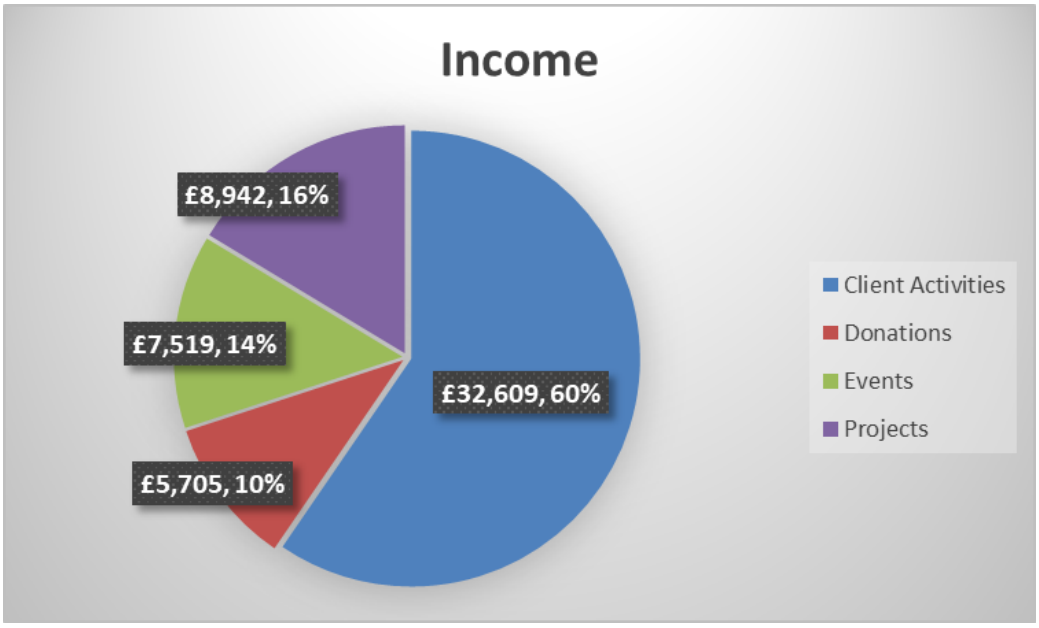
- The Plant sale in May was very well attended and raised £3,743. We were able to coincide this with our Big Give Kind2Mind appeal, exceeding our fundraising target of £5,000.
- An Easy Fundraising Account was set up in June 2024, so that Ridgeline supporters who register for shopping through the Easy Fundraising site would attract donations from over 7,000 brands every time they made purchases.
- We were pleased to appoint Katie Andrews in July to provide HT support to cover expansion in our services.
- Summer holiday sessions for some of our school attendees were trialled in July/August 2024. These proved popular with both the attendees and their carers and feedback has been collected with a view to building this provision into subsequent school holiday periods.
- On 14 August we were grateful to 6 volunteers from Vodafone, who created 4 new nursery tables, cleared behind the polytunnel and did some path weeding on behalf of their company's volunteering commitment.
- New chairs were purchased for indoor and outdoor activities, better suited to client gardeners with disabilities.
- The Annual Friends tea party was held on 1 September, attended by 12 Friends
- The Harvest Fete was well attended on 15 September and raised £2,713.
- Autumn 2024 sessions include adult client gardeners attending on Monday mornings (as a small trial for this time slot), on Monday afternoons, and on Tuesday mornings and afternoons).
- Autumn term 2024 school groups have expanded to include Brookfield (Wednesday mornings, 10 week trial from 11 September), Addington (Thursday mornings and afternoons, Friday mornings), Avenue (Friday afternoons, 8 sessions from 13 September).
- In September, RGWN supported the University Community Fair in Freshers Week, which we attended.
- The trustees have updated Ridgeline's strategy and the 2024-27 version is available on the website at the *Our Mission* page.

4. Finance

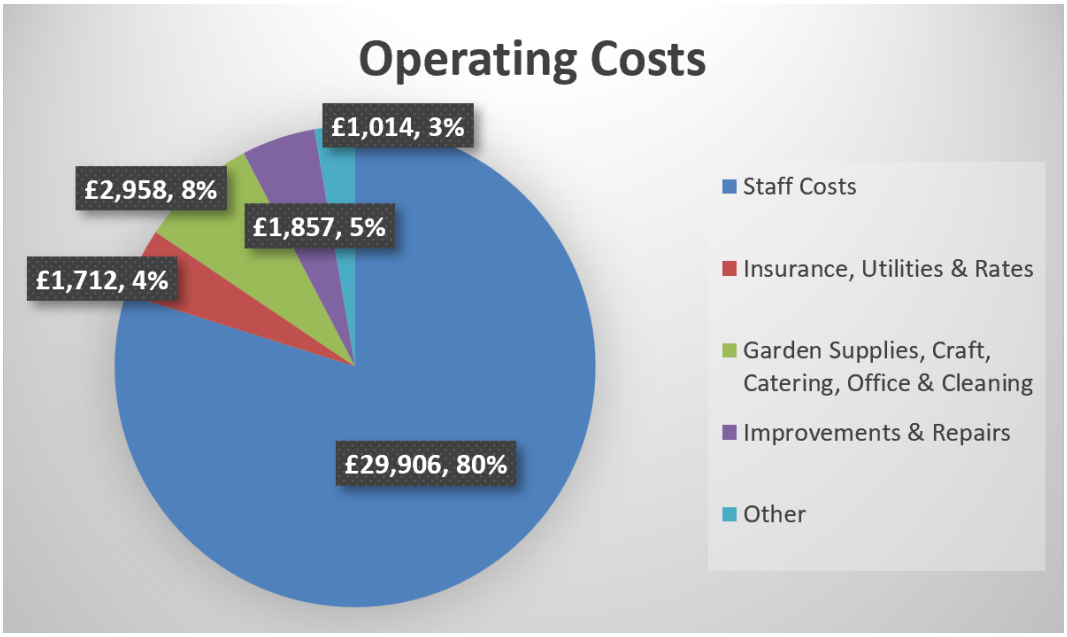
4.1 Accounts for 2023-2024

The accounts have been circulated prior to the AGM. All figures quoted here will be subject to Independent Certification. Last year's figures are shown in brackets for comparison.

- In summary, our income for the period was £54,774 (compared with £43,882 in 2022-23).
- £8,942 (£6,180) came from project grants (prior year included grant for the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme), £13,224 (£12,477) from fundraising activities and donations and £32,609 (£25,224) from charges for our services.



- We spent £7,327 (£5,330) on grant-funded projects, including the Social Prescribing Project with the University Health Centre, and on usage of our Special Circumstances Fund.
- Events and General operating costs were £37,447 (£33,700), of which £29,906 were employment costs (less staff costs attributed to the Social Prescribing Project).



- Depreciation on the building was £2,123 (£2,123)
- Income exceeded expenditure by £7,877 (£2,730).
- Total assets at 31 March 2024 stood at £72,305 (£64,427 at 31 March 2023). The Pavilion building is a fixed asset, currently valued at £27,594 (£29,717) after depreciation. Net current assets totalled £44,710 (£34,710). Of these current funds, £2,102 (£1,562) were treated as

restricted with the remaining £42,608 (£33,148) available in reserves for running costs, general garden development and contingencies.

- Since the year-end, grants totalling £12,640 have been received.

4.2 Grants from Organizations during the financial year 2023-24:

Organisation	***Purpose***	***Amount***
Reading Dispensary Trust	*For Social Prescribing client gardeners*	*£1,606 (£1,866 including £260 refunded in 2024-25 financial year)*
Berkshire Nurses Relief Fund	*For Social Prescribing client gardeners*	*£1,000*
Big Give	*Special Circumstances Fund for beneficiaries with mental health needs*	*£5,000 (Restricted), £1,335 (Unrestricted)*
Lakeland Staff Managed Charity Fund	*New Greenhouse*	*£0 (£1,000 funds awarded in prior year, cost incurred in 2023-24 financial year)*

4.3 Friends of Ridgeline Scheme: This encourages regular donations, providing a degree of reliability in our income. £2,434 was contributed by a total of 16 Ridgeline Friends. We continue in our efforts to encourage more of our supporters to join this scheme.

A further £3,271 was raised in one-off donations from generous supporters of Ridgeline Trust and Gift Aid.

4.4. Reserves Policy: Our aim, in which we have succeeded in the year under report, is always to maintain a balance of sufficient funds in the bank to enable us to continue to meet our ongoing obligations and to operate for at least three months (and preferably six months) in the event of unforeseen contingencies or failure to attract sufficient income or grant funding for providing our core Horticultural Therapy services. These reserves are regarded by the Trustees as virtually "ring-fenced" in the charity's management accounts. Three months' funding at current levels is approximately £12,000.

5. Strategy and Development

2020-23

Our Ridgeline Strategy for 2020-2023 provided clear direction and concrete steps for how we would resume our work in pandemic conditions, prioritising the safety of our clients, staff and volunteers. It aspired to diversify and extend our services to additional clients, including those in need of support and rehabilitation as a result of the new circumstances arising out of the Covid-19 pandemic, and it affirmed our commitment to good governance and professional practice. This Strategy was largely met as it continued to inform our proposals on the priorities for year under report

2024-27

A new strategy has been developed for 2024-27 to determine our development priorities going forward and may be viewed on our website via a link embedded in the *Our Mission* page.

6. Priorities for the year 2024-2025

1. To build on the achievements of the past year and expand client gardening sessions by increasing participation, with a focus on our adult groups.
2. To continue to look for alternative ways of funding the adult Horticultural Therapy sessions with a view to reducing our reliance on grant funding whilst also ensuring that cost is not a barrier for those who would otherwise benefit from participation.
3. To maintain careful monitoring of our finances in view of the inflationary pressures on our budget and to identify where savings can be made that do not impact on the quality of service we offer.
4. To achieve better outcomes by working in partnership with other organisations including schools and to continue to develop existing partnerships and establish new ones in order to achieve our objectives.
5. To continue to develop the garden so that it can provide meaningful gardening activities for an increasing number of client gardeners.
6. To commit resources and energy to professional practice and good governance.

7. Governance and Organisation

7.1 Governing Document: The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 12 May 2003 and registered as a charity on 15 September 2003. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up, members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £10.

The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law and under the company's Articles are known as Trustees. Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, one third of the Trustees are required to retire each year by rotation in the order of the time since their appointment. Retiring Trustees may be re-elected at the Annual General Meeting.

7.2 Organisation: The running of the Charity is managed through the efforts of an enthusiastic but small number of regular volunteers from the local community. A brief overview of the governance arrangements is as follows:

- Members of the Charity (of whom there were 15 at 31/3/2024) who attend and are entitled to vote at all General Meetings of the Charity, are appointed by the Trustees. More Members would be very welcome.
- Trustees (currently seven), appointed by the Members, of whom Sara Uren was formerly Chair. We recruited two new Trustees in 2023-24, bringing in new skills which enable us to spread responsibilities and ensure succession planning for the future. We expect their appointments to be formally confirmed at the AGM in November 2024.
- The Planning Group comprises all Trustees and the Development Manager. The agenda includes standing items for reporting any health and safety and safeguarding items at each meeting. The Horticultural Therapists submit reports for consideration and may attend meetings from time-to-time. Meetings take place at least every two months, at which planning and any significant developments are tabled, so that operational decisions can be taken. In Trustee meetings, strategic decisions are taken, approvals are given, policies and procedures are reviewed, and finances and budget are monitored with input from the Treasurer trustee. In addition, informal Garden Planning discussions take place regularly throughout the year.
- Staff, Volunteers and Friends are invited to attend as observers at the AGM.

The Trustees continue to encourage and recruit volunteers for the essential and rewarding work of running the garden and the Charity's client services. From time-to-time, we also welcome interest from volunteers who have the skills or experience to contribute to the administration of the Charity.

Our Management Structure and our 23 policies and procedures are carefully reviewed, through an annual calendar of agenda items at the Planning Meetings. The monitoring of risks to the Charity is undertaken, in line with guidance from the Charity Commission, principally in terms of governance, external, regulatory and compliance, financial and operational risks. The aim is to satisfy ourselves that our identification and management of risk enable us to fulfil our duty of accountability to our stakeholders, including beneficiaries, donors, funders, employees and the general public.

The Trustees are grateful to our accountant Peter Tilbury for his assistance in certifying our accounts, providing payroll services and hosting our Registered Office.

Sara Uren was re-elected at the November 2023 AGM via resignation and reappointment of one third of Trustees by rotation, as required by Articles of Association.

8. List of Trustees of the Charity (all of whom were appointed at a General Meeting under the Articles of Association, originally adopted on 10 May 2003, and were Directors of the Company) during the period under report:

- Sara Jane Uren
- Rosalind Jessie Richards
- Margaret Osborne
- Stuart Donald
- Jane Ruse
- Karine Ferreira
- Matt James

9. Companies Act requirements

For the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 the Company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The Members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question, in accordance with section 476.
- The Directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

Public Benefit Statement: The Trustees have complied with their duty to have regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers and duties.

The above Directors' Report is to be presented at the Annual General Meeting of the Charity on 11 November 2024

Board of Directors/Trustees

East Reading Horticultural Therapy and Community Based Training Ltd

(Known as Ridgeline Trust) Charity No 1099441 Company limited by guarantee, number 4760734

Balance Sheet for the Year 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024

Accumulated Fund		**2023/24**	2022/23
Opening Balance as at 1st April 2023	£64,427.13		£61,697.54
Excess of Income over Expenditure (Deficit in brackets)	£7,877.39		£2,729.59
Balance carried forward		**£72,304.52**	£64,427.13
Fund Summary			
Of which Funds are Fixed		£27,594.03	£29,716.64
Of which Funds are Restricted (Special Circumstances Fund/Social Prescribing Fund)	£2,101.50		£1,562.00
Of which Funds are Unrestricted	£42,608.99		£33,148.49
Sub-Total of Current Funds		£44,710.49	£34,710.49
Total of Funds		**£72,304.52**	£64,427.13

Fixed Assets		**2023/24**	2022/23
Tangible Assets	£27,594.03		£29,716.64
Total Fixed Assets as at 31st March 2024		**£27,594.03**	£29,716.64
Current Assets			
Trade Debtors	£1,702.04		£6,240.32
Debtors	**£1,702.04**		£6,240.32
Bank Balance at 31st March 2024	£43,542.98		£34,460.41
Cash in hand at 31st March 2024	£269.00		£0.00
Cash at Bank and in Hand	**£43,811.98**		£34,460.41
Total Current Assets as at 31st March 2024	**£45,514.02**		£40,700.73
Creditors	£543.53		£5,990.24
Other Liabilities	£260.00		
Net Current Assets as at 31st March 2024		**£44,710.49**	£34,710.49
Total Assets as at 31st March 2024		**£72,304.52**	£64,427.13

East Reading Horticultural Therapy & Community Based Training Limited
Accounts for the financial year 2023-2024 approved at Annual General Meeting dated 11 November 2024
For the year ended 31 March 2024 the Company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 (the Act) relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:
The Members have not required the Company to obtain an audit for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Act, The Directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts. These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

~~Stuart Donald~~ Karine Ferreira 20/12/24
Director

Margaret Osborne Margaret Osborne 20/12/24
Director

Company limited by guarantee Company no. 4760734
Registered Office: 6 Windsor Square, Silver Street, Reading RG1 2TH

Registered Charity no. 1099441

East Reading Horticultural Therapy and Community Based Training Ltd

(Known as Ridgeline Trust) Charity No 1099441 Company limited by guarantee, number 4760734

Income & Expenditure Report for the Year 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024

Income			2023/24	2022/23
Grants for Projects				
Social Prescribing	Reading Dispensary Trust	£1,606.00		
Social Prescribing	Bekrshire Nurses Relief Fund	£1,000.00		
Special Circumstances Fund	The Big Give	£5,000.00		
Unrestricted	The Big Give	£1,335.86		
Greenhouse	Lakeland Staff Managed Charity Fund	£0.00		
Projects Total			**£8,941.86**	£6,180.00
Events				
Plant Sales		£2,709.13		
Harvest Sale		£3,867.20		
Daffodil Day		£757.38		
Other income		£185.00		
Events Total			**£7,518.71**	£8,411.32
Donations				
Friends		£2,434.00		
One off donations & Gift Aid		£3,270.59		
Donations Total			**£5,704.59**	£4,066.12
Activities				
Horticultural Therapie Sessions Client _ Individuals		£17,808.78		
Horticultural Therapie Sessions Client _ Schools		£14,800.00		
Activities Total			**£32,608.78**	£25,224.35
Total Income			**£54,773.94**	£43,881.79

Expenditure			2023/24	2022/23
Spend on Grant-funded Projects				
Social Prescribing (Referred to as SP)		£2,298.00		
Special Circumstances (Referred to as SC)		£4,028.50		
Greenhouse		£1,000.00		
Projects Total			**£7,326.50**	£5,330.00
Events				
Plant Sales	Costs	£71.00		
Harvest Sale	Costs	£73.00		
Daffodil Day	Costs	£82.00		
Other income	Costs	£0.00		
Events Total			**£226.00**	£0.00
Operating Costs				
Staff costs (less costs attributed to SP & SC projects)		£29,906.09		
Insurance		£896.90		
Utilities & Internet		£747.70		
Rates		£67.58		
Garden Supplies		£1,547.97		
Craft items		£0.00		
Catering Supplies & Subsistence		£76.30		
Office Supplies & Equipment		£37.67		
Cleaning		£1,296.19		
Improvements: Obelisk, Polytunnel		£554.51		
Repairs and Maintenance		£1,302.17		
First Aid, Health & Safety, Fire Precautions		£0.00		
Waste collections		£465.40		
Training		£60.00		
Memberships		£55.00		
DBS Checks		£74.40		
Accounting & Companies House fees		£13.00		
Bank Charges		£120.56		
Operating Costs Total			**£37,221.44**	£33,699.59
Depreciation	(From Fixed Assets)		**£2,122.61**	£2,122.61
Total Expenditure			**£46,896.55**	£41,152.20
Excess of Income over Expenditure (Deficit in brackets)			**£7,877.39**	£2,729.59

East Reading Horticultural Therapy and Community Based Training Ltd

(Known as Ridgeline Trust) Charity No 1099441 Company limited by guarantee, number 4760734

Fixed Assets during the Year 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024

Fixed Assets		**2023/24**	2022/23
Tangible Fixed Assets	Building		
Value as at 1st April 2023	£29,716.64	£29,716.64	£31,839.25
Additions	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Disposals	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Tangible Assets during the year	£29,716.64	£29,716.64	£31,839.25
Depreciation Basis	SL 25 years		
Depreciation Amount	£2,122.61	£2,122.61	£2,122.61
Value as at 31st March 2024	£27,594.03	£27,594.03	£29,716.64
Investments		**£0.00**	£0.00
Fixed Assets as at 31st March 2024		**£27,594.03**	£29,716.64

Creditors due within one year	**2023/24**	2022/23
Deferred Income	£260.00	£5,365.00
Accruals	£500.97	£585.00
Other creditors	£42.56	£40.24
Total Creditors due within one year	**£803.53**	£5,990.24

East Reading Horticultural Therapy and Community Based Training Ltd

(Known as Ridgeline Trust) Charity No 1099441 Company limited by guarantee, number 4760734

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2024

1 Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with FRS 102, The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (as applied to small entities by section 1A of the standard).

Income

Income is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable, net of discounts. Income includes revenue earned from the sale of goods and from the rendering of services.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulative depreciation and any accumulative impairment losses. Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset evenly over its expected useful life, as follows:

Building	Straight line over 25 years

Debtors

Short term debtors are measured at transaction price (which is usually the invoice price), less any impairment losses for bad and doubtful debts.

Creditors

Short term creditors are measured at transaction price (which is usually the invoice price).

Pensions

Contributions to defined contribution plans are expensed in the period to which they relate.

2 Employees

	31st March 2024	31st March 2023
Average number of persons employed by the company	4	4

3 Tangible fixed assets

See Fixed Assets sheet

4 Debtors

The breakdown of Debtors is shown on the Balance Sheet. Accrued Income relates to Grants promised but not yet received.

5 Other information

East Reading Horticultural Therapy and Community Based Training Ltd is a private company limited by guarantee and incorporated in England, no. 4760734
Its registered office is: 6 Windsor Square, Silver Street, Reading RG1 2TH It is also Registered as a Charity, no. 1099441

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of	**East Reading Horticultural Therapy and Community Based Training Limited (known as Ridgeline Trust)**		
On accounts for the year ended	**31st March 2024**	**Charity no (if any)**	**1099441**
Set out on pages	**1 & 2** (remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 / 03 / 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

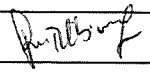
Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination ~~(other than that disclosed below *)~~ which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect,:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:  **Date:** **19th December 2024**

Name: **Peter N. Tilbury**

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any): **Fellow of the Association of International Accountants (FAIA) (Membership Number 142181)**

Address:	6 Windsor Square, Silver Street,
	Reading, Berkshire, RG1 2TH

Section B Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

NONE

EAST READING HORTICULTURAL THERAPY AND COMMUNITY BASED TRAINING LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 1099441

Accounts



Ridgeline Trust – East Reading Horticultural Therapy and Community-Based Training Ltd

Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2023

Foreword: navigating challenging times

The national context

The cautious optimism we embraced as we emerged from pandemic concerns in April 2022 has been somewhat tempered by the challenges all voluntary organisations have faced this year as a result of steep rises in the cost of living. The National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) identifies these to include rising energy prices, costly consumables, increases in fuel prices, and more expensive staff. They note that as these core costs rise, income streams are at risk including both constraints on individual giving and public sector income. All of this puts pressure on the sustainability of voluntary service delivery, while demand from service users increases as inequities deepen.

At Ridgeline Trust

The dedication of staff and volunteers deserves recognition as they doubled down, undaunted, to mitigate the after effects of the pandemic and the worsening cost of living crisis. Their commitment and hard work brought about a valued increase in the number of client gardeners and we enjoyed welcoming a wide cross-section of the community to our sessions again, including many young people from local Special Needs schools. Some excellent developments were made to the garden to make the activities more meaningful, accessible and enjoyable for our client gardeners while maintaining a beautiful and peaceful environment for all who visited as regular attendees or for our popular fundraising events. We very much welcomed the opportunity to return to our annual plant sales, curtailed since 2019 because of the Covid pandemic. With renewed enthusiasm and a lot of time generously given by staff, volunteers and supporters, we resumed our popular Plant Sale in June and the Harvest Fete in September and delighted in welcoming the local community through our gates once more. We continued to be grateful to local charities for supporting our social prescribing activities, essential to their delivery, and for supporting some significant garden equipment purchases. We also gratefully acknowledged generous donations and legacies to Ridgeline Trust during 2022-23, which made a very positive contribution to creating an enjoyable and purpose-led environment for all to enjoy.

Managing our expenditure prudently remained a strong imperative in both the national and local context. We had ended the financial year 2021-22 with an annual deficit of £5,735 because of a post pandemic shortfall in fee income and the additional costs of maintaining measures for keeping our clients, staff and volunteers safe. This year we focused again on minimising expenditure and increasing income to restore our finances to a break-even position, and we are pleased to report we succeeded in this, with a small annual year-end surplus of £2,730.

1. Overview

1.1 What we do

Ridgeline Trust offers social and therapeutic horticulture to people with mental and/or physical disabilities and other special needs. Our professionally-trained horticultural therapists offer safe gardening activities all year round in our beautiful garden near Reading town centre. With our support, beneficiaries recover and develop their skills, confidence, and self-esteem and enjoy the opportunities provided for social communication in a calm, restorative environment.

We foster evidence-led approaches in the provision of social and therapeutic horticulture, delivered with a firm commitment to collaboration, inclusion and professional practice. All our activities are undertaken to further our charitable purposes for the public benefit.

2. Main activities during the year 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

Our activities are set out in the form of the priorities we agreed at the previous AGM, with brief comments on how well we have achieved them.

2.1 To build on the achievements of the past year to restore and expand client gardening sessions by increasing participation across all our adult groups.

This has been achieved and is ongoing, restoring our pre-pandemic levels of participation:

- We helped 55 people to enjoy the benefits of horticultural therapy
- We ran 166 horticultural therapy sessions
- We provided over 3,000 hours of horticultural therapy

2.2 To continue to look for alternative ways of funding the adult Horticultural Therapy sessions with a view to reducing our reliance on grant funding and ensuring that all those who are eligible are able to attend.

This has been achieved and is ongoing:

- The John Sykes Foundation granted us £1,000 towards continuation of our social prescribing project until the end of September 2022. In addition to the £1,680 carried over from the St Laurence Relief in Need Trust for the months of April and May 2022, Reading Dispensary Trust provided further support amounting to £2,000 for individual patients to attend the Monday sessions for another 6 months from October 2022 to March 2023.
- The Social Prescribers at the University Health Centre took on the commitment to successfully research sources of funding for most of the Monday client gardeners, and secured £500 from the Berkshire Nurses Relief Fund as well as continued support from Reading Dispensary Trust.
- We renewed our procedures for assessing clients to benefit from our Special Circumstances Fund and sought resources to replenish this to ensure any clients who met the criteria could be funded. This led to preparing and submitting a bid at the end of the financial year for a fundraising event with Big Give in May 2023, to coincide with the 20th Anniversary event at the garden, the proceeds for which would support mental health via the Kind2Mind match funding initiative.
- One of our Horticultural Therapists, Hannah Pritchard, secured £1,000 from the Lakeland Staff Managed Charity Fund for partial funding of a new greenhouse (spend for which was incurred in the year 2023-24).
- Building on the success of our initial "Daffodil Day" in 2021, it was decided that we should run an expanded event with indoor and seasonal plants and refreshments. This event raised £503, and with the agreement from the trustees it was decided that these funds should be used for garden development.

- We were grateful recipients of donations (£760) made at the funeral of the grandmother of Mr Stephen Dilley. These paid for the base, threshold and staging for the new greenhouse, purchased from the grant awarded by Lakeland.
- Generous donations in the memory of former Ridgeline client Phil Banbury and of Peter Lawlor, the father of another Ridgeline client, allowed us to purchase and erect two locally-made sheds. One of these is accessible to wheelchair users, with the other smaller shed dedicated for storing sharp tools.

2.3. To maintain careful monitoring of our finances in view of the inflationary pressures on our budget and to identify where savings can be made that do not impact on the quality of service we offer.

This has been achieved and is ongoing:

- We increased our current reserves by £4,852 through careful management of income and expenditure.
- Ridgeline continued to work as sustainably as possible - reusing, repurposing and minimizing all waste. With the support and help of two volunteers the very effective composting system continued to work well. Leaf mould was also produced by using our own leaves and supplemented by those gathered by our neighbour, Lakeside Residential Care Home. Both these practices kept down costs, contributed to the biodiversity of the garden and enhanced a sustainable way of working. An award of compost from Reading Borough Council also helped to minimize our compost costs, as did reusing compost when we could. We also bought compostable plates and cups for our plant sale refreshments.
- In preparation for the new greenhouse with polycarbonate windows, we approached the neighbouring allotment holders to see if they would like to reuse the old glass greenhouse. The removal of the greenhouse was subsequently arranged with the recipient making a substantial donation to the garden in lieu of a purchase price.
- Problems with the Pavilion roof and the plumbing were dealt with by local firms after research by the Garden Coordinator to find competitive quotes, being always mindful of the cost to the charity.
- We also saved costs by carefully reducing the frequency of paid cleaning in the wake of the pandemic, while always maintaining a safe and clean environment for all our garden users.
- Fundraising at the gate via bucket donations continued to be a successful means of fundraising for specific items, such as a transportation cart and staging for the greenhouse. Visitors enjoy seeing what their donations help us provide.
- Our Wednesday maintenance volunteers continued, as ever, to support the work of the horticultural therapists and to maintain the garden to a high standard, given time constraints and the numbers involved. They remain the backbone of the garden.
- In August 2022 the role of Garden Coordinator was divided into two, creating a role of Horticultural Therapist Coordinator for the previous incumbent of the Garden Coordinator's role. The garden coordination role was taken on by one of the trustees, Margaret Osborne, which proved a successful division of labour and avoided the need for additional staff costs.
- To further maintain control over costs we used a broker for the annual insurance renewal, which resulted in a saving of £309 on the annual premium from the previous year.

2.4. To achieve better outcomes by working in partnership with other organisations including schools by continuing to develop existing partnerships and establishing new ones in order to achieve our objectives.

This has been achieved and is ongoing:

- As members of RGWN we enjoyed free access to staff and volunteer training sessions from Reading Physical Activity Mental Health Partnership from October 2022-March 2023, which a few members of staff attended. This included First Aid training for Rachel Jarvis, and First Aid Mental Health training for Hannah Pritchard and Julie Roberts.
- We were also able to benefit from our membership of RGWN in having an excellent video made by Real Time Video in July 2022, funded by Reading Borough Council. This is now uploaded on the homepage of our website and very effectively promotes what we do at Ridgeline.
- The representative of Reading Borough Council (RBC) who manages our contract visited the garden in March 2023, enabling him to appreciate first hand the quality of what we offer in a beautiful environment, both which benefit the referrals made by RBC.

2.5. To continue to develop the garden so that it can provide meaningful gardening activities for an increasing number of client gardeners.

This has been achieved and is ongoing:

- The new approach to managing the garden and its maintenance by allocating each gardening group an area for which they are responsible for its maintenance and development continued to work well.
- Margaret Osborne led the development and maintenance of the garden and established the new Garden Coordinator role, which Rachel Jarvis embraced with enthusiasm and success.
- Daffodil Day funds allowed us to regenerate the grass border as well as renew the lavender planting in the Long Border. This provided opportunities for the school students to participate in a bigger and very visible project.
- The two new sheds erected in June/July 2022 proved a positive development. One is now used to store gardening tools with easy access for client gardeners and the larger shed has enhanced the garden experience for school students in particular, as they are able to choose their own tools. The shed is now well ordered and uncluttered, meaning safer and easier access for everyone.
- Volunteers with DIY skills continue to make a very valuable contribution to the general maintenance of the garden, for example mending benches and tables and fixing water butts.
- The clock was erected on the Pavilion during summer 2022.

2.6. To commit resources and energy to professional practice and good governance.

This has been achieved and is ongoing:

- The Trustees met regularly, usually once a month throughout the year, sometimes with the wider Planning Group. At these meetings, progress on our objectives was monitored and a number of policies and procedures were reviewed.
- Our finances were closely monitored by our volunteer Treasurer, Gillian Charles, and through her excellent reporting and helpful financial analysis we were able to achieve a positive year-end outturn.
- In line with our objective of offering high quality professional Horticultural Therapy, Trustees committed to staff development through the training provided by Reading Physical Activity Mental Health Partnership.
- In February 2022 Jane Ruse and Stuart Donald, both active Ridgeline volunteers, were appointed as Trustees and have brought new ideas and valuable skills and experience to the Trustee Board and the wider Planning Group.

3. Brief summary of significant activities and developments since the end of the financial year, for information:

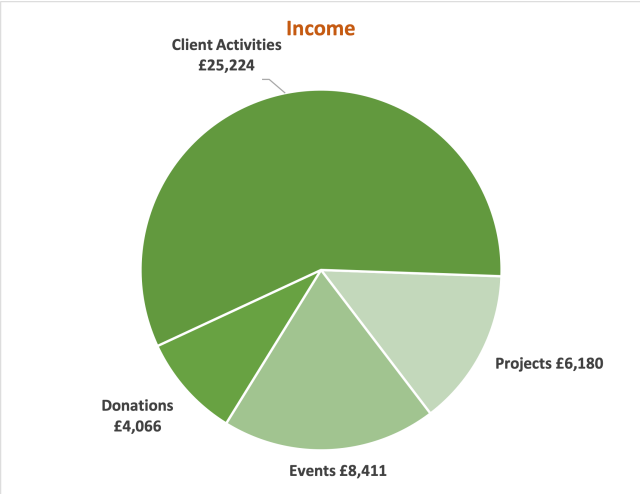
- We celebrated Ridgeline's 20th Anniversary with an enjoyable garden party on 21 May coupled with a successful fundraising initiative. Generous donations to the Big Give Kind2 Mind campaign for our Special Circumstances Fund exceeded the £5,000 target, meaning the additional income and all the gift aid (in total £6,898) is unrestricted in terms of how we use it.
- We were delighted to make a presentation in July to Jill Grainger and Carol Woodward for their dedicated and committed work since the garden's founding.
- Our annual Friends event was hosted by Graham and Angela Johnson on 3 September. Ridgeline's 20th anniversary was marked with an illustrated summary Graham had prepared of Ridgeline's first 20 years, with the many Friends who have contributed over the years appreciated through this acknowledgement.
- The popular annual Plant Sale held in July this year was well attended as ever, and raised £2,622.
- The new greenhouse was erected in July 2023, giving more growing space and extending the growing season. It is wheelchair accessible and safety is enhanced by the toughened safety glass.
- The Harvest Fete in September raised a record £2,867 plus significant donations of over £2,000 from Aurum investment specialists, in response to Marc Bartsch's guitarathon. Visitors to the garden enjoyed Marc's talented playing as they browsed the stalls and enjoyed tea and homemade cakes donated by our many volunteers and supporters.
- We attended the Pepsico Volunteering Fayre organised by Connect Reading in October 2023, to promote Ridgeline and to network with the local business community for their support.
- In the garden, the Goat Willow has been pruned for safety and three new steps have been created from the Welcome Bed to improve access. These were built by one of our new volunteers, using repurposed materials. Client gardeners who are unsteady can now fully access the bed and as the steps are light-coloured, this also enables those who have sight difficulties to see them clearly.
- We were very sad to say goodbye to Rachel Jarvis who has resigned from her roles as Horticultural Therapy Coordinator and lead for the Addington School Groups. We are very grateful to Rachel for her contribution to Ridgeline's development over the past few years and she will be missed. Rachel is planning to move out of the area but fortunately she has agreed to stay on as a volunteer until her move is completed.
- We are also pleased to have appointed Julie Roberts as the new Horticultural Therapy Coordinator and to welcome Catherine Watkins as the lead for Addington School.
- We have received an increased number of enquiries about Horticultural Therapy sessions in recent months, with a few potential client gardeners attending for a trial session. We are now looking at the possibility of opening a new session on Monday mornings in the New Year, but this will depend on us having enough client gardeners for this to be financially viable.

4. Finance

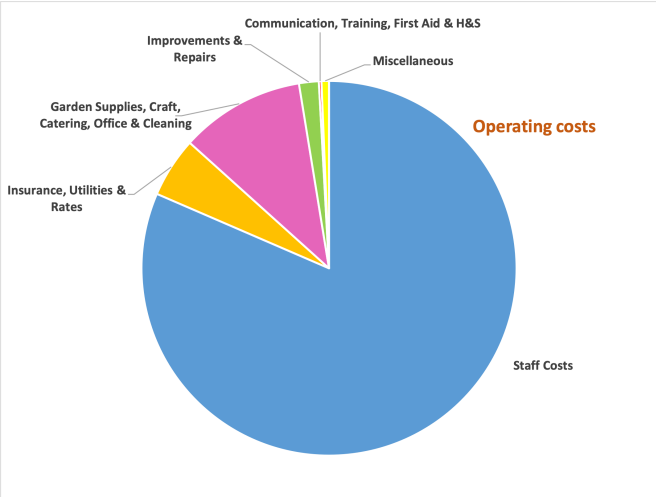
4.1 Accounts for 2022-2023

The accounts have been circulated prior to the AGM. All figures quoted here will be subject to Independent Certification. Last year's figures are shown in brackets for comparison.

- In summary, our income for the period was £43,882 (compared with £39,602 in 2021-22). £6,180 (£7,745) came from project grants (including the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme in 2021-22), £12,477 (£7,956) from fundraising activities and donations and £25,224 (£23,901) from charges for our services (and supplier relief payments in 2021-22).



- We spent £5,330 (£6,496) on grant-funded projects, including the Social Prescribing Project with the University Health Centre, and on usage of our Special Circumstances Fund.
- General operating costs were £33,700 (£36,006), of which £27,465 (£28,218) were employment costs (less staff costs attributed to the Social Prescribing Project). Depreciation on the building was £2,123 (£2,123), making total expenditure for accounting purposes £41,152 (£45,338).



- Income exceeded expenditure by £2,730 (in 2021-22 a deficit of £5,735 was recorded).
- Total assets at 31 March 2023 stood at £64,427 (£61,698 at 31 March 2022). The Pavilion building is a fixed asset, currently valued at £29,717 (£31,839) after depreciation. Net current assets totalled £34,710 (£29,858). Of these current funds, £1,562 (£2,430) were treated as restricted with the remaining £33,148 (£27,428) being available in reserves for running costs, general garden development and contingencies.
- Since the year-end, grants totalling £1,000 have been received. At the end of September 2023 our cash reserves stood at £42,637 (compared to £29,914 at the end of September 2022).

4.2 Grants from Organisations during the financial year 2022-23:

Organisation	Purpose	Amount
Reading Dispensary Trust	For Social Prescribing client gardeners	£2,000
Berkshire Nurses Relief Fund	For Social Prescribing client gardeners	£500
John Sykes Foundation	To continue Social Prescribing project	£1,000
Lakeland Staff Managed Charity Fund	Towards purchase of new Greenhouse	£1,000 (to be attributed to next financial year)
St Laurence Relief in Need Trust	To continue and expand Social Prescribing project	(£1,680 attributed to this financial year from donation of £3,360 in 2021-22)

4.3 Friends of Ridgeline Scheme: This encourages regular donations, providing a degree of reliability in our income. £2,269 (£1,834 in 2021-22) was contributed by a total of 12 Ridgeline Friends. We continue in our efforts to encourage more of our supporters to join this scheme.

A further £1,797 was raised in one-off donations from generous supporters of Ridgeline Trust.

4.4. Reserves Policy: Our aim, in which we have succeeded in the year under report, is always to maintain a balance of sufficient funds in the bank to enable us to continue to meet our ongoing obligations and to operate for at least three months (and preferably six months) in the event of unforeseen contingencies or failure to attract sufficient income or grant funding for providing our core Horticultural Therapy services. These reserves are regarded by the Trustees as virtually "ring-fenced" in the charity's management accounts. Three months' funding at current levels is approximately £12,000.

5. Strategy and Development

In July 2020 the Trustees agreed a new Ridgeline Strategy for 2020-2023. This provided clear direction and concrete steps for how we would resume our work in pandemic conditions, prioritising the safety of our clients, staff and volunteers. It aspires to diversify and extend our services to additional clients, including those in need of support and rehabilitation as a result of the new circumstances arising out of the Covid-19 pandemic, and it affirms our commitment to good governance and professional practice.

This Strategy continues to inform our proposals on the priorities for the coming year and may be viewed on our website via a link embedded in the *Our Mission* page.

A new strategy is being developed in 2023-24 to determine our development priorities going forward.

6. Priorities for the year 2023-2024 (no change, carried over from 2022-23)

1. To build on the achievements of the past year to restore and expand client gardening sessions by increasing participation across all our adult groups.
2. To continue to look for alternative ways of funding the adult Horticultural Therapy sessions with a view to reducing our reliance on grant funding whilst also ensuring that cost is not a barrier for those who would otherwise benefit from participation.
3. To maintain careful monitoring of our finances in view of the inflationary pressures on our budget and to identify where savings can be made that do not impact on the quality of service we offer.
4. To achieve better outcomes by working in partnership with other organisations including schools and to continue to develop existing partnerships and establish new ones in order to achieve our objectives.
5. To continue to develop the garden so that it can provide meaningful gardening activities for an increasing number of client gardeners.
6. To commit resources and energy to professional practice and good governance.

7. Governance and Organisation

7.1 Governing Document: The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 12 May 2003 and registered as a charity on 15 September 2003. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up, members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £10.

The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law and under the company's Articles are known as Trustees. Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, one third of the Trustees are required to retire each year by rotation in the order of the time since their appointment. Retiring Trustees may be re-elected at the Annual General Meeting.

7.2 Organisation: The running of the Charity is managed through the efforts of an enthusiastic but small number of regular volunteers from the local community. A brief overview of the governance arrangements is as follows:

- Members of the Charity (of whom there were 15 at 31/3/2023) who attend and are entitled to vote at all General Meetings of the Charity, are appointed by the Trustees. More Members would be very welcome.
- Trustees (currently five), appointed by the Members, of whom Sara Uren has been the Chair. We recruited two new Trustees in 2021-22, bringing in new skills, to reduce/share the load and to ensure succession planning for the future. Their appointments were formally confirmed at the AGM in November 2022.
- The Planning Group comprises all Trustees and the Development Manager. Representative Horticultural Therapists are invited to attend meetings from time-to-time. Meetings take place every two months, to which reports are submitted and any significant developments are reviewed, so that operational decisions can be taken. In Trustee meetings, strategic decisions are taken, approvals are given, policies and procedures are reviewed, and finances and budget are monitored with attendance of the Treasurer. In addition, informal Garden Planning discussions take place regularly throughout the year.
- Volunteers are invited to attend as observers at the AGM.

The Trustees continue to encourage and recruit volunteers for the essential and rewarding work of running the garden and the charity's client services. From time-to-time, we also welcome interest from volunteers who have the skills or experience to contribute to the administration of the Charity.

Our Management Structure and our policies and procedures (23 in all) are carefully reviewed, through an annual calendar of agenda items for the monthly Planning Meetings. The monitoring of risks to the Charity is undertaken, in line with the guidance of the Charity Commission, principally in terms of governance, external, regulatory and compliance, financial and operational risks. The aim is to satisfy ourselves that our identification and management of risk enable us to fulfil our duty of accountability to our stakeholders, including beneficiaries, donors, funders, employees and the general public.

The Trustees are grateful to our accountant Peter Tilbury for his assistance in certifying our accounts, providing payroll services and hosting our Registered Office.

Ros Richards was re-elected at the November 2022 AGM via resignation and reappointment of one third of Trustee by rotation, as required by Articles of Association.

8. List of Trustees of the Charity (all of whom were appointed at a General Meeting under the Articles of Association, originally adopted on 10 May 2003, and were Directors of the Company) during the period under report:

- Sara Jane Uren
- Rosalind Jessie Richards
- Margaret Osborne
- Stuart Donald
- Jane Ruse

9. Companies Act requirements

For the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 the Company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question, in accordance with section 476.
- The Directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

Public Benefit Statement: The Trustees have complied with their duty to have regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers and duties.

The above Directors' Report is to be presented at the Annual General Meeting of the Charity on 15 November 2023

Board of Directors/Trustees

East Reading Horticultural Therapy and Community Based Training Ltd

(Known as Ridgeline Trust) Charity No 1099441 Company limited by guarantee, number 4760734

Balance Sheet for the Year 01st April 2022 to 31st March 2023

Accumulated Fund		**2022/23**	2021/22
Opening Balance as at 01st April 2022	£61,697.54		£67,432.99
Excess of Income over Expenditure (Deficit in brackets)	£2,729.59		(£5,735.45)
Balance carried forward		**£64,427.13**	£61,697.54
Fund Summary			
Of which Funds are Fixed		£29,716.64	£31,839.25
Of which Funds are Restricted (Special Circumstances Fund/ Sheds/ Social Prescribing Fund)	£1,562.00		£2,430.10
Of which Funds are Unrestricted	£33,148.49		£27,428.19
Sub-Total of Current Funds		£34,710.49	£29,858.29
Total of Funds		**£64,427.13**	£61,697.54

Fixed Assets		**2022/23**	2021/22
Tangible Assets	£29,716.64		£31,839.25
Total Fixed Assets as at 31st March 2023		**£29,716.64**	£31,839.25
Current Assets			
Trade Debtors	£6,240.32		£1,288.96
Debtors	**£6,240.32**		£1,288.96
Bank Balance at 31st March 2023	£34,460.41		£33,799.50
Cash in hand at 31st March 2023	£0.00		£0.00
Cash at Bank and in Hand	**£34,460.41**		£33,799.50
Total Current Assets as at 31st March 2023	**£40,700.73**		£35,088.46
Creditors	£5,990.24		£5,230.17
Net Current Assets as at 31st March 2023		**£34,710.49**	£29,858.29
Total Assets as at 31st March 2023		**£64,427.13**	£61,697.54

East Reading Horticultural Therapy & Community Based Training Limited
Accounts for the financial year 2022-2023 approved at Annual General Meeting dated 15 November 2023
For the year ended 31 March 2023 the Company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 (the Act) relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:
The Members have not required the Company to obtain an audit for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Act, The Directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts. These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

Stuart Donald
Director

Margaret Osborne
Director

Company limited by guarantee Company no. 4760734
Registered Office: 6 Windsor Square, Silver Street, Reading RG1 2TH

Registered Charity no. 1099441

East Reading Horticultural Therapy and Community Based Training Ltd

(Known as Ridgeline Trust) Charity No 1099441 Company limited by guarantee, number 4760734

Income & Expenditure Report for the Year 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023

Income			2022/23	2021/22
Grants for Projects				
Social Prescribing	Reading Dispensary Trust	£2,000.00		
Social Prescribing	St Laurence Relief in Need Trust	£1,680.00		
Social Prescribing	Bekrshire Nurses Relief Fund	£500.00		
Social Prescribing	John Sykes Foundation grant	£1,000.00		
Greenhouse	Lakeland Staff Managed Charity Fund	£1,000.00		
	Projects Total		**£6,180.00**	£7,745.00
Events				
Plant Sales		£2,581.12		
Harvest Sale		£4,805.28		
Daffodil Day		£502.84		
Other income		£522.08		
	Events Total		**£8,411.32**	£1,379.98
Donations				
Friends		£2,268.84		
One off donations		£1,797.28		
	Donations Total		**£4,066.12**	£6,576.23
Activities				
Client Payments		£12,529.35		
Addington School		£9,500.00		
Avenue School		£3,195.00		
	Activities Total		**£25,224.35**	£23,901.12
	Total Income		**£43,881.79**	£39,602.33

Expenditure			2022/23	2021/22
Spend on Grant-funded Projects				
Social Prescribing	Matched to grant income	£5,180.00		
Special Circumstances		£150.00		
Greenhouse	Spend to come in 2023/24	£0.00		
	Projects Total		**£5,330.00**	£6,496.00
Events				
Plant Sales	Costs	£0.00		
Harvest Sale	Costs	£0.00		
Daffodil Day	Costs	£0.00		
Other income	Costs	£0.00		
	Events Total		**£0.00**	£713.35
Operating Costs				
Staff costs (less costs attributed to Social Prescribing project)		£27,464.96		
Insurance		£801.12		
Utilities & Internet		£877.82		
Rates		£67.58		
Garden Supplies		£1,137.44		
Craft items		£30.56		
Catering Supplies & Subsistence		£78.93		
Office Supplies & Equipment		£201.25		
Cleaning		£1,825.15		
Improvements: shed costs in excess of donations in 2021-22		£491.90		
Repairs and Maintenance		£81.16		
First Aid, Health & Safety, Fire Precautions		£75.00		
Waste collections		£348.44		
Training		£0.00		
Memberships		£50.00		
DBS Checks		£60.00		
Accounting & Companies House fees		£13.00		
Bank Charges		£95.28		
	Operating Costs Total		**£33,699.59**	£36,005.82
Depreciation	(From Fixed Assets)		**£2,122.61**	£2,122.61
	Total Expenditure		**£41,152.20**	£45,337.78
	Excess of Income over Expenditure (Deficit in brackets)		**£2,729.59**	(£5,735.45)

East Reading Horticultural Therapy and Community Based Training Ltd

(Known as Ridgeline Trust) Charity No 1099441 Company limited by guarantee, number 4760734

Fixed Assets during the Year 01st April 2022 to 31st March 2023

Fixed Assets		**2022/23**	2021/22
Tangible Fixed Assets	Building		
Value as at 01st April 2022	£31,839.25	£31,839.25	£33,961.86
Additions	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Disposals	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Tangible Assets during the year	£31,839.25	£31,839.25	£33,961.86
Depreciation Basis	SL 25 years		
Depreciation Amount	£2,122.61	£2,122.61	£2,122.61
Value as at 31st March 2023	£29,716.64	£29,716.64	£31,839.25
Investments		**£0.00**	£0.00
Fixed Assets as at 31st March 2023		**£29,716.64**	£31,839.25

Creditors due within one year	**2022/23**	2021/22
Deferred Income	£5,365.00	£3,040.00
Accruals	£585.00	£0.00
Other creditors	£40.24	£2,190.17
Total Creditors due within one year	**£5,990.24**	£5,230.17

East Reading Horticultural Therapy and Community Based Training Ltd

(Known as Ridgeline Trust) Charity No 1099441 Company limited by guarantee, number 4760734

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2023

1 Accounting policies

Basis of preparation
The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with FRS 102, The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (as applied to small entities by section 1A of the standard).

Income
Income is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable, net of discounts. Income includes revenue earned from the sale of goods and from the rendering of services.

Tangible fixed assets
Tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulative depreciation and any accumulative impairment losses. Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset evenly over its expected useful life, as follows:

Building	Straight line over 25 years

Debtors
Short term debtors are measured at transaction price (which is usually the invoice price), less any impairment losses for bad and doubtful debts.

Creditors
Short term creditors are measured at transaction price (which is usually the invoice price).

Pensions
Contributions to defined contribution plans are expensed in the period to which they relate.

2 Employees

	31st March 2023	31st March 2022
Average number of persons employed by the company	4	4

3 Tangible fixed assets
See Fixed Assets sheet

4 Debtors
The breakdown of Debtors is shown on the Balance Sheet. Accrued Income relates to Grants promised but not yet received.

5 Other information
East Reading Horticultural Therapy and Community Based Training Ltd is a private company limited by guarantee and incorporated in England, no. 4760734
Its registered office is: 6 Windsor Square, Silver Street, Reading RG1 2TH It is also Registered as a Charity, no. 1099441

CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of	**East Reading Horticultural Therapy and Community Based Training Limited (known as Ridgeline Trust)**		
On accounts for the year ended	**31st March 2023**	**Charity no (if any)**	**1099441**
Set out on pages	**1 & 2** (remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 / 03 / 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

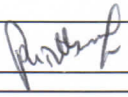
Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination ~~(other than that disclosed below *)~~ which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect,:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* *Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:		**Date:**	**21st December 2023**
Name:	**Peter N. Tilbury**		

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

Fellow of the Association of International Accountants (FAIA) (Membership Number 142181)

Address:	6 Windsor Square, Silver Street,
	Reading, Berkshire, RG1 2TH

Section B Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

NONE

EAST READING HORTICULTURAL THERAPY AND COMMUNITY BASED TRAINING LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 1099441

Accounts



Ridgeline Trust – East Reading Horticultural Therapy and Community-Based Training Ltd

Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2022

Foreword: Ongoing impact of the Covid-19 pandemic

The year opened with the gradual lifting of lockdown restrictions and a sense of cautious optimism, in stark contrast to the previous year when the country was shutting down in response to the first wave of Covid 19. Ridgeline continued to experience the impact of the pandemic during 2021/22, however, and this report outlines the way in which we have managed these challenges. We are not alone in this, as research reported by the Charities Commission in October 2021 shows:

Nearly all charities (91%) in England and Wales have experienced some negative impact from Covid-19. The consequences have been wide-ranging and often severe, spanning service delivery, financial and staffing issues, as well as frustration and uncertainty. 72% of charities said their finances had been impacted, with lost fundraising, trading and a drop in volunteers. Many charities have had to adapt their services: 40% had dipped into reserves, and 32% had paused operations temporarily. In the medium term over half (62%) anticipate a threat to their charity's financial viability in the next 12 months, although many expect to be in the same or better position overall.[1]

In practice this meant that although outdoor activities were permitted by March 2021 and we were able to start the gradual resumption of Horticultural Therapy sessions, we were not able to recover our pre-pandemic levels of participation for our adult groups this year. Continued uncertainty and high levels of infection over summer 2021 meant that we took the difficult decision not to proceed with public fundraising events such as the Plant Sale and Harvest Fete.

In other ways the pandemic created new opportunities for Ridgeline's support, as the adverse effects of lockdowns on well-being and mental health became more widely discussed. Groups most affected included young people and those with pre-existing mental health conditions. Ridgeline responded to this challenge by offering more bespoke sessions for Addington and the Avenue Schools and by developing our partnership with the University Health Centre, whereby their Social Prescribing team would refer patients whose mental health had deteriorated during the pandemic.

As a direct result of these new initiatives, we have increased the number of Horticultural Therapy sessions offered each week as well as the total numbers of clients attending. These achievements would not have been possible without the commitment of our staff and volunteers. In particular we pay tribute to our Development Manager, Sian Hooley, for making use of every opportunity to promote Ridgeline to the wider community, reaching out and working collaboratively with other partners and recruiting and supporting new volunteers to replace those who, for various reasons, decided not to return after lockdown

Despite these achievements, however, we had to be careful to manage our expenditure prudently. This remained higher than previously because we had to maintain measures to keep our clients, staff and volunteers safe. As a result of this and a shortfall in our client fee income, our year-end accounts reported a deficit of £5,735 representing 14% of income. Efforts continue to minimise expenditure and increase income so as to restore our finances to a break-even position and this will be more important in the coming year, as we face the new challenge of increases to the cost of living.

[1] Research and analysis COVID-19 Survey 2021 Published 28 October 2021

1. Overview

1.1 What we do

Ridgeline Trust offers social and therapeutic horticulture to people with mental and/or physical disabilities and other special needs. Our professionally-trained horticultural therapists develop and lead activities to build client confidence and skills and regularly monitor and review individual progress and well-being. We offer safe gardening activities all year round in our beautiful garden near Reading town-centre, accessible by public transport. Our pavilion provides shelter and warmth for year-round operation, enabling clients to enjoy garden-themed craft activities in cold or wet weather. With our support, clients recover and develop their skills, confidence, and self-esteem and enjoy the opportunities provided for social communication in a calm, restorative environment. We have extended our services to those with conditions which may have worsened during Covid-19 and, having made our premises and activities as safe as possible for minimising the risk of infection, we welcome new and returning clients to the garden.

We foster evidence-led approaches in the provision of social and therapeutic horticulture, delivered with a firm commitment to collaboration, inclusion and professional practice. All our activities are undertaken to further our charitable purposes for the public benefit.

2. Main activities during the year 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022

Our activities are set out in the form of the priorities we agreed at the last AGM, with brief comments on how well we have achieved them.

2.1 To maintain vigilance of the Covid-19 pandemic context and any Government requirements/ advice, carrying out rigorous assessments to mitigate risks which might affect our clients, our staff or our volunteers.

This has been achieved:

- The year began with the gradual lifting of lockdown restrictions. Outdoor activities were permitted and at the end of March 2021 we resumed the Tuesday morning sessions with a few clients who were assessed as less vulnerable to Covid.

- Our risk assessments and practice were regularly updated and communicated in accordance with government guidance, which was revised at regular intervals during this period. We continued with safety measures such as mask wearing indoors, restricting numbers and social distancing where practicable during the Spring and Summer months when the Delta variant was predominant. With the availability of mass testing, this became our main focus and we provided free test kits for use by our staff and volunteers. As the vaccine roll out progressed, we updated staff and volunteers on changes to the requirement to self-isolate for those who had been in close contact with a person who had tested positive for Covid 19.

- Ridgeline staff and support volunteers were given priority access to the vaccines, including the booster, as part of Reading Borough Council social care workforce. We provided support to staff and volunteers to enable them to access the programme.

- As infection rates from Delta subsided during the Autumn and more activities had to take place indoors, ventilation and maintaining good air flow became a priority. We purchased a CO2 monitor which enabled us to measure air quality and adjust ventilation accordingly.

- As the Omicron variant took hold in December we maintained vigilance and closed the final Horticultural Therapy sessions before Christmas to protect staff, volunteers and clients who were all looking forward to spending the festive period with family and friends. This was the only occasion this year when we had to suspend activities.

2.2 To continue to restore and expand the number of client gardening sessions delivered.

This has been achieved:

- With the lifting of lockdown restrictions, the Tuesday sessions were resumed at the end of March 2021, in the mornings initially and with a small number of client gardeners. The afternoon sessions were resumed at the end of September with a few morning gardeners opting to stay all day. The numbers increased gradually throughout the year but we were unable to recover our pre-lockdown levels of participation. This was in part due to some client gardeners not returning and to a lack of referrals from Reading Borough Council and other support agencies. We acknowledge that this was a challenge for Hannah Pritchard, who was relatively new in post, and she has done well to re-establish this group in difficult circumstances.
- We were pleased that the Avenue School returned to Ridgeline in April 2021. Prior to lockdown the School had sent a few students who joined in with the Monday group. This year we were able to offer them exclusive sessions for up to 10 pupils in the Summer and Autumn terms. Before the pandemic we had offered Liz Slocombe an opportunity to lead the school sessions but this offer had to be put on hold for a year, so we were delighted that she was still available and keen to join the Ridgeline team. Liz has led this group with great energy and enthusiasm and we have received very positive feedback from the School.
- Addington School also returned in the Summer term for three sessions per week as the site they previously used for their third session was unable to meet the required Health and Safety standards related to Covid. We were very grateful to Rachel Jarvis who agreed at short notice to lead the additional session. From September the School reverted to two sessions per week, on Thursday morning and afternoon. The pupils attending the morning session have the most severe learning and physical disabilities, so great care is taken to meet their individual needs to ensure that they get the maximum benefit from their time at Ridgeline. As with the Avenue, we have received positive feedback from the School and we acknowledge the dedication and professionalism with which Rachel has delivered these sessions to a diverse range of pupils.
- We were unable to resume the Monday afternoon sessions in the pre-Covid format as many client gardeners were either unable or unwilling to return. However in June we launched a new group for patients referred by Social Prescribers at the University Health Centre. We received funding from the Reading Dispensary Trust to pilot this venture (see below), which enabled us to employ Julie Roberts to lead this group. This was a new direction for Ridgeline as the client gardeners had mostly mental health issues, as opposed to learning disabilities, and attendance was initially irregular as they sought to establish a new routine of attendance. Under Julie's committed and sensitive stewardship this group has grown and is now well-established, with individual members reporting improvements to their general well-being.

2.3 To diversify our client base while retaining our focus on clients who will benefit from professionally-led social and therapeutic horticulture.

This has been achieved and is ongoing:

- Ridgeline's collaboration with the University Health Centre and Green Health Thames Valley led to the launch of a new group on Mondays for patients whose mental health had deteriorated during the pandemic. Bespoke sessions were tailored to patients referred by the Practice's Social Prescribers who supported and encouraged their attendance. We were awarded a grant of £4,774 from the Reading Dispensary Trust which funded 12 sessions at Ridgeline and 10 sessions with Green Health Thames Valley (GHTV), to which £2,150 was transferred for their participation. At the end of the pilot project our partnership with GHTV came to an end and we were successful in securing additional funding independently, which enabled the sessions to continue up until the end of the year and beyond.
- We were also granted £1,064 in funding from the Wild Being Project (part of a government grant supporting Green Social Prescribing in Reading, administered by RVA) which resourced our participation in: Waterway Wellbeing Day on 14 August; Reading Town Meal on 25

September; and part provided for continuation of our social prescribing project with the University Health Centre, for a further 10 weeks from September-November 2021. This is shown in the accounts as the Thriving Communities Fund grant and is also represented as part of Other Income.

- Further resource was granted to continue this project until May 2022, with £1,000 from the Albert Hunt Trust and £3,360 from the St Laurence Relief in Need Trust. £1,680 of the St Laurence Relief in Need Trust grant has been held over into the financial year 2022-23 to match with social prescribing costs during the months of April and May in this period.
- We participated in the Whiteknights Arts Trail event on 26 & 27 June which raised £713, and in the Pop-up flower stall and plant sale in Woodley on 29th July 2021, which raised £450.

2.4 To develop the garden to accommodate changes to its management, diversification and expansion.

This has been achieved:

- The expansion of Horticultural Therapy sessions this year highlighted the need for a new approach to managing the garden and its maintenance. The Horticultural Therapists decided the best way forward would be to allocate each group an area of the garden for which they would be responsible for its maintenance and development. This included certain areas deemed unsuitable for maintenance by client gardeners and some areas where maintenance was to be shared. This system has worked well and has reduced the amount of email communication required between the various groups.
- Initially Margaret Osborne took on responsibility for coordinating the maintenance of the garden and subsequently the Trustees decided to create a new role of Garden Coordinator, in addition. We were delighted that Rachel Jarvis took on this role.
- Towards the end of the year we received generous donations in memory of former Ridgeline client Phil Banbury and of Peter Lawlor, the father of another Ridgeline client. We have used these to purchase two new sheds, one of which will be used to store gardening tools with easy access for client gardeners.
- A group from The Conservation Volunteers painted the exterior of the Pavilion in the summer and we are grateful to Adrian Bridges for organising this project
- Another group of volunteers from Vodafone spent a day painting the inside of the Pavilion during the October half-term and we are very grateful to Barbara Ojala and Mick Fallowfield for completing the decoration of the toilets over the Christmas holiday and of the office over the Easter weekend. The garden furniture was painted by clients supervised by Hannah Pritchard.
- Reading Lions Den Community Grant funded £552 for additional garden equipment specifically for client use. This included multi-change tools to provide greater flexibility for different needs in client and school groups, and push mowers for those who find petrol mowers intimidating. Both the new tools and mowers have proved popular with all groups.
- We were sorry to lose our Horticultural Therapist Cathy Smith after 5 years of much appreciated service and wish her well in her new role at Reading's Museum of English Rural Life.

2.5 To commit energy and resources to professional practice and good governance.

This has been achieved and is ongoing:

- The Trustees met regularly, usually once a month throughout the year, sometimes with the wider Planning Group. At these meeting progress on our objectives was monitored and a number of policies and procedures were reviewed.
- In line with our objective of offering high quality professional Horticultural Therapy, Trustees have committed resources to staff development and training. We funded Hannah Pritchard to study for the Thrive Award in Social & Therapeutic Programme Development which she

successfully completed in May, and Liz Slocombe to study for the Thrive Certificate in Social & Therapeutic Practice which she successfully completed in January 2022.

- Graham Johnson and Faruq Bilbe stood down as Trustees at the last AGM. Ridgeline is very grateful for their many years of service. In February 2022 Jane Ruse and Stuart Donald, both active Ridgeline volunteers, were appointed as Trustees and have brought new ideas and valuable skills and experience to the Trustee Board and the wider Planning Group.

3. Brief summary of significant activities and developments since the end of the financial year, for information:

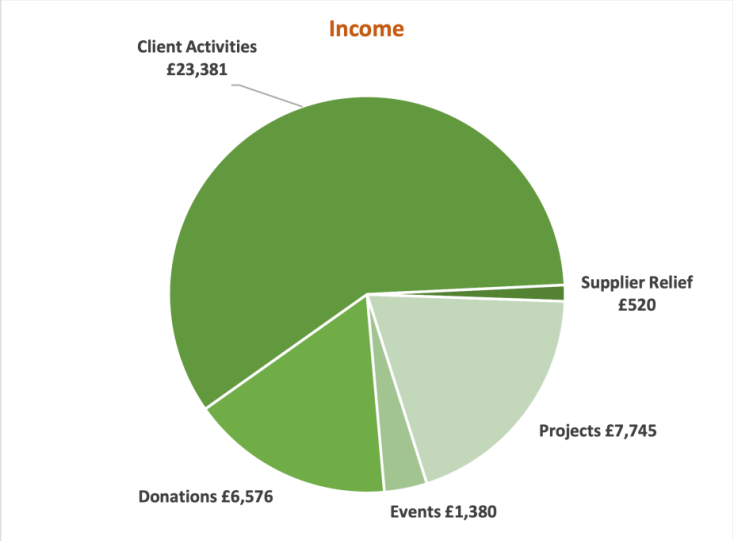
- The John Sykes Foundation granted us £1,000 towards continuation of the green social prescribing project until the end of September 2022. In addition to the £1,680 carried over from the St Laurence Relief in Need Trust for the months of April and May, Reading Dispensary Trust has provided further support amounting to £1,750 for individual patients to attend for a another 6 months from October 2022 to March 2023.
- Having established that the project was of considerable benefit to and popular with the clients attending, discussions were progressed with the University Health Centre to establish a more sustainable basis for the project to continue. The Social Prescribers are successfully researching additional sources of funding for most of the clients.
- We have renewed our procedures for assessing clients to benefit from our Special Circumstances Fund and seek resource to replenish this to ensure any clients who meet the criteria can be funded.
- In June we held our first fundraising event since 2019. The Plant Sale was well attended by supporters and members of the public and raised a total of £2,431 representing our best plant sale income to date.
- The Harvest Fete in September 2022 was another success and raised a total of £4,805, which includes funds raised for Marc Bartsch's guitar-a-thon, which attracted generous personal donations of £1,200 and a corporate donation of £1,000 from his employer, Aurum investment specialists. We are very grateful to everyone who supported both events by donating, volunteering or contributing on the day. The funds raised from both events have provided a very welcome boost to our finances in these challenging times for small charities.
- The two new sheds, resourced through the generous donations mentioned in 2.4, were installed over the summer holiday providing additional storage space and better access for client gardeners.
- We have been pleased to welcome a number of new client gardeners to our Tuesday sessions since the start of the year. The Monday afternoon sessions have also expanded with the numbers attending on a regular basis increasing over the past few months.

4. Finance

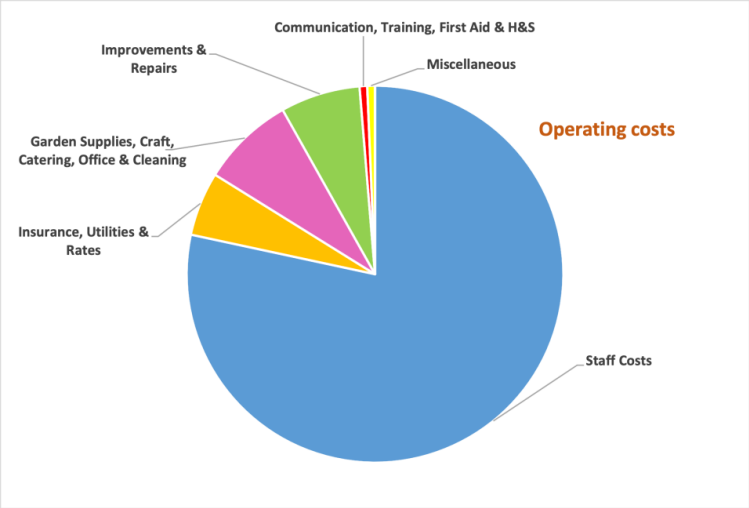
4.1 Accounts for 2021-2022

The accounts have been circulated prior to the AGM. All figures quoted here will be subject to Independent Certification. Last year's figures are shown in brackets for comparison.

- In summary, our income for the period was £39,602 (compared with £29,211 in 2020-21). £7,745 (£12,623) came from project grants and the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, £7,956 (£7,983) from fundraising activities and donations and £23,901 (£8,604) from charges for our services and supplier relief payments.



- We spent £6,496 (£9,020) on grant-funded projects, including gardening equipment for client use, the Social Prescribing Project with the University Health Centre, and on usage of our Special Circumstances Fund.
- General operating costs were £36,006 (£17,900), of which £28,218 (£13,339) were employment costs (less staff costs attributed to the Social Prescribing Project). Depreciation on the building was £2,123 (£2,123), making total expenditure for accounting purposes £45,338 (£29,042).



- Expenditure exceeded income by £5,735 (in 2020-21 a small surplus of £168 was recorded).
- Total assets at 31 March 2022 stood at £61,698 (£67,433 at 31 March 2021). The Pavilion building is a fixed asset, currently valued at £31,839 after depreciation. Net current assets totalled £29,858 (£33,471). Of these current funds, £2,430 were treated as restricted with the remaining £27,428 being available in reserves for running costs, general garden development and contingencies.
- We continued to benefit from £1,489 in payments from the government Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and we welcomed supplier relief support payments from Reading Borough council of £520, making a contribution to our ongoing costs. Since the year-end, grants

totalling £2,750 have been received. At the end of September our cash reserves stood at £29,914 (compared to £32,504 at the end of September 2021).

4.2 Grants from Organisations during the financial year 2021-22:

Organisation	**Purpose**	**Amount £**
Reading Dispensary Trust	To pilot Social Prescribing Project with University Health Centre and Green Health Thames Valley (GHTV)	£4,774 of which £2,624 to Ridgeline
Reading Lions	To fund gardening equipment for client use	£552
Thriving Communities Wildbeing Funding	To continue Social Prescribing project	£400
Albert Hunt Trust	To continue Social Prescribing project	£1,000
St Laurence Relief in Need Trust	To continue and expand Social Prescribing project (£1,680 held over for use in 2022-23)	£3,360 (of which £1,680 attributed to this financial year)

4.3 Friends of Ridgeline Scheme: This encourages regular donations, providing a degree of reliability in our income. £1,834 (£2,065 in 2020-21) was contributed by a total of 14 Ridgeline Friends. We continue in our efforts to encourage more of our supporters to join this scheme.

4.4. Reserves Policy: Our aim, in which we have succeeded in the year under report, is always to maintain a balance of sufficient funds in the bank to enable us to continue to meet our ongoing obligations and to operate for at least three months (and preferably six months) in the event of unforeseen contingencies or failure to attract sufficient income or grant funding for providing our core Horticultural Therapy services. These reserves are regarded by the Trustees as virtually "ring-fenced" in the charity's management accounts.

5. Strategy and Development

In July 2020 the Trustees agreed a new Ridgeline Strategy for 2020-2023. This provided clear direction and concrete steps for how we would resume our work in pandemic conditions, prioritising the safety of our clients, staff and volunteers. It aspires to diversify and extend our services to additional clients, including those in need of support and rehabilitation as a result of the new circumstances arising out of the Covid-19 pandemic, and it affirms our commitment to good governance and professional practice.

This Strategy continues to inform our proposals on the priorities for the coming year and may be viewed on our website via a link embedded in the *Our Mission* page.

6. Priorities for the year 2022-2023

1. To build on the achievements of the past year to restore and expand client gardening sessions by increasing participation across all our adult groups.

2. To continue to look for alternative ways of funding the adult Horticultural Therapy sessions with a view to reducing our reliance on grant funding whilst also ensuring that cost is not a barrier for those who would otherwise benefit from participation.

3. To maintain careful monitoring of our finances in view of the inflationary pressures on our budget and to identify where savings can be made that do not impact on the quality of service we offer.

4. To achieve better outcomes by working in partnership with other organisations including schools and to continue to develop existing partnerships and establish new ones in order to achieve our objectives.

5. To continue to develop the garden so that it can provide meaningful gardening activities for an increasing number of client gardeners.

6. To commit resources and energy to professional practice and good governance.

7. Governance and Organisation

7.1 Governing Document: The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 12 May 2003 and registered as a charity on 15 September 2003. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up, members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £10.

The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law and under the company's Articles are known as Trustees. Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, one third of the Trustees are required to retire each year by rotation in the order of the time since their appointment. Retiring Trustees may be re-elected at the Annual General Meeting.

7.2 Organisation: The running of the Charity is managed through the efforts of an enthusiastic but small number of regular volunteers from the local community. A brief overview of the governance arrangements is as follows:

- Members of the Charity (of whom there were 15 at 31/3/2021) who attend and are entitled to vote at all General Meetings of the Charity, are appointed by the Trustees. More Members would be very welcome.

- Trustees (currently five), appointed by the Members, of whom Sara Uren is currently the Chair. We recruited two new Trustees in 2021-22, bringing in new skills, to reduce/share the load and to ensure succession planning for the future. Their appointments are expected to be formally confirmed at the AGM in November 2022.

- The Management & Planning Team comprises all Trustees, the Treasurer, the Development Manager, and the Garden Co-ordinator. Representative Horticultural Therapists are invited to attend meetings from time-to-time. Meetings take place monthly, to which reports are submitted and any significant developments are reviewed, strategic decisions are taken, approvals are given, policies and procedures are reviewed, and finances and budget are monitored. In addition, informal Garden Planning discussions take place regularly throughout the year.

- Volunteers are invited to attend as observers at the AGM.

The Trustees continue to encourage and recruit volunteers for the essential and rewarding work of running the garden and the charity's client services. From time-to time, we also welcome interest from volunteers who have the skills or experience to contribute to the administration of the Charity.

Our Management Structure and our policies and procedures (23 in all) are carefully reviewed, through an annual calendar of agenda items for the monthly Planning Meetings. The monitoring of risks to the Charity is undertaken, in line with the guidance of the Charity Commission, principally in terms of governance, external, regulatory and compliance, financial and operational risks. The aim is to satisfy ourselves that our identification and management of risk enable us to fulfil our duty of accountability to our stakeholders, including beneficiaries, donors, funders, employees and the general public.

The Trustees are grateful to our accountant Peter Tilbury for his assistance in certifying our accounts, providing payroll services and hosting our Registered Office.

After many years of generous service, Graham Johnson (Company Secretary from 2004-2020, Trustee from 2010 and Chair of the Trustees from 2012-2020) and Faruq Bilbe (Trustee from 2004, Treasurer from 2006-2019) retired as Trustees at the AGM in November 2021. On completing 3 years of service as a Trustee, Margaret Osborne was re-elected at the November 2021 AGM.

8. List of Trustees of the Charity (all of whom were appointed at a General Meeting under the Articles of Association, originally adopted on 10 May 2003, and were Directors of the Company) during the period under report:

- Sara Jane Uren
- Rosalind Jessie Richards
- Margaret Osborne
- Stuart Donald (to be formally confirmed at 2022 AGM)
- Jane Ruse (to be formally confirmed at 2022 AGM)

9. Companies Act requirements

For the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021 the Company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question, in accordance with section 476.
- The Directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

Public Benefit Statement: The Trustees have complied with their duty to have regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers and duties.

The above Directors' Report was approved at the Annual General Meeting of the Charity on 16 November 2022

Sara Uren, Chair

East Reading Horticultural Therapy and Community Based Training Ltd

(Known as Ridgeline Trust) Charity No 1099441 Company limited by guarantee, number 4760734

Balance Sheet for the Year 01st April 2021 to 31st March 2022

Accumulated Fund		**2021/22**	2020/21
Opening Balance as at 01st April 2021	£67,432.99		£67,264.61
Excess of Income over Expenditure (Deficit in brackets)	(£5,735.45)		£168.38
Balance carried forward		**£61,697.54**	£67,432.99
Fund Summary			
Of which Funds are Fixed		£31,839.25	£33,961.86
Of which Funds are Restricted (Special Circumstances Fund/Sheds)	£2,430.10		£510.00
Of which Funds are Unrestricted	£27,428.19		£32,961.13
Sub-Total of Current Funds		£29,858.29	£33,471.13
Total of Funds		**£61,697.54**	£67,432.99

Fixed Assets		**2021/22**	2020/21
Tangible Assets	£31,839.25		£33,961.86
Total Fixed Assets as at 31st March 2022		**£31,839.25**	£33,961.86
Current Assets			
Trade Debtors	£1,288.96		£2,279.28
Debtors	**£1,288.96**		£2,279.28
Bank Balance at 31st March 2022	£33,799.50		£31,107.32
Cash in hand at 31st March 2022	£0.00		£146.01
Cash at Bank and in Hand	**£33,799.50**		£31,253.33
Total Current Assets as at 31st March 2022	**£35,088.46**		£33,532.61
Creditors	£5,230.17		£61.48
Net Current Assets as at 31st March 2022		**£29,858.29**	£33,471.13
Total Assets as at 31st March 2022		**£61,697.54**	£67,432.99

East Reading Horticultural Therapy & Community Based Training Limited
Accounts for the financial year 2021-2022 approved at Annual General Meeting dated 16 November 2022
For the year ended 31 March 2022 the Company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 (the Act) relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:
The Members have not required the Company to obtain an audit for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Act, The Directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts. These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

Sara Uren
Director Sara Uren

Margaret Osborne
Director Margaret Osborne

Company limited by guarantee Company no. 4760734
Registered Office: 6 Windsor Square, Silver Street, Reading RG1 2TH

Registered Charity no. 1099441

East Reading Horticultural Therapy and Community Based Training Ltd

(Known as Ridgeline Trust) Charity No 1099441 Company limited by guarantee, number 4760734

Income & Expenditure Report for the Year 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022

Income			2021/22	2020/21
Grants for Projects				
Gardening equipment	Reading Lions	£552.00		
Social Prescribing	Albert Hunt Trust	£1,000.00		
Social Prescribing	Reading Dispensary Trust	£2,624.00		
Social Prescribing	St Laurence Relief in Need Trust	£1,680.00		
Social Prescribing	Thriving Communities Fund	£400.00		
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme		£1,489.00		
Projects Total			**£7,745.00**	£12,623.27
Events				
Plant Sales		£611.78		
Other income		£768.20		
Events Total			**£1,379.98**	£2,954.85
Donations				
Friends		£1,834.41		
One off donations		£1,728.49		
One off donations in memory of 2 Ridgeline attendees (see note...)		£1,771.24		
Gift Aid receipts from HMRC including £388.86 in memoriam		£1,242.09		
Private Functions		£0.00		
Donations Total			**£6,576.23**	£5,028.41
Activities				
Client Payments		£7,671.12		
Addington School		£12,410.00		
Avenue School		£3,300.00		
Supplier Relief Reading Borough Council		£520.00		
Activities Total			**£23,901.12**	£8,604.27
Total Income			**£39,602.33**	£29,210.80

Expenditure			2021/22	2020/21
Spend on Grant-funded Projects				
Sundry gardening equipment for client use		£552.00		
Social Prescribing		£5,704.00		
Special Circumstances		£240.00		
Projects Total			**£6,496.00**	£9,020.00
Events				
Plant Sales	Costs	£0.00		
Other income	Costs: hosting events	£713.35		
Events Total			**£713.35**	£0.00
Operating Costs				
Staff costs (less costs attributed to Social Prescribing project)		£28,217.57		
Insurance		£1,109.94		
Utilities & Internet		£795.80		
Rates		£67.58		
Garden Supplies		£701.11		
Craft items		£51.13		
Catering Supplies & Subsistence		£105.97		
Office Supplies & Equipment		£123.20		
Cleaning		£1,898.11		
Improvements: sheds funded by donations		£2,160.10		
Repairs and Maintenance		£301.62		
First Aid, Health & Safety, Fire Precautions		£56.09		
Communications and Publicity		£0.00		
Training		£180.00		
Memberships		£138.00		
Recruitment		£70.00		
Accounting & Companies House fees		£13.00		
Bank Charges		£16.60		
Operating Costs Total			**£36,005.82**	£17,899.81
Depreciation	(From Fixed Assets)		**£2,122.61**	£2,122.61
Total Expenditure			**£45,337.78**	£29,042.42
Excess of Income over Expenditure (Deficit in brackets)			**(£5,735.45)**	£168.38

East Reading Horticultural Therapy and Community Based Training Ltd

(Known as Ridgeline Trust) Charity No 1099441 Company limited by guarantee, number 4760734

Fixed Assets during the Year 01st April 2021 to 31st March 2022

Fixed Assets		**2021-22**	2020-21
Tangible Fixed Assets	Building		
Value as at 01st April 2021	£33,961.86	£33,961.86	£36,084.47
Additions	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Disposals	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Tangible Assets during the year	£33,961.86	£33,961.86	£36,084.47
Depreciation Basis	SL 25 years		
Depreciation Amount	£2,122.61	£2,122.61	£2,122.61
Value as at 31st March 2022	£31,839.25	£31,839.25	£33,961.86
Investments		**£0.00**	£0.00
Fixed Assets as at 31st March 2022		**£31,839.25**	£33,961.86

Creditors due within one year	**2021-22**	2020-21
Deferred Income	£3,040.00	£0.00
Other creditors	£2,190.17	£61.48
Total Creditors due within one year	**£5,230.17**	£61.48

East Reading Horticultural Therapy and Community Based Training Ltd

(Known as Ridgeline Trust) Charity No 1099441 Company limited by guarantee, number 4760734

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2022

1 **Accounting policies**

Basis of preparation
The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with FRS 102, The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (as applied to small entities by section 1A of the standard).

Income
Income is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable, net of discounts. Income includes revenue earned from the sale of goods and from the rendering of services.

Tangible fixed assets
Tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulative depreciation and any accumulative impairment losses. Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset evenly over its expected useful life, as follows:

Building	Straight line over 25 years

Debtors
Short term debtors are measured at transaction price (which is usually the invoice price), less any impairment losses for bad and doubtful debts.

Creditors
Short term creditors are measured at transaction price (which is usually the invoice price).

Pensions
Contributions to defined contribution plans are expensed in the period to which they relate.

2 **Employees**

	31st March 2022	31st March 2021
Average number of persons employed by the company	4	4

3 **Tangible fixed assets**
See Fixed Assets sheet

4 **Debtors**
The breakdown of Debtors is shown on the Balance Sheet. Accrued Income relates to Grants promised but not yet received.

5 **Other information**
East Reading Horticultural Therapy and Community Based Training Ltd is a private company limited by guarantee and incorporated in England, no. 4760734
Its registered office is: 6 Windsor Square, Silver Street, Reading RG1 2TH It is also Registered as a Charity, no. 1099441

CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of	**East Reading Horticultural Therapy and Community Based Training Limited (known as Ridgeline Trust)**		
On accounts for the year ended	**31st March 2022**	**Charity no (if any)**	**1099441**
Set out on pages	**1 & 2** (remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 / 03 / 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention ~~(other than that disclosed below *)~~ in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect,:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:		**Date:**	**23rd December 2022**
Name:	**Peter N. Tilbury**		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	**Fellow of the Association of International Accountants (FAIA) (Membership Number 142181)**		

Address:	6 Windsor Square, Silver Street,
	Reading, Berkshire, RG1 2TH

Section B Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

NONE

EAST READING HORTICULTURAL THERAPY AND COMMUNITY BASED TRAINING LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 1099441

Accounts



Ridgeline Trust – East Reading Horticultural Therapy and Community-Based Training Ltd

Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2021

Foreword: Impact of the Covid-19 pandemic

Like many small charities, Ridgeline has faced a very difficult year with many challenges presented by the pandemic. While we have recently seen the lifting of restrictions, the Charity Commission reported in August 2021[1] on the effects that small and medium-size charities will continue to experience into the future. These impacts include:

- anticipated challenges with long-term funding
- how hard it has been to plan long-term, due to uncertainty over restrictions
- difficulties with recruitment
- the time it will take to be able to return to ways of operating from before the pandemic
- challenges in returning to pre-pandemic levels of engagement when working with vulnerable people

While we endeavour to address this hard new reality and seek new ways of working in response, the vulnerability of Ridgeline's services to the effects of the pandemic are evident. In this context, our Annual Report describes how the Trustees have sought to discharge their responsibility for managing Ridgeline in the best interests of our stakeholders and in ways that fulfil our charitable objectives. The commitment of staff and volunteers to this effort has been considerable and the Trustees wish to acknowledge the extent to which their contribution has accounted for success to date in the challenges we have faced. Nevertheless we continue to face constraints and uncertainties in our efforts to retrieve previous levels of client attendance and fundraising events.

The Charity's Financial Year began in April 2020, just as the first effects of the pandemic were gripping the UK. The period covered by this report from April 2020 to March 2021 describes how we managed Ridgeline during lockdowns and other restrictions, and the decisions we took to suspend client services for much of the year. These matters were regularly reviewed and informed by concerns for the safety and best interests of our clients, as well as by the need to deliver to viable numbers. With our usual streams of income under threat, our financial position was precarious. We addressed this through a combination of government aid in the form of supplier relief and staff furlough payments, by grant funding and modest fundraising events, and by a small amount of client payments during the times when we could resume their gardening sessions. Our risk assessments set out measures for minimising the risk of infection and we secured grant funding to purchase necessary equipment to operate as safely as possible for the welfare of our clients, staff and volunteers.

[1] www.charitycommission.blog.gov.uk/2021/08/23/listening-to-charities-experiences-of-the-coronavirus-pandemic/

1. Overview

1.1 What we do

Ridgeline Trust offers social and therapeutic horticulture to people with mental and/or physical disabilities and other special needs. Our professionally-trained horticultural therapists develop and lead activities to build client confidence and skills and regularly monitor and review individual progress and well-being. We offer safe gardening activities all year round in our beautiful garden near Reading town-centre, accessible by public transport. Our pavilion provides shelter and warmth for year-round operation, enabling clients to enjoy garden-themed craft activities in cold or wet weather. With our support, clients recover and develop their skills, confidence, and self-esteem and enjoy the opportunities provided for social communication in a calm, restorative environment. We are now extending our services to those with conditions which have worsened during Covid-19 and, having made our premises and activities as safe as possible for minimising the risk of infection, we welcome new and returning clients to the garden.

We foster evidence-led approaches in the provision of social and therapeutic horticulture, delivered with a firm commitment to collaboration, inclusion and professional practice. All our activities are undertaken to further our charitable purposes for the public benefit.

2. Main activities during the year 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021

Our activities are set out in the form of the priorities we agreed at the last AGM, with brief comments on how well we have achieved them.

2.1 To keep the developing Covid situation and Government requirements under regular review, carrying out rigorous risk assessments to avoid any actions which might place our clients, our staff or our volunteers at risk.

We believe this was successfully achieved through our regular assessments for how and when the garden could be open to clients, staff and volunteers.

- In managing the constraints imposed by the pandemic, we kept government requirements under constant review and appreciated practical support and advice from Reading Borough Council, Reading Voluntary Action and Berkshire Community Foundation.

- We completed a special Covid-19 Risk Assessment for re-opening the garden and pavilion to social and therapeutic activities for clients and had this approved by Reading and Wokingham Borough Councils and by Addington School. We had a major clear-out of the pavilion and garden to improve hygiene and maximise the space available for social distancing, particularly indoors. We reviewed methodologies and ways of working safely with clients and volunteers and devised measures to observe social distancing and enhanced hygiene precautions. This included the purchase of additional tools to minimise sharing among clients and the engagement of a professional cleaner to service the Pavilion regularly when client sessions were delivered.

- We were successful in two grant applications during 2020-21, which resourced the purchase of new equipment, social distancing signage, and cleaning materials necessary for safely resuming client sessions. We received £2,000 from Berkshire Community Foundation, which

has been consistently supportive of our work to date, and £700 was allocated towards equipment from a generous grant of £7,000 from specialist investment managers Aurum.

2.2 Subject to the easing of lockdown, to restore and expand the number of client gardening sessions delivered.

This was only partially achieved, as the severity and duration of the pandemic constrained attempts to restore and expand our usual levels of provision.

- By early September 2020, Covid restrictions had eased and our risk assessments were approved for client sessions to resume in October. We adopted a traffic light system used by Thrive to assess which adult clients we could safely encourage to return, and contacted those clients to see which ones were confident and able to attend. This enabled us to open to a small group on Tuesday mornings but there were insufficient numbers for us to resume Monday morning sessions. We delivered sessions to 12 clients delighted to be back in the garden in October and early November 2020, until rising Covid cases forced further national lockdowns in November and January. While Day Services were not prohibited from operating during this time, we made the responsible decision to suspend client sessions for the safety of our clients, staff and volunteers, particularly as this was the time of year when the colder weather would require greater use of indoor activities, where space was constrained for social distancing. We were also concerned that the ongoing high rates of infection meant that regular client attendance might be compromised by the understandable caution clients or their families might have about attending, by care home regulations prohibiting such outings, or by illness or self-isolation requirements experienced by clients and/or their families. By March 2021, however, the Covid situation and weather had improved sufficiently for us to re-open to deliver sessions to 5 clients before the end of the financial year. Since then, we have gradually increased client attendance to current numbers of 8 clients on Tuesday mornings and 3 on Tuesday afternoons.

- In September 2020, we also met the stringent criteria necessary to deliver to Addington School for special needs, including the provision of toilet facilities on site not shared with other users during the time of scheduled sessions. Because other providers were not able to meet these conditions, we were asked by the School to increase the number of sessions at Ridgeline and from October to December we delivered 184 sessions across 3 groups of students, benefitting 41 students in total.

2.3 To diversify our client base while retaining our focus on clients who will benefit from professionally-led Horticultural Therapy.

This was difficult to achieve in Covid circumstances, but during the period of the report we worked with partners and funding bodies on plans to diversify our intake via social prescribing networks. The planning was successfully achieved in the period of the report, while the sessions were not delivered until the following financial year.

- The grant received from Aurum supported our initiative to explore whether there were other groups of clients we could reach out to, in particular those with health problems caused or exacerbated by the pandemic. This led to a collaboration with the University Health Centre, and Green Health Thames Valley to offer bespoke client sessions for patients from deprived areas whose mental health had deteriorated as a result of the Covid pandemic. The project

involved the University Health Centre Social Prescribers allocating clients and encouraging and supporting their attendance at the two sites involved. The framework for this project and the basis for collaboration between the partners were developed during the final quarter of this report. (In May 2021 the project received funding to support its implementation from Reading Dispensary Trust and successfully launched in June.)

2.4 To develop the garden to accommodate diversification and expansion.

This was achieved with considerable support from both staff and volunteers, who developed and maintained the garden throughout the year, including during 3 national lockdowns and in other periods when the garden was closed to clients.

- With considerable support from both staff and volunteers, we were able to develop and maintain the garden through successive periods of closure to clients, all the while observing government restrictions and maintaining social distancing. This ensured the garden was ready for clients to resume activities in the periods when they could attend.

- Areas of the garden were repurposed for more effective management and we appreciated the contribution made by volunteers to carrying out some restoration and repairs to the garden infrastructure. Steven Dix replaced 4 single and two double raised beds and also made extensive repairs and designed new concrete foundations for our wind-damaged pergola. Kay and Adrian Bridges, Barbara Ojala and Mick Fallowfield constructed a pot store, storage for wood and bricks, and added new access to the wood and brick storage area.

- Although restrictions prevented us from holding our usual Plant Sale or Harvest Fête, a successful (albeit time-consuming) 'click-and-collect' plant sale was organised in the early summer by Siân Hooley, Cathy Smith and Hannah Pritchard, and this together with other incidental sales of plants raised £880. In September, a Harvest Fête was delivered remotely on YouTube by volunteer Marc Bartsch assisted by Siân, featuring photos of the garden, quizzes and video chats. As well as hosting the event, Marc provided excellent entertainment on his guitar. This impressive initiative resulted in donations from viewers amounting to £2,075.

2.5 To commit energy and resources to professional practice and good governance.

This was achieved with the significant effort made by trustees, staff and volunteers to navigate the uncertainties created by the pandemic, which imposed new and additional time-consuming responsibilities on all of us. Where possible, we drew on government and sector advice and consulted local networks to benefit from shared advice and good practice.

- Navigating the complexities of Covid-related matters required the Trustees and staff to meet frequently by Zoom to consider matters such as protecting the safety of our clients, staff and volunteers; assessing the implications of closure periods for staff employment and volunteer retention; understanding the criteria and process for requesting staff furlough payments and client supplier relief. Such things proved a steep learning curve and were demanding of our time. We also committed considerable effort to grant applications requesting resource for staff time and additional equipment to manage the impact of the pandemic.

- Throughout the year the Trustees constantly assessed both the need to suspend client gardening sessions and the impact of doing so on clients, staff and volunteers. The impact of withdrawing sessions on their wellbeing had to be balanced with our responsibility to keep everyone safe. The threat such steps posed to our financial stability included significant loss of anticipated income from both client services and our fundraising events. To minimise the damage, steps were immediately taken to reduce our costs and we are grateful to our staff for agreeing to reduce their hours of work and/or receive furlough payments, as found necessary at various stages during the year. The resulting careful balance of staff employment and furlough enabled us to both maintain the garden (with invaluable additional help from volunteers) and to continue engaging remotely with clients and other stakeholders. To further mitigate our loss of income during this time, we sought £3,623 in furlough payments from the government Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and £7,094 in supplier relief support payments from Reading and Wokingham Borough councils.

- We were successful in two significant grant applications during 2020-21 which helped us with planning and implementing new arrangements for safe re-opening. We gratefully received £7,000 from specialist investment managers Aurum (nominated to make a case for this award by their employee and our volunteer Marc Bartsch) and the already mentioned £2,000 from Berkshire Community Foundation Coronavirus Fund. These funds provided for the purchase of new equipment, for financial help with staff salaries, and for investigating potential Covid development projects.

- We are most grateful for the continued financial support provided by the regular donations from the Friends of Ridgeline, a valuable and reliable source of income in these difficult times. We are also grateful for a number of one-off donations made by people in the local community who wished to show their support for Ridgeline when our client income was affected by garden closures.

- To maintain support and engagement with our clients and volunteers while sessions were suspended, Siân regularly posted photos of the garden on social media and kept us all updated with newsletters including photos and input from staff and volunteers. She also maintained our profile in the local media with BBC Radio Berkshire interviews in May and September and was interviewed for an article on Ridgeline (and Thrive) in the September 2020 edition of Berkshire Life.

3. Brief summary of significant activities and developments since the end of the financial year, for information

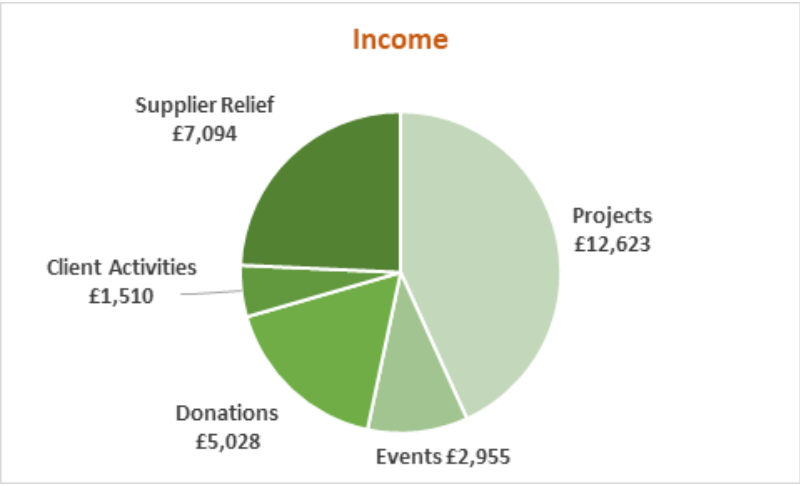
- Reading Lions Den Community Grant funded £552 for additional garden equipment. This included multi-change tools to provide greater flexibility for different needs in client and school groups, and push mowers for those who find petrol mowers intimidating. Both the new tools and mowers have proved popular with all groups.
- Funding of £4,774 was acquired from Reading Dispensary Trust to initiate our Green Social Prescribing Project in collaboration with the University Health Centre and Green Health Thames Valley (to which we transferred £2,150 for their participation). Sessions at Ridgeline were delivered on Monday afternoons for 12 weeks from June-September 2021, for which Julie Roberts was employed.

- Bespoke sessions were delivered in the Summer Term (and some holiday sessions) for The Avenue School for special needs students, for which Liz Slocombe was employed.
- Tuesday morning client sessions continued with an increase in such clients leading to the resumption of Tuesday afternoon sessions, all for which Hannah Pritchard was employed.
- Addington School sessions continued across 3 groups in the Summer Term, for which Rachel Jarvis was employed.
- We were sorry to lose our Horticultural Therapist Cathy Smith after 5 years of much appreciated service and wish her well in her new role at Reading's Museum of English Rural Life.
- We participated in the Whiteknights Arts Trail event on 26 & 27 June which raised £715, and in the Pop-up flower stall and plant sale in Woodley on 29th July 2021, which raised £444.
- We have been granted £1,064 in funding from the Wild Being Project (part of a government grant supporting Green Social Prescribing in Reading, administered by RVA) which resourced our participation in: Waterway Wellbeing Day on 14 August; Reading Town Meal on 25 September; and part provided for continuation of our social prescribing project with the University Health Centre, for a further 10 weeks from September-November 2021.
- Management of the garden was reviewed and re-organised to spread the work between clients and the garden maintenance volunteer team, overseen by Trustee Margaret Osborne and assisted by Rachel Jarvis, in a new Garden Co-ordinator post.
- The outside of the Pavilion was painted in September by Thames Conservation Volunteers, organised by Ridgeline volunteer Adrian Bridges; Vodafone volunteers painted the inside of the Pavilion at the end of October, organised by Trustee Graham Johnson; the garden furniture was painted by clients supervised by Hannah.
- The rat-infested tin shed was cleared out and the floor re-laid with a solid concrete slab base to make the shed cleaner and to avoid new rats nesting, thanks to volunteers Adrian Bridges, Barbara Ojala and Mick Fallowfield. They also reworked the compost management system.
- Planning is ongoing to replace at least one shed, with funding from donations of £1,037 in memory of a deceased client and of the deceased father and grandfather of another client.

4. Finance

4.1 Accounts for 2020-2021

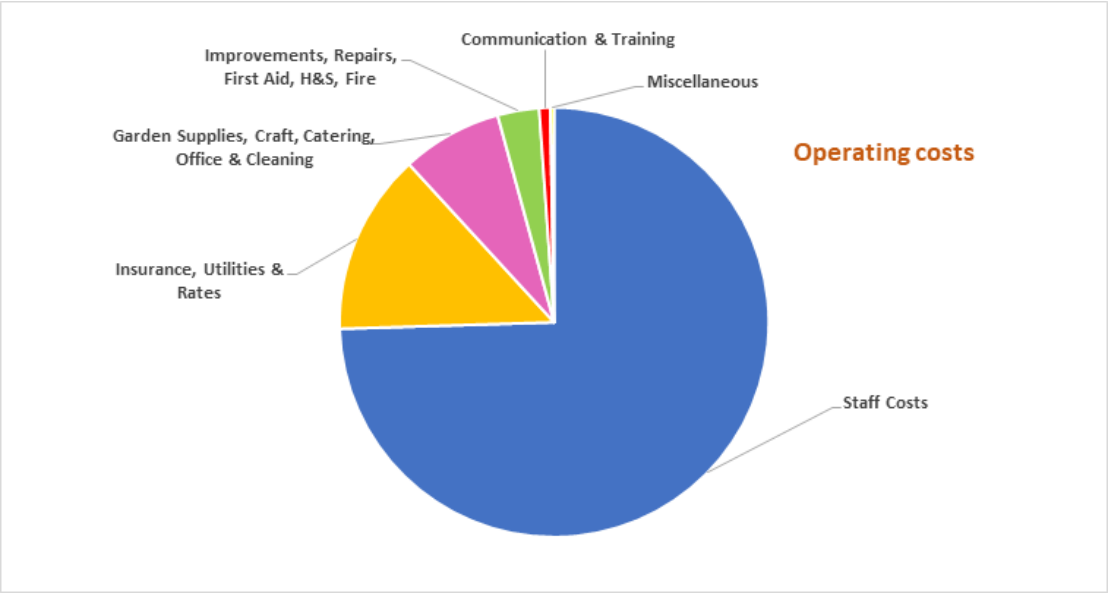
The accounts have been circulated prior to the AGM. All figures quoted here will be subject to Independent Certification. Last year's figures are shown in brackets for comparison.



- In summary, our income for the period was £29,211 (compared with £39,790 in 2019-20). £12,623 (£6,865) came from project grants and the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, £7,983 (£10,580) from fundraising activities and donations and £8,604 (£22,345) from charges for our services and supplier relief payments.

- We spent £9,020 (£7,898) on grant-funded projects: Horticultural Therapy in a Covid Context (funded by Aurum), Covid-related equipment (funded by BCF) and the Special Circumstances Fund.

- General operating costs were reduced to £17,900 (£36,354), of which £13,399 (£27,355) were employment costs (less £6,125 staff costs attributed to the Aurum project). Depreciation on the building was £2,123 (£2,123), making total expenditure for accounting purposes £29,042 (£46,375).



- Income exceeded Expenditure by £168 (in 2019-20 a deficit of £6,585 was recorded).

- Total assets at 31 March 2021 stood at £67,433 (£67,265). The Pavilion building is a fixed asset, currently valued at £33,962 after depreciation. Net current assets totalled £33,471 (£31,180). Of these current funds, £510 were treated as restricted, with the remaining £32,961 being available in reserves for running costs, general garden development and contingencies.

- During the first lockdown our staff agreed to continue working, initially on significantly reduced hours. We benefitted from £3,623 in furlough payments from the government Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and we welcomed supplier relief support payments from Reading and Wokingham Borough councils of £7,094, which partially off-set our ongoing costs. Since the year-end, grants totalling £5,326 were received, (less £2,150 due to Green Health Thames Valley, as mentioned in Section 3). At the end of August our cash reserves stood at £32,504 (compared to £39,242 at the end of September 2020).

4.2 Grants from Organisations during the financial year 2020-21:

Organisation	**Purpose**	**Amount £**
Aurum	To offer HT in Covid Context	7,000
Berkshire Community Foundation Coronavirus Fund	Equipment for operating safely	2,000
Total in 2020-21		**9,000**

4.3 Friends of Ridgeline Scheme: This encourages regular donations, providing a degree of reliability in our income. £2,065 (£1,912 in 2019-20) was contributed by a total of 14 Ridgeline Friends. We continue in our efforts to encourage more of our supporters to join this scheme.

4.4. Reserves Policy: Our aim, in which we have succeeded in the year under report, is always to maintain a balance of sufficient funds in the bank to enable us to continue to meet our ongoing obligations and to operate for at least three months (and preferably six months) in the event of unforeseen contingencies or failure to attract sufficient income or grant funding for providing our core Horticultural Therapy services. These reserves are regarded by the Trustees as virtually "ring-fenced" in the charity's management accounts.

5. Strategy and Development

In July 2020 the Trustees agreed a new Ridgeline Strategy for 2020-2023. This provided clear direction and concrete steps for how we would resume our work in pandemic conditions, prioritising the safety of our clients, staff and volunteers. It aspires to diversify and extend our services to additional clients, including those in need of support and rehabilitation as a result of the new circumstances arising out of the Covid-19 pandemic, and it affirms our commitment to good governance and professional practice.

This Strategy continues to inform our proposals on the priorities for the coming year.

6. Priorities for the year 2021-2022

A. To maintain vigilance of the Covid-19 pandemic and any Government requirements/advice, carrying out rigorous assessments to mitigate risks which might affect our clients, our staff or our volunteers.
B. To continue to restore and expand the number of client gardening sessions delivered.
C. To diversify our client base while retaining our focus on clients who will benefit from professionally-led social and therapeutic horticulture.
D. To develop the garden to accommodate changes to its management, diversification and expansion.
E. To commit energy and resources to professional practice and good governance.

These remain in keeping with our Strategy 2020-23, a copy of which is available on our website via a link embedded in the *Our Mission* page.

7. Governance and Organisation

7.1 Governing Document: The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 12 May 2003 and registered as a charity on 15 September 2003. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up, members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £10.

The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law and under the company's Articles are known as Trustees. Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, one third of the Trustees are required to retire each year by rotation in the order of the time since their appointment. Retiring Trustees may be re-elected at the Annual General Meeting.

7.2 Organisation: The running of the Charity is managed through the efforts of an enthusiastic but small number of regular volunteers from the local community. A brief overview of the governance arrangements is as follows:

- Members of the Charity (of whom there were 16 at 31/3/2021) who attend and are entitled to vote at all General Meetings of the Charity, are appointed by the Trustees. More Members would be very welcome.

- Trustees (currently five), appointed by the Members, of whom Sara Uren is currently the Chair. We were not successful in recruiting any new Trustees in 2020-21 but continue our efforts to recruit at least one more. This is ever more important in the forthcoming year, as two of our existing trustees step down from their duties at the AGM in November 2021. We need to bring in new skills, to reduce/share the load on those remaining, and to ensure succession planning for the future.

- The Management & Planning Team comprises all Trustees, the Treasurer, the Development Manager, and the new part-time post of Garden Co-ordinator. Representative Horticultural Therapists and the Volunteer Building Project Manager are invited to attend meetings from time-to-time. Meetings take place monthly, to which reports are submitted and any significant developments are reviewed, strategic decisions are taken, approvals are given, policies and procedures are reviewed, and finances and budget are monitored. In addition, informal Garden Planning discussions take place regularly throughout the year.

- Volunteers are invited to attend as observers at the AGM.

The Trustees continue to encourage and recruit volunteers for the essential and rewarding work of running the garden and the charity's client services. From time-to time, we also welcome interest from volunteers who have the skills or experience to contribute to the administration of the Charity.

Our Management Structure and our policies and procedures (21 in all) are carefully reviewed, through an annual calendar of agenda items for the monthly Planning Meetings. The monitoring of risks to the Charity is undertaken, in line with the guidance of the Charity Commission, principally in terms of governance, external, regulatory and compliance, financial and operational risks. The aim is to satisfy ourselves that our identification and management of risk enable us to fulfil our duty of accountability to our stakeholders, including beneficiaries, donors, funders, employees and the general public.

The Trustees are grateful to our accountant Peter Tilbury for his assistance in certifying our accounts, providing payroll services and hosting our Registered Office.

After many years of generous service, Graham Johnson (Company Secretary from 2004-2020, Trustee from 2010 and Chair of the Trustees from 2012-2020) and Faruq Bilbe (Trustee from 2004, Treasurer from 2006-2019) will retire as Trustees. On completing 3 years of service as a Trustee, Margaret Osborne is up for re-election at the November 2021 AGM.

8. List of Trustees of the Charity (all of whom were appointed at a General Meeting under the Articles of Association, originally adopted on 10 May 2003, and were Directors of the Company) during the period under report:

- Sara Jane Uren (Chair)
- Keith Graham Johnson
- Faruq Amin Bilbe
- Rosalind Jessie Richards
- Margaret Osborne

9. Companies Act requirements

For the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021 the Company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question, in accordance with section 476.
- The Directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

Public Benefit Statement: The Trustees have complied with their duty to have regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers and duties.

The above Directors' Report will be proposed for approval at the Annual General Meeting of the Charity on 8 November 2021

Sara Uren

Sara Uren, Chair

East Reading Horticultural Therapy and Community Based Training Ltd

(Known as Ridgeline Trust) Charity No 1099441 Company limited by guarantee, number 4760734

Balance Sheet for the Year 01st April 2020 to 31st March 2021

Accumulated Fund		**2020/21**	2019/20
Opening Balance as at 01st April 2020	£67,264.61		£73,849.15
Excess of Income over Expenditure (Deficit in brackets)	£168.38		(£6,584.54)
Balance carried forward		**£67,432.99**	£67,264.61
Fund Summary			
Of which Funds are Fixed		£33,961.86	£36,084.47
Of which Funds are Restricted (Special Circumstances Fund)	£510.00		£510.00
Of which Funds are Unrestricted	£32,961.13		£30,650.14
Sub-Total of Current Funds		£33,471.13	£31,180.14
Total of Funds		**£67,432.99**	£67,264.61

Fixed Assets		**2020/21**	2019/20
Tangible Assets	£33,961.86		[illegible]
Total Fixed Assets as at 31st March 2021		**£33,961.86**	£36,084.47
Current Assets			
Trade Debtors	£2,279.28		[illegible]
Accrued Income	£0.00		[illegible]
Debtors	**£2,279.28**		£2,050.00
Bank Balance at 31st March 2021	£31,107.32		[illegible]
Cash in hand at 31st March 2021	£146.01		[illegible]
Cash at Bank and in Hand	**£31,253.33**		£29,751.07
Total Current Assets as at 31st March 2021	**£33,532.61**		£31,801.07
Creditors	£61.48		[illegible]
Net Current Assets as at 31st March 2021		**£33,471.13**	£31,180.14
Total Assets as at 31st March 2021		**£67,432.99**	£67,264.61

East Reading Horticultural Therapy & Community Based Training Limited
Accounts for the financial year 2020-2021 approved at Annual General Meeting dated 8 November 2021
For the year ended 31 March 2021 the Company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 (the Act) relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:
The Members have not required the Company to obtain an audit for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Act, The Directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts. These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

Sara Uren
Director Sara Uren

Margaret Osborne
Director Margaret Osborne

Company limited by guarantee Company no. 4760734
Registered Office: 6 Windsor Square, Silver Street, Reading RG1 2TH

Registered Charity no. 1099441

East Reading Horticultural Therapy and Community Based Training Ltd

(Known as Ridgeline Trust) Charity No 1099441 Company limited by guarantee, number 4760734

Income & Expenditure Report for the Year 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021

Income			2020/21	2019/20
Grants for Projects				
Horticultural Therapy in a Covid Context	Aurum Foundation	£7,000.00		
Covid-related Equipment	Berkshire Community Foundation	£2,000.00		
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme		£3,623.27		
Projects Total			**£12,623.27**	£6,865.09
Events				
Plant Sale		£879.50		
Virtual Harvest Fete		£2,075.35		
Events Total			**£2,954.85**	£6,727.50
Donations				
Friends		£2,064.82		
Personal		£2,808.09		
Gift Aid receipts from HMRC		£155.50		
Private Functions		£0.00		
Donations Total			**£5,028.41**	£3,852.63
Activities				
Client Payments		£320.00		
Addington School		£1,190.00		
Supplier Relief Reading Borough Council		£6,614.27		
Supplier Relief Wokingham Borough Council		£480.00		
Activities Total			**£8,604.27**	£22,345.00
Total Income			**£29,210.80**	£39,790.22

Expenditure			2020/21	2019/20
Spend on Grant-funded Projects				
Horticultural Therapy in a Covid Context		£7,000.00		
Covid-related Equipment		£2,000.00		
Special Circumstances		£20.00		
Projects Total			**£9,020.00**	£7,897.80
Events				
Plant Sale	Costs	£0.00		
Virtual Harvest Fete	Costs	£0.00		
Events Total			**£0.00**	£0.00
Operating Costs				
Staff costs (less £6,125 attributed to Aurum project)		£13,339.10		
Insurance		£1,088.58		
Utilities & Internet		£1,286.86		
Rates		£67.58		
Garden Supplies		£633.23		
Craft Items		£1.50		
Catering Supplies		£1.60		
Office Supplies & Equipment		£421.82		
Cleaning Supplies		£299.00		
Improvements		£0.00		
Repairs and Maintenance		£557.86		
First Aid, Health & Safety, Fire Precautions		£2.68		
Communications and Publicity		£0.00		
Training		£150.00		
Memberships		£37.00		
Recruitment		£0.00		
Accounting & Companies House fees		£13.00		
Operating Costs Total			**£17,899.81**	£36,354.35
Depreciation	(From Fixed Assets)		**£2,122.61**	£2,122.61
Total Expenditure			**£29,042.42**	£46,374.76
Excess of Income over Expenditure (Deficit in brackets)			**£168.38**	(£6,584.54)

East Reading Horticultural Therapy and Community Based Training Ltd

(Known as Ridgeline Trust) Charity No 1099441 Company limited by guarantee, number 4760734

Fixed Assets during the Year 01st April 2020 to 31st March 2021

Fixed Assets		**2019-20**	2018-19
Tangible Fixed Assets	Building		
Value as at 01st April 2020	£36,084.47	£36,084.47	£38,207.08
Additions	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Disposals	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Tangible Assets during the year	£36,084.47	£36,084.47	£38,207.08
Depreciation Basis	SL 25 years		
Depreciation Amount	£2,122.61	£2,122.61	£2,122.61
Value as at 31st March 2021	£33,961.86	£33,961.86	£36,084.47
Investments		**£0.00**	£0.00
Fixed Assets as at 31st March 2021		**£33,961.86**	£36,084.47

East Reading Horticultural Therapy and Community Based Training Ltd

(Known as Ridgeline Trust) Charity No 1099441 Company limited by guarantee, number 4760734

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2021

1 Accounting policies

Basis of preparation
The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with FRS 102, The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (as applied to small entities by section 1A of the standard).

Income
Income is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable, net of discounts. Income includes revenue earned from the sale of goods and from the rendering of services.

Tangible fixed assets
Tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulative depreciation and any accumulative impairment losses. Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset evenly over its expected useful life, as follows:

Building	Straight line over 25 years

Debtors
Short term debtors are measured at transaction price (which is usually the invoice price), less any impairment losses for bad and doubtful debts.

Creditors
Short term creditors are measured at transaction price (which is usually the invoice price).

Pensions
Contributions to defined contribution plans are expensed in the period to which they relate.

2 Employees

	31st March 2021	31st March 2020
Average number of persons employed by the company	4	4

3 Tangible fixed assets
See Fixed Assets sheet

4 Debtors
The breakdown of Debtors is shown on the Balance Sheet. Accrued Income relates to Grants promised but not yet received.

5 Other information
East Reading Horticultural Therapy and Community Based Training Ltd is a private company limited by guarantee and incorporated in England, no. 4760734
Its registered office is: 6 Windsor Square, Silver Street, Reading RG1 2TH It is also Registered as a Charity, no. 1099441

CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of	**East Reading Horticultural Therapy and Community Based Training Limited (known as Ridgeline Trust)**		
On accounts for the year ended	**31st March 2021**	**Charity no (if any)**	**1099441**
Set out on pages	**1 & 2** (remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 / 03 / 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

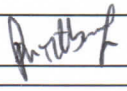
Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention ~~(other than that disclosed below *)~~ in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect,:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:		**Date:**	**21st December 2021**
Name:	**Peter N. Tilbury**		

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

Fellow of the Association of International Accountants (FAIA) (Membership Number 142181)

Address:	6 Windsor Square, Silver Street,
	Reading, Berkshire, RG1 2TH

Section B Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

NONE