



# Trustees' Annual Report for the period

	Period start date				Period end date		
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
From	01	04	2023	To	31	03	2024

## Section A

## Reference and administration details

Charity name SPARKES HOME SRI LANKA

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any) 1128189

Charity's principal address PARK COTTAGE

DONHEAD ST ANDREW

SHAFTESBURY

Postcode

SP7 9DZ

## Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Philip Gay	Chair		
2	Claire Stratton			
3	Duncan Sparkes			
4	Juliet Stoker			
5	David Innes			
6	Edward Stratton			
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

## Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

## Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Treasurer	Alistair Stoker	Park Cottage, Donhead St Andrew, Shaftesbury SP7 9DZ

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

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# Section B Structure, governance and management

## Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document <small>(eg, trust deed, constitution)</small>	Trust Deed
How the charity is constituted <small>(eg, trust, association, company)</small>	Unincorporated association
Trustee selection methods <small>(eg, appointed by, elected, Appointed by)</small>	Appointed by existing trustees on the basis of knowledge and skills required for the workings of the charity

## Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

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**Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document**

To relieve suffering and homelessness, and to assist with the education and pastoral care of the people of Sri Lanka, in particular by the establishment and maintenance of children's homes.

**Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)**

In conjunction with Ragalla Aid Project (charity number 1079120), the trustees raised funds after the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami to build a home in Kallar, on the east coast of Sri Lanka, to provide a home for up to 40 girls. The trustees funded the running of the home through Ragalla Aid until March 2009, at which time a separate charity, Sparkes Home Sri Lanka, was established and took over full responsibility for the ongoing funding of the home.

The home is managed on a day to day basis by the Methodist Church of Sri Lanka on whose land the home stands. The trustees maintain close contact with the Methodist Church both at the local and national level to ensure the home is well financed and run.

The girls range in age from 6 to 18. The initial group of girls were either orphans or children of destitute families arising from the devastation of the tsunami and the civil war which was ongoing at that time. Since then, girls have been referred to the home both through the Methodist Church and the local government social services. The girls all attend the local schools with the older girls taking 'O' and 'A' level. We provide additional tuition to the girls, in particular in Maths, English and IT.

The home offers these girls a warm and loving environment. Volunteers from the UK visit the home and provided support to the housemother, teach English to the girls and help maintain the home. They have been hugely impressed by the atmosphere and the support the girls give to each other.

The Trustees became aware of a funding crisis for several other childrens' homes run by the Methodist Church in Sri Lanka and visited 3 homes to discuss providing specific support. The Trustees agreed a programme of support with the Methodist Church and from 1 January 2013 Sparkes Home has funded the day to day running costs of girls' homes in Kalmunai on the east coast of Sri Lanka and Thummodera on the west coast. The Trustees also agreed to fund vital rebuilding works for the girls home in Hatton in the central province and to assist with the running costs of this home that are jointly borne with Methodist churches in South Korea.

The Trustees also agreed to fund the running costs from 1 January 2014 of a pre-school near the Kallar home on the east coast of Sri Lanka and a pre-school and day care centre south of Colombo from 1 July 2019. Both these projects are under the day to day control of the Methodist Church.

The Trustees also agreed to fund the costs of attending university and other further education colleges for girls from the homes.

The Trustees of Sparkes Home Sri Lanka meet regularly to review the activities of the charity and their obligations in respect of public benefit. The Trustees have complied with the duty in Section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

#### **Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)**

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

The Trustees have agreed with the Methodist Church in Sri Lanka to provide funds for the running of 4 girls' homes. The Trustees agree budgets for each home with the Methodist Church and agree the grants to be made on a monthly basis. Grants for additional projects are reviewed and agreed by the Trustees as they arise.

All the activities of the charity are conducted on a voluntary basis. Trustees visit the homes on a regular basis and bear all their own costs. In addition, volunteers visit Kallar and Kalmunai to assist the girls with additional English and other activities.



## Section D Achievements and performance

### Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

In Sri Lanka the economic situation has stabilised with agreements with their major creditors but inflation has been an issue. Costs have risen sharply. We have been in close contact with Methodist HQ to ensure the homes have adequate funds.

Four trustee visits took place in November 2023, January, February and March 2024. All the projects were visited in addition to discussions in Colombo with the Methodist HQ staff and the President of the Methodist Church in Sri Lanka, Rev Ebenezer Joseph.

The two homes, Kallar and Kalmunai, and also the Silver Bells pre-school on the east coast continue to impress. Kalmunai has an excellent academic record and we were excited that more girls have achieved university entrance, a great achievement considering their backgrounds. We are now supporting six girls through university. We agreed to very necessary structural repairs for Kalmunai and renovations for Kallar. Silver Bells is a very happy centre and is always oversubscribed. We agreed to fund brick half walls to strengthen the flimsy wooden structure.

The Thummodera home, north of Colombo, has an active local management committee. We met the girls and committee members. The home is susceptible to flooding and we were able to view renovations we had previously agreed.

South of Colombo the pre-school and day care centre in the fishing village of Angulana is thriving and also oversubscribed. This is in a very poor area.

Looking forward, we have trustee visits arranged later in 2024 and early 2025.

## Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

This is the fifteenth year of the charity's operation. The Trustees regularly review the funds available and future commitments. The emphasis is on increasing the funding of the core objectives of the charity.

The trustees believe reserves of up to two years expenditure are required to ensure the long term support for the homes. Funds in excess of this are committed to additional initiatives, as has been seen by the extension of our funding support to additional homes, pre-schools and tertiary education for girls from our homes.

## Details of any funds materially in deficit

## Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

The principal sources of funds are donations from Charitable foundations, individuals and fundraising activities organised by both donors and trustees.

Funds raised in the year amounted to £51,913 (2023 £89,202). The funds raised in 2023 were boosted by the successful holding of a fund raising event postponed from 2020 and a very generous donation from one of our main backers. Total expenditure in the year amounted to £54,220 (2023 £46,154). The increase of 17% was due to cost increases on our projects. Administrative costs were incurred on bank charges and the maintenance of our web site. Over 98% of our expenditure goes to our homes and projects.

Trustees bear all the costs of their visits to Sri Lanka individually. During their visits, Trustees review the fund flows from source in the UK through to the end use in the individual homes and other projects.

Funds available at 31 March 2024 amounted to £132,541 (2023 £134,848).

**Section F****Other optional information**

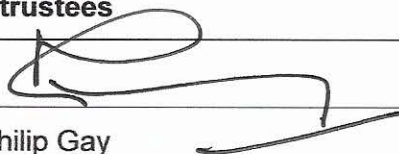
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**Section G****Declaration**

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)



Full name(s) Philip Gay

Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)

Chair

Date

30/8/24





CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

SPARKES HOME SRI LANKA

No (if any)  
1128189

## Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	01/04/2023		31/03/2024

### Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Donations	34,440	2,770	-	37,210	61,289
Fund raising events	-	-	-	-	27,913
Gift Aid repayment	14,703	-	-	14,703	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>49,143</b>	<b>2,770</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>51,913</b>	<b>89,202</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>49,143</b>	<b>2,770</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>51,913</b>	<b>89,202</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Grants to Girls homes	42,903	-	-	42,903	35,205
Grants to pre-Schools	5,799	2,036	-	7,835	5,729
Grants to university students	2,776	-	-	2,776	2,062
Grant to Ragalla Aid	-	-	-	-	500
Fund raising events	-	-	-	-	1,739
Fund raising costs	-	-	-	-	549
Bank charges and other costs	706	-	-	706	370
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>52,184</b>	<b>2,036</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>54,220</b>	<b>46,154</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>52,184</b>	<b>2,036</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>54,220</b>	<b>46,154</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>- 3,041</b>	<b>734</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>- 2,307</b>	<b>43,048</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>134,981</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>134,848</b>	<b>91,800</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>131,940</b>	<b>601</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>132,541</b>	<b>134,848</b>



## Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Bank balance	131,940	601	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>131,940</b>	<b>601</b>	<b>-</b>
(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))				

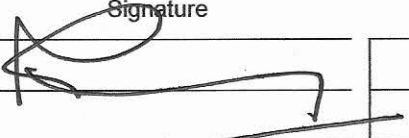
	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Philip Gay	30/8/24



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/  
members of

Charity Name  
SPARKS HOME SRI LANKA

On accounts for the year  
ended

30/03/2024

Charity no  
(if any)

1128189

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's 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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities 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:

21/10/2024

Name:

DANUTA TAGG

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

F.C.A. (ICAEW)



Address: THE STABLES, DONHEAD ST ANDREW  
SHAFTESBURY  
SP7 9EA

## 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.