

THE LAUGHTER SPECIALISTS

England & Wales · Charity number 1132987

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Trust

Registered 2009-11-26

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address 19 Meadowford
Newport
Saffron Walden
Essex
CB11 3QL

Phone 07980570466

Email fun@thelaughterspecialists.co.uk

Website www.thelaughterspecialists.com

Activities

Objects: 1) TO RELIEVE SICKNESS, PRESERVE AND PROTECT THE HEALTH OF CHILDREN AND ADULTS INCLUDING THOSE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS IN THE UK BY PROVIDING SPECIALLY TRAINED ENTERTAINERS (KNOWN AS LAUGHTER SPECIALISTS) USING ARTISTIC AND ENTERTAINMENT SKILLS TO BRING LAUGHTER, FUN AND OTHER THERAPEUTIC ACTIVITIES FOR HOSPITALS, SCHOOLS, RESIDENTIAL HOMES AND SIMILAR INSTITUTIONS. 2) TO RELIEVE ELDERLY PEOPLE IN NEED IN THE UK, BY PROVIDING TRAINED ENTERTAINERS KNOWN AS LAUGHTER SPECIALISTS FOR DAY CENTRES, CARE HOMES, NURSING HOMES AND SIMILAR INSTITUTIONS. 3) TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN THE THERAPEUTIC BENEFITS OF THE SUBJECT OF LAUGHTER THERAPY

Activities: The Laughter Specialists Charitable Trust funds programmes of specially trained entertainers to visit sick children and vulnerable adults in hospital and those with special needs calling on their training and experience and using their artistic and entertainment skills to bring them laughter and fun thereby improving their well being. Other activities include talks and training workshops.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Disability, Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** THE UK
- Throughout England

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£84,840	£88,658	-	-
2024-03-31	£69,928	£92,912	-	-
2023-03-31	£89,919	£76,770	-	-
2022-03-31	£63,022	£57,384	-	-
2021-03-31	£63,140	£59,677	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
GEORGE DAVID JAMES HOWARD	Chair	
Clare Thompson		2014-12-15
Edward John Rudd		2015-09-07
Karen Louise Sheairs		2015-09-07
Madeleine Gardner		2017-09-20

THE LAUGHTER SPECIALISTS

England & Wales - Charity number 1132987

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 01/04/2024 Period start date to 31/03/2025 Period end date

Charity name: The Laughter Specialists Charitable Trust

Charity registration number: 1132987

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	<p>The objectives of the trust are:</p> <p>To relieve sickness, preserve and protect health by providing specially trained entertainers known as Laughter Specialists for sick children in hospitals, and those with special needs in schools, residential homes and similar institutions. Laughter Specialists also visit adults with special needs.</p> <p>To advance the education of the public in the benefits of laughter as an aid to good health.</p> <p>To achieve these objectives the trust provides specialist entertainers/performers to visit sick children and those with special needs bringing interactive play, laughter and fun.</p>
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	<p>Activities of Laughter Specialists for the public benefit:</p> <p>The Trust funds professional entertainers/performers to be Laughter Specialists who use their skills to bring fun and laughter to sick children in hospitals, hospices and to children with special needs in schools and other similar institutions.</p> <p>Additionally The Laughter Specialists have moved into the area of visiting older people and in particular older people with dementia.</p> <p>Outreach visits to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- sick home bound children (would have been in hospital or hospice) and those rehabilitating and their families. <p>The Laughter Specialists use magic, songs, music, puppets and improvisation bringing therapeutic interactive play, laughter and fun. Their aim is to improve the lives of the children in the hospitals & parents, carers, and siblings. TLS are adapting their skills to connect and reach these families with mental wellness at</p>

		<p>the forefront of the service, and use their therapeutic interactive teaching skills through play, laughter and fun, children with complex needs.</p> <p>They are also adapting their service for the benefit of people with dementia.</p> <p>They visit Addenbrookes Hospital Cambridge, Broomfield Hospital Chelmsford, Colchester Hospital, Princess Alexandra Hospital Harlow Barnet Hospital and the Royal Free Hospital Hampsted both in London and the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital.</p> <p>Special Schools include Columbus school & college Chelmsford Edith Borthwick School Essex, Marketfields School Colchester, Granta school Linton Cambs, Grove Cottage Nursery Bishops Stortford, Grove House School Brentwood, Harlow Fields school Harlow, Meldreth Manor School Herts</p> <p>Evidence for their work is needed: To ensure their work is needed and beneficial they seek and receive:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Ongoing feedback from relatives, staff and the children, through feedback forms, letters and consultation with Hospital staff. 2) General Research into Humour in hospital and connected topics carried out by journalists and researchers. 3) Gathering more feedback and impact measurement from our visits to Special Schools and listening to what the schools want from us <p>We are widening our network, looking at new & better ways of marketing our services. We are always analysing our revenue streams and looking at developing our funding further for example through broader corporate support.</p> <p>We have developed stronger links with other organisations and value the establishments working with us who recognise the impact we are having.</p>
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The Trustees have had regard to the guidance

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	

Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	One of the two founders Annie Aris who is Chief Operating Officer effectively administers the day to day running of the charity. The trustees and additional volunteers/supporters of the charity help with setting up, promoting and running events. The trustees are intrinsically involved in the financial aspects of the charity both month to month as well as strategically - through monitoring charity accounts and scrutiny.
Other		

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p>Activities and achievements of The Laughter Specialists Charitable Trust for the year April 1st 2024 to March 31st 2025</p> <p>This year the income from corporate sponsorship, grants and donations has increased as the charity has been more successful in securing funding.</p> <p>Outreach visits to family's homes which we introduced during Covid times has been a great success and continued, with more and more families benefitting from the service.</p> <p>We visit the following schools:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Edith Borthwick School, Bocking, Essex. 2) Grove Cottage (mencap), Bishops Stortford 3) We visit Harlow Fields school Harlow every week through various sources of funding – this has been working extremely well, with our work being recognised for its additional educational benefits – this acts as a valuable model that can be rolled out to other Special schools 4) We visit Columbus School & College Chelmsford through general funding. We've built up a great rapport and understanding of the children's needs bringing them fun & laughter, helping them to interact with each other and express themselves. 5) Meldreth School <p>The benefits of these visits have led to a reduction in stress and boredom for the children and their parents at these clinics.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6) Market Fields School Colchester

		<p>Training programmes: A rigorous new theory training programme has been developed which will sit alongside a thorough practical training programme.</p> <p>The charities has secured less funding for the Manchester/Blackpool area and the North London region.</p> <p>Development of our service with older people with focus on dementia is also progressing, more funding is required to secure this service. Gathering and analysing the feedback for our visits to enable us to measure the impact more accurately of our work.</p>
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	<p>There is an restricted funds balance of £19,838 and an unrestricted funds balance of £5,905 at the end of the financial year.</p> <p>We were successful with the following grants and funding:</p> <p>The Foyle Foundation ACT FSJ Trust St James Place Foundation Colchester Catalyst Essex Community Fund Containerlift (sponsorship)</p>
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	<p>The trustees aim is to have funds in reserve to cover six months indirect fixed costs. These costs include administration fees, fundraising fees, insurance, office supplies, computer costs, accountancy costs etc.</p> <p>Direct funds for our charitable activities (funding Laughter Specialist visits) are mostly restricted funds for projects and received in advance, though now some restricted funds</p>

		<p>are paid partially up front and then the remaining funds paid when the project is complete.</p> <p>At present the trustees don't consider it necessary to have a reserve fund to cover these costs as the number of visits and timing of the visits is very flexible, though this may be reconsidered if our funding becomes split between beginning and end of project.</p> <p>In terms of a reserve fund, it is more important in the trustees opinion to have a reserve fund to cover the other costs of running the charity without which we cannot support the Laughter Specialist visits.</p>
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	<p>The trustees consider that the charity should have sufficient reserves in unrestricted funds to cover fundraising, admin and other fixed support costs of between £10,000 to £15,000 not exceeding £15,000.</p> <p>Unrestricted funds dipped below the ideal figure, the charity/trustees are very mindful of this and are working hard to increase the amount of Unrestricted funding by looking at more fundraising events and ways to increase it etc</p>
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	
Other		

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Trust Deed
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	Trust
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Appointed by existing trustees

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	The Laughter Specialists Charitable Trust
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1132987
Charity's principal address	Falcons Park Road Little Easton, Great Dunmow Essex CM6 2JH

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	Edward Rudd	Treasurer		
2	Clare Thompson			
3	Karen Sheairs	Acting Chair Jun20 -		
4	Madeleine Gardner	Finance officer		
5				

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		
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Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

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

Annie Aris (founder and Laughter Specialists acting as Chief Operational Officers),

Exemptions from disclosure

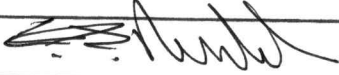

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

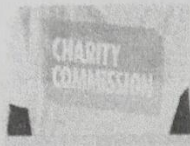
Other optional information

Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Ed Rudd	Madeleine Gardner
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Treasurer	Trustee
Date	19/1/26	



The Laughter Specialists 1132987

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from 01-Apr-24 To 31-Mar-25

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 £
A1 Receipts					
Grants	7,500	44,789	-	52,289	34,894
Programme service fees	6,455	-	-	6,455	6,965
Donations	26,096	-	-	26,096	28,069
Fundraising events	-	-	-	-	-
Bank interest	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	40,051	44,789	-	84,840	69,928
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	40,051	44,789	-	84,840	69,928
A3 Payments					
Specialist performer fees	18,123	35,414	-	53,537	54,383
Fundraiser and administration fees	19,097	3,220	-	22,317	19,954
Management fees	5,821	2,439	-	8,260	9,210
Fundraising event costs	-	-	-	-	-
Other event costs	960	-	-	960	-
Costumes and props	50	573	-	623	1,441
Training	-	-	-	-	778
Insurance & licences	610	-	-	610	1,035
Accountancy costs	-	-	-	-	600
Advertising & marketing	-	250	-	250	-
IT costs	747	-	-	747	768
Travel, printing, meetings & sundries	969	385	-	1,354	4,743
Sub total	46,377	42,281	-	88,658	92,912
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
Laptops	640	-	-	640	-
Sub total	640	-	-	640	-
Total payments	47,017	42,281	-	89,298	92,912
Net of receipts/(payments)	(6,966)	2,508	-	(4,458)	(22,984)
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	12,871	17,330	-	30,201	53,185
Cash funds this year end	5,905	19,838	-	25,743	30,201

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

		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Bank	5,905	19,838	-
	Cash in hand	-	-	-
	Total cash funds	5,905	19,838	


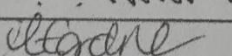
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

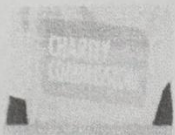
		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-

		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Laptops	Unrestricted	2,874	-

		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
	E. J. RUDD	8/1/26
	Madeleine Gardner	1/12/2025



Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees of **The Laughter Specialists**

Accounts for the year to **31 March 2025** Charity no **1132987**

Set out on pages

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: N.S. Caton Date: 21 Nov 2025

Name: N.S.Caton

Relevant qualification FCA, CTA

Address: Mill Scott Chartered Accountants
Mill End, Mill Lane, Clavering
Saffron Walden, CB11 4RP

THE LAUGHTER SPECIALISTS

England & Wales - Charity number 1132987

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 01/04/2023 Period start date to 31/03/2024 Period end date

Charity name: The Laughter Specialists Charitable Trust

Charity registration number: 1132987

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	<p>The objectives of the trust are:</p> <p>To relieve sickness, preserve and protect health by providing specially trained entertainers known as Laughter Specialists for sick children in hospitals, and those with special needs in schools, residential homes and similar institutions. Laughter Specialists also visit adults with special needs.</p> <p>To advance the education of the public in the benefits of laughter as an aid to good health.</p> <p>To achieve these objectives the trust provides specialist entertainers/performers to visit sick children and those with special needs bringing interactive play, laughter and fun.</p>
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	<p>Activities of Laughter Specialists for the public benefit:</p> <p>The Trust funds professional entertainers/performers to be Laughter Specialists who use their skills to bring fun and laughter to sick children in hospitals, hospices and to children with special needs in schools and other similar institutions.</p> <p>Outreach visits to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- sick home bound children (would have been in hospital or hospice) and those rehabilitating and their families.- vulnerable children not receiving any other support during the pandemic <p>The Laughter Specialists use magic, songs, music, puppets and improvisation bringing therapeutic interactive play, laughter and fun. Their aim is to improve the lives of the children in the hospitals & parents, carers, and siblings. TLS are adapting their skills to connect and reach these families with mental wellness at the forefront of the service, and use their</p>

		<p>therapeutic interactive teaching skills through play, laughter and fun, children with complex needs</p> <p>They visit Addenbrookes Hospital Cambridge, Broomfield Hospital Chelmsford, Colchester Hospital, Princess Alexandra Hospital Harlow – all visits have resumed.</p> <p>Special Schools include Columbus school & college Chelmsford Edith Borthwick School Essex, Marketfields School Colchester, Granta school Linton Cambs, Grove Cottage Nursery Bishops Stortford, Grove House School Brentwood, Harlow Fields school Harlow, Meldreth Manor School Herts</p> <p>Evidence for their work is needed: To ensure their work is needed and beneficial they seek and receive:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Ongoing feedback from relatives, staff and the children, through feedback forms, letters and consultation with Hospital staff. 2) General Research into Humour in hospital and connected topics carried out by journalists and researchers. 3) Gathering more feedback and impact measurement from our visits to Special Schools and listening to what the schools want from us <p>We are widening our network, looking at new & better ways of marketing our services. We are always analysing our revenue streams and looking at developing our funding further for example through broader corporate support.</p> <p>We have developed stronger links with other organisations and value the establishments working with us who recognise the impact we are having.</p>
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The Trustees have had regard to the guidance

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	

Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	One of the two founders Annie Aris who is Chief Operating Officer effectively administers the day to day running of the charity. The trustees and additional volunteers/supporters of the charity help with setting up, promoting and running events. The trustees are intrinsically involved in the financial aspects of the charity both day to day as well as strategically - through maintaining charity accounts and scrutiny.
Other		

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p>Activities and achievements of The Laughter Specialists Charitable Trust for the year April 1st 2023 to March 31st 2024</p> <p>This year the income from corporate sponsorship, grants and donations has increased as more funding has been available after covid and our opportunity to deliver is back to pre covid</p> <p>Outreach visits to family's homes which we introduced during Covid times has been a great success and continued, with more and more families benefitting from the service.</p> <p>We visit the following schools:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Edith Borthwick School, Bocking, Essex. Once a week or fortnight during term time. 2) Grove Cottage (mencap), Bishops Stortford twice per month. 3) We visit Harlow Fields school Harlow every week through various sources of funding – this has been working extremely well, with our work being recognised for its additional educational benefits – this acts as a valuable model that can be rolled out to other Special schools 4) We visit Columbus School & College Chelmsford through general funding. We've built up a great rapport and understanding of the children's needs bringing them fun & laughter, helping them to interact with each other and express themselves. 5) Meldreth School The benefits of these visits have led to a reduction in stress and boredom for the children and their parents at these clinics. 6) Market Fields School Colchester Weekly or fortnightly visits during term time, through specific funding for that area

		<p>Training programmes: A new trainee LS began in mid 2023 and another in early 2024, both covering the Manchester area. A rigorous new theory training programme has been developed which will sit alongside a thorough practical training programme.</p> <p>The charity has successfully secured funds to move into the Manchester/Blackpool area and the North London region.</p> <p>Development of our service with older people with focus on dementia is also progressing, more funding is required to secure this service. Gathering and analysing the feedback for our visits to enable us to measure the impact more accurately of our work.</p>
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	<p>There is an restricted funds balance of £17,330 and an unrestricted funds balance of £12,871 at the end of the financial year. We still had some training money left to continue our training programme. Overall successful funding was lower this year, there appears to be a lot more competition for grants and funds overall. We are looking at alternative ways to raise funds in this very competitive market.</p>
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	<p>The trustees aim is to have funds in reserve to cover six months indirect fixed costs. These costs include administration fees, fundraising fees, insurance, office supplies, computer costs, accountancy costs etc.</p> <p>Direct funds for our charitable activities (funding Laughter Specialist visits) are mostly restricted funds for projects and received in advance, though now some restricted funds are paid partially up front and then the</p>

		<p>remaining funds paid when the project is complete.</p> <p>At present the trustees don't consider it necessary to have a reserve fund to cover these costs as the number of visits and timing of the visits is very flexible, though this may be reconsidered if our funding becomes split between beginning and end of project.</p> <p>In terms of a reserve fund, it is more important in the trustees opinion to have a reserve fund to cover the other costs of running the charity without which we cannot support the Laughter Specialist visits.</p>
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	The trustees consider that the charity should have sufficient reserves in unrestricted funds to cover fundraising, admin and other fixed support costs of between £10,000 to £15,000 not exceeding £15,000.
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	

Additional information (optional)

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The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	
Other		

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Trust Deed
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	Trust

Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Appointed by existing trustees
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	The Laughter Specialists Charitable Trust
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1132987
Charity's principal address	Falcons Park Road Little Easton, Great Dunmow Essex CM6 2JH

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	Edward Rudd	Treasurer		
2	Clare Thompson			
3	Karen Sheairs	Acting Chair Jun20 -		
4	Madeleine Gardner	Finance officer		
5				

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

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

Annie Aris (founder and Laughter Specialists acting as Chief Operational Officers),

Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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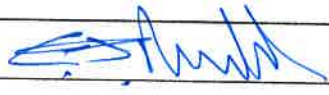
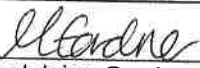
Other optional information

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Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Ed Rudd	Madeleine Gardner
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Treasurer	Trustee
Date	17/01/2025	



The Laughter Specialists 1132987

CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from 01-Apr-23 To 31-Mar-24

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 £
A1 Receipts					
Grants	978	33,919	-	34,894	39,002
Programme service fees	6,968	-	-	6,968	9,648
Donations	28,069	-	-	28,069	41,371
Fundraising events	-	-	-	-	-
Bank interest	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	36,009	33,919	-	69,928	89,919
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	36,009	33,919	-	69,928	89,919
A3 Payments					
Specialist performer fees	7,618	46,866	-	54,483	37,847
Fundraiser and administration fees	15,032	4,922	-	19,954	28,000
Management fees	2,264	6,969	-	9,210	6,410
Fundraising event costs	-	-	-	-	-
Other event costs	-	-	-	-	-
Costumes and props	87	1,354	-	1,441	1,565
Training	78	700	-	778	-
Insurance & licences	1,035	-	-	1,035	709
Accountancy costs	600	-	-	600	540
Advertising & marketing	-	-	-	-	148
IT costs	768	-	-	768	784
Travel, printing, meetings & sundries	1,762	2,991	-	4,743	1,764
Sub total	29,124	63,788	-	92,912	76,770
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
Laptops	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	29,124	63,788	-	92,912	76,770
Net of receipts/(payments)	6,885	(29,869)	-	(22,984)	13,149
A5 Transfers between funds					
A6 Cash funds last year end	5,986	47,199	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end	12,871	17,330	-	53,185	40,038
				30,201	53,185

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

		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Bank	12,871	17,330	-
	Cash in hand	-	-	-
	Total cash funds	12,871	17,330	-

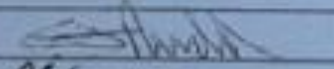
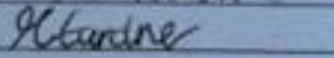
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Grants receivable	-	7,660	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

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

		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Laptops	Unrestricted	3,016	-

		Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities	Performer fees	Restricted	688	
	Fundraiser fees	Unrestricted	700	

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	E. J. HODGES	4/9/24
	M GARDNER	4/9/24



Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees of

Accounts for the year to Charity no

Set out on pages

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: Date:

Name:

Relevant qualification

Address:

THE LAUGHTER SPECIALISTS

England & Wales - Charity number 1132987

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 01/04/2022 Period start date to 31/03/2023 Period end date

Charity name: The Laughter Specialists Charitable Trust

Charity registration number: 1132987

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	<p>The objectives of the trust are:</p> <p>To relieve sickness, preserve and protect health by providing specially trained entertainers known as Laughter Specialists for sick children in hospitals, and those with special needs in schools, residential homes and similar institutions. Laughter Specialists also visit adults with special needs.</p> <p>To advance the education of the public in the benefits of laughter as an aid to good health.</p> <p>To achieve these objectives the trust provides specialist entertainers/performers to visit sick children and those with special needs bringing interactive play, laughter and fun.</p>
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	<p>Activities of Laughter Specialists for the public benefit:</p> <p>The Trust funds professional entertainers/performers to be Laughter Specialists who use their skills to bring fun and laughter to sick children in hospitals, hospices and to children with special needs in schools and other similar institutions.</p> <p>Outreach visits to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- sick home bound children (would have been in hospital or hospice) and those rehabilitating and their families.- vulnerable children not receiving any other support during the pandemic <p>The Laughter Specialists use magic, songs, music, puppets and improvisation bringing therapeutic interactive play, laughter and fun. Their aim is to improve the lives of the children in the hospitals & parents, carers, and siblings. TLS are adapting their skills to connect and reach these families with mental wellness at the forefront of the service, and use their</p>

		<p>therapeutic interactive teaching skills through play, laughter and fun, children with complex needs</p> <p>They visit Addenbrookes Hospital Cambridge, Broomfield Hospital Chelmsford, Colchester Hospital, Princess Alexandra Hospital Harlow – all visits have resumed.</p> <p>Special Schools include Columbus school & college Chelmsford Edith Borthwick School Essex, Marketfields School Colchester, Granta school Linton Cambs, Grove Cottage Nursery Bishops Stortford, Grove House School Brentwood, Harlow Fields school Harlow, Meldreth Manor School Herts Visits are now back to normal.</p> <p>Evidence for their work is needed: To ensure their work is needed and beneficial they seek and receive:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Ongoing feedback from relatives, staff and the children, through feedback forms, letters and consultation with Hospital staff. 2) General Research into Humour in hospital and connected topics carried out by journalists and researchers. 3) Gathering more feedback and impact measurement from our visits to Special Schools and listening to what the schools want from us <p>We are widening our network, looking at new & better ways of marketing our services. We are always analysing our revenue streams and looking at developing our funding further for example through broader corporate support.</p> <p>We have developed stronger links with other organisations and value the establishments working with us who recognise the impact we are having.</p>
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The Trustees have had regard to the guidance

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	

Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	<p>One of the two founders Annie Aris who is Chief Operating Officer effectively administers the day to day running of the charity.</p> <p>The trustees and additional volunteers/supporters of the charity help with setting up, promoting and running events.</p> <p>The trustees are intrinsically involved in the financial aspects of the charity both day to day as well as strategically - through maintaining charity accounts and scrutiny.</p>
Other		

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
<p>Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.</p>	<p>Para 1.20</p>	<p>Activities and achievements of The Laughter Specialists Charitable Trust for the year April 1st 2022 to March 31st 2023</p> <p>This year the income from corporate sponsorship, grants and donations has increased as more funding has been available after covid and our opportunity to deliver is back to pre covid</p> <p>Outreach visits to family's homes which we introduced during Covid times has been a great success and continued, with more and more families benefitting from the service.</p> <p>We visit the following schools:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Edith Borthwick School, Bocking, Essex. Once a week a month during term time. 2) Grove Cottage (mencap), Bishops Stortford. 3) We visit Harlow Fields school Harlow every week through various sources of funding – this has been working extremely well, with our work being recognised for its additional educational benefits – this acts as a valuable model that can be rolled out to other Special schools 4) We visit Columbus School & College Chelmsford through general funding. We've built up a great rapport and understanding of the children's needs bringing them fun & laughter, helping them to interact with each other and express themselves. 5) Meldreth School <p>The benefits of these visits have led to a reduction in stress and boredom for the children and their parents at these clinics.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6) Market Fields School Colchester <p>Weekly or fortnightly visits during term time, through specific funding for that area</p>

		<p>Training programmes: A new trainee LS began in early 2022, with 2/3 others due to start in Apr 2023, mainly covering the SE of England. A rigorous new theory training programme is being developed which will sit along a thorough practical training programme.</p> <p>Planning has begun and some funds secured to move into other regions namely Manchester/Blackpool, London and Scotland. The process of recruiting new LS trainees in these areas is underway.</p> <p>Development of our service with older people with focus on dementia is also progressing, more funding is required to secure this service. Gathering and analysing the feedback for our visits to enable us to measure the impact more accurately of our work.</p>
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	<p>There is an Unrestricted funds balance of £47,199 and a restricted funds balance of £5,986 at the end of the financial year. We were fortunate to secure more training funding this financial year which enables us to train up more Laughter Specialists, in the next financial year. Our unrestricted/reserves balance was slightly low at the end of this financial year, but we have funding secured to replenish this.</p>
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	<p>The trustees aim is to have funds in reserve to cover six months indirect fixed costs. These costs include administration fees, fundraising fees, insurance, office supplies, computer costs, accountancy costs etc.</p> <p>Direct funds for our charitable activities (funding Laughter Specialist visits) are mostly restricted funds for projects and received in advance, though now some restricted funds are</p>

		<p>paid partially up front and then the remaining funds paid when the project is complete.</p> <p>At present the trustees don't consider it necessary to have a reserve fund to cover these costs as the number of visits and timing of the visits is very flexible, though this may be reconsidered if our funding becomes split between beginning and end of project.</p> <p>In terms of a reserve fund, it is more important in the trustees opinion to have a reserve fund to cover the other costs of running the charity without which we cannot support the Laughter Specialist visits.</p>
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	The trustees consider that the charity should have sufficient reserves in unrestricted funds to cover fundraising, admin and other fixed support costs of between £10,000 to £15,000 not exceeding £15,000.
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	
Other		

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed , royal charter)	Para 1.25	Trust Deed
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association , CIO)	Para 1.25	Trust

Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Appointed by existing trustees
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	The Laughter Specialists Charitable Trust
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1132987
Charity's principal address	Falcons Park Road Little Easton, Great Dunmow Essex CM6 2JH

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	Edward Rudd	Treasurer		
2	Clare Thompson			
3	Karen Sheairs	Acting Chair Jun20 -		
4	Madeleine Gardner	Finance officer		
5				

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

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

Annie Aris (founder and Laughter Specialists acting as Chief Operational Officers),

Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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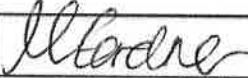
Other optional information

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Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Ed Rudd	Madeleine Gardner
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Treasurer	Trustee

Date



The Laughter Specialists	1132987
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CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	01-Apr-22	To	31-Mar-23
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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 €
A1 Receipts					
Grants	2,000	37,002	-	39,002	39,180
Programme service fees	9,546	-	-	9,546	4,460
Donations	21,021	20,350	-	41,371	19,372
Fundraising events	-	-	-	-	-
Bank interest	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	32,567	57,352	-	89,919	63,022
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	32,567	57,352	-	89,919	63,022
A3 Payments					
Specialist performer fees	8,839	29,006	-	37,847	20,838
Fundraiser and administration fees	24,782	3,251	-	28,033	21,759
Management fees	3,415	1,996	-	5,410	7,728
Fundraising event costs	-	-	-	-	-
Other event costs	-	-	-	-	-
Costumes and props	409	1,156	-	1,565	1,787
Training	-	-	-	-	229
Insurance & licences	709	-	-	709	339
Accountancy costs	340	200	-	540	480
Advertising & marketing	148	-	-	148	900
IT costs	578	208	-	786	511
Travel, printing, meetings & sundries	898	898	-	1,796	1,163
Sub total	40,054	36,718	-	76,770	66,160
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
Laptops	-	-	-	-	2,234
Sub total	-	-	-	-	2,234
Total payments	40,054	36,718	-	76,770	67,384
Net of receipts/(payments)	(7,487)	20,638	-	13,149	5,638
A5 Transfers between funds					
	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end					
	13,473	28,563	-	40,036	34,398
Cash funds this year end					
	6,986	47,199	-	53,185	40,036

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

		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Bank	5,908	47,199	-
	Cash in hand	-	-	-
	Total cash funds	5,908	47,199	-

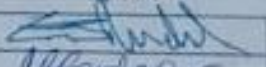

		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Grants receivable	-	2,000	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

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

		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Leopold	Unrestricted	3,018	-

		Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities	Performer fees	Restricted	690	-

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	E. J. PVED	21/8/23
	M. Gardner	23/8/23



Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees of

Accounts for the year to Charity no

Set out on pages

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent examiner's statement My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: Date:

Name:

Relevant qualification

Address:

THE LAUGHTER SPECIALISTS

England & Wales - Charity number 1132987

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 01/04/2021 Period start date to 31/03/2022 Period end date

Charity name: The Laughter Specialists

Charity registration number: 1132987

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	<p>The objectives of the trust are:</p> <p>To relieve sickness, preserve and protect health by providing specially trained entertainers known as Laughter Specialists for sick children in hospitals, and those with special needs in schools, residential homes and similar institutions. Laughter Specialists also visit adults with special needs.</p> <p>To advance the education of the public in the benefits of laughter as an aid to good health.</p> <p>To achieve these objectives the trust provides specialist entertainers/performers to visit sick children and those with special needs bringing interactive play, laughter and fun.</p>
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	<p>Activities of Laughter Specialists for the public benefit:</p> <p>The Trust funds professional entertainers/performers to be Laughter Specialists who use their skills to bring fun and laughter to sick children in hospitals and to children with special needs in schools and other similar institutions.</p> <p>During the pandemic our service was adapted to include the following which has continued as part of our regular service:</p> <p>Outreach visits to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- sick home bound children (would have been in hospital or hospice) and those rehabilitating and their families.- vulnerable children not receiving any other support during the pandemic

The Laughter Specialists use magic, songs, music, puppets and improvisation bringing therapeutic interactive play, laughter and fun. Their aim is to improve the lives of the children in the hospitals & parents, carers, and siblings. TLS are adapting their skills to connect and reach these families with mental wellness at the forefront of the service, and use their therapeutic interactive teaching skills through play, laughter and fun, children with complex needs

They usually visit Addenbrookes Hospital Cambridge, Broomfield Hospital Chelmsford, Colchester Hospital, Princess Alexandra Hospital Harlow – visits were still not possible to hospitals during 2021/22

Special Schools include

Columbus school & college Chelmsford
Edith Borthwick School Essex, Granta school Linton Cambs, Grove Cottage Nursery Bishops Stortford, Grove House School Brentwood, Harlow Fields school Harlow, Meldreth Manor School Herts

The TLS managed to still visit when possible and adapted their delivery to meet all Covid safety requirements, eg delivering in school gardens

Evidence their work is needed:

To ensure their work is needed and beneficial they seek and receive:

1) Ongoing feedback from relatives, staff and the children, through feedback forms, letters and consultation with Hospital staff.

Especially over the last 4 years at Broomfield Hospital as regular visitors and other hospitals where we have made initial visits.

2) General Research into Humour in hospital and connected topics carried out by journalists and researchers.

3) Gathering more feedback and impact measurement from our visits to Special Schools and listening to what the schools want from us

We are widening our network, looking at new & better ways of marketing our services.

We are always analysing our revenue streams and looking at developing our funding further for example through broader corporate support.

We have developed stronger links with other organisations and value the establishments working with us who recognise the impact we are having.

Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The Trustees have had regard to the guidance
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	One of the two founders Annie Aris who is Chief Operating Officer effectively administers the day to day running of the charity. The trustees and additional volunteers/supporters of the charity help with setting up, promoting and running events. The trustees are intrinsically involved in the financial aspects of the charity both day to day as well as strategically - through maintaining charity accounts and scrutiny.
Other		

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p>Activities and achievements of The Laughter Specialists Charitable Trust for the year April 1st 2021 to March 31st 2022 This year the income from corporate sponsorship, grants and donations has reduced due to the Covid Pandemic though signs of improvement in funding was seen in the latter part of the year.</p> <p>The Laughter Specialists had to significantly change the way they delivered their work during 2020/21 due to the Covid Pandemic, this continued into 2021/22 –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1)Outreach visits to family's homes have been a great success and continued, with more and more families benefitting from the service. 2)Visits resumed to most special schools from September 2021 3)Visits to hospitals is still not allowed.

		<p>We visited where possible the following from Sep21</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Edith Borthwick School, Bocking, Essex. Once a week a month during term time. 2) Grove Cottage (mencap), Bishops Stortford. 3) We visit Harlow Fields school Harlow every week through various sources of funding – this has been working extremely well, with our work being recognised for its additional educational benefits – this acts as a valuable model that can be rolled out to other Special schools 4) We now visit Columbus School & College Chelmsford through general funding. We've built up a great rapport and understanding of the children's needs bringing them fun & laughter, helping them to interact with each other and express themselves. 5) Meldreth School <p>The benefits of these visits have led to a reduction in stress and boredom for the children and their parents at these clinics.</p> <p>6) Market Fields School Colchester Weekly visits during term time, through specific funding for that area The Laughter Specialists have been able to continue their visits working with children of mixed abilities. At both Columbus school & College, The Laughter Specialists are working with children from the age of 5 -19 years with great success.</p> <p>Training programmes: Funding had been secured for developing trainee Laughter Specialists. Programme of training visits is continuing. Gathering and analysing the feedback for our visits to enable us to measure the impact more accurately of our work.</p>
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	

Other		
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Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	There is an Unrestricted funds balance of £13,473 and a restricted funds balance of £26,563 at the end of the financial year.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	<p>The trustees aim is to have funds in reserve to cover six months indirect fixed costs. These costs include administration fees, fundraising fees, insurance, office supplies, computer costs, accountancy costs etc</p> <p>Direct funds for our charitable activities (funding Laughter Specialist visits) are mostly restricted funds for projects and received in advance, though now some restricted funds are paid partially up front and then the remaining funds paid when the project is complete.</p> <p>At present the trustees don't consider it necessary to have a reserve fund to cover these costs as the number of visits and timing of the visits is very flexible, though this may be reconsiders if our funding becomes split between beginning and end of project.</p> <p>In terms of a reserve fund, it is more important in the trustees opinion to have a reserve fund to cover the other costs of running the charity without which we cannot support the Laughter Specialist visits.</p>
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	The trustees consider that the charity should have sufficient reserves in unrestricted funds to cover fundraising, admin and other fixed support costs of between £10,000 to £15,000 not exceeding £15,000.
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	
Other		

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed , royal charter)	Para 1.25	Trust Deed
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association , CIO)	Para 1.25	Trust
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Appointed by existing trustees

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
Other		

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

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

Annie Aris (founder and Laughter Specialists acting as Chief Operational Officers),

Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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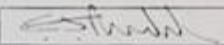
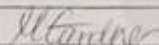
Other optional information

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Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Ed Rudd	Madeleine Gardner
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Treasurer	Trustee
Date	January 2023	



The Laughter Specialists 1132987

CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from 01-Apr-21 To 31-Mar-22

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 £
A1 Receipts					
Grants	-	28,190	-	28,190	28,288
Programme service fees	4,400	-	-	4,400	5,545
Donations	18,372	-	-	18,372	28,307
Fundraising events	-	-	-	-	-
Bank interest	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	23,832	28,190	-	63,022	63,140
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	23,832	28,190	-	63,022	63,140
A3 Payments					
Specialist performances	10,212	10,428	-	20,640	28,211
Fundraiser and administration fees	23,680	8,634	-	28,484	20,736
Fundraising event costs	-	-	-	-	-
Other event costs	-	-	-	-	661
Costumes and props	1,533	334	-	1,767	1,365
Training	25	204	-	229	-
Insurance & licences	338	-	-	338	809
Accountancy costs	480	-	-	480	420
Advertising & marketing	600	-	-	600	-
IT costs	611	-	-	611	1,499
Travel, printing, meetings & sundries	661	203	-	1,163	(1,014)
Sub total	38,451	19,899	-	67,180	69,877
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
Laptops	-	2,234	-	2,234	407
Sub total	-	2,234	-	2,234	407
Total payments	38,451	19,933	-	67,384	69,073
Net of receipts/(payments)	(14,619)	20,257	-	5,638	3,061
A5 Transfers between funds	825	(825)	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	27,269	7,129	-	34,398	31,337
Cash funds this year end	13,473	28,963	-	40,026	34,398

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

Category	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Bank	13,473	26,563	-
	Cash in hand	-	-	-
	Total cash funds	13,473	26,563	-

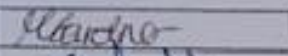
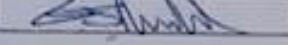
Category	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

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

Category	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Laptop	Unrestricted	3,014	-

Category	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities		Unrestricted		
		Restricted		
		Unrestricted		
		Restricted		

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	M Gardner	6/10/22
	G. J. R. O. D.	6/10/22



Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees of

Accounts for the year to Charity no

Set out on pages

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: Date:

Name:

Relevant qualification

Address:

THE LAUGHTER SPECIALISTS

England & Wales - Charity number 1132987

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 01/04/2020 Period start date to 31/03/2021 Period end date

Charity name: The Laughter Specialists

Charity registration number: 1132987

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	<p>The objectives of the trust are:</p> <p>To relieve sickness, preserve and protect health by providing specially trained entertainers known as Laughter Specialists for sick children in hospitals, and those with special needs in schools, residential homes and similar institutions. Laughter Specialists also visit adults with special needs.</p> <p>To advance the education of the public in the benefits of laughter as an aid to good health.</p> <p>To achieve these objectives the trust provides specialist entertainers/performers to visit sick children and those with special needs bringing interactive play, laughter and fun.</p>
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	<p>Activities of Laughter Specialists for the public benefit:</p> <p>The Trust funds professional entertainers/performers to be Laughter Specialists who use their skills to bring fun and laughter to sick children in hospitals and to children with special needs in schools and other similar institutions.</p> <p>During the pandemic we have adapted our service to include the following:</p> <p>Outreach visits to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- sick home bound children (would have been in hospital or hospice) and those rehabilitating and their families.- vulnerable children not receiving any other support during the pandemic <p>Production of themed short films for distribution to schools, hospitals, children and families at home.</p>

	<p>The Laughter Specialists use magic, songs, music, puppets and improvisation bringing therapeutic interactive play, laughter and fun. Their aim is to improve the lives of the children in the hospitals & parents, carers, and siblings. TLS are adapting their skills to connect and reach these families with mental wellness at the forefront of the service, and use their therapeutic interactive teaching skills through play, laughter and fun, children with complex needs</p> <p>They usually visit Addenbrookes Hospital Cambridge, Broomfield Hospital Chelmsford, Colchester Hospital, Princess Alexandra Hospital Harlow</p> <p>Special Schools include Columbus school & college Chelmsford Edith Borthwick School Essex, Granta school Linton Cambs, Grove Cottage Nursery Bishops Stortford, Grove House School Brentwood, Harlow Fields school Harlow, Meldreth Manor School Herts</p> <p>The TLS managed to still visit when possible and adapted their delivery to meet all Covid safety requirements, eg delivering in school gardens</p> <p>Evidence their work is needed: To ensure their work is needed and beneficial they seek and receive:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Ongoing feedback from relatives, staff and the children, through feedback forms, letters and consultation with Hospital staff. Especially over the last 4 years at Broomfield Hospital as regular visitors and other hospitals where we have made initial visits.2) General Research into Humour in hospital and connected topics carried out by journalists and researchers.3) Gathering more feedback and impact measurement from our visits to Special Schools and listening to what the schools want from us <p>We are widening our network, looking at new & better ways of marketing our services. We are always analysing our revenue streams and looking at developing our funding further for example through broader corporate support.</p> <p>We have developed stronger links with other organisations and value the establishments working with us who recognise the impact we are having.</p>
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Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The Trustees have had regard to the guidance
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	One of the two founders Annie Aris who is Chief Operating Officer effectively administers the day to day running of the charity. The trustees and additional volunteers/supporters of the charity help with setting up, promoting and running events. The trustees are intrinsically involved in the financial aspects of the charity both day to day as well as strategically - through maintaining charity accounts and scrutiny.
Other		

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p>Activities and achievements of The Laughter Specialists Charitable Trust for the year April 1st 2020 to March 31st 2021 This year the income from corporate sponsorship, grants and donations has reduced due to the Covid Pandemic.</p> <p>The Laughter Specialists have had to significantly change the way they delivered their work due to the Covid Pandemic – as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1)The creation of funny informative and educational short films covering many diverse themes. These were then distributed to hospitals, schools, families at home etc 2)Outreach visits to family's homes with delivery performed in a Covid safe way through glass doors and windows and in gardens where possible. 3)Interactive Zoom sessions called Giggle Bursts for schools and individuals at home. 4)Recorded Zoom sessions 5)Visits resumed to some special schools when it was allowed with very strict Covid safety procedures.

		<p>We visited where possible the following-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Edith Borthwick School, Bocking, Essex. Once a month during term time. 2) Grove Cottage (mencap), Bishops Stortford. 3) We visit Harlow Fields school Harlow every week through various sources of funding – this has been working extremely well, with our work being recognised for its additional educational benefits – this acts as a valuable model that can be rolled out to other Special schools 4) We now visit Columbus School & College Chelmsford through general funding. We've built up a great rapport and understanding of the children's needs bringing them fun & laughter, helping them to interact with each other and express themselves. 5) Meldreth School <p>The benefits of these visits have led to a reduction in stress and boredom for the children and their parents at these clinics.</p> <p>The Laughter Specialists have been able to continue their visits working with children of mixed abilities.</p> <p>At both Columbus school & College, The Laughter Specialists are working with children from the age of 5 -19 years with great success.</p> <p>Training programmes: Funding had been secured for developing trainee Laughter Specialists. A programme of training visits is continuing.</p> <p>Gathering and analysing the feedback for our visits to enable us to measure the impact more accurately of our work.</p>
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	There is an Unrestricted funds balance of £27,269 and a restricted funds balance of £7,129 at the end of the financial year.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	<p>The trustees aim is to have funds in reserve to cover six months indirect fixed costs. These costs include administration fees, fundraising fees, insurance, office supplies, computer costs, accountancy costs etc</p> <p>Direct funds for our charitable activities (funding Laughter Specialist visits) are mostly restricted funds for projects and received in advance, though now some restricted funds are paid partially up front and then the remaining funds paid when the project is complete.</p> <p>At present the trustees don't consider it necessary to have a reserve fund to cover these costs as the number of visits and timing of the visits is very flexible, though this may be reconsiders if our funding becomes split between beginning and end of project.</p> <p>In terms of a reserve fund, it is more important in the trustees opinion to have a reserve fund to cover the other costs of running the charity without which we cannot support the Laughter Specialist visits.</p>
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	The trustees consider that the charity should have sufficient reserves in unrestricted funds to cover fundraising, admin and other fixed support costs of between £10,000 to £15,000 not exceeding £15,000.
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	
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Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	
Other		

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed , royal charter)	Para 1.25	Trust Deed
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association , CIO)	Para 1.25	Trust
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Appointed by existing trustees

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	The Laughter Specialists Charitable Trust
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1132987
Charity's principal address	17 Crawley Hobbs Close Saffron Walden Essex CB11 4GD

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	George Howard	Chairman	April 2020 – June 2020	
2	Edward Rudd	Treasurer		
3	Clare Thompson			
4	Karen Sheairs	Acting Chair Jun20 -		
5	Madeleine Gardner	Finance officer		
6				
7				
8				
9				

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

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

Annie Aris (founder and Laughter Specialists acting as Chief Operational Officers),

Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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Other optional information

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Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Ed Rudd	Madeleine Gardner
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Treasurer	Trustee
Date	17/1/22	



The Laughter Specialists 1132907

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from 01-Apr-20 To 31-Mar-21

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 £
A1 Receipts					
Grants	-	28,268	-	28,268	38,887
Programme service fees	5,545	-	-	5,545	8,315
Donations	29,307	-	-	29,307	23,313
Fundraising events	-	-	-	-	7,351
Bank interest	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	34,852	28,268	-	63,140	77,866
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	34,852	28,268	-	63,140	77,866
A3 Payments					
Specialist performers fees	9,357	25,854	-	35,211	50,867
Fundraiser and administration fees	12,092	5,644	-	20,736	22,383
Fundraising event costs	-	-	-	-	634
Other event costs	379	472	-	851	-
Costumes and props	625	740	-	1,365	1,119
Insurance & licences	609	-	-	609	644
Accountancy costs	400	-	-	400	300
Rent	-	-	-	-	1,620
IT costs	1,499	-	-	1,499	575
Travel, printing, meetings & sundries	(1,014)	-	-	(1,014)	2,390
Sub total	23,967	35,710	-	59,677	80,732
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	402	-	-	402	-
Sub total	402	-	-	402	-
Total payments	24,369	35,710	-	60,079	80,732
Net of receipts/(payments)	10,483	(7,422)	-	3,061	(2,866)
A5 Transfers between funds	17	(17)	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	16,769	14,568	-	31,337	34,203
Cash funds this year end	27,289	7,129	-	34,398	31,337

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	27,269	7,129	-
	Cash in hand	-	-	-
	Total cash funds	27,269	7,129	-

(agree balances with receipts and payments accounts)

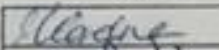

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Grants receivable	-	2,500	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

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

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the	Laptops	Unrestricted	780	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities	Business administration & support	Unrestricted	2,133	Apr-21
	Business administration & support	Restricted	884	Apr-21
	Specialist performer fees	Unrestricted	1,250	Apr-21
	Specialist performer fees	Restricted	1,868	Apr-21

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	M. GARDNER	4/11/21
	E. RUSSO	7/11/21



Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees of

Accounts for the year to Charity no

Set out on pages

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: Date:

Name:

Relevant qualification

Address: