



Annual Report 2023

Overview

There is a clear and longstanding under-representation of girls and women in engineering, science and technology subjects and careers. There is a greater under-representation of girls and women in non-traditional trades. WEST have run a bursary scheme for more than 10 years which aims to offer a little support and encouragement to girls and women who face financial hardship or other challenges near the start of their study or career. Funding for our bursaries comes from donations or special fundraising events. (Bursaries are available in spring for girls and women in Yorkshire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire).

Girls do not easily aspire to engineering subjects and non-traditional trades, so over the last 10 years we have developed resources that are trusted. We deliver outreach to primary and secondary schools in our region and we draw on our role models. Our funding for this work usually comes from grant applications but we are sometimes commissioned on the basis of our track record. Our recent development work has been to create a series of non-traditional career videos of women working for use in schools and colleges – but also in the hope of appealing directly to young women and girls.

In 2023 we decided we needed to do more to promote WEST and our resources including our new online non-traditional career videos of women working. Our trustees take the role in promoting WEST online, but we do recruit volunteers to help when we can. This year we were fortunate to work with students from Sheffield Hallam University in a scheme offered within digital marketing and computer studies subject areas. We have also continued to deliver our STEM outreach across South Yorkshire schools with support from our local funders. We have again raised funds to provide bursaries to support women working and studying in non-traditional subjects and careers.

This year WEST was approached by a sixth former who wanted to help promote STEM subjects to girls and we were happy to develop new set of procedures for under 18 volunteers. The female sixth former co-delivered a session at a school with our career consultant. WEST has also continued to recruit female role models to support our outreach.

We would like to thank our funders for helping WEST in our aims to advance the education and careers of women and girls in non-traditional subjects.

Careers Video Teaching Event

We held an event to promote our new carers videos to teachers and received some very positive and helpful feedback.

“Fun and uplifting...affirming...excellent”



Liaison with Sheffield Hallam University (SHU) Students

We briefed a group of students about WEST and asked them for advice on how to reach young people on social media. They did research on our area of work and then produced a report for us including a SWOT analysis. They found that while we had some good content to promote we didn't have enough, and we didn't use the main platforms that young people use – Instagram and Tik Tok.

We then recruited an intern from SHU with help from the staff to assist us in taking forward a plan and to support us with our social media skills. This scheme supports students who cannot get a funded placement. The university pays the student and the charity provides the student with a project. The trustees all made progress on our various social media platforms including Instagram, Facebook, TikTok.

During my internship at WEST Trustees, I worked on creating a new Leaflet, Business card and Redesigning some presentations for the Trustees and attended the meeting of schools. I assisted with the development of social media campaigns, created an Instagram account, and conducted market research. I also had the opportunity to attend meetings and observe the inner workings of a successful and committed team. I brought marketing suggestions for the website and how to promote the charity through digital media. Overall, my internship was a valuable learning experience that allowed me to develop new skills and gain practical experience in the field of digital marketing. (SHU Intern, from her final report)

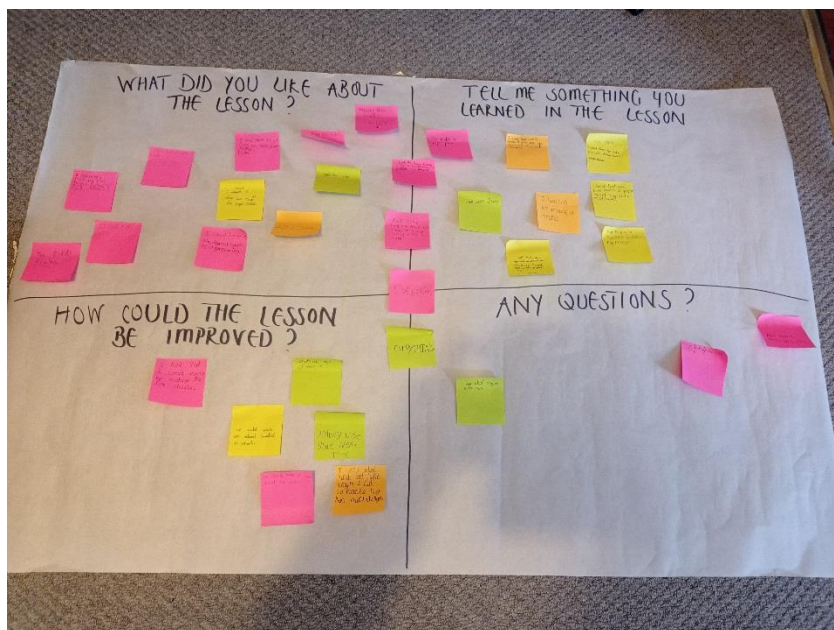
Bursaries

We awarded 15 small bursaries of £150 each to women engineering students at SHU and to women working / studying non-traditional trades in colleges across Yorkshire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire.

Outreach

We have found it takes longer than expected to arrange visits since the Covid pandemic – schools are still experiencing problems with Covid and we have found it harder to fix dates or have had to rearrange dates – when there is a Covid break out.

Teachers are very positive about our outreach and the benefit to the children – and the books are very much appreciated by teachers. We have been asked to go back to our schools the following year – and would like to do workshops for teachers so they can run things themselves. However we are aware that it is hard for teachers to find time to organise role models and activities – it is much easier to ask us to do it for them.



Gwenda's Garage and Women in Trades

Ros Wollen, as one of our original trustees was also one of the founders of Gwenda's Garage in Sheffield in the eighties and a play about the was performed in the Crucible at Sheffield in November 2023. You can find out more on our website.

<https://www.westskills.org.uk/gwendas-garage> WEST has had close links with Women Working in Trades across South Yorkshire for many years and we held an event in 2023 to

look back at the history of women in trades in Sheffield and to bring women now working in the trades. There was lots of debate between the now retired and current women working in trades.



Agreed by WEST Trustees

Dr Pat Morton Chair of Trustees

Dr Ros Wollen Trustee

Saj Parveen Trustee

Anna Childs Trustee

Annual Report 2023 for Charity Commission Submission October 2024

www.westskills.org.uk



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name
WEST

No (if any)
1152219

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

Period start date
01.01.2023

To

Period end date
31.12.2023

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	10,000	-	-	10,000	4,868
INTEREST ON DEPOSIT ACCOUNT	287	-	-	287	-
FUNDRAISING	271	-	-	271	1,233
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	10,558	-	-	10,558	6,101
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	10,558	-	-	10,558	6,101
A3 Payments					
INSURANCE	305	-	-	305	280
BURSARIES	2,250	-	-	2,250	1,350
INTERNET AND WEBSITE	397	-	-	397	256
CATERING	60	-	-	60	56
PRINTING / PHOTO	133	-	-	133	1,254
CONSULTANTS OUTREACH	2,561	-	-	2,561	6,236
CONSULTANTS FILM	1,002	-	-	1,002	3,006
TRAVEL & EXPENSES	160	-	-	160	170
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	6,868	-	-	6,868	12,608
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	6,868	-	-	6,868	12,608
Net of receipts/(payments)	3,690	-	-	3,690	- 6,507
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	-	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end	3,690	-	-	3,690	6,507

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	current account	3,690	-	-
	savings account	8,982	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	12,672	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	Agreement Error	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
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 asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	P Morton	P Morton	7.10.2024
	R Wollen	R Wollen	7.10.2024