

**Dale Farm Trust**  
**Financial Statement and Annual Report**  
**for the Year ended 31st March 2024**

**Dale Farm Trust  
Trustees' Annual Report  
for the Year ended 31st March 2024  
Charity No: 1156516**

**The address of the Trust is;**  
51 Oldfield Rd, Heswall, Wirral CH60 6SN

**Governing Document;** The charity is governed by its Trust Deed

**Structure**

**The Trust consists of 10 Trustees**

James Lester (Chair)  
Wendy McKeown (Vice- Chair)  
Ian Johnson (Secretary)  
Madeleine O'Rourke (Treasurer)  
Bernd Heerwagen  
Jean Scott  
Robert Winterson  
Allie Abraham  
Arne Muller

**Charity Structure, Management and Trustee Recruitment**

Dale Farm is situated at the edge of Heswall Dales on the Wirral Peninsula and can be accessed from Oldfield Road in Heswall. Dale Farm is a Vocational Service and run as a partnership between Wirral Council and Dale Farm Trust.

Dale Farm provides daytime opportunities for adults with a variety of learning disabilities in the real work environment. People we support at Dale Farm develop existing and learn new skills in all aspects of horticulture.

The Board of the Trust meets regularly and receives reports on financial activity over the intervening period. The accounts are updated monthly with a detailed breakdown of income and expenditure. The Farm Manager and Deputy Manager attend each meeting and report on key events and anything else pertinent to the Trust.

The Trust holds an annual general meeting which is open to the public, staff of the Farm, volunteers, and people we support at which the accounts of the Trust are made available, and the work of the Trust and Farm are discussed.

The Trust's Rules and Policies, including financial regulations were last updated in October 2018 and approved by the Board. They are available as an A5 booklet.

## **Objects and Activities**

The Trust objectives are

- The relief of those in need in particular but not exclusively by assisting in the treatment and care of persons suffering from mental or physical illness of any description or in need of rehabilitation as a result of such illness, by the provision of facilities for work and recreation.
- to promote for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Wirral and surrounding area, the provision of facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances or for the public at large in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving conditions of life of said inhabitants.

The Trust achieves its objectives by supporting Dale Farm financially and through the work of over 30 volunteers, some of whom are also Trustees.

All aspects of horticulture are used to create a working environment in which people can participate. We grow organic fruit and vegetables in the fields and polytunnels and keep bees. We sell our fruit, vegetables and honey in our farm shop which is open to the public every weekday and from Bluebellies Tea Rooms in Wallasey and the Courtyard Café in Royden Park. We also sell bagged compost and split, seasoned logs and wood chippings.

We operate a professional woodwork workshop which gives the people we support an opportunity to gain skills in all aspects of woodworking and carpentry, producing good quality items for sale and undertake commissions for woodwork items.

In the craft workshop people that attend Dale Farm produce a variety of craft items with help from a professional tutor, which we sell at our Summer and Winter plant sales.

## **Achievements and Performance**

In 2023/24, following the remodelling of the main field a new crop management plan was produced and a range of crops were grown guided by the Development group. The student committee met regularly suggesting improvements that could be made around the Farm. The sensory garden was officially reopened by the mayor on the 19<sup>th</sup> August 2023 following the completion of the restoration work.

Michelle Swann rebuilt the website and has kept it up to date with news of work on the Farm.

Colin and Coral Richards have guided several students through a training programme which could be extended to others.

A mini tractor was purchased to help with the handling of heavy items and the Trust funded the installation of a dust extraction system for the workshop. An extensive training programme was held on site for 20 volunteers on how to care for the bees and bee hives.

We held plant and produce sales in May and at Christmas both of which were well supported.

During the year the Farm retained its organic status. There were 49 people we support attending the Farm each week with an average of 25 each day.

## **Financial report**

The year-end accounts for 2023/24 are attached to this report.

Many thanks again to our Treasurer, Maddy O'Rourke who has ensured that our accounts are kept in good order and submitted regular reports to the Farm Board and to Suanne Price who keeps a daily check on income and expenditure.

## **Declaration**

There have been no serious incidents or matters that should have been brought to the attention of the Charity Commission.

The Trustees have approved this report and the financial statement which follows.



J Lester  
Chair of the Trustees, August 2024

**DALE FARM TRUST**

Registered Charity Trust No: 1156516  
51 Oldfield Road, Heswall, Wirral, CH60 6SN  
Tel: 0151 342 7819

**Receipts and Payments for the year ended  
31 March 2024**

<b>Receipts</b>	<b>2023/2024</b>	<b>2022/2023</b>
Unrestricted Funds		
Gross Income	37917	43565
Donations	8258	6595
Bank Interest		196
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>46175</b>	<b>50356</b>
<b>Payments</b>		
Unrestricted Funds		
Vehicle Costs	947	3471
Site costs	54770	44504
<b>Total</b>	<b>55717</b>	<b>47975</b>
<b>Receipts/Payments</b>	<b>-9542</b>	<b>2381</b>
Cash Funds last year end	60332	57951
Cash Funds this year end	<b>50790</b>	<b>60332</b>
<b>Cash Funds</b>		
Lloyds	49522	26802
COIF Charity Deposit Accounts	0	0
HSBC Amenity Account	0	33081
Cash Account	1183	199
Petty Cash Float	85	250
<b>Total Cash Fund</b>	<b>50790</b>	<b>60332</b>

## Dale Farm Trust

### Profit and Loss Report

01 April, 2023 - 31 March, 2024

#### Sales

4000 - Bark Income	1,972.00	
4001 - Woodwork Income	1,919.41	
4002 - Logs Income	2,831.57	
4003 - Manure Income	20,028.91	
4004 - Donations Income	8,258.19	
4007 - Honey Income	283.00	
4008 - Vegetables Income	871.99	
4010 - Plants Income	9,329.16	
4014 - PPE/Clothing Income	680.50	
	<b>Total Sales</b>	<b>£46,174.73</b>

#### Direct Expenses

**Total Direct Expenses** **£0.00**

**GROSS PROFIT / LOSS** **£46,174.73**

#### Overheads

5100 - Fuel Expense	919.43
5102 - Hardware Expense	33,568.48
5103 - Stationery/Postage Expense	62.07
5104 - Seeds Expense	4,777.35
5105 - Bees Expense	1,254.70
5108 - Vehicle Maintenance Expense	27.80
5110 - Soil Association	540.00
5112 - Plants Expense	77.50

5114 - Events Expense	7,085.57	
5116 - Manure/Bark Expense	432.00	
5117 - PPE/Clothing Expense	59.90	
5118 - Subscriptions Expense	771.31	
5121 - General Expenses	6,101.45	
5123 - Bank Charges	39.06	
	<b>Total Overheads</b>	<b>£55,716.62</b>
	<b>NET PROFIT / LOSS</b>	<b>-£9,541.89</b>





Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name  
DALE FARM TRUST

On accounts for the year  
ended

31ST MARCH 2024

Charity no  
(if any)

1156516

Set out on pages

1

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

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

Responsibilities and  
basis of report

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

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

Independent  
examiner's statement

~~The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [ ] if not applicable.~~

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

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

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

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

Signed:

A 2020 KJ

Date:

28.10.2024

Name:

ANDREW ROBERTS

Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body

CIPFA