

RG Spaces

Trustees' Annual Report
&
Financial Statements

for the year

1 November 2022

to

31 October 2023

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 October 2023

Reference and administrative information

The name of the charity: RG Spaces

Other names by which the charity makes itself known: rgspaces

Charity Commission number: 1160023

The address of the registered offices of the charity: 33 Alexandra Rd, Reading RG1 5PG

The names of the charity's trustees:

Jenny Halstead

Annette Haworth

Paul Johnson (resigned 31 December 2022)

Adam Koszary

Mark Stanley (resigned 31 July 2023)

We were sad to say goodbye to two trustees this year, both of whom have moved from the area.

Bank: Barclays, Broad Street, Reading

Insurance: Zurich

Structure, Governance and Management

The nature of the governing document: Constitution

How the charity is constituted: as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

Methods for new trustee recruitment: personal knowledge of relevant professionals

Methods for new trustee appointment: by trustees as laid down in the Constitution.

Public Benefit Statement

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty under section 4(6) of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and that the public benefit requirement has informed the activities of the charity in the year covered by this report.

Risks

Trustees are confident that financial risk is insignificant due to their reserves policy, and that choice of projects to support, and their subsequent management through the Board, will result in the effective and efficient use of resources.

Strategy

The Trustees have adopted a strategy of seeking projects which can be worked on jointly with other local organisations having similar cultural and/or heritage interests. The Trustees' Board acts as Project Board where RG Spaces takes the lead management role in any project.

Trustees

Induction: Potential new trustees will be invited to meet with trustees and to attend Board meetings. All the Charity's policies are made available and activities described through the website, together with reference to the Charity Commission's 'The Essential Trustee' documentation.

Training: A Trustee/Volunteer actively monitors the charity press and Charity Commission communications. Relevant local training opportunities are monitored mainly through subscribing to Reading Voluntary Action newsletters.

Objectives

- a) the advancement of education for the public benefit in particular, but not exclusively, by assisting with the enhancement of publicly accessible spaces in Reading which have educational learning spaces and those provided virtually, through the internet, such as web space, and other media through the provision of human, technical and other resources, grants and other finance;
- b) the advancement of arts, culture and heritage for the public benefit in particular, but not exclusively, by assisting the publicly accessible work of Reading-based organisations which have these aims through the provision of human, technical and other resources, grants and other finance;
- c) the beautification of publicly accessible spaces in Reading for the public benefit through the provision of human, technical and other resources, grants and other finance.

Activities

Activity has more or less returned to normal this year after 2 years of pandemic-induced restrictions, followed by a year during which some activities such as the University's Community Festival were still not revived.

Trustees held two face-to-face meetings but transacted business mainly via email.

Summary of activities	(a)	(b)	(c)
Grant giving		✓	
Events	✓	✓	
Website support	✓	✓	

Activity for 2023-24

- We expect the current Reading Old Cemetery project to complete just after the end of our 2023-24 financial year.
- Butterflies on the Bridge project will exhibit at Henley River and Rowing Museum in May and we are investigating involvement in the Reading Climate Festival in June.
- We expect to participate and support related organisations in various other festivals.
- Our participation in Reading Museum's "Reading's Digital Revolution" project will continue until late 2025.
- We will continue to monitor progress of some local heritage and arts projects to assess whether RG Spaces could/should become more involved

Charitable activities in 2022-2023



Grants – we gave a grant to Reading Museum towards equipment to help oral history collection for their Reading's Digital Revolution project. A trustee will sit on the project's steering group from late 2023.

We agreed a grant to Two River Press towards production of a book 'Beyond the Junction' on Reading Old Cemetery, to be published late 2024.

We previously pledged a grant to the Christchurch Green Community Group towards a heritage information board to be erected on the Green. This is being carried forward for completion in 2024.



Events – we supported The Friends of the University of Reading with equipment and material loans at the East Reading and UOR Community Festivals. as well as having our own stands.

We were the guest charity at the Museum of English Rural Life Fledglings with the mini- 'cinema' showing insect life at Reading Old Cemetery.

The info tricycle attended a few other events.



Online – a volunteer continued work on supporting the website ReadingOldCemetery.uk which is being led by Professor Yota Dimitriadi of the University of Reading Institute of Education.

We implemented and continue to host the rgspaces.org.uk/butterflyeffect/... websites, collecting sustainability promises. We still host some other heritage-related mini-websites. These are under review as activity changes. Reading Library has informed us that the holybrook.gallery website is no longer required and that is being decommissioned.

Fundraising: No active fundraising was planned for or needed this year.

Volunteers: the bulk of our administration is undertaken by a trustee/volunteer. We were grateful for the help of a couple of ad hoc volunteers for some events. The Butterflies project is run by a community artist on a voluntary basis. Other activity is undertaken by trustees acting as volunteers.

Other resources: Website hosting is provided on an ongoing basis free courtesy of a trustee. Trustees and volunteers use their own IT equipment for the Charity's work.

Finance

Policy on reserves: the Trustees have a policy of holding enough funds to cover any known liability without relying on any future income.

Funds materially in deficit: none.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland published on 16 July 2014.

This report was approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by

Name: Jenny Halstead, trustee

date: 25/1/2024

Statement of Financial Activities for the year to 31 October 2023

	Note	Unrestricted 2023	Restricted 2023	Total 2023	Total 2022
		£	£	£	£
A Income & endowments					
A1 Donations and legacies		8,000	0	8,000	0
B Expenditure on					
B2 Charitable activities	1	(458)	0	(458)	(9,250)
Net income/(expenditure)		7,542	0	7,542	(9,250)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		471	0	471	9,271
Total funds carried forward		8,013	0	8,013	471

Balance sheet at 31 October 2023 (charity number: 1160023)

	Note	2023	2022
		£	£
B Current assets			
B4 Cash at bank (none in hand)		£8,013	£471
C Current liabilities			
C1 Creditors: amounts falling due within 1 year	1	£6,500	£1,500
Total net assets or liabilities		£1,513	(£1,029)
D The funds of the Charity			
D2 Restricted funds		0	0
D3 Unrestricted funds		£1,513	(1,029)
Total charity funds		£1,513	(1,029)

Audit exemption statement

With an income of less than £25,000, the Charity is not required to have either an independent examination or audit. In addition, the constitution does not require an audit and the trustees have agreed that no external scrutiny is needed this year.

Signed

Name Jenny Halstead Trustee, on behalf of the trustees

Approved by the trustees on 25/1/2024

Notes to the financial statement for the year ended 31 October 2023

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015)

Note 1

Designated for Christchurch Green heritage board (carried forward from 2021-22)	£1,500
Designated for Reading Museum Reading's Digital Revolution oral history work and exhibitions	£5,000

Trustees also agreed a grant of £2000 towards colour printing of the book on Reading Old Cemetery. This will become due early in our 2023-24 financial year.

There have been no related party transactions in the reporting period that require disclosure.

No staff were employed in the period.