

Shared Space

life-changing volunteering opportunities

Annual Report & Impact Statement

Year ending 31 December 2024



One of the many Boost Fund Grants we give to grass-roots community projects each year

www.charityshop.co

Charitable incorporated organisation registered in England No 1161862

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Some of the 30+ volunteers on our panto trip at the start of the year

Annual Report and Impact Statement for the year ending 31 December 2023

Charitable status

Shared Space is a charitable incorporated organisation registered in England, No. 1161862.

Registered address: 34 Cranley Road, Westcliff on Sea. SS0 8AL.

Trustees	Office
Carolyn Butlin	Trustee
Peter Dominey	Chair of trustees
Ray Crudgington	Trustee
Richard Renouf	Trustee

The charity is established by means of a constitution with trustees appointed by the members.

In line with Charity Commission guidance.

Summary of Objects and Activities

The charitable objects of Shared Space are:

1. To relieve poverty among unemployed persons, in particular by training or assisting them to obtain training in such skills as will fit them for employment.
2. The relief of the poor and needy or to, or for, such other charitable purpose as the trustees shall in duly constituted meeting from time to time direct.
3. To advance the Christian religion.

This report sets out the charity's activities in pursuit of our objects.



*A grant recipient with our
Shared Space Southchurch volunteers*

Public Benefit Statement

The charity's trustees continue to have regard both for the charitable objects set out in its governing document and to ensuring that the activities of the charity, as described in this report, meet the public benefit test. In so doing, they take account of the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance. The Trustees of Shared Space are confident that the activities of the charity demonstrate strong evidence of public benefit.



Two of our volunteers decided to be baptised during the year - our sister charity, Church from Scratch helped out.

Shared Space is an example of Christian business as mission

By re-purposing a charity shop model, we provided life-changing volunteering and training opportunities more than 150 volunteers during 2024. Their volunteering work raises funds to support local charities and initiatives through the Shared Space **'Boost Fund Grants Programme'** with the awarding of grants directed by panels of volunteers.

Our shop teams are communities: an example of cohesion through the building of social capital; a place of belonging and a remarkable contributor to volunteer capacity in the area.

In both Westcliff and Southchurch, our teams comprise people from a diverse range of backgrounds, volunteering for a range of reasons. A lot of the volunteers are from marginalised groups in society: a high percentage have learning difficulties, physical disabilities, refugees, mental health conditions or are economically disadvantaged. The volunteering helps them to grow in confidence and self-esteem and may assist them in securing paid work, all as they generously give their time and energy to help run the stores.

Through groups and other activities all in the team have opportunities to explore Christian faith and spirituality, and hear the stories of Jesus, supported by our sister organisation, Church from Scratch.

Whilst faith motivates many of the Shared Space family, we rigorously operate an equal opportunities policy where people of all faiths and none are welcome and contribute.

During 2024 our work took place mainly at our volunteering centres:

- Shared Space Westcliff, at 453 London Road, Westcliff-on-Sea, SS0 9LG
- Shared Space Southchurch, at 593 Southchurch Road, Southend-on-Sea, SS1 2PN
- Shared Space Online, rear off 453 London Road, Westcliff-on-Sea, SS0 9LG

Significant actions and impacts in 2024

We are delighted to report the following significant achievements for 2024, despite a challenging retail and volunteering environment.

- **Building strong volunteer teams**, recruiting many new people in an environment where the third sector is reporting great difficulty in attracting volunteers.
- **Continuing to keep Shared Space a safe, secure and positive place** for the many vulnerable adults who volunteer with us.
- **One-to-one pastoral support from the staff team** through phone calls, visits and activities for volunteers in times of difficulty.
- **Working with Church from Scratch** as a close partner, providing opportunities to explore faith and experience Christian spirituality, collaborating on joint initiatives.
- **Running a work experience programme** for many pupils from local secondary schools.
- **Developing a life enrichment programme** of activities and events for the volunteers including theatre trips, holidays and other opportunities – providing experiences beyond the reach of many in our volunteer family.
- **Residential holidays and experiences** to Mersea Island in Essex and Forge Wood in Sussex, with bushcraft and other activities in partnership with Church from Scratch.
- **Distributing 30 Boost Fund Grants** to a wide range of grass-roots local charities and organisations, giving away £600 each month.
- Implementation of a new **charity CRM** system to improve our ability to measure impact, make us more efficient and co-ordinated and communicate with our stakeholders.
- **Sign language training** for groups of volunteers.
- **Parties and social events** in store and off site for the volunteers.
- **Developing the refugee project** which started 2 years ago, working mainly with people from a breadth of ethnicities, helping them to integrate in Southend, holding a weekly day



On the way to a residential volunteer weekend in Kent

of volunteering, shared meals, support with their accommodation issues and paperwork and delays in the asylum system.

- Experimenting with various **online Shared Space sales operations and a pop-up sales event** off-site, which gave volunteers opportunities including places for people in recovery and on probation.
- **Developing video-based training** materials for volunteers, shift leaders and staff with a view to further developing this.
- **Developing the store managers** by holding regular meetings to share and develop good practice, as well as giving them opportunities beyond the confines of the physical shop, to help organise events and improve relations with local community stakeholders.
- **Increasing sales income to a record level** despite the difficult trading conditions.
- **Increasing the number of volunteers to a record of more than 150 during the year.**



Volunteers at the Shared Space Southchurch Christmas Party



One of the 24 weekly teams of volunteers - this one at Shared Space Westcliff

Church from Scratch our Strategic Partner

A key part of our strategy for growth and development is the ongoing strategic partnerships with other agencies that share our values.

Following our charity registration in 2015, we have enjoyed a strong partnership with Church from Scratch, the Baptist church that started Shared Space as a project and then constituted us as the charity it is today.

We continue to enjoy a very close working relationship with the church for mutual benefit in pursuit of our charitable objectives.



Shared Space and Church from Scratch people together on one of our residential experiences.

Plans for 2025

In the year ahead, we plan among other things to:

- Continue to be motivated by **Christian faith**, while open to people of all faiths and none.
- Seek the **transformation** of volunteers through training, courses, residentials and events to build their resilience, skills, confidence, spirituality and well-being for life and potentially for employment.
- Invest in the locality through a **Boost Fund Grants Programme** which is double the size of 2024, increasing to at least £1,200 of grants every month.
- Build upon our **partnership with Church from Scratch** and other community organisations and agencies for the good of the area.
- **Develop our systems** to improve our operations, analysis and reporting.
- **Celebrate and affirm** our volunteers and staff through regular events.
- Hold an **AGM for increasing numbers of members**, to reflect on and celebrate Shared Space progress.
- Continue to strengthen the **board of trustees**, through training and recruitment.
- Seek to open at least **one new Shared Space training and retail centre**.
- Continue to develop **relationships within the locality** to support and aid the local community.
- Continue a **fair-trade** approach for supplies.
- Share news of our work and insights through **print and web**, including producing a triannual Share and Scratch News magazine, to engage with our stakeholders community.
- Be **receptive to opportunities** and needs as they present and respond with agility.



Grace and Julie, two of our staff team

Summary for the year

We are delighted to present a report which evidences Shared Space as a deeply caring, and agile organisation, which continues to grow, evolve and adapt. We are an example of business as Christian mission, dedicated to the well-being of Southend and the volunteers through effective work which flows from a desire to follow Jesus. Shared Space is well placed with the challenges and opportunities that will lie ahead.

Accounting basis

Throughout the year our accounts were prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

Reserves Policy

Reserves will be maintained to ensure core activities can continue during any period of unforeseen difficulty. A proportion of reserves will be maintained in a readily realisable form. The calculation of the required level of reserves is an integral part of the organisation's planning, budget and forecast cycle. It takes into account:

- Risks associated with each stream of income and expenditure being different from that budgeted.
- Planned activity levels – including the intended opening of further retail centre(s) which need to be financially pump-primed before costs can be recouped through a return on investment.
- The charity's commitments.

On this basis and having reviewed the approach in the course of the year, the Trustees believe that for 2024 a reserve equivalent to two months' running costs should be maintained.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Peter Dominey', with a horizontal line underneath.

Peter Dominey - Chair of Trustees
6 March 2025

Independent Examiner Report



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

**Independent examiner's
report on the accounts**

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of	SHARED SPACE		
On accounts for the year ended	31 st December 2024	Charity no (if any)	1161862
Set out on pages	1-12		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2024.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

Signed:

Date:

19/05/25

Name:

REG RAMM

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

AAIA
AICSA

Address:

17 CARLINGFORD DRIVE
WESTCLIFF ON SEA
ESSEX SS0 0SD

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Statement of Financial Activity – Shared Space Up to 31 December 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Designated fund 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Income					
Donations	1	1,116	-	1,116	6,875
Other Trading Activities (Charitable Primary Purpose)	2	144,510	-	144,510	146,156
Charitable activities		1,842	-	1,842	-
Investments		3,609	-	3,609	2,416
Total Income		151,077	-	151,077	155,447
Expenditure					
Charitable Activities	3	129,503	8,999	138,502	122,308
Total Expenditure		129,503	8,999	138,502	122,308
Transfer of funds		(28,999)	28,999	-	-
Net Income / (Expenditure)		(7,425)	20,000	12,575	33,139
Total funds brought forward		94,372	60,000	154,372	121,233
Total funds carried forward		86,947	80,000	166,947	154,372

Statement of Assets and Liabilities – Shared Space Up to 31 December 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed Assets		-	-
Current Assets			
Debtors	5	1,063	1,400
Cash at bank and in hand		165,942	153,658
Total current assets		<u>167,005</u>	<u>155,058</u>
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		59	686
Total net assets		<u>166,946</u>	<u>154,372</u>
The Funds of the charity			
Unrestricted funds		86,946	94,372
Designated fund		80,000	60,000
Restricted funds		-	-

Designated funds

Designated reserves include £60,000 provision for new Shared Space Training and Retail Centres, £20,000 provision in the case of loss of key personnel.

Notes to the Accounts – Shared Space

Up to 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted Fund	Designated Fund	Total	Fund	Total Fund
	2024 £	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £	
1 Donations and Legacies					
Donations	1,116	-	1,116	715	
Grants	-	-	-	5,000	
Retail Gift Aid	-	-	-	1,160	
	<u>1,116</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,116</u>	<u>6,875</u>	
2 Other Trading Activities					
Primary Purpose Trading	139,888	-	139,888	139,713	
Recycling	4,622	-	4,622	6,443	
Other	-	-	-	-	
	<u>144,510</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>144,510</u>	<u>146,156</u>	

Stocks of donated items for resale in the charity shops are not valued, as the trustees consider that it is impractical to apply value to these items and that the cost of attempting to do so would outweigh any benefits

	Unrestricted Fund	Designated Fund	Total	Fund	Total Fund
	2024	2024	2024	2023	
3 Charitable Activities					
Staff costs	42,749	-	42,749	36,970	
Joint Initiative with Church From Scratch	10,701	-	10,701	9,916	
Operational running costs - training and retail centres	36,738	-	36,738	30,043	
Premises running costs - training and retail centres	36,800	-	36,800	35,403	
Setup and major refurbishment - training and retail centres	2,515	-	2,515	3,426	
Grants awarded	-	8,999	8,999	6,550	
	<u>129,503</u>	<u>8,999</u>	<u>138,502</u>	<u>122,308</u>	

Notes to the Accounts – Shared Space

Up to 31 December 2024

4 Transfer of funds

To fund the finding, preparation and opening of the next Shared Space retail and training centre(s), the trustees created a designated fund called the “New Shared Space Training and Retail Centres Fund” in 2020.

5 Debtors

	2024	2023
VAT refund	1,063	1,400
	<u>1,063</u>	<u>1,400</u>

6 Net cashflow from operating activities

	2024	2023
Net income /(expenditure) for the reporting period as per SOFA	12,575	33,139
Adjustments for:		
(Gains) / losses on investments -Interest	3,609	2,416
Debtors - (increase) / decrease	337	0
Creditors - increase/ (decrease)	(627)	0
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>15,894</u>	<u>35,555</u>

7 Trustee and staff remuneration

	2024	2023
Salaries	37,158	32,075
Employer National Insurance	-	-
Pension contributions	2,353	1,729

Average weekly number of staff employed during the year:

Full time	0	0
Part time	4	4

No employee received benefits of more than £60,000 during the year.

No trustee remuneration was paid in fulfilling their duties.

8 Operating leases commitments

	2024	2023
Total minimum leases payments falling due:	£	£
In the year following the balance sheet date	20,500	13,500
In years two to five	40,500	61,500
From year five until the end of commitment	-	-