

# INVISIBLE PALACE

## Trustees' Report



For the period from: 1st April 2022  
To: 31st March 2023

Charity Name: Invisible Palace

Charity registration no.: 1165888

Registered address: 23 Dulwich Wood Avenue  
London, SE19 1HB

## Trustees

|                                 |                        |                                |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Michael George Sylvester Doiley | resigned & reappointed | 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2020 |
| Rosalind (Rosie) Hunter         | resigned & reappointed | 2 <sup>nd</sup> January 2019   |
| Julianne (Jules) Hussey         | resigned & reappointed | 26 <sup>th</sup> August 2020   |
| Gail Rowe                       | appointed              | 26 <sup>th</sup> August 2020   |
| Abigail Lilly                   | appointed              | 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2022  |
| Ayesha Begum                    | appointed              | 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2022  |
| Eyo E Oku                       | appointed              | 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2022  |
| Sarah Patterson                 | appointed              | 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2022  |
| Isabelle Mae Skelly             | appointed              | 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2022  |

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their Report for the charity's seventh full year of operation.

## Introduction

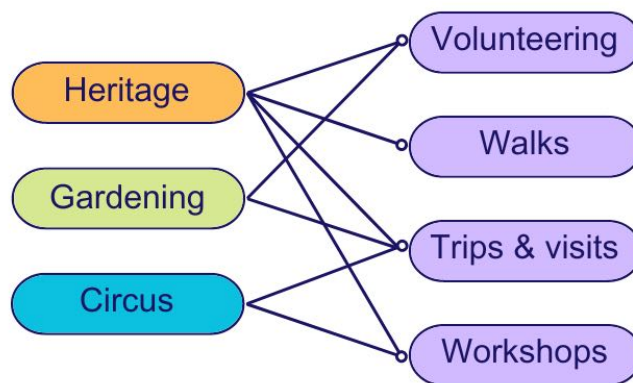
### Context

The suburb of Crystal Palace straddles boundaries of five London Boroughs causing fragmented services, conflicting priorities, and underinvestment. There is a loss of value for both people and place; cultural offers and services are centralised within each borough leaving boundaries lacking provision. Invisible Palace works with multiple communities to minimise barriers to participation in arts, heritage, and nature.

### What we do

The work that Invisible Palace does brings people from a whole range of backgrounds together through shared interests for collective activity. This creates communities of interest where people can self-identify rather than having their demographic background or life stage be the main factor defining them.

Our work takes a participant led approach, with the small team developing and running activities championing the needs of those taking part and creating programmes which respond to this need on a local and individual level. Activities are active and practical, with an emphasis on experiential learning that is rooted in the story of the local area and people's place within it. There are currently three strands of work heritage, gardening, and circus - these offer volunteering, creative sessions, trips and visits, and walks and talks.



Invisible Palace works collaboratively, projects commonly bring organisations together creating a sum that is greater than the constituent parts. Recently Invisible Palace collaborated with volunteer run Crystal Palace Museum, CIC Willow Learning for Life and charity Paxton Green Time Bank.

Invisible Palace offered engaging participant led activities using their 'Principles for inclusive co-creative practice'. These principles draw together the key ingredients for successful programme delivery: access ingrained and embedded, consistent structures for capturing content, equity and responsiveness, considered pace, relatable subject matter, valuing different knowledge and expertise, socially engaged practitioners, core community partners.

Over the last two years Invisible Palace has offered creative sessions / workshops and participation for specialist groups e.g., children and young people, young carers, low-income families, elders, disabled adults, and faith groups. Similar open access sessions are offered on a pay-what-you-feel basis to general audiences.

## The year April 2022 to March 2023

### Sculptures of Crystal Palace Park - National Lottery Heritage Fund

The Sculptures of Crystal Palace Park project had the ambition to reveal the hidden histories of the sculptures in Crystal Palace Park through a co-creative process involving local people and targeted participants who may have become isolated during the pandemic and may have lost confidence in social or cultural settings. The project built on a successful social media series developed for lockdown that began raising the profile of overlooked sculptures in Crystal Palace Park.

The project began in August 2021 but spring 2022 marked a turning point when work done by volunteer researchers was passed on to design volunteers to begin the process of interpreting and sharing the research.

Within this reporting period 19 events were run as part of the Sculptures project.

- Creative Session - leaflet design, third of three sessions - led by Jane Porter
- The World on the Upper Terrace - talk at Crystal Palace Museum - speaker Dr Kate Nichols
- Walking tour x 2 - test walk and group feedback - led by Jane Porter and Dr Dawn Pereira
- Visit to Farleys House and Gallery x 2 - led by Dr Dawn Pereira and Sue Giovanni
- Creative sessions x 4 - volunteers from Willow - led by Dr Dawn Pereira
- Accessible board game design x 4 - volunteers from Willow - led by Jane Porter
- Secrets of the Sculptures guided walk x 2 - led by Dr Dawn Pereira
- Celebration event - held at the Paxton Centre - led by Dr Dawn Pereira and Jane Porter
- Interpretation Training x 2 - for new creatives - led by Sarah Oswald, The Authentic Spark

The above events were conducted in line with Invisible Palace's emerging 'Principles for inclusive co-creative practice'. Outputs produced in this phase of the project were:

- original research shared with other organisations and projects
- a recording of Dr Kate Nichols talk
- a new guided walk of the overlooked sculptures in Crystal Palace Park
- a 24-page booklet of the walk
- an accessible board game about the sculptures
- a two-week exhibition of artwork produced by Willow Learning for Life team members at the Paxton Centre

Comments from those taking part

*"Great fun mixing with different people. The project is very interesting and I have learned about the statues I didn't know were there."*

*"Creative - look at things from a different angle & seeing new viewpoints. Social - meeting and hearing different people."*

*"I didn't expect for this talk to look at the social context in which the statues were built, so I really felt connected to the area, the perception of myself and my background and now everything is interlinked."*

*"It surprised me how interesting I found it. I did not expect to be inspired."*

*"Escaping SE19 into the beautiful Sussex countryside. Take opportunities and visits when they arise. Be confident in own judgement."*

## Invisible Palace Charity Commission Report April 2022 to March 2023



PHOTOS BY SUE GIOVANNI, JULES HUSSEY, JANE PORTER, TANYA RHODES



**LEFT TO RIGHT – MURIEL GRAY - BRITISH MUSEUM TRUSTEE, MADELEINE WHITLOCK, SIMON CORRALL, CHERYL NORMAN, SUZANNE CREIGHTON, TOFI IMEVBOR, BRYONY CROOK, BRIAN MARSH OBE, DAVID CARDEW, DIANE ARTHUR, CLEMENT BURROWS - WILLOW LEARNING FOR LIFE, KEMI ADEBOJE - PAXTON GREEN TIME BANK**

The extent of the work done by volunteers and the approach taken by Invisible Palace resulted in Sculptures of Crystal Palace Park volunteers winning the 2022 Marsh Award for Volunteers in Museums for the London Region. This was awarded in autumn 2023.

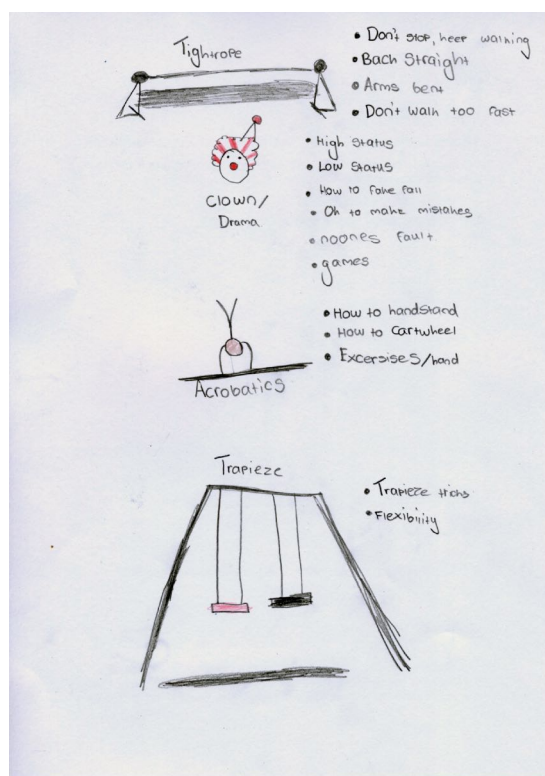
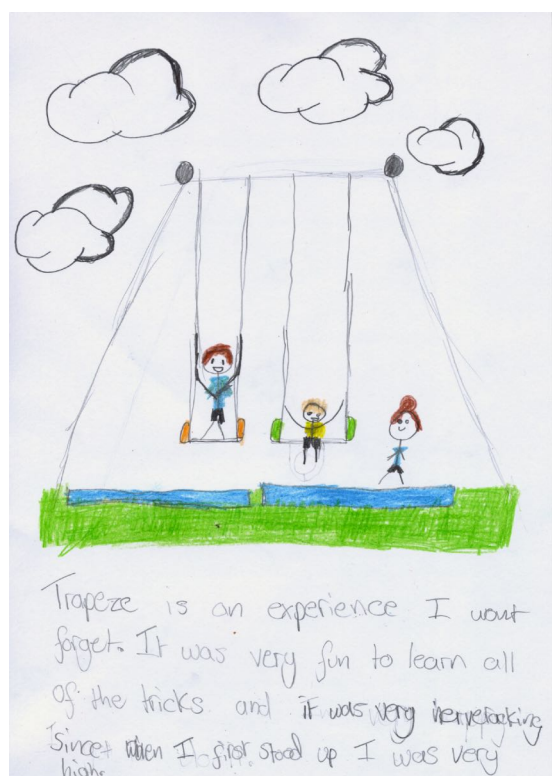
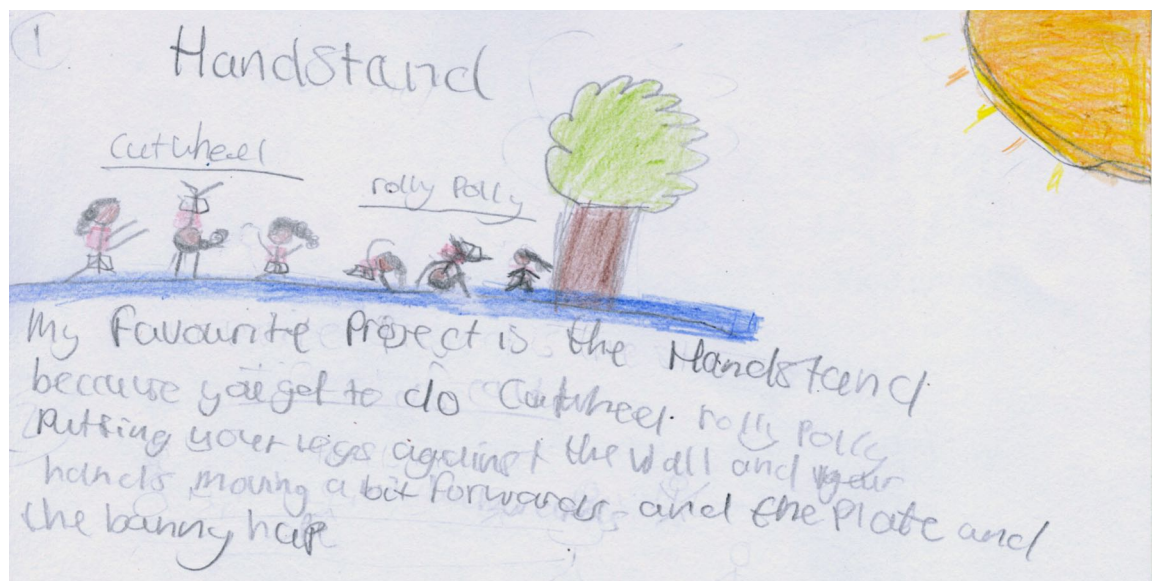
Highly Commended Certificates for the Family Activity Volunteers at the Horniman Museum, the Young Object Handling Volunteers at Royal Museum Greenwich, and the African Heritage Tours Volunteers at the Tate.

Invisible Palace collaborated with Crystal Palace Community Trust, Paxton Green Time Bank, Willow Learning for Life, Crystal Palace Museum, Farleys House and Gallery, Friends of Crystal Palace Park, Paxton Centre, Sarah Slaughter, and The Authentic Spark on this project.

### Defy Gravity Social Circus in partnership with My Aerial Home

Invisible Palace was a delivery partner with Crystal Palace Community Trust on a 3-year Mayor of London Young Londoners Fund project. The purpose of the project was to develop a coherent youth offer for Anerley and Penge, minimise barriers to participation for young people. This included community-based activities across a range of spaces, the project came to an end in December 2022.

Throughout the 3-year project Invisible Palace had taken the opportunity to test different approaches to delivering this work. The programme was developed each year based on participant, and staff feedback. When the programme came to an end Invisible Palace had a clearly defined Social Circus offer backed up by evidence.



Positive results were seen on all evaluation measures set for the Young Londoner's project - increased engagement and motivation; two case studies demonstrated this, improved behaviour, and young people were more able to work together. Additional outcomes of increased physical literacy, confidence and resilience were also evidenced.

Between April 2022 and March 2023 Invisible Palace ran 15 Social Circus sessions, in total 67 children and young people took part in one or more session.



PHOTOS BY SUE GIOVANNI

During winter 2022 Invisible Palace worked closely with partners St John's Primary School, Crystal palace Community Trust, and My Aerial Home to develop a coherent bid to Reaching Communities - National Lottery Community Fund. In March 2023 an award was made by NLCF for three years Social Circus work to deliver regular After School Club, Summer Intensive sessions for Years 5&6, Youth Club Taster sessions, and scholarship sessions at My Aerial Home.

## Gardening

The gardening project based at the Vicar's Oak offers a drop in volunteering opportunity on a Friday morning. People of all ages, from a range of backgrounds, come together in the heart of Crystal Palace, through a common interest in gardening. Volunteers build connections, learn skills, and improve the local area both for people and wildlife. The project is supported by a professional gardener who leads the volunteering sessions.

Invisible Palace continued with the same model of delivery as in 2021:

- fortnightly volunteer sessions over the winter months
- weekly sessions from spring till autumn
- two plant sales per year
- trips to other gardens or museums for volunteers and friends

Between April 2022 and March 2023 Invisible Palace ran 39 different gardening-related sessions, 34 people got involved in one or more session, with a core group of 8 gardeners. A highlight of the summer was a visit to Chelsea Physic Garden, at the time CPG were in the early stages of developing their community access scheme and the trip took some time to organise but was well worth it. Five people joined the visit who were not garden volunteers, one of whom progressed to regular volunteering.

In September 2022 Invisible Palace received funding from the new Crystal Palace Park Trust to cover a proportion of gardening costs for an 8-month period. The project focused on increasing biodiversity at the Boundaries Gate entrance to the park.

Six volunteers joined for a special bulb planting session in October, it was useful to notice that this one-off session with a clearly defined purpose helped to raise the profile of the gardening project.

Comments from passers by

"Lovely spots of gardening. Very nice indeed. Well done to the gardeners."

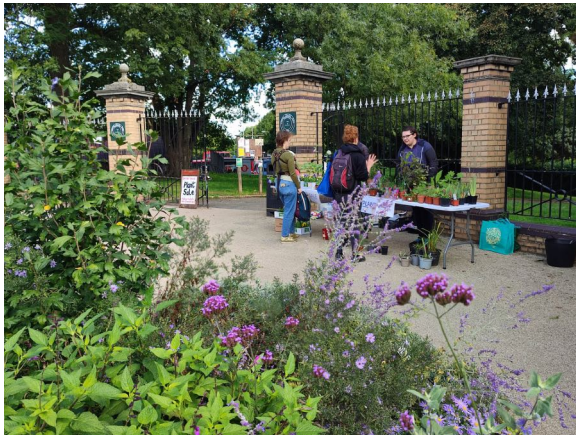
"Beautiful addition to this busy intersection! Thank you so much for your continued efforts!"

"Beautiful, cool, relaxing."

"I love your flowerbeds!"

"Thank you for your great work! The flowers are always so pretty!"





PHOTOS BY SOPHIE DAWSON AND SUE GIOVANNI

### City Bridge Trust Funder Plus Support

In April 2022 Invisible Palace was awarded a place on City Bridge Trust's development programme. Through this scheme Director Sue Giovanni undertook a 6-month training course with Getting on Board called Transform. The training focused on equitable and inclusive trustee recruitment.

The training was a huge benefit to Invisible Palace and helped to validate existing practices and demonstrate how those practices can be extended to all aspects of the charities work.

Trustee roles were advertised in late summer and by November Invisible Palace had 5 new trustees with a range of skills, experience, and backgrounds. The aim of this recruitment was to allow finding trustees to plan their departure from the charity.

### Summary

Increasing the quality of evaluation and reporting was a theme in the last two annual reports this has reaped dividends. Methods for recording feedback and looping that back into project development is now key to Invisible Palace's approach, as evidenced in the 'Principles for inclusive co-creative practice'.

Another strength is partnership working, and it was the combination of good partnership working and strong evidence that led to success in the National Lottery Community Fund award for Defy Gravity Social Circus.

As the climate for small charities like Invisible Palace only seems to get tougher, ongoing training in good practice and business development will be vital to the success of the charity in the future.

## Financial Review

The charity's Financial Statements form page 12 of this report.

The Receipts and Payments accounts show total receipts of **£68,981** during the financial year reported on; total payments of **£50,660** and a year-end position of **£47,305** held in assets (cash at bank).

Overall funding for the year increased by 10%, the range of income sources also increased to the greatest number seen to date.

The charity received ongoing project funding of **£31,360** from The National Lottery Heritage Fund and for a new project **£17,420** from The National Lottery Community Fund. **£11,284** came from our delivery partnership with Crystal Palace Community Trust and **£3,994** from the Greater London Authority.

The total restricted funds received by the charity for the year were **£67,655**. Of this **£48,875** of restricted funds payments were made during the period. At the end of this period **£43,046** of restricted funds are held which includes the opening balance of **£24,266**.

The total unrestricted funds received by the charity were **£1,326**. Of this **£1,785** of unrestricted fund payments were made this financial year. At the end of this period **£4,258** of unrestricted funds are held which includes the opening balance of **£4,718**. The unrestricted funds at end of period stay consistent from last year.

The finances this year were again independently examined by Stefan Bort a Chartered secretary for Bort Corporate Solutions Ltd.

## Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' Report above and the Financial report on page 12.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signature(s)



Full name(s)

Ayesha Begum

Sarah Patterson

Position (e.g. Secretary, Chair)

Trustee

Trustee

Date

24th January 2024

|                                                            |                                |                           |               |
|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
|                                                            |                                |                           |               |
|                                                            |                                |                           |               |
| Invisible Palace                                           | Registered Charity no. 1165888 |                           |               |
| Receipts & Payments Account                                |                                |                           |               |
| for the period 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023           |                                |                           |               |
| The charity holds no endowment funds at present            |                                |                           |               |
| There were no sales or purchases of assets or investments. |                                |                           |               |
|                                                            |                                |                           |               |
|                                                            |                                |                           |               |
|                                                            | <b>Restricted Funds</b>        | <b>Unrestricted Funds</b> | <b>Total</b>  |
| <b>Receipts</b>                                            | <b>£</b>                       | <b>£</b>                  | <b>£</b>      |
| Donations                                                  | 710                            | 1,081                     | 1,791         |
| Getting on Board                                           | 500                            | 0                         | 500           |
| Crystal Palace Community Trust - CPCT                      | 11,284                         | 0                         | 11,284        |
| Crystal Palace Park Trust                                  | 989                            | 0                         | 989           |
| Heritage Compass                                           | 899                            | 0                         | 899           |
| Local Giving - Magic Little Grant 2022                     | 500                            | 0                         | 500           |
| Gift Aid                                                   | 0                              | 5                         | 5             |
| Greater London Authority - GLA                             | 3,994                          | 0                         | 3,994         |
| National Lottery Heritage Fund                             | 31,360                         | 0                         | 31,360        |
| National Lottery Community Fund                            | 17,420                         | 0                         | 17,420        |
| Tickets                                                    | 0                              | 207                       | 207           |
| Interest Received                                          | 0                              | 33                        | 33            |
| <b>Total net receipts for the period</b>                   | <b>67,655</b>                  | <b>1,326</b>              | <b>68,981</b> |
|                                                            |                                |                           |               |
| <b>Payments</b>                                            | <b>£</b>                       | <b>£</b>                  | <b>£</b>      |
| Artists' and project management fees                       | 34,355                         | 0                         | 34,355        |
| Equipment and materials                                    | 8,097                          | 0                         | 8,097         |
| Training                                                   | 1,141                          | 0                         | 1,141         |
| Volunteers' Expenses                                       | 1,399                          | 0                         | 1,399         |
| Staff Expenses                                             | 394                            | 0                         | 394           |
| Publicity & promotion                                      | 2,984                          | 0                         | 2,984         |
| Event Costs                                                | 505                            | 0                         | 505           |
| Administration/Overhead                                    | 0                              | 1,589                     | 1,589         |
| Bank Charges                                               | 0                              | 72                        | 72            |
| Fundraising Costs                                          | 0                              | 124                       | 124           |
| <b>Total net payments for the period</b>                   | <b>48,875</b>                  | <b>1,785</b>              | <b>50,660</b> |
|                                                            |                                |                           |               |
|                                                            | <b>Restricted Funds</b>        | <b>Unrestricted Funds</b> | <b>Total</b>  |
|                                                            | <b>£</b>                       | <b>£</b>                  | <b>£</b>      |
| Opening Balance                                            | 24,266                         | 4,718                     | 28,984        |
| <b>Cash Funds at end of period</b>                         | <b>43,046</b>                  | <b>4,258</b>              | <b>47,305</b> |
|                                                            |                                |                           |               |
|                                                            |                                |                           |               |
| Invisible Palace                                           | Registered Charity no. 1165888 |                           |               |
| Statement of Assets and Liabilities                        |                                |                           |               |
| for the period 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023           |                                |                           |               |
|                                                            |                                |                           |               |
| <b>Assets</b>                                              | <b>Restricted Funds</b>        | <b>Unrestricted Funds</b> | <b>Total</b>  |
|                                                            | <b>£</b>                       | <b>£</b>                  | <b>£</b>      |
| Funds held                                                 | 43,046                         | 4,258                     | 47,305        |
| Other monetary assets                                      | 0                              | 0                         | 0             |
| Investment assets                                          | 0                              | 0                         | 0             |
| Assets retained for the charity's own use                  | 0                              | 0                         | 0             |
|                                                            |                                |                           |               |
| <b>Liabilities</b>                                         |                                |                           |               |
| any invoices outstanding at 31 March 2023                  | 0                              | 0                         | 0             |
| <b>Total Assets at end of period</b>                       | <b>43,046</b>                  | <b>4,258</b>              | <b>47,305</b> |

ACCOUNTS PREPARED BY  
Marcella Caramba-Coker  
MACC Services

APPROVED BY THE TRUSTEES ON

Signed



Ayesha Begum

Date 28th January 2024

Signed



Sarah Patterson

Date 28th January 2024



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

INVISIBLE PALACE

On accounts for the year  
ended

31 MARCH 2023

Charity no  
(if any)

1165888

Set out on pages

10211

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 MARCH 2023

Responsibilities and  
basis of report

As the charity trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with 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 (other than that disclosed below \*) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect,:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 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:

Date:

25/1/2024

Name:

STEFFAN BORT

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

CHARTERED SECRETARY (ACIS)

Address:

3 DULWICH WOOD AVENUE  
LONDON SE14 1HB

**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).

Give here details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.