

**COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 09832061**  
**CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1167825**

**Spark 21**  
(a company limited by guarantee)

**Unaudited Financial Statements**

**For the period ended 5 April 2024**

**Spark 21**  
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## **Spark 21**

### **Reference and Administrative Details**

**As at 5 April 2024**

#### **Trustees**

Ms D L Denis-Smith

Ms H B Geffin (resigned 31 January 2024)

Lady A P Neuberger

#### **Registered Office**

44 Southampton Buildings

London

WC2A 1AP

#### **Charity Registration Number**

1167825

#### **Company Registration Number**

09832061

#### **Other Working Names**

First 100 Years and Next 100 Years

#### **Independent Examiner**

Nina Rust FCCA

N.TRUST Accountancy Ltd

Suite 3a Kings Hall

St Ives Business Park

Parsons Green

St Ives

PE27 4WY

#### **Bankers**

Lloyds Bank

1 Butler Place

Westminster

London

SW1H 0PR

**Spark 21**  
**Company Limited by Guarantee**  
**Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Directors' Report)**  
**Period ended 5 April 2024**

The Trustees (who are also directors of the charitable company for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006) are pleased to present their annual Trustees Report, together with the unaudited financial statements for the period ending 5 April 2024, which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Articles of Association, 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 (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015).

**Trustees**

All Trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the Charity. The Trustees serving during the year and to the date of this report were as follows:

Daniela Denis-Smith (Dana Denis-Smith)  
Hayley Geffin (resigned 31 January 2024)  
Lady Angela Neuberger

**Structure, Governance and Management**

**Governing document**

Spark 21 is a company limited by guarantee incorporated on 20 October 2015 and governed by its Articles of Association. Spark 21 is also a registered charity (1167825) - registration date being 23 June 2016.

**Appointment of new Trustees**

As set out in the Articles of Association any person who is willing to act as a Trustee, and who would not be disqualified from acting under the provisions of the Articles of Association, may be appointed to be a Trustee by a decision of the Trustees. The Board co-opts members during the year to ensure that the Board has a broad range of skills and experience; to facilitate trustee succession new trustees may be appointed annually by the members of the charitable company and serve for a period of three years but may be re-elected for a further 3 year term.

**Trustee recruitment and induction**

Trustees are recruited through professional, personal and member contacts. We aim to recruit people whose skills the Board have identified as needed. The Trustees endeavour to ensure there is an appropriate balance of skills, gender, age, race, disability, sexual orientation, culture, politics or religious belief.

New Trustees are given an induction pack on the Duties and Obligations of Charity Trustees to brief them on their legal obligations under the charity and company law, the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit and inform them of the content of the Articles of Association. We also regularly share trustee advice from law firms that can benefit the trustees in understanding their continuous obligations. Trustees are encouraged to attend appropriate external events and meetings where these will facilitate the undertaking of their role.

**Governance and organisational structure**

The Board of Trustees hold regular meetings either by conference call or in person. They are responsible for governing the affairs of Spark 21. The Trustees are also in regular contact between the meetings to agree on priorities to be addressed and, if needed, to organise ad hoc briefing calls for expediency. The Board agrees the strategic direction to ensure the organisation fulfills its objectives. It takes overall responsibility for ensuring that the financial, legal and contractual obligations of the Charity are met and that there are satisfactory systems and controls in place.

**Management**

Day to day management and decision making of the Charity is delegated to specific Trustees in order for the Charity's objectives to be met and ensure the smooth and effective running of the organisation. The Board may delegate specific actions and decisions to any of the Trustees, acting alone or together (and usually 2 trustees would be instructed), who will then report to the full Board.

**Related parties and co-operation with other organisations**

None of our Trustees receive remuneration or other benefit from their work with the Charity. Any connection between a trustee or senior manager of the Charity with service user, external contractor or supplier of services must be disclosed to the full Board of Trustees in the same way as any other contractual relationship with a related party. In the current year any such related party transactions have been fully disclosed to the full Board of Trustees.

All related party transactions are managed in accordance with the Charity's Articles of Association. All transactions and activities involving organisations in which a Trustee may have an interest are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the Charity's financial and procurement procedures.

## **Spark 21**

### **Company Limited by Guarantee**

### **Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Directors' Report)**

**Period ended 5 April 2024**

#### **Use of volunteers**

Due to the small size of the charity, volunteers are recruited on a rolling-basis. Our volunteers are made up of different groups from university students to professionals. Similarly, we appoint professional champions to volunteer on a number of thematic committees relevant to the charity's objectives and they are provided with information packs, as well as ongoing communication.

#### **Objectives and activities**

##### **Achieving delivery of the charity's aims and public benefit**

The Trustees have given due consideration to the Charity Commission's published guidance on the Public Benefit requirement under the Charities Act 2011. We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning our future activities. We believe that we have complied with this, and seek to demonstrate this within this report.

All our charitable activities focus on the advancement of education in the subject of women in the legal and other professions, to promote equality and diversity and, in particular, the elimination of discrimination on the ground of gender, and advance the arts, in particular, but without limitation, by commissioning, establishing, maintaining, publishing and performing (as applicable) works of art.

Our main activities and our beneficiaries are described below.

#### **Charitable activities in the period to 5 April 2024**

The charity has taken the following activities in the financial period to 5 April 2024:

1. Events: we hosted a series of events, including the annual Inspirational Women in Law Awards.
2. Annual Lecture: continued our series of lectures, the Heilbron Lectures, and we hosted the 4th edition, delivered on the theme of "Value".
3. Photography: delivered a commissioned mosaic of the first woman to be admitted by Lincoln's Inn to be placed in their new learning
4. Photography: we organized a centenary photography competition, "The Way WE are", to mark the centenary of women qualifying as solicitors and barristers in England & Wales and we hosted the unveiling of the finalists in January 2023.
5. Exhibition: we collaborated with the Judicial Office to create a centenary exhibition to honour the first woman barrister and share the history of women in the judiciary. This toured the country's courts.
6. Report: co-created the Women Who Will report, featuring a Class of 2023 women change-makers in the legal sector, including some of the award winners in the Inspirational Women in Law awards.
7. Newsletter: we continued to publish our monthly "Women in Law Who" newsletter. This spotlights female trailblazers in the law who are "shaping our present", "made our history", and "will change our future" with a subscription list of over 2,500.
8. Club 1919: we continued our members' initiative to honour the legacy of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act 1919 and hosted a dinner to honour them.
9. Maintained the digital platforms The First 100 Years and Next 100 Years;
10. Maintained First 100 Years/ Next 100 Years social media presence and very strong media presence with a clear communications strategy, which performed very well.

#### **Achievements and performance**

The Charity has achieved several landmarks – the main being that it has succeeded in reframing the conversation around women in law by focusing the celebration of their achievements around the period 1919-2019, followed by marking, in 2022 and 2023, of the centenary of the first women qualifying as barristers and solicitors in England and Wales. Individually and through our supporting organisations – Bar Council, Law Society, CILEx and so on – we have reached an audience of thousands of legal professionals and students.

We continued to deliver our activities online albeit on a scale down format given the challenges faced by all during this time.

In the financial period to 5 April 2024:

1. Hosted our 8th edition of the Inspirational Woman in Law award for women leaders, bringing a younger generation into the project; an annual report, Women Who Will, was also launched with a roll call of women changing the legal profession, and providing an annual review of changes for women in the legal sector – this was now in its 3rd year.
2. Delivered the 4th edition in the Heilbron Lecture series, in a live event, platforming women legal experts discussing big themes of our times.
3. Our commission of the mosaic of the first woman to be admitted as a barrister at Lincoln's Inn was finalized and unveiled.

**Spark 21**  
**Company Limited by Guarantee**  
**Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Directors' Report)**  
**Period ended 5 April 2024**

**Financial review**

**Financial statements**

The Financial statements, including the notes, have been prepared in compliance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and reporting by Charities" 2015 (FRS 102). The analysis of income and expenditure reflects the classification of activities, together with costs relating to administration.

**Statement of Financial Activities**

The Statement of Financial Activities is shown on page 7 with a more detailed analysis of income and expenditure within the notes to the financial statements. The total income for the year was £71,353. The total expenditure for the year was £53,959.

**Principal funding sources**

The Charity is dependent upon grants and donations from individual donors and institutions.

**Balance Sheet**

The above result led to a surplus of £17,394 (2022 deficit of £18,703) which has produced a combined fund balance of £21,381 at the year-end. An analysis of the funds can be found in note 7.

**Investment Policy**

Under the Articles of Association, the Charity has the power to invest in any way the Trustees shall think fit. In conjunction with its reserve policies, the aim of the Charity, the Trustees can borrow or raise and secure the payment of money for any purpose including for the purposes of investment or of raising funds, including charging property as security for the repayment of money borrowed or as security for a grant or the discharge of an obligation. The Trustees can also set aside funds for special purposes or as reserves against future expenditure. The Trustees can invest the Charity's money not immediately required for its objects in or upon any investments, securities, or property; arrange for investments or other property of the Charity to be held in the name of a nominee or nominees and pay any reasonable fee required. The Trustees can also delegate decisions in respect of investments to an external financial advisor.

**Risk Management**

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Charity is exposed, in particular those relating to the operation and finances of the Charity. Systems are in place to minimise exposure to the major risks, with a risk management register being in place and reviewed at least annually by the Trustees.

**Reserves**

Funds are normally being built up for ongoing and future activities.

**Plans for future periods**

The Charity's plans for 2024/25 continue to focus on the delivery of the Next 100 Years project as well as to use materials created by the First 100 Years project to educate, celebrate and inspire generations of women in law.

Our main areas of focus are:

1. Continuing to organise events and champion the role of women in law, including the annual Inspirational Women in Law awards.
2. Continue to collaborate with partner organisations to advance the charity's objectives.
3. Filming and editing more videos of stories of women in law under the Next 100 Years 'Next 100 Voices' video series.
4. Continue to organise the Heilbron Lectures series.
5. Continue to run the Next 100 Years campaign.

## **Spark 21**

### **Company Limited by Guarantee**

### **Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Directors' Report)**

**Period ended 5 April 2024**

#### **Statement of Trustees Responsibilities**

The Trustees (who are also the directors of Spark 21 for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to

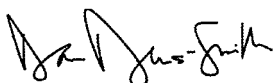
- \* select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- \* observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP 2015 FRS102;
- \* make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements, and;
- \* prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the Charity and financial information included on the Charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:



**Ms D L Denis-Smith**

Trustee

26 October 2024

## **Spark 21**

### **Company Limited by Guarantee**

#### **Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Spark 21**

I report on the accounts for the company for the period ended 5 April 2024, which are set out on pages 7 to 12.

#### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b)

#### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. The accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
4. The accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities [applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)].

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.



**Nina Rust**  
**N.TRUST Accountancy Ltd**  
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St Ives Business Park  
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St Ives  
PE27 4WY

28 October 2024



**Spark 21**  
**Company Limited by Guarantee**  
**Statement of Financial Activities**  
**(incorporating income and expenditure account)**  
**Period ended 5 April 2024**

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
	Notes	2024 £	2024 £	2022 £	2022 £
<b>Income</b>	3				
Donations and legacies		11,681	-	11,681	17,824
Charitable activities		14,502	-	14,502	2,660
Other trading activities		45,078	-	45,078	8,500
Investment		92	-	92	-
<b>Total income</b>		<b>71,353</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>71,353</b>	<b>28,984</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	4				
Raising funds		-	-	-	-
Charitable activities		51,627	-	51,627	46,127
Other		2,332	-	2,332	1,560
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>53,959</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>53,959</b>	<b>47,687</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>17,394</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>17,394</b>	<b>(18,703)</b>
Balances at 1 November 2021		3,987	-	3,987	22,690
<b>Balances at 31 October 2022</b>		<b>21,381</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>21,381</b>	<b>3,987</b>

The notes on pages 9 to 12 form part of these financial statements.

**Spark 21**  
**Company Limited by Guarantee**  
**Balance Sheet**  
**as at 5 April 2024**

	Notes	£	2024 £	£	2022 £
<b>Current assets</b>					
Stock		500		6,526	
Debtors	5	-		6,056	
Cash at bank and in hand		37,483		2,235	
		37,983		14,817	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	6	(16,602)		(10,830)	
			21,381		3,987
<b>Net assets</b>			21,381		3,987
<b>Funds</b>					
Restricted	7	-		-	
Unrestricted		21,381		3,987	
			21,381		3,987


For the period ending 5 April 2024 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime and in accordance with FRS 102 SORP.

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on 26 October 2024, and signed on behalf of the board by:



**Ms D L Denis-Smith**  
Trustee

**Company Number 09832061**

The notes on pages 9 to 12 form part of these financial statements.

**Spark 21**  
**Company Limited by Guarantee**  
**Notes to the Accounts**  
**Period ended 5 April 2024**

**1 Accounting policies**

**Accounting convention**

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost for transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note to these accounts.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with FRS 102, The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland and with the Charities Act 2011.

**Incoming resources**

All incoming resources are included in the statements of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity; it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

Income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable and its amount can be measured reliably.

Legacy income is recognised when receipt is probable and entitlement is established.

Income from donated goods is measured at the fair value of the goods unless this is impractical to measure reliably, in which case the value is derived from the cost to the donor or the estimated resale value. Donated facilities and services are recognised in the accounts when received if the value can be reliably measured. No amounts are included for the contribution of general volunteers.

Income from contracts for the supply of services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted services. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case it may be regarded as restricted.

**Resources expended**

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is classified under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates:

Expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, non-charitable trading activities and the sale of donated goods.

Expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by the charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.

Other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis.

**Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees to further any of the charity's purposes.

**Governance and support costs**

Support costs have been allocated between governance costs and other support. Governance costs comprise all costs involving public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice. Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of the resources.

**Stock**

Stocks held are valued at the lower of cost or net realisable value.

**Debtors and Creditors**

Debtors and creditors are recognised at their settlement value and are all receivable/payable within one year.

**Financial instruments**

The company only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

**Spark 21**  
**Company Limited by Guarantee**  
**Notes to the Accounts Continued**  
**Period ended 5 April 2024**

**2 Directors' Remuneration and Expenses**

The directors received no remuneration during the year and were not reimbursed for any expenses.  
The company had one employee during the year (2022 - one employee).

**3 Income**

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2024 £	2022 Unrestricted £
<b>Donations and legacies</b>				
Donations including Gift Aid	9,121	-	9,121	13,984
Notional rent	2,560	-	2,560	3,840
	<u>11,681</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,681</u>	<u>17,824</u>
<b>Charitable activities</b>				
Other activities	14,502	-	14,502	2,476
Other activities	<u>14,502</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>14,502</u>	<u>2,476</u>
<b>Other trading activities</b>				
Sponsorship	<u>45,078</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>45,078</u>	<u>8,500</u>
<b>Investment</b>				
Interest received	<u>92</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>-</u>

**4 Total expenses**

	Basis of allocation	Raising funds £	Charitable activities £	Other £	2024 Total £	2022 Total £
<b>Costs directly allocated to activities</b>						
Charity objectives	Direct	-	37,253	-	37,253	36,874
Other/governance costs	Direct	-	14,374	2,332	16,706	10,813
		<u>-</u>	<u>51,627</u>	<u>2,332</u>	<u>53,959</u>	<u>47,687</u>

An accrual of £725 has been included in the accounts for the year in respect of the independent examiner's fee (2022, £690).

**Spark 21**  
**Company Limited by Guarantee**  
**Notes to the Accounts Continued**  
**Period ended 5 April 2024**

**4 Total expenses (continued)**

<b>Expenditure on charitable activities</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Wages, salaries and staffing costs	15,515	22,291
Employers NIC	1,272	1,861
Notional rent	2,560	3,840
Insurance	206	165
General expenses	133	396
Bank charges and currency costs	55	59
Consulting and legal	6,727	-
Film production and other event costs	20,702	13,234
Postage freight and courier	127	851
Donations	-	-
IT software and consumables	4,330	3,430
	<b>51,627</b>	<b>46,127</b>
<b>Other expenses</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Accountancy fees	1,642	870
Independent Examination	690	690
	<b>2,332</b>	<b>1,560</b>

**5 Debtors**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Trade debtors	-	6,000
Other debtors and prepayments	-	56
	<b>-</b>	<b>6,056</b>

**6 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Trade creditors	3,280	30
Social security and other taxes	2,126	360
Accruals & other creditors	11,196	10,440
	<b>16,602</b>	<b>10,830</b>

**7 Unrestricted funds**

	<b>Movement in Resources</b>		
	<b>Balance</b>		<b>Balance</b>
	<b>1 November</b>		<b>5</b>
	<b>2022</b>	<b>Incoming</b>	<b>April 2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
General fund	<b>3,987</b>	<b>71,353</b>	<b>21,381</b>

**8 Legal status**

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital.

**Spark 21**  
**Company Limited by Guarantee**  
**Notes to the Accounts Continued**  
**Period ended 5 April 2024**

**9 Related party transactions**

There was a balance of £9,500 (2022, £2,500) due to Obelisk Legal Support Solutions at the year end in respect of a non interest bearing loan. A notional rent of £2,560 is charged by Obelisk Legal Support Solutions Limited but is covered by a donation for this same amount. One of the directors of the company is a Trustee of the charity.