

DEEP ROOTS TALL TREES

England & Wales · Charity number 1169357

Details

Other names	DRTT
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2016-09-26
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Deep Roots Tall Trees 53 High Street Corby NN17 1UU
Phone	07838160686
Email	info@deeprootstalltrees.org
Website	www.deeprootstalltrees.org

Activities

Objects: 1. TO ADVANCE THE ARTS AND CULTURE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC, PARTICULARLY BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY, BY PROMOTING AND FACILITATING ACCESS TO AND PERFORMANCES OF MUSIC AND OTHER ART FORMS; AND 2. TO PROVIDE FOR THE RECREATION OF PEOPLE OF ALL AGES IN NORTHAMPTONSHIRE AND ELSEWHERE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC BY PROVIDING FACILITIES AND SERVICES TO THEM IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE WITH THE OBJECT OF IMPROVING THEIR CONDITIONS OF LIFE; AND 3. TO ADVANCE EDUCATION WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE ARTS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE AND ELSEWHERE.

Activities: Deep Roots Tall Trees (DRTT) is a Corby-based arts organisation that aims to extend the relevance of music, singing and the arts to the widest possible local and regional audience.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Recreation
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Northamptonshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-04-05	£106,657	£83,611	-	-
2024-04-05	£82,790	£83,603	-	-
2023-04-05	£80,100	£94,468	-	-
2022-04-05	£48,080	£85,455	-	-
2021-04-05	£57,180	£41,274	-	-

Trustees

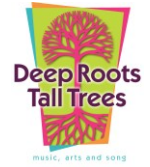
Name	Role	Appointed
Helen Victoria Willmott	Chair	2025-07-21
BRIDGET MARGARET WATTS		2017-02-14
Christopher Michael Fendall Newton		2025-06-16
DR John Gregory Mellor		2018-01-23
Eddie James Arthey		2018-01-23

DEEP ROOTS TALL TREES

England & Wales - Charity number 1169357

Accounts

Trustees' Annual Report for the period							
	Period start date				Period end date		
	6 th	April	2024		5 th	April	2025
From				To			



Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name	Deep Roots Tall Trees
Other names charity is known by	DRTT
Registered charity number (if any)	1169357
Charity's principal address	53 High Street
	Corby
	Postcode NN17 1UU

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Mrs Bridget Margaret Watts			
2	Eddie Arthey			
3	John Mellor			
4	Diane Goldsmith	Chair	Resigned 21st July 2025	
5	Helen Willmott	Chair	Appointed 21 st July 2025	
6	Christopher Newton		Appointed 16 th June 2025	
7				
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20				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

Neil Paris – Artistic Director

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Charitable Incorporate Organisation (Foundation)
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Appointed by Charity Trustees

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

DRTT is governed by a board of trustees. Prospective trustees are identified on a rolling basis by the Board and matched against the findings of an annual Board skills audit. They are initially approached by the Chair, a trustee or The Artistic Director who discusses with them the work and aims of the trust and requests that they join a board meeting as an observer. Following a satisfactory outcome, the prospective trustee is formally approached in writing by the Chair. The new trustee is then given an induction pack which includes information on the role and responsibilities of trustees, terms of appointment of trustees, a copy of the latest annual report and accounts, a copy of the current artistic plan, as well as policies including equal opportunities, child protection and vulnerable adult protection and health and safety policies. All trustees are offered places on relevant training courses as and when appropriate.

The trustees have a risk management strategy which comprises:

- an annual review of the risks the organisation may face;
- the establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified in the plan;
- the implementation of procedures designed to minimise any potential impact on the organisation should those risks materialise.

The work has identified several risks related to ongoing changes in the prevailing funding environment in particular regarding the acquisition of funding through local grant schemes, National Lottery funded schemes, and charitable trusts and foundations. A key element in the management of financial risk is the setting of a reserves policy and its regular review by trustees.

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The objects of DRTT are as follows:

- To advance the arts, culture and heritage for the benefit of the public, particularly but not exclusively, by promoting and facilitating access to and performances of music and other art forms; and
- To provide for the recreation of people of all ages in Northamptonshire and elsewhere for the benefit of the public by providing facilities and services to them in the interests of social welfare with the object of improving their conditions of life; and
- To advance education within the framework of music and arts for the benefit of the public of Northamptonshire and elsewhere.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

The Trustees of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on Public Benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers and duties.

The activities undertaken to further DRTT's purpose for the Public Benefit consist of arts and arts education projects, performances and events, providing opportunities for our beneficiaries to collaborate with professional musicians and artists of the highest calibre.

Our regular core activity is a community choir and a dancetheatre group whose membership consists of people living in the local area and beyond. The choir focuses on writing, arranging, rehearsing and performing songs alongside local amateur and professional musicians under the direction of our Music Director. The song repertoire comprises almost entirely original songs and we support our beneficiaries in taking an active part in the songwriting process. The dancetheatre group similarly works with our Artistic Director to create new bespoke pieces of work.

We run workshops and events based around singing and songwriting, dance and movement and related activities. These are offered out to the people in the choir and dancetheatre groups, the general public, and other organisations including local community groups and clubs and schools and colleges.

We also organise special music and arts projects that are larger in scale than our core activity. These include further opportunities for beneficiaries to collaborate with professional musicians and artists as well as offering:

- music and arts education workshops for the local community
- performances and arts events incorporating the work of other artists working across a range of different genres and forms in collaboration with the choir, our Artistic Director and Music Director;
- performance events open to the general public.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Beneficiaries involved in our core activities (e.g. choir and dancetheatre groups) are also active as volunteers throughout the year supporting the operation of DRTT both in our regular activity as well as public events.

The management and running of the choir along with other activities is supported by Working Groups. These are voluntary groups open to all our beneficiaries. They also play an important role in helping to formulate the artistic planning of the organisation.

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Deep Roots Tall Trees provides accessible arts and cultural activities for the people of Corby and surrounding areas. We empower participants to explore their creativity as a means through which to express themselves, develop new skills, and raise aspirations.



Based in the town of Corby, Northamptonshire, the organisation was set up in 2012 (first as an unincorporated association and then in 2016 as a charitable incorporated organisation) as a response to the significant post-industrial social and economic changes the town was undergoing.

Working alongside professional artists, our singers, musicians and dancers create and perform their own songs and choreographies. Over the past 12 years, they have worked with professional orchestras (e.g. the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Sinfonia Viva etc.), performed for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, sung in Gaelic, Polish and Latvian, in a football stadium, a theatre, an art gallery, in Corby's urban woodlands and on film.

By enriching people's lives through arts and culture, our work impacts on personal and social health and well-being, creates stronger communities, and builds a brighter and more fulfilling future for our beneficiaries.

Our vision for Deep Roots Tall Trees is to expand its offering of arts and cultural activities to all sectors of the local community as well as further afield, empowering individuals and partner organisations to achieve personal growth and societal change.

In response to the many difficulties local people face, in addition to special one-off projects, we offer a regular programme of aspirational arts activities:

- Deep Roots Tall Trees Choir and Deep Roots Tall Trees Dancetheatre - inclusive, open-access groups for adults that enable individuals to express themselves and their ideas through song, music, and dance.
- Ring of Fire - a song-writing collective which writes songs and music drawing on the stories and life experiences of people in Corby for the choir to sing and perform.
- Corby Future Voices - a singing and music production project for young people living on the Kingswood Estate, one of the most deprived and economically depressed wards of the town.

During 2020-2021, the organisation was run by:

- Neil Paris - Artistic Director and Dancetheatre Director
- Simon Steptoe - General Manager
- Gareth Fuller – Music Director

ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS**Core Activities**

Throughout the period both choir and dancetheatre continued their regular weekly sessions, gaining new skills, creating new work and rehearsing repertoire.

Performances

DRTT Choir gave eight public performances:

- May 2024, Warkton Church, Kettering. Reprising their song cycle 'Songs of Remembrance and Rebirth' which they premiered there in 2015.
- June 2024, Weldon village. D-Day celebration event
- August 2024, Corby Town Centre. 'Bring on The Bells' celebrating the re-commissioning of the town clock
- September 2024, Kettering Arts Centre
- November 2024, Royal and Derngate Theatre, Northampton. Northamptonshire Community Foundation Awards
- December 2024, Corby Library and Kettering Spa Hotel
- January 2025, The Core at Corby Cube, Charity fundraising concert.
- March 2024, Ennerdale Community Centre, Corby. Generations project culmination event.

DRTT Dancetheatre gave a studio performance of their latest work 'EARTH' at South East Dance in Brighton.



The young people in The Good Vibes Music and Film Club gave their first public performance at Hazel Leys Happening Youth Hub, Corby

Workshops**- Sunday Singalongs**

DRTT ran 6 Sunday Singalong events which were a new initiative begun in the previous year to share our activities more widely and meet with more members of our communities. These were relatively informal occasions held in community centres and village halls where people could come together to have a cup of tea and join in singing some well-known popular songs. We developed the initiative this year, running a 'Summer Social' event in a local village hall, a 'Big Singalong' at The Core Theatre and taking the activity into a local care home.

- Open Choir and Dancetheatre Sessions

New sessions were trialled where people were invited to come and try-out our choir and dancetheatre activities. The sessions were free and content was tailored to suit.



- Music and Art Club

A new initiative using a cross-arts approach to engage young people on The Kingswood Estate in Corby in creative activities. These were led by music and theatre artist Kate Stilitz and DRTT Artistic Director Neil Paris and took place at Kingswood Youth Club where we have an established relationship.



PROJECTS

Future Voices

We continued 'The Good Vibes Music and Film Club', a strand of our music initiative for young people on the Hazel Leys and Kingswood estates. Facilitated by local artists from Enabler Promotions and 1979 Films the youth club provides a safe space where young people can come together to socialise and explore music and film making. During this period they continued creating their own music, gave their first public performance to a group of their peers and worked with a visiting music leader to create new music. They prepared and rehearsed two songs to be recorded in a professional studio.



During this time the two local project leaders continued to grow in confidence and learned new skills from the visiting music leader. This, alongside their increasing ownership of the project is growing the capacity for sustained engagement in the local area.

Common Ground

Funded by the National Lottery Community Fund this project began in 2023 and engaged with two marginalised communities in Northamptonshire; the Ukrainian refugee community in Kettering and Deaf young people who attend a youth club run by Deafconnect in Northampton.



Work continued at Deafconnect in Northampton with further music sessions led by deaf music leader and musician Ruth Montgomery of Audiovisibility and leading professional D/deaf artist Fletch@ who led SignSong sessions for the D/deaf young people, their families and adults learning British Sign Language.

Engagement with the Ukrainian refugee community continued with dance sessions led by DRTT Artistic and Dancetheatre Director Neil Paris. The project also supported a Ukrainian Christmas celebration event and attendance at the Ukrainian Independence Day Event at North Northamptonshire Council Kettering offices.



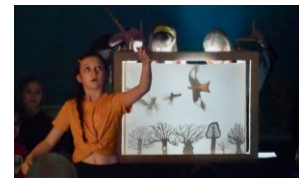
Generations

Work concluded on this intergenerational project. Funded by the Heritage Fund, the project brought older and younger generations together to share and preserve stories and experiences that relate to their lives in and around Corby. The young people involved worked with professional music theatre artist Kate Stilitz and Gareth Fuller DRTT Music Director, to create, rehearse and perform their own songs, music and choreographies. Kate Stilitz also led music and singing workshops in local primary schools which were successful in recruiting young people to the project.



preserve stories and experiences that relate to their lives in and around Corby. The young people involved worked with professional music theatre artist Kate Stilitz and Gareth Fuller DRTT Music Director, to create, rehearse and

The outputs of the project included interviews with local residents as well as songs and chants written in response to this oral history. The project culminated in a public performance at Ennerdale Community Centre, Corby. It brought together the young people, community musicians and DRTT adult choir to perform to a large crowd of friends, family and local residents.



The Hybrid Band

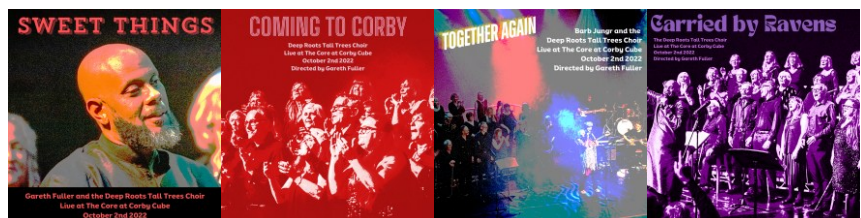
In January 2024 we began a new 2-year project, 'The Hybrid Band'. Funded by Arts Council England, the project aims to unite people through music, dance, and creativity, inviting people to come together and collaborate with exceptional professional artists to co-create original works of art.

We believe everyone has something to contribute. That's why The Hybrid Band is open to everyone, regardless of artistic background, age, or ability. Through being part of this unique creative journey, through sharing ideas, learning new skills and making new friendships, people will grow in confidence, improve their well-being, and build lasting connections with others in their community.

Activities in this period included our regular core activities; DRTT Choir, DRTT Dancetheatre and Future voices, performances at the Core@Corby Cube and South East Dance in Brighton and choreographic exchanges with external choreographers.

Digital Uploads

Four EP's; Together Again, Sweet Things, Carried By Ravens and Coming to Corby were released for sale to the public through online platforms Spotify and Apple Music. They contained a total of 16 songs recorded live at the DRTT 10th Anniversary Concert at The Core at Corby Cube in October 2022.



GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Board of Trustees for the year ending 5th April 2025 were:

Chair: Diane Goldsmith
Trustee: Eddie Arthey
Trustee: John Mellor
Trustee: Bridget Watts

Quarterly board meetings were held in person during the period.

Day-to-day and overall project management was undertaken by the Artistic Director and the General Manager.

PARTICIPATION AND AUDIENCE

During this period, across all activities, DRTT worked with approximately 970 participants and reached a combined audience of over 865. This figure includes live performances, views online via social media platforms and website visits.

FINANCE AND FUNDRAISING

During the period, DRTT received the following awards and grants to support our activities:

- £6,000 from Northamptonshire Community Foundation's Sheriff's Fund and Proceeds of Crime Fund to support "Future Voices"
- £9,800 from Arts Council England for "Earheart"
- £5000 from BBC Children in Need ("Future Voices")
- £49,000 from Arts Council England for "The Hybrid Band"
- £25,000 from The Postcode Lottery
- £3,000 from The D'Oyly Carte Foundation
- £500 from Co-op Local Community Fund

Our regular groups continued to draw in subscriptions from members, this year totalling £7400 with donations from private sources reaching £103. Earned income from project delivery and occasional performances was much improved this year at £615.

INVOLVEMENT IN THE WIDER ARTS NETWORK

Throughout the year the Artistic Director has maintained relationships with strategic local partners and continued to develop his own artistic practice, running and attending in-person and online workshops in the UK and Europe and developing performances for other organisations.

The General Manager continued his work as Musical Inclusion Partnership and Programme Manager for Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust. Music Director, Gareth Fuller continued to lead other choirs across the country and direct Northants Sings Out, a massed choir event in Northampton.

Brief statement of the charity’s policy on reserves

The trustees have reviewed the organisation's needs to generate free reserves in accordance with the Charity Commission’s guidance.

In the Trustees’ view, DRTT needs free reserves in order to:

- Ensure that funds are available to safeguard the organisation for the benefit of the local people accessing our services (i.e. our beneficiaries);
- Ensure there is sufficient cash during the high spending periods of the projects enabling DRTT to meet its short-term financial liabilities as they fall due;
- Provide the financial resources to enable investment in resources (e.g. premises, facilities, staff, equipment, documentation etc.) to enhance the range of services DRTT provides to its beneficiaries;
- Maintain sufficient funds to enable operational activities to be maintained, taking account of potential financial risks, uncertainties and contingencies that may arise from time to time.

In light of the above, the trustees aim to maintain a target level of free reserves equal to three months of administrative and management costs. In 2024/25 this would have equated to approximately £9,000.

The level of free reserves at the end of 2024/25 is £2,757.

The strategy to continue to increase reserves towards the level designated above (i.e. £9000) will continue over the coming year.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

N/A

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity’s principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

A) Funding Sources:

DRTT’s principal sources are:

- i) Subscriptions from our beneficiaries attending our regular core activities. This currently includes both the choir and the dancetheatre group. Trustees reserve the right to waive such fees for those individuals on benefits or who can demonstrate low levels of income or other forms of economic disadvantage.
- ii) Grants from a range of sources including:
 - National Lottery funded sources;
 - Locally managed grants schemes through bodies such as Northamptonshire Community Foundation and local government departments;
 - Charitable trusts and foundations.

In 2024/25, we received grant support from Arts Council England for bothy “Eartheart” and “The Hybrid Band” and secured further support from Northamptonshire Community Foundation, The D’Oyly Carte Foundation, Corby Lottery, Co-op Local Community Fund, and BBC Children In Need.

iii) Donations from individuals

B) Fund Accounting:

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. DRTT does not currently hold any designated funds.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the CIO for particular purposes.

As at 5th April 2025, DRTT held the following restricted funds:

Common Ground: £5,341

The Hybrid Band: £51,696

Future Voices: £5,737

C) Going Concern Issues

At the time of writing, the Trustees are confident that DRTT remains a going concern until March 2027.

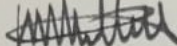
Section F Other optional information

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Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s) 

Full name(s) HELEN WILLMOTT

Position (e.g. Secretary, Chair, etc) CHAIR

Date 17/12/2025



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name Deep Roots Tall Trees	No (if any) 1169357
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CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 06/04/2024	To	Period end date 05/04/2025
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Charitable activities	17,566	88,315	-	105,881	75,713
Donations and Gift Aid	69	34	-	103	103
Bank Interest	57	-	-	57	54
Earned Income	315	300	-	615	6,920
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	18,007	88,649	-	106,657	82,790
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	18,007	88,649	-	106,657	82,790
A3 Payments					
Cost of Charitable Activities	28,324	48,787	-	77,111	76,403
Cost of Fundraising	3,000	3,500	-	6,500	7,200
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	31,324	52,287	-	83,611	83,603
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	31,324	52,287	-	83,611	83,603
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 13,317	36,362	-	23,045	- 813
A5 Transfers between funds	8,228	- 8,228	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	7,846	31,608	-	39,454	40,267
Cash funds this year end	2,757	59,743	-	62,499	39,454

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Deep Roots Tall Trees - current account	-	55,424	-
	Our Woods - current account	-	1,888	-
	Savings account	2,757	2,431	-
	Total cash funds	2,757	59,743	-

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))



Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Office equipment including IT	Unrestricted	-	-
	Musical Instruments	Restricted	-	-
	Audio Equipments	Restricted	-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	H WILLMOTT	17/11/25
	E J. ARTNEY	24/11/25



Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

Charity Name: Deep Roots Tall Trees

On accounts for the year ended

05/04/25 Charity no (if any) 1169357

Set out on pages

1,2 (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 05/04/2025

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

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: [Signature]

Date: 27/10/2025

Name: JANE HICKS

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

THE WARWICK PARTNERSHIP

Address: UNIT 18, ENTERPRISE CENTRE, MICHAEL ROAD, WARTH PARK,

RAUNDS, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE, NN9 6GR

Section B**Disclosure**

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

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

We referred in our previous report (dated 4th December 2024) regarding an offer letter from The Arts Council to the value of £98,000. We can confirm that the initial payment of £49,000 was received in February 2025 and, on that basis, we believe that the remaining £49,000 will be paid in accordance with The Arts Council offer letter.

In addition, the General Manager has confirmed a number of other grants from six independent sources, totalling £25,500 over a period of the next 12-24 months.

Other applications were also submitted in August 2025 to various trusts and foundations totalling approximately £20,000 and the organisation is awaiting the outcome of these.

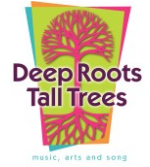
Subject to the matters referred to above, we do not believe there are any significant or material items we should bring to your attention.

DEEP ROOTS TALL TREES

England & Wales - Charity number 1169357

Accounts

Trustees' Annual Report for the period							
From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	6 th	April	2023		5 th	April	2024



Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name	Deep Roots Tall Trees
Other names charity is known by	DRTT
Registered charity number (if any)	1169357
Charity's principal address	53 High Street
	Corby
	Postcode NN17 1UU

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Mrs Bridget Margaret Watts			
2	Eddie Arthey			
3	John Mellor			
4	Diane Goldsmith	Chair		
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Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

Neil Paris – Artistic Director

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Charitable Incorporate Organisation (Foundation)
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Appointed by Charity Trustees

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

DRTT is governed by a board of trustees. Prospective trustees are identified on a rolling basis by the Board and matched against the findings of an annual Board skills audit. They are initially approached by the Chair, a trustee or The Artistic Director who discusses with them the work and aims of the trust and requests that they join a board meeting as an observer. Following a satisfactory outcome, the prospective trustee is formally approached in writing by the Chair. The new trustee is then given an induction pack which includes information on the role and responsibilities of trustees, terms of appointment of trustees, a copy of the latest annual report and accounts, a copy of the current artistic plan, as well as policies including equal opportunities, child protection and vulnerable adult protection and health and safety policies. All trustees are offered places on relevant training courses as and when appropriate.

The trustees have a risk management strategy which comprises:

- an annual review of the risks the organisation may face;
- the establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified in the plan;
- the implementation of procedures designed to minimise any potential impact on the organisation should those risks materialise.

The work has identified several risks related to ongoing changes in the prevailing funding environment in particular regarding the acquisition of funding through local grant schemes, National Lottery funded schemes, and charitable trusts and foundations. A key element in the management of financial risk is the setting of a reserves policy and its regular review by trustees.

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The objects of DRTT are as follows:

- To advance the arts, culture and heritage for the benefit of the public, particularly but not exclusively, by promoting and facilitating access to and performances of music and other art forms; and
- To provide for the recreation of people of all ages in Northamptonshire and elsewhere for the benefit of the public by providing facilities and services to them in the interests of social welfare with the object of improving their conditions of life; and
- To advance education within the framework of music and arts for the benefit of the public of Northamptonshire and elsewhere.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

The Trustees of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on Public Benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers and duties.

The activities undertaken to further DRTT's purpose for the Public Benefit consist of arts and arts education projects, performances and events, providing opportunities for our beneficiaries to collaborate with professional musicians and artists of the highest calibre.

Our regular core activity is a community choir and a dancetheatre group whose membership consists of people living in the local area and beyond. The choir focuses on writing, arranging, rehearsing and performing songs alongside local amateur and professional musicians under the direction of our Music Director. The song repertoire comprises almost entirely original songs and we support our beneficiaries in taking an active part in the songwriting process. The dancetheatre group similarly works with our Artistic Director to create new bespoke pieces of work.

We run workshops and events based around singing and songwriting, dance and movement and related activities. These are offered out to the people in the choir and dancetheatre groups, the general public, and other organisations including local community groups and clubs and schools and colleges.

We also organise special music and arts projects that are larger in scale than our core activity. These include further opportunities for beneficiaries to collaborate with professional musicians and artists as well as offering:

- music and arts education workshops for the local community
- performances and arts events incorporating the work of other artists working across a range of different genres and forms in collaboration with the choir, our Artistic Director and Music Director;
- performance events open to the general public.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Beneficiaries involved in our core activities (e.g. choir and dancetheatre groups) are also active as volunteers throughout the year supporting the operation of DRTT both in our regular activity as well as public events.

The management and running of the choir along with other activities is supported by Working Groups. These are voluntary groups open to all our beneficiaries. They also play an important role in helping to formulate the artistic planning of the organisation.

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Deep Roots Tall Trees provides accessible arts and cultural activities for the people of Corby and surrounding areas. We empower participants to explore their creativity as a means through which to express themselves, develop new skills, and raise aspirations.



Based in the town of Corby, Northamptonshire, the organisation was set up in 2012 (first as an unincorporated association and then in 2016 as a charitable incorporated organisation) as a response to the significant post-industrial social and economic changes the town was undergoing.

Working alongside professional artists, our singers, musicians and dancers create and perform their own songs and choreographies. Over the past 12 years, they have worked with professional orchestras (e.g. the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Sinfonia Viva etc.), performed for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, sung in Gaelic, Polish and Latvian, in a football stadium, a theatre, an art gallery, in Corby's urban woodlands and on film.

By enriching people's lives through arts and culture, our work impacts on personal and social health and well-being, creates stronger communities, and builds a brighter and more fulfilling future for our beneficiaries.

Our vision for Deep Roots Tall Trees is to expand its offering of arts and cultural activities to all sectors of the local community as well as further afield, empowering individuals and partner organisations to achieve personal growth and societal change.

In response to the many difficulties local people face, in addition to special one-off projects, we offer a regular programme of aspirational arts activities:

- Deep Roots Tall Trees Choir and Deep Roots Tall Trees Dancetheatre - inclusive, open-access groups for adults that enable individuals to express themselves and their ideas through song, music, and dance.
- Ring of Fire - a song-writing collective which writes songs and music drawing on the stories and life experiences of people in Corby for the choir to sing and perform.
- Corby Future Voices - a singing and music production project for young people living on the Kingswood Estate, one of the most deprived and economically depressed wards of the town.

During 2020-2021, the organisation was run by:

- Neil Paris - Artistic Director and Dancetheatre Director
- Simon Steptoe - General Manager
- Gareth Fuller – Music Director

ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS

A) CORE ACTIVITIES

Throughout the period both choir and dancetheatre continued their regular weekly sessions, gaining new skills, creating new work and rehearsing repertoire.

Performances

DRTT Choir gave performances at Kettering Arts Centre and were special guests of the Lord Lieutenant of Northamptonshire at the Northamptonshire County Service at the church of St Peter and St Paul in Kettering. These performances are the result of a new creative partnership with Kettering Arts Centre and a policy of extending the reach of our work beyond Corby. The choir also performed at Weldon Village Hall and at the EARTHEART culmination event at The Core at Corby Cube.



DRTT Dancetheatre premiered EARTH in The Lab at The Core at Corby Cube. This was a 40-minute piece which resulted from a collaboration between dancers and musicians in response to the question: ‘What does the word Earth mean to you?’. It was performed to an original soundtrack played live on the night and directed by Artistic Director Neil Paris. The work was performed again at the EARTHEART culmination event and an earlier work-in-progress version was performed to an invited audience at Brigstock Village Hall.



Workshops

Dancetheatre Director Neil Paris gave a swing-dance workshop at Priors Hall Park Community Association’s summer festival day. Members of the DRTT choir, songwriting group and musicians shared music, songs and food with members of Kettering’s Ukrainian refugee community at Central Methodist Church in Kettering.



Sunday Singalongs

We ran nine Sunday Singalong events which are a new initiative to share our activities more widely and meet with more members of our communities. These were relatively informal occasions held in community centres and village halls where people could come together to have a cup of tea and join in singing some well-known popular songs.

B) PROJECTS

EARTHEART

Activity on this Arts Council England funded project began in October 2022 and concluded in February 2024. The following took place during this reporting period:

Northamptonshire interdisciplinary artist Jo Blake ran dance and storytelling workshops as part of the development of EARTH, a brand new dancetheatre work created by DRTT dancetheatre.

‘Shifting Sounds’ were a series of live workshops between musicians and dancers entitled explored the relationship between sound, movement and



improvisation and was the foundation for the creation of EARTH. This also included an all-day event which concluded with a performance of work-in-progress to an invited audience.

‘Good Vibrations’ was a similar initiative exploring the possibilities of sound, music, voice and technology.



DRTT collaborated with Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust’s Corby Music Centre, Orchestras Live and Sinfonia Viva to work with young musicians in Corby to create a new song and an instrumental improvisation. The process involved in-school taster sessions at four local primary schools, choir and orchestral players making visits to the Corby Music Centre to work with young musicians and all-day creation and rehearsal sessions led by Sinfonia Viva.

The project finale brought the DRTT Choir (adults), young musicians from Corby Music Centre and professional musicians from Sinfonia Viva together to perform as part of the EARTHEART culmination event.



DRTT songwriting group, The Ring of Fire, collaborated with local songwriters to create new repertoire for the choir. The songs drew on participants' responses to the question: 'What does the word earth mean to you?'. The songs were arranged for choir by Music Director Gareth Fuller and were premiered at The Core at Corby Cube as part of the EARTHEART culmination event.

Strawberry Words, a training and education company that focuses on anti-racism, led two Diversity, Equality and Inclusion training sessions. These were attended by the DRTT Board of Trustees, DRTT artistic staff and members of DRTT Choir and Dancetheatre.

The EARTHEART project culminated with an evening concert at The Core at Corby Cube. It featured a brand new dancetheatre piece, performances from the young musicians from Corby Music Centre alongside the DRTT Choir and orchestral musicians from Sinfonia Viva and concluded with a performance from the DRTT Choir. The event was well attended, bringing new people into the venue for the first time and giving several of the young people involved their first experience of performing in a professional venue.



Future Voices

As a strand of our music initiative for young people on the Hazel Leys and Kingswood estates, local artists from Enabler Promotions and 1979 Films piloted the 'Good Vibes Music and Film Club'. A development from previous grass-roots work in Kingswood Youth Club and Hazel Leys Happening Youth Hub, 'Good Vibes Music and Film Club' was a safe space where an invited group of young people came together to explore music and filmmaking. They produced a new song, and a film which documented the process, gained confidence and made new friendships.



Common Ground

Funded by the National Lottery Community Fund this project initiated a new partnership between DRTT and Kettering Arts Centre and engaged with two



marginalised communities in Northamptonshire: the Ukrainian refugee community in Kettering; and Deaf young people who attend a youth club run by Deafconnect in Northampton.

Work began at Deafconnect in Northampton with music sessions led by professional Deaf flautist and music leader Ruth Montgomery of Audiovisibility.

Engagement with the Ukrainian refugee community began with sharing songs, music and food at Central Methodist Church in Kettering. This was followed by a Christmas party event held at Kettering Arts Centre which brought together members of the Ukrainian refugee community, DRTT community and Kettering Arts Centre community. They shared festive food, customs and gifts, sang festive songs and enjoyed fun dance activities.



Following the success of the Christmas event the Ukrainian community decided they would like more dance activities to boost their physical and mental health and well-being and DRTT Dancetheatre continue to lead further dance workshops with them in Kettering.

Generations

Work began on a new intergenerational project. Funded by the Heritage Fund, the project aims to bring older and younger generations together to share and preserve stories and experiences that relate to their lives in and around Corby. A central element of the project is the recording of oral histories and the project began with a visit from the East Midlands Oral History Archive to train participants in the protocols and techniques used when interviewing and recording people for an oral history archive.

Corby Music Awards 2023

Deep Roots Tall Trees Choir was awarded the 'Community Project of The Year' at the inaugural Corby Music Awards.

GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Board of Trustees for the year ending 5th April 2023 were:

Chair: Diane Goldsmith
Trustee: Eddie Arthey
Trustee: John Mellor
Trustee: Bridget Watts

Quarterly board meetings were held in person during the period.

Day-to-day and overall project management was undertaken by the Artistic Director and the General Manager.

PARTICIPATION AND AUDIENCE

During this period, across all activities, DRTT worked with approximately 110 participants and reached a combined audience of over 20,000. This figure includes live performances, views online via social media platforms and website visits.

FINANCE AND FUNDRAISING

During the period, DRTT received the following awards and grants to support EARTHEART:

- A second instalment of our Arts Council England grant for Earthart of £39,200
- £480 from North Northamptonshire Council
- £9,700 from the Community Fund for the "Common Ground" project
- £9,900 from the Heritage Fund towards "Earthart: Generations"
- £5,000 from The Kenneth Fund towards "The Hybrid Band" and as match-funding towards an application to Arts Council England for a project of the same name submitted in August 2024.

Our regular groups continued to draw in subscriptions from members, this year totalling just under £6,000 with donations from private sources reaching £103. Earned income from project delivery and occasional performances was much improved this year at over £6,900.

INVOLVEMENT IN THE WIDER ARTS NETWORK

Throughout the year the Artistic Director has maintained relationships with strategic local partners and continued to develop his own artistic practice, running and attending in-person and online workshops in the UK and Europe and developing performances for other organisations.

The General Manager continued his work as Musical Inclusion Partnership and Programme Manager for Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust. Music Director, Gareth Fuller continued to lead other choirs across the country and direct Northants Sings Out, a massed choir event in Northampton.



Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The trustees have reviewed the organisation's needs to generate free reserves in accordance with the Charity Commission's guidance.

In the Trustees' view, DRTT needs free reserves in order to:

- Ensure that funds are available to safeguard the organisation for the benefit of the local people accessing our services (i.e. our beneficiaries);
- Ensure there is sufficient cash during the high spending periods of the projects enabling DRTT to meet its short-term financial liabilities as they fall due;
- Provide the financial resources to enable investment in resources (e.g. premises, facilities, staff, equipment, documentation etc.) to enhance the range of services DRTT provides to its beneficiaries;
- Maintain sufficient funds to enable operational activities to be maintained, taking account of potential financial risks, uncertainties and contingencies that may arise from time to time.

In light of the above, the trustees aim to maintain a target level of free reserves equal to three months of administrative and management costs. In 2023/24 this would have equated to £9,000.

The level of free reserves at the end of 2023/24 is £7,846

The strategy to continue to increase reserves towards the level designated above (i.e. £9000) will continue over the coming year.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

N/A

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

A) Funding Sources:

DRTT's principal sources are:

i) Subscriptions from our beneficiaries attending our regular core activities. This currently includes both the choir and the dancetheatre group. Trustees reserve the right to waive such fees for those individuals on benefits or who can demonstrate low levels of income or other forms of economic disadvantage.

ii) Grants from a range of sources including:

- National Lottery funded sources;
- Locally managed grants schemes through bodies such as Northamptonshire Community Foundation and local government departments;
- Charitable trusts and foundations.

In 2023/24, we received renewed grant support from Arts Council England for Earheart and secured further support from Northamptonshire Community Foundations, The Kenneth Fund, North Northamptonshire Council, Corby Lottery and the Co-op Local Community Fund.

iii) Donations from individuals

B) Fund Accounting:

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. DRTT does not currently hold any designated funds.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the CIO for particular purposes.

As at 5th April 2024, DRTT held the following restricted funds:

Common Ground: £8,743

Generations: £9,212

The Hybrid Band: £5,000

At the time of writing this report, we have received news that our next application to Arts Council England for "The Hybrid Band" project has been successful. This is a 2-year project supporting the organisation through to the end of 2026.

C) Going Concern Issues

At the time of writing, the Trustees are confident that DRTT remains a going concern until March 2026.

Section F Other optional information

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Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

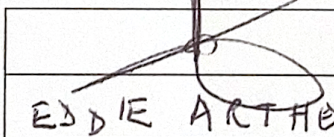
Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

Full name(s)

Position (e.g. Secretary, Chair, etc)

Date

	
EDDIE ARTHUR	
Trustee	
21-12-2024	



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name Deep Roots Tall Trees	No (if any) 1169357
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CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 06/04/2023	To	Period end date 05/04/2024
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Charitable activities	-	75,713	-	75,713	79,435
Donations and Gift Aid	-	103	-	103	104
Bank Interest	54	-	-	54	11
Earned Income	-	6,920	-	6,920	550
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	54	82,736	-	82,790	80,100
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	54	82,736	-	82,790	80,100
A3 Payments					
Cost of Charitable Activities	420	75,983	-	76,403	87,468
Cost of Fundraising	-	7,200	-	7,200	7,000
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	420	83,183	-	83,603	94,468
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	420	83,183	-	83,603	94,468
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 366	- 447	-	- 813	- 14,368
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	8,212	32,055	-	40,267	54,635
Cash funds this year end	7,846	31,608	-	39,454	40,267

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Deep Roots Tall Trees - current account	7,792	24,765	-
	Our Woods - current account	-	1,768	-
	Savings account	54	5,076	-
	Total cash funds	7,846	31,608	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Office equipment including IT	Unrestricted	-	-
	Musical Instruments	Restricted	-	-
	Audio Equipments	Restricted	-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature 	Print Name E.J. ARTHEY	Date of approval 21-12-24



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
Deep Roots Tall Trees

On accounts for the year
ended

05/04/24 Charity no (if any) 1169357

Set out on pages

1,2
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 05/04/24.

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

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:

Date:

04/12/2024

Name:

Jane Hicks

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

The Warwick Partnership

Address:

Unit 18, Enterprise Centre, Michael Way, Warth Park, Raunds, NN9 6GR

Section B**Disclosure**

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

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

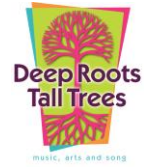
We understand that there is an award of a grant of £98,000 over the next two years.
We have seen evidence in the form of an offer letter and subject to this and as set out in the offer letter we do not believe there are any matters we should bring to your attention.

DEEP ROOTS TALL TREES

England & Wales - Charity number 1169357

Accounts

Trustees' Annual Report for the period							
From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	6 th	April	2022		5 th	April	2023



Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name	Deep Roots Tall Trees
Other names charity is known by	DRTT
Registered charity number (if any)	1169357
Charity's principal address	53 High Street
	Corby
	Postcode NN17 1UU

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Mrs Bridget Margaret Watts			
2	Eddie Arthey			
3	John Mellor			
4	Diane Goldsmith	Chair		
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

Neil Paris – Artistic Director

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Charitable Incorporate Organisation (Foundation)
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- performances and arts events incorporating the work of other artists working across a range of different genres and forms in collaboration with the choir, our Artistic Director and Music Director;
- performance events open to the general public.

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- contribution made by volunteers.

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Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Deep Roots Tall Trees provides accessible arts and cultural activities for the people of Corby and surrounding areas. We empower participants to explore their creativity as a means through which to express themselves, develop new skills, and raise aspirations.



Based in the town of Corby, Northamptonshire, the organisation was set up in 2012 (first as an unincorporated association and then, in 2016, as a registered charity) as a response to the significant post-industrial social and economic changes the town was undergoing.

Working alongside professional artists, our singers, musicians and dancers create and perform their own songs and choreographies. Over the past 9 years, they have worked with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and Sinfonia Viva, performed for the Queen, sung in Gaelic, Polish and Latvian, and performed in a football stadium, a theatre, an art gallery, in Corby's urban woodlands, and on film.

By enriching people's lives through arts and culture, our work impacts personal and social health and well-being, creates stronger communities, and builds a brighter and more fulfilling future for our beneficiaries.

Our vision for Deep Roots Tall Trees is to expand its offering of arts and cultural activities to all sectors of the local community as well as further afield, empowering individuals and partner organisations to achieve personal growth and societal change.

In response to the many difficulties local people face, we offer a programme of aspirational arts activities:

Deep Roots Tall Trees Choir and Deep Roots Tall Trees Dancetheatre - inclusive, open-access groups for adults that enable individuals to express themselves and their ideas through song, music, and dance.

Ring of Fire - a song-writing collective which writes songs and music drawing on the stories and life experiences of people in Corby for the choir to sing and perform.

Corby Future Voices - a singing and music production project for young people living on the Kingswood Estate, one of the most deprived and economically depressed wards of the town.

During 2022-2023, the organisation was run by:
Neil Paris - Artistic Director and Dancetheatre Director
Gareth Fuller - Music Director
Simon Steptoe - General Manager

ACTIVITIES AND PROJECT**Regular sessions**

Throughout the period both choir and dancetheatre continued their regular sessions. Whilst a blended live and online offer was retained the vast majority of participants chose to attend in-person and activities.

Orchestral Collaboration with Sinfonia Viva: 'One Step at a Time'

In May 2022, we completed our second project with the East Midlands-based orchestra, Sinfonia Viva. This began in March 2022 with all-day songwriting workshops that involved the whole choir and a composer and musicians from Sinfonia Viva. In May the choir and musicians (cello, oboe, vibraphone, double bass and drums) came back together to record both the new song and an existing DRTT song



'Changing Corby' which had been arranged for the quintet. Following this, a stop-motion animation film was produced by artist Ruth Pigott to accompany the song and complete the project. Ruth devised the animation alongside the choir who supplied the objects that featured in the film.

**Corby Pole Fair**

The choir were scheduled to perform on the main stage at this large-scale community festival which is held only once every 20 years and had written a song to mark the occasion. Due to a Covid outbreak within the choir, their performance had to be cancelled. However, several singers who were unaffected by the outbreak decided to perform the song acoustically, giving several unscheduled 'pop-up' performances during the day at different locations around the festival site.

**Benefit Concert for Ukraine**

The choir performed The Core at Corby Cube alongside other local groups and artists as part of a fundraising concert 'Brassed Off About Ukraine' organised by Oakley Vale Community Association and Corby Silver Band.

**Queens Jubilee celebration with Corby Community Arts**

The choir performed at a community event organised by Corby Community Arts to mark the Queens Jubilee. The event also included a performance from Barb Jung who co-founded Deep Roots Tall Trees.

DRTT Dancetheatre and Fermynwoods Contemporary Art

In Autumn 2022, DRTT dancetheatre worked with Johannes Zits, a Canadian artist who was Artist-in-Residence at Fermynwoods Contemporary Art.

Together they developed an intuitive, durational public performance 'A Gathering With Young Birch Trees', which was performed in Barnwell Country Park near Oundle in North Northamptonshire.



The performance was filmed and the final version was displayed at the country park as part of Fermynwoods Treewilder exhibition and hosted on Fermynwoods website.

Corby Future Voices

DRTT continued to work at Kingswood Youth Club providing instruments, equipment and guidance for vulnerable young people on Corby's Kingswood estate to explore and express themselves through music. This work was



expanded to include Hazel Leys Happening Youth Hub, reaching more young people. Activities were delivered weekly and through specific half-term music clubs. The sessions continued to be delivered in partnership with a young man who grew up on the estate and we provided opportunities for him to develop his skills and experience through music training and theatre visits.

10th Anniversary Concert

In October 2022, a concert was held at The Core at Corby Cube to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Deep Roots Tall Trees Choir. The songs for the concert were chosen in consultation with choir members and spanned the choir's complete repertoire. The choir was joined onstage by founder member Barb Jung, a 5-piece band of professional musicians and local singer-songwriters. The event



also featured an exhibition put together by choir members of photos and memorabilia charting the choir's 10 years. Former choir members returned for the concert and other singers and musicians attended as invited guests.

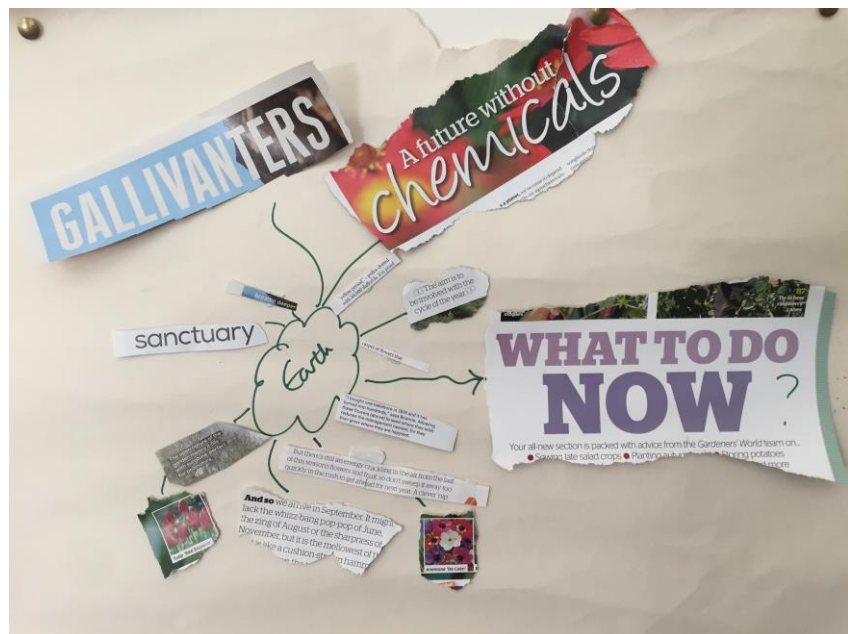


EARTHEART

Funded by a Project Grant from Arts Council England, DRTT began a new 18-month project EARTHEART. Devised as a result of our organisational and artistic consultation process in 2021-2022, the project is the first step to achieving a more sustainable and financially resilient organisation over the next 5 to 10 years.



The artistic concept of the project is captured in the title and centres around the question: 'What do the words earth and heart mean to you?' The process began with a series of 'creative consultations' with our beneficiaries.



During the period the Artistic Director maintained links with the local business community through membership and attendance at networking events run by Love Corby. This led to securing a cash donation of £1,000 and in-kind print and design towards the 10th-anniversary concert.

He undertook Disability Awareness Training, Digital Rights Seminars, networking events and community consultations with North Northamptonshire Council.

GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Board of Trustees for the year ending 5th April 2023 were:

Chair: Diane Goldsmith
 Trustee: Eddie Arthey
 Trustee: John Mellor
 Trustee: Bridget Watts

Quarterly board meetings were held in person during the period.

Steering Group

Deep Roots Tall Trees Steering Group is made up of four members of the choir, dancetheatre and songwriting groups, the Artistic Director and General Manager. It met in January 2023 where it was decided that in its present form, it was no longer functioning effectively and that for the foreseeable future a new format of specific 'working groups' should be trialled. These groups would continue to be voluntary and made up of members of DRTT and allow a wider group of people to take an active role in the organisation. Feedback to the management team would be gathered through a process of community consultation both in-person and online.

Day-to-day and overall project management was undertaken by the Artistic Director and the General Manager.

PARTICIPATION AND AUDIENCE

During this period, across all activities, DRTT worked with approximately 110 participants and reached a combined audience of over 20,000. This figure includes live performances, views online via social media platforms and website visits.

FINANCE AND FUNDRAISING

During the period, DRTT received the following awards and grants to support EARTHEART:

- An award of £98,000 from Arts Council England with a first instalment of £49,000 being received in October 2022.
- £5,000 from the Kenneth Fund
- £1,584 from North Northamptonshire Council

In addition, for Corby Future Voices, a final payment of £2,297 was received from Youth Music, and a new grant of £4985 was obtained from Northamptonshire Community Foundation through the Kingwood and Hazel Leys Community Fund Big Local Fund.

Our regular groups continued to draw in subscriptions from members totalling £6,952 with donations from private sources reaching £104.

INVOLVEMENT IN THE WIDER ARTS NETWORK

Throughout the year the Artistic Director has maintained relationships with strategic local partners and continued to develop his own artistic practice, running and attending in-person and online workshops in the UK and Europe and developing performances for other organisations.

The General Manager continued his work as Musical Inclusion Partnership and Programme Manager for Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust. Choir Director Gareth Fuller continued to lead other choirs across the country and direct Northants Sings Out, a massed choir event in Northampton.

Brief statement of the charity’s policy on reserves

The trustees have reviewed the organisation's needs to generate free reserves in accordance with the Charity Commission’s guidance.

In the Trustees’ view, DRTT needs free reserves in order to:

- Ensure that funds are available to safeguard the organisation for the benefit of the local people accessing our services (i.e. our beneficiaries);
- Ensure there is sufficient cash during the high spending periods of the projects enabling DRTT to meet its short-term financial liabilities as they fall due;
- Provide the financial resources to enable investment in resources (e.g. premises, facilities, staff, equipment, documentation etc.) to enhance the range of services DRTT provides to its beneficiaries;
- Maintain sufficient funds to enable operational activities to be maintained, taking account of potential financial risks, uncertainties and contingencies that may arise from time to time.

In light of the above, the trustees aim to maintain a target level of free reserves equal to three months of administrative and management costs. In 2021/22 this would have equated to £9,000.

The level of free reserves at the end of 2022/23 is £8,212.

This reflects the steady progress made to build the level of reserves from the previous year-end of £2,970 and is due in the main to the benefits of receiving support from Arts Council England via the Cultural Recovery Fund set up during the pandemic to provide arts and cultural organisations with necessary resources to improve our financial position and emerge from the pandemic with a strong foundation.

The strategy to continue to increase reserves towards the level designated above (i.e. £9000) will continue over the coming year.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

N/A

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity’s principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

A) Funding Sources:

DRTT’s principal sources are:

- i) Subscriptions from our beneficiaries attending our regular core activities. This currently includes both the choir and the dancetheatre group. Trustees reserve the right to waive such fees for those individuals on benefits or who can demonstrate low levels of income or other forms of economic disadvantage.
- ii) Grants from a range of sources including:
 - National Lottery funded sources;
 - Locally managed grants schemes through bodies such as Northamptonshire Community Foundation and local government departments;

- Charitable trusts and foundations.

In 2022/23, we received renewed grant support from Arts Council England for Earthheart and secured further support from Northamptonshire Community Foundations, The Kenneth Fund, North Northamptonshire Council, Corby Lottery and the Co-op Local Community Fund.

iii) Donations from individuals

B) Fund Accounting:

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. DRTT does not currently hold any designated funds.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the CIO for particular purposes.

As at 5th April 2023, DRTT held the following restricted funds:

Earthheart - £23,592

Future Voices 2 - £882

C) Going Concern Issues

At the time of writing, the Trustees are confident that DRTT remains a going concern until March 2024.


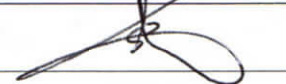
Section F**Other optional information**

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Section G**Declaration**

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Diane Goldsmith	EDWARD ARTHEY
Position (e.g. Secretary, Chair, etc)	CHAIR	TRUSTEE
Date	Oct 3rd 2023	3 OCTOBER 2023



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name Deep Roots Tall Trees	No (if any) 1169357
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CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 06/04/2022	To	Period end date 05/04/2023
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Charitable activities	2,813	76,623	-	79,435	47,942
Donations and Gift Aid	104	-	-	104	132
Bank Interest	11	-	-	11	6
Earned Income	550	-	-	550	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	3,478	76,623	-	80,100	48,080
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	3,478	76,623	-	80,100	48,080
A3 Payments					
Cost of Charitable Activities	13,535	73,933	-	87,468	78,955
Cost of Fundraising	-	7,000	-	7,000	6,500
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	13,535	80,933	-	94,468	85,455
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	13,535	80,933	-	94,468	85,455
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 10,057	- 4,311	-	- 14,368	- 37,375
A5 Transfers between funds	15,481	- 15,481	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	2,788	51,847	-	54,635	92,010
Cash funds this year end	8,212	32,055	-	40,267	54,635

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Deep Roots Tall Trees - current account	8,212	25,442	-
	Our Woods - current account	-	1,538	-
	Savings account	-	5,076	-
	Total cash funds	8,212	32,055	-

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

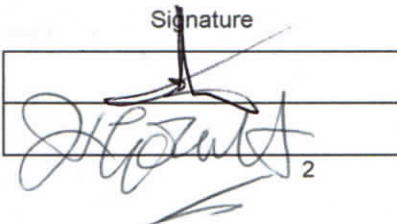
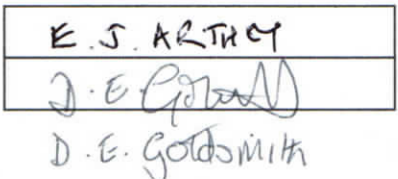
Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Unrestricted	-	-
Office equipment including IT	Restricted	-	-
Musical Instruments	Restricted	-	-
Audio Equipments		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	E. S. ARTHEY	25/9/23
		03/10/23
	D. E. Goldsmith	29/09/2023



Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
Deep Roots Tall Trees

On accounts for the year
ended

5th April 2023

Charity no
(if any)

1169357

Set out on pages

pl - 2

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

Respective
responsibilities of
trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent
examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent
examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention (~~other than that disclosed below *~~)

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn 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:

Zoe Jane Carrell

Date:

11/7/23

Name:

ZOE JANE CARRELL

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

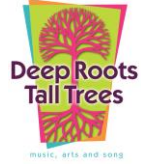
BSc (Soc Sci)
ACA (retired)

DEEP ROOTS TALL TREES

England & Wales - Charity number 1169357

Accounts

Trustees' Annual Report for the period



Trustees' Annual Report for the period							
	Period start date				Period end date		
	6 th	April	2021		5 th	April	2022
From				To			

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name	Deep Roots Tall Trees
Other names charity is known by	DRTT
Registered charity number (if any)	1169357
Charity's principal address	53 High Street
	Corby
	Postcode NN17 1UU

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Mrs Bridget Margaret Watts			
2	Eddie Arthey			
3	John Mellor			
4	Diane Goldsmith	Chair		
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

Neil Paris – Artistic Director

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Charitable Incorporate Organisation (Foundation)
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Appointed by Charity Trustees

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

DRTT is governed by a board of trustees. Prospective trustees are identified on a rolling basis by the Board and matched against the findings of an annual Board skills audit. They are initially approached by the Chair, a trustee or The Artistic Director who discusses with them the work and aims of the trust and requests that they join a board meeting as an observer. Following a satisfactory outcome, the prospective trustee is formally approached in writing by the Chair. The new trustee is then given an induction pack which includes information on the role and responsibilities of trustees, terms of appointment of trustees, a copy of the latest annual report and accounts, a copy of the current artistic plan, as well as policies including equal opportunities, child protection and vulnerable adults protection and health and safety policies. All trustees are offered places on relevant training courses as and when appropriate.

The trustees have a risk management strategy which comprises:

- an annual review of the risks the organisation may face;
- the establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified in the plan;
- the implementation of procedures designed to minimise any potential impact on the organisation should those risks materialise.

The work has identified several risks related to ongoing changes in the prevailing funding environment in particular regarding the acquisition of funding through local grant schemes, National Lottery funded schemes, and charitable trusts and foundations. A key element in the management of financial risk is the setting of a reserves policy and its regular review by trustees.

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The objects of DRTT are as follows:

- To advance the arts, culture and heritage for the benefit of the public, particularly but not exclusively, by promoting and facilitating access to and performances of music and other art forms; and
- To provide for the recreation of people of all ages in Northamptonshire and elsewhere for the benefit of the public by providing facilities and services to them in the interests of social welfare with the object of improving their conditions of life; and
- To advance education within the framework of music and arts for the benefit of the public of Northamptonshire and elsewhere.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

The Trustees of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on Public Benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers and duties.

The activities undertaken to further DRTT's purpose for the Public Benefit consist of arts and arts education projects, performances and events, providing opportunities for our beneficiaries to collaborate with professional musicians and artists of the highest calibre.

Our regular core activity is a community choir and a dancetheatre group whose membership consists of people living in the local area and beyond. The choir focusses on writing, arranging, rehearsing and performing songs alongside local amateur and professional musicians under the direction of our Music Director. The song repertoire comprises almost entirely of original songs and we support our beneficiaries in taking an active part in the songwriting process. The dancetheatre group works with our Artistic Director in a similar fashion to create new bespoke pieces of work.

We run workshops and events based around singing and songwriting, dance and movement and related activities. These are offered out to the people in the choir and dancetheatre groups, the general public, and other organisations including local community groups and clubs and schools and colleges.

We also organise special music and arts projects that are larger in scale than our core activity. These include further opportunities for beneficiaries to collaborate with professional musicians and artists as well as offering:

- music and arts education workshops for the local community
- performances and arts events incorporating the work of other artists working across a range of different genres and forms in collaboration with the choir, our Artistic Director and Music Director;
- performance events open to the general public.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Beneficiaries involved in our core activities (e.g. choir and dancetheatre groups) are also active as volunteers throughout the year supporting the operation of DRTT both in our regular activity as well as public events.

The choir has a small steering group consisting of members of the choir. Their role is to feedback opinions and ideas from the choir to management as to the running of the choir and other activities, feed ideas into and support the artistic planning of the organisation, as well as devise and run social activities for the choir on an occasional basis.

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Deep Roots Tall Trees provides accessible arts and cultural activities for the people of Corby and surrounding areas. We empower participants to explore their creativity as a means through which to express themselves, develop new skills, and raise aspirations.

Based in the town of Corby, Northamptonshire, the organisation was set up in 2012 (first as an unincorporated association and then, in 2016, as a registered charity) as a response to the significant post-industrial social and economic changes the town was undergoing.



Working alongside professional artists, our singers, musicians and dancers create and perform their own songs and choreographies. Over the past 9 years, they have worked with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and Sinfonia Viva, performed for the Queen, sung in Gaelic, Polish and Latvian, and performed in a football stadium, a theatre, an art gallery, in Corby's urban woodlands, and on film.

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Our vision for Deep Roots Tall Trees is to expand its offering of arts and cultural activities to all sectors of the local community as well as further afield, empowering individuals and partner organisations to achieve personal growth and societal change.

In response to the many difficulties local people face, we offer a programme of aspirational arts activities:

- **Deep Roots Tall Trees Choir and Deep Roots Tall Trees Dancetheatre** - inclusive, open-access groups for adults that enable individuals to express themselves and their ideas through song, music, and dance.
- **Ring of Fire** - a song-writing collective which writes songs and music drawing on the stories and life experiences of people in Corby for the choir to sing and perform.
- **Cultural Steering Group** - consisting of representatives from the above groups and the town's migrant communities. It is currently exploring how we can best bring Corby's diverse communities together to collaborate on delivering a cultural celebration event in 2021.
- **Corby Future Voices** - a singing and music production project for young people living on the Kingswood Estate, one of the most deprived and economically depressed wards of the town.

During 2021-2022, the organisation was run by:

- Neil Paris - Artistic Director and Dancetheatre Director
- Simon Steptoe - General Manager
- Gareth Fuller - Choir Director
- Judy Caine - Project Coordinator

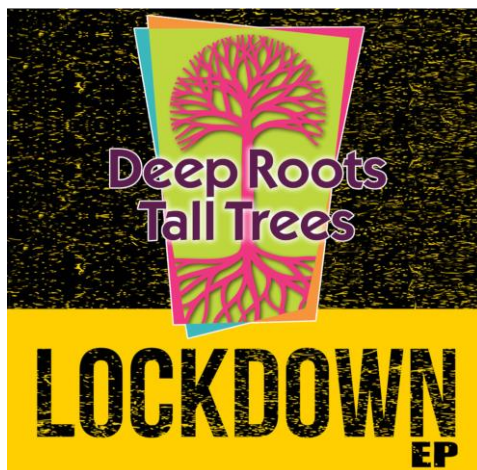
Regular sessions

Throughout the period both choir and dancetheatre continued their regular sessions, moving to a blended live and online offer. With the lifting of Covid 19 restrictions in June 2021, both choir and dancetheatre returned to live in-person sessions, initially observing the Rule of Six and retaining precautions such as hand sanitising and mask-wearing where required. Those who did not feel ready to return to a fully live rehearsal situation were able to take part online.



Doorstep Delight

Our online project with orchestral organisation Sinfonia Viva (SV) was completed and released online via social media channels. An original song, composed in collaboration with SV musicians and Pete Letanka and recorded online at home by choir members, the film included members of DRTT dancetheatre and was Song-signed in British Sign Language by Fletch@.



DRTT Lockdown EP

Following on from the 'Doorstep Delight' project with Sinfonia Viva, the choir continued the process of recording themselves at home on their mobile devices and produced the 'Lockdown EP'. Consisting of 7 new songs written by our songwriting group Ring of Fire in collaboration with local musicians and with vocal arrangements and production by Gareth Fuller, this is DRTT's first commercially available recording and can be purchased on Spotify and Apple Music.



Into The Wild

During the Easter holidays, we provided an online, cross-arts project for primary-aged children. The project used music, songwriting, visual arts and crafting to explore the nature and wildlife to be found around Corby. A new venture for the organisation this was somewhat of an experiment and was very successfully led by musician and visual artist Kate Stilitz and DRTT Music Director Gareth Fuller. The young people involved provided song ideas, lyrics, melodies and artwork which resulted in an original song arranged by Gareth and Kate and a stop-motion animation film.



Ocean Odyssey

Following the success of Into The Wild, we offered a further online opportunity for young people. Run again by Gareth and Kate this project focussed on life beneath the sea off the North Norfolk coast. In a development to Into The Wild we delivered a box of art materials and equipment to each child with which they could create their own underwater seascape under Kate's guidance. They spent time working with Gareth to learn a new song written and arranged by Kate and Gareth and devised movement to go along with it. Their parents filmed them performing the song alongside their artwork and these along with still photos and screenshots were edited into a film.

Beyond Corby: A Cultural Celebration

Originally planned for June 2020 this event took place on Sunday 26th September, 6:00pm at The Core at Corby Cube. Our first live event since March 2020 it was linked to the theme of harvest and featured performances from Corby's Scottish, English, Latvian and Polish communities. Both DRTT Choir and DRTT Dancetheatre contributed



performances that showcased their own unique approach to song, music, and dance. Northamptonshire artist Jo Blake was commissioned to write and record a bespoke story based on an original Latvian folk tale which was incorporated into the dancetheatre performance. Food from the different cultures was provided by a local cafe owner which was distributed individually

to audience members in order to respect concerns around social distancing, and into a film.



The event was very successful, attracting a diverse audience of different ages and nationalities. The combination of different nationalities and cultures had been a decisive factor in attracting people to the event, some of whom had never been to see a performance at The Core before.

Screendance project

Working with local community interest company HD Media and their young trainees, and in collaboration with Northamptonshire storyteller and dancer Jo Blake, DRTT dancetheatre created an original screendance. Shot on location at National Trust Lyvden, Northamptonshire and in The Core at Corby Cube the film



was an extension of the choreography made for Beyond Corby: A Cultural Celebration and included Jo Blake performing the text she wrote for the event. The dances were choreographed by the dancers themselves and DRTT Dancetheatre director Neil Paris. The film was directed by Paul Balmer of HD Media.



Orchestral Collaboration with Sinfonia Viva: Phase 2 'One Step at a Time'

In March 2022 we began a second project with orchestral organisation Sinfonia Viva. This began with all-day songwriting workshops which took place in Corby and involved the whole choir and a composer and musicians from Sinfonia Viva. The resulting song ideas will continue to be developed and worked on by DRTT and SV and recorded live in Corby later in the spring.





Corby Future Voices

Paused since March 2020, DRTT resumed working with vulnerable young people on Corby's Kingswood estate. The effects of lockdown on young people living on the estate had been profound and the youth club leaders felt a change of direction was needed in order to maintain engagement with the increased numbers attending the youth club. In consultation with

the young people and youth leaders we changed our approach from a group songwriting model to providing instruments, equipment and guidance which would allow the young people to express themselves and make their own music.

Alongside this we employed a young man who grew up on the estate and had been involved in working with young people and creating his own music for some years. It was felt he would be more relatable to the young people we were working with and indeed knew many of the young people and their families personally. Investing in this young man is now a key element of the project, equipping him with the skills, confidence and experience which will help him evolve into an independent community music leader.



This work has been challenging and we have been on a steep learning curve but are making progress. Our light-touch approach is allowing young people to explore sound and music in a non-judgmental environment and giving some of them access to instruments and equipment for the first time.

Lyrical Lockdown

We supported The Core @ Corby Cube by covering a funding shortfall and negotiating the release of funding from our own Youth Music budget to fund a musician to co-lead their summer music activity.

Corby Arts Podcast DT

DRTT Dancetheatre dancers were filmed and interviewed alongside dancetheatre Director Neil Paris by HD Media's young trainees for HD Media's Corby Arts Podcast which was broadcast on Corby Radio and social media channels.

DRTT Repertoire day for 10yr concert

In preparation for their 10yr Celebration Concert in October 2022 the choir came together to review their past repertoire and begin selecting the songs to be included in the concert. This social event was well attended and gave people a valuable opportunity to reminisce, celebrate and reassess the work they had created over the decade and to have a vital input into the set list for the event.

Kettering Arts Day March 22

Choir Director Gareth Fuller and members of the choir held workshops as part of Kettering Arts Centre's 'Come and Try' day. The workshop resulted in recruiting a new member to the choir and laid the foundation for a future partnership with KAC.

Carol Concert at PHP Care Home

The choir gave an informal Christmas carol concert at a new care home which had recently opened at Priors Hall Park, Corby where the choir hold their weekly rehearsals.

ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Arts Consultancy

Working with Morgan Ballantyne of Ballantyne Carmichael and Alison King of Turtle Key Arts we mapped out the next stages of development for DRTT. Morag worked with the artistic and management team of Neil Paris, Simon Steptoe and Gareth Fuller on the overall vision for the organisation and Alison King worked specifically with Neil Paris on his own artistic vision. Morag Ballantyne also consulted with the Board of Trustees, our participants and current partner organisations.

The consultancy process proved invaluable; it increased confidence across the artistic team, established a clearer artistic vision, restructured the artistic and management team, set a framework for the next Project Grant application to Arts Council England and a business model that aimed to take the organisation forward for the next 10 years.

GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Board of Trustees for the year ending 5th April 2022 were:

Chair: Diane Goldsmith

Trustee: Eddie Arthey

Trustee: John Mellor

Trustee: Bridget Watts

Quarterly board meetings were held in person during the period.

Steering Group

Deep Roots Tall Trees Steering Group is made up of four members of the choir, dancetheatre and songwriting groups, the Artistic Director and General Manager. It met 3 times during the period.

Day to day and overall project management was undertaken by the Artistic Director and the General Manager.

PARTICIPATION AND AUDIENCE

During this period, across all activities, DRTT worked with approximately 160 participants and reached a combined audience of over 40,000. This figure includes live performances, views on online via social media platforms and website visits.

FINANCE AND FUNDRAISING

DRTT received a grant of £36,345 from the second round of the Government's Culture Recovery Fund and a grant of £4,990 from The Compton Fund via Northamptonshire Community Foundation.

These grants supported our online delivery, helped Deep Roots Tall Trees make the transition back to face-to-face activity, brought the artistic and administrative team back up to full capacity and provided additional training for the choir and dancetheatre group to prepare them for a return to live performance. It also enabled DRTT to invest in its future through the Arts Consultancy and to reflate its reserves in line with Arts Council England recommendations.

INVOLVEMENT IN THE WIDER ARTS NETWORK

Throughout the year the Artistic Director has maintained relationships with strategic local partners as a member of the Corby Cultural Forum. This was formed of a group of long-standing, established arts organisations in Corby in order to develop a response and strategy to represent arts and culture in the town as the local borough council was dissolved into North Northamptonshire Council, one of two new unitary councils for Northamptonshire. He also attended online conferences and seminars with the Foundation for Community Dance, MAP Consortium and Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust.

Outside of DRTT the Artistic Director continued to run his own online and in-person workshops in the UK and Europe. The General Manger continued his work as Musical Inclusion Partnership and Programme Manager for Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust. Choir Director Gareth Fuller continued to lead other choirs across the country and direct Northants Sings Out, a massed choir event in Northampton.

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The trustees have reviewed the organisation's needs to generate free reserves in accordance with Charity Commission's guidance.

In the Trustees' view, DRTT needs free reserves in order to:

- Ensure that funds are available to safeguard the organisation for the benefit of the local people accessing our services (i.e. our beneficiaries);
- Ensure there is sufficient cash during the high spending periods of the projects enabling DRTT to meet its short-term financial liabilities as they fall due;
- Provide the financial resources to enable investment in resources (e.g. premises, facilities, staff, equipment, documentation etc.) to enhance the range of services DRTT provides to its beneficiaries;
- Maintain sufficient funds to enable operational activities to be maintained, taking account of potential financial risks, uncertainties and contingencies that may arise from time to time.

In light of the above, the trustees aim to maintain a target level of free reserves equal to three months of administrative and management costs. In 2021/22 this would have equated to £9,000.

The level of free reserves at the end of 2021/22 is £2788.

However, provision was made within the Arts Council England Cultural Recovery Fund (CRF) grant to reflate reserves. The reconciliation of the final position on the CRF grant will be undertaken during the financial year 2022/23. Our current projection is that this will bring free reserves up to around £8,500 and thus in line with the Trustees' target levels.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

N/A

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

A) Funding Sources:

DRTT's principal sources are:

i) Subscriptions from our beneficiaries attending our regular core activities. This currently includes both the choir and the dancetheatre group. Trustees reserve the right to waive such fees for those individuals on benefits or who can demonstrate low levels of income or other form of economic disadvantage.

ii) Grants from a range of sources including:

- National Lottery funded sources;
- Locally managed grants schemes through bodies such as Northamptonshire Community Foundation and local government departments;
- Charitable trusts and foundations.

iii) Donations from individuals

B) Fund Accounting:

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. DRTT does not currently hold any designated funds.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the CIO for particular purposes.

As of 5th April 2022, DRTT held the following restricted funds: 'Beyond Corby' - £25,257, 'Corby Future Voices' (Youth Music Fund A project) - £ 7,221, Cultural Recovery Fund - £19,369.

C) Going Concern Issues

At the time of writing, the Trustees are confident that DRTT remains a going concern until March 2024.

Funding from Arts Council England, Northamptonshire Community Foundation, National Lottery Community Fund, Corby Borough Council, the Austin and Hope Pilkington Trust, and Youth Music, are continuing to support our two major projects, 'Beyond Corby' and 'Future Voices', although much of the planned activity associated with these initiatives have been delayed and the terms of grants extended accordingly due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the two main periods of lockdown. This funding acquired covers core and marginal costs and provides a firm foundation for operation over the coming period.


Section F**Other optional information**

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Section G**Declaration**

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Diane Goldsmith	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	CHAIR	
Date	DEC 19 th 2022	



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Deep Roots Tall Trees

1169357

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	06/04/2021	To	05/04/2022
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Charitable activities	216	47,726	-	47,942	56,602
Donations and Gift Aid	132	-	-	132	568
Bank Interest	6	-	-	6	10
Earned Income	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	354	47,726	-	48,080	57,180
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	354	47,726	-	48,080	57,180
A3 Payments					
Cost of Charitable Activities	536	78,419	-	78,955	34,974
Cost of Fundraising	-	6,500	-	6,500	6,300
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	536	84,919	-	85,455	41,274
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	536	84,919	-	85,455	41,274
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 182	- 37,193	-	- 37,375	15,906
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	2,970	89,040	-	92,010	76,104
Cash funds this year end	2,788	51,847	-	54,635	92,010

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Deep Roots Tall Trees - current account	-	13,685	-
	Our Woods - current account	-	887	-
	Savings account	2,788	37,276	-
	Total cash funds	2,788	51,847	-

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

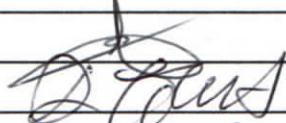
Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Unrestricted	-	-
Office equipment including IT	Restricted	-	-
Musical Instruments	Restricted	-	-
Audio Equipments		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	EDWARDS ARTHUR Diane Goldsmith	3/12/22 5/12/22



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

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name
Deep Roots Tall Trees

**On accounts for the year
ended**

5 th April 2022	Charity no (if any)	1169357
----------------------------	--------------------------------	---------

Set out on pages

1 - 2 (remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 05 / 04 / 2022.

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**

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:

Zoe Jones

Date:

30/10/22

Name:

ZOE CARROLL

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

FCA

Address:

31 LATTIMORE CLOSE

WEST HADDON

NORTHANTS NN16 7GL

Section B

Disclosure

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

N/A.

DEEP ROOTS TALL TREES

England & Wales - Charity number 1169357

Accounts

Trustees' Annual Report for the period



Trustees' Annual Report for the period							
	Period start date				Period end date		
	6 th	April	2020		5 th	April	2021
From				To			

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name	Deep Roots Tall Trees
Other names charity is known by	DRTT
Registered charity number (if any)	1169357
Charity's principal address	53 High Street
	Corby
	Postcode NN17 1UU

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Mrs Bridget Margaret Watts			
2	Eddie Arthey			
3	John Mellor			
4	Diane Goldsmith	Chair		
5	Julia Thorley		Resigned 29/11/2020	
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

Neil Paris – Artistic Director

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Charitable Incorporate Organisation (Foundation)
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Appointed by Charity Trustees

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

DRTT is governed by a board of trustees. Prospective trustees are identified on a rolling basis by the Board and matched against the findings of an annual Board skills audit. They are initially approached by the Chair, a trustee or The Artistic Director who discusses with them the work and aims of the trust and requests that they join a board meeting as an observer. Following a satisfactory outcome, the prospective trustee is formally approached in writing by the Chair. The new trustee is then given an induction pack which includes information on the role and responsibilities of trustees, terms of appointment of trustees, a copy of the latest annual report and accounts, a copy of the current artistic plan, as well as policies including equal opportunities, child protection and vulnerable adults protection and health and safety policies. All trustees are offered places on relevant training courses as and when appropriate.

The trustees have a risk management strategy which comprises:

- an annual review of the risks the organisation may face;
- the establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified in the plan;
- the implementation of procedures designed to minimise any potential impact on the organisation should those risks materialise.

The work has identified a number of risks related to ongoing changes in the prevailing funding environment in particular regarding the acquisition of funding through local grant schemes, national lottery funded schemes, and charitable trusts and foundations. A key element in the management of financial risk is the setting of a reserves policy and its regular review by trustees.

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The objects of DRTT are as follows:

- To advance the arts, culture and heritage for the benefit of the public, particularly but not exclusively, by promoting and facilitating access to and performances of music and other art forms; and
- To provide for the recreation of people of all ages in Northamptonshire and elsewhere for the benefit of the public by providing facilities and services to them in the interests of social welfare with the object of improving their conditions of life; and
- To advance education within the framework of music and arts for the benefit of the public of Northamptonshire and elsewhere.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

The Trustees of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on Public Benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers and duties.

The activities undertaken to further DRTT's purpose for the Public Benefit consist of arts and arts education projects, performances and events, providing opportunities for our beneficiaries to collaborate with professional musicians and artists of the highest calibre.

Our regular core activity is a community choir and a dancetheatre group whose membership consists of people living in the local area and beyond. The choir focusses on writing, arranging, rehearsing and performing songs to sing and perform alongside local amateur musicians in collaboration with our Music Director. The song repertoire comprises almost entirely of these new songs and we support our beneficiaries in taking an active part in the songwriting process. The dancetheatre group works with our Artistic Director to create new bespoke pieces of work.

We run workshops and events based around singing and songwriting, as well as on related activities (e.g. movement, vocal health, etc.). These are offered out to the people in the choir and dancetheatre groups, the general public, and other organisations including educational establishments such as schools and colleges, and local community groups and clubs.

We also organise special music and arts projects that are larger in scale than our core activity. These include further opportunities for beneficiaries to collaborate with professional musicians and artists as well as offering:

- music and arts education workshops for the local community including schools and colleges;
- performances and arts installation events incorporating the work of other artists working across a range of different genres and forms (e.g. visual artists, dancers etc.) in collaboration with the choir, our Artistic Director and Music Director;
- participatory performance and installation events open to the general public.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Beneficiaries involved in our core activities (e.g. choir and dancetheatre groups) are also active as volunteers throughout the year supporting the operation of DRTT both in our regular activity as well as public events.

The choir has a small steering group consisting of between three and four members of the choir. Their role is to feedback opinions and ideas from the choir to management as to the running of the choir and other activities, feed ideas into and support the artistic planning of the organisation, as well as devise and run social activities for the choir on an occasional basis.

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Deep Roots Tall Trees provides accessible arts and cultural activities for the people of Corby and surrounding areas. We empower participants to explore their creativity as a means through which to express themselves, develop new skills, and raise aspirations.

Based in the town of Corby, Northamptonshire, the organisation was set up in 2012 (first as an unincorporated association and then, in 2016, as a registered charity) as a response to the significant post-industrial social and economic changes the town was undergoing.



Working alongside professional artists, our singers, musicians and dancers create and perform their own songs and choreographies. Over the past 8 years, they have worked with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and Sinfonia Viva, performed for the Queen, sung in Gaelic, Polish and Latvian, and performed in a football stadium, a theatre, an art gallery, in Corby's urban woodlands, and on film.

By enriching people's lives through arts and culture, our work impacts on personal and social health and well-being, creates stronger communities, and builds a brighter and more fulfilling future for our beneficiaries.

Our vision for Deep Roots Tall Trees is to expand its offering of arts and cultural activities to all sectors of the local community as well as further afield, empowering individuals and partner organisations to achieve personal growth and societal change.

In response to the many difficulties local people face, we offer a programme of aspirational arts activities:



- **Deep Roots Tall Trees Choir and Deep Roots Tall Trees Dancetheatre** - inclusive, open-access groups for adults that enable individuals to express themselves and their ideas through song, music, and dance.
- **Ring of Fire** - a song-writing collective which writes songs and music drawing on the stories and life experiences of people in Corby for the choir to sing and perform.
- **Cultural Steering Group** - consisting of representatives from the above groups and the town's migrant communities. It is currently exploring how we can best bring Corby's diverse communities together to collaborate on delivering a cultural celebration event in 2021.
- **Corby Future Voices** - a singing and music production project for young people living on the Kingswood Estate, one of the most deprived and economically depressed wards of the town.

During 2020-2021, the organisation was run by:

- Neil Paris - Artistic Director and Dancetheatre Director
- Simon Steptoe -General Manager
- Gareth Fuller - Choir Director
- Judy Caine - Project Coordinator

ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Following the national lockdown and the complete shutdown of all our face-to-face activities the organisation swiftly and successfully shifted its activities online using the digital conferencing app Zoom to continue our regular activities.

Within a week of the announcement off the first lockdown we ran our first online choir and dancetheatre sessions. The choir and dancetheatre directors adapted their teaching methods and our General Manger set up, managed and guided participants through the use of Zoom. Our first online session saw over two thirds of our regular participants able to continue their activities with us. As our, and their, digital knowledge grew attendance increase and through the year we were able to deliver our core activity to the majority of our regular participants. The switch to digital also attracted new members to both groups.



We gathered feedback through online surveys and learned that while our participants reported getting great benefit from the sessions having to sing and dance alone brought significant challenges and they missed the contact with friends that came with singing and dancing together.



In response to this members of our volunteer Steering Group organised and ran online quiz-nights. These fun, informal social events proved highly popular and appreciated. Alongside our regular session these made a significant additional contribution to the health and well-being of our participants during the lockdown.

Participants also reported that as they became used to singing and dancing alone, they began to develop artistically in ways that they hadn't imagined. Some reported that they positively enjoyed being able to work on their own and the distancing effect of working online made them feel safe enough to try

things that they would not normally have done in a face-to-face group situation.

After the first few months of working online, the management, choir and dancetheatre leaders and participants felt confident enough with the technology to extend the online activities to include more creative projects.

Online creative projects

Filming and recording themselves on their smart phones, the choir and dancetheatre groups created virtual performances of one of their well-established songs and a new choreography which they had learned online.



In June 2020 we commissioned a local artist, Carole Miles of The Eloquent Fold, to devise and run an online garland making workshop inspired by Eastern European midsummer traditions. Our planned Cultural Celebration event had to be cancelled and this activity maintained some contact and momentum across the communities and attracted some new people to our work.



During November and December, we created a cross-cultural virtual performance of the song Silent Night which included members of the Latvian and Polish communities singing verses in their own language.



Also, during November and December we engaged Northamptonshire based storyteller and dancer Jo Blake to run the online dancetheatre sessions. This provided both a new stimulus and experience for the dancers and employment for a local artist.

Possibly our biggest challenge and greatest success was the adaptation of our headline collaborative project with Sinfonia Viva to an online format. As it was impossible to tell when we might be able to resume working face-to-face again, both Sinfonia Viva and ourselves felt that it was important to try and maintain as much activity as we could. Both organizations had experience of delivering online sessions and creating virtual performances and so we decided to develop that format further and run an interactive, creative, collaborative song writing project on Zoom.

Working creatively in this way was a completely new situation for both organisations and a bit of a leap in the dark. The result of this collaboration was 'Doorstep Delight' a new song written and composed online by Pete Letanka of Sinfonia Viva and the Deep Roots Tall trees choir.

Pete ran creative sessions with the choir over Zoom to collect song ideas and lyrics which they worked together to edit and arrange. Following a similar process Pete collected melodies and musical ideas.

Working with our choir director Gareth Fuller, choral arrangements were composed for the song and once ready, Sinfonia Viva hosted an interactive online musical session with four of their classical musicians. This allowed DRTT choir members to engage directly with the musicians, suggest their own musical ideas for instrumental parts and arrangements and hear them played back in real time. This recreated as closely as possible the experience that we were aiming for in the original face-to face project.

Once the musical parts were finalised, guide tracks were produced which allowed the choir and musicians to rehearse, recorded and film themselves at home on their smart phones. Once all the parts are collated the final video will be edited in Summer 2021 and also be song-signed in British Sign Language by two deaf signers.



CONTINUING AND UPCOMING PROJECTS FOR 2021/22

DRTT Lockdown EP

Inspired by the 'Doorstep Delight' project the choir are continuing to record themselves at home with the aim of producing the 'Lockdown EP'. This will consist of new material written by our songwriting group Ring of Fire, mentored by local musicians, and rehearsed online during lockdown. The plan is to make the final recordings available via digital music platforms.

"Into The Wild"

During the Easter holidays we are planning a short, online, cross-arts projects for primary aged children. The projects will use music, songwriting, visual arts and crafting to explore the nature and wildlife to be found around Corby. An new venture for the organisation this is somewhat of an experiment and will be led by two artists; Kate Stiltz and DRTT Choir Director Gareth Fuller.

Beyond Corby: A Cultural Celebration

Originally planned for June 2020 this is scheduled to take place on Sunday 26th September, 6:00pm at The Core at Corby Cube in the main theatre. Our first live event since March 2020 it is inspired by the theme of harvest and it will feature performances from Corby's Scottish, English, Latvian and Polish communities. Both DRTT Choir and DRTT Dancetheatre will be contributing performances that showcase their own unique approach to song, music, and dance.

Screendance project

Working with local Community Interest Company HD Media and their young trainees, DRTT dancetheatre will spend four days in September creating an original dance film.

Orchestral Collaboration with Sinfonia Viva: Phase 2

Currently in the planning stage, we will be embarking on a second project in the autumn which we hope will be face-to-face.

Corby Future Voices

Paused since March 2020, DRTT will resume working with youth workers and

vulnerable young people on Corby's Kingswood Estate, providing them with the equipment and skills to create their own music.

Regular sessions

Both choir and dancetheatre will continue their regular sessions, moving to a blended live and online offer. Ring of Fire are meeting independently and beginning to create new material for the choir.

GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Board of Trustees for the year ending 5th April 2021 were:

Chair: Diane Goldsmith

Trustee: Eddie Arthey

Trustee: John Mellor

Trustee: Bridget Watts

Six board meetings were held during the period with two additional less formal catch-up meetings.

Steering Group

Deep Roots Tall Trees Steering Group is made up of four members the choir, dancetheatre and songwriting groups, the Artistic Director and General Manager. It met 5 times during the period.

Cultural Steering Group

Deep Roots Tall Trees Cultural Steering Group is made up of 10 members of the Latvian, Polish, Serbian, Scottish, communities alongside members of the DRTT choir, dancetheatre, songwriting groups Artistic Director and General Manager. It met three times during the period.

All the above meetings took place remotely on Zoom.

Day to day and overall project management was undertaken by the Artistic Director and the General Manager.

PARTICIPATION AND AUDIENCE

During this period DRTT worked with approximately 50 participants, the majority being its established members. The shift to online was taken up by most but not all the choir whilst the dancetheatre retained all its dancers and increased its number by two.

There were no live performances during this period, but the virtual performances reached an audience of approximately 11,500.

FINANCE

At the beginning of 2020 DRTT received the first instalment of grant support from Arts Council England towards 'Beyond Corby', a new two-year programme of activities. This meant that funds were in a healthy position at the start of the period and pandemic.

In light of this it was not felt appropriate by the management team and the board to pursue a grant from the first round of the DCMS Cultural Recovery Fund.

However, due to the uncertainty generated by the pandemic and subsequent impact this had on securing further funding for the organisation, both the Artistic Director and General Manager took de-facto 25% pay cuts to preserve funds. The Dancetheatre Director's hours were also reduced as due to the nature of online teaching the session times needed to be shortened.

The Choir Director's fees remained the same as the choir session remained broadly the same length. These measures remained in place throughout the period.

FUNDRAISING

Despite the pandemic, the team continued their efforts to raise funds in an increasingly difficult and pressurized climate as trusts and organisations focused on supporting 'front-line' activities and services.

It was successful in securing received additional grants from The Kenneth Fund and The Heritage Fund COVID grant scheme, both of which were specifically targeted towards combatting the effects of the pandemic. Additional funds were also secured from Corby Borough Council.

INVOLVEMENT IN THE WIDER ARTS NETWORK

Throughout the year the Artistic Director has maintained relationships with strategic local partners as a member of the Corby Cultural Forum. This was formed of a group of long-standing, established arts organisations in Corby in order to develop a response and strategy to represent arts and culture in the town as the local borough council was dissolved into North Northamptonshire Council, one of two new unitary councils for Northamptonshire.

He also attended online conferences and seminars with Orchestras Live and Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust.

Outside of DRTT the Artistic Director continued to run his own online workshops. The General Manger continued his work as Musical Inclusion Partnership and Programme Manager for Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust. Where possible, Choir Director Gareth Fuller continued to lead other choirs across the country online and directed a virtual performance of Northants Sings Out, a massed choir concert.

Brief statement of the charity’s policy on reserves

The trustees have reviewed the organisation's needs to generate free reserves in accordance with Charity Commission’s guidance.

In the Trustees’ view, DRTT needs free reserves in order to:

- Ensure that funds are available to safeguard the organisation for the benefit of the local people accessing our services (i.e. our beneficiaries);
- Ensure there is sufficient cash during the high spending periods of the projects enabling DRTT to meet its short-term financial liabilities as they fall due;
- Provide the financial resources to enable investment in resources (e.g. premises, facilities, staff, equipment, documentation etc.) to enhance the range of services DRTT provides to its beneficiaries;
- Maintain sufficient funds to enable operational activities to be maintained, taking account of potential financial risks, uncertainties and contingencies that may arise from time to time.

In light of the above, the trustees aim to maintain a target level of free reserves equal to three months of administrative and management costs. In 2020/21 this would have equated to £9,000.

The level of free reserves at the end of 2020/21 is £2970.

The Trustee’s view is that this is the lowest possible level the reserves should reach and, in the short term, should be increased to the equivalent of one month of administrative and management costs – i.e. £3000.

A strategy to increase reserves towards the level designated above (i.e. £9000) will be implemented over the medium to long term to improve the current position.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

N/A

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity’s principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

A) Funding Sources:

DRTT’s principal sources are:

i) Subscriptions from our beneficiaries attending our regular core activities. This currently includes both the choir and the dancetheatre group. Trustees reserve the right to waive such fees for those individuals on benefits or who can demonstrate low levels of income or other form of economic disadvantage.

ii) Grants from a range of sources including:

- National Lottery funded sources;
- Locally managed grants schemes through bodies such as Northamptonshire Community Foundation and local government departments;
- Charitable trusts and foundations.

In 2020/21, we received the second tranche of grant support from Arts Council England for 'Beyond Corby' and secured further support from The Compton Fund (Northamptonshire Community Fund), The Kenneth Fund, Corby Borough Council, Corby Lottery and the Co-op Local Community Fund.

Funding raised in 2019/20 from National Lottery Community Fund and The Austin Hope Pilkington Foundation is still active as progress on the associated project have been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

iii) Donations from individuals

B) Fund Accounting:

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. DRTT does not currently hold any designated funds.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the CIO for particular purposes.

As of 5th April 2021, DRTT held the following restricted funds: 'Beyond Corby' - £64,753, 'Corby Future Voices' (Youth Music Fund A project) - £16,699.

C) Going Concern Issues

At the time of writing, the Trustees are confident that DRTT remains a going concern until December 2022.

Funding from Arts Council England, Northamptonshire Community Foundation, National Lottery Community Fund, Corby Borough Council, the Austin and Hope Pilkington Trust, and Youth Music, are continuing to support our two major projects, 'Beyond Corby' and 'Future Voices', although much of the planned activity associated with these initiatives has been delayed and the terms of grants extended accordingly due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the two main periods of lockdown. This funding acquired covers core and marginal costs and provides a firm foundation for operation over the coming period.

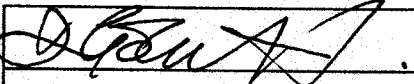
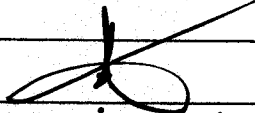
Section F Other optional information

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Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Diane Goldsmith	Eddie Arthey
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	CHAIR	Trustee
Date	NOV 5 TH 2021	



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name
Deep Roots Tall Trees

No (if any)
1189357

CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	06/04/2020	To	05/04/2021
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Charitable activities	150	56,452	-	56,602	93,013
Donations and Gift Aid	568	-	-	568	14,360
Bank Interest	10	-	-	10	13
Earned Income	-	-	-	-	430
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	728	56,452	-	57,180	107,816
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	728	56,452	-	57,180	107,816
A3 Payments					
Cost of Charitable Activities	302	34,672	-	34,974	74,916
Cost of Fundraising	-	6,300	-	6,300	6,200
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	302	40,972	-	41,274	81,116
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	302	40,972	-	41,274	81,116
Net of receipts/(payments)	426	15,480	-	15,906	26,700
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	2,544	73,560	-	76,104	49,404
Cash funds this year end	2,970	89,040	-	92,010	76,104

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Corby Deep Roots Tall Trees - current account	-	21,878	-
	Our Woods - current account	-	74	-
	Savings account	2,970	67,088	-
	Total cash funds	2,970	89,040	-

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

Unrestricted funds Restricted funds Endowment funds

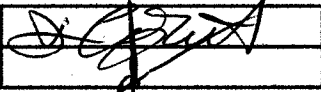

Details	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
Office equipment including IT (i.e. computer(s), printer etc.)	Unrestricted	-	-
Musical instruments/equipment purchased as part of Youth Music project "Future Voices"	Restricted	-	-
Audio Equipment	Unrestricted	-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	DIANE GOLDSMITH Chair of BOARD	08/09/21
	Trustee - E.S. Archer	08/09/21



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

Charity Name
Deep Roots Tall Trees

On accounts for the year ended

5th April 2021

Charity no (if any)

1169357

Set out on pages

1-2

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

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

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:

Zoe Carroll

Date:

14th June 202 1

Name:

Zoe Carroll

Relevant professional qualification(s) or

FCA

body (if any):	ICAEW
Address:	31 Lattimore Close
	West Haddon
	Northants nn6 7gl

Section B

Disclosure

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

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