

# STITCHES IN TIME

England & Wales · Charity number 1172056

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Charitable company

**Company number** [10515657](#)

**Registered** 2017-03-15

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** Stitches In Time  
Limehouse Town Hall  
646 Commercial Road  
London  
E14 7HA

**Phone** 02079876164

**Email** [mail@stitchesintime.org.uk](mailto:mail@stitchesintime.org.uk)

**Website** [stitchesintime.org.uk](http://stitchesintime.org.uk)

## Activities

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**Objects:** THE CHARITY'S OBJECTS ("THE OBJECTS") ARE:-1) TO ADVANCE EDUCATION PARTICULARLY BUT NOT BY WAY OF LIMITATION IN ALL ASPECTS OF ARTS, CRAFTS AND APPLIED ARTS PARTICULARLY BUT NOT BY WAY OF LIMITATION THAT OF TAPESTRY AND NEEDLEWORK.2) TO PROVIDE OR ASSIST IN THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES FOR RECREATION AND OTHER LEISURE TIME OCCUPATION, IN PARTICULAR THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES FOR ARTS AND CRAFTS, IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE WITH THE OBJECT OF IMPROVING THE CONDITIONS OF LIFE, AND3) THEREBY TO ENCOURAGE GOOD RACE RELATIONS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC BY DRAWING TOGETHER ALL MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY IRRESPECTIVE OF RACE, RELIGION, GENDER OR POLITICAL BELIEFS IN THE PURSUIT OF THESE OBJECTS".

**Activities:** Stitches in Time devise and deliver arts, educational and community development programmes in Tower Hamlets and across London. We provide a forum for culturally diverse and disadvantaged groups to work together, and raise levels of confidence and skills-based learning for women, young people and older people. Our projects are devised with and at the request of our diverse local community.

## Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Education/training, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity, Recreation
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- Throughout London

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£195,614	£239,193	-	-
2024-03-31	£281,104	£227,410	-	-
2023-03-31	£153,601	£212,621	-	-
2022-03-31	£165,509	£193,625	-	-
2021-03-31	£223,887	£171,444	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
<b>HENDRIKA SANTER-BREAM</b>	Chair	2018-04-01
ANNIE GARGYA		2001-09-12
Margaret Ruth Mitchell		2018-04-01
Syeda Maleque		2022-10-19
TERESA HARE-DUKE		2001-09-01

**STITCHES IN TIME**

England & Wales - Charity number 1172056

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# Accounts

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**STITCHES IN TIME**  
**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**Year ending 31 March 2025**

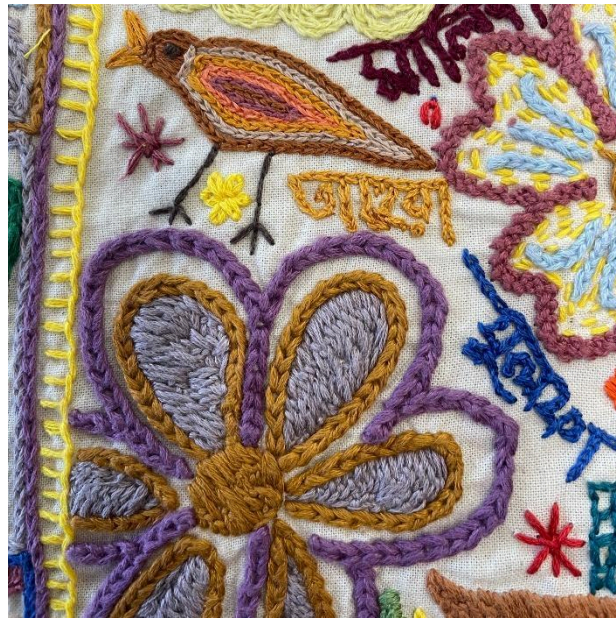
Charity no. 1172056 - Company no. 10515657



Limehouse Town Hall, 646 Commercial Road, London, E14 7HA  
Tel: 020 7987 6164

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

**Trustee list**

Hendrika Santer Bream (Chair)  
Teresa Hare Duke (Vice Chair)  
Annie Gargya (Secretary)  
Margaret Mitchell  
Syeda Jeba Maleque (Treasurer)

**Premises**

Limehouse Town Hall  
646 Commercial Road  
London E14 7HA

**Charity & Company number**

Charity no. 1172056  
Company no. 10515657



**Independent Examiner**

Ian Price  
10 Kent Close  
Westoning  
Bedfordshire  
MK45 5LW

**Bankers**

Co-operative Bank  
PO Box 250  
Delf House  
Southway  
Skelmersdale  
WN8 6WT



## Trustees' report

The Trustees present their report and accounts for the year ending 31 March 2025.

## Objectives and activities

The Charity's formal aims and objectives are

- 1) to advance education particularly but not by way of limitation in all aspects of arts, crafts and applied arts particularly but not by way of limitation that of tapestry and needlework.
- 2) to provide or assist in the provision of facilities for recreation and other leisure time occupation, in particular the provision of facilities for arts and crafts, in the interests of social welfare with the object of improving the conditions of life, and
- 3) Thereby to encourage good race relations for the benefit of the public by drawing together all members of the community irrespective of race, religion, gender or political beliefs in the pursuit of these objects.



## Context and overview

The charity is based in Limehouse Old Town Hall and operates mostly in the East London Borough of Tower Hamlets. As of the 2021 Census, Tower Hamlets is the most densely populated borough in England and Wales having grown by 22% since 2011. The borough contains stark contrasts: despite including the wealth of Canary Wharf, widespread poverty, overcrowded housing, and inequality persist. These manifest strongly in high child and elder deprivation, unemployment, economic inactivity, and substantial ethnic disparities, especially within the Bangladeshi and Somali communities.



Tower Hamlets is home to a substantial Bangladeshi community with 34.6 % of the borough's population (around 107,300 residents) identifying as Bangladeshi. 51 % of Tower Hamlets Bangladeshi women aged 16–64 were economically inactive at the time of the 2021 Census, which was more than double the rate for White British women (24 %).

The cost of living crisis and the pandemic exacerbated the challenges facing residents and simultaneously created a more challenging fundraising climate.

## We are proud to continue to

- Provide a forum to enable culturally diverse groups to work together
- Run educational programmes to raise levels of achievement and routes into employment
- Raise levels of confidence, skills-based learning and opportunities for women and older people
- Build partnerships in the voluntary, statutory and private sectors.



Working creatively with our partners and donors, we have continued to respond and adapt to changing needs, to keep our important frontline services going and to ensure local communities have access to support.

Often we are a first port of call for help, and many people we work with experience barriers to accessing other support services. We have continued to do our work through a mixture of innovative creative activities, support for complex issues, and referral to other services.

We are developing our commercial enterprise, FabricWorks, which provides employment, training and volunteering opportunities for our beneficiaries whilst starting to generate income for the charity.

We have been working to bring people together for over 30 years, and are one of the longest-standing arts and educational organisations in the borough, delivering valuable results through our work year on year.

#### **Some key statistics from our participants**

**101 women** have enrolled on our Sewing Support Network.

**95%** report they feel less isolated, have a greater support system and can access support if needed and feel less stressed and anxious and more confident in their abilities.

**33 women** undertook volunteering placements and **91%** report they feel they have contributed positively to their local community, are more confident with the public and more likely to volunteer on other projects.

**10 women** have progressed into accredited and non-accredited education.

**11 women** have progressed into employment.

*Data taken from the Sewing Support Network 2024-25*

#### **Our core work includes:**

- Our 'Sewing Support Network', combining 'English for Sewing' classes with personal support for Bangladeshi and other long-term unemployed women with English as a second language. Through sewing and conversation they improve their skills, confidence, English and employability.
- Confidential 1-to-1 advice services, accredited to the Matrix Standard for Information, Advice, and Guidance.
- Sewing Social classes, Makers Meets and Elders Stitch Club, offering the chance for isolated women to meet and sew together.
- Varied volunteer programmes supporting women into roles increasing confidence, skills and aspirations.
- Our FabricWorks textile social enterprise, creating textile commissions that provide employment, training and industry experience to marginalised women. We continue to develop this enterprise strand to increase the financial sustainability of the charity.
- Community textile and visual art projects ranging from a week to two years, working with diverse communities to make and exhibit socially engaged artwork.
- Developing an archive of our textile projects, including the Millennium Tapestries, our founding project created with over 3000 participants.

"I enjoy these sewing classes so much, this is a new world for me - I feel so happy it's a break from everything as I suffer with poor health mentally and physically - I can't believe I can sew now... it's given me mental exercise and challenged me which I like...this is a life line" - **class participant**

## Highlights of the year 2024 - 25

Our main themes this year have been using craft skills and textiles to tell and share stories, and increase our visibility. The *By You Tapestry* combined embroidered contributions from around the globe to share experiences of the pandemic. It was seen by hundreds at one of London's most visited tourist attractions. On a different scale, the Women and Asthma project used craft to help women speak of their experiences, and drew together those experiences with women from other parts of the UK. FabricWorks reached out to new audiences with community workshops, and shared stories of how training and employment can change lives through panel discussions.

In the sections below, we share some brief points about different aspects of this year's work, and the impact it has had.

### The *By You Tapestry* Exhibition

We were honoured to exhibit our 26-metre *By You Tapestry - Remembering our shared history of the coronavirus pandemic* at the Tower of London over the summer of 2024, which was visited by hundreds of people, some of whom participated in workshops led by our team.



The tapestry included 275 stitched contributions from the UK and around the world depicting makers' personal stories and experiences of daily life during the pandemic. We completed the tapestry in partnership with community groups and artists from across Tower Hamlets. The stories powerfully resonated with visitors and provided a point of vital reflection at a time when we were collectively experiencing many other hardships.

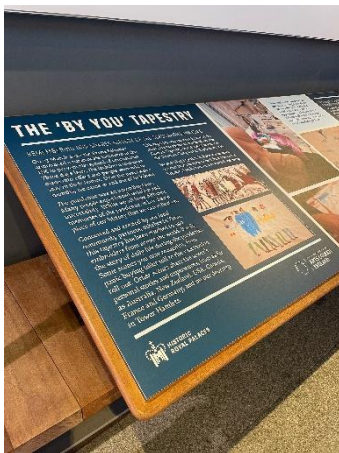


#### **Paul Garayo, CEO of Stitches in Time said:**

“We have partnered with Historic Royal Palaces, the independent charity that looks after six important historical sites across the UK, including the Tower of London, to share this work with the public. We are thrilled to be able to communicate the powerful stories captured in this shared artwork with people from all over the globe. We are immensely proud of and grateful to all participants, makers, and artists that we can

present this collective experience and provide space for others to share and reflect on their own stories.”

**Kim Klug, Communities Partnerships Manager at Historic Royal Palaces said:** “The Tower of London is a place where history has been made for almost 1,000 years and where it continues to unfold to this day. Stitches in Time’s remarkable community led work, the By You Tapestry, captures the power of sharing stories and finding common ground in times of unprecedented challenges and change. We’re thrilled to partner with them to present this work in our Schools & Communities Space to explore and interact with.”



“It was wonderful to come along today, meet the people behind the project - suddenly, we’d all been brought together over a project we did in isolation. Amazing job, all of you - it looks fabulous.”

- By You tapestry contributor

“On my behalf can you please thank your extended team and organisation, all the contributors from across the world and to all who played a part in realising the finished work for their very hard work to bring it to The Tower of London. It is magnificent, a true work of art, and you cannot know how proud I am that my tiny embroidery is part of such a legacy.” - By You tapestry

contributor

“This is absolutely incredible work - a slice of history”  
- By You exhibition visitor

“A beautiful tribute to the loss and suffering that happened through the pandemic.” - By You exhibition visitor

“Beautiful, inspiring, authentic and it makes you stop and think.”  
- By You exhibition visitor



We were supported in this work in the year 2023-24 by The National Lottery Awards for All.



## FabricWorks

FabricWorks has continued to grow, expanding our team, training, and employment opportunities for local women, while contributing to the creative industries in the East End.



Grant funding has helped us develop *Sewing Pathways to Work* into a core programme, enabling our beneficiaries to see clear potential routes into employment. We piloted, evaluated, and refined the model, and now offer a 10-week training course followed by a 5-week production placement. This increase in training hours improves standards, provides learning continuity and work readiness, supports professional development and boosts our capacity for income-generating projects with external partners.

We reorganised our studio and acquired some new equipment to increase our number of workstations. As we grow, this development of skills and capacity will secure a sustainable future for both the women we support and the organisation.

Funding for a Sewing Production Supervisor has raised workforce skill levels, while a Learning and Development Mentor Officer role responds to the need for mentoring alongside skills training. Beyond sewing, beneficiaries receive tailored 1-to-1 support on issues like finances, job applications, wellbeing, and confidence, plus signposting to specialist services.

We use the creative arts as an accessible way for excluded women to engage, helping them progress by overcoming barriers.

“Since taking part in our specialist training programme, T has developed a wide range of advanced technical skills. She is now producing a range of high-quality garments for herself, her friends, and her family, and has built a completely new wardrobe from scratch. Crucially, the training has enabled her to begin taking on paid sewing commissions with FabricWorks, giving her a regular monthly income for the first time.



“The impact has been significant: her confidence has grown tremendously, and we’ve witnessed a remarkable transformation in both her self-belief and ambition. T’s expectations of what she can achieve have soared. She now sees sewing not just as a hobby, but as a viable and empowering career pathway. She has already contributed to three commissioned workshops, something she would have previously felt too anxious or underqualified to attempt.”

In her own words: “This is a dream come true. I never thought I would receive education or training like this, especially in my passion – sewing – and I can’t wait to keep progressing. Before I started classes here I would only leave my home to do the school run, it had been like that for 15 years.”



Over the year, we secured service-level agreements and contracts with Tower Hamlets Recovery College, Imperial College, and Historic Royal Palaces. Our training is recognised for engaging hard-to-reach communities, leading to partnerships with Recovery College and the Bangladeshi British Fashion Council and creating a valuable income stream. Many of our class tutors are graduates of our programmes, leading to further development opportunities.

Our FabricWorks London revenue model focuses on bespoke textile production, particularly small-batch projects that align with our capacity and mission, and is funded through sales revenue, grants, and donations. We have also developed further workshop offers, either one-off paid sessions at our studios or at client locations, and a series of workshops offering the public classes teaching in sewing and mending



We thank The Fore, The London Community Foundation and The Grocer’s Charity for their grant support for our social enterprise.

### WEN programme and performance

A group of our attendees took part in a programme of workshops in collaboration with Women’s Environment Network - “Climate Sisters” over 6 months. This programme explored the women’s relationship with the environment and climate crisis, and developed leadership skills to make changes personally and in their wider communities. The programme

culminated in a showcase performance “Where Are Women’s Voices in The Climate Arena?” filled with poetry, dance and discussion, highlighting how the climate crisis intersects with our daily lives, cultural heritage and diasporic histories.



“Stitches was working on a project on climate and I discovered that although I know that drought and flooding affected Bangladesh, the actual cause of it was climate change. As a group, we wrote a play based on this, where I performed as the lead role. This is something that I had never imagined myself doing, when I performed it was liberating.”

- Project participant

### Hampton Court tapestry



In the spring we were commissioned by Historic Royal Palaces to create a tapestry for the reopening of their Wolsey Rooms, the oldest part of the palace, to represent and reinterpret an iconic collection of Tudor art and artefacts. The project forms part of Historic Royal Palaces' wider strategic vision to put accessibility and untold, inclusive stories at its heart. We undertook workshops with our makers about Bangladeshi motifs, stitches and colours to create a collaborative hanging. This will be on permanent display at Hampton Court Palace as a piece of modern embroidery in a section entitled 'Women as Creators', identifying how female craftspeople produced extraordinary textiles and materials in the 1500s, and female craftspeople continue to produce high-quality art today.

### Women and Asthma - Imperial College London, funded by the Wellcome Collection

We undertook the second year of our project work on this 3-year collaboration with researchers, creative community organisations across the UK and Lived Experience participants. Women and Asthma is a creative project that uses craft as a common language to share stories and experiences about asthma. The aim is to deepen understanding and awareness of the relationship between women and asthma, partially inspired by the Asthma and Lung UK report 'Asthma is Worse for Women'. Over 30 participants, women affected by asthma, either directly or as carers, and researchers at Imperial College London investigating the biology of asthma, engaged in a creative exchange process, sharing their stories and experiences through craft. We further developed deeper relationships within each community through a series of community workshops and activities in all three of the project's locations (Birmingham, Skelmersdale and Tower Hamlets). As part of this, we worked with the project to run a free drop-in public craft workshop to coincide with World Health Day at the IDEA store at nearby Watney Market.



"[I] enjoyed sewing, socialising, meeting people and talking about asthma" - community day workshop attendee



"[I] gained lots of knowledge about asthma" - community day workshop attendee

"Lots of advice on asthma, how it affects your airways and lungs"  
- community day workshop attendee

"The sewing and stitching helped describing the lungs in a way that it could be affected and to improve" - community day workshop attendee

### Archive work

We have continued to attend to our legacy, in particular the Millennium Tapestries, created by thousands of local people as part of the Millennium celebrations. The tapestries tell stories from Roman times to the year 2000. We are carefully and systematically sorting, recording and preserving the record of the creative processes and the tapestries themselves. This will enable us, in the summer of 2025, to display some of the pieces in a retrospective at St Anne's Limehouse, the neighbouring church, as part of the Hawksmoor300 Campaign.

### The Henry Smith Charity

We are in our 4th year of funding from the Henry Smith Charity for our **Sewing Support Network**. Our extensive Sewing Support Network provides weekly safe spaces for local women to meet as a group, learn and to practice English, develop sewing skills and access additional individual support as requested.

- **Our English for Sewing classes**, in four locations across Tower Hamlets, provide a structured, practised English syllabus, taught by two experienced, bilingual female tutors. Content is informed by the areas of learning relevant to the participants' day-to-day lives and so adapts to what is most needed.
- **Our Beginners Sewing class and Makers Meet** drop in sessions are run by local women in our professional textile studio at Limehouse Town Hall. Women from the local community are taught how to use specialist equipment, learn manufacturing and sewing techniques, develop ideas, and come together to make and socialise.
- **Travel for Independence** sessions offer small groups of women the chance to build confidence and experience in navigating London independently. Participants choose destinations together and are supported by bilingual tutors to plan routes and develop key practical skills, such as using cash machines and Oyster card terminals. These trips have proven highly effective in boosting confidence, while revealing previously unrecognised needs which allows us to offer targeted one-to-one guidance.

- **We offer volunteer opportunities** within our organisation, our social enterprise and with partner organisations to build skills, employability and experience of working, raising individual aspirations through meeting other women from marginalised communities. Women make connections outside their local area, widening their peer group and support network.
- All our activities coexist with on-demand access to non-advertised **Information, Advice and Guidance**, and referral support to our advisory partners, delivered by a bilingual female trained advisor. We provide further support for women, to meet their needs, overcome difficulties and increase their confidence.

“Prior to joining Stitches I felt I was alone and had no support system, I didn't have people I could talk to or rely on. Day after day, the less important I felt, a lonely housewife who was not valued, that's the opinion I had of myself and I thought it would always be.

“I joined the class and was able to share my talent for crochet, given materials to make things and improve my skills. Aspiration, motivation and hope, all these positive feelings started to appear. Day by day I became more determined to learn and prosper. On days my friend didn't attend I was keen and eager to come to every session, so I built up courage and learnt how to travel alone.

“Joining Stitches has enabled me to learn new skills as well as giving me a chance to share my skills amongst the trustworthy, friendly people I've met. It was truly a life changing experience, I've become confident, strong and finally feel valued. I'm no longer afraid to join a new organisation and seek help.

“I've miraculously transformed into an ambitious person with goals. They always remained friendly and supported me so much, and never put pressure on me, I was able to trust them with things I could not tell anyone else.

- participant

### Looking forward to in 2025-26

We are excited that September 2025 will bring the culmination of our Women and Asthma collaboration with Imperial College with a weekend of public engagement events, **Women and Asthma: Stories of Breath**. This free immersive experience to be hosted in Tower Hamlets Town Hall will allow the public to step into a multi-sensory world where stories unfold through imagery, sound, touch, and hands-on making.



We're also looking forward to hosting more **FabricWorks workshops and open studio events**. This includes a Meet the Makers, See the Process, Join the Conversation open studio and panel discussion in the spring and an Upcycled Shirt Workshop in the summer.

We look forward to the **Millennium Tapestry retrospective** at St Anne's Limehouse.

## Strategic Development

We continue our successful organisational development strategy that reflects the environment we work in. Underpinning this are our core directives:

- A - Better evidence
- B - More visibility
- C - Strengthen local partnerships
- D - Become more secure as an organisation

We have made good progress with these aims, in a challenging time.



### A - Better evidence

Through our Sewing Support Network and advocacy work, we've gathered rich data on the circumstances and needs of our beneficiaries. This helps us adapt our services and assess what works. In March 2024, we were reaccruited with the Matrix Quality Standard, which highlighted our strong evidence base and effective use of data to shape and improve our support.

### B - More visibility

While much of the work we do is with individuals in marginalised communities and therefore not naturally very visible, we continue to have good engagement and support from our funders and some of our projects contain more opportunity for external engagement and raising awareness.

The *By You Tapestry* has been our most visible project of recent years, and we were delighted to be given a further display opportunity at Hampton Court Palace. The Women's Equality Network climate project and the Women in Asthma project mentioned in earlier sections also have their externally facing elements, and we continue to offer open studio events and workshops for the public.

### C - Strengthen local partnerships

Partnership working has always been part of Stitches in Time, from our founding project, the Millennium Tapestry, onwards.

We continue to work in partnership with local organisations including Stepney City Farm and the Locksley Estate Tenants and Residents Association to provide our activities in different local venues in the borough.

Through our social enterprise, FabricWorks, we have again worked with local designers and brands to deliver sustainable and ethical fabric production, through whom we also gain visibility and opportunities through associated marketing. In addition, we have worked in close partnership with organisations already mentioned earlier such as the Women's Equality Network, the Henry Smith Foundation and the Historic Royal Palaces.

### D - Become more secure as an organisation

During the year, our long-standing CEO, Paul Garayo, stepped down from his role. His departure prompted the Trustees to reflect on the organisation's leadership needs and review our management structure. Following this review, we implemented a new model with two dedicated senior roles: a Director of Programmes, Services, and Engagement managing Stitches in Time, and a Director of Enterprise and Training managing FabricWorks. This approach allows each strand of our work to benefit from focused leadership, while also strengthening organisational resilience through a collaborative senior team with oversight of the charity as a whole. The new structure reflects our growth and ensures that both core areas of our work continue to thrive with clear strategic direction.

Our leadership team combines deep expertise in community engagement, training, and sustainable enterprise.

- **The Director of Enterprise and Training** brings 12 years' experience with hard-to-reach communities and women's enterprise. She uses textile manufacturing as a tool for social change, supporting FabricWorks' growth through training, outreach, and partnerships with ethical brands.
- **The Director of Programmes, Services, and Engagement** leads the strategic development of trauma-informed, person-centred services. With a background in counselling, wellbeing, and craft, she ensures our work supports both personal growth and professional development.
- Our **trustees** bring essential expertise in social enterprise, the arts, charity leadership, mental health, and sustainable fashion—providing strong governance and strategic direction.



As a women-led organisation, many of our team share lived experience with the women we support. We understand the realities of balancing work, care, and systemic barriers to inclusion. This insight shapes our flexible approach, designed to fit women's lives and remove barriers to participation.

By centring women's voices and combining lived experience with professional expertise, we foster a safe, nurturing environment where women can build confidence, overcome challenges, and achieve lasting change.

## Structure, governance and management

The Charitable Trust is constituted by Trust Deed. All necessary procedures have been completed for us to become a company limited by guarantee in addition to our existing registered charity status from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018. The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee as defined by the Companies Act 2006 and registered as a charity with the Charity Commission. The Company was established under a Memorandum and Articles of Association which established the objects and powers of the Charitable Company and is governed by its Articles of Association. It was established on 7 December 2016 and the company remained dormant until the new financial year on 1 April 2018.

The Charity aims to have a diverse Board of Trustees and consults and co-produces with service users constantly, using varied methods, to inform our work. Central to Stitches in Time's ethos is that participants play an essential role in the running and leading of the organisation e.g. running social events and group activities, and introducing new participants.

**Risk Statement:** The Trustees have recognised their duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed, and to ensure that appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. The Charity ensures its financial procedures, health and safety policy and safeguarding procedures are reviewed periodically to reflect changing legislation and to refresh knowledge and practice.

## Exemptions from disclosure

Stitches in Time does not claim any exemptions from disclosing the names of Trustees, the charity's address, or other information normally included in a Trustees' annual report.

## Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others

No funds were held as a custodian trustee on behalf of others during the year.

## Acknowledgement and thanks

As a small but ambitious charity, we are proud to have played a meaningful role for over thirty years in enabling individuals and communities in the East End, and beyond, to thrive. Through our work in sewing, creative arts, and community engagement, we support people to build confidence, learn new skills, and create lasting connections. We are especially proud of all those who have grown with us, gaining skills and confidence and contributing to stronger, more inclusive communities.

The Trustees would like to formally acknowledge and thank our staff for their hard work, creativity, and dedication over the past year, often in the face of significant and complex challenges. Their vision, energy and creativity are the driving force behind the welcoming, supportive environment that defines Stitches in Time and FabricWorks. It is their efforts and insights that enable so many to flourish and that shape the future of our organisation.

We also wish to recognise the vital contribution of our volunteers. Their generosity, goodwill, and hands-on support are invaluable to our work, and we are grateful for the time and commitment they bring. In addition, we wish to thank those who have offered their specialist pro-bono expertise. Your support has strengthened our capacity and reach.

Stitches in Time could not continue without the generous support of our funders and donors. We thank every individual and organisation who has contributed through financial support or pro-bono expertise, for recognising the value of our work and for your continued sponsorship.

In particular we wish to thank

- The Henry Smith Foundation
- The Fore
- The London Community Foundation
- The Grocer's Charity
- The Merchant Taylors' Foundation
- Alexandra Jolly - formerly Head of Partnerships and Insight, the Forward Institute
- Clare Wood - Sustainable Investing and Portfolio Specialist - Stewart Investors

Your belief in our work enables us to keep making a difference, creatively, collaboratively, and with lasting impact.

### Approval

This report was approved by the Trustees on 11th July 2025, and signed on their behalf.



.....  
Trustees





Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

STITCHES IN TIME

On accounts for the year ended

31 MARCH 2025

Charity no (if any)

1172056

Set out on pages

20-26

(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 31/03/2025

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

~~The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [ ] if not applicable.~~

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention 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:

04/07/25

Name:

IAN HENRY PRICE

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body

ACMA CGMA

(if any):

Address:

**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.

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR  
ENDING MARCH 31, 2025**

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
<b>Incoming Resources</b>					
Generated funds:					
Voluntary income: Grants	4	32,270	97,600	129,870	130,461
Donations		1,980	-	1,980	7,728
Bank interest, gross		-	-	-	-
Charitable activities:					
Service Level Agreements		-	-	-	-
Fees and sales		63,764	-	63,764	142,915
Surplus on sale of assets		-	-	-	-
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>		<b>98,014</b>	<b>97,600</b>	<b>195,614</b>	<b>281,103</b>
<b>Resources Expended</b>					
Charitable activities	5	141,593	97,600	239,193	227,351
Governance		-	-	-	59
<b>Total Resources Expended</b>		<b>141,593</b>	<b>97,600</b>	<b>239,193</b>	<b>227,410</b>
<b>Net Incoming/(Outgoing)</b>					
<b>Resources for the year</b>		<b>(43,579)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(43,579)</b>	<b>53,694</b>
<b>Reconciliation of Funds:</b>					
<b>Total Funds brought forward</b>		<b>83,091</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>83,091</b>	<b>29,397</b>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>39,512</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>39,512</b>	<b>83,091</b>

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a statement of total recognised gains and losses has not been prepared.

All of the above amounts relate to continuing activities.

The notes on pages 22 - 26 form part of these accounts.

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT MARCH 31, 2025**

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
Tangible Assets	6	<b>1,870</b>	<b>2,805</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Debtors	7	22,781	24,594
Cash at Bank		74,306	103,947
Cash in hand		17	366
		<u>97,104</u>	<u>128,907</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Amounts falling due within one year	8	<u>59,464</u>	<u>48,623</u>
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS LESS LIABILITIES</b>		<u><b>37,640</b></u>	<u><b>80,284</b></u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u><b>39,511</b></u>	<u><b>83,091</b></u>
Represented by:			
<b>FUNDS</b>			
Unrestricted		39,511	83,091
Restricted	9	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>		<u><b>39,511</b></u>	<u><b>83,091</b></u>

Approved by the Trustees on 11th July 2025, and signed on their behalf by:



.....  
Trustees



The notes on pages 22 - 26 form part of these accounts

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS, MARCH 31, 2025****1. STATUS**

The organisation is an unincorporated registered charity and successor to the unincorporated association of the same name.

**2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

(a) The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, and in accordance with applicable United Kingdom accounting standards, the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued in March 2005 (SORP 2005) and the Charities Act 2011.

(b) Tangible Fixed Assets: Capital expenditure on items £250 or over is depreciated at rates designed to write off the costs over the estimated useful lives of the assets, calculated on the straight line method, less any residual value.

**(c) Incoming Resources**

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Voluntary income is received by way of grants, donations and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant. Such income is deferred when the donor specifies that the grant or donation must only be used in future accounting periods.
- Donated services and facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included in these accounts.
- Investment income is included when receivable.
- Incoming resources from charitable trading activity are accounted for when earned.
- Incoming resources from grants, where related to performance and specific deliverables, are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance.

(d) Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates:

- Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.
- Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include the audit fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity.

(e) Fund accounting

Funds held by the charity are either:

- unrestricted general funds: these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees;
- restricted funds: these are funds which can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity; restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

(f) Stock and work in progress

Stock and work in progress are valued at cost. Cost includes all direct expenditure and overheads based on the normal level of activity.

### 3. TAXATION

The charity is provisionally exempt from tax on income and gains to the extent that These are applied to its charitable objects. No tax charges have arisen in the Charity.

## 4. GRANTS

	Total Grants 2025 £	Total Grants 2024 £
Restricted:		
London Health and Equity Partnership	-	5,000
Henry Smith	97,600	54,337
Ashley Family Foundation	-	7,875
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Restricted	97,600	67,213
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Unrestricted:		
The Fore	7,500	20,000
The London Community Fund	19,820	18,448
Awards for All	-	9,900
Wakefield and Tetley	-	5,950
Canary Wharf Group	-	8,950
The Grocers Foundation	4,950	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Unrestricted	32,270	63,248
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total Grants</b>	<b>129,870</b>	<b>130,461</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>

## 5. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Notes				
Salaries & NI	18,929	79,134	98,063	112,183
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Average number of employees: FTEs 8.4 (2023/24: 3.6)				
Fees	92,378	7,816	100,194	84,721
Projects	717	4,000	4,717	7,174
Depreciation	935	-	935	935
Rent	11,525	5,800	17,325	16,436
Telecommunications	320	500	820	731
Postage, stationery and photocopying	1,271	-	1,271	1,179
Insurance	355	350	705	662
Travel and subsistence	997	-	997	1,189
Equipment:				
minor purchases	1,578	-	1,578	546
maintenance	431	-	431	347
Administrative support	-	-	-	-
Memberships	1,320	-	1,320	583
Publicity	623	-	623	665
Charges	6,607	-	6,607	2
Receivable Write Off	3,658	-	3,658	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b>141,643</b>	<b>97,600</b>	<b>239,243</b>	<b>227,351</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

## 6. FIXED ASSETS

	Computer equipment £	Production equipment £	Total £
At cost:			
at 1.4.24	-	3,740	3,740
additions	-	-	-
disposals	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
at 31.3.25	-	3,740	3,740
Depreciation:			
at 1.4.24	-	(953)	(953)
25% per annum	-	(953)	(953)
disposals	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
at 31.3.25	-	(1,906)	(1,906)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net Book Value, 31.3.25	-	1,834	1,834
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net Book Value, 31.3.24	-	2,805	2,805
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

## 7. DEBTORS

	2025 £	2024 £
Debtors, trade	22,145	23,958
Grants Receivable	-	-
Pre-payments	-	-
Deposit, rent	636	636
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b>22,781</b>	<b>24,594</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>

## 8. CURRENT LIABILITIES, AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025 £	2024 £
Creditors	-	-
Refundable deposits	165	165
Salary Control	23,524	16,583
Grants in Advance		
Henry Smith	32,775	31,875
Merchant Taylors' Foundation	3,000	-
	<u>59,464</u>	<u>48,623</u>

## 9. RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balance at April 1, 2024 £	Movement in Resources		Balance at March 31, 2025 £
		Incoming £	Outgoing £	
Henry Smith	-	97,600	(97,600)	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>97,600</u>	<u>(97,600)</u>	<u>-</u>

Project funds: All of the above provide revenue and/or capital funding for projects.

## 10. TRUSTEE REMUNERATION AND RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

One trustee received remuneration during the year for project work. No other trustees receive remuneration (2024: £1800). There were no expenses reimbursed to, or paid on behalf of, members of the Management Committee.

No trustees or other persons related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity during the year (2024: £nil).



**STITCHES IN TIME**

England & Wales - Charity number 1172056

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# Accounts

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**STITCHES IN TIME**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**Year ending March 31, 2024**

Charity no. 1172056 - Company no. 10515657

Limehouse Town Hall, 646 Commercial Road, London, E14 7HA  
Tel: 020 7987 6164

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Trip to Cambridge

## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

### Trustee list

Hendrika Santer Bream (Chair)  
Teresa Hare Duke (Vice Chair)  
Annie Gargya (Secretary)  
Margaret Mitchell  
Syeda Jeba Maleque  
Katherine Scott (to 28 February 2024)  
Lavell Charlemagne (to 21 February 2024) (Treasurer)  
Moymona Begum (Treasurer from 21 February 2024)

### Premises

Limehouse Town Hall  
646 Commercial Road  
London  
E14 7HA

### Charity & Company number

Charity no. 1172056  
Company no. 10515657

### Independent Examiner

Ian Price  
10 Kent Close  
Westoning  
Bedfordshire  
MK45 5LW

### Bankers

Co-operative Bank  
PO Box 250  
Delf House  
Southway  
Skelmersdale  
WN8 6WT



## Trustees' report

The Trustees present their report and accounts for the year ending 31 March 2024.

### Objectives and activities

The Charity's aims and objectives are:

- 1) to advance education particularly but not by way of limitation in all aspects of arts, crafts and applied arts particularly but not by way of limitation that of tapestry and needlework.
- 2) to provide or assist in the provision of facilities for recreation and other leisure time occupation, in particular the provision of facilities for arts and crafts, in the interests of social welfare with the object of improving the conditions of life, and
- 3) thereby to encourage good race relations for the benefit of the public by drawing together all members of the community irrespective of race, religion, gender or political beliefs in the pursuit of these objects.



Making "The Maze" tapestry

## Our context

We are based and operate mostly, but not exclusively, in the east London Borough of Tower Hamlets. Lack of employment, isolation and poverty are significant problems for our local population. Beneath the poverty line, average incomes for Black and minority ethnic people have fallen faster and deeper than they have for white people over the last decade, with this becoming particularly pronounced since the start of COVID-19. As a result, Black and minority ethnic people are currently 2.2 times more likely to be in deep poverty than white people, with Bangladeshi people more than 3 times more likely. (Falling Faster amidst a Cost-of-Living Crisis, Runnymede, 2022). Tower Hamlets has by far the largest proportion of Bangladeshi residents in the UK with one in six people of Bangladeshi origin in England and Wales living in the borough (Tower Hamlets State of the Borough, 2023).

As well as impacting our community, the cost of living crisis and the pandemic have also contributed to creating a more challenging fundraising climate.

This is why it is so important that we continue to

- Provide a forum to enable culturally diverse groups to work together
- Run educational programmes to raise levels of achievement
- Raise levels of confidence and skills-based learning for women, young people and older people
- Create partnerships between the voluntary, statutory and private sectors.

We have continued to respond rapidly and adapt to changing needs, keeping our important frontline services going and ensuring local communities have access to pathways of support. We have done this through rigorous data collection, expanded partnerships, and close working with funders to continue to meet objectives and to modify them where needed.

We are often a first port of call for help, and many people we work with face barriers when accessing other support services. We have continued to do our work through a mixture of innovative, creative activities and support and referral for complex issues.

We have continued to develop our commercial enterprise, FabricWorks, providing opportunities for our beneficiaries while also beginning to generate income for the charity.

We have been working to bring people together for 31 years, and are one of the longest-standing arts and educational organisations in the borough, demonstrating valuable results through our work year on year.

### *Some key statistics from our participants*

**93%** have a greater support network

**98%** feel they have contributed positively to their local community

**100%** feel happier and more hopeful for the future

*Data taken from the Sewing Support Network*

## Our core work

Our core work consists of:

- Our 'Sewing Support Network', including 'English for Sewing' classes and personal support. This is attended by Bangladeshi and other ethnic minority, long-term unemployed women with English as a second language where, through sewing and conversation they improve their skills, confidence, English and employability
- Providing confidential 1-to-1 advice services, accredited to the Matrix Standard for Information, Advice, and Guidance
- Sewing Social classes, Makers Meets and Elders Stitch Club, for isolated women to meet and sew together
- Varied volunteer programmes supporting women to take on roles to increase confidence, skills and aspirations
- Community textile and visual art projects ranging from one week to two years working with diverse communities to make socially engaged artwork
- Developing an archive of our textile projects, including our original 50 Millennium Tapestries (our founding project to which over 3000 people contributed)
- Our FabricWorks textile social enterprise, creating textile commissions while providing employment, training and industry experience to marginalised women. We are seeking to develop this further so that it can offer financial support to the charity .



Stitch club

## Highlights of the year

Our main theme this year has been creative co-production. It has been a delight to develop our relationships with a number of partners to bring both creative and relevant opportunities across our network alongside our core activities. Our work continues to show how textiles and creative projects offer so much more for our people than just developing their skills. Our projects are co-designed with users in response to their needs, to empower individuals and build strong, inclusive, and cohesive communities.

### FabricWorks

We have focussed on growing and developing our social enterprise FabricWorks, so that we can provide more training and employment for local women, contribute to the creative industries in the East End and ultimately generate income for our charity.

This year was one of FabricWorks's most successful yet. We've expanded our capacity to take on larger production volumes, which has enabled us to diversify our income sources and increase the variety of products we create. This growth has led to an expanded team, including more trainees who are gaining valuable skills and experience in garment and textile production.

A significant focus this year has been on embedding circular practices into our operations. By collaborating with brands and organisations committed to sustainability, we've developed products made from textile waste and have expanded our upcycling and reworking initiatives. One of our standout projects was a partnership with the National Portrait Gallery for its reopening. Our team worked with their buying team to repurpose off-cuts from the gallery's wall installations to create zero-waste cushions, aligning sustainability with innovation.



The FabricWorks team

Looking ahead, FabricWorks aims to continue setting the standard for sustainable production in the industry. We are proud to offer our team flexible working hours, living wages, and a production model that challenges traditional norms through a commitment to

upcycling and conscious manufacturing. This approach reflects FabricWorks's dedication to creating a more equitable, responsible, and innovative future for garment production — one that empowers women, enriches the local creative community, and contributes to a sustainable industry.

*“As women when we go through changes, particularly motherhood, We’re often the ones who take a step back in our careers and employment. Now with my three young children, other types of employment no longer work for me, I need and want to work around my children’s timetable.*

*FabricWorks has given me a skill for life which has allowed me to use it as a trade and when you go out and earn your own money it’s invaluable and brings so much joy.*

*We are producing clothing in a factory but we are considered as individuals, not robots, we’re a community of women and like a family. We’re a happy team and when we can balance home and work life, we inevitably end up producing better quality items. The fact that it’s sustainably produced means we’re doing our bit for the planet, which we’re all passionate about!”*

- Fieruza, FabricWorks team member and machinist

### **The By You Tapestry**

We are incredibly proud of the By You Tapestry.

In April 2020, as the world faced isolation from the pandemic lockdowns, we called upon makers from across the world to embroider and send us scenes showing their lockdown experiences. We received over 275 textile pieces from 190 people.

Sewn in many parts by hand, we took these contributions and, supported by funding from the Arts Council, started work to piece these sections together in partnership with various community groups and artists that we work with across Tower Hamlets.

The contributions to the By You Tapestry were sent from as far afield as Australia, New Zealand, USA, Canada, France and Germany, as well as the UK. They tell the story of daily life during the pandemic, from common experiences such as the isolation and the panic buying, to very personal stories and experiences.

Once sewn into a 26-metre-long tapestry and displayed in the Schools and Communities Space at the Tower of London from June to August 2024, we believe that these stories will powerfully resonate with visitors and provide a point of reflection.

*“Stitching has not only passed the time but has brought me calm and purpose. This project appealed to me because it provided an opportunity to indulge my love of making small scenes and also gave me the chance to express what I’ve been doing during lockdown.”*

- Tapestry Contributor



Making up the By You Tapestry

## Creative projects

Building on the insights we have gained into the hardships and barriers women experience through the development of our Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) programme we have over the past year endeavoured to tailor our creative projects to address some of their issues and give voice to participants' lived experience.

### **A Changing Tapestry of Limehouse**

From March to September 2023 we collaborated with Dr Shane Boyle of Queen Mary University of London, and Teresa Hare Duke, an independent curator and arts practitioner, on "A Changing Tapestry of Limehouse". This co-produced Arts and Humanities Research Council-funded project created a conversational forum for groups of Limehouse residents and visitors to reflect on how creative practices can be used to advocate for civic inclusion and greater fairness of opportunity.

Over several months of conversations and a series of textile making workshops with Stitches in Time participants, women of Bangladeshi origin and elderly residents in Tower Hamlets, this project culminated in a public event and exhibition as part of **Open House weekend**. The work highlighted the challenges faced by local communities, facilitated their voices to be heard on these issues and explored the past and future role of arts activism in shaping a changing Limehouse.

The two new co-produced textile pieces ‘the Maze’ and ‘Limehouse Linked’ created in workshops were displayed alongside several historic works by Stitches in Time, Welfare State International, the Space Hijackers, and current creative projects with Praxis for Migrants that gave a sense of the rich history of arts activism in the area.

### **Giant Weave**

We opened our studios all weekend, alongside a number of residents, at Limehouse Town Hall. Members of the public were invited to explore the works on display and to add their own voice to the conversation by contributing to a giant ‘collaborative weave,’ which visually represented what locals believe needs to happen to ensure a fairer future in Limehouse. They also had the chance to explore the historic building and to take a look at the interesting things that happen here.

There was a well-attended panel discussion hosted by FabricWorks sharing our experience of the past 8 years in how to manufacture ethically, how to support unemployed women facing barriers into work, and the ever-changing challenges the manufacturing industry faces.

### **Women and Asthma - Imperial College London, funded by the Wellcome Collection**

This is a 3 year-long project working in collaboration with researchers from Imperial College London and creative community organisations across the UK and with women with lived experience of asthma. The project’s aim is to change perceptions about asthma, revealing the diversity and complexity of the condition and associated health inequalities through sharing stories, knowledge and experiences in creative ways. We have been carrying out creative facilitation to guide participants to express their experience of asthma through visual arts. This will lead to a multi-group public engagement exhibition in 2025.

*“I have made valuable connections with ladies with lived asthma whom I can now go to for advice. Previously I didn’t have anyone to speak or discuss my [child’s] condition with.”*

- Lived Experience Participant

*“I felt I was able to participate better as I could express my feelings and experiences through crafts. At first I thought about how this would work, but after I really enjoyed it and felt I expressed everything better than I would have with words.”*

- Lived Experience Participant

### **English For Action - Creative community tapestry**

We worked with participants of a local ESOL (English for speakers of other languages) class run by English for Action (a grassroots education charity) to celebrate the class’s 10th anniversary and create a banner showcasing what ESOL means to them. This is a piece that can be used as part of their campaigning work #LoveESOL to make ESOL education more accessible to Londoners.



Presentation of English for Action banner

*“What has been a joyful and collaborative piece of creativity that was the source of great pride for the makers will be on display in Chisenhale Primary School, as well as a banner for future events... [Stitches] was instrumental in helping us to think about the final product, how it would come together and the steps that we would need to take to get there.”*

- *English for Action ESOL Teacher-Organiser*

### **The Henry Smith Charity**

Over this year we were successful in securing a further three years of funding from the Henry Smith Charity for our The Sewing Support Network (SSN). This is a holistic, peer-led, social network successfully helping some of the most marginalised people in Tower Hamlets and addressing high levels of isolation in women in the borough.

We work with predominantly long-term unemployed Muslim women from Bangladesh. Our SSN activities are weekly, free and run in various community locations, including;

- English for Sewing Classes
- Sewing Social Classes
- Makers Meet social creative meetups
- on-demand access to non-advertised, bilingual Matrix-accredited Information, Advice and Guidance

‘Travel for Independence’ is a new venture: sessions create opportunities for small groups of women to gain experience and confidence in travelling across London independently.



Cambridge Mosque trip

*Joining Stitches has enabled me to learn new skills as well as giving me a chance to share my skills amongst the trustworthy, friendly people I've met. It was truly a life changing experience, I've become confident, strong and finally feel valued. I'm no longer afraid to join a new organisation and seek help.*

- Sewing Support Network participant

This network provides crucial social contact, personal support, friendship, English learning, skills development, creative opportunities, group discussion, peer-mentoring and volunteering opportunities.

Women reported that attending classes improves their self-confidence and sense of resilience. Our workshops, sessions and support services, embedded in a holistic, person-centred approach, not only offer the opportunity to learn English and sewing, but become instrumental in empowering the participants to feel that they can take control of their own lives and futures. This has the ripple effect of giving them a voice to advocate for themselves in many areas of their lives.

The solidarity, sisterhood and inspiration of others has opened up possibilities for many about making small changes to reach long term goals in their personal circumstances, education, training and work. This gives them the strength to persevere, despite barriers they may continue to face, with women saying "if she can get a bank account, if she can learn to drive, if she can start earning her own money, maybe I can".

*"Being able to speak to the hospital and with my GP and medical practitioners, that gives me hope I can manage my own health issues."*

- Class participant

This grant over the past three years has been instrumental in securing ongoing and consistent support for our beneficiaries at a time of crisis and change. Our beneficiaries have

been very vocal about their gratitude that we've been able to adapt and continue to provide such a vital service during these difficult times and when they've felt forgotten and left behind by other services.

*"I used to feel hopeless and that I would always be dependent on others but I have come so far, it makes me hopeful about what will be next and what can I achieve next."*

- Class participant

## Strategic development

We continue our successful organisational development strategy that reflects the environment we work in. Underpinning this are our core directives:

- 1 - Better evidence
- 2 - More visibility
- 3 - Strengthen local partnerships
- 4 - Become more secure as an organisation

We have made good progress with these aims, despite the cost-of-living and post-pandemic challenges.

### 1 - Better evidence

Through our Sewing Support Network and our Support and Advocacy work we have collected a rich source of data regarding the circumstances and needs of our beneficiaries. We use this to help us understand their needs and to continue to adapt our offer, and we are able to use it to evaluate the effectiveness of our interventions.

During the year, we were part of the Tower Hamlets Together programme. This was a cross-borough network of social benefit organisations being supported by East London NHS Foundation Trust and its Quality Improvement team to improve data collection and improvement practices. As part of the programme, we went through a process to:

- Re-map all current beneficiary aims and objectives and outputs
- Trial new change ideas that we think work, such as group trips for independence and inviting health professionals to visit groups to improve health issue awareness and knowledge of the health system
- Include participants in project team meetings, to include further lived experience input
- Revise our data collection processes and trial new methods of analysis

In March 2024 we were reaccredited with the Matrix Quality Standard for Information, Advice and Guidance. The assessment report highlighted as something working particularly well, that an evidence-base is captured to evaluate the IAG and used to develop the service. There was recognition of our use of a Quality Improvement (QI) process to help further develop our impact monitoring mechanism that enables reporting in a way that focuses on community needs and supports government and local authority priorities.

## 2 - More visibility

While much of the work we do is with individuals in marginalised communities and therefore not naturally very visible, we continue to have good engagement and support from our funders.

The “By You Tapestry” has been our most widely participated-in project, engaging thousands of people through social media and in our local area. We have received funding to support its display.

Launched by our textile social enterprise FabricWorks in March 2022, our mending service provides an essential resource for our community and is dedicated to sustainability and reducing waste in fashion. This service not only generates income for our charity but also creates employment opportunities for local women. Its visibility and popularity continue to grow. Looking ahead, we plan to invite more community members to participate in mending and sewing classes, aiming to boost sewing skills while raising awareness of sustainability and the principles of slow fashion.

Our continued participation in Open House has welcomed dozens of visitors into the Studio, sparking meaningful conversations and significantly raising the profile of both the charity and FabricWorks. During this time, the FabricWorks team also hosted a panel discussion where team members shared their experiences and insights on the impact of working at FabricWorks. This event successfully attracted brands and influential figures from the sustainable fashion industry, helping us expand our client base and increase our visibility.

Our FabricWorks enterprise manager Gracie also participated in a Design Museum podcast moderated by Orsola de Castro, co-founder of Fashion Revolution, titled *Learning and Teaching: Evolving Fashion*. Joined by designer-activists Kazna Asker and Nabil El-Nayal, Gracie shared how clothes-making provides meaningful employment, promotes well-being and community, and emphasised the future of fashion in local, regenerative practices. The conversation was inspiring, sparking reflection on our work and expanding our network within the sustainable fashion community.



Stepney City Farm Eid celebration

### **3 - Strengthen local partnerships**

Partnership working has always been part of Stitches in Time, from our founding project, the Millennium Tapestry, onwards.

We continue to work in partnership with local organisations including Stepney City Farm and the Locksley Estate Tenants and Residents Association to provide our activities in different local venues in the borough.

Some of our beneficiaries attended sewing courses with Poplar Works and the London College of Fashion, funded by Poplar Harca. This is a useful and successful collaboration equipping participants with skills for employment.

Through our social enterprise, FabricWorks, we have again worked with local designers and brands to deliver sustainable and ethical fabric production, through whom we also gain visibility and opportunities through associated marketing.

In addition, we have worked in close partnership with organisations already mentioned earlier such as Imperial College London, Queen Mary University London, English for Action and the Historic Royal Palaces.

### **4 - Become more secure as an organisation**

The period 2023 - 24 proved a financially challenging year, however, through support of our funders and with a range of interesting project work, we have been able to continue with our important programmed activities and maintain a prudent level of reserves.

We continuously adapt our offer, based on the rapidly changing needs of the beneficiaries and the funding and resources available. All of our projects continue to be community-led, with continuous consultation that ensures projects are relevant, needed, and evidence-based.

Through FabricWorks and our commissioned projects, we continue to explore new revenue streams to bring in employment for local people in our community as well as diversify our sources of income. Our partnerships continue to provide opportunities for fee-based work, often leveraging our organisational knowledge and specialism in creative community engagement.

Our aim for FabricWorks is that it continues to grow, ultimately supporting the charity as well as providing secure and well-paid employment to the team.

## **Structure, governance and management**

The Charitable Trust is constituted by Trust Deed. All necessary procedures have been completed for us to become a company limited by guarantee in addition to our existing registered charity status from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018. The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee as defined by the Companies Act 2006 and registered as a charity with the Charity Commission. The Company was established under a Memorandum and Articles of Association which established the objects and powers of the Charitable Company and is

governed by its Articles of Association. It was established on 7 December 2016 and the company remained dormant until the new financial year on 1 April 2018.

The Charity aims to have a diverse Board of Trustees and consults and co-produces with service users constantly, using varied methods, to inform our work. Central to Stitches in Time's ethos is that participants play an essential role in the running and leading of the organisation e.g. running social events and group activities, and introducing new participants.



Making up the By You Tapestry

**Risk Statement:** The Trustees have recognised their duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed, and to ensure that appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. The Charity ensures its financial procedures, health and safety policy and safeguarding procedures are reviewed periodically to reflect changing legislation and to refresh knowledge and practice.

## Exemptions from disclosure

Stitches in Time does not claim any exemptions from disclosing the names of Trustees, the charity's address, or other information normally included in a Trustees' annual report.

## Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others

No funds were held as a custodian trustee on behalf of others during the year.

## Acknowledgement and thanks

We are proud, as a small charity, to have been playing an important role in enabling individuals and local communities to thrive, and to have been promoting sewing and arts in the East End and beyond for over 30 years.

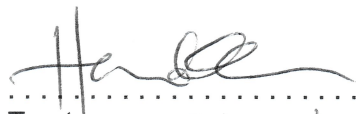
The Trustees wish to acknowledge and thank the staff for their hard work and dedication throughout the year, in often very challenging circumstances. Their vision, energy and innovation create the environment in which each and every person involved is able to develop personally and to contribute to and engage in the future development of Stitches in Time and FabricWorks.

We also acknowledge the important and essential contribution of all of our volunteers whose goodwill and support is invaluable to us. We very much appreciate the pro-bono support we have been given in a variety of specialist areas.

Stitches in Time would not be able to operate without the generous support of its funders and donors. We thank them all for their recognition of the value of our work and their continued sponsorship.

## Approval

This report was approved by the Trustees on 29 November 2024, and signed on their behalf.

  
.....  
Trustees - Chair

  
.....



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

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

**Section A Independent Examiner's Report**

Report to the trustees	STITCHES IN TIME		
On accounts for the year ended	31 MARCH 2024	Charity no (if any)	1093279
	Set out on pages 1 - 15		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2024

**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**  
[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of ~~insert name of applicable listed body~~] ~~Delete [] if not applicable.~~ ACMA

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: 07/11/2024

Name: IAN HENRY PRICE

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body ACMA CGMA

(if any):

Address:

**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.

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR  
ENDING MARCH 31, 2024**

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
<b>Incoming Resources</b>					
Generated funds:					
Voluntary income: Grants	4	63,248	67,213	130,461	105,500
Donations		7,728	-	7,728	3,034
Bank interest, gross		-	-	-	-
Charitable activities:					
Service Level Agreements		-	-	-	-
Fees and sales		142,915	-	142,915	45,066
Surplus on sale of assets		-	-	-	-
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>		<b>213,891</b>	<b>67,213</b>	<b>281,103</b>	<b>153,601</b>
<b>Resources Expended</b>					
Charitable activities	5	159,908	67,444	227,351	212,608
Governance		59	-	59	13
<b>Total Resources Expended</b>		<b>159,966</b>	<b>67,444</b>	<b>227,410</b>	<b>212,621</b>
<b>Net Incoming/(Outgoing)</b>					
<b>Resources for the year</b>		<b>53,925</b>	<b>(231)</b>	<b>53,694</b>	<b>(59,020)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of Funds:</b>					
<b>Total Funds brought forward</b>		<b>29,166</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>29,397</b>	<b>88,417</b>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>83,091</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>83,091</b>	<b>29,397</b>

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a statement of total recognised gains and losses has not been prepared.


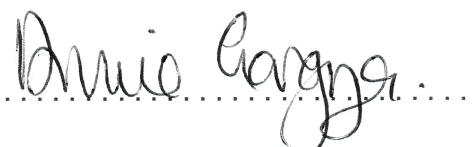
All of the above amounts relate to continuing activities.

The notes on pages 20 to 26 form part of these accounts.

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT MARCH 31, 2024**

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
Tangible Assets	6	<b>2,805</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Debtors	7	24,594	13,623
Cash at Bank		103,947	46,557
Cash in hand		366	49
		<u>128,907</u>	<u>60,229</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Amounts falling due within one year	8	<u>48,623</u>	<u>30,833</u>
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS LESS LIABILITIES</b>		<b><u>83,091</u></b>	<b><u>29,397</u></b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b><u>83,091</u></b>	<b><u>29,397</u></b>
Represented by:			
<b>FUNDS</b>			
Unrestricted		83,091	29,166
Restricted	9	<u>-</u>	<u>231</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>		<b><u>83,091</u></b>	<b><u>29,397</u></b>

Approved by the Management Committee / Board of Trustees on 29th November 2024,  
and signed on their behalf by:

Trustees Chair

The notes on pages 22 to 26 form part of these accounts

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS, MARCH 31, 2024****1. STATUS**

The organisation is an unincorporated registered charity and successor to the unincorporated association of the same name.

**2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

(a) The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, and in accordance with applicable United Kingdom accounting standards, the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued in March 2005 (SORP 2005) and the Charities Act 2011.

(b) Tangible Fixed Assets: Capital expenditure on items £250 or over is depreciated at rates designed to write off the costs over the estimated useful lives of the assets, calculated on the straight line method, less any residual value.

**(c) Incoming Resources**

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Voluntary income is received by way of grants, donations and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant. Such income is deferred when the donor specifies that the grant or donation must only be used in future accounting periods.
- Donated services and facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included in these accounts.
- Investment income is included when receivable.
- Incoming resources from charitable trading activity are accounted for when earned.
- Incoming resources from grants, where related to performance and specific deliverables, are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance.

(d) Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates:

- Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.
- Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include the audit fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity.

(e) Fund accounting

Funds held by the charity are either:

- unrestricted general funds: these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees;
- restricted funds: these are funds which can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity; restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

(f) Stock and work in progress

Stock and work in progress are valued at cost. Cost includes all direct expenditure and overheads based on the normal level of activity.

### 3. TAXATION

The charity is provisionally exempt from tax on income and gains to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects. No tax charges have arisen in the Charity.

## 4. GRANTS

	Total Grants 2024 £	Total Grants 2023 £
Restricted:		
Equip	-	14,000
London Health and Equity Partnership	5,000	-
Henry Smith	54,337	80,500
Ashley Family	7,875	10,500
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Restricted	67,213	105,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Unrestricted:		
Magic Little Grants	-	500
The Fore	20,000	-
The London Community Fund	18,448	-
Awards for All	9,900	-
Wakefield and Tetley	5,950	-
Canary Wharf Group	8,950	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Unrestricted	63,248	500
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total Grants</b>	<b>130,461</b>	<b>105,500</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>

## 5. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Salaries & NI		87,295	24,888	112,183	106,634
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Average number of employees: FTEs 3.6 (2022/23: 0.6)		87,295	24,888	112,183	106,634
Fees		49,806	34,915	84,721	81,456
Projects		3,700	3,474	7,174	5,138
Depreciation	6	935	-	935	-
Rent		13,236	3,200	16,436	15,057
Telecommunications		-	731	731	553
Postage, stationery and photocopying		1,179	-	1,179	86
Insurance		662	-	662	754
Travel and subsistence		1,039	150	1,189	498
Equipment:					
minor purchases		460	86	546	610
maintenance		347	624	347	-
Administrative support		-	-	-	-
Memberships		583	-	583	910
Publicity		665	-	665	288
Bank Charge		2	-	2	-
Receivable Write Off		-	-	-	-
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		<b>159,908</b>	<b>67,444</b>	<b>227,351</b>	<b>212,608</b>
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

## 6. FIXED ASSETS

	Computer equipment £	Production equipment £	Total £
At cost:			
at 1.4.23	-	-	-
additions	-	3,740	3,740
disposals	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
at 31.3.24	-	3,740	3,740
Depreciation:			
at 1.4.23	-	-	-
25% per annum	-	(953)	(953)
disposals	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
at 31.3.24	-	(953)	(953)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net Book Value, 31.3.24	-	2,805	2,805
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net Book Value, 31.3.23	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

## 7. DEBTORS

	2024 £	2023 £
Debtors, trade	23,958	12,987
Grants Receivable	0	0
Pre-payments	-	-
Deposit, rent	636	636
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b>24,594</b>	<b>13,623</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>

## 8. CURRENT LIABILITIES, AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024 £	2023 £
Creditors	-	-
Refundable deposits	165	495
Salary Control	16,583	-
Grants in Advance		
Henry Smith	31,875	22,463
Ashley Family Foundation	-	7,875
	<u>48,623</u>	<u>30,833</u>

## 9. RESTRICTED FUNDS

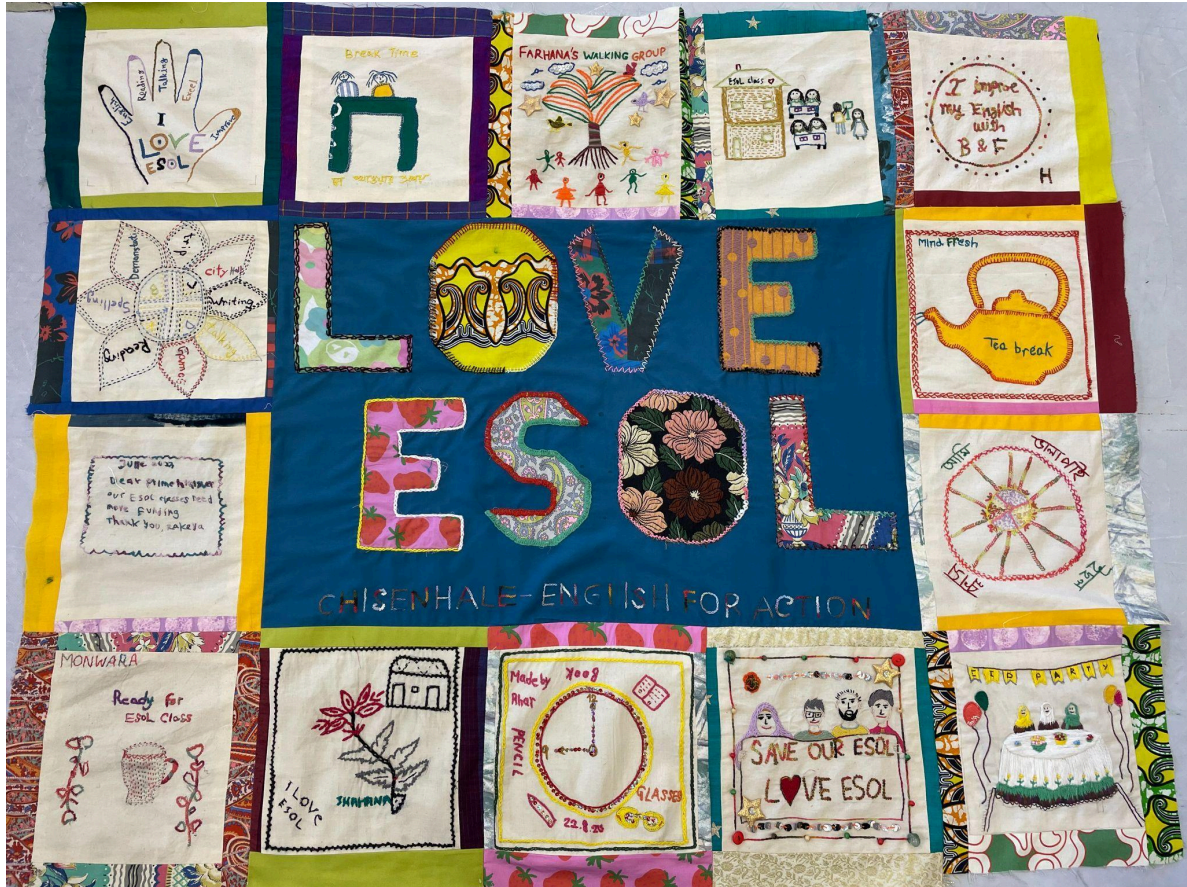
	Balance at April 1, 2023 £	Movement in Resources		Balance at March 31, 2024 £
		Incoming £	Outgoing £	
Ashley Family	150	7,875	(8,025)	-
Henry Smith	(5)	54,337	(54,332)	-
Equip	86	-	(86)	-
LHEP	-	5,000	(5,000)	-
	<u>231</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

Project funds: All of the above provide revenue and/or capital funding for projects.

## 10. TRUSTEE REMUNERATION AND RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

No trustees received any remuneration during the year (2023: £nil). There were no expenses reimbursed to, or paid on behalf of, members of the Management Committee.

No trustees or other persons related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity during the year (2023: £nil).



**STITCHES IN TIME**

England & Wales - Charity number 1172056

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# Accounts

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**STITCHES IN TIME**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**Year ending March 31, 2023**

Charity no. 1172056 - Company no. 10515657

Limehouse Town Hall, 646 Commercial Road, London, E14 7HA  
Tel: 020 7987 6164

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## **STITCHES IN TIME**

### **REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

#### **Trustee list**

Hendrika Santer Bream (Chair)  
Teresa Hare Duke (Vice Chair)  
Annie Gargya (Secretary)  
Lavell Charlemagne (from September 2022 and Treasurer from December 2022)  
Margaret Mitchell  
Katherine Scott  
Syeda Jeba Maleque (from October 2022)  
Moymona Begum (from October 2022)  
Saba Ehdego (Treasurer, resigned as Trustee July 2022)  
Anh Carrick (to December 2022)

#### **Premises**

Limehouse Town Hall  
646 Commercial Road  
London E14 7HA

#### **Charity & Company number**

Charity no. 1172056  
Company no. 10515657

#### **Independent Examiner**

Ian Price  
10 Kent Close  
Westoning  
Bedfordshire  
MK45 5LW

#### **Bankers**

Co-operative Bank  
PO Box 250  
Delf House  
Southway  
Skelmersdale  
WN8 6WT

## STITCHES IN TIME

### Trustees' report

The Trustees present their report and accounts for the year ending 31 March 2023.

### Objectives and activities

The Charity's aims and objectives are

- 1) to advance education particularly but not by way of limitation in all aspects of arts, crafts and applied arts particularly but not by way of limitation that of tapestry and needlework.
- 2) to provide or assist in the provision of facilities for recreation and other leisure time occupation, in particular the provision of facilities for arts and crafts, in the interests of social welfare with the object of improving the conditions of life, and
- 3) Thereby to encourage good race relations for the benefit of the public by drawing together all members of the community irrespective of race, religion, gender or political beliefs in the pursuit of these objects.



## **Our context**

The Charity is based and operates mostly, but not exclusively, in the east London Borough of Tower Hamlets. Lack of employment, isolation and poverty are significant problems for our local population. Local residents are more likely to be out of employment than average: people of Bangladeshi ethnic origin have the lowest level of employment of all the ethnic groups (ONS data 2018).

These issues were dramatically worsened by the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, making marginalised voices and lack of opportunity even more exacerbated. Through 2021 and 2022, we continued to respond rapidly to and adapt to changing needs, to keep our important frontline services going and to ensure local communities had access to pathways of support. We have done this through rigorous data collection, expanded partnerships, and close working with funders to continue to meet objectives and to modify them where needed.

In 2022 to 2023 we continued this much needed work, responding to quickly changing and emergent needs arising from the pandemic, whilst finding ways for our beneficiaries and communities to come together again. We witnessed firsthand a huge increase in mental health issues brought on by a variety of complex pressures and social isolation, plus the beginning of increased pressure through the cost of living crisis.

In many cases we are a 'first port of call' for help, and many people we work with experience barriers to other support services. We have continued to do our work through a mixture of innovative creative activities and complex issue support and referral. As we take on new challenges affecting our communities we have adapted once more, and our response to the new situation and the impact on our organisation are further outlined below.

We have been working to bring people together for almost 30 years, and are one of the longest-standing arts and educational organisations in the borough, demonstrating valuable results through our work year on year.

## **This is why it is so important that we continue to**

- Provide a forum to enable culturally diverse groups to work together
- Run educational programmes to raise levels of achievement.
- Raise levels of confidence and skills-based learning for women, young people and older people.
- Create partnerships between individuals in the voluntary, statutory and private sectors.

*Some key statistics from our participants*

**98%** have a greater support network

**100%** feel they have contributed positively to their local community

**97%** feel less isolated

*Data taken from the Sewing Support Network*

**Our core work consists of:**

- Our 'Sewing Support Network', consisting of 'English for Sewing' classes and personal support. This is attended by Bangladeshi (and other ethnic minority), long-term unemployed women with English as a second language where, through sewing and talking in English they improve their skills, confidence, English and employability
- Creative, free, active and social activities for local children aged 5-16, through a variety of collaborative creative learning projects with artists and teachers
- Providing confidential 1-to-1 advice services in the cultural industries, accredited to the Matrix Standard for Information, Advice, and Guidance.
- Weekly sewing social class for elders at risk of facing isolation, meeting with people from the local community, giving embroidery demonstrations and working with other groups on key arts projects
- Running 9 classes each week in 5 locations across Tower Hamlets
- Our FabricWorks textile social enterprise, providing employment and industry experience to marginalised women
- Community textile and visual art projects ranging from a week to 2 years working with diverse communities to make socially engaged artwork.
- Developing an archive of our textile projects, including our original fifty Millennium Tapestries, our founding project that worked with over 3000 people.



***“I used to feel hopeless and that I would always be dependent on others but I have come so far, it makes me hopeful about what will be next and what can I achieve next.”***

*- Sewing Support Network participant*

### **Post-pandemic response**

We saw many complex and entrenched issues get worse over this time and since the pandemic, and had to keep re-orientating our work to not only deal with things early ‘in house’, but to bridge the widening gap between those hardest to reach and the services that are meant to be in place as a safety net for all.

Our increased expenditure this year was a planned and time-limited response by Trustees to use excess reserves for additional staff time to meet the needs of our communities, who were facing huge increases in mental health and economic hardships.

*Many women reported feeling like they had taken several steps backwards in terms of English learning and confidence. This was able to be eased as we brought face to face classes back and provided opportunities to come together.*

The growth of mental health issues has been amongst our highest concerns, alongside increases in the effects of poverty, and marginalised voices not being heard. Issues that were present with our beneficiaries prior to the pandemic have continued to be exacerbated.

### **Bringing people back together**

We also found ways to bring people back together once it was safe to do so, through creative and social activities, and enterprise opportunities. We also found increased demand for our Matrix-accredited Information, Advice, and Guidance service, both in person in confidential one-to-one interviews, and telephone contact. This has been reflected in increased advocacy casework, which has been supported by increased funding from the Henry Smith Charity.

***“I was miserable before I came here, stuck at home, isolated and felt so alone. I had fears about joining, but coming here has made me realise there are things I can do with myself and my life. I'm now excited to come - it's been life-changing.”***

## *Key funded projects, and our successes*

### **The Henry Smith Charity:**

The Sewing Support Network (SSN), funded by The Henry Smith Charity, is a holistic, peer-led, social network successfully helping some of the most marginalised in Tower Hamlets, addressing high levels of isolation in women.

We work with predominantly long-term unemployed Muslim women from Bangladesh. Our SSN classes are weekly, free and run in various community locations, including;

- English for Sewing Classes
- Sewing Social Classes
- on-demand access to non-advertised, bilingual Matrix-accredited Information, Advice & Guidance

This network provides crucial social contact, personal support, friendship, English learning, skills development, creative opportunities, group discussion, peer-mentoring and volunteering opportunities.

We use the activity of sewing to break down barriers, and encourage verbal participation when learning English - especially for many women who've never been in a classroom before. The syllabus is steered by women, often covering language needed to engage confidently with the local community. Sewing classes offer a welcoming space for isolated women to socialise and build confidence whilst exploring creative ideas and learning industry standard garment manufacturing, taught by three female bilingual former beneficiaries, who are now employees.

*“I have been attending classes at Stitches in Time for 4 years. They’ve supported me with many issues in that time as I have underlying health issues and poor mental health after leaving my husband and becoming a single mum to my two small children. I have been very grateful and have worked hard to establish a new life, with connections to the community and building my confidence back up with the support network and opportunities through the classes and volunteering.”*

## **Trusthouse Charitable Foundation, and Ashley Family Foundation**

FabricWorks, as a social enterprise project of our charity, has proven that it is a valuable cornerstone of our organisation, and we now aim to continue it further. Not only has it provided high-quality training and 1-to-1 support for long-term unemployed women in our area, but access to genuine work opportunities both with ourselves and partner organisations. Support from Trusthouse, and now the Ashley Family Foundation, has meant that we have been able to consistently provide a wide range of activities and support that we know have a direct impact on people's lives, and that also fit really well within our near 30 year history of working with textile arts, education, and community development.

Developing a social enterprise revenue stream that works alongside the training programme support has also given us some stability in what has been a very challenging couple of years. For example, being able to pivot temporarily to the teaching and production of facemasks at the beginning of the pandemic meant that we could teach people to provide an immediate community benefit, as well as earn an income from home for those who had little access to government support during lockdown, by loaning out sewing machines and equipment. Facemask-making enabled us to spark a local community initiative, in partnership with local Tenant and Resident Associations and businesses in Canary Wharf. We then secured further commissions direct from NHS doctors, and other ethical brands and social enterprises to continue this work. We were therefore able to remain agile to the changing nature of needing to work from home, or having the freedom to go out again.

## **Equip project - Paddington Development Trust**

Following on from a successful food social enterprise pilot project funded by London Borough of Tower Hamlets, we were awarded an ESF grant through the Paddington Development Trust to develop our project in a second iteration.

Our first project saw local women of Bangladeshi origin taking on the challenge of opening a pop-up women-run restaurant on Brick Lane, in the heart of London's East End, after a series of workshops and catering experiences. This time, we continued the format through a series of workshops inviting industry professionals to come and teach their skills through facilitation and translation, but built in key skills around social entrepreneurship and use of new technologies such as social media, as well as focusing on a wide variety of catering work placements to strengthen skills and support participants into employment or further education.

### *Income changes and fundraising activities, and financial review*

Through cost-saving measures, successful fundraising and diversification of income during the pandemic, we ended the financial year 21-22 with sizeable reserves in excess of our policy. In response to growing post-pandemic need by our beneficiaries, the Board of Trustees authorised a time-limited expenditure of reserves in excess of our policy in order to meet this need through increased staff expenditure.

As we enter financial year 2022-23, we continue to pare down increased expenditure on service delivery in order to keep a minimum level of reserves. The fundraising climate has altered considerably in the shift from pandemic short-term funding through to a longer term view regarding what communities need, and we are adjusting our strategy accordingly. We are incredibly grateful to receive ongoing support from our funders that recognise the value of our work, as well as those that funded us during the pandemic recognising our direct connection with communities experiencing disproportionate levels of hardship.

We now shift our focus to longer term multi-year funding, in order to increase organisational stability and continue to provide a regularity of service to our communities that we have built relationships with over the last 30 years.

## **Strategic Development**

We continue our successful organisational development strategy that reflects the environment we work in. Underpinning this are our core directives:

- A - Better evidence
- B - More visibility
- C - Strengthen local partnerships
- D - Become more secure as an organisation

We have made good progress with these aims, in a challenging time.

### **A - Better evidence**

Through our Telephone Support Network we have collected a rich source of data regarding the circumstances and needs of our beneficiaries. We use this to help us understand their needs and to continue to adapt our offer, and we are able to use it to evaluate the effectiveness of our interventions.

We continue to hold the Matrix Quality Standard for Information, Advice, and Guidance. This reflects our commitment to gathering and acting on a high standard of evidence and learning in all levels of our organisation.

Through this work, we successfully applied to the Improving Equity Programme, a Tower Hamlets NHS/voluntary sector initiative to improve the infrastructure for social prescribing and

how organisations can access beneficial programmes. We are in receipt of pro bono data analysis support and training for staff in quality improvement methodology.

## **B - More visibility**

Much of the work we do is with individuals in marginalised communities and therefore not naturally very visible. We continue to have good engagement and support from our funders. The “By You Tapestry” has been our most widely participated-in project, engaging thousands of people through social media and in our local area. We received embroideries depicting people’s experience of isolation during the pandemic from as far afield as New Zealand. Displaying the 26-metre piece, once completed, in a public place locally will further increase visibility. We have received funding to support its display.

Our mending service alongside our textile social enterprise FabricWorks, launched in March 2022, and provides an important service to those concerned with sustainability in fashion, as well as funds through our social enterprise for the charity, and employment to local women. It is gaining in visibility and popularity.

Continued participation in Open House has brought dozens of people into the Studio, leading to many interesting conversations and a raised profile for the charity and for FabricWorks.

## **C - Strengthen local partnerships**

Partnership working has always been part of Stitches in Time, from the founding project, the Millennium Tapestry, onwards.

We continue to work in partnership with local organisations including Stepney City Farm and the Locksley Estate Tenants and Residents Association to provide our activities in different local venues in the borough.

Some of our beneficiaries attended sewing courses with Poplar Works and London College of Fashion, funded by Poplar Harca. This is a useful and successful collaboration equipping participants with skills for employment.

Through our social enterprise, FabricWorks, we have again worked with local designers to deliver sustainable and ethical fabric production, through whom we also gain visibility and opportunities through associated marketing.

Limehouse Town Hall, the building and organisation under which we reside has been going through a period of recent transformation, in part to reinvigorate its identity and find new purpose for its place as a civic resource and space for local residents and our communities of creatives and activists, and in part to secure its finances. We have worked closely as a member of the consortium towards securing the future of the building and to explore ideas for projects in partnership. In the year up to March 2023, we offered practical support in increasing the income of the building through supporting projects to increase the building’s rental income from additional hall bookings.

## **D - Become more secure as an organisation**

We continuously adapt our offer, based on the rapidly changing needs of the beneficiaries and the funding and resources available. All of our projects continue to be community-led, with continuous consultation that ensures projects are relevant, needed, and evidence-based.

We continue to explore new revenue streams to bring in employment for local people in our community as well as diversify our sources of income. The setting up of the mending service is an example of an experiment designed to test out new sources of income and employment and has proved its value. Our partnerships continue to provide opportunities for fee-based work, often leveraging our organisational knowledge and specialism in creative community engagement.

Having recruited new trustees in 2020/21, we embarked on a process to add extra skills and experience and to diversify our board further, during 2021/22 and recruited three new trustees during 2022/23. This brought in additional diversity and skills to our board of Trustees.

In April 2022 we reviewed our financial situation and moved some of our staff from freelance to PAYE and raised salaries to charity sector averages. This was in order to promote staff retention and thus increase the organisation's security alongside that of the staff.

## **Structure, governance and management**

The Charitable Trust is constituted by Trust Deed. All necessary procedures have been completed for us to become a company limited by guarantee in addition to our existing registered charity status from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018. The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee as defined by the Companies Act 2006 and registered as a charity with the Charity Commission. The Company was established under a Memorandum and Articles of Association which established the objects and powers of the Charitable Company and is governed by its Articles of Association. It was established on 7 December 2016 and the company remained dormant until the new financial year on 1 April 2018.

The Charity aims to have a diverse Board of Trustees and consults and co-produces with service users constantly, using varied methods, to inform our work. Central to Stitches in Time's ethos is that participants play an essential role in the running and leading of the organisation e.g. running social events and group activities, and introducing new participants.

**Risk Statement:** The Trustees have recognised their duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed, and to ensure that appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. The Charity ensures its financial procedures, health and safety policy and safeguarding procedures are reviewed periodically to reflect changing legislation and to refresh knowledge and practice.

## Exemptions from disclosure

Stitches in Time does not claim any exemptions from disclosing the names of Trustees, the charity's address, or other information normally included in a Trustees' annual report.

## Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others

No funds were held as a custodian trustee on behalf of others during the year.

## Acknowledgement and thanks

In our 30th year as an organisation, it is heartening to reflect on the community and all the individuals who have been supported and enabled to thrive and develop over the decades thanks to Stitches in Time.

The Trustees wish to acknowledge and thank the staff for their hard work and dedication throughout the year, in often very challenging circumstances. Their vision, energy and innovation create the environment in which each and every person involved is able to develop personally and to contribute to and engage in the future development of Stitches in Time.

We also acknowledge the important and essential contribution of all our volunteers whose goodwill and support is invaluable to us. We very much appreciate the pro-bono support we have been given in a variety of specialist areas.

We are extremely grateful to the funders and donors that have recognised the value of our work and continue to support us.

## Approval

This report was approved by the Trustees on 14th December 2023, and signed on their behalf.

.....  
Trustees



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

## Independent examiner's report on the accounts

### Section A

### Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name  
STITCHES IN TIME

On accounts for the year  
ended

31 MARCH 2023

Charity no  
(if any)

Set out on pages

(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 31/03/2023

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

~~[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [ ] if not applicable.~~

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention 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:

10/12/2023

Name:

JON HENRY PRICE

Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body

A.C.M.A.

(if any):

Address:

**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.

## STITCHES IN TIME

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 31, 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
<b>Incoming Resources</b>					
Generated funds:					
Voluntary income: Grants	4	500	105,000	105,500	103,887
Donations		3,034	-	3,034	4,726
Bank interest, gross		-	-	-	-
Charitable activities:					
Service Level Agreements		-	-	-	-
Fees and sales		45,066	-	45,066	56,896
Surplus on sale of assets		-	-	-	-
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>		<b>48,601</b>	<b>105,000</b>	<b>153,601</b>	<b>165,509</b>
<b>Resources Expended</b>					
Charitable activities	5	99,970	112,637	212,608	193,612
Governance		13	-	13	13
<b>Total Resources Expended</b>		<b>99,983</b>	<b>112,637</b>	<b>212,621</b>	<b>193,625</b>
<b>Net Incoming/(Outgoing)</b>					
<b>Resources for the year</b>		<b>(51,383)</b>	<b>(7,637)</b>	<b>(59,020)</b>	<b>(28,116)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of Funds:</b>					
<b>Total Funds brought forward</b>		<b>80,549</b>	<b>7,868</b>	<b>88,417</b>	<b>116,533</b>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>29,166</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>29,397</b>	<b>88,417</b>

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a statement of total recognised gains and losses has not been prepared.

All of the above amounts relate to continuing activities.

The notes on pages 18 to 22 form part of these accounts.

**STITCHES IN TIME****BALANCE SHEET AS AT MARCH 31, 2023**

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
Tangible Assets	6	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Debtors	7	13,623	7,933
Cash at Bank		46,557	136,031
Cash in hand		49	450
		<u>60,229</u>	<u>144,414</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Amounts falling due within one year	8	<u>30,833</u>	<u>55,997</u>
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS LESS LIABILITIES</b>		<u><b>29,397</b></u>	<u><b>88,416</b></u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u><b>29,397</b></u>	<u><b>88,416</b></u>
Represented by:			
<b>FUNDS</b>			
Unrestricted		29,166	80,549
Restricted	9	<u>231</u>	<u>7,868</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>		<u><b>29,397</b></u>	<u><b>88,416</b></u>

Approved by the Management Committee / Board of Trustees on 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2023,  
and signed on their behalf by:

.....  
Trustees

The notes on pages 18 to 22 form part of these accounts

## STITCHES IN TIME

### NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS, MARCH 31, 2023

#### 1. STATUS

The organisation is an unincorporated registered charity and successor to the unincorporated association of the same name.

#### 2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, and in accordance with applicable United Kingdom accounting standards, the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued in March 2005 (SORP 2005) and the Charities Act 2011.

(b) Tangible Fixed Assets: Capital expenditure on items £500 or over is depreciated at rates designed to write off the costs over the estimated useful lives of the assets, calculated on the straight line method, less any residual value.

#### (c) Incoming Resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Voluntary income is received by way of grants, donations and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant. Such income is deferred when the donor specifies that the grant or donation must only be used in future accounting periods.
- Donated services and facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included in these accounts.
- Investment income is included when receivable.
- Incoming resources from charitable trading activity are accounted for when earned.
- Incoming resources from grants, where related to performance and specific deliverables, are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance.

#### (d) Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates:

- Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.
- Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include the audit fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity.

#### (e) Fund accounting

Funds held by the charity are either:

- unrestricted general funds: these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees;
- restricted funds: these are funds which can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity; restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

#### (f) Stock and work in progress

Stock and work in progress are valued at cost. Cost includes all direct expenditure and overheads based on the normal level of activity.

### 3. TAXATION

The charity is provisionally exempt from tax on income and gains to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects. No tax charges have arisen in the Charity.

## 4. GRANTS

	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
EQUIP - Paddington Development Trust (ESF)	14,000	4,000
Henry Smith Charity	80,500	59,900
London Funders	-	34,620
Ashley Family Foundation	10,500	2,625
Local Giving	500	-
Jobs Retention Scheme	-	2,742
	<b>105,500</b>	<b>103,887</b>

## 5. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Salaries		19,810	86,824	106,634	60,923
Average number of employees: FTEs 4.1		19,810	86,824	106,634	60,923
Freelance Fees		59,601	21,855	81,456	111,338
Projects		3,316	1,822	5,138	6,418
Depreciation	6	-	-	-	-
Rent		13,926	1,132	15,057	9,969
Telecommunications		553	-	553	602
Postage, stationery and photocopying		86	-	86	33
Insurance		754	-	754	1,484
Travel and subsistence		52	445	498	372
Equipment:					
minor purchases		70	540	610	-
maintenance		624	-	624	164
Administrative support		-	-	-	260
Memberships		891	19	910	701
Publicity		288	-	288	412
Receivable Write Off		-	-	-	936
		<b>99,970</b>	<b>112,637</b>	<b>212,608</b>	<b>193,612</b>

## 6. FIXED ASSETS

	Computer equipment £	Production equipment £	Total £
At cost:			
at 1.4.22	-	-	-
additions	-	-	-
disposals	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
at 31.3.23	-	-	-
Depreciation:			
at 1.4.22	-	-	-
25% per annum	-	-	-
disposals	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
at 31.3.23	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net Book Value, 31.3.23	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net Book Value, 31.3.22	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

## 7. DEBTORS

	2023 £	2022 £
Debtors, trade	12,987	5,346
Grants Receivable	-	1,951
Pre-payments	-	-
Deposit, rent	636	636
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b>13,623</b>	<b>7,933</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Increases in trade debtors reflects the growth of our social enterprise project FabricWorks and increased customer invoicing, as part of our charitable activities to support long-term unemployed women into employment.

## 8. CURRENT LIABILITIES, AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023 £	2022 £
Creditors	-	14,665
Refundable deposits	495	495
Grants in Advance		
Henry Smith Charity	22,463	40,838
Ashley Family Foundation	7,875	-
	<u>30,833</u>	<u>55,997</u>

## 9. RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balance at April 1, 2022 £	Movement in Resources		Balance at March 31, 2023 £
		Incoming £	Outgoing £	
Ashley Family Foundation	705	10,500	(11,055)	150
Henry Smith Charity	7,273	80,500	(87,778)	(5)
EQUIP - Paddington Development Trust (ESF)	(110)	14,000	(13,804)	86
	<u>7,868</u>	<u>105,000</u>	<u>(112,637)</u>	<u>231</u>

Project funds: All of the above provide revenue and/or capital funding for projects.

## 10. TRUSTEE REMUNERATION AND RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

No trustees received any remuneration during the year (2023: £nil). There were no expenses reimbursed to, or paid on behalf of, members of the Management Committee.

No trustees or other persons related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity during the year (2023: £nil).

**STITCHES IN TIME**

England & Wales - Charity number 1172056

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# Accounts

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**STITCHES IN TIME**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**Year ending March 31, 2022**

Charity no. 1172056 - Company no. 10515657

Limehouse Town Hall, 646 Commercial Road, London, E14 7HA  
Tel: 0207 987 6164

**STITCHES IN TIME****CONTENTS**

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## **STITCHES IN TIME**

### **REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

#### **Trustee list**

Hendrika Santer Bream (Chair)  
Judith Gardiner (Vice Chair) (to 7 March 2021)  
Annie Gargya (Secretary)  
Saba Ehdego (Treasurer)  
Margaret Mitchell  
Teresa Hare Duke  
Anh Carrick  
Katherine Scott

#### **Premises**

Limehouse Town Hall  
646 Commercial Road  
London E14 7HA

#### **Charity & Company number**

Charity no. 1172056  
Company no. 10515657

#### **Independent Examiner**

Ian Price  
10 Kent Close  
Westoning  
Bedfordshire  
MK45 5LW

#### **Bankers**

Co-operative Bank  
PO Box 250  
Delf House  
Southway  
Skelmersdale  
WN8 6WT

## **STITCHES IN TIME**

### **Trustees' report**

The Trustees present their report and accounts for the year ending 31 March 2022.

### **Objectives and activities**

The Charity's aims and objectives are

- 1) to advance education particularly but not by way of limitation in all aspects of arts, crafts and applied arts particularly but not by way of limitation that of tapestry and needlework.
- 2) to provide or assist in the provision of facilities for recreation and other leisure time occupation, in particular the provision of facilities for arts and crafts, in the interests of social welfare with the object of improving the conditions of life, and
- 3) Thereby to encourage good race relations for the benefit of the public by drawing together all members of the community irrespective of race, religion, gender or political beliefs in the pursuit of these objects.

### **Our context**

The Charity is based and operates mostly, but not exclusively, in the east London Borough of Tower Hamlets. Lack of employment, isolation and poverty are significant problems for our local population. Local residents are more likely to be out of employment than average: people of Bangladeshi ethnic origin have the lowest level of employment of all the ethnic groups (ONS data 2018).

These issues were dramatically exacerbated by the impact of the coronavirus pandemic. Through 2020 and 2021, we responded rapidly to respond and adapt to changing needs, and to keep our important frontline services going and ensure local communities had access to pathways of support. We have done this through rigorous data collection, expanded partnerships, and close working with funders to ensure that objectives have continued to be met and adapted where needed.

In 2021 to 2022 we continued this much needed work, responding to quickly changing and emergent need arising from the pandemic, whilst finding ways for our beneficiaries and communities to come together again.

In many cases we are a 'first port of call' for help, and many people we work with experience barriers to other support services. We have continued to do our work through a mixture of innovative creative activities and complex issue support and referral. As we have begun to come out of the pandemic, we have adapted once more, and our response to the new situation and the impact on our organisation are further outlined below.

We have been working to bring people together for almost 30 years, and are one of the longest-standing arts and educational organisations in the borough, demonstrating valuable results through our work year on year.

**This is why it is so important that we continue to**

- Provide a forum to enable culturally diverse groups to work together
- Run educational programmes to raise levels of achievement.
- Raise levels of confidence and skills-based learning for women, young people and older people.
- Create partnerships between individuals in the voluntary, statutory and private sectors.

*Some key statistics from our participants*

**98%** have a greater support network

**85%** feel they have contributed positively to their local community

**97%** feel less isolated

*Data taken from the Sewing Support Network*

Our core work consists of:

- Our 'Sewing Support Network', consisting of 'English for Sewing' classes and personal support. This is attended by Bangladeshi (and other ethnic minority), long-term unemployed women with English as a second language where, through sewing and talking in English they improve their skills, confidence, English and employability
- Creative, free, active and social activities for local children aged 5-16, through a variety of collaborative creative learning projects with artists and teachers
- Providing confidential 1-to-1 advice services in the cultural industries, accredited to the Matrix Standard for Information, Advice, and Guidance.
- Weekly sewing social class for elders at risk of facing isolation, meeting with people from the local community, giving embroidery demonstrations and working with other groups on key arts projects (This year on our By You Tapestry)
- Running 9 classes each week in 5 locations across Tower Hamlets
- Our FabricWorks textile social enterprise, providing employment and industry experience to marginalised women
- Community textile and visual art projects ranging from a week to 2 years working with diverse communities to make socially engaged artwork.
- Developing an archive of our textile projects, including our original fifty Millennium Tapestries, our founding project that worked with over 3000 people.

*“The sewing courses have felt like a lifeline to me over the past few years, I’m lost for words to describe how much it’s meant to me. I suffer with depression and struggle with the isolation that comes with my role in my culture. The classes have been such a welcome break from cooking and cleaning and staying at home. I feel I am able to come and learn and do something for myself and I feel so empowered. I wish I had longer on the courses to do even more. I’ve learnt so much. When I started sewing, nothing really made sense and I couldn’t understand the techniques required or the order I needed to make things in, I felt really overwhelmed. Now I have gained a lot more confidence and I’m able to work independently to sew garments and understand the different techniques.” -Z*

### **Coronavirus: Ongoing response and impact**

Looking back to the previous financial year, in March 2020, we saw that the pandemic was posing increasing risk and worry to our beneficiaries, many of whom fall into more vulnerable categories - including women from minority communities, elders facing social isolation, and children living in poverty. Even before the first lockdown, we took the decision to pause face-to-face work and begin orientating to remote support. Our first priority was the safety of our staff, our beneficiaries, and community.

We compiled emergency contact lists for participants in our projects, beginning a process of support and continuous consultation. This formed the basis of our ‘Telephone Support Network’ which continued throughout the rest of 2021 and into 2022, as we began to find ways to bring people back together and rebuild social connections.

Through our Telephone Support Network, we provided:

- Up-to-date translated government advice to beneficiaries and their families
- Vital contact for those experiencing social isolation
- Information, advice, and guidance sessions for confidential issues
- Space to talk for those who experienced loss in the family
- Support with access to emergency food supplies, and government assistance for those able to apply
- Referral and signposting for specialist services
- Creative activity packs, and English learning resources, to undertake activities at home

We saw many complex and entrenched issues get worse over this time, and had to keep re-orientating our work to not only deal with things early 'in house', but to bridge the widening gap between those hardest to reach and services meant to be in place as a safety net for all.

*Many women reported feeling like they had taken several steps backwards in terms of English learning and confidence. This was able to be eased as we brought face to face classes back and provided opportunities to come together.*

The growth of mental health issues has been amongst our highest concerns, alongside increases in the effects of poverty, and marginalised voices not being heard. Issues that were present with our beneficiaries prior to the pandemic have continued to be exacerbated.

### **Bringing people back together**

We worked with all of our funders to provide a high level of targeted care to participants, through our remote contact. We also found ways to bring people back together when it was safe to do so, through creative and social activities, and enterprise opportunities. We also found increased demand for our Matrix-accredited Information, Advice, and Guidance service, both in person in confidential one-to-one interviews, and telephone contact.

Some of our activities that engaged beneficiaries across multiple projects included:

- Creative projects and social practice art exhibitions:
  - COP 26 canaries - a community public exhibit of sewn canaries
  - Mercers Map - bringing our over 50s Stitch Club together to exhibit our landmark work supported by the Worshipful Company of Mercers
  - Makers meets - A new social free drop-in at Limehouse Town Hall
  - By You Tapestry - continued work on our 28 metre-long Arts Council funded artwork incorporating sewn experiences of lockdowns and the things held dear during social isolation
- Social activities to build community
  - Town hall community days - opening up Limehouse Town Hall for community initiatives and open days, workshops and celebrations
  - community lunches - bringing members of our network together to share food and celebrate projects
  - IWD celebration - project participant-led activities and celebration of International Women's Day
- Enterprise opportunities and local economy
  - Food coop - setting up fresh produce food coop shop for local residents in Limehouse Town Hall
  - Swap parties - supporting local economy and low waste initiatives encouraging reuse of garments through swap parties
  - Fabricworks mending and alteration services - we launched a new social enterprise initiative to repair and later clothes and fabric items

We consulted with staff, our class attendees and board regularly, before reopening our classes in regards to COVID, to ensure we were aware of individuals' concerns and mitigated any risk where possible.

We felt comfortable opening up to small classes in Spring 2021 following our staff being vaccinated and by reducing the numbers we were teaching at one time, this also allowed us to use additional spaces in our studio to keep 'bubbles' of classes and production separate. We also sometimes reduced the class time to create two smaller bubbles in our community spaces.

*"Stitches in Time was able to support me and offer me comfort throughout all of this. I was able to sit down and unburden myself of my worries and know that I had someone to reach out to for help. They investigated what was the best thing to help me and suggested contacting my local MP, they then did this with me, translating and emailing my issues to her. I got a quick response and was moved to accommodation nearer to where I live. Not all my issues have been resolved but I feel more hopeful that I can get things sorted and have help through Stitches." - F*

*How we worked with funders, and our successes*

#### **London Community Response Fund:**

A core grant from London Community Response Funders greatly strengthened our organisation and our work as we began to find our way out of lockdowns. It allowed our management team more time to work strategically, strengthen existing local partnerships, and build back our work in response to rapidly changing need. This subsequently meant that we were able to ensure a continuous frontline presence for beneficiaries and their families, and enabling us to direct people to specialist help where needed.

#### **The Henry Smith Charity:**

We have continued to adapt our Sewing Support Network services for local women to be COVID safe, whilst providing important social contact when appropriate. This is part of a three year funding commitment from Henry Smith. We consulted with staff, our class attendees and board regularly to ensure we were aware of individuals' concerns and mitigated any risk where

possible. We closed early for our winter break due to the Omicron wave, switching back to our Telephone Support Network and group call classes.

We were able to experiment with different forms of contact through our classes to find the methods of support for different individuals, and different situations of health risk. This was a great opportunity for development both for our organisational toolkit, and for our beneficiaries who sometimes had to make technological leaps with us.

All of our classes and confidential support objectives were still able to be completed, and Henry Smith supported our approach in innovating flexible methods of delivery.

### **Trusthouse Charitable Foundation, and Ashley Family Foundation**

FabricWorks, as a social enterprise project of our charity, has proven that it is a valuable cornerstone of our organisation, and we now aim to continue it further. Not only has it provided high-quality training and 1-to-1 support for long-term unemployed women in our area, but access to genuine work opportunities both with ourselves and partner organisations. Support from Trusthouse, and now the Ashley Family Foundation, has meant that we have been able to consistently provide a wide range of activities and support that we know have a direct impact on people's lives, and that also fit really well within our near 30 year history of working with textile arts, education, and community development.

Developing a social enterprise revenue stream that works alongside the training programme support has also given us some stability in what has been a very challenging couple of years. For example, being able to pivot temporarily to the teaching and production of facemasks at the beginning of the pandemic meant that we could teach people to provide an immediate community benefit, as well as earn an income from home for those who had little access to government support during lockdown, by loaning out sewing machines and equipment. Facemask-making enabled us to spark a local community initiative, in partnership with local Tenant and Resident Associations and businesses in Canary Wharf. We then secured further commissions direct from NHS doctors, and other ethical brands and social enterprises to continue this work. We were therefore able to remain agile to the changing nature of needing to work from home, or having the freedom to go out again.

### **London Borough of Tower Hamlets**

To celebrate the 85th Anniversary of the Battle of Cable St, London Borough of Tower Hamlets commissioned us to work with a group of local young people to produce a public artwork in response to a famous historical mural on Cable St.

Through a series of Summer creative learning workshops and trips, we delved into the history and ideas surrounding the infamous march by members of the British Union of Fascists, led by Oswald Mosley, and the clash with counter-demonstrators from the trade union, communist, Jewish, anarchist, and socialist communities.

Our young people took the lead on exploring what ideas of racism mean to them today, and what values of respect and tolerance we should hold to. Their completed artworks took shape as an assemblage of protest banners, spray painted boards, and trade-union style banners.

### **Paddington Development Trust (ESF)**

We were very grateful to be successful for this round of European Structural Funding to support our Food & Enterprise project, which started in March 2022.

Our plan going into the next year was to build on the success of our previous food enterprise pilot, supported by London Borough of Tower Hamlets Tackling Poverty Fund, where we ran the first women-run curry house on Brick Lane.

Into the next year we will be delivering a range of workshops teaching specialist skills about the food industry to a group of local women, and facilitating a catering collective as well as supporting people into further education and employment.

### *Income changes and fundraising activities, and financial review*

Although the previous pandemic year '20-21 saw us lose a lot of expected income, we were able to adapt successfully to raise different forms of income such as our facemask-making initiative. We were also fortunate to have such strong community support through continued donations and partnership opportunities.

In '21-22 this continued, and we have been incredibly grateful to receive ongoing support from our individual and corporate donors, as well as the super commitment of Celeste Gardner in running the London Marathon for us in October '21.

We are also grateful to have received the ongoing support and recognition of a range of funders during a very turbulent economic time, and the breathing room in which to make the organisational changes that we have thought important to ensure our continued viability as an organisation providing continuous support for our beneficiaries.

### *Covid steps forward - what we have gained and where we can best respond*

Our systems developed from being able to adapt successfully and quickly to provide the remote and rapidly-changing support that beneficiaries needed over the pandemic have proven successful once again during this time. We were also able to take learnings from our adapted

working with class sizes and work flows to adapt opportunities within our services and we're incredibly proud of our staff who found ways to work and provide these opportunities alongside the continued impact of the pandemic.

We're really proud of the ways our staff members and beneficiaries have been able to adapt the way they work and attend our classes through remote working and learning tools. With many reporting they never thought they'd be able to do video calls and work with technology in these new ways.

Our staff members have also reported that they felt like they now have a closer bond with our beneficiaries because of the large scale of 1:1 support over the first year of the pandemic. This has meant that people are opening up more about their issues and strengthened our status as a trusted avenue of support, advice and information for them. We have also seen concrete examples of the ripple effect of our work with direct beneficiaries with them requesting to take home printouts of the information we provided about booster vaccines to share with family and friends who were reluctant and bringing along friends and family members to meet with our staff members for advice even if they don't attend our classes.

## **Strategic Development**

We continue our successful organisational development strategy that reflects the environment we work in. Underpinning this are our core directives:

- A - Better evidence
- B - More visibility
- C - Strengthen local partnerships
- D - Become more secure as an organisation

We have made good progress with these aims, in a challenging time.

### **A - Better evidence**

Through our Telephone Support Network we have collected a rich source of data regarding the circumstances and needs of our beneficiaries. We use this to help us understand their needs and to continue to adapt our offer, and we are able to use it to evaluate the effectiveness of our interventions.

We intend to develop this data source to highlight some of the inequality that coronavirus has exacerbated throughout the pandemic on our beneficiaries, whom we know have suffered and continue to. From this we will work on our Theory of Change model, and continue to look for ways we can represent marginalised voices in Local Authority and Central Government consultation.

We continue to hold the Matrix Quality Standard for Information, Advice, and Guidance. This reflects our commitment to gathering and acting on a high standard of evidence and learning in all levels of our organisation.

### **B - More visibility**

Much of the work we do is with individuals in marginalised communities and therefore not naturally very visible. We continue to have good engagement and support from our funders.

The “By You Tapestry” has been our most widely participated-in project, engaging thousands of people through social media and in our local area. We received embroideries depicting people’s experience of isolation from as far afield as New Zealand. Displaying the 28 metre piece, once completed, in a public place locally will further increase visibility.

Our mending service, launched in March, provides an important service to those concerned with sustainability in fashion, as well as funds through our social enterprise for the charity, and employment to local women. It is gaining in visibility and popularity.

### **C - Strengthen local partnerships**

Partnership working has always been part of Stitches in Time, from the founding project, the Millennium Tapestry, onwards.

We continue to work in partnership with local organisations including Stepney City Farm and the Locksley Estate Tenants and Residents Association to provide our activities in different local venues in the borough.

Through our social enterprise, FabricWorks, we have again worked with local designers to deliver sustainable and ethical fabric production, through whom we also gain visibility and opportunities through associated marketing.

Limehouse Town Hall, the building and organisation under which we reside has been going through a period of recent transformation, in part to reinvigorate its identity and find new purpose for its place as a civic resource and space for local residents and our communities of creatives and activists. We have worked closely as part of the consortium towards securing the future of the building and to explore ideas for projects in partnership.

### **D - Become more secure as an organisation**

We continuously adapt our offer, based on the rapidly changing needs of the beneficiaries and the funding and resources available. All of our projects continue to be community-led, with continuous consultation that ensures projects are relevant, needed, and evidence-based.

We continue to explore new revenue streams to bring in employment for local people in our community as well as diversify our sources of income. The setting up of the mending service is an example of an experiment designed to test out new sources of income and employment and has proved its value. Our partnerships continue to provide opportunities for fee-based work, often leveraging our organisational knowledge and specialism in creative community engagement.

Having recruited new trustees in 2020/21, we embarked on a process to add extra skills and experience and to diversify our board further, during 2021/22 and expect to have some new trustees in place during 2022/23.

## **Structure, governance and management**

The Charitable Trust is constituted by Trust Deed. All necessary procedures have been completed for us to become a company limited by guarantee in addition to our existing registered charity status from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018. The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee as defined by the Companies Act 2006 and registered as a charity with the Charity Commission. The Company was established under a Memorandum and Articles of Association which established the objects and powers of the Charitable Company and is governed by its Articles of Association. It was established on 7 December 2016 and the company remained dormant until the new financial year on 1 April 2018.

The Charity aims to have a diverse Board of Trustees and consults and co-produces with service users constantly, using varied methods, to inform our work. Central to Stitches in Time's ethos is that participants play an essential role in the running and leading of the organisation e.g. running social events and group activities, and introducing new participants.

**Risk Statement:** The Trustees have recognised their duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed, and to ensure that appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. The Charity ensures its financial procedures, health and safety policy and safeguarding procedures are reviewed periodically to reflect changing legislation and to refresh knowledge and practice.

## Exemptions from disclosure

Stitches in Time does not claim any exemptions from disclosing the names of Trustees, the charity's address, or other information normally included in a Trustees' annual report.

## Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others

No funds were held as a custodian trustee on behalf of others during the year.

## Acknowledgement and thanks

As we approach our 30th birthday as a charity, it is heartening to reflect on the community and all the individuals who have been supported and enabled to thrive and develop over the decades thanks to Stitches in Time.


The Trustees wish to acknowledge and thank the staff for their hard work and dedication throughout the year, in continued challenging circumstances and ongoing uncertainty. Their vision, energy and innovation create the environment in which each and every person involved is able to develop personally and to contribute to and engage in the future development of Stitches in Time.

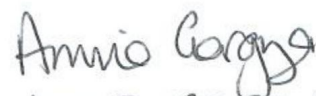
We also acknowledge the important and essential contribution of all our volunteers whose goodwill and support is invaluable to us. We have received valuable pro-bono support in a variety of specialist areas, saving a substantial amount of expenditure.

We are extremely grateful to the funders and donors that have recognised the value of our work and continue to support us.

## Approval

This report was approved by the Trustees on 8th December 2022, and signed on their behalf.

  
HENDRIKA JANTZER BREAM  
CHAIR OF TRUSTEES

  
ANNIE CARCYA  
SECRETARY



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

## Independent examiner's report on the accounts

### Section A

### Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/  
members of

Charity Name  
SITCHES IN TIME

On accounts for the year  
ended

31 ST MARCH 2022

Charity no  
(if any)

1172056

Set out on pages

(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 31/03/2022.

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

~~[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [] if not applicable.~~

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention 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:

29/11/2022

Name:

IAN HEARY PRICE

Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body

ACMA

(if any):

Address:

**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.

NOT APPLICABLE.

## STITCHES IN TIME

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 31, 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
<b>Incoming Resources</b>					
Generated funds:					
Voluntary income: Grants	4	2,742	101,145	103,887	181,793
Donations		4,726	-	4,726	10,799
Bank interest, gross		-	-	-	-
Charitable activities:					
Service Level Agreements		-	-	-	-
Fees and sales		56,896	-	56,896	31,295
Surplus on sale of assets		-	-	-	-
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>		<b>64,364</b>	<b>101,145</b>	<b>165,509</b>	<b>223,887</b>
<b>Resources Expended</b>					
Charitable activities	5	54,592	139,020	193,612	171,431
Governance		13	-	13	13
<b>Total Resources Expended</b>		<b>54,605</b>	<b>139,020</b>	<b>193,625</b>	<b>171,444</b>
<b>Net Incoming/(Outgoing)</b>					
<b>Resources for the year</b>		<b>9,759</b>	<b>(37,875)</b>	<b>(28,116)</b>	<b>52,443</b>
<b>Reconciliation of Funds:</b>					
<b>Total Funds brought forward</b>		<b>70,791</b>	<b>45,743</b>	<b>116,533</b>	<b>64,090</b>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>80,549</b>	<b>7,868</b>	<b>88,417</b>	<b>116,533</b>

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a statement of total recognised gains and losses has not been prepared.

All of the above amounts relate to continuing activities.


The notes on pages 19 to 23 form part of these accounts.

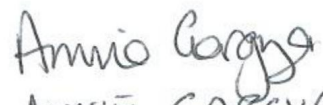
## STITCHES IN TIME

### BALANCE SHEET AS AT MARCH 31, 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
Tangible Assets	6	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Debtors	7	7,933	8,180
Cash at Bank		136,031	155,689
Cash in hand		450	569
		<u>144,414</u>	<u>164,438</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Amounts falling due within one year	8	<u>55,997</u>	<u>47,906</u>
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS LESS LIABILITIES</b>		<b><u>88,416</u></b>	<b><u>116,534</u></b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b><u>88,416</u></b>	<b><u>116,534</u></b>
Represented by:			
<b>FUNDS</b>			
Unrestricted		80,549	70,791
Restricted	9	<u>7,868</u>	<u>45,743</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>		<b><u>88,416</u></b>	<b><u>116,534</u></b>

Approved by the Management Committee / Board of Trustees on 8th December 2022,  
and signed on their behalf by:

  
HENDRIKA JANTZER BREAM  
CHAIR OF TRUSTEES

  
ANNIE GARCIA  
SECRETARY

The notes on pages 19 to 23 form part of these accounts

## STITCHES IN TIME

### NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS, MARCH 31, 2021

#### 1. STATUS

The organisation is an unincorporated registered charity and successor to the unincorporated association of the same name.

#### 2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, and in accordance with applicable United Kingdom accounting standards, the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued in March 2005 (SORP 2005) and the Charities Act 2011.

(b) Tangible Fixed Assets: Capital expenditure on items £250 or over is depreciated at rates designed to write off the costs over the estimated useful lives of the assets, calculated on the straight line method, less any residual value.

#### (c) Incoming Resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Voluntary income is received by way of grants, donations and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant. Such income is deferred when the donor specifies that the grant or donation must only be used in future accounting periods.
- Donated services and facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included in these accounts.
- Investment income is included when receivable.
- Incoming resources from charitable trading activity are accounted for when earned.
- Incoming resources from grants, where related to performance and specific deliverables, are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance.

#### (d) Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates:

- Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

- Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include the audit fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity.

(e) Fund accounting

Funds held by the charity are either:

- unrestricted general funds: these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees;
- restricted funds: these are funds which can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity; restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

(f) Stock and work in progress

Stock and work in progress are valued at cost. Cost includes all direct expenditure and overheads based on the normal level of activity.

### 3. TAXATION

The charity is provisionally exempt from tax on income and gains to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects. No tax charges have arisen in the Charity.

## 4. GRANTS

	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
Arts Council	-	19,510
Ashley Family Foundation	2,625	-
BBC Children in Need	-	29,397
The Community Fund - Reaching Communities	-	47,060
Garfield Weston Foundation	-	20,000
The Henry Smith Charity	59,900	37,438
Jobs Retention Scheme	2,742	6,389
London Community Response	34,620	-
Paddington Development Trust (ESF)	4,000	2,000
Trusthouse Charitable Foundation	-	20,000
	<b>103,887</b>	<b>181,794</b>

## 5. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
Salaries (Average number of employees: FTEs 2)		2,949	57,974	60,923	66,397
Fees		37,666	73,672	111,338	81,310
Projects		6,196	223	6,418	7,336
Depreciation	6	-	-	-	-
Crèche		-	-	-	-
Rent		3,062	6,908	9,969	8,881
Telecommunications		602	-	602	1,019
Postage, stationery and photocopying		33	-	33	258
Insurance		1,484	-	1,484	-
Bank charges		-	-	-	5
Travel and subsistence		263	109	372	-
Equipment:					
minor purchases		-	-	-	822
maintenance		84	80	164	125
Administrative support		260	-	260	365
Memberships		646	55	701	2,068
Publicity		412	-	412	458
Studio maintenance		-	-	-	1,469
Receivable Write Off		936	-	936	-
		<b>54,592</b>	<b>139,020</b>	<b>193,612</b>	<b>171,431</b>

## 6. FIXED ASSETS

	Computer equipment £	Production equipment £	Total £
At cost:			
at 1.4.21	-	-	-
additions	-	-	-
disposals	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
at 31.3.22	-	-	-
Depreciation:			
at 1.4.21	-	-	-
25% per annum	-	-	-
disposals	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
at 31.3.22	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net Book Value, 31.3.22	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net Book Value, 31.3.21	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

## 7. DEBTORS

	2022 £	2021 £
Debtors, trade	7,297	7,026
Pre-payments	-	519
Deposit, rent	636	636
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b>7,933</b>	<b>8,180</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>

## 8. CURRENT LIABILITIES, AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2022 £	2021 £
Creditors	14,665	19,335
Refundable deposits	495	495
Salaries/PAYE/NIC	-	5,613
Accrued expenses	-	-
Sundry Creditors	-	-
Grants in Advance		
The Henry Smith Charity	40,838	22,463
	<u>55,997</u>	<u>47,906</u>

## 9. RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balance at April 1, 2021 £	Movement in Resources		Balance at March 31, 2022 £
		Incoming £	Outgoing £	
Ashley Family Foundation	-	2,625	(1,920)	705
BBC Children in Need	5,184	-	(5,184)	-
The Henry Smith Charity	19,139	59,900	(71,766)	7,273
London Community Response	-	34,620	(34,620)	-
Trusthouse Charitable Foundation	19,420	-	(19,420)	-
Paddington Development Trust (ESF)	2,000	4,000	(6,110)	(110)
	<u>45,743</u>	<u>101,145</u>	<u>(139,020)</u>	<u>7,868</u>

Project funds: All of the above provide revenue and/or capital funding for projects.

## 10. TRUSTEE REMUNERATION AND RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

No trustees received any remuneration during the year (2022: £nil). There were no expenses reimbursed to, or paid on behalf of, members of the Management Committee.

No trustees or other persons related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity during the year (2022: £nil).

**STITCHES IN TIME**

England & Wales - Charity number 1172056

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# Accounts

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**STITCHES IN TIME**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**Year ending March 31, 2021**

Charity no. 1172056 - Company no. 10515657

**STITCHES IN TIME****CONTENTS**

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## **STITCHES IN TIME**

### **REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

Hendrika Santer Bream (Chair)  
Judith Gardiner (Vice Chair)  
Annie Gargya (Secretary)  
Margaret Mitchell (Treasurer - until 15th December 2020)  
Teresa Hare Duke  
Anh Carrick  
Saba Ehdego (from 10th June 2020 ) (Treasurer - from 15th December 2020)  
Katherine Scott (from 10th June 2020)

#### **Premises**

Limehouse Town Hall  
646 Commercial Road  
London E14 7HA

#### **Charity & Company number**

Charity no. 1172056  
Company no. 10515657

#### **Independent Examiner**

Ian Price  
10 Kent Close  
Westoning  
Bedfordshire  
MK45 5LW

#### **Bankers**

Co-operative Bank  
PO Box 250  
Delf House  
Southway  
Skelmersdale  
WN8 6WT

## STITCHES IN TIME

### Trustees' report

The Trustees present their report and accounts for the year ending 31 March 2021.

### Objectives and activities

The Charity's aims and objectives are

- 1) to advance education particularly but not by way of limitation in all aspects of arts, crafts and applied arts particularly but not by way of limitation that of tapestry and needlework.
- 2) to provide or assist in the provision of facilities for recreation and other leisure time occupation, in particular the provision of facilities for arts and crafts, in the interests of social welfare with the object of improving the conditions of life, and
- 3) Thereby to encourage good race relations for the benefit of the public by drawing together all members of the community irrespective of race, religion, gender or political beliefs in the pursuit of these objects.

### Our context

The Charity is based and operates mostly, but not exclusively, in the east London Borough of Tower Hamlets. Lack of employment, isolation and poverty are significant problems for our local population. Local residents are more likely to be out of employment than average: people of Bangladeshi ethnic origin have the lowest level of employment of all the ethnic groups (ONS data 2018).

These issues have been dramatically exacerbated by the impact of the coronavirus pandemic. We have been able to rapidly respond and adapt to changing need through this period, and keep our important frontline services going, to ensure local communities have access to pathways of support. We have done this through rigorous data collection, expanded partnerships, and close working with funders to ensure that objectives have continued to be met and adapted where needed.

In many cases we are a 'first port of call' for help, and many we work with experience barriers to other support services. We have continued to do our work through a mixture of innovative creative activities and complex issue support and referral. Our coronavirus response and impact on our organisation is further outlined below.

We have been working to bring people together for over 25 years, and are one of the longest-standing arts and educational organisations in the borough, demonstrating valuable results through our work year on year.

### This is why it is so important that we continue to

- Provide a forum to enable culturally diverse groups to work together
- Run educational programmes to raise levels of achievement.
- Raise levels of confidence and skill based learning for women, young people and older people.
- Create partnerships between individuals in the voluntary, statutory and private sectors.

In normal times, our core work consists of:

- Our 'Sewing Support Network', consisting of 'English for Sewing' classes and personal support. This is attended by Bangladeshi (and other ethnic minority), long-term unemployed women with English as a second language where, through sewing and talking in English they improve their skills, confidence, English and employability
- Creative, free, active and social activities for local children aged 5-12, through our Children in Need funded holiday playscheme and weekly Youth Social Action Arts Club
- Providing confidential 1-to-1 advice services in the cultural industries, accredited to the Matrix Standard for Information, Advice, and Guidance.
- Weekly sewing social class for elders at risk of facing isolation, meeting with people from the local community, giving embroidery demonstrations and working with other groups on key arts projects (This year on our By You Tapestry)
- Running 9 classes each week in 5 locations across Tower Hamlets
- Our FabricWorks textile social enterprise, providing employment and industry experience to marginalised women
- Community textile and visual art projects ranging from a week to 2 year projects working with diverse communities to make socially engaged artwork.
- Developing an archive of our textile projects, including our original fifty Millennium Tapestries, our founding project that worked with over 3000 people.

***“I am so grateful for the help and support of Stitches in Time during this pandemic. Knowing there is someone I can talk to whenever I need. I have felt so depressed and worried and Stitches in Time has been a ray of hope. They are helping to build up my confidence where before I have been too anxious to try and get work, through their support I know I will be able to achieve my dream of gaining employment in the future. I feel so much happier now and that's thanks to them.” - B***

## **Coronavirus Response and Impact**

### *Initial response and actions*

In March 2020, we saw that the pandemic was posing increasing risk and worry to our beneficiaries, many of whom fall into more vulnerable categories - including women from minority communities, elders facing social isolation, and children living in poverty.

**99% of respondents** in our first Covid response consultations were extremely worried or somewhat worried about the effects that the pandemic was already having on their lives.

In our view, Government action took too long to materialise, so we took the decision to pause face-to-face work and begin orientating to remote support, prior to the first lockdown. We were able to do this well because as a small and project-focused organisation we are used to changing, reviewing, and adapting work on a regular basis.

### *What we prioritised*

Our first priority was the safety of our staff, our beneficiaries, and community. We immediately compiled emergency contact lists for participants in our various projects, beginning a process of support and continuous consultation. This formed the basis of our 'Telephone Support Network' that has continued throughout the pandemic. Through regular contact we provided a vital lifeline for some, and much-needed guidance for others.

Through our Telephone Support Network, we provided:

- Up-to-date translated Government advice to beneficiaries and their families
- Vital contact for those experiencing social isolation
- Information, advice, and guidance sessions for confidential issues
- Space to talk for those who experienced loss in the family
- Support with access to emergency food supplies, and Government assistance for those able to apply
- Referral and signposting for specialist services
- Creative activity packs, and English learning resources, to undertake activities at home

As the weeks and months went by, we experimented with various methods of communication and participation, such as video calls, and small face-to-face meet-ups outside such as walking groups when it became appropriate. This was a particular challenge for those with low technological experience, but we had great success with supporting those that could participate, and finding workarounds for those who found it too challenging.

We have seen many complex and entrenched issues get worse over this time, and have had to keep re-orientating our work to not only deal with things early 'in house', but to bridge the widening gap between those hardest to reach and services meant to be in place as a safety net for all. The growth of mental health issues has been amongst our highest concern, alongside increases in the effects of poverty, and marginalised voices not being heard.

***“Stitches In Time have supported me throughout the lockdown. I have been alone in a hostel since December. My daughter and my tutor have helped and supported me. In my hostel i dont have T.V, Radio or wifi. I relied on Anwara and my daughter to update me on the news and covid.” - J***

### *How we worked with funders, and our successes*

#### **The Community fund (formerly Big Lottery), and London Community Response:**

Our Sewing Support Network, built up across the borough over four years through the Women & Girls Initiative, was well placed to provide immediate support, and be a direct conduit for marginalised voices. Our work with local minority and long-term unemployed women already had a long history of building trust in our 25 year presence in the borough, and providing a safe space for social English learning and support for confidential issues. We provide Information, Advice, and Guidance to the Matrix standard, which we have held for over seven years. This network of cross-borough 'English for Sewing' classes, peer support, and volunteering, was quickly adapted into remote support through our Telephone Support Network.

Our bilingual tutors and caseworkers delivered support and contact to over 200 beneficiaries and their families every week. We made over 4000 calls during the pandemic lockdowns, and prioritised contact lists for the most vulnerable, whilst developing activities and continuous learning and social support through small group video calls, and creative learning activities sent in the post, such as our 'By You Tapestry' embroidery project (see Arts Council, below). This work was further supported by TCF Reaching Communities Covid Emergency Response strand as part of the London Funders Initiative.

### **The Henry Smith Charity:**

The above work with our Sewing Support Network was then picked up and supported by The Henry Smith Charity, in a three year programme that will now be crucial in helping us adapt as the pandemic continues and in some ways has already been subsumed into 'normal' life.

### **Children In Need:**

For over ten years we have provided creative learning and holiday arts activities for children facing poverty and high density housing on our local Locksley Estate, for 5-12 year olds. This developed over time into our Youth Volunteer programme, and Youth Social Action Arts Club - as young people grew up and wanted to remain involved. All of this work, with lead artists and PGCE trained staff revolves around developing art and design skills, and developing confidence through creative learning and social interaction.

During the pandemic we continued to provide remote support and contact for children, played games over video call, and when appropriate resumed safe outside activities in the Summer, and our weekly term-time Arts Club. Young people were also pivotal in helping us make and design huge outside decorations on the estate to collaborate with 'More or Less' a sustainable fashion magazine, who ran an editorial feature on our organisation.

### **Trusthouse Charitable Foundation:**

FabricWorks, our social enterprise project and textile training programme has been supporting local long-term unemployed women through education and volunteering since 2015, matching London-based designers and makers with our production team of expert sewers. Progression pathways include going onto further education, including support into other unrelated aspirations such as childcare qualifications, or into work on our in-house textile production team.

During the pandemic we experimented with a variety of home-learning activities with videos and learning packs, and managed to provide home-based work to 13 women on our huge facemask-making initiative. During the lockdowns we were able to make thousands of facemasks from ecological scrap donated fabric, helping us provide a crucial income for women in our network, some of whom weren't able to access Government support.

### **Arts Council:**

Over the last year and a half we received over 150 embroideries from people across the UK and countries all around the world, as part of our By You Tapestry project, funded by the Arts Council. We invited people to embroider their experience of isolation, and things that they valued and reflected on, and also did some workshops with local community, schools, and refugee groups. The final piece will be exhibited in March 2022 as a long alternative historical document, covering different periods of the pandemic, and will measure about 28 metres in length. Each submitted embroidery came to us with a letter or message that had some incredible stories of people's experiences during this (long) time.

As a project to offer a creative outlet to process some of the difficult circumstances people were going through around this time, we were astounded by the need that this facilitated. It also proved our most successful social media campaign ever, with thousands of interactions and downloads of our activity packs to undertake activities at home.

### **Garfield Weston Foundation:**

Garfield Weston have now funded us for a second time, recognising the important grassroots impact and reach that our organisation has. In this time of financial uncertainty, their core support has been invaluable in helping us keep core infrastructure going as we pivot and adapt to the new challenges ahead.

### *Income changes and fundraising activities, and financial review*

In March 2020, we lost a large amount of expected project income, from grants, SLAs, and fee paying work, c.40% of our normal turnover. This naturally caused a great period of uncertainty, but our priority at the forefront of our minds was to keep important frontline work going, whilst keeping staff, and people in our network, safe.

This required us to authorise use of approximately half of our four months of reserves, to maintain the frontline support that beneficiaries needed, whilst we rapidly fundraised and sought new income. Being well-placed to support hundreds of people disproportionately hit by the pandemic meant that we were able to secure funding from emergency programmes rapidly put in place by funders who keenly understood the need of the sector. In addition to that, our trustees were pivotal in helping us secure some larger donations to support core costs and rebuild reserves back to safe levels within a small matter of months. Our facemask-making initiative also brought in thousands of pounds in support for core costs as well as providing continued employment for local women. We sold masks to local people directly, through Tenants and Residents Associations, online around the country, and to specialist commissions for the NHS and other social enterprise initiatives such as Pucker Masks, and Birdsong ethical fashion brand. This initiative was also recognised by a donation and award from Canary Wharf Group, to celebrate our continuous work during the pandemic.

Planned expenditure was more or less in line with existing project budgets, with some minor alterations agreed with funders to adapt budgets slightly. Our diversity of income through fee-based creative projects as well as commissions through our FabricWorks social enterprise meant that we could fill expenditure gaps where needed alongside agreed utilisation of some of our reserves. We have since rebuilt our reserves through incredible fundraising efforts and cost saving measures.

### *Covid steps forward - what we have gained and where we can best respond*

We are still no doubt adapting to the environment that we find ourselves in, and we are preparing for multiple eventualities in the future as we analyse the ongoing impact on our beneficiaries and organisation.

We have:

- Recorded a huge amount of data, both quantitative and qualitative, that will help us support and provide a voice for underrepresented communities. This will be key in securing new project income, and sharing learning with other organisations and Government fact-finding
- Continued relationships with local people. By providing a continuous level of support, we have ensured that those in our network have not been left behind. Word of mouth has always been key in reaching new people through our work, so our longstanding reputation in our community will be a key asset going forward.

- Developed new ways of working. By shifting to increased remote working, we have taken advantage of free support from a variety of tech providers. This will enable us to remain agile, and keep our cost basis low to ensure that any money fundraised for our organisation goes directly to supporting those that need it.

## **Strategic Development**

We continue our successful organisational development strategy that reflects the environment we work in. Underpinning this are our core directives:

- A - Better evidence
- B - More visibility
- C - Strengthen local partnerships
- D - Become more secure as an organisation

We have made good progress with these aims, in a challenging time.

### **A - Better evidence**

Previous initiatives to enhance our data recording have put us in a strong position going into the pandemic. By streamlining our information on outcomes and outputs we had a better idea of what we and our beneficiaries valued, and therefore a better idea of what to keep track of.

We developed new online recording mechanisms during the pandemic 'on the fly', and were able to record a huge amount of data that enabled us to keep track of beneficiary situations on a granular level, and ensure that contact for the most vulnerable was consistent.

We now have an enormous amount of qualitative and quantitative data on the disproportionate impact of the pandemic to our beneficiaries. Not only do the numbers speak to the inequalities that we already knew existed, but the very human voices of marginalised groups are a vitally important record.

As the landscape keeps changing over the coming months this evidence base will be important in not only shaping our future work, but also in feeding into other Local Authority and National Government responses to ensure an equitable long-term impact for all.

We have also retained our Matrix quality standard for another 3 years, proving the quality of our work in the Information, Advice, and Guidance sector.

### **B - More visibility**

Visibility has been key in our success in this period. By taking a risk with proposing our By You Tapestry project idea on social media, we catalysed a huge response of public support that has continued into donations and amazing publicity in magazines, local and national press.

Developing new ways of contact through things like communications tools like WhatsApp have meant that we have maintained presence and contact with local people at a time when it was needed the most.

### **C - Strengthen local partnerships**

Drawing upon and developing existing local partnerships has also been incredibly important during this time. We have done this through a variety of means.

Working closely with funders has meant we could access shared learning, and develop projects rapidly to meet emerging need.

With local organisations, we increased and developed pathways of referral, shared learning, and in some cases developed new multi-organisation project initiatives to fundraise for or adapt existing resources to.

Our main building, Limehouse Town Hall, and its collection of organisations and talented individuals remains a strong base of operations in which to innovate project ideas and draw upon support.

## **D - Become more secure as an organisation**

Though individual organisations' futures in the sector are generally speaking more precarious than they were a year and a half ago, we have overcome an initial period of uncertainty and are confident that we are well positioned to meet future needs and challenges.

Operationally, we have and are continuing to adapt processes to become more efficient, make better use of online technology, and minimise overhead.

Our board has gone through recent processes to bring in new specialisms of trustees, and we are continuing to look at ways to build in more beneficiary-led input through continuous consultation and advisory work.

We are now pivoting our fundraising strategy away from the shorter-term focus that the pandemic necessitated, and are looking to secure longer-term grants to link into our ecosystem or beneficiary-requested projects.

We have rebuilt reserves and have conducted strategic planning in the event of future lockdowns and changes in need that could emerge from those hardest hit. We are also continuously developing new project ideas, both in-house and in partnership with other local organisations and individuals.

## **Structure, governance and management**

The Charitable Trust is constituted by Trust Deed. All necessary procedures have been completed for us to become a company limited by guarantee in addition to our existing registered charity status from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018. The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee as defined by the Companies Act 2006 and registered as a charity with the Charity Commission. The Company was established under a Memorandum and Articles of Association which established the objects and powers of the Charitable Company and is governed by its Articles of Association. It was established on 7 December 2016 and the company remained dormant until the new financial year on 1 April 2018.

The Charity aims to have a diverse Board of Trustees and consults and co-produces with service users constantly, using varied methods, to inform our work. Central to Stitches in Time's ethos is that participants play an essential role in the running and leading of the organisation e.g. running social events and group activities, and introducing new participants.

The Trustees have reviewed their skills and experience and recruited two new Trustees who are a qualified accountant and qualified solicitor, ensuring stronger financial and legal oversight.

**Risk Statement:** The Trustees have recognised their duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed, and to ensure that appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. The Charity ensures its financial procedures, health and safety policy and safeguarding procedures are reviewed periodically to reflect changing legislation and to refresh knowledge and practice.

## Exemptions from disclosure

Stitches in Time does not claim any exemptions from disclosing the names of Trustees, the charity's address, or other information normally included in a Trustees' annual report.

## Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others

No funds were held as a custodian trustee on behalf of others during the year.

## Acknowledgement and thanks

The Trustees wish to acknowledge and thank the staff for their hard work and dedication throughout the year, in very challenging circumstances and a great period of uncertainty. Their vision, energy and innovation create the environment in which each and every person involved is able to develop personally and to contribute to and engage in the future development of Stitches in Time.


It is important also to acknowledge the important and essential contribution of all our volunteers whose goodwill and support is invaluable to us. We have received valuable pro-bono support in a variety of specialist areas, saving a substantial amount of expenditure.

We have enormous gratitude to the funders and donors that have recognised the value of our work and continue to support us.

## Approval

This report was approved by the Trustees on 23rd December 2021, and signed on their behalf.

  
Trustee  
CHAIR

  
Trustee and secretary



**CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

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

**Section A Independent Examiner's Report**

Report to the trustees/  
members of

Charity Name  
STITCHESINTIME

On accounts for the year  
ended

31ST MARCH 2021	Charity no (if any)	1172056
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Set out on pages

(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 31/03/2021.

Responsibilities and  
basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent  
examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (~~other than that disclosed below~~ \*) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

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

\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

*[Signature]*

Date:

20/12/21

Name:

IAN HENRY PRICE

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

ACMA

Address:

10, KENT CLOSE  
WESTONING  
BEDS MK45 5LW

**Section B**

**Disclosure**

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

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

NOT APPLICABLE

## STITCHES IN TIME

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 31, 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2020 £
<b>Incoming Resources</b>					
Generated funds:					
Voluntary income: Grants	5	26,389	155,405	181,793	124,571
Donations		10,799	-	10,799	2,368
Bank interest, gross		-	-	-	-
Charitable activities:					
Service Level Agreements	6	-	-	-	-
Fees and sales		31,295	-	31,295	42,507
Surplus on sale of assets		-	-	-	-
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>		<b>68,483</b>	<b>155,405</b>	<b>223,887</b>	<b>169,446</b>
<b>Resources Expended</b>					
Charitable activities	7	26,892	144,539	171,431	190,523
Governance		13	-	13	33
<b>Total Resources Expended</b>		<b>26,905</b>	<b>144,539</b>	<b>171,444</b>	<b>190,556</b>
<b>Net Incoming/(Outgoing)</b>					
<b>Resources for the year</b>		<b>41,578</b>	<b>10,865</b>	<b>52,443</b>	<b>(21,110)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of Funds:</b>					
<b>Total Funds brought forward</b>		<b>29,212</b>	<b>34,877</b>	<b>64,090</b>	<b>85,201</b>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>70,791</b>	<b>45,743</b>	<b>116,533</b>	<b>64,090</b>

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a statement of total recognised gains and losses has not been prepared.

All of the above amounts relate to continuing activities, and are rounded to the nearest whole pound sterling (GBP)

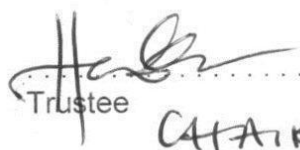
The notes on pages 16 to 22 form part of these accounts.


## STITCHES IN TIME

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT MARCH 31, 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
Tangible Assets	8	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Debtors	9	8,180	7,271
Cash at Bank		155,689	76,735
Cash in hand		569	890
		<u>164,438</u>	<u>84,015</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Amounts falling due within one year	10	47,906	19,925
		<u>47,906</u>	<u>19,925</u>
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS LESS LIABILITIES</b>		<b><u>116,534</u></b>	<b><u>64,090</u></b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b><u>116,534</u></b>	<b><u>64,090</u></b>
Represented by:			
<b>FUNDS</b>			
Unrestricted		70,791	29,212
Restricted	11	45,743	34,877
		<u>45,743</u>	<u>34,877</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>		<b><u>116,534</u></b>	<b><u>64,090</u></b>

Approved by the Management Committee / Board of Trustees on 23rd December 2021

  
Trustee  
CHAIR

  
Trustee and secretary

The notes on pages 16 to 22 form part of these accounts

## STITCHES IN TIME

### NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS, MARCH 31, 2021

#### 1. STATUS

The organisation is an incorporated registered charity and successor to the unincorporated registered charity of the same name.

#### 2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, and in accordance with applicable United Kingdom accounting standards, the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued in March 2005 (SORP 2005) and the Charities Act 2011.

(b) Tangible Fixed Assets: Capital expenditure on items £250 or over is depreciated at rates designed to write off the costs over the estimated useful lives of the assets, calculated on the straight line method, less any residual value.

#### (c) Incoming Resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Voluntary income is received by way of grants, donations and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant. Such income is deferred when the donor specifies that the grant or donation must only be used in future accounting periods.
- Donated services and facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included in these accounts.
- Investment income is included when receivable.
- Incoming resources from charitable trading activity are accounted for when earned.
- Incoming resources from grants, where related to performance and specific deliverables, are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance.

#### (d) Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates:

- Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.
- Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include the audit fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity.

#### (e) Fund accounting

Funds held by the charity are either:

- unrestricted general funds: these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees;
- restricted funds: these are funds which can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity; restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

#### (f) Stock and work in progress

Stock and work in progress are valued at cost. Cost includes all direct expenditure and overheads based on the normal level of activity.

### 3. TAXATION

The charity is provisionally exempt from tax on income and gains to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects. No tax charges have arisen in the Charity.

## 5. GRANTS

	Total Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2020 £
Arts Council England	19,510	-
BBC Children In Need	29,397	29,397
Big Lottery Women & Girls Development Fund	9,320	55,920
The Community Fund		
Reaching Communities Covid Response	37,740	-
EQUIP	2,000	-
The Henry Smith Charity	37,438	-
Jobs Retention Scheme	6,389	-
London Borough Tower Hamlets Tackling Poverty Fund	-	14,790
Trusthouse	20,000	20,000
Big Lottery Awards for All	-	-
Groundwork	-	4,464
Garfield Weston Foundation	20,000	-
	<u>181,794</u>	<u>124,571</u>

## 6. SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS

	Total Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2019 £
	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

## 7. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2020 £
Salaries		3,446	62,951	66,397	53,416
Average number of employees: FTEs 2.4 (2019/20: 2.4)		3,446	62,951	66,397	53,416
Fees		20,611	60,699	81,310	102,982
Projects		2,340	4,996	7,336	12,645
Depreciation	8	-	-	-	-
Crèche		-	-	-	-
Rent		-	8,881	8,881	12,039
Telecommunications		-	1,019	1,019	791
Postage, stationery and photocopying		214	44	258	765
Insurance		(11)	928	918	679
Bank charges		1	4	5	36
Travel and subsistence		-	-	-	1,990
Equipment:					
minor purchases		-	822	822	1,486
maintenance		-	125	125	312
Administrative support		-	365	365	1,508
Memberships		214	1,854	2,068	736
Publicity		107	350	458	1,172
Studio maintenance		(30)	1,499	1,469	879
Recruitment		-	-	-	-
		<b>26,892</b>	<b>144,539</b>	<b>171,431</b>	<b>190,523</b>

## 8. FIXED ASSETS

	Computer equipment £	Production equipment £	Total £
At cost:			
at 1.4.20	-	-	-
additions	-	-	-
disposals	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
at 31.3.21	-	-	-
Depreciation:			
at 1.4.20	-	-	-
25% per annum	-	-	-
disposals	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
at 31.3.21	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net Book Value, 31.3.21	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net Book Value, 31.3.20	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

## 9. DEBTORS

	2021 £	2020 £
Debtors, trade	5,074	5,310
Grants receivable	1,951	-
Pre-payments	519	1,325
Deposit, rent	636	636
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b>11,280</b>	<b>7,271</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>

## 10. CURRENT LIABILITIES, AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2021 £	2020 £
Creditors	19,335	8,577
Refundable deposits	495	703
Salaries/PAYE/NIC	5,613	1,325
Accrued expenses	-	-
Sundry Creditors	-	-
Grants in Advance		
Big Lottery Women & Girls	-	9,320
The Henry Smith Charity	22,463	-
	<u>47,906</u>	<u>19,925</u>

## COMMITMENTS UNDER OPERATING LEASES

At March 31, 2020, the charity had no annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as set out below.

	Assets other than land and buildings	
	2021 £	2020 £
Operating leases which expire: within 2 to 5 years	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

## 11. RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balance at April 1, 2020 £	Movement in Resources		Balance at March 31, 2021 £
		Incoming £	Outgoing £	
Arts Council England	-	19,510	(19,510)	-
BBC Children In Need	5,618	29,397	(29,397)	5,184
Big Lottery				
Women & Girls Development Fund	9,810	-	(9,810)	-
The Community Fund				
Reaching Communities Covid Response	-	37,740	(37,740)	-
EQUIP	-	2,000	(0)	2,000
The Henry Smith Charity	-	37,438	(18,298)	19,139
Trusthouse	19,450	20,000	(20,030)	19,420
	<u>34,877</u>	<u>155,405</u>	<u>(144,539)</u>	<u>45,743</u>

Project funds: All of the above provide revenue and/or capital funding for projects.

## 12. TRUSTEE REMUNERATION AND RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

No trustees received any remuneration during the year (2021: £nil). There were no expenses reimbursed to, or paid on behalf of, members of the Management Committee.

No trustees or other persons related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity during the year (2021: £nil).