



RIVER OAKS CHARITY – ANNUAL REPORT April 2022 – March 2023

Executive Summary

Another busy year for ROC, with the reintroduction of our community events and ongoing development of the charity.

Trustee Update

There have been no major changes to trustees this year. We continue to operate without a chairperson. The team pull together and the Trustees meetings are led by the ROC secretary.

Pond Area

In early 2022 our beautiful pond area was updated with new decking, the area is a peaceful environment where people can spend time close to nature. We have had lots of continued positive feedback on this area and we have developed the planted area further. We planted up a red, white and blue theme in preparation for the Queen's Jubilee celebrations.

Overall the pond arena has matured year on year with a stunning array of roses along with a very eclectic mix of trees, shrubs and annual planting.

Wild Flower Meadow

In partnership with Scouse Flower House, we ploughed and seeded the 2-acre wild flower meadow for the third year. Some 40 adults and children helped with the sizeable area seeding along with Richard Scott and friends from SFH. It was a real encouragement to see so many children throwing seed and planting copious Sun Flowers. A grant from the Community Lottery enabled us to purchase a lot more seed this year.



(photo of the wild flower meadow)

Woods

ROC applied to VET again in 2021 and were given a £37,000 grant to renew 407 metres of pathway across the field and through the woodland with a durable Rhino Pave surface. This not only allows greater and safer disabled, cycle and walker access, but, for the first time, will allow the severely disabled students at Palmerston Special Needs School to access all areas of the ROC site. The school, with both able bodied and severely impaired students, are regular visitors to the pond. With the support of the Head, Alison Wheeler, they produced a two-minute video, expressing how much ROC facilities meant to them.



(photo of the new path)

Our trustees have continued to try and secure a Gating Order to close the main access at night times with the objective of reducing anti-social behaviour, which is a significant issue. Unfortunately, this was not supported by Liverpool City Council. Merseyside Police also tried to support ROC with increased police presence in the woods. Trustees continue to look at alternative options to minimise the anti-social behaviour.

One such option being the encouragement of positive behaviour in the area by establishing a Forest School. Trustees have spent time discussing this with potential forest school providers and hope to implement this as a next step soon, subject to appropriate risk assessments.

The woods have also had an environmental assessment to understand how healthy the area is. We now have a Woodland Report which is very clear on work that will need to be completed. Trustees are reviewing next steps on this.

Events

After two barren years without our customary annual events it was a real joy to renew our 'legendary' Easter Egg extravaganza! From 15 attendees in 2009 we now attract, from over South Liverpool, around 100+ adults and children. The theme this year was Bumblebees, Ladybirds and Butterflies. As usual three teams, dressed appropriately with suitably decorated wheelbarrows, led the participants through a carefully choreographed programme, always tinged with chaos, confusion and much hilarity!



(photo of one of Easter Egg Event)

We were also able to celebrate the Queens Jubilee event in partnership with Long Lane Church. This was a marvellous event with lots of families joining together on our field to celebrate this milestone occasion.



(flier advertising the event)

'Carols by the pond' was back in December, where the community joined together in carols with mulled wine and mince pies. We also decorated the pond area with Christmas lights and a Christmas tree which was a beautiful sight.

Fundraising

As detailed above, several non-recurrent projects this year have been funded via grant funding – with expenditure restricted to those initiatives (e.g. woodland pathway, wild flower meadow). Such income must be applied for in advance, based on pre-identified need/opportunity.

ROC's regular day-to-day expenditure – for items such as grass cuts, gardening, insurance and tree inspections/felling – can only be funded through charitable fundraising. This includes a modest amount of income from events and calendar sales etc, but mainly comprises income from regular and one-off donations from local supporters. Such donations – as modest as they often are – are the life-blood of our charity and our work will not be possible without them.

This year ROC just about delivered a balanced budget – but this was in part thanks to a very generous one-off donation of £2,000 from a supporter via ShareGift. Such a finely balanced budget does present the risk of ROC being unable to afford additional, unforeseen one-off expenses such as tree-felling for the safety of residents and local property. Increasing annual income, and/or finding recurrent cost savings, will be a priority of the charity going forwards.

Future

This year has demonstrated that there are so many opportunities moving forward for our charity to continue to deliver on our mission of *creating community and caring for the environment*. However, the key challenge we face is resource. Resource both in terms of income but also in terms of people's time to deliver action. We will continue however to be as passionate as ever about our charity and will look for ways to improve the resource position.



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

River Oaks Charity

1175908

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from

01/04/2022

To

31/03/2023

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
General donations	8,269	-	-	8,269	4,445
General grants	-	-	-	-	1,750
Donations box	126	-	-	126	219
Amazon	59	-	-	59	25
Calendars	-	-	-	-	770
Events & fundraising	-	-	-	-	225
Gift Aid	-	-	-	-	1,069
Woodland pathway	-	12,924	-	12,924	27,278
Pond terrace	-	-	-	-	1,307
Jubilee event	-	-	-	-	1,400
Wildflower meadow	-	-	-	-	11,595
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	8,454	12,924	-	21,378	50,083
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	8,454	12,924	-	21,378	50,083
A3 Payments					
Garden & pond maintenance	1,360	-	-	1,360	1,596
Fields maintenance	199	-	-	199	1,821
Woods & trees maintenance	4,550	-	-	4,550	264
Calendars	-	-	-	-	287
Events & fundraising	-	-	-	-	43
Printing & postage	65	-	-	65	123
Energy	178	-	-	178	238
CCTV	-	-	-	-	696
Mileage	-	-	-	-	43
Insurance	930	-	-	930	864
Equipment	-	-	-	-	-
Website	48	-	-	48	42
Sundry	84	-	-	84	125
Play area	-	284	-	284	250
Woodland pathway	7	12,924	-	12,931	27,710
Pond terrace	-	887	-	887	9,874
Jubilee event	-	1,400	-	1,400	-
Wildflower meadow	-	2,679	-	2,679	805
Sub total	7,421	18,174	-	25,595	44,781
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	7,421	18,174	0	25,595	44,781
Net of receipts/(payments)	1,033	(5,250)	0	(4,217)	5,302
A5 Transfers between funds	0	0	0	0	0
A6 Cash funds last year end	3,816	13,736	0	17,552	12,250
Cash funds this year end	4,849	8,486	0	13,335	17,552

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

NONE.



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

River Oaks Charity

On accounts for the year
ended

31st March 2023

Charity no
(if any)

1175908

Set out on pages

1 and 2

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity for the year ended 31st March 2023.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

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

Independent
examiner's statement

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

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

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

Signed:

K. J. H. Owen

Date:

20th November 2023

Name:

Mr Keri J H Owen

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

Address:

15 Handley Court

Liverpool

L19 3QS

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).

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Bank account	4,849	8,486	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	4,849	8,486	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))			

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

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

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

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

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

Signature

Print Name

Date of approval

Pat Kennick
Martin Foster

PAT KENNICK
MARTIN FOSTER

20.01.24
20.01.24