



THE COMMON GROUND COLLECTIVE

CHARITY NUMBER 1181481

TRUSTEES REPORT AND RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS

FOR THE PERIOD FROM 1 APRIL 2022 TO 31 MARCH 2023

**The Common Ground Collective**  
**Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2023**

The trustees present their report and unaudited accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023

**Charity reference and administration details**

Charity name:	The Common Ground Collective
Other names:	Common Ground Plus
Registered Charity number:	1181481
Charity principal address:	c/o Emmaus Chartered Accountants 377-399 London Road Camberley Surrey GU15 3HL
Names of Trustees:	Valerie Hunt Eileen Pearcey (resigned 15/03/2022) Gail Rich (resigned 15/02/2023) Carole Blunden-Lee (appointed 30 June 2022)
Bank:	Santander UK Bridle Road, Bootle, Merseyside, L30 4GB
Senior Management:	Gabriella Croci (Founder and Workshop Facilitator)

## **Structure, governance and management**

The Charity Common Ground Collective is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), incorporated and registered as a charity on 8 January 2019. The Charity is governed under its constitution. The trustees oversee the Charity, and the Charity workshop facilitator performs the day-to-day management of the Charity. The workshop facilitator books venues markets the charity services to the public, teaches at workshops during the year and arranges for other artists to teach at workshops. The workshop facilitator also fulfils the marketing and fundraising coordinator role for the Charity, reporting to the trustees regularly. The year ended 31 March 2022; the workshop facilitator was a paid staff member.

A child protection policy is in place, and DBS checks are done before the commencement of employment or trusteeship, and checks are carried out again in line with statutory requirements.

All trustees have given their time voluntarily and receive no remuneration or other benefits.

## **Trustee recruitment**

Trustees are appointed or reappointed every three years at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees. In selecting individuals for appointment as charity trustees, the charity trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the Charity.

## **Objectives of the Charity**

The charity objects as set out in the governing constitution document are:

- (1) To advance the education of the public in the arts, including (but not limited to) young people and disabled people.
- (2) To promote the relief of disabled people.
- (3) To advance for the benefit of the public such other exclusively charitable purposes (by the laws of England and Wales) as the Trustees of the Charity shall occasionally select. The Common Ground Collective Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2022

## **Our Vision**

A world in which everyone can transform their life through a creative community. Our studios offer specialist visual arts provision for new and existing participants. Across the week, we work with adults with complex needs, including those with multiple disabilities.

## **Aims**

- Achieve long-term stability and improved wellbeing for the beneficiaries
- Support people towards more autonomy and in the development of a creative identity
- Challenge the stigma and prejudice projected onto those experiencing mental and emotional distress and help them escape the labels and linear parameters of society



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### **Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2023**

#### **Our Mission**

Imagine a world where people with mental or emotional difficulties could find hope and healing through the power of art. That's precisely what our artistic therapeutic community aims to achieve! We're dedicated to providing life-changing interventions that make a real difference in the lives of those who need it most. Join us in our mission to spread positivity and help bring healing to those who need it most! The charity aims to establish a network of sustainable and secure local studios accessible to anyone in need.

#### **Activities of the Charity**

In planning our activities for the year, the trustees kept in mind the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

During the year ended 31 March 2023, the main activities held were as follows:

- To raise funds for the British Red Cross in aid of Ukraine, our community of creatives came together to raise funds. Each creates and donates a piece of their artistic talents to this raffle. Together, we raise £924.
- Every Wednesday throughout 2022, we held a workshop for the service users of Frimhurst Enterprises. Through consistent attendance and mindfulness practises rooted in the arts, we aimed to nurture the wellbeing of the Frimhurst community.
- In 2022, we started a kid's mindful art club. The scheme allowed children from disadvantaged backgrounds to attend the club frequently. This allowed them to build a community with like-minded individuals and connect over their love of art. The sessions were rooted in nature-based practises, from nature walks to flower pressing.
- We assisted Frimhurst Enterprises in raising funds at their summer festival. We hosted a series of creative workshops, including making flower crowns and face paints.
- We ran a series of pottery workshops at the Love Thy Body festival, raising money for 'Hopeful' Handbags. This Charity gives the power of confidence for long-term safety, health, wellness, and sustainability.
- We ran a series of book-binding workshops raising money for the domestic abuse charity Hopefull Handbags.
- Pure Hair hosted a fundraising event
- We set up 'Sorelli Circle' to support our older generation. These gatherings allowed women to rest, restore and reflect with creativity at the core. They were held over the change in seasons, such as the autumn equinox.
- We hosted an event which allowed our service users from Frimhurst to collaborate with Gordon's young makers. The workshop was curated around the theme 'collaboration' They were inspired by the work of Anthony Gormley and Sonia Delaunay to create responses in both clay and paint. They were later exhibited for family and friends to come and view.

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### **Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2023**

- We hosted a series of mindful art workshops for the young makers at Hallow.
- We hosted an event for the refugees taking refuge at Lakeside Residence. Together, we overcame any language barrier using art to connect, offering us a way towards connection and a reminder that we are all part of the same global family.
- We continued with our 'Busy hand, Quiet mind' project

## **Achievements and Performance**

Throughout the year, our charity continued to expand its reputation as a specialist in socially engaged art practice, creative mindfulness, and arts-based support through online workshops and in-person events. We fostered new and existing connections and initiatives. Although our growth was limited because our lead workshop facilitator was pursuing a master's in education to benefit the Charity, our team of creatives and a strong board of trustees enabled us to continue.

During the year ended 31 March 2023, we hosted 9 programmes (an umbrella body of work). Within these, 30 projects (a series of workshops with one or more community partners) were designed. These delivered 156 workshops/ 468 contact hours with 270 participants and were rated "successful overall" by 99% of community partner staff. Common Ground is committed at all levels to rigorous, honest evaluation. Each project is customised to meet the unique needs of partners. We agree on clear and relevant outcomes and evaluate programs accordingly.

Each project at Common Ground starts and ends with planning and debriefing meetings. The organisation follows a 100% feedback policy, collected from all participants, community partner staff, volunteers, and Common Ground artists wherever possible. The progress of each project is monitored through verbal feedback circles, communication, observation of workshops, and written responses through questionnaires. This formal feedback is then reviewed to plan all future projects, and reports are sent to the community partners, artists, funders, and Common Ground. As part of the evaluation process, community partner staff and participants are asked to rate the success of Common Ground projects in enabling the participants to develop a range of critical skills, enhance their wellbeing, and appraise the overall success/enjoyment of their project.

During our main activities, we organised workshops that catered to the diverse needs and demographics of our previous service users. The groups we hosted were from different backgrounds, and we found that art effectively brought people together, breaking down language and ability barriers. We are excited to continue this work, connecting different communities to promote wellness and create a community of like-minded individuals. Our goal is to combat isolation and marginalisation in and around Surrey.

## **SUPPORTING PEOPLE HEALTH & WELLBEING THROUGH ART**

Our impact can be seen through the increasing number of people participating in Common Ground as loyal supporters, volunteers, members, or attendees of our public events. This active community engagement serves as a driving force, promoting the development of specialised skills and valuable transferable abilities like strategic planning, decisive decision-making, and effective problem-solving.



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### Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2023

Within Frimhurst Art Studio and our assisted living workshops, our artists gathered together consistently each week, forging a tight-knit community of makers. With each passing year, our impact reverberates more profoundly, and our resolve to champion the cause of mental wellbeing grows unwavering.

At Common Ground, we are deeply committed to continuing this journey, leaving no one behind, and forging a path toward a world where every individual's mental health is nurtured, and each life finds purpose and healing.

These testimonials from Common Ground members underscore the profound and multifaceted impact of the organisation on individuals and the broader community. They illustrate how the studio's commitment to mental wellbeing and empowerment has supported individuals:

Include testimonials

### Art at Home: Art & Wellbeing Box

The CG collective meticulously continued to craft our 'to the door' offerings to extend our reach into the broader community. Busy hands, Quiet Mind is a visionary initiative comprising a series of creativity boxes designed to enrich the lives of their recipients and bolster our fundraising endeavours, facilitating access to vital mental health support for those with minimal means. Within our Busy hands, Quiet mind boxes, recipients embarked on a mindful journey, partaking in a contemplative process to craft unique pieces of work. This innovative offering is a testament to our commitment to the wellbeing of individuals while fortifying our mission to create a world where mental health knows no barriers, including financial ones.

### Future Plans

We will further strengthen our impact report and services in the upcoming year. Financial performance remains a top priority as we diligently monitor our resources and explore new funding opportunities. We are committed to cultivating corporate social responsibility partnerships to reduce our reliance on grant funding.

In the forthcoming year (2023/24), we will persist in delivering our arts programs in a school-based setting and build a community outside of school. Remote services such as online tutorials will no longer be a part of our services; the core of our offerings will continue to be face-to-face interactions.

Our model outlines a robust agenda and program strategy with a strategic focus on the following core areas:

**CREATE** Our commitment to deep engagement with meaningful and impactful activities seamlessly connecting the realms of arts, education, and social care.

**BELONG** The pursuit of community building, forging connections among individuals and the broader community to combat isolation and enhance life opportunities.

**GROW:** Elevating awareness of our work and extending its reach.

Our unwavering commitment lies in upholding the fusion of art, education, and health, ensuring they coexist harmoniously. We will persist in providing the ideal blend of inspiration, encouragement, and empathetic listening, empowering individuals to discover

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their unique creative voices. By joining our creative therapeutic community, individuals will shed the weight of stigma and break the shackles of isolation. In addition to our core work, we will launch supplementary projects that serve as testing grounds for fresh ideas, such as our Common Ground School initiative. These initiatives will enable us to reach diverse groups of beneficiaries and establish new collaborative partnerships. We remain dedicated to expanding the horizons of our impact and strengthening our commitment to the wellbeing of our community. As we journey into the coming year, Common Ground stands as a bastion of creativity, hope, and transformation, ready to inspire, support, and uplift all those who seek solace within our community.

### **Financial Review**

The principal source of charity funds for the year ended 31 March 2023 were donations, raffles, workshops, and grants.

Expenditure during the year was principally on raising funds for other charities, cost of free workshop access, workshop facilitator salary and purchases and supplies for charitable activities. Governance services were donated.

The expenditure has supported the objectives of teaching arts to the public, explicitly benefitting those from marginalised communities and providing subsidised or free workshops for these individuals.

Donated services were received in the form of governance services.

### **Reserves**

It is the policy of the Charity to aim for 3 months of expenditure is in the bank at all times, working towards 6 months.

Cash at bank on 31/3/2023 was £3,834 (2022 £4,122).

### **Declaration**

The trustees declare they have approved the trustees' report above

Signed by one or two on behalf of the trustees

Signature 

Name Valerie Hunt

**The Common Ground Collective**

**Receipts and payments accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023**

**Income and Expenditure**

**For the year ended 31 March 2023**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
<b>Receipts</b>				
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>				
Donations and legacies	4,433	-	4,433	2,835
Government Covid grant	-	-	-	8,177
Charitable activities	5,195	-	5,195	11,276
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>9,628</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>9,628</b>	<b>22,288</b>
<b>Payments</b>				
Charitable activities	9,785	-	9,300	22,576
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>9,785</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>9,300</b>	<b>22,576</b>
<b>Net of receipts and payments</b>	<b>(157)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>(288)</b>
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>(157)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>(288)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>				
Total funds brought forward	3,834	-	3,834	4,122
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>3,677</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,677</b>	<b>3,834</b>



**The Common Ground Collective**  
**Receipts and payments accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023**

**Statement of assets and liabilities**  
**As at 31 March 2023**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Cash at bank and in hand	3,677	-	3,677	3,834
<b>Total Net Assets</b>				<b>3,834</b>
<b>Fund Balances</b>				
Unrestricted funds	3,677		3,677	3,834
Restricted funds	-		-	-
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>3,677</b>		<b>3,677</b>	<b>3,834</b>

The receipts and payments accounts were approved by the Board of Directors and were signed on its behalf by:

Signed by one or two on behalf of the trustees

Signature 

Name Valerie Hunt

Date 31/1/24.