



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
	09	01	2020		31	05	2021

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name Grounded Community

Other names charity is known by Grounded

Registered charity number (if any) 1187272

Charity's principal address Flat 2, 6 Undercliff Road,

Bournemouth,

Dorset

Postcode

BH5 1BL

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	John Hanson	Chair		N/A
2	John Richards			N/A
3	Camilla Hawley			N/A
4	Chris Swain			N/A

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

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year
N/A	

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

Michael French, Jonathan Watson Short, Karen Everett

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document
(eg. trust deed, constitution)

Constitution

How the charity is constituted
(eg. trust, association, company)

CIO Foundation Model

Trustee selection methods
(eg. appointed by, elected by)

Every trustee must be appointed [for a term of [three] years] by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees.

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

Our charity's purposes as set out in the objects contained in the CIO Foundation Constitution are to: -

To advance the education of the public in subjects related to sustainable development and the protection, enhancement and rehabilitation of the environment by teaching people how to grow food to improve health and well-being. The surplus of which will be distributed to those in need and/or charities and organisations.

Ensuring our work delivers our aims

We review our aims, objectives and activities each year. This review looks at what we achieved and the outcomes of our work in the previous 17 months since becoming a charity. The review looks at the success of each key activity and the benefits they have brought to those groups of people we are set up to help. The review also helps us ensure our aim, objectives and activities remained focused on our stated purposes. We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aim and objectives and in planning our future activities. In particular, the trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set.

The focus of our work

Our main objectives for the year continued to be the advancement of education related to teaching people food growing skills and distributing food to those in need.

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

The strategies we used to meet these objectives included:

- *Developing skill sharing workshops to help people learn about Food Growing Skills.*
- *To host volunteer sessions in our Secret Garden 1 and 2 sites.*
- *To consolidate our work at Feed our Community and settling into our new premises, while building our volunteer base so that our food programme can continue to distribute food to beneficiaries.*

Feed Our Community (Jan 2020 – May 2021)

In March 2020 Feed our Community responded in an immediate way to the food crisis as a result of the pandemic and a team of 30 regularly delivered food from surplus hotels/ supermarkets/ restaurants etc to local people who were shielding or struggling for food in the local area. This included families, single people, the elderly and those in refuges. As the summer harvest season came we were able to supplement the food boxes with fresh grown produce from the garden and included "how to Cook" cards with the boxes so that local people could make best use of more unusual vegetables such as Jerusalem Artichoke. Foodboxes are now supplied with Grounded produce on a weekly basis for 7 months of the year. When a new person signs up for the food parcel a letter goes out with their first box explaining about where surplus food comes from and how we recycle it safely with recommendations for clients.

After the first lockdown lifted and many of our volunteers went back to work we built the volunteer base back up to a sustainable level and moved into our permanent residence with the Bournemouth Foodbank and as result

increased distribution from two to three days a week. Beneficiaries have of Feed our Community are encouraged to help at the project to better understand the flow of food and some have contributed their time and helped at the Secret Garden workshops and surveys from beneficiaries of the project has better informed the skill sharing workshops at the garden.

Skill Sharing Workshops (September 2020 to May 2021)

In September 2020, our newly appointed education coordinator launched a program of skills workshops. Our basic Food Growing Skills workshop now runs every month and provides the basic skills and knowledge to support our community to grow their own food at home. We also run workshops on specific topics that directly support home food growing, reconnecting with nature and regenerating local ecosystems. These include mushroom growing, beekeeping, composting, hedgehog-friendly gardening and forest gardening. In the period covered by this report we have put on a total of 25 workshops, attended by 307 people. Sessions are facilitated by our education coordinator or a visiting expert from a local organisation (Dorset Wildlife Trust, New Milton Hedgehog Rescue, Jurassic Fungi, Big Blue Play).

2020-21 has been a difficult period for running public events. With a COVID 19 risk assessment in place and following government guidelines, we have had to restrict participant numbers and cancel all public events during the national lockdowns before and after Christmas. During these periods we went online, filming 3 workshops, making them available online. We also ran 3 online zoom Q&As with a panel of experts and published a series of 3 'windowsill gardening' tutorials through our social media channels, reaching over 2,800 people on Facebook and Instagram.

Our fortnightly Friday Volunteer Training sessions started in February 2021. These provide our regular garden volunteers with advanced skills for their own progression, team-building skills and improve our growing systems for feeding the community. Topics have included no-dig growing, wildlife ponds and hügelkultur.

In October we started a collaboration with Big Blue Play, a pop-up community play organisation. Between October and April we put on 5 outdoor nature play sessions for under 7s and their adult carers. This has since evolved into a weekly Thursday morning stay & play group with a loyal following and steady source of donations. It has brought in a different demographic of young local parents and carers to the garden. Through play, we nurture a love of the soil, plants, insects, chickens and local organic food amongst our youngest garden visitors. It has also introduced many adults to the charity who have since become regular volunteers and workshop participants.

Volunteer sessions (January 2020 to May 2021)

Our garden volunteer sessions run throughout the whole year on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9am to 1pm.

These volunteer sessions at The Secret Garden provide several key services for our community.

- Growing local, seasonal, chemical-free food to give out to those in need, through our food distribution service (Feed Our Community);

- demonstrating simple, regenerative techniques for growing a wide variety of crops that can be replicated in back gardens;
- providing the skills needed for our community to grow their own food and everything that supports this (e.g. composting, wildlife gardening, beekeeping);
- nurturing a community of people who come to learn, share their own skills and experience.

As a key service, volunteer sessions have continued throughout lockdown periods but with special measures in place and restrictions on numbers and garden practices.

Monday and Friday sessions are inclusive and open to all. They attract people with a range of ages, abilities, nationalities, backgrounds, beliefs and life circumstances, representative of our diverse area. Garden activities vary with the season and are catered to the interests, skills and ability of our volunteers. They include sowing, weeding, planting, harvesting, watering, seed saving, chicken care as well as DIY, creating wildlife habitats, composting, painting and developing new growing spaces. We hold an advanced volunteer skills training session twice a month. As well as helping our volunteers develop new skills, these sessions greatly contribute to their physical and mental health. There is always time for a hot drink and chat, usually with cakes and snacks contributed by our volunteers or staff.

During Wednesday sessions we hold meetings, undertake DIY and project work, and a smaller number of key volunteers carry out essential watering, harvesting and chicken care.

In response to the demand we have also started a monthly weekend family session aimed at local families with children and who cannot attend on weekdays.

In February we started a new volunteer program called Grounded Facilitators. Facilitators are volunteers with additional responsibilities, such as leading small working groups, assisting with running workshops, managing certain areas of the garden and leading training sessions. The program is designed to give our most committed volunteers more autonomy, 'ownership' of the garden, extra training and new skills. It has improved our growing systems and enabled us to help more people learn to grow. We currently have 4 facilitators on the garden team and are looking to expand this number.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Grounded Community began to apply for charity status early 2019. Through much debate and conversation, and communication with the charity commission, we arrived at an agreed aims and objectives for the charity.

We were granted charity status on January 9th 2020. We then spent the year consolidating our concepts, projects and plans into a strategy and action template.

In February 2020, we pulled together an action plan and focus chart based on our projects and the way we wanted to support the community to develop. We talked to volunteers, trustees, our founder and others to pull together thoughts and ideas.

What we arrived at were 4 clear areas of focus and 6 projects.

Below I will outline a summary of these and the progress we have made in each case.

Grounded Gardens

Through the past 7 years the project has helped maintain a secret garden. Over the past year this site has really been developed and plans made and progressed to add features to it. This has included, on site irrigation, removal of one plastic Poly tunnel and in place and edible forest planted with design elements. Funding achieved to build a 'Deck' outdoor learning and kitchen space.

This garden has also been attended by many more volunteers than ever, at least 50 per week. A skills and education programme established for all ages. Including Nature play sessions, food growing workshops, volunteer training and community events.

We have further established a second Secret garden with a store shed, new poly tunnel, mushroom growing area, compost store and an educational bee hive.

We also took on a neighbour's garden as an overflow for our food growing programme.

Grounded Growers

In 2019 we piloted a home growers' concept in 8 private gardens and 2 commercial gardens. The result was good, but we could not sustain that level of involvement to increase numbers.

Through some collaboration in 2020 into 2021 we managed to run a pilot scheme with another community group to place 30 raised planters in housing association gardens. This concept was really positive and we are now seeking to create a home growers scheme replicating this model. We realised that we needed to offer more support to residents, and so will now aim to add the word 'Support' into our charitable objectives. This way we can offer further services to the public for their benefit.

Feed Our Community

In early 2020 we adopted a community fridge project within the charity. When the pandemic hit this project could not function, so we managed to establish a temporary space in Boscombe and vehicle to deliver food during Lockdown 1 to those shielding and in need of food locally.

In Oct '20 we moved into shared facilities with the local Foodbank, our new permanent home for this project.

Each week we do 63 pickups from stores across Bournemouth, Ringwood and New Milton. Food boxes go out 3 times a week on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday. 6 days a week the hub is manned to bring sort the collections and ensure safe storing of food.

At Christmas we worked in Partnership to distribute 60 fresh food Christmas hampers to local families and individuals. Distributions increased from twice weekly to four days a week to ensure that food is distributed as quickly as possible as well as increasing the fresh food intake from Secret Garden and another local food growing project.

In total on average since Jan 2020 until May 2021 on average about 265 people a week have benefitted from food from Feed our Community and approx 55 tonnes of surplus and grown food has been collected and redistributed. At the height of the pandemic 600 people a week were receiving food and two to three tonnes a week was being collected.

Grounded Gatherers

This is a new project funded by the national Lottery. WE purchased £8000 of preserving and food preparation items. The plan is to develop a process of gathering surplus food and gluts from many locations and creating with it meals and consumable products, to go out in the box scheme or to feed the community through canteen style meals.

Community Composting Scheme

The concept for this was talked through in 2014. We were offered a Rocket Composter in 2020 and we transported it to the local shopping centre where a contract has been agreed to run it as a community composting scheme. The project will commence in July 2021, once full installation has been made. We are partnering with the shopping centre and have raised £4000 to set this up.

The food boxes and volunteering at FOC was also a lifeline to many in need. We have been able to support these boxes with fresh produce from our gardens on a weekly basis for 7 months of the year. We have also partnered with two other food box charities which have been sharing produce to benefit each other.

Grounded Bees

Having kept bees in the project for 3 years. This year we have been able to employ a beekeeper, set up a new education hive. Gain money from 2 crowd funding activities, to purchase 20 bee suits and further hives. We have been creating Bee Experiences and a mentoring scheme. We will soon be delivering children's workshops and experiences too.

Website

We created a new website which was launched in May '21.

www.groundedcommunity.co.uk

There are many other tangible contacts, connections, ripple effects that are hard to quantify in a report. Some of these are by-products of the activities we have run and not the main objectives but have huge community and personal benefit to those involved.

Many volunteers anecdotally commented how supportive the charity is for their emotional wellbeing and mental health. Motivationally benefiting many people, who have been home working or out of work. During the Pandemic, our Secret Garden space provided a haven of outdoor space small socially distanced group to gather together and help tend the garden.

Grounded Van

We were also donated a van and got it serviced and branded and fully used by the team.

Section E**Financial review****Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves**

The trustees discussed the following factors in arriving at their reserves policy:

1. It would be prudent to keep three months running costs in reserves in case of an unexpected drop in income/funding so as to be able to cover current salaries and
2. To be able to provide the charity with adequate financial stability and the means for it to meet its charitable objectives for the foreseeable future.


It is the policy of the Charity to hold in reserves the equivalent of three months general core costs or a minimum of £10K to cover our regular monthly outgoings of which currently includes our three staff management salaries. This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure a minimum reserve is maintained to accommodate any financial and/or operational changes such as the recruitment of additional staff.

The Charity at present has £10,000 in reserves.

Section F**Declaration**

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	John Hanson	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	
Date	17/12/21	

Charity Registration Number 1187272

Grounded Community

Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the Year ended 31st May 2021

Mrs Sue Wintle
Independent Examiner
27 Bascott Road
Bournemouth
Dorset
BH11 8RJ

Grounded Community

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Grounded Community

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees

John Hanson
Camilla Hawley
John Richards
Chris Swain

Principal Office

Flat 2
6 Undercliffe Road
Boscombe
BH5 1BL

Charity Registration Number

1187272

Independent Examiner

Mrs Sue Wintle
Independent Examiner
27 Bascott Road
Bournemouth
BH11 8RJ

Grounded Community Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities


The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statement in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial period which gives a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the constitution. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the trustees of the charity and signed on its behalf by



Mr John Hanson
Trustee

Date 25/10/21

Grounded Community

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Grounded Community

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st May 2021 which are set out on pages 4 - 10

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- To follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.


Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

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

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act 2011; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act
- have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Sue Wintle
Independent Examiner
Association of Accounting Technicians

27 Bascott Road
Bournemouth
Dorset
BH11 8RJ

Date 25-10-2021

Grounded Community
Statement of Financial Activities
For the Year ended 31st May 2021

	Note	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total 31 May 2021
Income and Endowments from					
Donations and Legacies	1	<u>22,457</u>		<u>61,903</u>	<u>84,360</u>
Expenditure on Charitable Activities					
Administration	2	622	-	-	622
Running Costs	3	343	-	-	343
Feed our Community	4	673	-	24,047	24,720
Grounded Garden	4	7,941	-	19,630	27,571
Grounded Bee-zz	4	70	-	632	702
Grounded Compost	4	230	-	-	230
Edible Forest	4	285	-	5,733	6,018
	5	<u>10,164</u>		<u>50,042</u>	<u>60,206</u>
Net Fund Movement		<u>12,293</u>		<u>11,861</u>	<u>24,154</u>
Gross Transfers between funds - In		-	10,000	-	10,000
Gross Transfers between funds -Out		(10,000)		-	(10,000)
Reconciliation of Funds					
Total funds brought forward		-	-	-	-
Total funds carried forward	6	<u>2,293</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>11,861</u>	<u>24,154</u>

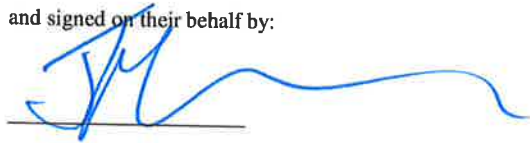
All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above period.

Grounded Community
Notes to the Financial Statements

	Note	31st May 2021
Current Assets		
Cash at Bank		23,778
Cash in Hand		376
		<u><u>24,154</u></u>
Funds of the Charity:		
Restricted Funds		11,861
Designated		10,000
Unrestricted Funds		2,293
	6	<u><u>24,154</u></u>

The financial statements on Pages 4 - 10 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on

and signed on their behalf by:



Mr John Hanson
Trustee

Grounded Community
Notes to the financial Statements for the year ended 31st May 2021

INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
Donations and Legacies			2021
Armstrong	500	-	500
BH Lottery	399	-	399
Bournemouth Coast Bid	-	1,940	1,940
Co-op	2,231	-	2,231
Crossover Funds	300	-	300
Crowdfunding	14,990	-	14,990
Donations and Legacies	1,900	-	1,900
Dorset Community Foundation	-	14,760	14,760
Fundraising	54	-	54
Grounded Bees	-	5,825	5,825
Grounded Gardens	-	430	430
Hall and Woodhouse	-	1,200	1,200
JP Morgan	-	1,500	1,500
National Lottery	-	36,248	36,248
Rotary	2,083	-	2,083
Total Income	1 22,457	61,903	84,360
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable Activities			
Administration and Trading	Unrestr'd	Restr'd	Total
			2021
Administration	174	-	174
Bookkeeping	198	-	198
Insurance	140	-	140
Postage	10	-	10
Website	100	-	100
2	622	-	622
Running Costs			
Equipment	129	-	129
Refreshments	5	-	5
Repairs & Maintenance	209	-	209
3	343	-	343
Projects			
Feed our Community	673	24,047	24,719
Grounded Garden	7,941	19,630	27,570
Grounded Bee-zz	70	632	702
Grounded Compost	230	-	230
Edible Forest	285	5,733	6,018
4	9,198	50,042	59,240
Total Charitable Activities	5 10,164	50,042	60,206

Grounded Community
Notes to the financial Statements for the year ended 31st May 2021

Trustees Remuneration and Expenses

One Trustee received any remuneration from the charity during the year, with the consent of Charities Commission.

Staff Costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2,021
	£
Wages and salaries	<u>24,200</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year.

Grounded Community
Notes to the financial Statements for the year ended 31st May 2021

INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
Donations and Legacies			2021
Armstrong	500	-	500
BH Lottery	399	-	399
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EXPENDITURE ON
Charitable Activities
Administration and Trading

	Unrestr'd	Restr'd	Total
			2021
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Website	100	-	100
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Running Costs

Equipment	129	-	129
Refreshments	5	-	5
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Projects

Feed our Community	673	24,047	24,719
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4	9,198	50,042	59,240

Total Charitable Activities

5	10,164	50,042	60,206
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Grounded Community
Notes to the financial Statements for the year ended 31st May 2021

Trustees Remuneration and Expenses

No Trustee, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

Staff Costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

Wages and salaries

2,021

£

24,200

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year.

Grounded Community
Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st May 2021

Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation

	Note 6				
Fund Movement	01.06.20	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	31.05.21
Asda	-	-	-	-	-
Grounded Bee-zz	-	5,825	-	-	5,825
Bournemouth Coast Bid	-	1,940	-	-	1,940
Dorset Community Foundation	-	12,260	(12,260)	-	-
Dorset Community Foundation Wessex Water	-	2,500	(902)	-	1,598
Grounded Gardens	-	430	-	-	430
Hall and Woodhouse	-	1,200	-	-	1,200
JP Morgan	-	1,500	(631)	-	869
National Lottery	-	36,248	(36,248)	-	-
Total Restricted	-	61,903	(50,042)	-	11,861
Designated	-	-	-	10,000	10,000
General Funds	-	22,457	(10,164)	(10,000)	2,293
	-	84,360	(60,206)	-	24,154

£10,000 was transferred to designated funds as a reserve which presents three months expenditure for the charity to help meet obligations in months when there may be no cash flow/funds