



# ANNUAL REPORT

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2022 - 2023





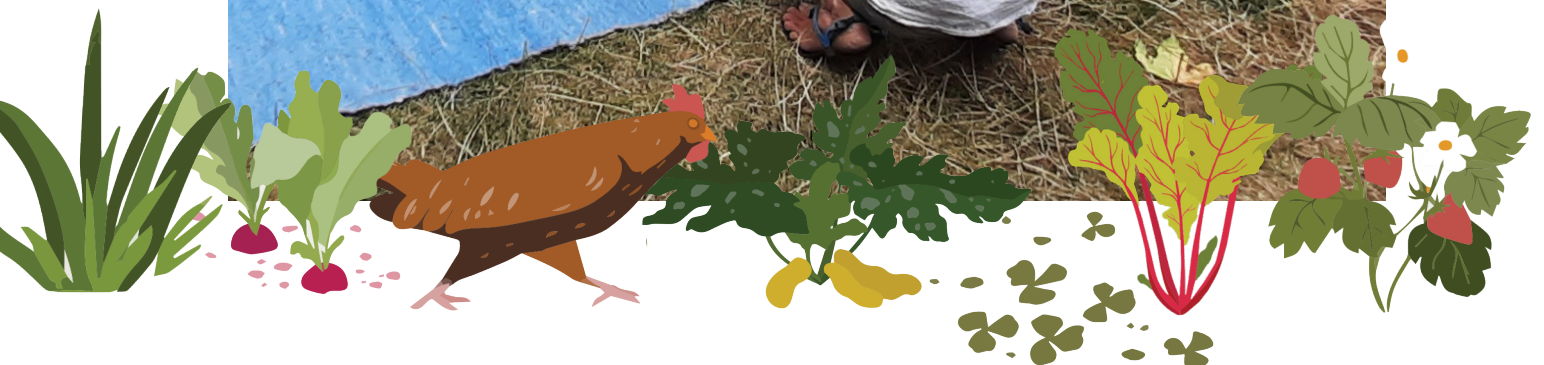
# INTRODUCTION TO THE CHARITY

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Well, what a year it's been! The team at Grounded Community have successfully weathered the roller-coaster of seasons, highs and lows, joys and challenges, of running a community based charity with a big mission: to educate, share and grow, so we can reconnect members of our community with nature, with food and with each other.



GROUNDING COMMUNITY



# ENSURING OUR WORK DELIVERS OUR AIMS

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01

## OUR VISION:

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A world where all urban communities have access to locally grown, nutritious food.

02

## OUR MISSION

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To educate, share and grow, so we can reconnect members of our community with nature, with food and with each other. We want to work together to build an abundant, circular food system and a culture of storing, reusing and redistributing food surplus. To do this, we focus on four areas: education, community, access to food and environment.



1

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## OBJECTS - WHY THEY ARE CHANGING

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Whilst our core operations have remained much the same as when we officially registered the charity in 2020, our practices and approaches are adapting and changing all the time. Societal changes, due to the cost-of-living crisis, have had an impact on our team, volunteers, beneficiaries, and provision. As a result, in 2022 we submitted a request to the Charity Commission, to change our charity objects to align our activities more fully with our primary purposes.

1. To advance the education of the public in subjects of sustainable development and the protection, enhancement, and rehabilitation of the environment by teaching, demonstrating, and supporting people how to grow food to improve health and well-being.
2. The relief of those in need, by reason of age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage through the gathering, collection and distribution of food, the provision of support to grow food and the reduction of food waste.





## FACES BEHIND THE CHARITY - TRUSTEES

Our Trustees are highly qualified and skilled members of the local community, who give a huge amount of time and energy to support the charity. This year we have expanded the Trustee team with the appointment of Mark Stimson on 14th July 2022, who brings vast experience as a Commercial Property Lawyer, along with skills and passion for cooking and addressing food insecurity. We would like to thank Chukuma Dibigbo for his time and commitment, as he departed the team on 10th January 2023. Chukuma is a local graphic designer and volunteer, who created much of our beautiful branding.

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GROUNDING COMMUNITY





## FACES BEHIND THE CHARITY - COORDINATORS

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MICHAEL FRENCH

PROJECTS



JONNO WATSON SHORT

SKILLS & LEARNING



KAREN EVERETT

ADMINISTRATION & POLICY



SHARON BRINKMAN

VOLUNTEER & HR



ANGELA GRAY

OPERATIONS



THERESA MCMANUS

OUTREACH



JENNY MUELLER

FEED OUR COMMUNITY



ADAM HORAN

CONTRACTOR - COMPOSTING



FRED SEDGLEY

CONTRACTOR - BEE'ZZ



AIMEE GRAHAM

CONTRACTOR - SOCIAL MEDIA



EVERYTIME I VISIT THE GARDEN THE STAFF ARE ALWAYS SO POSITIVE AND HELPFUL, I'M ALWAYS ENCOURAGED TO HELP OUT!



In April 2022, thanks to the securing of core funding from the National Lottery Community Fund, we were able to embark on a recruitment drive to expand our paid staff team. We successfully increased our head count by 4 part time staff, many of whom started as volunteers and developed into their current roles. As a result, we now have an amazing team of diverse, passionate, and talented people; 7 part-time paid staff and 3 contractors. This allowed us to assign a Project Coordinator to each of our 6 key projects, including a dedicated Volunteer & HR Coordinator. In addition, we have self-funded further contractor resources, to support our Little Gardeners Stay & Play Sessions at the Secret Garden and expand our Grounded Gatherers project.



# ACHIEVEMENTS



## OUTLINE OF ACHIEVEMENTS:

This year, with the addition of Grounded Growers and Social Canteen projects, we achieved exponential growth at our main hubs; the Secret Garden and Feed Our Community at the Bournemouth Food Bank premises. This expansion led to increased volunteer engagement, van use, team coordination, financial expenses and prompted a major upgrade to our systems, policies, and processes.



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

In March 2022, with support from the Access to Food Partnership, we co-hosted the “Growing Great Ideas” event, attracting 65 individuals. Representatives included local councillors and charities, allotment owners and farmers, foragers and chef’s; anyone with an interest in food security. This event helped to shape our focus and strategy for the year, including the development of our food web.



## ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

Adopting a holacratic system inspired by other forward-thinking organisations, we decentralised management, introduced consent decision making, established a flat pay structure, and empowered our multi-role teams to be self-managing. Professional training enhanced internal and external interactions, and engagement with coordinators led to a more streamlined structure. Meeting circles and SharePoint implementation improved decision-making transparency and teamwork



## SOCIAL CANTEEN PILOT:

The aim of The Social Canteen was to light a spark, galvanise local people and create long term, sustainable opportunities for people to eat well, spend less & socialise. Launched in October 2022, The Social Canteen pilot, supported by Dorset Community Foundation and BCP Food Support Fund, served over 1,000 meals to those in need. Positive feedback and learnings are guiding the creation of a blueprint guide for similar social community gatherings across the conurbation and beyond.





## VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE:

A dedicated HR & Volunteer Coordinator improved our volunteer experience; an ever increasing 170+ strong team. A streamlined sign-up process, online check-in, the introduction of garden tours, and feedback questionnaires have enhanced engagement. Mailchimp implementation engages over 1000 newsletter subscribers and we see a daily increase on our current 2,000+ social media followers.



## PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS:

We have expanded connections with local businesses, charities, and social care groups. Our collaborations with Help & Care, International Care Network, and local NHS Social Prescriber's help to support members of our community with their physical and mental well-being. Our corporate supporters, such as Dorset Tea, Organix, LUSH Cosmetics, Pretty Clever Media, Just Move In, Hall & Woodhouse, Elliotts Builders' Merchant, Arts University Bournemouth and Bournemouth University, have all generously contributed funding, time, and resources.



## GROUNDLED GROWERS PROJECT LAUNCH:

With the intention of providing greater sustainability for the charity, our Grounded Growers project piloted an outreach service, providing one-to-one support and a raised bed installation service for home growers. Charges are means-tested, and supplier relationships allow for free soil donations for community projects.



# COMMUNITY FOOD WEB



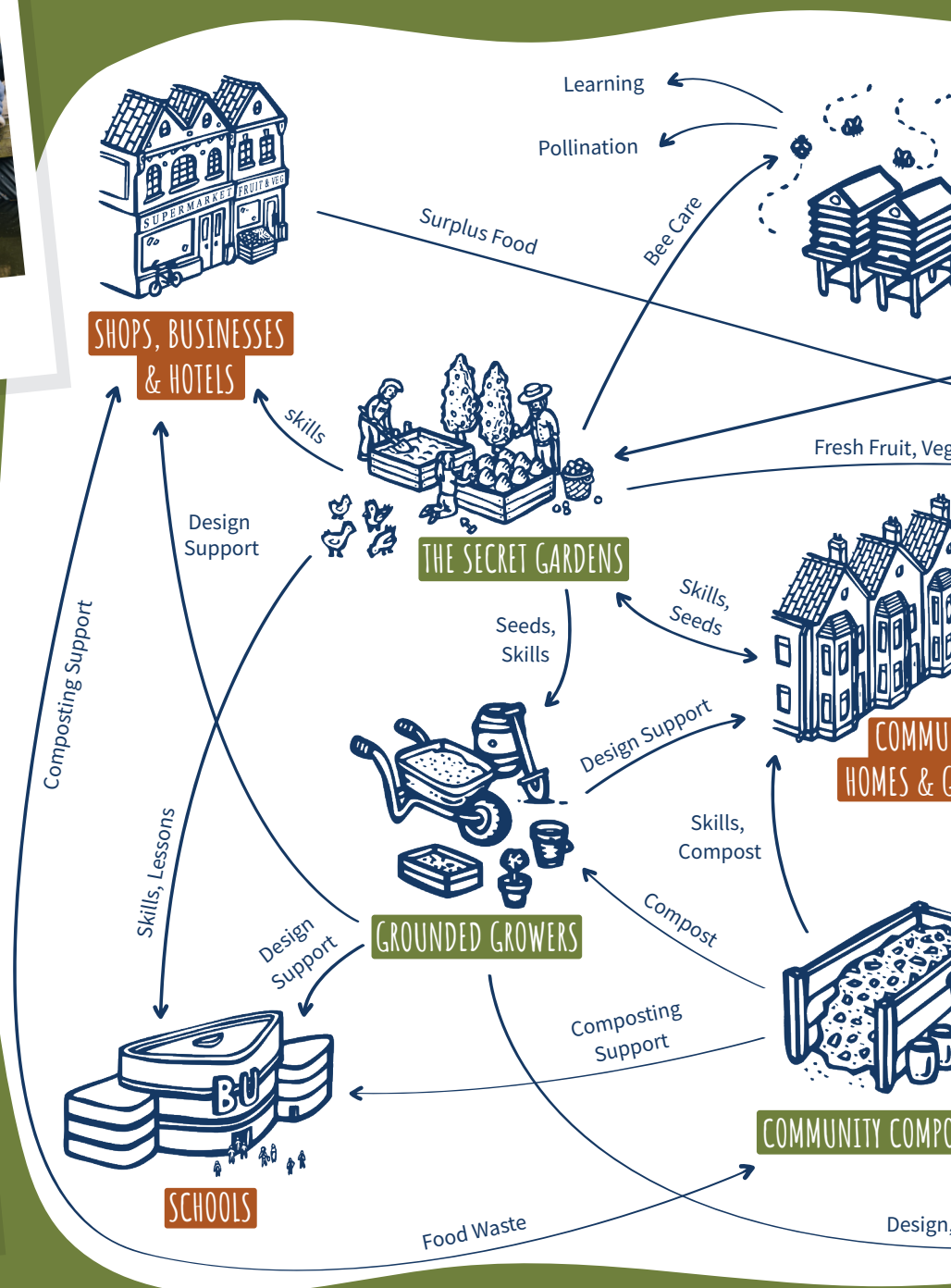
NATURE PLAY



CHURCHILL GARDENS



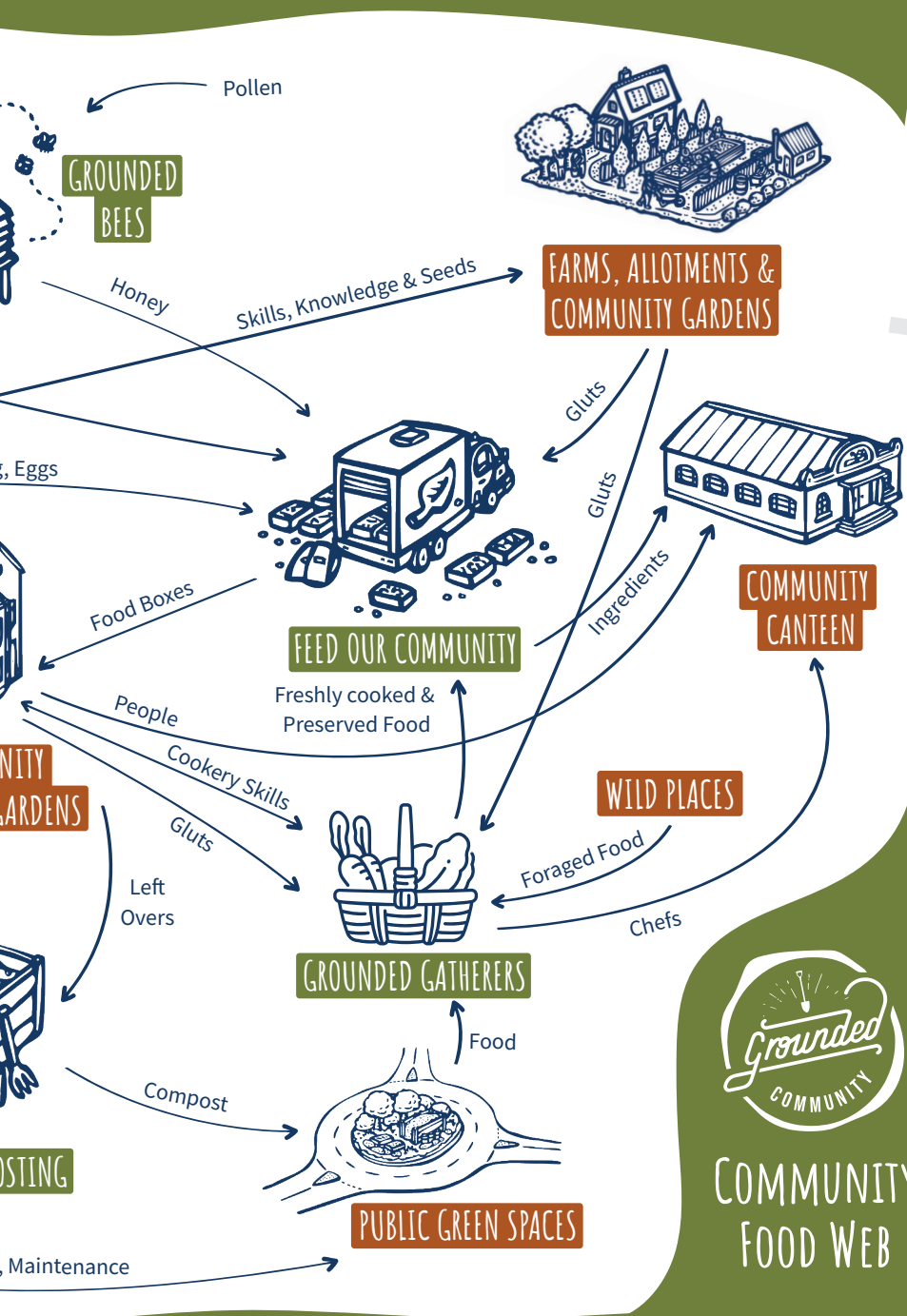
PARTNERSHIPS



## GROUNDLED MAP

We manage six projects and we're always on the lookout for new and creative ways to connect members of our community with nature, with food and with each other, so our projects can evolve and change in response to local needs.





Our food web has been developed through many iterations over the years, as our community projects have expanded. This version was created with the help of local artist Miroslav Lucan, of Lucanart, at our "Growing Great Ideas" event in March 2022. It demonstrates our circular economy and has enabled us to focus our attention on our service gaps.





# OUR PROJECTS





## SECRET GARDENS

Our skills & learning hubs with chickens, an outdoor kitchen and a huge variety of fruit and veg looked after by a team of volunteers. Here we hold workshops, community meals, playgroups & events.



## FEED OUR COMMUNITY

Collecting, sorting and distributing locally grown and supermarket surplus food to the right places and the right people – those who really need it.



## GROUNDLED GROWERS

Our community outreach team, offering a raised bed installation service, supporting people to grow fruit and veg in their own back gardens, on patios or in workspaces.



## GROUNDLED GATHERERS

Preserving, pickling, cooking, dehydrating and storing surplus fruit and veg from gardens, public spaces and supermarkets.



## COMMUNITY COMPOSTING

We transform food waste from local businesses into nutritious compost, using our 700 litre rocket composter on the roof of the Sovereign Centre in Boscombe.



## GROUNDLED BEE'ZZ

Wherever we grow plants, we need pollinators – and bees are the best creatures for the job. We look after bee colonies on the roof of the Sovereign Centre and in our Nursery Garden in Boscombe.





## SECRET GARDENS

This year our Gardens project has developed across several sites and community offerings, all of which are coordinated by our Gardens team.

100

volunteering sessions

32

skills workshops

438

workshop attendees

72

workshops at our  
community allotments

716

children attended  
Little Gardeners playgroup

32

Little Gardeners  
sessions

## AYESHA

### SECRET GARDEN VOLUNTEER



BB

Ayesha has lived in Springbourne for 50 years. She was introduced to the garden by a friend and has since made many new like-minded connections, as well as receiving support and materials to build her own growing space at home. Having sadly lost her brother and niece during the pandemic, she also experienced an emotional support which she wasn't expecting. "Being at the garden really helps to ground me and bring me into the moment, which gives a sense of peace and helps to alleviate the anxiety". Ayesha is a calming presence to all who volunteer alongside her and now has a reputation for her legendary samosa's, which she brings every week for all our volunteers to enjoy.

BB



## COMMUNITY COMPOSTING

This project, funded by CoastalBID completed its first year of operations by March 2023 and is located on the roof of the Sovereign Shopping Centre in Boscombe.

**SURPLUS**  
food programme

**974** Full  
Caddies  
of food waste went into  
our Rocket Composter

**15** Businesses  
have their food waste  
collected by 2 contractors

**8.1** Tonnes  
of food waste diverted  
from incineration/landfill

**5** Tonnes  
of compost produced  
& used in the community

**47** Tonnes  
of food diverted from  
surplus pick-ups

### ADAM

#### GARDEN VOLUNTEER & COMMUNITY COMPOSTING COORDINATOR



During lock-down in 2020, Adam had lost his Mum to a heart attack, so when his mental health started deteriorating, he decided to visit the garden. "For the first time in my life, I felt like I was doing something right, that had direction, and it also helped me to assess how I live my own life in terms of waste and sustainability." Adam helped build our shelter in the nursery garden and also a space on the Sovereign Centre roof for our rocket composter. It was there he connected with the centre manager, who proposed a project funded by Bournemouth Coastal Bid, to collect food waste and manage watering in local green spaces. Adam has since become an invaluable member of the team on our Composting project, collecting over 8.1 tonnes of food waste in our first year of operation.







GROUND  
ED  
GROWERS

In May 2022, our Grounded Growers project was launched, offering a consultation service for home growers and community spaces, including the installation of raised beds with the option of ongoing support and advice.

15 Raised  
Beds

installed on the  
Beaufort Housing Estate

10 Raised  
Beds

installed in local  
residents' gardens

4 Local  
School

consultations on  
outdoor space use

4 Raised  
Beds

installed at the  
Organix HQ

4 Raised  
Beds

installed at a  
local hotel

£3,500+

income generated to  
support our activities

12

PHIL

GROUND  
ED  
GROWERS &  
GARDEN  
VOLUNTEER



BB

Phil was referred to the garden by Terry from Help & Care in 2021. During lock-down, Phil started leaning heavily on alcohol, after leaving his management job following an emotional breakdown. At his lowest point, he was sectioned after two suicide attempts and 3 days in intensive care. "Over the past year, the garden has literally saved my life, it's given me hope, it's rebuilt my self-confidence and improved my self-esteem. I was completely isolated and alone, but the garden has given me structure, improved my health and even changed my perspective about the environment and society. I've connected with so many genuinely caring people." Phil is now an inspiring member of our volunteer team, getting stuck in with DIY jobs, installing raised beds in the community, and making new friends along the way.

BB



FEED OUR  
COMMUNITY

Our food surplus distribution project; we continue to pick up surplus food from supermarkets, cafés and other businesses, with fresh fruit and veg supplemented by our gardens and home growing spaces. We also receive generous donations from the public.

30+ Volunteers  
are out 2-3 times per day

61

weekly surplus  
food pick-ups  
every week

1.5 Tonnes  
surplus food every week

14,560 kg  
of bread redistributed

46,837 kg  
of food redistributed

## GEORGINA

### FEED OUR COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER



In 2021, Georgina was suffering with PTSD, was claustrophobic and felt surrounded by negativity. "I started volunteering at Feed Our Community on Thursday's and alternate Friday's and it was one of the best things I did!". Georgina's enthusiasm to learn has meant that she has taken on multiple admin tasks at the hub, from social media to client coordination and data tracking. "I

love hands-on learning and I'm becoming a data nerd! I really enjoy seeing how much food we save from landfill and how much we give back to the local community." Georgina has experienced great camaraderie with her teammates too. "The best part is the people I work alongside. The people in our building are so friendly, welcoming, and kind. I have so many clients making the effort to have a chat. It's nice being part of a community. It has really brought my confidence back, helped me through a tough time and given my children a great life lesson." We love you too George!







## GROUND GATHERERS

The purpose of our Gatherers project is to pool community resources to make food go further. A great opportunity to learn something new, share skills, eat together and all whilst helping to feed our local community and prevent food waste.

Food surplus from our Feed Our Community project is used for these sessions, in addition to gluts collected from local gardens. As a result, stronger connections are being built with allotments and community growing spaces.

£8,000

National Lottery Grant  
seed funded in 2021

90%

improved their skills in  
preserving & cooking

150 Low  
Income

households benefited  
from session produce



## GROUND BEE'ZZ

Our Grounded Bee'zz project now has multiple colonies on the rooftop of the Sovereign Shopping Centre in Boscombe, including several hives from partner charity Bee Mission.

Two further hives in our Nursery Garden are the base for our educational experience sessions.



40 Children  
got up close  
to the bees

15 kg HONEY  
was harvested and jarred  
by our team of volunteers



## THE SOCIAL CANTREEN

As a result of our “Growing Great Ideas” gathering at the start of 2022, we wanted to gauge support for “The Social Canteen”, a new way of eating - together.

With a passion for tackling food insecurity and experience of community engagement, key stakeholders were rallied from Bournemouth Food Bank, BCP Council Community Development Team and C3 Collaborating for Health. The project was developed and piloted during the October 2022 half term, based at the Gardens Rooms at the Bournemouth Food Bank.

Our 40 strong volunteer team came together in the preparation, cooking and front of house meal service, bringing members of our local community together for a wholesome two course meal. Strong partnerships were formed with The Friendly Food Club and SWRAC, a local young people’s charity, who now cook with us every Friday.

100  
meals distributed  
on <20 events

63 Local  
People  
fed on each of our  
open evenings

100%  
Satisfaction feedback  
from 120 Questionnaires

4.5/5  
Quality of food &  
Quality of venue

5★  
Food Hygiene  
Rating

73%  
of people were feeling  
the pinch with money







## THE SOCIAL CANTEEN CASE STUDY



Len had been living in a bedsit for the past couple of years after separating from his partner and was feeling isolated. He had been invited to the Social Canteen by a volunteer and was sitting alone when Rosann approached his table and introduced herself. The pair struck up a lively conversation and before long, Len had invited Rosann to his flat for a cuppa and they've been firm friends ever since. They now attend every week, enjoying each others company, as well as the wholesome meals. "Rosie has become a close friend of mine, and we really enjoy eating with other people from our neighbourhood. I also get to grumble with a few people and they get to grumble back!"











FUNDERS



## FUNDERS - £118,159 RECEIVED THIS YEAR!

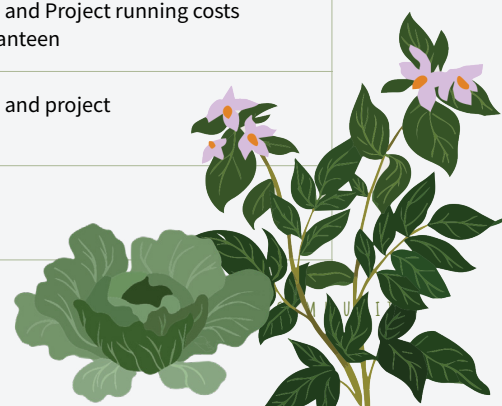
We would like to take this opportunity to thank our funders for their commitment to the charity this year. This table reflects the amount of income we have received from grants and other commercial funders.



The Alice Ellen Cooper-Dean  
Charitable Foundation



MONTH/YEAR GRANT FUND RECEIVED	FUNDER AGREEMENT NAME	FUND APPLIED VALUE £	FUND TYPE I.E. RESTRICTED OR UNRESTRICTED
Jan 2023	HubBub	£5,000.00	RESTRICTED - From April for FOC/Social Canteen to cover rent for Apr, May, Jun & Jul
Dec 2022	Green Hall Foundation	£3,000.00	RESTRICTED - To complete and upgrade facilities
Dec 2022	Boscombe Charity Shop	£2,150.00	RESTRICTED - Solar Upgrade to the Shack
Dec 2022	Dorset Community Foundation Winter Warmth Fund	£7,500.00	RESTRICTED - FOC/Social Canteen to cover some core costs and project running costs
Dec 2022	SSFS 12 Days Grant (Strategic Solutions)	£1,000.00	UNRESTRICTED DONATION
Nov 2022	Sovereign Housing Community Funding	£1,000.00	RESTRICTED - Communities Funding Agreement for Growers on Shelley Close
Oct 2022	Bournemouth Coastal Bid	£1,700.00	RESTRICTED - Roof for the composter
Oct 2022	Alice Ellen Cooper Dean	£20,000.00	RESTRICTED - Core costs – from Jan 23 until Dec 2023
Sept 2022	Dorset Community Foundation Nature Heals Fund	£1,000.00	RESTRICTED - Core costs – for the staffing of the Little Gardeners sessions and resources
July 2022	Dorset Community Foundation Grant	£1,500.00	RESTRICTED - Core costs and Project running costs for FOC and the Social Canteen
June 2022	Dorset Community Foundation Grant	£7,000.00	RESTRICTED - Core costs and project running costs
May 2022	National Lottery Community Fund	£67,309	RESTRICTED - Core costs received quarterly







## ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

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We have developed a robust SharePoint based finance system, allowing us to track our finances on 3 levels; Transactions, Projects and Fund. We have prepared project plans, defining each holacratic circle, its remit, its team and the corresponding budget for each project. Our finance circle is also working towards forecast budget tracking, RAG status report by project and our funding pipeline tracker, which will link to our finance system.

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## A MESSAGE FROM OUR TREASURER:

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PETER DRYSDALE  
TRUSTEE & TREASURER

Grounded Community is an ambitious charity who are seeking to make an impact in the BCP area and beyond. Though still relatively young, the charity has grown each year and this is true for both our financial processes and controls, which are stronger than ever. We are in good financial health and with the committed backing from a range of donors and bodies, including the National Lottery Community Fund, Reaching Communities grant, the trustees are certain that the charity is a going concern and that we will continue this upward trajectory.

GROUND  
ED COMMUNITY

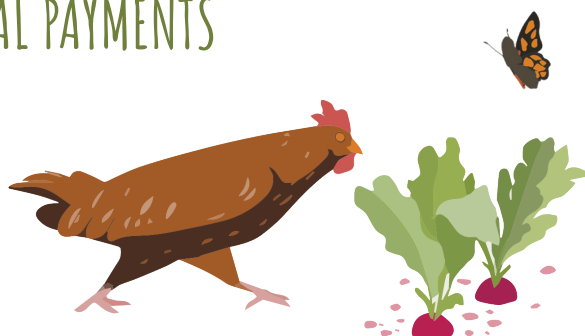
## 2023 ACCOUNTS SNAPSHOT

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£ 134,234 - TOTAL RECEIPTS

£ 115,429 - TOTAL PAYMENTS

£ 34,736 - E.O.Y CASH FUNDS



# 2023 GROUNDED ACCOUNTS

Description	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Last Years' Funds
<b>RECEIPTS</b>				
Grants		£ 114,459	£ 114,459	£ 47,944
Donations	£ 19,390	£ 386	£ 19,776	
Fundraising				£ 5,000
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>£ 19,390</b>	<b>£ 114,844</b>	<b>£ 134,234</b>	<b>£ 52,944</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>				
Salaries & Allied Costs	£ 12,601	£ 58,302	£ 70,903	
Contractor Fees	£ 498	£ 14,667	£ 15,166	
Direct Project Costs	£ 1,003	£ 16,336	£ 17,339	£ 1,904
Office & Admin	£ 83	£ 2,358	£ 2,441	£ 18,613
Trustee Expenses	£ 36	£ 245	£ 280	
Training	£ 453	£ 1,437	£ 1,890	
Rent & Land		£ 4,650	£ 4,650	£ 2,250
Other Indirect Expenses	£ 15	£ 2,745	£ 2,760	£ 38,402
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>£ 14,689</b>	<b>£ 100,740</b>	<b>£ 115,429</b>	<b>£ 61,169</b>

<b>YEARLY ACCOUNTS OVERVIEW</b>				
Total Payments	£ 14,689	£ 100,740	£ 115,429	£ 61,169
Net of Receipts/Payments	£ 4,702	£ 14,104	£ 18,806	£ 8,224
Cash Funds at Last Year End	£ 2,949	£ 12,981	£ 15,930	£ 24,154
<b>CASH FUNDS THIS YEAR END</b>	<b>£ 7,651</b>	<b>£ 27,085</b>	<b>£ 34,736</b>	<b>£ 15,930</b>





## CONTACT US

FIND US BEHIND THE CHURCH:  
ST CLEMENT'S RD, BOSCOMBE, BOURNEMOUTH, BH1 4DZ  
WEB: [WWW.GROUNDEDCOMMUNITY.CO.UK](http://WWW.GROUNDEDCOMMUNITY.CO.UK)



REG CHARITY NO.: 1187272  
REG CHARITY ADDRESS: FLAT 5, MONACO COURT, CHARMINSTER ROAD, BOURNEMOUTH, BH8 9QZ



@GROUNDEDCOMMUNITYCHARITY



@GROUNDED-COMMUNITY



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Section C

Accounts

Charity Name

**Grounded Community**

No (if any)

**1187272**

**Receipts and payments accounts**

**CC16a**

For the period  
from

Period start date  
01-Apr-22

To

Period end date  
31-Mar-23

**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 £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Grants	-	114,459	-	114,459	47,944
Donations	19,390	386	-	19,776	
Fundraising (crowdfunder)	-	-	-	-	5,000
<i>Sub total</i>	19,390	114,844	-	134,234	52,944
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Sub total</i>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total receipts</b>	19,390	114,844	-	134,234	52,944
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Salaries and allied costs	12,601	58,302	-	70,903	
Contractor fees	498	14,667	-	15,165	
Direct project costs	1,003	16,336	-	17,339	1,903
Office and admin	83	2,358	-	2,441	18,613
Trustee expenses	36	245	-	280	
Training	453	1,437	-	1,890	-
Rent and land	-	4,650	-	4,650	2,250
Other indirect expenses	15	2,745	-	2,760	38,402
<i>Sub total</i>	14,689	100,740	-	115,429	61,169
<b>A4 Assets purchases</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Sub total</i>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total payments</b>	14,689	100,740	-	115,429	61,169
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	4,702	14,104	-	18,806	- 8,224
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>A6 Cash funds at last year end</b>	2,949	12,981	-	15,930	24,154
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	7,651	27,085	-	34,736	15,930

Signature

Signed by Chair of trustees on  
behalf of all trustees

Print Name

JOHN HANSON

Date of  
approval

19.01.24





Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees /  
members of

On the accounts for  
the year ended

Set out on page

**Grounded Community**

31st March 2023

Charity number 1187272

Section C below

Responsibilities and basis  
of the report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31/03/2023**.

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 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

Date 17/01/2024

Name

ANTHONY J. ELLIS

Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body

A.A.T.

Address:

37 SHERWOOD AVENUE, POOLE, BH14 8DH

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

**any items that the  
examiner wishes to  
disclose**