EXETER SCIENCE CENTRE

England & Wales · Charity number 1194239

Details

Other names	EXETER SCIENCE CENTRE CIC, The Planetary Lab
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2021-04-27
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	1 Marsh Green Road North Marsh Barton Trading Estate Exeter EX2 8NY
Phone	07821063890
Email	info@exetersciencecentre.org
Website	exetersciencecentre.org

Activities

Objects: 1. TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC, PARTICULARLY IN THE SOUTH WEST OF ENGLAND IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ART, MATHEMATICS AND MEDICINE (STEAMM), IN PARTICULAR BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY BY: I) PROVIDING INTERACTIVE ACTIVITIES, EVENTS AND INFORMATION MEDIA; II) ESTABLISHING, DEVELOPING AND MAINTAINING A PHYSICAL STEAMM DISCOVERY CENTRE (SCIENCE CENTRE) FOR PUBLIC BENEFIT; III) DEVELOPING THE PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF AND ENGAGEMENT WITH STEAMM; IV) DEVELOPING PUBLIC ACCESS TO CURRENT SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS PARTICULARLY IN THE SOUTH WEST OF ENGLAND. 2. THE CHARITY SHALL ALSO ADVANCE SUCH OTHER CHARITABLE PURPOSES, WHICH ARE BENEFICIAL TO THE PUBLIC AND WHICH ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE OBJECTS STATED ABOVE, AS THE TRUSTEES IN THEIR ABSOLUTE DISCRETION DETERMINE.

Activities: The Planetary Lab is the working name of Exeter Science Centre as of 2026. We are working to create a network of STEAMM discovery centres in the South West, and in parallel we develop and deliver information media plus hands-on educational exhibitions and events for the public, particularly related to global issues (STEAMM: Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics and Medicine).

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Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** Children/young People, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Cornwall
- Devon
- Plymouth City
- Somerset
- Torbay

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-04-26	£48,720	£77,594	-	-
2024-04-26	£112,919	£62,994	-	-
2023-04-26	£59,876	£44,003	-	-
2022-04-26	£74,475	£48,858	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
PROF JUSTIN SIMON DILLON	Chair	2021-04-27
Christopher John Sims		2023-03-23
David Louis Solomides		2021-04-27
Olga Petrakova Brown		2021-04-27
Oliver David Raud		2025-11-07

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EXETER SCIENCE CENTRE

England & Wales - Charity number 1194239

Accounts

THE EXETER SCIENCE CENTRE

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 26TH APRIL 2025

CHARITY NUMBER: 1194239

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INTRODUCTION

Exeter Science Centre is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) dedicated to public engagement with STEAMM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics and Medicine).

The Trustees are pleased to present their annual report, together with the consolidated financial statements of the charity, for the fourth year of the charity, from 27th April 2024 to 26th April 2025.

ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity name:
Exeter Science Centre

Registered Charity Number:
1194239

Charity's Registered Office Address:
Exeter Science Centre
1 Marsh Green Road
Marsh Barton Trading Estate
Exeter
EX2 8NY

Trustee name	Role	Dates acted if not for whole year
Prof. Justin Dillon	Chair	
Dr Sarah Usher		27/4/2021 - 9/5/2024
David Solomides		
Dr Celia Oxlade		
Prof. Pete Vukusic		27/4/2021 - 9/5/2024
Olga Petrakova-Brown		
Christopher Sims	Treasurer	
Oliver David Raud		06/11/2025 to present

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Exeter Science Centre is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with a CIO Foundation Model Constitution.

It is managed on a day-to-day basis by the two founders and directors, Dr Natalie Whitehead (1 FTE) and Dr Alice Mills (0.8 FTE), and overseen by the board of trustees.

Our Strategic Advisory Board (set up in 2023) meets twice a year and supports the development of the physical spaces and continues to be chaired by Stuart Brocklehurst, Deputy Vice Chancellor of the University of Exeter.

We are grateful to George Monbiot for continuing to be our inspiring Patron.

Appointment of trustees

At the year-end our trustee board is comprised of five trustees with a range of backgrounds and experience. Dr Sarah Usher and Prof. Pete Vukusic stepped down in May 2024 after their three-year terms; we are incredibly grateful for all of their support since the organisation was established.

The charity governing document sets out that there must be a minimum of three trustees and a maximum of 12. After assessing any skills gaps in our board we will seek to recruit new trustees in the coming year.

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

CHAIR'S AND DIRECTORS' INTRODUCTION

Exeter Science Centre reached over 5,200 people this year through in person engagement projects, citizen science, workshops, festivals, fairs and events in schools and communities across the South West. We have collaborated with universities, local and national organisations, community groups, creatives, research and industry partners.

We continue to work with people of all ages and backgrounds, connecting them with current research, industry and local action with a focus on global challenges and their local relevance.

Particular successes this year have been extending our tour of the 'Our World from Space' programme, in particular, adapting this programme to be more accessible and inclusive. We have also been awarded funding for and have launched a citizen science programme in 8 schools across Devon to engage young people with water quality monitoring in their local streams and rivers.

We have recently signed a partnership agreement with North Devon Biosphere and have growing support from North Devon Council to create a science centre in Northern Devon. We are therefore continuing to pursue our plans of creating a network of smaller centres, with the first one being in Barnstaple.

Our volunteer base is growing and we are incredibly grateful for the time, expertise and enthusiasm that our volunteers bring to all our activities. This year 43 volunteers gave a total of 530 hours of their time to support our work and we couldn't have done it without them.

We are hugely grateful for the continued generosity from Lumi Therapy in providing us with rent-free space this year for our office and equipment storage, as well as a generous support package. They have also supported us in installing a living wall on the Lumi building as part of a collaborative research project with the University of Plymouth, for which an intern has joined us for 5 months to support with an engagement project around the benefits of living walls.

This has been a very busy but successful year of engagement and we look forward to growing our organisation and impact in the coming year.

Prof. Justin Dillon	*Dr Natalie Whitehead, Dr Alice Mills*
Chair	Directors

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Our mission is to educate, motivate and empower the public to make a difference in the world.

CHARITABLE PURPOSES

Our main charitable purposes (as described in our CIO governing document) are:

To advance the education of the public, particularly in the South West of England in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Mathematics and Medicine (STEAMM), in particular but not exclusively by:

- providing interactive activities, events and information media;
- establishing, developing and maintaining a physical STEAMM Discovery Centre ('Science Centre') for public benefit;
- developing the public understanding of and engagement with STEAMM;
- developing public access to current scientific and technological advancements particularly in the South West of England.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Trustees confirm that the objectives and activities for the year have been developed with due regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

BENEFICIARIES

Our beneficiaries are people of all ages and backgrounds, particularly in the South West of the UK. We work with schools, the general public, and specific communities of people depending on the projects that we are working on.

For project work where we have limited resources and thus have to limit the direct beneficiaries, we aim to prioritise those from underserved and disadvantaged communities.

When identifying underserved or disadvantaged communities, we prioritise those with less access to STEAMM-related opportunities and in locations that rank highly on the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD, typically within the top 20% most deprived regions in the UK, deciles 1-2).

When working with schools, we prioritise those with more than 20% of pupils entitled to free school meals, or with a postcode ranking highly on the IMD. Where possible, we try to make our work publicly accessible, to increase our reach and impact. This includes making public-friendly video summaries of some of our activities, making our project resources freely accessible on our website and sharing our work via social media.

FUNDRAISING

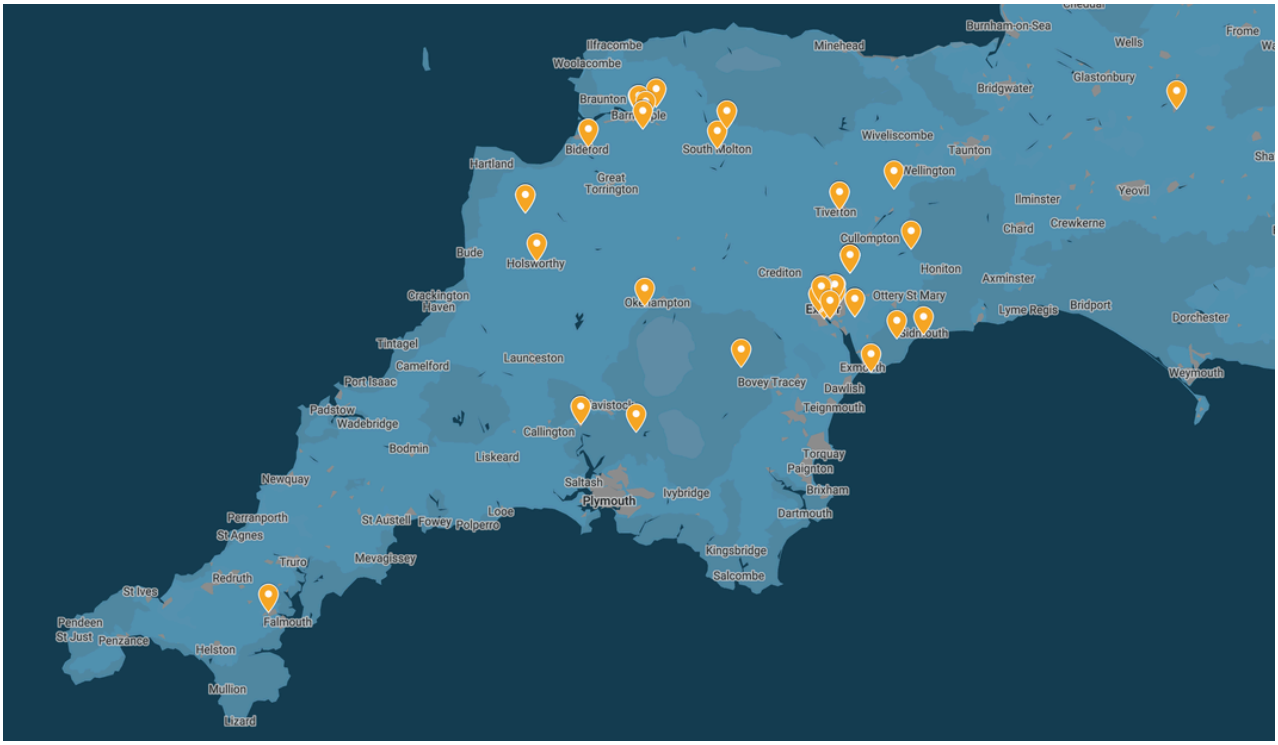
The directors have spent some of their time applying for grants and carrying out fundraising activity, which is estimated in the accounts. We are hugely grateful for funds donated by Lumi Therapy at the end of the last financial year to support our core costs, as well as other kind donations from individuals.

Our projects and activities this financial year (April 2024-2025) have been generously funded by: the University of Exeter; the University of Plymouth; the South West Peninsula National Institute for Healthcare Research; the Association for Science and Discovery Centres (ASDC) plus the UK Space Agency and Natural Environment Research Council for the Our World From Space project; The Adrian Swire Charitable Trust; Sovereign Network Group; The Royal Society of Chemistry; The National Trust; The Royal Albert Memorial Museum; Libraries Unlimited South West; North Devon District Scouts; 361 Energy; Exmouth Town Council; Exeter Phoenix; Exeter City of Literature; Heather Bridge School; CoLab Exeter; Resource Futures; The Institute of Physics.

ACTIVITIES

We have continued to develop and deliver a broad range of activities, predominantly in person. Over the following pages, we outline our main activities over the past financial year.

SUMMARY



Map showing the distribution of our activities this year. In some cases we visited the same group/location multiple times. Credit: Google Maps, 2025, google.com/maps.

ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

Kingfishers: School Freshwater Champions

In November 2024 we were granted £9,648 from the Royal Society of Chemistry to run a 6 month citizen science project in 8 primary schools across Devon, to engage Key Stage 2 children with water quality monitoring. This project was initiated by Reg Godwin, an Applications Specialist for Thermo Fisher Scientific. Reg reached out to us to help him expand his project with his local school to engage more schools, bring in additional collaborators and create a school education package.

We are also collaborating with Greenpeace, the University of Exeter and the Citizen Phage Library for the design of the programme, analysis of the water samples and interpretation of results. So far we have completed the introductory assembly in all the schools and trained all the schools in how to collect the data. They will all collect data monthly until July 2025.

IOP Festival of Physics

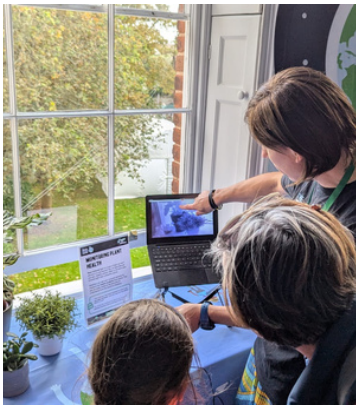
We supported the Institute of Physics South West Branch in planning and delivering their Festival of Physics, hosted for the first time at the University of Exeter's Penryn Campus in Cornwall in February 2025. The day included free talks, exhibitors and workshops around the theme of 'Worlds from Space', along with two zones from us: the Our World From Space activities and We Are Guardians VR experience.

Our World from Space

Our World from Space (OWFS) is a national STEM programme exploring the relevance of UK space science for the future health and sustainability of our home planet, funded by UK Space Agency in partnership with Natural Environment Research Council (NERC). This year we developed a more meaningful, locally-relevant programme of lasting resources, as well as extend the delivery of events into more schools and communities.

Thanks to a generous grant of £6,100 from the Adrian Swire Charitable Trust, we were able to continue our South West tour of the Our World from Space programme from August 2024 to February 2025. In addition, funding from the Sovereign Network Group (SNG) as part of the EDI Community Microgrants Programme, enabled us to engage smaller groups of people with learning or physical disabilities with OWFS activities. Other organisations paid for us to deliver this programme at events for them using their own funding, including the University of Exeter through the FUTURES researchers in schools programme.

In total this year, this programme reached 3,777 people through 22 events and workshops.

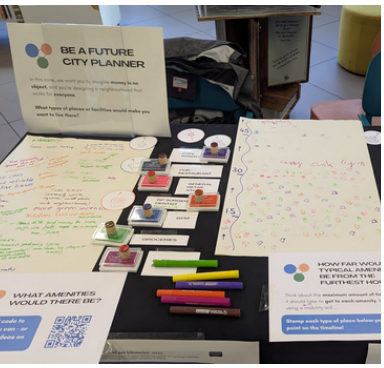


PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMMES

This year we have worked on four public engagement programmes with researchers and research organisations in the region. This has provided an income whilst also working towards our charitable purposes.

Community Connections Project with Dr Federico Botta

In this community engagement project, we are working with University of Exeter (UoE) data science researcher Dr Federico Botta and his research team to understand Exeter residents' views on urban liveability, to help inform his research direction. This project runs from January to June 2025. So far we have carried out public consultations in Exeter library through a drop-in event and are planning in depth consultation sessions with community groups in the coming months.

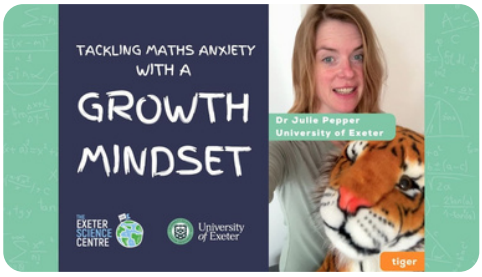


Prof. Janet Anders Research Videos

We continued to work with Prof. Janet Anders (from UoE) and her research team to explore what research is all about, from the perspective of physicists working on quantum devices. They funded us to produce a video on 'what is research?' which is now on our YouTube channel.

Growth Mindset Research video

We worked with psychologists at the University of Exeter to help explain the research around developing a growth mindset to tackle maths anxiety. This follows on from an earlier project on this topic, and the Shorts video is now on our social media channels and website.



Early Cancer Diagnosis Research Video

We worked with the South West Peninsula Regional Research Delivery Network (part of the National Institute for Health and Care Research) to develop videos answering public questions around early cancer diagnosis research. This project is currently paused.

FUNDED INTERNSHIP

Living Wall Research Project and Net Zero Exchange Internship

This year we have worked in collaboration with scientists at the University of Plymouth, along with living wall installers Western Geobuild, plus Lumi Therapy and Melo cafe, to install a living wall on the outside of the lower floor of the building in which our office is based, as part of a research project. The living wall was financially supported by Lumi Therapy who host us in their building, and the researchers' time and equipment was funded by the Net Zero Solutions fund.

The team from the University of Plymouth are looking at how the living wall reduces the amount of heat entering the cafe in the summer, and so reduces the need for artificial cooling. It will also have insulation benefits in winter. In particular, the team are interested in how the choice of leaf type and plant form can make a difference to the heat flux through the building. But there are many other benefits to living walls, including boosting biodiversity locally.

Thanks to the prior donation from Lumi Therapy, we were able to provide in-kind support with the design, installation and coordinating with the research team, and overseeing the Net Zero Exchange Internship which enabled us to connect the public with this project.

Our intern, Amy Thomas, was employed for 5 months and supported with planting the living wall, designing website content, running a public Bioblitz, encouraging participation in biodiversity citizen science, as well as running awareness-raising social media campaigns.

UPCOMING/CONTINUING PROJECTS

In the coming year we will be continuing with a number of funded projects, including:

- Prof Anders research videos.
- Community Connections (data science public engagement programme).
- Kingfishers: School Freshwater Champions citizen science project.
- FUTURES researchers in schools project.
- The Our Positive Future event in Exeter, June 2025.

GROWING THE ORGANISATION

This year has involved a lot of behind the scenes work to push forward our plans for our first centre in North Devon. Our team are excited by the shift from our original concept of a single large centre in Exeter to a network of smaller centres, to better fit the distributed population in the region.

Next year it is essential that we begin to grow our team and take on a Projects Officer to continue delivering on our project work while directors take time to focus on developing plans for a centre, including stakeholder consultations, financial planning and fundraising.

SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

This year, despite no growth in the size of our team, the number of in person interactions with the public increased again to over 5,200 people. This is a reflection of the hard work and dedication of our directors and our growing pool of enthusiastic volunteers. Feedback from our partners and the schools and community groups we have worked with continues to be hugely positive and it is clear that we are reaching people who have not previously had many opportunities to engage with science.

This testimonial from one of the organisations we have worked with regularly demonstrates the impact that we have through our work and approach:

> *"Our learning-disabled members lose a significant amount of support and opportunity when they leave school, leaving them and their families vulnerable to isolation. They desperately need purposeful and fun activity that brings them to the heart of their community.*
>
> *Our work with Exeter Science Centre has done just this. Members and their families, who have previously communicated that "science isn't for me", have engaged with a range of dynamic, accessible activities, facilitated by a team who are able to connect with individuals across our diverse cohort. As well as the brilliant delivery, the team have given the opportunity for the learning-disabled voice to shape the organisation and its offer so that we feel genuinely included and valued. We are excited to see how this partnership develops!"*
>
> ***Charlie Robinson - Director of the Pelican Project***

FINANCIAL REVIEW

At the end of the period 27th April 2024 - 26th April 2025, Exeter Science Centre is in a secure financial position thanks to a significant donation and support package donated by Lumi Therapy at the end of the last financial year, to support our core costs. We have been able to increase the salaries of the two directors (1.8FTE total) to the median for the South West, and will be in a position to take on staff at a more competitive salary level as a result.

The charity's principal funding sources this year have been: donations; grant income (covering project costs and support costs); consulting and paid events. We are also registered with Easyfundraising and Paypal Giving.

RESERVES POLICY

Our reserves policy is regularly reviewed and updated to fit the financial situation of the charity. For this financial year, we intend to retain 2 months of running costs (approximately £10,000) in case of unforeseen delays in payments from grants or other income, to ensure that salaries, fees and other costs can be paid on time.

The directors are flexible on payment dates for their salaries, as they are dedicated to ensuring the charity's success and stability, so this allows for some additional flexibility.

When taking on employees, these will typically be for fixed terms and fully funded via grants. In future we will need to revise this policy to ensure stability for permanent staff members.

The reserves and funds for the previous financial years have been mostly retained in an interest-paying savings account, and when possible we will continue to do so.

RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

The trustees maintain a risk register which is reviewed and maintained regularly. The main risks in the year ending April 2025 are the dependence of the charity's activities on the two directors, and the risk of insufficient funds to pay their salaries. The impact of these risks are controlled through:

- having operations which are transparent to both directors and trustees (so that if either director is unable to fulfil their responsibilities, their work can be accessed and continued by their replacement);
- the directors being flexible on their salary payments.

The trustees are confident that the directors' management of the organisation will enable the organisation to grow and achieve its ambitions.

Going concern

The trustees are confident that the charity has sufficient funds to continue as a going concern for the foreseeable future, and prepare the accounts on this basis. The charity will need to get into a more secure financial situation in the next couple of years to grow to a sustainable level and to work towards creating physical centres, but the only risk to the charity currently ceasing to be a going concern is a lack of project funding, which is unlikely.

DECLARATIONS

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signature:

Name: Prof. Justin Dillon

Position: Chair of the board of trustees

Date: 12 February 2026

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 26th April 2025 which are set out in the following pages.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. 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.

It is my responsibility to:

- review the accounting records kept by the charity.
- compare the accounts presented with those records.
- consider any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts.
- seek explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters.

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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- the accounts do 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.

Geoff Archer

Geoff Archer

Bristol Community Accountants CIC
The Park
Daventry Road,
Knowle
Bristol
BS4 1DQ

Date 23/02/2026

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 26TH APRIL 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	**Total for year ending 26th April 2025 £**	Total for year ending 26th April 2024 £
Income from:					
Donations	2	6,256	-	**6,256**	72,220
Charitable activities	3	-	42,464	**42,464**	40,699
Total income		**6,256**	**42,464**	**48,720**	112,919
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	4	(3,784)	-	**(3,784)**	(1,668)
Charitable activities	4	(30,453)	(43,357)	**(73,810)**	(61,326)
Total expenditure		**(34,237)**	**(43,357)**	**(77,594)**	(62,994)
Net Income / (Expenditure)		(27,981)	(893)	**(28,874)**	49,925
Net Movement in funds		(2,642)	2,642	-	-
Fund balances brought forward		86,118	5,298	**91,416**	41,491
Fund balances		**55,495**	**7,047**	**62,542**	91,416

The financial statements were approved by the board of trustees on 12 February 2026 and were signed on its behalf by:

Prof. Justin Dillon
Chair

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 26TH APRIL 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets		-	-
Current assets			
Prepayments		-	-
Debtors	5	3,050	71,508
Stock		-	-
Investments		-	-
Cash at bank and in hand		60,331	20,108
Total current assets		**63,381**	91,616
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	6	(839)	(200)
Net current assets		**62,542**	91,416
Net assets		**62,542**	91,416
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year		-	-
Net assets	7	**62,542**	91,416
The funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted funds	8	55,495	86,118
Restricted funds	8	7,047	5,298
Total funds		**62,542**	91,416

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparation

The charity is a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) second edition'. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income

All income is recognised and thus included on the Statement of Financial Activities when the amount can be quantified accurately and the charity is legally entitled to the income. For grants or other income which is paid in advance, the income is stored in a current/savings account, accruing interest when possible (although not within this financial year). Interest is allocated to the fund that accrues it, as required by trust law and highlighted in the Charities SORP. Any unspent income at the year end is retained in that fund, and will be noted as funds carried forward in the following year.

Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis, and has been classified under the headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. We recognise an expenditure as soon as a transaction has occurred, or if a quantifiable amount is due to be spent on a particular item or service; in the latter case, the expenditure is listed as a liability (creditors). If funds are expected to be spent in the future – for example on a restricted funding grant that needs to be fully expended in a certain period – but the purchases have not yet been determined, then the amount is retained in the fund and not listed as a liability. The actual expenditure will be acknowledged in future accounts, once the funds are expended.

Tangible fixed assets

Items with a tangible cost price of £500 and above will be included in fixed assets. In this financial year, the charity has no items in this category.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are funds which can be used by the charity to fulfil its charitable objectives.

Restricted funds can only be used on particular projects or for a particular purpose. Expenditure includes the direct staff time, materials or other expenses required to

fulfil the obligations of the restricted funds, along with a fair allocation of support costs.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds		**Total**	Total
	Income received	Interest accrued	Income received	Interest accrued	**2025**	2024
	£	£	£	£	**£**	£
Donations	6,256	-	-	-	**6,256**	72,220
Total income	6,256	-	-	-	**6,256**	72,220

3. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	**Total**	Total
	Income received	Income received	**2025**	2024
	£	£	**£**	£
Core Cost Grants:				
Postcode Local Trust	-	-	**-**	224
Other grants:				
Low Carbon Devon Internship	-	4,500	**4,500**	-
Public Engagement Programmes	-	6,400	**6,400**	13,531
Project Grants	-	24,904	**24,904**	18,864
Other Activities:				
Events	-	5,745	**5,745**	2,220
Consulting	-	915	**915**	5,860
Total income	-	42,464	**42,464**	40,699

Note that since no interest was received during this year, we have omitted this column in the table.

4. EXPENDITURE ON FUNDRAISING AND CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Fundraising	Direct costs of projects	Support costs	Governance costs	**Total 2025**	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£	**£**	£
Materials and payments for projects / activities	-	3,085	6	-	**3,091**	8,590
Accomodation and Meals	-	139	270	-	**409**	560
Rent / Space Hire	-	789	2,400	-	**3,189**	1,473
Computer Hardware	-	15	-	-	**15**	-
Travel (including mileage)	-	822	188	-	**1,010**	1,422
Insurance	-	-	96	-	**96**	96
Accounting software fees	-	-	198	-	**198**	174
Consultancy fees	-	-	-	839	**839**	884
Administrative and website costs	-	-	18	-	**18**	61
Subcontractor costs	-	350	-	-	**350**	1,000
Staff training and conference fees	-	-	306	-	**306**	333
Organisation memberships	-	-	1,197	-	**1,197**	470
Salaries (inc. employers NI)	3,784	30,934	29,501	2,659	**66,877**	47,932
Total expenditure	3,784	36,133	34,179	3,498	**77,594**	62,994

Staff salaries have been allocated to project work ("Direct costs of projects") based on the salaried time spent on these projects. The support costs apportioned to salaries account for the salaried time operating the charity, including: administration, finances, social media and website maintenance, planning, networking, volunteer management and carrying out other activities that further our purpose and

increase our audience (such as unpaid events). Any additional support costs are covered by unrestricted funds. Note that donated office and storage space has been quantified as a support cost expenditure at a reasonable market rate, balanced by an unrestricted donation income of the same value (£2,400).

Governance costs, as defined in the Charities SORP (FRS 102), relate to the salary costs of the employees assisting or reporting to the trustees (which we account for in "Staff salaries (inc. employers NI)") or any costs associated with trustee expenses or preparing statutory accounts.

COMPARATIVE EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Fundraising	Direct costs of projects	Support costs	Governance costs	**Total 2024**	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	**£**	£
Materials and payments for projects / activities	-	8,590	-	-	**8,590**	1,709
Accomodation and Meals	-	418	142	-	**560**	358
Rent / Space Hire	-	1,473	-	-	**1,473**	-
Computer Hardware	-	-	-	-	**-**	837
Travel (including mileage)	-	1,236	185	-	**1,422**	1,972
Insurance	-	-	96	-	**96**	96
Accounting software fees	-	-	174	-	**174**	174
Consultancy fees	-	-	684	200	**884**	920
Administrative and website costs	-	-	61	-	**61**	104
Subcontractor costs	-	1,000	-	-	**1,000**	586
Staff training and conference fees	-		333	-	**333**	696
Organisation memberships	-	-	470	-	**470**	819
Salaries (inc. employers NI)	1,668	32,269	12,709	1,286	**47,932**	35,732
Total expenditure	1,668	44,986	14,854	1,486	**62,994**	44,003

5. DEBTORS

	2025 £	2024 £
Donations	**-**	70,508
Public Engagement Programmes	**-**	-
Project Grants	**2,000**	-
Events	**1,050**	-
Consulting	**-**	1,000
Total	**3,050**	71,508

6. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025 £	2024 £
Independent examination	**839**	200
Total	**839**	200

7. NET ASSETS BY FUND

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	**Total 2025 £**	Total 2024 £
Tangible assets	-	-	**-**	-
Current assets	56,334	7,047	**63,381**	91,616
Current liabilities	(839)	-	**(839)**	(200)
Net assets	55,495	7,047	**62,542**	91,416

8. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 27th April 2024 Total £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	**At 26th April 2025 Total £**
Unrestricted:					
General funds	86,118	6,256	(34,237)	(2,642)	**55,495**
Total unrestricted funds	86,118	6,256	(34,237)	(2,642)	**55,495**
Restricted:					
UoP - Net Zero Exchange Internship	-	4,500	(4,500)	-	**-**
Public Engagement Programmes:					
UoE - Prof Anders Research Videos	3,401	-	(1,219)	-	**2,182**
UoE Growth Mindset Research Video	-	1,500	(1,500)	-	**-**
SWP - Early Cancer Diagnosis Research Video	-	900	(900)	-	**-**
UoE - Community Connections	-	4,000	(2,230)	-	**1,770**
Project Grants:					
RAMM - Community Consultations	106	45	(190)	40	**-**
SNG - EDI Community Microgrants Programme	977	-	(977)	-	**-**
ASDC - Our World From Space	-	4,750	(6,392)	1,642	**-**
ASCT - OWFS Extension	-	6,100	(6,100)	-	**-**
UoE - FUTURES 2024-2025	-	6,000	(4,311)	-	**1,689**
RSC - Kingfishers: School Freshwater Champions	-	8,010	(7,427)	-	**582**
Other Activities:					
Events	815	5,745	(6,698)	960	**822**
Consulting	-	915	(915)	-	**-**
Total restricted funds	5,298	42,465	(43,358)	2,642	**7,047**
Total funds	91,416	48,720	(77,594)	-	**62,542**

The University of Plymouth (UoP) funded the Net Zero Exchange Internship.

'Public Engagement Programmes' include projects funded via the University of Exeter (UoE) and South West Peninsula National Institute for Health and Care Research (SWP).

'Project Grants' include funding from the Royal Albert Memorial Museum (RAMM), Sovereign Network Group (SNG), Association for Science and Discovery Centres (ASDC), Adrian Swire Charitable Trust (ASCT) and Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC). The "Kingfishers..." project income also received £291 from a crowdfunder campaign for purchasing water testing kits, in addition to £7,719 (rounded) from the RSC.

'Events' income included festivals and single-day events where the organiser funded all or some of our time / expenses to attend, including taking Our World From Space to North Devon District Scouts Camp 2024, CoLab Exeter, Exmouth Festival, the 361 Energy Fair and the Institute of Physics Festival of Physics (which we helped to organise), plus installing a version of our Climate Exhibition at the National Trust Killerton for Big Green Week, running climate-related activities at the Community Action Groups Devon Skills Share (funded by Resource Futures), Exeter City of Literature 'Exeter City Reads' evening and the Exeter Phoenix 'Green Phoenix Festival', running an Operation Earth event for young people as part of the Holiday Activities and Food programme at Barnstaple Library (funded via Libraries Unlimited), running a space-themed workshop at Heather Bridge School in Devon, and working on the Our Positive Future event (running in the next financial year) funded by UoE.

'Consulting' income was from a workshop around addressing the Sustainable Development Goals in the workplace for University of Exeter researchers and students, mapping our schools data for the ASDC, and engaging with academics to gauge interest in a prospective project for UoP.

The transfers into each project account for any additional salaried time spent on project delivery, beyond the amount of time originally allocated as part of the fee/grant. This additional time is contributed when there are core costs to do so, and when deemed necessary; to ensure the best quality of our project delivery, and to make the most of potential opportunities to reach more people or have a greater impact.

This year, the transfers covered the additional time required for the RAMM Community Consultations project, plus additional time required across some of our events this year. Due to increasing running costs, and the challenges with preparing and delivering high-quality experiences for an affordable fee, we will use this and prior years' data to better inform what we charge and offer for events. The major project for this and the previous year, Our World From Space (OWFS), was overspent although supplemented by support costs from other funded extensions and events for the project and core costs.

COMPARATIVE MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 27th April 2023 Total £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	**At 26th April 2024 Total £**
Unrestricted:					
General funds	20,497	72,444	(1,970)	(4,853)	**86,118**
Total unrestricted funds	20,497	72,444	(1,970)	(4,853)	**86,118**
Restricted:					
Public Engagement Programmes:					
Prof Meakin	170	1,661	(1,831)	-	**-**
FQXi University of Oxford	1,391	17	(1,408)	-	**-**
Prof Mayne	-	2,526	(2,526)	-	**-**
Dr Pepper	-	1,515	(1,632)	117	**-**
Dr Ashbullby	-	3,397	(3,397)	-	**-**
Prof Anders	-	4,416	(1,015)	-	**3,401**
Project Grants:					
ASDC - Operation Earth	1,280	16	(1,296)	-	**-**
Mindsets + Missions Learning Programme	992	12	(1,004)	-	**-**
ASDC - STFC Impact Project	7,375	90	(10,502)	3,036	**-**
Adrian Swire Charitable Trust - Operation Earth Tour	9,784	120	(9,904)	-	**-**
UoE Research - Climate Exhibition 2023	-	10,689	(10,689)	-	**-**
ASDC - Our World From Space	-	5,932	(7,492)	1,560	**-**
RAMM - Community Consultations	-	1,003	(898)	-	**106**
SNG - EDI Community Microgrants Programme	-	1,002	(25)	-	**977**
Other Activities:					
Events	-	2,220	(1,545)	140	**815**
Consulting	-	5,860	(5,860)	-	**-**
Total restricted funds	20,993	40,475	(61,024)	4,853	**5,298**
Total funds	41,491	112,919	(62,994)	-	**91,416**

9. STAFF NUMBERS, COSTS AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS INCLUDING KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

The average number of employees this year was two. The two directors (i.e. the key management personnel), Dr Natalie Whitehead (1FTE) and Dr Alice Mills (0.8FTE), were employed for the entire financial year, and one intern was employed from October 2024 until February 2025 on a £12/hour basis.

Staff costs were as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Salaries and wages	**£65,434**	£47,932
Redundancy and termination costs	**-**	-
Social security costs	**£959**	-
Employer's contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	**£485**	-

The total employee benefits paid to the key management personnel were £60,934. No employees received total benefits exceeding £60,000. There are no other employee benefits offered during this financial year.

Any indirect benefits are accounted for in Note 10.

10. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Related party transactions this year involved one payment from a business associated with key management personnel:

£2,006 (rounded) - remaining donation to ESC from Lumi Therapy.

The husband of Dr Natalie Whitehead (Director) is Co-Director of Lumi Therapy which provided a support package to ESC in the last financial year. This payment is for the interest accrued before the original donation amount was paid to us.

The trustees received no payments or expense reimbursements in this financial year.

11. STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR ENDED 26TH APRIL 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	**Total for year ending 26th April 2024 £**	Total for year ending 26th April 2023 £
Income from:					
Donations	2	72,220	-	**72,220**	732
Charitable activities	3	224	40,475	**40,699**	59,144
Total income		**72,444**	**40,475**	**112,919**	59,876
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	4	(1,668)	-	**(1,668)**	(3,227)
Charitable activities	4	(302)	(61,024)	**(61,326)**	(40,776)
Total expenditure		**(1,970)**	**(61,024)**	**(62,994)**	(44,003)
Net Income / (Expenditure)		70,474	(20,549)	**49,925**	15,873
Net Movement in funds		(4,853)	4,853	-	-
Fund balances brought forward		20,497	20,993	**41,491**	25,618
Fund balances		**86,118**	**5,298**	**91,416**	41,491

EXETER SCIENCE CENTRE

England & Wales - Charity number 1194239

Accounts

THE EXETER SCIENCE CENTRE

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 26TH APRIL 2024

CHARITY NUMBER: 1194239

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INTRODUCTION

Exeter Science Centre is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) dedicated to public engagement with STEAMM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics and Medicine).

The Trustees are pleased to present their annual report, together with the consolidated financial statements of the charity, for the third year of the charity, from 27th April 2023 to 26th April 2024.

ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity name:
Exeter Science Centre

Registered Charity Number:
1194239

Charity's Registered Office Address:
Exeter Science Centre
1 Marsh Green Road
Marsh Barton Trading Estate
Exeter
EX2 8NY

Trustee name	Role	Dates acted if not for whole year
Prof. Justin Dillon	Chair	
Dr Sarah Usher		
David Solomides		
Dr Celia Oxlade		
Prof. Pete Vukusic		
Olga Petrakova-Brown		
Christopher Sims	Treasurer	23/3/23 to present

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Exeter Science Centre is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with a CIO Foundation Model Constitution.

It is managed on a day-to-day basis by the two founders and directors, Dr Natalie Whitehead (1 FTE) and Dr Alice Mills (0.8 FTE), and overseen by the board of trustees. Our Projects Officer, Ross Castle (0.5 FTE), worked with us for a full year (February 2023-February 2024) and was an invaluable member of the team in reimagining our climate exhibition and developing the resources for one of our large touring projects.

In April 2023 we began to build a Strategic Advisory Board to support the development of the building and appointed Stuart Brocklehurst as the new Chair. The Board meets twice a year and, at the end of the 2023-2024 financial year, has six members.

We were delighted that in November 2023, George Monbiot became our Patron.

Appointment of trustees

Our trustee board is comprised of seven trustees with a range of backgrounds and experience; there were no changes to our board of trustees during the 2023-2024 financial year. Olga Petrakova has been formally re-elected for a second term. The charity governing document sets out that there must be a minimum of three trustees and a maximum of 12.

Apart from the first charity trustees (the founding trustees) every trustee must be appointed for a term of three years by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees.

CHAIR'S AND DIRECTORS' INTRODUCTION

Exeter Science Centre has had a successful year reaching 3860 people of all ages from across the South West, connecting people with current research and industry through festivals, focus groups, workshops, touring projects, exhibitions and virtual content. A key focus this financial year has been working with our local communities to build a better understanding of their needs and interests, and how we can best create a science centre and organisation that serves them.

Our membership of the Association for Science and Discovery Centres (ASDC) and European Network of Science Centres and Museums (Ecsite) continues to be hugely important for keeping us at the forefront of informal science education and engagement, as well as giving us access to inspiration, advice and additional funding opportunities.

Alongside our project work, we have been strengthening our relationships with partner organisations and networks, including growing our Strategic Advisory Board and signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Exeter; cementing our relationship with them and our shared vision of a physical science centre in Exeter. We have also begun fruitful discussions with North Devon Council about creating a physical centre in Barnstaple, and we are now re-developing our plans to consider a distributed network of science centres for the region, as opposed to a single large-scale centre.

We have had enormous support from a large team of dedicated volunteers, who have given over 630 hours of their time to support our events and projects. What they bring to the charity is invaluable, and we are so grateful to them. We are thankful to have received generous donations from individuals and corporate donors, and in particular we would like to give a special thank you to Lumi Therapy who have recently provided an incredibly generous support package, including funding our website redevelopment, providing rent-free space within their building for our team, equipment and exhibits, as well as pledging a significant donation to help us grow in the coming year. It will make a world of difference for us, and we look forward to reporting on the impact this has made, in next year's Annual Report!

We are also thrilled to have the support of our first Patron: author, broadcaster, and academic George Monbiot. His efforts to highlight global issues and inspire action strongly resonate with our mission, and his work and insights will help shape our priorities for future projects.

This is a pivotal time for us, and are determined to expand our reach and impact even more in the coming year - full STEAMM ahead!

Prof. Justin Dillon	*Dr Natalie Whitehead, Dr Alice Mills*
Chair	Directors

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Our mission is to educate, motivate and empower the public to make a difference in the world.

CHARITABLE PURPOSES

Our main charitable purposes (as described in our CIO governing document) are:

To advance the education of the public, particularly in the South West of England in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Mathematics and Medicine (STEAMM), in particular but not exclusively by:

- providing interactive activities, events and information media;
- establishing, developing and maintaining a physical STEAMM Discovery Centre ('Science Centre') for public benefit;
- developing the public understanding of and engagement with STEAMM;
- developing public access to current scientific and technological advancements particularly in the South West of England.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Trustees confirm that the objectives and activities for the year have been developed with due regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

BENEFICIARIES

Our beneficiaries are people of all ages and backgrounds, particularly in the South West of the UK. We work with schools, the general public, and specific communities of people depending on the projects that we are working on.

For project work where we have limited resources and thus have to limit the direct beneficiaries, we aim to prioritise those from underserved and disadvantaged communities.

When identifying underserved or disadvantaged communities, we prioritise those with less access to STEAMM-related opportunities and in locations that rank highly on the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD, typically within the top 20% most deprived regions in the UK, deciles 1-2).

When working with schools, we prioritise those with more than 20% of pupils entitled to free school meals, or with a postcode ranking highly on the IMD. Where possible, we try to make our work publicly accessible, to increase our reach and impact. This includes making public-friendly video summaries of some of our activities, making our project resources freely accessible on our website and sharing our work via social media.

FUNDRAISING

The directors have spent some of their time applying for grants and carrying out fundraising activity, which is estimated in the accounts. We are hugely grateful for funds raised by players of People's Postcode Lottery and awarded by the Postcode Local Trust, which has supported our core costs and our development as an organisation through a grant awarded in December 2022.

Supported by players of PEOPLE'S POSTCODE LOTTERY

Awarded funds from POSTCODE LOCAL TRUST

Our new project work in the April 2023-2024 financial year has been generously funded by academic staff at the University of Exeter and the University of Oxford via their research grants; the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC); the Association for Science and Discovery Centres (ASDC) plus the UK Space Agency and Natural Environment Research Council for the Our World From Space project; The Adrian Swire Charitable Trust and the Sovereign Network Group (SNG).

ACTIVITIES

We have continued to develop and deliver a broad range of activities, predominantly in person. Over the following pages, we outline our main activities over the past financial year.

PROJECTS

Operation Earth

Thanks to a generous grant of £9830 from the Adrian Swire Charitable Trust, we were able to take the Operation Earth programme on tour from June to November 2023, visiting schools and communities across the South West. This extends the legacy of the original grant from the ASDC, which was mainly for the purchase of equipment.

Operation Earth is an outreach programme comprising a family show and hands-on activities developed by the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) and the Association for Science and Discovery Centres (ASDC), to engage young children and families with the science and scientists behind current environmental research. We extended some of the resources to be suitable for a broader age range as well as incorporating a virtual reality version of the award-winning "We are Guardians" film. Our delivery team included many expert volunteers working in climate, biological and environmental science.

The project was a great success, reaching 1290 people across Devon and Somerset, from a broad range of ages and backgrounds. We brought the programme to six primary schools, the Somerscience Festival, the two-day Exeter Cathedral Bioblitz, the first Sid Valley Biodiversity Festival and public libraries.

"The assembly delivered a really powerful message in an incredibly engaging way. One of the most well delivered and jam packed science events we have had at school!"
-Teacher at East-the-Water Primary School.

Our World from Space - ASDC and SNG

In May 2023, we were awarded a grant from the ASDC to join the national 'Our World from Space' (OWFS) programme alongside 22 other science centres in the UK. This is a national STEM programme exploring the relevance of UK space science for the future health and sustainability of our home planet, funded by UK Space Agency in partnership with Natural Environment Research Council (NERC). The grant primarily covers the costs of purchasing equipment and delivering the programme in larger scale events at schools and communities until December 2024.

We were granted additional funding from the Sovereign Network Group (SNG) as part of the EDI Community Microgrants Programme, to engage smaller groups of people with learning or physical disabilities with OWFS activities. This will mostly be delivered across the next financial year.

OWFS activities at Ernesettle School

We delivered our first two events of the main programme in April 2024, taking over the foyer of Exeter library for a day of drop-in activities, engaging around 200 people. Our first school event involved a jam-packed day of activities for 120 Year 5 and 6 students at Ernesettle Community School in Plymouth. The event included workshops around land, oceans and atmosphere, VR showings of environmental film "We are Guardians", and an afternoon mission task inspired by local expertise in Earth observation, on the topics of rainforest conservation, disaster relief and algal blooms.

OWFS drop-in activities at Exeter Library

Our World from Space - ASDC and SNG (continued)

"So want you guys to have a permanent exhibition space. Loved how you brought complexity into clarity using fun experiments".

"In the topography mapping experiment where kids had to plot the landscape on a graph based on instrument readings: They were told to work together as a team on that one, because 'that's what scientists do'. When they were playing together later, my sons were noticeably working together more collaboratively and actually said within their play 'lets be a team, like scientists'. Thank you!"

-Feedback from participants at Exeter Library.

STFC Impact Project and Climate Exhibition 2023

This year, with funding from the STFC via the Association for Science and Discovery Centres (ASDC) and research departments from the University of Exeter, we reimagined our March 2022 climate exhibition.

As part of the STFC Impact Project, we engaged focus groups from CoLab (multi-agency wellbeing hub), Ellen Tinkham College (a school for young people with Education, Health and Care Plans), and the Pelican Project (a group of young adults with learning disabilities), to work with us to improve the accessibility of our exhibition and make it more meaningful to a broader audience. This work was led by our Projects Officer Ross Castle and built on consultation work with schools and youth groups at the end of the last financial year. These focus groups led to a list of priorities for updating and improving the exhibition content, accessibility and relevance. They also contributed to a community window display as part of the exhibition.

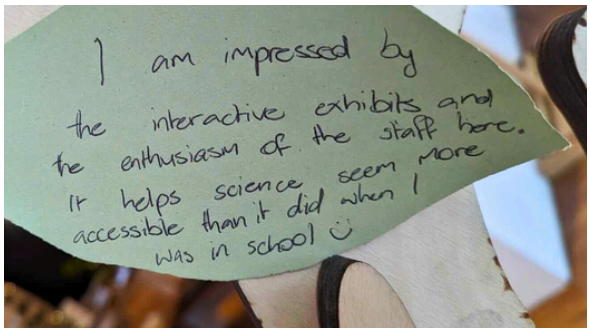
CoLab focus group session and their artwork

Members of the Pelican Project and their artwork

Thanks to additional funding from the University of Exeter's (UoE's) Department for Physics and Astronomy, Global Systems Institute, and Dr Raphaëlle Haywood, we were able to upgrade the exhibition significantly following this community consultation and include even more UoE research. The resulting exhibition was hosted in Maketank, Exeter and was the longest-running event in the 2023 British Science Festival. This was an ideal opportunity to share this local research and showcase a 'pop-up' taster experience of the future science centre.

We had 688 visitors to the exhibition in total over 5 days and 5 evenings. We were also supported by 27 volunteers, many of whom were climate scientists and astrophysicists, giving people fantastic opportunities for informal conversations with scientists. The visitor feedback was overwhelmingly positive, and the exhibits and online content we have developed will serve as a lasting resource for our charity and the University's researchers to make use of in future. We are so grateful to all our funders for their support.

Climate Exhibition Photos

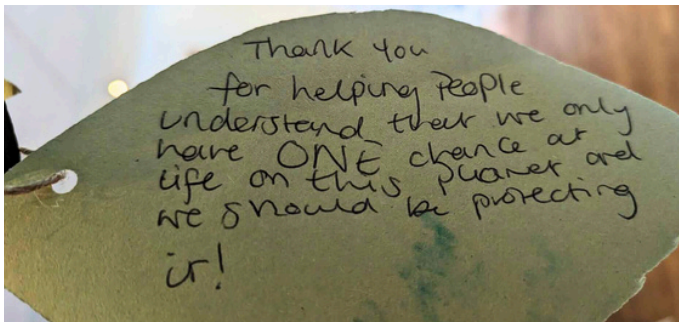


"Great stuff- felt like all interactive activities were well considered. Enjoy joining in as an adult and it not feeling like it was just for kids! Thank you"
-exit survey response

"Nice friendly space that had something for all ages. Thanks"
-exit survey response

"It was a great experience with an abundance of interactive activities."
-exit survey response

"Very passionate guys here, which has a positive result and helps people understand"
-exit survey response

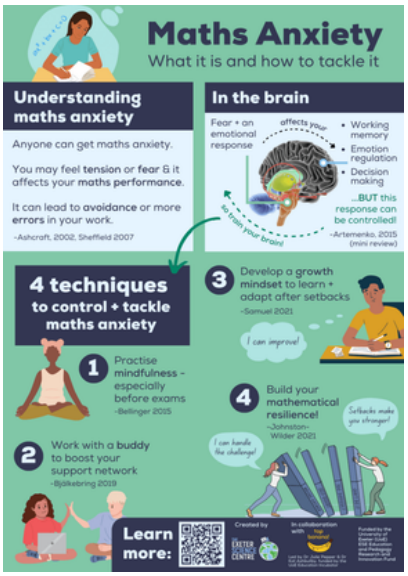


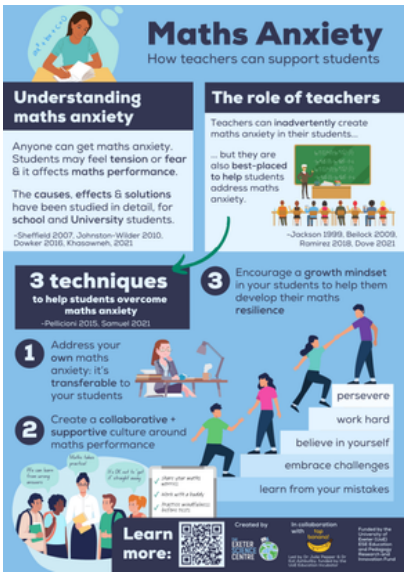
PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMMES

Across this financial year we have collaborated with five academic researchers at the University of Exeter and University of Oxford to develop public engagement resources, events and workshops to engage schools and the public with their research. This has provided an income (paid to us from their academic grants) whilst also working towards our charitable purposes.

Dr Julie Pepper & Katherine Ashbullby

Drs Pepper and Ashbullby are psychology researchers at the University of Exeter, and this year we collaborated with them on two projects focused around types of anxiety - maths anxiety and eco-anxiety.





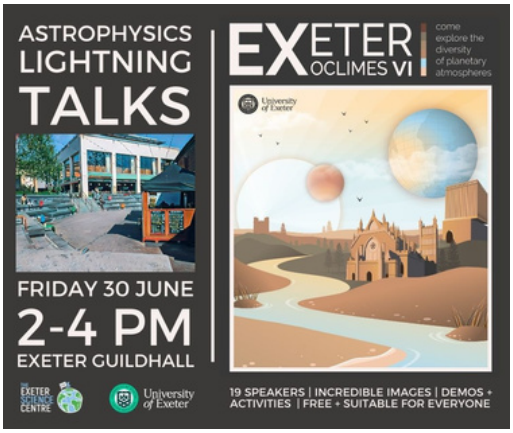
For the maths anxiety project we produced infographics, videos and a webpage for students and teachers, to help underline the causes, effects and solutions of maths anxiety in students, and to highlight how teachers can help.

For the eco-anxiety project we produced infographics, videos and a webpage focusing on what eco-anxiety is and how to manage it. These resources were produced with involvement of the researchers, Natural England and students from the University of Exeter.

Prof. Nathan Mayne

In June 2023 the University of Exeter hosted an international conference called Exoclimes bringing together researchers from across the world that specialise in studying the climates on other planets. Prof. Mayne brought us on board to deliver an event during the conference that connected local people with the research and researchers.

We set up a wall of LED screens and a sound system in the Guildhall Shopping Centre in Exeter and 19 different researchers delivered lightning talks and demonstrations with stunning images behind them. Over 150 members of the public attended this free event and the footage was also livestreamed to our YouTube Channel.



Prof. Jude Meakin: Image Driven Subject Specific Spine Modelling

This research project focuses on building a better understanding of the spine. We had been brought in for the 3-year duration of the project, to help people to understand the research from its early stages, and to help them inform the long-term direction of the research.

This year we organised a focus group on World Spine Day at Exeter Library with 12 adult members of the public from a range of ages and backgrounds. The event involved a brief introduction to the project from the research team, followed by discussions around different aspects of the research. This was a really valuable session both to help inform the research and for the participants themselves.

The research team

The discussion tables

Prof. Janet Anders

We have been working with Prof. Janet Anders and researchers at the University of Oxford to create a set of YouTube videos on the theme 'What is research?', explored through the lens of physics researchers developing quantum engines. This funding follows on from the FQXi University of Oxford funding to develop more videos of the team.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

British Science Festival Community Grants

This year the British Science Festival (BSF) was hosted in Exeter and we were brought in as a Festival Partner, co-delivering the Community Grants Scheme. The main aim of the grants was to help underrepresented groups to better connect with science in a way that is relevant to them.

It was a privilege to support nine different community groups in developing their events, and we are grateful for core cost funding from the Postcode Local Trust to enable us to take up this role.

"I want to extend our thanks to Exeter Science Centre for the incredible work they did on the Community Grants Scheme in Exeter. They were integral to connecting with local community groups and the relationships they made and strengthened serve as a legacy of the British Science Festival's visit to Exeter ... I wouldn't hesitate to work with them again."

- Emery Howarth, Festival Engagement Manager at the British Science Association.

Some of the BSF community events

RAMM - Community Consultations

December 2023 - ongoing

This year we have worked with the Royal Albert Memorial Museum (RAMM) in Exeter to connect various community groups with the RAMM's upcoming Transport Exhibition. As part of these consultations, we helped to connect these groups to researchers at the University of Exeter who are using data science to understand access to transport and the wider issues of urban liveability.

EVENTS

Year 7 Space Day 2023

June 2023

We were invited for the second year running to contribute to the Ogden Trust-funded Year 7 Space Day, hosted this year at Exmouth Community College. This was an ideal opportunity to test out some of the astronomy-focussed, interactive elements of our Climate Exhibition.

In total 144 pupils from 7 local schools attended the day.

Sidmouth Science Festival

October 2023

Sidmouth Science Festival is an annual event for us and was another great opportunity to bring a mini version of our Climate Exhibition to new audiences. It was a busy day engaging with over 430 people!

Library Lates

November 2023

This retro, sci-fi-themed, adults-only evening at Exeter Library provided another opportunity to share elements of the Climate Exhibition. This was one of the last events supported by the Postcode Local Trust's core costs grant.

CONSULTING

Public Engagement Training and SDG Workshops

The University of Exeter hired us to develop and deliver a public engagement training course and create resources for academics at various stages of their public engagement journey. As part of this course, we invited members of local community groups and organisations to be part of a panel and discussion groups, to help academics to find ways to make their research more relevant and beneficial to people.

We were also commissioned to create and deliver a workshop for degree apprenticeship students to explore the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) and the applicability to the workplace, and we will be delivering more workshops in future years.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Natural Science Students Group Project

As part of our OWFS programme we set a group project for a group of five University of Exeter Natural Sciences Students. Their project was to identify and learn about local research and innovation relating to the OWFS programme, and liaise with these R&I practitioners to develop resources that bring in their work to the programme. They did some really interesting work on coastal erosion and joined us for an Operation Earth event at a primary school to get some experience of engaging young people with science.

Citizen Phage Library Publication

From 2021-2022 we worked with Prof. Ben Temperton and the Citizen Phage Library (CPL) Team at the University of Exeter on a public engagement programme including citizen science, where members of the public and schools collected water samples from their local streams and rivers to hunt for phages (viruses that attack bacteria).

We were thrilled to be included in a paper published in the journal 'Microorganisms' which describes this important work in tackling antibiotic resistance through the power of citizen science.

The CPL could be an important 'biobank' to identify, store and supply phages for patients in the UK, Europe and worldwide – and the CPL team have already supplied phages from the Library to be used for patients in Australia, the US and Canada.

There are now well over 1000 phages in the CPL, and we're so grateful to all the Citizen Phage Hunters who have contributed so far.

We really hope to continue supporting this important project. The paper is titled *"The Citizen Phage Library: Rapid Isolation of Phages for the Treatment of Antibiotic Resistant Infections in the UK". Fletcher et al. 2024.*

South West Science Chats

We began a YouTube series called South West Science Chats, interviewing interesting local people working in science research and industry. We aim to develop this more in coming years.

UPCOMING PROJECTS/EVENTS

In the coming year we will be continuing with a number of funded projects, including:

- The "Our World from Space" tour to schools and communities across the region.
- Touring our climate exhibition to other locations.
- Building a project team and applying for funding for a community-led school water quality monitoring project.
- Investigating installation of a 'living wall' on our office building, working in collaboration with Lumi Therapy and local researchers.

GROWING THE ORGANISATION

We are at a turning point where, through consultation with our strategic advisory board and our trustees, we are moving towards the idea of a small network of centres as opposed to one larger centre in Exeter. The first physical centres we aim to establish would be in Exeter and Barnstaple.

Growing our team is critical in the coming year, to allow us to expand the number and scale of projects we deliver, as well as allowing time for the directors to adapt our business plan to a new model in consultation with partners, stakeholders and the public.

We are especially keen to develop an income stream around larger, multi-year projects, themed on global issues with locally-relevant motivation and opportunities for action. We are hugely inspired by our Patron's work, and we strongly feel that land use - and the connected topics of biodiversity loss, climate change, food systems, river and ocean pollution, among many others - is a topic that people should, urgently, be engaged with. We hope to make this a key theme of our work in the coming years.

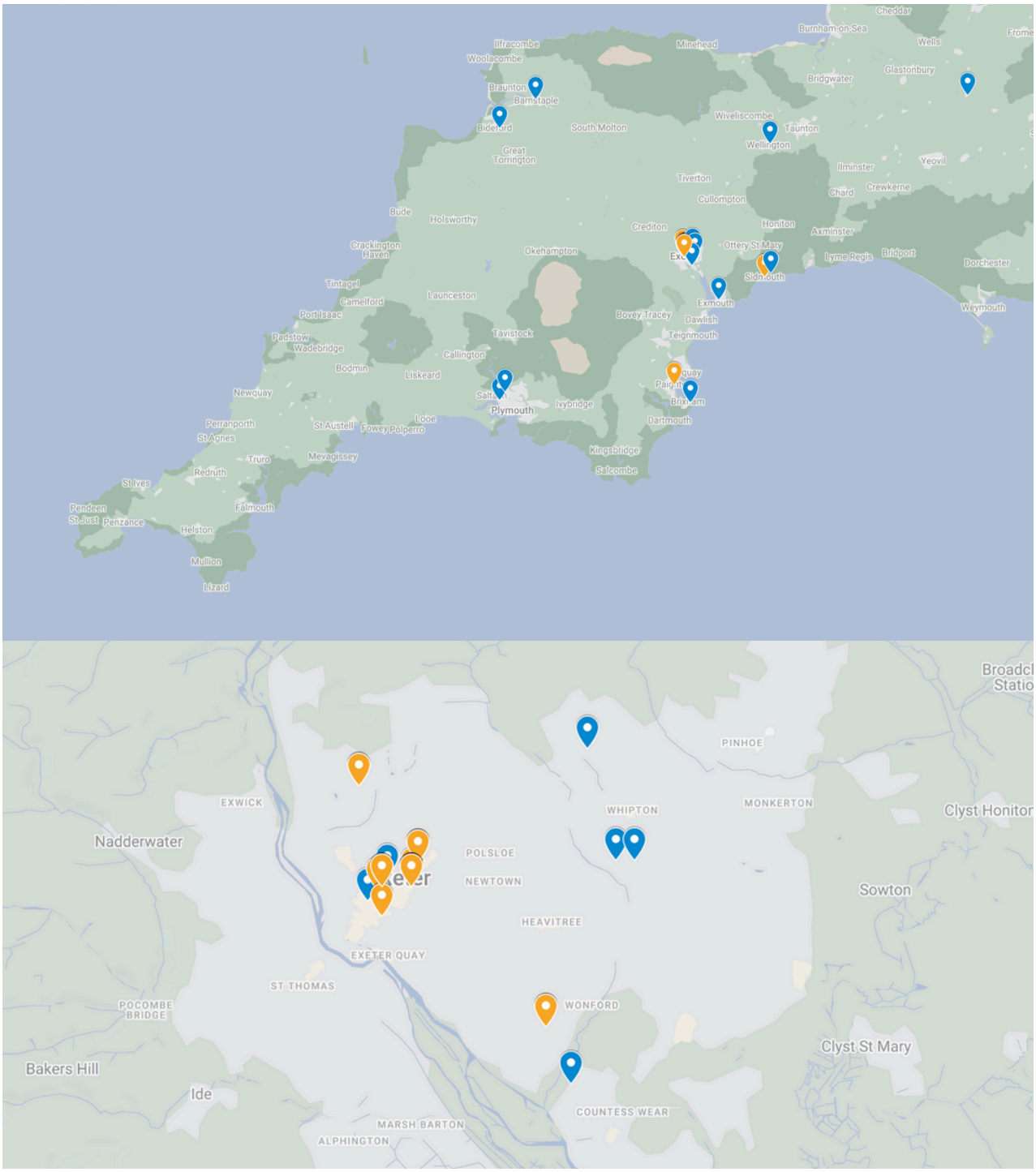
SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

This year we have engaged with 3860 people amounting to at least 4200 in-person interaction hours (number of people x engagement time in hours). This is a significant increase on our in-person interactions compared to the last financial year. We have spent a large proportion of our time developing meaningful relationships with community groups in our region, which we hope to build upon in future.

Our digital content has also reached a large number of people, with our YouTube videos alone having 15,117 views in this financial year (a 40% increase on the last financial year).

We have been incredibly fortunate to have 59 enthusiastic volunteers that have supported our work this year, from a range of ages and backgrounds. They have given over 630 hours of their time to support event delivery. A large majority of our volunteers are STEMM professionals and students but a few have joined us from the creative industries, teaching and charitable sector.

Our events have been well distributed across the region, with a focus in Exeter and a large number of repeat interventions with particular schools and groups in the region.



Maps showing the distribution of our activities this year. Orange indicates multiple interventions/events at that location. Top: the South West region. Bottom: Exeter. Credit: Google Maps, 2024, google.com/maps.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

At the end of the period 27th April 2023 - 26th April 2024, Exeter Science Centre is in a secure financial position thanks to a significant donation and support package pledged from Lumi Therapy to support our core costs in the coming year. We are able to sustain the salaries of the two directors (1.8FTE total) and have increased their salaries to the 2023 South West average at the end of this financial year.

The charity's principal funding sources this year have been: donations; grant income (covering project costs and support costs); consulting (mainly public engagement training) and paid events; a small amount through savings interest. We are also registered with Easyfundraising and Paypal Giving.

RESERVES POLICY

Our reserves policy is regularly reviewed and updated to fit the financial situation of the charity. For this financial year, we intend to retain 2 months of running costs (approximately £10,000) in case of unforeseen delays in payments from grants or other income, to ensure that salaries, fees and other costs can be paid on time.

The directors are flexible on payment dates for their salaries, as they are dedicated to ensuring the charity's success and stability, so this allows for some additional flexibility.

When taking on employees, these will typically be for fixed terms and fully funded via grants. In future we will need to revise this policy to ensure stability for permanent staff members.

The reserves and funds for the past financial years have been mostly retained in an interest-paying savings account, and where possible we will continue to do so.

RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

The trustees maintain a risk register which is reviewed and maintained regularly. The main risks at current are the dependence of the charity's activities on the two directors, and the risk of insufficient funds to pay their salaries and the salary of our employee. The impact of these risks are controlled through:

- having operations which are transparent to both directors and trustees (so that if either director is unable to fulfil their responsibilities, their work can be accessed and continued by their replacement);
- the directors being flexible on their salary payments.

The trustees are confident that the directors' management of the organisation will enable the organisation to grow and achieve its ambitions.

Going concern

The trustees are confident that the charity has sufficient funds to continue as a going concern for the foreseeable future, and prepare the accounts on this basis. The charity will need to get into a more secure financial situation in the next couple of years to grow to a sustainable level and to work towards creating physical centres, but the only risk to the charity currently ceasing to be a going concern is a lack of project funding, which is unlikely.

DECLARATIONS

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signature:

Name: Prof. Justin Dillon

Position: Chair of the board of trustees

Date: 20 February 2025

Independent Examiner's report to the trustees of Exeter Science Centre Charitable Incorporated Organisation ('the CIO')

I report on the accounts of the CIO for the year ended 26 April 2024, which are set out on the following pages 23-30.

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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carry 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

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do 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.

NAME: Sam Blackford ACA

OF: On Target Accounting Ltd

ADDRESS: 105 Chineway Gardens, Ottery St. Mary
Devon, EX11 1JJ

SIGNED

DATE: 20 February 2025

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 26TH APRIL 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	**Total for year ending 26th April 2024 £**	Total for year ending 26th April 2023 £
Income from:					
Donations	2	72,220	0	**72,220**	732
Charitable activities	3	224	40,475	**40,699**	59,144
Total income		**72,444**	**40,475**	**112,919**	59,876
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	4	(1,668)	-	**(1,668)**	(3,227)
Charitable activities	4	(302)	(61,024)	**(61,326)**	(40,776)
Total expenditure		**(1,970)**	**(61,024)**	**(62,994)**	(44,003)
Net Income / (Expenditure)		70,474	(20,549)	**49,925**	15,873
Net Movement in funds		(4,853)	4,853	-	-
Fund balances brought forward		20,497	20,993	**41,491**	25,618
Fund balances		**86,118**	**5,298**	**91,416**	41,491

The financial statements were approved by the board of trustees on 20 February 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:

Prof. Justin Dillon
Chair

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 26TH APRIL 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets		-	-
Current assets			
Prepayments		-	470
Debtors	5	71,508	12,455
Stock		-	-
Investments		-	-
Cash at bank and in hand		20,108	28,766
Total current assets		**91,616**	41,691
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	6	(200)	(200)
Net current assets		**91,416**	41,491
Net assets		**91,416**	41,491
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year		-	-
Net assets	7	**91,416**	41,491
The funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted funds	8	86,118	20,497
Restricted funds	8	5,298	20,993
Total funds		**91,416**	41,491

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparation

The charity is a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) second edition'. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income

All income is recognised and thus included on the Statement of Financial Activities when the amount can be quantified accurately and the charity is legally entitled to the income. For grants or other income which is paid in advance, the income is stored in a savings account and can accrue interest, which is allocated to that same fund, as required by trust law and highlighted in the Charities SORP. Any unspent income at the year end is retained in that fund, and will be noted as funds carried forward in the following year.

Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis, and has been classified under the headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. We recognise an expenditure as soon as a transaction has occurred, or if a quantifiable amount is due to be spent on a particular item or service; in the latter case, the expenditure is listed as a liability (creditors). If funds are expected to be spent in the future – for example on a restricted funding grant that needs to be fully expended in a certain period – but the purchases have not yet been determined, then the amount is retained in the fund and not listed as a liability. The actual expenditure will be acknowledged in future accounts, once the funds are expended.

Tangible fixed assets

Items with a tangible cost price of £500 and above will be included in fixed assets. In this financial year, the charity has no items in this category.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are funds which can be used by the charity to fulfil its charitable objectives.

Restricted funds can only be used on particular projects or for a particular purpose. Expenditure includes the direct staff time, materials or other expenses required to

fulfil the obligations of the restricted funds, along with a fair allocation of support costs.

The total interest accrued on the charity's savings throughout the year has been allocated proportionally to each fund, based on the arrival date of income sources in each fund in the financial year and the size of each income source. This is judged to be a reasonable estimate of the interest accrued by each fund, and the amount is stated separately for each income source category for clarity.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds		**Total**	Total
	Income received	Interest accrued	Income received	Interest accrued	**2024**	2023
	£	£	£	£	**£**	£
Donations	72,185	35	-	-	**72,220**	732
Total income	72,185	35	-	-	**72,220**	732

3. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds		**Total**	Total
	Income received	Interest accrued	Income received	Interest accrued	**2024**	2023
	£	£	£	£	**£**	£
Core Cost Grants:						
The Steel Charitable Trust	-	-	-	-	**-**	94
Postcode Local Trust	-	224	-	-	**224**	25,074
Other grants:						
Public Engagement Programmes	-	-	13,424	107	**13,531**	7,376
Project Grants	-	-	18,507	357	**18,864**	22,597
Other Activities:						
Events	-	-	2,209	11	**2,220**	570
Consulting	-	-	5,810	50	**5,860**	3,433
Total income	-	224	39,950	525	**40,699**	59,144

4. EXPENDITURE ON FUNDRAISING AND CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Fundraising	Direct costs of projects	Support costs	Governance costs	**Total 2024**	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	**£**	£
Materials and payments for projects / activities	-	8,590	-	-	**8,590**	1,709
Accomodation and Meals	-	418	142	-	**560**	358
Rent / Space Hire	-	1,473	-	-	**1,473**	-
Computer Hardware	-	-	-	-	**-**	837
Travel (including mileage)	-	1,236	185	-	**1,422**	1,972
Insurance	-	-	96	-	**96**	96
Accounting software fees	-	-	174	-	**174**	174
Consultancy fees	-	-	684	200	**884**	920
Administrative and website costs	-	-	61	-	**61**	104
Subcontractor costs	-	1,000	-	-	**1,000**	586
Staff training and conference fees	-		333	-	**333**	696
Organisation memberships	-	-	470	-	**470**	819
Salaries (inc. employers NI)	1,668	32,269	12,709	1,286	**47,932**	35,732
Total expenditure	1,668	44,986	14,854	1,486	**62,994**	44,003

Staff salaries have been allocated to project work ("Direct costs of projects") based on the salaried time spent on these projects. The support costs apportioned to salaries account for the salaried time operating the charity, including: administration, finances, social media and website maintenance, planning, networking, volunteer management and carrying out other activities that further our purpose and increase our audience (such as unpaid events). Any additional support costs are covered by unrestricted funds.

Governance costs, as defined in the Charities SORP (FRS 102), relate to the salary costs of the employees assisting or reporting to the trustees (which we account for in "Staff salaries (inc. employers NI)") or any costs associated with trustee expenses or preparing statutory accounts.

COMPARATIVE EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Fundraising	Direct costs of projects	Support costs	Governance costs	**Total 2023**	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	**£**	£
Materials for projects / activities	-	1,709	-	-	**1,709**	3,758
Accomodation and Meals	-	190	169	-	**358**	208
Rent / Space Hire	-	-	-	-	**-**	1,100
Computer Hardware	-	720	117	-	**837**	920
Travel (including mileage)	-	1,023	949	-	**1,972**	1,289
Insurance	-	-	96	-	**96**	96
Accounting software fees	-	-	174	-	**174**	174
Consultancy fees	-	-	720	200	**920**	150
Administrative and website costs	55	-	49	-	**104**	91
Subcontractor costs	-	586	-	-	**586**	6,514
Salaries (inc. employers NI)	3,172	11,002	19,854	1,704	**35,732**	34,558
Staff training and conferences			696	-	**696**	-
Organisation memberships	-	-	819	-	**819**	-
Total expenditure	3,227	15,229	23,642	1,904	**44,003**	48,858

5. DEBTORS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Donations	**70,508**	-
Public Engagement Programmes	**-**	2,600
Project Grants	**-**	9,830
Consulting	**1,000**	25
Total	**71,508**	12,455

Before the end of our financial year, Lumi Therapy pledged an unrestricted donation of £70,508 (rounded) to Exeter Science Centre, plus a further donation of interest accrued before the amount is paid to us.

This donation (not including interest) has been included in the April 2023-2024 accounts since the amount fulfils the requirements of 5.10 of the Charities SORP: the amount is well-defined and the charity is entitled to the donation, having been allocated in Lumi Therapy's earlier end of year accounting. It was also received by the charity within 8 months, paid in two instalments: £7,051 on 31 July 2024, £63,457 on 29 November 2024 (both rounded figures).

The interest pledged will be accounted as a further donation in the 2024/25 financial year, since this amount is not well-defined by the end of the 2023/24 financial year.

6. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023	2023
	£	£
Independent examination	**200**	200
Total	**200**	200

7. NET ASSETS BY FUND

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	**Total 2024 £**	Total 2023 £
Tangible assets	-	-	**-**	-
Current assets	86,318	5,298	**91,616**	41,691
Current liabilities	(200)	-	**(200)**	(200)
Net assets	86,118	5,298	**91,416**	41,491

8. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 27th April 2023 Total £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	**At 26th April 2024 Total £**
Unrestricted:					
General funds	20,497	72,444	(1,970)	(4,853)	**86,118**
Total unrestricted funds	20,497	72,444	(1,970)	(4,853)	**86,118**
Restricted:					
Public Engagement Programmes:					
Prof Meakin	170	1,661	(1,831)	-	**-**
FQXi University of Oxford	1,391	17	(1,408)	-	**-**
Prof Mayne	-	2,526	(2,526)	-	**-**
Dr Pepper	-	1,515	(1,632)	117	**-**
Dr Ashbullby	-	3,397	(3,397)	-	**-**
Prof Anders	-	4,416	(1,015)	-	**3,401**
Project Grants:					
ASDC - Operation Earth	1,280	16	(1,296)	-	**-**
Mindsets + Missions Learning Programme	992	12	(1,004)	-	**-**
ASDC - STFC Impact Project	7,375	90	(10,502)	3,036	**-**
Adrian Swire Charitable Trust - Operation Earth Tour	9,784	120	(9,904)	-	**-**
UoE Research - Climate Exhibition 2023	-	10,689	(10,689)	-	**-**
ASDC - Our World From Space	-	5,932	(7,492)	1,560	**-**
RAMM - Community Consultations	-	1,003	(898)	-	**106**
SNG - EDI Community Microgrants Programme	-	1,002	(25)	-	**977**
Other Activities:					
Events	-	2,220	(1,545)	140	**815**
Consulting	-	5,860	(5,860)	-	**-**
Total restricted funds	20,993	40,475	(61,024)	4,853	**5,298**
Total funds	41,491	112,919	(62,994)	-	**91,416**

The transfers into each project account for any additional salaried time spent on project delivery, beyond the amount of time originally allocated as part of the fee/grant. This additional time is contributed when there are core costs to do so, and when deemed necessary; typically to ensure the best quality of our project delivery, and to make the most of potential opportunities to reach more people or have a greater impact. This year, the transfers covered the additional time required for the ASDC - STFC Impact project, in the delivery of Climate Exhibition 2023. The support costs from the other component of this project (funded by the University of Exeter research departments) balance this additional expenditure.

Note also that the Our World From Space project will have a further £4,000 of grant income, due on successful completion of the project in the next financial year (although the project will be overspent, supplemented by support costs from other funded extensions of the project and core costs).

'Events' income included festivals and single-day events where the organiser funded all or some of our time / expenses to attend, including the Sid Valley Biodiversity Festival, Space Day 2023, the Sidmouth Science Festival, Paignton Library Eco Day, North Devon District Scouts Camp 2024, and the Norman Lockyer Family Day.

'Consulting' income was from public engagement training and a workshop around addressing the Sustainable Development Goals in the workplace for University of Exeter researchers and students, and speaking at events about our work.

COMPARATIVE MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 27th April 2022 Total £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	**At 26th April 2023 Total £**
Unrestricted:					
General funds	16,943	25,609	(18,274)	(3,780)	**20,497**
Total unrestricted funds	16,943	25,609	(18,274)	(3,780)	**20,497**
Restricted:					
Restricted donations	-	291	(291)	-	**-**
Public Engagement Programmes:					**-**
Prof Palombo	301	2	(303)	-	**-**
Prof Temperton	348	2	(2,149)	1,799	**-**
Prof Meakin	-	1,507	(1,337)	-	**170**
Dr Thomson	-	2,273	(2,273)	-	**-**
Dr Nikolic	-	991	(1,150)	159	**-**
FQXi University of Oxford	-	2,601	(1,210)	-	**1,391**
Project Grants:					
IET EEGS (ESC Live)	5,071	31	(6,637)	1,535	**-**
ASDC - Operation Earth	2,956	18	(1,694)	-	**1,280**
Mindsets + Missions Learning Programme	-	2,003	(1,011)	-	**992**
ASDC - STFC Impact Project	-	10,014	(2,639)	-	**7,375**
The Great Imagining	-	700	(910)	209	**-**
Adrian Swire Charitable Trust - Operation Earth Tour	-	9,830	(46)	-	**9,784**
Other Activities:	-				**-**
Events	-	570	(634)	64	**-**
Consulting	-	3,433	(3,446)	13	**-**
Total restricted funds	8,675	34,267	(25,728)	3,780	**20,993**
Total funds	25,618	59,876	(44,003)	-	**41,491**

9. STAFF NUMBERS, COSTS AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS INCLUDING KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

The average number of employees this year was three. The two directors (i.e. the key management personnel), Dr Natalie Whitehead (1FTE) and Dr Alice Mills (0.8FTE), were employed for the entire financial year, and one employee (0.5FTE) was salaried until February 2024, and on unpaid leave until the end of the financial year.

Staff costs were as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Salaries and wages	**£47,932**	£35,732
Redundancy and termination costs	-	-
Social security costs	-	-
Employer's contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	-	-

The total employee benefits paid to the key management personnel were £37,512. The directors and staff have opted out of pension contributions until a greater income stream can be established. There are no other employee benefits offered during this financial year. The employer National insurance (NI) contributions did not exceed the Employment Allowance, so no social security costs were due.

Indirect benefits are accounted for in Note 10.

10. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Related party transactions this year involved three businesses run by or associated with trustees or key management personnel, for services to the charity on funded projects, which are:

Maketank: Climate Exhibition 2023 was hosted at Maketank - a cultural lab space in Exeter which is directed by one of our trustees, Olga Petrakova-Brown, and the space that the original exhibition (in 2022) was designed for.

Lumi Therapy: The husband of Dr Natalie Whitehead (Director) is Co-Director of Lumi Therapy which is providing a support package to ESC, including an unrestricted donation (listed in Table 5. Debtors).

The VRVE: Dr Whitehead's husband is also Director of The VRVE, and provided services through his company relating to virtual reality headsets, screens and staff support for projects. These services were accounted for in the grant proposals, the (unrelated) trustees agreed that this business was the most suitable for providing these services, which were kindly provided at a greatly reduced rate.

The transactions in chronological order:

£740 to the VRVE for the rental of virtual reality headsets as part of the ASDC - STFC Impact Project.

£105 to the VRVE for the rental of virtual reality headsets for Space Day 2023.

£500 to the VRVE for rental of display screens and staff time as part of Prof Mayne's public engagement programme for Exoclimes 2023.

£1427 to Maketank for space hire for 7 days (at £200/day) plus £27 for promotional poster printing.

£2085 to the VRVE for the rental of virtual reality headsets for the Adrian Swire Charitable Trust - Operation Earth Tour.

£70,508 donation (debtors) from Lumi Therapy to Exeter Science Centre as part of a wider support package for the charity including office space and equipment, storage space and ad hoc staff support.

11. STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR ENDED 26TH APRIL 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	**Total for year ending 26th April 2023 £**	Total for year ending 26th April 2022 £
Income from:					
Donations	2	441	291	**732**	1,742
Charitable activities	3	25,168	33,976	**59,144**	72,733
Total income		**25,609**	**34,267**	**59,876**	74,475
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	4	(3,227)	-	**(3,227)**	(618)
Charitable activities	4	(15,047)	(25,728)	**(40,776)**	(48,240)
Total expenditure		**(18,274)**	**(25,728)**	**(44,003)**	(48,858)
Net Income / (Expenditure)		7,334	8,539	**15,873**	25,618
Net Movement in funds		(3,780)	3,780	-	-
Fund balances brought forward		16,943	8,675	**25,618**	-
Fund balances		**20,497**	**20,993**	**41,491**	25,618

EXETER SCIENCE CENTRE

England & Wales - Charity number 1194239

Accounts

THE EXETER SCIENCE CENTRE

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 26TH APRIL 2023

CHARITY NUMBER: 1194239

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INTRODUCTION

Exeter Science Centre is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) dedicated to public engagement with STEAMM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics and Medicine).

The Trustees are pleased to present their annual report, together with the consolidated financial statements of the charity, for the second year of the charity, from 27th April 2022 to 26th April 2023.

ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity name:
Exeter Science Centre

Registered Charity Number:
1194239

Charity's Registered Office Address:
Exeter Science Centre
Kaleider Studios
45 Preston Street
Exeter
EX1 1DF

Trustee name	Role	Dates acted if not for whole year
Prof. Justin Dillon	Chair	
Dr Sarah Usher		
David Solomides		
Dr Celia Oxlade		
Prof. Pete Vukusic		
Olga Petrakova-Brown		
Charlie Young		Founding trustee to 14/4/23
Christopher Sims	Treasurer	23/3/23 to present

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Exeter Science Centre is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with a CIO Foundation Model Constitution.

It is managed on a day-to-day basis by the two founders and directors, Dr Natalie Whitehead (1 FTE) and Dr Alice Mills (0.6 FTE), and overseen by the board of trustees. In February 2023 we took on Ross Castle (0.5 FTE) as our first employee, working in the role of Projects Officer.

In April 2023 we began to build a Strategic Advisory Board to support the development of the building and appointed Stuart Brocklehurst as the new Chair.

Appointment of trustees

The current trustees were founding trustees of the charity, aside from a new treasurer taken on in March 2023. The charity governing document sets out that there must be a minimum of three trustees and a maximum of 12.

Apart from the first charity trustees (the founding trustees), every trustee must be appointed for a term of three years by a resolution passed 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 CIO.

The new trustee was appointed in February 2023 after the role was widely advertised. Candidate applications were reviewed by the directors and by the existing trustees and Chris Sims was elected by the trustees. This will be the method used to elect future trustees.

Charlie Young stepped down in April 2023, we are so grateful for his support in the early stages of establishing the charity.

CHAIR'S AND DIRECTORS' INTRODUCTION

Exeter Science Centre has had another very successful year reaching 3800 people of all ages from across the South West and beyond, connecting people with current research and industry through events, livestreams, workshops, focus groups and citizen science. Our team has grown, taking on Ross Castle in February 2023, who has been a real asset to the organisation so far, helping us to reach into local underserved communities and better understand their needs and interests. We aim to recruit additional employees in the coming year to grow our capabilities and impact.

We have maintained good financial stability and grown strong relationships with partner organisations and networks, including beginning to form our Strategic Advisory Board. In the next year, we will continue to strengthen these relationships with regional partners and focus more efforts on progressing plans for the physical centre.

In terms of governance, the charity is delighted to have recruited a new trustee, Chris Sims, in the role of treasurer. Chris is also a trustee of the very successful and inspiring science centre We The Curious, in Bristol, and we are grateful to We The Curious for agreeing to this arrangement.

Our membership of the Association for Science and Discovery Centres (ASDC) and European Network of Science Centres and Museums (Ecsite) continue to give us inspiration, guidance, a network of helpful contacts and open up additional funding opportunities.

As always, we are so grateful for the enormous support from our growing network of volunteers. Their dedication is inspiring, and the time, expertise and breadth of experience they bring to the charity is invaluable. We also thank our partners and supporters for their support, advice and the opportunities they have opened up for us.

Prof. Justin Dillon	*Dr Natalie Whitehead, Dr Alice Mills*
Chair	Directors

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Our mission is to educate, motivate and empower the public to make a difference in the world.

CHARITABLE PURPOSES

Our main charitable purposes (as described in our CIO governing document) are:

To advance the education of the public, particularly in the South West of England in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Mathematics and Medicine (STEAMM), in particular but not exclusively by:

- providing interactive activities, events and information media;
- establishing, developing and maintaining a physical STEAMM Discovery Centre ('Science Centre') for public benefit;
- developing the public understanding of and engagement with STEAMM;
- developing public access to current scientific and technological advancements particularly in the South West of England.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Trustees confirm that the objectives and activities for the year have been developed with due regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

BENEFICIARIES

Our beneficiaries are people of all ages and backgrounds, particularly in the South West of the UK. We work with schools, the general public, and specific communities of people depending on the projects that we are working on.

For project work where we have limited resources and thus have to limit the direct beneficiaries, we aim to prioritise those from underserved and disadvantaged communities.

When identifying underserved or disadvantaged communities, we prioritise those with less access to STEAMM-related opportunities and in locations that rank highly on the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD, typically within the top 20% most deprived regions in the UK, deciles 1-2).

When working with schools, we prioritise those with more than 30% of pupils entitled to free school meals, or with a postcode ranking highly on the IMD. Where possible, we try to make our work publicly accessible, to increase our reach and impact. This includes by making public-friendly YouTube summaries of some of our activities, making our project resources freely accessible on our website and sharing our work via social media.

FUNDRAISING

We do not yet have a dedicated fundraiser and the directors have spent some of their time applying for grants and carrying out fundraising activity, which is estimated in the accounts. We are hugely grateful to The Steel Charitable Trust and the Postcode Local Trust for supporting our core costs and our development as an organisation.

The Steel Charitable Trust

Supported by players of PEOPLE'S POSTCODE LOTTERY

Awarded funds from POSTCODE LOCAL TRUST

Our new project work in this financial year has been generously funded by academic staff at the University of Exeter and the University of Oxford via their research grants; the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC); the Association for Science and Discovery Centres (ASDC); The Adrian Swire Charitable Trust; and The Great Imagining.

We are also grateful to The Museums Association, UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), ASDC and The Liminal Space for providing the opportunity for us to take part in the Mindsets and Missions Learning Programme.

ACTIVITIES

We have continued to develop and deliver a broad range of activities both in person and virtually. As we emerge out of COVID-19 we have been able to deliver more in-person events (reaching 2840 people) but have continued to develop virtual content in parallel, to widen our reach, reaching over 930 people through virtual events.

Over the following pages, we cover the main activities we have carried out over the past year.

ESC Live: Virtual out of the classroom events connecting school children with engineers

This project, funded by the IET/IMechE Engineering Education Grant Scheme (EEGS) involved livestreaming into schools from energy generation facilities across the region. This year we undertook the remaining four of eight events funded by the grant (plus a pilot event). These events provided the opportunity for students to learn more about renewable energy, to see engineers in action and ask them questions live, whilst providing a lasting educational resource for others to access in future.

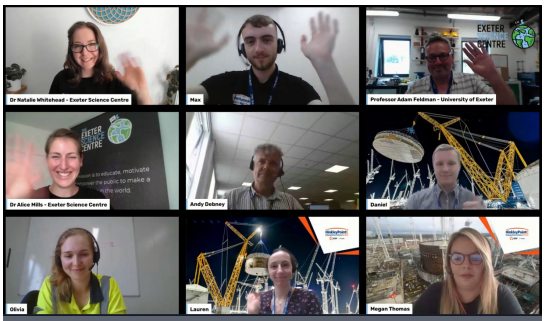
"I learned that it's possible to make a difference and there are organisations who are making big differences." Year 8- Langage Farm event

"It is good to have real outside examples of where Physics or engineering could lead to; especially as it was local and there were opportunities even in Cornwall." Teacher - Kensa Heat Pumps event

The final events took place at the Coastal, Ocean and Sediment Transport (COAST) Laboratory at the University of Plymouth- a testbed for wind and wave energy generation; Langage Anaerobic Digestion Facility, Kensa Heat Pumps factory and Hinkley Point C nuclear power station (under construction).

In total we engaged 2278 students from 15 schools, worked with 30 engineers from 9 different energy generation facilities, and the videos and lesson plans are lasting resources which are freely available on our website.

Kensa Heat Pumps team and livestream



Hinkley Point C livestream

Students at Eggbuckland Community College during the COAST livestream

Engineers at the COAST Laboratory during the livestream.

Operation Earth

In early 2022 we were granted £3000 of funding from the UK Association for Science and Discovery Centres (ASDC) and Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) to be part of the Operation Earth programme.

This funding covered the training and funds to purchase all the kit to deliver the programme, which involves a family show and interactive activities centred around environmental science. The programme particularly looks at the themes of climate change, biodiversity, ocean acidification, air pollution and marine plastic pollution. Some funding has been reserved to spend on equipment for the touring programme in the next financial year.

Our core cost funding, plus some funding from event organisers, has enabled us to pilot the programme this year to test the best combination of activities, whilst enabling us to engage with new community groups.

These events included:

- Girlguiding Fun Day in East Devon (250 girls, aged 5-14, funded by Girlguiding);
- Exeter Library STEM day (195 people, all ages);
- Sidmouth Science Festival (300 people, all ages);
- Half term family event in the Royal Albert Memorial Museum (400 people).

Ross at The Royal Albert Memorial Museum Operation Earth event

From these events, we learned the best format for delivering the programme and applied for further funding to take it on tour to the wider region.

Volunteers at the Sidmouth Science Festival

Children at the Girlguiding Fun Day planting 'seeds of change'

"Best session of the day. Girls from 5-14 in the group all completely engaged."
Brownie Leader, Girlguiding Fun Day

Natalie, Ross and some of our regular volunteers at the Exeter Library event

Public Engagement Programmes

Across this financial year we have collaborated with four academic researchers at the University of Exeter to develop programmes to engage schools and the public with their research. This has provided an income (which is paid to us from their academic grants), whilst also working towards our charitable purposes.

Dr Nela Nikolic: Hello Microbes

Dr Nikolic approached us with a desire to work with Key Stage 1 children to help them to understand microbes, particularly important with the recent pandemic. We worked with her to develop a workshop that explores what microbes are; how we couldn't live without them; how good microbes help us to fight bad microbes and some current research into how bacteria defend themselves against viruses. The workshop was delivered for three separate classes (about 75 children) in Stoke Hill Primary School, Exeter. As part of the workshops, all children placed their hands on agar plates, which were incubated to see what microbes were present. The children were given certificates with their own microbe handprint to take home after the workshop.

The resources are available on our website for any teachers/educators to access.

Dr. Stephen Thomson: Demystifying climate models: how do they work, and what do they say?

Dr Thomson worked with us to develop a workshop for Key Stage 3 and 4 children to learn more about current research into climate change and climate modelling, through experimenting with a simplified version of the ISCA climate model. We organised and attended a pre-workshop focus group with the academics and a smaller group of students to help guide the content and design of the ISCA website so that it was easy to use and experiment with the ISCA climate model. We then developed a climate modelling workshop and delivered it for three classes of 30 children at West Exe School in Exeter. They then got to design their own climate model to be run on the supercomputer at a later date.

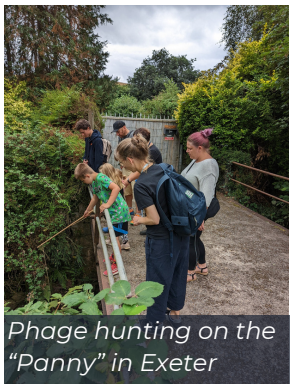
Prof. Ben Temperton: Citizen Phage Library

Prof. Temperton's research aims to tackle the global issue of antimicrobial resistance by searching for alternatives to antibiotics, in the form of bacteriophage; viruses which attack bacteria. This project directly involves the public through Citizen Science, and our role has been to educate the public on the science and recruit and work with citizen scientists. This year we carried out the second phase of this citizen science project, engaging community groups across Devon in phage hunting.

We recruited 112 phage hunters from Devon and Somerset ranging from family groups, to environmental action groups and GP surgery staff and patients. We ran four events where we went phage hunting with members of the public who chose where to take the samples from.

The community samples were analysed in the lab and have resulted in the discovery of 16 new phages. The results from the schools data analysis from phase 1 of the project were 51 new phages. This work in facilitating the data collection has resulted in our inclusion in an academic paper, in preparation.

Natalie on a phage hunt with the Friends of Clennon Lakes volunteers



Phage hunting on the "Panny" in Exeter

"It's great to get the kids interested in a bit of science... very excited to find out if we can contribute to finding a cure for some illness in the future". Paul from Freemoovement

Prof. Francesca Palombo: Imaging techniques to improve early detection of oesophageal cancer

This year, we completed this programme of work by making the teaching resources on this topic freely accessible on our website, as well as helping to develop an event for Cancer Research UK volunteers, staff and collaborators, to be held in 2024.

Prof. Jude Meakin: Image Driven Subject Specific Spine Modelling

This multidisciplinary research looks at building a better understanding of the spine, in particular how forces act on the spine. Spine issues are very prevalent in the UK, and we have been brought in for the 3-year duration of the project, to help the public understand the research from its early stages and later to consult with them to help inform the direction of the research. This year we have created a website for the research team, and designed a project logo and an infographic to summarise the key themes and stages of the research.

Community Engagement

A big focus this year has been to spend the time to engage and build lasting relationships with local community groups, as well as other community-centric organisations doing great work in the city and region. This work has been enabled by core cost funding from the Postcode Local Trust, which has lead on to other funded projects.

West Exe School students consider the 2022 exhibition's virtual tour

A £10,000 grant provided by the STFC via the Association for Science and Discovery Centres (ASDC) has enabled us to work with local community groups in reimagining our March 2022 climate exhibition, to make it more accessible and meaningful to a broader audience, with some funds allocated to running the exhibition in the next financial year.

Ross visiting Newtown Primary School to discuss improving the climate exhibition

In February 2023, we took on Ross Castle as a part-time employee in the role of Projects Officer to lead on this work. Ross is working on his climate science PhD at the University of Exeter while working for us 2.5 days per week. Ross was a committed volunteer during our March 2022 exhibition and brings with him experience both in climate science but also in exhibit building.

Alice visiting the Pelican Project to discuss the exhibition and their space project

We carried out focus groups with Ellen Tinkham College (for pupils with special educational needs), West Exe School (a mainstream secondary school), CoLab Exeter (a multi-agency wellbeing hub), the Pelican Project (a group of young people with learning-disabilities from across Devon) and SPACE Youth Services, who will all be contributing to the exhibition window display. We are also grateful to have had discussions with Exeter College students and members of the YES (Youth Enquiry Service) Centre as part of this work.

These focus groups led to a list of priorities for updating and improving the exhibition content, accessibility and relevance. The exhibition will be repeated in September 2023 as part of the British Science Festival in Exeter.

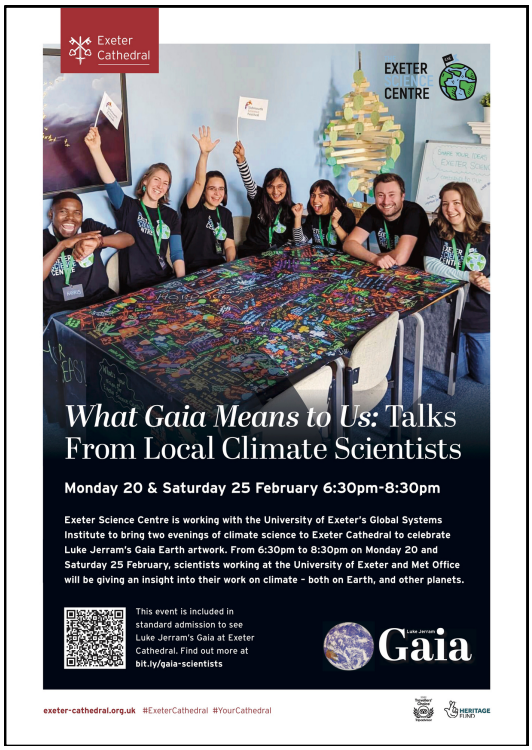
Other projects and events

Gaia at Exeter Cathedral

In February 2023, we arranged two evenings of short talks and Q&A sessions with local climate scientists at Exeter Cathedral, to coincide with the exhibition of Luke Jerram's 'Gaia'.

12 scientists from the University of Exeter and the Met Office were involved and we engaged with around 400 members of the public.

This was a fantastic opportunity to reach a different demographic, of people that may not have typically chosen to attend a science-focused event. We are so grateful to our core cost funders for enabling us to run these kinds of responsive events, that helps us build our engagement with new communities.



The Great Imagining

On Earth Day, April 2023, we developed resources for and provided a hands-on activity session for The Great Imagining, Exeter — a public event at the Exeter Climate Hub focusing on building an understanding of ecosystems, and how systems thinking can lead us towards a greener, fairer, wiser future for everyone.

30 people attended the event with a long dwell-time, and our resources have since been used at other Great Imagining events internationally.

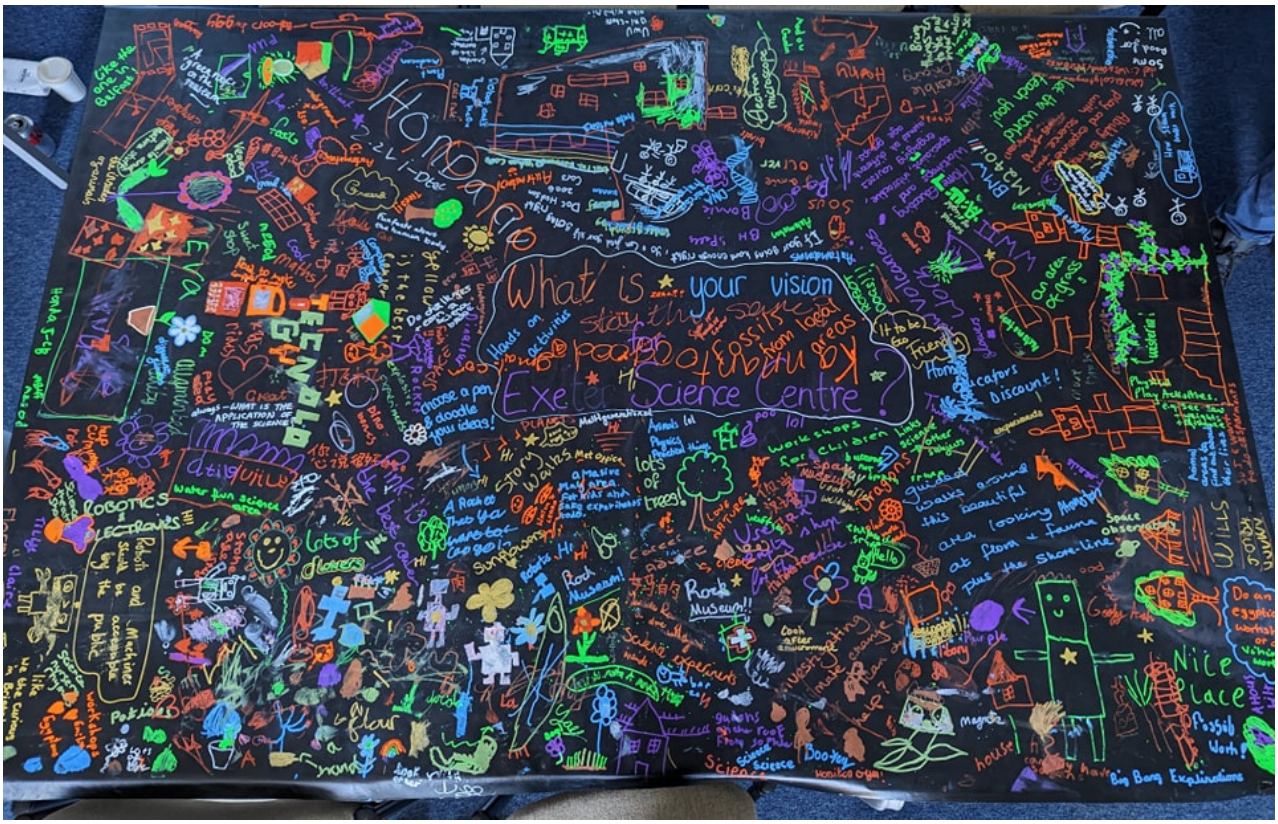
UPCOMING PROJECTS/EVENTS

In the coming year we will be continuing with a number of funded projects, including:

- Prof. Meakin's spine modelling project;
- Further community engagement along with development and delivery of our re-modelled climate exhibition.

We have also recently been awarded a grant by The Adrian Swire Charitable Trust, to take Operation Earth on tour across Devon and Somerset from May 2023.

Growing the organisation



At most of our events we have continued to harness ideas and perspectives to help guide the plans for the science centre using our tree of ideas or our chalkboard tablecloth.

It is really important to us that the science centre meets the needs of the communities it will serve, whilst also meeting our charitable aims of connecting people with important research and industry in the region. This year we will continue to build stronger relationships with community groups in our region and work to better understand their needs.

As we aim to grow substantially over the next few years, we will soon be re-visiting our business plan based on our consultation with stakeholders, as well as growing our Strategic Advisory Board, to help to move towards one of our goals of a physical centre.

We will also work to fundraise and grow our team, in particular to provide dedicated support with community engagement, administration, fundraising and projects delivery. This will allow the directors to spend time focusing on the development of the organisation and plans for a physical centre.

SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

This year, we have been able to engage in-person with significantly more people, connecting them with current research and industry and consulting them on the development of our next exhibition and the future growth of the science centre.

We have grown this year, with Ross Castle joining the team and supporting our community engagement and our project work. Despite a small, 2.1 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) staff team, we have continued to develop and deliver high-quality, engaging events and projects across the region, whilst also undertaking the day-to-day running of the charity, building our network and working towards growing the organisation.

The following figures correspond to the second year of the charity from 27th April 2022 to 26th April 2023:

- In total we interacted with 3793 people across the South West: 2841 through in person events and 938 through our ESC Live virtual events for schools.
- Through our citizen science work with Prof. Temperton, we have supported schools and the public in discovering more than 60 new phages (viruses) that may be used in the treatment of people with antimicrobial resistant infections.
- Our YouTube videos have collectively had 10,822 views (a 220% increase on last year) and we have had over 27,981 visitors to our website over the year (a 230% increase on the previous year).
- We have expanded our portfolio of income sources to include consulting on public engagement activities (including providing training and advice) as well as event curation.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

At the end of the period 27th April 2022 - 26th April 2023, Exeter Science Centre is in a secure financial position, able to sustain the salaries of the two directors (1.6FTE) to the value of the Real Living Wage, employ one part-time employee (0.5FTE) and continue with funded project work, with some additional core costs funding to work more responsively with community groups, and to work on developing and growing the organisation. Note that the Real Living Wage increased part way through the year, and salaries were increased from £363/week to £436/week from 6th September 2022.

Although we aimed this year to increase the directors salary up to the median salary for the South West in order to be able to take on employees at a fair and competitive salary for the region, this is now an intention for next year when we aim to raise more significant core costs funding to support our growth.

The charity's principal funding sources are: grant income (covering project costs and support costs); unrestricted (core-costs) income; some income from donations; a small amount through savings interest. We are also registered with Easyfundraising, Amazon Smile and Paypal Giving.

RESERVES POLICY

Our reserves policy is regularly reviewed and updated to fit the financial situation of the charity. Currently and for the next financial year, we intend to retain 2 months of running costs (approximately £5000) in case of unforeseen delays in payments from grants or other income, to ensure that salaries, fees and other costs can be paid on time. The directors are flexible on payment dates for their modest salaries, as they are dedicated to ensuring the charity's success and stability, so this allows for some additional flexibility.

When taking on employees, these will typically be for fixed terms and fully funded via grants. In future, when we have established sustainable income streams, we will need to revise this policy to ensure stability for permanent staff members.

The reserves are retained in an interest-paying savings account.

RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

The trustees maintain a risk register which is reviewed and maintained regularly. The main risks at current are the dependence of the charity's activities on the two directors, and the risk of insufficient funds to pay their salaries and the salary of our employee. The impact of these risks are controlled through:

- having operations which are transparent to both directors and trustees (so that if either director is unable to fulfil their responsibilities, their work can be accessed and continued by their replacement);
- the directors being flexible on their salary payments.

The trustees are confident that the directors' management of the organisation will enable the organisation to grow and achieve its ambitions.

Going concern

The trustees are confident that the charity has sufficient funds to continue as a going concern for the foreseeable future, and prepare the accounts on this basis. The charity will need to get into a more secure financial situation in the next couple of years to grow to a sustainable level, and the only risk to the charity ceasing to be a going concern is a lack of project funding, which is unlikely.

DECLARATIONS

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signature:

Name: Prof. Justin Dillon

Position: Chair of the board of trustees

Date: 9th February 2024

Independent Examiner's report to the trustees of Exeter Science Centre Charitable Incorporated Organisation ('the CIO')

I report on the accounts of the CIO for the year ended 26 April 2023, which are set out on the following pages 19-26.

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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carry 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

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do 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.

NAME: Sam Blackford ACA
OF: On Target Accounting Ltd

ADDRESS: 105 Chineway Gardens, Ottery St. Mary
Devon, EX11 1JJ

SIGNED

DATE: 1 February 2024

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 26TH APRIL 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	**Total for year ending 26th April 2023 £**	Total for year ending 26th April 2022 £
Income from:					
Donations	2	441	291	**732**	1,742
Charitable activities	3	25,168	33,976	**59,144**	72,733
Total income		**25,609**	**34,267**	**59,876**	74,475
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	4	(3,227)	-	**(3,227)**	(618)
Charitable activities	4	(15,047)	(25,728)	**(40,776)**	(48,240)
Total expenditure		**(18,274)**	**(25,728)**	**(44,003)**	(48,858)
Net Income / (Expenditure)		7,334	8,539	**15,873**	25,618
Net Movement in funds		(3,780)	3,780	-	-
Fund balances brought forward		16,943	8,675	**25,618**	-
Fund balances		**20,497**	**20,993**	**41,491**	25,618

The financial statements were approved by the board of trustees on 9th February 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:

Prof. Justin Dillon
Chair

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 26TH APRIL 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets		-	-
Current assets			
Prepayments		470	-
Debtors	5	12,455	5,614
Stock		-	-
Investments		-	-
Cash at bank and in hand		28,766	20,595
Total current assets		**41,691**	26,209
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	6	(200)	(591)
Net current assets		**41,491**	25,618
Net assets		**41,491**	25,618
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year		-	-
Net assets	7	**41,491**	25,618
The funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted funds	8	20,497	16,960
Restricted funds	8	20,993	8,658
Total funds		**41,491**	25,618

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparation

The charity is a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) second edition'. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income

All income is recognised and thus included on the Statement of Financial Activities when the amount can be quantified accurately and the charity is legally entitled to the income. For grants or other income which is paid in advance, the income is stored in a savings account and can accrue interest, which is allocated to that same fund, as required by trust law and highlighted in the Charities SORP. Any unspent income at the year end is retained in that fund, and will be noted as funds carried forward in the following year.

Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis, and has been classified under the headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. We recognise an expenditure as soon as a transaction has occurred, or if a quantifiable amount is due to be spent on a particular item or service; in the latter case, the expenditure is listed as a liability (creditors). If funds are expected to be spent in the future – for example on a restricted funding grant that needs to be fully expended in a certain period – but the purchases have not yet been determined, then the amount is retained in the fund and not listed as a liability. The actual expenditure will be acknowledged in future accounts, once the funds are expended.

Tangible fixed assets

Items with a tangible cost price of £500 and above will be included in fixed assets. At current, the charity has no items in this category.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are funds which can be used by the charity to fulfil its charitable objectives.

Restricted funds can only be used on particular projects or for a particular purpose. Expenditure includes the direct staff time, materials or other expenses required to

fulfil the obligations of the restricted funds, along with a fair allocation of support costs.

The total interest accrued on the charity's savings throughout the year has been allocated proportionally to each fund, based on the arrival date of income sources in each fund in the financial year and the size of each income source. This is judged to be a reasonable estimate of the interest accrued by each fund, and the amount is stated separately for each income source category for clarity.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds		**Total**	Total
	Income received	Interest accrued	Income received	Interest accrued	**2023**	2022
	£	£	£	£	**£**	£
Donations	430	11	290	1	**732**	1,742
Total income	430	11	290	1	**732**	1,742

3. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds		**Total**	Total
	Income received	Interest accrued	Income received	Interest accrued	**2023**	2022
	£	£	£	£	**£**	£
Core Cost Grants:						
The Steel Charitable Trust	-	94	-	-	**94**	24,525
Postcode Local Trust	25,000	74	-	-	**25,074**	-
Other grants:						
Low Carbon Devon Internship	-	-	-	-	**-**	4,274
Public Engagement Programmes	-	-	7,352	24	**7,376**	7,568
Project Grants	-	-	22,530	67	**22,597**	36,367
Other Activities:						
Events	-	-	568	3	**570**	-
Consulting	-	-	3,415	18	**3,433**	-
Total income	25,000	168	33,864	111	**59,144**	72,733

4. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Fundraising	Direct costs of projects	Support costs	Governance costs	**Total 2023**	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	**£**	£
Materials for projects / activities	-	1,709	-	-	**1,709**	3,758
Accomodation and Meals	-	190	169	-	**358**	208
Rent / Space Hire	-	-	-	-	**-**	1,100
Computer Hardware	-	720	117	-	**837**	920
Travel (including mileage)	-	1,023	949	-	**1,972**	1,289
Insurance	-	-	96	-	**96**	96
Accounting software fees	-	-	174	-	**174**	174
Consultancy fees	-	-	720	200	**920**	150
Administrative and website costs	55	-	49	-	**104**	91
Subcontractor costs	-	586	-	-	**586**	6,514
Salaries (inc. employers NI)	3,172	11,002	19,854	1,704	**35,732**	34,558
Staff training and conferences			696	-	**696**	-
Organisation memberships	-	-	819	-	**819**	-
Total expenditure	3,227	15,229	23,642	1,904	**44,003**	48,858

Staff salaries have been allocated to project work ("Direct costs of projects") based on the salaried time spent on these projects. The support costs apportioned to salaries account for the salaried time operating the charity, including: administration, finances, social media and website maintenance, planning, networking, and carrying out other small activities that further our purpose and increase our audience (such as unpaid events). Any additional support costs are covered by unrestricted funds.

Governance costs, as defined in the Charities SORP (FRS 102), relate to the costs of the employees assisting or reporting to the trustees (which we account for in "Staff salaries (inc. employers NI)") or any costs associated with trustee expenses or preparing statutory accounts. Note that we include the salary costs of preparing the annual accounts for the 2021-2022 financial year, and will continue this in future accounts. Also note that the accounts examination for the present year was included in the 'support costs' category in the previous year, and we correct this in the comparative table below, including this cost as 'Consultancy fees'.

COMPARATIVE EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Fundraising	Direct costs of projects	Support costs	Governance costs	**Total 2022**
	£	£	£	£	**£**
Materials for projects / activities	-	3,720	38	-	**3,758**
Accomodation and meals	-	147	61	-	**208**
Rent / space hire	-	1,100	-	-	**1,100**
Computer hardware	-	160	760	-	**920**
Travel (including mileage)	-	1,214	75	-	**1,289**
Insurance	-	-	96	-	**96**
Accountancy software fees	-	-	174	-	**174**
Consultancy fees	-	-	-	150	**150**
Administrative and website costs	-	-	91	-	**91**
Subcontractor costs	-	6,514	-	-	**6,514**
Salaries (inc. employers NI)	618	19,182	14,538	220	**34,558**
Total expenditure	618	32,037	15,833	370	**48,858**

The 'Consultancy fees' category for the previous year's accounts now shows the amount expended on the accounts examination in 'Governance costs', rather than support costs.

5. DEBTORS

	2023 £	2022 £
Public Engagement Programmes	**2,600**	-
Project Grants	**9,830**	5,614
Consulting	**25**	-
Total	**12,455**	5,614

6. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023 £	2022 £
Independent examination	**200**	150
Subcontractor costs	**-**	441
Total	**200**	591

7. NET ASSETS BY FUND

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	**Total 2023 £**	Total 2022 £
Tangible assets	-	-	**-**	-
Current assets	20,697	20,993	**41,691**	26,209
Current liabilities	(200)	-	**(200)**	(591)
Net assets	20,497	20,993	**41,491**	25,618

8. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 27th April 2022 Total £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	**At 26th April 2023 Total £**
Unrestricted:					
General funds	16,943	25,609	(18,274)	(3,780)	**20,497**
Total unrestricted funds	16,943	25,609	(18,274)	(3,780)	**20,497**
Restricted:					
Restricted donations	-	291	(291)	-	**-**
Public Engagement Programmes:					**-**
Prof Palombo	301	2	(303)	-	**-**
Prof Temperton	348	2	(2,149)	1,799	**-**
Prof Meakin	-	1,507	(1,337)	-	**170**
Dr Thomson	-	2,273	(2,273)	-	**-**
Dr Nikolic	-	991	(1,150)	159	**-**
FQXi University of Oxford	-	2,601	(1,210)	-	**1,391**
Project Grants:					
IET EEGS (ESC Live)	5,071	31	(6,637)	1,535	**-**
ASDC - Operation Earth	2,956	18	(1,694)	-	**1,280**
Mindsets + Missions Learning Programme	-	2,003	(1,011)	-	**992**
ASDC - STFC Impact Project	-	10,014	(2,639)	-	**7,375**
The Great Imagining	-	700	(910)	209	**-**
Adrian Swire Charitable Trust - Operation Earth Tour	-	9,830	(46)	-	**9,784**
Other Activities:	-				**-**
Events	-	570	(634)	64	**-**
Consulting	-	3,433	(3,446)	13	**-**
Total restricted funds	8,675	34,267	(25,728)	3,780	**20,993**
Total funds	25,618	59,876	(44,003)	-	**41,491**

The transfers into each project account for any additional salaried time spent on project delivery, beyond the amount of time originally allocated as part of the fee/grant.

'Events' income was for co-curating The Great Imagining (via Portfolio Five Ltd, event lead), a workshop for the Ogden Trust Exeter & East Devon Schools Partnership funded via Exeter School, and a workshop at a Girlguiding Fun Day, funded by Girlguiding Exeter. 'Consulting' income was from public engagement training and support from University of Exeter research and public engagement groups, and speaking at events about our work.

COMPARATIVE MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	**At 26th April 2022 Total £**
Unrestricted:				
General funds	26,267	(2,958)	(6,367)	**16,943**
Total unrestricted funds	26,267	(2,958)	(6,367)	**16,943**
Restricted:				
Low Carbon Devon Internship	4,274	(4,274)	-	**-**
Public Engagement Programmes (PEPs):				
PEP - Dr Wu	-	(1,208)	1,208	**-**
PEP - Prof Palombo	2,558	(2,257)	-	**301**
PEP - Prof Temperton	5,010	(4,663)	-	**348**
Project Grants:				
IET / IMechE - ESC Live	14,102	(9,032)	-	**5,071**
STFC - Pop Up	17,491	(22,650)	5,159	**-**
ASDC / NERC - Operation Earth	3,002	(46)	-	**2,956**
Links to a Life	1,772	(1,772)	-	**-**
Total restricted funds	48,208	(45,900)	6,367	**8,675**
Total funds	74,475	(48,858)	-	**25,618**

9. STAFF NUMBERS, COSTS AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS INCLUDING KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

The average number of employees this year was three. The two directors (i.e. the key management personnel), Dr Natalie Whitehead (1FTE) and Dr Alice Mills (0.6FTE), were employed for the entire financial year, and one employee (0.5FTE) joined the organisation on 6th February 2023 on a 1 year contract (subject to extension in the following financial year).

Staff costs were as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Salaries and wages	**£35,732**	£34,558
Redundancy and termination costs	-	-
Social security costs	-	-
Employer's contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	-	-

The total employee benefits paid to the key management personnel were £33,837. The directors and staff have opted out of pension contributions until a greater income stream can be established. There are no other employee benefits offered at current. The employer National insurance (NI) contributions did not exceed the Employment Allowance, so no social security costs were due.

Direct trustee remuneration or benefits during this year were £5 to David Solomides and £8 to Celia Oxlade, Trustees of the charity, as reimbursement for travel to an event of the charity.

Indirect benefits are accounted for in Note 10.

10. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Related party transactions this year were to one business associated with key management personnel, for services to the charity on funded projects and the provision of reduced-cost equipment covered by core costs funding. For funded projects, the services were accounted for in the grant proposals, the (unrelated) trustees agreed that this business was the most suitable for providing these services, which were kindly provided at a greatly reduced rate.

The transactions in chronological order:

£586 to The Virtual Reality Visitor Experience (The VRVE) for work on the “IET / IMechE - ESC Live” project. This project has a costed role of £146.50 per day for operating the camera and technical duties in running the livestream. The husband of Dr Natalie Whitehead (Director) runs The VRVE, and provided these services through his company. These payments were for the final 4 events on the project.

£117 to the VRVE for the purchase of a discounted computer screen, covered by core cost funds.

£70 to the VRVE for the rental of virtual reality headsets as part of the “ASDC - STFC Impact Project”.

Note the following correction to the previous year’s related party transactions:
In the previous year's report we stated that £586 was paid to the VRVE for 2 events, which is correct, but this missed the payment of £16 to reimburse equipment purchased for the project. The total amount paid was £602 (to the nearest £).

11. STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR ENDED 26TH APRIL 2022

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	**Total for year ending 26th April 2022**
	£	£	**£**
Income from:			
Donations	1,742	-	**1,742**
Charitable activities	24,525	48,208	**72,733**
Total income	**26,267**	**48,208**	**74,475**
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds	(618)	-	(618)
Charitable activities	(2,340)	(45,900)	**(48,240)**
Total expenditure	**(2,958)**	**(45,900)**	**(48,858)**
Net Income / (Expenditure)	23,310	2,308	**25,618**
Net Movement in funds	(6,367)	6,367	-
Fund balances brought forward	-	-	-
Fund balances	**16,943**	**8,675**	**25,618**

EXETER SCIENCE CENTRE

England & Wales - Charity number 1194239

Accounts

EXETER SCIENCE CENTRE

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 26TH APRIL 2022

CHARITY NUMBER: 1194239

THE EXETER SCIENCE CENTRE

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INTRODUCTION

Exeter Science Centre is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) dedicated to public engagement with STEAMM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics and Medicine).

The Trustees are pleased to present their annual report, together with the consolidated financial statements of the charity, for the first year of the charity from 27th April 2021 to 26th April 2022.

ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity name:
Exeter Science Centre

Registered Charity Number:
1194239

Charity's Registered Office Address:
Exeter Science Centre
Kaleider Studios
45 Preston Street
Exeter
EX1 1DF

Trustee name	Role	Dates acted if not for whole year
Prof. Justin Dillon	Chair	
Dr Sarah Usher		
David Solomides		
Dr Celia Oxlade		
Prof. Pete Vukusic		
Olga Petrakova-Brown		
Charles Young		
Stephanie Amil	Treasurer	11/5/21 to 6/2/22

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Exeter Science Centre is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation with a CIO Foundation Model Constitution.

It is managed on a day-to-day basis by the two founders and directors, Dr Natalie Whitehead (1 FTE) and Dr Alice Mills (0.6 FTE), and overseen by the board of trustees.

We transitioned from a CIC to CIO in April 2021 (having been a CIC from February 2020 to April 2021).

Appointment of trustees

The current trustees were the founding trustees of the charity. The charity governing document sets out that there must be a minimum of three trustees and a maximum of 12.

Apart from the first charity trustees (the founding trustees), every trustee must be appointed for a term of three years by a resolution passed 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 CIO.

For the appointment of future trustees, roles will be widely advertised. Candidate applications will be reviewed by the directors and by the existing trustees and new trustees will be selected by election to the post.

We are currently advertising for a new trustee with an accounting background to take on the role of treasurer.

CHAIR'S AND DIRECTORS' INTRODUCTION

Exeter Science Centre has had a highly successful first year as a charity, providing engaging educational events, activities and resources for a broad audience across the South West and beyond, both virtually and in person. These innovative projects have demonstrated how we intend to develop the future science centre – reaching all ages and backgrounds, and finding new ways to engage underserved

communities – and we intend to develop and grow our project work in future years to have an even greater impact.

The organisation has also demonstrated good financial stability and grown strong relationships with partner organisations and networks. In the next year, we aim to grow our partners & supporters and establish the principal partners for creating the physical science centre building, whilst fundraising towards this aim.

In terms of governance, the charity aims to recruit new trustees and employees in the coming months to grow their capabilities and impact.

We are hugely grateful to our volunteers for their time and dedication in helping us over the past year, and our partners & supporters for their support, advice and opportunities. We look forward to doing more great things with you in the coming year!

Prof. Justin Dillon
Chair

Dr Natalie Whitehead, Dr Alice Mills
Directors

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Our mission is to educate, motivate and empower the public to make a difference in the world.

Our vision is an exemplary STEAMM Discovery Centre in Exeter for the educational, social and cultural benefit of the city and the whole of the South West region.

CHARITABLE PURPOSES

Our main charitable purposes (as described in our CIO governing document) are:

To advance the education of the public, particularly in the South West of England in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Mathematics and Medicine (STEAMM), in particular but not exclusively by:

- providing interactive activities, events and information media;
- establishing, developing and maintaining a physical STEAMM Discovery Centre ('Science Centre') for public benefit;

- developing the public understanding of and engagement with STEAMM;
- developing public access to current scientific and technological advancements particularly in the South West of England.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Trustees confirm that the objectives and activities for the year have been developed with due regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

BENEFICIARIES

Our beneficiaries are people of all ages and backgrounds, particularly in the South West of the UK. We work with schools, the general public, and specific communities of people depending on the projects that we are working on.

For project work where we have limited resources and thus have to limit the direct beneficiaries, we aim to prioritise those from underserved and disadvantaged communities. When identifying underserved or disadvantaged communities, we prioritise those with less access to STEAMM-related opportunities and in locations that rank highly on the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD, typically within the top 20% most deprived regions in the UK, deciles 1-2). When working with schools, we prioritise those with more than 30% of pupils entitled to free school meals, or with a postcode ranking highly on the IMD.

Where possible, we try to make our work publicly accessible, to increase our reach and impact. This involves making public-friendly YouTube summaries of our activities, making our project resources freely accessible on our website and sharing our work via social media.

FUNDRAISING

We do not yet have a dedicated fundraiser and the directors have spent some of their time applying for grants and carrying out fundraising activity, which is estimated in the accounts.

We are hugely grateful to The Steel Charitable Trust for supporting our core costs, and academic staff at the University of Exeter, The Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC), The Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE), The Institution of

Engineering and Technology (IET), The Association for Science and Discovery Centres (ASDC) and The Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) for enabling us to deliver exciting engagement projects that benefit schools and the public and help to fulfil our charitable aims.

We are also very grateful for donations from members of the public, which have contributed to our core costs and supported our development as an organisation.

ACTIVITIES

This year we have developed and delivered a series of virtual and in person activities, both with schools and the public.

Public Engagement Programmes:

We have collaborated with three academic researchers at the University of Exeter to develop programmes to better connect schools and the public with their research. This has provided an income (which is paid to us from their academic grants), whilst also working towards our charitable purposes.

Dr Yulei Wu: 5G network design

We endeavour to provide trustworthy information sources to the public, in particular around themes for which there is significant mis and dis-information, such as the 5G network. In this project, we produced online resources that discussed the basic science of 5G, but also explored the research being carried out locally into using AI to improve the 5G network.

The project outputs include a webpage for the research team, infographics, simplified paper summaries and YouTube videos to make the research understandable at every level, which can all be accessed here: https://wu-lab.exeter.ac.uk/.

Note that this project commenced whilst we were a Community Interest Company (CIC), and we spent the originally-costed time on this project fully as a CIC. However, more time than originally predicted was required to complete the project work, so this was spent as an in-kind time contribution in this financial year, as a charity. The resulting resources have been helpful in gaining views and subscribers to our YouTube channel, and the additional time has enabled us to develop our skills in

video editing, website and infographic design, which we can now deliver as part of our charitable work.

Prof. Francesca Palombo: Imaging techniques to improve early detection of oesophageal cancer

Through our work we strive to highlight the importance of multidisciplinary teams in solving global issues. This project is an excellent demonstration of this: bringing together experts in the fields of chemistry, physics, biology and medicine to establish better cancer detection methods. For this project so far, we developed a series of demonstrations to support the researchers in describing their work, and designed and delivered a hands-on workshop entitled "Poking cells with light", for schools and the general public. This was principally aimed at KS4-5 students, and has been delivered to 130 students at four schools across Devon and Cornwall, along with 60 members of the public at the Festival of Physics event in November 2021.

At the end of this financial year, this project is still ongoing. Next year, we will be making the resources into a downloadable resource pack for our website, and working with Cancer Research UK (CRUK) to help share this research with their supporters. This will involve a small in-kind time contribution, but we are keen to support the important work of this research team and CRUK, and this will also be useful in building the free-to-access resource we can offer to schools.

"The host was incredibly friendly and the activities were engaging. I learned a lot from this workshop and have been further inspired to work in the field of medicine and cancer research". -Year 10 student

"Students were able to gain an understanding of a really complex topic and how it has the potential to improve cancer treatment". -Teacher

Prof. Ben Temperton: Citizen Phage Library

This research aims to tackle the global issue of antimicrobial resistance by searching for alternatives to antibiotics, in the form of bacteriophage; viruses which attack bacteria. This project directly involves the public through Citizen Science, and our role has been to educate the public on the science and recruit and work with citizen scientists.

For this project we have developed hands-on demonstrations; produced videos about the research team (ongoing), the research (ongoing) and how to take part in the citizen science project; created a webpage (https://exetersciencecentre.org/resources/phage-therapy-citizen-science/) to explain the science behind phages and phage therapy at an accessible level; produced a programme for schools to take part in the research, involving workshops in four schools across Plymouth, Devon and Somerset for 170 students between the ages of 10 and 16.

We are currently awaiting the final results of the sample analysis but many students have already discovered previously undiscovered phages, which they will get to name and which will become part of the Citizen Phage Library stored at the University of Exeter for use in clinical trials and potential treatment of patients.

The next phase of this project engages community groups across Devon in phage hunting. We are determined to ensure that this project gains the participation, awareness and further funding that it deserves, with its huge potential to save lives now and in the future. As such, we will be contributing as much in-kind time to this project as we reasonably can in the following financial year.

Projects:

ESC Live: Virtual out of the classroom events connecting school children with engineers

This project is funded by the IET/IMechE Engineering Education Grant Scheme (EEGS). We believe it is crucial to build public understanding of where our energy comes from and where our waste goes, and highlight the exciting and impactful career opportunities in engineering. Many facilities do not allow school group visits, and field trips have been particularly difficult for schools during the COVID pandemic. We therefore wanted to provide a window into these facilities direct from the classrooms and give the opportunity for students to see engineers in action and ask them questions live, whilst providing a lasting educational resource for others to access in future.

As part of this project, we live-stream into schools from renewable energy engineering and waste processing facilities across Devon, Somerset and Cornwall. We were awarded the funding in January 2021 (as a CIC) and have carried out five out of nine planned events (including a pilot event) between March 2021 and April 2022 with the remaining four events planned for May to July 2022. Including the pilot event in March 2021, we have so far engaged 1340 students from 10 schools and 14

engineers from research and industry. The live event videos were edited into a 3-minute summary version for social media and an edited full version to be part of a package of free downloadable teaching materials on our website: https://exetersciencecentre.org/resources/learning/esc-live-resources/.

"I learned that an engineer isn't just someone who fixes things, there are many other definitions." -Year 5 student, Creacombe Solar Farm event.

"The fact that you guys answered the children's questions live (and followed up the ones that were missed) really drew the children in and made them enjoy it more. It was great for them to find out about renewable energy in their local area." -Teacher, Creacombe Solar Farm event.

"The session was extremely well planned and very professionally delivered. The supporting resources were useful and well aimed." -Teacher, Fullabrook Wind Farm event.

"Really good live! Explained lots. Learned lots of things today!" -Year 9 student, Totnes Weir event.

Exeter Science Centre: Breaking the Ice. Climate-themed pop-up exhibition

Our first pop-up exhibition was funded by a Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) Spark Award and was a great success, taking place over two long weekends between the 11th and 21st March 2022. The theme of the pop-up was climate modelling, highlighting the research of local scientists working to better understand the climate on Earth and other planets. We used this as a way to emphasise how habitable our own Planet Earth is, and how we need to better protect it.

We collaborated with scientists from the University of Exeter and the Met Office, local artists and with Space Youth Services in developing the content for the exhibition. We also had over 30 volunteers (nearly all local scientists – academics and students) who contributed their time as 'mediators' for the public to talk to throughout the exhibition, which was very well-received. We see this as an important way to build trust in science and scientists, to make science seem less intimidating, and to give people a meaningful and memorable experience in the exhibition, and this will be an important component of the future science centre building.

We had originally planned for the exhibition to take place in Summer 2021 but due to a peak in COVID-19 cases we re-scheduled it to Spring 2022. Due to COVID-19 we

decided to have bookable morning and afternoon slots for visitors, whilst allowing walk-ins, but still had over 1,250 visitors and were fully booked for most of the days. Most of the visitors were young families but we also had a lot of people visiting on their own or in small teenage/adult groups.

"Brilliant exhibition, great for adults and children alike. Let's hope you can get a permanent home!"

"Great exhibition which I hope proves the desire and need for something more permanent that showcases science in Exeter."

"Amazing how the exhibits appealed to all ages!"

"I will take away from this how little I knew, and could learn from this, as well as how engaged my children were. That science can be so fun! And the children aren't scared to investigate."

"I was so impressed with the time, energy and patience of the experts (with my 11 year old home educated daughter) and the thoughtful and dedicated organisation it must have taken to develop such a coherent exhibit within such a limited space."

-Feedback from public visitors via "Ideas Tree" leaves and feedback forms.

Before the pop-up we asked a few questions to people when they booked their tickets, including whether they knew that Exeter is widely recognised as a global centre for climate science research and more than 50% of people asked were not aware of this. After the event, 92% of people felt more connected to scientists, 70% of people felt more motivated to make small positive changes in their own lifestyle for the benefit of the planet, 77% of people said they had learnt more about climate science and 84% of people said they had learned more about exoplanet science.

Images, resources, and a 360-degree virtual tour of the event are all available on our website: https://exetersciencecentre.org/events/climate-pop-up/, and we now have kit which we have continued to use for pop-up events and smaller workshops in schools.

Links to a Life

In October 2021, Dr Mills (director) was invited to be the science lead for the 'Links to a Life: Henrietta Leavitt day', which involved advising on the scientific content and designing and delivering the science workshops.

Links to Life is a creative learning collective with science enrichment at its core. This project brought together teachers, a playwright, actors and scientists to explore the

life and work of Henrietta Leavitt. The team developed a play and accompanying science workshops to tour around 5 schools (150 students in Years 9-11) in the South West. Over the course of a day, students practised GCSE Maths skills, carried out some of the calculations that Leavitt did more than 100 years ago, watched the biographical play and met inspiring visiting female STEM professionals.

Low Carbon Devon Internship

During October-December 2021, we took part in the Low Carbon Devon internship scheme, run by the Sustainable Earth Institute at the University of Plymouth. This scheme funded a recently-graduated Masters student to be employed by us for a total of 55 days across the 3 month period.

The intern's project was entitled "The environmentally-considerate design of the Exeter Science Centre", and involved investigating and making suggestions on low-carbon and environmentally-considerate construction techniques, materials and technologies for the future building. Dr Whitehead (director) oversaw this work, drawing on her previous experience as a building services engineer. The resultant report is a useful starting point for our feasibility study, and we hope to work with a student and engineering consultancy in future to finish this work and provide it on our website as a source of inspiration for others.

Other events:

We have delivered a number of unpaid events this year as part of our charitable activities, which help to connect more people with our project work and our charity generally:

- Sidmouth Science Festival, October 2021: As part of the Super Science Saturday we had a stand about the plans for the science centre, a stand about what the scientific process is and a stand about the citizen science project that we are supporting: the Citizen Phage Library.
- Institute of Physics Festival of Physics, November 2021: a stand about the plans for the science centre, gathering opinions and ideas from the public as well as delivering workshops based around our public engagement project with Prof. Francesca Palombo, focussing on new methods for detecting cancers.
- Presentation at the virtual ASDC conference in September 2021 on our plans for Exeter Science Centre.

- February 2022: a workshop on light for 25 Year 3 pupils at Bishops Tawton Primary School, North Devon.
- COVID-19 Science: Schools' Questions: We produced YouTube videos answering questions about COVID-19 asked by children from local schools.

UPCOMING PROJECTS / ACTIVITIES

In the coming year we will be applying for funding to run more projects focused on important global challenge areas, as well as developing our work with underserved communities. Our upcoming projects so far include:

- Completing the ESC Live project and our existing Public Engagement Programmes.
- Public engagement programmes with:
    - Dr Stephen Thomson, "Isca Climate Modelling": engaging Key Stage 3 and 4 students with the research team's climate model 'Isca';
    - Dr Jude Meakin, "Image-driven, subject-specific spine modelling": working with schools and the public to improve understanding of the importance of spine health, and how new multidisciplinary research is developing a patient-specific tool to model the spine.
- Operation Earth: In early 2022 we were granted £3000 of funding from the UK Association for Science and Discovery Centres (ASDC) and Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) to be part of the Operation Earth programme. This funding will enable us to purchase all the kit necessary to deliver the programme, which involves a family show and interactive activities centred around environmental science. The programme particularly looks at the themes of climate change, biodiversity, ocean acidification, air pollution and marine plastic pollution. We are now seeking funding to deliver this in schools and community venues.

Growing the organisation

We have used our "Tree of Ideas" and chalkboard tablecloth at various events as a means of collecting the opinions, ideas and perspectives of the people that we interact with. This is part of our public consultation and the comments feed into our business plan.

The words "interactive", "participation", "hands-on", "sustainable", "sensory", "play", and "accessible for all" feature strongly in comments – all themes that are core to our ethos.

Next year, we aim to increase our public consultation work significantly, especially in appointing a Community Lead to work directly with underserved communities in the region, exploring what these communities need from our organisation and how our work can enhance their lives.

Much of the directors' time has been spent on public and schools engagement project work over the last year, and this has demonstrated our ideas and abilities in delivering innovative projects for a broad range of beneficiaries. In the next year, the directors intend to focus on fundraising to grow our team to continue running projects, developing the organisation and its policies and procedures, and fundraising and planning for the physical building.

SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Although our team is small, with the majority of the day-to-day running of the charity (including the development and delivery of activities) being undertaken by the two paid directors, Exeter Science Centre has established itself this year as an ambitious, competent and trusted educational charity. We have helped to improve both access to and understanding of STEAMM research and industry in the South West, for hundreds of school children and members of the public. The following figures correspond to the first year of the charity from 27th April 2021 to 26th April 2022:

- We interacted with 1070 school students across Devon, Somerset and Cornwall through 4 live virtual events in our ESC Live project.
- We have interacted directly with over 586 school children across the South West at in-person school workshops.
- 100% of the schools students we have interacted with have been from state schools (with 12% of those being from selective state schools). The large majority of the schools we work with have had high proportions of children receiving free school meals or are in an area which is in the top 20% most deprived regions in the UK (Indices of Multiple Deprivation decile 1 or 2).
- We have interacted directly with 1315 members of the public through our public exhibitions and workshops.

- We have gathered the views of over 500 people through our consultation work, in particular through our public survey and our touring "Tree of Ideas" which has informed our business plan.
- We have hosted four interns through schemes funded by the University of Exeter (SETsquared Exeter IKEEP Project: stakeholder mapping) and the University of Plymouth (Low Carbon Devon Internship, described earlier).
- We have had over 40 volunteers supporting our events, fundraising and developing our social media and website content.
- Our YouTube videos have collectively had over 3,300 views and we have had over 15,000 visitors to our website over the year.
- We have had 6,484 direct engagements with our posts on social media (Twitter, Facebook and Instagram) and have reached over 128,000 people.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

At the end of the period 27th April 2021 - 26th April 2022, Exeter Science Centre is in a secure financial position, able to sustain the salaries of the two directors (1.6FTE) to the value of the real living wage (£363/week) and continue with funded project work, with some additional funding to work more responsively with schools and community groups and to work on developing and growing the organisation. In the next year, we intend to pay the directors up to the median salary for the South West, and employees a fair salary up to this level.

The charity's principal funding sources are: grant income (covering project costs and support costs); unrestricted (core-costs) income; some income from donations; a small amount through savings interest. We are also registered with Easyfundraising, Amazon Smile and Paypal Giving.

RESERVES POLICY

Our reserves policy is regularly reviewed and updated to fit the financial situation of the charity.

Currently and for the next financial year, we intend to retain 2 months of running costs (approximately £5000) in case of unforeseen delays in payments from grants or other income, to ensure that salaries, fees and other costs can be paid on time. The directors are flexible on payment dates for their modest salaries, as they are dedicated to ensuring the charity's success and stability, so this allows for some additional flexibility.

When taking on employees in the near future, these will typically be for fixed terms and fully funded via grants. In future, when we have established sustainable income streams, we will need to revise this policy to ensure stability for permanent staff members.

The reserves are retained in an interest-paying savings account.

RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

The trustees maintain a risk register which is reviewed and maintained regularly.

The main risks at current are the dependence of the charity's activities on the two directors, and the risk of insufficient funds to pay their salaries. The impact of these risks are controlled through:

- having operations which are transparent to both directors and trustees (so that if either director is unable to fulfil their responsibilities, their work can be accessed and continued by their replacement);
- the directors being flexible on their salary payments.

The trustees are confident that the directors' management of the organisation will enable the organisation to grow and achieve its ambitions.

Going concern

The trustees are confident that the charity has sufficient funds to continue as a going concern for the foreseeable future, and prepare the accounts on this basis.

DECLARATIONS

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signature:

Name: Prof. Justin Dillon

Position: Chair of the board of trustees

Date: 8th December 2022

Independent Examiner's report to the trustees of Exeter Science Centre Charitable Incorporated Organisation ('the CIO')

I report on the accounts of the CIO for the year ended 26 April 2022, which are set out on the following pages 19-26.

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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do 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.

NAME: Sam Blackford ACA
OF: On Target Accounting Ltd
ADDRESS: 105 Chineway Gardens, Ottery St. Mary
Devon, EX11 1JJ

EXETER SCIENCE CENTRE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 26TH APRIL 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	**Total for year ending 26th April 2022 £**
Income from:				
Donations	2	1,742	-	**1,742**
Charitable activities	3	24,525	48,208	**72,733**
Total income		**26,267**	**48,208**	**74,475**
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	4	(618)	-	(618)
Charitable activities	4	(2,340)	(45,900)	**(48,240)**
Total expenditure		**(2,958)**	**(45,900)**	**(48,858)**
Net Income / (Expenditure)		23,310	2,308	**25,618**
Net Movement in funds		(6,367)	6,367	-
Fund balances brought forward		-	-	-
Fund balances		**16,943**	**8,675**	**25,618**

The financial statements were approved by the board of trustees on 8th December 2022 and were signed on its behalf by:

Prof. Justin Dillon
Chair

EXETER SCIENCE CENTRE
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 26TH APRIL 2022

	Notes	2022 £
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets		-
Current assets		
Debtors	5	5,614
Stock		-
Investments		-
Cash at bank and in hand		20,595
Total current assets		**26,209**
Liabilities		
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	6	(591)
Net current assets		**25,618**
Total assets less current liabilities		**25,618**
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year		-
Net assets	7	**25,618**
The funds of the charity:		
Unrestricted funds	8	16,943
Restricted funds	8	8,675
Total funds		**25,618**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparation

The charity is a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) second edition'. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income

All income is recognised and thus included on the Statement of Financial Activities when the amount can be quantified accurately and the charity is legally entitled to the income.

For grants or other income which is paid in advance, the income is stored in a savings account and can accrue interest, which is allocated to that same fund, as required by trust law and highlighted in the Charities SORP. Any unspent income at the year end is retained in that fund, and will be noted as funds carried forward in the following year.

Since we converted from a CIC to a CIO, the existing funds from the CIC were treated as income to the CIO on the day of its establishment; the 27th April 2021. This is described in Note 11.

Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis, and has been classified under the headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. We recognise an expenditure as soon as a transaction has occurred, or if a quantifiable amount is due to be spent on a particular item or service; in the latter case, the expenditure is listed as a liability (creditors).

If funds are expected to be spent in the future – for example on a restricted funding grant that needs to be fully expended in a certain period – but the purchases have not yet been determined, then the amount is retained in the fund and not listed as a liability. The actual expenditure will be acknowledged in future accounts, once the funds are expended.

Tangible fixed assets

Items with a cost price of £500 and above will be included in fixed assets. At current, the charity has no items in this category.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are funds which can be used by the charity to fulfil its charitable objectives.

Restricted funds can only be used on particular projects or for a particular purpose. Expenditure includes the direct staff time, materials or other expenses required to fulfil the obligations of the restricted funds, along with a fair allocation of support costs.

The total interest accrued on the charity's savings throughout the year has been allocated proportionally to each fund, based on the arrival date of income sources in each fund in the financial year and the size of each income source. This is judged to be a reasonable estimate of the interest accrued by each fund, and the amount is stated separately for each income source for clarity.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds		**Total**
	Income received £	Interest accrued £	Income received £	Interest accrued £	**2022 £**
Donations	1,738	4	-	-	**1,742**
Total income	1,738	4	-	-	**1,742**

3. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds		**Total**
	Income received	Interest accrued	Income received	Interest accrued	**2022**
	£	£	£	£	**£**
The Steel Charitable Trust	24,500	25	-	-	**24,525**
Low Carbon Devon Internship	-	-	4,274	-	**4,274**
Public Engagement Programmes (PEPs):					
PEP - Dr Wu	-	-	-	-	**-**
PEP - Prof Palombo	-	-	2,551	6	**2,558**
PEP - Prof Temperton	-	-	5,000	10	**5,010**
Project Grants:					
IET / IMechE - ESC Live	-	-	14,067	35	**14,102**
STFC - Pop Up	-	-	17,470	21	**17,491**
ASDC / NERC - Operation Earth	-	-	3,000	2	**3,002**
Links to a Life	-	-	1,770	2	**1,772**
Total income	24,500	25	48132	77	72,733

4. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Fundraising	Direct costs of projects	Support costs	Governance costs	**Total 2022**
	£	£	£	£	**£**
Materials for projects / activities	-	3,720	38	-	**3,758**
Accomodation and Meals	-	147	61	-	**208**
Rent / Space Hire	-	1,100	-	-	**1,100**
Computer Hardware	-	160	760	-	**920**
Travel (including mileage)	-	1,214	75	-	**1,289**
Insurance	-	-	96	-	**96**
Accountancy Software Fees	-	-	174	-	**174**
Consultancy Fees (accounts examination)	-	-	150	-	**150**
Administrative and website costs	-	-	91	-	**91**
Subcontractor costs	-	6,514	-	-	**6,514**
Salaries (inc. employers NI)	618	19,182	14,538	220	**34,558**
Total expenditure	618	32,037	15,983	220	**48,858**

Governance costs, as defined in the Charities SORP (FRS 102), relate to the costs of the employees assisting or reporting to the trustees (which we account for in “Staff salaries (inc. employers NI)”) or any costs associated with trustee expenses. The staff salaries in this case are estimated based on reporting to the trustees and attending trustee meetings.

Staff salaries have been allocated to project work (“Direct costs of projects”) based on the salaried time spent on these projects. The support costs apportioned to salaries account for the salaried time operating the charity, including: administration, finances, social media and website maintenance,

planning, networking, and carrying out other small activities that further our purpose and increase our audience (such as unpaid events).

Any additional support costs are covered by unrestricted funds.

5. DEBTORS

	2022 £
STFC - Popup - final instalment of grant	**5,614**
Total	**5,614**

6. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2022 £
Independent examination	**150**
Subcontractor costs (STFC - Pop Up)	**441**
Total	**591**

7. NET ASSETS BY FUND

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	**Total** **2022** **£**
Tangible assets	**-**	**-**	**-**
Current assets	17,093	9,116	**26,209**
Current liabilities	(150)	(441)	**(591)**
Net assets	16,943	8,675	**25,618**

8. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	**At 26th April 2022 Total**
	£	£	£	**£**
Unrestricted				
General funds	26,267	(2,958)	(6,367)	**16,943**
Total unrestricted funds	26,267	(2,958)	(6,367)	**16,943**
Restricted				
Low Carbon Devon Internship	4,274	(4,274)	-	**-**
Public Engagement Programmes (PEPs):				
PEP - Dr Wu	-	(1,208)	1,208	**-**
PEP - Prof Palombo	2,558	(2,257)	-	**301**
PEP - Prof Temperton	5,010	(4,663)	-	**348**
Project Grants:				
IET / IMechE - ESC Live	14,102	(9,032)	-	**5,071**
STFC - Pop Up	17,491	(22,650)	5,159	**-**
ASDC / NERC - Operation Earth	3,002	(46)	-	**2,956**
Links to a Life	1,772	(1,772)	-	**-**
Total restricted funds	48,208	(45,900)	6,367	**8,675**
Total funds	74,475	(48,858)	-	**25,618**

The transfers into each project account for any additional salaried time spent on project delivery, beyond the amount of time originally allocated as part of the fee/grant.

9. STAFF NUMBERS, COSTS AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS INCLUDING KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

The average number of employees this year was two. The two directors (i.e. the key management personnel), Dr Natalie Whitehead (1FTE) and Dr Alice Mills (0.6FTE), were employed for the entire financial year, and one intern was employed on a fixed term internship between 4th October 2021 and 17th December 2021 (for 55 days total).

Staff costs were as follows:

	2022
	£
Salaries and wages	**£34,558.26**
Redundancy and termination costs	**-**
Social security costs	**-**
Employer's contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	**-**

The total employee benefits paid to the key management personnel were £30,285. The directors have opted out of pension contributions until a greater income stream can be established. There are no other

employee benefits offered at current. The employer National insurance (NI) contributions did not exceed the Employment Allowance, so no social security costs were due.

There were no direct trustee remuneration or benefits during this year – indirect benefits are accounted for in Note 10.

10. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Related party transactions this year were to businesses run by or associated with trustees or key management personnel, for services to the charity on funded projects. In each case, the services were accounted for in the grant proposals, the (unrelated) trustees agreed that these businesses were the most suitable for providing these services, and each business kindly provided these services at a greatly reduced rate.

The transactions in chronological order:

£586 to The Virtual Reality Visitor Experience (The VRVE) for work on the "IET / IMechE - ESC Live" project. This project has a costed role of £146.50 per day for operating the camera and technical duties in running the livestream. The husband of Dr Natalie Whitehead (Director) runs The VRVE, and provided these services through his company. These payments were for the 4 events completed so far.

£1,100 to Maketank for space rental, including storage of equipment, for the "STFC - Pop Up" climate exhibition in March 2022. The exhibition was hosted at Maketank, a cultural lab space in Exeter which is directed by one of our trustees, Olga Petrakova-Brown.

£194 [liability - creditors due within 1 year for "Subcontractor costs"] to The VRVE for preparation and rental of computer equipment for the "STFC - Pop Up" climate exhibition in March 2022.

11. CIC TO CIO CONVERSION

The funds transferred from the Community Interest Company (CIC) to the Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) totalled £16,618, and consisted entirely of restricted funds, described in the table below. The expenditure incurred by the CIC from these funds was solely for staff costs.

	Original grant value	Resources expended by CIC	Total transferred to CIO
	£	£	£
Public Engagement Programmes (PEPs):			
PEP - Prof Palombo	5000	2,449	2,551
Project Grants:			
IET / IMechE - ESC Live	15000	933	14,067
			16,618