

TREES FOR BERMONDSEY

England & Wales · Charity number 1196737

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2021-11-23

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address 107 Grange Road
London
SE1 3BW

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Website www.treesforbermondsey.org.uk

Activities

Objects: 1.TO PROMOTE THE CONSERVATION PROTECTION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE PHYSICAL AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT, IN PARTICULAR BY THE PLANTING OF TREES AND OTHER PLANTS ON STREETS AND IN PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE SPACES WITHIN THE LONDON BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK AND IN PARTICULAR THE WARDS AROUND BERMONDSEY TO MITIGATE THE DETRIMENTAL EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND URBAN OVERHEATING, ENCOURAGE BIODIVERSITY AND IMPROVE AIR AND WATER QUALITY.2. TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN THE CONSERVATION, PROTECTION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE PHYSICAL AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT INCLUDING BY PROMOTING TREE PLANTING AS A MEANS FOR THE PUBLIC TO LEARN ABOUT WIDER ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES SUCH AS: SUSTAINABILITY, CLIMATE CHANGE, ECOLOGY AND THE MITIGATING NEED FOR TREES.3. FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT TO PROMOTE THE PHYSICAL ENHANCEMENT AND BEAUTIFICATION OF STREETS AND PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE SPACES AROUND BERMONDSEY AND THE WIDER BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK AS THE TRUSTEES SHALL DETERMINE, BY THE PLANTING OF TREES AND SECURING THEIR GUARDIANSHIP.

Activities: Trees for Bermondsey works with the community, Southwark council, the GLA and others to protect, replace and increase tree canopy across Bermondsey. We improve existing places for people and nature and create new green spaces for the benefit of all, raising awareness of ways to combat the effects of climate change through our actions and encouraging and supporting others to do the same.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Environment/conservation/heritage, Recreation
- **Who:** Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Southwark

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-04-05	£11,636	£9,133	-	-
2024-04-05	£22,281	£43,818	-	-
2023-04-05	£53,761	£22,814	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Sarah Vaughan Ms	Chair	2021-11-23
Andrew Readman Mr		2021-11-23
Katherine Hayes		2021-11-23
Robert Hutchinson		2021-11-23

TREES FOR BERMONDSEY

England & Wales - Charity number 1196737

Accounts



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 06 April 2024 Period start date
To 05 April 2025 Period end date

Charity name: Trees for Bermondsey

Charity registration number: 1196737

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	1. 'To promote the conservation protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment for the public benefit, in particular by the planting of trees and other plants on streets and in publicly accessible spaces within the London borough of Southwark and in particular the wards around Bermondsey to mitigate the detrimental effects of climate change and urban overheating, encourage biodiversity and improve air and water quality'. 2. 'To advance the education of the public in the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment including by promoting tree planting as a means for the public to learn about wider environmental issues such as: sustainability, climate change, ecology and the mitigating need for trees'. 3. 'For the public benefit to promote the physical enhancement and beautification of streets and publicly accessible spaces around Bermondsey and the wider borough of Southwark as the trustees shall

		determine, by the planting of trees and securing their guardianship’.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	Main activities and projects carried out during the reporting period included: 1. Our transformation of Shuttleworth Park continued with generous help from Bankside Open Spaces Trust’s Green Hub in the form of expert horticultural advice, plants and tools. We continued our work on reviving the park, and creating a more welcoming and nature-friendly space for all. Southwark Council’s tree officers supplied us with four beautiful Japanese “Snow Goose” cherry trees (Umineko) for the refurbished playground in April 2023 and they didn’t disappoint, coming into flower in April 2024 and providing the most beautiful white blossom quickly covered in both wild and honey bees. Amelanchier x Lamarckii, the delicately white-flowered “Juneberry” or “Snowy Mesphilus” planted in 2023 in the two large circular areas which we depaved in the brick pathways burst into flower a few weeks later with native Hawthorn trees (Crataegus monogyna) marking the entrance to the picnic area providing important forage for pollinators followed by cascades of berries for the wood pigeons and blackbirds in the autumn. Residents’ bid for Cleaner, Greener, Safer funds was successful so we were in a position to add to the thousands of bulbs and plants already planted in the previous year, continuing to work with Bermondsey-based sustainable

		gardening firm Sterling Landscapes who share Trees for Bermondsey's belief of working with biodiversity to create new green spaces and enhance existing urban green spaces for all. At our planting days, local residents again came together to sow thousands of perennial wildflower seeds, plug plants and spring bulbs to reinforce the new meadow edge planting from the previous reporting period. Thanks to Southwark Council's tree-planting and ecology officer and BOST's Green-hub co-ordinator 75 new trees were made available for us to plant. Species of note included <i>Arbutus unedo</i>, <i>Taxus baccata</i>, <i>Euonymus europea</i> as well as more common park and woodland shrubs and trees such as <i>Corylus avellana</i>, <i>Viburnum opulus</i>, <i>Ilex aquifolium</i> and <i>Acer campestre</i>. Because there is no water source in the park, irrigation has been challenging. The council's Tree Section had two 1000-litre IBCs installed which have to be filled by contractors. Several times, the contractors did not fill the tanks on time and Sterling were forced to bring in water in jerricans by cargo-bike. Most planting survived, but areas of dry shade were difficult to keep sufficiently watered by hand. The council has a policy of "no water" in parks and taps have been disconnected which means it is challenging to establish new planting, even using drought-
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		tolerant species. Through working with council ecology officers and the Southwark Biodiversity Partnership, we hope to influence parks management to change this policy to enable more planting and ecology projects in the smaller parks of the borough In early autumn, with help from BOST's green hub coordinator we held a scything session with volunteers. Scything once a year is the best way to optimise conditions for wild plants and grasses to thrive, encouraging more pollinators, birds and other wildlife to the park. 2. Rouel Estate Community Orchard and the Joy Slide Orchard The Rouel Estate Community Orchard was conceived, designed and planted in 2021 – 2022 by around 60 local adult and child volunteers and was a collaboration between Trees for Bermondsey, the Rouel Blue Garden Club and Southwark Council's Tree Section, with generous help and advice from the Orchard Project and London National Park City. 24 fruit trees were planted and 135 metres of fruiting hedgerow was added to surround and protect the orchard. Since then three more fruit trees have been added as well as perennial wildflowers including native wild daffodils, primroses, snowdrops and cowslips and 30 metres of hedging. An exciting addition to the orchard this reporting year was a wildlife pond built with the help of charity, Froglife, as part of their London Blue Chain project, creating sixty ponds in public spaces across five boroughs in
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		South London over two years to provide connections for amphibians and invertebrates. Frogs and dragonflies moved in almost immediately. In this reporting year, we continued to care for and add to the orchard during volunteer events such as pruning days. A regular group of volunteers has formed who litterpick, prune, weed, water, mulch and generally keep an eye on both orchards. Our amazing Orchard Project mentor, Lesley Wertheimer, continues to provide instruction in orcharding skills. This year we were able to sample elderflower cordial and sloe gin made from the hedgerow fruit by one of our volunteers. Environmental studies Masters student, Lucy Houliston, made a week-long survey of bumblebee and beetle activity for her thesis which centres around urban orchards. We were delighted to hear that “our” orchard had more activity and species than others she had surveyed so far. She cited the fact that the Rouel Estate orchard is left mainly unmown, providing ideal conditions for many different species of invertebrate. We were surprised to hear that nearly all the other orchards she had visited were kept “neat and tidy” with councils insisting on mowing them throughout spring and summer. Lucy returned in a different role in September as one of the managers of the bat Conservation Trust’s Nightwatch project, giving a fascinating talk to a mix of adults and excited children at Big Local Works on
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		the different bats to be found in London, followed by a walk to the orchard where we were delighted to see Common pipistrelles hunting for moths at dusk. There was one negative among the many positive and exciting developments in the orchard: more and more dog walkers (very few of them from the estate) were using the orchard for exercising dogs off-lead and by February 2025 the ground had become muddy and compacted and covered in large amounts of excrement to the point that volunteers were no longer prepared to work in the orchard. As someone said, it was “stomach-churning”. The Wassail was going to take place in a few weeks, so reluctantly, we padlocked the gates so that the ground and trees could recover and until a solution could be found. 3. Hedge-planting in public spaces has been an important activity since Trees for Bermondsey’s inception. It helped Trees for Bermondsey open a positive dialogue with Southwark Council around tree-planting and was a simple way to raise awareness and bring people together to create greener neighbourhoods. In this reporting period, we extended and added hedges for wildlife across Bermondsey. During National Tree Week in late November 2024, at the suggestion of local residents, we made our first incursion into Southwark Park in partnership with the Southwark Park Association 1869. With help from the council’s tree planting and ecology officer planted over
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		100 metres of mixed native species hedge along the north-east edge. A fantastic turnout of 25 volunteers made short work of planting it and Southwark's mayor, Cllr Naima Ali even turned up to give us a hand! By April 2025, the total number of trees and hedge whips planted by Trees for Bermondsey in public places was nearly 5000. In addition, thanks to our amazing volunteers, we carried out the important tasks of mulching and maintenance pruning on hedges planted in previous years e.g. in Spa Gardens. The fruiting hedge in the Rouel Est Community orchard has grown so well that we have been able to harvest elderflowers, sloes and wild plums and one of the orchard volunteers made bottles of delicious cordial for a second year which was drunk at the annual orchard picnic. 4. In this reporting period we were excited to embark on our latest project: the first phase of the North Bermondsey Green Corridor. The idea is to link borough SINC (Site of Importance for Nature Conservation) Southwark Park to local SINC, St James's Churchyard 0.5 km away via the Kirby, Four Squares and Keetons estates. Phase 1 was a tarmacked triangle covered in flytipping filled with large puddles when it rained. We decided to name the site the Moreton Gate Nature Garden as it sits between the Kirby and Slippers Place Estates in front of one of Southwark Park's entrances, Moreton Gate. The project was instigated by Kirby
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		Estate residents who approached Trees for Bermondsey for help. Having missed out on funding from the London Mayor's Rewild London fund, we were delighted that the council agreed to back the first phase from the Southwark Biodiversity Fund. Working with Southwark Ecology Officer, Holly Weber, as joint project manager and Anna Hwang Colligan of Southwark Nature Action Volunteers (SNAV) as designer, we set up stall onsite on a Saturday morning in October to gauge feedback to the plans and visualisations. No one needed persuading that the space would be improved by our interventions! The nature garden will be an extension of the park, bringing biodiversity and a new green space into the estates. The whole space of about 75 square metres will be depaved to around 600mm, keeping and protecting existing trees, then low fertility soil brought in and seeded with a perennial native wildflower and grasses mix. As with our previous depaving projects - Octopus Garden and Shuttleworth Park - Highways contractor FM Conway stepped in to depave and bring soil from another site in the south of the borough. A corner of the site will still need to be used for recycling, so a concrete base is included and a new Metrostor bin shelter with a sedum roof added. Planting consists of mainly native and drought resistant species requiring minimum maintenance after an initial establishment period. Fortunately, as the garden is in proximity to the Slippers Place Estate, a tap is available to provide essential irrigation for the first spring/summer. TfB
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		were successful in a request for Cleaner Greener Safer funding for additional features such as reclaimed York stone slabs for the entrances at each end of the garden and cast iron arches for climbers (hop, honeysuckle and rambling rose). The whole space will be designed and planted to optimise biodiversity – hedges, trees, shrubs, wildflowers and native grasses for pollinators, birds and other wildlife and the CGS award will also cover the cost of installing a graphic interpretation board explaining the transformation and species likely to be attracted to the garden. It was a long time in the waiting, but in February 2025 Conway's broke ground and work continued through March, with planting days to be scheduled in April with residents and volunteers. With our previous collaborators, local sustainable gardeners, Sterling Landscapes, taking care of planting and looking after the nature garden over the first couple of years, we feel confident that it will thrive for both people and nature. 5. A Tree for Ada In 2022 we celebrated the centenary of Ada Salter becoming Mayor of Bermondsey and her husband, Dr Alfred Salter becoming MP. We wanted to mark the occasion by planting a tree in Tanner St Park near where Ada and Alfred planted a Tree of Heaven at the playground's opening in the 1920s. We knew a Tree of Heaven would be out of the question as they are now listed as an invasive species, so better late than never, we conferred with author and street tree
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		aficionado, Paul Wood, and with Joe Arrowsmith, Southwark's Tree-planting officer to choose a suitable species. Joe came up with the perfect tree for the 21st century: the Heartnut tree (<i>Juglans ailantifolia</i>), a magnificent Japanese walnut with a passing resemblance to the Tree of heaven, said to be Ada's favourite tree. The tree was planted just in time for Southwark's celebration during National Tree Week of the planting of the 100,000th tree in the borough. The original tree had a circular seat around it, remembered by older locals, so we applied successfully for CGS funds from London Bridge and West Bermondsey ward to have a new seat made in 2025 – 26. 6. The Tree of Life – in 2022 we saved a wonderful old Black poplar from being chipped and burned. Fallen and Felled removed the tree and seasoned the resulting timber at their yard for 18 months, some of which we bought back to be made into seats for Rouel Blue Garden club's community garden, just a stone's throw from where the old tree had stood. A summer party was held in honour of the beautiful new seats which were installed under the garden's pergola. The Tree of Life project perfectly illustrated the circular economy, meaning that carbon is held in the seats for years to come, instead of going up in smoke.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity	Para 1.18	All projects and activities approved by the Trustees and undertaken by Trees for Bermondsey have been for the public benefit.

Commission on public benefit		The charity is entirely volunteer-led and run, and all projects and activities undertaken are as accessible as possible, free of charge and available to all. As can be seen in the “Summary of main activities” above, all projects are located in the public spaces of Bermondsey for the benefit of those who live in, work in or visit the area. The Trustees have raised funds for and organised free workshops and events which attracted hundreds of participants and volunteers over the reporting period. These included: • Tree and hedge-planting days in parks and on estates • The planting of thousands of bulbs, seeds and other plants with adult and child volunteers in Shuttleworth Park • With landscape designer, Yoni Carnice, we started to propagate our own wildflowers for planting around Bermondsey • Planting and maintenance days in the Octopus street-garden • Maintenance days and events such as mulching and pruning under the instruction of volunteer Orchard Project mentor, Lesley Wertheimer. • Collaboration with the Blue Bermondsey BID, Big Local Works and Bankside Open Spaces Trust and participation in the annual Greening the Blue event • The South London Botanical Institute approached us to contribute an event to their programme and we were delighted to oblige with a guided tour of our main projects in Bermondsey in the early summer • We ran story-telling sessions and a children’s picnic in the orchard with author and performer, Bernadette Russell, including with a class of SEN children • Two art workshops were completed with St James’s school students to help design motifs for the Rouel
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		Community Orchard's new interpretation board and map • Our Chair became a bat Conservation Trust Nightwatch project local coordinator monitoring bat activity in Bermondsey and organising a talk and walk with bat experts from the trust in collaboration with Big Local Works • The Bermondsey Wassail, which was held for a third year with the help and generosity of the Orchard Project and London National Park City rangers. The Green Man and friends performed on the Blue Marketplace while Trees for Bermondsey and the Rouel Blue Garden Club oversaw lantern and crown-making with "Illuminate Bermondsey" organiser, Frog Morris. Folk group Jijomaro performed to an appreciative audience on the Blue Market Place and accompanied The Green Man in a lantern-lit procession through the streets of Bermondsey to the Rouel Estate Community Orchard where everyone joined in the ancient tradition of Wassailing the apple-trees with songs, instrument-playing and mulled cider.
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	N/A
	Para 1.38	

Policy on social investment including program related investment		N/A
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	As noted previously, Trees for Bermondsey is entirely volunteer-led and run and we try to set an example and use best practise in everything we do, e.g. it is always exciting when we have new projects, but it is important to ensure successful establishment with regular maintenance, whether it is pruning, watering or repairing fences and cages. Trees for Bermondsey's volunteers make everything the charity does possible. Although grants and donations mean we can pay outside providers for some services, day-to-day running and activities are entirely dependent on the goodwill and generosity of our wonderful volunteers. In this reporting period, Trees for Bermondsey volunteer group, which we can call on for all our projects and activities, grew to 60 members. As we add more sites and projects, so our pool of volunteers grows. For larger events such as the Wassail and hedge and tree planting we call on our wider group, which stood at approximately 240 subscribers at end of the reporting period. We opened a new BlueSky account with a view to cutting down our presence on Twitter and grew our Instagram following meaning we can tap into around 3000 followers when we want to call on larger numbers of people to volunteer or attend events e.g. the Bermondsey Wassail. Partners and friends such as the Southwark Nature Action Volunteers, Southwark Park Association 1869 and Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Litterati are other important sources of volunteers. As members of BOST's Green Hub community, we exchange help and ideas

		and took part in events organised by coordinator, Barney, like tool sharpening and pond building workshops. Our regular groups of volunteers are vital for taking care of our greenspaces, new trees and plants and we do not take them for granted.
Other		• Trees for Bermondsey continued to be part of the Southwark Biodiversity Partnership, formed of council ecology officers and representatives from Southwark's environmental and conservation groups. The SBP meets quarterly to discuss environmental matters and update each other on projects as well as finding ways to improve and promote biodiversity in the borough. • From our early days Trees for Bermondsey has often partnered with Southwark Nature Action Volunteers on campaigns and projects and our chair continues to sit on their committee and contribute to projects • Trees for Bermondsey's Chair continued as co-optee on the management committee of friends' group, Southwark Park Association 1869. This year we worked with SPA1869 to plant a 100 metre native species hedge in the park.

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
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Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	The planting of trees and plants, the creation of new green space and the improvement to existing ones, provide many important eco-system services for the benefit of the human and wildlife populations of Bermondsey and the wider community of Southwark. Research has proven that proximity to trees and greenspace has a positive effect on physical and mental wellbeing and community cohesion. The geographical area Trees for Bermondsey is active in has some of the lowest tree-canopy in London, highest deprivation and worst access to green space. Trees for Bermondsey does not simply organise one-off events but encourages and works with the community to care for their trees and greenspaces. This brings neighbours together and has engendered a collective sense of pride in the local environment. Please refer to Paras 1.17, 1.18 and 1.19 for information and main achievements.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	Please see above sections and below. The charity fulfilled and exceeded objectives set.
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	Trees for Bermondsey had 100% success rate in grants and awards applied for with Southwark Council's Cleaner Greener Safer and Neighbourhoods Fund schemes Cleaner, Greener, Safer funds will be used on items and services needed for Moreton Gate Nature Garden such as signage, stone and metal structures; also, planting and gardening services in Shuttleworth Park Applications for grants from Veolia and London National Park City were both successful and used towards projects in the Rouel Estate Community Orchard including the new wildlife pond and our wildflower propagation project which will provide plants for public sites around Bermondsey. Council ecology and climate change officers funded the Moreton Gate Nature Garden via Southwark's Biodiversity Fund which began in February and will be completed in 2025. Match-funding for the Moreton Gate Nature Garden was provided pro bono by FM Conway who depaved and provided soil for the new garden as well as the CGS award listed above. Our unrestricted expenses were mostly covered by T shirt sales and private donations through our Paypal account including a generous Standing Order. Unused stone off-cuts were sold to boost unrestricted funds.

Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	N/A
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Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	During the reporting period Trees for Bermondsey had a total income of £11636.47 comprised of £744.08 unrestricted funds and £10892.39 restricted funds. Net income was £2503.19 after expenditure. (See Financial Statement attached to this document) Trees for Bermondsey has no current liabilities.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	The target reserve level is set at twelve months of operating expenses, adjusted according to our specific operational needs and risk assessment outcomes. Currently this would be £650. This amount would be sufficient to cover the annual running costs of the charity should there be no other unrestricted income in that financial year.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	As of 5 th April 2025, we have £11913 in reserves.
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	N/A Reserves held.
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	Trees for Bermondsey has no material deficit.
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	We have no financial uncertainties about the Charity continuing as a going concern for the next 12 months. The Charity is run solely by volunteers and as such has no high fixed costs. Any annual expenses can thus be kept to a minimum and be funded if needed by reserve fund which is held for the coming financial year.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

		Most funds are restricted for specific purposes e.g. from grants or awards from
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The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	Southwark Council (Cleaner Greener Safer, Neighbourhood Fund) and in this reporting period Veolia and two grants from London National Park City. Unrestricted funding such as that raised from Paypal Donations and subscriptions is important for maintaining reserves for day-to-day costs such as public liability insurance and internet fees. A large part of our work is dependent on in-kind benefits provided by partners such as Southwark Council's Tree and Parks Sections e.g. provision of trees, hedging whips and mulch. In addition to funds from grants recorded in our accounts, we also receive funding provided as awards and jointly project-managed with Southwark Council. Both the Rouel Estate Community Orchard and the Moreton Gate Nature Garden (Southwark Biodiversity Fund) were funded in this way in 2024 – 25. Highways contractor FM Conway provided de-paving, paving, railing-removal, earthworks and bike racks for the Shuttleworth Park project pro bono and provided depaving, repaving and soil for the Moreton Gate Nature Garden. Big Local Works and the Blue Bermondsey BID provided market stalls and meeting facilities for the Shuttleworth Park/Greening the Blue projects. Bankside Open Spaces Trust generously provided us with horticultural advice, training, plants and tools Others are listed under "relationships with any related parties."
Investment policy and objectives including any		N/A

social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	The trustees maintain a risk register to log and assess the charity's principal risks. Our top two risks refer to maintaining a sustainable financial position; and succession planning for trustees.
Other		N/a

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Constitution
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	CIO
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Potential trustees are invited to apply by existing trustees. Appointment to the Board is made by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	New trustees are provided with induction material (background information, The Essential Trustee (CC3), the constitution, and policy documents). New trustees are formally inducted in a meeting of current Board of Trustees.
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	N/A
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	As a volunteer-run charity, teamwork is key to Trees for Bermondsey's success and none of our work would be possible without collaboration with a multitude of partners and friends some of whom are shown below: Southwark Council – working closely with Trees, Ecology and Parks teams who provide services as well as trees, hedge

		whips and mulch for projects. The Cleaner, Greener, Safer scheme provides match-funding and useful funds to kick-start new projects. The Neighbourhood Fund provides funds for workshops and events. Greater London Authority – awarded a generous Grow Back Greener grant for the transformation of Shuttleworth Park (2023) and the Octopus Garden (2022). St James's C of E Primary School adjoins the Rouel Estate Community Orchard and had gates installed to access the orchard directly from the school playground to open it up as an outside classroom and activities area. Children have helped work on designs for an interpretation board to be installed in 2025 – 26. Trees for Bermondsey works closely with St James's School on nature and storytelling projects. The Blue Bermondsey Business Improvement District (BID) – generous support and advice and partners in the Greening the Blue coalition, help with space on the Blue marketplace for activities and work-shops Big Local Works – provide support for workshops and meeting space and facilities Bankside Open Spaces Trust – their dedicated Green Hub Co-ordinator for South Bermondsey provides invaluable time and help to Trees for Bermondsey and the Greening the Blue project in the form of expert horticultural advice, public engagement, training, tools and plants. Southwark Nature Action Volunteers – partners and friends of Trees for Bermondsey who provide ecological advice and volunteers. Greening the Blue – coalition of environmental groups in South Bermondsey including Big Local Works, the Blue Bermondsey BID, Trees for Bermondsey, Southwark Park Association 1869, Friends of Galleywall Nature Reserve
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		and others, promoting greening of the area and holding annual Greening the Blue event Rouel Blue Garden Club – Partners and friends of Trees for Bermondsey, collaborators on the Rouel Estate Community Orchard, wildflower mounds and other local projects e.g. the Bermondsey Wassail The Orchard Project – Orchard Project volunteer mentor, Lesley Wertheimer, has collaborated on the orchards and advises and gives hands-on help to Trees for Bermondsey with orchard-related matters London National Park City – ranger Lesley Wertheimer (Also Orchard project mentor – see above) collaborated on all aspects of the Rouel Estate Community and Joy Slide Orchards. Other rangers took part in the Bermondsey Wassail, including dressing up as the Green Man! The Octopus Gardeners – group of local residents and Trees for Bermondsey volunteers who care for the Octopus Garden Southwark Park Association 1869 – Trees for Bermondsey help liaise with the council and collaborate and advise on tree-matters related to Southwark Park Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Litterati - partners and friends of Trees for Bermondsey keeping our greenspaces and tree-pits clean and litter-free Divya Hariramani (Fruity Walks) is working on an interpretation board for the Joy Slide Orchard funded by CGS The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) at Stave Hill provide ad hoc advice The charity, Froglife, worked with us to install a wildlife pond in the Rouel Estate
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		Community Orchard during the reporting period as part of the London Blue Chain project. Local businesses providing pro-bono services and support: FM Conway, Sterling Landscapes Ltd, Crol & Co, WeWork
Other		N/A

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Trees for Bermondsey
Other name the charity uses	N/A
Registered charity number	1196737
Charity's principal address	107 Grange Road London SE1 3BW

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Sarah Vaughan	Chair		Founding Trustee
2	Robert Hutchinson	Treasurer		Founding Trustee
3	Andrew Readman	Vice-Chair		Founding Trustee
4	Katherine Hayes	Secretary		Founding Trustee
5	Leanne Werner	None	From 23/06/2023	Appointed Trustee

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		
N/A		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	
N/A		

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	N/A
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	N/A
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	N/A

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Independent Examiner for Trees for Bermondsey accounts	Irfan Masood	64 Southwark Bridge Road, London SE1 0AS

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

N/A

Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

N/A

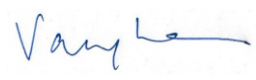
Other optional information

N/A

Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Sarah Vaughan	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	
Date	08/10/2025	

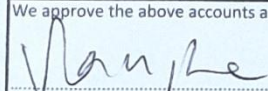
Income & Expenditure Account - Year 06-04-24 to 05-04-25

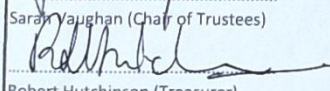
	GBP	GBP
Income		
General - Donations	0.01	
General - Sale of Materials	600.00	
General- Subscription	144.08	
Grant - Neighbourhood Fund	1,600.00	
Grant - Tree of Life	3,842.38	
Grant - Shuttleworth	4,000.00	
Grant - Rouel Orchard	1,450.00	
Total Income		11,636.47
Expenditure		
CGS Tree of Life		
Tree Seat Installation	2,364.00	
Bamboo Covering & Installation	329.50	
Neighbourhood Fund		
Story Telling	400.00	
Frog Life Printing	70.00	
School Workshop	438.00	
Bat Walk Refreshments	20.20	
Wassail Workshop	614.50	
Octopus Octopus		
Workshop	150.00	
Printing	109.00	
Pots , Compost & Plants	116.95	
Orchard Orchard		
Pond Plants	331.45	
Padlock	28.98	
Shuttleworth Park		
Landscape	4,000.00	
Unrestricted		
Insurance	143.15	
Website	12.99	
Paypal Fees	4.56	
Total Expenditure		9,133.28
Net Income		2,503.19

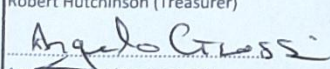
Balance Sheet - Year 06-04-24 to 05-04-25

	GBP	GBP
Current Assets		
Cash at Bank	11,773.50	
Cash in Paypal	139.52	
Petty Cash		
Total Current Assets		11,913.02
Net Assets		11,913.02
Capital & Reserves		
Reserves C/F		9,409.83
Income & Expenditure Account for YE 5-4-2025		2,503.19
Reserves B/F		11,913.02

We approve the above accounts and confirm that we have made available all relevant records and information for their preparation.


 Sarah Vaughan (Chair of Trustees)


 Robert Hutchinson (Treasurer)


 Angelo Grossi (Accountant)

8/10/2025

Date

8/10/2025

Date

8/10/2025

Date



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

**Independent examiner's
report on the accounts**

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
TREES FOR BERMONDSEY

On accounts for the year
ended

5th APRIL 2025

Charity no
(if any)

1196737

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 05/04/2025.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

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

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

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

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Irfan Masood

Date: 08/10/2025

Name:

Irfan Masood

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

ACCA

Address:

64 Southwark Bridge Road, London, SE1 0AS

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Section B**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

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

N/A

TREES FOR BERMONDSEY

England & Wales - Charity number 1196737

Accounts



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 06 April 2023 Period start date
To 05 April 2024 Period end date

Charity name: Trees for Bermondsey

Charity registration number: 1196737

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	1. 'To promote the conservation protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment for the public benefit, in particular by the planting of trees and other plants on streets and in publicly accessible spaces within the London borough of Southwark and in particular the wards around Bermondsey to mitigate the detrimental effects of climate change and urban overheating, encourage biodiversity and improve air and water quality'. 2. 'To advance the education of the public in the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment including by promoting tree planting as a means for the public to learn about wider environmental issues such as: sustainability, climate change, ecology and the mitigating need for trees'. 3. 'For the public benefit to promote the physical enhancement and beautification of streets and publicly accessible spaces around Bermondsey and the wider borough of Southwark as the trustees shall

		determine, by the planting of trees and securing their guardianship’.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	Main activities and projects carried out during the reporting period included: 1. Transformation of Shuttleworth Park Having fund-raised over several years and being awarded a London Mayor’s Grow Back Greener award, we were delighted to finally start work on reviving the park, refurbishing the playground and creating a more welcoming and nature-friendly space for all. Working with Southwark Council’s tree officers, in early April 2023, the first trees were planted. Four beautiful Japanese “Snow Goose” cherry trees (Umineko) were planted at the edge of the playground and two large circular areas were depaved in the brick pathways where we added a pair of Amelanchier x Lamarckii, the delicately white-flowered “Juneberry” or “Snowy Mesphilus”. Landscape Designer, Anna Hwang Colligan, who was instrumental in the success of the Octopus Garden (see report 4.) planned the park and playground with Trees for Bermondsey. Starting with the run-down and broken playground, we commissioned Playfix, a firm specialising in restoring old playground equipment and surfacing. With the accumulated Cleaner, Greener, Safer funds raised by local residents over several years, we were able to not only refurbish and repair but improve

		the playground with zinging colours and new surfaces. From being a sad and neglected space, barely played in by children, it has become a hugely popular playground. Parents have said that their children think they have a “brand new playground”. Two plant beds, “Vesica piscis”, were completely taken over by overgrown New Zealand Flax which offered no biodiversity value and little variation. It was decided as part of the plans, to remove all the plants, but before doing so we commissioned artist, Monica Heeran to use the leaves to make beautiful woven hurdles to protect the new planting. Monica also ran a free weaving workshop for adults and children on the Blue marketplace teaching traditional techniques used by the Maori people to create everything from roofs to boats. We were extremely grateful to Highways contractor FM Conway who stepped in to work pro-bono with us for the heavy and expensive work of removing large amounts of iron railings to open up the park’s picnic area and entrance. They also dug two rain gardens at the southern end of the park and laid stepping stones of salvaged York stone across the picnic area. They even fitted a set of refurbished bicycle racks at the entrance to the park, so visitors have a safe place to leave their cycles. Working with Bermondsey firm, Sterling Landscapes, and Bankside Open Spaces Trust’s Green Hub Co-ordinator, in Autumn 2023 we began an ambitious transformation of the planting in the park. Works included de-turfing the north-eastern, eastern and western
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		edges of the park to create woodland edge meadows of wildflowers and bulbs and creating a mediterranean themed bed in the eastern “vesica piscis” using drought-tolerant, pollinator-friendly shrubs and plants. A contrasting British native species bed was created in the western “vesica piscis” including yew, hawthorn and guelder rose for structure and a wide variety of bulbs and plants producing attractive seed-heads, as well as flowers, to encourage more small birds into the park. We also planted up the two circular depaved areas of path and added two standard native hawthorns and a pair of large multi-stemmed Field maple and a Strawberry tree (<i>Arbutus unedo</i>) to the six other standard trees already planted in the early spring. At the Southwark Park Road entrance, the beds were doubled in size to make way for trees and shrubs as well as hundreds of UK and European plants, bulbs and seeds which will provide a welcoming visual display of colour and greenery for visitors to the park and more forage and shelter for birds and pollinators. At our planting days, local residents of all ages came together to sow thousands of perennial wildflower seeds and spring bulbs to create meadow edges along two sides of the park. Thanks to the Blue Bermondsey BID and BOST, we ran a scarecrow-making workshop on the Blue marketplace as part of the annual “Greening the Blue” event. Despite torrential rain, enough children attended to
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		produce two magnificent scarecrows which stood guard over the seeds in the two meadow edges, long enough to keep Shuttleworth Park's many resident pigeons at bay. A small group of regular volunteers started to form around the park during the year, which we hope to grow over the coming years as our efforts start to bear fruit. With help from Sterling Landscapes, BOST and the Blue Bermondsey BID, Trees for Bermondsey has agreed to take on looking after the park for three years from January 2024. The council contractor will continue to keep paths clear and bins emptied and a mowing map has been agreed, meaning that most grassed areas of the park will be left to grow long with potential to hand scythe once a year in early autumn, optimising conditions for wild plants and grasses to thrive. 2. Tree-planting campaign – replacing and increasing tree canopy cover – Blue Anchor Lane One of Trees for Bermondsey's earliest campaigns, led by our Vice-chair, was to replace the old silver birch trees which had been felled in recent years on Blue Anchor Lane and to replace the fence with a native species hedge. In March 2024, after five years of fund-raising and campaigning, we were rewarded, at last, with a beautiful beech hedge and 48 stunning street trees, not only down Blue Anchor Lane, but also on Bombay Street and along Southwark Park Road
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		through the Blue. Overseen by Southwark Council's tree officers and the new Tree-planting and Ecology officer, the council's contractor - the Street Tree - did an exemplary job of planting and protecting the new heavy-standard trees. We were able to have input on the choice of trees and tree officers specified an inspiring array of different species, providing diversity, mitigation against climate change and contributing to the green corridor between Shuttleworth Park and the Rouel Road Estate and beyond. Species planted include disease resistant elm, hornbeam, lime, Tulip tree, Black pine, American black walnut, magnolia, Japanese cherry, hop hornbeam, Ginkgo and some unusual and stunning Crepe myrtle (<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i>). Over the same period that Trees for Bermondsey had been campaigning for trees to be planted along Blue Anchor Lane, the Blue Bermondsey BID and local residents had been working with Southwark Council to install a pocket park at the junction with St James's Rd which had been closed to through traffic, turning a dangerous cut-through into a quiet, pedestrian and cycle-friendly street. Previously undiscovered utilities were making it difficult to install the park and plans had to be changed to leave a much greater area paved than had been planned. Although one large and several smaller planters were able to be included, the community were disappointed to be told that trees
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		could not be planted because of a large sewage pipe and electrical cables running just below the surface. Trees for Bermondsey were able to negotiate with tree officers to engineer four big tree pits so that larger tree species could be included in the scheme after all. We were also asked to advise on species for the planters and raingarden and worked with Southwark Nature Action Volunteers on a list which would be predominantly UK and European species and cultivars, addressing both climate change and creating conditions to optimise biodiversity. The street is unrecognisable from before and we are excited to see how the planting and all the interesting trees will mature over the years. Persistence has most certainly paid off in the case of Blue Anchor Lane with all its challenges! 3. Care and improvements to the Rouel Estate Community Orchard and the Joy Slide Orchard The Rouel Estate Community Orchard was conceived, designed and planted in 2021 – 2022 by around 60 local adult and child volunteers and was a collaboration between Trees for Bermondsey, the Rouel Blue Garden Club and Southwark Council's Tree Section, with generous help and advice from the Orchard Project and London National Park City. 24 fruit trees were planted and 135 metres of fruiting hedgerow was added to surround and protect the orchard.
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		In this reporting year, we were excited to receive a very rare apple tree. The Cellini came into being in about 1828 in Vauxhall and was grown around London in the 19th century. It is not commonly available to buy now, but on the advice of our Orchard Project mentor, we were able to ask the specialist nursery “Keeper’s” to custom graft it for us and after an 18 month wait, it was finally delivered to us in December 2023. Sadly, some of the tree cages and even the young trees themselves had been damaged by people using them to train their dogs, and so council tree officers agreed that we would work with tree-planting contractor, the Street Tree, to recage all the trees and protect our precious, new Cellini. A regular group of volunteers has formed who litterpick, prune, weed, water, mulch and generally keep an eye on both orchards. New young members have joined and we are learning important orcharding skills from our brilliant orchard mentor, Lesley Wertheimer. A small area of woodland to the south-west of the orchard was being fly-tipped and attracting anti-social behaviour so Trees for Bermondsey asked the Housing and Tree Officers if the area could be included within the orchard boundary. This request was immediately approved and council contractors extended the fence to bring it within the boundary. We are excited to have this new habitat to develop for wildlife. The Joy Slide orchard was planted in March 2022 with help from Southwark’s tree officers and larger, standard and heavy standard trees were chosen for
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		this space rather than the maiden one or 2-year-old trees planted by Trees for Bermondsey in the Rouel Community orchard, so we were excited to have our first harvest of medlars from the Joy Slide orchard and one of the volunteers made some delicious medlar cheese. We should have many more as well as other fruit like persimmon, fig and quince in years to come as the trees mature. We have the beginnings of a third orchard on the Slippers Place Estate where we planted an apricot and two apple trees with the food pantry, Love North Southwark's volunteers. A cherry and a Victoria plum tree are on order for planting in the Autumn. 4. Hedge-planting in public spaces has been an important activity since Trees for Bermondsey's inception. It helped Trees for Bermondsey open a positive dialogue with Southwark Council around tree-planting and was a simple way to raise awareness and bring people together to create greener neighbourhoods. In this reporting period, we extended and added hedges for wildlife across Bermondsey. With Southwark tree planting and ecology officers, we helped the food pantry, Love North Southwark and residents of Slippers Place plant nearly 100 metres of native species hedge on the Slippers Place Estate. Another 30 metres was added to the existing 135 metres of fruiting hedge in the Rouel Estate Community Orchard planted in 2021 - 23. The Conservation Volunteers and Sterling Landscapes gave us 30
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		rowan and 30 sweet briar to gap fill. As part of our transformation of Shuttleworth Park we added a single strand hedge to the circular playground to soften the railings in an otherwise exposed space, and new species to the hedge we had planted in previous years with Galleywall Nature Reserve. A total of 400 native species hedge whips were planted by volunteers with help from contractor, Sterling Landscapes.' By April 2024, the total number of tree whips planted by Trees for Bermondsey in public places was over 4000. In addition, thanks to our amazing volunteers, we carried out the important tasks of mulching and maintenance pruning on hedges planted in previous years. The fruiting hedge in the Rouel Est Community orchard has grown so well that we have been able to harvest elderflowers and one of the orchard volunteers made bottles of delicious cordial. 5. In late May 2023 we celebrated the first anniversary of the Octopus Garden with a party thrown by our friends and partner, Sterling Landscapes, who had provided many hours of help planting the garden and then transporting water by cargo bike during the drought of summer 2022. The garden glowed with colour in the early evening sun and buzzed with pollinators attracted to the thousands of flowering wild plants. The idea of the Octopus Garden was conceived during the Covid pandemic and became a rare positive consequence of the days of lockdown and the discovery of the importance of green space
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		and being in the open air for health and well-being. An unloved, grey, polluted and fly-tipped street corner was taken and transformed into a lush, green oasis, equally welcoming for birds and pollinators as it is for its human visitors. Trees for Bermondsey brought together local residents to form "The Octopus Gardeners". Funding was secured from Southwark's Cleaner, Greener Safer scheme and the London Mayor's Grow Back Greener fund to de-pave 120 square metres on the corner of Dunton Road and Lynton Road. Volunteers planted thousands of native species plants to encourage biodiversity. 100 native trees were included to create hedging to protect the garden from traffic pollution and noise. Existing uncomfortable metal seating was upcycled using timber from end-of-life street trees and a large mosaic birdbath was commissioned to invite more birdlife to the garden. The Octopus Garden was a highly successful collaboration with the council, their Highways Contractor, FM Conway Ltd, Southwark Nature Volunteers (SNAV), Trees for Bermondsey and many others who generously gave their time and brought skills to this exciting project. Work which had started in Spring 2022 was continued through 2023 and into 2024 with the Octopus Gardeners adding new plants and bulbs and meeting for regular sessions to maintain the paths and birdbath and keep it litter-free. It is used by many visitors: from children on their way home from school, to shoppers stopping for a welcome break on the long walk up Dunton Road. It already feels
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		as though the garden has always been there!
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	All projects and activities approved by the Trustees and undertaken by Trees for Bermondsey have been for the public benefit. The charity is entirely volunteer-led and run, and all projects and activities undertaken are accessible and available to all. As can be seen in the “Summary of main activities” above, all projects are located in the public spaces of Bermondsey for the benefit of everyone who lives in, works or visits the area. In addition to the activities and projects listed previously, the Trustees have raised funds for and organised free workshops and events which attracted hundreds of participants and volunteers over the reporting period. These included: • Tree and hedge-planting days in parks and on estates • The planting of thousands of bulbs, seeds and other plants with adult and child volunteers in Shuttleworth Park • Helping the Rouel Blue Garden Club create wildflower meadows on rubble mounds on the Rouel Road Estate with the Butterfly Conservation Trust • Planting and maintenance days in the Octopus street-garden • Maintenance days and events such as mulching and pruning under the instruction of volunteer Orchard Project mentor, Lesley Wertheimer. • “Harakeke” and Scarecrow-making workshops on the Blue Marketplace in collaboration with the Blue Bermondsey BID, Big Local Works

		and Bankside Open Spaces Trust and participation in the annual Greening the Blue event • Guided walks • Participating in the London Mayor's Community Weekend with family story-telling sessions and picnics in Southwark Park and Rouel Estate Community Orchard • Organising a free bat walk with local experts John and Janet Cadera • Taking a stall at the Bermondsey Street Festival where Trustees gave out information about Trees for Bermondsey, gathered new members and sold our newly designed "Tree Hugger" T shirt (thanks to Derek Hayn for the very cool design!) • The Bermondsey Wassail, which was held for a second year with the help and generosity of the Orchard Project and National Park City rangers. A new Green Man and friends performed on the Blue Marketplace while Trees for Bermondsey and the Rouel Blue Garden Club oversaw lantern and crown-making with "Illuminate Bermondsey" organiser, Frog Morris. The Green Man led a lantern-lit procession through the streets of Bermondsey to the Rouel Estate Community Orchard where everyone joined in the ancient tradition of Wassailing the apple-trees with songs, instrument-playing and mulled cider.
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	N/A

Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	N/A
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	As noted previously, Trees for Bermondsey is entirely volunteer-led and run and we try to set an example and use best practise in everything we do, e.g. it is always exciting when we have new projects, but it is important to ensure successful establishment with regular maintenance, whether it is pruning, watering or repairing fences and cages. Trees for Bermondsey's volunteers make everything the charity does possible. Although grants and donations mean we can pay outside providers for some services, day-to-day running and activities are entirely dependent on the goodwill and generosity of our wonderful volunteers. In this reporting period, as well as running WhatsApp groups for different projects e.g. The Octopus Gardeners and Orchard Group, we set up a wider Trees for Bermondsey volunteer group which we can call on for all our projects and activities. As we add more sites and projects, so our pool of volunteers grows. For larger events such as hedge and tree planting we call on our wider group, which stood at approximately 180 subscribers at end of the reporting period. Our growing social media following (Twitter and Instagram) means we can tap into around 2500 followers when we want to call on larger numbers of people to volunteer or attend events e.g. the annual Bermondsey Wassail.

		Partners and friends such as the Southwark Nature Action Volunteers, Southwark Park Association 1869 and Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Litterati are other important sources of volunteers. We have not yet taken advantage of the offer of corporate volunteers made by our Bankside Open Spaces Trust green hub co-ordinator, Barney Gilks, but we know that this possibility is available if we need it. Our regular groups of volunteers are vital for taking care of our greenspaces, new trees and plants and we do not take them for granted.
Other		• Leanne Werner of CIC, Wilder, was appointed Trustee in June 2023, bringing a wealth of experience in local government and environmental knowledge to the Board. Thanks to Leanne, Trees for Bermondsey was invited to join the Southwark Biodiversity Partnership, formed of council ecology officers and representatives from Southwark's environmental and conservation groups. The SBP meets quarterly to discuss environmental matters and update each other on projects as well as finding ways to improve and promote biodiversity in the borough. • From our early days Trees for Bermondsey has often partnered with Southwark Nature Action Volunteers on campaigns and projects. During this reporting period we campaigned with them to ban the dangerous herbicide Glyphosate, from streets and estates in Southwark (it is already banned in parks). Together we took the Chair of the Environment Scrutiny committee to meet officers in Lambeth on a walkabout, where Glyphosate is already no longer used. In Bermondsey, the Rouel Blue Garden Club and Trees for

		Bermondsey had also succeeded in working with grounds maintenance officers to discontinue its use across the Rouel Rd Estate and other estates in the north of the borough. After our visit to Lambeth, we welcomed the Environment Scrutiny Committee to visit the Octopus Garden, which is entirely planted with native species, and the Rouel Rd Estate where a herbicide-free integrated programme of weed control has been successfully trialled by officers since 2021. We were delighted that two members of Southwark Nature Action Volunteers were then invited onto the Scrutiny Committee to gather evidence on important environmental matters for the borough and contribute to the report which will be due in late 2024. • During this reporting period, Trees for Bermondsey began an ambitious plan for a 0.5 kilometre North Bermondsey Nature Corridor, connecting the two SINCs (Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation) of St James's Church and Southwark Park via a series of diverse habitat stepping stones through three estates (Keeton's, Four Squares and Kirby/Slippers Place) Southwark Council's ecologists are working with SNAV and others to plot a network of green corridors throughout the borough. Trees for Bermondsey has their support and we will be working with them to find funding to complete different phases of the plan over the next few years. The first phase "The Moreton Gate Nature Garden" should be completed in 2024 – 25. • Trees for Bermondsey's Chair continued as co-optee on the management committee of friends' group, Southwark Park Association 1869. As well as advising on tree matters generally, we helped select a tree to be planted in honour of King Charles' 70th birthday – an Acer "Princeton Gold", a beautiful
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		golden maple which we had on good authority was one of the King's favourites. Despite being planted on the wettest ever November day, there was a good turn-out and the tree has thrived!
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Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	The planting of trees and plants, the creation of new green space and the improvement to existing ones, provide many important eco-system services for the benefit of the human and wildlife populations of Bermondsey and the wider community of Southwark. Research has proven that proximity to trees and greenspace has a positive effect on physical and mental wellbeing and community cohesion. The geographical area Trees for Bermondsey is active in has some of the lowest tree-canopy in London, highest deprivation and worst access to green space. We include below some of the feedback we collected from members of the community and colleagues involved in the Shuttleworth Park transformation: "Planting in Shuttleworth Park was a hopeful and joyful experience. People of all ages and backgrounds carrying little packets of seeds and bulbs and pressing them into the earth. We were working together to rebuild the park as a place for the community to sit, play and exercise, and making this grey corner of Bermondsey a beautiful habitat again. In the depths of winter, the work we did together was an important reminder that Spring will return and the flowers we

		planted will bloom, that we can care for the world around us and for each other." <i>(Volunteer)</i> "Shuttleworth Park looks completely transformed. With the removal of the excessive layers of railings which previously cluttered the park's interior, a space which felt restrictive and downtrodden now feels expansive and welcoming. New trees and hedging planted across the site promise interest and important habitat, and the newly de-paved tree pits at the heart of the park make a very attractive focal point. Complementing these, the new perimeter wildflower meadows and planting schemes of the central beds will look stunning as they come into their own in the spring." <i>(Bankside Open Spaces Trust – Green Hub Co-ordinator)</i> "As manager of the Blue Bermondsey Business Improvement District, I have been working with Trees for Bermondsey since 2019 after finding out about their great work helping make our streets and spaces greener whilst improving areas that have been neglected and in need of TLC. It has been a very rewarding experience for me personally to be part of the process from the beginning and witness the absolute commitment and selfless dedication of the individuals involved, whilst contributing in their own small way to addressing the climate crisis, creating awareness through associated workshops and activities for local people to give input and become involved. This has proven that empowering and supporting individuals to act and initiate change is a true and valid pathway towards a better, greener, and safer future for us all."
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		<i>(Blue Bermondsey BID Manager and Greening the Blue partner)</i> An example of the difference the charity's work has made to its beneficiaries over the reporting period is shown below: Shuttleworth Park was a run-down, under-used, urban park and playground in the Blue, South Bermondsey. The park was originally designed pre-WWII by Bermondsey's much-loved Mayor, leading social reformer and early environmentalist, Ada Salter, and laid out after her death. In response to a public consultation held in early 2023, Trees for Bermondsey promised to bring it back to the centre of the community. We would start by repairing and reviving the children's playground and continue the transformation by creating a nature-filled oasis at the heart of the area, introducing a wide variety of perennial plants and native flowers attractive to pollinators, making it come alive with colour, sounds and fragrance. Rich, diverse habitats would encourage birds and wildlife into the park, making it become an engaging place to spend time and connect to nature. The park would be transformed into a welcoming, green space to pass time whether in play, exercise or simple relaxation. To make the vision reality: Through Southwark Council, Trees for Bermondsey commissioned specialist playground repair contractor, Playfix, to repair equipment and replace the worn out safety surface. Railings, seats and play equipment were all repainted in bright, contrasting colours. From being avoided by children and parents, Shuttleworth Park has become the most popular playground in the area. 88 metres of railings were removed
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		The park was full of depressing blue metal railings. We worked with Southwark's Highway's contractor, FM Conway, and removed a total of 88 metres of railings, opening up the main entrance and the circular picnic area, making the park feel more welcoming and less enclosed. Railings have been replaced with trees, shrubs and plants creating softer lines as well as habitat for birds and other wildlife. 420 trees, shrubs and hedging whips were planted We worked with Southwark's Tree Section, Sterling Landscapes, BOST and many volunteers to plant 20 different species of tree. Following consultation with the council's ecologist, these were mostly native species including spindle, alder, holly, wayfaring tree, yew, guelder rose, hawthorn, wild privet, juniper, hornbeam, to name just a few. 13 heavy-standard trees were added: Strawberry Tree, Field Maple, Hawthorn, Japanese flowering cherries and Serviceberry, which have made an immediate impact. We gap-filled 65 metres on the south side and added a new 70 metre hedge to the playground, as well as clumps of hedge/shrubs along the north and eastern edges to shield out the effects of polluting and noisy traffic. 30m2 of raingardens were excavated in the south end of the park creating new habitat as well as drainage and enabling planting of species not suited to the rest of the park. 32m2 of hard surface was de-paved Two circular areas in the centre of the park were de-paved to create extra-large tree-pits with room to underplant the serviceberry trees planted in Spring. In time the Serviceberries will provide dappled
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		shade and delicate pink blossom in early spring and are already a focal point. 350m2 native wildflower meadows were created Volunteers sowed 1650 grams of 36 different species of perennial wildflower and grasses and planted over 2000 bulbs including English bluebell, aconite, anemone, cyclamen and snow-drop. 200m2 of beds were planted The dominant phormium plants in all the existing beds were removed and 75 different species and 1000s of individual plants and bulbs were then added. Trees for Bermondsey does not simply organise one-off events but encourages and works with the community to care for their trees and greenspaces. This brings neighbours together and has engendered a collective sense of pride in the local environment.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	Please see above sections and below. The charity fulfilled and exceeded objectives set.
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Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	Trees for Bermondsey had 100% success rate in grants and awards applied for with Southwark Council's Cleaner Greener Safer and Devolved Highways funds, and for the first time we applied for and were awarded a grant from the Neighbourhood Fund to cover activities and events such as the Bermondsey Wassail and school workshops for 2024 - 25 Cleaner, Greener, Safer funds will be used on items and services needed in the Rouel Estate Orchard such as signage and fencing also, planting and services in Shuttleworth Park Devolved Highways funds will be used for raingardens on streets working with the Highways Dept to mitigate against flooding and create biodiversity Our application to the London Mayor's Rewild London Fund for the North Bermondsey Nature Corridor was sadly unsuccessful. Feedback praised our public engagement in the project but the fund was oversubscribed and they were looking for flagship projects such as the beaver introduction in Ealing. Fortunately, council ecology and climate change officers have picked up the project and will fund and help us manage the first phase which we hope to carry out in 2024 – 25. Our unrestricted expenses were mostly covered by T shirt sales and private donations through our Paypal account including a generous Standing Order
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	N/A

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	During the reporting period Trees for Bermondsey had a total income of £22281.04 comprised of £433.64 unrestricted funds and £21847.40 restricted funds. Net income was -£21537.19 after expenditure. (See Financial Statement attached to this document) Trees for Bermondsey has no current liabilities.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	The target reserve level is set at twelve months of operating expenses, adjusted according to our specific operational needs and risk assessment outcomes. Currently this would be £650. This amount would be sufficient to cover the annual running costs of the charity should there be no other unrestricted income in that financial year.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	As of 5 th April 2024, we have £9049.83 in reserves.
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	N/A Reserves held.
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	Trees for Bermondsey has no material deficit.
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	We have no financial uncertainties about the Charity continuing as a going concern for the next 12 months. The Charity is run solely by volunteers and as such has no high fixed costs. Any annual expenses can thus be kept to a minimum and be funded if needed by reserve fund which is held for the coming financial year.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	Most funds are restricted for specific purposes e.g. from grants or awards from the GLA (Grow Back Greener) and Southwark Council (Cleaner Greener Safer, Neighbourhood Fund) Unrestricted funding such as that raised from Paypal Donations and subscriptions is important for maintaining reserves for day-to-day costs such as public liability insurance and internet fees. A large part of our work is dependent on in-kind benefits provided by partners such as Southwark Council's Tree and Parks Sections e.g. provision of trees, hedging whips and mulch. Highways contractor FM Conway provided de-paving, paving, railing-removal, earthworks and bike racks for the Shuttleworth Park project. Big Local Works and the Blue Bermondsey BID provided market stalls and meeting facilities for the Shuttleworth Park/Greening the Blue projects. Bankside Open Spaces Trust generously provides us with horticultural advice, training, plants and tools Others are listed under "relationships with any related parties."
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	N/A
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	The trustees maintain a risk register to log and assess the charity's principal risks. Our top two risks refer to maintaining a sustainable financial position; and succession planning for trustees.

Other		N/a
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Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Constitution
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	CIO
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Potential trustees are invited to apply by existing trustees. Appointment to the Board is made by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	New trustees are provided with induction material (background information, The Essential Trustee (CC3), the constitution, and policy documents). New trustees are formally inducted in a meeting of current Board of Trustees.
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	N/A
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	As a volunteer-run charity, teamwork is key to Trees for Bermondsey's success and none of our work would be possible without collaboration with a multitude of partners and friends some of whom are shown below: Southwark Council – working closely with Trees, Ecology and Parks teams who provide services as well as trees, hedge

		whips and mulch for projects. The Cleaner, Greener, Safer scheme provides match-funding and useful funds to kick-start new projects. Greater London Authority – awarded a generous Grow Back Greener grant for the transformation of Shuttleworth Park. A successful application to the Mayor’s Weekend fund enabled activities like story-telling, guided-walks and picnics to take place in the orchards and other locations in Bermondsey. The Blue Bermondsey Business Improvement District (BID) – generous support and advice and partners in the Greening the Blue coalition, help with space on the Blue marketplace for activities and work-shops Bankside Open Spaces Trust – their dedicated Green Hub Co-ordinator for South Bermondsey provides invaluable time and help to Trees for Bermondsey and the Greening the Blue project in the form of expert horticultural advice, public engagement, training, tools and plants. Southwark Nature Action Volunteers – partners and friends of Trees for Bermondsey who provide ecological advice and volunteers. Greening the Blue – coalition of environmental groups in South Bermondsey including Big Local Works, the Blue Bermondsey BID, Trees for Bermondsey, Southwark Park Association 1869, Friends of Galleywall Nature Reserve and others, promoting greening of the area and holding annual Greening the Blue event Rouel Blue Garden Club – Partners and friends of Trees for Bermondsey, collaborators on the Rouel Estate Community Orchard, wildflower mounds
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		and other local projects e.g. the Bermondsey Wassail The Orchard Project – Orchard Project volunteer mentor, Lesley Wertheimer, has collaborated on the orchards and advises and gives hands-on help to Trees for Bermondsey with orchard-related matters London National Park City – ranger Lesley Wertheimer (Also Orchard project mentor – see above) collaborated on all aspects of the Rouel Estate Community and Joy Slide Orchards. Other rangers took part in the Bermondsey Wassail, including dressing up as the Green Man! The Octopus Gardeners – group of local residents and Trees for Bermondsey volunteers who care for the Octopus Garden Southwark Park Association 1869 – Trees for Bermondsey help liaise with the council and collaborate and advise on tree-matters related to Southwark Park Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Litterati - partners and friends of Trees for Bermondsey keeping our greenspaces and tree-pits clean and litter-free Local businesses providing pro-bono services and support: FM Conway, Sterling Landscapes Ltd, Crol & Co, WeWork
Other		N/A

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Trees for Bermondsey
Other name the charity uses	N/A
Registered charity number	1196737
Charity's principal address	107 Grange Road London SE1 3BW

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Sarah Vaughan	Chair		Founding Trustee
2	Robert Hutchinson	Treasurer		Founding Trustee
3	Andrew Readman	Vice-Chair		Founding Trustee
4	Katherine Hayes	Secretary		Founding Trustee
5	Leanne Werner	None	From 23/06/2023	Appointed Trustee

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		
N/A		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	
N/A		

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	N/A
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	N/A
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	N/A

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Independent Examiner for Trees for Bermondsey accounts	Irfan Masood	64 Southwark Bridge Road, London SE1 0AS

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

N/A

Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

N/A

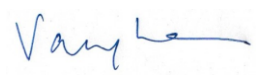
Other optional information

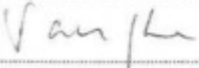
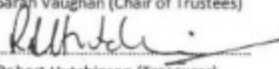
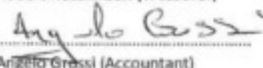
N/A

Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Sarah Vaughan	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	
Date	04/02/2025	

TREES FOR BERMONDSEY Registered Charity no: 1196737			
Income & Expenditure Account - Year 06-04-23 to 05-04-24		GBP	GBP
Income			
Donation - General		293.83	
Grant - Rouel Orchard		356.00	
Subscription		62.04	
Mass		77.77	
Grant - Shuttleworth		21,491.40	
Total Income			22,281.04
Expenditure			
CGS Tree of Life	Timber	1,148.88	
Mayor's Fund	Story Tellers	530.00	
	Picnic Costs	240.61	
Neighbourhood Fund, RBGC	RBGC	356.00	
Octopus Octopus	Landscape	468.90	
	Tools & PPE	75.10	
	Printing	26.00	
Orchard Orchard	Tools & Apple Tree	152.47	
Shuttleworth Park	Landscape	36,000.00	
	Scarecrows	150.00	
	Printing, Posters & Flyers	157.50	
	Tools	213.30	
	Woven hurdle for plant protection	800.00	
	Design fees	2,575.00	
	Fence-weaving workshop	150.00	
Unrestricted	Accounting	250.00	
	Insurance	157.00	
	T-Shirt Samples	145.50	
	Website	198.03	
	TfB Domain renewal (web)	15.59	
	Paypal Fees	8.35	
			43,818.23
Net Income			-21,537.19
Balance Sheet - Year 06-04-23 to 05-04-24		GBP	GBP
Current Assets			
Cash at Bank		8,984.54	
Cash in Paypal		425.29	
Petty Cash		0.00	
Total Current Assets			9,409.83
Net Assets			9,409.83
Capital & Reserves			
Reserves C/F			30,947.02
Income & Expenditure Account for YE 5-4-2024			-21,537.19
Reserves B/F			9,409.83
We approve the above accounts and confirm that we have made available all relevant records and information for their preparation.			
 Sarah Vaughan (Chair of Trustees)		31/21/2025 Date	
 Robert Hutchinson (Treasurer)		04/02/2025 Date	
 Angelo Grossi (Accountant)		31/2/2025 Date	



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

**Independent examiner's
report on the accounts**

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name
TREES FOR BERMONDSEY

**On accounts for the year
ended**

5th APRIL 2024

**Charity no
(if any)**

1196737

Set out on pages

32

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 05/04/2024.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

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

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

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

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Date: 03/02/2025

Name:

Irfan Masood

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

ACCA

Address:

64 Southwark Bridge Road, London, SE1 0AS

Section B**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

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

N/A

TREES FOR BERMONDSEY

England & Wales - Charity number 1196737

Accounts



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 23 November 2021 Period start date
To 05 April 2023 Period end date

Charity name: Trees for Bermondsey

Charity registration number: 1196737

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	1. 'To promote the conservation protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment for the public benefit, in particular by the planting of trees and other plants on streets and in publicly accessible spaces within the London borough of Southwark and in particular the wards around Bermondsey to mitigate the detrimental effects of climate change and urban overheating, encourage biodiversity and improve air and water quality'. 2. 'To advance the education of the public in the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment including by promoting tree planting as a means for the public to learn about wider environmental issues such as: sustainability, climate change, ecology and the mitigating need for trees'. 3. 'For the public benefit to promote the physical enhancement and beautification of streets and publicly accessible spaces around Bermondsey and the wider borough of Southwark as the trustees shall determine, by the planting of trees and securing their guardianship'.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	Main activities and projects carried out during the reporting period included: 1. The Rouel Estate Community Orchard was conceived, designed and planted by around

		60 local adult and child volunteers and was a collaboration between Trees for Bermondsey, the Rouel Blue Garden Club and Southwark Council's Tree Section, with generous help and advice from the Orchard Project and London National Park City. 24 fruit trees were planted including apple, pear, plum, cherry, apricot, black mulberry, peach and quince. 135 metres of fruiting hedge was added to surround and protect the orchard including elder, hazel, dog rose, sea buckthorn, blackthorn, hawthorn, rowan and cornelian cherry. A total of 1500 tree whips were planted to complete the hedge. 2. Our second community orchard was planted in St James's churchyard as a tribute to Bermondsey's famous, tree-planting mayor, Ada Salter, and named after the Joy Slide (Peek Frean boss, Arthur Carr's gift to the children of Bermondsey which stood in the churchyard for fifty years). Elected in 1922 as London's first woman mayor, the planting of the orchard in Spring 2022 marked Ada's centenary year (see "Other" below). Trees for Bermondsey collaborated with London National Park City Ranger, Divya Hariramani, on the design and choice of unusual fruit trees, working closely with Southwark Council's Tree Section. Persimmon, Fig, Strawberry Tree, Quince, Medlar, Pomegranate, Cornelian Cherry and Black Mulberry were planted. With help from our Orchard Project mentor and National Park City Ranger, Lesley Wertheimer, we were also able to rescue six existing fruit trees in the churchyard which had been badly damaged by dogs. By pruning
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		and protecting them, Trees for Bermondsey has given them a new lease of life. 3. The idea of the Octopus Garden was conceived during the Covid pandemic and became a rare positive consequence of the days of lockdown and the discovery of the importance of green space and being in the open air for health and well-being. An unloved, grey, polluted and fly-tipped street corner was taken and transformed into a lush, green oasis, equally welcoming for birds and pollinators as it is for its human visitors. Trees for Bermondsey brought together local residents to form "The Octopus Gardeners". Funding was secured from Southwark's Cleaner, Greener Safer scheme and the London Mayor's Grow Back Greener fund to de-pave 120 square metres on the corner of Dunton Road and Lynton Road and plant it with thousands of native species plants to encourage biodiversity. 100 native trees were included to create hedging to protect the garden from traffic pollution and noise. Existing uncomfortable metal seating was upcycled using timber from end-of-life street trees and a large mosaic birdbath was commissioned to invite more birdlife to the garden. The Octopus Garden was a highly successful collaboration with the council, their Highways Contractor, FM Conway Ltd, Southwark Nature Volunteers (SNAV), Trees for Bermondsey and many others who generously gave their time and brought skills to this exciting project. Work which had started in Spring 2022 was complete by late September and celebrated with a joint street party with the Octopus Garden's
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		neighbour and supporter, Café Crol. 4. Hedge-planting in public spaces has been an important activity since Trees for Bermondsey's inception. It helped Trees for Bermondsey open a positive dialogue with Southwark Council around tree-planting and was a simple way to raise awareness and bring people together to create greener neighbourhoods. In this reporting period, we extended and added to the hedge for wildlife in Spa Gardens. In the year previously (2020 – 21) we planted around 400 native species whips provided for free by the Woodland Trust. The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) provided another 200 in 2021 – 22 and in March 2023 Southwark Council's Tree Section gave us another 200 including yew and holly to complete the hedge. In February 2022, we also added a further 200 whips to the native species hedges planted previously with the Friends of Galleywall Nature Reserve in Shuttleworth Park. In March 2023 we added another 200 whips to the fruiting hedge planted around the Rouel Rd Orchard (1500 had already been planted in December 2021). The total number of tree whips planted by Trees for Bermondsey in public places since 2020 is approximately 3000. 5. Tree-planting campaign – increasing tree canopy cover – Right tree, right place. Trees for Bermondsey liaised between members of the public and Southwark Council's Tree Section between 2020 and 2022 to replace felled trees and plant new trees for streets, estates and parks in Bermondsey. We processed over 100 requests from single trees, e.g, the
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		Queen's Platinum Jubilee tree, to entire streets. We estimate that at least 250 trees have been planted in response to these original requests. Others, such as Blue Anchor Lane (one of Trees for Bermondsey's early campaigns) remain outstanding, but with promises to progress once infrastructure and planning issues are resolved. The campaign continues. 6. Post-planting tree-care campaign Trees for Bermondsey lobbied councillors and officers to introduce systems to check contractors were fulfilling planting contracts, especially watering sufficiently from Spring to early Autumn and drew attention to systemic failures which became particularly apparent during the drought and high temperatures of 2022. Since then, with an ever more ambitious planting programme in place, a tree-planting and ecology post has been created to oversee tree-planting and monitor after-care. New systems have been introduced to help ensure that wide-spread failures of new trees on council-managed land will be a thing of the past. 7. Shuttleworth Park In 2019 local residents started to fund-raise to improve Shuttleworth Park located on the noisy and polluted corner of Southwark Park Rd and Galleywall Rd in the area of Bermondsey known as the Blue. They asked Trees for Bermondsey to help and at the end of 2021, we launched a Crowdfunder and Marks and Spencer Energy matched donations made by 50 members of the public. With the Blue Bermondsey Business Improvement District (BID) and others, Trees for Bermondsey formed a loose coalition under the banner "Greening the Blue"
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		(see also “relationship with any related parties”) to promote and lobby for more and better public green space. A successful bid to the Mayor of London’s Grow Back Greener fund added to the Crowdfunder and grants from Southwark’s Cleaner, Greener, Safer fund meant that plans could be drawn up and work will start from summer 2023 to revive the park, refurbish the playground and create a more welcoming and nature-friendly space for all.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	All projects and activities approved by the Trustees and undertaken by Trees for Bermondsey have been for the public benefit. The charity is entirely volunteer-led and run, and all projects and activities undertaken are accessible and available to all. As can be seen in the “Summary of main activities” above, all projects are located in the public spaces of Bermondsey for the benefit of everyone who lives, works or visits the area. In addition to the activities and projects listed previously, the Trustees have raised funds for and organised free workshops and events which attracted hundreds of participants and volunteers over the reporting period. These included: • Tree and hedge-planting days in the parks and in the new orchards • Planting and maintenance days in the Octopus street-garden • Bulb-planting thanks to the Metropolitan Gardens and Parks Association who supplied hundreds of free bulbs. • Maintenance days and events such as mulching and pruning under the instruction of volunteer Orchard Project mentor, Lesley Wertheimer. • Bird and bat-box and bug-hotel making on the Blue Marketplace in collaboration with the Bankside Open Spaces Trust and help from The Conservation Volunteers • A guided walk in collaboration with Fruity Walks, London National Park City ranger Divya Hariramani. This took place as part of the Salter Centenary celebrations in summer

		2022 and showcased the fruit-trees and fruiting hedges newly-planted in the Rouel Estate Community Orchard and the Joy Slide orchard. • Mosaic workshops with Age UK and the Blue Marketplace which were delivered by the London School of Mosaic who Trees for Bermondsey had commissioned to design and build a large commemorative, mosaic birdbath for the Octopus Garden. • The Bermondsey Wassail, which the Trustees hope will become an annual tradition, was made possible by the generosity and not inconsiderable musical and theatrical talent of members of the famous troupe “The Lion’s Part”. Their Green Man and friends performed on the Blue Marketplace while Trees for Bermondsey and the Rouel Blue Garden Club oversaw lantern and crown-making. The Green Man led a lantern-lit procession through the streets of Bermondsey to the Rouel orchard where everyone joined in the ancient tradition of Wassailing the apple-trees with songs, instrument-playing and mulled cider. • An exhibition showing the history of Shuttleworth Park and the drawings and visualisations of proposed works to improve Shuttleworth Park was held on the Blue marketplace in February 2023 with project partners, Bankside Open Spaces Trust, and an online consultation and public engagement event held to gather feedback from the community.
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	N/A
Policy on social investment	Para 1.38	N/A

including program related investment		
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	Trees for Bermondsey's volunteers make everything the charity does possible. Although grants and donations mean we can pay outside providers for some services, day-to-day running and activities are entirely dependent on the goodwill and generosity of our volunteers. We try to set an example and use best practise in everything we do, e.g. we don't just plant trees, but make sure they are cared for to ensure successful establishment. We run WhatsApp groups for different projects e.g. The Octopus Gardeners and Orchard Group. For larger events such as hedge and tree planting we call on our wider group, which stood at approximately 160 members at end of the reporting period. Our partners and friends, Southwark Nature Action Volunteers and Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Litterati are other important sources of volunteers. Our regular groups of volunteers are vital for taking care of our greenspaces, new trees and plants. Their dedication was amply illustrated through spring and summer 2022 during the drought and exceptionally high temperatures. In the Rouel Estate community orchard 23 trees received between 20 and 50 litres each weekly and in the hottest part of the summer, this was doubled. A dedicated group of neighbours from the estate and surrounding streets had to fill endless watering cans, but determination paid off and all the trees have thrived. The Octopus Garden was particularly challenging through the drought, as although the garden was deliberately planted with climate change in mind, to succeed, it had to be watered daily through its early stages. Without a water-supply onsite, volunteers had to transport water to a storage tank and set up a watering rota. Thanks to the Octopus Gardeners, the garden flourished, despite unpromising conditions.
Other		The charity was nominated for the 2022 "Tree Oscars", the London Tree and Woodland Awards, sponsored jointly by the Forestry Commission and Mayor of London. Our Chair took the coveted Acorn Award - "for an

		individual member of the public who has made a particular contribution to promoting or conserving trees” and Trees for Bermondsey were Highly Commended in the “Community Tree” category. • Trees for Bermondsey took an active part in the Salter Centenary celebrations which took place throughout 2022 and our Chair was on the steering group and helped organise events and activities. In 1922 Ada Salter became mayor of Bermondsey while her husband, Alfred Salter, was elected MP. The couple devoted their lives to the environment, housing and public health and transformed a deprived inner-city area into a healthy green oasis. During 2022, thousands of Southwark residents and visitors from further afield took part in activities and attended events to honour the lives and actions of the Salters. These included performances, concerts, guided walks, films, radio plays, tree-planting and talks. • Some of the oldest and best-loved street trees in Bermondsey are hybrid Black poplars (<i>Populus nigra</i>) and in early 2022 Trees for Bermondsey heard that a 120-year-old tree on Southwark Park Road had become dangerous and needed to be removed. We negotiated with Southwark’s tree officers and our local councillors to have the tree removed by “Fallen and Felled” who specialise in removing street trees as intact as possible to ensure they are re-used. Fallen and Felled milled and seasoned the timber for 12 months and Trees for Bermondsey were awarded a Cleaner, Greener, Safer grant to have some of the wood made into seating in the Rouel Estate’s new community garden, just a few metres from where the old tree stood.
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		Most street trees are chipped and incinerated, so using the timber for furniture is far more sustainable and a perfect example of the circular economy, with the tree returning to the place where it grew and preventing its stored carbon being released into the atmosphere. The seat will be installed ready for summer 2024. • Friends' group, Southwark Park Association 1869, invited Trees for Bermondsey to advise on tree-related matters and co-opted Trees for Bermondsey's Chair onto their management committee. Trees for Bermondsey's first duty was to consult with the council and assisted in choosing a heavy-standard tulip tree to plant in the Queen's Platinum Jubilee year as part of the UK-wide Queen's Green Canopy scheme.
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Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	The geographical area Trees for Bermondsey is active in has some of the lowest tree-canopy in London, highest deprivation and worst access to green space. The planting of trees and plants, the creation of new green space and the improvement to existing ones, provide many important ecosystem services for the benefit of the human and wildlife populations of Bermondsey and the wider community of Southwark. Research has proven that proximity to trees and greenspace has a positive effect on physical and mental wellbeing and community cohesion. We have seen this in action again and again and it is reflected in feedback from volunteers: <i>"...the idea of creating beautiful green spaces has brought our community together through a</i>

		<i>shared interest.”</i> <i>“I am certain that the work that the group does helps my mental stability... I love to be outside and not only have I learned from being with the group, I have also felt a strong sense of responsibility and ‘belonging’”</i> Just two examples of the difference the charity’s work has made to its beneficiaries over the reporting period are shown below: 1. The Octopus Garden is a street corner, so open 24 hours a day 365 days a year. De-paving and planting with thousands of native species plants has created a tiny new green lung for the area. Before Trees for Bermondsey transformed it, this was one of the most common places for fly-tipping in the area. This is now a rare occurrence and our partnership with the Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Litterati means it stays clear of rubbish. Trees for Bermondsey even installed a street bin which is now emptied by Southwark’s street-cleaners. In March 2023, within days of being installed in the Octopus Garden one of the birdboxes made with local children at our public workshop, was occupied by a pair of bluetits. The large birdbath, made by the London School of Mosaic from design ideas collected from the community during workshops is not only a beautiful centrepiece, but an important source of water for our local wildlife. When the plants and wildflowers started to bloom in Spring 2023, they were soon abuzz with pollinators and it was hard to believe that barely 12 months earlier, the garden hadn’t existed and was barren, polluted tarmac. It was exciting to experience the positive reaction to the transformation.
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		The Octopus Garden has inspired its neighbours to de-pave their driveways and others to fundraise for their own street garden. 2. The Rouel Estate Community Orchard is the result of an impressive joint-effort between the newly-formed Rouel Blue Garden Club, Trees for Bermondsey, Southwark Council, the neighbouring St James's School and others. It is being cultivated to provide a significant fruit harvest within a few years which will be shared with residents and the Love North Southwark food pantry. The school has installed gates from the playground to the orchard meaning that the space can be used for recreation and eventually, as an outdoor classroom. The space is being managed to maximise biodiversity in collaboration with the estate's maintenance team who have agreed to a reduced mowing regime. The native species fruiting hedge will be trimmed in rotation so there is always habitat for birds and other wildlife. The orchard already hosts a large and noisy colony of sparrows and pipistrelle bats hunt over the long grass on summer evenings. Trees for Bermondsey does not simply organise one-off events but encourages and works with the community to care for their trees and greenspaces. This brings neighbours together and has engendered a collective sense of pride in the local environment.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	Please see above sections and below. The charity fulfilled and exceeded objectives set.
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	Trees for Bermondsey had 100% success rate in grants and awards applied for, most notably, two successive Grow Back Greener grants from the GLA to create a community street garden, the Octopus Garden, successfully completed in 2022 and the restoration of Shuttleworth Park (onsite works due to start Summer 2023). Both projects received match-funding from Southwark Council's Cleaner Greener Safer fund. Another grant was awarded by Southwark's Cleaner, Greener, Safer fund for items needed for the Rouel Estate Orchard. A donation was received from London National Park City to spend on events and tools for the Rouel Estate Orchard. A grant was received from the Mayor's Weekend Fund to be spent on summer 2023 activities (storytelling, a guided walk and a family picnic). We also received unrestricted funds through ASDA Foundation's green token campaign and from Thames Water which fulfilled the objective of boosting reserves. In addition, 50 members of the public contributed to a fundraiser for improvements to Shuttleworth Park and donations were matched by Marks and Spencer Energy. A new Paypal account was set up and a link embedded in the Trees for Bermondsey website enabling donations to be collected online from supporters.

Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	N/A
Other		N/A

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	During the reporting period Trees for Bermondsey had a total income of £53761.38 comprised of £2017.09 unrestricted funds and £51,744.29 restricted funds. Net income was £30,947.02 after expenditure. (See Financial Statement attached to this document) Trees for Bermondsey has no current liabilities.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	The target reserve level is set at twelve months of operating expenses, adjusted according to our specific operational needs and risk assessment outcomes. Currently this would be £400. This amount would be sufficient to cover the annual running costs of the charity should there be no other unrestricted income in that financial year.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	As of 5 th April 2023, we have £30,947 in reserves.
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	N/A Reserves held.
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	Trees for Bermondsey has no material deficit.
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	We have no financial uncertainties about the Charity continuing as a going concern for the next 12 months. The Charity is run solely by volunteers and as such has no high fixed costs. Any annual expenses can thus be kept to a minimum and be funded if needed by reserve fund which is held for the coming financial year.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	The majority of funds are restricted for specific purposes e.g. from grants or awards from the GLA (Grow Back Greener) and Southwark Council (Cleaner Greener Safer) Unrestricted funding such as that raised from Paypal Donations and ASDA foundation green token scheme is important for maintaining reserves for day-to-day costs such as public liability insurance and internet fees. A Crowdfunder was run for works and maintenance to Shuttleworth Park and funds raised were matched by Marks and Spencer
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		Energy. A large part of our work is dependent on in-kind benefits provided by partners such as Southwark Council's Tree and Parks Sections e.g. provision of trees, hedging whips and mulch. Highways contractor FM Conway provided de-paving, paving, soil and bike racks for the Octopus Garden. Others are listed under "relationships with any related parties." As Trees for Bermondsey work with London National Park City rangers, we were awarded a grant by LNPC for the orchards. Thames Water provided funds for general use e.g. planting activities and tools.
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	N/A
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	The trustees maintain a risk register to log and assess the charity's principal risks. Our top two risks refer to maintaining a sustainable financial position; and succession planning for trustees.
Other		N/A

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Constitution
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	CIO
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Potential trustees are invited to apply by existing trustees. Appointment to the Board is made by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	New trustees are provided with induction material (background information, The Essential Trustee (CC3), the constitution, and policy documents). New trustees are formally inducted in a meeting of current Board of Trustees.
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	N/A
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	As a volunteer-run charity, teamwork is key to Trees for Bermondsey's success and none of our work would be possible without collaboration with a multitude of partners and friends some of whom are shown below: Southwark Council – working closely with Trees, Ecology and Parks teams who provide services as well as trees, hedge whips and mulch for projects. The Cleaner, Greener, Safer scheme provides match-funding and useful funds to kick-start new projects. Greater London Authority – awarded generous Grow Back Greener grants for the Octopus Garden and Shuttleworth Park. A successful application to the Mayor's Weekend fund will enable activities like story-telling, guided-walks and picnics to take place in the orchards and other locations in Bermondsey.

		The Blue Bermondsey Business Improvement District (BID) – generous support and advice and partners in the Greening the Blue coalition, help with space on the Blue marketplace for activities and work-shops Bankside Open Spaces Trust – their dedicated Green Hub Co-ordinator for South Bermondsey provides invaluable time and help to Trees for Bermondsey and the Greening the Blue project in the form of expert horticultural advice and public engagement. Southwark Nature Action Volunteers – partners and friends of Trees for Bermondsey who provide ecological advice and volunteers. Greening the Blue – coalition of environmental groups in South Bermondsey including Big Local Works, the Blue Bermondsey BID, Trees for Bermondsey, Southwark Park Association 1869, Friends of Galleywall Nature Reserve and others, promoting greening of the area and holding annual Greening the Blue event Rouel Blue Garden Club – Partners and friends of Trees for Bermondsey, collaborators on the Rouel Estate Community Orchard and other local projects e.g. the Bermondsey Wassail The Orchard Project – Orchard Project volunteer mentor, Lesley Wertheimer, has collaborated on the orchards and advises Trees for Bermondsey on orchard-related matters London National Park City – Southwark rangers, Divya Hariramani and Lesley Wertheimer (see Orchard Project also) collaborated on all aspects of the Rouel Estate Community and Joy Slide Orchards The Octopus Gardeners – group of local residents and Trees for Bermondsey volunteers who care for the Octopus garden Salter Centenary Project – collaboration on events for the Salter Centenary Year celebrations in 2022 Southwark Park Association 1869 – Trees for Bermondsey help liaise with the council and collaborate and advise on tree-matters related to Southwark Park Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Litterati - partners and friends of Trees for Bermondsey keeping our greenspaces and tree-pits clean and litter-free Friends of Galleywall Nature Reserve ASDA Foundation
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		Marks and Spencer Energy Thames Water Local businesses providing pro-bono services and support: FM Conway, Sterling Landscapes Ltd, Bronzewood Metals, Crol & Co, WeWork
Other		N/A

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Trees for Bermondsey
Other name the charity uses	N/A
Registered charity number	1196737
Charity's principal address	107 Grange Road London SE1 3BW

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Sarah Vaughan	Chair		Founding Trustee
2	Robert Hutchinson	Treasurer		Founding Trustee
3	Andrew Readman	Vice-Chair		Founding Trustee
4	Katherine Hayes	Secretary		Founding Trustee

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		
N/A		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	
N/A		

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	N/A
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	N/A
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	N/A

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Independent Examiner for Trees for Bermondsey accounts	Neelai Patel	31 Howcroft Crescent, London N3 1PA

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

N/A

Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

N/A

Other optional information

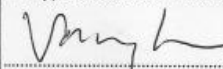
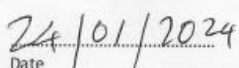
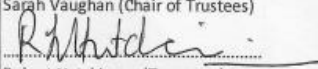
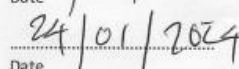
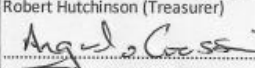
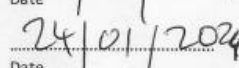
N/A

Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Katherine Hayes	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Secretary	
Date	31/01/2024	

TREES FOR BERMONDSEY Registered Charity no: 1196737		
Income & Expenditure Account - Year 14-03-20 to 05-04-23		
	GBP	GBP
Income		
Donation - General	2,017.09	
Grant - Rouel Orchard	1,913.22	
Grant - GLA London Mayor's Weekend	760.00	
Grant - Octopus	28,376.70	
Grant - Shuttleworth	20,694.37	
Total Income		53,761.38
Expenditure		
Construction Materials & Shipping - Octopus	8,100.00	
Landscaping - Octopus	5,167.66	
Birdbath - Octopus	4,244.51	
Tools & Equipment, Stationary & Refresments - Rouel Orchard	1,260.98	
Design - Shuttleworth	1,025.00	
Timber for seating - Octopus	865.20	
Tools & Equipment, Stationary & Refresments - Octopus	646.10	
Birdbox - Octopus	344.00	
Trees - Octopus	204.00	
Landscaping - Rouel Orchard	171.00	
Insurance	403.00	
Workshop fee - Rouel Orchard	150.00	
50% share of donations for guided walk	51.00	
Paypal Fees	2.83	
Domain	179.08	
Total Expenditure		22,814.36
Net Income		30,947.02
Balance Sheet - Year 14-03-20 to 05-04-23		
	GBP	GBP
Current Assets		
Cash at Bank	30,815.35	
Cash in Paypal	127.66	
Petty Cash	4.01	
Total Current Assets		30,947.02
Net Assets		30,947.02
Capital & Reserves		
Reserves C/F		10,473.49
Income & Expenditure Account for YE 5-4-2023		20,473.53
Reserves B/F		30,947.02
We approve the above accounts and confirm that we have made available all relevant records and information for their preparation.		
 Sarah Vaughan (Chair of Trustees)	 Date 24/01/2024	
 Robert Hutchinson (Treasurer)	 Date 24/01/2024	
 Angelo Grossi (Accountant)	 Date 24/01/2024	



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

TREES FOR BERMONDSEY

On accounts for the year
ended

05 April 2023

Charity no
(if any)

1196737

Set out on pages

1

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **05 / 04/ 2023**

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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 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

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [] if not applicable.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did 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.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Date:

24/01/2024

Name:

Neelai patel

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body

ACCA (The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants)

IER

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Oct 2018

(if any):	
Address:	31 Howcroft Crescent
	North Finchley
	London, N3 1PA

Section B	Disclosure
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Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

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