

# **The John Simonds Trust**

**“Making a difference in children’s lives”**

**Trustees Report for the year ending December 31<sup>st</sup> 2022**

John Simonds died as a nineteen-year-old in 1983, and the Trust was set up in his memory. Initially a dream arising out of tragic circumstances, the Trust is now well established at Rushall Farm and recognised nationally for its services to education in the countryside. This has not been without the unswerving support of William Cumber, and a number of local charitable trusts including Englefield, Eling and the Ernest Cook Trust. Over the past few years, the Trust has invested substantially in the Rushall Manor site to improve the safety and welfare of children, visitors and staff.

Our main objective this year was to get up and running after two very difficult years. This has truly happened, with both staff eager to do their job and schools really pleased to be here. This is a trust which is investing in the lives of children. All the research shows the enormous benefits to health of being out in the countryside and over the years we have learnt to do this well. Lives are changed by spending time at Rushall Farm. Whether that is taking measurements at a series of sites on the River Pang, learning about soils, land use, and where your food comes from. Or maybe arriving here to camp, having walked 10k as part of your DoE, or camping here with your school, or coming on a weekly basis to grow in the confidence of who you are.

We could not do this work without the generosity of many individuals and organisations and the support and goodwill of the local community, for which we are grateful.

John Bishop  
Chairman of Trustees

## **Achievements over the last 12 months**

- Organise funding for the rethatching of the barn in 2023
- Continue to develop excellent experiences for children in the countryside at Rushall Farm
- Complete move to CIO, renew the website.
- Get up and running with school visits and camps to some degree of normality in 2022 after covid shutdown

## **Plans for the next 12 months**

- Raise £50k towards the rethatching of the barn.
- Hold an event to raise the profile of the Trust and donations.
- Be able to demonstrate with data the benefits of the Growing for Good work.
- Recruit and train 3 new members of the teaching team

# **The John Simonds Trust**

**“Education in the Countryside”**

**Trustees Report for the year ending December 31<sup>st</sup> 2022**

## **Governance**

### **Charity Trustees:**

Lord Benyon  
E.A. Bishop  
E.L. Bishop  
J.D. Bishop OBE  
H. Fullerton OBE  
R. Griffiths DL  
Dr. L. Hutchins  
J. Miller DL  
T. Ruane  
D.J. Simonds DL  
S. Milner-Simonds  
D. Wraight

### **Patrons:**

Sian the Lady Crisp,

All the trustees listed above have been active in the trust. The trustees meet four times a year formally and are closely involved in all areas of the charity.

The day to day running is carried out by a committed team of staff led by the managing Trustee, John Bishop

## **Principle address**

Rushall Farm, Scratchface Lane, Bradfield, Berkshire, RG7 6DL  
[www.rushallfarm.org.uk](http://www.rushallfarm.org.uk), [jst@rushallfarm.org.uk](mailto:jst@rushallfarm.org.uk), 01189744547

### **Examiner**

Olivia Evans ACCA, Goringe Accountants, Moulden Way, Sulhampstead, RG7 4GB

### **Bankers:**

CAF Bank Ltd, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4JQ

### **Solicitors**

Blandy & Blandy 1 Friar Street, Reading RG1 1DA

Charity Commission Registration Number: 294363

# **The John Simonds Trust**

## **“Education in the Countryside”**

### **Trustees Report for the year ending December 31<sup>st</sup> 2022**

The format and content of the report and financial statements comply with the Charity Act 2011 and the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the FRSSE.

### **Structure, Governance and Management**

The John Simonds Trust was set up by Declaration of Trust dated 29 April 1986 for the advancement of education and the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare.

#### **Charitable Objects**

- Encouraging qualities of leadership, self-confidence and mutual respect in young people
- Promoting a love and understanding of the countryside
- Enabling people to learn about the countryside and agriculture
- Developing co-operation between the agricultural community and the public

#### **Governing Body**

The number of trustees must not be less than four or greater than twelve.

#### **Recruitment and Training of Trustees**

The Charity's Trustees are appointed at a meeting of the Trustees on the basis of nominations made by current Trustees with regard to personal competence, the necessary range of professional and specialist skills and availability. New Trustees are inducted into the workings of the Charity, including the Charity's policy and procedures, at an induction organised and led by the chairman. On appointment new Trustees receive full information about the Charity and a pack outlining their responsibilities, they also go through child Disclosure and Barring screening.

#### **Organisational Management**

Responsibility for the overall management and control of the Trust lies with the Trustees who meet four times per year and at other times as required by the Trust's business. The day to day running of the Trust is delegated to the Managing Trustee.



# **The John Simonds Trust**

## **Risk Management**

The Charity's Trustees are responsible for the management of the risks faced by the Charity. Financial planning, budget control and spending levels are carried out and are fully reviewed at each Trustees meeting. Health and Safety performance and issues arising are discussed at each Trustees meeting.

The key controls used by the Charity include:

- Formal agendas and minutes for all Trustee and management meetings
- Annual appraisal and monitoring of the staff
- Comprehensive strategic planning, budgeting and management accounting
- Established organisational structure and lines of reporting
- Clear authorisation and approval levels
- Vetting procedure as required by law for protection of the vulnerable
- Appropriate use of professional advice and relevant studies from independent consultants

## **Public Benefit**

There has been an increasing amount of the organised use of the services provided by the Trust which are normally available to schools and the surrounding community. In the expectation of better times the resources offered are listed below.

### **Schools activities**

- Around 10,000 school children came on day visits and school camps.
- All visits here are subsidised and more than 500 children have received free visits.
- Funding was made available for free or subsidised visits, help with transport and activities for camps for schools struggling to pay.
- 10 post sixteen children from The Castle Special School come weekly
- Oaklands was used by children from five secondary and several primary schools for our Growing for Good courses. A total of 130 children attended the 12week course.
- 8 different schools (mainly from Reading) enjoyed low cost camps
- Assistance was given to Englefield Estate running their very popular Schools Days
- A river studies programme caters for a large number of children with the cooperation of Bradfield College and other riparian owners

### **Barn, site and camps**

- The Manor Farm site has been fully restored with thatched barn, bunkhouse, kitchen, toilets and showers. Pathways for the disabled have been laid and there is a small dispersal carpark, picnic area and coach park.
- Walks and woodland trails have been opened up with permitted paths.
- Tree safety work has been carried out on woodland paths and in areas of wood with open access
- The Manor farm has been used by over 3,000 campers from schools, D of E and uniformed and church organisations.
- Leadership training for young people also takes place through church, uniformed organisations, DoE camps, command tasks and volunteer groups
- Access to the Trust was given to 9,000 people through work camps, open days, volunteer days, church camp weekends, wedding receptions, family parties, organised walks and other activities.

# The John Simonds Trust

**"Making a difference in children's lives"**

**Trustees Report for the year ending December 31<sup>st</sup> 2022**

## Financial Review and Results of Year

### Summary of Results

The John Simonds Trust had a net outflow of funds of £1,605 for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 (2021: inflow £20,056)

### Income

The total income was £207,226 (2021: £206,244). Schools generated an income of £120,539 (2021: £62,035). Income from camps and functions was £40,460 (2021: £32,672) Donations were £37,530: 2021 £69,012 and Government grant was no longer happening 2021 £35,699. Investments income was £6,913: 2021 £6,826.

### Expenditure

Expenditure was £208,831 on charitable activities, (2021: £186,188) and there were no major capital improvements to site.

### Reserves Policy

The Trustees review the reserves policy annually. Reserves are held to cover any potential commitments in the event of the charity winding up, and to cover large known costs associated with current operations. The trustees envisage any winding up to be predicted well in advance of the event, so that financial commitments will relate solely to staff redundancies and other ex gratia payments. These are estimated at £80k. Costs associated with current operations total £135k. Total reserves therefore are required to be a minimum of £215k. At December 2022 the Trust had £237,545, all in liquid investments. The Trustees consider this position satisfactory.

### Provision of information to the examiner

So far as each of the trustees is aware at the time the report is approved there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's examiner is unaware.

The above report was approved by the Trustees on... 30/03/2023

And signed on their behalf.....



John Bishop

# **The John Simonds Trust**

## **“Education in the Countryside”**

### **Trustees Report for the year ending December 31<sup>st</sup> 2022**

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities for the Year Ended 31st December 2022

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards).

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

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

The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.



# **The John Simonds Trust**

**"Education in the Countryside"**

## **Independent Examiners Report for the year ending December 31<sup>st</sup> 2022**

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

Responsibilities and basis of report:

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.

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

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records and do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act.

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.

ECrowson

Emily Crowson (FCCA)  
23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023

Goringe Accountants  
5 Theale Lake  
Moulden Way, Sulhamstead,  
Reading  
RG7 4GB

# Statement of Financial Activities for year ending 31st December 2022

	Note	2022 Total £	2021 Total £
<b>Income and Endowment from:</b>			
Donations and Legacies	2a	37,530	102,957
Charitable Activities	2b	162,783	96,461
Investments		6,913	6,826
<b>Total:</b>		<u>207,226</u>	<u>206,244</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>			
Charitable Activities	3	208,831	186,188
<b>Improvements to site</b>	7		0
Depreciation	4		0
<b>Total:</b>		<u>208,831</u>	<u>186,188</u>
Gains/(losses) on investment assets	5	-24,682	27,265
		0	
<b>Net Income/(expenditure)</b>		-1,605	47,321
		0	
Transfer Between Funds		0	0
<b>Other recognised gains /(losses):</b>		518	
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of fixed assets		0	0
		0	
<b>Net movement of funds</b>		<u>-25,769</u>	<u>47,321</u>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>			
Total Funds brought forward		263,315	215,994
Movement in Funds		-25,770	47,321
Transfers		0	0
<b>Total Funds carried forward</b>		<u>237,545</u>	<u>263,315</u>



# Balance sheet as at 31st December 2022

	Note	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	4	0	0
Investments			
<b>Total fixed assets</b>		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Current Assets:</b>			
Stocks			
Debtors			
Investments	5	208,099	232,781
Cash at bank and in hand	6	25,470	31,052
		<u>233,569</u>	<u>263,833</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Creditors: amounts within one year		3,976	-518
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		237,545	263,315
Creditors: amounts after more than one year		0	0
<b>Total net assets</b>		<u>237,545</u>	<u>263,315</u>
<b>The Funds of the charity</b>			
Unrestricted		237,545	263,315
Restricted		0	0
<b>Total charity funds</b>		<u>237,545</u>	<u>263,315</u>
Check		0	0

L. Hutchins  
Trustee

**The John Simonds Trust**

**Notes to the accounts**

**Year ended 31 December 2022**

**1. Accounting policies**

**i. Basis of preparation**

i. These accounts have been prepared on an accruals basis and have been prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS102) and with the Charities Act 2011.

**ii. Donations and legacies**

Donations and legacies are generally included in the SoFA only when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources. Income sources with conditions attached are included in the SoFA on receipt.

**iii. Volunteer help**

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts, but is described in the trustee's annual report.

**iv. Current asset investments**

Current asset investments are measured at market value.

**v. Income from charitable activities**

Income from charitable activities is included in the SoFA only when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources. Income sources with conditions attached are included in the SoFA on receipt.

**vi. Current financial instruments**

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest.

Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

**2a. Income from donations and legacies**

	2022 £	2021 £
Donations	<u>37,530</u>	<u>69,012</u>

**2b. Income from charitable activities**

	2022 £	2021 £
Visits & school camps	120,539	62,035
Barn & site use	40,460	32,672
Other includes government grant	<u>0</u>	<u>35,699</u>
	<u>160,999</u>	<u>130,406</u>

**3a. Staff costs**

	2022 £	2021 £
Wages and salaries	146,437	124,257
Social security costs	5,006	4,107
Other employee benefits		
Contract teachers	<u>7,894</u>	<u>10,830</u>
	<u>159,337</u>	<u>139,194</u>

The number of staff throughout the year was 1 full-time and 20 part time)  
No employee received emoluments exceeding £60,000 during the year.

### 3b. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Activity	Activities undertaken directly		Grant funding of activities		Support costs		Total	
	2022	£	2022	£	2022	£	2022	2021
		£		£		£	£	£
Visits & school camps	-		-		168,831		168,831	156,188
Barn & site use	-		-		40,000		40,000	30,000
	-		-		-		-	-
<b>Total</b>	-		-		208,831		208,831	186,188

### 3c. Analysis of support costs

	Raising funds		Visits school cam		Barn & site use		Total		Basis of allocation	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	2022	2021	£	£
Rent	-		5,000		5,000		10,000	10,000	Pro-rate per activity income	
Insurance	-		3,235		1,600		4,835	3,678	Pro-rate per activity income	
Site maintenance	-		10,321		10,000		20,321	12,469	{Pro-rate per activity income	
							0		{Tractor costs all allocated to visits & camps	
Electricity	-		3,000		1,816		4,816	3,546	Pro-rate per activity income	
Human resources	-		141,920		20,000		161,920	139,194	All visits and school, exc. Lindsay, who is prorated to income	
IT and other	-		3,939		3,000		6,939	11,126	Pro-rate per activity income	
Visit Subsidy	-		-		-		0	6,175		
<b>Total</b>	-		167,415		41,416		208,831	186,188		Check

The Trust has a fully repairing lease on Rushall Manor Farm from September 2019 until September 2030 at £10,000 per annum.



#### 4. All investment in site is written off in year 1.

#### 5. Investments

Value at 31 December

	Cost £	Mkt value 2022 £	Mkt value 2021 £
COIF Investment Fund Income	118,180	139,671	158,050
COIF Investment Fund Fixed Interest	30,236	7,927	9,060
Charities Property Fund	40,000	60,501	65,671
Total	188,416	208,099	232,781

#### 6. Cash at bank

	2022 £	2021 £
CAF bank	25,426	31,007
COIF charity deposit fund	45	45
	25,471	31,052

#### 7. Improvements to site in 2019

	Rushall Manor Site Oaklands	Total
£	9,025	
	90,054	
	99,079	

#### 8. Trustees expenses

There were no expenses paid to Trustees in either 2021 or 2022.

The John Simonds trust is a charity operating in the UK, and registered with the Charity Commission No. 294363 with principle office at Rushall Farm, Scratchface Lane, Bradfield, READING, RG7 6DL

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Emily Crowson (FCCA)  
23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023

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