

The John Simonds Trust

“Making a difference in children’s lives”

Trustees Report for the year ending December 31st 2023

It is 40 years since John Simonds died, a nineteen-year-old, full of life with, of course, hopes for the future. The immediate response by a small group of people was to set up a Trust based at the derelict farm at Rushall Manor. And what a journey it has been since then, with enormous support from the Cumber family who own the site and the generosity from surrounding family trusts and local people. Thousands of children have experienced the wonders of the countryside on visits and camps over the years. Many children’s lives have been enriched, and for some it has been transforming. There are those who have camped overnight as part of their DoE Award. Others have been on scout, guide or Christian youth camps, with the bonus of being baptised in the River Pang. Many on school visits will have measured the velocity and more of the river and studied the rich aquatic life beneath the surface. For others Rushall Manor has been a place for family celebration or reflection, a place which always demonstrates the fullness and diversity of creation from the bluebells in the spring to the mystery and colours of autumn in the ancient oak and hazel woodlands. So the Trust completes another year with gratitude to those who have supported the appeal for £90k this year, especially Jane Patrick our administrator who raised over £11k by cycling from Lands’ End to John O’Groats. We are so grateful to our staff, all of whom are dedicated to the well-being of children coming here. Finally the Trustees thank Jason Morley and his team, returning after 25 years to rethatch the barn, and doing it with a minimum of disruption and such high craftsmanship. it really does look great!

John Bishop

Chairman of Trustees

Achievements over the last 12 months

- Raise £50k towards the rethatching of the barn.
- 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

Plans for the next 12 months

- Plant hedge and screening in field used for DoE, restore campfire site.
- Establish pathways for encouraging schools to send children who would benefit from being here
- Pay the balance of £36k for the rethatching of the barn
- Value every child coming and measure improvements seen

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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, jst@rushallfarm.org.uk, 01189744547

Examiner

Emily Crowson, 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: 1197339

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Trustees Report for the year ending December 31st 2023

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 large numbers of children with the cooperation of Bradfield College and other riparian owners

Barn, site and camps

- The Manor Farm site has been fully restored and the barn rethatched. There is a bunkhouse, kitchen, toilets and showers. Pathways for the disabled have been laid and there is a small dispersal carpark and 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 and provision of a healthy environment 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.

The John Simonds Trust

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Financial Review and Results of Year

Summary of Results

The John Simonds Trust had a net inflow of funds of £43,631 for the year ended 31st December 2023 (2022: outflow £20,056)

Income

The total income was £262,993 (2022: £207,226). Schools generated an income of £116,715 (2022: £120,539). Income from camps and functions was £50,562 (2022: £40,460) other including transport. £12,932. Donations were £76,084: 2022 £37,530. Investments income was £7,220: 2022 £6,913.

Expenditure

Expenditure was £216,082 on charitable activities, (2022: £208,831) and £14,000 was paid as the Trust's contribution towards the rethatching of the Black Barn.

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 £170k which includes £36k needed next year toward the rethatching of the barn. Total reserves therefore are required to be a minimum of £251k. At December 2023 the Trust had £281k, 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.....

23rd May 2023

And signed on their behalf.....

John Bishop
[Signature]

The John Simonds Trust

“Education in the Countryside”

Trustees Report for the year ending December 31st 2023

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities for the Year Ended 31st December 2023

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 31st 2023

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:

- 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 order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Emily Crowson (FCCA)
16th April 2024

Goringe Accountants
1650 Waterside,
Arlington Business Park
Theale
Reading
RG7 4SA

Statement of Financial Activities for year ending 31st December 2023

	Note	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Income and Endowment from:			
Donations and Legacies	2a	76,084	37,530
Charitable Activities	2b	179,689	162,783
Investments		7,220	6,913
Total:		<u>262,993</u>	<u>207,226</u>
Expenditure on:			
Charitable Activities	3	216,082	208,830
Improvements to site	7	14,000	
Depreciation	4	0	
Total:		<u>230,082</u>	<u>208,830</u>
Gains/(losses) on investment assets	5	11,626	-24,682
Net Income/(expenditure)		44,587	-1,606
Transfer Between Funds		0	0
Other recognised gains /(losses):		-956	518
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of fixed assets		0	0
Net movement of funds		<u><u>43,631</u></u>	<u><u>-25,770</u></u>
Reconciliation of funds			
Total Funds brought forward		237,545	263,315
Movement in Funds		43,631	-25,770
Transfers		0	0
Total Funds carried forward		<u><u>281,176</u></u>	<u><u>237,545</u></u>

Balance sheet as at 31st December 2023

	Note	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	4	0	0
Investments		0	0
Total fixed assets		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Current Assets:			
Stocks			
Debtors			
Investments	5	217,725	208,099
Cash at bank and in hand	6	58,711	25,470
		<u>276,436</u>	<u>233,569</u>
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts within one year		0	0
Debtors		4,740	3,976
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>281,176</u>	<u>237,545</u>
Creditors: amounts after more than one year			
Total net assets		<u>281,176</u>	<u>237,545</u>
The Funds of the charity			
Unrestricted		281,176	237,545
Restricted		0	0
Total charity funds		<u>281,176</u>	<u>237,545</u>
Check			0
L. Hutchins			
Trustee			

The John Simonds Trust
Notes to the accounts
Year ended 31 December 2023

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

	2023	2022
	£	£
Donations	<u>76,084</u>	<u>37,530</u>

2b. Income from charitable activities

	2023	2022
	£	£
Visits & school camps	116,715	122,413
Barn & site use	50,562	40,460
Other including transport	<u>12,933</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>180,210</u>	<u>162,873</u>

3a. Staff costs

	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and salaries	135,790	146,437
Social security costs	5,581	5,006
Other employee benefits	0	0
Contract teachers	<u>15,133</u>	<u>7,894</u>
	<u>156,504</u>	<u>159,337</u>

The number of staff throughout the year was 1 full-time and 18 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	Total
	2023		2023		2023		2022			
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£		
Visits & school camps	-	-	-	-	165,676	-	165,676	168,831	-	-
Barn & site use	-	-	-	-	50,356	-	50,356	40,000	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	216,032	-	216,032	208,831	-	-

3c. Analysis of support costs

	Raising funds	Visits	Barn & site use	Total 2023	Total 2022	Basis of allocation
	£	£	£	£	£	
Rent	-	5,000	5,000	10,000	10,000	Pro-rate per activity income
Insurance	-	4,000	1,998	5,998	4,835	Pro-rate per activity income
Site maintenance	-	9,351	9,000	18,351	20,321	{Pro-rate per activity income
Electricity	-	4,000	1,358	5,358	4,816	{Tractor costs all allocated to visits & camps
Human resources	-	139,916	30,000	169,916	161,920	Pro-rate per activity income
IT and other	-	3,409	3,000	6,409	6,939	All visits and school, exc. Lindsay, who is prorated to income
Visit Subsidy	-	-	-	0	-	Pro-rate per activity income
Total	-	165,676	50,356	216,032	208,831	

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

	Mkt value	
	Cost	Mkt value
	2023	2022
	£	£
COIF Investment Fund Income	118,180	152,506
COIF Investment Fund Fixed Interest	30,236	8344
Charities Property Fund	40,000	56,876
Total	188,416	217,726

6. Cash at bank

	2023	2022
	£	£
CAF bank	58,667	25,426
COIF charity deposit fund	44	45
	58,711	25,471

7. Improvements to site in 2019

	£
Rushall Manor Site	9,025
Oaklands	90,054
2023 paid as rent	14,000
Rushall Barn Roof	

8. Trustees expenses

There were no expenses paid to Trustees in either 2022 or 2023.
The John Simonds trust is a charity operating in the UK, and registered with the Charity Commission No. 1197339 with principle office at Rushall Farm, Scratchface Lane, Bradfield, READING, RG7 6DL