

The John Simonds Trust

"Making a difference in children's lives"

Trustees Report for the year ending December 31st 2024

What a privilege it is to be able to do something that contributes to the well-being of children in such a positive way. It feels as though the Trust has come of age. Each child arriving here is special and with their teaching staff need to be looked after safely, cared for, taught and hopefully inspired by the countryside at the Rushall Manor site. We have had a remarkably busy and successful year. With some generous donations we have been able to support 3 new initiatives

- *Work with a school struggling with children transitioning successfully to secondary schools.*
- A pilot making provision available to the large number of children in West Berkshire being Home Educated
- Developing leadership training for Bradfield College.

Our thanks go to William Cumber for the continual support he and his family have given the Trust since it started in 1983 and to dedicated staff who make it all work! One school recently wrote

"What a wonderful trip! Right from the start a warm welcome. Children who on the farm for the first time will remember this day forever; lovely and caring staff as well as a very educational interactive trip. Above all we are so grateful that this trip was sponsored and we can't say thanks enough for this opportunity to visit. Not forgetting what a beautiful farm. Thank you all." Ranikhet Academy.

John Bishop
Chairman of Trustees

Achievements over the last 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

Plans for the next 12 months

- Fully assess changes to children's ability to thrive in school following Growing for Good intervention.
- Minimise the disruption to visit as a result of road closures in Bradfield.
- Work with "Five a day" to ensure that experiences for children are not diminished by not visiting their Englefield site.
- Reorganise working arrangements in the office and do staff appraisals.

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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, 1650 Arlington Business Park, Theale, Reading, RG7 4SA.

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 2024

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 FRS102.

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, resilience 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 1200 children have received free visits.
- Funding was specifically made available schools needing help with transport and activities for camps and 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 were involved.
- 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 has recently been 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.

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Financial Review and Results of Year

Summary of Results

The John Simonds Trust had a net outflow of funds of £11,803 for the year ended 31st December 2024 (2023: inflow of £43,631)

Income

The total income was £232,101 (2023: £262,993). Schools generated an income of £130,845 (2023: £116,715). Income from camps and functions was £39,766 (2023: £50,562) other including transport £12,589, (2023 £12,932). Donations were £40,604: (2023 £76,084). Investments income was £8,196: (2022 £7,220).

Expenditure

Expenditure was £211,916 on charitable activities, (2023: £216,082) and £36,000 was paid as the Trust's contribution towards the rethatching of the Black Barn.

Reserves Policy

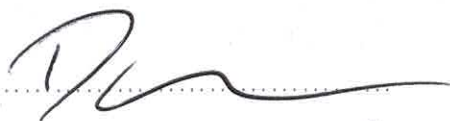
The Trustees review the reserves policy annually. Reserves are held to cover any potential commitments in the event of the charity winding up, and to cover large known costs associated with current operations. The trustees envisage any winding up to be predicted well in advance of the event, so that financial commitments will relate solely to staff redundancies and other ex gratia payments. These are estimated at £80k. Costs associated with current operations total £134k. Total reserves therefore are required to be a minimum of £214k. At December 2024 the Trust had £269k, 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... 03.07.2025

And signed on their behalf...



John Bishop

The John Simonds Trust

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Trustees Report for the year ending December 31st 2024

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities for the Year Ended 31st December 2024

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.

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Independent Examiners Report for the year ending December 31st 2024

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.



Olivia Evans (FCCA)
19th March 2025

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

Statement of Financial Activities for year ending 31st December 2024

	Note	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Income and Endowment from:			
Donations and Legacies	2a	40,604	76,084
Charitable Activities	2b	183,301	180,210
Investments		8196	7,220
Total:		<u>232,101</u>	<u>263,514</u>
Expenditure on:			
Charitable Activities	3	211,916	216,082
Improvements to site	7	36,000	14,000
Depeciation	4	0	0
Total:		<u>247,916</u>	<u>230,082</u>
Gains/(losses) on investment assets	5	4,012	11,626
Net Income/(expenditure)	minus	11,803	33,432
Transfer Between Funds		0	0
Other recognised gains /(losses):		0	-1,427
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of fixed assets		0	
Net movement of funds	minus	<u>11,803</u>	<u>43,631</u>
Reconciliation of funds			
Total Funds brought forward		281,176	237,545
Movement in Funds	minus	11,803	43,631
Transfers		0	0
Total Funds carried forward		<u>269,373</u>	<u>281,176</u>

Balance sheet as at 31st December 2024

	Note	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	4	0	0
Investments			
Total fixed assets		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Current Assets:			
Stocks			
Debtors			
Investments	5	221,737	217,725
Cash at bank and in hand	6	47,585	58,711
		<u>269,322</u>	<u>276,436</u>
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts within one year		0	0
Debtors		50	4,740
Total assets less current liabilities		269,373	281,176
Creditors: amounts after more than one year			
Total net assets		<u>269,373</u>	<u>281,176</u>
The Funds of the charity			
Unrestricted		269,373	281,176
Restricted		0	0
Total charity funds		<u>269,373</u>	<u>281,176</u>
Check			0
L. Hutchins			
Trustee	Jan-25		

The John Simonds Trust
Notes to the accounts
Year ended 31 December 2024

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 resource. 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 resource. 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	2024	2023
	£	£
Donations	<u>40,604</u>	<u>76,084</u>

2b. Income from charitable activities	2024	2023
	£	£
Visits & school camps	130,845	116,715
Barn & site use	39,766	50,562
Other including transport	<u>12,589</u>	<u>12,933</u>
	<u>183,200</u>	<u>180,210</u>

3a. Staff costs	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	137,867	135,790
Social security costs	5,700	5,581
Other employee benefits	0	0
Contract teachers	<u>8,037</u>	<u>15,133</u>
	<u>151,604</u>	<u>156,504</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 undertaker directly 2024 £	Grant funding of activities 2024 £	Support costs 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Visits & school camps	-	-	158,937	158,937	165,676
Barn & site use	-	-	52,979	52,979	50,356
	-	-	-		-
Total	-	-	211,916	-	211,916
					216,032

3c. Analysis of support costs

	Raising funds £	Visits school cam £	Barn & site use £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £	Basis of allocation
Rent	-	5,000	5,000	10,000	10,000	Pro-rate per activity in
Insurance	-	4,000	15,539	5,530	5,998	Pro-rate per activity in
Site maintenance	-	12,000	7,285	19,285	18,351	{Pro-rate per activity i
		-	-	0	0	{Tractor costs all alloc
Electricity	-	4,000	1,034	5,034	5,358	Pro-rate per activity in
Human resources	-	141,890	15,000	156,890	169,916	All visits and school, exc
IT and other	-	2,417	1,000	3,417	6,409	Pro-rate per activity in
Visit Subsidy transport	-	11,760	-	11,760	0	who is provided th
Total	-	181,067	44,858	211,916	216,032	

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

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

5. Investments

Value at 31 December	Cost £	Mkt value 2024 £	Mkt value 2023 £
COIF Investment Fund Income	118,180	155,951	152,505
COIF Investment Fund Fixed Interest	30,236	8,599	8344
Charities Property Fund	40,000	57,187	56,876
Total	188,416	221,737	217,725

6. Cash at bank

	2024 £	2023 £
CAF bank	13,753	
CAF bank	33,837	58,667
COIF charity deposit fund	45	44
	47,635	58,711

7. Improvements to site in 2019

	£
Rushall Manor Site	9,025
Oaklands	90,054
2023 paid as rent Rushall Barn Roof	14,000
2024 paid as rent Rushall Barn Roof	36,000

8. Trustees expenses

There were no expenses paid to Trustees in either 2023 or 2024.

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