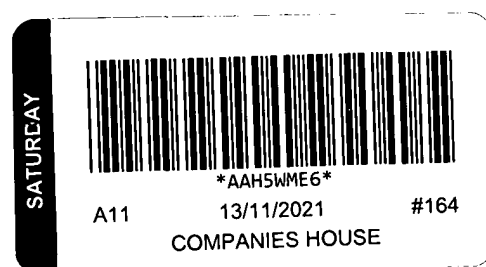


Company number: 1459056

Charity number: 279000

The Tree Council

Report and financial statements
For the year ended 31 March 2021



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The Tree Council

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The Tree Council

Reference and administrative information

For the year ended 31 March 2021

Company number 1459056
Country of incorporation United Kingdom

Charity number 279000
Country of registration England & Wales

Registered office and operational address 4 Dock Offices
Surrey Quays Road
LONDON
SE16 2XU

Trustees Trustees, who are also directors under company law, who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Joel Cadbury	Chair
Elizabeth Hiester	Deputy Chair
Jeremy Simons	
Andrew Fenwick	Treasurer
Margaret Holland-Prior	(to 13 October 2020)
Tariq Ahmed	

Key management personnel	Sara Lom	Chief Executive & Company Secretary
	Jon Stokes	Director of Trees, Science & Research
	Clare Bowen	Director of Programmes, Partnerships & Communications
	Ken Sleat	Director of Finance

Bankers CAF Bank Ltd
25 King's Hill Avenue
West Malling
ME19 4JQ

Solicitors Macfarlanes LLP
20 Cursitor Street
London EC4A 1LT

Auditor Sayer Vincent LLP
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor
Invicta House
108-114 Golden Lane
LONDON
EC1Y 0TL

The Tree Council

Trustees' annual report

For the year ended 31 March 2021

The Trustees present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Reference and administrative information set out on page 1 forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the memorandum and articles of association, the requirements of a directors' report as required under company law, and the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities: SORP applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

Objectives and activities

Purposes and aims

The Tree Council was established in 1973 when Dutch elm disease swept across the land and urgent action was required to restore precious British treescapes. In response to the loss of millions of elms, The Tree Council, a national charity, brought everyone together to plant and care for trees across the UK.

Today, nearly fifty years later, The Tree Council continues to bring people together with a shared mission to care for trees and our planet's future. We inspire and empower organisations, government, communities and individuals, providing knowledge and tools to create positive, lasting change at a national and local level.

Our work has never been more important than it is now, as we face a global climate crisis. We and our volunteers and partners are playing a key role in helping shape policy, find practical solutions, raise awareness, and deliver tree planting and tree care to help achieve the government target of carbon net zero by 2050.

We focus our work on wider treescapes rather than forests – working with partners to protect and establish copses and spinneys, hedgerows and orchards, parkland and wood pasture trees, as well as life-enhancing street trees, urban avenues, roof gardens and city playground plantations.

Our strapline, **'Working Together for the Love of Trees'** emphasises the common thread of collaboration that runs through our history. It is the truth most often echoed back to us by our partners and stakeholders, that we bring people together for the benefit of trees. It reflects our desire for partnership and our quest for practical solutions. It expresses our deep-rooted, emotional response to trees. These two things, collaboration to find practical solutions and a love for trees, combined with good care and a great sense of fun, summarise our team and its core values today.

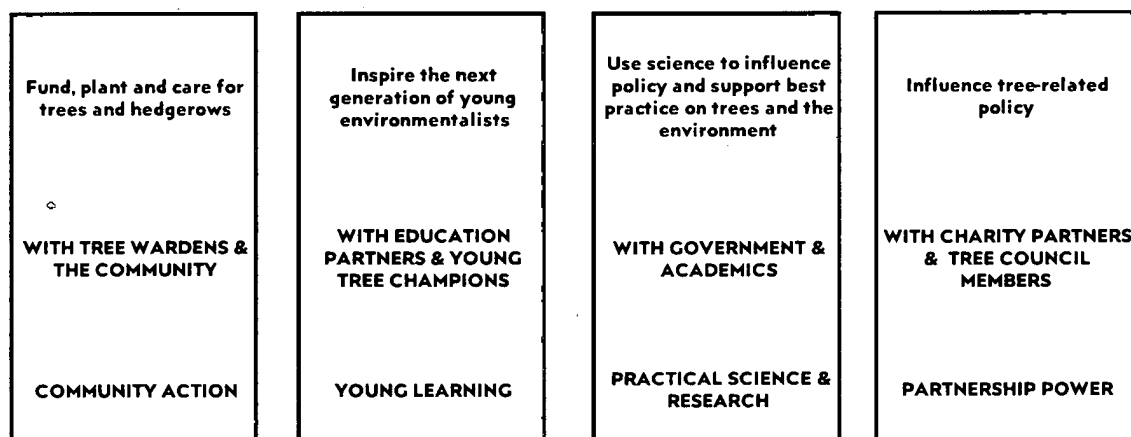
We are supported in our work by circa 6,000 amazing volunteer Tree Wardens, plus a growing force of Young Tree Champions.

We have referred to the guidance in the Charity Commission's general guidance on Public Benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning our future activities. In particular, the Trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set. In shaping our objectives for the year and planning our activities, the Trustees have also considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, including the guidance 'public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'.

Achievements & Performance

The work of The Tree Council has four branches – Community Action, Young Learning, Practical Science & Research, and Partnership. This year has seen renewal, growth and achievement in all four areas.

Working together to...



Community: The Tree Warden Scheme

The Tree Council's Tree Warden Scheme is a national initiative which supports local authorities and independent networks to promote, conserve and care for trees, bringing health and wellbeing and new skills to individuals, and an improved environment in their communities.

Tree Warden volunteers gather information about their local trees, engage and help with local issues and organise and take part in tree-related activities, such as seed growing, tree planting, tree care, woodland walks and providing alerts to pests and diseases. Their role promoting, protecting, planting and celebrating trees is vital to help tackle climate change, meet nationally ambitious planting targets, increase biodiversity, and enhance everyone's health and wellbeing.

The Tree Council

Trustees' annual report

For the year ended 31 March 2021

Tree Wardens work within local networks which, with our help and support, are set up and managed by public and civil society organisations such as local authorities, parish councils and voluntary groups. The Tree Warden Scheme was launched in 1990 in the aftermath of the Great Storm of 1987. Today there are circa 6,000 Tree Wardens helping plant and conserve trees in towns, cities and the countryside.

The Tree Council is enormously grateful to the Tree Wardens for their support. They are capable, committed and inspirational and participate in activities as our representatives, for example, gathering field data, planting and caring for trees, and disseminating information.

As part of the objective to increase communication and cooperation between and with the Tree Wardens, The Tree Council holds annual Tree Warden Forums across the country. These have been organised online since the onset of the pandemic in March 2020. The Forums are an opportunity for volunteers to hear key speakers present on locally and nationally important tree related topics and to see and hear about other Tree Wardens' projects.

In April 2020, we appointed a National Tree Warden Scheme Coordinator to support existing networks and help establish new ones. We are pleased to see the growth in interest from volunteers in Scotland and Wales, as well as across England.

The national Advisory Group with representatives and deputies from each of our nine regions is now well-established and we are delighted that, despite pandemic restrictions, we have made steady progress with the first two priorities identified by the group: training and communications.

- Thanks to an award from Postcode Community Trust, a grant-giving charity funded entirely by players of People's Postcode Lottery, we have developed an Induction programme and three training modules on Trees & The Law, Tree Biology and Tree Threats & Challenges. The training is available either for individual download as a pdf or in powerpoint for group presentations. Four further modules will be launched in 2021.
- Regular, supportive communication with the Tree Wardens has been vital throughout lockdown via monthly newsletters, a new Facebook group, webinars, and guidance notes on 'Tree planting with Covid-19 restrictions in place'.

The highlight of the year was the Tree Warden's 30th anniversary conference in September 2020 with a message from our Royal Patron, HRH The Duke of Kent and a specially commissioned celebration video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KXKlogVXeb4>

As part of their 30th anniversary activities, the Tree Wardens planted 30 disease-resistant elms across the UK, including an elm tree for our Director of Trees, Science & Research, Jon Stokes, in recognition of his dedicated 30-year service with The Tree Council.

The Tree Council

Trustees' annual report

For the year ended 31 March 2021

Community: National Tree Week 2020

The Tree Council's year has four focal points: Seed Gathering (autumn), National Tree Week (end of November), Trees Love Care (March/April), and Walk in the Woods (May). The highlight and main focus of activity is National Tree Week. Launched by The Tree Council in 1975, this is the annual event that brings everyone together to mark the start of the winter tree planting season.

This year, because of Covid-19, National Tree Week took a different form. Some tree-planting was possible, but the focus in 2020 was an online festival, celebrating trees through writing, music, cookery, art, photography and more. Highlights included:

- Leaf biscuit decoration with Great British Bake Off's Rowan Williams
- 'At home' with James Rebanks, the Herdy Shepherd
- Literary discussions with Tracy Chevalier, William Boyd, Jonathan Drori and Victoria Schwab
- Songs from the Tree Tops with Sam Lee
- Animation by The Wombles

Community: Network Rail

This year was the first in our £1 million, four-year, community planting partnership with Network Rail. Having appointed a Project Manager in July 2020, we achieved our first target to plant 20,000 trees in England by Christmas 2020.

By the end of the planting season in March 2021, despite the difficulties of lockdown, we had established 91,673 trees and 19kms of hedgerow, with 14 community partners from Cornwall to Cumbria. The schemes brought a wide variety of environmental and social benefits, including flood attenuation, ancient woodland restoration, habitat conservation and connectivity (dormice, grass snakes, slow worms), urban improvements, and climate change and air pollution mitigation.

Community: 'Close the Gap' Hedgerow Project

In December 2020, The Tree Council and Partners received confirmation that their joint £1.8m bid to the Green Recovery Challenge Fund* had been successful. The 18-month programme, called Close the Gap, aims to raise awareness of the value of hedges and establish bigger, healthier, better-connected hedgerows to help tackle climate change, capture carbon, improve biodiversity, increase wellbeing, and inspire younger generations to consider land-based careers.

Close the Gap is jointly delivered by The Tree Council, with People's Trust for Endangered Species, Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group, Moor Trees, University of Reading and Hedgelink, (the partnership organisation for those with an interest in hedgerows). The Tree Council is the lead partner guiding the delivery of the programme, supported by a Steering Group with representatives from each organisation.

*The Green Recovery Challenge Fund is funded by Defra and is being delivered by The National Lottery Heritage Fund in partnership with Natural England and the Environment Agency.

Community: Grants Programme

The Tree Council's 'Branching Out' small grants programme focuses on supporting smaller planting projects, hedges, copses and orchards – establishing the right trees, in the right places, to create greener and healthier local communities, in city and rural locations, for the benefit of the public.

The grants require the involvement of young people and, through the programme, thousands of children have engaged with the wonders of the natural world and started to explore the importance of nature in their everyday lives. They have learnt how to plant and care for trees; increased their knowledge of maths and science; discovered the joy of preparing and eating home-grown produce; and seen the benefits of working together as a team.

Equally importantly, the programme instils an understanding of the importance of trees for the future of our planet and for their own wellbeing – and it nurtures the next generation of active environmentalists.

In 2020/21, we continued to support small planting schemes with existing funds. More than 15,500 trees and hedgerow whips were funded with Branching Out grants and planted with children under the age of 16, in schools and community spaces across the UK. The young people were helped by their parents, teachers and The Tree Council's volunteer Tree Wardens.

Young Learning: National Schools Programme

Learning has underpinned The Tree Council's work for decades, whether it be skills shared with volunteer Tree Wardens, the learning acquired through science and research, or the knowledge acquired by young people benefiting from the charity's community tree planting grants.

Our learning programme has become more formal and strategic in nature following the significant receipt of funds from the Daily Mail 'Be a Tree Angel' campaign in 2019. These funds began to be disbursed in 2020/21 as we launched our new National Schools Programme. In June 2020, we appointed a new National Schools Programme Manager and in February 2021, a Programme Officer. The team is responsible for the two programme which include: 'Orchards for Schools' and 'Young Tree Champions'. The National Schools Programme's call to action is to be a #ForceForNature, with young people working together to connect, learn and share the power of trees and nature to help tackle the climate crisis.

Orchards for Schools has already planted 33,000 fruit trees and hedges in nearly 800 schools across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The schools have received a package of teacher training and curriculum-linked resources to support them in planning and learning to care for their trees and share their experiences. A further 1,100 schools have registered to plant with us next season. Online evaluation with participating teachers was very encouraging with 95% of 83 respondents finding the materials and support extremely helpful.

Young Tree Champions secured generous three-year funding from M&G plc and the programme launched in December 2020, in partnership with Speakers Trust, Learning through Landscapes and Derby University. Nearly 100 schools registered for the pilot year including primary, secondary and special schools. The aim of the programme is to inspire teachers and pupils to be a Force for Nature and tackle the climate and nature crisis. Each school benefited from free trees, a tech kit, access to an online hub to network and share activities as well as a comprehensive package of teacher training, support and resources. Pupils also took part in public speaking workshops to build their confidence and help them find their voice and become ambassadors for trees and nature.

In March 2021, the programme was given another wonderful boost with support confirmed by The Kusuma Trust (see 'Looking Forward to 2021/22 & beyond')

Science & Research: Ash Dieback and Oak Processionary Moth

The Tree Council partners with Defra, Fera Science, Forest Research, Network Rail and leading universities on a variety of research programmes that help shape national policy and best practice. We aim to increase knowledge and apply science to establish varied and biodiverse treescapes across Britain, which will be resilient to climate change and pests and diseases.

Our science and action research this year has continued to support government and local authorities in England and Scotland as they tackle threats from ash dieback and Oak Processionary Moth.

- Throughout 2020, we ran a series of workshops with Scottish local authorities, to develop the core resources for a Scottish Ash Dieback Toolkit to complement the England and Wales Toolkits published in 2019. The first draft was completed for Scottish Forestry in March 2021, for publication in June 2021.
- In tandem with our work on ash dieback, we have also focused on helping local authorities manage the risks of Oak Processionary Moth. In a series of sessions with local authorities, we have developed a draft toolkit and tested potential changes to the way the pest is managed, with a more Local Based Risk Approach. The toolkit is due for publication in October 2021.

Science & Research: Local Authority Tree Strategies

A strategic approach is one of the most important factors underpinning well-planned and resourced, thriving treescapes – and yet fewer than one third of local authorities have a tree strategy. This lack of local Tree Strategies has a negative impact on our volunteer Tree Warden networks, who are guided by and work in close cooperation with local Tree Officers.

As large and increasing numbers of local authorities are announcing climate emergencies, we are working with Defra and Fera Science to give practical guidance to help local authorities develop tree strategies for themselves. This work will culminate in a Tree Strategy Toolkit in 2021/22.

Science & Research: Shared Outcomes

This research project with Defra and Natural England aims to establish new techniques to grow 'Trees outside Woodlands' and is funded through Treasury's 'Shared Outcomes Fund'. The project's vision is to develop new ways of expanding bio-secure tree cover at reduced costs, to meet increased UK tree planting ambitions and reverse trends in tree losses. The Tree Council is co-ordinating five pilot schemes with local authority partners looking at: urban tree establishment, agro-forestry and orchards, community tree nurseries, hedgerow tree management, and subsidised planting.

Science & Research: Sentinel Treescapes

This tree-health monitoring project, in partnership with Newcastle University, Fera Science and our Norfolk Tree Wardens, will install 'tree talkers' on the trunks of Sentinel Trees and record data on their health. This year, we have identified the Sentinel Tree sites and started work on an App which will enable the Tree Wardens to download their observations alongside the data provided by the 'Tree Talkers'. This is the first step towards developing a Regional Tree Health Index, using the Sentinel Trees as signposts for the state of the wider health of the tree population.

Partnership: Hedgelink

Hedges are Britain's most widespread Priority Habitat – providing connectivity and homes to more than 130 national priority species. They have a high biodiversity and carbon storage value, as well as helping improve air quality in cities.

The Tree Council is Chair of Hedgelink, the partnership that brings everyone interested in hedgerows together, to share knowledge and ideas, to encourage and inspire, and to work with farmers and other land managers to conserve and enhance our hedgerow heritage.

The partnership comprises nearly 30 organisations including, People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES), Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG), Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE), Defra, Woodland Trust, National Farmers Union (NFU) and the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH).

This year, in addition to grant giving for hedgerows and hedgerow trees through our community programme, we have worked with partners to develop joint responses to consultations and policy announcements, such as the England Trees Action Plan and Environmental Land Management (ELM) schemes.

With the launch of 'Close the Gap', hedgerows will become an even more important component of The Tree Council's work going forward.

Partnership: National Representation

The Tree Council chairs or serves on more than a dozen, national, high-level, policy, practice and advisory boards to governments in the UK nations and EU on the topics of tree health/disease, tree safety, habitats, biodiversity, climate change, and tree features. In these fora, we represent the views and concerns of our member organisations, enhancing the operating environment and highlighting issues of concern.

Partnership: Membership

The Tree Council began as an informal coalition of tree organisations at the time Dutch elm swept through the UK and it was instituted as a registered charity in 1973.

This model of collaboration between a diverse range of public, not-for-profit and private bodies united by concern for trees is a powerful one and our membership remains the driver for lobbying, joint consultation responses, campaigning and influencing, helping to develop policy with a stronger, unified voice. We speak with the combined weight and expertise of our member organisations behind us and are generally recognised as the trusted voice of the tree sector.

In 2020/21, working with our charity coalition group, we reviewed and fed back to government on the new England Trees Action Plan (ETAP). Going forward, The Tree Council now sits on the ETAP Delivery Advisory Group. We also organised a cross-sector working group with British Land and MHCLG looking at the impact of planning reforms on urban tree planting.

On 31 March 2021, our membership stood at around 100, including not-for-profit organisations with a national remit (full members); local authorities and Tree Warden networks; consultative members; and commercial enterprises that support our objectives (associate members).

Partnership: The Queen's Green Canopy

In March 2020, The Tree Council was invited to sit on the Urban Greening Advisory Board of The Queen's Green Canopy, a unique tree planting initiative encouraging people across the UK to 'Plant a tree for the Jubilee' in honour of The Queen's 70 years of service to the nation. The Jubilee planting and tree care will take place over two winter seasons, 21/22 and 22/23.

Looking forward to 2021/22 & beyond

Community:

- In 2021, we will continue to work with the Tree Warden Advisory Group and networks of volunteer Tree Wardens to support and develop the Tree Warden Scheme, establishing new networks and supplementing the training programme with new modules relating to hedgerow management.
- We will launch a new National Hedgerow Week in May 2021 to raise public awareness of the importance and value of hedgerows and work with our partners to fulfil the other targets of 'Close the Gap'.

- We will develop our community planting partnership with Network Rail to include more trees in riparian and urban settings and work with groups with special needs.

Young Learning:

- We will continue to roll out the Orchards for Schools programme, establishing orchards and fruiting hedgerows with pupils in around 800 new schools across the UK, and providing teacher training, support and curriculum-related resources.
- Funded by Kusuma Trust, we will appoint and provide training to eight Young Ambassadors as part of our Young Tree Champions programme. The Ambassadors' role will be to inspire young people to become a #ForceForNature
- Our Young Ambassadors will also help develop an online 'Festival for Schools' in July 2021 as an extension of the Young Tree Champions programme, generously supported by M&G

Science & Research:

- We will publish the Ash Dieback Action Plan Toolkit for Scotland in June 2021 in partnership with Forestry Scotland
- We will launch the Oak Processionary Moth Toolkit for local authorities in October/November 2021 in partnership with Defra, Forestry Commission and Forest Research.
- We will launch a toolkit to support local authorities to develop local tree strategies in early 2022 in partnership with Defra, Fera Science and Forestry Commission.

Partnership:

- In 2021, we aim to develop our fundraising strategy with opportunities for individual, corporate and membership support. This will include launching a new Platinum Jubilee Membership to mark the 70th Anniversary of the reign of HM The Queen in partnership with The Queen's Green Canopy.
- The Tree Council has a heritage of convening cross-sector forums to address challenges relating to the tree sector. We aim to hold three such Forums in 2021/22.

Beneficiaries of our services

The beneficiaries of our services include: our volunteers and members; pupils and teachers participating in our National Schools Programme; communities and landowners receiving grant-funding to establish trees; local authorities supported to help tackle tree pests and diseases and plan future tree strategies; our coalition of conservation charities whom we bring together to comment on consultations and address tree-related challenges; and the UK general public who receive the important social benefits of our tree, hedgerow and orchard planting. In addition, our work helps conserve wildlife and habitats, improves biodiversity and contributes to tackling climate change and safeguarding the future health of our planet. All these are covered in greater detail in the achievements and performance section above

Financial review

The Tree Council is entirely self-funding with income generated through grants and gifts from major donors, charitable trusts, corporate partnership, membership fees and legacy giving.

In 2020/21, the charity achieved the most successful financial year in its history, mainly due to grants from Network Rail, Close the Gap and M&G plc which boosted restricted income to £855,668. Restricted expenditure increased by £727,029 to £761,066 so restricted reserves increased by £94,602.

The charity's unrestricted reserves increased by £22,586. Total income for the year was £1,294,902 (compared to £1,063,358 the previous year) and total expenditure was £1,177,714 (compared to £510,660 last year).

Unrestricted reserves at the end of the financial year were £278,979 and restricted reserves (mainly tree planting funds) were £801,138. Total reserves were £1,080,117.

The 'Tree Angel' campaign had a long-term beneficial effect on The Tree Council's financial stability, as did the multi-year partnerships agreed with Network Rail and M&G, combined with other corporate support.

Reserves policy and going concern

It is the policy of the Tree Council to maintain unrestricted funds at a level which equates to at least six months core costs. The budgeted core costs for 2020/21 are about £470,000 and so unrestricted reserves at £278,979 are currently equivalent to over seven months of core costs.

The Trustees continue to keep the risks facing The Tree Council under close review and ensure that costs are carefully controlled. The Trustees continue to keep all the reserves in the form of interest-earning bank accounts and deposits.

The Trustees, as part of their continuous risk assessment, monitor the implications of the current Covid-19 pandemic and their normal activities. The Tree Council has generated many new contracts during the pandemic and is confident of its ability to operate as a going concern. Specifically, the Trustees reviewed the charity's profitability and cash flows in September 2021 and confirm that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Risk Assessment

The Board maintains a risk assessment system which is based on a numerical assessment of risk, with an accompanying management commentary. Trustees consider these reports regularly both for the organisation as a whole and for major projects. The aim is to highlight and measure potential risks to the success of an activity or process, assess the impact, and put in place appropriate management action. The system encompasses all areas of our activities, although the

continuing increased projects and programmes with corporate partners marks this area out for ongoing development.

Accordingly, we can confirm that the major risks to which the Council is exposed have been reviewed and systems are in place to mitigate those risks.

Fundraising

The charity's fundraising objective was to reach £1m sustainable annual income by 2021, of which c25% to be unrestricted. This has been achieved and will enable us to develop and, in the longer-term, establish ambitious programmes for public benefit in our four key areas of work: Community Action, Young Learning, Practical Science & Research, and Partnership. After achieving £1m income for the first-time last year, we increased income by over 20% this year (with little significant additional fundraising expenditure) and are working towards higher income for the next two years, although there is still much work to be done to ensure ongoing and vital unrestricted funds.

The current approach focuses on a mix of corporate partnerships, research applications and philanthropic fundraising. Our fundraising does not include direct marketing or telephone campaigns and we remain mindful at all times of the need to safeguard vulnerable people.

The Tree Council does not use professional fundraisers or agencies and received no complaints in this financial year.

Structure, governance and management

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 5 December 1979 and registered as a charity on 17 December 1979.

The company was established under a memorandum of association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its articles of association.

All Trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the charity. The Trustees have not claimed any expenses.

The members of the Board of Trustees meet regularly to review its affairs, review the charity's aims, objectives and activities, as well as report on the benefits for the public good. In early 2020, the Board established a Finance Committee, chaired by the Treasurer, to oversee the charity's financial affairs, to report to the Board and make recommendations as appropriate at each meeting.

The Chief Executive, Sara Lom, together with the Senior Team comprising the Director of Trees, Science & Research, the Director of Programmes, Partnerships & Comms and the Director of Finance manage the day-to-day administration of the charity.

I would like to thank our outgoing Trustee, Margaret Holland-Prior, for her outstanding support and my fellow Trustees for their wonderful commitment and shared expertise.

We have continued the increase in core staff & have welcomed Sam Village, Richard Pollard, Lewis Morrison, Gemma Woodfall, Louise Bowe, Dominic Quinn and Juliette Colaco, during the year. Many thanks to the ongoing team, Sara Lom, Jon Stokes, Clare Bowen, Holly Chetan-Welsh, Harriet Rix & Geraldine Creaven who juggle daily deadlines and a wide range of national projects and programmes – always with enthusiasm, professionalism and smiles on their faces.

Appointment of Trustees

The Tree Council subscribes to the seven principles of the Nolan Rules in appointing trustees. These are: selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership. In addition, the Tree Council looks for the following qualities, skills and experience:

- An appreciation of the importance of trees and the environment
- A willingness to make the time commitment to attend Board meetings, strategic review meetings and other related meetings and activities, including familiarisation with the work of the Council
- An ability to think strategically, formulate direction for the organisation and support management
- An ability to contribute to board discussions, seek advice, exercise sound judgement and contribute to good governance
- A willingness to use their networks on behalf of the Council, in advocacy, fund-raising (including pro bono contributions), public affairs and communications

The number of Trustees is required to be no less than three, with no maximum number. One third of Trustees retire at each annual meeting and are eligible for reappointment, subject to the provision in the Articles that Trustees shall normally serve for no more than six years.

The Board is responsible for ensuring that an appropriate succession strategy is adopted for the replacement of Trustees. The Chair and Chief Executive take responsibility for informing the Board when new Trustees need to be appointed.

In order to identify Trustees, when a vacancy is about to occur, the Chair and Chief Executive review the balance of skills, attributes and experience on the current Board relative to the future needs of the organisation. Trustees are appointed to ensure the positive evolution of the charity. Prior to appointment, new Trustees meet formally with at least two current Trustees and usually attend at least one Board Meeting as an observer.

Induction for new Trustees is carried out by the Chief Executive and includes familiarisation with people, activities and events over a number of months.

Remuneration policy for key management personnel

The Tree Council formed a Remunerations Committee, consisting of 3 appropriately experienced Trustees, during the year, to review the remuneration of all employees, based on market data and performance.

Statement of responsibilities of the Trustees

The Trustees (who are also directors of The Tree Council for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. 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 judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware
- The Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

The Tree Council

Trustees' annual report

For the year ended 31 March 2021

Our 14 (2020 14) Constitutional Members guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £10 to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up. The Trustees are members of the charity but this entitles them only to voting rights. The Trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

Auditor

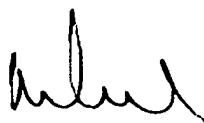
Sayer Vincent LLP was appointed as the charitable company's auditor during the year and has expressed its willingness to continue in that capacity.

The Trustees' annual report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

The Trustees' annual report has been approved by the Trustees on 12 October 2021 and signed on their behalf by



Joel Cadbury
Chairman



Andrew Fenwick
Treasurer

Independent auditor's report

To the members of

The Tree Council

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Tree Council (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2021 which comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet, statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- Give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2021 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended
- Have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice
- Have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on The Tree Council's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Independent auditor's report

To the members of

The Tree Council

Other Information

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- The information given in the trustees' annual report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- The trustees' annual report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' annual report. We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- Adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- The financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- Certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- We have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- The directors were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the trustees' annual report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities set out in the trustees' annual report, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of

Independent auditor's report

To the members of

The Tree Council

company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud are set out below.

Capability of the audit in detecting irregularities

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, our procedures included the following:

- We enquired of management, which included obtaining and reviewing supporting documentation, concerning the charity's policies and procedures relating to:
 - Identifying, evaluating, and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
 - Detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected, or alleged fraud;
 - The internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- We inspected the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the charity operates in, focusing on those laws and regulations that had a material effect on the financial statements or that had a fundamental effect on the operations of the charity from our professional and sector experience.

Independent auditor's report

To the members of

The Tree Council

- We communicated applicable laws and regulations throughout the audit team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit.
- We reviewed any reports made to regulators.
- We reviewed the financial statement disclosures and tested these to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- We performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud.
- In addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, we tested the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments, assessed whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias and tested significant transactions that are unusual or those outside the normal course of business.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Fleur Holden (Senior statutory auditor)

10 November 2021

for and on behalf of Sayer Vincent LLP, Statutory Auditor

Invicta House, 108–114 Golden Lane, LONDON, EC1Y 0TL

The Tree Council

Statement of financial activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account)

For the year ended 31 March 2021

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2021 Total £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2020 Total £
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	2	39,504	-	39,504	56,829	-	56,829
Charitable activities							
Tree and hedge planting		-	712,868	712,868	-	668,260	668,260
Science, education and community	3	396,708	142,800	539,508	331,148	-	331,148
Investments	4	392	-	392	589	-	589
Other		2,629	-	2,629	6,532	-	6,532
Total income		439,234	855,668	1,294,902	395,098	668,260	1,063,358
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	5	139,540	19,838	159,378	100,548	-	100,548
Charitable activities							
Tree and hedge planting	5	56,266	741,228	797,495	138,372	34,037	172,409
Science, education and community	5	220,842	-	220,842	237,703	-	237,703
Total expenditure		416,648	761,066	1,177,714	476,623	34,037	510,660
Net income / (expenditure)		22,586	94,602	117,187	(81,525)	634,223	552,698
Transfer between funds		-	-	-	72,880	(72,880)	-
Net movement in funds		22,586	94,602	117,187	(8,645)	561,343	552,698
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward		256,393	706,536	962,930	265,038	145,193	410,231
Total funds carried forward		278,979	801,138	1,080,117	256,393	706,536	962,929

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in Note 18a to the financial statements."

The Tree Council

Balance sheet

Company no. 01459056

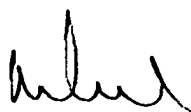
As at 31 March 2021

	Note	£	2021 £	£	2020 £
Fixed assets:					
Tangible assets	12		<u>3,859</u>		<u>6,946</u>
			3,859		6,946
Current assets:					
Debtors	13	153,620		184,223	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>1,149,210</u>		<u>832,921</u>	
		1,302,831		1,017,144	
Liabilities:					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	<u>(226,574)</u>		<u>(61,161)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>1,076,257</u>		<u>955,983</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>1,080,117</u>		<u>962,929</u>
Total net assets			<u><u>1,080,117</u></u>		<u><u>962,929</u></u>
The funds of the charity:	17a				
Restricted income funds			801,138		706,536
Unrestricted income funds:					
General funds		<u>278,979</u>		<u>256,393</u>	
Total unrestricted funds			<u>278,979</u>		<u>256,393</u>
Total charity funds			<u><u>1,080,117</u></u>		<u><u>962,929</u></u>

Approved by the trustees on 12 October 2021 and signed on their behalf by:



Joel Cadbury
Chairman



Andrew Fenwick
Treasurer

The Tree Council

Statement of cash flows

For the year ended 31 March 2021

	Note	2021 £	£	2020 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Net income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)		117,187		552,698	
Depreciation charges		4,941		4,112	
(Increase)/decrease in debtors		30,603		(99,603)	
Increase/(decrease) in creditors		165,413		18,776	
Net cash provided by operating activities		318,144		475,983	
Cash flows from investing activities:					
Purchase of fixed assets		(1,854)		(1,798)	
Net cash used in investing activities		(1,854)		(1,798)	
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		316,289		474,185	
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		832,921		358,736	
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		1,149,210		832,921	
Analysis of cash and cash equivalents					
	At 1 April 2020 £	Cash flows £	Other non- cash changes £	At 31 March 2021 £	
Cash at bank and in hand	832,921	316,289	-	1,149,210	
Total cash and cash equivalents	832,921	316,289	-	1,149,210	

1 Accounting policies

a) Statutory information

The Tree Council is a charitable company limited by guarantee and is incorporated in England and Wales.

The registered office address is 4 Dock Offices, Surrey Quays Road, LONDON, SE16 2XU

b) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) – (Charities SORP FRS 102), The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy or note.

In applying the financial reporting framework, the trustees have made a number of subjective judgements, for example in respect of significant accounting estimates. Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. The nature of the estimation means the actual outcomes could differ from those estimates. Any significant estimates and judgements affecting these financial statements are detailed within the relevant accounting policy below.

c) Public benefit entity

The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

d) Going concern

The trustees have considered the current covid-19 pandemic and their normal activities and confirm that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. In particular they have reviewed the future cash flows and commitments and have ascertained that there are sufficient unrestricted reserves and future cash flows to confirm that the charity is a going concern.

Key judgements that the charity has made which have a significant effect on the accounts include estimating the liability for multi-year grant commitments

The trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

e) Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and that the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

For legacies, entitlement is taken as the earlier of the date on which either: the charity is aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor(s) to the charity that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate. Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably and the charity has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution. Where legacies have been notified to the charity, or the charity is aware of the granting of probate, and the criteria for income recognition have not been met, then the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed if material.

Income received in advance of the provision of a specified service is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met.

1 Accounting policies (continued)

f) Donations of gifts, services and facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item or received the service, any conditions associated with the donation have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), volunteer time is not recognised so refer to the trustees' annual report for more information about their contribution.

On receipt, donated gifts, professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

g) Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

h) Fund accounting

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund.

Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources received or generated for the charitable purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.

i) Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Costs of raising funds relate to the costs incurred by the charity in inducing third parties to make voluntary contributions to it, as well as the cost of any activities with a fundraising purpose
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs of delivering services, exhibitions and other educational activities undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into any other heading

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

j) Grants payable

Grants payable are made to third parties in furtherance of the charity's objects. Single or multi-year grants are accounted for when either the recipient has a reasonable expectation that they will receive a grant and the trustees have agreed to pay the grant without condition, or the recipient has a reasonable expectation that they will receive a grant and that any condition attaching to the grant is outside of the control of the charity.

Provisions for grants are made when the intention to make a grant has been communicated to the recipient but there is uncertainty about either the timing of the grant or the amount of grant payable.

1 Accounting policies (continued)

k) Allocation of support costs

Resources expended are allocated to the particular activity where the cost relates directly to that activity. However, the cost of overall direction and administration of each activity, comprising the salary and overhead costs of the central function, is apportioned on the following basis which are an estimate, based on staff time, of the amount attributable to each activity.

Where information about the aims, objectives and projects of the charity is provided to potential beneficiaries, the costs associated with this publicity are allocated to charitable expenditure.

Where such information about the aims, objectives and projects of the charity is also provided to potential donors, activity costs are apportioned between fundraising and charitable activities on the basis of salary time by each activity each year. For this year the percentages are

● Tree and hedge planting	38%
● Education and community activities	24%
● Fundraising	21%
● Support costs	12%
● Governance costs	5%

Support and governance costs are re-allocated to each of the activities on the following basis which is an estimate, based on staff time, of the amount attributable to each activity

● Tree and hedge planting	46%
● Education and community activities	29%
● Fundraising	25%

Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the charity. These costs are associated with constitutional and statutory requirements and include any costs associated with the strategic management of the charity's activities.

l) Operating leases

Rental charges are charged on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

m) Tangible fixed assets

Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £500. Depreciation costs are allocated to activities on the basis of the use of the related assets in those activities. Assets are reviewed for impairment if circumstances indicate their carrying value may exceed their net realisable value and value in use.

Where fixed assets have been revalued, any excess between the revalued amount and the historic cost of the asset will be shown as a revaluation reserve in the balance sheet.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. Fixtures & Fittings and Office & Computer Equipment are depreciated over 3 years.

n) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

o) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

p) Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

1 Accounting policies (continued)

q) Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value

2 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2021 Total £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2020 Total £
Donations and legacies	10,440	-	10,440	26,088	-	26,088
Friends of the Tree Council	23,034	-	23,034	13,401	-	13,401
Subscriptions	6,030	-	6,030	17,340	-	17,340
	<u>39,504</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>39,504</u>	<u>56,829</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>56,829</u>

3 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2021 Total £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2020 Total £
Tree and hedge planting						
Network Rail	-	395,000	395,000	-	-	-
Close the Gap	-	250,000	250,000	-	-	-
Tree planting grants	-	58,268	58,268	20,000	668,260	688,260
Science, education and community						
M & G	-	142,800	142,800	-	-	-
Kusuma Trust	-	9,600	9,600	-	-	-
Consultancy	396,708	-	396,708	311,148	-	311,148
Total income from charitable activities	<u>396,708</u>	<u>855,668</u>	<u>1,252,376</u>	<u>331,148</u>	<u>668,260</u>	<u>999,408</u>

4 Income from investments

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2021 Total £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2020 Total £
Income from cash deposits	392	-	392	589	-	589
	<u>392</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>392</u>	<u>589</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>589</u>

The Tree Council

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2021

5a Analysis of expenditure (current year)

	Charitable activities						
	Raising funds £	Tree and hedge planting £	Science, Education and community involvement £	Governance costs £	Support costs £	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
Staff costs (Note 8)	90,899	191,672	165,538	37,749	44,328	530,185	355,921
Tree Warden Scheme	-	-	7,611	-	-	7,611	12,844
Office and Facility costs	-	-	-	-	25,843	25,843	48,234
Grants Payable (Note 6)	-	503,884	-	-	-	503,884	33,617
Audit and other governance costs	-	600	-	8,691	-	9,291	8,690
Recruitment, Training & Consultancy	-	24,921	-	-	17,610	42,531	2,336
Website, IT, data management & telephone costs	-	-	-	-	21,483	21,483	13,507
Marketing and Brand costs	27,962	-	-	-	-	27,962	9,841
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	4,941	4,941	4,112
Travel costs	258	2,343	993	-	388	3,983	21,559
	119,120	723,420	174,142	46,440	114,593	1,177,714	510,660
Support costs	28,648	52,713	33,232	-	(114,593)	-	-
Governance costs	11,610	21,362	13,467	(46,440)	-	-	-
Total expenditure 2021	159,378	797,495	220,842	-	-	1,177,714	
Total expenditure 2020	100,548	100,548	237,703	-	-		510,660

The Tree Council

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2021

5b Analysis of expenditure (prior year)

		Charitable activities				
	Raising funds £	Tree and hedge planting £	Science, Education and community involvement £	Governance costs £	Support costs £	2020 Total £
Staff costs (Note 8)	42,663	92,371	158,885	21,277	40,725	355,921
Tree Warden Scheme	-	-	12,844	-	-	12,844
Office and Facility costs	-	-	-	-	48,234	48,234
Grants Payable (Note 6)	-	33,617	-	-	-	33,617
Audit and other governance costs	-	-	-	8,690	-	8,690
Recruitment, Training & Consultancy	-	-	-	-	2,336	2,336
Website, IT, data management & telephone costs	-	-	-	-	13,507	13,507
Marketing and Brand costs	9,841	-	-	-	-	9,841
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	4,112	4,112
Travel costs	2,596	11,235	-	-	7,728	21,559
	55,100	137,223	171,729	29,967	116,642	510,660
Support costs	36,159	27,994	52,489	-	(116,642)	-
Governance costs	9,290	7,192	13,485	(29,967)	-	-
Total expenditure 2020	100,548	172,409	237,703	-	-	510,660

The Tree Council

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2021

6a Grant making (current year)

	Grants to institutions £	Support costs £	2021 £
Cost			
Network Rail	277,257	-	277,257
M & G	43,194	-	43,194
Schools & community groups	183,433	-	183,433
At the end of the year	503,884	-	503,884

During 2021 and 2020 the Tree Council used an internal committee to assess grant applications as well as having a joint committee with Network Rail for the grants made from their restricted funds. The most significant individual grants were Farming and Wildlife Advosory Group South West £32,987, Harting Parish Council £32,179 & Another Way Cumbria £31,229.

6b Grant making (prior year)

	Grants to institutions £	Support costs £	2020 £
Cost			
Schools, community groups and Good Gifts Guide	33,617	420	34,037
At the end of the year	33,617	420	34,037

7 Net income for the year

This is stated after charging / (crediting):

	2021 £	2020 £
Depreciation	4,941	4,112
Auditor's remuneration (excluding VAT):		
Audit	7,750	7,600

8 Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel

Staff costs were as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
Salaries and wages	456,642	306,212
National insurance	44,389	29,427
Employer's contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	29,154	20,282
	<u>530,185</u>	<u>355,921</u>

The following number of employees received employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs and employer's national insurance) during the year between:

	2021 No.	2020 No.
£60,000 – £69,999	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

The total employee benefits (including pension contributions and employer's national insurance) of the key management personnel were £236,125 (2020: £221,025).

The charity trustees were neither paid nor received any other benefits from employment with the charity in the year (2020: £nil). No charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2020: £nil).

There were no payments to trustees for expenses (2020: nil).

9 Staff numbers

The average number of employees (head count based on number of staff employed) during the year was 12.2 (2020: 7.6).

Staff are split across the activities of the charity as follows (full time equivalent basis):

	2021 No.	2020 No.
Education and Community	2.8	2.4
Fundraising and publicity	2.5	1.6
Tree planting	4.5	1.2
Support	1.4	1.1
Governance	0.6	0.3
	<u>11.7</u>	<u>6.6</u>

10 Related party transactions

There are no related party transactions to disclose for 2021 (2020: none).

There are no donations from related parties which are outside the normal course of business and no restricted donations from related parties.

The Tree Council

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2021

11 Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures and furniture £	Office and computer equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At the start of the year	2,838	38,413	41,251
Additions in year	-	1,854	1,854
At the end of the year	2,838	40,267	43,105
Depreciation			
At the start of the year	2,838	31,467	34,305
Charge for the year	-	4,941	4,941
At the end of the year	2,838	36,408	39,246
Net book value			
At the end of the year	-	3,859	3,859
At the start of the year	-	6,946	6,946

All of the above assets are used for charitable purposes.

13 Debtors

	2021 £	2020 £
Grants and sponsorship receivable	140,249	112,923
Prepayments and other debtors	11,832	11,368
Accrued income	1,539	59,932
	153,620	184,223

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade creditors	134,033	6,626
Taxation and social security	66,372	38,708
Accruals	26,169	15,827
	226,574	61,161

15 Pension scheme

The company pays 7% to nest for its employees, and the employee contributes 1% in compliance with the rules of auto enrolment.

16a Analysis of net assets between funds (current year)

	General unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	3,859	-	-	3,859
Net current assets	275,120		801,138	1,076,258
Net assets at 31 December 2021	278,979	-	801,138	1,080,117

16b Analysis of net assets between funds (prior year)

	General unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	6,946	-	-	6,946
Net current assets	249,447		706,536	955,983
Net assets at 31 December 2020	256,393	-	706,536	962,929

17a Movements in funds (current year)

	At 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2021 £
Restricted funds:					
Branching Out 1	141,195	18,970	(50,902)	-	109,263
Vernon Hill Branching Out 2	110,237	-	(28,587)	-	81,650
Good Gifts Guide	10,411	-	-	-	10,411
Tree Angel Planting Funds	39,821	14,098	(1,570)	-	52,349
Orchards for Schools	404,244	-	(112,201)	-	292,043
Special Assignment Fund	628	-	-	-	628
Network Rail Fund	-	395,000	(393,193)	-	1,807
M & G Fund	-	142,800	(113,361)	-	29,439
Siemens Fund	-	25,200	(5,410)	-	19,790
Close the Gap Fund	-	250,000	(54,882)	-	195,118
Kusuma Trust Fund	-	9,600	(960)	-	8,640
Total restricted funds	706,536	855,668	(761,066)	-	801,138
General funds	256,393	439,234	(416,648)	-	278,979
Total unrestricted funds	256,393	439,234	(416,648)	-	278,979
Total funds	962,929	1,294,902	(1,177,714)	-	1,080,117

The narrative to explain the purpose of each fund is given at the foot of the note below.

17b Movements in funds (prior year)

	At 2 April 2019 £	Income & gains £	Expenditure & losses £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2020 £
Restricted funds:					
Branching Out 1	134,154	46,676	(30,300)	(9,335)	141,195
Vernon Hill Branching Out 2	-	125,000	(2,263)	(12,500)	110,237
Good Gifts Guide	10,411	-	-	-	10,411
Special Assignment Fund	628	-	-	-	628
Tree Angel Planting Funds	-	46,584	(718)	(6,045)	39,821
Orchards for Schools	-	450,000	(756)	(45,000)	404,244
Total restricted funds	145,193	668,260	(34,037)	(72,880)	706,536
Unrestricted funds:					
General funds	265,038	395,098	(476,623)	72,880	256,393
Total unrestricted funds	265,038	395,098	(476,623)	72,880	256,393
Total funds	410,231	1,063,358	(510,660)	-	962,929

Purposes of restricted funds

The Branching Out 1 Tree Planting Funds are for planting with schools and community groups. The majority of the funds have been donated by an anonymous donor's Charitable Trust.

The Vernon Hill Branching Out 2 Tree Planting Funds are for planting projects for schools and community groups. The Fund was made possible by a generous gift from Vernon Hill to the Daily Mail 'Be a Tree Angel' campaign.

The Good Gifts Catalogue makes grants to the Tree Council for the planting of oak saplings, bluebell woods and meadows of flowers.

The Special Assignment Fund is to carry out specific tree research projects in overseas countries.

Tree Angel Funds are dedicated to a variety of tree planting and have been funded by public and corporate gifts to the 'Be a Tree Angel' campaign.

The Orchards for Schools Funds are to fund orchards and fruiting hedgerows planting in schools. The fund was created following generous gifts from Lord Sugar, Richard Caring and Sir Jony Ive plus an anonymous donor following the Daily Mail campaign.

The Network Rail Fund is a four-year programme of community tree and hedgerow planting in cities and the countryside, mainly in England.

M&G Fund is a three-year programme dedicated to inspiring young people in schools across the UK to become Young Tree Champions and to gain the skills to become a #ForceForNature

The Green Recovery Fund supports an 18-month programme, 'Close the Gap', to establish bigger, healthier, better connected hedgerows and hedgerow trees in England, working with Defra, National Lottery Heritage Fund and five charity partners

The Welsh Trees Siemens fund is dedicated to a tree planting project with the local community at Wolf's Castle in Pembrokeshire

The Kusuma Trust funds The Tree Council's Young Ambassadors programme

18 Operating lease commitments payable as a lessee

The charity's total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases is as follows for each of the following periods

	Land and buildings	
	2021	2020
	£	£
Within one year	-	22,200
	-	22,200

19 Legal status of the charity

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The liability of each member in the event of winding up is limited to £10.