WONDERSEEKERS

England & Wales · Charity number 294582

Details

Other names	INTECH, THE HAMPSHIRE TECHNOLOGY CENTRE TRUST LTD, WINCHESTER SCIENCE CENTRE, Winchester Science Centre
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	02014929
Registered	1986-06-04
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Telegraph Way Winchester Hampshire SO21 1HZ
Phone	01962863791
Email	info@winchestersciencecentre.org
Website	www.winchestersciencecentre.org

Activities

Objects: TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION, KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE PUBLIC IN PARTICULAR THE YOUNG, IN BASIC TECHNOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC PRINCIPLES AND PROCESSES, PARTICULARLY THROUGH THE IMPROVEMENT OF LINKS BETWEEN INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL BODIES AND INSTITUTIONS.

Activities: Wonderseekers is an educational charity that inspires children through science, particularly those who face barriers to participation. The charity delivers outreach programmes in schools and communities and operates Winchester Science Centre. Founded in 1986, the charity is committed to inclusion, accessibility and sustainability.

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Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space
- **What:** Education/training, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Throughout England

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£3,682,657	£3,874,576	£3,416,991	88
2024-03-31	£3,767,000	£3,320,000	£3,609,000	101
2023-03-31	£3,521,000	£3,370,000	£3,162,000	50
2022-03-31	£3,630,000	£2,869,000	£3,011,000	42
2021-03-31	£1,488,000	£1,849,000	£2,250,000	56

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Dr Janet Owen	Chair	2023-10-18
Dr Rutang Thanawalla		2021-10-21
James Sheppard		2025-07-17
Janet May		2025-07-17
Linda Sharon Taylor		2023-10-18
Malcolm Hugh David Kemp		2023-10-18
Phyllida Mary James		2021-10-21
Robert Wayman		2026-02-25
Tariro Yvonne Rowland		2023-10-18
Thomas Wyman		2023-10-18

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WONDERSEEKERS

England & Wales - Charity number 294582

Accounts

For people and planet

Annual Report 2024/25

Wonderseekers

Registered Charity No. 294582
Registered Company No. 02014929

Wonderseekers

Our promise to children

We know great partnerships are built on trust. Our partnership with our beneficiaries, the children we engage and work with, is crucially important. We live by our values but to help demonstrate this to children, we've set out the following promises, especially for them. They also help communicate our ethical principles to our partners, supporters and funders.

1. We promise to always put your safety and wellbeing first.
2. We promise to do our best to make you feel welcome and valued.
3. We promise to share lots of different stories about the world around us, including yours.
4. We promise to run Wonderseekers with you.
5. We promise to take good care of anything you share with us.
6. We promise to explore science together, in ways that make sense to you.
7. We promise to do our best for the planet.
8. We promise to create opportunities for you to make a difference.
9. We promise to work with organisations that have both yours and the planet's best interests at heart.
10. We promise to be honest about our mistakes and learn from them.

These promises to children, along with our legal duty, guide our behaviour.

They help us to make decisions that are right for you, for our Charity and for our world.

Report of the trustees and strategic report

The Board of Trustees is pleased to present their annual trustees' report together with consolidated financial statements of the Charity and its trading subsidiary for the year ending 31st March 2025.

The report is prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes. The trustees' report and financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and 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).

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Chair and CEO welcome

At Wonderseekers, we've always believed in the power of science to inspire children, spark new ways of thinking, and shape a better future for people and planet.

Over the past year, this belief has only grown stronger, even as the world has grown more complex and challenging for the children we serve, and for the charity sector at large.

Families continue to feel the impact of the cost-of-living crisis, while schools face stretched resources and shrinking time for science within the curriculum. The climate emergency and biodiversity loss cast a long shadow over the future our children are inheriting, yet access to nature, meaningful science experiences and hopeful solutions often feel out of reach. These are not small challenges. But they are ones that science, and children, are uniquely equipped to respond to, if given the opportunity.

This year, Wonderseekers rose to meet these realities with creativity, resilience and deep commitment. We reached over 196,000 people through our Science Centre, schools and community programmes, 140,000 of these experienced a planetarium show. We supported over 16,700 children through our Equity and Outreach programme alone, many of whom had never experienced science in a hands-on, joyful way before. From co-creating exhibitions with children, to embedding inclusive design into every experience, we have continued to expand our impact while staying true to our values.

One of our proudest achievements was the launch of Sound of Biodiversity, a ground-breaking project that brought children, scientists and Wonderseekers together as equal partners. Together, they explored the science of soundscapes, created a new interactive exhibit, and transformed school grounds into a space where nature and imagination can thrive. It's just one example of how our equitable partnership model is changing the way science is shared, understood and celebrated.

We also made great strides in early years engagement and inclusive design, laying the foundation for a new outdoor learning experience and advancing accessibility at Winchester Science Centre through innovations like our Discovery Pens. Despite a tough summer for visitor numbers, a challenge mirrored across the sector, we saw record growth in our events programme and a strong return to form during the festive period, demonstrating the enduring appeal of science when it's delivered with heart and imagination.

None of this would have been possible without our incredible team, trustees, volunteers, partners and supporters. To every funder, school, collaborator and friend who has walked alongside us this year: thank you. Your belief in our mission enables us to reach the children who need us most, and helps those children believe in themselves.

As we look ahead to the next year and beyond, we remain ambitious. We will continue to champion equity in science, to prioritise sustainability, and to listen deeply to the children at the heart of our work. Together, we can create a future where all children, regardless of background or circumstance, have the opportunity to explore, to wonder, and to thrive.

With gratitude,

Dr. Janet Owen
FRSA, AMA, MA (Cantab), MA
Chair of Trustees

Ben Ward
FRSA
Chief Executive Officer

Why we need your support

"Few national priorities are more critical than how we equip the next generations for the future." wrote Dr. Morgan Phillips, Global Action Plan and Professor Nicola Walshe, University College London in an open letter to the UK Secretary of State for Education in February 2025.

Empowering all children with science skills has never been more important than it is right now.

"This is especially urgent today," Dr. Phillips and Prof. Walshe continue "when our need to scale up efforts to combat the climate and environmental crises may be compromised by growing skill shortages and talent gaps."

But the climate and biodiversity crises aren't the only challenges requiring innovative solutions and collective input. In fact, it's hard to think of an area of our modern lives that isn't impacted by science and technology.

Science skills are as fundamental as numeracy and literacy to solving the challenges we face. Wonderseekers believes that with science, children can choose to live healthier, more sustainable lives and contribute to a better world for all.

However, there is still limited science education within the primary curriculum, so that by the time children reach secondary school, many have had little exposure to positive science experiences and have already made the decision that science isn't "for them". So much so, that The Royal Society's 2023 Science Education Tracker reported a significant decline in young people's interest in science at school, notably amongst younger girls, since the previous Tracker four years earlier.

The number of children who don't experience science outside of school, resulting in 1 in 4 young people in England having low 'science capital'[1], is compounding the problem, leaving the next generation feeling confused, overwhelmed, even apathetic, and unable to contribute to important conversations about the future.

Wonderseekers has a critical role to play in responding to these challenges: providing relatable, accessible science experiences that go beyond the national curriculum, encouraging and inspiring young children from across Hampshire and beyond that science is for everyone and giving them the skills to participate.

Nurturing future science professionals is important, but our wider ambition is that every child, regardless of background, has the science skills to become an active citizen. We know that informal science learning can help to achieve this: latest findings (autumn 2024) from the seminal ASPIRES science capital longitudinal research project reported that having higher levels of science capital were strongly related to active citizenship and a positive future outlook.

We fund our work primarily with income generated through our Science Centre's trading operations, but it's not enough to reach all the children we want to support – especially those with multiple barriers to participating. This is why we ask for charitable donations. With your help, we can deliver more activities, collaborate with more like-minded partners and empower more children with science so that people and planet thrive.

At Wonderseekers, our aim is to grow more active citizens. Your support is an investment in the future health and wellbeing of our children and the planet.

Thank you.

For fundraising enquiries, please email fundraising@wonderseekers.charity.

Wonderseekers is registered with the Fundraising Regulator and is compliant with the Code of Fundraising Practice. All fundraising activity is undertaken by the Fundraising Team, in accordance with the Fundraising Policy and Procedures, with support and oversight from the Fundraising Committee. Funding is sought from trusts and foundations, government, corporate sponsorship and through partnership agreements with industry and universities. All donations are given freely from individuals, including the invitation to Gift Aid admission. Wonderseekers does not use any third-party fundraiser or seek funding from vulnerable people. No complaints have been made in relation to fundraising activities (2023/24: nil).

[1] Research led by Kings College London introduced the concept of 'science capital' (science-related qualifications, interest, literacy and social contacts) to understand how young people from all backgrounds engage with science and how their engagement might be supported. The research showed that the more science capital a young person has, the more likely they are to see science as 'for me', yet over a quarter of all 11 to 17 year olds, particularly those from disadvantaged communities have low science capital.

Charity impact

Our Charity has been engaging young people in science since it was founded in 1986. Our delivery has evolved over the decades, with a focus now on making science accessible and fun to children at a young age. But why?

Originally, emphasis was placed on science and technology career pathways, and for many organisations this is still their primary focus. But for Wonderseekers, we're on a mission to create more equitable access to science and nature so that all children can participate, especially those within our priority audiences - children and families who are underserved due to low socio-economic opportunities, disability, impairment or illness.

Through a diverse, accessible and inclusive mix of science experiences, our Charity is a catalyst for change. Fun, positive, people-led activities at our Science Centre, in schools, communities and online, are central to getting children and their families engaged in science and its relevance to the world we live in.

Some of the ways we've overcome barriers to engagement:

- We take science and nature experiences into schools and community spaces, reaching children and families who have limited opportunity to engage. Our priority communities are Winnall (Winchester), Leigh Park (Havant), the City of Southampton and Rushmoor (Aldershot & Farnborough).
- We invest in accessibility improvements to improve physical and sensory access to our Science Centre, workshops and community programmes. This includes everything from recruitment to staff training, interactive exhibits to website design, accessible interpretation, social stories and sensory backpacks to subsidised pricing for schools and free admission for personal assistants and foster families.
- We seek to run our Charity with children, particularly those from priority audiences. We do this through our Young Steering Group, Young Design Panel and through partnerships, such as the ones we have with Shepherd's Down School, a Special Educational Needs (SEN) school, and regional Young Carer groups.

The difference our Charity can make is demonstrated through our theory of change.

By doing this:

- Speaking up for early intervention, equality, diversity and inclusion and the environment in science
- Creating, curating and sharing digital resources and experiences
- Connecting children to nature through environmental science, outdoor spaces and our activity programme
- Providing accessible, fun and diverse science experiences through our Science Centre
- Extending activity through schools and community-based programmes to deliver equitable access to science

And by working with:

Schools ↔ Families ↔ Communities ↔ Partners

We will be the catalyst for change through:

- Sustained, repeated and diverse science engagement from an early age
- Fun, positive, people-led and participatory activities
- Accessible and inclusive experiences, where children feel welcome and valued
- Continuous evaluation

To achieve these outcomes:

- Children are connected to nature
- Children use their science enquiry skills
- Children want to play their part
- Children value and see the relevance of science

And long-term impacts:

- Children can and want to protect and heal our natural world
- Children choose to live healthier lives
- Children can live in a more equitable society
- Children choose to contribute to a better world for all

Our Charity's impact is reflected in the value that we add and the difference we make to children's engagement with science, personal development and growth.

Our numbers for 2024/25 paint a vibrant picture:

105,956

Down 8.2% on last year

public visitors to Winchester Science Centre.

Children and their families, friends, peers and community groups who visited in their leisure time.

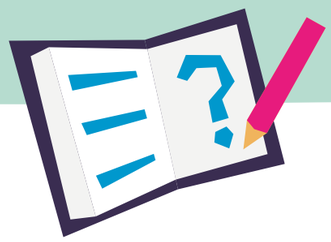
The total includes 1,120 foster family members (14.8% decrease on last year) and 3,600 carers/personal assistants (8% increase on last year)

41,085

Down 3.9% on last year

educational visitors to Winchester Science Centre.

Children and their accompanying adults who visited as part of a school trip, SEN school or group visit, or home education visit.



16,790

Up 18.6% on last year

people engaged through our Equity, Community Engagement and Outreach programme.

Children and their families we have engaged in their school and community spaces.

33,700

Up 166% on last year

people visited Winchester Science Centre for a special event.

Children and adults who attended out-of-hours events and our Cosmic Christmas daytime experience.

The introduction of data gathering and evaluation techniques, means that we can now begin to demonstrate our impact beyond numbers. Where available, details are included in the following pages.

Strategy

Our strategy For People and Planet 2030 is our North Star.

It gives us clear, long-term direction and ensures we're all working together to achieve the same aims. It stands on the shoulders of our previous strategy, building on the step change we made in making science engagement inclusive and accessible, to now champion equity. It also promises to lead by example on environmental sustainability, to use our spaces, experiences and voice to help children respond to climate change and biodiversity loss and empower collective action for the benefit of people and the planet.

Vision

A world where, through the wonder of science, people and planet thrive.

Mission

To create a more equitable world where all children can treasure science and are equipped and empowered to improve lives and protect and heal our planet.

Values

Inclusive | For the planet | Bold | Fun | Open and honest | Collaborative

Outcomes

- Children are connected to nature
- Children use their science enquiry skills
- Children want to play their part
- Children value and see the relevance of science

Objectives

- Diversify our reach and grow impact
- Champion equality, diversity and inclusion in science
- Work long-term with children who need our support the most
- Protect and heal our planet and inspire others to do the same

Key themes

Be the change

Respect. Protect. Action.

Objectives, achievements and performance

Our projects and programmes are intentionally designed to support multiple objectives and deliver our intended learning outcomes for children, which are:

Objectives:

- Diversify our reach and grow impact
- Champion equity, diversity and inclusion in science
- Work long-term with children who need our support the most
- Protect and heal our planet and inspire others to do the same

Outcomes for children:

- Children have a greater connection to nature
- Children can use their science enquiry skills
- Children want to play their part
- Children value and see the relevance of science

Here are some examples of how we have put this into practice over the past year.

Developing child-centred, equitable science and nature partnerships

Through the academic year 2023–24, Wonderseekers partnered with Year 5 pupils from Winnall Primary School and Dr Sarah Payne, Senior Lecturer in Environmental Psychology at the University of Surrey, to co-create Sound of Biodiversity – a pioneering project designed to connect children from underserved communities with environmental science in sensory, meaningful ways.

Together, the children, researchers, and Wonderseekers team formed an equitable learning community. Over a series of 10 hands-on workshops, 30 children explored the sounds of their local environment through active listening, rhythm logging, sound mapping, and visits to natural spaces including Butterfly Conservation's Magdalen Hill Down. Each session was designed to build curiosity, confidence and connection — with nature and each other.

The children applied their learning in imaginative and lasting ways. At Winchester Science Centre, they co-created a brand-new interactive exhibit focused on soundscapes and wellbeing. Closer to home, they transformed an unused patch of land into a Woodland Walk — a peaceful outdoor classroom and nature space for their school. The project culminated in two celebrations, where children took centre stage.

Beyond the visible outcomes, Sound of Biodiversity demonstrated the power of multi-sensory, place-based engagement in nurturing environmental awareness and voice. It also offered new models of working in partnership with researchers and children — approaches we are now embedding across other programmes.

Embedding child-centred, equitable science and nature partnerships

Our Place on Earth was a new and exciting project that invited a group of 24 children aged 7–12 to co-design a future exhibition all about the local environment.

Over eight months, the children—our Young Design Panel—worked alongside an artist, scientists and subject experts, to explore big topics that are relevant to our local landscape and children's lives like wildlife, soil, dark skies, sound in nature, and sustainable food. Through art, games, stories and questions, they shared their ideas and helped shape what the exhibition could look and feel like.

Through this project we were able to put our equitable partnership model and new co-working with children guidance into practice. We learned a lot as an organisation. Working in this way—co-creating with children, giving them real influence, and embedding creativity—brought new energy and ideas to our team. It showed the value of taking time to plan, listen and reflect. Most of all, Our Place on Earth reminded us why we do what we do: to make science exciting, inclusive, and meaningful for every child. This project has set the standard for how we want to work in future—putting children's voices at the heart of everything.

Improving access to science for early years and children with special educational needs

In 2024, we launched the Early Years Development Project to explore how environmental science experiences can better serve children under five and those with special educational needs (SEN).

Through hands-on workshops with local schools, nurseries, and families, the project trialled two new concepts—Minibeasts & Me and Habitat Playpark—using a collaborative model that brought together external early years specialists, designers, and Wonderseekers' own team. This co-creation approach helped surface what young children respond to, what families and practitioners value, and how inclusive, curiosity-driven science can be embedded into early play.

This project not only informed future exhibit design but also shaped wider organisational learning. It sparked a shift towards deeper early years integration, with recommendations to embed champions across the Charity and appoint a dedicated early years lead. A comprehensive learning report now guides staff training and best practice.

Thanks to Winchester City Council and the Rural Prosperity Fund, we have improved our outdoor learning and play space for children to explore nature safely. Biodiversity-friendly fencing and planting has created a safe area for children and a great environment for pollinators like bees and butterflies.

Taking science and nature experiences into communities

We believe that by giving children access to engaging science and nature experiences and equipping them with essential science enquiry skills, children can choose to live healthier and more sustainable lives.

That's why we continue to prioritise and invest in removing barriers for children, especially for those who are underserved due to low socio-economic opportunity, disability, special educational needs, impairment or illness.

This year our Equity, Community Engagement and Outreach (ECO) team delivered a wide-reaching and impactful programme, engaging over 16,700 children, families, and community members through 122 activities. Working in close partnership with schools, local authorities, scientists, artists, and cultural organisations, the team led projects that broke down barriers to engagement with science and deepened our reach into underserved communities.

Major projects included COSMOS, a European collaboration exploring children's views on science and society; Rushmoor Climate Trackers, an ongoing satellite-themed environmental science programme; and Our World from Space, which used our mobile planetarium to explore Earth observation. Together, these initiatives blending hands-on science, storytelling, and creative expression.

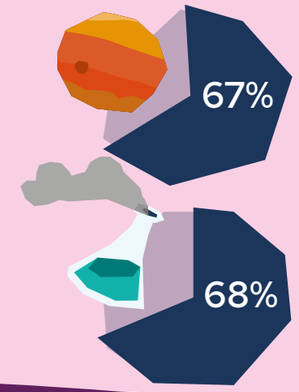
The team also ran 86 community events in areas including Rushmoor, Southampton, the Isle of Wight, and Leigh Park—ranging from school holiday clubs and science festivals to bespoke sessions for young carers and SEN schools. Their work ensured inclusive and fun access to science, often reaching those least likely to visit a science centre.

Inspiring science at Winchester Science Centre

We relaunched our events programme in 2022/23, initially testing our enhanced daytime offer for families, a new Christmas experience and evening events for families and adults.

Winchester Science Centre offers an exciting and dynamic science experience for children aged 3 to 12 and their families. In addition to two floors of interactive exhibits, a seasonal live science programme features wow demos, science shows with audience participation, presenter-led planetarium shows and themed self-guided activities.

105,956 public visitors to Winchester Science Centre.



67% experienced a planetarium show

68% experienced a live science show

In 2024/25, over 1,000 families shared their experiences with us through our post-visit survey.

Their stories paint a powerful picture of how Winchester Science Centre is engaging families in science and making science accessible for all. Here are some of the themes that come up time and time again:

Families consistently praised our hands-on, play-based experiences as essential for learning:

> Children, in particular, learn through play.

> An excellent way to help learning through real-life examples.

Our commitment to inclusivity was celebrated by visitors, particularly families of children with additional needs:

> Wonderfully inclusive for children with disabilities and additional needs.

> Sensory backpack is a brilliant offering... the planetarium session was lovely for my autistic son.

Our team was frequently recognised for their warmth, expertise, and ability to engage young minds:

> The staff were excellent... talking to my 4-year-old twins on a level they could understand.

The immersive wonder of the planetarium was a standout experience for many:

> My daughter who has Selective Mutism spoke lots in the centre. In the planetarium she said 'I'm crying tears of happiness

> A truly magical moment for our whole family.

Some visitors shared constructive feedback about barriers they face—vital insights that help shape our ongoing improvement. Cost of living was cited as a key barrier to repeat visits and the busy spaces, despite mitigation, continue to present challenges for neurodivergent children.This feedback helps to inform our pricing structures and our accessibility development.

95% of families told us they would recommend Winchester Science Centre to others.

Wonderseekers

In term time, the Science Centre is open exclusively for educational visits midweek. The educational programme is designed to support KS1 and KS2 school trips, SEN schools/groups and home education visits.

The all-inclusive school trip includes a themed discovery workshop, a presenter-led planetarium show and time for students to explore the two floors of interactive exhibits the Science Centre has to offer, ensuring every child gets the most from their visit. In addition to our own schools' programme, we're delighted to have continued our partnership with Butterfly Conservation, delivering free outdoor learning at their flagship reserve, Magdalen Hill Down, and at Winchester Science Centre.

41,085 educational visitors to Winchester Science Centre (-4% on previous year). This number include children and their accompanying adults who visited as part of a school trip, SEN school or group visit, or home education visit.

We are committed to ensuring that every child—regardless of their background, ability, or interest—can access the wonder of science. We do this by removing barriers to engagement through inclusive pricing, accessible design, and meaningful support for diverse needs.

We continue to offer tiered pricing for schools, with up to 60% subsidies for those with higher numbers of children eligible for free school meals. Family visitors also benefit from advance booking discounts, and we continue to offer free entry for foster families, carers, and personal assistants.

A major development this year was the launch of Discovery Pens—a tool that allows visually impaired, English as an additional language, and low-literacy visitors to independently engage with exhibits. Ten pens are now available for free loan, following a year of development and testing.

Throughout the year, we delivered inclusive events including SEND and home educator days, British Sign Language interpreted shows, and quieter and subtitled sessions, and partnered with groups such as Hampshire Autistic Scouts, Autism Hampshire, and Young Carers to tailor access to their needs.

Finally, we completed all preparatory work for replacing the Science Centre's sole lift—an essential improvement to ensure step-free access. The work will be completed in 2025.

Expanding our reach through events

Running a vibrant events programme supports our charitable mission, increases reach and builds organisational resilience. This year, we delivered a total of 236 in-house events (up 151% on previous year), which included, badge nights for uniformed groups, cinema screenings in the planetarium, guest presenter talks and shows, stargazing events, evenings for adults, Pink Floyd planetarium shows and welcomed the return of Santa and his intergalactic elf for Cosmic Christmas. We also hosted sleepovers, birthday parties and private hire events. The events programme supports our Charity's mission and contributes a valuable additional income stream for the Charity.

33,700 people attended an event at Winchester Science Centre. Up 166% on previous year.

Thank you to our volunteers!

The trustees and staff thank all our volunteers who have given their time, skills and expertise to support our Charity. We'd also like to thank our Patron, Young Steering Group, Young Design Panel and Project Board for their valuable time and the contribution they make.

As an educational charity, we love to provide opportunities for young people to gain work experience. Through Winchester Science Centre, we hosted seven work experience placements for KS3/KS4 students in years 10-12. The students worked alongside our Curiosity Team supporting the delivery of our school visits programme and experiencing all the 'behind the scenes' development and preparation that goes on.

We are also pleased to offer several student internships annually. This year, we welcomed two students studying teaching to come and experience science education outside of a classroom setting and a student from Eastleigh College as part of their Supported Internship Programme. All placements were held with the Curiosity Team, supporting the schools and public programmes.

Future plans

In last year's annual report, we prioritised four key areas of long-term and short-term development.

Excellent progress has been made this year in each, details of which have been included in the previous pages of this report.

1

Child-centred science and nature partnerships

Working in collaboration with others is one of our core values and something we have been doing for many years with community, university, charity and corporate partners. However, these relationships have often been developed for a specific activity, programme or project and always led by adults. Over the past year, we have developed an equitable partnership model, where children, subject experts and Wonderseekers are contributing and benefiting equally from working together. The model has been tested through our projects Sound of Biodiversity, Our Place on Earth and Early Years.

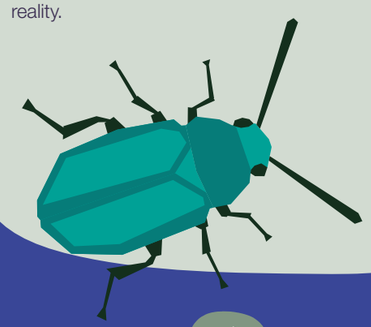
We are now looking to embed the learning into our everyday practices and continue to adopt this model for all future projects. In 2025/26 we will be working with children and ecologists to carry out a year-long biodiversity survey of the chalk downland mosaic landscape surrounding our Science Centre. This data will help us understand the current richness of the land and identify opportunities to enhance it.

2

Early years science and nature experiences

Our research indicates 40% of children that visit Winchester Science Centre are aged three to six years, but the experiences available to them are predominantly designed for slightly older children. Last year's Early Years project has increased organisational knowledge about early years engagement. An outcome of the project has been to update our interpretation strategy for this age group and develop a brief for a new outdoor experience at Winchester Science Centre.

For the year ahead, we are embedding our learning into our everyday practices and working to secure funds to make the outdoor experience concept a reality.



3

South Downs science and nature action

We are proud custodians of some of the UK's rarest habitats – a mosaic landscape of chalk downland in the South Downs National Park. We are uniquely placed to work with children, to support children, through science and nature engagement to develop the knowledge, skills and confidence to take action against climate change and biodiversity loss. We have ambitious plans to deliver on this aim, through the development of an extensive new activity programme at Winchester Science Centre, in communities and in partnership with others.

Delivering a project of this scale takes time to develop, especially when it's done through equitable partnership with children and partners, and through a process of co-creation. Our focus is on securing support and funding for this important and transformative project.

4

Sustainability

In line with our Group Sustainability Strategy, we are actively working to reduce our environmental impact. The most significant way we can do this is to invest in our Science Centre building and infrastructure. Over the past year we have worked with multi-disciplinary engineering consultancy Hoare Lea to understand what actions we can take and the impact of those actions.

The designated reserve created last year specifically for sustainability and infrastructure, has enabled us press ahead with Hoare Lea's recommendations. In 2025/26 we are planning to replace the oil-fuelled heating system with a more sustainable hybrid Air Source Heat Pump and electric alternative.

Financial review

Overview

This year has been a period of strategic investment and external challenge, with a focus on positioning the Charity for long-term sustainability and growth. While the Charity has returned a deficit for the year, this outcome is in line with its plans and reflects the intentional investment in the Charity's long-term strategic ambitions, which include resourcing the development of future-facing initiatives and the strengthening of internal capabilities.

Financial Performance

The Charity has reported a deficit of £192k, which reflects a combination of planned investments and increased operating costs. These include the costs of strategic consultancy and design work, leadership and staff time devoted to forward planning, and the internal capacity required to shape our long-term direction.

Alongside these investments, we experienced rising staff costs and increases across support services such as Finance, HR, IT, Management, and Premises. A portion of these pressures was due to a flood incident which was offset by a one-off flood damage insurance claim of £151k. The remaining expenditure reflects our commitment to building a resilient organisation capable of delivering high-quality science engagement to children and families for years to come.

Science Centre Operations

Our Science Centre has faced significant challenges during the year. Contributing to the deficit was a downturn in visitor numbers, particularly during the summer months. Footfall was 36% below budget during this period, primarily due to a combination of factors including external economic pressures on families, changes in visitor behaviour, and consistent warm and dry weather. This downturn is reflective of the wider UK visitor economy.

However, since the Christmas period, we have seen a recovery in footfall, with visitor numbers returning to more typical levels. This recovery is encouraging and demonstrates the resilience of the Science Centre as an important asset for the Charity. We are optimistic that with continued investment in marketing and improvements to our offering, we can grow the Centre's reach and return it to its previous performance levels.

Strategic Investments

One of the key drivers of our deficit this year has been deliberate investment in long-term strategic planning. These investments include both external costs — such as consultancy, design and strategic development — and internal resource allocation, including leadership time, project management, and organisational capacity-building. While not all of these are coded under fundraising, they are foundational to shaping the Charity's next chapter and ensuring future income diversification and growth.

We are already seeing promising early signs of progress, including strengthened relationships with funders and partners, and positive feedback from major funders such as the National Lottery Heritage Fund, despite an unsuccessful initial application. This work positions us well for future opportunities.

Expenditure Management

The Charity has maintained a disciplined approach to expenditure management. Operational costs remained broadly in line with expectations given the decrease in footfall seen, and staff continue to prioritise spending on mission-critical activities, ensuring that resources are directed towards maximising the impact of our work.

Looking Forward

While this year's financial results reflect a deficit, we remain confident that, with a recovery in Science Centre attendance, combined with the investment made in fundraising and implementation of the strategic plan, the Charity is well-positioned for the future. The Charity is actively exploring additional revenue-generating opportunities as outlined in our future plans and investment in green infrastructure to reduce our carbon output and strengthen our financial position.

The trustees are committed to closely monitoring the Charity's financial performance and ensuring that it continues to operate in a sustainable and responsible manner. The strategic investments made this year will enable the Charity to return to surplus in the near future, continuing to support our mission, providing inspiring and educational experiences to children and their families.

Income

Total group income for the year was £3,682k, a decrease of £85k (2%) on 2023/24.

Donations and legacies – note 3

Income from Donations and Legacies was 27% down on 2023/24 which had included the generous gift in kind of the lease of the land surrounding the Science Centre valued at £230k.

Charitable activities – note 4

Income derived from charitable activities increased by £39k (2%) despite a significant shortfall in visitor footfall. Admission income decreased by £105k from 2023/24 as public footfall fell by 9k visitors to 106k visits and schools' visits decreased by 5% from 42k to 40k.

The Charity continued to expand the grant funding received for its engagement and outreach activities, resulting in a decrease in income from self-funded outreach activity of £14k to £18k.

This decrease in income generated by charitable activities was offset by £151k from a flood damage insurance claim relating to August 2024, the corresponding costs are included in governance and support costs (note 8).

Income from trading activities – note 5

Despite challenging conditions income from trading activities increased by £50k (6%) to £963k. Shop and café trading revenues remained stable at 2023/24 levels as pricing increases offset lower levels of sales. Events activities expanded by 27% from £187k in 2023/24 to £237k in 2024/25 thanks to continued return on the investment made in the staff team.

Expenditure

Expenditure across the organisation rose by £554k (17%) from 2023/24 as the Charity looked to make strategic investments to secure its long term sustainability.

People costs – note 11

People costs increased by £231k (14%) to £1,929k in 2024/25 as the Charity made further investments in its staff team, including posts in fundraising. Pay inflation continued to be driven by increases in the real living wage, with the Charity awarding pay increases ranging from 5% and 10.1%, with the lowest paid staff again receiving the greatest increases.

The average full-time equivalent employees for 2024/25 was 55 (2023/24: 51).

Expenditure on charitable activities – note 7

Expenditure linked to delivery of the Science Centre and outreach activities increased 20% from £2,179k to £2,623k. This increase was driven by rising staff costs (£100k) and the increase in allocated support costs (£309k, see note 8).

Expenditure on raising funds – note 6

Trading costs rose by 7% to reflect the increased events activity, whilst fundraising costs increased by £34k (36%) as the Charity invested in this function to support the delivery of its ambitious future plans.

Governance and support costs – note 8

Governance and support costs increased by 43%, driven by a 117% increase in premise and office costs of £282k. This increase was a result of the damage caused by the flood at the Centre, taking on new office premises at The Point, Eastleigh for the expanded staff team and outsourcing the cleaning of the Science Centre.

Reserves policy

The Charity holds both restricted and unrestricted funds, with the unrestricted funds covering both designated funds, funds set aside by the trustees for a specific purpose, and general funds, reserves which provide working capital and resources for unforeseen financial difficulties.

The Charity's policy on unrestricted general reserves is set based on forecast income and expenditure, the likelihood of material risks crystallising which would not be covered by future income or insurance, and horizon scanning for possible opportunities that may require some upfront investment.

The general unrestricted reserves is set with regard to:

- Annual budget – set to ensure the Charity's future expenditure levels are matched to the income the Charity receives from operating the Science Centre and other grants and income.
- Risk management process - assesses the impact and likelihood of all risks to the Charity and the appropriate level of short-term reserves to be held.

The trustees have assessed the impact and likelihood of uninsured risks to create an expected value, which is reduced by the assessment of mitigating controls, to set the appropriate level of general unrestricted short-term reserves to be held. This value is formally reviewed on an annual basis with the opportunity for any material changes to be picked up within the risk review process.

In 2023/24 the Charity aimed to hold general unrestricted reserves of £400k – £450k, equivalent to three months of expenditure for full operations. This is still considered appropriate for 2024/25.

The designated Outdoor Science Engagement reserve of £600k created in 2022/23 has been maintained to support the Charity's future investment in developing and delivering its outdoor science engagement plans.

In line with its sustainability strategy, the Charity recognised the need to invest in the Science Centre's infrastructure, to reduce the Charity's carbon footprint and safeguard its long-term sustainability. A Capital Investment and Sustainability reserve of £500k was created in 2023/24 and is expected to be spent in 2025/26 on the installation of Air Source Heat Pumps to replace the oil-fired boilers.

General reserves outcome

Unrestricted reserves now stand at £3,152k, of which £2,766k were designated and £386k were general unrestricted reserves. (Further details of the reserves held in the Charity and its subsidiary are provided in Note 20 of the Financial Statements on p50.)

Whilst the outcome for general unrestricted reserves falls short of the target range the trustees and the Charity will be seeking to rebuild its general unrestricted reserves, the trustees remain committed to using the Charity's funds to support our beneficiaries now and in the future. By pursuing the outdoor science engagement projects, investing in the Charity's building and reducing its environment impact, future risks are being managed and the focus remains on growing charitable impact in a financially sustainable way.

Investment Policy

The Charity seeks to optimise the financial return from its investments consistent with its values, its appetite for risk, its strategic objectives and plans for the use of its funds, and its overall financial position.

The Charity retains sufficient funds in highly liquid assets to enable it to meet its day-to-day needs. Other funds are moved into more liquid assets in line with planned expenditure with maturities managed to match the planned expenditure.

The Charity envisages using most if not all of its other funds over the next three to five years with limited tolerance for capital risk. Funds may be held only in UK sterling accounts with banks with a minimum rating of A- or invested in diversified money market funds. Credit risk is managed by limiting the maximum exposure to any one institution to 50% of the Charity's total cash balances.

Principal risks

The principal risk faced by the Charity during 2024/25 was the tough external environment, characterised by the ongoing cost of living crisis, restricted public spending and greater competition for funding. The longer term risks for the Charity continued to be its ability to increase its impact and strengthen its resilience.

In 2022/23 it created a £600k designated reserve, recognising the seed funding required for an outdoor science centre project to build capacity and reduce its reliance on income generated through its predominantly indoor science centre experience. In 2023/24 it created a £500k designated reserve in response to the need to invest in the Charity's carbon footprint and safeguard the Charity's longer-term sustainability. During 2024/25 the Charity adopted a blending fundraising model to reduce its reliance on traditional funding sources and engaged in preparatory work to deliver on its strategy and invest in its infrastructure.

The Trustees believe that sound risk management is integral to both good management and good governance practice.

Risk management is part of the Charity's decision-making and is incorporated within strategic and operational planning.

The Trustees recognise that risk is inherent in any operation and that some level of managed risk is essential if the Charity is to achieve the greatest impact for its beneficiaries.

Wonderseekers manages risk through a top-down-bottom-up approach assessing longer-term strategic risks alongside shorter-term operational and project risks.

The Executive Team maintains departmental and project risk registers identifying key risks to their departments and projects, which are updated and cascaded quarterly.

Any fast-moving or escalating risks during the quarter are reported at the Executive Team Meetings on a monthly basis or sooner if required. Risks are cascaded to the Chair of Trustees and Chair of Finance, Audit and Risk Committee as required.

The Executive Team reviews the Charity's Risk Register monthly. The Charity risk position is reviewed quarterly by the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee and risk is a standing agenda item at all quarterly board meetings.

During 2024/25 the Charity's most immediate risks, and its strategies to manage them, were as follows:

Risk: Recruitment and staff retention

Status: No change

The Charity would be unable to deliver its strategy due to staff losses and recruitment difficulties.

This would manifest itself as an increase in vacant posts, higher recruitment costs, and missed targets and timelines.

Risk mitigation strategy: The Charity took steps to maintain a positive workplace culture, championed by the Director of People and Culture.

Pay and benefits were reviewed regularly by the Executive and Trustees (NR Co and FARC).

Staffing, including recruitment and retention, was a standing agenda item for the Executive team and additional strategic oversight and support was provided by an HR lead trustee.

Risk: Ageing building

Status: No change

The Charity would face increased costs due to unplanned expenditure on building infrastructure.

This would result in missed expenditure targets and an unplanned reduction in reserves.

Risk mitigation strategy: Investment continued to be made in the Estates team to build capacity and resilience, which enabled regular, preventative maintenance.

Preparatory work was undertaken to improve the Charity's infrastructure and reduce its carbon footprint. This included engaging Hoare Lea, a multi-disciplinary engineering consultancy firm, which is a specialist in building services. (The Charity's boiler and chiller are expected to be replaced in 2025/26.)

Risk: Inability to secure funding for future strategic development

Status: No change

Wonderseekers has ambitious plans to expand its community-based impact and redevelop Winchester Science Centre into a science and nature hub, including use of the new land at Morn Hill as a living lab.

Without sufficient funding, these plans would be delayed or scaled back. This could impact the Charity's long-term growth, restrict its programme reach, and reduce its momentum with partners and stakeholders.

Risk mitigation strategy: Wonderseekers adopted a blended funding approach, recognising the need to consider alternative funding sources such as social investment loans alongside traditional funding sources and use of its reserves.

Phasing of investment in the development of the Morn Hill site was explored to align the Charity's ambition with available resources, while maintaining its ambitions and developing its stakeholder support.

Energy consumption and carbon emissions

		2021/22	~CO_2 Tonné	2022/23	~CO_2 Tonné	2023/24	~CO_2 Tonné	2024/25	~CO_2 Tonné	% change in emissions
Electricity	KWh	251,582	58.15	244,354	51.58	247,041	55.59	261,067	58.86	**+5.56%**
Heating Oil	litres	37,174	102.55	27,901	76.97	27,088	74.64	25,250	69.57	**-6.79%**
Business Travel	miles	3,734	0.85	5,239	1.77	15,524	2.78	18,333	3.22	**+13.66%**
Fuel Purchase	litres	574	1.26	599	1.29	729	1.52	619	1.29	**-15.1%**
Water	m^3	1,546	0.23	1,691	0.25	2,197	0.39	1,978	0.30	**-23.1%**
Waste	tonnes	29.03	5.84	49.50	7.19	44.50	6.59	23.85	2.07*	**-68.6%***

Electricity (↑ 5.56%)

Emissions from electricity increased slightly despite similar usage levels. This rise is attributed to unplanned energy demand in September 2024, when flood damage required prolonged use of industrial fans and drying equipment. This anomaly impacted what is usually a low-consumption month.

Heating Oil (↓ 6.79%)

A year-on-year reduction in emissions reflects targeted interventions, including improved monitoring, updated heating schedules, and new preventative maintenance protocols. A further reduction is anticipated as we transition to a hybrid Air Source Heat Pump-electric boiler system.

Business Travel (↑ 13.66%)

This increase reflects both an actual rise in outreach and programme delivery travel, and improved data capture. Notable contributors include increased use of trains, taxis, ferries, and buses, as well as higher mileage for fewer air journeys.

Fuel Purchase (↓ 15.1%)

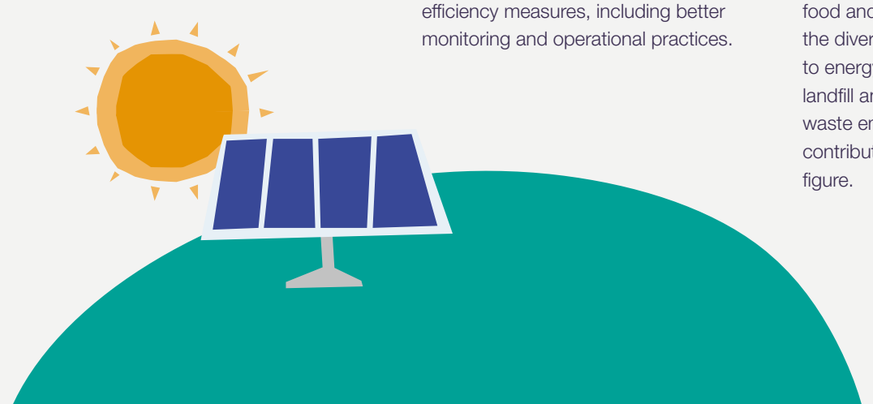
Changes to our community engagement and outreach programmes have resulted in a slight decrease in vehicle use.

Water (↓ 23.1%)

Emissions from water usage decreased significantly this year, reflecting a 23% drop in consumption. This reduction is likely the result of improved water efficiency measures, including better monitoring and operational practices.

*Waste Emissions (↓ 68.6%)

Emissions from waste have decreased significantly this year, largely due to a 46% reduction in waste tonnage, with the most major decreases seen in glass, food and general waste. Additionally, the diversion of our general waste going to energy generation as opposed to landfill and a change in the governments waste emissions conversion factors also contributed to our reduced emissions figure.



Structure, governance and management

Wonderseekers is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity.

Our Charity is governed by our Articles of Association, which sets out the Charity's powers and authorities. The objective of the Charity is detailed in the Articles of Association:

To advance the education, knowledge and understanding of the public, in particular the young, in basic technological and scientific principles and processes, particularly through the improvements of the links between industrial, commercial and educational bodies and institutions.

The Charity's wholly owned subsidiary, Sparking Curiosity Ltd, operates the onsite shop and café under licence from the Charity and gift aids the maximum permissible amount of its profits to the Charity (see note 10 to the accounts).

Wonderseekers operates under principles documented in our Code of Governance, which comply with the Charity Governance Code for larger charities (2020).

The Board of Trustees holds all the Charity's powers and authorities.

The Board is ultimately responsible for the overall control and strategic direction of the Charity and for the protection of its assets. The Board receives regular updates on the major risks likely to affect the Charity and ensures these are properly documented and that mitigating actions are in place and actively managed. The Board receives regular updates on the handling of personal data held by the Charity and ensures the policy and procedures are compliant with legislation.

In setting our objectives and planning our activities the trustees have carefully considered the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. Operational management is delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, Ben Ward, and the Executive Team.

Board of Trustees

The trustees, also Directors under company law, are elected by the Board at the Annual General Meeting and serve for a three-year term.

Trustees can be re-appointed for up to a maximum of three terms. The performance of individual trustees, including the Chair, is informally reviewed each year. All trustees give their time freely and no Trustee has received remuneration in the year. Details of Trustee expenses and related party transactions are disclosed in notes 11 and 23 of the accounts.

The Board issues public advertisements for trustees and aims to attract a diverse range of candidates with the skills the Charity needs. It values the benefits of a membership with a variety of backgrounds, expertise and experience. New trustees undertake an induction programme that includes meeting the Executive Team and fellow trustees. It also covers the Charity's aims and how they are being fulfilled, the Code of Governance including Committee structures and decision-making processes, the business plan and recent financial performance. Trustees are encouraged to attend appropriate external training events where an appropriate budget has been allocated to cover Trustee expenses and course fees.

Board and committee membership and attendance

Title	First name	Last name	Appointed	Stepped down	Full board (Apr, Jul, Oct, Nov, Feb)	AGM (Oct)	FARC (May, Jul, Oct, Dec, Jan, Jan)	NomRem (Jun, Oct, Jan)	Fundraising (June, Oct)	Purpose & Impact (Jul, Oct, Mar)
Mrs	Phyllida	James	21/10/2021		4 of 4	1 of 1	6 of 6		2 of 2	
Mr	Malcolm	Kemp	18/10/2023		3 of 4	1 of 1	6 of 6			3 of 3
Mrs	Tajinder	Leonard	26/11/2019		4 of 4	1 of 1		3 of 3	1 of 2	
Dr	Janet	Owen	18/10/23 (appointed Chair 24/11/2023)		4 of 4	1 of 1				
Mrs	Sue	Parr	26/11/2019	26/05/2024	1 of 1	1 of 1	1 of 1			
Mrs	Katherine (Katie)	Roberts	21/10/2021	25/10/2024	2 of 3					1 of 2
Ms	Yvonne	Rowland	18/10/2023		4 of 4	1 of 1			1 of 1	3 of 3
Mrs	Sara	Sullivan	26/11/2019		4 of 4	1 of 1		3 of 3		
Ms	Linda	Taylor	18/10/2023		4 of 4	1 of 1		3 of 3		
Dr	Rutang	Thanawalla	21/10/2021		4 of 4	1 of 1	5 of 6		1 of 2	
Mr	Thomas	Wyman	18/10/2023		3 of 4	1 of 1		3 of 3		2 of 3
Ms	Catherine	Day	25/10/2024	21/04/2025	2 of 2	1 of 1			2 of 2	

Board effectiveness

A skills audit of the Board was completed in 2024 to help shape the future make-up of the Board and form part of future effectiveness reviews.

Organisation

The Board holds five meetings a year, one dedicated to strategy, and has established the following four committees: Finance, Audit and Risk; Nominations and Remuneration; Purpose and Impact and Fundraising which report to the Board.

The Finance, Audit and Risk Committee is independent of the management of the Charity. It has the standing and resources to report directly with opinion and oversight to the Board of Trustees on the annual report and accounts and other financial reports, the risk management process and risk register, delivering value for money, policy maintenance and the Charity's whistleblowing arrangements. It is also responsible for making recommendations to the Board of Trustees about the performance, appointment, reappointment and removal of the external auditors.

The Nominations and Remuneration Committee reports to the Board on governance effectiveness, the structure, size and composition of the Board, succession planning and on the salary and benefits of the CEO and members of the Executive Team.

The committee makes recommendations to the Board of both the Charity and its subsidiary for approval of new trustees, chairs and deputy chairs of both Boards and committees. It also recommends salary and benefits for the CEO, Executive Team, appointment of CEO and carries out an annual review and update of the Code of Governance.

In reviewing the salary and benefits for the CEO and the Executive Team the committee considers salary benchmarks for equivalent roles in the sector. The committee sets individual performance in the year against the objectives agreed in each annual review and makes a salary review recommendation to the Board for approval.

The Purpose and Impact Committee is responsible with the Executive Team for coordinating the delivery of science content for the benefit of children and public benefit. It aims to ensure coherence in all activities, a clear rationale for new projects and adherence to the Charity's values.

The Fundraising Committee contributes expertise as well as regional and industry sector perspectives to the development and successful operation of the fundraising programme. Members contribute ideas and engage with other trustees to open new fundraising sources. The responsibility for developing the fundraising strategy and delivering fundraising activities rests with the Executive Team.

Related parties and co-operation with other organisations

Any relationship between a Trustee or senior manager of the Charity with a university, sponsoring company exhibition, or an organisation contracted to work for the Charity is openly disclosed to the Board.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The Charity trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). Company law requires the Charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the parent charitable company and the group, and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable group for that period. In preparing the 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 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 business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006.

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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

Financial statements

Provision of information to auditors

So far as each of the Trustees at the time the report is approved are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the auditors are unaware and,
- they have taken all the steps they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information, and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

Auditor

A resolution to reappoint HaysMac LLP as auditor will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting.

In preparing this report the Trustees have taken advantage of the small companies exemptions provided by section 415A of the Companies Act 2006.

The Trustees' Annual Report was approved by the Board of Trustees on 23rd October 2025 and signed on its behalf:

Dr Janet Owen
Chair of Trustees

Independent auditor's report to the members of Wonderseekers

Opinion

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of Wonderseekers for the year ended 31st March 2025 which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, Consolidated Balance Sheet, Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 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 group's and of the parent charitable company's affairs as at 31st March 2025 and of the group's and of the parent charitable company's net movement in funds, including the income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- 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 group 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 group'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.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' Annual Report and the Chair's statement. 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.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, 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 audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. 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.

Opinion 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 (which includes the strategic report and the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the trustees' Annual Report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Independent auditor's report to the members of Wonderseekers (continued)

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In light of the knowledge and understanding of the group and of the parent charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' Annual Report (which incorporates the directors' 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 by the group; or
- the group 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 trustees 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' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 32, the trustees (who are also the directors of the group and of the parent charitable company for the purposes of 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 group's and of the parent 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 group 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 noncompliance 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 is detailed below.

Based on our understanding of the group and the environment in which it operates, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to charity and company law applicable in England and Wales, and we considered the extent to which noncompliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011.

We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls) and determined that the principal risks were related to revenue recognition, and management override of controls. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- Inspecting correspondence with regulators;
- Discussions with management including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulation and fraud;
- Reviewing the controls and procedures of the charity relevant to the preparation of the financial statements to ensure these were in place throughout the year, including during the Covid remote working period;
- Evaluating management's controls designed to prevent and detect irregularities;
- Identifying and testing journals, in particular journal entries posted with unusual account combinations, postings by unusual users or with unusual descriptions, and
- Challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in their critical accounting estimates.

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 for the audit of the financial statements is located 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 group'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 group'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 group and the group's members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Jane Askew

Senior Statutory Auditor, For and on behalf of
HaysMac LLP,
Statutory Auditors
10 Queen Street Place
London
EC4R 1AG

Date:

28 November 2025

Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities

(incorporating an income and expenditure account)
For the year ending 31st March 2025

	Note	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total funds 2025 £'000	Total funds 2024 £'000
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3	414	141	555	758
Charitable activities:	4				
Science Centre		2,091	-	2,091	2,038
Engagement and Outreach		18	-	18	32
Income from investments		55	-	55	26
Other trading activities	5	963	-	963	913
Total		**3,541**	**141**	**3,682**	**3,767**
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds:	6				
Other trading activities		1,251	-	1,251	1,141
Charitable activities:	7				
Science Centre		2,378	55	2,433	2,045
Engagement and Outreach		92	98	190	134
Total		**3,721**	**153**	**3,874**	**3,320**
Net income/(expenditure):		(180)	(12)	(192)	447
Transfer between funds	20	7	(7)	-	-
Net movement in funds		**(173)**	**(19)**	**(192)**	**447**
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward	20	3,325	284	3,609	3,162
Total funds carried forward		**3,152**	**265**	**3,417**	**3,609**

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year, and all income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

Consolidated and Charity Balance Sheet

As at 31st March 2025

	Note	Group 2025 £'000	Group 2024 £'000	Charity 2025 £'000	Charity 2024 £'000
Fixed assets:					
Tangible assets: Land, buildings, plant and equipment	13	1,386	1,537	1,386	1,537
Heritage assets: Land	14	227	229	227	229
Total fixed assets		1,613	1,766	1,613	1,766
Current assets:					
Stocks	15	39	36	7	9
Debtors	16	170	209	178	183
Short term investments		1,000	450	1,000	450
Cash at bank and in hand		1,005	1,592	827	1,496
Total current assets		2,214	2,287	2,012	2,138
Liabilities:					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	17	(410)	(444)	(376)	(416)
Net current assets		1,804	1,843	1,636	1,722
Total assets less current liabilities		3,417	3,609	3,249	3,488
Total net assets		**3,417**	**3,609**	**3,249**	**3,488**
The funds of the Charity	20				
Restricted income funds		265	284	265	284
Unrestricted funds:					
Designated		2,766	2,847	2,766	2,847
General unrestricted		386	478	218	357
Total unrestricted funds		3,152	3,325	2,984	3,204
Total Charity funds		**3,417**	**3,609**	**3,249**	**3,488**

Wonderseekers (the parent entity) reports a deficit for financial year 2024/25 of £239k (2023/24: £384k surplus).

The financial statements of Wonderseekers (registered number 02014929) were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 23rd October 2025

Signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees

Dr Janet Owen
Chair of Trustees

Janet Owen

Consolidated and Charity Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ending 31st March 2025

	Note	Group 2025 £'000	Group 2024 £'000	Charity 2025 £'000	Charity 2024 £'000
Cash flows from operating activities:					
Net cash provided by operating activities	**A**	**74**	**717**	**(8)**	**708**
Cash flows from investing activities:					
Purchase of plant and equipment		(111)	(38)	(111)	(38)
Purchase of heritage asset		0	(230)	0	(230)
Net cash used in investing activities		**(111)**	**(268)**	**(111)**	**(268)**
(Decrease)/Increase in cash and cash equivalents in the year		**(37)**	**449**	**(119)**	**440**
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		2,042	1,593	1,946	1,506
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	**B**	**2,005**	**2,042**	**1,827**	**1,946**

The notes on pages 56 - 70 form part of these financial statements

Consolidated and Charity Statement of Cash Flows (continued)

For the year ending 31st March 2025

Notes to the cash flow statement

A) Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow generated from operating activities

	Group 2025 £'000	Group 2024 £'000	Charity 2025 £'000	Charity 2024 £'000
Net income/(expenditure) for the year	(192)	447	(239)	384
Adjustments for:				
Depreciation charges	263	318	263	318
Decrease/(increase) in stocks	(3)	3	2	(1)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	39	(71)	5	(20)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(34)	17	(40)	24
Loss on disposal	1	3	1	3
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	**74**	**717**	**(8)**	**708**

B) Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	Group 2025 £'000	Group 2024 £'000	Charity 2025 £'000	Charity 2024 £'000
Cash in hand	1,005	1,592	827	1,496
Cash on deposit	1,000	450	1,000	450
Total cash and cash equivalents	**2,005**	**2,042**	**1,827**	**1,946**

C) Analysis of changes in net debt

	As at 1st April 2024	Cash-flows	Non-cash changes	As at 31st March 2025
Unrestricted cash	1,592	(587)	-	1,005
Total	**1,592**	**(587)**	**-**	**1,005**

The notes on pages 58 - 72 form part of these financial statements

Notes to the Financal Statements for the year ending 31st March 2025

1. Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

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) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historic cost convention. Wonderseekers meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Wonderseekers is a company limited by guarantee and incorporated in England and Wales. The Registered Office is: Telegraph Way, Morn Hill, Winchester, Hampshire, SO21 1HZ.

Group financial statements

The Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA), Consolidated Balance Sheet and the Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows consolidate the financial statements of the Charity and its subsidiary undertaking. The results of the subsidiary are consolidated on a line by line basis.

No separate SOFA has been prepared for the Charity alone as permitted by Section 408 of the Companies Act 2006.

Preparation of accounts on a going concern basis

The Group's primary source of income continues to be visitors to the Science Centre.

After careful consideration of the Group's current financial position, with due attention paid to the Group's cash flows, liquidity and borrowings, and future plans and prospects, the trustees are confident that the Group has adequate resources to continue in operation for the foreseeable future which is at least 12 months from the date of approval of these financial statements. Accordingly, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the accounts.

Income

Income is recognised when the Group has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount is measurable.

Donated services and facilities

On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the Group, which is the amount the Group 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.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the Group. Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the Group which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a particular purpose.

Restricted funds

Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the Group's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the Group.

Expenditure

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 headings:

- Costs of raising funds comprise the costs of the fundraising team and commercial trading including the shop and café and their associated support costs. It also includes a proportion of the cost of front-of-house staff.
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs of exhibitions, educational and other activities undertaken to further the purposes of the Charity and their associated support costs.

Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the Group but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, finance, facilities, personnel, IT and governance costs which support the Group's activities. These costs have been allocated between the cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities. The basis on which support costs have been allocated are set out in note 8.

Tangible fixed assets

The Group has elected to use the 'deemed cost' option on transition to FRS102 for Land and Buildings which have been revalued as at 31 March 2014 and have been depreciated from that date. Other tangible fixed assets are capitalised at cost and are depreciated on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful economic lives as follows:

Asset category	Annual rate
Intellectual assets	10%
Planetarium	5% – 33.3%
Office equipment	20%
Computer equipment	25% - 33.3%
Technical equipment	6.7% – 33.3%
Exhibition equipment	14.3% – 33.3%
Equipment library	20%
Motor vehicles	25%
Freehold buildings	2%
Freehold land	Nil

Heritage assets

The Group holds land as a heritage asset to support the Group's primary objective of furthering the public understanding, particularly the young, of scientific principles and processes, enabling expansion into the natural sciences. The 9.7 acres of land is an excellent example of biodiverse chalk downland, home to a range of flora and fauna unique to this habitat and is highly visible to all visitors to the Science Centre and currently accessible for research and restoration purposes.

The Group was gifted a 125-year lease of the heritage asset which has been recorded under the 'deemed cost' approach at its valuation as at the grant of the lease. The asset is reviewed for impairment on an annual basis. The asset is depreciated on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease at 0.8% per annum.

Stock

Stock is included at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Debtors

Short term debtors are measured at transaction price, less any impairment.

Short term investments

Short term investments are cash deposits held with financial institutions with maturities of greater than three months. They are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions with original maturities of less than or equal to three months. These are short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Creditors

Short term trade creditors are measured at the transaction price. Other financial liabilities, including bank loans, are initially measured at the transaction value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

Operating leases

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

Corporation tax

The Charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

Any profits generated from the Charity's trading subsidiary Sparking Curiosity Ltd will be transferred to the parent with a gift aid payment and therefore no taxation is due.

Financial instruments

The Group has financial assets and 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.

Judgements in applying accounting policies and key sources of estimation

IIn the application of the Group's accounting policies, described in the accounting policies above, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates. The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

The Trustee representatives consider that the following are key estimates;

- Depreciation of fixed assets is charged over the useful economic life of the assets. Trustees and management review the useful economic life on an annual basis.
- Bad debt provisions – debtors are reviewed regularly to assess likelihood of recoverability. A provision of bad debt is estimated based on these reviews. At the year end, no bad debt provision has been made (2024: £0k).

2. Legal status of the Charity

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. In the event of the Charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the Charity.

3. Income from donations and legacies

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Donations and grants	458	667
Membership subscriptions	97	91
Total	**555**	**758**

The Charity benefits greatly from the involvement and enthusiastic support of its many volunteers, details of which are given in our annual report. In accordance with FRS 102 and the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the economic contribution of general volunteers is not recognised in the accounts.

4. Income from charitable activities

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Science Centre:		
Admission fees	1,932	2,037
Exhibit Sponsorship	8	-
Tax Relief	-	1
Insurance claim	151	-
Total	**2,091**	**2,038**
Engagement and Outreach:		
Outreach workshops	18	32
Total	**18**	**32**

5. Income from other trading activities

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Fundraising events	237	187
Trading operations	726	726
Total	**963**	**913**

6. Expenditure on raising funds

	Direct staff costs £'000	Other direct costs £'000	Governance support costs £'000	Other support costs £'000	Total 2025 £'000	Total 2024 £'000
Trading costs	295	509	12	307	1,123	1,047
Fundraising costs	94	34	-	-	128	94
Total	**389**	**543**	**12**	**307**	**1,251**	**1,141**

7. Expenditure on charitable activities

	Direct staff costs £'000	Other direct costs £'000	Governance support costs £'000	Other support costs £'000	Total 2025 £'000	Total 2024 £'000
Science Centre	1,008	528	21	876	2,433	2,045
Engagement and Outreach	23	103	2	62	190	134
Total	**1,031**	**631**	**23**	**938**	**2,623**	**2,179**

8. Analysis of governance and support costs

	Direct staff costs £'000	Overheads £'000	Total 2025 £'000	Total 2024 £'000
Governance costs	-	34	34	36
Finance, HR and IT costs	313	101	414	379
Management costs	196	112	308	236
Premises and office costs	-	523	523	241
Total	**509**	**770**	**1,279**	**892**

Support costs related to the building have been re-allocated on a square footage basis, whilst other costs have been re-allocated on a direct cost basis.

9. Net income for the year

This is stated after charging:	Group 2025 £'000	Group 2024 £'000	Charity 2025 £'000	Charity 2024 £'000
Depreciation	262	318	262	318
Auditor's remuneration for:				
Audit	24	22	18	17
Taxation services	-	5	-	5
Operating lease rentals:				
Plant and machinery	10	12	10	12

10. Investment in subsidiary and trading income

The Charity has a wholly owned trading subsidiary, Sparking Curiosity Limited (Company Number 10661776), which is incorporated in England and Wales. A summary of the trading results of the subsidiary to 31 March 2025 is shown below. This includes a management charge levied by the Charity of £393k (2024: £347k). Audited accounts are filed with the Registrar of Companies.

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Turnover	876	813
Cost of sales	(348)	(364)
Gross profit	**528**	**449**
Other operating charges	(413)	(381)
Profit for the year before tax	**115**	**68**

The capital of the company comprises 100 ordinary shares of £1 each. The maximum permissible amount of the subsidiary's reserves of £168,374 will be transferred to the parent by 31 December 2025 such that no tax will be payable by the subsidiary.

11. Analysis of staff costs, Trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Salaries and wages	1,729	1,536
Social security costs	150	128
Pension costs	50	34
Total	**1,929**	**1,698**

The number of employees whose emoluments exceeded £60,000 during the year was:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
£100,001 - £110,000	1	-
£90,001 - £100,000	-	1
£80,001 - £90,000	-	-
£60,001 - £70,000	1	1

Pension costs are allocated to activities in proportion to the related staffing costs incurred.

The trustees were not paid and did not receive any other benefits from employment with the Charity in the year (2024: £0). Four trustees were reimbursed £579.90 for travel costs during the year (2024: £74.10). No trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the Charity (2024: £0).

The key management personnel of the Charity comprised the trustees and Senior Leadership Team. The total employee costs of the key management personnel of the Charity were £418k (2024: £396k).

12. Staff numbers

The average monthly head count was 88 staff (2024: 102 staff) and the average monthly number of full-time equivalent employees (including casual and part-time staff) during the year were as follows:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
Science Centre	43	41
Office and management	12	10
Total	**55**	**51**

All staff were employed by the Charity.

13. Tangible fixed assets – Group

	Work in progress £'000	Intellectual assets £'000	Equipment £'000	Freehold land and buildings £'000	Total £'000
Cost or valuation					
At 1 April 2024	-	253	2,686	1,087	4,026
Additions	48	-	63	-	111
Transfers	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	(24)	-	(24)
As at 31 March 2025	**48**	**253**	**2,725**	**1,087**	**4,113**
Depreciation					
At 1 April 2024	-	253	2,102	134	2,489
Charge for year	-	-	242	19	261
Eliminated on disposal	-	-	(23)	-	(23)
As at 31 March 2025	**-**	**253**	**2,321**	**153**	**2,727**
Net book value:					
As at 31 March 2025	**48**	**-**	**404**	**934**	**1,386**
As at 31 March 2024	**-**	**-**	**584**	**953**	**1,537**

In July 2016, the land and buildings were inspected by Andrew Smith & Son of Winchester to obtain a current open market valuation at 31st March 2014. The buildings were valued at £1,000k and the land at £125k. The trustees restated opening balances on 1 April 2015 in accordance with the deemed cost option of FRS 102. Had the deemed cost option not been elected, at 31 March 2025, the cost of freehold land and buildings stated above would be £7,621k, and the net book value £5,222k.

13. Tangible fixed assets – Charity

	Work in progress £'000	Intellectual assets £'000	Equipment £'000	Freehold land and buildings £'000	Total £'000
Cost or valuation					
At 1 April 2024	-	253	2,685	1,087	4,025
Additions	48	-	63	-	111
Transfers	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	(24)	-	(24)
As at 31 March 2025	**48**	**253**	**2,724**	**1,087**	**4,112**
Depreciation					
At 1 April 2024	-	253	2,101	134	2,488
Charge for year	-	-	242	19	261
Eliminated on disposal	-	-	(23)	-	(23)
As at 31 March 2025	**-**	**253**	**2,320**	**153**	**2,726**
Net book value:					
As at 31 March 2025	**48**	**-**	**404**	**934**	**1,386**
As at 31 March 2024	**-**	**-**	**584**	**953**	**1,537**

14. Heritage assets - Group and Charity

	Land £'000	Total £'000
Cost or valuation:		
At 1 April 2024 and 2025	**230**	**230**
Depreciation		
At 1 April 2024	1	1
Charge for year	2	2
Eliminated on disposal	-	-
As at 31 March 2025	**3**	**3**
Net book value:		
As at 31 March 2025	**227**	**227**
As at 31 March 2024	**229**	**229**

Heritage assets relate to the £230k donation from Arqiva of land adjacent to the Charity's site at Morn Hill, Winchester, on a long term lease (125 years) with a peppercorn rent, which was donated in 2023/24. The Charity's external valuer (Lambert Smith Hampton) carried out a desk based survey of the land as at 31 March 2024. The valuation was based on the current use of the land and relevant planning policy.

Summary of Transactions: There were no other transactions in the five years prior to the year end date of 31 March 2025.

15. Stock

	Group 2025 £'000	Group 2024 £'000	Charity 2025 £'000	Charity 2024 £'000
Shop goods for resale	32	27	-	-
Heating fuel	7	9	7	9
Total	**39**	**36**	**7**	**9**

During the year, £317k (2024: £346k) of stock was recognised as an expense.

16. Debtors

	Group 2025 £'000	Group 2024 £'000	Charity 2025 £'000	Charity 2024 £'000
Trade debtors	57	49	48	43
Prepayments	67	50	67	34
Grants	4	-	4	-
Events	6	3	-	-
Tax relief	3	-	3	-
Amounts owed from group undertakings	-	-	24	16
Other	33	107	32	90
Total	**170**	**209**	**178**	**183**

17. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Group 2025 £'000	Group 2024 £'000	Charity 2025 £'000	Charity 2024 £'000
Trade creditors	119	104	111	90
Accruals	90	48	78	41
Taxation and social security	49	50	49	50
Other creditors	21	16	21	16
Deferred income	131	226	117	219
Total	**410**	**444**	**376**	**416**

18. Deferred income

Deferred income comprises: advance ticket sales related to admission to the Science Centre and for events held after 31 March 2025 of £64k (2024 £89k), deferred membership from annual passes of £51k (2024 £51k) and deferred grant income of £16k (2024 £86k).

	Group 2025 £'000	Group 2024 £'000	Charity 2025 £'000	Charity 2024 £'000
Balance as at 1 April	226	135	219	132
Amount released to income and expenditure account	(226)	(135)	(219)	(132)
Amount deferred in year	131	226	117	219
Balance as at 31 March	**131**	**226**	**117**	**219**

19. Analysis of assets and liabilities between funds

	Restricted funds 2025 £'000	Unrestricted funds 2025 £'000	Total 2025 £'000	Restricted funds 2024 £'000	Unrestricted funds 2024 £'000	Total 2024 £'000
Group:						
Fixed assets	265	1,121	1,386	284	1,253	1,537
Heritage assets	-	227	227	-	229	229
Current assets	-	2,214	2,214	-	2,287	2,287
Current liabilities	-	(410)	(410)	-	(444)	(444)
Group total	**265**	**3,152**	**3,417**	**284**	**3,325**	**3,609**
Charity:						
Fixed assets	265	1,121	1,386	284	1,253	1,537
Heritage assets	-	227	227	-	229	229
Current assets	-	2,011	2,011	-	2,138	2,138
Current liabilities	-	(376)	(376)	-	(416)	(416)
Charity total	**265**	**2,983**	**3,248**	**284**	**3,204**	**3,488**

20. Movement in funds

	At 1st April 2024 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Transfer between funds £'000	At 31st March 2025 £'000
Restricted funds:					
Widening Participation and Outreach	-	86	(105)	19	-
Millennium Project	284	-	(19)	-	265
Other restricted funds	-	55	(29)	(26)	-
Total restricted funds	**284**	**141**	**(153)**	**(7)**	**265**
Unrestricted funds:					
Designated:					
Planetarium	254	53	-	-	307
Fixed Assets	1,254	-	(242)	110	1,122
Heritage Assets	229	-	(2)	-	227
Outdoor Science Engagement	600	-	-	-	600
Environmental Infrastructure	500	-	-	-	500
Exhibition	10	8	(8)	-	10
Total designated funds	**2,847**	**61**	**(252)**	**110**	**2,766**
Unrestricted:					
General unrestricted	357	2,604	(2,640)	(103)	218
Total general unrestricted funds	**357**	**2,604**	**(2,640)**	**(103)**	**218**
Total unrestricted funds	**3,204**	**2,665**	**(2,892)**	**7**	**2,984**
Total charitable funds	**3,488**	**2,806**	**(3,045)**	**-**	**3,249**
Trading subsidiary	**121**	**876**	**(829)**	**-**	**168**
Total group funds	**3,609**	**3,682**	**(3,874)**	**-**	**3,417**

See note 27 for prior year comparatives

Restricted funds

The Charity received donations and grants which the donor specified to be solely used for particular areas of the Charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the Charity.

Widening Participation and Outreach

A number of discrete projects to reach underserved audiences. Projects included outreach activities in school and community settings.

Millennium Project

A capital development project for the creation of the Science Centre, placing restrictions on the use of the building.

Unrestricted funds

These are funds available for the general objectives of the Charity. Included within unrestricted funds are designated funds that the Charity has put aside for a specific purpose. The Charity has existing fixed assets that are essential to its operation, the value of which has been designated. A designated fund, Outdoor Science Engagement, was established in 2022/23 to support the Charity's ambitious future plans. The heritage asset donated in 2023/24 has been designated to further support these plans. A further designated fund of £500k was also created in 2023/24 to support the charities work to improve its infrastructure and reduce its carbon footprint.

The transfers between general unrestricted funds and designated funds represent the movements on each of these funds in the year.

21. Operating lease commitments – Group and Charity

The future operating lease payments are as follows:

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Within one year	5	6
Total	**5**	**6**

22. Pension scheme

During the year £50k (2024: £34k) was paid into a defined contribution pension scheme. At the year-end contributions of £10k (2024: £7k) were due to the scheme.

23. Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in the year.

24. Limitation of liability

Wonderseekers is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. At the year ended 31 March 2025, there were 10 members (11 members at 31 March 2024), each of whom has undertaken to contribute a maximum of £1, if required, in the event of the winding up of the company.

25. Capital commitments

At 31 March 2025 the Charity had committed to replacing the lift at the Science Centre. The total order value was £44k, of which £35k is included as work in progress and £9k outstanding. Work is due to be completed in July 2025 (2024: nil).

26. 2024 Statement of Financial Activities (Prior Year)

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total funds 2024 £'000
Income and endowments from:			
Donations and legacies	700	58	758
Charitable activities:			
Science Centre	2,038	-	2,038
Engagement and Outreach	32	-	32
Income from investments	26	-	26
Other trading activities	913	-	913
Total	**3,709**	**58**	**3,767**
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds:			
Other trading activities	1,138	3	1,141
Charitable activities:			
Science Centre	1,997	48	2,045
Engagement and Outreach	108	26	134
Total	**3,243**	**77**	**3,320**
Net (expenditure)/income:	466	(19)	447
Transfer between funds	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	**466**	**(19)**	**447**
Reconciliation of funds:			
Total funds brought forward	2,859	303	3,162
Total funds carried forward	**3,325**	**284**	**3,609**

27. 2024 Movement in funds (Prior Year)

	At 1 April 2023 £'000	Incoming resources £'000	Outgoing resources £'000	Transfer between funds £'000	At 31 March 2024 £'000
Restricted funds:					
Widening Participation and Outreach	-	57	(57)	-	-
Millennium Project	303	-	(19)	-	284
Other restricted funds	-	1	(1)	-	-
Total restricted funds	**303**	**58**	**(77)**	**-**	**284**
Unrestricted funds:					
Designated:					
Planetarium	199	55	-	-	254
Fixed Assets	1,517	-	(298)	35	1,254
Heritage Assets	-	-	(1)	230	229
Outdoor Science Engagement	600	-	-	-	600
Environmental Infrastructure	-	-	-	500	500
Exhibition	22	-	(12)	-	10
Total designated funds	**2,338**	**55**	**(311)**	**765**	**2,847**
Unrestricted:					
General unrestricted	463	2,841	(2,182)	(765)	357
Total general unrestricted funds	**463**	**2,841**	**(2,182)**	**(765)**	**357**
Total unrestricted funds	**2,801**	**2,896**	**(2,493)**	**-**	**3,204**
Total charitable funds	**3,104**	**2,954**	**(2,570)**	**-**	**3,488**
Trading subsidiary	**58**	**813**	**(750)**	**-**	**121**
Total Group funds	**3,162**	**3,767**	**(3,320)**	**-**	**3,609**

Charity information

Registered office
Telegraph Way
Morn Hill
Winchester
Hampshire
SO21 1HZ

Registered charity no.
294582

Bankers
Lloyds Bank PLC
49 High Street
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Patron

Megan McCubbin

Life members

Mr Jeremy C Booker ACA
Mr Colin Brook
Dr Dolores Byrne OBE HonFIET CEng
Professor Malcolm J Coe FRAS FHEA
Dr Ian C Jenkins MSc
Dr Toby StJohn King MA PhD CEng FIMechE
Mr David Livermore OBE
Ms Terry V Marsh FRTS FRSA
Mr David Morgan
Sir Martin Read CBE, MA (Cantab), D.Phil (Oxon), FIET
Mrs Elizabeth M Wallace

Board of Trustees

Dr Janet Owen, FRSA, AMA, MA (Cantab), MA, Chair
Sara Sullivan, Deputy Chair
Catherine Day *(Appointed 25th October 2024, Resigned 21st April 2025)*
Phyllida James
Malcolm Kemp
Tajinder Leonard
Janet May *(Appointed 17th July 2025)*
Sue Parr *(Resigned 26th May 2024)*
Katie Roberts *(Resigned 25th October 2024)*
Yvonne Rowland
James Sheppard *(Appointed 17th July 2025)*
Linda Taylor
Dr Rutang Thanawalla
Thomas Wyman

Executive Team

Ben Ward FRSA, Chief Executive Officer
Kay Rothwell, Chief Finance and Risk Officer *(Appointed 20th August 2025)*
Grant Brisland, Chief Operating Officer *(Appointed 1st May 2025)*

Wonderseekers

Registered Office:
Telegraph Way
Morn Hill
Winchester
Hampshire
SO21 1HZ

www.wonderseekers.charity

www.linkedin.com/company/wonderseekers/

Registered Charity No. 294582
Registered Company No. 02014929

WONDERSEEKERS

England & Wales - Charity number 294582

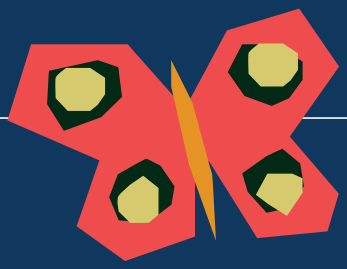
Accounts

For people and planet

Annual Report 2023/24

Wonderseekers

Registered Charity No. 294582
Registered Company No. 02014929



Our promise to children

We know great partnerships are built on trust. Our partnership with our beneficiaries, the children we engage and work with, is crucially important. We live by our values but to help demonstrate this to children, we've set out the following promises, especially for them. They also help communicate our ethical principles to our partners, supporters and funders.

1. We promise to always put your safety and wellbeing first.
2. We promise to do our best to make you feel welcome and valued.
3. We promise to share lots of different stories about the world around us, including yours.
4. We promise to run Wonderseekers with you.
5. We promise to take good care of anything you share with us.
6. We promise to explore science together, in ways that make sense to you.
7. We promise to do our best for the planet.
8. We promise to create opportunities for you to make a difference.
9. We promise to work with organisations that have both yours and the planet's best interests at heart.
10. We promise to be honest about our mistakes and learn from them.

These promises to children, along with our legal duty, guide our behaviour.

They help us to make decisions that are right for you, for our Charity and for our world.

Report of the Trustees and strategic report

The Board of Trustees is pleased to present their annual Trustees' report together with consolidated financial statements of the Charity and its trading subsidiary for the year ending 31st March 2024.

The report is prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes. The Trustees' report and financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and 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).

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Wonderseekers

Wonderseekers is pleased to welcome Janet Owen to the team as Chair of Trustees

Dr Janet Owen is a cultural professional with over 30 years of experience in connecting heritage, arts and science sectors. She holds an MA in Archaeology and Anthropology from the University of Cambridge. Janet's career includes management, executive and non-executive positions at regional and national museums and visitor attractions. Janet brings organisational transformation expertise and is excited to support the wider team in delivering Wonderseekers' powerful ambition.

Janet said: "Wonderseekers has not only great ambitions but important ambitions for today's society. The impact that Wonderseekers already has is hugely significant and important in the world we live in today. I have seen the charity develop from a distance, build in confidence, and take flight. I am thrilled to have joined the team on this journey and to contribute to a Charity that already does so much to support children and has ambition and opportunity to do more for so many more children."

Chair and CEO welcome

Welcome to Wonderseekers' 2023/24 Annual Report. We are delighted to share with you the year's achievements and our exciting and substantial plans for the years to come.

The first year of our strategy For People and Planet 2030 has lived up to our team's high expectations and proved to be a landmark year for our Charity, thanks to a significant donation from longstanding corporate supporter, Arqiva. Twenty-five years after donating the original site, upon which Winchester Science Centre was built, Arqiva has gifted Wonderseekers a 125-year lease for eight acres of rare and precious chalk grassland directly adjacent to our site, in the South Downs National Park.

Securing this threatened landscape surrounding our Science Centre is a major step to diversifying our science engagement and expanding our expertise. In partnership with children, scientists, conservationists and communities, we will empower children with the skills and agency to take collective action to protect and heal the planet.

We are grateful to all those who have contributed to the development of our future plans, particularly those who have joined us in a voluntary capacity through our Project Advisory Board and Young Steering Group. We are hugely encouraged by the conversations we have had with funders and stakeholders who have shown significant interest in and support for our plans. We very much look forward to sharing further details and the progress we make through our website and blog. Please look online and join us on our journey.

We are hugely proud of all those who help Wonderseekers to support children through science engagement. Our ability to ignite and sustain children's curiosity through science is one of our greatest strengths, and being able to collaborate with others makes our impact all the greater.

This year, we are pleased to have established new partnerships with priority audiences, universities, and regional charities and organisations that share our values and aims. These have included externally funded projects aimed at engaging underrepresented audiences with science

research in innovative and equitable ways. Our partners this year have included the Institute of Sustainability at University of Surrey, University of Southampton, Butterfly Conservation, schools and community partners. Our Equity, Community Engagement and Outreach Team has extended our Charity's reach into communities enabling 14,153 people to engage in science and nature in their own schools and community spaces.

Our Science Centre has continued to thrive this year. The investment made in 2022/23 in our teams has enabled us to increase our out-of-hours events programme and expand our schools and public offer. To support greater access to our Science Centre, we introduced an advance booking discount and continued to provide free access to foster families and personal assistants/carers. In total, Wonderseekers engaged over 170k people, through Winchester Science Centre's public, schools and events programmes. We are enormously grateful to all our staff, volunteers, partners and supporters who have made this activity possible.

Our strategy has really focused our attention on our own sustainability. Over the past year, we developed our Group Sustainability Strategy to expand on the pledge we made to use our spaces, experiences and voice to positively impact children and nature and to enable our teams to lead by example. We're delighted by the actions our staff have taken to reduce our environmental footprint, but to meet our sustainability targets we must be bold. This is why we have taken the decision to create a new designated reserve for capital investment in sustainability and infrastructure improvements. We hope to use these funds to leverage greater support to meet our sustainability goals and positively contribute to regional strategies.

We have bold ambitions for Wonderseekers and are excited to be working together with the trustees and the Senior Leadership Team to deliver on our strategy and future plans.

We look forward to sharing our progress, impact and learning openly and honestly, with support and guidance from external evaluators.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to thank our funders, partners and our own teams, staff and volunteers, for the difference you make to children's lives. Thank you.

Ben Ward
FRSA
Chief Executive Officer

Dr. Janet Owen
FRSA, AMA, MA (Cantab), MA
Chair of Trustees

> **Wonderseekers has not only great ambitions but important ambitions for today's society.**
>
> **The impact that Wonderseekers already has is hugely significant and important in the world we live in today. I have seen the charity develop from a distance, build in confidence, and take flight.**
>
> **Janet Owen**
> *Chair of Trustees*

Charity impact

Our Charity has been focused on engaging young people in science since it was founded in 1986. Our delivery has evolved over the decades, with a focus now on making science accessible and fun to children at a young age. But why?

Originally, emphasis was placed on science and technology career pathways, and for many organisations this is still their primary focus. But for Wonderseekers, we're on a mission to create more equitable access to science and nature so that all children can participate, especially those within our priority audiences - children and families who are underserved due to low socio-economic opportunities, disability, impairment or illness.

Through a diverse, accessible and inclusive mix of science experiences, our Charity is a catalyst for change. Fun, positive, people-led activities at our Science Centre, in schools, communities and online, are central to getting children and their families engaged in science and its relevance to the world we live in.

Some of the ways we've overcome barriers to engagement:

- We take science and nature experiences into schools and community spaces, reaching children and families who have limited opportunity to engage. Our priority communities are Winnall (Winchester), Leigh Park (Havant), the City of Southampton and Rushmoor (Aldershot & Farnborough).
- We invest in accessibility enhancements to improve physical and sensory access to our Science Centre, workshops and community programmes. This includes everything from recruitment to staff training, interactive exhibits to website design, accessible interpretation, social stories and sensory backpacks to subsidised pricing for schools and free admission for personal assistants and foster families.
- We seek to run our Charity with children, particularly those from priority audiences. We do this through our Young Steering Group, Young Design Panel and through partnerships, such as the ones we have with Shepherd's Down School, which is a SEN school, and regional Young Carer groups.

The difference our Charity can make is demonstrated through our theory of change.

By doing this:

- Speaking up for early intervention, equality, diversity and inclusion and the environment in science
- Creating, curating and sharing digital resources and experiences
- Connecting children to nature through environmental science, outdoor spaces and our activity programme
- Providing accessible, fun and diverse science experiences through our Science Centre
- Extending activity through schools and community-based programmes to deliver equitable access to science

And by working with:

Schools ↔ Families ↔ Communities ↔ Partners

We will be the catalyst for change through:

- Sustained, repeated and diverse science engagement from an early age
- Fun, positive, people-led and participatory activities
- Accessible and inclusive experiences, where children feel welcome and valued
- Continuous evaluation

To achieve these outcomes:

- Children are connected to nature
- Children use their science enquiry skills
- Children want to play their part
- Children value and see the relevance of science

And long-term impacts:

- Children can and want to protect and heal our natural world
- Children choose to live healthier lives
- Children can live in a more equitable society
- Children choose to contribute to a better world for all

Our Charity's impact is reflected in the value that we add and the difference we make to children's engagement with science, personal development and growth.

Our numbers for 2023/24 paint a vibrant picture:

115,402

Up 8.4% on last year

public visitors to Winchester Science Centre.

Children and their families, friends, peers and community groups who visited in their leisure time.

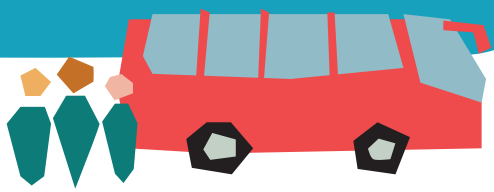
This number includes 1,314 foster family members (up 16.6% on previous year) and 3,332 carers/personal assistants (up 21.6% on previous year).

42,764

Up 11.2% on last year

educational visitors to Winchester Science Centre.

Children and their accompanying adults who visited as part of a school trip, SEN school or group visit, or home education visit.



14,153

Up 48.5% on last year

people engaged through our Equity, Community Engagement and Outreach programme.

Children and their families we have engaged in their school and community spaces.

12,654

people visited Winchester Science Centre for a special event.

Children and adults who attended out-of-hours events and our Cosmic Christmas daytime experience.

Strategy

Our strategy For People and Planet 2030 is our North Star.

It gives us clear, long-term direction and ensures we're all working together to achieve the same aims. It stands on the shoulders of our previous strategy, building on the step change we made in making science engagement inclusive and accessible to now champion equity. It also promises to lead by example on environmental sustainability, to use our spaces, experiences and voice to help children respond to climate change and biodiversity loss and empower collective action for the benefit of people and the planet.

Vision

A world where, through the wonder of science, people and planet thrive.

Mission

To create a more equitable world where all children can treasure science and are equipped and empowered to improve lives and protect and heal our planet.

Values

Inclusive

For the planet

Bold

Fun

Open and honest

Collaborative

Outcomes

- Children are connected to nature
- Children use their science enquiry skills
- Children want to play their part
- Children value and see the relevance of science

Objectives

- Diversify our reach and grow impact
- Champion equality, diversity and inclusion in science
- Work long-term with children who need our support the most
- Protect and heal our planet and inspire others to do the same

Key themes

Be the change

Respect. Protect. Action.

NASA

Objectives, achievements and performance

1

Diversify our reach and grow impact

We launched our strategy, For People and Planet 2030, in February 2023, and couldn't wait to get started.

In this first year, our teams have responded with gusto. Existing programmes and activities across all channels were audited, reviewed and adjusted in line with our new values and objectives. Our pledge to use our spaces, experiences and voice to positively engage children, through science, with the natural world and to take action against climate change, has developed into a group sustainability strategy, a Charity-wide development project (our masterplan) and a project-specific interpretation strategy. This activity, some of which has already been put in place, will diversify and grow our audiences, expand our science and nature engagement and deliver the outcomes we want for children and nature.

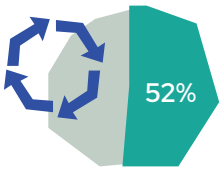
Having shared and tested our plans with stakeholders, the important and urgent role we know we must play is recognised by others and supported. Examples of action we've already taken are included throughout the report and details of our future plans can be found on pages 34 and 35.

Science for families

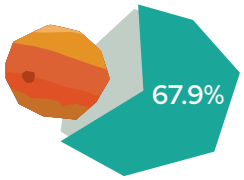
Winchester Science Centre offers an exciting and dynamic science experience for children aged three to 12 and their families.

In addition to two floors of interactive exhibits, the team delivers a packed live science programme including wow demos in Science Live, seasonal live science shows and presenter-led planetarium shows. Visitors enjoy seasonal themes and enhanced activities every school holiday, encouraging repeat visits and added-value experiences for annual members. This dynamic programming has provided welcome opportunities for the team to expand the visitor experience outdoors and build environmental science into our public offer. We were delighted Winchester Science Centre was recognised at the 2023 Beautiful South Awards, with a bronze award for Large Visitor Attraction of the Year. This success is mirrored in our visitor feedback and increased engagement on the previous year.

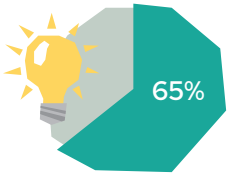
115,402 family visitors, up 8.4% on previous year



repeat visitors



experienced a planetarium show



experienced a live science show

The Science Centre experience is largely indoors so we see the greatest demand on cold and wet days and least demand on hot and sunny days. This year, average day visits from April to September increased by 16%, thanks in part, we believe, to the additional outdoor activities we were able to offer over the summer months.

Our ongoing online visitor survey is a valuable data gathering tool with a high response rate. Its primary purpose is to monitor the quality of our visitor offer and pick out opportunities to improve. This year among the open-ended answers we were also able to identify evidence for the value we add to the people who choose to visit our Science Centre. These include:

We create lasting impressions and provide opportunities for family conversations.

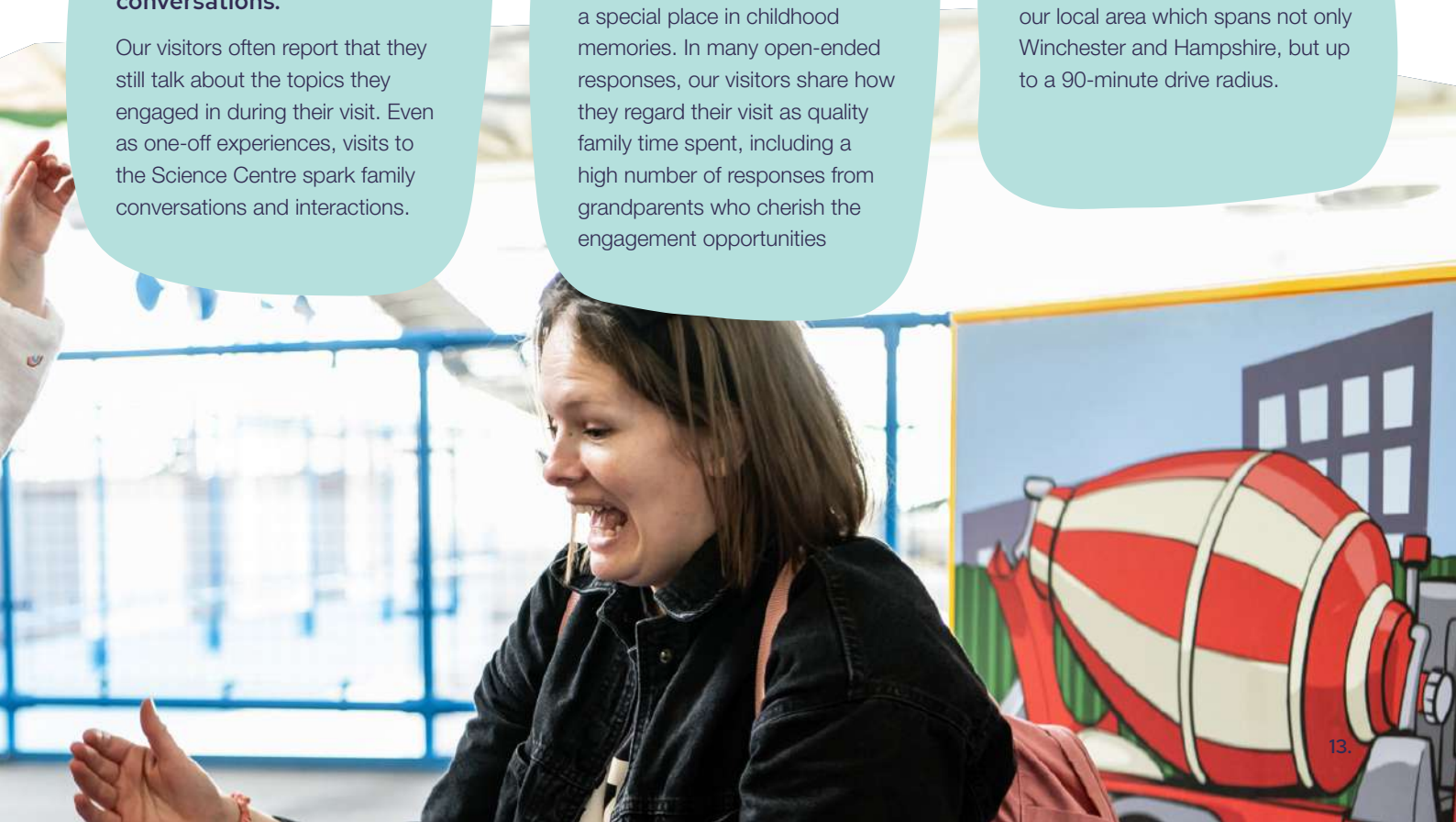
Our visitors often report that they still talk about the topics they engaged in during their visit. Even as one-off experiences, visits to the Science Centre spark family conversations and interactions.

We make positive childhood memories.

Winchester Science Centre holds a special place in childhood memories. In many open-ended responses, our visitors share how they regard their visit as quality family time spent, including a high number of responses from grandparents who cherish the engagement opportunities

We are a valued resource for people living locally.

We provide a unique resource for our local area which spans not only Winchester and Hampshire, but up to a 90-minute drive radius.



Science for schools

During term time, the Science Centre is open exclusively for educational visits from Mondays to Fridays, including school trips, SEN schools/groups and home education visits.

Despite the economic pressures being felt by schools and families, we're thrilled that we remain a highly valued and sought-after experience, with 11% growth in school visits from the previous year.

To support the Charity's expansion into environmental science, we launched our first biology-focused outdoor workshop, Marvellous Minibeasts, and created a nature calendar with external practitioner Dr Sarah Bearchell, as a post-visit activity for schools. In partnership with Butterfly Conservation, schools have participated free-of-charge in Nature Day workshops on the adjacent Magdalen Hill Down nature reserve. These were great for the children but also provided valuable practical experience for our team in leading groups across this important chalk downland landscape.

42,764 educational visitors, up 11.2% on previous year

Partnership with

Butterfly Conservation
Saving butterflies, moths and our environment

Quality Badge awarded by
Council for Learning Outside the Classroom

Teacher feedback

> Having the folder was good for teachers, workshop very well run, planetarium show much improved, and the children love all the hands-on activities.
>
> *31st October 2023*

> Top quality provision for accessibility. Timings were good and appropriate.
>
> *10th November 2023*

> Brilliant space, well designed and accessible, and extremely child centric.
>
> *12th December 2023*

> Brilliant trip! Very interactive. So much to do for the children. They were engaged all day!
>
> *12th October 2023*

> Fantastic organisation. Children had the best time. Planetarium and workshops were great!
>
> *26th March 2024*

> Children really enjoyed the workshop. It gave them an opportunity to do something not possible in the classroom.
>
> *20th March 2024*

Reaching new audiences through events

We relaunched our events programme in 2022/23, initially testing our enhanced daytime offer for families, a new Christmas experience and evening events for families and adults.

This year, we racked up a total of 94 in-house events, which included badge nights for uniformed groups, cinema screenings in the planetarium, guest presenter talks and shows, stargazing events, evenings for adults, Pink Floyd planetarium shows and welcomed the return of Santa and his intergalactic elf for Cosmic Christmas. We also hosted sleepovers, birthday parties and private hire events. The events programme supports our Charity's mission and contributes a valuable additional income stream for the Charity.

12,654 people attended an event at Winchester Science Centre

£149,734 turnover, up 162% on previous year **2023/24**

2022/23

Objectives, achievements and performance

2

Work long-term with children who need our support the most

We believe that by giving children access to engaging science and nature experiences and equipping them with essential science enquiry skills, children can choose to live healthier and more sustainable lives.

That's why we continue to prioritise and invest in removing barriers for children, especially for those who are underserved due to low socio-economic opportunity, disability, impairment or illness.

This year our Equity, Community Engagement and Outreach (ECO) team engaged a total of 14,153 children and accompanying adults at 130 events. This included 8,346 who experienced our mobile planetarium and 5,807 who accessed free community-based activities, the latter developed with partners to ensure long-term, sustained engagement.

Taking science and nature experiences into schools and communities

Community-based engagement is central to our strategy, reaching families and schools who cannot and will not, for many reasons, visit our Science Centre.

Our free-at-point-of-access experiences are funded by Wonderseekers, grants and community partnerships. Priority is given to communities according to their IMD[1] score and proximity to Wonderseekers. This year, we are pleased to have supported Leigh Park in Havant, Newport on the Isle of Wight, Rushmoor, Southampton and Winnall in Winchester.

[1] The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) is a measure of relative deprivation for small areas (Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs). It is a combined measure of deprivation based on a total of 37 separate indicators that have been grouped into seven domains, each of which reflects a different aspect of deprivation experienced by individuals living in an area.

Working in partnership with Leigh Park Library

We have forged a mutually beneficial partnership with Hampshire Library Service in Leigh Park, where library engagement has been low and school attainment is below the average for Hampshire.

Free interactive science and nature workshops were held regularly during school holidays and promoted exclusively in the local area.

> **Families in the area would not be able to get to the Winchester Science Centre independently so bringing the science workshops to them is invaluable.**
>
> **For the library it has given us the opportunity to attract families into our spaces to see that libraries are for all and are a welcoming, safe, and free space.**
>
> *Liz Weighell, Area Manager – East Libraries*

Adding value to Hampshire's Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF)

Wonderseekers began supporting the HAF programme in 2022/23.

This year, we took our mobile planetarium and microscope activities to children attending schemes at Nine Acres Primary School on the Isle of Wight, Stanmore Primary School in Winchester and Park Community School in Leigh Park. A total of 147 children engaged in science through this programme.

> **The activities delivered at the HAF schemes allowed the children to explore the universe, their local micro worlds and finally their own creativity, whilst talking to the Inspirers who acted as amazing and achievable role models for them.**
>
> *Sharon Bartholomew, HAF Partnership Officer, Hampshire County Council*

Repeat engagement programmes for schools

Nationally funded projects provide a great opportunity for us to take high impact repeat engagement programmes to schools in priority communities.

This year we ran two national programmes: COSMOS and Our World from Space. We took fun and accessible interactive workshops, engaging assemblies and our mobile planetarium into schools and community festivals, and supported teacher CPD.

These projects were made possible thanks to the Association of Science and Discovery Centres (ASDC), UK Space Agency (UKSA), Natural Environmental Research Council (NERC), Ondata Research Ltd and Horizon2020 funding from the European Commission.

We also developed our own repeat engagement programme Climate Trackers to support Rushmoor Borough Council's aim of increasing science engagement in their district.

Removing barriers to engagement at Winchester Science Centre

As a Charity we seek to overcome barriers for children to access science engagement.

We do this through our Science Centre by operating an admissions policy that supports families and schools in areas of low socio-economic opportunity and by providing multi-sensory, accessible activities and experiences.

We know that admission fees are a significant barrier for families and schools, especially those from our priority audiences/communities. We have had tiered pricing in place for schools since 2018, with up to 60% subsidy for schools with 17% or more children being eligible for free school meals (FSM). This year, in response to the cost-of-living crisis, we introduced an advance booking discount for families, an initiative that has supported 40% of family visitors. We have also provided free admission for foster families and visitors' carers/personal assistants.

When we introduced tiered pricing for schools in 2018, the national average of children receiving free school meals was 14%. In 2023/24, post-pandemic and with the cost-of-living crisis and inflation of over 10%, this is now 24.6% and a clear indication of increased social need. We resisted increasing the threshold for our FSM subsidy as the needs of these schools remain the same.

Our Equity, Community Engagement and Outreach Team champion accessibility by supporting continuous learning and improvement, including annual staff training and implementing accessibility improvements across our site and programmes.

This year, the team introduced 'Workshop on Wheels' boxes for all school workshops, offering an individual activity for children who feel unable to participate in a shared workshop experience. They've also developed new audio cues for all interactive exhibits, which will be available to access via discovery pens in late 2024, to provide greater independence for visually impaired and SEND visitors.

These developments build on our regular activity, such as home education and SEND days, BSL interpretation days, and daily not-so-noisy and subtitled shows. As well as special events to provide bespoke access for SEND groups.

This year we're pleased to have supported Hampshire Autistic Scouts, Autism Hampshire and Young Carers.

Despite our efforts to make the Science Centre accessible to all, the Science Centre's sole lift experienced a technical failure which resulted in it being out of service for 9 days. This presented a major barrier for visitors reliant on step-free access between our two floors. Our future plans will increase access and address ageing infrastructure.

40% of family visitors benefitted from advance booking discounts

1,314 free tickets for foster families

Up 16.6% on last year

3,332 free tickets for carers/personal assistants

Up 21.6% on last year

87% of school visitors were subsidised by Wonderseekers

Up 18% on last year

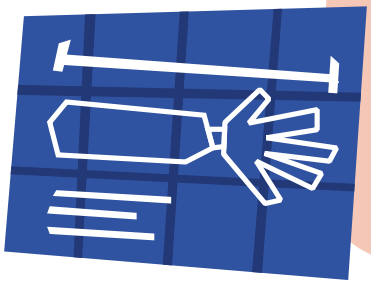
We make a difference by being accessible and inclusive.

The accessibility of our experiences at Winchester Science Centre is the most positively commented on aspect of our offer in our post-visit survey.

We have a consistently higher-than-average percentage of visitors impacted by disability or impairment (19.43% in 2023/24). We continually monitor and ask for their feedback so that we can improve our offer and add value to their experience. We strive to cater for different needs and requirements as shown by the testimonials received:

> We were very impressed at how inclusive the centre was. Having a child with ASD/anxiety, your level of inclusiveness was probably the best we have ever experienced, including the pre-information about what to expect, ear defenders and recombobulation room if needed. Thank you
>
> *Parent*

> My daughter rarely ever fits into opportunities that others take for granted but felt that the science museum was perfect, the first thing we did was take her into the guitar to feel the vibrations, she has neurological dual sensory impairment and could have spent all day in there! I felt that she was included.
>
> *Parent*



> [My child is impacted by] profound disability, dual sensory impaired, wheelchair user...we felt 100% that she was a valued customer and made to feel so welcome, I loved how inclusive the displays were, explaining about the young girl with the prosthetics and printing your name in sign language for example
>
> *Parent*

Objectives, achievements and performance

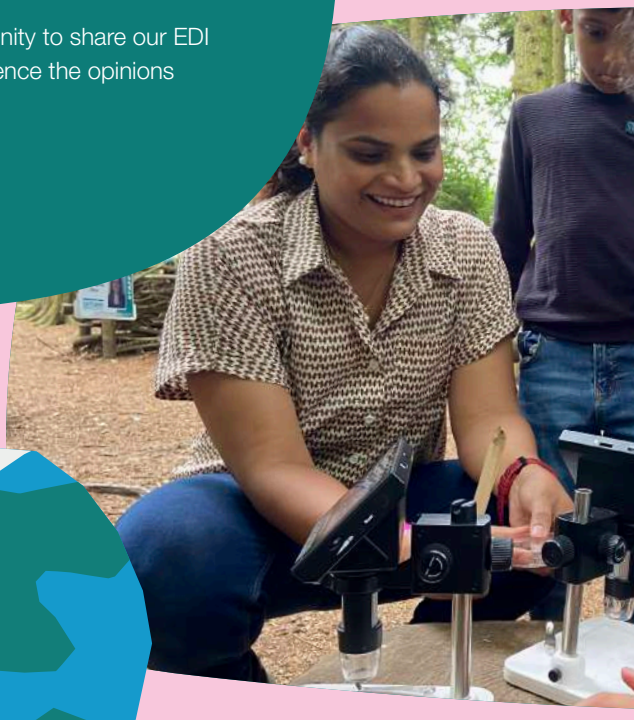
3

Champion equity, diversity and inclusion in science

We champion equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) in two ways.

Through our actions, we demonstrate our commitment to EDI, through our people and how we choose to run our Charity.

Through our communications, we have the opportunity to share our EDI experience, learning and impact to inform and influence the opinions and behaviours of others.



Our people

We're delighted to welcome two new recruits, to further our Charity's impact in EDI.

Daniella, our Communications Officer joined the team in January 2024, and Yvonne Rowland, who joined as a trustee in October 2023. Both were drawn to Wonderseekers because of the Charity's commitment to EDI and supporting children.

> I feel very privileged to be in this position, telling the stories that deserve more public recognition. Because of my own lived experience as a person with a physical impairment who grew up being told "I would always struggle in school and not thrive academically" because of my disability, I know how important it is to see diversity represented fairly. I understand the value Wonderseekers can make to people's lives. At Wonderseekers, we listen to and involve children in our work. I know first-hand the difference a positive attitude makes to people's lives, especially children. I hope that my work will continue to advocate for children, showing them that anything is possible, and demonstrate to adults that there's so much to learn from children.
>
> *Daniella Ballard, Communications Officer*

In response to our strategy, we've grown our Equity, Community Engagement and Outreach (ECO) Team, previously known as the Widening Participation Team, to support growth in community-based programmes, increase capacity to develop future plans and to advocate for EDI.

Staff regularly share Wonderseekers learning and experiences at conferences and events and bring EDI expertise to partnership working. This year, we presented at the Association for Science and Discovery Centres (ASDC) Conference, sharing our experience of co-working with children and artists to support science engagement. We presented a school workshop at STEM Learning's Primary Science CPD Conference, giving attendees first-hand experience and insight into Winchester Science Centre's award-winning schools offer. We took accessible science experiences to a family-focused science and conservation festival at Wildheart Animal Sancturary, Isle of Wight, and supported the University of Southampton's science and engineering festival to increase access and engagement.

We were delighted to hear our reputation for accessible experiences had reached Australia, when the team from Scitech in Perth contacted us for advice on how to create accessible planetarium experiences. We were pleased to help but sadly, we didn't get to do a site visit!

We are proud to maintain our status as a Disability Confident (committed), Mindful and Age-friendly employer. This year, we updated our recruitment procedures and worked on improving access to office spaces for staff. Amongst our team we have mental health first aiders and an Autism Ambassador for Hampshire.

Equitable partnerships supporting children and nature.

In May 2023, Wonderseekers was selected to join the Mindsets + Missions learning and grants programme, funded by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI).

The aim of the programme was to support museums and science centres to engage underrepresented groups with knowledge, research and innovation. We successfully bid for an equitable partnership project 'Sound of Biodiversity', developed with the Institute of Sustainability, University of Surrey, and a primary school in one of our priority communities.

The project, which started in September 2023 and runs until July 2024, is a real step-change for partnership working, recognising the equally valuable contributions being made by each partner, in this case, scientific research, lived experience and science engagement expertise, as well as ensuring equitable outcomes and benefits. We are supported by evaluation consultant Jen DeWitt to evaluate the objectives, partnership relationships, and outcomes and impact on the children participating. We look forward to sharing our project case study following its completion.

The Mindsets + Missions grants programme is coordinated by the Museums Association, Association for Science and Discovery Centres and The Liminal Space.

> **It has been a pleasure and wonderful experience collaborating with Wonderseekers on a public engagement project. Through our equal partnership, including a local school, I will have been able to disseminate my research into the health and wellbeing implications of soundscapes created from different urban and natural planning decisions, in an impactful and interesting way for children. In turn, I am learning what soundscapes are valuable for children, and the best methods to engage children in learning about the value of natural soundscapes.**
>
> *Dr Sarah Payne,*
> *Senior Lecturer of Environmental Psychology, and Sustainability Fellow and Programme Lead of Nature-based solutions, Institute for Sustainability,*
> *University of Surrey*

Bold Futures – a co-creation project designed to capture and amplify children's voices.

Children from Leigh Park, Havant, and Eastleigh Young Carers Project, two of Wonderseekers' priority audiences, got to see themselves on the big screen in The Planetarium, for the premiere of two short films, co-created by and starring the children.

The films, which address the children's hopes and fears about climate change, now feature on the Science Centre's main exhibition floor for all visitors to see and interact with.

Despite national research into eco-anxiety, little information exists, especially for young children. Through this project, we provided a safe and supportive space for children and families to discuss these challenging topics. Working with Artist and Scientist, Kay McCrann, children took part in mark making workshops to help them express their feelings about their local environment, explore their likes and dislikes about their outdoor spaces and create visions of their ideal green space. These sessions helped the children to create a visual narrative about how they felt. They then used this to start a conversation about climate change; what it means to them and what they can do in their local areas to help.

The films are a powerful legacy of this project but so is the impact of the project on the children who participated, as illustrated by this comment from one of the community leaders:

> **"We know that one of our most shy and quietest Young Carers, as a result of taking part in this workshop, is feeling more confident and feels able to speak up and express herself."**
>
> *Hayley Malcolm, One Community*

This project was made possible thanks to funding from the Inspiring Science Fund, coordinated by the Association of Science and Discovery Centres, the Museums Association and The Liminal Space.

Objectives, achievements and performance

4

We'll protect and heal our planet and inspire others to do the same

"The truth is, every one of us, no matter who we are or where we live, can and must play a part in restoring nature. It's easy to feel overwhelmed or powerless by the scale of the issues facing our planet, but we have the solutions. I am hopeful for the future, because although nature is in crisis, now is the time for action, and together we can save it."

David Attenborough, The Guardian, 13 March 2023

Wonderseekers is uniquely positioned to support children, through science and nature engagement, to respond to the climate and biodiversity emergencies we face.

In our strategy, we made a pledge to use our spaces, experiences and voice to engage children through all disciplines of science, with the natural world and to act against climate change. This year, we developed our Group Sustainability Strategy to set out our vision and goals for each of these three areas. The strategy, which has since been published, is available to view on our website, www.wonderseekers.charity/about-us/sustainability.

A summary of the action we have taken this year is included below.

Our spaces – the action we take to support positive outcomes for nature.

Our most significant development this year is the signing of a 125-year lease for eight acres of rare and precious chalk grassland, immediately adjacent to our Winchester Science Centre site in the South Downs National Park.

The lease of land has been generously gifted to Wonderseekers by longstanding corporate supporter, Arqiva - the same organisation that donated the original site for Winchester Science Centre twenty five years ago. The new site presents an incredible opportunity to work with science and nature partners and children, to develop new environmental science engagement and conservation programmes.

To ensure continuous care and a seamless transition of ownership, we have maintained Arqiva's land management plan. In addition, we commissioned Arcadian Ecology and Consulting, a wholly owned subsidiary of Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, to do a baseline data survey on the health and biodiversity of the site, providing a benchmark for future biodiversity targets.

Building on sustainability research conducted over the past few years, we commissioned multi-disciplinary engineering consultancy Hoare Lea to carry out sustainability modelling for Winchester Science Centre to achieve our sustainability objectives and inform future plans and investment.

Our experiences – the outcomes and impact we have through science and nature engagement.

We believe we can empower children, through science engagement, to choose to live healthier, more sustainable lives, improving the outcomes for children and the planet.

We've been building our environmental science engagement through our public and schools programmes at Winchester Science Centre and in communities.

Our partnership with Butterfly Conservation, which has seen us work on various programmes together since 2017/18, continued this year. Together, we designed an outdoor science and nature workshop which we ran with 83 children and accompanying teachers on Butterfly Conservation's reserve. This activity has been hugely beneficial to building our team's confidence in delivering outdoor engagement and their knowledge of the land and its species.

Wonderseekers successfully bid for funding to run a two-year national programme, Our World from Space, which has been ceated and developed by the Association for Science and Discovery Centres (ASDC). The programme explores the relevance of UK space science for the future health and sustainability of our home planet. Through this project, our team created a series of fun, positive and interactive workshops and demonstrations using the themes of climate, oceans and biodiversity. These engaging workshops have been used to provide funded activity in our priority communities to build scientific enquiry skills and environmental awareness.

Our World from Space is funded by UK Space Agency in partnership with Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), part of UK Research and Innovation.

Our voice – the opportunities we create for children to be part of the wider conversation.

At Winchester Science Centre and through our community and schools programmes we engage children in conversation and debate about the world around them, science and nature.

We encourage them to share their ideas, opinions and experiences with us and have responded to what we have learned through our own development.

Our Young Steering Group has been a powerful influence on our Charity, demonstrating the passion, commitment and care children have for the world and their readiness to play their part. At our strategy launch last year, we asked children to share their hopes for environmental action. They made placards to raise awareness of the issues they felt needed the world's attention. This sent a powerful message to our guests that children care but also a powerful message to the children, that their voices matter.

Wonderseekers has a unique opportunity to listen to children and to amplify their voices on matters that they care about but equally a huge responsibility to do this in a way that is authentic and in the best interests of the children who participate. This year, we have been working with external arts practitioners to explore new ways of working with children and evaluation specialists to help capture their voices in an authentic and honest way. (See Bold Futures project, page 25)

Fundraising

Empowering children, with our funders.

On our journey to educate, maximise our social impact and build organisational resilience, the confidence and support that we receive from our funders is transformational.

Wonderseekers reinvests income from visitors to Winchester Science Centre, received through admissions, donations via GiftAid and retail purchases, to sustain the Charity and fund its day-to-day operating costs. Every penny generously received from others, through grants and donations, supports the creation of new experiences and removes barriers, enabling more young children - especially those underserved due to low socio-economic opportunities, disability, impairment and illness - to participate and engage in science and become active citizens.

In this first year, the development stage of our new strategy, we are especially grateful to the organisations mentioned below for their trust, guidance and financial leadership, which will catalyse the next stage of our plan.

Arqiva's gift in kind of a 125-year lease of eight acres of chalk grassland surrounding our Science Centre provides us with an exciting opportunity to engage children with the story of our local landscape, supporting them to understand its significance, deepen their connection to nature and develop and use their environmental science skills.

This year we've begun developing an exciting new exhibition and activity programme, Our Place On Earth, which will introduce children to the natural sciences and support them to understand and actively participate in environmental research. We are grateful to The Foyle Foundation, EXplora and UKRI through their "Mindsets + Missions" programme, for facilitating work with children from our priority communities, science experts and artists in equitable partnerships, to design and develop content that is relevant and relatable for children. As well as supporting brilliant public engagement and content creation, as part of their grant UKRI has also funded one local primary school to improve biodiversity in their playground through a "green space" project designed by the children.

The Goldsmiths' Charity has generously provided the seed funding for Habitat Playpark, a new outdoor exhibition, designed specifically for pre-school children and children with special educational needs and disability (SEND), to support their introduction to the natural world and the skills to look after it. The grant will enable Wonderseekers to learn how to effectively engage very young children and those with additional needs through observation, consultation with Early Years and SEND specialists and a series of play-based workshops with pre-school children.

We are also grateful to Ecophon and Parlex for their continuing support and leadership in helping us launch our new corporate partnership scheme: Curiosity Collective.

I see Wonderseekers as the enabling piece for us to reach so many young people. If you wanted a return on your investment, there is none better than investing in young people. Because they are our future.

Dominic Ward
Parlex, a Johnson Electric Company

Wonderseekers is registered with the Fundraising Regulator and is compliant with the Code of Fundraising Practice. All fundraising activity is undertaken by the Fundraising Team, in accordance with the Fundraising Policy and Procedures, with support and oversight from the Fundraising Committee. Funding is sought from trusts and foundations, government, corporate sponsorship and through partnership agreements with industry and universities. All donations are given freely from individuals, including the invitation to Gift Aid admission. Wonderseekers does not use any third-party fundraiser or seek funding from vulnerable people. No complaints have been made in relation to fundraising activities (2022/23: nil).

Become a corporate partner
Join the Curiosity Collective.

The Curiosity Collective is an easy, cost-effective way to join us and other like-minded partners in creating a more equitable world where all children can treasure science and are equipped and empowered to improve lives and protect and heal our planet.

To join, please visit:
www.wonderseekers.charity/support-us/corporate-partnerships

For all other fundraising enquiries, please email
fundraising@wonderseekers.charity
or call **01962 863 791** and ask to speak to the Fundraising Team.

Volunteering

The Trustees and staff thank all our volunteers who have given their time, skills and expertise to support our Charity. We'd also like to thank our Patron, Young Steering Group and newly formed Project Advisory Board for their valuable time and the contribution they make.

As an educational charity, we love to provide opportunities for young people to gain work experience. Through Winchester Science Centre, we hosted 15 work experience placements for KS3/KS4 students in years 10-12. The programme was launched in 2022/23 and has grown significantly from the four placements awarded that first year. Students get to work alongside our Curiosity Team supporting the delivery of our school visits programme and experiencing all the 'behind the scenes' development and preparation that goes on.

We are also pleased to offer several student internships annually. This year, we welcomed two via SEPNet (South-East physics network) from University of Southampton and Royal Holloway, London, a Primary Education student from University of Chichester and a further student from University of Southampton via their Employment Service.

Winchester Science Centre also hosted a student for a year-long placement from the Supported Internship programme, facilitated by Eastleigh College and Eastleigh Borough Council. The internship, aimed at young people aged 16 – 24 with an Educational Health Care Plan, aims to give young people their first experience of working with an employer.

All placements were held with the Curiosity Team, supporting the schools and public programmes.

Wonderseekers Young Steering Group wins national volunteering award

Over the past two years our Young Steering Group members have all had one aim in common – to work together to drive change through the Charity and at the Science Centre, and to make science accessible to as many young people across the country as they can.

Their hard work has been recognised on a national scale as the group were presented with the Marsh Volunteer Youth Prize Award in partnership with the Association of Science and Discovery Centres (ASDC).

The awards panel noted that the children's passion for science and nature and willingness to contribute their time and experience to support the Charity's development shone through. And their co-creation of outdoor science engagement activities, which have been enjoyed by thousands of visitors, was also highlighted.

Shaaron Leverment, Chief Executive of the ASDC, said: "It was a highlight of 2023 to come to present these brilliant young volunteers with their prizes. Meeting some of their families, hearing their stories and passion for science and nature was an utter privilege. These young advocates and activists are making a real difference, not just to Wonderseekers but beyond!"

Our Young Steering Group, made up of children aged between six and 12, bring valuable insights into scientific topics, help determine how Wonderseekers can make a difference and speak to other young people, to help make science available to all children.

> It was important to me because I love the environment, nature and I want to help animals. YSG helped me achieve this.
>
> *Tillie*

> It made me feel joyful because I was part of such a wonderful group
>
> *Sulaf*

> It has made me very proud of myself and I feel as though I can do anything!
>
> *Bella*

Future plans

In last year's annual report, we set out our short-term aims to: build our learning about the land, continue to develop and test outdoor science engagement with schools and families; build relationships with our stakeholders, such as landowners, scientists, children and communities, and; improve our own environmental sustainability.

We're really pleased with the progress we have made this year to deliver on these aims, details of which are included throughout this report.

The launch of our new identity as Wonderseekers and the new strategy in 2023 marked the start of an exciting new chapter for our Charity. Over the past year, we have been building a masterplan, setting out how we intend to deliver on the strategy. This included a comprehensive review of all activities and plans previously in place. We recognised that to achieve our big ambitions for children and nature, we needed to take a systematic and Charity-wide approach to projects, encompassing organisational learning, evaluation, interpretation, sustainability and audience reach. As a result, our future plans focus on four key areas of development.

1

Child-centred science and nature partnerships

Working in collaboration with others is one of our core values and something we have been doing for many years with community, university, charity and corporate partners. However, these relationships have often been developed for a specific activity, programme or project and always led by adults. We are now looking to take a more systematic and equitable approach to partnership working and are especially keen to develop our co-working practices with children, scientific partners and arts practitioners.

Over the next year, we will work with our newly formed Young Design Panel (a cohort of children from our priority audiences), scientists and artist, Millie Rolle, to explore a range of themes including soil, food production, light pollution, local species, the sound of biodiversity and accessibility. Through this multidisciplinary collaboration, we will work towards creating ideas and inspiration that will help expand our environmental science content and experiences.

2

Early years science and nature experiences

Although we have promoted our experiences for children aged three – 12 much of our content is aimed at children aged 6 years and above. We are now looking to address this imbalance by investing in new early years experiences.

We will collaborate with artists, scientists, designers, children and early-years practitioners to understand very young children's connection with nature. Our ambition is to co-design an enchanting outdoor learning experience at Winchester Science Centre where children can explore small creature habitats through sensory, physical and imaginative play. Through storytelling, play and creative interpretation, we hope to help children to learn about the creatures of the South Downs, their habitats and ecosystems and develop a shared love for nature. The development phase for this project will begin in September 2024.

3

South Downs science and nature action

Urgent, collaborative action is needed to save our planet, but many children feel powerless to act. Securing the chalk grassland surrounding our Science Centre provides a timely opportunity to diversify our work and use our science engagement expertise, in partnership, to empower children with the skills and agency to protect and heal the planet.

Exploring the story of our land and with South Downs National Park partners, scientists and communities, we'll create equitable, positive environmental science experiences for children, especially those with complex barriers to accessing science and nature. Together we will work to restore the biodiversity of our grassland and celebrate local, natural heritage, strengthening children's connections with nature and building science skills so children can take wider action.

We are currently working with partners and seeking funding to realise this transformative project for children, the region and Wonderseekers.

4

Sustainability

In line with our Group Sustainability Strategy, we're looking to invest in our Science Centre infrastructure to improve the building's thermal efficiency and replace the oil-fueled heating system with a more sustainable electric alternative. Whilst we are seeking support from external partners to deliver these developments, these improvements are essential to our strategy. A new designated reserve has been created specifically for sustainability/infrastructure, which we hope will enable us to leverage further investment opportunities.

Financial review

Overview

Over the last eight years and despite the tough conditions during the pandemic the Charity has consolidated its core business, investing in its offer, improving its operating efficiency and making the best use of its income. It achieved a solid performance during 2023/24 and remained on a sound financial footing at the year end, ready to move forward on its For People and Planet 2030 strategy.

The lease of eight acres of chalk grassland gifted from Arqiva (note 14) is a key enabler for the Charity, providing an opportunity not only to expand its environmental science content and experiences but also to address one of the Charity's long-term risks: its dependence on the weather.

Whilst the Charity has been strengthening its core business, its underlying infrastructure has continued to age, and includes for example a heating system reliant on fossil fuels. To reduce the Charity's carbon footprint and improve its long-term sustainability a £500k reserve has been created to support investment in the Charity's infrastructure.

Income

Total group income for the year was £3,767k, an increase of £246k (7%) on 2022/23. This represents a strong performance for the Charity against a backdrop of ongoing cost of living pressures and economic uncertainty.

Donations and legacies – note 3

Income from Donations and Legacies was 29% up on 2022/23, predominantly due to the generous gift in kind of the lease of land surrounding the Science Centre. The land has been valued at £230k and has been recognised as a heritage asset in the accounts (note 14).

The Charity was also extremely grateful for the grants received to support community engagement programmes, details of which can be found on pages 12 and 19 in this report.

Charitable activities – note 4

Income derived from charitable activities fell by £130k (6%) but would have shown an increase of almost £200k (11%) if the one off VAT adjustment of £330k recognised in the 2022/23 accounts relating to the Charity's culturally exempt status had been excluded.

Visitor footfall continued to recover with the Charity reporting a rise in public admission visitors to 115,402, an increase of 8.4% on 2022/23. With the cost of living pressures continuing to affect so many families, a revised ticket pricing structure was introduced. This allowed visitors to receive discounts of up to 20% on standard admission costs if they booked in advance. Advance knowledge of visitor numbers also assisted the Charity in managing its resources. Overall admission fees rose by £276k (16%) from 2022/23.

Engagement and Outreach reduced by £85k (73%) due to the Charity's decision in 2022/23 not to renew the STEM Ambassador contract. Wonderseekers' work in communities continued with diversified grant funding, included in Donations and Legacies.

Income from trading activities – note 5

Events revenue increased by £88k (89%) in 2023/24 reaching levels not seen since before the pandemic. The strong performance in 2023/24 supports the decision to rebuild an events team focused on strategically-aligned, revenue generating events.

Trading operations saw an increase of £130k (22%) in 2023/24 reflecting both the increase in visitor numbers and a 12% increase in spend per visitor, primarily due to higher product prices as a result of inflation.

Expenditure

Expenditure in 2023/24 was broadly in line with 2022/23 decreasing by £50k (1%).

People costs – note 11

People costs rose by £59k (4%) in 2023/24. Although the average number of full-time equivalent employees also rose (by one), the structure of the workforce evolved as the STEM Ambassador contract ended and investment was made in the communications and operations teams. This allowed the Charity to give cost of living pay increases ranging from 4% to 10%, with the lowest paid staff receiving the greatest increases, whilst limiting the increase in overall people costs.

The average full-time equivalent employees for 2023/24 was 51 (2022/23: 50).

Expenditure on charitable activities – note 7

Expenditure linked to delivery of the Science Centre and other educational and outreach activities decreased by £219k (9%) due to the non-renewal of the STEM Ambassador contract in 2022/23.

Expenditure on raising funds – note 6

Trading costs rose by £154k (+17%) driven in part by increasing sales linked to rising visitor numbers and more events, but also reflecting the wider inflationary pressures in the economy as a whole.

Fundraising costs increased by £15k (20%) as the Charity prepared for the fundraising required to deliver on its ambitious future plans.

Governance and support costs – note 8

Governance and support costs fell by £42k (4%) due to efficiencies across the organisation leading to reduced overheads costs.

Reserves policy

The Charity holds both restricted and unrestricted funds, with the unrestricted funds covering both designated funds, funds set aside by the trustees for a specific purpose, and general funds, reserves which provide working capital and resources for unforeseen financial difficulties.

The Charity's policy on unrestricted general reserves is set based on forecast income and expenditure, the likelihood of material risks crystallising which would not be covered by future income or insurance, and horizon scanning for possible opportunities that may require some upfront investment.

The general unrestricted reserves is set with regard to:

- Annual budget – set to ensure the Charity's future expenditure levels are matched to the income the Charity receives from operating the Science Centre and other grants and income.

- Risk management process - assesses the impact and likelihood of all risks to the Charity and the appropriate level of short-term reserves to be held.

The Trustees have assessed the impact and likelihood of uninsured risks to create an expected value, which is reduced by the assessment of mitigating controls, to set the appropriate level of general unrestricted short-term reserves to be held. This value is formally reviewed on an annual basis with the opportunity for any material changes to be picked up within the risk review process.

In 2022/23 the Charity aimed to hold general unrestricted reserves of £300k – £350k, equivalent to three months of expenditure for full operations. With anticipated increases in staffing and other operational costs, the range of £400k – £450k has been considered more appropriate for 2023/24.

The designated Outdoor Science Engagement reserve of £600k created in 2022/23 has been maintained to support the Charity's future investment in developing and delivering its outdoor science engagement plans (with initial preparatory work on the plans being funded from the Charity's core operations).

The Charity has also recognised the need, in line with its sustainability strategy, to invest in the Science Centre's infrastructure, to reduce the Charity's carbon footprint and safeguard its long-term sustainability. In view of the substantial resources which will be required, a Capital Investment and Sustainability reserve of £500k has been created (see note 20).

General reserves outcome

Unrestricted reserves now stand at £3,325k, of which £2,847k were designated and £478k were general unrestricted reserves.

The Trustees are committed to using these funds to support our beneficiaries by pursuing the outdoor science engagement projects, investing in the Charity's building and reducing its environment impact, managing future risks and growing charitable impact.

Investment Policy

The Trustees have assessed the Charity's working capital requirements, and its liquid funds are considered sufficient to meet its short-term cash flow requirements. Its liquid funds were held in short-term notice accounts with A-rated high street banks pending implementation of the Charity's future plans.

Principal risks

The performance and risk profile of the Charity continues to be influenced by external pressures. While the challenges of the cost of living crisis and persistent high inflation provided the landscape for 2022/23, they also continued into 2023/24, impacting families, suppliers and Wonderseekers itself. Although outdoor activities at the Science Centre increased, warm, dry weather continued to negatively impact public visitor numbers.

The Charity's most effective response to these risks is through delivery of its strategy; building impact and resilience through diversification and growth. The reimagining of the Charity's Morn Hill site to expand the Charity's science engagement outdoors and increasing the Charity's focus on community and schools-based activity will build capacity and reduce its reliance on income generated through its predominantly indoor Science Centre experience.

The Trustees believe that sound risk management is integral to both good management and good governance practice.

Risk management is part of the Charity's decision-making and is incorporated within strategic and operational planning.

The Trustees recognise that risk is inherent in any operation and that some level of managed risk is essential if the Charity is to achieve the greatest impact for its beneficiaries.

Wonderseekers manages risk through a top-down-bottom-up approach assessing longer-term strategic risks alongside shorter-term operational and project risks.

The Senior Leadership Team maintains departmental and project risk registers identifying key risks to their departments and projects, which are updated and cascaded quarterly.

Any fast-moving or escalating risks during the quarter are reported at the weekly Senior Leadership Team meeting. Risks are cascaded to the Chair of Trustees and Chair of Finance, Audit and Risk Committee as required.

The Senior Leadership Team reviews the Charity's Risk Register monthly. The Charity risk position is reviewed quarterly by the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee and risk is a standing agenda item at all quarterly board meetings.

Risk: Recruitment and staff retention

Status: No change

Dynamic people-led experiences, synonymous with the Charity, and the Charity's ability to deliver the ambitious plans necessary to secure long-term resilience, growth and impact, rely on successful recruitment and the retention of key staff.

People costs are Wonderseekers' biggest annual expenditure so, whilst critical, an inability to provide remuneration levels in line with expectations, could limit the Charity's ability to recruit and retain the key staff needed.

Risk mitigation strategy: The Charity's ambitious strategy and future plans enable staff to remain highly invested in, and motivated by, the Charity's vision. Through projects, the Charity is developing evaluation methodology to capture, retain and share organisational learning and knowledge. The Board of Trustees and Senior Leadership Team will continue to foster a people-focused and values-based culture that is highly valued by staff and appeals to new recruits. Annual staff surveys will be used to measure satisfaction and identify employment terms valued by staff and areas for improvement. Progression within the Charity will be encouraged and regularly demonstrated, and salaries will continue to be reviewed and benchmarked. The Charity recognises that economic pressure is an external threat that cannot always be mitigated.

Risk: Fundraising

Status: No change

The scale of the Charity's future plans is heavily reliant on its ability to successfully fundraise. Failure to secure the necessary funding will limit its ability to deliver on its strategy as planned.

Development projects also include investment in the Charity's infrastructure and failure to secure funds could limit that investment.

Risk mitigation strategy: A fundraising strategy and plan have been developed following an initial fundraising feasibility study, and steps are being taken to implement the strategy. The Charity will continue to invest in the fundraising team to build internal capacity and expertise whilst also expanding the Charity's reach. The Charity is using a CRM system to support relationship management and cultivation. The Marketing and Communications Team will continue to expand corporate and campaign communications to build the Charity's credibility and profile to support fundraising. Funding lead times and milestones are factored into project timelines.

Risk: Project management

Status: Increasing

The Charity's future plans involve an ambitious redevelopment of its Morn Hill site including the additional project and financial risks associated with managing a multi-million-pound capital project.

The new asset, eight acres of rare chalk grassland, requires careful, long-term management to support and recover the site's biodiversity and to enable children to connect with nature and build science skills. Mismanagement of the project poses a risk to natural heritage, the Charity's reputation, credibility and resiliance.

Risk mitigation strategy: An appropriate project governance structure has been designed to ensure sufficient direction and oversight, including a Project Steering Group for increasing project governance rigour. Capital project management expertise will be engaged to directly manage and oversee the project. A new role will be created to fulfil the Charity's land management responsibilities and support the site's biodiversity, and partnerships with conservationists, including South Downs National Park and Butterfly Conservation, will be further developed.

Energy consumption and carbon emissions

Through the delivery of our strategy and future plans, we have a key role to play within our region to address the climate and biodiversity emergencies.

To support children in our collective response to climate change and biodiversity loss, and as custodians of precious chalk downland, we must lead by example; working with others to protect and recover the important heritage of our site and do everything we can to reduce our carbon emissions and waste.

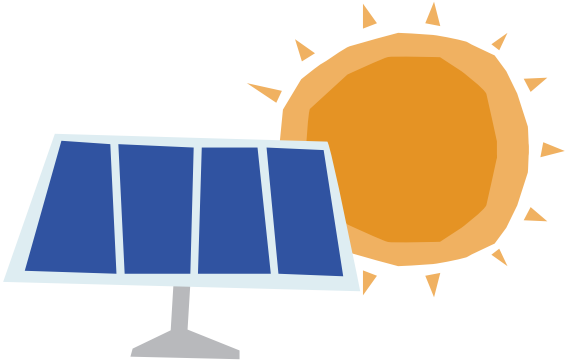
This year, we have created a new designated reserve to invest in our infrastructure to reduce our carbon footprint and safeguard the Charity's long-term sustainability, enabling us to make essential improvements as we develop our site for public benefit.

The increased use of our Science Centre for out-of-hours events and increased community engagement has resulted in an increase in utilities and travel.

		2021/22	~CO_2 Tonne	2022/23	~CO_2 Tonne	2023/24	~CO_2 Tonne	% change in emissions
Electricity	KWh	251,582	58.15	244,354**	51.58	247,041	55.59	7.77
Heating Oil	litres	37,174	102.55	27,901	76.97	27,088	74.64	-3.03
Business Travel	miles	3,734	0.85	5,239	1.77	15,524	2.78	57.06
Fuel Purchase	litres	574	1.26*	599	1.29*	729	1.52	17.83
Water	m^3	1,546	0.23*	1,691	0.25	2,197	0.39	56.00
Waste	tonnes	29.03	5.84	49.50**	7.19	44.50	6.59	-8.34
Total			**168.88**		**139.05**		**141.51**	
Emission per employee	tCO2e		**4.02**		**2.78**		**2.77**	
Emissions per £M turnover	tCO2e		**46.52**		**39.49**		**37.57**	

* Error in reporting of 2021/2022 figures provided by GEP Carbon Footprint Assessment.

**Update to consumption figures post publication. Emissions figures updated to reflect this.



Wonderseekers
WINCHESTER
SCIENCE CENTRE
AND PLANETARIUM

Structure, governance and management

Wonderseekers is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity.

Our Charity is governed by our Articles of Association, which sets out the Charity's powers and authorities. The objective of the Charity is detailed in the Articles of Association:

To advance the education, knowledge and understanding of the public, in particular the young, in basic technological and scientific principles and processes, particularly through the improvements of the links between industrial, commercial and educational bodies and institutions.

The Charity's wholly owned subsidiary, Sparking Curiosity Ltd, operates the onsite shop and café under licence from the Charity and gift aids the maximum permissible amount of its profits to the Charity (see note 10 to the accounts).

Wonderseekers operates under principles documented in our Code of Governance, which comply with the Charity Governance Code for larger charities (2020).

The Board of Trustees holds all the Charity's powers and authorities.

The Board is ultimately responsible for the overall control and strategic direction of the Charity and for the protection of its assets. The Board receives regular updates on the major risks likely to affect the Charity and ensures these are properly documented and that mitigating actions are in place and actively managed. The Board receives regular updates on the handling of personal data held by the Charity and ensures the policy and procedures are compliant with legislation.

In setting our objectives and planning our activities the Trustees have carefully considered the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. Operational management is delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, Ben Ward, and the Senior Leadership Team.

Board of Trustees

The Trustees, also Directors under company law, are elected by the Board at the Annual General Meeting and serve for a three-year term.

Trustees can be re-appointed for up to a maximum of three terms. The performance of individual Trustees, including the Chair, is informally reviewed each year. All Trustees give their time freely and no Trustee has received remuneration in the year. Details of Trustee expenses and related party transactions are disclosed in notes 11 and 23 of the accounts.

The Board issues public advertisements for trustees and aims to attract a diverse range of candidates with the skills the Charity needs. It values the benefits of a membership with a variety of backgrounds, expertise and experience. New Trustees undertake an induction programme that includes meeting senior management and fellow trustees. It also covers the Charity's aims and how they are being fulfilled, the Code of Governance including Committee structures and decision-making processes, the business plan and recent financial performance. Trustees are encouraged to attend appropriate external training events where an appropriate budget has been allocated to cover Trustee expenses and course fees.

Board and committee membership and attendance

Title	First name	Last name	Appointed	Stepped down	Full board Apr, Jul, Oct, Nov, Feb	AGM Oct	FARC Apr, Jul, Oct, Dec, Jan	NomRem Apr, May, Jun, Aug, Dec	Fundraising Jan	D&L Apr
Mrs	Phyllida	James	21/10/21		5 of 5	1 of 1	5 of 5		1 of 1	
Dr	Ian	Jenkins	30/09/14	18/10/23	3 of 3	1 of 1		4 of 4		
Mr	Malcolm	Kemp	18/10/23		3 of 3		3 of 3			
Dr	Toby	King	31/10/17	23/11/23	3 of 4	1 of 1		4 of 4		
Mrs	Tajinder	Leonard	26/11/19		3 of 5	0 of 1		4 of 5	1 of 1	
Prof	Diane	Newell	29/09/15	09/05/23	1 of 1	1 of 1				1 of 1
Dr	Janet	Owen	18/10/23 (appointed Chair 24/11/23)		3 of 3	1 of 1				
Mr	Adrian	Owen	26/11/19	18/10/23	3 of 3	1 of 1	3 of 3			
Mrs	Sue	Parr	26/11/19	26/05/24	3 of 5	1 of 1	1 of 5			1 of 1
Prof	Janet	Preston	30/09/14	18/10/23	2 of 3	1 of 1		1 of 4		1 of 1
Mrs	Katherine (Katie)	Roberts	21/10/21		5 of 5	1 of 1				
Ms	Yvonne	Rowland	18/10/23		3 of 3				0 of 1	
Mrs	Sara	Sullivan	26/11/19		5 of 5	1 of 1		5 of 5		
Ms	Linda	Taylor	18/10/23		3 of 3			1 of 1		
Dr	Rutang	Thanawalla	21/10/21		4 of 5	1 of 1	3 of 5		1 of 1	
Mr	Thomas	Wyman	18/10/23		3 of 3					

Board effectiveness

In Summer 2022 an external Board Effectiveness Review took place. This was a follow up to an Internal Board Effectiveness Review in Spring of 2021 (which assessed adherence to recommendations in the Charity Governance code 2020).

A skills audit of the board is currently underway which will help shape the future make-up of the board and form part of future effectiveness reviews.

Organisation

The Board holds five meetings a year, one dedicated to Strategy, and has established the following four Committees: Finance, Audit and Risk; Nominations and Remunerations; Purpose and Impact (which replaced Discovery and Learning in spring 2024), and Fundraising which report to the Board.

The Finance, Audit and Risk Committee is independent of the management of the Charity. It has the standing and resources to report directly with opinion and oversight to the Board of Trustees on the annual report and accounts and other financial reports, the risk management process and risk register, delivering value for money, policy maintenance and the Charity's whistleblowing arrangements. It is also responsible for making recommendations to the Board of Trustees about the performance, appointment, reappointment and removal of the external auditors.

The Nominations and Remuneration Committee reports to the Board on governance effectiveness, the structure, size and composition of the Board, succession planning and on the salary and benefits of the CEO and members of the Senior Leadership Team.

The committee makes recommendations to the Board of both the Charity and its subsidiary for approval of new trustees, chairs and deputy chairs of both Boards and committees. It also recommends salary and benefits for the CEO, Senior Leadership Team, appointment of CEO and carries out an annual review and update of the Code of Governance.

In reviewing the salary and benefits for the CEO and the Senior Leadership Team the committee considers salary benchmarks for equivalent roles in the sector. The committee sets individual performance in the year against the objectives agreed in each annual review and makes a salary review recommendation to the Board for approval.

The Purpose and Impact Committee has replaced the Discovery and Learning Committee. It is responsible with the Senior Leadership Team for coordinating the delivery of science content for the benefit of children and public. It aims to ensure coherence in all activities, a clear rationale for new projects and adherence to the Charity's values.

The Fundraising Committee contributes expertise as well as regional and industry sector perspectives to the development and successful operation of the fundraising programme. Members contribute ideas and engage with other Trustees to open new fundraising sources. The responsibility for developing the fundraising strategy and delivering fundraising activities rests with the executive team.

Related parties and co-operation with other organisations

Any relationship between a Trustee or senior manager of the Charity with a university, sponsoring company exhibition, or an organisation contracted to work for the Charity is openly disclosed to the Board.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The Charity Trustees are responsible for preparing a Trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). Company law requires the Charity Trustees to prepare financial statements for each year that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the parent charitable company and the group, and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable group for that period. In preparing the 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 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 business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006.

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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.

14
DAYS
FRESHNESS
GUARANTEED

Financial statements

Provision of information to auditors

So far as each of the Trustees at the time the report is approved are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the auditors are unaware and,
- they have taken all the steps they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information, and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

Auditor

A resolution to reappoint Haysmacintyre LLP as auditor will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting.

In preparing this report the Trustees have taken advantage of the small companies exemptions provided by section 415A of the Companies Act 2006.

The Trustees' Annual Report was approved by the Board of Trustees on 25th October 2024 and signed on its behalf:

Dr Janet Owen
Chair of Trustees

Janet Owen

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Independent auditor's report to the members of Wonderseekers

Opinion

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of Wonderseekers for the year ended 31st March 2024 which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, Consolidated Balance Sheet, Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 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 group's and of the parent charitable company's affairs as at 31st March 2024 and of the group's and of the parent charitable company's net movement in funds, including the income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- 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 group 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 group'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.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Trustees' Annual Report and the Chair's statement. 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.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, 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 audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. 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.

Opinion 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 (which includes the strategic report and the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the strategic report and the directors' report included within the Trustees' Annual Report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Independent auditor's report to the members of Wonderseekers (continued)

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In light of the knowledge and understanding of the group and of the parent charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Annual Report (which incorporates the strategic report and the directors' 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 by the group; or
- the group 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 trustees 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' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 48, the trustees (who are also the directors of the group and of the parent charitable company for the purposes of 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 group's and of the parent 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 group 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 noncompliance 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 is detailed below.

Based on our understanding of the group and the

environment in which it operates, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to charity and company law applicable in England and Wales, and we considered the extent to which noncompliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011.

We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls) and determined that the principal risks were related to revenue recognition, and management override of controls. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- Inspecting correspondence with regulators;
- Discussions with management including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulation and fraud;
- Reviewing the controls and procedures of the charity relevant to the preparation of the financial statements to ensure these were in place throughout the year;
- Evaluating management's controls designed to prevent and detect irregularities;
- Identifying and testing journals, in particular journal entries posted with unusual account combinations, postings by unusual users or with unusual descriptions, and
- Challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in their critical accounting estimates.

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 for the audit of the financial statements is located 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 group'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 group'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 group and the group's members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Jane Askew

Senior Statutory Auditor, For and on behalf of
Haysmacintyre LLP,
Statutory Auditors
10 Queen Street Place
London
EC4R 1AG

Date: 15 November 2024

Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities

(incorporating an income and expenditure account)
For the year ending 31st March 2024

	Note	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total funds 2024 £'000	Total funds 2023 £'000
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3	700	58	758	589
Charitable activities:	4				
Science Centre		2,038	-	2,038	2,084
Engagement and Outreach		32	-	32	117
Income from investments		26	-	26	6
Other trading activities	5	913	-	913	725
Total		**3,709**	**58**	**3,767**	**3,521**
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds:	6				
Other trading activities		1,138	3	1,141	972
Charitable activities:	7				
Science Centre		1,997	48	2,045	2,093
Engagement and Outreach		108	26	134	305
Total		**3,243**	**77**	**3,320**	**3,370**
Net income/(expenditure):		466	(19)	447	151
Net movement in funds		**466**	**(19)**	**447**	**151**
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward	20	2,859	303	3,162	3,011
Total funds carried forward		**3,325**	**284**	**3,609**	**3,162**

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year, and all income and expenditure derived from continuing activities.

Consolidated and Charity Balance Sheet

As at 31st March 2024

	Note	Group 2024 £'000	Group 2023 £'000	Charity 2024 £'000	Charity 2023 £'000
Fixed assets:					
Tangible assets: Land, buildings, plant and equipment	13	1,537	1,819	1,537	1,819
Heritage assets: Land	14	229	-	229	-
Total fixed assets		1,766	1,819	1,766	1,819
Current assets:					
Stocks	15	36	39	9	8
Debtors	16	209	138	183	163
Short term investments		450	450	450	450
Cash at bank and in hand		1,592	1,143	1,496	1,056
Total current assets		2,287	1,770	2,138	1,677
Liabilities:					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	17	(444)	(427)	(416)	(392)
Net current assets		1,843	1,343	1,722	1,285
Total assets less current liabilities		3,609	3,162	3,488	3,104
Total net assets		**3,609**	**3,162**	**3,488**	**3,104**
The funds of the charity	20				
Restricted income funds		284	303	284	303
Unrestricted funds:					
Designated		2,847	2,338	2,847	2,338
General unrestricted		478	521	357	463
Total unrestricted funds		3,325	2,859	3,204	2,801
Total charity funds		**3,609**	**3,162**	**3,488**	**3,104**

Wonderseekers (the parent entity) reports a surplus for financial year 2023/24 of £384k (2022/23: £268k surplus).

The financial statements of Wonderseekers (registered number 02014929) were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 25 October 2024.

Signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees

Dr Janet Owen Janet Owen

Chair of Trustees

Consolidated and Charity Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ending 31st March 2024

	Note	Group 2024 £'000	Group 2023 £'000	Charity 2024 £'000	Charity 2023 £'000
Cash flows from operating activities:					
Net cash provided by operating activities	**A**	**717**	**590**	**708**	**747**
Cash flows from investing activities:					
Purchase of plant and equipment		(38)	(153)	(38)	(153)
Purchase of heritage asset		(230)	-	(230)	-
Net cash used in investing activities		**(268)**	**(153)**	**(268)**	**(153)**
Cash flows from financing activities:					
Repayment of borrowing		-	(601)	-	(601)
Interest paid		-	(17)	-	(17)
Net cash (used in)/provided by financing activities		**-**	**(618)**	**-**	**(618)**
Increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the year		449	(181)	440	(24)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		1,593	1,774	1,506	1,530
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	**B**	**2,042**	**1,593**	**1,946**	**1,506**

Consolidated and Charity Statement of Cash Flows (continued)

For the year ending 31st March 2024

Notes to the cash flow statement

A) Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow generated from operating activities

	Group 2024 £'000	Group 2023 £'000	Charity 2024 £'000	Charity 2023 £'000
Net income/(expenditure) for the year	447	151	384	268
Adjustments for:				
Depreciation charges	318	411	318	411
(Increase)/decrease in stocks	3	(15)	(1)	1
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(71)	119	(20)	100
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	17	(93)	24	(50)
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	3	0	3	0
Interest paid	0	17	0	17
Net cash provided by operating activities	**717**	**590**	**708**	**747**

B) Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	Group 2024 £'000	Group 2023 £'000	Charity 2024 £'000	Charity 2023 £'000
Cash in hand	1,592	1,143	1,496	1,056
Cash on deposit	450	450	450	450
Total cash and cash equivalents	**2,042**	**1,593**	**1,946**	**1,506**

C) Analysis of changes in net debt

	As at 1st April 2023	Cash-flows	Non-cash changes	As at 31st March 2024
Unrestricted cash	1,143	449	-	1,592
Total	**1,143**	**449**	**-**	**1,592**

Notes to the Financal Statements for the year ending 31st March 2024

1. Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

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) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historic cost convention. Wonderseekers meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Wonderseekers is a company limited by guarantee and incorporated in England and Wales. The Registered Office is: Telegraph Way, Morn Hill, Winchester, Hampshire, SO21 1HZ.

Group financial statements

The Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA), Consolidated Balance Sheet and the Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows consolidate the financial statements of the Charity and its subsidiary undertaking. The results of the subsidiary are consolidated on a line by line basis.

No separate SOFA has been prepared for the Charity alone as permitted by Section 408 of the Companies Act 2006.

Preparation of accounts on a going concern basis

The Group's primary source of income continues to be visitors to the Science Centre.

After careful consideration of the Group's current financial position, with due attention paid to the Group's cash flows, liquidity and borrowings, and future plans and prospects, the Trustees are confident that the Group has adequate resources to continue in operation for the foreseeable future which is at least 12 months from the date of approval of these financial statements. Accordingly, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the accounts.

Income

Income is recognised when the Group has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount is measurable.

Donated services and facilities

On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the Group, which is the amount the Group 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.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the Group. Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the Group which the Trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a particular purpose.

Restricted funds

Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the Group's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the Group.

Expenditure

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 headings:

- Costs of raising funds comprise the costs of commercial trading including the shop and café and their associated support costs. It also includes a proportion of the cost of front-of-house staff.
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs of exhibitions, educational and other activities undertaken to further the purposes of the Charity and their associated support costs.

Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the Group but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, finance, facilities, personnel, IT and governance costs which support the Group's activities. These costs have been allocated between the cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities. The basis on which support costs have been allocated are set out in note 8.

Tangible fixed assets

The Group has elected to use the 'deemed cost' option on transition to FRS102 for Land and Buildings which have been revalued as at 31 March 2014 and have been depreciated from that date. Other tangible fixed assets are capitalised at cost and are depreciated on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful economic lives as follows:

Asset category	Annual rate
Intellectual assets	10%
Planetarium	10% – 33⅓%
Office equipment	20%
Computer equipment	33⅓%
Technical equipment	6⅔% – 33⅓%
Exhibition equipment	20% – 33⅓%
Equipment library	20%
Motor vehicles	25%
Freehold buildings	2%
Freehold land	Nil

Heritage assets

The Group holds land as a heritage asset to support the Group's primary objective of furthering the public understanding, particularly the young, of scientific principles and processes, enabling expansion into the natural sciences. The 9.7 acres of land is an excellent example of biodiverse chalk downland, home to a range of flora and fauna unique to this habitat and is highly visible to all visitors to the Science Centre and currently accessible for research and restoration purposes.

The heritage asset was donated to the Group under a 125-year lease and has been recorded under the 'deemed cost' approach at its valuation as at the grant of the lease. The asset will be reviewed for impairment on an annual basis. The asset will be depreciated on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease.

Stock

Stock is included at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Debtors

Short term debtors are measured at transaction price, less any impairment.

Short term investments

Short term investments are cash deposits held with financial institutions with maturities of greater than three months. They are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions with original maturities of less than or equal to three months. These are short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Creditors

Short term trade creditors are measured at the transaction price. Other financial liabilities, including bank loans, are initially measured at the transaction value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

Operating leases

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

Corporation tax

The Charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

Any profits generated from the Charity's trading subsidiary Sparking Curiosity Ltd will be transferred to the parent with a gift aid payment and therefore no taxation is due.

Financial instruments

The Group has financial assets and 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.

Judgements in applying accounting policies and key sources of estimation

In the application of the Group's accounting policies, described in the accounting policies above, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates. The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

The Trustee representatives consider that the following are key estimates;

- Depreciation of fixed assets is charged over the useful economic life of the assets. Trustees and management review the useful economic life on an annual basis.
- Bad debt provisions – debtors are reviewed regularly to assess likelihood of recoverability. A provision of bad debt is estimated based on these reviews. At the year end, no bad debt provision has been made (2023: £0k).

2. Legal status of the Charity

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. In the event of the Charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the Charity.

3. Income from donations and legacies

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Donations and grants	667	515
Membership subscriptions	91	74
Total	**758**	**589**

The Charity benefits greatly from the involvement and enthusiastic support of its many volunteers, details of which are given in our annual report. In accordance with FRS 102 and the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the economic contribution of general volunteers is not recognised in the accounts. Donations include the Heritage land asset at £230k.

4. Income from charitable activities

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Science Centre:		
Admission fees	2,037	1,761
Exhibit sponsorship	-	(13)
Tax relief	1	336
Total	**2,038**	**2,084**
Engagement and Outreach:		
STEM NOW	-	86
Outreach workshops	32	31
Total	**32**	**117**

5. Income from other trading activities

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Fundraising events	187	99
Trading operations	726	596
Corporate sponsorship	-	30
Total	**913**	**725**

6. Expenditure on raising funds

	Direct staff costs £'000	Other direct costs £'000	Governance support costs £'000	Other support costs £'000	Total 2024 £'000	Total 2023 £'000
Trading costs	245	565	11	226	1,047	893
Fundraising costs	71	23	-	-	94	79
Total	**316**	**588**	**11**	**226**	**1,141**	**972**

7. Expenditure on charitable activities

	Direct staff costs £'000	Other direct costs £'000	Governance support costs £'000	Other support costs £'000	Total 2024 £'000	Total 2023 £'000
Science Centre	921	552	22	550	2,045	2,093
Engagement and Outreach	10	41	4	79	134	305
Total	**931**	**593**	**26**	**629**	**2,179**	**2,398**

8. Analysis of governance and support costs

	Direct staff costs £'000	Overheads £'000	Total 2024 £'000	Total 2023 £'000
Governance costs	-	36	36	47
Finance, HR and IT costs	269	110	379	386
Management costs	183	53	236	141
Premises and office costs	-	241	241	360
Total	**452**	**440**	**892**	**934**

Support costs related to the building have been re-allocated on a square footage basis, whilst other costs have been re-allocated on a direct cost basis.

9. Net income for the year

This is stated after charging:	Group 2024 £'000	Group 2023 £'000	Charity 2024 £'000	Charity 2023 £'000
Depreciation	317	410	317	410
Auditor's remuneration for:				
Audit	22	19	17	15
Taxation services	5	4	5	4
Operating lease rentals:				
Plant and machinery	12	11	12	11

10. Investment in subsidiary and trading income

The Charity has a wholly owned trading subsidiary, Sparking Curiosity Limited (Company Number 10661776), which is incorporated in England and Wales. A summary of the trading results of the subsidiary to 31 March 2024 is shown below. This includes a management charge levied by the Charity of £347k (2023: £304k). Audited accounts are filed with the Registrar of Companies.

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Turnover	813	640
Cost of sales	(364)	(304)
Gross profit	**449**	**336**
Other operating charges	(381)	(331)
Profit for the year before tax	**68**	**5**

The capital of the company comprises 100 ordinary shares of £1 each. The maximum permissible amount of the subsidiary's reserves of £121,180 will be transferred to the parent by 31 December 2024 such that no tax will be payable by the subsidiary.

11. Analysis of staff costs, Trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Salaries and wages	1,536	1,484
Social security costs	128	124
Pension costs	34	28
Redundancy costs	-	3
Total	**1,698**	**1,639**

The number of employees whose emoluments exceeded £60,000 during the year was:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
£90,001 - £100,000	1	-
£80,001 - £90,000	-	1
£60,001 - £70,000	1	1

Pension costs are allocated to activities in proportion to the related staffing costs incurred.

The Trustees were not paid and did not receive any other benefits from employment with the charity in the year (2023: £0). One trustee was reimbursed £74.10 for travel costs during the year (2023: £157.50). No Trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2023: £0).

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the Trustees, CEO, and Directors of Finance and Operations, Experiences, Science Engagement, Marketing and Communications and Fundraising. The total employee costs of the key management personnel of the charity were £396k (2023: £353k).

12. Staff numbers

The average monthly head count was 101 staff (2023: 92 staff) and the average monthly number of full-time equivalent employees (including casual and part-time staff) during the year were as follows:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
Science Centre	41	41
Office and management	10	9
Total	**51**	**50**

All staff were employed by the Charity.

13. Tangible fixed assets – Group

	Intellectual assets £'000	Equipment £'000	Freehold land and buildings £'000	Total £'000
Cost or valuation				
At 1 April 2023	253	2,677	1,087	4,017
Additions	-	38	-	38
Disposals	-	(29)	-	(29)
As at 31 March 2024	**253**	**2,686**	**1,087**	**4,026**
Depreciation				
At 1 April 2023	253	1,830	115	2,198
Charge for year	-	298	19	317
Eliminated on disposal	-	(26)	-	(26)
As at 31 March 2024	**253**	**2,102**	**134**	**2,489**
Net book value:				
As at 31 March 2024	**-**	**584**	**953**	**1,537**
As at 31 March 2023	**-**	**847**	**972**	**1,819**

In July 2016, the land and buildings were inspected by Andrew Smith & Son of Winchester to obtain a current open market valuation at 31st March 2014. The buildings were valued at £1,000k and the land at £125k. The Trustees restated opening balances on 1 April 2015 in accordance with the deemed cost option of FRS 102. Had the deemed cost option not been elected, at 31 March 2024, the cost of freehold land and buildings stated above would be £7,621k, and the net book value £5,289k.

13. Tangible fixed assets – Charity

	Intellectual assets £'000	Equipment £'000	Freehold land and buildings £'000	Total £'000
Cost or valuation:				
At 1 April 2023	253	2,676	1,087	4,016
Additions	-	38	-	38
Disposals	-	(29)	-	(29)
As at 31 March 2024	**253**	**2,685**	**1,087**	**4,025**
Depreciation				
At 1 April 2023	253	1,829	115	2,197
Charge for year	-	298	19	317
Eliminated on disposal	-	(26)	-	(26)
As at 31 March 2024	**253**	**2,101**	**134**	**2,488**
Net book value:				
As at 31 March 2024	**-**	**584**	**953**	**1,537**
As at 31 March 2023	**-**	**847**	**972**	**1,819**

14. Heritage assets - Group and charity

	Land £'000	Total £'000
Cost or valuation:		
At 1 April 2023	-	-
Additions	230	230
As at 31 March 2024	**230**	**230**
Depreciation		
At 1 April 2023	-	-
Charge for year	1	1
As at 31 March 2024	**1**	**1**
Net book value:		
As at 31 March 2024	**229**	**229**
As at 31 March 2023	**-**	**-**

Additions in financial year 2023/24 comprise the £230k donation from Arqiva of land adjacent to the Charity's site at Morn Hill, Winchester, on a long term lease (125 years) with a peppercorn rent. The Charity's external valuer (Lambert Smith Hampton) carried out a desk based survey of the land as at 31 March 2024. The valuation was based on the current use of the land and relevant planning policy.

Summary of Transactions: There were no other transactions in the five years prior to the year end date of 31 March 2024.

15. Stock

	Group 2024 £'000	Group 2023 £'000	Charity 2024 £'000	Charity 2023 £'000
Shop goods for resale	27	31	-	-
Heating fuel	9	8	9	8
Total	**36**	**39**	**9**	**8**

During the year, £346k (2022/23 £327k) of stock was recognised as an expense.

16. Debtors

	Group 2024 £'000	Group 2023 £'000	Charity 2024 £'000	Charity 2023 £'000
Trade debtors	49	38	43	38
Prepayments	50	36	34	36
Grants	-	3	-	3
Events	3	4	-	-
Tax relief	-	8	-	8
Amounts owed from group undertakings	-	-	16	30
Other	107	49	90	48
Total	**209**	**138**	**183**	**163**

17. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Group 2024 £'000	Group 2023 £'000	Charity 2024 £'000	Charity 2023 £'000
Trade creditors	104	73	90	57
Accruals	48	160	41	151
Taxation and social security	50	41	50	41
Other creditors	16	18	16	11
Deferred income	226	135	219	132
Total	**444**	**427**	**416**	**392**

18. Deferred income

Deferred income comprises: advance ticket sales related to admission to the Science Centre and for events held after 31 March 2024 of £89k (2022/23 £76k), deferred membership from annual passes of £51k (2022/23 £44k) and deferred grant income of £86k (2022/23 £15k).

	Group 2024 £'000	Group 2023 £'000	Charity 2024 £'000	Charity 2023 £'000
Balance as at 1 April	135	273	132	248
Amount released to income and expenditure account	(135)	(273)	(132)	(248)
Amount deferred in year	226	135	219	132
Balance as at 31 March	**226**	**135**	**219**	**132**

19. Analysis of assets and liabilities between funds

	Restricted funds 2024 £'000	Unrestricted funds 2024 £'000	Total 2024 £'000	Restricted funds 2023 £'000	Unrestricted funds 2023 £'000	Total 2023 £'000
Group:						
Fixed assets	284	1,253	1,537	303	1,516	1,819
Heritage assets	-	229	229	-	-	-
Current assets	-	2,287	2,287	-	1,770	1,770
Current liabilities	-	(444)	(444)	-	(427)	(427)
Group total	**284**	**3,325**	**3,609**	**303**	**2,859**	**3,162**
Charity:						
Fixed assets	284	1,253	1,537	303	1,516	1,819
Heritage assets	-	229	229	-	-	-
Current assets	-	2,138	2,138	-	1,677	1,677
Current liabilities	-	(416)	(416)	-	(392)	(392)
Charity total	**284**	**3,204**	**3,488**	**303**	**2,801**	**3,104**

20. Movement in funds

	At 1st April 2023 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Transfer between funds £'000	At 31st March 2024 £'000
Restricted funds:					
Widening Participation and Outreach	-	57	(57)	-	-
Millennium Project	303	-	(19)	-	284
Other restricted funds	-	1	(1)	-	-
Total restricted funds	**303**	**58**	**(77)**	**-**	**284**
Unrestricted funds:					
Designated:					
Planetarium	199	55	-	-	254
Fixed Assets	1,517	-	(298)	35	1,254
Heritage Assets	-	-	(1)	230	229
Outdoor Science Engagement	600	-	-	-	600
Environmental Infrastructure	-	-	-	500	500
Exhibition	22	-	(12)	-	10
Total designated funds	**2,338**	**55**	**(311)**	**765**	**2,847**
Unrestricted:					
General unrestricted	463	2,841	(2,182)	(765)	357
Total general unrestricted funds	**463**	**2,841**	**(2,182)**	**(765)**	**357**
Total unrestricted funds	**2,801**	**2,896**	**(2,493)**	**-**	**3,204**
Total charitable funds	**3,104**	**2,954**	**(2,570)**	**-**	**3,488**
Trading subsidiary	**58**	**813**	**(750)**	**-**	**121**
Total group funds	**3,162**	**3,767**	**(3,320)**	**-**	**3,609**

See note 27 for prior year comparatives

Restricted funds

The Charity received donations and grants which the donor specified to be solely used for particular areas of the Charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the Charity.

Widening Participation and Outreach

A number of discrete projects to reach underserved audiences. Projects included outreach activities in school and community settings.

Millennium Project

A capital development project for the creation of the Science Centre, placing restrictions on the use of the building.

Unrestricted funds

These are funds available for the general objectives of the Charity. Included within unrestricted funds are designated funds that the Charity has put aside for a specific purpose. The Charity has existing fixed assets that are essential to its operation, the value of which has been designated. A designated fund, Outdoor Science Engagement, was established in 2022/23 to support the Charity's ambitious future plans. The heritage asset donated in 2023/24 has been designated to further support these plans. A further designated fund of £500k has been created to support the improvement of the Charity's infrastructure and reduce its carbon footprint.

The transfers between general unrestricted funds and designated funds represent the movements on each of these designated funds in the year.

21. Operating lease commitments – Group and Charity

The future operating lease payments are as follows:

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Within one year	6	11
Between one and five years	-	6
Total	**6**	**16**

22. Pension scheme

During the year £34k (2023: £28k) was paid into a defined contribution pension scheme. At the year-end contributions of £7k (2023: £0k) were due to the scheme.

23. Related party transactions

Prior to Dr Janet Owen becoming Chair of Trustees, the Charity had engaged her as a consultant, with payments totalling £15k to The Earth Museum (2022/23: £2k), where she is a Director and person with significant control, and to Janet Owen Consultancy of £21k in 2022/23. No payments have been made since her appointment as Chair of Trustees.

There were no related party transactions in 2023/24, nor in 2022/23.

24. Limitation of liability

Wonderseekers is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. At the year ended 31 March 2024, there were 11 members (11 members at 31 March 2023), each of whom has undertaken to contribute a maximum of £1, if required, in the event of the winding up of the company.

25. Capital commitments

There were no outstanding capital commitments at 31 March 2024.

26. 2023 Statement of Financial Activities (Prior Year)

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total funds 2023 £'000	Total funds 2022 £'000
Income and endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	543	46	589	999
Charitable activities:				
Science Centre	2,084	-	2,084	1,819
Engagement and Outreach	115	2	117	206
Income from investments	6	-	6	1
Other trading activities	720	5	725	605
Total	**3,468**	**53**	**3,521**	**3,630**
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds:				
Other trading activities	967	5	972	756
Charitable activities:				
Science Centre	2,049	44	2,093	1,886
Engagement and Outreach	281	24	305	227
Total	**3,297**	**73**	**3,370**	**2,869**
Net (expenditure)/income:	171	(20)	151	761
Transfer between funds	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	**171**	**(20)**	**151**	**761**
Reconciliation of funds:				
Total funds brought forward	2,688	323	3,011	2,250
Total funds carried forward	**2,859**	**303**	**3,162**	**3,011**

27. 2023 Movement in funds (Prior Year)

	At 1 April 2022 £'000	Incoming resources £'000	Outgoing resources £'000	Transfer between funds £'000	At 31 March 2023 £'000
Restricted funds:					
Widening Participation and Outreach	-	53	(53)	-	-
Millennium Project	323	-	(20)	-	303
Other restricted funds	-	-	-	-	-
Total restricted funds	**323**	**53**	**(73)**	**-**	**303**
Unrestricted funds:					
Designated:					
Planetarium	152	47	-	-	199
Fixed Assets	1,755	-	(391)	153	1,517
Outdoor Science Engagment	-	-	-	600	600
Exhibition	44	(13)	(9)	-	22
STEM NOW	-	87	(47)	(40)	-
Total designated funds	**1,951**	**121**	**(447)**	**713**	**2,338**
Unrestricted:					
General unrestricted	562	2,707	(2,093)	(713)	463
Total general unrestricted funds	**562**	**2,707**	**(2,093)**	**(713)**	**463**
Total unrestricted funds	**2,513**	**2,828**	**(2,540)**	**-**	**2,801**
Total charitable funds	**2,836**	**2,881**	**(2,613)**	**-**	**3,104**
Trading subsidiary	**175**	**640**	**(757)**	**-**	**58**
Total Group funds	**3,011**	**3,521**	**(3,370)**	**-**	**3,162**

Charity information

Registered office
Telegraph Way
Morn Hill
Winchester
Hampshire
SO21 1HZ

Registered charity no.
294582

Bankers
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Patron

Megan McCubbin

Ambassador

Peter Rogers MSc CEng FIOA FRSA MIOL

Life members

Mr Jeremy C Booker ACA
Mr Colin Brook
Dr Dolores Byrne OBE HonFIET CEng
Professor Malcolm J Coe FRAS FHEA
Dr Ian C Jenkins MSc
Dr Toby StJohn King MA PhD CEng FIMechE
Mr David Livermore OBE
Ms Terry V Marsh FRTS FRSA
Mr David Morgan
Sir Martin Read CBE, MA (Cantab), D.Phil (Oxon), FIET
Mrs Elizabeth M Wallace

Board of Trustees

Dr Janet Owen, FRSA, AMA, MA (Cantab), MA, Chair
Mrs Sara Sullivan, Deputy Chair
Mrs Phyllida James
Mr Malcolm Kemp
Mrs Tajinder Leonard
Mrs Sue Parr (Resigned 26th May 2024)
Mrs Katie Roberts
Ms Yvonne Rowland
Ms Linda Taylor
Dr Rutang Thanawalla
Mr Thomas Wyman
Mr Ben Perrio, Advocate*

Chief Executive Officer and Senior Leadership Team

Mr Ben Ward FRSA, Chief Executive Officer
Miss Jo Hennessy, Director of Experiences
Mrs Emily Mace, Director of Engagement (Maternity: June 23 - May 24)
Mrs Charlotte Mercer, Director of Marketing and Communications
Miss Elizabeth Moorcraft FCMA, Director of Finance and Operations
Mrs Kate Wasche, Director of Fundraising

* An Advocate works alongside the Board of Trustees but does not have their legal responsibility for the Charity's governance.

Wonderseekers

Registered Office:
Telegraph Way
Morn Hill
Winchester
Hampshire
SO21 1HZ

www.wonderseekers.charity

www.linkedin.com/company/wonderseekers/

Registered Charity No. 294582
Registered Company No. 02014929

WONDERSEEKERS

England & Wales - Charity number 294582

Accounts

For people and planet

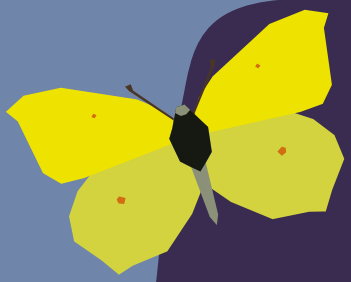
Annual Report 2022/23

Supporting children through the wonder of science

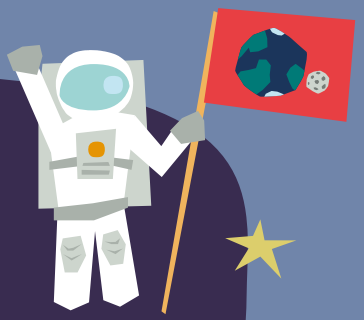
Wonderseekers

formerly known as Winchester Science Centre

Registered Charity No. 294582
Registered Company No. 02014929



We are Wonderseekers



On 28th February 2023, in the company of our Young Steering Group, Patron and many special guests, we publicly launched our new seven-year strategy, For People and Planet 2030, and unveiled our new identity as Wonderseekers.

We were delighted by the positive response we received and include below a few of the comments we captured on the night.

"I love the sense of community in the Young Steering Group and how we come together to plan and test out new things.

I'm really excited about the new strategy – I can't wait to hear about the new nature reserve and how we'll be promoting the planet."

Rumaysa *(age 12)*
A member of Wonderseekers' Young Steering Group

"Access to nature should be everybody's right.

There's a fantastic role for Wonderseekers in bridging that gap and listening to what young people say about how they want to interact with nature and value it. We need to involve children from the start."

Dr Dan Hoare
Director of Conservation
Butterfly Conservation

"It's brilliant to see so many young people using their voices and become empowered – I'm so inspired to learn from you all.

When I was at school, I found science really hard. I was told I was dyslexic when I was seven years old so I had to find the confidence to learn how I learn best.

Coming to places like Winchester Science Centre as a child tells me now that, regardless of what happened in the classroom, I'm able to stand here with you today.

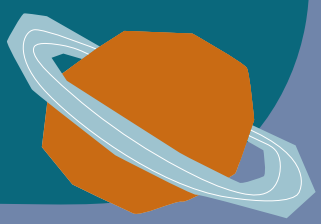
It's had a massive influence in shaping the scientist I've become and the scientist I hope to be in the future."

Megan McCubbin
Patron
Wonderseekers

"Science and discovery centres have a critically important role to play in engaging more young people with life-changing science and technology.

Our Trustees are delighted to support Winchester Science Centre with their vision to inspire and empower young people, especially those who have previously had limited access to science."

Philippa Charles
Director
Garfield Weston Foundation



Report of the Trustees and strategic report

The Board of Trustees is pleased to present its annual Trustees' report together with consolidated financial statements of the Charity and its trading subsidiary for the year ending 31st March 2023.

The report is prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes. The Trustees' report and financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and 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).

On 19th October 2022, the Charity changed its name to Wonderseekers from Winchester Science Centre.

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Chair and CEO's report

Welcome to our annual report.

This has been a milestone year for our Charity; a year full of optimism, inspirational moments and renewed resilience in the face of very significant challenges. We changed our Charity's name from Winchester Science Centre to Wonderseekers to further our reach and impact and, as Wonderseekers, in February 2023, we launched a bold new seven-year strategy, For People and Planet 2030.

As we embark on an exciting new chapter, we must also recognise and reflect on our journey so far. The confidence we have in our ability to make a difference to children's lives, through science, comes from our over 35 years' experience working in the space. We've sought to understand the barriers that prevent children from participating in science and, as a result, taken a leadership role in accessibility, enabling and welcoming more children to take part in science engagement and witnessing the impact this has first-hand.

Over the past few years, like many other charities and organisations, we've had to fight for our survival and prove our worth, learning from our experience and building resilience along the way. We've made difficult decisions, adapting to external pressures, and enduring the consequences. In 2020, we set out a Covid Recovery Plan to Regroup, Rebuild and Recover to provide a clear pathway to build our own resilience and deliver on mission. We set out long-term strategic priorities, to ensure that short-term urgency and need didn't undermine important long-term development. We're enormously proud of our whole team effort in our recovery and grateful for the incredible support we have received from organisations and funders, who have enabled us to be where we are today.

For People and Planet 2030 is bold. It stands on the shoulders of our previous strategy, building on the step-change we made in accessibility to champion equity. It also promises to lead by example on environmental sustainability, to use our spaces and experiences to help children respond to climate change and biodiversity loss and empower collective action for the benefit of people and the planet.

We are resourced and ready to go, 100% committed to the journey ahead of us.

Our review of 2022/23 has been mixed. Our ability to ignite and sustain children's curiosity through science is one of our greatest strengths and achievements and this year, through investment in our team, Winchester Science Centre, community-based outreach and funded programmes, the quality of our experiences is better than ever. We've welcomed high levels of repeat visits, an increase in annual membership and consistently positive visitor feedback.

Extreme economic pressures this year have been deeply felt by children. Strong strategic and financial planning enabled us to respond to the crisis in ways that supported children, our staff and suppliers. We continued to work in priority communities, engaging children through free, science-based holiday and school activities, invested in adding value to our visitors' experience at Winchester Science Centre and provided much-valued wellbeing and financial support packages to staff.

Unprecedented weather has a big impact on the financial performance of our Science Centre, with fewer people choosing to visit on hot and sunny days whilst on cold and wet days, the Centre's own capacity limits the number of people who can visit. With 2022 being the warmest year on record, we welcomed fewer visitors to the Science Centre than we had anticipated, despite attracting good numbers on sunny days. Delivering on our future plans, expanding into environmental science and outdoor science engagement, presents a real opportunity to address this ever-present risk.

There have been many great moments during the year. The support from our Patron, Megan McCubbin, and involvement of our Young Steering Group at our strategy launch proved to be a very powerful demonstration of young people's voices and the need for us to take action against climate change and biodiversity loss. Another memorable occasion was when we opened our Science Centre for a special evening that we held for refugees and their families and support families. We were ably supported by Ukrainian volunteers who welcomed our guests and even translated a live planetarium show for them. Then there was the delight we all felt when adults and children joined Santa on a mission to the International Space Station in our brand-new Christmas planetarium experience. Most recently, we met Layla, a young girl who contributed to a prosthetics exhibit by sharing her story about learning to use a modular prosthetic limb that has helped her overcome adversity and do exciting new things.

After six thoroughly enjoyable and rewarding years in the role, I will step back as Chair of Trustees at the AGM in October 2023.

I am enormously proud of the impact our Charity has had during my tenure and look forward to seeing Wonderseekers go from strength to strength over the years ahead.

Toby King
Chair of Trustees

These are just a few of the incredible interactions our Charity has enabled over the past year. Many more are detailed in this report and we hope you'll enjoy reading about the differences they've made to so many people.

We give thanks for the service given to our Charity by Admiral Sir Kenneth Eaton GBE KCB FREng, who sadly died aged 87 after a short illness on 20th July 2022.

We are enormously grateful for the support our Charity receives each year. We want to record our heartfelt thanks to all of our supporters and funders, our staff and volunteers, the children who inspire us and, in turn, the families and schools who support them.

Thank you.

Ben Ward
Chief Executive Officer

Prof. Toby King
Chair of Trustees

Charity impact

Our Charity has engaged young people in science since it was founded in 1986. Our delivery has evolved over the decades, but our ethos remains pretty much the same - to make science accessible and fun to children at a young age. But why?

Originally, emphasis was placed on science and technology career pathways, and for many organisations this is still their primary focus. But, for Wonderseekers, we now believe that science engagement is critical for children to reach their full potential.

Through Wonderseekers, children can:

- discover the wonder of science and make sense of the world around them and their place within it,
- use science methodology as a framework for critical thinking and problem solving,
- develop their self-confidence and resilience through practical experience and experimentation.

Fun, positive, people-led activities at our Science Centre, in schools, communities and online, are central to getting children and their families engaged in science. Over the past seven years we have worked to overcome many barriers that have traditionally stopped children from participating, particularly for people with disabilities or impairments and for children living in areas of multiple deprivation.

Our work to date has increased our awareness of the massive inequality that exists and demonstrated the important difference our Charity can make. We are determined to do more. This year we have focused on long-term impact, published a new seven-year strategy and defined our values to guide our efforts.

In October 2022, to support our new strategy, diversify our reach and grow impact, we changed our Charity name from Winchester Science Centre to Wonderseekers and developed a new online presence for our Charity.

Winchester Science Centre continues to thrive as a hub for science engagement within the South of England and plays a central role in achieving impact within the Wonderseekers family.

The difference our Charity can make is demonstrated through our theory of change

Year in view

April 2022

Megan McCubbin meets school children at the Science Centre

Outdoor science workshop with Board and Senior Management Team, 27th April

May 2022

School Travel Awards, Best STEM School Trip, 25th May

The new Young Steering Group recruits meet for the first time

Curiosity Club launches

June 2022

Noël Turner Science Festival, 30th June – 1st July

CBBC Something Special filmed at the Science Centre, 7th June

July 2022

Disney and Pixar Lightyear collaboration, 21st July – 4th September

August 2022

Science in the community – Leigh Park Library, Havant

Refugee event, 20th August

(195 people – children and adult refugees and host families attended the event)

September 2022

Staff Conference, 6th September

October 2022

Charity officially named Wonderseekers at the Annual General Meeting

Bio:Space nature space, living willow house planted outside

November 2022

Outdoor science engagement trialed with schools and toddler groups

December 2022

Cosmic Christmas and Space Station Science

January 2023

AccessAble training for all staff

New themes launch with Zero Degrees and free planetarium experience

February 2023

Wonderseekers goes live - strategy launch and website, 28th February

New evening events programme introduced

March 2023

Bold Futures workshops and evaluation pilot

We engaged **146,952** **visitors** at Winchester Science Centre through the following activities:

Schools and groups

The Ultimate STEM School Trip

Number of children: **33,710**

Teachers and accompanying adults: **4,752**

Badge Nights for uniformed groups: **1,027**

47% received 60% subsidy, based on free school meal allocation

34% received 15% subsidy, based on supported school allowance

Special events

Cosmic Christmas: **2,849**

Evening events: **1,105**

Community engagement

Wonderseekers engaged **9,597** children through funded community and school programmes

Family visits

103,509 visitors

65,452 (63%) attended a planetarium show

68,745 (68%) attended the free science show

Post visitor survey (1,856 family visitors responded)

Percentages show the respondents who agreed and strongly agreed to the following statements:

93% We had fun

84% We could all participate in the activities provided

86% We learnt more about science as a result of our visit

79% The live science demos/shows helped us to engage in science more deeply

77% We are better able to see how science is relevant to our lives

67% Visiting the Science Centre has increased our interest in science

Online engagement

Website

17% **increase** in number of users 304,808 vs 260,484

10% **increase** in number of sessions 468,461 vs 423,440

Social

20% **increase** on previous year to 26,662 followers

7% **increase** on previous year to 4,020 followers

Strategy

Wonderseekers new strategy - For People and Planet 2030

Our new strategy, For People and Planet 2030, sets out our ambition to build on our heritage, to develop our experience in equality, diversity and inclusion, continue our focus on all disciplines of science and take on an environmental agenda in response to global climate and biodiversity crises.

Our aim is that, through Wonderseekers, children can choose to play their part and contribute to a more equitable world where science plays a key role in protecting their futures and the future of the planet.

Vision

A world where, through the wonder of science, people and planet thrive.

Mission

To create a more equitable world where all children can treasure science and are equipped and empowered to improve lives and protect and heal our planet.

Values

Inclusive

For the planet

Bold

Fun

Open and honest

Collaborative

Outcomes

Children are connected to nature	Children use their science enquiry skills	Children want to play their part	Children value and see the relevance of science

Objectives

Diversify our reach and grow impact	Champion equality, diversity and inclusion in science	Work long-term with children who need our support the most	Protect and heal our planet and inspire others to do the same

Key themes

Be the change

Respect. Protect. Action.

SAVE IT

Objectives, achievements and performance

Our new strategy came into effect in April 2023.

For this year's annual report, we are reporting against the strategic objectives set out in the previous strategy.

1. Work collaboratively with new under-served communities, removing barriers to engagement, particularly for those living with a disability or impairment

We've been on a remarkable journey over the past six years, finding ways to bring impactful science experiences to disadvantaged communities. We're removing barriers for children to engage in our Science Centre and building our ability to provide accessibility, so everyone who meets our Charity knows they're welcomed and valued.

We've been delighted by the response we've had to all our work in accessibility, which we've continued to build on this year through innovation and training both at our Science Centre and experiences offered in schools and communities. This can be seen in the increase in visitors to the Science Centre who identify as having a disability, which has increased to 18.99% from 14.47% the previous year, and 9.18% recorded in 2017, at the start of our accessibility journey.

We have learnt invaluable lessons and improved our ability to support children who need our help the most, effectively and impactfully. There remain, however, significant and complex barriers to delivering impactful community engagement, which we're addressing through our future plans. With support from evaluation consultant, Jen DeWitt, we have invested in developing an evaluation framework, which we expect to complete in 2023.

Our Widening Participation and Engagement Team has engaged 9,597 children through funded programmes.

Projects to champion science equity and community collaboration

Ripple Tank

Fostering long-term relationships in three priority communities

Funded by Wonderseekers

To understand how best to support children in underserved communities, we wanted to get to know the children, schools, community leaders and organisations living and working in Wonderseekers' three priority communities: Leigh Park, Havant, Millbrook, Southampton and Newport, Isle of Wight. Activities have included holiday workshops in partnership with a community library, a collaboration with HAF (a government-funded Holiday Activity and Food Programme) and taking our mobile planetarium and workshops into schools and community settings. This supports families who are reliant on food banks to improve their cooking skills and understanding of digestion.

Bold Futures

Helping children share their hopes and fears for our planet

Funded by Museums Association and Association of Science and Discovery Centres (ASDC)

While there has been national research into children's fears and aspirations for the planet, little information exists. This is especially true for young children and particularly those from marginalised communities. The project which began in 2022/23, enabled us to work with young carers from Eastleigh, and children, aged between 7 and 11 years, from Leigh Park, Havant, to learn about children's personal experience of and feelings about nature and to capture their authentic voice on film. The project was completed in July 2023, when we premiered the children's films in the Planetarium at Winchester Science Centre.

Impact

Understanding the impact of repeat science engagement

Funded by: Science Technology Facilities Council (STFC)

Wonderseekers partnered with four primary schools in different areas of multiple deprivation. The team ran four climate-tracking workshops to model and track climate change and the pupils' level of involvement in and perceptions of science. The seven-week programme resulted in children's increased enjoyment and confidence in science and development of their agency and ownership. We ran a similar repeat-engagement initiative with five schools in Rushmoor, Hampshire, funded by Rushmoor Borough Council.

We asked the children to plot a dot on a chart to demonstrate how much they enjoyed taking part. One child said, "If I had to put a dot on how much I liked it I would have to be the world's tallest man on the world's tallest ladder", indicating their enjoyment was off the chart. Wow!

University partnerships creating greater access to science for children

Funded by University of Canterbury and University of Southampton.

Thanks to funding from the University of Canterbury we were able to take our mobile planetarium to 10 schools in areas of deprivation for World Space Week. Working in partnership with the University of Southampton, as an active member of the steering committee and exhibitor for SOTSEF, the University's free annual science festival, we entertained 7,000 family visitors with our exciting live science show 'The Secret World of Gases'. We also partnered again with University of Southampton, alongside eight other organisations from across Europe, on COSMOS, an initiative to develop an open-schools, more encompassing learning method. Our two pathfinder schools were Romsey Primary School and The Romsey School, Hampshire.

The Noël Turner Science Festival, Isle of Wight

Funded by various local organisations.

Wonderseekers held the Noël Turner Science Festival at Cowes Enterprise College in June 2022, welcoming 2,000 Year 5 and 6 children and their teachers from 27 primary schools from across the Island. Two action-packed days of fun science activities introduced children to the diverse world of science and technology, showcasing industry partners from Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

> **For many of the children it has opened their eyes to how broad science is, that there is no right or wrong and encouraged them to ask questions. It has given the children hands-on practical experience, making science fun, which is great as science in the classroom is very prescriptive.**
>
> **Teacher -** *Gatten and Lake Primary School, Shanklin, Isle of Wight*

Supporting schools and home education

Winchester Science Centre welcomed 39,489 school and group visitors last year. To create more equitable access for children, state-funded schools receive a 12% subsidy, whilst schools with a free school meal percentage of 17% or above benefit from a 60% subsidy. 81% of school bookings benefitted from this initiative. The national average for free school meals is 23%. We also developed a new home education and SEND school package, based on our Ultimate STEM School Trip.

> **Because we home educate [...] we rely on you for our children's future as you give them access to science outside of our reach. Or at least for a cost that we can afford.**
>
> **Post visit survey**
> *14th September 2022*

Inclusive and accessible experiences reaching communities at Winchester Science Centre

We worked hard to make the Science Centre accessible to all, investing in training and new exhibits and by creating opportunities, through funding and subsidies, for children facing additional barriers visiting the Science Centre.

Our investment in training was varied and was really successful in terms of the widening accessibility of our offerings. My Visual Guide training by GuideDogs was given to 15 staff members to help visually-impaired visitors get the most out of their experience at the Science Centre. We want everyone to feel confident exploring and we can now allocate an hour to give them a tour of the Centre and its facilities before we can safely step away.

Disability awareness training was given to all staff by AccessAble, a respected external training organisation who also conducted an accessibility audit of the Science Centre. We also held regular Widening Participation training, which includes further disability awareness training so we can be as accessible as it's possible for us to be. This in-house training began with Naomi House & Jacksplace, hospices for children and young adults, who visited for the first time in spring 2022. We were pleased to give them a complementary and very bespoke Planetarium show and we're now exploring how we can develop that relationship further.

We know from our visitor feedback that the Recombobulation Room, sensory backpacks and the team's disability awareness are highly valued. But we also know there's more to be done. Through our future plans we hope to address the need for more accessible parking and develop outdoor science engagement that matches up to our indoor experience in terms of accessibility.

Help for refugees

We worked with Winchester and Portsmouth City of Sanctuary groups following the invasion of Ukraine and donated 200 tickets for entry to the Science Centre. We held a single event for our largely Ukrainian guests so we could better support their visit – we even managed to hold one of the shows in Ukrainian, which was particularly well received.

Supporting foster families

We've provided a longstanding commitment to support children who need our support the most. Free admission for foster families is one of the ways we can help. Last year, we gave 1,127 free foster family tickets and 2,783 free carer tickets to support family visits.

> **Your staff were patient, caring and nurturing and did really little - but important - things. Kneeling down to talk with them at eye level so as to not be too imposing - using simple, accessible, age appropriate language - and just having a mindful awareness of working with children - they all did it so well!**
>
> **Post visit survey**
> *17th May 2022*

> **Great accessibility for my son who is a wheelchair user and is autistic. We felt comfortable and relaxed here because his needs had been thought about and planned for.**
>
> **Post visit survey**
> *17th May 2022*

2. Amazing people delivering awe-inspiring STEM experiences for all

Delivering awe-inspiring science for all sits at the heart of our offering. We continually strive to deliver Wow experiences that will enrich and entertain the public, schools and groups that our work touches, whether that's at our Science Centre or elsewhere.

The redevelopment of the Science Centre's exhibition spaces in 2020 put our staff engagement centre stage. Our greatest impact moments happen when they're people-led, both science engagement and customer service, which is why our public-facing staffing grew significantly last year. In 2022, we celebrated the 20th anniversary of Winchester Science Centre, in its iconic building in the South Downs National Park, and marked the occasion with a year-long programme of live science to include everyone's favourite themes and science demos.

We were enormously proud to have been recognised by two exciting awards last year, in recognition of our high-quality, innovative and inclusive approach to public engagement. We were Winner of the School Travel Organiser STEM School Trip Award and Commended for the Beautiful South Large Visitor Attraction of the Year.

Introducing new 'wow' experiences that deliver on mission

Last year, we sought to enrich the public offer with additional free events and activities to complement the core visitor experience and introduced a new evening events programme to utilise our amazing spaces out-of-hours, widen reach and generate new revenue for the Charity.

The added-value activities included a collaboration with Disney and Pixar for summer 2022 to coincide with the release of the blockbuster film, Lightyear. To celebrate the science that inspired the plot, families got to enjoy explosive spaceship launches in Science Live and an out-of-this-world Space Ranger challenge trail. For Christmas 2022, we invited children to get close to a real part of a Black Arrow rocket and Moon rock and take part in free space activities and trail.

On the back of the success of these new initiatives, in January 2023, we committed to a year-long programme, featuring six seasonal themes to coincide with each school holiday. Not only do they give families a compelling reason to visit, they also offer something new for our regular visitors and Curiosity Club annual members.

We also invested in our core offer with brilliant new science shows, planetarium shows and science demos in Science Live. These include the hair-raising 'Van de Graaff' to support our Electricity theme, 'Marshmallows in a Vacuum' for our Space theme and 'Cloud in a Bottle' for February half term's sell out theme 'Zero Degrees'.

For Christmas 2022, we delivered our most ambitious festive initiative ever. We created a whole new immersive and theatrical show that weaved Wow science, magical storytelling, theatre, audio, special effects and incredible 360° visuals in the Planetarium. Families were invited to join Santa and his intergalactic Elf Aster on a journey through space to deliver presents to astronauts on the International Space Station. It was packed with plenty of science facts and fun frivolity throughout. The feedback we received was fantastic and armed with wonderful photography and great reviews - we're expecting the show to be an even bigger hit next year.

20 years of WOW

ZERO DEGREES

> I loved that there was the science part and the Christmas part and they put them together so perfectly
>
> A visitor's Instagram story

Last year, we welcomed 106,358 family and Cosmic Christmas event visitors to our Science Centre. Impacted by weather and the cost-of-living crisis, this represents 85% of budget. We were delighted that the visitors who did come enjoyed the quality of the experiences on offer, which is testament to the ingenuity and hard work of the Science Centre team.

Here are some of the comments we've enjoyed reading from visitors last year:

> Winchester Science Centre is the best science centre/museum for young children we have visited – it's so engaging and fun and sparked so much interest and imagination in our children.
>
> **Post visit survey**
> *4 Nov 2022*

> There was a lot to do and the live science shows in the centre of the building were a lot of fun - educational and perfectly pitched for both adults and children. My 4 and 7 year old loved it and there was plenty that they could do. The staff were brilliant, especially the live science show staff who were so kind and friendly - they seemed to love what they do. We'd definitely visit again!
>
> **Post visit survey**
> *6 Oct 2022*

Schools form another critical route for our Charity to engage children in science, through school trips to the Science Centre, sleepovers, outreach experiences delivered in schools and supported activities to reach children who might otherwise miss out. Our Ultimate STEM School Trip is an all-inclusive experience at our Science Centre, offering all children an opportunity to participate in a themed workshop, a live planetarium show and time to explore the exhibitions.
Last year, we welcomed 38,462 school visitors, consisent with pre-pandemic figures.

We engaged with a further 6,644 children (included within the total 9,597 reached beyond our Science Centre experience, previously reported), through school-funded experiences, such as our mobile planetarium and workshop activities delivered in school.

> I would just like to pass on my thanks to your staff for making our visit so enjoyable. The children absolutely loved the science workshops, exhibits and planetarium; the day was really well organised.
>
> **Year 5 Teacher**
> *The Bay CofE School*

> A massive thank you for a well organised and very enjoyable sleepover on Thursday night. One of the best trips we have ever done and will definitely be back next year. The children will be talking about it for weeks to come!
>
> **Debbie**
> *Newchurch and Nettlestone Primary Schools, Isle of Wight*

Introducing new 'wow' experiences that deliver on mission

We invested in new exhibits for our Science Centre during the period – our focus was to put people into the centre of the story. These are a snapshot of some of the projects that were introduced:

Prosthetics

An interactive robotic hand designed by an incredible team of people who work with patients to analyse their needs, designing bespoke prosthetics to make life-changing adaptations. The children delight in the new feature, learning about the overcoming of adversity through storyboards that show Layla, a child with a prosthetic who uses it to play the ukulele.

Hand cycle

This exhibit features the remarkable story of Alex Lewis, a quadruple amputee who rode a hand cycle designed by University of Southampton Engineering students up the highest mountain in Ethiopia. A thought-provoking exhibit that encourages children to explore how science can change lives.

Evaluation toolkit

We obtained funding to work collaboratively with researchers from University of Southampton to establish a process to garner visitor information, such as reactions to exhibits, dwell time on exhibits, connections to interactions, emotional voices and feedback on the visitor experience. Data comes from a range of sources: children wear sound recordings, families wear Go Pros, ask questions, tell us how they felt, what they've learnt and use the Thought Bubble Wall and the Experiencometer to share their experiences.

3. Use STEM to champion change to protect and heal our planet and inspire others to do the same

Through the year, we've piloted outdoor activities for schools and families and initiated discussions and partnerships with conservation experts and partner organisations who share our environmental values and ambitions for change.

We're proud to be working with Butterfly Conservation to provide school trips on its flagship butterfly reserve, Magdalen Hill Down. Our staff underwent considerable training to understand the science of butterflies and caterpillars and have now brought this incredible teaching resource, its unique facilities and exciting workshops, to life. We've even created complimentary family activities in the Science Centre to reinforce this offering, covering biodiversity, environmental habitats and monitoring, ecology and the human link.

Support from our Young Steering Group, from inputting their ideas and piloting activity, has supported these exciting developments, and their input has been invaluable in helping to develop our long-term future plans. Find out more about our Young Steering Group on page 31.

Leading by example on sustainability Action Log 2022/23

We're wholeheartedly committed to improving our environmental credibility and inspiring others to do the same.

Last year, we made substantial changes that saw us take action to reduce emissions, reduce-reuse-recycle to cut waste, improve purchasing decisions and protect the precious biodiversity of our site.

Our Sustainability Action Group (SAG), a cohort of environmentally minded staff from across the organisation, work together to initiate and implement changes to reduce our environmental impact.

Electricity

When light bulbs fail and electrical appliances reach their end of life, they're replaced with energy efficient and sustainable alternatives. Approximately 85% of the Science Centre is now lit by LED lighting and a capital investment plan is in place to take us to 100% LED or energy efficient lighting within two years.

Waste

Large food stations were added to both exhibition floors to help family visitors sort food, liquid, recyclable and non-recyclable waste. Our food waste is now collected and taken off site to be processed. We've reduced single-use plastics, introducing compostable cups, recyclable drinks bottles and replacing individual condiment sachets with sustainable alternatives.

Our Curiosity Team made serious efforts to reuse and recycle theatrical props from our live science shows and rehoming any items that couldn't be used for a small donation where possible.

Heating

Our 20-year-old Science Centre heating relies on an oil-filled boiler. By closely monitoring our usage, adjusting the settings and reducing heating timings, we managed to reduce our oil consumption by 25% last year.

Changing behaviour and making more sustainable purchasing decisions

We focussed heavily on making better purchasing decisions last year.

Our Marketing Team now prioritises suppliers based on environmental credibility, such as a new print supplier that uses sustainable stock, renewable energy and electric vehicles to make deliveries to us. Our annual membership card is now made from a special paper card that comes with a sustainability story and replaces our plastic versions.

Our café took a great lead thanks to our new Café Manager, Marta, introducing more ethical, sustainable practices. We began to produce more food products in-house rather than buying in, cutting our food miles in the process. Healthier, more ethical food options are now available - for example, we removed big brand chocolate bars and replaced them with ethically produced bars that support cocoa farmers and help lift them out of poverty. Our vegan and vegetarian options rose to 95% of the menu.

In the shop, Adam, our Retail Manager, is now sourcing more sustainable products to sell, such as 100% recyclable puzzles and games, green things to grow and environmentally focussed books with ingenious ideas to educate and entertain.

Our Curiosity Team, with two members on the SAG, is passionate about sustainability. Last year, we became more conscious about our material sourcing, engaging the whole team to consider the impact of the equipment we buy and introducing a methodology to reduce waste. We moved school dining into the café where one of the large new waste stations is based and sent messages to schools to encourage children to take their waste home. The next challenge is to achieve zero-waste lunchboxes.

Hannah, our Estates Officer, is often coming up with innovative ideas to help the planet. This year, she introduced Soap Nuts, a non-toxic natural washing detergent, and sourced a new toilet paper made from waste sugarcane. Winchester Science Centre uses nearly 125km of toilet roll every year, so a small change can make a big difference.

Everyone at Wonderseekers has a role to play in our sustainability journey. So as we're committed to inspiring others to do the same, we use our voice on platforms such as social media, sharing stories about even the little changes we're making, to engage our audiences and encourage them to play their part too.

Winners of the first Green South Downs (Gold) Award

We're very proud to be one of just four organisations to be recognised with the first Green South Downs (Gold) Award. Green South Downs Sustainability Certification is a sustainability award programme created by the South Downs National Park Authority in partnership with Green Tourism. It's based on Green Tourism's assessment framework that reviews sustainability performance based on three key pillars: People, Place and Planet.

4. Diversification, sustainability and growth

Unlike our other three objectives, this objective focuses on improving the Charity's long-term financial sustainability to ensure we can deliver on our charitable aims.

The Charity is heavily reliant on income generated through Winchester Science Centre and, as we experienced through Covid, any interruption to its operation can be challenging.

To support the diversification and growth of our Charity, we took the decision in 2022 to rename our Charity from Winchester Science Centre to Wonderseekers. The new name enables us to differentiate activities and programmes taking place at our Science Centre from those not limited to a particular location, such as our community, schools and digital engagement programmes. There's a significant opportunity to grow our activity beyond the Science Centre and potential to create a more balanced income portfolio.

The renaming process, which was supported by external agencies, took over a year and included a lot of research and wide consultation with our diverse audiences, patron, partners and supporters. This work helped to inform the in-house development of our strategy, challenging us to define and articulate our purpose and values more clearly. Getting the Charity name changed and new strategy agreed at the Charity's AGM in October 2022 marked the start of a new chapter for the Charity.

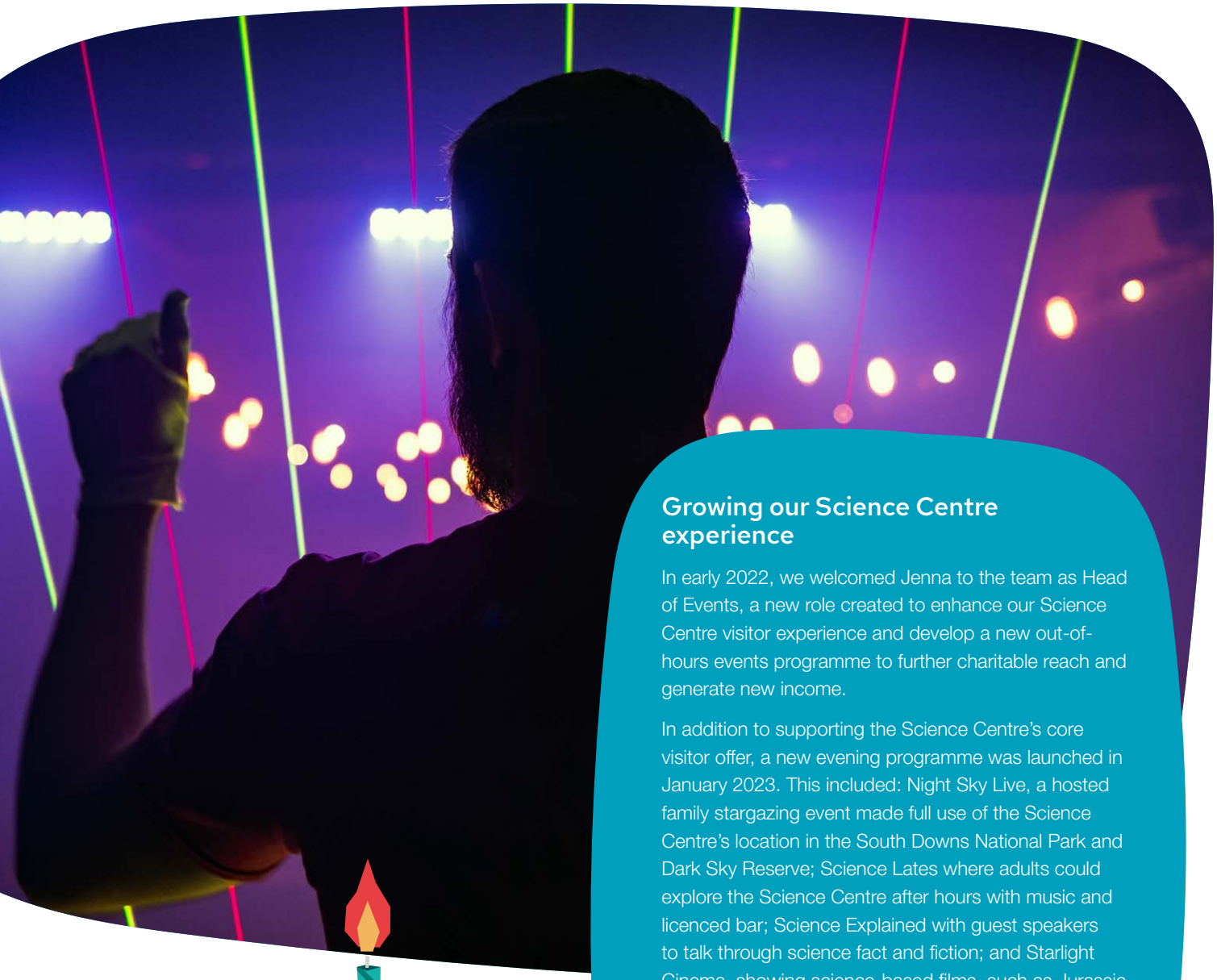
The strategy and new Wonderseekers website were unveiled at an official launch event on 28th February 2023, in the presence of the Wonderseekers family, our Charity's friends and supporters, partner organisations, Patron and Young Steering Group.

In developing our strategy, we were able to review all our activity to date and assess its value from a new, more confident and defined, perspective. We identified our commitment first and foremost to supporting young children and, in doing so, acknowledged that some of our priorities needed to change.

One of the difficult decisions we made last year was to end a long-standing contract with STEM Learning, to manage and coordinate the national STEM Ambassador programme within our region. We provided a successful handover to the new contract holders and have continued to promote and benefit from the programme.

Wonderseekers
Young
Steering
Group

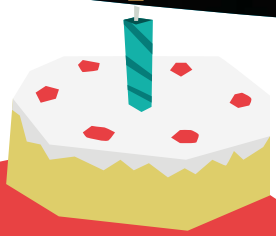
THERE'S
NO
PLANET
B
YOU
CAN HELP
THE
WORLD
SAVE THE
ENVIRONMENT
REDUCE
CLIMATE
CHANGE



Growing our Science Centre experience

In early 2022, we welcomed Jenna to the team as Head of Events, a new role created to enhance our Science Centre visitor experience and develop a new out-of-hours events programme to further charitable reach and generate new income.

In addition to supporting the Science Centre's core visitor offer, a new evening programme was launched in January 2023. This included: Night Sky Live, a hosted family stargazing event made full use of the Science Centre's location in the South Downs National Park and Dark Sky Reserve; Science Lates where adults could explore the Science Centre after hours with music and licenced bar; Science Explained with guest speakers to talk through science fact and fiction; and Starlight Cinema, showing science-based films, such as Jurassic Park, ET and Back to the Future, for parents and children to view together. We welcomed 1,105 people to our evening events from January – March 2023.



> We went for my son's 6th birthday and he said it was his best birthday ever. He loved learning new things, it was so interactive and made it fun for everyone.
>
> **Post visit survey**
> *14 Sep 2022*

We also brought back Badge Nights for uniformed groups, introduced birthday party packages - the first party booking in January saw 23 children attend and thoroughly enjoy themselves. Investment in events has also opened a new opportunity to build profitable venue hire.

Investment in our Science Centre shop and café, introducing new product lines and extending our menus, has seen an increase in visitor spend, up 12% in the shop and 8% in the cafe.

Investing in our visitor experiences and infrastructure

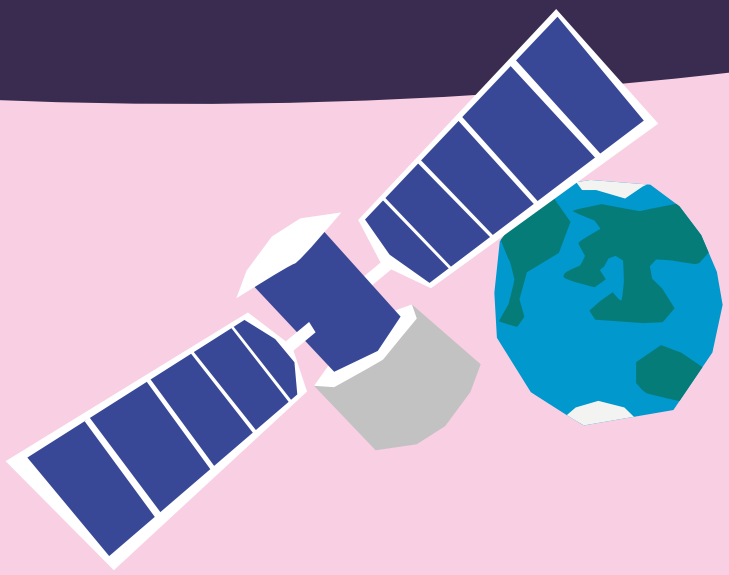
Maintaining a high-quality visitor experience is critical to running a successful Science Centre, so it's vital we continue to invest in our visitor experience, exhibitions and infrastructure for the future. Changes to public offer, themed activities and new events programme, have made it a bigger and bolder offer with a wider audience appeal.

We want families to visit more than once for greater impact. Relaunching our annual membership scheme as Curiosity Club, with exclusive e-newsletter content, and the introduction of new seasonal themes has created a compelling reason for visitors to return. We have seen an increase in repeat visits and a 5% increase in annual membership.

We're grateful for the support of our Young Steering Group who play a huge role helping us improve what we do – they love inputting ideas and being the first to try out new activities and giving their honest feedback. Find out more about our Young Steering Group on page 31.

Future focussed

We have increased our business planning from a single-year plan to a three-year business plan. The plan has been developed to sit alongside our new strategy to help us articulate the investments and changes that are required over the next three years to meet our strategic goals. This longer-term approach allows the team to focus the more complex planning that's so crucial to our Charity's growth and security.



Fundraising

Charitable income is critical to changing the lives of children who, for many reasons, routinely miss out. Your support makes a difference.

We want to express our sincere gratitude to all our funding partners who have played an important and valuable role in enabling us to engage children in science. We're particularly grateful to those who supported us through the redevelopment of our Science Centre in 2020 and the leadership from Garfield Weston Foundation in their support for science centres during the pandemic. Not only did this support help us to deliver impactful science engagement at the time, it also proved essential in supporting our strong recovery from the impact of the pandemic.

Over the past five years, fundraising has enabled us to transform the way we engage our audiences with science. Building on our heritage of providing fun hands-on interactive experiences, we've been able to extend our reach in communities, bring more powerful people-led activity programmes to the forefront of our offer and take a leading role in accessibility to overcome longstanding barriers to engagement.

This last year, the fundraising focus has been to support the development of the Charity's new strategy and the fundraising strategy needed to support its delivery. A Fundraising and Partnerships Manager, Laura, joined the team to build our in-house resource and we have engaged external consultants to bring additional expertise and specialist knowledge to the Team.

Fundraising income for the past year is in line with our expectations. Grants awarded to the Charity have been to support short-term community projects, including Bold Futures, COSMOS, STFC Impact and Noël Turner Science Festival, details of which can be found on pages 13 and 14 of this report.

Our supporters:

- Airbus
- Association of Science and Discovery Centres
- BAE Systems
- Daisie Rich Trust
- GKN Aerospace
- Herepath Shenton Trust
- Johnson Electric
- Liminal Space
- Museums Association
- Newport Grammar School Trust
- Syder Foundation
- Wellcome
- WightAID

If you would like to help us inspire every child in science, we'd love to hear from you.

Please contact: fundraising@wonderseekers.charity or call 01962 863 791 and ask to speak to the Fundraising Team.

Wonderseekers is registered with the Fundraising Regulator and is compliant with the Code of Fundraising Practice. All fundraising activity is undertaken by the Fundraising Team, in accordance with the Fundraising Policy and Procedures, with support and oversight from the Fundraising Committee. Funding is sought from trusts and foundations, government, corporate sponsorship and through partnership agreements with industry and universities. All donations are given freely from individuals, including the invitation to Gift Aid admission. Wonderseekers does not use any third-party fundraiser or seek funding from vulnerable people. No complaints have been made in relation to fundraising activities (2021/22: nil).

Volunteering

The Trustees and staff thank all our volunteers who have given their time, skills and expertise to support our Charity. We'd also like to thank our Patron and Young Steering Group for their active involvement in helping us shape our Charity's future.

This year, we made the decision to end our contract coordinating the STEM Ambassador Hub for Central South England, but we remain a supporter and grateful recipient of the STEM Ambassador programme. The decision was made so the Charity could focus more actively on supporting younger children in line with our strategy.

Two interns joined us through our partnership with SEPnet, an association of physics departments at universities in the South-East of England that specialises in physics and public engagement. Public engagement volunteers have worked with us as interns, bringing with them scientific expertise. In turn, we can support them in broadening their science engagement skills. We're delighted that interns through this programme regularly go on to join our Curiosity Team as Casual Inspirers.

In September 2022, we launched a new work experience programme to offer regular placements to students in Year 10 and above. Four students participated in the programme last year. The programme is expanding for the following year and already attracting many applications.

We would also like to thank Dana, a Ukrainian volunteer who supported school workshops and made a huge difference to Ukrainian children who relocated to the UK due to the war and had little English comprehension.

Profile:

The Young Steering Group

When it comes to engaging children in science and, in particular, our Respect. Protect. Action. key theme, one of our most pivotal stakeholders is, without doubt, the Young Steering Group.

Last year, this engaged and diverse team of volunteers who help guide our activities and shape our plans embarked on a very exciting journey.

Our original call to recruit a team of young people who would fit our equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) criteria produced 70 applications from households where home education, disability and deprivation were present, but was put on hold due to the pandemic. We restarted the process in March 2022 and welcomed 23 exceptional volunteers who have shown us considerable passion throughout their first year.

All visit us regularly and are supported by their immediate family who have all been given annual passes to the Science Centre. Over the past year, meeting once a half term, the Group has built relationships and trust and seen their ideas, the outdoor engagement trials and co-creation sessions turn into real activities our visitors will enjoy.

Their hard work culminated in Wonderseekers' grand launch event and it was a pleasure to see these young stars shine with so much enthusiasm and pride.

Evie's story

At the start of their journey, the children were shy strangers, like Evie, who liked science, but had little or no confidence.

Aged just six, Evie sent us a video of her sitting on her bed with a polar bear toy. She told us how we needed to save the world to save her bear.

Evie was the youngest child who turned up to the first Group meeting and, despite having no face-to-face confidence, she told her stories about her local wildlife and the impact she was seeing on it. Over the past year, she has turned those stories into messaging about the positive action we can take to make change – and help her polar bear.

Future plans

While we celebrated Winchester Science Centre's 20th birthday in 2022 with our audiences, behind the scenes, we've have been firmly focused on mapping out the direction of travel for the Charity over the next 20 years.

The launch of our new identity as Wonderseekers and the new strategy mark the start of an exciting new chapter which very much builds on our journey to date and responds to the strategic priorities identified in 2020 to: (1) develop outdoor science experiences, (2) diversify and expand activities and (3) restructure our group and evolve our identity.

In our strategy, we set out two key themes to ensure we are doing everything we can to increase equality, diversity and inclusion in science and support children, through science, to respond positively to the threat of climate change and biodiversity loss.

Key themes

Be the change

We pledge to increase opportunities for children to engage with the wonder of science, especially those who are disadvantaged by social and economic deprivation, disability or impairment. To grow our own understanding of EDI in science to become a more diverse Charity and use our experience and platforms to champion change.

Respect. Protect. Action.

We pledge to use our spaces, experiences and voice to positively engage children, through all disciplines of science, with the natural world and to take action against climate change and we will lead by example.

Responding to our strategy and key themes, we're exploring ways in which our site in the South Downs National Park can be used as a hook and a gateway for children to explore science and nature, connect communities, and, through science, take collective action against the climate and biodiversity crises.

Our Science Centre's rural location presents us with a unique opportunity within the sector. Our site is situated on rare and precious chalk downland in a Dark Sky Reserve within the South Downs National Park. There's great potential to use this wonderful site to create an accessible biodiversity and climate hub, offering activities for young children and families, especially those facing multiple barriers, to explore science and nature. In doing so, we'll improve the environmental sustainability and increase the biodiversity of our site and celebrate local, natural heritage and strengthen children's connections with nature.

Whilst the long-term aspirations will take considerable time to explore and develop, we're able to take steps in the short-term to build our learning about the land, continue to trial outdoor science engagement with schools and families, build relationships with our stakeholders, such as landowners, scientists, children and communities, and improve our own environmental sustainability.

Pathfinder projects

To support our learning and strengthen our case for support, we have identified two projects that we are currently seeking funding for: Our Place on Earth and Making Waves. The learning from previous projects, such as Bold Futures and Ripple Tank outlined on page 13, have helped to inform their development.

Making Waves

Making Waves is a new audience engagement programme designed to build children's relationships with nature and science. The project specifically engages children disadvantaged by social and economic deprivation, disability and/or impairment.

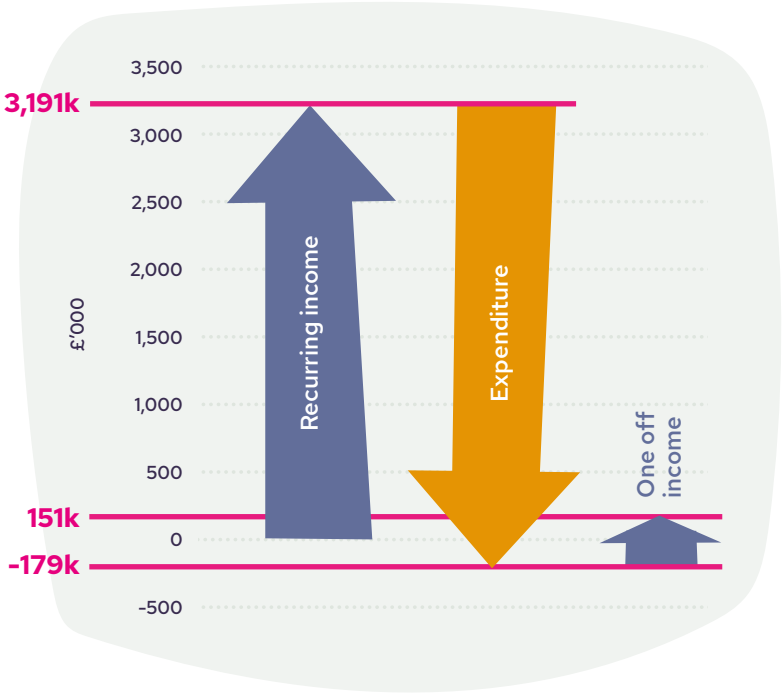
Our Place on Earth

This is a project encompassing a broad programme of work, which includes the first environmentally-themed exhibition for Winchester Science Centre, school and community outreach and digital engagement. Developed in collaboration with local researchers and communities, the project, which builds on previous work, will support young people aged 3-12 use critical science enquiry skills to understand the nature crisis, how it's affecting local landscapes and help them to feel empowered to take action.

Financial review

Overview

The Charity faced a tough financial environment during the early part of the year with Science Centre visitor numbers falling behind budget and increased expenditure due to investment in the Science Centre's visitor experience. The Charity would have incurred a loss of £179k for the full year had it not received a one-off refund from its move to a culturally exempt VAT status, which resulted in a net surplus of £151k for the period. It used £ 393k of its cash reserves to repay its CBILS loan, ending the period in a similar overall financial position as at the start of the year.



Income

Total group income for the year was £3,521k, 3% below the record of £3,630k achieved in 2021/22.

Donations and legacies – note 3

Income from Donations and Legacies was 41% down on the prior year, consistent with the Charity's fundraising focus away from the current year and on to developing the Charity's new long-term strategy, including the essential groundwork preparations required to support its ambitious future plans.

The Charity was extremely grateful for the grants received, including the COSMOS, Bold Futures and STFC Impact funding, which supported community engagement programmes, details of which can be found on pages 13 and 14 in this report.

It was also grateful for the increased Gift Aid. The 21% higher Gift Aid and 5% increase in annual membership largely offset the impact from lower footfall.

Donations and Legacies income also includes the remaining Covid Recovery funding from Garfield Weston Foundation supporting the development of the Charity's future plans (with other Covid support ending in 2021/22).

Charitable activities – note 4

2022/23 was the first full year of public and school visits after Covid and came with significant challenges. Cost of living and other financial pressures impacted school and public visits to the Science Centre. The greatest challenge for the Science Centre however, was the weather. The unseasonably warm spring and autumn and the heatwave in the summer reduced visitor numbers. Some recovery was seen in the final quarter as more normal weather returned, but Science Centre footfall ended the year 15% below budget and only 6% ahead of the previous year, which had been significantly impacted by Covid. Despite this, admissions income rose by 20% following the difficult decision to increase ticket prices in April 2022 for the first time since February 2019 and the removal of VAT from the ticket income following the Charity's move to culturally exempt status.

Activities including sleepovers, Badge Nights and a space-themed Christmas event also contributed towards admissions income growth.

Income from charitable activities also includes a £330k correction of the Charity's VAT liabilities related to its status as a culturally exempt organisation.

The Charity took the difficult decision not to renew its STEM Ambassador contract choosing instead to focus its resources on delivering its charitable objectives for younger children. Although this resulted in a 56% fall in income this was offset by a similar reduction in costs associated with running the programme. The Charity continued to make use of the programme through support from STEM Ambassadors.

Income from trading activities – note 5

Income from trading activities increased by 20% from 21/22, but was also lower than expected.

Income from fundraising events was up £64k on 21/22 (183%). However, investment initially centred around enhancing the core public offering, with investment in fundraising events following later in the year. As a result, income from fundraising events was slower to materialise and reflected the challenges of breaking into new markets, developing the right products and building a reputation for out-of-hours activities.

Income from trading operations rose only 12% from the prior year impacted by the lower than anticipated visitor numbers.

Sponsorship income fell by 25% following a decision not to renew the partnership agreement with Airbus as the Charity focussed on developing its new long-term strategy and objectives.

Expenditure

Expenditure rose 17% in 22/23 largely due to inflation and the investment in resources to rebuild after Covid and to develop the Group's new strategy. The change to culturally exempt status has reduced the ability to recover VAT on purchases contributing £100k of irrecoverable VAT to the Charity's costs.

People costs – note 11

People costs rose 33%, reflecting the cost of rebuilding after the pandemic and the introduction of a new staffing structure in early 2022 designed to create capacity to invest in the Charity's future strategy. The full benefits from the investment are expected to flow through in subsequent years. To support the Charity's staff through the cost-of-living crisis it paid a one-off cost-of-living payment of £1,000 to all staff in January 2023. The average full-time equivalent employees for 2022/23 was 50 (2021/22: 42).

Expenditure on charitable activities – note 7

Expenditure linked to delivery of the Science Centre, other educational and STEM activities rose by 13% (+£285k) against the prior year. Science Centre costs increased 11% to £2,093k, mainly due to staffing. Increased activity out in the community increased Engagement and Outreach costs by 34% (£78k).

Expenditure on raising funds – note 6

Trading costs reflect the recruitment of dedicated café and shop managers, the introduction of new stock lines and focus on ethical products, and inflation in the cost of goods purchased for resale. Fundraising costs have increased due to investment in the Fundraising Team and the introduction of a new CRM system.

Governance and support costs – note 8

The Charity's electricity and heating oil costs increased 36% year on year with the increase mitigated by the hard work done by the staff to reduce usage wherever possible. (Heating oil use fell 25% compared with 2021/22.)

Other governance and support costs increased largely due to investment in the Finance and IT Teams.

Reserves policy

The Charity holds both restricted and unrestricted funds, with the unrestricted funds covering both designated funds, funds set aside by the trustees for a specific purpose, and general funds, reserves which provide working capital and resources for unforeseen financial difficulties.

The Charity's policy on unrestricted general reserves is set based on forecast income and expenditure and the likelihood of material risks crystallising which would not be covered by future income or insurance.

The general unrestricted reserves is set with regard to:

- Annual budget – set to ensure the Charity's future expenditure levels are matched to the income the Charity receives from operating the Science Centre and other grants and income.
- Risk management process - assesses the impact and likelihood of all risks to the Charity and the appropriate level of short-term reserves to be held.

The Trustees have assessed the impact and likelihood of uninsured risks to create an expected value, which is reduced by the assessment of mitigating controls, to set the appropriate level of general unrestricted short-term reserves to be held. This value is formally reviewed on an annual basis with the opportunity for any material changes to be picked up within the risk review process.

With the increasing level of global economic uncertainty and continuing risks from Covid during 21/22 the Charity aimed to hold general unrestricted reserves of 300k – 350k, equivalent to three months of expenditure for full operations. With the new resources now in place for the ongoing operations of the Charity and the continuing economic environment the range of 300k – 350k has continued to be considered appropriate for 22/23.

General reserves outcome

Following a challenging year of operations, unrestricted reserves now stand at £2,859k, of which £2,338k were designated and £521k were general unrestricted reserves.

The Trustees are committed to using these funds to support our beneficiaries by investing in the seed funding of the outdoor science engagement project, for which a £600k designated reserve has been created (see note 20), as well as long-term maintenance of our Science Centre, managing future risks and growing charitable impact.

Principal risks

This year is the first since 2018/19 that our Science Centre has not been impacted by Covid 19 closures. However, the Charity's performance and risk profile continued to be affected by powerful external pressures. The cost of living crisis, rising inflation and warm, dry weather have presented the greatest challenges.

Our most effective response to such risks is through delivery of our strategy; building impact and resilience through diversification and growth. The reimagining of our Morn Hill site in Winchester to expand our science engagement outdoors and increased focus on community and schools-based activity will build capacity and reduce the Charity's reliance on income generated through its indoor Science Centre.

Wonderseekers is in a strong position to respond to these external threats. Investment in our Science Centre visitor experience over recent years has given the Charity space to focus on long-term strategy, build the Charity's new identity as Wonderseekers and develop our future plans. We recognise however that continued investment in our team, our ability to meet fundraising targets and the need to maintain a high-performing Science Centre are all critical success factors and reflected in the risks identified.

The Trustees believe that sound risk management is integral to both good management and good governance practice.

Risk management is part of the Charity’s decision-making and is incorporated within strategic and operational planning.

The Trustees recognise that risk is inherent in any operation and that some level of managed risk is essential if the Charity is to achieve the greatest impact for its beneficiaries.

Wonderseekers manages risk through a top-down-bottom-up approach assessing longer-term strategic risks alongside shorter-term operational risks.

The Senior Management Team maintains departmental risk registers identifying key risks to their departments, which are updated and cascaded quarterly.

Any fast-moving or escalating risks during the quarter are reported at the weekly Senior Management Team meeting. Risks are cascaded to the Chair of Trustees and Chair of Finance, Audit and Risk Committee as required.

The Senior Management Team reviews the Charity’s Risk Register monthly. The Charity risk position is reviewed quarterly by the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee and risk is a standing agenda item at all quarterly board meetings.

Risk
Recruitment and staff retention

Status
Increasing

Description

Dynamic people-led and impactful experiences, synonymous with our Charity, and our ability to deliver the ambitious plans necessary to secure long-term financial sustainability, growth and impact, rely on successful recruitment and the retention of key staff.

People costs are our biggest annual expenditure so, whilst critical, an inability to sustain increasing staffing costs, makes recruitment and retention particularly vulnerable to the impact of the economic pressures associated with the increased cost of living and rising inflation.

Risk mitigation strategy

The Board of Trustees and SMT will continue to foster a people-focused and values-based culture that is highly valued by staff and appeals to new recruits. Annual staff surveys will be used to measure staff satisfaction and identify employment terms that are valued and areas for improvement. Progression within the Charity will be encouraged and regularly demonstrated and salaries will continue to be reviewed and benchmarked. An ambitious long-term strategy and three-year business plan will enable staff to see how they contribute to the Charity's aims and success. The Charity recognises that economic pressure is an external threat that cannot always be mitigated.

Risk
Global economic situation

Status
Increasing

Description

There are two risks associated with external economic pressure.

- Our Charity relies on visitor income generated through the Science Centre. Economic pressure impacting on visitors may result in lower visitor numbers and lower visitor spending.
- The market cannot sustain price increases to cover increasing operational costs that could reduce our ability to maintain the investment needed to deliver a consistent, high-quality visitor offer.

Risk mitigation strategy

We will continue to invest in the visitor experience and build on the Science Centre's already very good reputation. Creative programming and added-value activities will be used to drive repeat visits and increase annual membership. Future plans to extend the science engagement programme, including environmental science and outdoor experiences, will help to create a compelling future offer. The impact of rising costs on our expenditure will be thoroughly modelled and included in scenario planning conducted through the business planning and budgeting cycle. The Trustees receive monthly management accounts, and the Senior Management Team will be monitoring the impact of rising costs closely. The potential for increased running costs is considered when setting the reserves policy.

Risk
Fundraising

Status
Increasing

Description

Our ambitious future plans rely on fundraising success to be achieved. Global economic uncertainty has impacted on the fundraising landscape, squeezing available funds and increasing competition. Failure to secure the necessary funding will limit our ability to deliver our strategy as planned. Development projects also include essential investment in infrastructure, so not securing the funds could also impact on financial reserves and our ability to operate.

Risk mitigation strategy

Wonderseekers has developed a good fundraising track-record over the past five years, delivering projects as planned and maintaining excellent communications with funders. We intend to use our new Wonderseekers identity and online platforms to increase our Charity's profile, demonstrate our credibility and build our reputation for impact with existing and new funders. We will continue to take an impact-focused approach to project development, ensuring projects respond to social need, deliver on our strategy and values and demonstrate excellent value for money. By doing so, we are aiming to make a strong, evidence-based case for support. The Board of Trustees' Fundraising Committee has oversight of the fundraising strategy and operation and provides representation at board level.

Carbon footprint and emissions

We are passionate about playing a lead role within our region to address the climate and biodiversity emergencies.

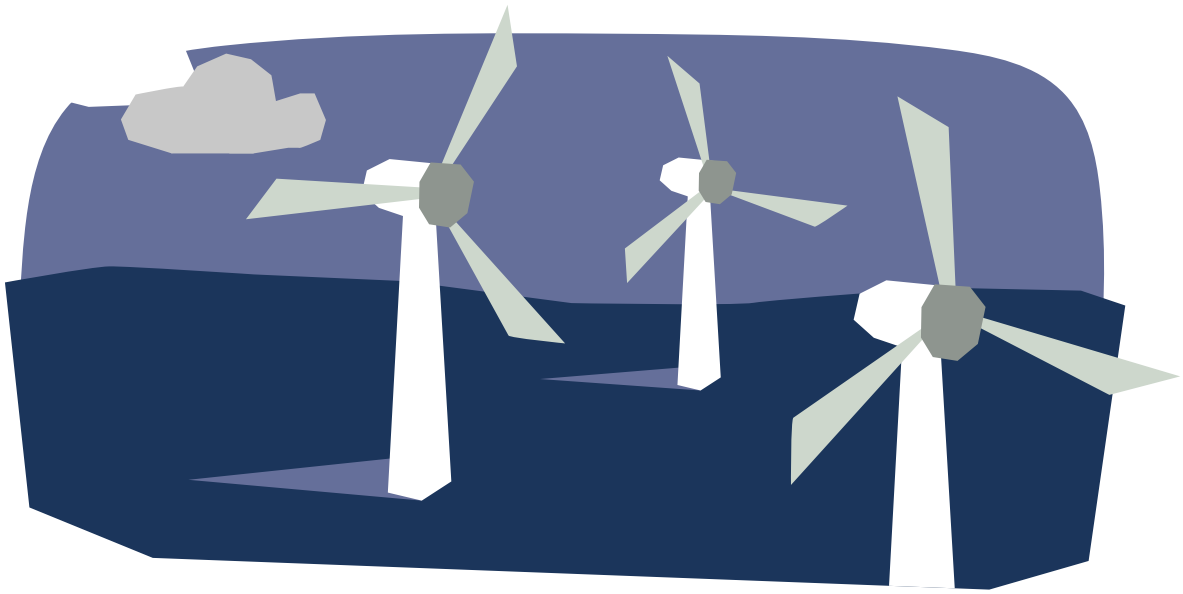
We will use our spaces, experiences and platforms to positively connect with and engage children with science and the natural world, empowering and enabling our collective action. We will lead by example, working with others to protect and recover the important heritage of our site, the rare chalk downland and biodiversity found here within the South Downs National Park. We will also reduce our carbon emissions and waste.

While the development of a Group Sustainability Strategy over the coming year will help guide our progress, the greatest opportunity we have to meet our sustainability ambitions is through our future plans and the reimagining of our site.

An independent carbon footprint report was commissioned for 2021/22 and 2022/23.

		2021/22	~CO_2 Tonne	2022/23	~CO_2 Tonne	% change in emissions
Electricity	KWh	251,582	58.15	246,024	51.58	-11.3%
Heating oil	litres	37,174	102.55	27,901	76.97	-24.9%
Business travel*	miles	3,734	0.85	5,239	1.77	108.2%
Fuel purchase	litres	574	1.44	599	1.53	6.3%
Water	m^3	1,546	0.21	1,691	0.25	19.0%
Waste**	tonnes	29.03	5.84	46.54	7.19	23.1%
Total			**169.04**		**139.29**	
Emissions per employee	tCO_2e		4.02		2.79	
Emissions per £M turnover	tCO_2e		46.57		39.56	

*The 2021/22 figures cover employee vehicle travel, while the 2022/23 figures encompass vehicle, train, ferry, and air travel.
**Due to difficulties with estimating, this calculation excludes waste disposed of in skips.



Structure, governance and management

Wonderseekers is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity.

Our Charity is governed by our Articles of Association, which sets out the Charity's powers and authorities. The objective of the Charity is detailed in the Articles of Association:

To advance the education, knowledge and understanding of the public, in particular the young, in basic technological and scientific principles and processes, particularly through the improvements of the links between industrial, commercial and educational bodies and institutions.

The Charity's wholly owned subsidiary, Sparking Curiosity Ltd, operates the onsite shop and café under licence from the Charity and gift aids the maximum permissible amount of its profits to the Charity (see note 10 to the accounts).

Wonderseekers operates under principles documented in our Code of Governance, which comply with the Charity Governance Code for larger charities (2020).

The Board of Trustees holds all of the Charity's powers and authorities.

The Board is ultimately responsible for the overall control and strategic direction of the Charity and for the protection of its assets. The Board receives regular updates on the major risks likely to affect the Charity and ensures these are properly documented and that mitigating actions are in place and actively managed. The Board receives regular updates on the handling of personal data held by the Charity and ensures the policy and procedures are compliant with legislation.

In setting our objectives and planning our activities the Trustees have carefully considered the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. Operational management is delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, Ben Ward, and the Senior Management Team.

Board of Trustees

The Trustees, who are also Directors under company law, are elected by the Board at the Annual General Meeting and serve for a term of three years.

Trustees can be re-appointed up to a maximum of three terms. The performance of individual Trustees, including the Chair, is informally reviewed each year. All Trustees give their time freely and no Trustee received remuneration in the year. Details of Trustee expenses and related party transactions are disclosed in notes 11 and 23 of the accounts.

Board and committee membership and attendance

Title	First name	Last name	Appointed	Stepped down	Full board (Apr, Jul, Oct, Jan, Feb)	AGM (Oct)	FARC (Apr, Jul, Oct, Feb)	NomRem (Jun, Oct, Dec)	Fundraising (Jun)	D&L (Apr, May)
Dr	Ian	Jenkins	30/09/14		4 of 5 (apologies Oct22)	0 of 1		3 of 3		
Dr	Toby	King	31/10/17		5 of 5	1 of 1		3 of 3		
Mrs	Tajinder	Leonard	26/11/19		5 of 5	1 of 1		3 of 3	1 of 1	
Prof.	Diane	Newell	29/09/15	09/05/23	5 of 5	1 of 1				2 of 2
Mr	Adrian	Owen	26/11/19		5 of 5	1 of 1	4 of 4			
Mrs	Sue	Parr	26/11/19		5 of 5	1 of 1			0 of 1 (apologies Jun22)	2 of 2
Prof.	Janet	Preston	30/09/14		4 of 5 (apologies Jul22)	1 of 1		3 of 3		1 of 2 (apologies Apr22)
Mrs	Sara	Sullivan	26/11/19		5 of 5	1 of 1		3 of 3	1 of 1	
Mrs	Katherine (Katie)	Roberts	21/10/21		5 of 5	1 of 1			1 of 1	
Mrs	Phyllida	James	21/10/21		5 of 5	1 of 1	4 of 4			
Dr	Rutang	Thanawalla	21/10/21		4 of 5 (apologies Feb23)	1 of 1	3 of 4 (apologies Apr22)			
Dr	Dolores	Byrne	30/09/14	19/10/22	4 of 4	1 of 1	2 of 3 (apologies Apr22)	1 of 2 (apologies Oct22)	1 of 1	

Board effectiveness

In Spring of 2021, the Board undertook an internal Board Effectiveness Review by assessing adherence to recommendations in the Charity Governance Code 2020.

Each Trustee was asked for their view on how well, or otherwise, the Charity met each recommendation and the results summarised in three categories by significance: routine, process or requiring Board action.

The matters of routine were actioned by the secretariat, the matters of process were actioned by committee chairs, the matters requiring Board attention were discussed and adopted by the Board, including an external Board Effectiveness Review that took place in the Summer of 2022.

Organisation

The Board holds five meetings a year, one of which is dedicated to Strategy, and has established the following four Committees: Finance, Audit and Risk; Nominations and Remuneration; Discovery and Learning, and Fundraising, which report to the Board.

The Finance, Audit and Risk Committee is independent of the management of the Charity. It has the standing and resources to report directly with opinion and oversight to the Board of Trustees on the annual report and accounts and other financial reports, the risk management process and risk register, delivering value for money, policy maintenance and the Charity's whistleblowing arrangements. It is also responsible for making recommendations to the Board of Trustees in relation to the performance, appointment, reappointment and removal of the external auditors.

The Nominations and Remuneration Committee reports to the Board on governance effectiveness, the structure, size and composition of the Board, succession planning and on the salary and benefits of the CEO and members of the Senior Management Team.

The committee makes recommendations to the Board of both the Charity and its subsidiary for approval of new trustees, chairs and deputy chairs of both Boards and committees. It also recommends salary and benefits for the CEO, Senior Management Team, appointment of CEO and carries out an annual review and update of the Code of Governance.

The Board issues public advertisements for trustees and aims to attract a diverse range of candidates with the skills the Charity needs. It values the benefits of a membership with a variety of backgrounds, expertise and experience. New Trustees undertake an induction programme that includes meeting senior management and fellow Trustees. It also covers the Charity's aims and how they are being fulfilled, the Code of Governance including Committee structures and decision-making processes, the business plan and recent financial performance. Trustees are encouraged to attend appropriate external training events where appropriate budget has been allocated to cover Trustee expenses and course fees.

In reviewing the salary and benefits for the CEO and the Senior Management Team, the committee considers salary benchmarks for equivalent roles in the sector. The committee assesses individual performance in the year against the objectives agreed in each individual annual review and, on that basis, makes a salary review recommendation to the Board for approval.

The Discovery and Learning Committee provides strategic input and makes recommendations to the Board regarding the appropriateness of the scientific and educational content of the strategic plan. The committee assesses the overall scientific and educational value of the Charity's programme, reviews activities aimed at diversifying our reach and assesses the effectiveness of ongoing academic collaborations.

The Fundraising Committee contributes expertise as well as regional and industry sector perspectives to the development and successful operation of the fundraising programme. Members contribute ideas and engage with other Trustees to open up new fundraising sources. The responsibility for developing the fundraising strategy and delivering fundraising activities rests with the Fundraising Team.

Related parties and co-operation with other organisations

Any relationship between a Trustee or senior manager of the Charity with a university, sponsoring company exhibition, or an organisation contracted to work for the Charity, is openly disclosed to the Board.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The Charity Trustees are responsible for preparing a Trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). Company law requires the Charity Trustees to prepare financial statements for each year that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the parent charitable company and the group, and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable group for that period. In preparing the 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 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 business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006.

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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.

Financial statements

Provision of information to auditors

So far as each of the Trustees at the time the report is approved are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the auditors are unaware and,
- they have taken all the steps they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information, and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

Auditor

A resolution to reappoint Haysmacintyre LLP as auditor will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting.

In preparing this report the Trustees have taken advantage of the small companies exemptions provided by section 415A of the Companies Act 2006.

The Trustees' Annual Report was approved by the Board of Trustees on 18th October 2023 and signed on its behalf:

Dr Toby King
Chair of Trustees

Independent auditor's report to the members of Wonderseekers

Opinion

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of Wonderseekers for the year ended 31st March 2023 which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, Consolidated Balance Sheet, Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 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 group's and of the parent charitable company's affairs as at 31st March 2023 and of the group's and parent charitable company's net movement in funds, including the income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- 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 group 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 group'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.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Trustees' Annual Report and the Chair's statement. 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.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, 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 audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. 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.

Opinion 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 (which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the Trustees' Annual Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Independent auditor's report to the members of Wonderseekers (continued)

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the group and the parent charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Annual Report (which incorporates the directors' 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 by the parent; or
- the parent charitable company 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 trustees 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' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 46, the trustees (who are also the directors of the group for the purposes of 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 group's and the parent 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 group or the parent charitable company or to 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 is detailed below.

Based on our understanding of the group and the environment in which it operates, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to charity and company law applicable in England and Wales, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011.

We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls) and determined that the principal risks were related to revenue recognition, and management override of controls. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- Inspecting correspondence with regulators;
- Discussions with management including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulation and fraud;
- Reviewing the controls and procedures of the charity relevant to the preparation of the financial statements to ensure these were in place throughout the year;
- Evaluating management's controls designed to prevent and detect irregularities;
- Identifying and testing journals, in particular journal entries posted with unusual account combinations, postings by unusual users or with unusual descriptions, and
- Challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in their critical accounting estimates.

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 for the audit of the financial statements is located 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 group'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 group'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 group and the group's members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Jane Askew

Senior Statutory Auditor, For and on behalf of
Haysmacintyre LLP,
Statutory Auditors
10 Queen Street Place
London
EC4R 1AG

Date:

27 October 2023

Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities

(incorporating an income and expenditure account) For the year ending 31st March 2023

	Note	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total funds 2023 £'000	Total funds 2022 £'000
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3	543	46	589	999
Charitable activities:	4				
Science Centre		2,084	-	2,084	1,819
Engagement and Outreach		115	2	117	206
Income from investments		6	-	6	1
Other trading activities	5	720	5	725	605
Total		**3,468**	**53**	**3,521**	**3,630**
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds:	6				
Other trading activities		967	5	972	756
Charitable activities:	7				
Science Centre		2,049	44	2,093	1,886
Engagement and Outreach		281	24	305	227
Total		**3,297**	**73**	**3,370**	**2,869**
Net (expenditure)/income:		171	(20)	151	761
Transfer between funds	20	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		**171**	**(20)**	**151**	**761**
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward	20	2,688	323	3,011	2,250
Total funds carried forward		**2,859**	**303**	**3,162**	**3,011**

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year, and all income and expenditure derived from continuing activities.

Consolidated and Charity Balance Sheet

As at 31st March 2023

	Note	Group 2023 £'000	Group 2022 £'000	Charity 2023 £'000	Charity 2022 £'000
Fixed assets:					
Tangible assets	13	1,819	2,077	1,819	2,077
Current assets:					
Stocks	14	39	24	8	9
Debtors	15	138	257	163	263
Short term investments		450	-	450	-
Cash at bank and in hand		1,143	1,774	1,056	1,530
Total current assets		1,770	2,055	1,677	1,802
Liabilities:					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	16	(427)	(648)	(392)	(570)
Net current assets		1,343	1,407	1,285	1,232
Total assets less current liabilities		3,162	3,484	3,104	3,309
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	18	-	(473)	-	(473)
Total net assets		**3,162**	**3,011**	**3,104**	**2,836**
The funds of the charity	20				
Restricted income funds		303	323	303	323
Unrestricted funds:					
Designated		2,338	1,951	2,338	1,951
General unrestricted		521	737	463	562
Total unrestricted funds		2,859	2,688	2,801	2,513
Total charity funds		**3,162**	**3,011**	**3,104**	**2,836**

Wonderseekers formally known as Winchester Science Centre (the parent entity) reports a surplus for financial year 2022/23 of £268k (2021/22: £649k surplus).

The financial statements of Wonderseekers formally known as Winchester Science Centre (registered number 02014929) were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 18th October 2023.

Signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees

Dr Toby King
Chair of Trustees

Consolidated and Charity Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ending 31st March 2023

	Note	Group 2023 £'000	Group 2022 £'000	Charity 2023 £'000	Charity 2022 £'000
Cash flows from operating activities:					
Net cash provided by operating activities	**A**	**590**	**1,073**	**747**	**910**
Cash flows from investing activities:					
Purchase of plant and equipment		(153)	(106)	(153)	(106)
Net cash used in investing activities		**(153)**	**(106)**	**(153)**	**(106)**
Cash flows from financing activities:					
Repayment of borrowing		(601)	(70)	(601)	(70)
Cash inflows from new borrowing		-	-	-	-
Interest paid		(17)	(7)	(17)	(7)
Net cash (used in)/provided by financing activities		**(618)**	**(77)**	**(618)**	**(77)**
(Decrease) / Increase in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(181)	890	(24)	727
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		1,774	884	1,530	803
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	**B**	**1,593**	**1,774**	**1,506**	**1,530**

Consolidated and Charity Statement of Cash Flows (continued)

For the year ending 31st March 2023

Notes to the cash flow statement

A) Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow generated from operating activities

	Group 2023 £'000	Group 2022 £'000	Charity 2023 £'000	Charity 2022 £'000
Net income/(expenditure) for the year	151	761	268	649
Adjustments for:				
Depreciation charges	411	447	411	447
Decrease/(increase) in stocks	(15)	(5)	1	(8)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	119	51	100	34
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(93)	(199)	(50)	(230)
Loss on disposal	-	11	-	11
Interest paid	17	7	17	7
Net cash provided by operating activities	**590**	**1,073**	**747**	**910**

B) Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	Group 2023 £'000	Group 2022 £'000	Charity 2023 £'000	Charity 2022 £'000
Cash in hand	1,143	1,774	1,056	1,530
Cash on deposit	450	-	450	-
Total cash and cash equivalents	**1,593**	**1,774**	**1,506**	**1,530**

C) Analysis of changes in net debt

	As at 1st April 2022	Cash-flows	Non-cash changes	As at 31st March 2023
Unrestricted cash	1,774	(631)	-	1,143
Cash restricted to projects	-	-	-	-
Loans falling due within one year	(128)	601	(473)	-
Loans falling due after more than one year	(473)	-	473	-
Total	**1,173**	**(30)**	**-**	**1,143**

Notes to the Financal Statements for the year ending 31st March 2023

1. Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

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) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historic cost convention. Wonderseekers meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Wonderseekers is a company limited by guarantee and incorporated in England and Wales. The Registered Office is: Telegraph Way, Morn Hill, Winchester, Hampshire, SO21 1HZ.

Group financial statements

The Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA), Consolidated Balance Sheet and the Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows consolidate the financial statements of the Charity and its subsidiary undertaking. The results of the subsidiary are consolidated on a line by line basis.

No separate SOFA has been prepared for the Charity alone as permitted by Section 408 of the Companies Act 2006.

Preparation of accounts on a going concern basis

The Group's primary source of income continues to be visitors to the Science Centre.

After careful consideration of the Group's current financial position, with due attention paid to the Group's cash flows, liquidity and borrowings, and future plans and prospects, the Trustees are confident the Group has adequate resources to continue in operation for the foreseeable future which is at least 12 months from the date of approval of these financial statements. Accordingly, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the accounts.

Income

Income is recognised when the Group has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount is measurable.

Donated services and facilities

On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the Group, which is the amount the Group 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.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the Group. Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the Group which the Trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a particular purpose.

Restricted funds

Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the Group's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the Group.

Expenditure

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 headings:

- Costs of raising funds comprise the costs of commercial trading including the shop and café and their associated support costs. It also includes a proportion of the cost of front-of-house staff.
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs of exhibitions, educational and other activities undertaken to further the purposes of the Charity and their associated support costs.

Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the Group but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, finance, facilities, personnel, IT and governance costs which support the Group's activities. These costs have been allocated between the cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities. The basis on which support costs have been allocated are set out in note 8.

Tangible fixed assets

The Group has elected to use the 'deemed cost' option on transition to FRS102 for Land and Buildings which have been revalued as at 31 March 2014 and have been depreciated from that date. Other tangible fixed assets are capitalised at cost and are depreciated on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful economic lives as follows:

Asset category	Annual rate
Intellectual assets	10%
Planetarium	10% – 33⅓%
Office equipment	20%
Computer equipment	33⅓%
Technical equipment	6⅔% – 33⅓%
Exhibition equipment	20% – 33⅓%
Equipment library	20%
Motor vehicles	25%
Freehold buildings	2%
Freehold land	Nil

Stock

Stock is included at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Debtors

Short term debtors are measured at transaction price, less any impairment.

Short term investments

Short term investments are cash deposits held with financial institutions with maturities of greater than three months. They are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions with original maturities of less than or equal to three months. These are short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Creditors

Short term trade creditors are measured at the transaction price. Other financial liabilities, including bank loans, are initially measured at the transaction value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

Operating leases

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

Corporation tax

The Charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

Any profits generated from the Charity's trading subsidiary Sparking Curiosity Ltd will be transferred to the parent with a gift aid payment and therefore no taxation is due.

Financial instruments

The Group has financial assets and 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 with the exception of bank loans and mortgages which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Judgements in applying accounting policies and key sources of estimation

In the application of the Group's accounting policies, described in the accounting policies above, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates. The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

The Trustee representatives consider that the following are key estimates;

- Depreciation of fixed assets is charged over the useful economic life of the assets. Trustees and management review the useful economic life on an annual basis.
- Bad debt provisions – debtors are reviewed regularly to assess likelihood of recoverability. A provision of bad debt is estimated based on these reviews. At the year end, no bad debt provision has been made (2022: £0k).

2. Legal status of the Charity

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. In the event of the Charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the Charity.

3. Income from donations and legacies

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Donations and grants	515	861
Government support:		
Job retention scheme	-	33
Other	-	35
Membership subscriptions	74	70
Total	**589**	**999**

The Charity benefits greatly from the involvement and enthusiastic support of its many volunteers, details of which are given in our annual report. In accordance with FRS 102 and the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the economic contribution of general volunteers is not recognised in the accounts.

4. Income from charitable activities

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Science Centre:		
Admission fees	1,761	1,465
Exhibit sponsorship	(13)	15
Tax relief	336	89
Insurance claim	-	250
Total	**2,084**	**1,819**
Engagement and Outreach:		
STEM NOW	86	195
Outreach workshops	31	11
Total	**117**	**206**

5. Income from other trading activities

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Fundraising events	99	35
Trading operations	596	530
Corporate sponsorship	30	40
Total	**725**	**605**

6. Expenditure on raising funds

	Direct staff costs £'000	Other direct costs £'000	Governance support costs £'000	Other support costs £'000	Total 2023 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
Trading costs	237	450	14	192	893	711
Fundraising costs	65	14	-	-	79	45
Total	**302**	**464**	**14**	**192**	**972**	**756**

7. Expenditure on charitable activities

	Direct staff costs £'000	Other direct costs £'000	Governance support costs £'000	Other support costs £'000	Total 2023 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
Science Centre	892	553	28	620	2,093	1,886
Engagement and Outreach	43	183	5	74	305	227
Total	**935**	**736**	**33**	**694**	**2,398**	**2,113**

8. Analysis of governance and support costs

	Direct staff costs £'000	Overheads £'000	Total 2023 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
Governance costs	-	47	47	50
Finance, HR and IT costs	297	89	386	255
Management costs	102	39	141	130
Premises and office costs	-	360	360	272
Total	**399**	**535**	**934**	**707**

Support costs related to the building have been re-allocated on a square footage basis, whilst other costs have been re-allocated on a direct cost basis.

9. Net income for the year

This is stated after charging:	Group 2023 £'000	Group 2022 £'000	Charity 2023 £'000	Charity 2022 £'000
Depreciation	410	447	410	447
Auditor's remuneration for:				
Audit	19	18	15	14
Taxation services	4	19	4	18
Operating lease rentals:				
Plant and machinery	11	7	11	7

10. Investment in subsidiary and trading income

The Charity has a wholly owned trading subsidiary, Sparking Curiosity Limited (Company Number 10661776), which is incorporated in England and Wales. A summary of the trading results of the subsidiary to 31st March 2023 is shown below. This includes a management charge levied by the Charity of £304k (2022: £181k). Audited accounts are filed with the Registrar of Companies.

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Turnover	640	572
Cost of sales	(304)	(255)
Gross profit	**336**	**317**
Other operating charges	(331)	(195)
Profit for the year before tax	**5**	**122**

The capital of the company comprises 100 ordinary shares of £1 each. The maximum permissible amount of the subsidiary's reserves of £58,006 will be transferred to the parent company by 31st December 2023 such that no tax will be payable by the subsidiary.

11. Analysis of staff costs, Trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Salaries and wages	1,484	1,126
Social security costs	124	86
Pension costs	28	21
Redundancy costs	3	-
Total	**1,639**	**1,233**

The number of employees whose emoluments exceeded £60,000 during the year was:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
£80,001 - £90,000	1	1
£60,001 - £70,000	1	-

Pension costs are allocated to activities in proportion to the related staffing costs incurred.

The Trustees were not paid and did not receive any other benefits from employment with the Charity in the year (2021/22: £nil). One Trustee was reimbursed £157.50 for travel costs during the year (2021/22: £0). No Trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2021/22: £nil).

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the Trustees, CEO, and Directors of Finance and Operations, Science Engagement, Communications, Fundraising and Experience. The total employee costs of the key management personnel of the charity were £353k (2021/22: £296k).

12. Staff numbers

The average monthly head count was 92 staff (2021/22: 66 staff) and the average monthly number of full-time equivalent employees (including casual and part-time staff) during the year were as follows:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Science Centre	41	34
Office and management	9	8
Total	**50**	**42**

All staff were employed by the Charity.

13. Tangible fixed assets – Group

	Work in progress £'000	Intellectual assets £'000	Equipment £'000	Freehold land and buildings £'000	Total £'000
Cost or valuation:					
At 1st April 2022	8	253	2,557	1,087	3,905
Additions	-	-	153	-	153
Transfers	(8)	-	8	-	-
Disposals	-	-	(41)	-	(41)
As at 31st March 2023	**-**	**253**	**2,677**	**1,087**	**4,017**
Depreciation:					
At 1st April 2022	-	249	1,483	96	1,828
Charge for year	-	4	387	19	410
Eliminated on disposal	-	-	(40)	-	(40)
As at 31st March 2023	**-**	**253**	**1,830**	**115**	**2,198**
Net book value:					
As at 31st March 2023	**-**	**-**	**847**	**972**	**1,819**
As at 31st March 2022	**8**	**5**	**1,073**	**991**	**2,077**

In July 2016, the land and buildings were inspected by Andrew Smith & Son of Winchester to obtain a current open market valuation at 31st March 2014. The buildings were valued at £1,000k and the land at £125k. The Trustees restated opening balances on 1st April 2015 in accordance with the deemed cost option of FRS 102. Had the deemed cost option not been elected, at 31st March 2023, the cost of freehold land and buildings stated above would be £7,621k, and the net book value £5,356k.

13. Tangible fixed assets – Charity

	Work in progress £'000	Intellectual assets £'000	Equipment £'000	Freehold land and buildings £'000	Total £'000
Cost or valuation:					
At 1st April 2022	8	253	2,556	1,087	3,904
Additions	-	-	153	-	153
Transfers	(8)	-	8	-	-
Disposals	-	-	(41)	-	(41)
As at 31st March 2023	**-**	**253**	**2,676**	**1,087**	**4,016**
Depreciation:					
At 1st April 2022	-	249	1,482	96	1,827
Charge for year	-	4	387	19	410
Eliminated on disposal	-	-	(40)	-	(40)
As at 31st March 2023	**-**	**253**	**1,829**	**115**	**2,197**
Net book value:					
As at 31st March 2023	**-**	**-**	**847**	**972**	**1,819**
As at 31st March 2022	**8**	**5**	**1,073**	**991**	**2,077**

14. Stock

	Group 2023 £'000	Group 2022 £'000	Charity 2023 £'000	Charity 2022 £'000
Shop goods for resale	31	15	-	-
Heating fuel	8	9	8	9
Total	**39**	**24**	**8**	**9**

During the year, £327k (2021/22 £274k) of stock was recognised as an expense.

15. Debtors

	Group 2023 £'000	Group 2022 £'000	Charity 2023 £'000	Charity 2022 £'000
Trade debtors	38	105	38	99
Prepayments	36	38	36	38
Grants	3	-	3	-
Events	4	-	-	-
Tax relief	8	89	8	89
Amounts owed from group undertakings	-	-	30	13
Other	49	25	48	24
Total	**138**	**257**	**163**	**263**

16. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Group 2023 £'000	Group 2022 £'000	Charity 2023 £'000	Charity 2022 £'000
Bank loans and overdraft	-	128	-	128
Trade creditors	73	131	57	112
Accruals	160	68	151	60
Taxation and social security	41	36	41	14
Other creditors	18	12	11	8
Deferred income	135	273	132	248
Total	**427**	**648**	**392**	**570**

17. Deferred income

Deferred income comprises: advance ticket sales related to admission to the Science Centre and for events held after 31st March 2023 of £76k (2021/22 £61k), deferred membership from annual passes of £44k (2021/22 £36k), deferred sponsorship of nil (2021/22 £36k) and deferred grant income of £15k (2021/22 £140k).

	Group 2023 £'000	Group 2022 £'000	Charity 2023 £'000	Charity 2022 £'000
Balance as at 1st April	273	546	248	526
Amount released to income and expenditure account	(273)	(546)	(248)	(526)
Amount deferred in year	135	273	132	248
Balance as at 31st March	**135**	**273**	**132**	**248**

18. Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	Group 2023 £'000	Group 2022 £'000	Charity 2023 £'000	Charity 2022 £'000
Bank loan	-	84	-	84
CBILS loan	-	389	-	389
Total	**-**	**473**	**-**	**473**

The bank loan was repaid on 22nd July 2022, interest was charged at 2.5% above the base rate. The CBILS loan was repaid on 7th March 2023, interest was charged from 31st October 2021 at 1.63% above the base rate. Both loans were secured on the charity's freehold property.

The bank loans are repayable as follows:

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Amounts payable within one year	-	128
Amounts payable between one and two years	-	131
Amounts payable between three and five years	-	342
Total	**-**	**601**

19. Analysis of assets and liabilities between funds

	Restricted funds 2023 £'000	Unrestricted funds 2023 £'000	Total 2023 £'000	Restricted funds 2022 £'000	Unrestricted funds 2022 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
Group:						
Fixed assets	303	1,516	1,819	323	1,754	2,077
Current assets	-	1,770	1,770	-	2,055	2,055
Current liabilities	-	(427)	(427)	-	(648)	(648)
Long-term liabilities	-	-	-	-	(473)	(473)
Group total	**303**	**2,859**	**3,162**	**323**	**2,688**	**3,011**
Charity:						
Fixed assets	303	1,516	1,819	323	1,754	2,077
Current assets	-	1,677	1,677	-	1,802	1,802
Current liabilities	-	(392)	(392)	-	(570)	(570)
Long-term liabilities	-	-	-	-	(473)	(473)
Charity total	**303**	**2,801**	**3,104**	**323**	**2,513**	**2,836**

20. Movement in funds

	At 1st April 2022 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Transfer between funds £'000	At 31st March 2023 £'000
Restricted funds:					
Widening Participation and Outreach	-	53	(53)	-	-
Millennium Project	323	-	(20)	-	303
Other restricted funds	-	-	-	-	-
Total restricted funds	**323**	**53**	**(73)**	**-**	**303**
Unrestricted funds:					
Designated:					
Planetarium	152	47	-	-	199
Fixed assets	1,755	-	(391)	153	1,517
Outdoor Science Engagement	-	-	-	600	600
Exhibition	44	(13)	(9)	-	22
STEM NOW	-	87	(47)	(40)	-
Total designated funds	**1,951**	**121**	**(447)**	**713**	**2,338**
Unrestricted:					
General unrestricted	562	2,707	(2,093)	(713)	463
Total general unrestricted funds	**562**	**2,707**	**(2,093)**	**(713)**	**463**
Total unrestricted funds	**2,513**	**2,828**	**(2,540)**	**-**	**2,801**
Total charitable funds	**2,836**	**2,881**	**(2,613)**	**-**	**3,104**
Trading subsidiary	**175**	**640**	**(757)**	**-**	**58**
Total group funds	**3,011**	**3,521**	**(3,370)**	**-**	**3,162**

See note 27 for prior year comparatives

Restricted funds

The Charity received donations and grants that the donor specified to be solely used for particular areas of the Charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the Charity.

Widening Participation and Outreach

A number of discrete projects to reach underserved audiences. Projects included outreach activities in school and community settings.

Millennium Project

A capital development project for the creation of the Science Centre, placing restrictions on the use of the building.

Unrestricted funds

These are funds available for the general objectives of the Charity. Included within unrestricted funds are designated funds that the Charity has put aside for a specific purpose. The Charity has existing fixed assets that are essential to its operation, the value of which has been designated. A further designated fund, Outdoor Science Engagement, has been established in 2022/23 to support the Charity's ambitious future plans.

21. Operating lease commitments – Group and Charity

The future operating lease payments are as follows:

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Within one year	11	11
Between one and five years	6	16
After more than five years	-	-
Total	**16**	**27**

22. Pension scheme

During the year £28k (2021/22: £21k) was paid into a defined contribution pension scheme. At the year-end no contributions (2021/22: £5k) were due to the scheme.

23. Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in the year, nor in 2021/22.

24. Limitation of liability

Wonderseekers formally known as Winchester Science Centre is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. At the year ended 31st March 2023, there were 11 members (13 members at 31st March 2022), each of whom has undertaken to contribute a maximum of £1, if required, in the event of the winding up of the company.

25. Capital commitments

There were no outstanding capital commitments at 31st March 2023.

26. 2022 Statement of Financial Activities (Prior Year)

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total funds 2022 £'000	Total funds 2021 £'000
Income and endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	752	247	999	940
Charitable activities:				
Science Centre	1,819	-	1,819	238
Engagement and Outreach	206	-	206	203
Income from investments	1	-	1	-
Other trading activities	605	-	605	107
Total	**3,383**	**247**	**3,630**	**1,488**
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds:				
Other trading activities	628	128	756	258
Charitable activities:				
Science Centre	1,757	129	1,886	1,416
Engagement and Outreach	217	10	227	175
Total	**2,602**	**267**	**2,869**	**1,849**
Net (expenditure)/income:	781	(20)	761	(361)
Transfer between funds	73	(73)	-	-
Net movement in funds	**854**	**(93)**	**761**	**(361)**
Reconciliation of funds:				
Total funds brought forward	1,834	416	2,250	2,611
Total funds carried forward	**2,688**	**323**	**3,011**	**2,250**

27. 2022 Movement in funds (Prior Year)

	At 1st April 2021 £'000	Incoming resources £'000	Outgoing resources £'000	Transfer between funds £'000	At 31st March 2022 £'000
Restricted funds:					
Inspiring Science for All	60	-	(18)	(42)	-
Inspiring Science for All - Digital	-	163	(135)	(28)	-
Widening Participation and Outreach	14	35	(49)	-	-
Millennium Project	342	-	(19)	-	323
Other restricted funds	-	49	(46)	(3)	-
Total restricted funds	**416**	**247**	**(267)**	**(73)**	**323**
Unrestricted funds:					
Designated:					
Planetarium	106	46	-	-	152
Fixed Assets	-	-	-	1,755	1,755
Exhibition	44	13	(13)	-	44
STEM NOW	-	194	(141)	(53)	-
Total designated funds	**150**	**253**	**(154)**	**1,702**	**1,951**
Unrestricted:					
General unrestricted	1,621	2,558	(1,988)	(1,629)	562
Total general unrestricted funds	**1,621**	**2,558**	**(1,988)**	**(1,629)**	**562**
Total unrestricted funds	**1,771**	**2,811**	**(2,142)**	**73**	**2,513**
Total charitable funds	**2,187**	**3,058**	**(2,409)**	**-**	**2,836**
Trading subsidiary	**63**	**572**	**(460)**	**-**	**175**
Total Group funds	**2,250**	**3,630**	**(2,869)**	**-**	**3,011**

Charity information

Registered office
Telegraph Way
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Registered charity no.
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Acknowledgements
We would also like to acknowledge the support of our Research and Evaluation Consultant: Jen DeWitt, UCL, Young Steering Group, Sustainability Action Group and the families and professionals with accessibility expertise and lived experience who continue to help guide our accessibility development.

Patron

Megan McCubbin

Ambassadors

Peter Rogers MSc CEng FIOA FRSA MIOL

Life members

Mr Jeremy C Booker ACA
Mr Colin Brook
Dr Dolores Byrne OBE HonFIET CEng
Professor Malcolm J Coe FRAS FHEA
Mr David Livermore OBE
Ms Terry V Marsh FRTS FRSA
Mr David Morgan
Sir Martin Read CBE, MA (Cantab), D.Phil (Oxon), FIET
Mrs Elizabeth M Wallace

Trustees

Dr Toby StJohn King MA PhD CEng FIMechE, Chair
Mrs Sara Sullivan, Deputy Chair
Mrs Phyllida James
Dr Ian C Jenkins MSc
Mrs Tajinder Leonard
Mr Adrian A Owen
Mrs Sue Parr
Dr Janet Preston MSc PhD MInstP FRAS
Mrs Katie Roberts
Dr Rutang Thanawalla

Chief Executive Officer and Senior Management Team

Mr Ben Ward FRSA, Chief Executive Officer
Ms Jo Hennessy, Director of Experiences
Mrs Emily Mace, Director of Science Engagement
Mrs Charlotte Mercer, Director of Communications
Ms Elizabeth Moorcraft ACMA, Director of Finance and Operations
Dr Effrosyni Nomikou, Director of Science Engagement (maternity cover)
Mrs Kate Wasche, Director of Fundraising

Wonderseekers

Registered Office:
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Winchester
Hampshire
SO21 1HZ

www.wonderseekers.charity
www.linkedin.com/company/wonderseekers/

Registered Charity No. 294582
Registered Company No. 02014929

WONDERSEEKERS

England & Wales - Charity number 294582

Accounts

Regroup Recover Rebuild

Annual Report 2021/22

WINCHESTER SCIENCE CENTRE AND PLANETARIUM

Registered Charity No. 294582

> Growing up locally, I used to visit Winchester Science Centre regularly as a child and remember how much fun it was. Children are naturally curious. The Science Centre can help children harness that curiosity and learn about the world around them. If children can really get to grips with the science behind things, they are going to feel empowered to do something productive and powerful. That really excites me.
>
> **Megan McCubbin**
> *Patron*

Report of the Trustees and strategic report

The Board of Trustees is pleased to present their annual Trustees' report together with consolidated financial statements of the Charity and its trading subsidiary for the year ending 31st March 2022.

The report is prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes. The Trustees' report and financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and 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).

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Chair and CEO's report

We are immensely proud to deliver this year's annual report, especially after such a challenging time for us all.

This annual report must begin with our heartfelt thanks for the unwavering support of our partners and funders, and for the dedication and hard work of our staff and Trustees. It is only because of all those who have worked hard and supported us, and due to our relentless focus on our Recovery Plan, that our Charity is now stronger, more resilient and still fully focused on improving children's lives through STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths).

Our ambition to create experiences for every child, particularly for children and families living with disabilities and impairments and children living in underserved communities, has been central to our development. It has challenged and inspired our team in equal measures, stimulated innovative and creative ideas and solutions, and enabled us to engage and delight people who had previously felt excluded.

The pandemic has increased social inequality, disproportionately affecting children from disadvantaged backgrounds, and people living with disabilities and impairments. The need to support these children is now greater than ever.

Covid has been a challenge throughout the year, affecting the day-to-day operations of running our Science Centre and ability to run community-based activities. The team has shown incredible resilience, working longer hours, filling the gaps and supporting one another.

The first stage of our Recovery Plan was to Regroup, which focused on reopening the Science Centre and readjusting our resources to manage the continued uncertainty caused by the pandemic.

The Science Centre reopened to the public on 22 May 2021, as soon as Covid restrictions were eased. Seeing families return to pre-pandemic numbers over the summer and the high volume of repeat visits was hugely reassuring and testament to the quality experience on offer.

Eighteen months after we closed our doors in March 2020, we finally welcomed schools back. After an initial slow start to school bookings, a result of schools having other higher priorities, bookings steadily increased. We moved to stage 2 of the Recovery Plan, Recover, in September 2021, and then quickly into the third and final stage, Rebuild, in October.

A successful recruitment drive over the winter has provided some space for the Senior Management Team to focus on developing a new long-term strategy, and the diversification of the Charity's activities.

A major future initiative is to develop significant nature-based STEM experiences that celebrate and protect our wonderful location in the South Downs National Park. The biodiversity of the chalk downland, and the species that inhabit it are key indicators to the health of our ecosystems. These present us with an opportunity to engage children in environmental science on their doorstep and provide invaluable resources for children to learn from and develop their own environmentally friendly behaviours. Work in these areas has begun in 2021/22, investing in research and development.

We're thrilled that Megan McCubbin has joined us this year as our Patron. Megan is a zoologist, conservationist, TV presenter, wildlife photographer and passionate science communicator. We look forward to working with Megan as we develop our environmental sustainability portfolio.

We also take this opportunity to thank our long-serving Patron Nigel Atkinson Esq, the Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire, who stepped down from the role this year.

Prudent fiscal management has been essential to our Charity's survival and success this past year. The Charity's financial position has been strengthened by visitor targets being achieved in a challenging year alongside good governance, leadership and the hard work and support of everyone who has invested so much in our Charity's work.

In this year's annual report, we share an overview of the year and, since we have now concluded our previous five-year strategy, we have included some of the achievements and transformation of our Charity over the last few years.

Thank you for your interest in our Charity and the difference we make.

Ben Ward
Chief Executive Officer

Prof. Toby King
Chair of Trustees

Science and discovery centres have a critically important role to play in engaging more young people with life-changing science and technology.

Our Trustees are delighted to support Winchester Science Centre with their vision to inspire and empower young people, especially those who have previously had limited access to science.

Philippa Charles
Director, Garfield Weston Foundation

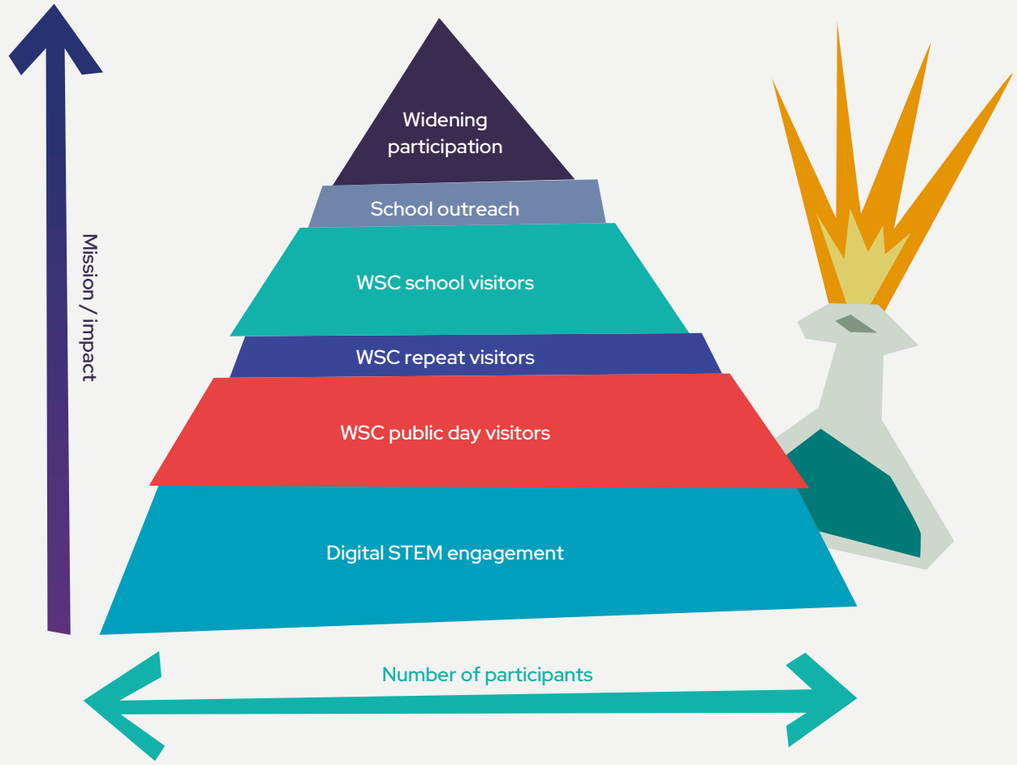
Charity impact

Our Charity

We strive to remove social, cultural and intellectual barriers to spark curiosity and engage all children in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), particularly those with a disability or impairment, so that we might raise children's aspirations and confidence, promote diversity and inclusion, and overcome inequality within the STEM sector.

By sparking and harnessing children's curiosity in STEM, and by removing barriers to engagement, we believe we can give children the confidence, ambition and empowerment to improve their own lives and life on Earth through STEM.

Using our expertise in communicating STEM to children and families, we do this through creating 'WOW!' experiences that are fun, inclusive, immersive, interactive and accessible. We reach children in innovative ways through our Science Centre, in schools, in communities, online and through collaborations with universities and industry partners.



Timeline

1986 – Charity founded

2002 – New award-winning premises, funded by the Millennium Commission

2008 – Opened the planetarium

2010 – Awarded STEM Ambassador contract for Hampshire

2013 – Changed name to Winchester Science Centre

2017
- Published a new five-year strategic plan
- New emphasis on live, people-led experiences for public and schools
- Partnership in public engagement with University of Southampton
- Awarded the STEM Ambassador contract for Central South England

2018
- Opened major new exhibition, Explorer:Space
- Launched the Ultimate STEM School Trip with new tiered pricing for schools
- Established a Widening Participation programme and priority schools' programme

2019
- IS4A development plan fully funded and phase 1 completed
- UKs most accessible planetarium opened
- Changing Places toilet installed
- Bringing Research to Life, STEM research public engagement zone opened
- Partnership in public engagement with University of Surrey

2020
- IS4A development plan phase 2 completed
- Complete transformation of the visitor experience
- New sound, vibration and hearing exhibition
- Bio:Space and Science Live! created
- Recombobulation Room created
- Remodelled welcome area, café and shop
- Acoustic treatment installed
- Science@Home launched
- New digital engagement programme piloted

2021 / 2022
- Regrouped, recovered and began to rebuild after initial lockdowns
- Reinvigorated our public and schools offer for greater impact
- Created a new digital experience
- Launched BSL (British Sign Language) days and sensory maps

Covid Recovery Plan

Stage 1 - Regroup

- Public return
- 5* visitor experience
- All Covid restrictions lifted

September 2021

Stage 2 - Recover

- Visitors returned to pre-pandemic levels
- Schools return
- Strong financial recovery

October 2021

Stage 3 - Rebuild

- Public footfall budget achieved
- Reserves policy achieved and seed funding held for future projects.
- Staffing levels support development of new strategy

Engaging families

100,873 people visited at weekends and holidays since the Science Centre reopened on 22nd May 2021

75% attended/experienced a planetarium show (75,901)

70% participated in the science show (70,572)

93% strongly agreed/agreed to the statement: 'We had fun'

88% strongly agreed/agreed: 'We learnt more about science'

87% strongly agreed/agreed: 'We could all participate'

78% strongly agreed/agreed: 'The live science helped us to engage in science more deeply'

4.6 out of 5 - Recommended on Facebook based on 628 all time reviews

4.6 out of 5 - Google reviews based on 174 reviews posted in 2021/22

Supporting schools

Our tiered pricing structure provides help for schools that need it the most, giving a 15% subsidy for state-funded schools and academies and 60% for selected priority schools and all schools where 14% or more students receive free school meals.

21,515 children visited for The Ultimate STEM School Trip

3,071 teachers and support staff worked alongside our Team to support their students

30% of schools qualified for the maximum 60% subsidy and a further **52%** of schools were eligible for 15% subsidy.

89% of school trips supported children aged 5-12, KS1-2, from across central south England.

Our Mobile Planetarium visited **29 schools**, reaching over 3000 students

Number of active STEM Ambassadors in our region: **766**

Total number of activities: **1843**

Total volunteering hours: **15,471**

Our post-school survey, 2021/22

(77 respondents)

58% of teachers said their group included children with special educational needs.

91% of teachers said they were very likely to recommend Winchester Science Centre to a friend or colleague.

96% strongly agree/agree with the statements:

- my group learnt something new today
- my group could all participate
- my Inspirer was engaging
- my group enjoyed their session

(Pins show schools that visited the Science Centre between September 21st – March 22nd)

Digital engagement

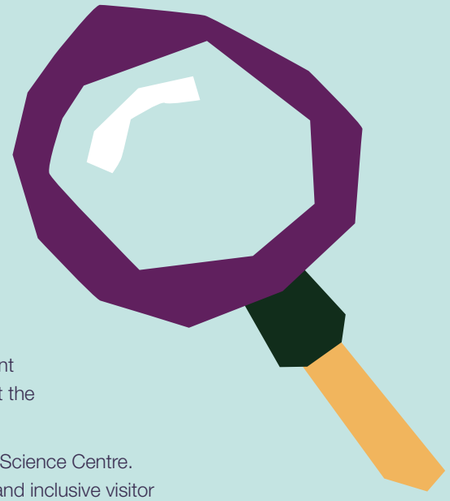
We use our social media channels to engage our audiences and showcase diversity in STEM. This year we reached **701,330** on Facebook (up 180% on 2020/21) and **41,354** on Instagram (up 1.1k% on 2020/21). We've seen a **5% growth** in Page Likes on Facebook, up 1,124 to 24.8k, and **18% growth** on Instagram, up 600 to 3.2k.

The new website has increased online engagement. Website traffic has **increased 10%** from 1st December to 23rd March against the same dates in 2019/20, and the bounce rate has fallen by –11%. Over 1000 people have visited the new online STEM resources.

WINCHESTER SCIENCE CENTRE AND PLANETARIUM

2017 - 2022

A look back on our strategy five years on.



We challenged ourselves to think about our Charity, our purpose and the impact we wanted to make.

We asked ourselves a lot of questions that started with Why? Why do people engage with us? Why don't they? Why does it matter? Why should anyone care? And so on. We commissioned an audience development plan to help us understand more about our audiences and more importantly, the people we weren't engaging with and why not. It revealed physical, social, economic and intellectual barriers.

The Charity's five-year strategic plan was informed by our audience development plan and science capital* research. It focused on reach and impact, and set out the Charity's vision of sparking curiosity, and mission to build science capital for all.

We looked to extend activity into communities, to reach audiences beyond the Science Centre. Within the Science Centre, plans were developed to create a more accessible and inclusive visitor experience to grow existing audiences and appeal to new and underserved audiences, particularly people living with a disability or impairment.

We set out a development project to transform our Charity to become the place to explore how STEM improves lives. We wanted to champion science for all, inspiring and exciting new audiences who have not previously been able to take part, with a real commitment to getting it right for people with a disability or impairment so that everyone can engage with STEM.

Thanks to the generosity of our funders, we raised the £1.1 million required to deliver this project. We've invested every penny to deliver the project on budget and ensure that our Science Centre remains a relevant and inspiring experience for all our visitors for the future.

Through the development project, we set four project objectives, to:

1.

Transform the visitor experience. A complete rethink about how our exhibition will support all audiences to be curious and discover STEM.

2.

Widen participation in STEM. Understand and overcome barriers to participation and create inviting opportunities for underserved children and their families and schools to get involved.

3.

Become more financially sustainable and minimise financial risks. Create new income streams and generate a reliable surplus for re-investment.

4.

Affect cultural change within the organisation and sector. Champion science for all, challenge stereotypes and become a benchmark organisation for inclusivity.

As we step into the new financial year 2022/23, we can proudly say that, despite the many setbacks thrown at us all by the Covid pandemic, and thanks to the tremendous, unwavering support of our funders and partners, we have achieved this transformation.

* Research led by Kings College London (KCL) introduced the concept of 'science capital' (science-related qualifications, interest, literacy and social contacts) to understand how young people from all backgrounds engage with science and how their engagement might be supported. The research showed that the more science capital a young person has, the more likely they are to see science as 'for me'.

Headline achievements

We've installed an exciting, new, hands-on Sound, Vibration and Hearing Exhibition and created new spaces for live science experiences to wow our visitors.

We've added a wide range of accessible features including a Changing Places toilet and a Recombobulation Room to improve the experience for our visitors with a disability or sensory sensitivity.

Acoustic rafts and baffles, designed to absorb sound vibrations, have been hung in noisy 'hot-spots' such as the welcome area and café, in order to reduce noise levels and make the visitor experience more comfortable.

We've developed and tested science activities in local, underserved communities, reaching children who would otherwise have limited opportunities to take part and established strong links with these communities to support future initiatives.

We've co-created a wide range of digital science resources to showcase the diversity of STEM and present positive science role models.

Our new visitor experience and website have given us a powerful platform from which to grow our relationships with the STEM sector across the region and to continue to develop new, relevant, accessible science experiences for our audiences.

Our organisation is more inclusive and disability confident. We've established our reputation as an accessible science centre amongst the disabled community and across the science centre sector.

Our much-loved planetarium has been given a new lease of life by installing a powerful new planetarium system. Chosen for its accessibility features, it offers a more inclusive experience so that all our visitors can explore the universe.

Strategy

Objects

To advance the education, knowledge and understanding of the public, in particular the young, in basic technological and scientific principle and processes, particularly through the improvement of links between industrial, commercial and educational bodies and institutions

Our vision

SPARKING CURIOSITY

Our mission

To build science capital for all

Our values

- Quality
- Together
- Mission
- Customers
- Sustainability

Strategic objectives

- Work collaboratively with new under-served communities removing barriers to engagement particularly for those living with a disability or impairment
- Amazing people delivering awe inspiring STEM experiences for all
- Use STEM to champion change to protect and heal our planet and inspire others to do the same
- Diversification, sustainability and growth

Future priorities

- Develop our outdoor STEM engagement
- Restructure group, evolve branding
- Diversify and expand activities

Covid recovery plan

Regroup → Recover → Rebuild

Objectives, achievements and performance

1. Work collaboratively with new under-served communities removing barriers to engagement, particularly for those living with a disability or impairment

Engaging communities

The Charity works in local, underserved communities, supporting children who would otherwise have limited access and opportunity to take part.

This year, the team has delivered outreach workshops with schools in areas of deprivation in Southampton and on the Isle of Wight. In response to these workshops, the schools are now keen to work with our Charity on a long-term basis, enabling us to test new ideas and to co-create some school-focused activities.

The mobile planetarium visited six schools in the most deprived areas of the Isle of Wight. These schools have over 40% of their pupils receiving free school meals compared with a national average of 23%. This programme was delivered as part of Destination Space 3, a project funded by the UK Association for Science and Discovery Centres (ASDC).

As well as running projects in communities, we also support opportunities to open our Science Centre to underserved audiences through other organisations and initiatives. Two examples are:

The Voice of Africa was a competition run by the Nigerian Community in Hampshire. It saw primary and secondary school aged girls set an essay topic which they were then encouraged to research and write about. The winners were invited to the Science Centre for a celebration event.

Through the University of Winchester's First Star Programme, we invited 15 looked-after children to the Science Centre where they had presentations from six STEM Ambassadors about their own routes into industry, research or academia. This was followed by a planetarium show and live Q&A session with the STEM Ambassadors. The event was well received and prompted us to undertake a similar initiative with refugees.

A key area of focus for the Charity this year has been the development of Making Waves, a long-term community-based outreach project that aims to support children and families in coastal communities. See Future Plans, page 36.

Testing our repeat engagement model

This year, we're delighted to have been able to undertake a project funded by Rushmoor Bourough Council.

A month-long activity was delivered in three schools to help raise science capital and environmental awareness with their pupils and teachers. The project included a total of three visits, a whole school assembly, two interactive workshops and a chance for students to present their project back to our team and industry professionals (STEM Ambassadors).

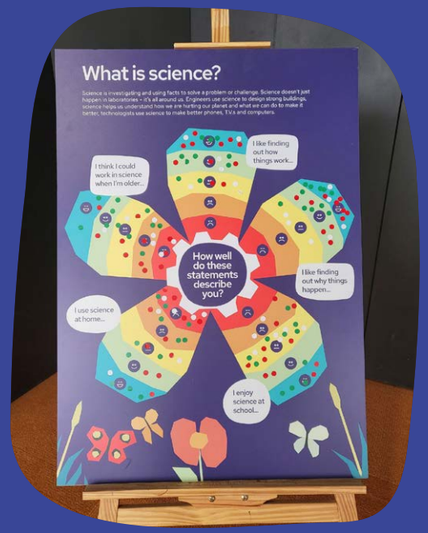
During our work at Tower Hill School in Rushmoor we collected data from two sets of students. We delivered exciting STEM engagement with one group and asked another group, who we didn't work with the same questions as a control.

Firstly, we asked if they enjoyed finding out how things work. 76% of the group who we didn't work with strongly agreed and after our repeated engagement that rose by 14% to 90% of students.

Then we asked if they enjoyed science at school. A disappointing 28% of students not involved in the project agreed with that statement compared to 71% after our engagement.

And finally, we asked if the students thought they could work in science when they were older. 28% of the control group agreed with that statement compared to 38% after intervention.

The project shows the power of the repeat engagement model and the success of interactive workshops in raising aspirations as well as the impact on teachers.



Accessibility development at the Science Centre:

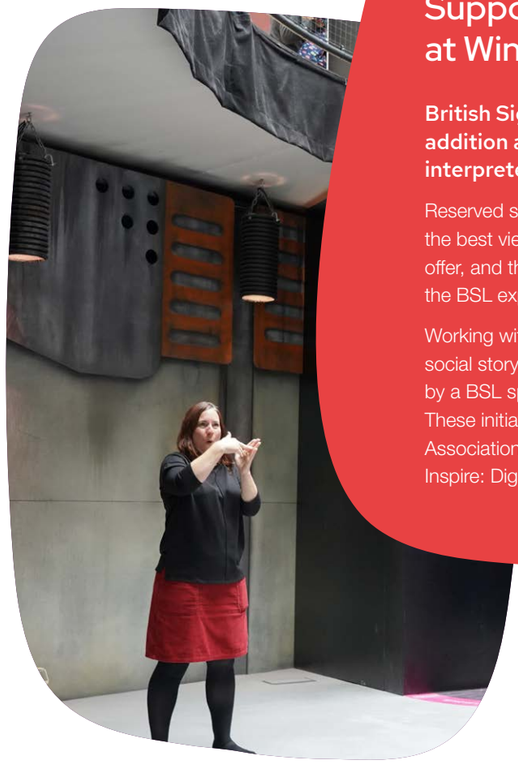
In 2017, we introduced the question: Do you, or anyone in your group, have a disability, impairment or illness that significantly impacts on your/their lives?

We've been able to track the percentage of visitors who have responded and can see significant growth over the past five years.

- 9.18% - 2017
- 11.90% - 2019/20
- 12.87% - 2020/21
- 14.47% - 2021/22

We're really encouraged to see how our visitor profile has changed over the past five years.

In 2020, we completed an incredible redevelopment of the Science Centre and, despite the Covid induced restrictions and uncertainties, the results of this have really begun to be recognised this year.



Supporting D/deaf children and families at Winchester Science Centre

British Sign Language (BSL) days have become a regular new addition at the Science Centre, where visitors can enjoy BSL interpreted science demos, science shows and planetarium shows.

Reserved seating ensures D/deaf visitors, and their families can be guaranteed the best views. We're delighted by the response we've received to this new offer, and that people have come to the Science Centre especially because of the BSL experience.

Working with a BSL interpreter and BSL speakers, we've co-created a BSL social story, an interactive sensory map which includes short videos, introduced by a BSL speaking child, explaining some of the Science Centre's exhibits. These initiatives were made possible by a £15,000 grant awarded by the UK Association for Science and Discovery Centre (ASDC) as part of their Project Inspire: Digital Engagement and Innovation Programme.

> **My family visited today, I have a disabled son who has a wheelchair and a walking frame.**
>
> **Your staff were so accommodating and understood disabilities and bent over backwards to make sure my son could do all my 7 year old able daughter could do.**

Visitor
10th July 2021

By making things better for people with disabilities, we're making them better for everyone.

Getting to experience the Science Centre with our visitors is so valuable.

It allows us to observe, ask questions and pick up on small things that wouldn't necessarily be given as feedback at the end of a visit.

Recently, we invited a deaf child and her family to experience our BSL interpreted shows and provide feedback. Through their visit we learnt that the facial expression of the interpreter was important to them. As a result of their feedback, we have moved the position of our BSL interpreter, increased lighting and introduced priority seating for BSL shows.

During their visit, we went to the café. There are some amazing, salvaged wood tables and benches, but there are also several round tables as they are more accessible for wheelchair users. They chose to sit at a round table. It turns out they're much better for lip readers too, as everyone can see each other without having to turn around. A small change we made for one group of visitors that also helps another.

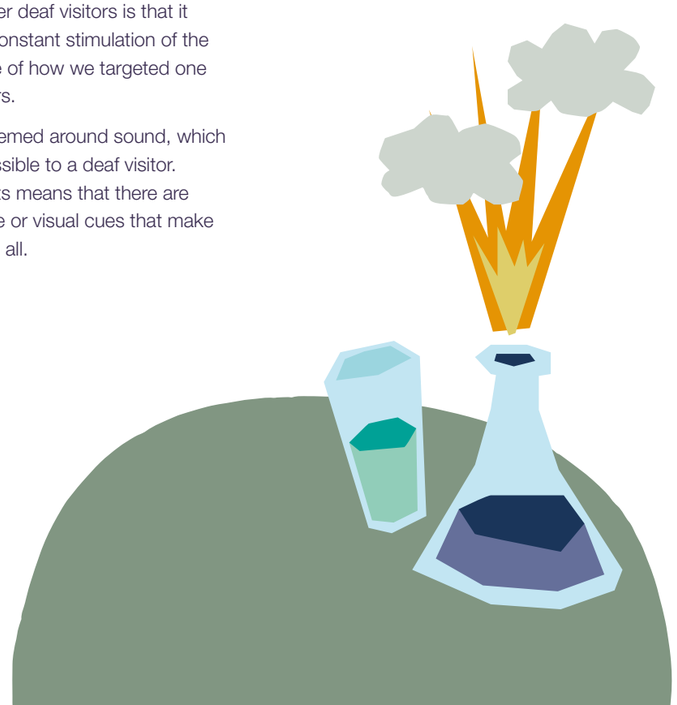
They also valued the use of the recombobulation room. The open room is a place where visitors who are overwhelmed by the sensory overload can go, sit and reset. It has low lighting, sound dampened walls and a couple of lovely fluffy clouds on the ceiling which also aid the sound dampening effect. It was built for people with sensory sensitivities but feedback from the family and other deaf visitors is that it offers a welcome relief from the constant stimulation of the Science Centre. Another example of how we targeted one visitor subset but benefitted others.

A large part of our exhibition is themed around sound, which on the surface may seem inaccessible to a deaf visitor. However, the nature of the exhibits means that there are often elements of play, experience or visual cues that make most of the exhibits accessible to all.

An example is the ear exhibit where you can climb through the ear canal, and then take part in three mini exhibits which use light and vibration to explain how ears work. As well as explaining how the ear works, it can also be used as a tool to explain why sometimes it doesn't. One visitor told us that her 11-year-old son was deaf and that she had spent years trying to explain why but he had never fully grasped it. As they had explored the exhibit, he had said. "I get it mum; I understand why I am deaf". This really proves the power of interactive engagements.

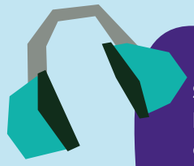
On another occasion, one of our university partners had placed an exhibit on the floor where one part can only be experienced by visitors with a cochlear implant. This was a great delight to one young visitor who told his mum that he could hear things she couldn't!

One visit by a Deaf family prompted us to adapt our long-standing lost child procedure when we realised it didn't meet their needs. The family's first language was British sign language; they could not speak, read or write. Our inability to communicate with them slowed down the process and added to the distress of the situation. We now have a picture sheet where parents can point at symbols and colours to give us a complete picture of the child. This is now used for all lost child cases; it gives us a clear description and focuses the parents' attention. And, it's a great example of how making things better for disabled people, makes it better for everyone.



Small changes have a huge impact

Here are a few of the changes we've made:



Sensory backpacks and ear defenders freely available

Changing Places (24-hour access)

Accessibility guides, social story and sensory map

Accessible website

Recombobulation room

Assisted Listening System (ALS) and induction loops

Flexible seating for shows and seating around exhibition

Informed team – advisory panel, user groups and disability aware employer

BSL interpretation and subtitled shows

Widgets and lost child visual sheets

Loud noise warnings, not-so-noisy shows and sound dampening in building

Fully wheelchair accessible and lending wheelchairs available

Assistance animals welcome

Round tables, stair light strips

> It was a Saturday so a little loud and busy, (as to be expected). The one thing which I'd seen on your website was the Recombobulation room - so after my nearly 4 year old had clearly reached her peak saturation, we went there for a short while. Knowing there was that space put aside genuinely made a difference.
>
> **Visitor Feedback. via email**
> *Nov, 21*

> Today something amazing happened!
>
> We went to #WinchesterScienceCentre and it was without a doubt the most inclusive place we've been in a very long time. Lucy startled at a noise very early on in the day, a staff member - Zak - noticed and handed us sensory backpacks!!! Inside was ear defenders, fidget toys and a book of widgits helping us to help the twins throughout the day. Everything was at wheelchair height, they had put on SEN shows which were quieter, and if all that wasn't enough, had a fully equipped changing facility. Every staff member we met were only too happy to help.
>
> OH. I almost forgot one of my favourite parts, a recombobulation room!!!
>
> **@johnstontwins17**
> *Instagram*

> The inclusion of Sensory Backpacks for people with extra needs is the first of its kind I've seen anywhere and was a welcome addition.
>
> **Garry**
> *Google Review*

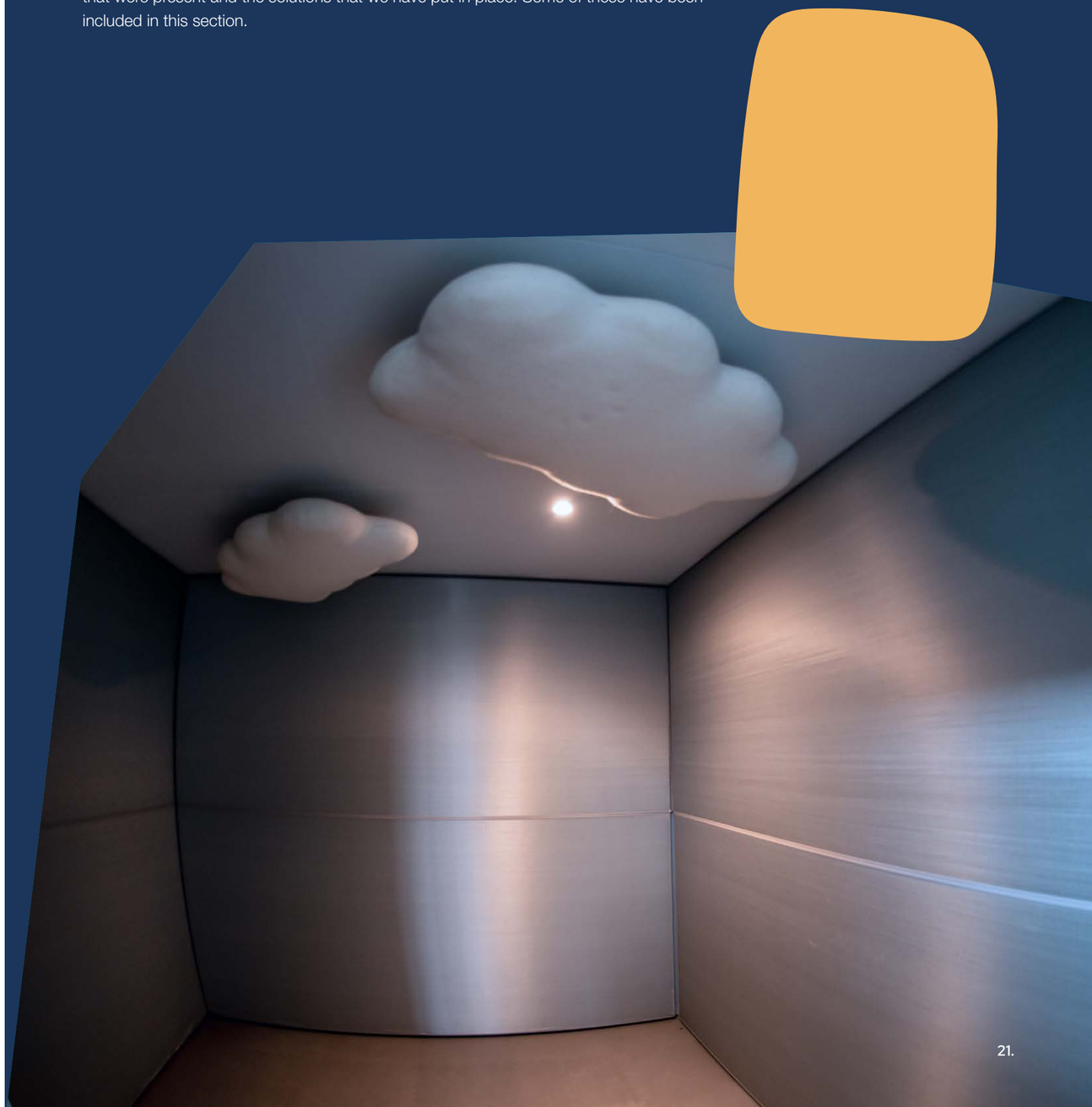
> Thank you for everything the team did today to make our visit accessible from a VI perspective. Harry had a great day!
>
> **Teacher feedback**
> *The Ultimate STEM School Trip*

Championing accessibility in the science centre sector

The Charity has become a benchmark organisation for accessibility.

In June 2021, we were invited to give a presentation at the International Ecsite Online Conference about accessibility in science centres. It was a record-breaking event, with over 1,200 registered participants from 58 different countries.

The well-attended digital talk took people on a virtual day out to the Science Centre, as experienced through the eyes of one of our disabled visitors. It highlighted the barriers that were present and the solutions that we have put in place. Some of these have been included in this section.



2. Amazing people delivering awe-inspiring STEM experiences for all

In October 2020 we reopened our Science Centre for the first time since the start of the pandemic.

It was quickly followed by a second, then third national lockdown in November and January. In May 2021, we were finally able to reopen our doors to families at weekends and holidays and thankfully they've remained open ever since. In line with our Recovery Plan, we were fully focused on ensuring children and their families could have fun and enjoy the Science Centre's signature interactive exhibitions and live science with confidence.

In July 2021, the Government removed all Covid restrictions. However, some of the changes we have made over the past two years have helped to improve our visitor experience. We chose to retain our timed admission and limit our day capacity. As a result, we have been able to guarantee a consistent high-quality experience, even on wet days during February half term!

Although the Covid restrictions were lifted, the detection and spread of the first Omicron variant in November 2021 had a negative effect on public confidence and bookings and added pressure on staff.

Despite this, our team welcomed 100,873 visitors during weekends and holidays. 75% of visitors attended a planetarium show and 70% included the free science show as part of their visit.

In September 2021, we reopened the Science Centre for the first time since March 2020 to schools. Hearing the roar of excitement from the school children as they approached the building was a wonderful sound. Recognising the incredible pressures schools faced, we introduced a 'Book with Confidence' scheme to give schools the option to amend or cancel their booking free of charge in the event their school trip was impacted by Covid.

We welcomed a total of 24,586 school visitors, 21,515 children and 3,071 teachers and support staff, for The Ultimate STEM School Trip vs a budget of 29,545. Many school visits were affected by Covid, and as a result we agreed to move or cancel a total of 3,949 visitors under our Book with Confidence scheme.

As we moved into the second phase of our Recovery Plan, we brought back a small number of events, including sleepovers, uniformed group badge nights, space lectures and private hires. We also introduced a new mid-week afternoon event Wonder-full Wednesdays primarily for home educators and annual members.

Wonder-full Wednesdays

A new midweek event for home educators and annual members

Prior to the pandemic, the Science Centre was open to all seven-days-a-week, but the offer was not consistent across our audience. For example, for families visiting at weekends and holidays, the experience was thrilling, including live science shows, presenter-led planetarium shows and people-led activities. However, in term-time, with up to 500 school visitors, families were largely ignored. Having trialled a "weekend and holiday offer-only" during the pandemic, we realised the benefits of retaining the separation of school and family visitors.

We knew, however, that some home educators and annual members would regularly visit midweek and wanted to provide an alternative midweek experience that they would value, and we'd be proud to deliver.

Welcome Wonder-full Wednesdays! A weekly term-time event, designed to encourage regular visits so that children and their families could build their science confidence and skills together. Each week, our team of Inspirers delivers a different themed workshop, live demos and activities. It's been great to see how many families have joined us week after week and have been rewarded with certificates to celebrate their achievements.

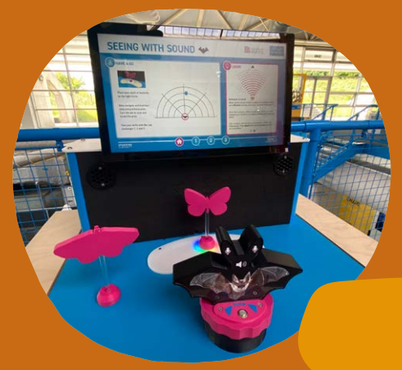
A total of 2,269 tickets were booked for Wonder-full Wednesdays. We are delighted that so many families have enjoyed visiting every week and using the event to support home learning programmes.

Bringing research to life

Working in partnership with industry and university partners we're able to bring current research into the public domain, whether that's at our Science Centre, through online resources or simply sharing stories through our social media channels.

We have a strategic relationship with both University of Southampton and University of Surrey to support public engagement in research.

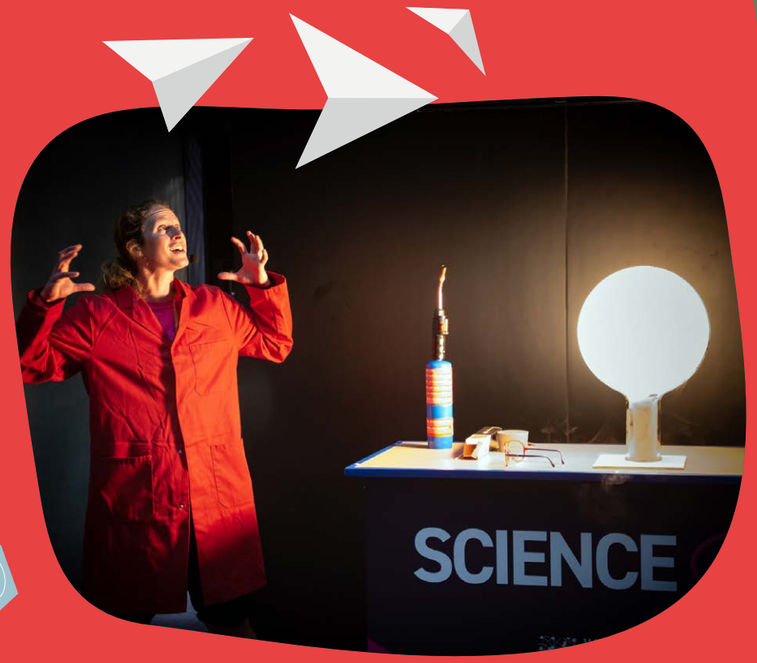
This year, we partnered with IAC Acoustics, University of Southampton and the UK Acoustics Network (UKAN) to create three new exhibits for our Science Centre.

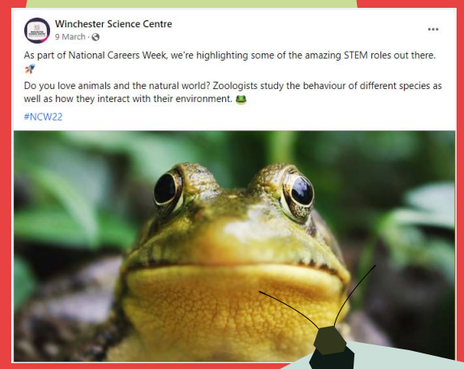


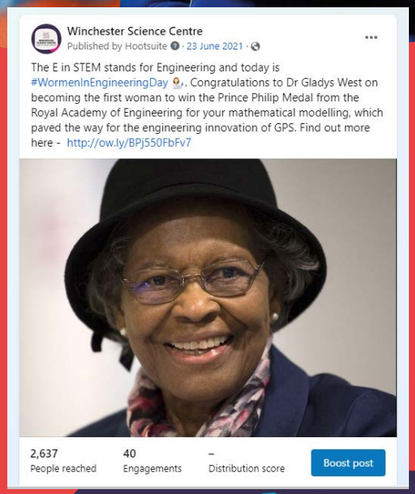
Sharing inspiring news and stories

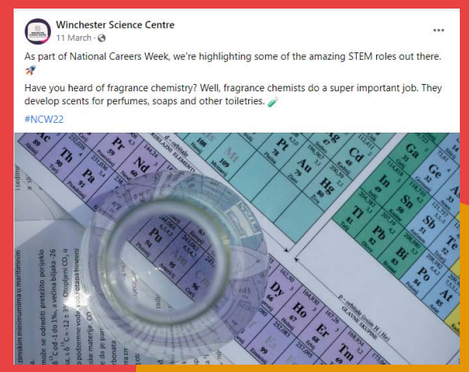
We use our social media platforms, marketing material and our Science Centre exhibitions to promote the diversity of STEM: the diverse people who work in STEM and the diversity of the STEM sector itself.

These powerful images and stories help to remove social inequality and overcome damaging stereotypes that exist in the sector.









3. Use STEM to champion change to protect and heal our planet and inspire others to do the same

This third strategic objective puts the environment at the forefront of our programme and development, demonstrating our commitment to taking responsibility for our own actions and empowering others to do the same.

The rural location of our Science Centre presents a wonderful opportunity to explore the world on our doorstep and engage our audiences in local biodiversity, habitat conservation and climate science.

We're thrilled that Megan McCubbin has joined us this year as a Charity Patron. Megan is a zoologist, conservationist, TV presenter, wildlife photographer and passionate science communicator. In her role as a Patron, Megan will support our Charity, particularly as we develop our environmental sustainability portfolio, and use her public profile to further our impact.

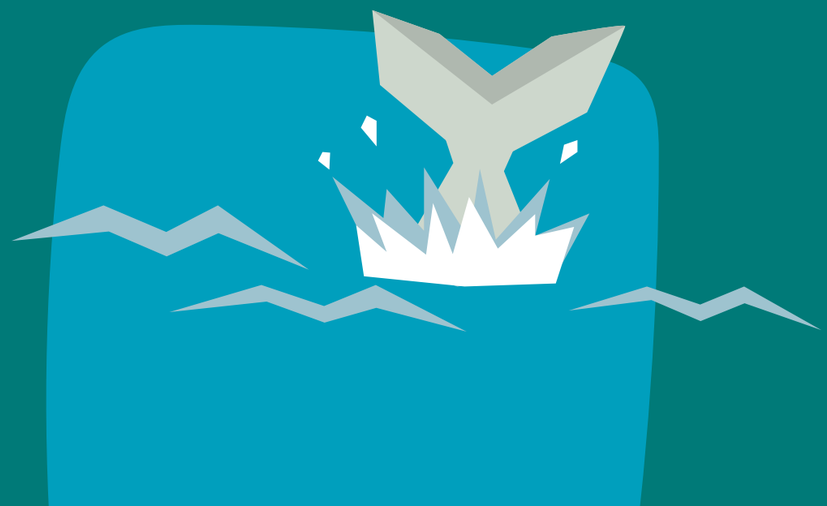
Improving our own environmental impact is essential to our future ambition to develop outdoor STEM experiences and champion local biodiversity (See Future Plans, page 36). It also creates an opportunity for us to tell our own sustainability story; to be a positive role model and inspire our visitors to act.

This year, with funding from the Rural Community Energy Fund and Garfield Weston we commissioned industry experts to conduct a green energy feasibility study of the Science Centre and provide recommendations.

The report, completed in January 2022, has given some feasible options to make substantial improvements to our environmental impact and credible evidence for change.

Although much of the year has been focussed on delivering our core Science Centre experience, we have invested resources in research and development for a new outdoor school programme, which is due to be piloted in summer 2022. Utilising the Science Centre's indoor/outdoor zone Bio:Space and its location in the South Downs National Park, the programme will focus on engaging children in local biodiversity.

In addition, opportunities to develop the team's experience in delivering environmentally focused activities and workshops has been supported through the public programme offered in Bio:Space, the Science Centre's nature-based zone and through the Wonder-full Wednesday events.



Butterfly Conservation Collaboration

We were delighted when Butterfly Conservation asked us if they could launch their 2021 Big Butterfly Count from Winchester Science Centre.

Situated next to their flagship reserve at Magdalen Hill Down, the Science Centre provides spectacular views across the South Downs National Park and easy access on foot for members of the media to explore the reserve.

To coincide with their annual Big Butterfly Count, we developed in collaboration with Butterfly Conservation “Brilliant Butterflies,” an online suite of activities for families and schools to use over the summer holidays. We released the film live to schools on 14th July. It was enjoyed by almost 17,000 children from 211 schools across the country as part of their end of term activity.

Meeting Megan McCubbin

Megan McCubbin, who has become a familiar face of the BBC Watches series, co-presenting alongside her stepfather, wildlife expert and BBC presenter, Chris Packham CBE, visited the Science Centre to formally take up her new role as a Charity Patron.

This wasn’t the first time Megan had visited. Growing up in the south, Megan was a frequent visitor to the Science Centre as a child and recognises the benefits of engaging children and families in science outside of the classroom. During her visit, Megan brought her artifacts, which included a fossilized tooth of a Megalodon and small animal skulls, which fascinated the children. Megan is a wonderful role model for children and a great advocate for our Charity.

4. Diversification, sustainability and growth

The Covid pandemic brought our over-reliance on admissions from visitors to our Science Centre into stark focus.

Not only was our main income stream turned off overnight, but we recognised that we had limited resources and channels with which to deliver our charitable mission anywhere else.

Through the pandemic we provided online experiences for families and schools. Although the resources were well received, we struggled to make them accessible and inviting using the Charity's existing website. Capital funding from Enterprise M3 LEP (Local Enterprise Partnership), supported us to transform our online visitor experience, to better reflect the dynamic and inclusive experience offered at the Science Centre. The grant funded a brand-new website, the development and production of a range of new high quality and engaging online resources for schools and families, and new ticketing and Customer Relationship Management (CRM) systems.

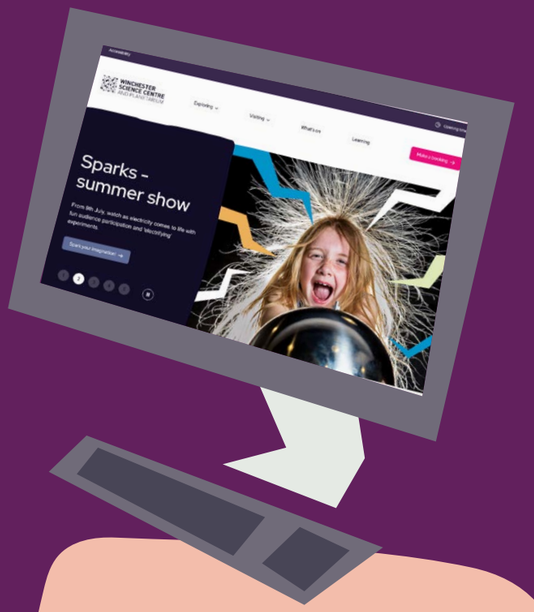
Through implementation of the digital project we identified the need for two websites; one dedicated solely to the Science Centre and one covering the wider aspects of the Charity.

The Science Centre website and new online booking system were successfully launched in December 2021. Online visitors can now enjoy seamless user journeys that showcase everything the Science Centre has to offer. The integrated booking engine has created a more accessible and simplified booking process and increased the number of people choosing to Gift Aid their admission.

The website's new Learning section provides an exciting hub of online resources for schools and families. The new resources can be used by visitors to the Science Centre as pre- and post- visit activities, as well as providing standalone resources for schools and families across the country. The new resources help to build scientific inquiry skills, support the national curriculum, incorporate active minutes and offer teachers the flexibility to use them in their own way.

Investing in online, has enabled us to forge new partnerships, collaborating with Butterfly Conservation and the Institute of Acoustics on the creation of online content. We're looking forward to pursuing further opportunities in this field in the future.

The Charity website, planned for next year, will expand our opportunity to reach audiences beyond the Science Centre and communicate effectively to our funders, partners and supporters our charitable impact.



Comparing the site's performance with the same period pre-pandemic, from 1st December 2021 to 23rd March 2022 with the same dates in 2019/20, we have seen users and new users increase by 10% and the bounce rate fall by 11%.

Trading

The Science Centre's cafés and shop provide an important secondary income stream.

Each area was redesigned as part of the Science Centre's development in 2020. All profits from the café and shop are reinvested into the Charity.

We also invested in the building. A new covered outdoor seating area next to the Café offers much-needed additional dining and activity space for families and school groups. It also has great potential as an event space.

Fundraising

Funds received 2021/22: £655,524

Fundraising is critical to realise our Charity's ambition and take forward future plans.

The Charity is forever grateful for the timely support from The Garfield Weston Foundation. Their grant of £488,500 in February 2021 was a major turning point for the Charity. Whilst in the first half of the year all staff remained fully focused on delivering the first two stages of the Recovery Plan (1: Regroup, 2: Recover), as we progressed to stage 3: Rebuild, seed funding from the grant has enabled us to resume our long-held plans to reduce risk, build resilience and grow impact.

We are also hugely grateful for the continued support from Enterprise M3 LEP. Their grant of £260,000 agreed in autumn 2020 has enabled us to design and deliver a new digital infrastructure this year. A new CRM and ticketing system, websites and accessible online STEM content has improved and enhanced our visitor experience and connected new audiences and improved business efficiencies.

Prior to the pandemic, the Charity enjoyed strong relationships with universities and STEM industry who share our passion for STEM engagement. A priority this year was to re-establish public engagement partnerships with the University of Southampton and University of Surrey, and to complete outstanding projects that had stalled due to the pandemic. We're delighted to have achieved this and added several new exhibits to the exhibition floor, including Scream Chamber with IAC Acoustics and Seeing With Sound with UKAN and the University of Bristol.

This year we also thank ASDC for funding our British Sign Language project to create resources for D/deaf visitors to help them fully engage with our science experiences at the Science Centre, and the Rural Community Energy Fund for funding a green energy stage 1 feasibility study.

Fundraising is essential to achieving our Charity's strategy. Although this year has largely been focused on maintaining our strong relationships with existing funders and supporters, we have also been preparing for two major capital appeals to support two major projects: Making Waves and the development of outdoor STEM experiences (see Future Plans, page 36).

If you would like to help us inspire every child in science, we would love to hear from you.

Please contact: fundraising@winchestersciencecentre.org or call 01962 863 791 and ask to speak to the Fundraising Team.

Winchester Science Centre is registered with the Fundraising Regulator and is compliant with the Code of Fundraising Practice. All fundraising activity is undertaken by the Fundraising Team, in accordance to the Fundraising Policy and Procedures, with support and oversight from the Fundraising Committee. Funding is sought from trusts and foundations, government, corporate sponsorship and through partnership agreements with industry and universities. All donations are given freely from individuals, including the invitation to Gift Aid admission. Winchester Science Centre does not use any third-party fundraiser or seek funding from vulnerable people. No complaints have been made in relation to fundraising activities (2020/21: nil).

Our supporters

United Way

acoustics.ac.uk
THE UK ACOUSTICS NETWORK

The Rural Community Energy Fund

University of Southampton

NOVACYT GROUP

Association for Science and Discovery Centres

iac acoustics

Garfield Weston FOUNDATION

AIRBUS

enterprise M3
Delivering prosperity through innovation

Volunteering

The Trustees and staff thank all our volunteers who have given their time, skills and expertise to support our Charity.

Volunteers make a huge contribution to the Science Centre. STEM Ambassadors have donated 15,471 volunteer hours through the STEM Ambassador programme working within school and community settings across the region. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our industry partners who encourage, enable and fund their staff to participate in the STEM Ambassador programme.

- **766** active STEM Ambassadors
- **1843** total activities
- **15,471** total volunteering hours

Future plans

The Trustee Strategy Working Group, set up in response to the pandemic, set out three future priorities to: improve the resilience of our Charity, diversify income and increase impact.

1: Develop our outdoor STEM engagement

The UN predicts that we have just one decade within which to take action and begin to reverse our planet's decline.

We are committed to using our science communication expertise to help protect and heal our planet and inspire others to do the same.

Making use of the land immediately surrounding our Science Centre, within the South Downs National Park, we can effectively engage and empower children and families in environmental sustainability. Our ambition is to work with key stakeholders to develop new outdoor access and experiences that connect people with nature, conserve and enhance local biodiversity and create powerful agents for change to improve the health of the planet.

A feasibility study has been commissioned as part of Phase I to help inform the project scope and potential impact.

2: Restructure group, evolve branding

The name Winchester Science Centre has served the Charity's purpose well for many years, but it is no longer consistent with the Charity's strategy.

A non-geographic, accessible and inclusive umbrella brand for the Charity will broaden our reach and build resilience through the development of national programmes and partnerships. The name Winchester Science Centre is being retained for the Science Centre visitor experience and it is possible that future sub-brands will be developed.

We have contracted a brand strategy agency to support us on our journey to find a new name for the umbrella brand of the Charity.

Through the investment in our digital infrastructure, we have made provision for a Charity website. We look forward to progressing this once the new name is in place in 2022/23.

3: Diversify and expand activities

Making Waves – reaching out into the community.

Our Charity has been supporting underserved communities in Southampton, Gosport and on the Isle of Wight for the past five years. We believe that our repeat engagement model, supporting children through their schools and in their communities can improve social mobility and lead children to living healthier, happier and more sustainable lives.

We are now looking to test this model through the delivery of a 5-year, evidence-based, co-created community STEM engagement programme: Making Waves.

Working in three coastal communities in Southampton, the Isle of Wight and Havant, we'll support an estimated 900 children and their families, to raise aspirations and build their confidence in STEM. The project will aim to influence future investment in young children, particularly in underserved coastal communities.

Maximising opportunities at the Science Centre:

The Science Centre's café and shop provide an important secondary income stream.

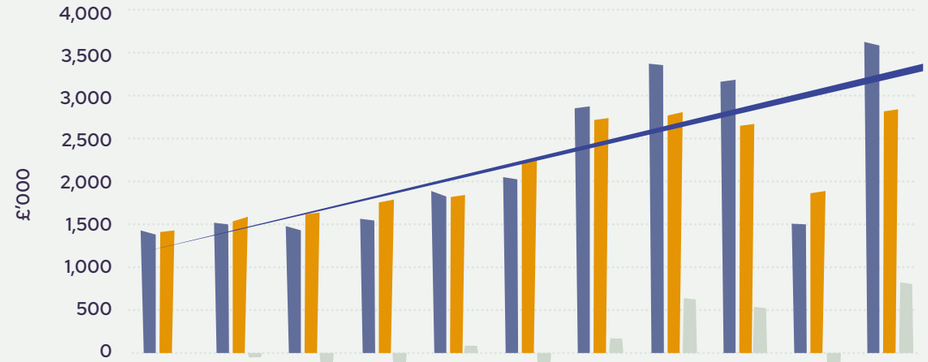
Two new posts have been created, a Café Manager and Retail Manager, to maximise the potential of both assets. They will drive increased revenue and develop an improved visitor offer, whilst at the same time, support our sustainability objective.

Through the Science Centre's redevelopment there's great potential to build a vibrant events programme and realise the Science Centre's potential to as a community/corporate space. A new post, Head of Events, has been created to maximise the use of the building, support our mission and generate new income.

Financial review

Overview

After the most challenging year the Charity had ever faced, 2021/22 was a year of regrouping, recovering and rebuilding. From a loss of £361k in 2020/21, the group returned to a surplus of £761k. Income reached £3,630k offset by expenditure back to its pre-pandemic levels of £2,869k, with the group overall resuming its pre-pandemic trajectory.



	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22
Income £'000	1,409	1,494	1,450	1,560	1,873	2,050	2,869	3,402	3,180	1,488	3,630
Expenditure £'000	1,410	1,556	1,640	1,760	1,831	2,252	2,754	2,800	2,682	1,849	2,869
Surplus/Deficit £'000	-1	-61	-190	-200	42	-202	115	602	498	-361	761

Income

The Science Centre reopened to the public in May 2021 and, despite further waves of Covid throughout the year, the Charity achieved income of £3,630k, exceeding its previous peak of £3,402k in 2018/19.

Donations and legacies – note 3

Income from Donations and Legacies rose by 6% (+£59k) with fundraising income fully recovering to pre-pandemic levels and largely compensating for the 2020/21 Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and other government support of £475k the previous year.

The Charity continued to be exceptionally grateful for the generous grant from Garfield Weston Foundation enabling the group to continue to support those who needed it most. The Charity is also immensely thankful for the ongoing support from Enterprise M3 LEP and the Rural Communities Energy Fund.

Charitable activities – note 4

The reopening of the Science Centre led to a recovery in admission fees from £141k in 2020/21 to £1,465k in 2021/22, comparable to the admission fees of £1,339k achieved in 2019/20 and despite the slow return of school visits and frequent rescheduling to accommodate Covid outbreaks.

Included in income from charitable activities are also business interruption insurance proceeds of £250k.

Income from trading activities – note 5

With almost a full year of trading activity and the benefits from the trend in staycations and the earlier remodelling of the café and shop, income from trading increased to £530k (£65k in 2020/21) and close to its 2019/20 level of £602k.

The Charity's once thriving event programme, which has largely been on hold since the start of the pandemic, generated revenues of £35k, significantly below pre-pandemic levels of £173k in 2019/20.

Expenditure

Expenditure levels returned to their pre-Covid levels (£2,869k in 2021/22 compared to £2,682k and £2,800 in 2019/20 and 2018/19 respectively) reflecting the re-opening of the Science Centre and the rebuilding of resources and investment for the future.

People Costs – note 11

The Charity took the difficult decision early in the pandemic to restructure, with average monthly full-time equivalent employees reducing from 47 in 2019/20 to 37 in 2020/21. The increase in people costs from £1,068k in 2020/21 to £1,233k in 2021/22 reflects the gradual rebuilding of staff resources and use of casual staff as the Science Centre reopened and managed its resources through the continuing waves of Covid. The further restructuring of the team in early 2022 to position the charity to continue to provide its full pre-Covid level of activities and invest for the future also added to the cost base. Average full time equivalent employees for 21/22 was 42.

Expenditure on charitable activities – note 7

Expenditure on charitable activities rose from £1,591k in 2020/21 to £2,113k, comparable to its 2019/20 level of £1,988k. Almost all of the increase related to the Science Centre which benefited from a £164k investment in the Charity's new website and ticketing systems supported by Enterprise M3 LEP. The new website and ticketing systems are already showing returns, with increased donations and the use of Gift Aid. Engagement and outreach activities are still to reach their pre-Covid levels.

Expenditure on raising funds – note 6

With the reopening of the shop and café, trading costs rose back to pre-pandemic levels with an increase in the cost of goods sold of £478k reflecting both increased demand and supply chain challenges. Fundraising costs increased by £20k (81%) including the costs of new systems to support the team. Fundraising costs amounted to 7% of fundraised income (20/21: 4%).

Governance and support costs – note 8

Governance and support costs began to rise as staff gradually returned to the office and supported the visitor experience and maintenance and repair work postponed from the previous year was undertaken.

Reserves policy

Our Charity's reserves policy is set to manage unforeseen financial difficulties. The level of unrestricted reserves required is set based on forecast income and expenditure and the likelihood of material risks crystallising which would not be covered by future income or insurance.

The reserves policy is set with regard to the:

- Annual budget - set to ensure our future expenditure levels are matched to the income we receive from operating the Science Centre and other grants and contracts.
- Risk management process - assesses the impact and likelihood of all risks to the Charity and the appropriate level of short-term reserves to be held.

The Trustees have assessed the impact and likelihood of uninsured risks to create an expected value, which is reduced by the assessment of mitigating controls, to set the appropriate level of short-term reserves to be held. This value is formally reviewed on an annual basis with the opportunity for any material changes to be picked up within the risk review process.

During the pandemic the Charity aimed to hold unrestricted free reserves of £250k - £300k, equivalent to three months expenditure for a significantly scaled back operation. With the increasing level of global economic uncertainty and the continuing risks from Covid, this range has been increased to £300k - £350k, the equivalent of three months of expenditure for full operations.

Reserves outcome:

Following a year of strong recovery and rebuilding, unrestricted reserves now stand at £2,688k, of which £1,951k were designated and £737k were general unrestricted funds. Of these reserves £1,755k were represented by fixed assets and £933k were free reserves (2020/21: nil).

The Trustees are committed to using these funds to support our beneficiaries by investing in the seed funding of the outdoor project as well as long-term maintenance of our Science Centre, managing future risks and growing charitable impact.

Principal risks

As the vaccination programme was rolled out to all adults and people became more familiar with Covid and the steps which could be taken to mitigate risks, such as increased ventilation and enhanced sanitation etc., confidence began to re-emerge. During 2021/22 the Science Centre returned to being fully operational and welcomed school and public visitors at a level not seen since the start of the pandemic.

As the risks from Covid subsided, the global economy, still recovering from the impact of the pandemic, suffered major setbacks as energy and food prices spiralled and inflation took hold. Falling disposable incomes and rising costs will put pressure on both the Charity's income and its ability to operate and provide support to the schools and families who most need it.

Like other employers the Charity faces increasing challenges as the impact of the pandemic and the pressures in the economy and labour market feed through to its staff and all who support it. As the Charity seeks to diversify and expand its activities, it recognises the need to increase workforce resilience and the risks it faces from failing to manage its staff resources and losing key personnel.

Both the pandemic and the group's increasing reliance on IT have heightened the risks of IT and cyber security failures leading to IT and cyber-related risks now being one of the group's three principal risks.

During 2021/22 the group completed a green energy feasibility study and is now looking forward to addressing the risks from the previous underinvestment in infrastructure.

The Trustees are responsible for ensuring that there are effective, adequate risk management, and internal control systems in place to manage the strategic and operational risks the Charity is, and could be, exposed to.

The Chief Executive operates and maintains a comprehensive risk register for the organisation, which feeds current and potential risks from the departments into the wider organisational risks.

The main risks facing the organisation are reviewed at the quarterly Trustee Board meetings and progress on risk mitigation plans is discussed.

The Finance, Audit and Risk Committee meets quarterly and reviews the full risk register, recording any changes.

Major capital projects maintain their own risk registers that feed through into the Charity's risk register and are owned by the Chief Executive and reported to and evaluated by the Trustees.

Risk
Global economic uncertainty and inflation

Status
New risk

Description
Increasing costs, falling disposable incomes, rising interest rates and ongoing global uncertainties may reduce the charity's income, increase its operating and financing costs, reduce its margins and limit its ability to diversify its income streams and reduce its carbon footprint.

Risk mitigation strategy

The Charity recognises that the ability to respond rapidly as new information emerges will be key and is focusing on timely and accurate reporting alongside good management and governance to monitor and quickly react to falls in income and increases in costs.

The Charity is monitoring staff satisfaction and has been implementing a number of measures to assist in staff retention and to ensure it has the staff resources for the challenges facing the Charity.

The Charity is monitoring interest rates and currently has the financial resources to reduce its debt levels should the need arise.

Risk
Resourcing, recruitment and retention

Status
Increased risk

Description
With the Science Centre open every day and with a major strategic objective of growing and diversifying the Charity, it is essential that the group has the appropriate staff resources and structure including the necessary skills, expertise and resource allocations. Under resourcing could risk under delivery and project failure.

Risk mitigation strategy

The Charity will maintain its focus on the day-to-day operation of the Science Centre, and the skills, expertise, training and overall level and structure of the resources the Science Centre requires to deliver inspiring and exciting STEM experiences to all visitors

The Charity will build on the existing strong inter-departmental working relationships among its Senior Management Team to enable it to continue to oversee project planning and bring in additional resources when required.

The Charity recognises that both the operation of the Science Centre and the development of future plans will be at risk if there is a loss of key staff and is investing in and taking other measures to retain its staff resources.

Risk
IT and cyber

Status
Increased risk

Description
The Charity's reliance on IT has grown significantly since the beginning of the pandemic. Remote and hybrid working has increased the use of multiple new systems and platforms. With increased reliance on these systems, the risk of system failure or cyber-attack also increases.

Risk mitigation strategy

The Charity is investing in staff training and IT expertise and has now recruited an IT manager to oversee future improvements and manage the Charity's onsite hardware.

The Charity's IT systems are predominantly delivered by a reputable and long-term partner which also provides regular updates, data and antivirus protection and back-ups.

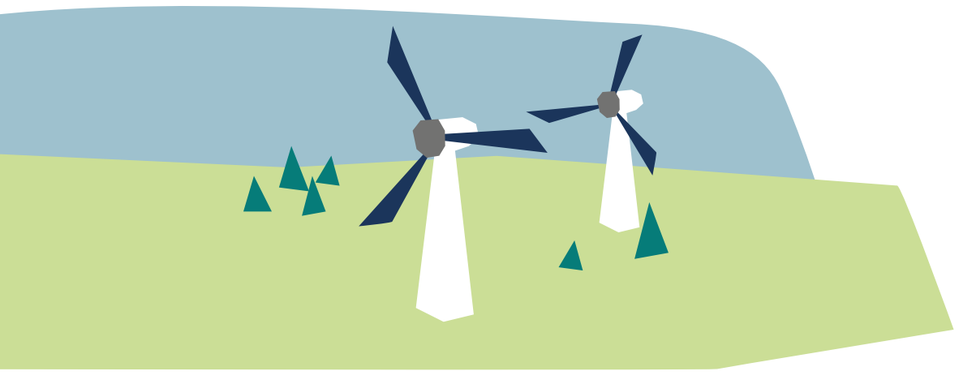
Energy consumption and carbon emissions

We are committed to reducing our environmental impact.

Measuring our current energy usage and carbon footprint helps us to record the improvements we make and identify further opportunities for energy efficiencies. This forms a key component in delivering strategic objective 3.

A green energy feasibility study was undertaken in 2021/22 and we are now exploring options on how we could use sustainable technologies for our heating, cooling and lighting systems to reduce our carbon emissions.

		18/19	~CO_2 Tonne	19/20	~CO_2 Tonne	20/21	~CO_2 Tonne	21/22	~CO_2 Tonne
Electricity	KWh	301,168	69.60	288,420	66.65	97,943	22.57	251,582	58.14
Heating oil	litres	33,000	83.82	34,049	86.49	12,410	31.52	37,174	94.43
Business travel	miles					443	0.12	2,591	0.72
Fuel purchase	litres					75.27	0.10	574	1.46
Water	m^3	2,619		1,930		629		1,546	
Approximate total CO_2	tonnes		**153.42**		**153.14**		**54.31**		**154.75**



Structure, governance and management

Winchester Science Centre is a company limited by guarantee and a registered Charity.

It is governed by its Articles of Association, which sets out the Charity's powers and authorities. The objective of the Charity is detailed in the Articles of Association:

To advance the education, knowledge and understanding of the public, in particular the young, in basic technological and scientific principles and processes, particularly through the improvements of the links between industrial, commercial and educational bodies and institutions.

The Charity's wholly owned subsidiary, Sparking Curiosity Ltd, operates the onsite shop and café. Sparking Curiosity Ltd has a licence from the Charity to operate those facilities and gift aids the maximum permissible amount of its profits to the Charity (see note 10 to the accounts).

The principles of good governance by which Winchester Science Centre operates and is held accountable comply with the Charity Governance Code for larger charities (2020). These principles are documented in our Code of Governance.

The Board of Trustees holds all of the Charity's powers and authorities.

The Board is ultimately responsible for the overall control and strategic direction of the Charity and for the protection of its assets. The Board receives regular updates on the major risks likely to affect the Charity and ensures these are properly documented and that mitigating actions are in place and actively managed. The Board receives regular updates on the handling of personal data held by the Charity and ensures the policy and procedures are compliant with the GDPR (2018) legislation.

In setting our objectives and planning our activities the trustees have carefully considered the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

Operational management is delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, Ben Ward, and the senior management team.

Board of Trustees

Trustees, who are also Directors under company law, are elected by members of the Board at the Annual General Meeting and serve for a term of three years.

Trustees can be re-appointed up to a maximum of three terms by mutual agreement. The performance of individual Trustees, including the Chair, is informally reviewed each year. All Trustees give their time freely and no Trustee received remuneration in the year. Details of Trustee expenses and related party transactions are disclosed in notes 11 and 23 of the accounts.

Board and committee membership and attendance

Title	First name	Last name	Appointed	Stepped down	Full board	AGM	Finance, Audit & Risk	Nominations	Remuneration	Fundraising	Discovery and Learning
Mr	Jeremy	Booker		21/10/21	3/3	y	3/3				
Dr	Dolores	Byrne			3/4	y	4/4		2/2	4/4	
Mr	Philip	Guest		25/04/22	3/4	y					
Dr	Ian	Jenkins			4/4	y		3/3	3/3		
Mrs	Katie	Roberts	21/10/21		0/1	y				1/1	
Prof.	Toby	King			4/4	y		3/3			
Mrs	Tajinder	Leonard			4/4	y		3/3		4/4	
Prof.	Diane	Newell			4/4	y					8/8
Mr	Adrian	Owen			4/4	n	4/4				
Mrs	Sue	Parr			3/4	y				3/4	8/8
Mrs	Phyllida	James	21/10/21		1/1	y	1/1				
Prof.	Janet	Preston			4/4	y		1/3			7/8
Dr	Rutang	Thanawalla	21/10/21		1/1	y	1/1				
Mrs	Sara	Sullivan			4/4	y		3/3	2/3	1/1	
Mrs	Elizabeth	Wallace		21/10/21	3/3	y		2/3	1/1		

Board effectiveness

The Charity Governance code 2020 details best practice in a series of recommendations that Charities are encouraged to meet. In Spring of 2021 the Board undertook an internal Board Effectiveness Review by assessing adherence to these recommendations (on an apply or explain basis as advised in the code).

Each Trustee was asked for their view on how well, or otherwise, the charity met each recommendation and the results summarised in three categories by significance: routine, process or requiring Board action. The results were circulated to all members of the Board.

The matters of routine were actioned by the secretariat, the matters of process were actioned by committee chairs, the matters requiring Board attention were:

1. Finalise and approve the agenda proforma for each scheduled Board meeting throughout the year.
2. Undertake an internal Board Effectiveness Review annually.
3. Commission an external Board Effectiveness Review on a three-year cycle.
4. Compile a register of training courses and briefings to both develop Trustee effectiveness and refresh knowledge of Charity governance and process.

All actions were subsequently discussed and adopted by the Board.

In compliance with action 3 above an external Board Effectiveness Review has been commissioned and will take place in the Summer of 2022.

Organisation

The Board holds five meetings a year, one of which is dedicated to Strategy, and has established the following four Committees: Finance, Audit and Risk; Nominations and Remunerations; Discovery and Learning, and Fundraising.

The Finance, Audit and Risk Committee is independent of the management of the Science Centre and has been granted the standing and resources to report directly with opinion and oversight to the Board of Trustees on the annual report and accounts and other financial reports, the risk management process and risk register, delivering value for money, policy maintenance and the Charity's whistleblowing arrangements. The committee is also responsible for making recommendations to the Board of Trustees in relation to the performance, appointment, reappointment and removal of the external auditors. Meets at least twice a year and otherwise as required.

The Nominations and Remuneration Committee reports to the Board on governance effectiveness, the structure, size and composition of the Board, succession planning and on the salary and benefits of the CEO and members of the Senior Management Team. This is a new committee, following the merger of the Nominations Committee and Remuneration Committee in January 2022. Meets quarterly.

The committee makes recommendations to the Board for approval of the following:

- appointment of new Trustees,
- appointment of Chair and Deputy Chair of the Board of Trustees,
- appointment of Trustees and Chair of Board Committees,
- appointment of Trustees and Chair to the Board of the Charity's subsidiary,
- appointment of the Chief Executive Officer,
- candidates for Honorary Life membership,
- salary and benefits package for the CEO and members of the Senior Management Team,
- annual review and update of the Code of Governance.

Following the skills audit carried out in 2020 three Trustees were appointed in October 2021 with expertise in finance, sustainability and biodiversity. Following the resignation of a Trustee in April 2022 the Board membership is now 12. Three Trustees retire from the Board over the next two years and succession planning to fill these roles is in progress. When recruiting Trustees the Board aims to attract a diverse range of candidates with the skills the Charity needs. It values the benefits of a membership with a variety of backgrounds expertise and experience. Ultimately though, all Board appointments are based on merit within the context of achieving a balance of skills and experience. New Trustees undertake an induction programme that includes coverage of: the Charity's aims and how they are being fulfilled, the Code of Governance including Committee structures and decision-making processes, the business plan and recent financial performance. During induction, Trustees meet the Chief Executive, members of the Senior Management Team and fellow Trustees. Trustees are encouraged to attend appropriate external training events where appropriate utilising, wherever possible, the vast body of content available free of charge from specialist suppliers. In cases where content is not free a small budget has been allocated to cover Trustee expenses and course fees.

In reviewing the salary and benefits for the CEO and the Senior Management Team the committee has access to salary benchmarks for equivalent roles in the sector. The committee considers individual performance in the year against the objectives set in each individual annual review and, on that basis, makes a salary review recommendation to the Board for approval.

The Discovery and Learning Committee provides strategic input and makes recommendations to the Board regarding the appropriateness of the scientific and educational content of the strategic plan. The committee assesses the overall scientific and educational value of the Charity's programme, reviews activities aimed at widening participation and assesses the effectiveness of ongoing academic collaborations. Meets at least quarterly.

The Fundraising Committee contributes expertise as well as regional and industry sector perspectives to the development and successful operation of the fundraising programme. Members contribute ideas related to fundraising and marketing and engage with other Trustees to open up new fundraising sources.

The responsibility for developing the fundraising strategy and delivering the routine fundraising activities rests with the fundraising team. The committee acts to strengthen the effectiveness of this team by providing independent oversight, reviewing progress against objectives, and by offering advice and active assistance where appropriate. Meets quarterly.

Related parties and co-operation with other organisations

Any relationship between a Trustee or senior manager of the Charity with a university, sponsoring company exhibition, or an organisation contracted to work for the Charity is openly disclosed to the Board.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The Charity Trustees are responsible for preparing a Trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). Company law requires the Charity Trustees to prepare financial statements for each year that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the parent charitable company and the group, and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable group for that period. In preparing the 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 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 business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006.

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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.

Financial statements

Provision of information to auditors

So far as each of the Trustees at the time the report is approved are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the auditors are unaware and,
- they have taken all the steps they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information, and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

Auditor

A resolution to reappoint Haysmacintyre LLP as auditor will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting.

The Trustees' Annual Report was approved by the Board of Trustees on 15th July 2022 and signed on its behalf:

Toby King

Prof. Toby King
Chair of Trustees

Independent auditor's report to the members of Winchester Science Centre

Opinion

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of Winchester Science Centre for the year ended 31st March 2021 which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, Consolidated Balance Sheet, Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 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 group's affairs as at 31st March 2022 and of the group's net movement in funds, including the income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- 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 charity 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 group'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.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Trustees' Annual Report and the Chair's statement. 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.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, 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 audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. 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.

Opinion 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 (which includes the strategic report and the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the strategic report and the directors' report included within the Trustees' Annual Report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Independent auditor's report to the members of Winchester Science Centre (continued)

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the group and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Annual Report (which incorporates the strategic report and the directors' 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 by the group; or
- the group 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.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 55, the trustees (who are also the directors of the group for the purposes of 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 group'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 group 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 is detailed below.

Based on our understanding of the group and the environment in which it operates, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to charity and company law applicable in England and Wales, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011.

We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the

Based on our understanding of the group and the environment in which it operates, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to charity and company law applicable in England and Wales, and we considered the

extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011.

We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls) and determined that the principal risks were related to revenue recognition, and management override of controls. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- Inspecting correspondence with regulators;
- Discussions with management including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulation and fraud;
- Reviewing the controls and procedures of the charity relevant to the preparation of the financial statements to ensure these were in place throughout the year, including during the Covid remote working period;
- Evaluating management's controls designed to prevent and detect irregularities;
- Identifying and testing journals, in particular journal entries posted with unusual account combinations, postings by unusual users or with unusual descriptions, and
- Challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in their critical accounting estimates.

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 for the audit of the financial statements is located 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 group'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 group'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 group and the group's members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Jane Askew

Senior Statutory Auditor, For and on behalf of
Haysmacintyre LLP,
Statutory Auditors
10 Queen Street Place
London
EC4R 1AG

Date:

31.07.2022

Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities

(incorporating an income and expenditure account) For the year ending 31st March 2022

	Note	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total funds 2022 £'000	Total funds 2021 £'000
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3	752	247	999	940
Charitable activities:	4				
Science Centre		1,819	-	1,819	238
Engagement and Outreach		206	-	206	203
Income from investments		1	-	1	-
Other trading activities	5	605	-	605	107
Total		**3,383**	**247**	**3,630**	**1,488**
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds:	6				
Other trading activities		628	128	756	258
Charitable activities:	7				
Science Centre		1,757	129	1,886	1,416
Engagement and Outreach		217	10	227	175
Total		**2,602**	**267**	**2,869**	**1,849**
Net (expenditure)/income:		781	(20)	761	(361)
Transfer between funds	20	73	(73)	-	-
Net movement in funds		**854**	**(93)**	**761**	**(361)**
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward	20	1,834	416	2,250	2,611
Total funds carried forward		**2,688**	**323**	**3,011**	**2,250**

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year, and all income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

Consolidated and Charity Balance Sheet

As at 31st March 2022

	Note	Group 2022 £'000	Group 2021 £'000	Charity 2022 £'000	Charity 2021 £'000
Fixed assets:					
Tangible assets	13	2,077	2,429	2,077	2,429
Current assets:					
Stocks	14	24	19	9	1
Debtors	15	257	308	263	297
Cash at bank and in hand		1,774	884	1,530	803
Total current assets		2,055	1,211	1,802	1,101
Liabilities:					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	16	(648)	(788)	(570)	(741)
Net current assets		1,407	423	1,232	360
Total assets less current liabilities		3,484	2,852	3,309	2,789
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	18	(473)	(602)	(473)	(602)
Total net assets		**3,011**	**2,250**	**2,836**	**2,187**
The funds of the charity	20				
Restricted income funds		323	416	323	416
Unrestricted funds:					
Designated		1,951	150	1,951	150
General unrestricted		737	1,684	562	1,621
Total unrestricted funds		2,688	1,834	2,513	1,771
Total charity funds		**3,011**	**2,250**	**2,836**	**2,187**

Winchester Science Centre (the parent entity) reports a surplus for financial year 2021/22 of £649k (2020/21: £(97)k deficit).

The financial statements of the Winchester Science Centre (registered number 02014929) were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 15th July 2022.

Signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees

Prof. Toby King *Toby King*
Chair of Trustees

Consolidated and Charity Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ending 31st March 2022

	Note	Group 2022 £'000	Group 2021 £'000	Charity 2022 £'000	Charity 2021 £'000
Cash flows from operating activities:					
Net cash provided by operating activities	**A**	**1,073**	**200**	**910**	**136**
Cash flows from investing activities:					
Purchase of plant and equipment		(106)	(502)	(106)	(502)
Net cash used in investing activities		**(106)**	**(502)**	**(106)**	**(502)**
Cash flows from financing activities:					
Repayment of borrowing		(70)	(24)	(70)	(24)
Cash inflows from new borrowing		-	536	-	536
Interest paid		(7)	(4)	(7)	(4)
Net cash (used in)/provided by financing activities		**(77)**	**508**	**(77)**	**508**
Increase in cash and cash equivalents in the year		890	206	727	142
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		884	678	803	661
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	**B**	**1,774**	**884**	**1,530**	**803**

Consolidated and Charity Statement of Cash Flows (continued)

For the year ending 31st March 2022

Notes to the cash flow statement

A) Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow generated from operating activities

	Group 2022 £'000	Group 2021 £'000	Charity 2022 £'000	Charity 2021 £'000
Net income/(expenditure) for the year	761	(361)	649	(97)
Adjustments for:				
Depreciation charges	447	372	447	372
Decrease/(increase) in stocks	(5)	3	(8)	4
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	51	(156)	34	(185)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(199)	332	(230)	32
Loss on disposal	11	6	11	6
Interest paid	7	4	7	4
Net cash provided by operating activities	**1,073**	**200**	**910**	**136**

B) Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	Group 2022 £'000	Group 2021 £'000	Charity 2022 £'000	Charity 2021 £'000
Cash in hand	1,774	884	1,530	803
Total cash and cash equivalents	**1,774**	**884**	**1,530**	**803**

C) Analysis of changes in net debt

	As at 1st April 2021	Cash-flows	Non-cash changes	As at 31st March 2022
Unrestricted Cash	756	1,018	-	1,774
Cash restricted to projects	128	(128)	-	-
Loans falling due within one year	(69)	70	(129)	(128)
Loans falling due after more than one year	(602)	-	129	(473)
Total	**213**	**960**	**-**	**1,173**

Notes to the Financal Statements for the year ending 31st March 2022

1. Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

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) (effective 1st January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historic cost convention. Winchester Science Centre meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Winchester Science Centre is a company limited by guarantee and incorporated in England and Wales. The Registered Office is: Telegraph Way, Morn Hill, Winchester, Hampshire, SO21 1HZ.

Group financial statements

The Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA), Consolidated Balance Sheet and the Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows consolidate the financial statements of the Charity and its subsidiary undertaking. The results of the subsidiary are consolidated on a line by line basis.

No separate SOFA has been prepared for the Charity alone as permitted by Section 408 of the Companies Act 2006.

Preparation of accounts on a going concern basis

The Group's primary source of income continues to be visitors to the Science Centre.

After careful consideration of the Groups's current financial position, with due attention paid to the coronavirus pandemic, the Group's cash flows, liquidity and borrowings, and future plans and prospects, the Trustees are confident that the Group has adequate resources to continue in operation for the foreseeable future which is at least 12 months from the date of approval of these financial statements. Accordingly, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the accounts.

Income

Income is recognised when the Group has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount is measurable.

Donated services and facilities

On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the Group, which is the amount the Group 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.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the Group. Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the Group which the Trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a particular purpose.

Restricted funds

Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the Group's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the Group.

Expenditure

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 headings:

- Costs of raising funds comprise the costs of commercial trading including the shop and café and their associated support costs. It also includes a proportion of the cost of front-of-house staff.
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs of exhibitions, educational and other activities undertaken to further the purposes of the Charity and their associated support costs.

Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the Group but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, finance, facilities, personnel, IT and governance costs which support the Group's activities. These costs have been allocated between the cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities. The basis on which support costs have been allocated are set out in note 8.

Tangible fixed assets

The Group has elected to use the 'deemed cost' option on transition to FRS102 for Land and Buildings which have been revalued as at 31st March 2014 and have been depreciated from that date. Other tangible fixed assets are capitalised at cost and are depreciated on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful economic lives as follows:

Asset category	Annual rate
Intellectual assets	10%
Planetarium	10% – 33⅓%
Office equipment	20%
Computer equipment	33⅓%
Technical equipment	10% – 33⅓%
Exhibition equipment	20% – 33⅓%
Equipment library	20%
Motor vehicles	25%
Freehold buildings	2%
Freehold land	Nil

Stock

Stock is included at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Debtors

Short term debtors are measured at transaction price, less any impairment.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions. These are short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertiable to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Creditors

Short term trade creditors are measured at the transaction price. Other financial liabilities, including bank loans, are initially measured at the transaction value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Operating leases

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

Corporation tax

The Charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

Any profits generated from the Charity's trading subsidiary Sparking Curiosity Ltd will be transferred to the parent with a gift aid payment and therefore no taxation is due.

Financial instruments

The Group has financial assets and 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 with the exception of bank loans and mortgages which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Judgements in applying accounting policies and key sources of estimation

In the application of the Group's accounting policies, described in the accounting policies above, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates. The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

The Trustee representatives consider that the following are key estimates;

- Depreciation of fixed assets is charged over the useful economic life of the assets. Trustees and management review the useful economic life on an annual basis.
- Bad debt provisions – debtors are reviewed regularly to assess likelihood of recoverability. A provision of bad debt is estimated based on these reviews. At the year end, no bad debt provision has been made (2021: £0k).

2. Legal status of the Charity

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. In the event of the Charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the Charity.

3. Income from donations and legacies

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Donations and grants	861	458
Government support:		
Job Rentention Scheme	33	415
Other	35	60
Membership subscriptions	70	7
Total	**999**	**940**

The charity benefits greatly from the involvement and enthusiastic support of its many volunteers, details of which are given in our annual report. In accordance with FRS 102 and the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the economic contribution of general volunteers is not recognised in the accounts.

4. Income from charitable activities

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Science Centre:		
Admission fees	1,465	141
Exhibit sponsorship	15	-
Tax Relief	89	97
Insurance claim	250	-
Total	**1,819**	**238**
Engagement and Outreach:		
STEM NOW	195	203
Outreach workshops	11	-
Total	**206**	**203**

5. Income from other trading activities

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Fundraising events	35	-
Trading operations	530	65
Corporate sponsorship	40	42
Total	**605**	**107**

6. Expenditure on raising funds

	Direct staff costs £'000	Other direct costs £'000	Governance support costs £'000	Other support costs £'000	Total 2022 £'000	Total 2021 £'000
Trading costs	97	458	15	141	711	233
Fundraising costs	33	12	-	-	45	25
Total	**130**	**470**	**15**	**141**	**756**	**258**

7. Expenditure on charitable activities

	Direct staff costs £'000	Other direct costs £'000	Governance support costs £'000	Other support costs £'000	Total 2022 £'000	Total 2021 £'000
Science Centre	726	669	30	461	1,886	1,416
Engagement and Outreach	137	30	5	55	227	175
Total	**863**	**699**	**35**	**516**	**2,113**	**1,591**

8. Analysis of governance and support costs

	Direct staff costs £'000	Overheads £'000	Total 2022 £'000	Total 2021 £'000
Governance costs	-	50	50	35
Finance, HR and IS costs	146	109	255	236
Management costs	94	36	130	124
Premises and office costs	-	272	272	74
Total	**240**	**467**	**707**	**469**

Support costs related to the building have been re-allocated on a square footage basis, whilst other costs have been re-allocated on a direct cost basis.

9. Net income for the year

This is stated after charging:	Group 2022 £'000	Group 2021 £'000	Charity 2022 £'000	Charity 2021 £'000
Depreciation	447	372	447	372
Auditor's remuneration for:				
Audit	18	18	14	14
Taxation services	19	7	18	7
Operating lease rentals:				
Plant and machinery	7	4	7	3

10. Investment in subsidiary and trading income

The charity has a wholly owned trading subsidiary, Sparking Curiosity Limited (Company Number 10661776), which is incorporated in England and Wales. A summary of the trading results of the subsidiary to 31st March 2022 is shown below. This includes a management charge levied by the Charity of £181k (2020/21: £75k). Audited accounts are filed with the Registrar of Companies.

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Turnover	572	128
Cost of sales	(255)	(35)
Gross profit	**317**	**93**
Other operating charges	(195)	(84)
Profit for the year before tax	**122**	**9**

The capital of the company comprises 100 ordinary shares of £1 each. The maximum permissible amount of the subsidiary's reserves of £174,908 will be transferred to the parent by 31st December 2022 such that no tax will be payable by the subsidiary.

11. Analysis of staff costs, Trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Salaries and wages	1,126	971
Social security costs	86	77
Pension costs	21	18
Redundancy costs	-	2
Total	**1,233**	**1,068**

The number of employees whose emoluments exceeded £60,000 during the year was:

	2022 Number	2021 Number
£80,001 - £90,000	1	1

Pension costs are allocated to activities in proportion to the related staffing costs incurred.

The Trustees were not paid and did not receive any other benefits from employment with the charity in the year (2020/21: nil). No Trustees were reimbursed for travel and accommodation costs during the year (2020/21: nil). No Trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2020/21: nil).

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the Trustees, CEO, and Directors of Finance and Operations, STEM Strategy, Marketing and Communications, Fundraising and Experience. The total employee costs of the key management personnel of the charity were £296k (2020/21: £290k).

12. Staff numbers

The average monthly head count was 66 staff (2020/21: 56 staff) and the average monthly number of full-time equivalent employees (including casual and part-time staff) during the year were as follows:

	2022 Number	2021 Number
Science Centre	34	29
Office and management	8	8
Total	**42**	**37**

All staff were employed by the charity.

13. Tangible fixed assets – Group

	Work in progress £'000	Intellectual assets £'000	Equipment £'000	Freehold land and buildings £'000	Total £'000
Cost or valuation:					
At 1st April 2021	20	253	2,570	1,087	3,930
Additions	8	-	98	-	106
Transfers	(20)	-	20	-	-
Disposals	-	-	(131)	-	(131)
As at 31st March 2022	**8**	**253**	**2,557**	**1,087**	**3,905**
Depreciation:					
At 1st April 2021	-	223	1,201	77	1,501
Charge for year	-	25	403	19	447
Eliminated on disposal	-	-	(120)	-	(120)
As at 31st March 2022	**-**	**248**	**1,484**	**96**	**1,828**
Net book value:					
As at 31st March 2022	**8**	**5**	**1,073**	**991**	**2,077**
As at 31st March 2021	**20**	**30**	**1,369**	**1,010**	**2,429**

In July 2016, the land and buildings were inspected by Andrew Smith & Son of Winchester to obtain a current open market valuation at 31st March 2014. The buildings were valued at £1,000k and the land at £125k. The Trustees restated opening balances on 1st April 2015 in accordance with the deemed cost option of FRS 102. Had the deemed cost option not been elected, at 31st March 2022, the cost of freehold land and buildings stated above would be £7,621k, and the net book value £5,424k.

13. Tangible fixed assets – Charity

	Work in progress £'000	Intellectual assets £'000	Equipment £'000	Freehold land and buildings £'000	Total £'000
Cost or valuation:					
At 1st April 2021	20	253	2,569	1,087	3,929
Additions	8	-	98	-	106
Transfers	(20)	-	20	-	-
Disposals	-	-	(131)	-	(131)
As at 31st March 2022	**8**	**253**	**2,556**	**1,087**	**3,904**
Depreciation:					
At 1st April 2021	-	223	1,200	77	1,500
Charge for year	-	25	403	19	447
Eliminated on disposal	-	-	(120)	-	(120)
As at 31st March 2022	**-**	**248**	**1,483**	**96**	**1,827**
Net book value:					
As at 31st March 2022	**8**	**5**	**1,073**	**991**	**2,077**
As at 31st March 2021	**20**	**30**	**1,369**	**1,010**	**2,429**

14. Stock

	Group 2022 £'000	Group 2021 £'000	Charity 2022 £'000	Charity 2021 £'000
Shop goods for resale	15	18	-	-
Heating fuel	9	1	9	1
Total	**24**	**19**	**9**	**1**

During the year, £274k (2020/21: £45k) of stock was recognised as an expense.

15. Debtors

	Group 2022 £'000	Group 2021 £'000	Charity 2022 £'000	Charity 2021 £'000
Trade debtors	105	75	99	63
Prepayments	38	14	38	14
Grants	-	120	-	120
Tax relief	89	97	89	97
Amounts owed from group undertakings	-	-	13	1
Other	25	2	24	2
Total	**257**	**308**	**263**	**297**

16. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Group 2022 £'000	Group 2021 £'000	Charity 2022 £'000	Charity 2021 £'000
Bank loans and overdraft	128	69	128	69
Trade creditors	131	47	112	47
Accruals	68	71	60	65
Taxation and social security	36	47	14	26
Other creditors	12	8	8	8
Deferred income	273	546	248	526
Total	**648**	**788**	**570**	**741**

17. Deferred income

Deferred income comprises: advance ticket sales related to admission to the Science Centre and for events held after 31st March 2022 of £61k (2020/21: £25k), deferred membership from annual passes of £36k (2020/21: £37k), deferred sponsorship of £36k (2020/21: £20k) and deferred grant income of £140k (2020/21: £464k).

	Group 2022 £'000	Group 2021 £'000	Charity 2022 £'000	Charity 2021 £'000
Balance as at 1st April	546	69	526	47
Amount released to income and expenditure account	(546)	(69)	(526)	(47)
Amount deferred in year	273	546	248	526
Balance as at 31st March	**273**	**546**	**248**	**526**

18. Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	Group 2022 £'000	Group 2021 £'000	Charity 2022 £'000	Charity 2021 £'000
Bank loan	84	109	84	109
CBILS loan	389	493	389	493
Total	**473**	**602**	**473**	**602**

The bank loan is repayable by 18th April 2026 with interest charged at 2.5% above the base rate. The CBILS loan is repayable by 30th October 2026 with interest charged from 31st October 2021 at 1.63% above the base rate. Both loans are secured on the charity's freehold property.

The bank loans are repayable as follows:

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Amounts payable within one year	128	69
Amounts payable between one and two years	131	130
Amounts payable between three and five years	342	405
Amounts payable after more than five years	-	67
Total	**601**	**671**

19. Analysis of assets and liabilities between funds

	Restricted funds 2022 £'000	Unrestricted funds 2022 £'000	Total 2022 £'000	Restricted funds 2021 £'000	Unrestricted funds 2021 £'000	Total 2021 £'000
Group:						
Fixed assets	323	1,754	2,077	342	2,087	2,429
Current assets	-	2,055	2,055	128	1,083	1,211
Current liabilities	-	(648)	(648)	(54)	(734)	(788)
Long-term liabilities	-	(473)	(473)	-	(602)	(602)
Group total	**323**	**2,688**	**3,011**	**416**	**1,834**	**2,250**
Charity:						
Fixed assets	323	1,754	2,077	342	2,087	2,429
Current assets	-	1,802	1,802	128	973	1,101
Current liabilities	-	(570)	(570)	(54)	(687)	(741)
Long-term liabilities	-	(473)	(473)	-	(602)	(602)
Charity total	**323**	**2,513**	**2,836**	**416**	**1,771**	**2,187**

20. Movement in funds

	At 1st April 2021 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Transfer between funds £'000	At 31st March 2022 £'000
Restricted funds:					
Inspiring Science for All	60	-	(18)	(42)	-
Inspiring Science for All - Digital	-	163	(135)	(28)	-
Widening Participation and Outreach	14	35	(49)	-	-
Millennium Project	342	-	(19)	-	323
Other restricted funds	-	49	(46)	(3)	-
Total restricted funds	**416**	**247**	**(267)**	**(73)**	**323**
Unrestricted funds:					
Designated:					
Planetarium	106	46	-	-	152
Fixed assets	-	-	-	1,755	1,755
Exhibition	44	13	(13)	-	44
STEM NOW	-	194	(141)	(53)	-
Total designated funds	**150**	**253**	**(154)**	**1,702**	**1,951**
Unrestricted:					
General unrestricted	1,621	2,558	(1,988)	(1,629)	562
Total general unrestricted funds	**1,621**	**2,558**	**(1,988)**	**(1,629)**	**562**
Total unrestricted funds	**1,771**	**2,811**	**(2,142)**	**73**	**2,513**
Total charitable funds	**2,187**	**3,058**	**(2,409)**	**-**	**2,836**
Trading subsidiary	**63**	**572**	**(460)**	**-**	**175**
Total group funds	**2,250**	**3,630**	**(2,869)**	**-**	**3,011**

See note 27 for prior year comparatives

Restricted funds

The charity received donations and grants which the donor specified to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity.

Inspiring Science For All

A capital development project which set out to make the Science Centre accessible to all and the place to explore how science improves lives. It included the redevelopment of the upper floor, major new exhibitions, new accessible planetarium system, accessible facilities and live science activities and programmes.

Inspiring Science for All Digitial (M3 LEP)

An extension of Inspiring Science For All, which took the concept of accessible science experiences online through improved website, new online learning resources, ticketing system and CRM system.

Widening Participation and Outreach

A number of discrete projects to reach underserved audiences. Projects included outreach activity in school and community settings and the development of resources to improve experiences for the D/deaf community.

Millennium Project

A capital development project for the creation of the Science Centre, placing restrictions on the use of the building.

General unrestricted funds

These are funds available for the general objectives of the charity. Included within unrestricted funds are designated funds that the charity has put aside for a specific purpose. The charity has existing fixed assets that are essential to it's operation, the value of which has been newly designated in 2022.

21. Operating lease commitments – Group and Charity

The future operating lease payments are as follows:

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Within one year	11	5
Between one and five years	16	5
After more than five years	-	-
Total	**27**	**10**

22. Pension scheme

During the year £21k (2020/21: £18k) was paid into a defined contribution pension scheme. At the year-end contributions of £5k (2020/21: nil) were due to the scheme.

23. Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in the year.

In 2020/21 the CEO was a Trustee of The Association of Science and Discovery Centres (ASDC) to whom the charity paid £1k for annual membership and grant fees. The charity received £11k from ASDC to deliver the Destination Space and Science Capital programmes and for a digital engagement grant to run in 21/22.

24. Limitation of liability

Winchester Science Centre is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. At the year ended 31st March 2022, there were 13 members (12 members at 31st March 2021), each of whom has undertaken to contribute a maximum of £1, if required, in the event of the winding up of the company.

25. Capital commitments

There were no outstanding capital commitments at 31st March 2022.

26. 2021 Statement of Financial Activities (Prior Year)

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total funds 2021 £'000	Total funds 2020 £'000
Income and endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	659	281	940	662
Charitable activities:				
Science Centre	238	-	238	1,424
Engagement and Outreach	196	7	203	288
Income from investments	-	-	-	2
Other trading activities	107	-	107	804
Total	**1,200**	**288**	**1,488**	**3,180**
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds:				
Other trading activities	258	-	258	694
Charitable activities:				
Science Centre	1,251	165	1,416	1,665
Engagement and Outreach	175	-	175	323
Total	**1,684**	**165**	**1,849**	**2,682**
Net (expenditure)/income:	(484)	123	(361)	498
Transfer between funds	406	(406)	-	-
Net movement in funds	**(78)**	**(283)**	**(361)**	**498**
Reconciliation of funds:				
Total funds brought forward	1,912	699	2,611	2,113
Total funds carried forward	**1,834**	**416**	**2,250**	**2,611**

27. 2021 Movement in funds (Prior Year)

	At 1st April 2020 £'000	Incoming resources £'000	Outgoing resources £'000	Transfer between funds £'000	At 31st March 2021 £'000
Restricted funds:					
Inspiring Science for All	326	161	(41)	(386)	60
Inspiring Science for All - Digital	-	96	(76)	(20)	-
Widening Participation and Outreach	11	21	(18)	-	14
Millennium Project	361	-	(19)	-	342
Other restricted funds	1	10	(11)	-	-
Total restricted funds	**699**	**288**	**(165)**	**(406)**	**416**
Unrestricted funds:					
Designated:					
Planetarium	102	4	-	-	106
Exhibition	34	-	(22)	32	44
STEM NOW	-	196	(196)	-	-
Total designated funds	**136**	**200**	**(218)**	**32**	**150**
Unrestricted:					
General unrestricted	1,449	872	(1,074)	374	1,621
Total general unrestricted funds	**1,449**	**872**	**(1,074)**	**374**	**1,621**
Total unrestricted funds	**1,585**	**1,072**	**(1,292)**	**406**	**1,771**
Total charitable funds	**2,284**	**1,360**	**(1,457)**	**-**	**2,287**
Trading subsidiary	**327**	**128**	**(392)**	**-**	**63**
Total Group funds	**2,611**	**1,488**	**(1,849)**	**-**	**2,250**

Charity information

Registered office
Telegraph Way
Morn Hill
Winchester
Hampshire
SO21 1HZ

Registered charity no.
294582

Bankers
Lloyds Bank PLC
49 High Street
Winchester
Hampshire
SO23 9BU

Solicitors
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1 London Road
Southampton
Hampshire
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Auditors
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Patrons

Megan McCubbin

Ambassadors

Peter Rogers MSc CEng FIOA FRSA MIOL

Honorary life members

Mr Jeremy C Booker ACA
Mr Colin Brook
Professor Malcolm J Coe FRAS FHEA
Admiral Sir Kenneth J Eaton GBE KCB FREng
Mr David Livermore OBE
Ms Terry V Marsh FRTS FRSA
Mr David Morgan
Dr Martin P Read CBE FIET CDipAF CCMI
Mrs Elizabeth M Wallace

Trustees

Professor Toby StJohn King MA PhD CEng FIMechE, Chair
Dr Ian C Jenkins MSc, Deputy Chair
Dr Dolores Byrne OBE HonFIET CEng
Mrs Phyllida James
Mrs Tajinder Leonard
Professor Diane G Newell PhD, OBE
Mr Adrian A Owen
Mrs Sue Parr
Professor Janet Preston MSc PhD MInstP FRAS
Mrs Katie Roberts
Mrs Sara Sullivan
Dr Rutang Thanawalla

Chief Executive Officer and Senior Management Team

Mr Ben Ward FRSA, Chief Executive Officer
Mrs Emily Mace, Director of STEM Strategy
Mrs Charlotte Mercer, Director of Marketing and Communications
Ms Elizabeth Moorcraft ACMA, Director of Finance and Operations
Mrs Kate Wasche, Director of Fundraising

WINCHESTER
SCIENCE CENTRE
AND PLANETARIUM

Registered Office:
Telegraph Way
Morn Hill
Winchester
Hampshire
SO21 1HZ

Registered Charity No. 294582

WONDERSEEKERS

England & Wales - Charity number 294582

Accounts

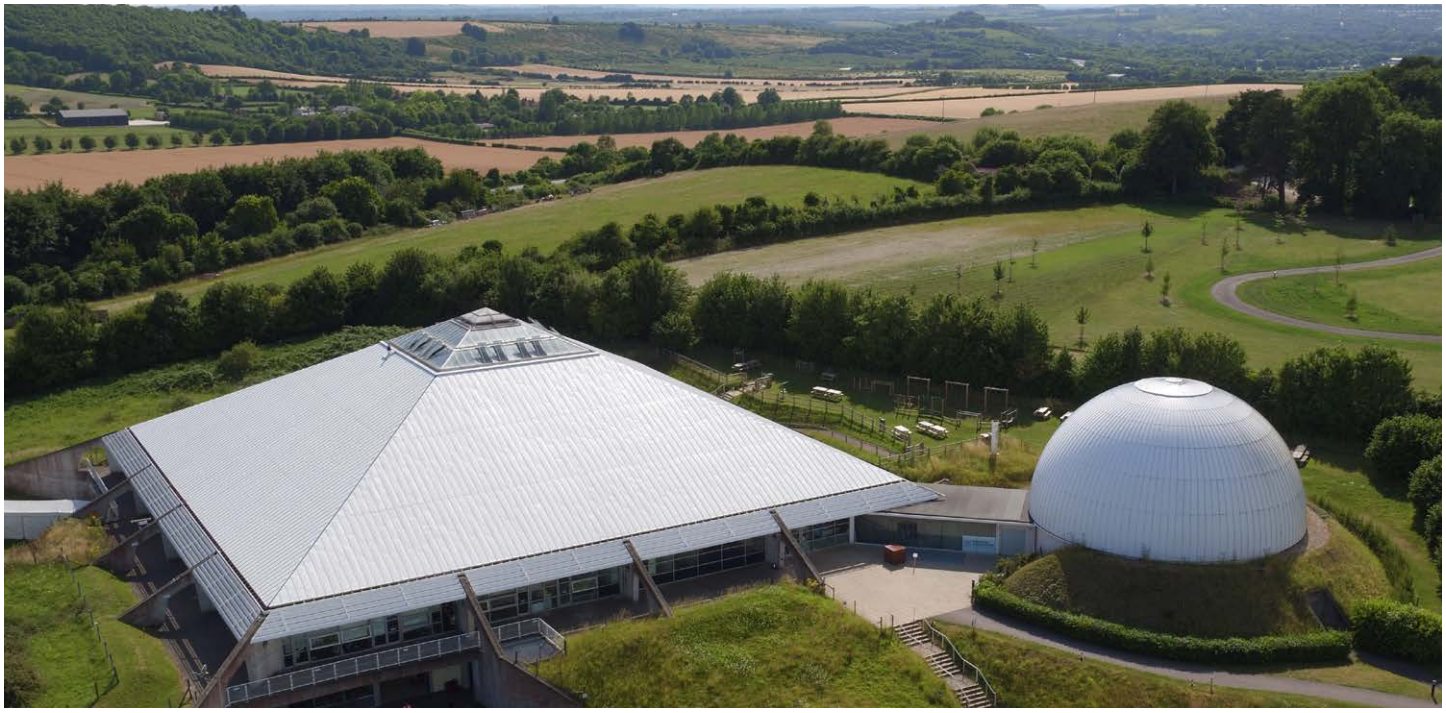
INSPIRING SCIENCE FOR ALL

Annual Report 2020/21

WINCHESTER SCIENCE CENTRE AND PLANETARIUM

Charity Number: 294582
Company Number: 02014929

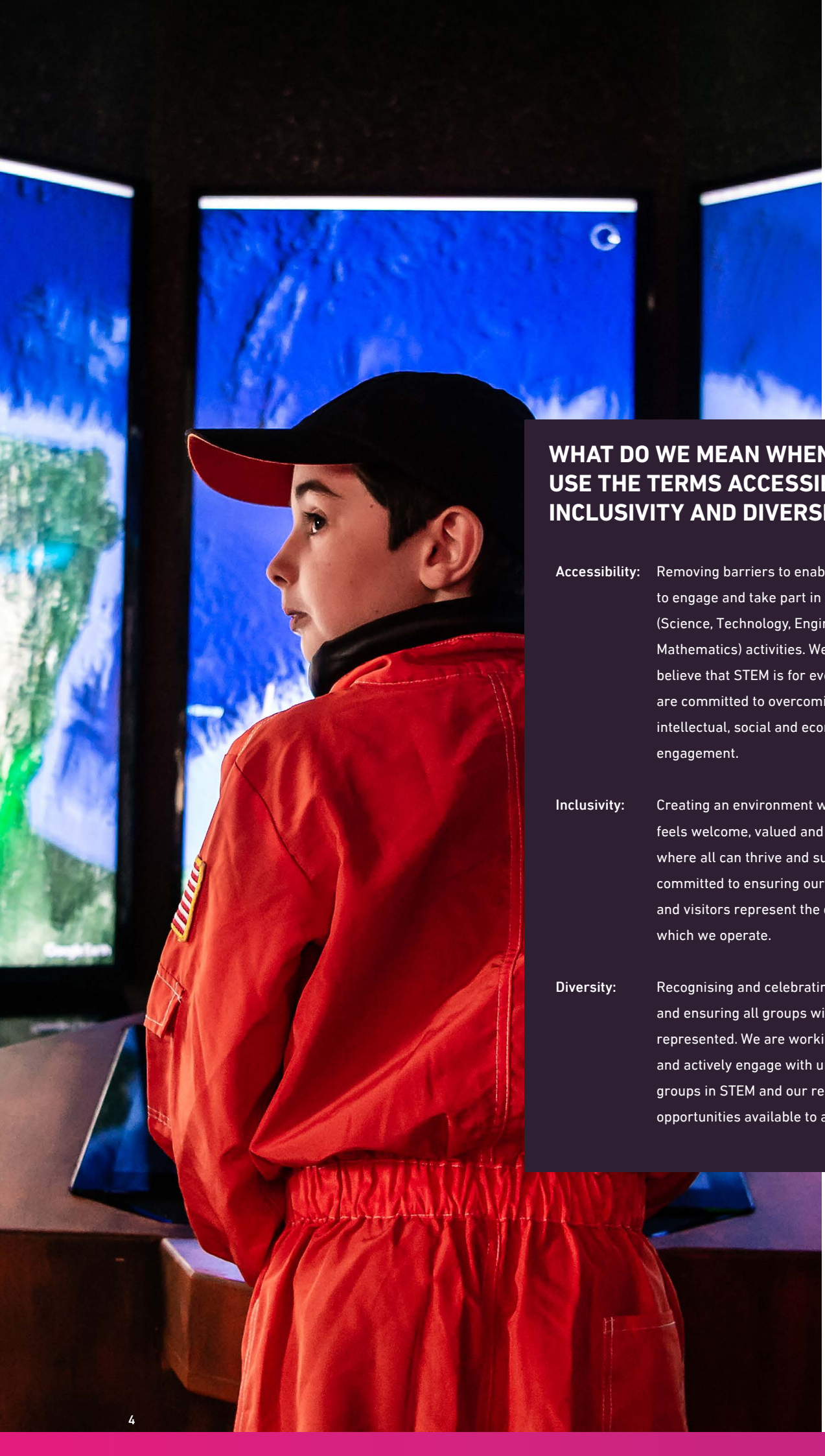
AmScope



"Science and discovery centres have a critically important role to play in engaging more young people with life-changing science and technology. Our Trustees are delighted to support Winchester Science Centre with their vision to inspire and empower young people, especially those who have previously had limited access to science."

Philippa Charles,
Director,

Garfield Weston Foundation



WHAT DO WE MEAN WHEN WE USE THE TERMS ACCESSIBILITY, INCLUSIVITY AND DIVERSITY?

Accessibility: Removing barriers to enable everyone to engage and take part in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) activities. We passionately believe that STEM is for everyone and we are committed to overcoming physical, intellectual, social and economic barriers to engagement.

Inclusivity: Creating an environment where everyone feels welcome, valued and respected and where all can thrive and succeed. We are committed to ensuring our staff, volunteers and visitors represent the diverse society in which we operate.

Diversity: Recognising and celebrating differences and ensuring all groups within society are represented. We are working to seek out and actively engage with underrepresented groups in STEM and our region to make opportunities available to all.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND STRATEGIC REPORT

The Board of Trustees are pleased to present their annual Trustees' report together with consolidated financial statements of the charity and its trading subsidiary for the year ending 31 March 2021. The report is prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and 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) (effective 1 January 2019).

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CHAIR AND CEO'S REPORT
Welcome to our annual report

FIGHTING FOR THE FUTURE

We are delighted to be in a position to share the annual report for 2020/21, which has been without doubt the most difficult year our charity has ever faced. Thankfully, the support we have received from funders such as Garfield Weston Foundation and Enterprise M3 LEP, coupled with the government's financial support for businesses, has enabled us to present this report with optimism and confidence for our future. Their support has not only enabled our survival but our ability to deliver our work with imagination and continue our mission 'to build science capital for all'.

The pandemic has emphasised our strengths and our weaknesses; as a charity, a society, a nation and a global community. In the UK alone, it has drawn attention to the depth and breadth of inequality that exists based on our geography, race, ethnicity, age, health, wealth and education. The phrase 'we're all in this together' has been used and shared countless times, but as we see the inequality gaps widen, we know this simply is not true.

We are resolute that our charity has an important role to play in overcoming inequality through STEM. Despite the need to close our science centre, we have not stopped. Our brilliant and agile team, determined to support families and schools, created new ways to excite and engage children in science.

Our digital Science@Home programme, which ran throughout the initial three-month national lockdown, reached over a million people. Through virtual classroom experiences, we have collaborated with STEM industry and academia, to provide schools in two of our priority communities, the Isle of Wight and Southampton, with stimulating real-life experiences that go beyond the limits of the classroom. We have supported our cohort of STEM Ambassadors who have continued to volunteer their time to engage and inspire children in STEM through digital means. At Christmas, we supported the development of a digital Coding Christmas Pantomime, created by social enterprise company Get With The Programme, which was distributed free to schools nationwide, and viewed by more than 250,000 school children.

Incredibly, our £1.1m transformational development project Inspiring Science For All (IS4A) was delivered on budget and completed in October 2020, in time to delight over 7,000 people who visited over half term. The project, which included the replacement of the planetarium and installation of a Changing Places toilet in 2019/20, included 600m² of new exhibition, an indoor/outdoor nature-based experimentation zone, a new demonstration area, remodelled welcome area, café and shop, integrated and aerial acoustic treatments and a recombobulation room. We are enormously grateful for the generosity, hard work and commitment of our team, our project partners and funders and take this opportunity to thank them wholeheartedly.

So, despite all the challenges that Covid-19 caused us, we have used this time wisely to transform our visitor experience, create a vibrant, exciting exhibition space and improve our accessibility, enabling us to welcome more, diverse visitors. We can also be proud of how our charity, through the most difficult of times, pivoted our activity so rapidly to ensure we were there to support those families whose curiosity still needed sparking.

Achieving all of this has come at a cost. The pressure on the charity has been immense. Rising to this challenge was no mean feat and required the complete dedication and hard work of our staff and trustees. We have remained fully focused on our strategy, our finances, our mission and have had to make difficult decisions in response to this unprecedented crisis.

The majority of science centres found themselves ineligible to apply for the Government's Culture Recovery Fund, due to the conditions of the grant. As independent educational charities, we have an important role to play in supporting young people in STEM. Expert science communication and informal STEM experiences promote greater access, diversity and inclusion, and have a positive impact on the lives of young people. We will continue to work to raise awareness of our sector with government so that science centres are recognised for the important contribution they make.

> "Despite all the challenges that Covid-19 caused us, we have used this time wisely to transform our visitor experience, create a vibrant, exciting exhibition space and improve our accessibility, enabling us to welcome more, diverse visitors.
>
> CEO Ben Ward

Thanks once again to the support we have received from our funders, and the investment we have been able to make in our science centre, we are confident we can focus on our future priorities as set out in this report. In 2021/22 we will be piloting and testing improved outdoor STEM experiences and undertaking a major digital development project Inspiring Science For All Digitisation (IS4AD), funded by Enterprise M3 LEP, which includes a new CRM, website and an online resource hub for schools and families.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our long-standing trustee Martin Read, who stepped down from the role at the AGM in December 2020. Martin will be missed, he has given unwavering support, encouragement and leadership and has been integral to the charity's success.

In February 2020, our dear friend and patron, John Roundell Palmer, The 4th Earl of Selborne GBE FRS DL, passed away. We have included a dedication to Lord Selborne on the last pages of this report and thank him for the support he has provided our charity for so many years.

We hope you enjoy reading more about our endeavours of this past year and our plans for the future. The recovery from covid-19 will be long and hard. Our actions over the last year, however, have shown that we are ready, able and willing to embrace those challenges head on.

Thank you.

BEN WARD

Chief Executive Officer

DR TOBY KING

Chair of Trustees

RESPONSE TO COVID-19 – SURVIVE TO THRIVE

Pre Covid-19 we were on track to deliver the final stage of our Science Centre's strategic development plan, Inspiring Science for All (IS4A), and eager to embark on the next critical phase of our charity's development - the growth and diversification of our programmes beyond the Science Centre, to build further resilience and have greater impact. The pandemic threatened to derail all our plans. But it hasn't, and here's why.

Diligent financial management

No stone has been left unturned in our bid to maintain the strongest position possible throughout the pandemic and to ensure our charity's future. Years of prudent financial management and fundraising success had meant we started the financial year in a strong position. Although we fully understood the need to cut costs quickly to secure our future, we needed to find the right balance that enabled us to continue to make a difference at such a crucial time. Constant financial management and extensive scenario planning informed our every decision. We welcomed the government's Job Retention Scheme, although we still had to make painful decisions to reduce our team. We took a Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan (CBILS), a business rates holiday, deferred a VAT payment and with the support of our suppliers renegotiated and paused contracts whilst we closed the centre.

Nothing about 2020/21 has been easy but thankfully, we won support from several funders including two major funders, which has helped us remain focused not only on our finances but also on our mission to spark curiosity and build science capital for all.

Powerful strategic leadership

Strategic leadership has been central to the charity's recent years of success. In 2020/21, in response to the pandemic, the Board of Trustees held 5 additional board meetings to understand the possible and likely ongoing impact of the pandemic on the charity, especially finances and risk.

Despite the challenges faced, we remain committed to delivering our four strategic objectives. To progress this, the Board of Trustees formed a Strategy Working Group to identify the future priorities integral to delivering our four strategic objectives. The group recommended three specific priorities: (1) to develop outdoor STEM experiences, (2) to restructure and evolve branding and (3) diversify and expand activities.

In parallel with this, the Board approved a Covid-19 Recovery Plan documenting a three-phase approach: Regroup, Recover and Rebuild.

Unwavering support from partners and funders

We received unwavering support from our project partners and funders to successfully complete the incredible transformation of our visitor experience in 2020 (see pages 26-31). Further support from Enterprise M3 LEP and Garfield Weston Foundation, transformed our charity's outlook, helping to aid our recovery from Covid-19 and maintain our focus on the next critical stage of our strategic development (see Future Plans pages 44-45).

The strength of our stakeholder relationships has been evident by our ability to continue working throughout the pandemic. Our efforts to create mutually beneficial partnerships with others who share our passion for STEM, including universities, STEM companies, local teachers and national STEM providers have earned us strong, long-term support and opportunities for future developments.

Science centres have an essential role in building science capital

Covid-19 has reaffirmed that we all need to engage with science, but there is a massive inequality of access to high quality STEM opportunities. Over a quarter of children in England have low science capital - the 'tool kit' of science-related qualifications, interest, literacy and social contacts that influence how young people from all backgrounds engage with science - limiting their aspirations and life opportunities.

Our science centre and delivery of experiences beyond our centre provide a safe environment where people (especially children) are given the freedom to ask questions and to develop the confidence and ability to ignite change. These will be the children who will be there to solve the challenges we know we face and the ones we cannot yet foresee.

We believe that all children should be given the opportunity to access and participate in STEM and that science centres have a unique ability to do this.

Over 150 leading voices from the UK's STEM community signed an open letter to government urging them to support science centres through the Covid-19 crisis, highlighting the unique role they play in creating access to high quality STEM experiences across the UK.

Signatories included eight Nobel Prize winners, Professor Brian Cox, astronauts Major Tim Peake and Helen Sharman, Professor Sir Robert Winston, Sir Venki Ramakrishnan, Professor Alice Roberts and Professor Jim Al-Khalili.

CHARITY IMPACT

Our charity is on a mission to inspire every child in science...because all our futures depend on it.

Founded in 1986, Winchester Science Centre is a well-established independent educational charity with a strategic vision of Sparking Curiosity and a mission To Build Science Capital for All.

We strive to remove social, cultural and intellectual barriers to inspire and engage all children in STEM, particularly those with a disability or impairment, so that we might raise children's aspirations and confidence, promote diversity and inclusion, and overcome inequality within the STEM sector.

By sparking and harnessing children's curiosity in STEM, and by removing barriers to engagement, we believe we can give children the confidence, ambition and freedom to improve their own lives, the lives of others and ultimately life on Earth through STEM.

As experts in communicating STEM to children and families, we do this through creating 'WOW!' experiences that are fun, inclusive, immersive, interactive and accessible. Reaching out to children in innovative ways through our Science Centre, in schools, in communities and online, and through connecting and collaborating with Universities and Industries. Evaluation helps to measure success and inform our development.

The Board of Trustees has complied with the duty in Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charitable company's aims and objectives. The Trustees ensure that all activities either are directly in pursuit of the strategy or contribute towards it.

In spite of the challenges presented by Covid-19, we are immensely proud of how we have been able to adapt our delivery methods to ensure our mission remains at the forefront of everything we do.

TIMELINE

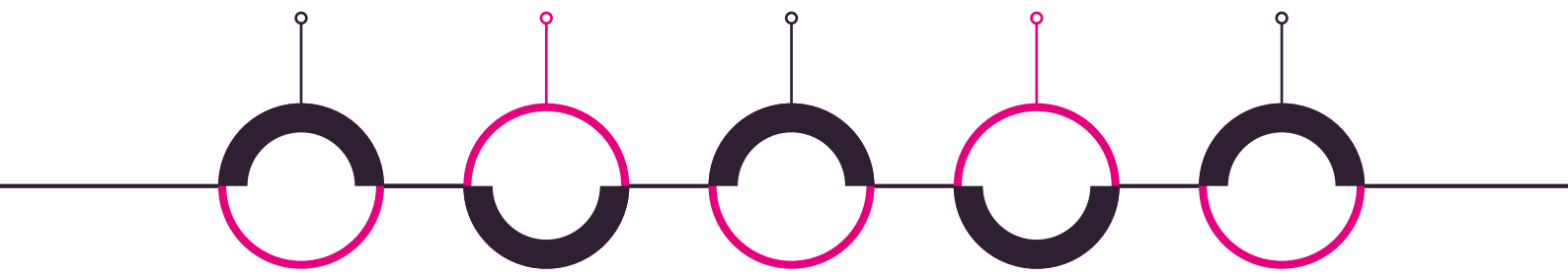
1986
Charity founded

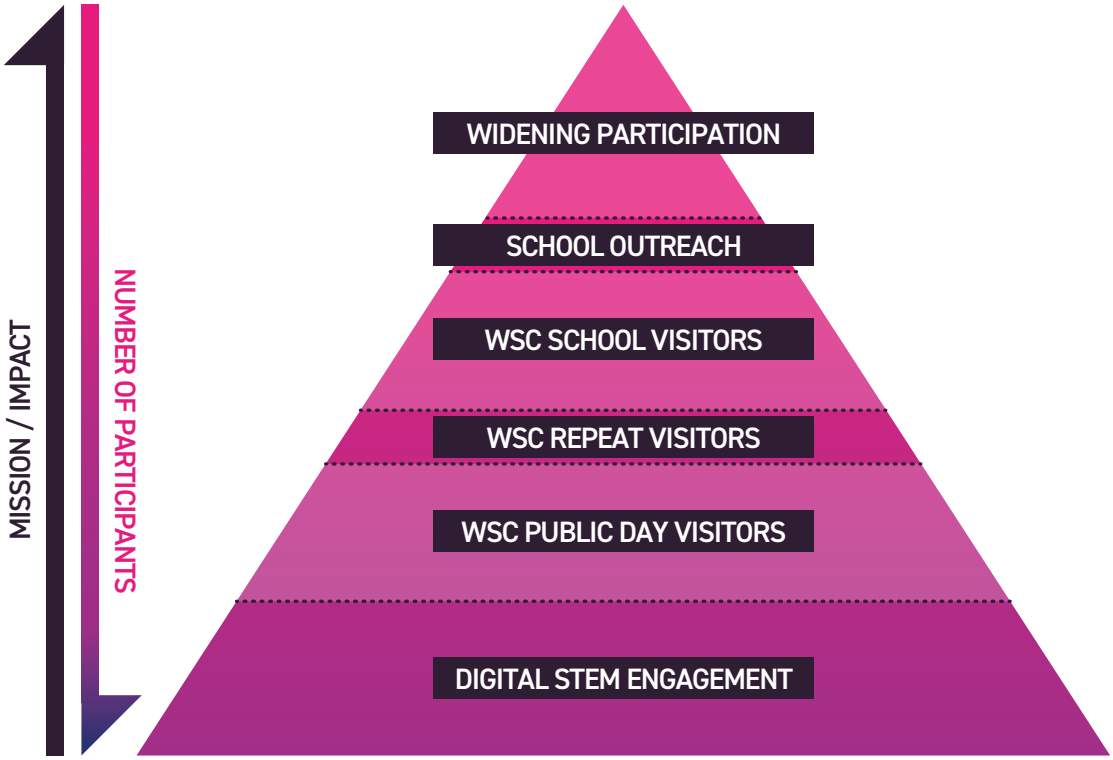
2002
New award-winning premises, funded by the Millennium Commission

2008
Opened the planetarium

2010
Awarded STEM Ambassador contract for Hampshire

2013
Changed name to Winchester Science Centre





2017

- Published a new five-year strategic plan
- New emphasis on live, people-led experiences for public and schools
- Partnership in public engagement with University of Southampton
- Awarded the STEM Ambassador contract for Central South England

2018

- Opened major new exhibition, Explorer:Space
- Launched the Ultimate STEM School Trip with new tiered pricing for schools
- Established a Widening Participation programme and priority schools' programme

2019

- IS4A development plan fully funded and phase 1 completed
- UKs most accessible Planetarium opened
- Changing Places toilet installed
- Bringing Research to Life, STEM research public engagement zone opened
- Partnership in public engagement with University of Surrey

2020

- IS4A development plan phase 2 completed
- Complete transformation of the visitor experience
- New sound, vibration and hearing exhibition
- Bio:Space and Science Live! created
- Recombobulation Room created
- Remodelled welcome area, café and shop
- Acoustic treatment installed
- Science@Home launched
- New digital engagement programme piloted

WHERE WILL
YOUR CURIOSITY
TAKE YOU?

STRATEGY

OBJECTS

To advance the education, knowledge and understanding of the public, in particular the young, in basic technological and scientific principle and processes, particularly through the improvement of links between industrial, commercial and educational bodies and institutions

STRATEGY

OUR VISION

SPARKING CURIOSITY

OUR MISSION

TO BUILD SCIENCE CAPITAL FOR ALL

OUR VALUES

- QUALITY
- TOGETHER
- MISSION
- CUSTOMERS
- SUSTAINABILITY

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- Work collaboratively with new under-served communities removing barriers to engagement particularly for those living with a disability or impairment
- Amazing people delivering awe inspiring STEM experiences for all
- Use STEM to champion change to protect and heal our planet and inspire others to do the same
- Diversification, sustainability and growth.

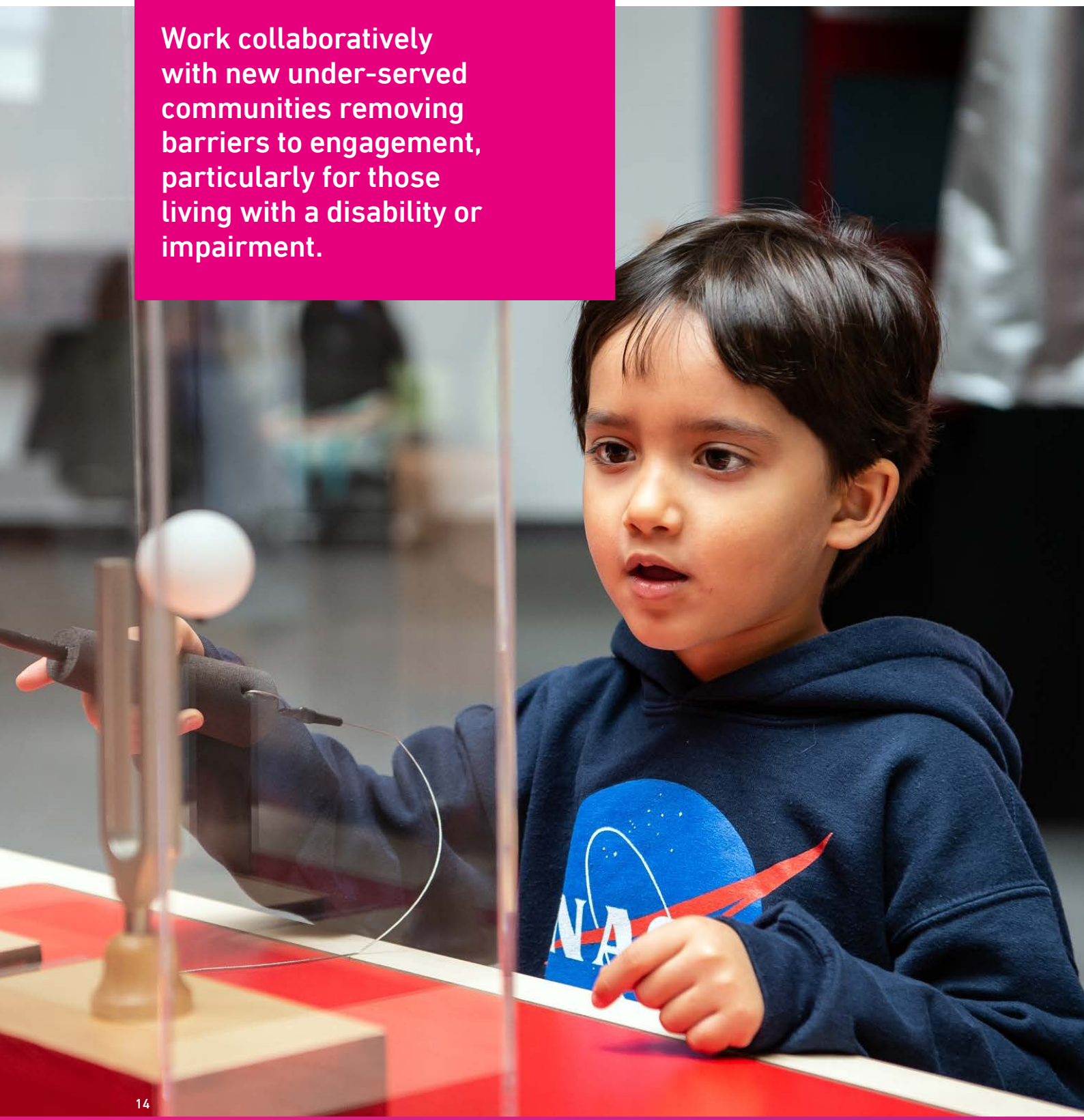
FUTURE PRIORITIES

- Develop our outdoor STEM engagement
- Restructure group, evolve branding
- Diversify and expand activities

COVID-19 RECOVERY PLAN

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1

Work collaboratively with new under-served communities removing barriers to engagement, particularly for those living with a disability or impairment.



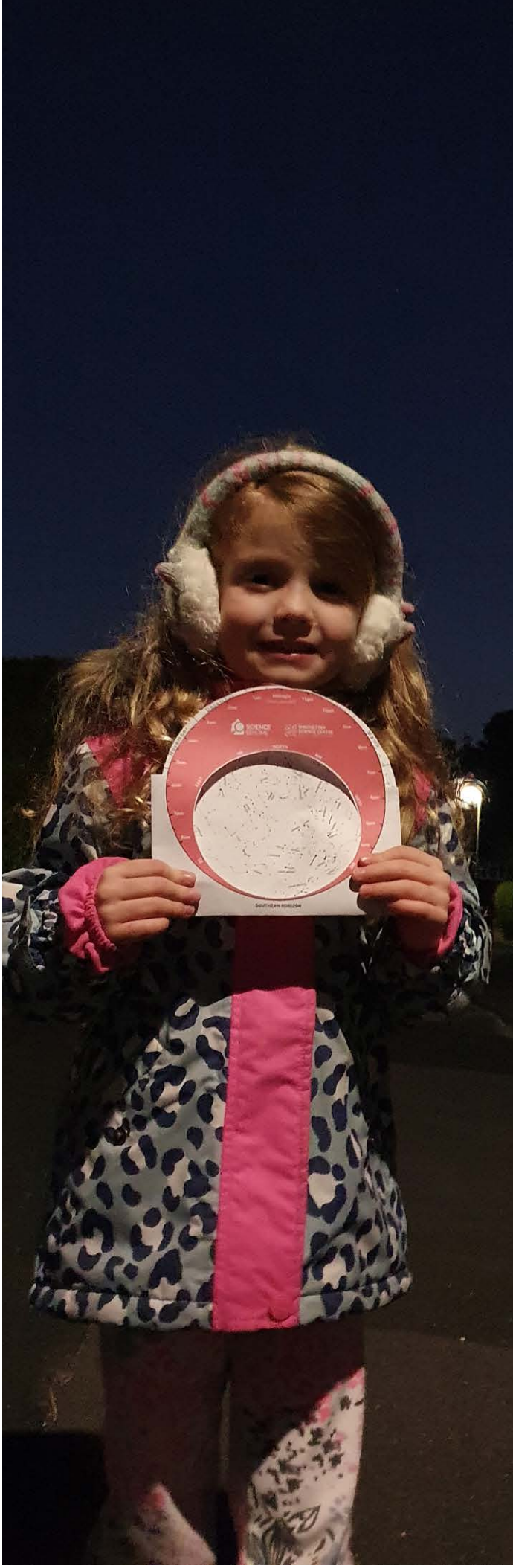
Our trademark science engagement is founded on direct interaction with inspiring STEM role models, live science demonstrations and hands on opportunities, both at our Science Centre and out in the community. When the global pandemic was declared and the country went into its first lockdown in March 2020 it became clear that we needed to find new ways of working in order to deliver on our mission.

Achieving greater diversity and inclusion is integral to our mission of building science capital for all. We were determined to continue to reach out to our priority communities to build upon the excellent progress made over the previous years and reopen our Science Centre with the new accessible experience we had promised our visitors.

The planned in-school workshops, pop-up community events and other activities would no longer be possible. Many events planned for 2020/21 were cancelled, including: the in-person repeat engagement activities planned for children who attended our Noel Turner Science Festival on the Isle of Wight in February 2020; the parent workshops that we had intended to trial in our priority schools in Southampton; our pop-up science festival, due to take place in Westquay Shopping Centre, Southampton; and co-delivered science activities at Portsmouth Pride with our partner Airbus.

Thanks to the support of our funders and partners and the dedication of our team, we were able to adapt our programme to include new digital school workshops in priority schools, and continue our development of the Science Centre to improve access.

As the year progressed, it became evident that there was a digital divide in our society. We launched a non-digital Science@Home activity pack – an inspirational, educational and, above all else, fun, space-themed activity - delivered to families receiving essential food parcels from Fareham and Gosport Basics Bank. The packs were designed to spark curiosity in STEM and raise aspirations for children whose families may be facing crisis. One hundred packs have reached families so far.



DIGITAL CLASSROOM FOR PRIORITY AREAS

In summer 2020, with agreement from funders The Goldsmiths' Company and The Ogden Trust, we diverted funds to develop and pilot a programme of free virtual classroom workshops for schools, which we offered to all primary schools on the Isle of Wight and to our priority schools in Southampton.

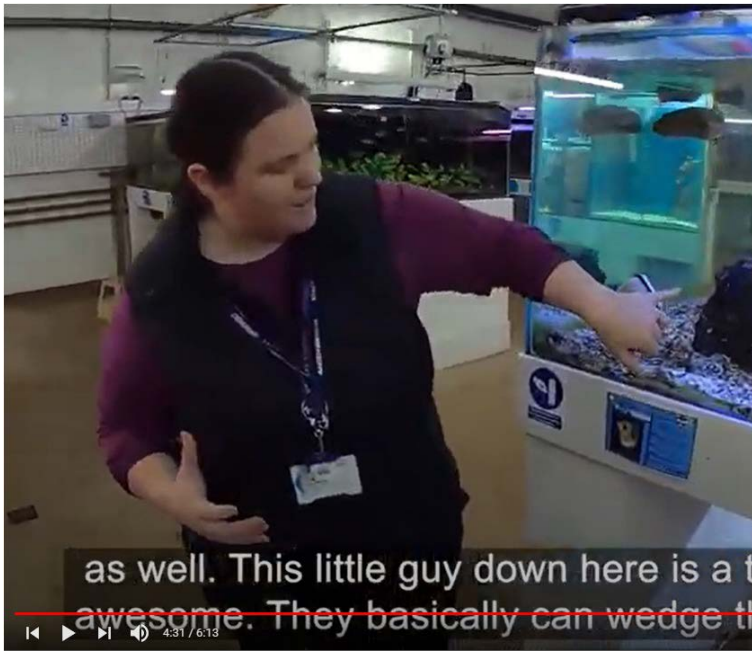
The three-part virtual classroom workshop included: live demonstrations, a 'meet the scientist' film showing inspiring STEM role models in their places of work, and a live Zoom call with the scientist for a Q&A session. Teachers received a worksheet to help facilitate the workshop.

The pilot programme reached 690 children through 23 workshops in 10 schools, many of these children would not have had the opportunity to take part in extra-curricular science activities before.

Thanks to funding from NI, a further 12 workshops were put into development, featuring STEM Ambassadors from organisations such as the National Oceanography Centre, The Royal Engineers, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, NI and RFEL. Due to the third national lockdown and school closures, workshops set to take place from January to March 2021 are rescheduled for the next financial year.

> "Being able to link with the Science Centre through Zoom with live interaction really engaged our children with minimal effort. Currently, our remote location on the Isle of Wight and area of disadvantage means this could not have happened otherwise. The pupils could ask questions directly, which gave more value to the questions the pupils produced and the answers given by the experts."
>
> "The pupils REALLY enjoyed the session and were able to write a reflection on the lesson which shows how much they learnt from it."
>
> Teachers from Nine Acres Primary School, Isle of Wight

> "They thoroughly enjoyed it! The added excitement of the screen and asking questions to you over the internet gave it an extra special feel ... they found it very thought provoking and inspiring."
>
> Teacher from Bembridge CE Primary, Isle of Wight



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emselves in rocks

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WINCHESTER SCIENCE CENTRE WINS GOLD FOR 2020/21 FOR THE BEAUTIFUL SOUTH'S, ACCESSIBLE AND INCLUSIVE TOURISM AWARD

This award recognises that Winchester Science Centre provides a truly memorable visitor experience for everyone, particularly those with accessibility requirements. It is an award we are extremely proud to receive, having pledged through our strategic plan to make accessibility a priority.

In line with the guiding principle, 'no decision made about me, without me', we established the Accessibility Advisory panel in 2018, to inform the decision-making process regarding accessibility improvements. The panel, who represent a wide range of disability and impairment, has played a key role in the charity's development strategy by providing valuable advice on new initiatives. In particular, they have helped to inform the Science Centre's development plan IS4A.

In 2019/20 we completed the first phase of our redevelopment, which included the installation of a Changing Places toilet and a new Planetarium system able to provide greater access. This year, 2020/21, we completed the final phase, which included the creation of a Recombobulation Room - a sanctuary for anyone who needs a break from the hustle and bustle of the Science Centre.

Our fabulous Airbus Zephyr 6, an unmanned solar powered aircraft that had previously been watching over our welcome area, moved to a new location against a striking backdrop of the South Downs National Park. It's suspended amongst 30 fluffy white and grey clouds, handmade in Somerset by The Woolly Shepherd, an industry leader in sustainable acoustic treatments. These clouds aren't just visually impressive pieces of scenery, they are Sound Clouds and play an important part in helping to solve some of the noise issues that can be overwhelming for some of our visitors. We have also been able to fill the tip of our sonic rocket exhibit and new internal dividing walls with wool off-cuts to provide an additional acoustic benefit.

Further acoustic treatment gifted by Ecophon, can be seen suspended from the pyramid-shaped ceiling, taking the form of abstract waves, colourful art installations and even an acoustic 'tree', complete with birch ply trunk and acoustic panels in the shape of English oak leaves. These visually striking additions are all working to improve noise 'hot-spots' identified by acoustic consultancy Sustainable Acoustics and their organic forms bring a feeling of nature, reminiscent of the surrounding South Downs.

Not all our accessibility developments are as visible as those included above. When we set out to build an exhibit about British Sign Language, we contacted d/Deaf charity Chloe's and Sophie's Special Ears Fund (CSSEF) to bring real-life experience to the exhibit. The exhibit features embedded videos of a young BSL user Tianna that guide visitors through a fun series of questions that help visitors learn a bit of BSL for themselves.

Prior to reopening in October 2020, we invited CSSEF to come and experience the Science Centre firsthand and feedback about their visit.

the Beautiful South
AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE
2020 - 2021
GOLD

"It was an absolute pleasure to attend. I'm so thankful that you asked us along and to know that Tianna is going to be on computer is just incredible. The impact this will have for many is unmeasurable. We'll definitely be returning when you are open to see it all in action."

The thought that has gone into everything will be missed by many but so appreciated by so many SEN families."

Karen Jackson, Founder, CSSEF

"All of the staff were amazing! We loved the live science shows. And thank you so much for making a recombobulation room. You go above and beyond with your accessibility - thank you!"

Visitor Survey Response, October 2020

All our activities are created to be accessible and are delivered by a well-trained, disability confident team. We are enormously proud of our team who consistently deliver a professional, friendly and welcoming service.

A post-visit survey sent to families who visited the Science Centre in October 2020, recorded that 15% of visitors said that they or a member of their party had a disability or impairment that significantly impacted on their lives, an increase of 25% on the previous year. Significantly, the Net Promoter Score for these respondents was 66, an increase of 9 points compared to the previous year. When compared with the Net Promoter Score for all respondents we recorded an increase of only 4 points.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2

Amazing people delivering awe-inspiring STEM experiences for all

On 29 March 2020, at the start of the first national lockdown, we launched Science@Home, a series of weekly STEM challenges to help families and schools spark curiosity in STEM, for what was initially expected to be a three-week lockdown. We're proud to have been able to sustain the programme for the remainder of the academic year, finishing with six 'summer sizzles' to provide families with fun STEM activities for the summer holiday.

Whilst we moved our experiences online, we proceeded with the final phase of IS4A, the £690k redevelopment of the Science Centre. Despite some initial disruption, we worked with our suppliers to a revised timetable and delivered a total transformation to the upper exhibition floor on time and to budget, ready for our relaunch and reopening in October 2020. Work included the redesign of the welcome area, café and shop, creation of a major new exhibition about sound, vibration and hearing and Bio:Space, a new inside/outside nature-themed experimentation zone – as well as a creation of the Recombulation Room and live science demo area on the lower level.

Following a successful October launch, we were forced to close our doors once again for a second lockdown in November, and following a short reopening in December, we closed for the remainder of the year for a third national lockdown.

We opened for a total of 23 days in 2020/21, compared to a normal year when we would have been open for over 360 days. We were overwhelmed by the incredible response of our visitors to changes we had made and despite the third closure, were able to feel confident that families were keen to return.

SCIENCE@HOME

Our digital Science@Home campaign reached over one million people during the first lockdown and illustrated the incredible potential of digital activity to start a conversation about science with a wide audience.

As families and schools faced huge challenges responding to enforced school closures, we were able to provide tangible support for 5 – 12 year olds, their families and teachers. Over three phases (phase 1 - Curiosity Challenges, phase 2 – STEM career profiles and phase 3 – Science Sizzles) we aimed to maximise engagement in STEM but also build support for our charity whilst our Science Centre remained closed.

Social media was the primary tool used for the promotion of Science@Home and activity relating to the programme reached over 1.4 million people. The programme was promoted widely through third parties and media.

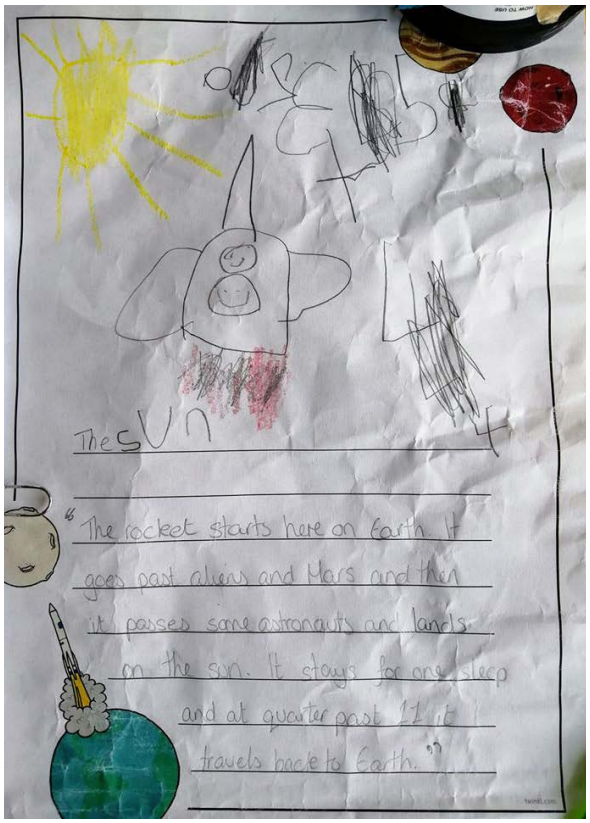
CHRISTMAS CODING PANTOMIME

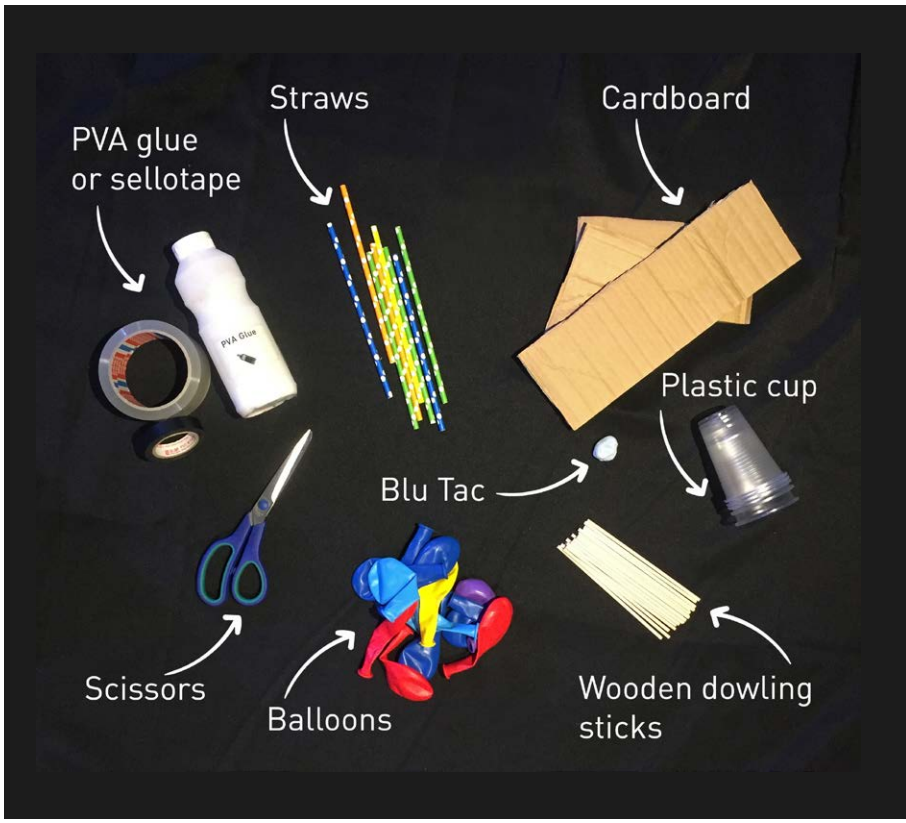
We were delighted to support Hampshire-based social enterprise company Get With The Programme to develop a digital Christmas Coding Pantomime for primary schools.

We used STEM Learning's national schools' network to distribute the twenty-minute digital pantomime and accompanying classroom resources to nearly 2,500 schools,

reaching approximately 250,000 children across the UK

The pantomime delivered a much-needed fun Christmas activity whilst also providing a great introduction to coding, STEM enrichment and inspiration.


The SUN
"The rocket starts here on Earth. It goes past aliens and Mars and then it passes some astronauts and lands on the sun. It stays for one sleep and at quarter past 11 it travels back to Earth."


PVA glue or sellotape
Straws
Cardboard
Plastic cup
Blu Tac
Scissors
Balloons
Wooden dowling sticks

WINCHESTER
SCIENCE CENTRE
AND PLANETARIUM

BACK
WITH
A
BANG
SCIENCE LIVE

BACK WITH A BANG

Following a two-and-a-half-year programme from design to construction, the £1.1m redevelopment of the Science Centre, which included the upgrade of the planetarium and installation of a Changing Places in 2019/20, was finally completed and open for visitors to experience in October 2020.

Extensive care and planning had gone into creating a safe and welcoming environment for visitors.

We were delighted with the number of visitors we welcomed in the opening two weeks, with more than 1,000 people visiting over the opening weekend and more than 7,000 visiting during the 11 days of half term, with most days reaching full capacity.

> "Really does spark curiosity! Great new exhibits and wonderful variety of planetarium shows. Very Covid-19 compliant and just a great day out."
>
> Facebook review - October 2020

19,459

video views on social media.

The most popular of which was our live stream of the Science LIVE giant lightbulb demo with over 1,400 views.

VISITOR SURVEY RESPONSES:

The incredible response from families who visited in October provided a huge boost to the team. Not only did the redevelopment receive glowing reviews, the feedback also showed how confident visitors felt regarding the Covid-19 safety measures put in place and how much they valued the warm welcome and enthusiasm of our staff.

The post visitor survey was completed by 241 respondents. The Net Promoter Score, which measures how likely visitors are to recommend the Science Centre to friends increased to 62 from 58 (603 respondents) the previous year, a significant improvement.

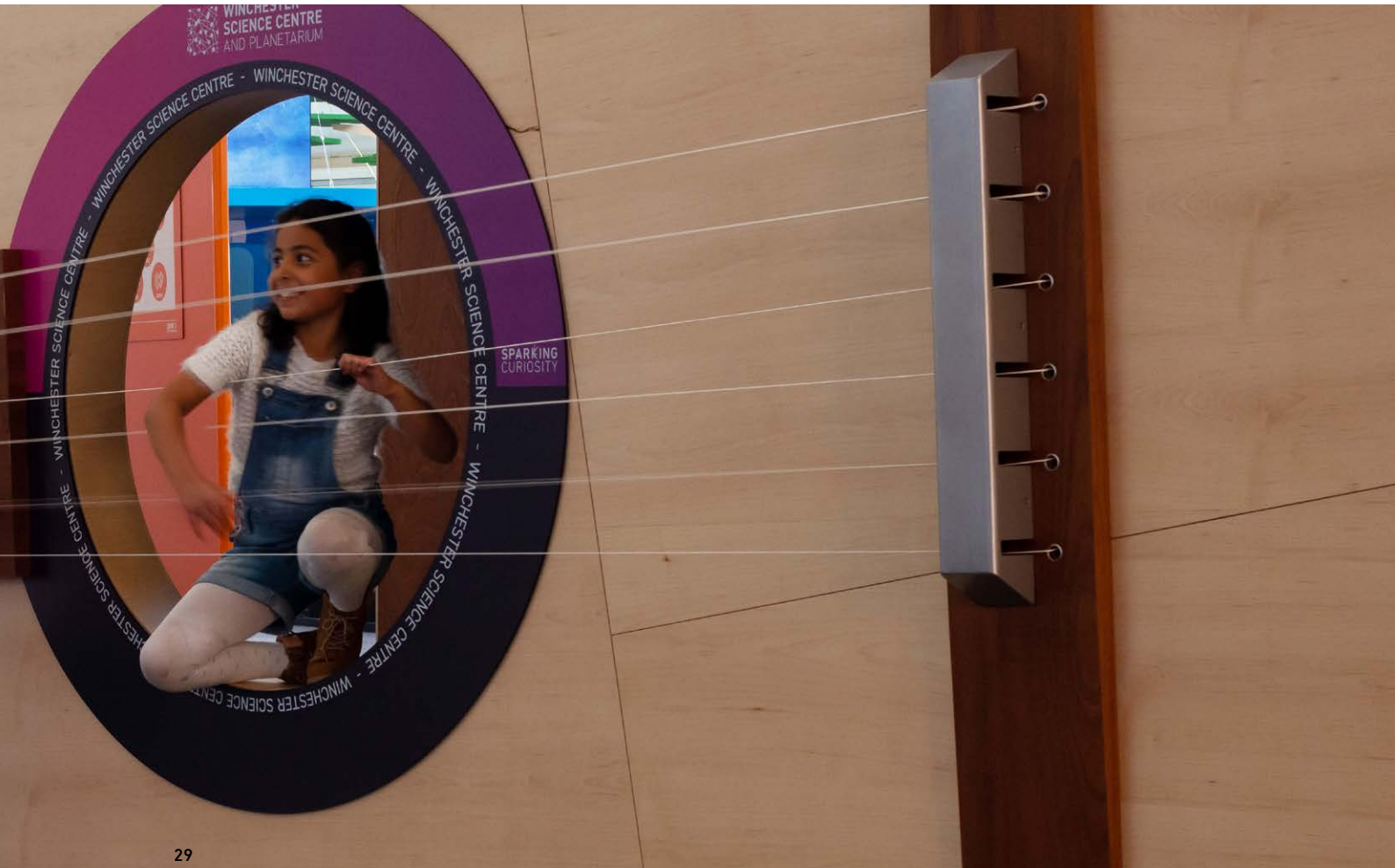
"Great team, brilliant shows and such a great venue to have on our doorstep. Thank you for all the efforts put into reopening!"

Visitor survey feedback - October 2020

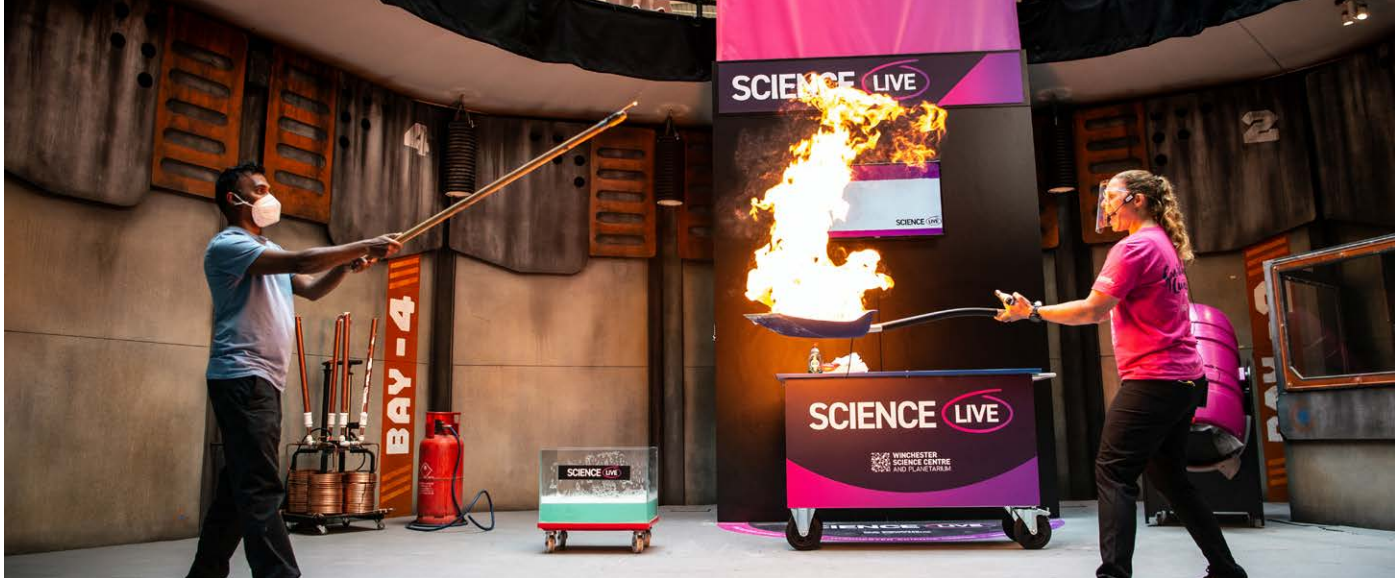
Visitors felt their senses come alive as they explored the sights and sounds of the exciting new interactive exhibition themed around sound, hearing and vibration.

The redesigned entrance area and team of smiling staff present a warm and inviting welcome. From the entrance you get a glimpse of the exhibition within the enormous pyramid shaped building, and the promise of the excitement that awaits. The exhibition features five iconic installations, including a huge 10m long playable guitar believed to be the largest in Europe, an acoustic sonic rocket that blasts you off to select locations to experience what they sound like and a massive human ear that's large enough to crawl through.

Look up and you'll see the new aerial acoustic panels suspended from the pyramid, look out and you'll see the Airbus Zephyr 6 in amongst acoustic clouds and stunning views of the rolling hills of the South Downs. We set out to create an inspirational space that can excite and engage all our visitors, and we've done it.



As you walk through the exhibition you'll see people gather around the central atrium, overlooking the lower level. Look down, and you'll meet the gaze of an energetic presenter who encourages you to come closer and even invites your participation. This is a space for big bold demonstrations - a spectacle of flaming bubbles, coloured smoke rings or socks fired like missiles from an air canon.



Head to the south east corner of the exhibition floor and you'll find Bio:Space, a brand new inside/outside zone dedicated to nature-based activities and experimentation. Guided by an Inspirer, it's a great space for children and families to think about our natural world from a scientific perspective, and explore nature first-hand by heading out into the South Downs.

People inspire people. The exhibits, live science shows, demos, planetarium shows, activities and trails spark curiosity, give children and adults the freedom to ask questions, start conversations and even change behaviours. Our live science programme has grown out of continuous evaluation and our understanding of the significance of these moments. Our Inspirers are regularly mentioned by name by visitors leaving reviews and responding to post-visit surveys because of the impact they have and the lasting impression they leave.

We love to bring inspiring STEM role models to children. As you explore the exhibition, you'll find full-height people profiles, showcasing diverse people in diverse STEM roles, what inspired them, the journey they took, what they love about their jobs and what they would say to their own young self. Two areas within the exhibition have been created to allow for regular guest appearances from STEM researchers and professionals, something we're really excited to build upon as confidence levels around face-to-face contact grows.

Every child who visits the Science Centre is given a new Humphrey the Humpback Whale Trail, linked to one of the feature exhibits that explores underwater sounds and their effect on marine life, it's filled with activities to complete during their visit. Upon completion of the trail, children are presented with a sustainable medal to take home as a reward for taking part.

> **“When we arrived, my 7-year-old said ‘oh NO, not science, how boring’. She’s now begging me to take her back.”**
>
> Visitor Feedback Survey, October 2020

The masterplan for the upper floor was created by renowned exhibition and narrative designers Houghton Kneale Design Ltd (HKD) and its construction was completed by experienced exhibition fabricators, The Moule Partnership (TMP). The acoustic treatment was designed by Sustainable Acoustics and delivered by Ecophon and The Woolly Shepherd, and lighting design by Designs for Lighting.

The redevelopment has been made possible by the generosity of our funders: Enterprise M3 LEP, Biffa Award, The Garfield Weston Foundation, Hampshire County Council, Winchester City Council and others.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3

Use STEM to champion change to protect and heal our planet and inspire others to do the same

No corner of the globe is immune from the devastating consequences of climate change [...] While science tells us that climate change is irrefutable, it also tells us that it is not too late to stem the tide.

United Nations, The Climate Crisis – A Race We Can Win

Located in the South Downs National Park, combined with over 35 years' experience in science communication, Winchester Science Centre is uniquely positioned to play a lead role within our region to address the climate emergency. Our strategic objective is therefore to inspire and empower the next generation of STEM professionals who will be able to take on this monumental challenge.

Through our Science Centre, we have ambition to use our rural yet prominent setting, our passion for science, and our network to facilitate an ongoing conversation and spark curiosity about environmental sustainability, biodiversity loss and climate change. This new strategic objective puts the environment at the forefront of our programme and development, demonstrating our commitment to taking responsibility for our own actions and empowering others to do the same.

In 2020, we opened Bio:Space at Winchester Science Centre, a major step forward in establishing an environmental programme for visitors. Further planned developments for the zone include a schools' experience and extending activity to incorporate our own green spaces as well as our location in the South Downs National Park. Seed funding from Garfield Weston Foundation is enabling us to further explore and develop our plans in 2021/22.

The Board continues to recognise our impact on the environment and strives to reduce our environmental footprint. We intend to drive down our non-recyclable waste and prioritise the ongoing reduction of our Scope 1 emissions.

BENEATH THE BLUE

Our Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Southampton has led to many exciting collaborations, including Beneath The Blue with Professor Martin Solan, Professor in Marine Ecology within Ocean and Earth Science, National Oceanography Centre Southampton at the University of Southampton. Beneath The Blue is a new large interactive exhibit which now dominates the Science Centre's Bringing Research to Life zone.

The exhibit communicates the importance of sediment under the sea, how humans interact with it and its importance to the environment.

The theme is continued within the main exhibition itself, with a whole new suite of exhibits and family trail that explores many aspects of marine conservation, from plastic waste to noise pollution designed to engage visitors with environmental sustainability and STEM.

BIO:SPACE

Our new inside/outside nature-based experimentation zone, which came to fruition as part of the Science Centre's redevelopment plan IS4A, opened in October 2020. Children are encouraged to explore and discover the surrounding South Downs National Park, through nature-themed challenges that look at the birds, butterflies and bees as well as native plants and the ecology of the area.

The Science Centre is situated in the South Downs National Park and directly connected to the important Butterfly Conservation Reserve, Magdalen Hill Down. The rewilding of the Science Centre's own land has been taking place for several years, and is carefully managed to promote the biodiversity of the area. New interpretation panels have been developed with Butterfly Conservation and now line the footpath from the car park to the Science Centre to raise awareness of this unique landscape. Students from Winchester College, under supervision from school staff, have created and established a pond to further encourage wildlife to thrive.

Bio:Space, which encompasses all the Science Centre's green space, marks a new strategic initiative for our charity and a testbed for environmental sustainability programmes that will support long-term development in this area.

"Drain away the ocean and you will reveal the largest and most diverse habitat on Earth – the seafloor."

Professor Martin Solan BSc Hons, PhD

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4

Diversification, sustainability and growth

Over the last four years we have mitigated the major risks facing our charity. Replacing the lower exhibition in 2018, the planetarium in 2019 and the upper exhibition in 2021, and building digital channels has dramatically improved our visitor experience and increased our charity's reach.

At the start of 2020, we were looking forward to beginning a new phase of development, to diversify and improve our charity's long-term impact and position. The pandemic has reinforced what we know, that diversification is critical to the long-term sustainability of our charity and ability to deliver on mission.

Prior to 2020/21, the Science Centre would have welcomed visitors for 360 days of the year, closing only for Christmas Day and Boxing Day, and three days of annual maintenance. In 2020/21, the Science Centre only opened for general admission for a total of 23 days. Yet the need for our charity did not disappear overnight, we needed to find new ways deliver our commitments and to continue to engage with our priority audiences, families and schools, particularly those involved in our Widening Participation programmes on the Isle of Wight, Southampton and Gosport.

DELIVERING CONTRACTS IN NEW AND INNOVATIVE WAYS

Our STEM NOW Team continued to deliver the STEM Ambassador Hub Central South England contract, coordinating the volunteer programme for the region. By finding new and innovative ways to bring together STEM Ambassadors, schools and children, our team attracted the attention of the national Ed Tech Demonstrator Programme and in December 2020, at their national summit, delivered a workshop on how to support the curriculum using digital methods.

Examples of the types of engagement the team facilitated, are: STEM Masterclasses for STEM Ambassadors and educators, Digital Ambassadors Programme for priority schools, facilitating STEM Clubs and activities for Cubs, Scouts and Brownies via Zoom, and providing online careers fairs and mentoring.

The number of active STEM Ambassadors for the year was 928, versus a target of 842, which amounted to a total of 13,901 volunteer hours, versus a target of 11,395. The STEM NOW team also coordinates the BSA CREST Awards for eight counties in England and is uniquely positioned to bid for further regional and national STEM engagement contracts. These contracts not only support our charitable aims, they provide necessary regular guaranteed income.

THE START OF A NEW DIGITAL ERA

Technology has saved the day during the pandemic, enabling us to quickly find new ways of engaging with our audiences virtually through virtual classroom workshops and our Science@Home programme. This rapid test demonstrated that digital activity can be a powerful tool in helping us to increase our reach and complement our other activities.

We are delighted to have received funding from Enterprise M3 LEP to invest in our digital infrastructure and develop new digital content that will both support the visitor experience and help us to provide STEM engagement opportunities nationally. The project began in 2020/21 and will be ready to launch in 2021/22.

Digital has become a recognised stream of engagement for our charity that will run alongside and complement our on-site experiences delivered at the Science Centre and our outreach activities offered in schools and through our Widening Participation programme. We will seek further funding and partnerships to develop and grow this channel of engagement.

THE ULTIMATE STEM SCHOOL TAKEOUT

Winchester Science Centre welcomes in the region of 40,000 school children annually to take part in The Ultimate STEM School Trip. But with the Science Centre's doors firmly closed for most of the year and schools not expected to recommence school visits until September 2021, the team accelerated plans to develop an equally brilliant outreach experience – The Ultimate STEM School Takeout!

The new all-you-can-eat buffet of at-school activities, aimed at primary aged students, is now complete and ready for launch in summer 2021. Schools can choose from four exciting topics all linked to the current curriculum, forces, sound, coding and material properties. They can choose to structure the day in a typical classroom style or as a themed journey of discovery, where all activities are linked through a story. Pre-visit resources linked to the chosen topic, on-the-day workshops and a post-visit project are all included.

A 20-minute optional show, filled with explosive demos and interactive experiments can be used for a whole or partial school assembly, aimed at exciting students, reinforcing the scientific method and leaving students talking about the show's wow moments afterwards. And to complete the legacy of learning, resources with teacher notes will be left to help support the delivery of the scientific method in future lessons.

FUNDRAISING

Fundraising has been instrumental to our charity's ability to weather the tumultuous storm of the global pandemic. The support from existing funders is testament to our team and the relationships we have cultivated. It is only from the support given by our partners, funders and stakeholders, that we have been able to continue working throughout the year and remain committed to delivering our long-term strategic objectives.

We started the year with full funding in place, banked and pledged, to complete IS4A and are delighted to report that we retained and realised 100% of this income, enabling us to deliver a new visitor experience for our reopening in October 2020. Our thanks go to Enterprise M3 LEP, Biffa Award, The Garfield Weston Foundation, Hampshire County Council, Winchester City Council and others for supporting this important development championing accessible STEM experiences for all.

Further support from Sustainable Acoustics, Ecophon, The Woolly Shepherd, Designs for Lighting and Enterprise M3 LEP allowed for the design and installation of a striking aerial acoustic treatment and lighting. Managing known noisy hotspots and improving ambient noise levels throughout the Science Centre has created a much more welcoming and inclusive experience for visitors and better working environment for our staff.

Funders' response to the pandemic has largely focused on support for front line charities. Despite lobbying at National level, the science centre sector has been largely overlooked. Fortunately, two of our existing funders Enterprise M3 LEP and The Garfield Weston Foundation reached out to offer their support.

Early discussions with Enterprise M3 LEP about further funding to 'digitise' IS4A were accelerated as the first lockdown emphasised the need for alternative ways to engage with our audiences. A grant of £260,000 was agreed in autumn 2020 for the complete overhaul of our digital infrastructure. A new CRM and ticketing system, websites and accessible online STEM content will improve and enhance our visitor experiences, extend our reach and enable us to connect with new audiences and improve business efficiencies.

A grant of £488,500 from The Garfield Weston Foundation in February 2021 transformed our charity's fortunes. It has helped support our recovery and enabled us to focus on the future. The seed funding provided through this grant allows us to begin to implement long-held plans to reduce risk, build resilience and grow impact. We believe the leadership shown by the Foundation is an endorsement of our charity that will encourage others to give and support our fundraising efforts going forward.

Although the doors of the Science Centre have been closed for nearly all of the year, we have retained our focus on mission. Existing grants held for Widening Participation community-based activities were reassigned to new, digital science communication activities with the permission of The Goldsmiths' Company and The Ogden Trust. We welcomed new support from NI to provide off-line STEM packs to families who have been unable to access digital learning during the pandemic.

Our efforts to create mutually beneficial partnerships with others who share our passion for STEM, including universities, STEM companies, local teachers and national STEM providers have earned us strong, long-term support and opportunities for future developments. In particular we have continued to work collaboratively with the Universities of Southampton, Surrey and other research organisations to maximise opportunities for public engagement exhibits and activities. Whilst our progress has been slowed down by the pandemic, we look forward to resuming these initiatives in the coming year.

The funding landscape has changed considerably as a result of the pandemic and consequently we have put our plans for an Individual Giving scheme and roll out of a Corporate Friends scheme on hold for now. We look to build upon our existing corporate partnerships where mission aligns and mutual benefits can be explored.

If you would like to help us inspire every child in science, we would love to hear from you. Please contact: fundraising@winchestersciencecentre.org or call 01962 863791 and ask to speak to the Fundraising Team.

Winchester Science Centre is registered with the Fundraising Regulator and is compliant with the Code of Fundraising Practice. All fundraising activity is undertaken by the Fundraising Team, in accordance to the Fundraising Policy and Procedures, with support and oversight from the Fundraising Committee. Funding is sought from trusts and foundations, government, corporate sponsorship and through partnership agreements with industry and universities. All donations are given freely from individuals, including the invitation to Gift Aid admission. Winchester Science Centre does not use any third-party fundraiser or seek funding from vulnerable people. No complaints have been made in relation to fundraising activities.

OUR SUPPORTERS

We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to the following organisations for the incredible support they have given our charity.

- Acoustic 24
- Acoustic Arts
- Airbus
- ASDC
- Biffa Award
- Designs for Lighting
- Ecophon
- Enterprise M3 LEP
- Garfield Weston Foundation
- Hampshire County Council / IAC Acoustics
- Kirby Laing
- NI
- O'Sullivan Family Charitable Trust
- Steel Charitable Trust
- Sustainable Acoustics
- The Goldsmiths' Company
- The Ogden Trust
- University of Southampton
- University of Winchester
- Winchester City Council
- Private donors

VOLUNTEERING

The Trustees and staff thank all our volunteers who have given their time, skills and expertise to support our charity. STEM Ambassadors have donated 13,901 volunteer hours through the STEM Ambassador programme. Volunteers make a huge contribution to the Science Centre.

Student interns enrich our visitor experience through the development of workshops and shows while engaging visitors in STEM activities. STEM Ambassadors and participate at special events at the Science Centre and within school and community settings across the region.

We would also like to thank our industry partners who encourage, enable and fund their staff to participate in the STEM Ambassador programme.

FUTURE PLANS

The Trustee Strategy Working Group, set up in response to the pandemic, has set out three future priorities in order to improve the resilience of our charity and its income streams, and increase our impact.

1. DEVELOP OUR OUTDOOR STEM ENGAGEMENT

The pandemic has temporarily shifted society's focus from the climate emergency. The UN predict that we have just one decade within which to take action and begin to reverse our planet's decline. We are committed to using our science communication expertise to help protect and heal our planet and inspire others to do the same. Utilising the land immediately surrounding our Centre, within the South Downs National Park, to expand our visitor offer to communicate urgent climate change messages and create powerful agents for change of our visitors is an urgent priority. A key thrust underpinning our ambition is building partnerships with organisations that share our environmental aims.

Thanks to seed funding from The Garfield Weston Foundation, project scoping for a new outdoor school offer has already begun and will pilot and test in 2021/22. A new outdoor building, planned to be built in summer 2021, will provide a valuable new resource to grow our schools capacity and widening our audiences.

2. RESTRUCTURE GROUP, EVOLVE BRANDING

As well as the science experiences that we offer through our Science Centre, we engage children and families across the region through outreach activities. Digital activities delivered during the pandemic have highlighted the potential to remove geographical barriers and extend our reach, particularly through schools, nationally.

A new group structure and development of a non-geographic, accessible and inclusive umbrella brand for the charity will broaden our reach and build resilience through the development of national programmes and partnerships. We seek to retain existing brand capital and associations, whilst creating a new efficient framework within which current and future activities can thrive.

3. DIVERSIFY AND EXPAND ACTIVITIES

Existing and piloted activities have shown the potential to generate additional income that can build the charity's resilience. With investment to develop, we can take these initiatives from good to great so that they develop a surplus to be reinvested in charitable activity. Activities will include but are not limited to: develop and deliver national programmes, enhance school outreach and pop-up science centre experiences, and create and distribute digital STEM content for schools and families.

Whilst schools have been unable to visit the Science Centre, the team prioritised the development of a new schools' outreach programme for launch in 2021. New digital STEM experiences will be created for schools through IS4AD and provide exciting new funding and partnership potential.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

OVERVIEW

In this, the most challenging and unprecedented year the charity has ever faced, we are reporting income of £1,488k and expenditure of £1,849k resulting in a deficit of £361k. Throughout 2020/21 the Trustees have kept a near constant eye on the evolving developments of Covid-19 and monitoring the impact on the charity's finances throughout.

Over recent years our charity has recorded a surplus, while continuing to deliver on our objectives, reduce risks and invest in our infrastructure. It is expected, through strong financial management that the charity will return to a stable position once the effects of the pandemic have subsided. Therefore, the 2020/21 financial statements, like that of most organisations around the world, cannot be read in isolation and without understanding the impact of Covid-19.

INCOME

The charity contracted heavily as a result of the pandemic with income being down on the prior year by 53% (£1,692k). There is an expectation that for this charity and many like us, 2020/21 will be the anomaly and our charity is planning for a rapid recovery from Covid-19. It is encouraging that areas such as fundraising, sponsorship and our work through STEM NOW continues to provide reliable and much needed income, even throughout the pandemic.

Donations and legacies - note 3

The accounts show that Donations and Legacies increased in the year by £278k (42%) against the prior year as these funds include Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (£415k) and support for the charity (£24k) and the trading subsidiary (£24k) from Winchester City Council in response to Covid-19. This one-off and critical support for the charity has been vital to the success of the last 12 months and our long-term survival.

The charity's fundraising strategy continues to support our transformation as reported earlier and these accounts recognise the significant restricted fundraising income for the capital projects allowing the charity to continue and complete these essential projects. The charity continues to receive the vast majority of its fundraising as restricted funds which are not available for use by the charity except for these specified purposes.

The Trustees are also exceptionally grateful to our funders especially Garfield Weston Foundation, Enterprise M3 LEP and Airbus for their continued investment in our work through these challenging times.

Income from charitable activities - note 4

The science centre admission income for the year was £141k, clearly demonstrating the scale of the lost revenue through closure as, against prior year, income was down £1,198k (89%). For the first time in our history the charity is recording no revenue from schools, one of our most important of audiences, down £260k on prior year. The charity is looking forward to the return of school visitors later in 2021.

The Trustees are encouraged though by the continued work of the STEM NOW team throughout the crisis as the contribution made to the charity from our work in this area was maintained. Whilst income was down 23% against the previous year, the majority of this was due to an agreed reduction in the STEM ambassador contract and is offset by a concurrent reduction in expenditure.

Income from trading activities - note 5

As expected with such limited trading through this difficult year, the charity received no income from fundraising events, a fall of £173k against prior year. Trading operations, when able to, performed admirably although we are posting a drop in revenue against prior year of £537k (89%).

EXPENDITURE

The charity is reporting expenditure of £1,849k which against the prior year is down £834k (31%). All areas of the charity are reporting lower than prior year expenditure with the one exception being spend of restricted funds investing in our new exhibition, ongoing engagement projects and digital resources.

People costs - note 11

Our charity took the difficult decision to restructure early in the pandemic once the scale of the challenge we faced became apparent. As a result of this prudency, delayed pay rises and a recruitment freeze, people costs, including furlough payments, were down against prior year by £198k (16%). It is vitally important to the Trustees that despite the challenges we have faced this year that the staff team be resilient and ready for recovery, so investment in schemes to support wellbeing and good mental health has continued through the year. There is confidence that as the charity begins to open its doors once more that our strongest asset, our people, are ready to continue our impactful work.

Expenditure on charitable activities - note 7

The charity has continued to deliver activities such as Science@Home and has achieved targets set for the ambassador programme throughout the pandemic. Despite this work continuing unabated, expenditure on charitable activities has reduced by £397k (20%) against prior year.

Expenditure on raising funds - note 6

Restrictions on trading through the year resulted in a decrease of costs associated with trading to raise funds of £421k (64%). Fundraising costs for obtaining donations and grants also decreased by £15k (37%) as the team was restructured.

Fundraising costs represent 6% of the £419k received in fundraised income in the year.

Governance and support costs - note 8

The government's rate relief scheme and savings from mothballing the building for the majority of the year has enabled the charity to reduce premises costs by £239k (76%) against the prior year.

RESERVES POLICY

Our charity's reserves policy is set to manage unforeseen financial difficulties. The level of unrestricted reserves required is set based on forecast income and expenditure and the likelihood of material risks crystallising which would not be covered by future income or insurance.

The reserves policy is set with regard to the:

- **Annual budget** - set to ensure our future expenditure levels are matched to the income we receive from operating the Science Centre and other grants and contracts.
- **Risk management process** - assesses the impact and likelihood of all risks to the charity and the appropriate level of short-term reserves to be held.

The Trustees have assessed the impact and likelihood of uninsured risks to create an expected value, which is reduced by the assessment of mitigating controls, to set the appropriate level of short-term reserves to be held. This value is formally reviewed on an annual basis with the opportunity for any material changes to be picked up within the risk review process.

Previously we aimed to hold unrestricted free reserves of £600k - £800k, equivalent to four months expenditure, however the past year has demonstrated that we were able to react quickly to reduce our cost base and deliver our charitable aims without access to our building, therefore this range has been revised to £250k - £300k to support up to 3 months of scaled back operations.

Reserves outcome:

Following a year of closure due to Covid-19, unrestricted reserves were £1,834k, of which £150k were designated and £1,683k were general unrestricted. These reserves are not readily available to Trustees being more than represented by fixed assets of £2,088k. The Trustees are committed to rebuilding the levels of unrestricted free reserves over the coming years by ensuring a consistently outstanding visitor offer, securing new and diverse income streams, further enhancing the profitability of our trading subsidiary and by maintaining close financial controls across all activities.

PRINCIPAL RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

Covid-19 has dramatically changed the risk profile of our organisation and forced us to re-evaluate the risks facing our charity. The investment in our Science Centre through IS4A has removed key risks, such as, investing in a new planetarium system has reduced the risk of critical failure; and investment in our visitor experience reduces the risk of a decline in visitor numbers due to an ageing poor-quality visitor offer.

The relaunch and reopening of our Science Centre in October 2020, demonstrated that people did want to visit and were confident in the experience we provided, although further lockdowns prevented us from testing this over a sustained period, and therefore remains an ongoing concern.

In response to the crisis, Trustees have met regularly to discuss risk and evaluated the work of the Senior Management Team closely.

The Trustees are responsible for ensuring that there are effective, adequate risk management, and internal control systems in place to manage the strategic and operational risks the charity is, and could be, exposed to.

The Chief Executive operates and maintains a comprehensive risk register for the organisation, which feeds current and potential risks from the departments into the wider organisational risks.

The main risks facing the organisation are reviewed at the quarterly Trustee Board meetings and progress on risk mitigation plans is discussed.

The Audit and Risk Committee meet at least twice per year to review the full risk register and evaluate the changes recorded in the risk register.

Major capital projects maintain their own risk registers that feed through into the charity's risk register and are owned by the Chief Executive and reported to and evaluated by the Trustees.

PRINCIPAL RISKS

	Risk	Risk Trend in 2020/21	Reason for trend:
1	Further interruption to our ability to trade and deliver activities due to pandemic	NEW RISK	The charity has managed the financial impact of the pandemic well however the risk of further interruptions cannot be ignored. The government support through the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS), local government grants and other schemes such as Business rate reduction and VAT deferral have been vital to our survival however these policies are not guaranteed in the event of any future outbreak.

RISK MITIGATION STRATEGY

- The charity has a taken a Coronavirus Business Interruption loan (CBILS) and the charity's cash flow has headroom to allow for further short-term interruptions to trading. The charity has a robust cash flow forecast that includes repayment of the debt as soon as practically possible.
- The charity has an unused overdraft facility in place and an excellent working relationship with our bankers.
- The Board of Trustees and executives are managing expenditure very closely.
- The Trustees are reviewing the going concern status of the charity at regular intervals including downside planning to include interruptions to trading.

	Risk	Risk Trend in 2020/21	Reason for trend:
2	Underinvestment in infrastructure	↑	Investment in infrastructure is an ongoing challenge and coupled with the ageing building, has the potential to have a detrimental impact on trading. The primary risk is failure of the heating and cooling system.

RISK MITIGATION STRATEGY

- The charity maintains a property risk register with priorities identified for future development.
- The facilities team deliver regular planned preventative maintenance to ensure the key assets are well maintained and their lifespan extended.
- The Director of Finance is developing a long-term capital expenditure plan in conjunction with future budgets.
- The fundraising committee is delivering on a long-term strategy to raise additional funds to support these key assets.

	Risk	Risk Trend in 2020/21	Reason for trend:
3	Overreliance on a single income stream	↑	The charity's income portfolio is heavily dependent on the indoor visitor attraction which exists in a competitive landscape.

RISK MITIGATION STRATEGY

- The charity's strategic plan recognises the importance of this risk and is specifically designed to address this long-term risk.
- The charity has a clear future priority to develop outdoor STEM engagement to help mitigate against weather dependency.
- The charity is testing and piloting a new digital offer to support further partnerships and funded programmes.

ENERGY CONSUMPTION AND CARBON EMISSIONS

We are committed to reducing our environmental impact. Measuring our current energy usage and carbon footprint will help us to record the improvements we make and identify further opportunities for energy efficiencies. This forms a key component in delivering strategic objective 3.

We know that one of the most significant things we can do to not only reduce our carbon footprint, but also mitigate against the significant risk of complete heating failure, is to replace our inefficient oil-fueled boilers. We are investigating how sustainable technologies could be used to heat, cool and light our building to reduce our environmental impact.

Energy Consumption and Emissions:

		18/19	18/19 CO_2 Tonnes	19/20	19/20 CO_2 Tonnes	20/21	20/21 CO_2 Tonnes
ELECTRICITY	KWh	301,168	69.60	288,420	66.65	97,643	24.72
HEATING OIL	litres	33,000	83.82	34,049	86.49	12,410	31.53
BUSINESS TRAVEL	miles					443	0.12
FUEL PURCHASE	litres	Data not readily available for these periods	Data not readily available for these periods	Data not readily available for these periods	Data not readily available for these periods	75.27	0.1
WATER	cubic meters	2,619		1,930		629	
APPROXIMATE TOTAL CO_2 TONNES			153.42		153.14		56.47

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Winchester Science Centre is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity. It is governed by its Articles of Association, which sets out the charity's powers and authorities. The objective of the charity is detailed in the Articles of Association:

To advance the education, knowledge and understanding of the public in particular the young, in basic technological and scientific principles and processes, particularly through the improvements of the links between industrial, commercial and educational bodies and institutions.

The charity's wholly owned subsidiary, Sparking Curiosity Ltd, operates the onsite shop and café. Sparking Curiosity Ltd has a licence from the charity to operate those facilities and gift aids the maximum permissible amount of its profits to the charity (see note 10 to the accounts).

The principles of good governance by which Winchester Science Centre operates and is held accountable comply with the Charity Governance Code for larger charities (2020). These principles are documented in our Code of Governance.

The Board of Trustees hold all of the charity's powers and authorities.

The Board is ultimately responsible for the overall control and strategic direction of the charity and for the protection of its assets. The Board receives regular updates on the major risks likely to affect the charity and ensures these are properly documented and that mitigating actions are in place and actively managed. The Board receives regular updates on the handling of personal data held by the charity and ensures the policy and procedures are compliant with the GDPR (2018) legislation.

Operational management is delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, Ben Ward, and the senior management team.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Trustees, who are also Directors under company law, are elected by members of the Board at the Annual General Meeting and serve for a term of three years.

Trustees can be re-appointed up to a maximum of three terms by mutual agreement. The performance of individual Trustees, including the Chair, is informally reviewed each year. All Trustees give their time freely and no Trustee received remuneration in the year. Details of Trustee expenses and related party transactions are disclosed in notes 11 and 23 to the accounts.

Board Effectiveness

The Board undertook an internal Board effectiveness review in spring 2021, resulting in an action plan which will be progressed in 2021/22.

Organisation

The Board meets quarterly and has established the five following Committees: Audit and Risk, Remuneration, Nominations, Discovery and Learning, and Fundraising.

The Audit and Risk Committee is independent of the management of the Science Centre and has been granted the standing and resources to report directly with opinion and oversight to the Board of Trustees on: the effectiveness of internal controls, issues arising from financial reports, the management of risk, delivering value for money, governance effectiveness and the Charity's whistleblowing arrangements. The committee is also responsible for making recommendations to the Board of Trustees in relation to the performance, appointment, reappointment and removal of the external auditors.

The Nominations Committee reviews the structure, size and composition of the Board and considers succession planning. The committee makes recommendations to the Board for approval of the following:

- Appointment of new Trustees
- Appointment of Chair and Deputy Chair of the Board of Trustees
- Appointment of Trustees and Chair of Board Committees
- Appointment of Trustees and Chair to the Board of the charity's subsidiary
- Appointment of the Chief Executive Officer
- Candidates for Honorary Life membership

The Board carried out a skills, experience and diversity of background audit of Trustees in October 2020. The results of the audit informed the Nominations Committee prior to commencing the recruitment process in spring 2021 for two new trustees. When recruiting new Trustees the Board aims to attract a diverse range of candidates with the skills the charity needs. It values the benefits of a membership with a variety of backgrounds, expertise and experience. Ultimately, though, all Board appointments are based on merit within the context of achieving a balance of skills and experience. New Trustees undertake an induction programme that includes coverage of: the charity's aims and how they are being fulfilled; the Code of Governance including Committee structures and decision-making processes; the business plan and recent financial performance. During induction, Trustees meet the Chief Executive, members of the Senior Management Team and fellow Trustees. Trustees are encouraged to attend appropriate external training events where appropriate.

The Remuneration Committee reviews the salary and benefits of the CEO and members of the Senior Management Team on an annual basis. The committee considers individual performance in the year against the objectives set in each individual annual review and, on that basis, makes a salary review recommendation to the Board for approval.

The Discovery and Learning Committee provides strategic input and makes recommendations to the Board regarding the appropriateness of the scientific and educational content of the strategic plan. The committee assesses the overall scientific and educational value of the charity's programme, reviews activities aimed at widening participation and assesses the effectiveness of ongoing academic collaborations.

The Fundraising Committee contributes expertise as well as regional and industry sector perspectives to the development and successful operation of the fundraising programme. Members contribute ideas related to fundraising and marketing and engage with other Trustees to open up new fundraising sources.

The responsibility for developing the fundraising strategy and delivering the routine fundraising activities rests with the fundraising team. The committee acts to strengthen the effectiveness of this team by providing independent oversight, reviewing progress against objectives, and by offering advice and active assistance where appropriate.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

This table shows Trustees' committee membership and meeting attendance 2020/21

	AGM	Board (5) Covid-19 (5)	Audit and Risk (3) Covid-19 (1)	Nominations (3)	Renumeration (2)	Discovery and Learning (1)	Fundraising (3)
CHAIR							
Dr Toby StJohn King	✓	10/10 (chair)	1*	2/3	2/2		
DEPUTY CHAIR							
Dr Ian C Jenkins	✓	10/10	2*	3/3 (chair)	2/2		
TRUSTEES							
Mr Jeremy C Booker	✓	10/10	4/4 (chair)				
Dr Dolores Byrne	✓	10/10	3/4				3/3 (chair)
Mr Philip J Guest	✓	10/10	3/4				
Mrs Tajinder Leonard	✓	10/10		2/3			3/3
Professor Diane G Newell	✓	8/10				1/1 (chair)	
Mr Adrian A Owen		10/10	4/4				
Mrs Sue Parr	✓	10/10				1/1	2/3
Professor Janet Preston		10/10		3/3		1/1	
Dr Martin P Read (retired 15 December 2020)	✓	6/8		2/2			1/2
Mrs Sara Sullivan	✓	9/10		2/3	2/2		
Mrs Elizabeth M Wallace	✓	10/10		3/3	2/2 (chair)		

** In attendance*

Related parties and co-operation with other organisations

Any relationship between a Trustee or senior manager of the charity with a university, sponsoring company exhibition, or an organisation contracted to work for the charity is openly disclosed to the Board. The CEO was a Trustee of The Association of Science and Discovery Centres (ASDC) to whom the charity paid £1k for annual membership and grant fees. The charity received £11k from ASDC to deliver the Destination Space and Science Capital programmes and for a digital engagement grant to run in 21/22.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The charity Trustees (who are also the directors of Winchester Science Centre for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing a Trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). Company law requires the charity Trustees to prepare financial statements for each year that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the parent charitable company and the group, and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable group for that period. In preparing the 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 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 business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006.

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

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.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

PROVISION OF INFORMATION TO AUDITORS

So far as each of the Trustees at the time the report is approved are aware:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the auditors are unaware and,
- They have taken all the steps they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information, and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

Auditor

A resolution to reappoint Haysmacintyre LLP as auditor will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting.

The Trustees' Annual Report was approved by the Board of Trustees on 20 July 2021 and signed on its behalf:

Toby King

DR TOBY KING

Chair of Trustees

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF WINCHESTER SCIENCE CENTRE

Opinion

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of Winchester Science Centre for the year ended 31 March 2021 which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, Consolidated Balance Sheet, Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 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 group's affairs as at 31 March 2021 and of the group's net movement in funds, including the income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- 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 charity 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 group'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.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Trustees' Annual Report and the Chair's statement. 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.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, 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 audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. 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.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF WINCHESTER SCIENCE CENTRE

Opinion 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 (which includes the strategic report and the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the strategic report and the directors' report included within the Trustees' Annual Report have 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 group and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Annual Report (which incorporates the strategic report and the directors' 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 by the group; or
- the group 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.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 55, the trustees (who are also the directors of the group for the purposes of 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 group'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 group 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 is detailed below.

Based on our understanding of the group and the environment in which it operates, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to charity and company law applicable in England and Wales, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011.

We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls) and determined that the principal risks were related to revenue recognition, and management override of controls. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- Inspecting correspondence with regulators;
- Discussions with management including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulation and fraud;
- Reviewing the controls and procedures of the charity relevant to the preparation of the financial statements to ensure these were in place throughout the year, including during the Covid-19 remote working period;
- Evaluating management's controls designed to prevent and detect irregularities;
- Identifying and testing journals, in particular journal entries posted with unusual account combinations, postings by unusual users or with unusual descriptions, and
- Challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in their critical accounting estimates.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located 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 group'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 group'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 group and the group's members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

JANE ASKEW

Senior Statutory Auditor, For and on behalf of
Haysmacintyre LLP,
Statutory Auditors
10 Queen Street Place
London
EC4R 1AG

Date: 21 July 2021

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

(incorporating an income and expenditure account) For the year ending 31 March 2021

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total Funds 2021 £'000	Total Funds 2020 £'000
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3	659	281	940	662
Charitable activities:	4				
Science Centre		238	-	238	1,424
Engagement and Outreach		196	7	203	288
Income from Investments		-	-	-	2
Other trading activities	5	107	-	107	804
TOTAL		**1,200**	**288**	**1,488**	**3,180**
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds:					
Other trading activities	6	258	-	258	694
Charitable activities:	7				
Science Centre		1,251	165	1,416	1,665
Engagement and Outreach		175	-	175	323
TOTAL		**1,684**	**165**	**1,849**	**2,682**
Net income:		**(484)**	**123**	**(361)**	**498**
Transfer between funds	20	406	(406)	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		**(78)**	**(283)**	**(361)**	**498**
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward	20	1,912	699	2,611	2,113
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		**1,834**	**416**	**2,250**	**2,611**

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year, and all income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

CONSOLIDATED AND CHARITY BALANCE SHEET

As at 31 March 2021

	Note	Group 2021 £'000	Group 2020 £'000	Charity 2021 £'000	Charity 2020 £'000
Fixed assets:					
Tangible assets	13	2,429	2,305	2,429	2,305
Current assets:					
Stocks	14	19	22	1	5
Debtors	15	308	152	297	112
Cash at bank and in hand		884	678	803	661
Total current assets		**1,211**	**852**	**1,101**	**778**
Liabilities:					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	16	(788)	(411)	(741)	(664)
Net current assets		423	441	360	114
Total assets less current liabilities		2,852	2,746	2,789	2,419
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	18	(602)	(135)	(602)	(135)
TOTAL NET ASSETS		**2,250**	**2,611**	**2,187**	**2,284**
THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY	20				
Restricted income funds		416	699	416	699
Unrestricted funds:					
Designated		150	136	150	136
General unrestricted		1,684	1,776	1,621	1,449
Total unrestricted funds		1,834	1,912	1,771	1,585
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS		**2,250**	**2,611**	**2,187**	**2,284**

Winchester Science Centre (the parent entity) made a deficit for the financial year 2020/21 of £(97)k (2019/20: £433k surplus). The financial statements of the Winchester Science Centre (registered number 02014929) were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 20 July 2021.

Signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees

DR TOBY KING

Chair of Trustees .....

The notes on pages 64 – 77 form part of these financial statements

CONSOLIDATED AND CHARITY STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the year ending 31 March 2021

	Note	Group 2021 £'000	Group 2020 £'000	Charity 2021 £'000	Charity 2020 £'000
Cash flows from operating activities:					
NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES	**A**	**204**	**1,490**	**140**	**1,479**
Cash flows from investing activities:					
Purchase of plant and equipment		(502)	(607)	(502)	(607)
NET CASH USED IN INVESTING ACTIVITIES		**(502)**	**(607)**	**(502)**	**(607)**
Cash flows from financing activities:					
Repayment of borrowing		(28)	(47)	(28)	(47)
Cash inflows from new borrowing		536	-	536	-
Interest paid		(4)	(6)	(4)	(6)
NET CASH (USED IN)/PROVIDED BY FINANCING ACTIVITIES		**504**	**(53)**	**504**	**(53)**
Increase/(Decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the year		206	830	142	819
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		678	(152)	661	(158)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE YEAR	**B**	**884**	**678**	**803**	**661**

CONSOLIDATED AND CHARITY STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS (CONTINUED)

For the year ending 31 March 2021

NOTES TO THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT

A) Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow generated from operating activities

	Group 2021 £'000	Group 2020 £'000	Charity 2021 £'000	Charity 2020 £'000
Net income/(expenditure) for the year	(361)	498	-97	433
Adjustments for:				
Depreciation charges	372	324	372	323
Decrease in stocks	3	3	4	1
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	(156)	661	(185)	699
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	332	(6)	32	12
Loss on disposal	6	5	6	5
Interest paid	4	6	4	6
Notional interest paid on CBILS loan	4	-	4	-
NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES	**204**	**1,490**	**140**	**1,479**

B) Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	Group 2021 £'000	Group 2020 £'000	Charity 2021 £'000	Charity 2020 £'000
Cash in hand	884	678	803	661
TOTAL CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	**884**	**678**	**803**	**661**

C) Analysis of changes in net debt

	As at 1 April 2020	Cash-flows	Non-cash changes	As at 31 March 2021
Unrestricted cash	303	453	-	756
Cash restricted to projects	375	(247)	-	128
Overdraft facility repayable on demand	-	-	-	-
Loans falling due within one year	(24)	24	(69)	(69)
Loans falling due after more than one year	(135)	(536)	69	(602)
TOTAL	**519**	**(306)**	**-**	**213**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ending 31 March 2021

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of accounting

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) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historic cost convention. Winchester Science Centre meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Winchester Science Centre is a company limited by guarantee and incorporated in England and Wales. The Registered Office is: Telegraph Way, Morn Hill, Winchester, Hampshire, SO21 1HZ.

Group financial statements

The Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA), Consolidated Balance Sheet and the Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows consolidate the financial statements of the charity and its subsidiary undertaking. The results of the subsidiary are consolidated on a line by line basis.

No separate SOFA has been prepared for the charity alone as permitted by Section 408 of the Companies Act 2006.

Preparation of accounts on a going concern basis

The Group's planned primary source of income continues to be visitors to the Science Centre. In the 20/21 financial year during the closure caused by coronavirus this has been supplemented by the government backed job retention scheme. At the end of the year further support was received from the Garfield Weston Foundation to support the Group's recovery through 21/22.

After careful consideration of the Groups's current financial position, with due attention paid to the ongoing situation caused by the coronavirus pandemic, the Group's cash flows, liquidity and borrowings, and revised future plans and prospects, the Trustees are confident that the Group has adequate resources to continue in operation for the foreseeable future which is at least 12 months from the date of approval of these financial statements. Accordingly, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the accounts.

Income

Income is recognised when the Group has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount is measurable.

Donated services and facilities

On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the Group, which is the amount the Group 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.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the Group. Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the Group which the Trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a particular purpose.

Restricted funds

Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the Group's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the Group.

Expenditure

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 headings:

- Costs of raising funds comprise the costs of commercial trading including the shop and café and their associated support costs. It also includes a proportion of the cost of front-of-house staff.
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs of exhibitions, educational and other activities undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs.

Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the Group but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, finance, facilities, personnel, IT and governance costs which support the Group's activities. These costs have been allocated between the cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities. The basis on which support costs have been allocated are set out in note 8.

Tangible fixed assets

The Group has elected to use the 'deemed cost' option on transition to FRS102 for Land and Buildings which have been revalued as at 31 March 2014 and have been depreciated from that date. Other tangible fixed assets are capitalised at cost and are depreciated on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful economic lives as follows:

Asset category	Annual rate
Intellectual assets	10%
Planetarium	10% - 33⅓%
Office equipment	20%
Computer equipment	33⅓%
Technical equipment	10% - 33⅓%
Exhibition equipment	20% - 33⅓%
Equipment library	20%
Motor vehicles	25%
Freehold buildings	2%
Freehold land	Nil

Stock

Stock is included at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Debtors

Short term debtors are measured at transaction price, less any impairment.

Creditors

Short term trade creditors are measured at the transaction price. Other financial liabilities, including bank loans, are measured initially measured at the transaction value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Operating leases

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

Corporation tax

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

Any profits generated from the charity's trading subsidiary Sparking Curiosity Ltd will be transferred to the parent with a gift aid payment and therefore no taxation is due.

Financial instruments

The Group has financial assets and 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 with the exception of bank loans and mortgages, which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Judgements in applying accounting policies and key sources of estimation

In the application of the Group's accounting policies, described in the accounting policies above, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates. The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period or in the period of revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

The Trustee representatives consider that the following are key estimates;

- Depreciation of fixed assets is charged over the useful economic life of the assets. Trustees and management review the useful economic life on an annual basis.
- Bad debt provisions – debtors are reviewed regularly to assess likelihood of recoverability. A provision of bad debt is estimated based on these reviews. At the year end, no bad debt provision has been made (2020:£1k).

2. LEGAL STATUS OF THE CHARITY

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity.

3. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Donations and grants	458	606
Government Support:		
Job Retention Scheme	415	-
Other	60	-
Membership subscriptions	7	56
TOTAL	**940**	**662**

The charity benefits greatly from the involvement and enthusiastic support of its many volunteers, details of which are given in our annual report. In accordance with FRS 102 and the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the economic contribution of general volunteers is not recognised in the accounts.

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Science Centre:		
Admission fees	141	1,339
Exhibit sponsorship	-	85
Tax Relief	97	-
TOTAL	**238**	**1,424**
Engagement and Outreach:		
STEM NOW	203	267
Outreach workshops	-	21
TOTAL	**203**	**288**

5. INCOME FROM OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Fundraising events	-	173
Trading operations	65	602
Corporate sponsorship	42	29
TOTAL	**107**	**804**

6. EXPENDITURE ON RAISING FUNDS

	Direct staff costs £'000	Other direct costs £'000	Governance support costs £'000	Other support costs £'000	Total 2021 £'000	Total 2020 £'000
Trading costs	107	48	11	67	233	654
Fundraising costs	24	1	-	-	25	40
TOTAL	**131**	**49**	**11**	**67**	**258**	**694**

7. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Direct staff costs £'000	Other direct costs £'000	Governance support costs £'000	Other support costs £'000	Total 2021 £'000	Total 2020 £'000
Science Centre	549	524	19	324	1,416	1,665
Engagement and Outreach	121	5	6	43	175	323
TOTAL	**670**	**529**	**25**	**367**	**1,591**	**1,988**

8. ANALYSIS OF GOVERNANCE AND SUPPORT COSTS

	Direct staff costs £'000	Overheads £'000	Total 2021 £'000	Total 2020 £'000
Governance costs	-	35	35	30
Finance, HR and IS costs	171	65	236	268
Management costs	95	29	124	114
Premises and office costs	-	74	74	313
TOTAL	**266**	**203**	**469**	**725**

Support costs related to the building have been re-allocated on a square footage basis, whilst other costs have been re-allocated on a direct cost basis.

9. NET INCOME FOR THE YEAR

This is stated after charging:	Group 2021 £'000	Group 2020 £'000	Charity 2021 £'000	Charity 2020 £'000
Depreciation	372	324	372	323
Auditor's remuneration for:				
Audit	18	15	14	12
Taxation Services	7	-	7	-
Operating lease rentals:				
Plant and machinery	4	11	3	11
Other operating leases	-	2	-	2

10. INVESTMENT IN SUBSIDIARY AND TRADING INCOME

Winchester Science Centre has a wholly owned trading subsidiary, Sparking Curiosity Limited (Company Number 10661776), which is incorporated in England and Wales. A summary of the trading results of the subsidiary to 31 March 2021 is shown below. Audited accounts are filed with the Registrar of Companies.

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Turnover	128	792
Cost of sales	(35)	(303)
GROSS PROFIT	**93**	**489**
Other operating charges	(84)	(216)
PROFIT FOR THE YEAR BEFORE TAX	**9**	**273**

The capital of the company comprises 100 ordinary shares of £1 each. The maximum permissible amount of the subsidiary's reserves of £62,898 will be transferred to the parent by 31 December 2021 such that no tax will be payable by the subsidiary.

11. ANALYSIS OF STAFF COSTS, TRUSTEE REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES, AND THE COST OF KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

	Group 2021 £'000	Group 2020 £'000
Salaries and wages	971	1,154
Social security costs	77	91
Pension costs	18	21
Redundancy costs	2	-
TOTAL	**1,068**	**1,266**

The number of employees whose emoluments exceeded £60,000 during the year was:

	2021 Number	2020 Number
£80,001 - £90,000	1	-
£70,001 - £80,000	-	1

Pension costs are allocated to activities in proportion to the related staffing costs incurred.

The Trustees were not paid and did not receive any other benefits from employment with the charity in the year (2019/20: £0). No Trustees were reimbursed for travel and accommodation costs during the year (2019/20: £0). No Trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2019/20: £0).

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the Trustees, CEO, and Directors of Finance, STEM Strategy, Marketing and Communications, and Operations. The total employee costs of the key management personnel of the charity were £290k (2019/20: £302k).

12. STAFF NUMBERS

The average monthly head count was 56 staff (2019/20: 73 staff) and the average monthly number of full-time equivalent employees (including casual and part-time staff) during the year were as follows:

	2021 Number	2020 Number
Science Centre	29	38
Office and management	8	9
TOTAL	**37**	**47**

All staff were employed by the charity.

13. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS – GROUP

	Work in Progress £'000	Intellectual Assets £'000	Equipment £'000	Freehold Land and Buildings £'000	Total £'000
Cost or valuation:					
At 1 April 2020	311	253	1,987	1,087	3,638
Additions	19	-	483	-	502
Transfers	(310)	-	310	-	-
Disposals	-	-	(210)	-	(210)
AS AT 31 MARCH 2021	**20**	**253**	**2,570**	**1,087**	**3,930**
Depreciation:					
At 1 April 2020	-	198	1,078	57	1,333
Charge for year	-	25	327	20	372
Eliminated on disposal	-	-	(204)	-	(204)
AS AT 31 MARCH 2021	**-**	**223**	**1,201**	**77**	**1,501**
Net book value:					
AS AT 31 MARCH 2021	**20**	**30**	**1,369**	**1,010**	**2,429**
AS AT 31 MARCH 2020	**311**	**55**	**909**	**1,030**	**2,305**

In July 2016, the land and buildings were inspected by Andrew Smith & Son of Winchester to obtain a current open market valuation at 31st March 2014. The buildings were valued at £1,000k and the land at £125k. The Trustees restated opening balances on 1 April 2015 in accordance with the deemed cost option of FRS 102. Had the deemed cost option not been elected, at 31 March 2021, the cost of freehold land and buildings stated above would be £7,621k, and the net book value £5,491k.

13. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS – CHARITY

	Work in Progress £'000	Intellectual Assets £'000	Equipment £'000	Freehold Land and Buildings £'000	Total £'000
Cost or valuation:					
At 1 April 2020	311	253	1,986	1,087	3,637
Additions	19	-	483	-	502
Transfers	(310)	-	310	-	-
Disposals	-	-	(210)	-	(210)
AS AT 31 MARCH 2021	**20**	**253**	**2,569**	**1,087**	**3,929**
Depreciation:					
At 1 April 2020	-	198	1,077	57	1,332
Charge for year	-	25	327	20	372
Eliminated on disposal	-	-	(204)	-	(204)
AS AT 31 MARCH 2021	**-**	**223**	**1,200**	**77**	**1,500**
Net book value:					
AS AT 31 MARCH 2021	**20**	**30**	**1,369**	**1,010**	**2,429**
AS AT 31 MARCH 2020	**311**	**55**	**909**	**1,030**	**2,305**

14. STOCK

	Group 2021 £'000	Group 2020 £'000	Charity 2021 £'000	Charity 2020 £'000
Shop goods for resale	18	17	-	-
Heating fuel	1	5	1	5
TOTAL	**19**	**22**	**1**	**5**

During the year, £45k (2019/20 £274k) of stock was recognised as an expense.

15. DEBTORS

	Group 2021 £'000	Group 2020 £'000	Charity 2021 £'000	Charity 2020 £'000
Trade debtors	75	135	63	95
Prepayments	14	9	14	9
Grants	120	-	120	-
Tax relief	97	-	97	-
Other	2	8	3	8
TOTAL	**308**	**152**	**297**	**112**

16. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	Group 2021 £'000	Group 2020 £'000	Charity 2021 £'000	Charity 2020 £'000
Bank loans	69	24	69	24
Trade creditors	47	109	47	108
Amounts owed to group undertakings	-	-	-	312
Accruals	71	90	65	79
Taxation and social security	47	96	26	71
Other creditors	8	23	8	23
Deferred income	546	69	526	47
TOTAL	**788**	**411**	**741**	**664**

17. DEFERRED INCOME

Deferred income comprises: advance ticket sales related to admission to the Science Centre and for events held after 31 March 2021 of £25k (2019/20 £14k), deferred membership from annual passes of £37k (2019/20 £29k), deferred sponsorship of £20k (2019/20 £25k) and deferred grant income of £464k (2019/20 £0).

	Group 2021 £'000	Group 2020 £'000	Charity 2021 £'000	Charity 2020 £'000
Balance as at 1 April	69	62	47	62
Amount released to income and expenditure account	(69)	(62)	(47)	(62)
Amount deferred in year	546	69	526	47
BALANCE AS AT 31 MARCH	**546**	**69**	**526**	**47**

18. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

	Group 2021 £'000	Group 2020 £'000	Charity 2021 £'000	Charity 2020 £'000
Bank loan	109	135	109	135
CBILS loan	493	-	493	-
TOTAL	**602**	**135**	**602**	**135**

The bank loan is repayable by 18 April 2026 with interest charged at 2.5% above the base rate. The CBILS loan is repayable by 30 October 2026 with interest charged from 31 October 2021 at 1.63% above the base rate. Both loans are secured on the charity's freehold property.

The bank loans are repayable as follows:

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Amounts payable within one year	69	24
Amounts payable between one and two years	130	25
Amounts payable between three and five years	405	79
Amounts payable after more than five years	67	31
TOTAL	**671**	**159**

19. ANALYSIS OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES BETWEEN FUNDS - GROUP

	Restricted Funds 2021 £'000	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £'000	Total 2021 £'000	Total 2020 £'000
Fixed assets	342	2,087	2,429	2,305
Current assets	128	1,083	1,211	852
Current liabilities	(54)	(734)	(788)	(411)
Long-term liabilities	-	(602)	(602)	(135)
TOTAL	**416**	**1,834**	**2,250**	**2,611**

20. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1 April 2020 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Transfer Between Funds £'000	At 31 March 2021 £'000
Restricted funds:					
Inspiring Science for All	326	161	(41)	(386)	60
Inspiring Science for All - Digital	-	96	(76)	(20)	-
Widening Participation and Outreach	11	21	(18)	-	14
Millennium Project	361	-	(19)	-	342
Other restricted funds	1	10	(11)	-	-
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	**699**	**288**	**(165)**	**(406)**	**416**
Unrestricted funds:					
Designated:					
Planetarium	102	4	-	-	106
Exhibition	34	-	(22)	32	44
STEM NOW	-	196	(196)	-	-
TOTAL DESIGNATED FUNDS	**136**	**200**	**(218)**	**32**	**150**
Unrestricted:					
General unrestricted	1,449	872	(1,074)	374	1,621
TOTAL GENERAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	**1,449**	**872**	**(1,074)**	**374**	**1,621**
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	**1,585**	**1,072**	**(1,292)**	**406**	**1,771**
TOTAL CHARITABLE FUNDS	**2,284**	**1,360**	**(1,457)**	**-**	**2,187**
TRADING SUBSIDIARY	**327**	**128**	**(392)**	**-**	**63**
TOTAL GROUP FUNDS	**2,611**	**1,488**	**(1,849)**	**-**	**2,250**

RESTRICTED FUNDS

The charity received donations and grants which the donor specified to be solely for particular areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity.

GENERAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

These are funds available for the general objectives of the charity. Included within unrestricted funds are designated funds that the charity has put aside for a specific purpose.

21. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS – GROUP AND CHARITY

The future operating lease payments are as follows:

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Within one year	5	5
Between one and five years	5	10
TOTAL	**10**	**15**

22. PENSION SCHEME

During the year £18k (2019/20: £21k) was paid into a defined contribution pension scheme. At the year-end no contributions (2019/20: £4k) were due to the scheme.

23. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The CEO was a Trustee of The Association of Science and Discovery Centres (ASDC) to whom the charity paid £1k for annual membership and grant fees. The charity received £11k from ASDC to deliver the Destination Space and Science Capital programmes and for a digital engagement grant to run in 21/22.

24. LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

Winchester Science Centre is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. At the year ended 31 March 2021, there were 12 members (13 members at 31 March 2020), each of whom has undertaken to contribute a maximum of £1, if required, in the event of the winding up of the company.

25. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

At the year end, the charity had an ongoing contract for £522,500 for the installation of a new exhibition. Of this £496,375 has been paid, with £26,125 outstanding. This project has been externally funded.

26. 2020 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (PRIOR YEAR)

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total Funds 2020 £'000	Total Funds 2019 £'000
Income and endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	276	386	662	975
Charitable activities:				
Science Centre	1,424	-	1,424	1,335
Engagement and Outreach	288	-	288	272
Income from investments	2	-	2	-
Other trading activities	804	-	804	820
TOTAL	**2,794**	**386**	**3,180**	**3,402**
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds:				
Other trading activities	694	-	694	832
Charitable activities:				
Science Centre	1,579	86	1,665	1,422
Engagement and Outreach	300	23	323	546
TOTAL	**2,573**	**109**	**2,682**	**2,800**
Net income	**221**	**277**	**498**	**602**
Transfer between funds	527	(527)	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	**748**	**(250)**	**498**	**602**
Reconciliation of funds:				
Total funds brought forward	1,164	949	2,113	1,511
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	**1,912**	**699**	**2,611**	**2,113**

CHARITY INFORMATION

Registered Office

Telegraph Way

Morn Hill

Winchester

Hampshire

SO21 1HZ

Registered Charity No.

294582

Bankers

Lloyds Bank PLC

49 High Street

Winchester

Hampshire

SO23 9BU

Solicitors

Paris Smith LLP

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Southampton

Hampshire

SO15 2AE

Auditors

Haysmacintyre LLP

10 Queen Street Place

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EC4R 1AG

PATRONS
The Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire, Nigel Atkinson Esq
AMBASSADORS
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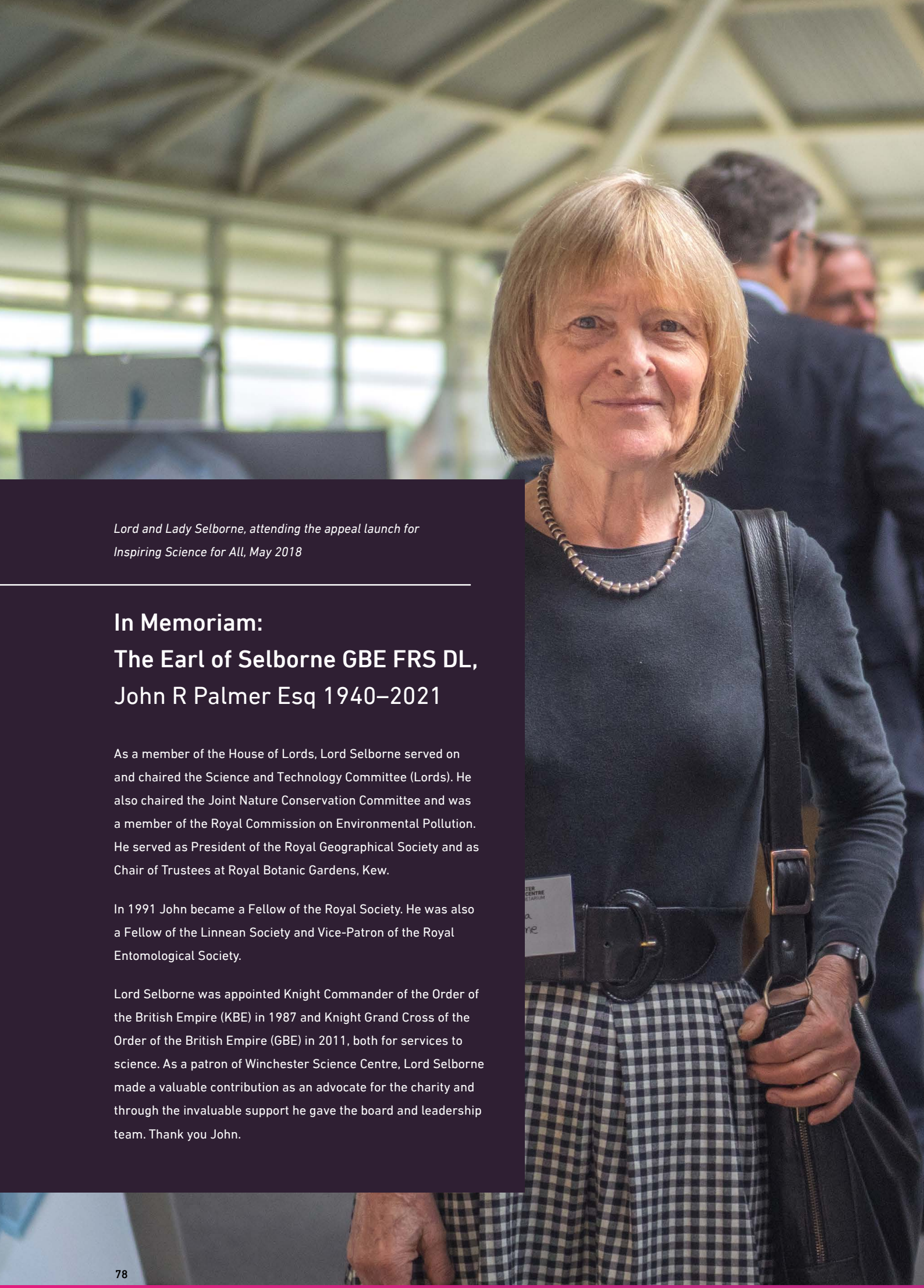
LIFE MEMBERS
Professor Malcolm J Coe FRAS FHEA
Admiral Sir Kenneth J Eaton GBE KCB FREng
Mr David Livermore OBE
Ms Terry V Marsh FRTS FRSA
Mr David Morgan
TRUSTEES
Dr Toby StJohn King MA PhD CEng FIMechE, Chair
Dr Ian C Jenkins MSc, Deputy Chair
Mr Jeremy C Booker ACA
Dr Dolores Byrne OBE HonFIET CEng
Mr Philip J Guest MA PgDip ACA
Mrs Tajinder Leonard
Professor Diane G Newell OBE
Mr Adrian A Owen
Mrs Sue Parr
Professor Janet Preston MSc PhD MInstP FRAS
Dr Martin P Read CBE FIET CDipAF CCMI (retired 15 December 2020)
Mrs Sara Sullivan
Mrs Elizabeth M Wallace
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM
Mr Ben Ward FRSA, Chief Executive Officer
Ms Charlotte Barnaville, Director of Marketing and Communications
Mrs Emily Mace, Director of STEM Strategy
Ms Elizabeth Moorcraft ACMA, Director of Finance
Mr Graeme Pick, Director of Operations



Lord and Lady Selborne, attending the appeal launch for Inspiring Science for All, May 2018

In Memoriam: The Earl of Selborne GBE FRS DL, John R Palmer Esq 1940–2021

As a member of the House of Lords, Lord Selborne served on and chaired the Science and Technology Committee (Lords). He also chaired the Joint Nature Conservation Committee and was a member of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution. He served as President of the Royal Geographical Society and as Chair of Trustees at Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

In 1991 John became a Fellow of the Royal Society. He was also a Fellow of the Linnean Society and Vice-Patron of the Royal Entomological Society.

Lord Selborne was appointed Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire (KBE) in 1987 and Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the British Empire (GBE) in 2011, both for services to science. As a patron of Winchester Science Centre, Lord Selborne made a valuable contribution as an advocate for the charity and through the invaluable support he gave the board and leadership team. Thank you John.

Lord John Selborne
Patron
Winchester Science Centre

WINCHESTER
SCIENCE CENTRE
AND PLANETARIUM

Registered Office:

Telegraph Way, Morn Hill, Winchester, Hampshire, SO21 1HZ

Registered Charity No. 294582