

Ferring Country Centre Limited

Limited by Guarantee

Trustees Report

and Financial Statements

for the year ended 31st December 2023

Registered Charity Number 297286
Registered Company Number 2086358



FERRING COUNTRY CENTRE LIMITED

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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CHARITY INFORMATION

Patron

Georgina, Duchess of Norfolk

Trustees

Robert Rogers	(Chairman)
Linda Clark	(Treasurer)
Jane Cole	(Deputy Chair)
Ann Boughton-Leigh	
Anne Cook	
Peter Liverman	
Debbie Medlock	
David Smith	(Joined June 2023)

Registered and Principal Office

Rife Way
Ferring
Worthing
West Sussex
BN12 5JZ

Registered Charity Number

297286

Registered Company Number

2086358

Key Management Personnel

Chief Executive Officer	Hannah Tombs
Chief Operating Officer	Samantha Maddocks
Chief Finance Officer	Nicola King (Resigned 26 th January 2024)
Chief Finance Officer	Hazel Sheward (Joined 6 th March 2024)
Head of Support	David Payne (Joined 24 th July 2023)
Head of Operations	Simon Livesley (Resigned 3 rd March 2023)
Head of Facilities	Jason Coomber (Resigned 17 th March 2023)

Independent Auditors

Blue Spire Limited
Cawley Priory
South Pallant
Chichester
West Sussex
PO19 1SY

Bankers

National Westminster Bank Plc
South Street
Worthing
West Sussex
BN11 3AR

Solicitors

Miller Parris
3-9 Cricketers Parade
Broadwater Street West
Worthing
West Sussex
BN14 8JB

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their annual report for the purposes of the Charities Act 2022 the Companies Act 2006, together with the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102), effective 1 January 2019, in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Ferring Country Centre is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 31 December 1986, and registered as a charity on 29 July 1987. It is governed by the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the charitable company and is controlled by a Board of Trustees whose members are elected at the Annual General Meeting and are directors for the purposes of company law and trustees for the purposes of charity law.

Trustees

Ferring Country Centre has a Board of Trustees, who all bring their own knowledge, skills and passion to benefit the Charity. The Board elects its Chair on an annual basis. During 2023 David Smith joined our Board of Trustees, increasing our Trustees to eight.

Trustees are recruited as and when a need is identified, with an emphasis on ensuring an appropriate skill set amongst the membership. The recruitment process requires potential trustees to submit their Curriculum Vitae to the Chairperson of the Board. A selection process consisting of an informal visit and interview is undertaken and appointment to the Board is confirmed by the existing members and ratified at the following AGM. All new Trustees undertake a full induction programme ensuring that they are aware of their legal obligations under charity and company law. They receive copies of Ferring Country Centre's Memorandum and Articles of Association and the Charity Commission Booklet "CC3 The Essential Trustee". In line with the organisational Conflict of Interest policy, all Trustees are required to complete the Conflict of Interest, Related Party Transaction and Annual Declaration form for each year that they are in office.

The Board of Trustees normally meets four times per annum, with meetings running in line with the financial quarters. Board meetings follow an agreed agenda with various standing matters, including full reporting of management accounts, risk, health and safety, review of existing policies and adoption of new policies. Sub-groups of the Board and additional meetings are set up as and when necessary. The Trustees held an additional meeting during the year in March 2023 to discuss and subsequently agree a new leadership structure following the departures of the Head of Operations and the Head of Facilities. The Head of Operations role was deleted and replaced with a Head of Support post. The Head of Finance role was changed to Chief Finance Officer. The Head of Commercial and Head of Facilities posts were both deleted and replaced with one role, Chief Operating Officer.

During 2023 we continued to meet using a hybrid meeting format, with those able to attend in person doing so and those not able to do so joining virtually using a Microsoft 365 Teams link. Our AGM was held in person in June 2023, at which time amended Articles of Association were adopted. Changes to the Articles of Association included amendment to make provision for hybrid meetings and a change in our trading activities.

In accordance with the Articles of Association, one-third of the Trustees retire at the Annual General Meeting but are eligible for re-election.

Decision making is undertaken by the Trustees at Board Meetings following briefings and discussions. The Board appoints a team of senior leaders; day-to-day leadership and management of the Charity is delegated to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and then through the post holder to the Leadership Team.

Remuneration of Key Personnel

The Board of Trustees annually reviews the CEO's salary. The CEO, Chairperson and Treasurer review all other salary rates and present their recommendations for the annual pay review to the Board for approval and subsequent implementation.

Our excellent staffing team is our greatest asset. Our staff deliver high quality services to our service users and our customers throughout the organisation. We are proud of our status as a Living Wage Foundation Employer and will continue to maintain our membership for the long term, ensuring that we pay a true living wage to our team above the rate set by the Government.

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We review our staff remuneration packages annually to ensure that we remain competitive. We have continued to enhance our employee benefits, introducing an Employee Assistance Programme during 2023 in addition to our salary sacrifice pension scheme and death in service benefit. The Employee Assistance Programme is provided by Health Assured and offers a range of wellbeing support services.

Equal Opportunities

Ferring Country Centre is committed to ensuring that all job applicants and employees are treated fairly and valued regardless of age, disability, gender (including transgender and gender reassignment), race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin, marital status or civil partnership, responsibility for dependents, sexual orientation, pregnancy or maternity, age, trade union activity, political or religious, agnostic or atheist beliefs and (unrelated to the post) criminal convictions and are not disadvantaged by unjust conditions or requirements. This principle applies to recruitment, promotion, training, benefits, and facilities. Ferring Country Centre meets its legal obligations and promotes the spirit of equal opportunity in all fields.

Risks

The Trustees and Management of Ferring Country Centre have given due thought and consideration to the major risks to which the Charity may be exposed and have systems in place which are designed to mitigate those risks. This includes a risk management matrix and a business continuity plan, both of which are reviewed on a regular basis. Risk is an agenda item and discussed at all Trustee meetings.

The key risks during 2023 have continued to be high inflation and the cost-of-living crisis. This situation is likely to continue for the foreseeable future and place ongoing financial pressure on the organisation. We will continue to mitigate the situation to the best of our ability by controlling costs and developing our fundraising efforts. The West Sussex County Council (WSCC) contract renewal is also a risk because approximately 50% of our income comes from WSCC contracted services.

Relationships with other organisations

Throughout 2023 we have continued to build relationships with other organisations within both our local community and the local learning disabilities community. These relationships bring opportunities to our services users alongside the whole Centre.

We have continued to work closely with WSCC, providing Day Services to our service users. We have also actively participated in a variety of engagement events as WSCC has developed its plans for the future of services to people with learning disabilities within our county. This work will come to fruition in 2024 with the release of a tender process for new contracts.

On 29th July we were delighted to host the 2023 Apulstock Festival, a one-day music festival designed to be accessible to people with learning disabilities as well as the wider community.

We have actively developed our relationships with other providers within our locality including Superstar Arts, Guild Care and Worthing Mencap, supporting each other wherever possible.

Our relationship with our immediate community of Ferring is important to us. We support local events where possible, and are strengthening our relationships with St Andrew's Church, the village school, the Parish Council and the Village Festival Committee.

We hosted 18 corporate social responsibility volunteer days throughout the year, benefiting from the generosity of a range of businesses and organisations giving their time freely to support our work.

OBJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

The Charity's objects clause as stated in its Articles of Association is:

"For the benefit of persons with learning disabilities by providing such persons with working facilities in horticulture, agriculture, crafts, equestrianism and other related matters with the aim of assisting such persons to acquire and develop vocational and social skills."

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Our mission is: *"To create positive futures for customers and enable them to play a valued role in society."*

In determining how best to pursue these objects the Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit set out in the public benefit guides PB1, PB2 and PB3, specifically when making decisions or reviewing the Charity's aims and objectives, and in developing plans for future activities and projects.

In accordance with our objects, Ferring Country Centre benefits people with learning disabilities in the West Sussex area. This benefit is met by our Day Service and Riding Therapy offers, which are in turn supported by our income generating and fundraising activities.

Placements within our Day Service are mainly made through referrals by West Sussex Country Council. We also accommodate referrals from neighbouring local authorities and to individuals on a private placement basis.

Our overarching aim at Ferring Country Centre is to ensure that we empower the people we support, our Day Service Customers (DSCs), to live the life they want. This is delivered by offering an environment in which our DSCs can thrive, feel valued and achieve a sense of purpose. Throughout the year we offer a variety of activities and training opportunities, concentrating on the needs of those we support, ensuring that our service provision is fulfilling and engaging for all who attend.

We rarely stay still, focusing on continual improvement of both our facilities and services. It is important that improvements and developments are driven by the aspirations of the people we support. This is achieved by actively engaging and listening to our DSCs. In the main this is accomplished through the work of the Ferring Ambassadors, a group of our DSCs who advocate for their peers, ensuring they have an influencing voice.

Our service is person-centred, ensuring each person who accesses our services has in place an individual support plan which contains details of their needs, wants and wishes, along with outcomes they aim to accomplish with our support. We offer a high-quality service, within an encouraging and safe environment. Our support focuses on individuals' skills and how these can be further developed to achieve aspirations, enabling DSCs to overcome any challenges and barriers experienced during their journey.

The ongoing success of Ferring Country Centre is reliant on our holistic approach to the services we offer. Our core focus remains the delivery of services to people with learning disabilities, offered through a variety of activities and programmes across our Centre. Additionally, we have a secondary purpose, this being to utilise our resources to generate funds, enabling us to continue to develop and deliver our charitable purpose. These activities of service delivery and income generation are interwoven throughout the organisation and therefore need to be mutually beneficial and co-exist harmoniously.

Our organisation is split into six key functional areas:

- Support
- Garden Centre
- Dales Farm
- Riding School
- Ranger's Café
- Visitor Centre

All of these areas are supported by the administration, maintenance, fundraising and finance functions.

Our departments offer a varied range of activities to our DSCs:

- Garden Centre developing horticultural skills.
- Dales Farm offering opportunities to work with a wide range of animals learning animal husbandry skills.
- Riding School offering horsemanship skills.
- Ranger's Café offering hospitality skills.
- Visitor Centre offering customer service skills.

In addition to the department specific activities listed, the Support Team is responsible for the dedicated Day Service Centre, which is equipped with three classrooms, an IT suite, a sensory room, a dining room and a commercial kitchen,

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in which cakes are produced daily for sale in Ranger's Café. The Support Team is also responsible for the Farm Classroom, based within Dales Farm, and the Woodwork Workshop.

Our facilities are used to deliver a varied programme of developmental and therapeutic activities, which include music, sing and sign, yoga, fitness and many more.

We continue to be committed as an organisation to providing a high standard of facilities to our DSCs. We also continue to invest in site improvements which will not only expand the range of activities on offer, but ensure they are delivered in a welcoming environment.

Our Riding School offers riding therapy sessions, in which both adults and children with learning and/or physical disabilities have the opportunity to experience horse riding. Riding therapy sessions offer both psychological and physical benefits to riders.

We are open to the public seven days a week as a Riding School, Dales Farm, Visitor Centre (including children's play areas), Ranger's Café and Garden Centre. Our relationship with the community in which we are based is important to us, and we enjoy welcoming visitors to our Centre. Whilst we are open to the public to share our beautiful site and excellent facilities, it is important to note that alongside income generation, it also brings wider benefits of social inclusion and interaction. The social inclusion between those we support, and the wider community is paramount to the ongoing success of our organisation. Our DSCs undertake roles which are valued in a safe and supported environment. Barriers of prejudice are broken down as inclusion of this type assists people to have a greater understanding of learning disabilities, appreciating the fact that we all unique.

Throughout the week we are supported by an excellent team of volunteers, each bringing their own mix of experience, skills, knowledge and passion to our organisation. Our volunteers add a great deal of value to our Centre, and we are sincerely appreciative of their support, time and dedication. During the weekends we are pleased to offer volunteering opportunities to young people between the ages of 12 and 18. This can allow young people to have their first experience of working alongside animals, including horses.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Support

Throughout 2023 we have continued to see a continued growth in the demand for our services. As the year commenced, we were working with 117 people each week and delivering 336 sessions each week. As the year concluded, this had grown to working with 123 people each week and delivering 352 weekly sessions.

During the first quarter of the year we reviewed the overall organisational structure, which resulted in the introduction of four Team Leader roles and three Senior Support Worker roles. Following a robust selection process during quarter two, all posts were filled as we reached the half year point. The introduction of these roles has been greatly beneficial with Team Leaders taking line-management responsibilities for Support Workers, alongside the fundamental purpose of being role models for the whole team in the delivery of excellent support.

We have taken time to review our support processes and documentation in order to ensure that we capture correct and relevant information relating to those we support. This, in turn, aids the quality of our service delivery.

Working with families and carers, our Family Charter was developed and launched during 2023. This becomes a key document for families and carers of our DSCs, setting out clearly what they can expect from Ferring Country Centre and, in return, what Ferring Country Centre expects from them. This is included within the DSC induction pack and is also available on our website.

We have continued to expand our Education and Enablement Programme. During the year we have worked in partnership with Brighton & Hove Albion in the Community, the official charity of Brighton & Hove Albion Football Club delivering two learning for life courses which combined maths and football, and culminated with stadium tours for participants. We have worked with DSCs to develop specific skills which have enabled two of them to take on voluntary or paid work, including delivering Makaton sessions at a local nursery.

The Ferring Country Centre Ambassadors continue to do a brilliant job in capturing feedback from their peers. They have continued to lead on key DSC events throughout the year, including the Summer Celebration, Halloween and Christmas discos. Additionally, they have supported the team by delivering site tours for prospective DSCs and created "know me," a piece of work designed to aid the development of reflective practice which was included in our April

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Support Team Development Day. Our Ambassadors, along with their peers, have contributed significantly to the selection process of key appointments, including Team Leaders, Senior Support Workers and the Head of Support.

We have continued to deliver a range of activities out in the community. Our popular weekly Walk and Talk group, Keeping Lancing Lovely beach cleaning group and Cycall inclusive cycling, have all continued. During the summer months we were able to access tennis courts in Littlehampton, delivering weekly tennis sessions during August which were very popular.

We were able to work in partnership with Pier Road Coffee and Art Studio to exhibit the excellent pictures of our photography group in a gallery setting. Our photographers enjoyed attending the launch event and their work remained on display for a whole month.

Our weekly pétanque sessions, run by dedicated volunteers Margaret and Annette, were delivered throughout the year, with regular competitions being held. During the summer months, the group was able to take advantage of our long anticipated pétanque terrain, which is located to the west of the Café building. This is a vibrant area, enhanced by the summer house and benches, donated in memory of our friend Ian Bant.

Breakfast, Dinner and Film Clubs, all remain popular activities. Dinner and Film Club are run monthly, outside of Day Service hours, and provide the opportunity for our DSCs to enjoy time with their friends in a less formal and more social environment. Breakfast Club is run monthly within services hours, with DSCs enjoying an opportunity to meet with friends at Buddys Café, which is run by Worthing Mencap.

Our allotment project entered its second year and was again an immense success, offering a calm sanctuary within our site and clearly demonstrating the beauty of nature. We produced a bumper crop of pumpkins which were harvested and sold for Halloween.

Our Woodwork Workshop has produced a range of products throughout the year which have been sold in our Gift Shop - the rustic reindeer have once again proven popular. The Woodwork Team has also assisted with projects around the site, including seahorses within the pétanque area and tractor themed planters on Dales Farm.

The Ferring Rangers Football Team has enjoyed its first full year, which has included a number of matches, both at home and away. The formation of the team is a notable example of coproduction, with a group of our DSC identifying the need for more inclusive football teams, and therefore being introduced into our offer.

We continue to support our DSC in achieving their outcomes, by breaking down goals into attainable steps. Outcomes are agreed through the support planning and review process, and progress is captured regularly and recorded on the StoriiCare data management system.

We have participated in a variety of engagement events and workshops hosted by WSCC during the year, which have been used in the ongoing coproduction of a new service specification for the upcoming contract renewal procurement. Contract extensions have been given, initially to the end of December 2023 and then to 30th June 2024.

Enterprise Activities and Animal Care

Our enterprise activities have overall continued to perform well throughout 2023.

The Garden Centre has had a positive year, showing some growth in sales. During the year we have continued to develop our house plant offer, which is proving popular. In May we revived our annual plant weekend, which was a successful event with an incredibly positive public response.

The Riding School has continued to thrive in 2023. We have continued to offer a full programme of riding therapy alongside our mainstream riding activities. We have strived to provide a wide variety of pony activities, including rides, grooming sessions and the more structured Pony Stars programme running in school holidays. The Riding School benefits from a dedicated team of volunteers, giving their time each week. Additionally, young volunteer opportunities are in place each weekend, enabling those between 12 and 18 years of age to learn horsemanship skills whilst assisting the team.

Dales Farm has enjoyed some development during 2023. In the spring, the farm themed go-kart area was a welcome addition. This is a bright and vibrant attraction, equipped with a selection of tractors and designed to be low maintenance. Avian flu restrictions have been in place on and off throughout the year, which places limitation on how we exhibit our birds, chickens and ducks. We anticipate that this is going to continue for the near future and therefore

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we are taking restriction rules into account when upgrading our enclosures. This process has begun with the duck enclosure, with the pond improved during the autumn and a new avian flu compliant enclosure to follow in due course.

Ranger's Café is a great asset to our Centre. Our trade has continued to grow throughout 2023, including our private event offer and a range of events specifically for our DSCs.

2023 has been a positive year for our enterprise activities. However, this being said, the external economic environment does impact income generation. We continue to see costs rising and it is not always possible to recoup these and remain a competitive offer. To mitigate this, we have tried to make sensible decisions and minimise costs where possible without compromising quality.

Site Development

Improvements around our site during 2023 have been minimal. Dales Farm benefited from the addition of the farm themed go-kart track, kindly sponsored by GWCA Solicitors. Additionally, the duck pond was fully refurbished, making it smaller and more accessible for the team for cleaning.

We have continued to raise funds for the addition of a Fitness, Dance and Drama Studio. The expected cost of this project is £170k, of which we have secured £56k. As the year drew to a close, we had three further funding bids submitted awaiting outcomes. Our planning permission was granted in July 2022 and is valid for three years.

Fundraising and Finance

Financially 2023 was once again a significantly challenging year. The ongoing impact of the cost-of-living crisis and high inflation have continued to be felt throughout the Organisation.

Fundraising income has seen some growth in 2023, mainly influenced by the receipt of two legacies. We continue to fundraise through the Centre and our website. During 2023 we have made a start on developing our relational and grant fundraising. In October we welcomed the addition of our Fundraising and Marketing Manager.

The investment in our facilities over the past five years has resulted in steady income growth. However, the cost of capital investment through annual depreciation costs adds pressure to our financial performance.

We aim to make financial decisions with pragmatism, investing and spending where needed and saving when possible. Our 2023 financial performance has been impacted by high depreciation, increasing salary costs and rising supplier costs, resulting in ending the year in a deficit position. The year has been financially challenging; however, our overall organisational financial position remains firm with significant reserves and a strong balance sheet.

Summary

2023 has been a year in which Ferring Country Centre has navigated significant change. During the first quarter, two members of the Senior Leadership Team (Jason Coomber - Head of Facilities and Simon Livesley - Head of Operations) moved on to new pastures. This presented the Organisation with the opportunity to review its structure, ensuring that it was fit for the future. The outcome of this review was change, within both the Senior Leadership and wider Leadership Team, along with improvements to the Support Team structure.

Our Senior Leadership Team reduced from five to four roles. The roles of Head of Operations, Head of Facilities and Head of Commercial were all deleted, and replaced by two new roles, Head of Support and Chief Operating Officer. The Head of Support leads on all matters relating to the support we offer to people with learning disabilities, including our Day Service. Our Chief Operating Officer takes responsibility for all aspects of Health and Safety compliance, along with our enterprise activities. Our wider Leadership Team increased by two roles, firstly, the introduction of a Visitor Centre Manager, taking responsibility for the Gift Shop, Café and visitor experience, and secondly, the introduction of a Fundraising and Marketing Manager.

The changes within our Support Team (previously called Operations) included the introduction of Team Leaders, who remain in place delivering support to our DSC's, and offer first line leadership on the ground to the whole team. Additionally, they have taken line management responsibility for allocated team members, allowing for smaller and consistent teams. We were delighted to welcome David Payne into the role of Head of Support in July.

Our focus remains on developing the services we offer and our site, making sure that we are reaching all those who need our help, whilst ensuring that our site remains suitable and relevant to those we support.

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For the foreseeable future, external pressures will continue to impact our organisation. We acknowledge that we must not let these distract us from our primary purpose of supporting people with learning disabilities. This is done through the services we provide, in an environment in which everyone matters, is valued and enabled to achieve their personal goals.

We are privileged to benefit from a team of skilled, experienced and committed volunteers, working throughout the Centre giving their valuable time freely. We have a deep gratitude to them all for their contribution and the knowledge and value they bring to Ferring Country Centre. During 2023 we had 93 volunteers.

As 2023 concluded we were actively working with 123 people with learning disabilities, all of whom were accessing our wide range of fulfilling activities both on and away from our site. The range of activities on offer has continued to grow both within the Day Service and through our developing out of hours offer. We remained dedicated to maintaining a high-quality service delivered through a person-centered approach. In order to support our important work, we continue to grow and develop our income-generating activities. All of this is achieved through our conscientious and diligent team, both volunteers and employees, led by our skilled and dedicated Leadership Team very ably headed up by our excellent CEO, Hannah Tombs.

As an organisation, we believe wholly that with every challenge an opportunity arrives. Our energy is always directed on the positive, supported by our ambition and drive for continuous improvement throughout our organisation, with a core focus on high quality service for the people we support, empowering them to live a fulfilling life.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Ferring Country Centre ended the 2023 financial year with a deficit of £117.7k (2022 Deficit £74.5k), -5.6% of total income (2022 -3.9%). The financial performance of the organisation continued to be impacted by increased salaries and general costs rising.

2023 has seen a reduction in capital expenditure, spending £73.6k (2022 £164.7k). We invest in maintaining our equipment on an ongoing basis, however during 2023 there have been minimal site improvements. Key areas of capital expenditure included the replacement of air-conditioning units for offices, upgraded gates to improve site security, staff room refurbishment, continuation of the electrical upgrade, and routine upgrade of obsolete IT equipment.

2023 was again a financially challenging year for the Organisation. Whilst we ended the year in a deficit position, our overall financial position remains strong. We hold sufficient reserves should we need them and our cashflow has remained stable throughout the year. We understand the need to strengthen our financial performance, ensuring we do not become reliant on reserves, and return to a break even or surplus position as soon as possible.

Income in 2023 saw an increase against 2022 of £185k (9.7%). Revenue increased in 2023 in the Riding School, Garden Centre and Ranger's Café, but decreased for Dales Farm. Our contractual income from West Sussex County Council decreased following a reduction in placements, an annual reduction of £60k which impacted the second half of the year.

We identify two key areas of risk, these being:

1. One contract is approximately 50% (of our total income: our Day Service Contract with West Sussex County Council. (End date of 30th June 2024).
2. Ongoing rising costs and high inflation, including higher employment costs.

We are unable to fully mitigate the first risk due to requirement for a competitive tender process. We were expecting this at the beginning of 2024, in the event, tenders were submitted in March 2024 and the outcome is awaited. We have taken steps to ensure that we are well positioned to produce a competitive bid in due course. In the meantime, we continue to work closely with West Sussex County Council, understanding their aspirations for our type of service and ensuring this is considered within our planning process.

The second risk needs to be constantly monitored, being responsive to higher costs by regularly reviewing our pricing structure and continuing to be prudent in our spending.

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The Charity's reserves, as shown in notes 17 and 18 of the financial statements amounted to £978.4k (2022 £962.4k), an increase of £16k. The Trustees consider the Charity's available cash resources, for operational purposes, have decreased by 0.9%, or £8.9k, and are shown in the table below.

	2023 £	2022 £
Investments and surplus cash	1,060,282	1,080,810
Less: Restricted funds	29,596	41,238
Less: Designated funds	-	-
	<u>1,030,686</u>	<u>1,039,572</u>

The Trustees have a cautious investment strategy with little or no risk and the income generated from these resulting investments amounted to £23.5k, a 312.3% increase (2022 £5.7k). This is due to improved interest rates during 2023.

The Trustees review the Reserves Policy annually and have agreed that the Charity holds reserves equivalent to 6 months' operating expenditure (expected to be £1,151k in 2024) to ensure the on-going delivery of its charitable objectives. To meet this, we need to increase reserves by £120k.

2023 produced donation income of £55k (2022 £43k) an increase of 28%, split between Unrestricted £32k (2022 £24k) and Restricted £23k (2022 £19k).

Donations, Supporters and Corporate Social Responsibility

Our sincere thanks go to all of those who give generously and support our organisation. You make it possible for us to achieve our objectives, invest in our services and support those at the very core of our service, that being any person with a learning disability.

In 2023 we received donations from:

Individual Donors

Tracy Keegan, Tom Burstow, John and Eve Dean, Mrs Wilson, K.Sukai, K.Carpenter, Hilz Pollard, Simon Groves, Vicky Woodard, Jennifer Royal, Peter Clark, Gaynor Crayden, V Wood, H Linfield and Rodney Hart.

Trust, Foundations and Companies

The David Hunt Trust, Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust, GWCA Solicitors, Broadwater Conservative Working Men's Club, Tendercare Ltd, Men in Sheds, NFU Mutual, Asda Ferring, West Sussex Horticultural Club, PMW Communications, Chiltern Charitable Trust, East Preston Festival, Drones Golfing Society, West Sussex Growers Association, Sussex Masons, Stanford Lodge, The Neighbourly and Breathe HR.

Legacies

We received two legacies during 2023 totalling £24k.

Supporters & Corporate Social Responsibility

During 2023 we were pleased to offer volunteer days to the following organisations and companies:

- Equiniti – 3 days
- American Express – 2 days
- Revenue and Benefits Adur Council – 3 days
- The Fry Group – 2 days
- NatWest – 1 day
- Aviva – 3 days
- Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm – 1 day
- Canada Life 1 day

We have maintained our relationships with the following supporters: Co-op Ferring, Three Forts Marathon, Humber Avenue Committee, Richard Bush, Rassasy, GWCA Solicitors, Milton Lloyd Trust, Ferring Baptist Church, St Andrew's Church Ferring and Ferring Parish Council.

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PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

2024 and beyond

Change has become a certainty both within Ferring Country Centre and the outside world. This is likely to continue for the foreseeable future.

The greatest element of change we will experience in 2024 should be the award and implementation of the new West Sussex County Council contract for supporting those with learning disabilities. The process commenced during January 2024, with the outcome announcement expected by the end of April. This outcome will significantly influence the next stage of the story for Ferring Country Centre. The tender process has required us to work with partners in our locality to build a service offer. These relationships have been fledged during the bid writing process and we are excited to develop these further in due course.

We will continue to develop the services we offer to the people we support and look forward to progressing a wider range of out of hours activities during the year, focusing on the wants and wishes captured through our continuous improvement cycle.

Strengthening our financial performance will continue to be an area of key focus for both the short and long term. We must ensure that we remain competitive as an employer, ensuring that our salaries and benefits assist us in attracting high calibre candidates. Salary rates have increased at a higher rate than our income in recent years, which continues to place pressure on our finances. We will remain prudent in our spending to help minimise the impact of rising costs on our organisation, but this must not be to the detriment of our service or site.

We aspire to progress the addition of our purpose-built Fitness, Dance and Drama Studio by the end of 2024. This facility will be an excellent addition for the Centre, providing an accessible and suitable space for a range of therapeutic and wellbeing activities.

Solar panels are also under consideration to reduce energy costs and environmental impact, whilst increasing our sustainability.

2024 is the fifth and final year of our current five-year Strategic Plan. With momentous change on the horizon, there could not be a better time for us to review our offer and shape our plans for the future. Strategic planning will be a priority during the early autumn months, enabling a new plan to influence the financial planning for 2025.

We will continue to work hard to enable and empower the people we support to live the life they want. We will achieve this by ensuring that everyone who accesses our services is given the opportunity to have a voice to influence our direction and give guidance on the services they would like to receive and how they would like to be supported to achieve their personal goals and aspirations.

Amongst the current uncertainty, we are optimistic about our future. We are privileged to support and work alongside an inspirational group of people. We will embrace the determination we see demonstrated each day by them and use it to motivate us all, individually and as an organisation, to continue our journey towards delivering our mission.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees (who are also directors of Ferring Country Centre Limited for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102).
- 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.

FERRING COUNTRY CENTRE LIMITED

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

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

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

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

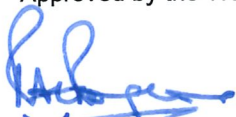
The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

Blue Spire Limited, have expressed their willingness to stand for reappointment and a resolution proposing their reappointment will be put forward at the Annual General Meeting of the charity.

This report has been prepared having taken advantage of the small companies' exemption in the Companies Act 2006.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf.



Robert A G Rogers
Trustee – Chairman

6 June 2024
Date

FERRING COUNTRY CENTRE LIMITED

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Ferring Country Centre Limited

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Ferring Country Centre Limited (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including 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 charitable company's affairs as at [date], and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; 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 responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the report of the trustees, 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' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

FERRING COUNTRY CENTRE LIMITED

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report included within the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the 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 directors' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees (who are also the directors of the 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 charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor 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 Charity and the sector in which it operates, we identified the principal laws and regulations that directly affect the financial statements to be the Charities Act, Companies Act, and Employment Act. We assessed the extent of compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our procedures on the related financial statement items.

In addition, the Charity is subject to many other laws and regulations where the consequences of non-compliance could have a material effect on amounts or disclosures in the financial statements, for instance through the imposition of fines or litigation. There is a limitation to areas most likely to have such an effect. Auditing standards limit the required audit procedures to identify non-compliance with these laws and regulations to enquiry of the Trustees and other management and inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence if any.

Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- Enquiry of management, those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims;
- Enquiry of entity staff to identify any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

FERRING COUNTRY CENTRE LIMITED

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

- Performing audit work over the risk of management override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for bias.

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

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the FRC's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditors/audit-assurance/auditor-s-responsibilities-for-the-audit-of-the-fi/description-of-the-auditor%E2%80%99s-responsibilities-for> This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

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



Geoffrey Frost BSc(Hons) FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Blue Spire Limited, Statutory Auditor

Cawley Priory
South Pallant
Chichester
West Sussex
PO19 1SY

Date 6 June 2024

FERRING COUNTRY CENTRE LIMITED

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

	Note	Unrestricted Funds General £	Designated £	Restricted Funds £	2023 Total Funds £	2022 Total Funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:						
Donations and legacies	1	56,392	-	30,689	87,081	42,585
Other trading activities	2	13,029	-	-	13,029	12,543
Investments	3	23,536	-	-	23,536	5,708
Charitable activities	4	1,945,397	-	-	1,945,397	1,825,403
Other	5	20,974	-	-	20,974	18,764
Total		<u>2,059,328</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>30,689</u>	<u>2,090,017</u>	<u>1,905,003</u>
EXPENDITURE ON:						
Raising funds	6	672	-	-	672	1,017
Charitable activities	7	2,166,537	-	40,555	2,207,092	1,978,446
Total		<u>2,167,209</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>40,555</u>	<u>2,207,764</u>	<u>1,979,463</u>
Net Income/(expenditure)		(107,881)	-	(9,866)	(117,747)	(74,460)
Transfers between funds	17, 18	123,874	(122,098)	(1,776)	-	-
Net movement in funds		15,993	(122,098)	(11,642)	(117,747)	(74,460)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS						
Total funds brought forward	17	962,400	2,389,213	41,238	3,392,851	3,467,311
Total funds carried forward	17	<u>978,393</u>	<u>2,267,115</u>	<u>29,596</u>	<u>3,275,104</u>	<u>3,392,851</u>

None of the charity's other activities were acquired or discontinued during the above two financial years.

The charity has no recognised gains or losses other than those dealt with in the statement of financial activities.

FERRING COUNTRY CENTRE LIMITED

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

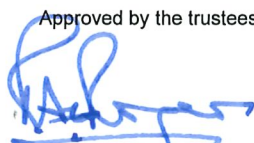
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

		2023		2022	
	Note	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	12		2,267,115		2,389,213
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stock of goods for resale		13,722		14,813	
Debtors	13	62,305		68,549	
Cash at hand and in bank		<u>1,060,282</u>		<u>1,080,810</u>	
Total current assets		<u>1,136,309</u>		<u>1,164,172</u>	
CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	<u>128,320</u>		<u>160,534</u>	
Net current assets/(liabilities)			1,007,989		1,003,638
Net assets/(liabilities)			<u>3,275,104</u>		<u>3,392,851</u>
THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY					
Restricted funds	17		29,596		41,238
Unrestricted funds					
Fixed Asset reserve	17	2,267,115		2,389,213	
Designated funds	17	-		-	
General funds	17	<u>978,393</u>		<u>962,400</u>	
Total unrestricted funds			3,245,508		3,351,613
Total charity funds	17		<u>3,275,104</u>		<u>3,392,851</u>

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

The notes on pages 21 to 30 form part of these accounts.

Approved by the trustees 6 June 2024 and signed on their behalf.



Robert A G Rogers
Trustee – Chairman

Ferring Country Centre Limited
Registered charity no.: 297286
Registered company no.: 2086358

FERRING COUNTRY CENTRE LIMITED

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

	2023		2022	
	£	£	£	£
Net cash flow from operating activities (see below)		20,320		104,358
Cash flow from investing activities				
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets	(73,551)		(164,657)	
Proceeds on disposal of tangible fixed assets	9,167		2,347	
Interest received	23,536		5,708	
Net cash flow from investing activities		(40,848)		(156,602)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(20,528)		(52,244)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January 2023		1,080,810		1,133,054
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December 2023		<u>1,060,282</u>		<u>1,080,810</u>
Cash and cash equivalents consist of:				
Cash at bank and in hand		1,060,282		1,080,810
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December 2023		<u>1,060,282</u>		<u>1,080,810</u>
Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities				
	£	£	£	£
Net income for the year		(117,747)		(74,460)
Adjusted for:				
Interest receivable	(23,536)		(5,708)	
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	194,158		182,982	
Loss/(profit) on disposal of tangible fixed assets	(7,676)		(2,010)	
Decrease/(increase) in stock	1,091		(690)	
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	6,244		(7,726)	
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(32,214)		11,970	
		138,067		178,818
		<u>20,320</u>		<u>104,358</u>

FERRING COUNTRY CENTRE LIMITED

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

General information, scope and basis of the financial statements

Ferring Country Centre Limited is a private company, limited by guarantee, incorporated in England with the company number 02086358. 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. The registered office and principal place of business is Rife Way, Ferring, Worthing, West Sussex, BN12 5JZ and its operations are outlined in the trustees' report.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. 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 issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest £.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

Incoming Resources Policy Notes

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the Charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

For donations to be recognised the Charity will have been notified of the amounts and the settlement date in writing. If there are conditions attached to the donation and this requires a level of performance before entitlement can be obtained then income is deferred until those conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of those conditions is within the control of the Charity and it is probable that they will be fulfilled.

Income from trading activities includes income earned from fundraising events and trading activities to raise funds for the Charity. Income is received in exchange for supplying goods and services in order to raise funds and is recognised when entitlement has occurred.

Income from government and other grants are recognised at fair value when the Charity has entitlement after any performance conditions have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably. If entitlement is not met then these amounts are deferred.

Investment income is earned through holding assets such as cash deposits and includes interest received. Interest income is recognised using the effective interest method, where material.

Resources Expended Policy Notes

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Staff costs, support costs and governance costs

Support costs are those that assist the work of the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs, governance costs, administrative payroll costs. Staff costs have been allocated between costs of raising funds, charitable activities and governance costs on the basis of time spent by staff. Support costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings and have been allocated to cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources. Support costs have been allocated to charitable activities on the best estimate of the use of those resources.

Governance costs are costs associated with the general running of the charity as opposed to the day to day activities. Governance costs have been allocated to cost of charitable activities on the basis they form part of carrying out those activities.

Allocation of support costs and governance costs

Support costs and governance costs are allocated to the different activities within expenditure on charitable activities on the basis of the number of clients involved in each activity.

FERRING COUNTRY CENTRE LIMITED

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Employee benefits

When employees have rendered service to the Charity, short-term employee benefits to which the employees are entitled are recognised at the undiscounted amount expected to be paid in exchange for that service.

Pension costs

The charity operates defined contribution pension schemes. Contributions to the scheme are charged to the statement of financial activities on a payable basis.

Leases

Rentals payable and receivable under operating leases are charged to the SoFA on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

VAT

The Charity is registered for VAT and operates on a partial exemption basis. Costs are recorded inclusive of VAT within the SOFA where they relate to exempt supplies with other irrecoverable amounts expensed as they arise.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in sections 466 to 493 Corporation Tax Act 2010 (CTA 2010), as such no income tax is payable on the charity's activities.

Fixed Assets Policy Notes

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Cost includes costs directly attributable to making the asset capable of operating as intended.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset on a systematic basis over its expected useful life as follows:

Assets in the course of construction	- nil.
Freehold buildings	- 3.33%-5% per annum on cost.
Freehold land	- nil.
Plant & machinery	- 25% per annum on cost.
Fixtures, fittings & equipment	- 25% per annum on cost.
Motor vehicles	- 25% per annum on reducing balance basis.

Stock

Stocks of plants, associated materials and gift shop items for resale are shown in the balance sheet at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Quantities of resources such as seeds, compost, animal feed, animal medicines and office stationery are purchased when required. Any balance of such items on hand at the accounting date are negligible and have not been valued or shown as stock.

Debtors and creditors receivable / payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

FERRING COUNTRY CENTRE LIMITED

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other 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.

Funds Structure Policy Notes

Restricted funds

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the note 17 of these financial statements.

Unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

FERRING COUNTRY CENTRE LIMITED

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	2023 Total Funds
	General £	Designated £	£	£
Donations	32,392	-	22,689	55,081
Legacies	24,000	-	-	24,000
Grants	-	-	8,000	8,000
	<u>56,392</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>30,689</u>	<u>87,081</u>

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	2022 Total Funds
	General £	Designated £	£	£
Donations	23,814	-	18,771	42,585
Legacies	-	-	-	-
Grants	-	-	-	-
	<u>23,814</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>18,771</u>	<u>42,585</u>

2. Other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	2023 Total Funds
	General £	Designated £	£	£
Fundraising event income	1,914	-	-	1,914
Other fundraising income	11,115	-	-	11,115
	<u>13,029</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,029</u>

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	2022 Total Funds
	General £	Designated £	£	£
Fundraising event income	2,049	-	-	2,049
Other fundraising income	10,494	-	-	10,494
	<u>12,543</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,543</u>

3. Investments

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	2023 Total Funds
	General £	Designated £	£	£
Bank interest	23,536	-	-	23,536
	<u>23,536</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>23,536</u>

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	2022 Total Funds
	General £	Designated £	£	£
Bank interest	5,708	-	-	5,708
	<u>5,708</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,708</u>

FERRING COUNTRY CENTRE LIMITED

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

4. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	2023 Total Funds
	General £	Designated £	£	£
Services to beneficiaries	1,122,088	-	-	1,122,088
Riding school and Riding Therapy Unit	211,960	-	-	211,960
Horticulture	85,429	-	-	85,429
Catering Services	377,515	-	-	377,515
Small Animal Farm	113,264	-	-	113,264
Shop sales	35,141	-	-	35,141
	<u>1,945,397</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,945,397</u>

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	2022 Total Funds
	General £	Designated £	£	£
Services to beneficiaries	1,074,310	-	-	1,074,310
Riding school and Riding Therapy Unit	182,194	-	-	182,194
Horticulture	77,008	-	-	77,008
Catering Services	341,115	-	-	341,115
Small Animal Farm	118,810	-	-	118,810
Shop sales	31,966	-	-	31,966
	<u>1,825,403</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,825,403</u>

5. Other incoming resources

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	2023 Total Funds
	General £	Designated £	£	£
Friends of Ferring Country Centre	30	-	-	30
Other miscellaneous income	-	-	-	-
Insurance claims	13,269	-	-	13,269
Profit on disposal of assets	7,675	-	-	7,675
Government COVID-19 support	-	-	-	-
	<u>20,974</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20,974</u>

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	2022 Total Funds
	General £	Designated £	£	£
Friends of Ferring Country Centre	60	-	-	60
Other miscellaneous income	-	-	-	-
Insurance claims	7,910	-	-	7,910
Profit on disposal of assets	2,010	-	-	2,010
Government COVID-19 support	8,784	-	-	8,784
	<u>18,764</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>18,764</u>

FERRING COUNTRY CENTRE LIMITED

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

6. Raising funds

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	2023 Total Funds
	General £	Designated £	£	£
Fundraising costs	672	-	-	672
	<u>672</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>672</u>

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	2022 Total Funds
	General £	Designated £	£	£
Fundraising costs	1,017	-	-	1,017
	<u>1,017</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,017</u>

7. Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	2023 Total Funds
	General £	Designated £	£	£
Direct costs	251,467	-	6,229	257,696
Personnel costs	456,784	-	-	456,784
Depreciation	60,375	-	-	60,375
Disposal of fixed assets	-	-	-	-
Support costs (see note 8)	1,397,911	-	34,326	1,432,237
	<u>2,166,537</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>40,555</u>	<u>2,207,092</u>

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	2022 Total Funds
	General £	Designated £	£	£
Direct costs	244,935	-	3,759	248,694
Personnel costs	450,416	-	-	450,416
Depreciation	60,382	-	-	60,382
Disposal of fixed assets	-	-	-	-
Support costs (see note 8)	1,209,337	-	9,617	1,218,954
	<u>1,965,070</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,376</u>	<u>1,978,446</u>

FERRING COUNTRY CENTRE LIMITED

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

8. Support costs

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	2023 Total Funds
	General £	Designated £	£	£
Staffing costs	913,984	-	-	913,984
Premises costs	210,219	-	34,326	244,545
Governance and administrative costs	102,909	-	-	102,909
Depreciation	133,783	-	-	133,783
Client costs	21,762	-	-	21,762
Legal and professional fees	15,254	-	-	15,254
	<u>1,397,911</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>34,326</u>	<u>1,432,237</u>

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	2022 Total Funds
	General £	Designated £	£	£
Staffing costs	783,573	-	-	783,573
Premises costs	181,812	-	2,608	184,420
Governance and administrative costs	87,847	-	5,608	93,455
Depreciation	122,599	-	-	122,599
Client costs	19,210	-	1,401	20,611
Legal and professional fees	14,296	-	-	14,296
	<u>1,209,337</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,617</u>	<u>1,218,954</u>

9. Auditors' remuneration

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	2023 Total Funds
	General £	Designated £	£	£
Audit	5,250	-	-	5,250
Payroll services	1,800	-	-	1,800
	<u>7,050</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,050</u>

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	2022 Total Funds
	General £	Designated £	£	£
Audit	5,250	-	-	5,250
Payroll services	1,800	-	-	1,800
	<u>7,050</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,050</u>

FERRING COUNTRY CENTRE LIMITED

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

10. Wages and salary cost

	2023 Total Funds £	2022 Total Funds £
Gross wages	1,187,916	1,100,882
Employer's national insurance costs (net of employment allowance)	66,754	65,184
Pension costs	72,814	59,435
Redundancy / Termination payments - Full and final settlement	7,170	2,498
	<u>1,334,654</u>	<u>1,227,999</u>

Staff numbers:

	2023	2022
Average head count	<u>82</u>	<u>79</u>

Analysed by function:

RTU and riding school	6	6
Horticulture	3	3
Café, shop, farm and visitor centre	35	32
Day service and client development	29	29
Facilities	4	5
Management and administration	5	4
	<u>82</u>	<u>79</u>

Calculated on a full-time equivalent basis, analysed by function:

RTU and riding school	3	4
Horticulture	2	2
Café, shop, farm and visitor centre	12	13
Day service and client development	20	23
Facilities	4	3
Management and administration	7	4
	<u>48</u>	<u>49</u>

During the year under review one employee (2022: no employees) had emoluments (excluding employer pension costs) above £60,000 in the range £60,000 to £70,000.

The number of staff to whom retirement benefits are accruing under defined contribution schemes

	2023	2022
RTU and riding school	4	5
Fundraising	1	-
Horticulture	1	1
Café, shop, farm and visitor centre	14	13
Day service and client development	30	25
Facilities	4	3
Management and administration	5	5
	<u>59</u>	<u>52</u>

Defined contribution pension scheme

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for its employees. Employer contributions to the scheme during the year under review amounted to £72,814 (2022: £59,435) with £6,868 (2022: £5,949) payable at the balance sheet date in respect of employer and employee contributions. Pension costs are allocated to charitable activities and support costs on the basis of the activities the employee is involved in.

FERRING COUNTRY CENTRE LIMITED

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

11. Related party transactions

No trustee received any remuneration from employment or other benefits with the charity during the year under review nor the comparative year.

During the year under review 6 (2022: 5) members of the charity's staff, identified as key management personnel, received employee benefits totalling £196,578 (2022: £208,947) consisting of salary, termination payments and employer's pension contributions. The charity reimbursed expenses and met costs on behalf of key management personnel incurred during the fulfilment of their responsibilities in the year totalling £1,295 (2022: £1,599). In addition a leaving gift to the value of £50 was provided to one of the members of key management personnel. The charity's key management personnel are included in the group life assurance plan for employees.

No donations were received from the charity's trustees with or without conditions attached. In the comparative year donations totalling £180 were received with conditions attached.

During the year under review four children (2022: four children) of key management personnel were employed on a part time basis and received employee benefits totalling £4,082 (2022: £51,460) between them.

There were no other transactions with related parties that require disclosure in the financial statements.

12. Fixed assets

	Assets in the course of construction £	Land & Buildings £	Plant & Machinery £	Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment £	Motor Vehicles £	TOTAL £
<i>Cost</i>						
At 1 January 2023	3,413	3,315,346	311,289	272,626	47,785	3,950,459
Additions	-	13,199	8,993	51,359	-	73,551
Disposals	-	-	-	-	(15,000)	(15,000)
At 31 December 2023	<u>3,413</u>	<u>3,328,545</u>	<u>320,282</u>	<u>323,985</u>	<u>32,785</u>	<u>4,009,010</u>
<i>Depreciation</i>						
Accumulated at 1 January 2023	-	1,142,315	235,131	146,357	37,443	1,561,246
Charge for the year	-	102,685	31,567	57,435	2,471	194,158
On disposals	-	-	-	-	(13,509)	(13,509)
At 31 December 2023	<u>-</u>	<u>1,245,000</u>	<u>266,698</u>	<u>203,792</u>	<u>26,405</u>	<u>1,741,895</u>
Net book value at 31 December 2023	<u>3,413</u>	<u>2,083,545</u>	<u>53,584</u>	<u>120,193</u>	<u>6,380</u>	<u>2,267,115</u>
Net book value at 31 December 2022	<u>3,413</u>	<u>2,173,031</u>	<u>76,158</u>	<u>126,269</u>	<u>10,342</u>	<u>2,389,213</u>

13. Debtors

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	2023 Total Funds £	2022 Total Funds £
	General £	Designated £	£		
<i>Within one year</i>					
Trade debtors	664	-	-	664	10,394
Prepayments and accrued income	61,641	-	-	61,641	51,488
Other debtors	-	-	-	-	6,667
	<u>62,305</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>62,305</u>	<u>68,549</u>

FERRING COUNTRY CENTRE LIMITED

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

14. Creditors

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	2023 Total Funds	2022 Total Funds
	General £	Designated £	£	£	£
Trade creditors	22,494	-	-	22,494	31,028
Other taxes and social security costs	22,715	-	-	22,715	19,929
VAT Payable	62,085	-	-	62,085	62,846
Accruals and deferred income	21,026	-	-	21,026	46,731
	<u>128,320</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>128,320</u>	<u>160,534</u>

15. Commitments under operating leases

	2023 Total Funds	2022 Total Funds
	£	£
At 31 December the charity had total minimum lease payments under operating leases in respect of vehicles which expire as follows:		
In less than one year	2,805	3,059
Later than one year and not later than two years	-	-
	<u>2,805</u>	<u>3,059</u>

Total lease payments in relation to vehicles recognised as an expense in the year were £6,985

	2023 Total Funds	2022 Total Funds
	£	£
At 31 December the charity had total minimum lease payments under operating leases in respect of office equipment which expire as follows:		
In less than one year	7,512	3,244
Later than one year and not later than two years	7,083	3,244
Later than two years and not later than five years	17,388	2,433
	<u>31,983</u>	<u>8,921</u>

Total lease payments in relation to office equipment recognised as an expense in the year were £2,862.

16. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds			Restricted Funds	2023 Total Funds
	General £	Fixed Asset £	Designated £	£	£
Tangible assets	-	2,267,115	-	-	2,267,115
Current assets	1,106,713	-	-	29,596	1,136,309
Current liabilities	(128,320)	-	-	-	(128,320)
	<u>978,393</u>	<u>2,267,115</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>29,596</u>	<u>3,275,104</u>

	Unrestricted Funds			Restricted Funds	2022 Total Funds
	General £	Fixed Asset £	Designated £	£	£
Net current assets/(liabilities)	-	2,389,213	-	-	2,389,213
Current assets	1,122,934	-	-	41,238	1,164,172
Current liabilities	(160,534)	-	-	-	(160,534)
	<u>962,400</u>	<u>2,389,213</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>41,238</u>	<u>3,392,851</u>

FERRING COUNTRY CENTRE LIMITED

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

17. Analysis of net movement in funds

	Year ended 31 December 2023				
	Total funds brought forward £	Total incoming resources £	Total resources expended £	Transfers between funds £	Total funds carried forward £
<i>Restricted funds</i>					
Café	464	-	-	-	464
Catering	585	-	-	-	585
Client	3,349	9,929	(6,768)	(1,776)	4,734
Farm	12,078	4,493	(16,477)	-	94
Horti	5,200	85	(1,194)	-	4,091
RTU	8,901	916	(4,999)	-	4,818
Woodwork Shop	1,396	-	-	-	1,396
Dance and drama studio	-	6,000	-	-	6,000
Other restricted funds	9,265	9,266	(11,117)	-	7,414
	<u>41,238</u>	<u>30,689</u>	<u>(40,555)</u>	<u>(1,776)</u>	<u>29,596</u>
<i>Unrestricted funds</i>					
Fixed Asset reserve	2,389,213	-	-	(122,098)	2,267,115
	<u>2,389,213</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(122,098)</u>	<u>2,267,115</u>
Designated funds - The charity's trustees have designated funds for the following purposes:					
COVID-19 client response	-	-	-	-	-
Total designated funds	-	-	-	-	-
General reserves	962,400	2,059,328	(2,167,209)	123,874	978,393
Total unrestricted funds	<u>3,351,613</u>	<u>2,059,328</u>	<u>(2,167,209)</u>	<u>1,776</u>	<u>3,245,508</u>
Total funds	<u>3,392,851</u>	<u>2,090,017</u>	<u>(2,207,764)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,275,104</u>

	Year ended 31 December 2022				
	Total funds brought forward £	Total incoming resources £	Total resources expended £	Transfers between funds £	Total funds carried forward £
<i>Restricted funds</i>					
Café	644	-	-	(180)	464
Catering	585	-	-	-	585
Client	2,621	6,561	(1,401)	(4,432)	3,349
Farm	4,591	7,600	(113)	-	12,078
Horti	5,000	200	-	-	5,200
RTU	11,417	1,185	(3,702)	-	8,900
Woodwork Shop	1,535	-	(138)	-	1,397
Other restricted funds	13,882	3,225	(8,022)	180	9,265
	<u>40,275</u>	<u>18,771</u>	<u>(13,376)</u>	<u>(4,432)</u>	<u>41,238</u>
<i>Unrestricted funds</i>					
Fixed Asset reserve	2,407,875	-	-	(18,662)	2,389,213
	<u>2,407,875</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(18,662)</u>	<u>2,389,213</u>
Designated funds - The charity's trustees have designated funds for the following purposes:					
COVID-19 client response	100,000	-	-	(100,000)	-
Total designated funds	100,000	-	-	(100,000)	-
General reserves	919,161	1,886,232	(1,966,087)	123,094	962,400
Total unrestricted funds	<u>3,427,036</u>	<u>1,886,232</u>	<u>(1,966,087)</u>	<u>4,432</u>	<u>3,351,613</u>
Total funds	<u>3,467,311</u>	<u>1,905,003</u>	<u>(1,979,463)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,392,851</u>

Description of funds

Café	Funds received to support the charity's Café which is open to the General Public as well as providing training and skills for our Day service customers.
Catering	Funds received to support the charity's Catering department provide the equipment that enables our Day Service Customers to learn and develop catering skills.

FERRING COUNTRY CENTRE LIMITED

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Description of funds (continued)

Client	Funds received to support the charity's Day Service Customers and enables them to learn and develop skills that they can use in everyday life.
Farm	Funds received to support the charity's Dales Farm; allowing us to enhance the facilities to provide training and opportunities to our Day Service Customers.
Horti	Funds received to support the charity's Horticultural department by providing the tooling and other provisions to enable our Day Service Customers to learn and develop skills.
RTU	Funds received to support the charity's Riding Therapy Unit to allow us to support our Day Service Customers and the Riders who attend the Centre to ride the horses as a beneficial therapy.
Woodwork Shop	Funds received to support the charity's Woodwork shop allowing us to build, purchase tools and supplies to enable our Day Service Customers in learning woodwork skills.
Dance and drama studio	Funds received to support the charity's Dance and drama studio plans to provide our Day Service Customers with increased access and wider experiences.
Other restricted funds	Other funds received to support the charity in other restricted projects.
Fixed asset reserve	Representing the balance of fixed assets held by the charity.
COVID-19 client response	Funds have been designated by the trustees from reserves to improve and develop contact and resources for the Centre's clients who have lost access during the COVID-19 pandemic.

18. Transfers between funds

16. Transfers between funds		Unrestricted Funds			Restricted Funds
From	To	General £	Fixed Asset £	Designated £	Funds £
<i>Transfer 1</i>					
Client	Fixed Asset reserve	-	1,776	-	(1,776)
General reserves	Fixed Asset reserve	123,874	(123,874)	-	-
		<u>123,874</u>	<u>(122,098)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,776)</u>
Transfer from restricted funds and designated funds on acquisition of fixed assets and completion of projects.					
<i>Transfer 2</i>					
COVID-19 client response	General reserves	-	-	-	-
		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Transfer from designated funds to unrestricted general funds as no longer required.					
		<u>123,874</u>	<u>(122,098)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,776)</u>

FERRING COUNTRY CENTRE LIMITED

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

19. Financial instruments

The carrying amounts of the charity's financial instruments are as follows:

	2023 Total Funds £	2022 Total Funds £
<i>Financial assets</i>		
Debt instruments measured at amortised cost:		
Trade debtors	664	10,394
	<u>664</u>	<u>10,394</u>
<i>Financial liabilities</i>		
Measured at amortised cost:		
Trade creditors	22,494	31,028
	<u>22,494</u>	<u>31,028</u>

20. Comparative statement of financial activities

	Note	Unrestricted Funds General £	Designated £	Restricted Funds £	2022 Total Funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:					
Donations and legacies	1	23,814	-	18,771	42,585
Other trading activities	2	12,543	-	-	12,543
Investments	3	5,708	-	-	5,708
Charitable activities	4	1,825,403	-	-	1,825,403
Other	5	18,764	-	-	18,764
Total		<u>1,886,232</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>18,771</u>	<u>1,905,003</u>
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Raising funds	6	1,017	-	-	1,017
Charitable activities	7	1,965,070	-	13,376	1,978,446
Total		<u>1,966,087</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,376</u>	<u>1,979,463</u>
Net Income/(expenditure)		(79,855)	-	5,395	(74,460)
Transfers between funds	17, 18	123,094	(118,662)	(4,432)	-
Net movement in funds		43,239	(118,662)	963	(74,460)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward	17	919,161	2,507,875	40,275	3,467,311
Total funds carried forward	17	<u>962,400</u>	<u>2,389,213</u>	<u>41,238</u>	<u>3,392,851</u>

Ferring Country Centre Limited

REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

Audit for the year ended 31 December 2023

Ferring Country Centre Limited

Report to the trustees

Contents

Introduction and terms of reference



We set out the objectives of our audit, its scope and summarise our findings

Audit status and timetable to completion



We set out any matters required prior to completion of the audit and the timescale for these

Independence



We confirm our independence

Key accounting and audit matters



We discuss audit findings

Adjusted and unadjusted differences



We set out any adjustments made during the course of our audit and any differences which remain unadjusted

Current technical Developments



We set out the current accounting, regulatory and corporate governance developments that are relevant to the charity.

Ferring Country Centre Limited

Report to the trustees

Introduction and terms of reference

Introduction

- This report summarises the scope of our work and the key audit and accounting matters arising from our audit of the financial statements for the charity, including those matters identified at the planning stage.
- The report is prepared solely for the use of the management and trustees of Ferring Country Centre Limited and should not be shown to any other person without our express permission in writing. We do not accept responsibility for this report to any other person and we hereby disclaim any and all such liability.
- We have substantially completed our audit work in respect of the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023 and anticipate issuing an unqualified audit opinion.
- This report covers those matters we believe to be material in the context of our work.

Audit scope

The scope of our work, as agreed in our Engagement Letter, was to carry out an audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) of the charity's financial statements prepared under United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (UK GAAP), Companies Act and the requirements of the Charities SORP.

In addition it was to form an opinion on whether:

- The financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2023 and of the surplus or deficit for the year then ended;
- The financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with UK GAAP, Companies Act 2006 and the Charities SORP;
- The information given in the trustees' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

We are also required to consider whether:

- Adequate accounting records have been kept by the charity, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received, or
- The financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns, or
- Certain disclosures of any 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 exemption in preparing the directors' report and take advantage of the small companies exemption from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Ferring Country Centre Limited

Report to the trustees

Introduction and terms of reference

Key accounting and audit matters

- Brought Forward; Café operations and potential tax liability
- Will documentation for legacy income

Materiality and unadjusted differences

- Materiality is considered to be £31,000 for the financial statements as a whole;
- However, we are required to bring to your attention any audit adjustments that we have identified but which management are not proposing to adjust above the clearly trivial figure of £1,000.

Systems and controls

- As part of our audit procedures we have documented the processes and controls on, and performed walkthrough tests of, the key transaction streams that impact the financial statements.
- We should point out that, as the purpose of the audit is to form an opinion on the charity's financial statements, our examination cannot necessarily be expected to disclose all shortcomings in systems and controls.
- Significant issues which we wish to bring to your attention as a result of the work we have performed are set out on in the relevant section of this report.

Fraud and error

- We have considered the risk of material misstatement due to fraud and error.
- We have also made enquiries of management and trustees as to whether there has been any fraud or unadjusted error during the period under review. Management and trustees are not aware of any fraud or unadjusted error.

Ferring Country Centre Limited

Report to the trustees

Audit status and timetable to completion

Audit status



- We have substantially completed our audit work. This report details our main findings.
- The following key areas remain outstanding in respect of our audit:
 - Receipt of signed letter of representations.
 - Receipt of signed accounts.

Timetable to completion



- The charity's AGM is to be held on 6 June 2024 where the financial statements are to be approved and signed.

Ferring Country Centre Limited

Report to the trustees

Independence

Under Auditing and Ethical Standards, we are required as auditors to confirm our independence to “those charged with governance”. In our opinion, and to be confirmed by you, we consider that for these purposes it is appropriate to designate the trustees as those charged with governance.

Our internal procedures are designed to ensure that all partners and professional staff are aware of relationships that may be considered to bear on our objectivity and independence as auditors. The principal statements of policies are set out in our firm-wide guidance. In addition, we have embedded the requirements of the standards in our methodologies, tools and internal training programmes.

The procedures require that audit engagement partners are made aware of any matters which may reasonably be thought to bear on the firm’s independence and the objectivity of the audit engagement partner and the audit staff. This document considers such matters in the context of our audit for the year ended 31 December 2023.

In addition to our audit work we have provided statutory accounts preparation services to the charity. This presents a potential threat to our independence as auditors as, in part, our audit work will be assessing the output of our accounts preparation services. Blue Spire Limited also carry out the provision of payroll services for the entity. Similarly, to statutory accounts preparation this presents a potential independence threat. The payroll service is provided by individuals outside of the audit team and all judgements and decisions are taken by management.

Audit regulations recognise that, with smaller organisations such as your charity, a combination of services is often in the client’s best interests and so long as safeguards are in place no significant threat to audit independence arises. One of these safeguards is the existence of informed management who have been identified by the trustees as Hannah Tombs, John Ashby in addition to Linda Clark. We have discussed those safeguards with management and the chair of trustees and they have agreed that they are sufficient to mitigate any material threat to audit independence arising from the preparation, by us, of the statutory accounts for the charity.

We confirm that the firm complies with the FRC Ethical Standards and, in our professional judgment, is independent and objective within the meaning of those standards

Ferring Country Centre Limited

Report to the trustees

Key accounting and audit matters

Key audit areas	Description	Auditor response, any recommendations and our conclusion
Café operations and potential tax liability	<p>During the last 2 financial audits we raised a concern around the charity's exposure to corporate tax through its café and assorted other trading activities and provided a backdrop to trading by charities and how a tax charge could be avoided.</p> <p>We discussed this area in detail with management and a representative of those charged with governance with a focus on how the charity should respond to this risk which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater analysis of the relevant income and costs; and • Expansion on the use of the charity's day service customers (beneficiaries) in the operation of these activities where possible. 	<p>As part of the audit for the year under review we made an assessment of this analysis and were able to satisfy ourselves over the risk of a tax charge of does not exist.</p> <p>We recommend the monitoring and review of this area is continued to ensure a tax charge does not arise and provide the opportunity to respond as necessary should it be anticipated one may.</p>
Will documentation for legacy income	<p>During the audit it became apparent that will documentation was not requested upon receipt of legacy income. We are, however, content that any further income due on the legacies received in the year (if any) is not likely to be material.</p>	<p>We recommend that a copy of the will documentation is requested from the will Executor upon notification of legacy payment, to ensure the legacy coming in is accurate and to gain an understanding whether any residual balance is due to the entity in the future.</p>



Ferring Country Centre Limited

Report to the trustees

Adjusted differences

	Statement of financial activities		Balance sheet	
	Expense	Income	Asset	Liability
	£	£	£	£
None				

Please note we have not included adjustments provided by management or those which were agreed and made as part of the accounts preparation

Ferring Country Centre Limited
Report to the trustees

Unadjusted differences – in excess of the clearly trivial figure

	Statement of financial activities		Balance sheet	
	Expense	Income	Asset	Liability
	£	£	£	£
None				

Ferring Country Centre Limited

Report to the trustees

Current developments

Title	Summary	Impact on the charity
<p>Updated guidance from the Charity Commission</p>	<p><u><i>Charity campaigning and political activity</i></u> The Charity Commission published guidance during May 2024 in respect of campaigning and political activity and how these are regulated now an election has been called.</p> <p><u><i>Protecting charities from abuse for extremist purposes guidance and toolkit</i></u> The Charity Commission updated their guidance and toolkit to avoid exposure to those who encourage terrorism.</p> <p><u><i>Environmental responsibility for charities</i></u> Updated guidance issued by the Charity Commission on how charities can improve their impact on the environment and be energy efficient including considerations where the charity's objects have no mention of the environment.</p> <p><u><i>Work with other charities</i></u> The Charity Commission updated its guidance on identifying partners, drawing up agreements and fundraising collaboratively.</p>	<p>No specific impact, however useful information.</p>
<p>Charities Act 2022</p>	<p>Guidance and reminders are available on the Charity Commission website setting out the phased introductions of new rules and powers.</p> <p><i>Changes from 7 March 2024</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making changes to governing documents • Further provisions around selling leasing or disposing of land • Charity mergers and recognition of gifts 	<p>Points of note generally with limited impact on Ferring Country Centre Limited and its ongoing activities.</p>