

STEPNEY COMMUNITY TRUST
(A REGISTERED CHARITY & COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

Directors' Report and Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 March 2024

STEPNEY COMMUNITY TRUST**Contents**

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STEPNEY COMMUNITY TRUST

COMPANY INFORMATION

Directors:	Bodrul Alom Ahmed Hassan Mohammed Abdul Malik Mohammed Enam Uddin Ms Rafia Khan Ms Aameena Begum
Secretary:	Bodrul Alom
Registered Office:	46 Myrdle Street London E1 1HL
Business Address:	46 Myrdle Street London E1 1HL
Company Registration Number:	2036918
Charity Registration Number:	297771
Bankers:	National Westminster Bank PLC Whitechapel Road (B) Branch Black Lion House 45 Whitechapel Road London E1 1DU
Independent Examiner:	Muhit & Co Chartered Certified Accountants & Tax Advisers 80A Ashfield Street Unit 4 London E1 2BJ

STEPNEY COMMUNITY TRUST

Directors/Trustee's Report

For the year ended 31st March 2024

The Trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31st March 2024

STEPNEY COMMUNITY TRUST is a grassroots community organisation. It operates in areas with high levels of poverty and deprivation, surrounded by prosperity and affluence. Over several decades the Trust has supported deprived and disadvantaged communities in Stepney and surrounding areas of East London.

Through grassroots activities, it has developed good expertise in accessing and supporting hard to reach people and providing them with much-needed activities/services in a culturally sensitive way. These include vocational training courses designed to inspire, motivate and up-skill disadvantaged people to go forward in life.

Structure, Governance and Management

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the governing rule and applicable law.

Governing document

The charity was originally founded in 1982. It was registered as a company limited by guarantee in July 1986 (2036918) and as a charity in October 1987 (297771).

How the Trust was founded

Stepney Community Trust (formerly St Mary's Centre) was founded in 1982 by Soyful Alom, who was involved with the organisation, directly and indirectly, until 2010.

Appointment of Trustees

The Board of Trustees has the power to appoint additional Trustees or remove Trustees as it considers fit to do so.

Appointment of Directors

The Board of Directors has the power to appoint additional directors or remove directors as it considers fit to do so.

The Trustees and Directors in office in the year are set out on page 2. The Trustees and Directors have no beneficial interest in the organisation other than as members.

Trustees

Mohammed Abdul Malik, Bodrul Alom, Mohammed Enam Uddin, Hassan Ahmed, Ms Rafia Khan and Ms Ameena Begum.

Directors

Abdul Malik, Bodrul Alom, Enam Uddin, Hassan Ahmed and Ms Rafia Khan and Ms Ameena Begum.

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Company Secretary

Bodrul Alom

Organisation

The Trustees/Directors meet regularly to manage the affairs of the charity. The day-to-day running of the charity is the responsibility of the Secretary, who manages staff and volunteers and reports directly to the Board of Trustees.

Staff and Volunteers

Dr Muhammad Ahmedullah, Shamili Hoque, Rubiya Begum, Rafia Khatun, Elena Hawkins (ESOL tutor), Isabel Kidel (ESOL tutor), Shabnam Khan, Rukshana Khanam, Salma Begum, Kate Eaton (ESOL tutor), Hayat Attusi, Salma Begum, Israth Jahan Hera, Shayla Sidiqua, Hazera Begum, Sharmine Akther Ruby, Fathema Khanam Jule, Shah Rakibul Hoque and Muhammed Qualam.

Volunteers

All our volunteers dedicate at least six hours or more a week of their time. They are there to support the charity's various activities and gain new skills and experiences to enhance their employment prospects. Volunteers are regularly recruited, trained, supported and supervised throughout.

Public benefit Statement

The Trustees and Directors consider that they have complied with Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 concerning the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission.

Objectives and Activities

STEPNEY COMMUNITY TRUST is a grassroots community organisation that aims:

"To enhance and improve the area's social welfare; educational, employment and economic prospects; living environment; and enabling residents to access opportunities for development and improving their physical and mental health and the quality of life in general".

What the Trust offers to the community

Following the pandemic the Trust, as a voluntary and charity sector organisation, has experienced increasing difficulties in fundraising. In such a difficult time, the Trust found itself limited by what it could offer to address the changing needs of the local community. Despite the socio-economic and financial constraints, it has worked very hard to deliver the following projects during the last financial year.

What the Trust offers to the community

Due to the pandemic and lockdowns in recent years, the Trust, as a voluntary and charity sector organisation, has experienced increasing difficulties in fundraising. In such a difficult time, the Trust found itself limited by what it could offer to address the changing needs of the local community. However, despite the socio-economic and financial constraints, it has worked very hard to deliver the following projects during the financial year.

Life Skills Project

SCT has developed and delivered this exciting 'Life Skills Project', and its activities included ESOL, ICT and Job search. It also included opportunities for local people to overcome social isolation by attending weekly tea mornings, promoting community cohesion and developing

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social skills and self-confidence.

Urban Garden Project

The food growing project was aimed at local women and managed by volunteers. In the urban garden in the backyard of the Trust's building, local women created a miniature ecosystem with raised beds, a small herb area, peach and pear trees, smaller plants on square and rectangular boxes and Comfrey to generate plant food. The space was divided into small sections and allocated to local women that joined the project. They learnt about sowing and how to look after, grow and harvest organic food, gaining theoretical and practical knowledge. They grew vegetables and herbs and organised a harvest celebration by cooking and eating together with the wider local community.

English for All and English for Life

English for All and English for Life (E4A and E4L) was designed to provide a new way of ESOL training based on flexible learning approaches combined with social and health activities to promote "connections, learning together and volunteering". This project was launched in June 2023 which proven to be extremely successful.

Sewing Project

It was challenging task to find resources to start this project, which offered creative activities to local women. However, local women have widely utilised the project activities by getting involved in making things for themselves to wear and to be used at home. Yet again, this is one of the most popular and widely used activities by local women.

More importantly, the sewing class is a popular social gathering that offers the participants time to relax, chat, make friends and learn a new skill. The progress of the participants is enormous in terms of developing tailoring skills – able to cut and make garments and more importantly, a boost of confidence and a sense of pride.

Confidence and Well-being Project

It offers a weekly meditation class in collaboration with a confidence-building activity. This has been very successful as it aims raising awareness about self-care, mental health and well-being which have helped participants to realise and develop importance of 'self-esteem' and 'looking after yourself'.

Let's Talk Project

This is a weekly drop-in session for anyone who wants to talk to someone about issues affecting their lives and well-being. In fact, this offers an opportunity for community members to offload any issues of stress and worries they might have been going through. It is a confidential and non-judgmental listening service which, is emerging very popular with local women.

Communication Class

Weekly English communication class is an interactive session which aims to help boost their confidence in speaking English. The focus is on everyday interaction and how to overcome shyness. At present it is offering four weekly ESOL classes delivered in partnership with ELATT and WEA.

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Heritage Project – Jute the Golden Fibre of Bengal and an Empire Monopoly

How the sweat of Bengal cultivators facilitated the expansion of the trade of the British Empire (1830-1940). The project began in mid-2023 with a launch in April to share details with the public and invite people to join as community participants. It recruited about a dozen individuals and provided them with training and visits to relevant heritage institutions, such as the London Metropolitan Archives, Kew Gardens and Dundee Jute Museum.

The project has two parts: research and writing about the history of Bengal jute and producing historical and creative crafts. It is envisaged that the project will be completed in October 2024.

Employment Pathways Project

This is a unique project commenced in January 2024 which aims to develop training and support for local people farthest away from the job market to improve employability skills. It offers complete job search activities and work experience to progress along employment pathways to make positive differences to their lives.

The core activities include skills development training; one-to-one mentoring and support; practical job search activities and up-skills training or workshops on communication; interview techniques; digital presentation, personnel and cv development and work experience and/or voluntary work placements.

Networking and Partnership

Following the pandemic, we were able to continue with our link and liaison work with a number of local community groups, including Bangladesh Youth Movement (BYM), Accounts 3, St Margaret's House, Tower Hamlets Carers Association, Fieldgate Mansions Tenants and Residents Association, Brady Arts Centre, Tower Hamlets Parents Centre, Bangladesh Carers Association, Tower Hamlets CVS, ELATT and WEA.

Achievement and Performance

During the past twelve months, in addition to our regular programmes, we have successfully organised and facilitated some unforgettable activities and events, including day trips for women users of the project; riverwalk - Chat N Walk, celebrations of Christmas, New Year, Eid Re-unions parties, etc.

Acknowledgement

The Board of Directors and Trustees are immensely grateful to Bodrul Alom, Company Secretary/Trustee for his on-going dedication and effort for fundraising, managing and supporting the day-to-day activities of the charity. In addition, we would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to LBTH, The National Lottery Heritage Fund, ELATT (East London Advance Technology Training), WEA (Workers' Educational Association) and Nilupa Rahim.

Small Company Provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Signed on behalf of the Board:



M A Malik (Director and Chair of Trustees)

Approved by the Board on 30th May.. 2024

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Independent Examiner's Report to the Directors for the year ended 31st March 2024

The financial statements laid out in this report on pages 7 have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the SORP, Accounting and Reporting by Charities Commission issued in April 2005 and applicable Accounting Standards and the Charities Act 1993.

Respective Responsibilities of the Trustees/Directors and the Examiner

As the Charity's Trustees, and the directors of the company for the purpose of Company Law you are responsible for the preparation of the Financial Statements. The Trustees consider that an Audit is not required for this year (under section 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011) and that an Independent Examiner is needed.

It is our responsibility to:

- Examine the Financial Statements under section 145 of the 2011 Act.
- Follow the procedure laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act and
- State whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of Independent Examiners' Report

The examination of the accounts was carried out in accordance with the general direction given by the Charities Commissioner. The examination includes:

- A review of the accounting records kept by the Charity.
- A comparison of the accounts presented with those records made available.
- It includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts.

Finally obtaining explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters relating to the accounts. The examination also includes examination of any such matters of evidence relevant to the account of disclosures in the financial statements. It includes assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the charity's circumstances consistently applied and adequately disclosed. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiners' Statement

In connection with our examination no matter has come to our attention:

(1) Which gives us reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities.
- have not been met; or

(2) to which in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Opinion

In our opinion the financial statement prepared give a true and fair view of the charity's state of affairs as at 31 March 2024 giving that the incoming resources and their application in the year then ended have been properly prepared with general direction given by the Charities Commissioner.


Muhit & Co

Chartered Certified Accountants & Tax Advisers

30th May 2024

STEPNEY COMMUNITY TRUST
Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Notes	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE					
Incoming Resources					
Grants and Donations	2	-	96,842	96,842	55,887
Bank Interest		-	1,076	1,076	132
Other Income (HMRC JRS)		-	-	-	-
Total Incoming Resources		<u>0</u>	<u>97,918</u>	<u>97,918</u>	<u>56,019</u>
Resources Expended					
Direct Charitable Expenditure		-	7,594	7,592	15,203
Governance Cost		-	55,241	55,241	37,245
Total Resources Expended		<u>0</u>	<u>62,835</u>	<u>62,833</u>	<u>52,448</u>
Net Incoming Resources for the year		-	35,083	35,083	3,571
Funds at 1 April 2023		<u>23,567</u>	<u>34,573</u>	<u>58,140</u>	<u>54,569</u>
Funds at 31 March 2024		<u>23,567</u>	<u>69,656</u>	<u>93,223</u>	<u>58,140</u>

The notes on pages 10 to 13 form part of these accounts.

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Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2024

		Total	Total
	Notes	2024	2023
		£	£
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Assets		97,907	95,503
Current assets			
Cash at Bank and in Hand		81,692	47,292
Debtors		2,193	2,742
		83,886	50,034
Current Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	6	(5,010)	(3,837)
Net current assets		78,876	46,197
Total assets less current liabilities		176,783	141,700
Net assets		176,783	141,700
Net assets			
Accumulated Funds	7		
Restricted Fund		23,567	23,567
Unrestricted Fund		69,656	34,573
Capital Reserve		83,560	83,560
Total Funds		176,783	141,700

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with special provisions relating to small companies within part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.


For the year ended 31 March 2024, the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 and no notice has been deposited under section 476.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and preparation of accounts.

The financial statements were approved by the Board on 14 May 2024 and signed by:



BODRUL ALOM
Secretary



M A MALIK
Director / Chair

STEPNEY COMMUNITY TRUST**Notes to the Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 March 2024****1 Accounting policies**

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities. They have also been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act. 1993 and comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting by Charities' (issued on January 2015).

Capitalisation and depreciation of tangible fixed assets:

All assets costing more than £1,000 are capitalised. The cost of tangible fixed assets is written-off by equal instalments over the expected useful lives as follows:

Freehold property (40% on cost) 2% straight line basis

Furniture, fittings and equipment 25% reducing balance method

Grants Received for Freehold Property

It has been treated as a reserve and 2% of the grant per year is transferred to revenue account.

Capital reserve is against the freehold property of the charity.

Fund accounting**Unrestricted funds**

Consists of general funds which the centre may use for its purpose at its discretion.

Restricted funds

Are those where the donor has imposed restrictions on the use of the funds which are legally binding.

Incoming Resources

Income only recognised where there is entitlement for the period.

Funds at 1 April 2023

2 Resources Expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred.

A clause in the agreement relating to the capital grant awarded by the Greater London Council in respect of the acquisition of the freehold property at 46 Myrdle Street, London E1 1HL states that if the property is sold within 30 years of the date of acquisition, a reimbursement of the of the part of the grant will become due and a charge has been recorded on the property.

3 Staff Costs

	2024	2023
	£	£
Net Salaries	25,878	8,264
PAYE and NIC	607	215
Student Loan	-	-
Pension	901	107
	<u>27,386</u>	<u>8,586</u>

4 Debtors

Trade debtors	-	-
Other debtors	2,193	2,742
	<u>2,193</u>	<u>2,742</u>

	2024	2023
5 Creditors		
Amount falling due within one year		
Provision for capital expenses (Rent received)	3,485	3,485
Deferred income	-	-
Other creditors	1,525	352
	<u>5,010</u>	<u>3,837</u>

	Freehold Property	Fixtures, fittings & equipment	Total
6 Tangible Assets			2024
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1 April 2023	109,320	65,174	174,494
Addition	-	4,800	4,800
At 31 March 2024	<u>109,320</u>	<u>69,974</u>	<u>179,294</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2023	20,997	57,994	78,991
Charges for the year	-	2,396	2,396
At 31 March 2024	<u>20,997</u>	<u>60,390</u>	<u>81,387</u>
Net Book Value			
At 31 March 2024	<u>88,323</u>	<u>9,584</u>	<u>99,907</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>88,323</u>	<u>7,180</u>	<u>95,503</u>

7 Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis with the expectation that the company would be able to obtain sufficient grants to continue its activities in the future.

8 Operative Income	2024	2023
	£	£
The operating income is stated after charging:		
Depreciation & After Crediting	2,396	2,393
Bank interest received	1,076	132

9 Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total
	£	£	£
Tangible Assets	-	99,907	95,503
Current Assets	-	83,886	50,034
Current Liabilities	-	(5,010)	(3,837)
Balance at 31 March 2024	<u>0</u>	<u>178,783</u>	<u>141,700</u>

10 Movement of Funds	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total
	£	£	£
At 1 April 2023	23,567	34,573	58,140
Incoming Resources	-	97,918	97,918
Outgoing Resources	-	(62,835)	(62,835)
At 31 March 2024	<u>23,567</u>	<u>69,656</u>	<u>93,223</u>

STEPNEY COMMUNITY TRUST**Profit and Loss****as at 31 March 2024**

INCOME	Restricted	Unrestricted	2024	2023
Grants/Donations			£	£
Awards for All / N/Lottery Community Fund	-	-	-	9,640
St Paul's Cathedral Church	-	4,000	4,000	-
The Childwick Trust	-	-	-	1,500
The City Bridge Trust / City of London	-	27,905	27,905	-
Donation	-	-	-	890
East End Community Foundation	-	-	-	4,906
East End Connection	-	-	-	4,950
Hall Hire	-	300	300	1,100
London Borough of Tower Hamlets	-	10,417	10,417	-
London Catalyst	-	-	-	3,000
Other/ Copier	-	-	-	300
Photocopy	-	201	201	410
Rent	-	10,200	10,200	10,200
The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust	-	-	-	3,000
The Merchant Taylors' Foundation	-	-	-	4,960
The National Lottery Heritage Fund	-	43,819	43,819	5,530
Wakefield and Tetley Trust	-	-	-	3,501
The Worshipful Company of Basketmakers'	-	-	-	2,000
TOTAL	0	96,842	96,842	55,887
Bank Interest Received		1,076	1,076	132
TOTAL	-	97,918	97,918	56,019

EXPENDITURE	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Accountancy fees	-	1,080	1,080	900
Administrative & Development	-	-	-	200
Bank charges	-	12	12	-
Books and Literatures	-	-	-	8
Cleaning and Materials	-	1,338	1,338	1,461
Council Tax	-	1,446	1,446	3,237
Depreciation	-	2,396	2,396	2,393
Editorial Services	-	-	-	100
Equipment expensed	-	2,600	2,600	216
First Aid	-	-	-	30
Hall Hire	-	312	312	342
Insurance	-	1,676	1,676	1,598
Interviewing	-	-	-	196
Light and Heat	-	4,418	4,418	1,732
Pensions	-	386	386	46
Photocopy and Maintenance	-	106	106	808
Postage	-	16	16	24
Printing	-	-	-	4,544
Programme and Activities	-	3,912	3,912	6,546
Project development work	-	3,682	3,682	6,850
Publicity and Promotion	-	100	100	200
Refreshments	-	524	524	811
Repairs and Maintenance	-	1,894	1,894	6,871
Stationary	-	32	32	33
Subscriptions	-	215	215	35
Telephone and Internet	-	813	813	592
Training materials	-	-	-	16
Training- Staff and Management	-	1,600	1,600	615
Travelling	-	2,648	2,648	450
Volunteers expense	-	4,250	4,250	2,553
Wages and Salaries	-	25,878	25,878	8,264
Water rates	-	308	308	543
Website management	-	1,193	1,193	234
Total	-	62,835	62,835	52,448
Net Surplus/Deficit for the year	-	35,083	35,083	3,571