

# SCIENCE PROJECTS

England & Wales · Charity number 298542

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Charitable company

**Company number** [02186073](#)

**Registered** 1988-02-02

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** Unit 1  
Warren Farm  
Steventon  
Basingstoke  
RG25 3BL

**Phone** 02087412305

**Email** [info@science-projects.org](mailto:info@science-projects.org)

**Website** [www.science-projects.org](http://www.science-projects.org)

## Activities

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**Objects:** TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC GENERALLY IN RESPECT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN ALL ITS BRANCHES AND, IN PARTICULAR, (WITHOUT DIMINISHING THAT GENERALITY) TO PROMOTE THE SAME BY ASSEMBLING AND PUTTING ON INTERACTIVE EXHIBITIONS OF EVERY KIND INCLUDING THE COMMISSIONING AND PROCURING OF THE THINGS TO BE EXHIBITED THEREAT.

**Activities:** To educate the public generally in respect of science and technology in all its branches and in particular to promote those objects by assembling and putting on interactive exhibitions of every kind.

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** Education/training
- **Who:** Children/young People, The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- Throughout England And Wales

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£1,275,129	£1,370,551	£726,908	38
2023-12-31	£1,217,038	£1,337,559	£822,330	35
2022-12-31	£1,091,347	£1,339,610	£942,851	37
2021-12-31	£1,117,493	£1,350,796	£1,191,114	30
2020-12-31	£1,658,392	£1,693,725	£1,424,417	44

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Dr Stephen Wilkins		2021-04-23
Helen Featherstone		2020-01-31
James Timothy Huard		2025-10-10
Ruth Mary Murray		2026-04-24
STEPHEN PIZZEY		

**SCIENCE PROJECTS**

England & Wales - Charity number 298542

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# Accounts

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**SCIENCE PROJECTS**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

**Address and Registered Office:**  
Unit 1, Warren Farm, Steventon, Basingstoke, RG25 3BL

**Charity No:**  
298542

**Company Limited by Guarantee No:**  
2186073

**SCIENCE PROJECTS (a company limited by guarantee)**

**Financial Statements  
For the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

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**SCIENCE PROJECTS (a company limited by guarantee)**

**Legal and administrative information**

**Reference and administrative details**

Charity number: 298542

Company number: 2186073

Registered Office and principal operational address: Unit 1, Warren Street, Steventon, Basingstoke, RG25 3BL

**Directors and trustees**

Trustees: R L Allsop (resigned 21 November 2024)  
H Featherstone  
S Pizzey  
Dr S Wilkins

Chief Executive Officer: A Rumbold (Interim)  
Finance Director: C Whelan

**Auditor**

Alpha Accountants (London) Ltd, 585A Fulham Road, London, SW6 5UA

**Bankers**

Barclays Bank Plc, 54 High Street, Ruislip, Middlesex, HA4 7AT

**Solicitors**

Bates Wells Braithwaite, 10 Queen Street Place, London, EC4R 1BE

**SCIENCE PROJECTS (a company limited by guarantee)**  
REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR

The Trustees present their report together with the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024.

### **Objectives and activities**

The aims of the charity are to educate the public generally in respect of science and technology in all its branches and in particular to promote those objects by assembling and putting on interactive exhibitions of every kind.

Science Projects Ltd recognises the national need to encourage more young people to take up science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) in education and careers. The charity also recognises the importance of engaging underrepresented and underserved parts of the community, especially in the disadvantaged areas of the South East of England and especially within coastal towns.

Those aims are pursued by:

- The operation of the Observatory Science Centre at Herstmonceux in East Sussex
- The outreach programme including hiring out of the travelling exhibits to schools and other organisations
- The design, construction and sale of bespoke interactive exhibits,
- The construction and exhibition of grant-funded exhibits.

The charity continues to focus on growing visitor numbers at the Observatory Science Centre through school party visits, expanded outreach programmes and special events. Each year, new and expanded science events are delivered which are having a gratifying take up by the public. In support of this a new member of staff has been appointed to lead and develop the school's outreach programme.

The Trustees set the charity's policies and oversee management. The Observatory Science Centre is operated by its dedicated team of full and part-time staff, supported by central management. Exhibit design, construction and sales are carried out at the Steventon workshop, and managed onsite. The travelling exhibits and outreach activities are managed separately with storage and maintenance provided at the workshop.

The Trustees manage the charity's investment powers. Surplus cash is held in higher-interest deposit accounts with leading UK banks, generating income of £9,444 (2023: £6,525).

At 31 December 2024, the charity held reserves of £726,908 (2023: £823,330). Trustees consider this sufficient to support ongoing operations at the Observatory Science Centre, the workshop and outreach activities, while also providing a buffer against fluctuations in contracting income. Maintaining strong reserves is also essential for competing for national and international exhibit contracts where financial strength is a key selection criterion alongside design and technical capability.

The Trustees are satisfied that the charity's assets are adequate to meet obligations.

### **Achievements and Performance**

#### **(i) Exhibit Design and Production**

The workshop has had a much improved year since the move to its new premises in Steventon near Basingstoke in September 2023. Activity at the workshop has increased by 73% due to a consistent year with no break in production and the delivery of several large projects. Turnover rose significantly from £378,299 to £647,649.

#### **(ii) The Observatory Science Centre**

The Observatory Science Centre maintained a consistent performance from ticket, café, shop and other sales to the previous year with turnover at £605,656 (2023: £603,860). This is a positive performance given the uncertainty in 2024 around the potential closure of the site and the impact of the closure of Herstmonceux Castle from autumn 2023, in the grounds of which the Observatory Science Centre is located.

In November 2023, the landlord Bader College (the UK campus of Queen's University, Canada) and the owner of Herstmonceux Castle, announced the closure of Herstmonceux Castle for urgent restoration

**SCIENCE PROJECTS (a company limited by guarantee)**  
REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR

works, with student operations suspended from winter term onwards. The castle has subsequently partly reopened to the public and works are expected to complete by autumn 2025. The closure and associated publicity negatively affected visitor numbers to the neighbouring Observatory Science Centre which is sited within the Equatorial Group buildings at Herstmonceux Castle estate.

The previous lease on the Observatory Science Centre was due to expire at the end of 2026. Following negotiations with the landlord, Bader College a new lease has been secured for an additional 10 years to 2036. This agreement provides much-needed clarity for long-term planning.

**(iii) Travelling and Outreach Exhibitions**

The travelling exhibition programme was quite inactive during 2024, however with the appointment of the new outreach lead in spring 2025, the charity expects to see an increase in activity in 2025 and beyond.

**Risk Management**

Trustees and management review decisions through the lens of risk analysis, guided by the Charity Commission's publication **CC26: Charities and Risk Management**. Risks are considered under the following categories:

- Governance
- Operations
- Finance
- External environment
- Legal and regulatory compliance

Risk assessments are embedded into contracting (e.g., managing margins, currency fluctuations and contract terms), operational activities (particularly health and safety at the Observatory and travelling exhibitions and the workshop), and financial planning. Risk registers and staff training continue to strengthen this framework.

**Results**

Income for the year was £1,275,129 (2023: £1,217,038).

Operating costs, including depreciation, were £1,370,552 (2023: £1,337,559), resulting in a net deficit of £95,422 (2023: £120,521).

As all income is applied to charitable purposes, no direct taxation is payable.

Total income increased by five percent compared with the prior year. Exhibit manufacturing revenue increased by 71% due to the return to normal levels of activity post the move in 2023. This increase in activity has offset the decrease in grant income received to support the workshop move in 2023. Grants received in 2024 were £12,335 (2023: £178,061). The charity continues to actively pursue additional cost-effective grant opportunities.

Exhibit contracts include both short and long-term projects, with revenue recognised on a percentage-completion basis. A significant proportion of contracts are international, with recent customers in Norway, Denmark, as well as the UK.

The auto-enrolment pension scheme is well established, with continued staff participation.

The charity remains confident in the future of exhibit design and manufacture, which provides essential funding to support charitable activities. The Observatory Science Centre is expected to require ongoing subsidy from grants or cross-subsidy from other operations. Continued investment in new exhibits remains a priority, subject to available funding and the charity is actively pursuing funding opportunities for these.

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REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR

The charity's fixed assets include exhibits for the Observatory Science Centre and travelling exhibits, as well as workshop equipment, office machinery, and vehicles. Trade debtors reflect sums due on exhibit contracts and hire. The balance sheet remains strong and enables the charity to meet contractual commitments and sustain educational programmes.

**Investment Policy**

The charity maintains available funds in interest-bearing accounts with reputable UK banks, balancing security and return. While returns are satisfactory, opportunities for higher yields on equally secure investments will continue to be explored.

**Reserves Policy**

The charity has set a reserves policy that excludes restricted funds, tangible fixed assets, and designated funds. Reserves are required to:

- Support ongoing commitments at the Observatory Science Centre and the outreach programme.
- Provide resilience against fluctuations in contracting activity.
- Maintain the financial strength necessary to qualify for international exhibit contracts.

**Reserves Outcome**

As at 31 December 2024, unrestricted reserves stood at £726,908 of which £74,930 were held in fixed assets. Freely available reserves were therefore £651,977. The charity considers this sufficient to support ongoing operations while providing a buffer against potential trading downturns and to commit matched funding to grant-funded projects. The charity will seek to rebuild reserves in future years.

**Plans for Future Periods**

The charity will continue its core activities, subject to funding. As grant income is largely capital-based and not available for operating costs, the charity maintains a policy of ensuring all programmes are financially self-sustaining. Activities unable to achieve this will be reviewed for future viability.

**Trustees' responsibilities for the financial statements**

The trustees who are also directors for the purposes of company law are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). They must prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the charity's including its income and expenditure for the year.

In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for maintaining adequate accounting records that show, with reasonable accuracy, the charity's financial position at any time. These records must enable the trustees to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 and with the Charities SORP (FRS 102). The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the charity's assets and for taking reasonable steps to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

In accordance with company law, the trustees confirm that:

- so far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditor is unaware; and

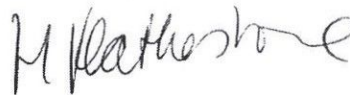
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**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR**

- the have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to ensure that the charity's auditor is aware of that information.

**Auditor**

Alpha Accountants (London) Ltd offer themselves for appointment as auditor in accordance with Section 492 of The Companies Act 2006.

ON BEHALF OF THE TRUSTEES



Helen Featherstone  
Director  
25 September 2025

UNIT 1  
WARREN FARM  
STEVENTON  
BASINGSTOKE  
RG25 3BL

**SCIENCE PROJECTS**  
REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR

**Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Science Projects for the year ended 31 December 2024 which comprise of the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2024 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 of Opinion**

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

**Conclusions relating to going concern**

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustee's 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 charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

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

**Other information**

The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. In connection with our audit of the financial statement, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether 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.

**Opinion on other matter 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 Trustee Report, which includes the Directors' Report prepared for the purposes of Company law for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and the Directors' Report included within the Trustees' Report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

### **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatement in the Directors' Report included with the Trustees' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where 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.
- 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 Trustees' Annual Report.

### **Responsibilities of trustees**

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement set out on pages 9, 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 directors 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 company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

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

Based on our understanding of the charitable company and the environment in which it operates, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to the regulatory requirements of the Charity Commission, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011, and UK tax law.

We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls), and determined that the principal risks were related to posting inappropriate journal entries and management bias in certain accounting estimates and judgements such as the recognition of income from legacies and grants. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- Inspecting correspondence with regulators and tax authorities;
- Discussions with management including consideration of known or suspected instances of noncompliance with laws and regulation and fraud;
- Evaluating management's controls designed to prevent and detect irregularities;
- Reviewing minutes of all Trustee Governor meetings during the year;

**SCIENCE PROJECTS (a company limited by guarantee)**  
REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR

- Identifying and testing journals, in particular journal entries posted with unusual account combinations, postings by unusual users or with unusual descriptions; and
- Challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in their critical accounting estimates

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

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

**Use of the audit report**

This report is made solely to the charity'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 charity'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 charity and the charity's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Haralambos Hambi (Senior statutory auditor)  
for and on behalf of Alpha Accountants (London) Limited, Statutory Auditor  
585A Fulham Road  
London  
SW6 5UA

25th September 2025

**SCIENCE PROJECTS (a company limited by guarantee)**  
Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2024

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Restricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Total funds</u> <u>Year ended</u> <u>31 December</u> <u>2024</u>	<u>Total funds</u> <u>Year ended</u> <u>31 December</u> <u>2023</u>
		£.....£	£.....£	£.....£	£.....£
<b>Income and expenditure</b>					
<b>Incoming resources</b>					
Grants received	14	12,335	-	12,335	178,061
Exhibit manufacture		647,649	-	647,649	378,299
Science Centre and Exhibition Hire		605,656	-	605,656	603,860
Other		45	-	45	293
Interest on deposits		9,444	-	9,444	6,525
Surrender of lease		-	-	-	50,000
Total incoming resources		<u>1,275,129</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,275,129</u>	<u>1,217,038</u>
<b>Resources expended</b>					
Direct charitable expenditure	2,14	1,246,380	4,947	1,251,327	1,208,348
Fund-raising and publicity	3	24,325	-	24,325	2,857
Governance costs	4	94,899	-	94,899	126,354
Total resources expended	5	<u>1,365,604</u>	<u>4,947</u>	<u>1,370,551</u>	<u>1,337,559</u>
Net movement in funds		(90,475)	(4,947)	(95,422)	(120,521)
Balances brought forward at 1 January 2024		817,383	4,947	822,330	822,330
Balances carried forward at 31 December 2024		<u>726,908</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>726,908</u>	<u>822,330</u>

The accounting policies and notes on pages 14 to 20 form part of these financial statements

There were no recognised gains or losses other than those shown in the Statement of Financial Activities for the period.

**SCIENCE PROJECTS (a company limited by guarantee)**  
Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2024

	Notes	Year ended 31 December 2024		Year ended 31 December 2023	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS	6		74,930		67,899
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stock and work in progress	7	19,777		20,891	
Debtors	8	114,762		103,824	
Cash at bank and in hand		597,481		726,089	
			<u>732,020</u>		<u>850,804</u>
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	9	80,042		96,373	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			<u>651,978</u>		<u>754,431</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>726,908</u>		<u>822,330</u>
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due after more than one year	10		-		-
			<u>726,908</u>		<u>822,330</u>
NET ASSETS			<u><u>726,908</u></u>		<u><u>822,330</u></u>
FUNDS					
Unrestricted income funds					
General funds	13	726,908		817,383	
Designated funds	13	-		-	
Total unrestricted funds			<u>726,908</u>		<u>817,383</u>
Restricted funds	14		-		4,947
TOTAL FUNDS			<u><u>726,908</u></u>		<u><u>822,330</u></u>

The accounts were approved by the Board of Directors on 25th September 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

H Featherstone



The notes on pages 14 to 20 form part of these financial statements.

**SCIENCE PROJECTS (a company limited by guarantee)**  
Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 December 2024

	<u>Note</u>	<u>Year ended</u> <u>31 December</u> <u>2024</u>	<u>Year ended</u> <u>31 December</u> <u>2023</u>
		£.....£	£.....£
<b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>			
<b>Net cash generated from operating activities</b>	1	<u>(111,871)</u>	<u>(59,658)</u>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>			
Interest from investments		9,489	6,525
Purchase of plant and equipment		(26,226)	((68,371)
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>		<u>(16,737)</u>	<u>(61,846)</u>
<b>Increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the year</b>		(128,608)	(121,504)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		726,089	847,593
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>	2	<u>597,481</u>	<u>726,089</u>

**Notes to the cash flow statement**

**1 Reconciliation of the net income to net cash flow generated from operating activities**

	<u>Year ended</u> <u>31 December</u> <u>2024</u>	<u>Year ended</u> <u>31 December</u> <u>2023</u>
	£	£
<b>Net income for the year</b>	(95,422)	(120,521)
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
Depreciation charges	19,195	4,055
Interest from investments	(9,489)	(6,525)
Decrease/(Increase) in stocks	1,114	(4,610)
Decrease/(Increase) in debtors	(10,938)	56,104
Increase/(Decrease) in creditors	<u>(16,331)</u>	<u>11,839</u>
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<u>(111, 871)</u>	<u>(59,658)</u>

**2 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents**

	<u>Year ended</u> <u>31 December</u> <u>2024</u>	<u>Year ended</u> <u>31 December</u> <u>2023</u>
	£	£
Cash in hand	46,148	51,175
Notice deposits (less than 3 months)	551,333	674,914
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<u>597,481</u>	<u>726,089</u>

**SCIENCE PROJECTS (a company limited by guarantee)**  
Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024

**1. Principal accounting policies**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable United Kingdom accounting standards and follow the recommendations in the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities SORP (FRS102). They have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The principal accounting policies of the company have remained unchanged from the previous year and are set out below.

**(a) Incoming resources**

Grants of a revenue nature are credited to the statement of financial activities in the same period as the related expenditure. The revenue from long term contracts reflects the proportion of work completed to date on the project. Other income is included on the normal accruals basis when earned. Operating receipts exclude value added tax.

**(b) Resources expended**

Liabilities are recognised as resources expended as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs relating to the category. Charitable expenditure comprises the costs incurred in the delivery of its activities and services. Governance costs include those associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include the audit fee and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity.

**(c) Tangible fixed assets**

Tangible fixed assets are stated at their purchase price together with any incidental expenses of acquisition. Provision for depreciation is made so as to write off the cost of tangible fixed assets on a straight line basis over the expected useful economic life of the asset concerned. The principal annual rates used for this purpose are:-

Leasehold buildings	10%
Exhibition tent and flooring	25%
Exhibits	20%
Other equipment	10-50%
Motor vehicles	25%

**(d) Stock and work in progress**

Stock and work in progress are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Net realisable value is the price at which stocks can be sold in the normal course of business after allowing for the costs of realisation and, where appropriate, the cost of conversion from their existing state to a finished condition.

**(e) Long-term contracts**

The attributable contribution on long-term contracts is recognised once the outcome can be assessed with reasonable certainty. The contribution recognised reflects the proportion of work completed to date on the project. Costs associated with long-term contracts are included in stock to the extent that they cannot be matched with contract work accounted for as incoming resources. Long-term contract balances included in stock are stated at cost, after provision has been made for any foreseeable losses and the deduction of applicable payments on account. Full provision is made for losses on all contracts in the year in which the loss is first foreseen.

**(f) Operating leases**

Payments made under operating leases are charged to the statement of financial activities on a straight line basis over the lease term.

## **1. Principal accounting policies - continued**

### **(g) Foreign currencies**

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated at the exchange rate ruling at the date of the transaction.

Monetary assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated at the rate of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. All other exchange differences are dealt with in the statement of financial activities.

### **(h) Preparation of accounts on a going concern**

After careful consideration of the charity's current financial situation, with due regard to its cash flows, liquidity and future plans and prospects, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operation for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the accounts and there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

### **(i) Public benefit**

The charity is a public benefit entity.

### **(j) Incoming resources**

The revenue recognition policies of the charity are as follows:

- (i) Sales of entrance tickets, café and shop sales are recognised as revenue on receipt of the cash
- (ii) Travelling exhibitions are invoiced and the revenue recognised on completion of the exhibit rental.  
Sales in advance of the completion of the rental period are shown as deferred income.
- (iii) Income from the supply of goods and services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service provided that at the stage of completion, the costs incurred in delivering the service and the costs to complete the requirements of the contract can be measured reliably.  
The method used to measure the stage of completion of a contract is that of the proportion of costs incurred for work performed to date compared with the total estimated costs to completion.
- (iv) Unrestricted grants and legacies are recognised as income on receipt.

### **(k) Financial instruments**

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

**SCIENCE PROJECTS (a company limited by guarantee)**  
Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024

**2. Direct charitable expenditure**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total funds Year ended 31 December 2024	Total funds Year ended 31 December 2023
	£	£	£	£
<u>Provision of educational services</u>				
Exhibit manufacture	624,119	-	624,119	580,262
Science centre and exhibition hire	622,262	4,947	627,209	628,086
	<u>1,246,381</u>	<u>4,947</u>	<u>1,251,328</u>	<u>1,208,348</u>
<b>3. Fund-raising and publicity</b>				
Fund-raising	-	-	-	-
Publicity	24,325	-	24,325	2,857
	<u>24,325</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>24,325</u>	<u>2,857</u>
<b>4. Governance costs</b>				
Salaries and office costs	82,999	-	82,999	64,017
Legal and professional fees	-	-	-	51,837
Audit fees	12,000	-	12,000	10,500
	<u>94,899</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>94,899</u>	<u>126,354</u>

**SCIENCE PROJECTS (a company limited by guarantee)**  
Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024

**5. Total resources expended**

	Staff costs	Depreciation	Other costs	Year ended 31 December Total 2024	Year ended 31 December Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Educational services	733,896	19,195	498,236	1,251,327	1,208,348
Fund-raising and publicity	-	-	24,325	24,325	2,857
Governance costs	61,208	-	33,691	94,899	126,354
	<u>795,104</u>	<u>19,195</u>	<u>556,252</u>	<u>1,370,551</u>	<u>1,337,559</u>

	Year ended 31 December 2024	Year ended 31 December 2023
	£	£
Staff costs		
Wages and salaries	727,724	674,961
Social security costs	55,014	55,394
Employers pension contributions	12,366	10,670
	<u>795,104</u>	<u>741,025</u>
Other costs		
Premises	110,214	172,093
Materials	325,317	94,616
Miscellaneous	120,721	325,770
	<u>556,252</u>	<u>592,479</u>

	Year ended 31 December 2024	Year ended 31 December 2023
The average number of employees, analysed by function was:		
Educational services	35	32
Management and administration of the charity	3	3
	<u>38</u>	<u>35</u>
	—	—

**Directors' emoluments and employee information:**

In common with normal practice in charities, no remuneration has been paid to the directors (who are the trustees), except that by a special dispensation of the Charity Commission, the other directors approved a payment to the outgoing Chief Executive Officer, Mr Pizzey, of £37,151 (2023: £64,054) for his services during the year.

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

	Year ended 31 December 2024	Year ended 31 December 2023
	No.	No.
£60,000 - £70,000	2	2

**Defined Contribution Pension Plan**

Employers pension contribution costs to the Defined Contribution Pension Plan amounted to £12,366 (2023 £10,670) and are allocated to activities in proportion to the related staffing costs incurred and are wholly charged to unrestricted funds.

**SCIENCE PROJECTS (a company limited by guarantee)**  
Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024

**6. Tangible fixed assets**

	Exhibition building tent and flooring £	Exhibits £	Motor vehicles £	Equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>					
At 1 January 2024	125,514	1,243,192	28,562	658,186	2,055,454
Expenditure in the year	-	363	-	25,863	26,226
At 31 December 2025	<u>125,514</u>	<u>1,243,555</u>	<u>28,562</u>	<u>684,049</u>	<u>2,081,680</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>					
At 1 January 2024	125,514	1,243,192	28,562	590,287	1,987,555
Charge for the year	-	91	-	19,104	19,195
At 31 December 2024	<u>125,514</u>	<u>1,243,283</u>	<u>28,562</u>	<u>609,391</u>	<u>2,006,750</u>
<b>Net book value</b>					
At 31 December 2024	<u>-</u>	<u>272</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>74,658</u>	<u>74,930</u>
<b>Net book value</b>					
At 31 December 2023	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>67,899</u>	<u>67,899</u>

**Capital commitments**

There were no capital commitments authorised or contracted for at the balance sheet date.

**7. Stock and work in progress**

	Year ended 31 December 2024 £	Year ended 31 December 2023 £
Stock	16,773	20,724
Work in progress	3,004	167
	<u>19,777</u>	<u>20,891</u>

**8. Debtors**

	Year ended 31 December 2024 £	Year ended 31 December 2023 £
Trade debtors	39,931	3,935
Other debtors	23,688	23,688
Amounts recoverable on contracts	20,145	40,644
Prepayments and accrued income	30,998	35,303
Other taxes	-	254
	<u>114,762</u>	<u>103,824</u>

The above amounts are due within one year of the balance sheet date.

**SCIENCE PROJECTS (a company limited by guarantee)**  
Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024

**9. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year**

	Year ended 31 December 2024	Year ended 31 December 2023
	£	£
Bank overdrafts	-	5,322
Payments on account	29,078	24,647
Trade creditors	11,138	12,403
Social security and other taxes	20,518	23,442
Accruals and deferred income	16,469	27,947
Other creditors	3,199	2,612
	<u>80,042</u>	<u>96,373</u>

**10. Lease commitments**

	Year ended 31 December 2024	Year ended 31 December 2023
	£	£
The total of future lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases for each of the following periods:		
Within one year	82,860	82,862
Between two and five years	176,152	259,016
Over five years	-	-
	<u>259,012</u>	<u>341,878</u>

**11. Transactions concerning directors**

During the period covered by the accounts, the company received services on normal trading terms from Allsop Business Services in which Mr R Allsop has an interest, at a cost of £21,657 (2023: £25,980). The amount of outstanding balance at the year-end was £nil (2023 £780).

**12. Called up share capital**

The company is limited by guarantee without share capital. Every member has undertaken to contribute to the assets of the company, in the event of it being wound up, such amount as may be required, not exceeding £10.

**SCIENCE PROJECTS (a company limited by guarantee)**  
Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024

**13. Unrestricted and designated funds**

	Designated funds £	Other Unrestricted funds £	Total Unrestricted funds £
Balances brought forward at 1 January 2024	-	817,383	817,383
(Deficit)/Surplus/ in the year	-	(90,475)	(90,475)
Balances carried forward at 31 December 2024	-	726,908	726,908

**14. Restricted funds**

	Balance 1 January 2024 £	Movement in Incoming £	resources Outgoing £	Balance 31 December 2024 £
The Association for Science and Discovery Centres	3,642	-	3,642	-
The Wolfson Foundation	1,305	-	1,305	-
	4,947	-	4,947	-

**SCIENCE PROJECTS**

England & Wales - Charity number 298542

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# Accounts

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**SCIENCE PROJECTS**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

**Address and Registered Office:**  
**Unit 1, Warren Farm, Steventon, Basingstoke, RG25 3BL**

**Charity No:**  
**298542**

**Company Limited by Guarantee No:**  
**2186073**

**SCIENCE PROJECTS**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**Financial Statements**  
**For the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

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## **SCIENCE PROJECTS**

### **Legal and administrative information**

#### **Reference and administrative details**

Charity number: 298542

Company number: 2186073

Registered Office and principal operational address: Unit 1, Warren Street, Steventon, Basingstoke, RG25 3BL

#### **Directors and trustees**

Trustees: R L Allsop  
Dr J Bean (resigned 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023)  
H Featherstone  
S Pizzev  
A Rumbold (resigned 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2023)  
Dr S Wilkins

Chief Executive Officer: A Rumbold (Interim)

Secretary : R L Allsop

#### **Auditor**

Alpha Accountants (London) Ltd, 585A Fulham Road, London, SW6 5UA

#### **Bankers**

Barclays Bank Plc, 54 High Street, Ruislip, Middlesex, HA4 7AT

#### **Solicitors**

Bates Wells Braithwaite, 10 Queen Street Place, London, EC4R 1BE

## **SCIENCE PROJECTS**

### **Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2023**

The Trustees present their report together with the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023.

#### **Structure, Governance and Management**

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 30 October 1987 and registered as a charity on 2 February 1988. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up, members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £10.

#### **Recruitment and Appointment of trustees**

The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the trustees. The membership of the board of trustees has remained stable over a number of years, and represents people with skills in the educational, scientific, legal and financial disciplines as well as a deep commitment to the aims of the charity. Consideration is given on an annual basis to reviewing any changes in requirements for any extra skills that the charity may require in its board of trustees.

The trustees serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

R L Allsop  
Dr J Bean (resigned 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023)  
H Featherstone  
S Pizzey  
A Rumbold (resigned 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2023)  
Dr S Wilkins

#### **Trustee induction and training**

All of the trustees are already familiar with the practical work of the charity, having been encouraged to visit all of the sites where the charity operates and to discuss the progress of the charity with key members of staff. If it became necessary to introduce any new trustees to the board then those new trustees would be fully briefed on their legal obligations under charity and company law, the content of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the objects of the charity, the recent financial performance of the charity, and to visit the various operations during a normal working day.

#### **Organisation**

The board of trustees are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity. They meet on a regular basis at least four times a year, and they receive regular financial and written reports on the progress of the charity. A Chief Executive is appointed by the trustees to manage the day to day operations of the charity. To facilitate effective operations, the Chief Executive has delegated authority, within the terms of delegation approved by the trustees, for operational matters including the running of the Science Centre, the travelling exhibitions, the exhibit production and the finance functions.

#### **Related parties**

The charity does not have any related parties other than the operations that it undertakes itself. However the charity does work closely with other Science Centres in the U.K. and around the world, and regularly produces exhibits and exhibitions for sale to those other organisations that promulgate the objects of the charity.

## **SCIENCE PROJECTS**

### **Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2023 (continued)**

#### **Risk management**

The trustees, in conjunction with the management of the charity, consider at the regular trustees meetings the risks to the charity. These risks have been assessed in terms of financial risk, key personnel risk and health and safety. The financial risks are mitigated by maintaining adequate controls and margins on the contracting work, and through the monitoring and control of the current and future financial outlook of the science centres and the ScienceWorks. It is considered that the strength and depth of the necessary skills within the management, staff and directors of the charity, enable the charity to cope with most likely risks to the charity and to highlight those occasions when outside professional advice is required. Health and safety risks are considered both for staff where an active health and safety risk programme is maintained by management and an accredited outside organisation, and for customers and the public in risk assessment for the Science centres and the exhibits. This is carried out through regular safety audits by the accredited outside organisation and reviewed at regular board meetings.

#### **Objectives and activities**

The aims of the charity are set out in the charitable objects, as laid down in the Articles of Association, for which the charity was founded, are to educate the public generally in respect of science and technology in all its branches and in particular to promote those objects by assembling and putting on interactive exhibitions of every kind.

Those objects continue to be fulfilled by the operation of the Observatory Science Centre at Herstmonceux and the operation of the ScienceWorks programme, the hiring out of the Exploring Science exhibits, the construction and sale of bespoke interactive exhibits, and the construction and exhibition of grant funded exhibits.

In addition to the continuance of the above policies we are continuing to encourage increased visitor numbers to our Science Centre especially in the numbers of school party visits and to expand the reach of our travelling programmes. Science related events are put on each year at Herstmonceux which are well attended.

As part of our aims we are aware of the national need to encourage more young people to take up science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) in their education and careers. We are also aware of the necessity to reach out to underrepresented and underserved parts of the community, especially in the disadvantaged parts of our target audience in the South East of England and particularly in the coastal towns of that region.

We have formulated a plan to address these requirements but they are dependent on finance being available and we are in the process of applying for financial resources from funding agencies.

The Trustees set the policies of the Charity and monitor and control its management. The Observatory Science Centre is operated by its own full and part time staff, with central services being provided from the Steventon premises. The ScienceWorks and exhibit hire operations are now based at our Herstmonceux premises which provides the administration, maintenance and the storage. The construction of interactive exhibits is now performed at the Steventon workshop and is managed from the offices at the same premises.

The Trustees hold the investment powers of the charity and the trustees ensure that any cash held surplus to immediate requirements is invested sensibly. Investment of surplus cash has been with the Higher Interest deposit accounts of first class U.K banks and has produced an income of £6,525 (Year ended 31.12.2022: £796), which reflects the improving interest rates available.

The charity holds reserves of £822,330 as at 31 December 2023, and the trustees consider that these reserves are adequate to provide for the continued expenditure from the charity's resources for the continued commitment to the Observatory Science Centre and ScienceWorks, and for the maintenance of sufficient funds to cushion the impact of the peaks and troughs of the contracting operations. The charity is also mindful that in order to compete in the commercial market for contracts, (the outcome of which helps to support its charitable activities) much weight is accorded by customers to the financial strength of the charity as well as its technical capabilities, and maintaining the existing net asset balance is now essential to be able to qualify for these international contracts.

The Trustees are satisfied that the charity's assets attributable to each of its individual funds are available and adequate to fulfil its obligations in relation to those funds.

## **SCIENCE PROJECTS**

### **Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2023 (continued)**

#### **Achievements and performance**

##### **(i) Exhibit design and production:**

We relocated our workshop and head offices to a premises in Steventon, Basingstoke, Hampshire as of 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023. The disruption of the move together with the low order intake during the year contributed to the lower level of turnover in this part of the charity's activities during the year.

The workshop move has proven to be a great success and so far this year we have seen twice the order intake compared to the same period in the previous year and we have now recruited more staff to deal with this increase in business. Indications are that this increase in business will continue and we should return to our pre-covid levels of activity in the next few years.

We incurred substantial costs in relocating the workshop both in terms of the cost of the move and fitting out the building to our requirements, however much of this cost was offset by generous grants we received from our previous landlord and a financial contribution from the developer of our previous site in return for the early surrender of the lease

##### **(ii) The Observatory Science Centre**

The lease of the Observatory Science Centre housed in and in the grounds of The Equatorial Group buildings, Hertmonceux, East Sussex will terminate on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2026. We have made concerted attempts to renegotiate the lease with the landlords, Bader College, the UK Campus of Queen's University (Canada) but on the 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024 we have had confirmation from the Chair, Bader College Board of Trustees and Principal and Vice-Chancellor "that due to an upcoming review of their whole operations they will not be giving us an opportunity to renew the lease".

We originally set up on the site in 1995 and at the time the building had been disused for a number of years and in order to open the site as a science centre for use by the general public we built and installed a comprehensive list of interactive internal and external science exhibits, and ran outreach programmes as well as astronomy and science festivals, star gazing evenings and astronomy courses.

Since we moved in we have undertaken an extensive programme of repairs and upgrading to the buildings and telescopes, much of which was completed in 2004 with the aid of a substantial grant from the National Heritage Lottery fund. Since then the upgrading and improvements have continued so that the majority of the telescopes are now active and usable. All of this has been achieved with our own funds and funding from various grant bodies. Visitor number have shown a steady improvement compared to previous years although we have yet to achieve pre-covid visitor numbers. Income has also steadily improved and may soon approach pre-pandemic levels.

Our immediate task is to find a new location to move the science centre to together with its exhibits. Since the announcement of the termination of our lease we have received a huge level of support from within the U.K. and overseas of those bodies and individuals who are aware of our contribution to science education and we are in discussions with local authorities and others in the East Sussex area who are offering to help in the search for new premises.

##### **(iii) Travelling exhibitions**

There has been sporadic uptake of our Travelling exhibition during the year. After the recent relocation of the workshop and the impending move of the Science Centre we will be reviewing how to re-launch and support a new outreach operation.

#### **Risk Management**

Work and decisions throughout the charity are now viewed through the prism of risk analysis.

Trustees and senior managers are conversant with document **CC26** issued by the Charities Commission in 2010 and this has been used as the main reference. The document is particularly useful in highlighting the nature of the risks to be considered, their potential impact and the possible steps to mitigate them.

These are grouped under the following headings;

Governance risks

Operational risks

Financial risks

External risks

Compliance with law and regulation

## **SCIENCE PROJECTS**

### **Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2023 (continued)**

#### **Risk Management (continued)**

Many of these topics are already addressed by the charity under the general heading of management and operation. For example in contracting activities, we have always had to confront and mitigate the effects of currency fluctuations and have vigorously taken steps to remove or amend particularly punitive clauses in contracts. Similarly the board and senior staff have tackled many other headings outlined in CC26 during the course of running the business. Part of the task regarding the assembly of the management of risk dossier is to transfer the issues we encounter or may encounter in the future into a risk register format. The Observatory and travelling exhibitions activities of charity have their own risk assessment forms which refer to operational activities mainly associated with health and safety issues regarding staff and public.

Meetings have been held with the staff at the Observatory to take appropriate steps to adopt as risk management strategy throughout the organization.

#### **Results**

Income for the period amounted to £1,217,038 (Year ended 31.12.2022: £1,091,347) and operating costs including depreciation totalled £1,337,559 (Year ended 31.12.2022: £1,339,610) leaving an increase of expenditure over income of £120,521 (Year ended 31.12.2022 Increase of expenditure over income: £248,263). As the whole of the income is applied to charitable purposes the company is not liable to direct taxation.

Financial pressures including those caused by the war in Europe have had a major impact on our costs and with our visitor customer's finances. The Science Centre is gradually returning to pre Covid visitor and income levels and the financial results were creditable compared to the previous year. The manufacturing operation was able to continue completion of the existing contracts and undertake a number of new contracts although at much lower levels than in pre Covid years. It has also come under cost pressures. .

Due to Covid most of our contracts customers have seen a serious decline in their income streams over the last few years and have been reluctant to place business during the intervening period. Happily we are now seeing a return to normal levels of customer enquiries which translated into a stream of orders during 2023 and continues into 2024.

Total income has increased by £125,691 compared to the previous year with exhibit manufacturing decreasing by £185,323 and Science centre and exhibition hire and schools travelling exhibitions increasing by £95,264 an improvement on the previous year but still reflecting the impact of Covid -19 in the trading performance of the Observatory Science Centre at Herstmonceux, and the income for the travelling exhibitions. Grant income increased by £166,972. The trustees are examining ways in which grant funding can be increased in a cost effective manner.

Exhibit manufacture includes projects both of a short term and long- term nature and revenue and contribution on these contracts are taken on a percentage complete basis. Much of the exhibit income comes from foreign contracts or from contracts destined for overseas locations.

The company had secured the removal of the June 2023 break clause in our Acton premises lease on the undertaking that we would vacate the premises later in 2023. The lease had been due to expire in 2024. We actually vacated on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023 and moved into new premises in Steventon, Basingstoke, Hampshire. The move was achieved in an economical and time efficient manner but inevitably had an effect on the manufacturing operation and the ability to accept more contract work.

Our Acton landlords, Mr David Howes and Mrs Fay Howes, who have always taken an active interest in our charitable operations, very generously donated through Gift Aid a sum of £125,000 to help with our relocation costs.

In addition the developer that had purchased the Acton property from Mr and Mrs Howes paid a further £50,000 for us to surrender the lease prior to the date agreed with Mr and Mrs Howes.

New contracts have been won for customers in the Norway, Denmark and the United Kingdom.

## **SCIENCE PROJECTS**

### **Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2023 (continued)**

#### **Results (continued)**

The auto enrolment pension scheme is now well established and there continues to be a gratifying take up of the scheme by the employees.

The trustees continue to view the future for exhibit manufacture with confidence. In order to fund the charity and especially to replenish funds applied to the restoration and improvement of the Observatory Science Centre, the trustees continue to pursue educational exhibit manufacture as a means of propagating their ideas as well as providing funds for the expansion of the charitable objectives.

It would seem prudent to assume that the Observatory Science Centre will in future always require financial support either from grants or from other activities of the charity. The charity has continued to invest in its Science Centre and invested in new exhibits during the year. New investment will be dependent on either Grant income or enhanced returns from manufacturing activities

The fixed assets of the charity are held in the form of exhibits for the Science Centre, ScienceWorks and Exploring Science travelling exhibitions; workshop and office plant and machinery; and motor vehicles for equipment collection and delivery.

Trade debtors reflect the amounts owing by customers on exhibit contracts and exhibit hire, and the work in progress is the cost value of contract work not yet invoiced to customers. The estimated value of assets does not differ from that shown in the accounts.

The financial position of the Balance Sheet is sound and will enable the company to complete all its contracts and commitments and continue with its educational programmes.

#### **Investment policy**

The trustees, having regard to the liquidity requirements of operating the overall charity and of the reserves policy have operated a policy of keeping available funds in interest bearing deposit accounts and seek to achieve the best rate of interest return available to charities in the financial markets.

We are satisfied that the return on our investments is commensurate with our investment risk policy but consideration will be given to seeking better returns on equally secure investments where available.

#### **Reserves policy**

The trustees have established the level of reserves (that is those funds that are freely available) that the charity ought to have. In calculating reserves, the trustees have excluded from total funds the restricted income funds, tangible fixed assets and the designated funds. Reserves are needed to provide for the continued expenditure from the charity's resources, for the continued commitment to the Observatory Science Centre and ScienceWorks, and for the maintenance of sufficient funds to cushion the impact of the peaks and troughs of the contracting operations. To be able to compete in the international science centre exhibit contract market, sufficient financial resources need to be maintained by the charity in order to be able to qualify to bid for these contracts and our reserves policy takes this factor into account.

#### **Reserves outcome**

At the year end unrestricted reserves were £817,383, none of which were designated, and none of which were specifically committed. Fixed assets represented £67,899 of this amount which would be realisable only on disposal of those fixed assets. The balancing figure of reserves available after the deduction of restricted funds, omitted funds and amounts only realisable after the sale of fixed assets is therefore £749,484. This is less than our target policy of having available reserves of £1million that would allow us to comfortably cope with any potential trading downturn in the next financial year and to commit match funding to any grant funding we receive to advance our charitable objectives, and we will be endeavouring to restore our balances in future years.

This policy has been vindicated by the unusual events of the last four years and the impact worldwide of the Covid-19 pandemic and to provide some financial cushion for the future financial uncertainty of outcomes in 2024, as well as providing for the relocation costs of our operations when extensions to leases cannot be obtained and we need to move to new locations.

## **SCIENCE PROJECTS**

### **Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2023 (continued)**

#### **Results (continued)**

##### **Plans for future periods**

The charity plans to continue the activities outlined above in the forthcoming years subject to satisfactory funding arrangements. Because grants receivable by Science Projects tend to be of a capital expenditure nature and not available to fund revenue expenditure, the trustees have a policy of ensuring that all of the charity's activities are financially self-supporting. Where activities are not self-supporting on a continuing basis the trustees review the support that can be offered to those activities.

We have received written confirmation from the landlords of the Observatory Science Centre at Herstmonceux that they will not consider extending the lease when it expires on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2026. The landlord Bader College, the U.K. Campus of Queens University (Canada), have decided that they require the buildings for their own use. Sadly after more than 29 years of successful operations at Herstmonceux we are now seeking new premises from which to relocate our Science Centre operations including all of the exhibits, although of course the telescopes will remain at Herstmonceux.

##### **Trustees' responsibilities for the financial statements**

The trustees who are also directors for the purposes of company law are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), and are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and the incoming resources and application of resources, including the net income or expenditure of the charity for the year. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 and with the Accounting and Reporting by Charities, Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015). They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In accordance with company law, as the company's directors, we certify that:

- so far as we are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditor is unaware; and
- as the directors of the company we have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditor is aware of that information.

**SCIENCE PROJECTS**

**Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2023 (continued)**

**Results (continued)**

**Auditor**

Alpha Accountants (London) Ltd offer themselves for appointment as auditor in accordance with Section 492 of The Companies Act 2006.

ON BEHALF OF THE TRUSTEES

*Richard Leonard Allsop*  
Richard Leonard Allsop (Sep 25, 2024 16:16 GMT+1)

UNIT 1  
WARREN FARM  
STEVENTON  
BASINGSTOKE  
RG25 3BL

R L Allsop  
Director and Secretary  
25th September 2024

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SCIENCE PROJECTS [LIMITED BY GUARANTEE]**

### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Science Projects for the year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise of the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2023 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 of Opinion**

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

### **Conclusions relating to going concern**

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustee's 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 charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

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

### **Other information**

The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. In connection with our audit of the financial statement, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether 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.

### **Opinion on other matter 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 Trustee Report, which includes the Directors' Report prepared for the purposes of Company law for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and the Directors' Report included within the Trustees' Report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

## **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatement in the Directors' Report included with the Trustee' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where 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.
- 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 Trustees' Annual Report.

## **Responsibilities of trustees**

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement set out on page 9, 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 directors 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 company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

## **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

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

Based on our understanding of the charitable company and the environment in which it operates, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to the regulatory requirements of the Charity Commission, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011, and UK tax law.

We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls), and determined that the principal risks were related to posting inappropriate journal entries and management bias in certain accounting estimates and judgements such as the recognition of income from legacies and grants. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- Inspecting correspondence with regulators and tax authorities;
- Discussions with management including consideration of known or suspected instances of noncompliance with laws and regulation and fraud;
- Evaluating management's controls designed to prevent and detect irregularities;
- Reviewing minutes of all Trustee Governor meetings during the year;
- Identifying and testing journals, in particular journal entries posted with unusual account combinations, postings by unusual users or with unusual descriptions; and
- Challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in their critical accounting estimates

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

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

### **Use of the audit report**

This report is made solely to the charity'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 charity'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 charity and the charity's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Haralambos Hambi (senior statutory auditor)  
for and on behalf of Alpha Accountants (London) Limited, Registered Statutory Auditor  
585A Fulham Road  
London  
SW6 5UA

25th September 2024

**SCIENCE PROJECTS****Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 December 2023**

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>	<u>Restricted Funds</u>	<u>Total funds Year ended 31 December 2023</u>	<u>Total funds Year ended 31 December 2022</u>
		£	£	£	£
<b>Income and expenditure</b>					
<b>Incoming resources</b>					
Grants received	14	125,000	53,061	178,061	11,089
Exhibit manufacture		378,299	-	378,299	563,622
Science Centre and Exhibition Hire		603,860	-	603,860	508,596
Other		293	-	293	6,480
SSP Rebate		-	-	-	764
Interest on deposits		6,525	-	6,525	796
Surrender of lease		50,000	-	50,000	-
Total incoming resources		<u>1,163,977</u>	<u>53,061</u>	<u>1,217,038</u>	<u>1,091,347</u>
<b>Resources expended</b>					
Direct charitable expenditure	2,14	1,160,234	48,114	1,208,348	1,204,811
Fund-raising and publicity	3	2,857	-	2,857	1,841
Governance costs	4	126,354	-	126,354	132,958
Total resources expended	5	<u>1,289,445</u>	<u>48,114</u>	<u>1,337,559</u>	<u>1,339,610</u>
Net movement in funds		(125,468)	4,947	(120,521)	(248,263)
Balances brought forward at 1 January 2023		942,851	-	942,851	1,191,114
Balances carried forward at 31 December 2023		<u>817,383</u>	<u>4,947</u>	<u>822,330</u>	<u>942,851</u>

The accounting policies and notes on pages 17 to 23 form part of these financial statements

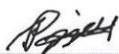
There were no recognised gains or losses other than those shown in the Statement of Financial Activities for the period.

**SCIENCE PROJECTS****Balance sheet as at 31 December 2023**

	Notes	Year ended 31 December 2023		Year ended 31 December 2022	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS	6		67,899		3,583
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stock and work in progress	7	20,891		16,281	
Debtors	8	103,824		159,928	
Cash at bank and in hand		726,089		847,593	
		<u>850,804</u>		<u>1,023,802</u>	
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	9	(96,373)		(84,534)	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			754,431		939,268
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>822,330</u>		<u>942,851</u>
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due after more than one year	10		-		-
			<u>822,330</u>		<u>942,851</u>
NET ASSETS			<u><u>822,330</u></u>		<u><u>942,851</u></u>
FUNDS					
Unrestricted income funds					
General funds	13	817,383		942,851	
Designated funds	13	-		-	
Total unrestricted funds			<u>817,383</u>		<u>942,851</u>
Restricted funds	14		4,947		-
TOTAL FUNDS			<u><u>822,330</u></u>		<u><u>942,851</u></u>

The accounts were approved by the Board of Directors on 25th September 2024 and signed on their behalf by:-

S Pizzey



Stephen Pizzey (Sep 25, 2024 16:26 GMT+1)

R L Allsop



Richard Leonard Allsop (Sep 25, 2024 16:16 GMT+1)

The notes on pages 17 to 23 form part of these financial statements.

**SCIENCE PROJECTS****Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 December 2023**

	Note	Year ended 31 December 2023 £	Year ended 31 December 2022 £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>			
Net cash generated from operating activities	1	(59,658)	(238,037)
<b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>			
Interest from investments		6,525	796
Purchase of plant and equipment		(68,371)	(2,270)
Net cash used in investing activities		(61,846)	(1,474)
Increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(121,504)	(239,511)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		847,593	1,087,104
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	2	726,089	847,593

**Notes to the cash flow statement****1 Reconciliation of the net income to net cash flow generated from operating activities**

	Year ended 31 December 2023 £	Year ended 31 December 2022 £
Net income for the year	(120,521)	(248,263)
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
Depreciation charges	4,055	16,393
Interest from investments	(6,525)	(796)
Decrease/(Increase) in stocks	(4,610)	(3,366)
Decrease/(Increase) in debtors	56,104	(7,174)
Increase/(Decrease) in creditors	11,839	5,169
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<b>(59,658)</b>	<b>(238,037)</b>

**2 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents**

	Year ended 31 December 2023 £	Year ended 31 December 2022 £
Cash in hand	51,175	179,310
Notice deposits (less than 3 months)	674,914	668,283
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>726,089</b>	<b>847,593</b>

## **SCIENCE PROJECTS**

### **Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023**

#### **1. Principal accounting policies**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable United Kingdom accounting standards and follow the recommendations in the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities SORP (FRS102). They have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The principal accounting policies of the company have remained unchanged from the previous year and are set out below.

#### **(a) Incoming resources**

Grants of a revenue nature are credited to the statement of financial activities in the same period as the related expenditure. The revenue from long term contracts reflects the proportion of work completed to date on the project. Other income is included on the normal accruals basis when earned. Operating receipts exclude value added tax.

#### **(b) Resources expended**

Liabilities are recognised as resources expended as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs relating to the category.

Charitable expenditure comprises the costs incurred in the delivery of its activities and services. Governance costs include those associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include the audit fee and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity.

#### **(c) Tangible fixed assets**

Tangible fixed assets are stated at their purchase price together with any incidental expenses of acquisition. Provision for depreciation is made so as to write off the cost of tangible fixed assets on a straight line basis over the expected useful economic life of the asset concerned. The principal annual rates used for this purpose are:-

Leasehold buildings	10%
Exhibition tent and flooring	25%
Exhibits	20%
Other equipment	10-50%
Motor vehicles	25%

#### **(d) Stock and work in progress**

Stock and work in progress are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Net realisable value is the price at which stocks can be sold in the normal course of business after allowing for the costs of realisation and, where appropriate, the cost of conversion from their existing state to a finished condition.

#### **(e) Long-term contracts**

The attributable contribution on long-term contracts is recognised once the outcome can be assessed with reasonable certainty. The contribution recognised reflects the proportion of work completed to date on the project. Costs associated with long-term contracts are included in stock to the extent that they cannot be matched with contract work accounted for as incoming resources.

Long-term contract balances included in stock are stated at cost, after provision has been made for any foreseeable losses and the deduction of applicable payments on account.

Full provision is made for losses on all contracts in the year in which the loss is first foreseen.

#### **(f) Operating leases**

Payments made under operating leases are charged to the statement of financial activities on a straight line basis over the lease term.

## **SCIENCE PROJECTS**

### **Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023**

#### **1. Principal accounting policies - continued**

##### **(g) Foreign currencies**

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated at the exchange rate ruling at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated at the rate of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. All other exchange differences are dealt with in the statement of financial activities.

##### **(h) Preparation of accounts on a going concern**

After careful consideration of the charity's current financial situation, with due regard to its cash flows, liquidity and future plans and prospects, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operation for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the accounts and there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

##### **(i) Public benefit**

The charity is a public benefit entity.

##### **(j) Incoming resources**

The revenue recognition policies of the charity are as follows:

- (i) Sales of entrance tickets, café and shop sales are recognised as revenue on receipt of the cash
- (ii) Travelling exhibitions are invoiced and the revenue recognised on completion of the exhibit rental. Sales in advance of the completion of the rental period are shown as deferred income.
- (iii) Income from the supply of goods and services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service provided that at the stage of completion, the costs incurred in delivering the service and the costs to complete the requirements of the contract can be measured reliably.  
The method used to measure the stage of completion of a contract is that of the proportion of costs incurred for work performed to date compared with the total estimated costs to completion.
- (iv) Unrestricted grants and legacies are recognised as income on receipt.

##### **(k) Financial instruments**

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

**SCIENCE PROJECTS****Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023****2. Direct charitable expenditure**

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total funds	Total funds
			Year ended	Year ended
			31 December	31 December
	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
	£	£	£	£
<u>Provision of educational services</u>				
Exhibit manufacture	580,262	-	580,262	671,130
Science centre and exhibition hire	578,967	48,114	627,081	530,942
ScienceWorks	1,005	-	1,005	2,739
	<u>1,160,234</u>	<u>48,114</u>	<u>1,208,348</u>	<u>1,204,811</u>
<b>3. Fund-raising and publicity</b>				
Fund-raising	-	-	-	-
Publicity	2,857	-	2,857	1,841
	<u>2,857</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,857</u>	<u>1,841</u>
<b>4. Governance costs</b>				
Salaries and office costs	64,017	-	64,017	102,644
Legal and professional fees	51,837	-	51,837	19,814
Audit fees	10,500	-	10,500	10,500
	<u>126,354</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>126,354</u>	<u>132,958</u>

## SCIENCE PROJECTS

### Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

#### 5. Total resources expended

	<u>Staff costs</u>	<u>Depreciation</u>	<u>Other costs</u>	Year ended 31 December <u>Total 2023</u>	Year ended 31 December <u>Total 2022</u>
	£	£	£	£	£
Educational services	677,008	4,055	527,285	1,208,348	1,204,811
Fund-raising and publicity	-	-	2,857	2,857	1,841
Governance costs	64,017	-	62,337	126,354	132,958
	<u>741,025</u>	<u>4,055</u>	<u>592,479</u>	<u>1,337,559</u>	<u>1,339,610</u>

	Year ended 31 December <u>2023</u>	Year ended 31 December <u>2022</u>
	£	£
Staff costs		
Wages and salaries	674,961	706,585
Social security costs	55,394	63,399
Employers pension contributions	10,670	12,025
	<u>741,025</u>	<u>782,009</u>
Other costs		
Premises	172,093	160,572
Materials	94,616	170,859
Miscellaneous	325,770	209,777
	<u>592,479</u>	<u>541,208</u>

	Year ended 31 December <u>2023</u>	Year ended 31 December <u>2022</u>
The average number of employees, analysed by function was:		
Educational services	32	33
Management and administration of the charity	3	4
	<u>35</u>	<u>37</u>

#### **Directors' emoluments and employee information:**

In common with normal practice in charities, no remuneration has been paid to the directors (who are the trustees), except that by a special dispensation of the Charity Commission, the other directors approved a payment to the outgoing Chief Executive Officer, Mr Pizzey, of £64,054 (Year ended 31 December 2022: £55,549) for his services during the year. None of the trustees have been reimbursed any expenses during the period.

The number of employees whose emoluments exceeded £70,000 during the year was:

	Year ended 31 December <u>2023</u>	Year ended 31 December <u>2022</u>
	No	No
£60,000 - £70,000	2	1
£70,000 - £80,000	-	-

**Defined Contribution Pension Plan** Employers pension contribution costs to the Defined Contribution Pension Plan amounted to £10,670 (2022 £12,025) and are allocated to activities in proportion to the related staffing costs incurred and are wholly charged to unrestricted funds.

**SCIENCE PROJECTS****Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023****6. Tangible fixed assets**

	Exhibition building tent and flooring	Exhibits	Motor vehicles	Equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Cost</b>					
At 1 January 2023	109,333	1,248,129	28,562	601,059	1,987,083
Expenditure in the year	-	-	-	68,371	68,371
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2023	109,333	1,248,129	28,562	669,430	2,055,454
<b>Depreciation</b>					
At 1 January 2023	109,333	1,248,129	28,562	597,476	1,983,500
Charge for the year	-	-	-	4,055	4,055
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2023	109,333	1,248,129	28,562	601,531	1,987,555
<b>Net book value</b>					
At 31 December 2023	-	-	-	67,899	67,899
<b>Net book value</b>					
At 31 December 2022	-	-	-	3,583	3,583

**Capital commitments**

There were no capital commitments authorised or contracted for at the balance sheet date.

**7. Stock and work in progress**

	Year ended 31 December 2023	Year ended 31 December 2022
	£	£
Stock	20,724	16,281
Work in progress	167	-
	20,891	16,281

**8. Debtors**

	Year ended 31 December 2023	Year ended 31 December 2022
	£	£
Trade debtors	3,935	32,274
Other debtors	23,688	26,500
Retentions	-	-
Amounts recoverable on contracts	40,644	81,019
Prepayments and accrued income	35,303	19,401
Other taxes	254	734
	103,824	159,928

The above amounts are due within one year of the balance sheet date.

## SCIENCE PROJECTS

### Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

#### 9. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Year ended 31 December 2023 £	Year ended 31 December 2022 £
Bank overdrafts	5,322	77
Payments on account	24,647	1,890
Trade creditors	12,403	15,486
Social security and other taxes	23,442	41,614
Accruals and deferred income	27,947	23,124
Other creditors	2,612	2,343
	<u>96,373</u>	<u>84,534</u>

#### 10. Lease commitments

	Year ended 31 December 2023 £	Year ended 31 December 2022 £
The total of future lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases for each of the following periods:		
Within one year	82,862	62,638
Between two and five years	259,016	26,940
Over five years	-	-
	<u>341,878</u>	<u>89,578</u>

#### 11. Transactions concerning directors

During the period covered by the accounts, the company received services on normal trading terms from Allsop Business Services in which Mr R L Allsop has an interest, at a cost of £25,980 (Year ended 31 December 2022: £20,760). The amount of outstanding balance at the year end was £780 (Year ended 31 December 2022 £Nil).

#### 12. Called up share capital

The company is limited by guarantee without share capital. Every member has undertaken to contribute to the assets of the company, in the event of it being wound up, such amount as may be required, not exceeding £10.

## SCIENCE PROJECTS

### Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

#### 13. Unrestricted and designated funds

	Designated funds £	Other Unrestricted funds £	Total Unrestricted funds £
Balances brought forward at 1 January 2023	-	942,851	942,851
(Deficit)/Surplus/ in the year	-	(125,468)	(125,468)
Balances carried forward at 31 December 2023	-	817,383	817,383

#### 14. Restricted funds

	Balance 1 January 2023 £	Movement Incoming £	in resources Outgoing £	Balance 31 December 2023 £
The Association for Science and Discovery Centres	-	6,061	2,419	3,642
The Wolfson Foundation	-	47,000	45,695	1,305
	-	53,061	48,114	4,947

The ASDC grant was funding for the "Our world from space" programme, the remainder of the grant is to be received in 2024.

The Wolfson Foundation Grant was in order to substantially fund the repair, renovation and replacement of the main doors and entrance to the Observatory building. As part of our commitment to the maintenance of the Grade 11\* listed building we undertook to renovate the doors and entrance in the same materials and construction methods as used during the original building in 1958. This was the first time since they were built that the doors have had a complete renovation and because of their unique requirement have cost some £63,000. The other grants were in respect of support for the Science centre covering repairs and refurbishment, support for educational programmes and contributions towards running costs.

**SCIENCE PROJECTS**

England & Wales - Charity number 298542

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# Accounts

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**SCIENCE PROJECTS**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

**Address and Registered Office:**  
**Unit 1, Warren Farm, Steventon, Basingstoke, RG25 3BL**

**Charity No:**  
**298542**

**Company Limited by Guarantee No:**  
**2186073**

**SCIENCE PROJECTS**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Financial Statements**  
**For the Year Ended 31 December 2022**

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**SCIENCE PROJECTS**  
**Legal and administrative information**

**Reference and administrative details**

Charity number: 298542

Company number: 2186073

Registered Office and principal operational address: Unit 1, Warren Street, Steventon, Basingstoke, RG25 3BL

**Directors and trustees**

Trustees: R L Allsop  
Dr J Bean  
H Featherstone  
S Pizzey  
A Rumbold (resigned 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2023)  
Dr S Wilkins

Chief Executive Officer: S Pizzey

Secretary : R L Allsop

**Auditor**

Alpha Accountants (London) Ltd, 585A Fulham Road, London, SW6 5UA

**Bankers**

Barclays Bank Plc, 54 High Street, Ruislip, Middlesex, HA4 7AT

**Solicitors**

Wedlake Saint, Crown House, 47/49 High Street, Redbourn, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL3 7LW

**SCIENCE PROJECTS**  
**Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2022**

The Trustees present their report together with the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022.

**Structure, Governance and Management**

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 30 October 1987 and registered as a charity on 2 February 1988. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up, members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £10.

**Recruitment and Appointment of trustees**

The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the trustees. The membership of the board of trustees has remained stable over a number of years, and represents people with skills in the educational, scientific, legal and financial disciplines as well as a deep commitment to the aims of the charity. Consideration is given on an annual basis to reviewing any changes in requirements for any extra skills that the charity may require in its board of trustees.

The trustees serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

R L Allsop  
Dr J Bean  
H Featherstone  
S Pizzey  
A Rumbold (resigned 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2023)  
Dr S Wilkins

**Trustee induction and training**

All of the trustees are already familiar with the practical work of the charity, having been encouraged to visit all of the sites where the charity operates and to discuss the progress of the charity with key members of staff. If it became necessary to introduce any new trustees to the board then those new trustees would be fully briefed on their legal obligations under charity and company law, the content of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the objects of the charity, the recent financial performance of the charity, and to visit the various operations during a normal working day.

**Organisation**

The board of trustees are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity. They meet on a regular basis at least four times a year, and they receive regular financial and written reports on the progress of the charity. A Chief Executive is appointed by the trustees to manage the day to day operations of the charity. To facilitate effective operations, the Chief Executive has delegated authority, within the terms of delegation approved by the trustees, for operational matters including the running of the Science Centre, the travelling exhibitions, the exhibit production and the finance functions.

**Related parties**

The charity does not have any related parties other than the operations that it undertakes itself. However the charity does work closely with other Science Centres in the U.K. and around the world, and regularly produces exhibits and exhibitions for sale to those other organisations that promulgate the objects of the charity.

## **SCIENCE PROJECTS**

### **Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2022 (continued)**

#### **Risk management**

The trustees, in conjunction with the management of the charity, consider at the regular trustees meetings the risks to the charity. These risks have been assessed in terms of financial risk, key personnel risk and health and safety. The financial risks are mitigated by maintaining adequate controls and margins on the contracting work, and through the monitoring and control of the current and future financial outlook of the science centres and the ScienceWorks. It is considered that the strength in depth of the necessary skills within the management, staff and directors of the charity, enable the charity to cope with most likely risks to the charity and to highlight those occasions when outside professional advice is required. Health and safety risks are considered both for staff where an active health and safety risk programme is maintained by management and an accredited outside organisation, and for customers and the public in risk assessment for the Science centres and the exhibits. This is carried out through regular safety audits by the accredited outside organisation and reviewed at regular board meetings.

#### **Objectives and activities**

The aims of the charity are set out in the charitable objects, as laid down in the Memorandum of Association, for which the charity was founded, are to educate the public generally in respect of science and technology in all its branches and in particular to promote those objects by assembling and putting on interactive exhibitions of every kind.

Those objects continue to be fulfilled by the operation of the Observatory Science Centre at Herstonceux and the operation of the ScienceWorks programme, the hiring out of the Exploring Science exhibits, the construction and sale of bespoke interactive exhibits, and the construction and exhibition of grant funded exhibits.

In addition to the continuance of the above policies we are continuing to encourage increased visitor numbers to our Science Centre especially in the numbers of school party visits and to expand the reach of our travelling programmes. New and expanded science related events are put on each year at Herstonceux which are having a gratifying take up by the public.

As part of our aims we are aware of the national need to encourage more young people to take up science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) in their education and careers. We are also aware of the necessity to reach out to underrepresented and underserved parts of the community, especially in the disadvantaged parts of our target audience in the South East of England and particularly in the coastal towns of that region.

We have formulated a plan to address these requirements but they are dependent on finance being available and we are in the process of applying for financial resources from funding agencies

The Trustees set the policies of the Charity and monitor and control its management. The Observatory Science Centre is operated by its own full and part time staff, with central services being provided from the Acton premises. The ScienceWorks and exhibit hire operations are now based at the Steventon premises which provides the administration and maintenance and the exhibit storage now at Herstonceux. The construction of interactive exhibits is now performed at the Steventon workshop and is managed from the offices at the same premises.

The Trustees hold the investment powers of the charity and the trustees ensure that any cash held surplus to immediate requirements is invested sensibly. Investment of surplus cash has been with the Higher Interest deposit accounts of first class U.K banks and has produced an income of £796 (Year ended 31.12.2021: £84), which reflects the low interest rates available.

The charity holds reserves of £942,851 as at 31 December 2022, and the trustees consider that these reserves are adequate to provide for the continued expenditure from the charity's resources for the continued commitment to the Observatory Science Centre and ScienceWorks, and for the maintenance of sufficient funds to cushion the impact of the peaks and troughs of the contracting operations. The charity is also mindful that in order to compete in the commercial market for contracts, (the outcome of which helps to support its charitable activities) much weight is accorded by customers to the financial strength of the charity as well as its technical capabilities, and maintaining the existing net asset balance is now essential to be able to qualify for these international contracts.

The Trustees are satisfied that the charity's assets attributable to each of its individual funds are available and adequate to fulfil its obligations in relation to those funds.

**SCIENCE PROJECTS**  
**Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2022 (continued)**

**Achievements and performance**

(i) Exhibit design and production:

Enquiries and orders for work have been limited as most of our clients are museums and science centres which were closed down during Covid and are slow to recover. However we note an increase in enquiries and potential orders which, although not up to our former scale are none the less on the increase all be it for small financial amounts. The trend is upwards however and judging by the increase in visitors to our own Science Centre we are confident that the trend will continue and orders will follow.

As of 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023 we have now relocated our workshop and head office to a premises in Steventon, Basingstoke, Surrey.

(ii) The Observatory Science Centre

The number of family visitors and school visits has increased markedly, in part due to the outdoor exhibition space and associated activities. There is every expectation to be back to normal eventually although there are difficulties in recruiting part time staff due to local supermarkets offering much higher pay due to their own experiencing difficulties in recruiting staff. Uncertainties in the renewal of the lease in 2026 still hang over us and prevent making major grant applications which require at least a seven year lease from completion.

(iii) Travelling exhibitions

The original scheme has been discontinued as a result of the closure of schools and museums but is being re-introduced as an educational resource for the Kent/Sussex region including the coastal areas. The intention is to relocate the exhibits and associated educational material in the region. There is already some interest from the Beane Museum in Canterbury although the advertising campaign has not begun in earnest.

**Risk Management**

Work and decisions throughout the charity are now viewed through the prism of risk analysis.

Work began on assembling the information relating to procedures for managing risk within the charity following the 2013 audit. Trustees and senior managers are aware of document **CC26** issued by the Charities Commission in 2010 and this has been used as the main reference. The document is particularly useful in highlighting the nature of the risks to be considered, their potential impact and the possible steps to mitigate them.

These are grouped under the following headings:

Governance risks

Operational risks

Financial risks

External risks

Compliance with law and regulation

## **SCIENCE PROJECTS**

### **Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2022 (continued)**

#### **Risk Management (continued)**

Many of these are topics already addressed by the charity under the general heading of management and operation. For example in contracting activities, we have always had to confront and mitigate the effects of currency fluctuations and have vigorously taken steps to remove or amend particularly punitive clauses in contracts. Similarly the board and senior staff have tackled many other headings outlined in **CC26** during the course of running the business. Part of the task regarding the assembly of the management of risk dossier is to transfer the issues we encounter or may encounter in the future into a risk register format. The Observatory and travelling exhibitions activities of charity have their own risk assessment forms which refer to operational activities mainly associated with health and safety issues regarding staff and public.

Meetings have been held with the staff at the Observatory to take appropriate steps to adopt as risk management strategy throughout the organization.

#### **Results**

Income for the period amounted to £1,091,347 (Year ended 31.12.2021: £1,117,493) and operating costs including depreciation totalled £1,339,610 (Year ended 31.12.2021: £1,350,796, leaving an increase of expenditure over income of £248,263 (Year ended 31.12.2021 Increase of expenditure over income: £233,303). As the whole of the income is applied to charitable purposes the company is not liable to direct taxation.

The Covid-19 pandemic continued to impact the charities' financial performance during 2022 and other financial pressures caused by the war in Europe have had a major impact on our costs and with the impact on our customers finances. The Science Centre is gradually returning to pre Covid visitor and income levels and the financial results were creditable compared to the previous year.

The manufacturing operation was able to continue completion of the existing contracts and undertake a number of new contracts although at much lower levels than in pre Covid years it has also come under cost pressures.

Due to Covid most of our customers have had a serious decline in their income stream and have been reluctant to place business during the year due to a lack of cash and that has been reflected in the orders received during the year. Happily we are now seeing a return to normal levels of customer enquiries which we believe will translate into a stream of orders during 2023.

Total income has decreased by £26,146 compared to the previous year with exhibit manufacturing decreasing by £110,508, and Science centre and exhibition hire and schools travelling exhibitions increasing by £167,397 an improvement on the previous year but still reflecting the impact of Covid -19 in the trading performance of the Observatory Science Centre at Herstmonceux, and the income for the travelling exhibitions. Grant income decreased by £20,127. The trustees are examining ways in which grant funding can be increased in a cost effective manner.

The Job Retention Scheme closed in the previous year and the associated income also declined by £69,869.

Exhibit manufacture includes projects both of a short term and long- term nature and revenue and contribution on these contracts are taken on a percentage complete basis. Much of the exhibit income comes from foreign contracts or from contracts destined for overseas locations. Contract work in the U.K. tends to be heavily dependent on the outcome of grant funding for U.K. exhibition centres and therefore tends in nature to be that of an infrequent basis.

The company had secured the removal of the June 2023 break clause in our Acton premises lease on the undertaking that we would vacate the premises 2023. The lease had been due to expire in 2024. We actually vacated on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023 to enable us to move into new premises in Steventon, Basingstoke, Hampshire.

New contracts have been won for customers in the Norway, the USA and the United Kingdom.

## **SCIENCE PROJECTS**

### **Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2022 (continued)**

#### **Results (continued)**

The auto enrolment pension scheme is now well established and there continues to be a gratifying take up of the scheme by the employees.

The trustees continue to view the future for exhibit manufacture with confidence. In order to fund the charity and especially to replenish funds applied to the restoration and improvement of the Observatory Science Centre, the trustees continue to pursue educational exhibit manufacture as a means of propagating their ideas as well as providing funds for the expansion of the charitable objectives.

It would seem prudent to assume that the Observatory Science Centre will in future always require financial support either from grants or from other activities of the charity. The charity has continued to invest in its Science Centre and invested in new exhibits during the year. New investment will be dependent on either Grant income or enhanced returns from manufacturing activities

The fixed assets of the charity are held in the form of exhibits for the Science Centre, ScienceWorks and Exploring Science travelling exhibitions; workshop and office plant and machinery; and motor vehicles for equipment collection and delivery.

Trade debtors reflect the amounts owing by customers on exhibit contracts and exhibit hire, and the work in progress is the cost value of contract work not yet invoiced to customers. The estimated value of assets does not differ from that shown in the accounts.

The financial position of the Balance Sheet is sound and will enable the company to complete all its contracts and commitments and continue with its educational programmes.

#### **Investment policy**

The trustees, having regard to the liquidity requirements of operating the overall charity and of the reserves policy have operated a policy of keeping available funds in interest bearing deposit accounts and seek to achieve the best rate of interest return available to charities in the financial markets.

We are satisfied that the return on our investments is commensurate with our investment risk policy but consideration will be given to seeking better returns on equally secure investments where available.

#### **Reserves policy**

The trustees have established the level of reserves (that is those funds that are freely available) that the charity ought to have. In calculating reserves, the trustees have excluded from total funds the restricted income funds, tangible fixed assets and the designated funds. Reserves are needed to provide for the continued expenditure from the charity's resources, for the continued commitment to the Observatory Science Centre and ScienceWorks, and for the maintenance of sufficient funds to cushion the impact of the peaks and troughs of the contracting operations. To be able to compete in the international science centre exhibit contract market, sufficient financial resources need to be maintained by the charity in order to be able to qualify to bid for these contracts and our reserves policy takes this factor into account.

#### **Reserves outcome**

At the year end unrestricted reserves were £942,851, none of which were designated, and none of which were specifically committed. Fixed assets represented £3,583 of this amount which would be realisable only on disposal of those fixed assets. The balancing figure of reserves available after the deduction of restricted funds, omitted funds and amounts only realisable after the sale of fixed assets is therefore £939,268. This is less than our target policy of having available reserves of £1million that would allow us to comfortably cope with any potential trading downturn in the next financial year and to commit match funding to any grant funding we receive to advance our charitable objectives, and we will be endeavouring to restore our balances in future years.

This policy has been vindicated by the unusual events of 2020 and 2021 and the impact worldwide of the Covid-19 pandemic and to provide some financial cushion for the future financial uncertainty of outcomes in 2023.

## SCIENCE PROJECTS

### Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2022 (continued)

#### Results (continued)

##### Plans for future periods

The charity plans to continue the activities outlined above in the forthcoming years subject to satisfactory funding arrangements. Because grants receivable by Science Projects tend to be of a capital expenditure nature and not available to fund revenue expenditure, the trustees have a policy of ensuring that all of the charity's activities are financially self-supporting. Where activities are not self-supporting on a continuing basis the trustees review the support that can be offered to those activities.

##### Trustees' responsibilities for the financial statements

The trustees who are also directors for the purposes of company law are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), and are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and the incoming resources and application of resources, including the net income or expenditure of the charity for the year. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 and with the Accounting and Reporting by Charities, Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015). They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In accordance with company law, as the company's directors, we certify that:

- so far as we are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditor is unaware; and
- as the directors of the company we have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditor is aware of that information.

##### Auditor

Alpha Accountants (London) Ltd offer themselves for appointment as auditor in accordance with Section 492 of The Companies Act 2006.

ON BEHALF OF THE TRUSTEES

*Richard Allsop*

Richard Allsop (Sep 26, 2023 17:25 GMT+1)

R L Allsop  
Director and Secretary  
19th September 2023

UNIT 1  
WARREN FARM  
STEVENTON  
BASINGSTOKE  
RG25 3BL

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SCIENCE PROJECTS [LIMITED BY GUARANTEE]**

### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Science Projects (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 December 2022 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows, and the related notes. 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 31 December 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

### **Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the 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 group and parent charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least 12 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 annual report, 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. In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

### **Opinions on other matters prescribed by the *Companies Act 2006***

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

- the information given in the Trustees' Report, which includes the Directors' Report prepared for the purposes of company law for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and the Directors' Report included within the Trustees' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

### **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

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

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where 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;
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns;
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made;
- 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.

### **Responsibilities of trustees**

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement set out on page 9, 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 company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

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

Based on our understanding of the charitable company and the environment in which it operates, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to the regulatory requirements of the Charity Commission, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011, and UK tax law.

We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls), and determined that the principal risks were related to posting inappropriate journal entries and management bias in certain accounting estimates and judgements such as the recognition of income from legacies and grants. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- Inspecting correspondence with regulators and tax authorities;
- Discussions with management including consideration of known or suspected instances of noncompliance with laws and regulation and fraud;
- Evaluating management's controls designed to prevent and detect irregularities;
- Reviewing minutes of all Trustee Governor meetings during the year;
- Identifying and testing journals, in particular journal entries posted with unusual account combinations, postings by unusual users or with unusual descriptions; and
- Challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in their critical accounting estimates

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

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our auditor's report.

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



**Haralambos Hambi (Senior statutory auditor)**  
**for and on behalf of Alpha Accountants (London) Limited, Statutory Auditor**  
**585A Fulham Road**  
**London**  
**SW6 5UA**  
**Date**

**SCIENCE PROJECTS**  
**Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 December 2022**

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>	<u>Restricted Funds</u>	<u>Total funds Year ended 31 December 2022</u>	<u>Total funds Year ended 31 December 2021</u>
		£	£	£	£
<b>Income and expenditure</b>					
<b>Incoming resources</b>					
Grants received	14	-	11,089	11,089	31,216
Exhibit manufacture		563,622	-	563,622	674,130
Science Centre and Exhibition Hire		508,596	-	508,596	341,199
Other		6,480	-	6,480	995
SSP Rebate		764	-	764	
Interest on deposits		796	-	796	84
Job Retention Scheme Income		-	-	-	69,869
Total incoming resources		<u>1,080,258</u>	<u>11,089</u>	<u>1,091,347</u>	<u>1,117,493</u>
<b>Resources expended</b>					
Direct charitable expenditure	2,14	1,193,722	11,089	1,204,811	1,208,099
Fund-raising and publicity	3	1,841	-	1,841	179
Governance costs	4	132,958	-	132,958	142,518
Total resources expended	5	<u>1,328,521</u>	<u>11,089</u>	<u>1,339,610</u>	<u>1,350,796</u>
Net movement in funds		(248,263)	-	(248,263)	(233,303)
Balances brought forward at 1 January 2022		1,191,114	-	1,191,114	1,424,417
Balances carried forward at 31 December 2022		<u>942,851</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>942,851</u>	<u>1,191,114</u>

The accounting policies and notes on pages 15 to 21 form part of these financial statements

There were no recognised gains or losses other than those shown in the Statement of Financial Activities for the period.

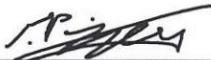
**SCIENCE PROJECTS**  
**Balance sheet as at 31 December 2022**

	Notes	Year ended 31 December 2022		Year ended 31 December 2021	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS	6		3,583		17,706
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stock and work in progress	7	16,281		12,915	
Debtors	8	159,928		152,754	
Cash at bank and in hand		847,593		1,087,104	
		<u>1,023,802</u>		<u>1,252,773</u>	
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	9	(84,534)		(79,365)	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			939,268	1,173,408	
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>942,851</u>	<u>1,191,114</u>	
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due after more than one year	10		-	-	
			<u>942,851</u>	<u>1,191,114</u>	
NET ASSETS			<u><u>942,851</u></u>	<u><u>1,191,114</u></u>	
FUNDS					
Unrestricted income funds					
General funds	13	942,851		1,191,114	
Designated funds	13	-		-	
Total unrestricted funds		<u>942,851</u>		<u>1,191,114</u>	
Restricted funds	14		-	-	
TOTAL FUNDS			<u><u>942,851</u></u>	<u><u>1,191,114</u></u>	

The accounts were approved by the Board of Directors on 19th September 2023 and signed on their behalf by:-

S Pizzey

R L Allsop




Stephen Pizzey (Sep 27, 2023 09:35 GMT+1)

Richard Allsop (Sep 26, 2023 17:25 GMT+1)

The notes on pages 15 to 21 form part of these financial statements.

**SCIENCE PROJECTS**  
**Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 December 2022**

	Note	Year ended 31 December 2022 £	Year ended 31 December 2021 £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>			
Net cash generated from operating activities	1	(238,037)	(240,506)
<b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>			
Interest from investments		796	84
Purchase of plant and equipment		(2,270)	(10,549)
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>		<u>(1,474)</u>	<u>(10,465)</u>
<b>Increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the year</b>		(239,511)	(250,971)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		1,087,104	1,338,075
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>	2	<u>847,593</u>	<u>1,087,104</u>

**Notes to the cash flow statement**

**1 Reconciliation of the net income to net cash flow generated from operating activities**

	Year ended 31 December 2022 £	Year ended 31 December 2021 £
<b>Net income for the year</b>	(248,263)	(233,303)
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
Depreciation charges	16,393	20,237
Interest from investments	(796)	(84)
Decrease/(Increase) in stocks	(3,366)	2,421
Decrease/(Increase) in debtors	(7,174)	54,503
Increase/(Decrease) in creditors	5,169	(84,280)
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<u>(238,037)</u>	<u>(240,506)</u>

**2 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents**

	Year ended 31 December 2022 £	Year ended 31 December 2021 £
Cash in hand	179,310	199,024
Notice deposits (less than 3 months)	668,283	888,080
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<u>847,593</u>	<u>1,087,104</u>

**SCIENCE PROJECTS**  
**Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022**

**1. Principal accounting policies**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable United Kingdom accounting standards and follow the recommendations in the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities SORP (FRS102). They have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The principal accounting policies of the company have remained unchanged from the previous year and are set out below.

**(a) Incoming resources**

Grants of a revenue nature are credited to the statement of financial activities in the same period as the related expenditure. The revenue from long term contracts reflects the proportion of work completed to date on the project. Other income is included on the normal accruals basis when earned. Operating receipts exclude value added tax.

**(b) Resources expended**

Liabilities are recognised as resources expended as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs relating to the category. Charitable expenditure comprises the costs incurred in the delivery of its activities and services. Governance costs include those associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include the audit fee and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity.

**(c) Tangible fixed assets**

Tangible fixed assets are stated at their purchase price together with any incidental expenses of acquisition. Provision for depreciation is made so as to write off the cost of tangible fixed assets on a straight line basis over the expected useful economic life of the asset concerned. The principal annual rates used for this purpose are:-

Exhibition tent and flooring	25%
Exhibits	20%
Other equipment	50%
Motor vehicles	25%

**(d) Stock and work in progress**

Stock and work in progress are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Net realisable value is the price at which stocks can be sold in the normal course of business after allowing for the costs of realisation and, where appropriate, the cost of conversion from their existing state to a finished condition.

**(e) Long-term contracts**

The attributable contribution on long-term contracts is recognised once the outcome can be assessed with reasonable certainty. The contribution recognised reflects the proportion of work completed to date on the project. Costs associated with long-term contracts are included in stock to the extent that they cannot be matched with contract work accounted for as incoming resources. Long-term contract balances included in stock are stated at cost, after provision has been made for any foreseeable losses and the deduction of applicable payments on account. Full provision is made for losses on all contracts in the year in which the loss is first foreseen.

**(f) Operating leases**

Payments made under operating leases are charged to the statement of financial activities on a straight line basis over the lease term.

**SCIENCE PROJECTS**  
**Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022**

**1. Principal accounting policies - continued**

**(g) Foreign currencies**

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated at the exchange rate ruling at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated at the rate of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. All other exchange differences are dealt with in the statement of financial activities.

**(h) Preparation of accounts on a going concern**

After careful consideration of the charity's current financial situation, with due regard to its cash flows, liquidity and future plans and prospects, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operation for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the accounts and there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

**(i) Public benefit**

The charity is a public benefit entity.

**(j) Incoming resources**

The revenue recognition policies of the charity are as follows:

- (i) Sales of entrance tickets, café and shop sales are recognised as revenue on receipt of the cash
- (ii) Travelling exhibitions are invoiced and the revenue recognised on completion of the exhibit rental. Sales in advance of the completion of the rental period are shown as deferred income.
- (iii) Income from the supply of goods and services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service provided that at the stage of completion, the costs incurred in delivering the service and the costs to complete the requirements of the contract can be measured reliably.  
The method used to measure the stage of completion of a contract is that of the proportion of costs incurred for work performed to date compared with the total estimated costs to completion.
- (iv) Unrestricted grants and legacies are recognised as income on receipt.

**(k) Financial instruments**

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

**SCIENCE PROJECTS****Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022****2. Direct charitable expenditure**

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total funds	Total funds
			Year ended	Year ended
			31 December	31 December
	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
	£	£	£	£
<u>Provision of educational services</u>				
Exhibit manufacture	671,130	-	671,130	800,364
Science centre and exhibition hire	519,853	11,089	530,942	397,050
ScienceWorks	2,739	-	2,739	10,685
	<u>1,193,722</u>	<u>11,089</u>	<u>1,204,811</u>	<u>1,208,099</u>
<b>3. Fund-raising and publicity</b>				
Fund-raising	-	-	-	-
Publicity	1,841	-	1,841	179
	<u>1,841</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,841</u>	<u>179</u>
<b>4. Governance costs</b>				
Salaries and office costs	102,644	-	102,644	105,565
Legal and professional fees	19,814	-	19,814	26,453
Audit fees	10,500	-	10,500	10,500
	<u>132,958</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>132,958</u>	<u>142,518</u>

**SCIENCE PROJECTS**  
**Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021**

**5. Total resources expended**

				Year ended 31 December <u>2022</u>	Year ended 31 December <u>2021</u>
	<u>Staff costs</u>	<u>Depreciation</u>	<u>Other costs</u>	<u>Total 2022</u>	<u>Total 2021</u>
	£	£	£	£	£
Educational services	679,365	16,393	509,053	1,204,811	1,208,099
Fund-raising and publicity	-	-	1,841	1,841	179
Governance costs	102,644	-	30,314	132,958	142,518
	<u>782,009</u>	<u>16,393</u>	<u>541,208</u>	<u>1,339,610</u>	<u>1,350,796</u>

	Year ended 31 December <u>2022</u>	Year ended 31 December <u>2021</u>
	£	£
Staff costs		
Wages and salaries	706,585	744,186
Social security costs	63,399	68,308
Employers pension contributions	12,025	14,055
	<u>782,009</u>	<u>826,549</u>
Other costs		
Premises	160,572	153,531
Materials	170,859	204,959
Miscellaneous	209,777	145,520
	<u>541,208</u>	<u>504,010</u>

	Year ended 31 December <u>2022</u>	Year ended 31 December <u>2021</u>
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The average number of employees, analysed by function was:

Educational services	33	26
Management and administration of the charity	4	4
	<u>37</u>	<u>30</u>
	—	—

**Directors' emoluments and employee information:**

In common with normal practice in charities, no remuneration has been paid to the directors (who are the trustees), except that by a special dispensation of the Charity Commission, the other directors approved a payment to the Chief Executive Officer, Mr Pizzey, of £55,549 (Year ended 31 December 2021: £53,968) for his services during the year. None of the trustees have been reimbursed any expenses during the period.

The number of employees whose emoluments exceeded £70,000 during the year was:

	Year ended 31 December <u>2022</u>	Year ended 31 December <u>2021</u>
	No	No
£60,000 - £70,000	1	1
£70,000 - £80,000	-	-

**Defined Contribution Pension Plan**

Employers pension contribution costs to the Defined Contribution Pension Plan amounted to £12,025 (2021: £14,055) and are allocated to activities in proportion to the related staffing costs incurred and are wholly charged to unrestricted funds.

**SCIENCE PROJECTS****Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022****6. Tangible fixed assets**

	Exhibition building tent and <u>flooring</u>	<u>Exhibits</u>	Motor vehicles	<u>Equipment</u>	<u>Total</u>
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Cost</b>					
At 1 January 2022	109,333	1,248,129	28,562	598,789	1,984,813
Expenditure in the year	-	-	-	2,270	2,270
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2022	109,333	1,248,129	28,562	601,059	1,987,083
<b>Depreciation</b>					
At 1 January 2022	109,333	1,248,129	24,277	585,368	1,967,107
Charge for the year	-	-	4,285	12,108	16,393
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2022	109,333	1,248,129	28,562	597,476	1,983,500
<b>Net book value</b>					
At 31 December 2022	-	-	-	3,583	3,583
<b>Net book value</b>					
At 31 December 2021	-	-	4,285	13,421	17,706

**Capital commitments**

There were no capital commitments authorised or contracted for at the balance sheet date.

**7. Stock and work in progress**

	Year ended 31 December <u>2022</u>	Year ended 31 December <u>2021</u>
	£	£
Stock	16,281	12,915
Work in progress	-	-
	16,281	12,915

**8. Debtors**

	Year ended 31 December <u>2022</u>	Year ended 31 December <u>2021</u>
	£	£
Trade debtors	32,274	12,068
Other debtors	26,500	26,500
Retentions	-	3,985
Amounts recoverable on contracts	81,019	84,616
Prepayments and accrued income	19,401	24,861
Other taxes	734	724
	159,928	152,754

The above amounts are due within one year of the balance sheet date.

**SCIENCE PROJECTS**

England & Wales - Charity number 298542

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# Accounts

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**SCIENCE PROJECTS**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**



**Address and Registered Office:**  
**Stirling House, 3-15 Stirling Road, London, W3 8DJ**

**Charity No:**  
**298542**

**Company Limited by Guarantee No:**  
**2186073**

**SCIENCE PROJECTS**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Financial Statements**  
**For the Year Ended 31 December 2021**

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**SCIENCE PROJECTS**

**Legal and administrative information**

**Reference and administrative details**

Charity number: 298542

Company number: 2186073

Registered Office and  
principal operational  
address:

Stirling House, 3-15 Stirling Road, Acton, London, W3 8DJ

**Directors and trustees**

Trustees:	R L Allsop	
	Dr J Bean	
	H Featherstone	Appointed 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2020
	S Pizey	
	A Rumbold	Appointed 20 <sup>th</sup> November 2020
	R B Scholefield	Deceased 9 <sup>th</sup> January 2021
	S Snowden	Resigned 20 <sup>th</sup> October 2021
	Dr S Wilkins	Appointed 23 <sup>rd</sup> April 2021

Chief Executive Officer: S Pizey

Secretary : R L Allsop

**Auditor**

Alpha Accountants (London) Ltd, 585A Fulham Road, London, SW6 5UA

**Bankers**

Barclays Bank Plc, 54 High Street, Ruislip, Middlesex, HA4 7AT

**Solicitors**

Wedlake Saint, Crown House, 47/49 High Street, Redbourn, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL3 7LW

## **SCIENCE PROJECTS**

### **Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2021**

The Trustees present their report together with the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021.

#### **Structure, Governance and Management**

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 30 October 1987 and registered as a charity on 2 February 1988. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up, members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £10.

#### **Recruitment and Appointment of trustees**

The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the trustees. The membership of the board of trustees has remained stable over a number of years, and represents people with skills in the educational, scientific, legal and financial disciplines as well as a deep commitment to the aims of the charity. Consideration is given on an annual basis to reviewing any changes in requirements for any extra skills that the charity may require in its board of trustees.

The trustees serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

R L Allsop	
Dr J Bean	
H Featherstone	Appointed 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2020
S Pizzey	
A Rumbold	Appointed 20 <sup>th</sup> November 2020
R B Scholefield	Deceased 9 <sup>th</sup> January 2021
S Snowden	Resigned 20 <sup>th</sup> October 2021
Dr S Wilkins	Appointed 23 <sup>rd</sup> April 2021

#### **Trustee induction and training**

All the trustees are already familiar with the practical work of the charity, having been encouraged to visit all of the sites where the charity operates and to discuss the progress of the charity with key members of staff. If it became necessary to introduce any new trustees to the board then those new trustees would be fully briefed on their legal obligations under charity and company law, the content of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the objects of the charity, the recent financial performance of the charity, and to visit the various operations during a normal working day.

#### **Organisation**

The board of trustees are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity. They meet on a regular basis at least four times a year, and they receive regular financial and written reports on the progress of the charity. A Chief Executive is appointed by the trustees to manage the day to day operations of the charity. To facilitate effective operations, the Chief Executive has delegated authority, within the terms of delegation approved by the trustees, for operational matters including the running of the Science Centre, the travelling exhibitions, the exhibit production and the finance functions.

#### **Related parties**

The charity does not have any related parties other than the operations that it undertakes itself. However, the charity does work closely with other Science Centres in the U.K. and around the world, and regularly produces exhibits and exhibitions for sale to those other organisations that promulgate the objects of the charity.

## **SCIENCE PROJECTS**

### **Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2021 (continued)**

#### **Risk management**

The trustees, in conjunction with the management of the charity, consider at the regular trustees' meetings the risks to the charity. These risks have been assessed in terms of financial risk, key personnel risk and health and safety. The financial risks are mitigated by maintaining adequate controls and margins on the contracting work, and through the monitoring and control of the current and future financial outlook of the science centres and the ScienceWorks. It is considered that the strength in depth of the necessary skills within the management, staff, and directors of the charity, enable the charity to cope with most likely risks to the charity and to highlight those occasions when outside professional advice is required. Health and safety risks are considered both for staff where an active health and safety risk programme is maintained by management and an accredited outside organisation, and for customers and the public in risk assessment for the Science centres and the exhibits. This is carried out through regular safety audits by the accredited outside organisation and reviewed at regular board meetings.

#### **Objectives and activities**

The aims of the charity are set out in the charitable objects, as laid down in the Memorandum of Association, for which the charity was founded, are to educate the public generally in respect of science and technology in all its branches and to promote those objects by assembling and putting on interactive exhibitions of every kind.

Those objects continue to be fulfilled by the operation of the Observatory Science Centre at Herstmonceux and the operation of the ScienceWorks programme, the hiring out of the Exploring Science exhibits, the construction and sale of bespoke interactive exhibits, and the construction and exhibition of grant funded exhibits.

In addition to the continuance of the above policies we are continuing to encourage increased visitor numbers to our Science Centre especially in the numbers of school party visits and to expand the reach of our travelling programmes. New and expanded science related events are put on each year at Herstmonceux which are having a gratifying take up by the public.

As part of our aims, we are aware of the national need to encourage more young people to take up science, technology, engineering, and maths (STEM) in their education and careers. We are also aware of the necessity to reach out to underrepresented and underserved parts of the community, especially in the disadvantaged parts of our target audience in the Southeast of England and particularly in the coastal towns of that region.

We have formulated a plan to address these requirements, but they are dependent on finance being available and we are in the process of applying for financial resources from funding agencies.

The Trustees set the policies of the Charity and monitor and control its management. The Observatory Science Centre is operated by its own full and part time staff, with central services being provided from the Acton premises. The ScienceWorks and exhibit hire operations are based at the Acton premises, which provides the administration, maintenance, and some of the storage facilities with the remaining storage at Herstmonceux. The construction of interactive exhibits is performed at the Acton workshops and is managed from the offices at the same premises.

The Trustees hold the investment powers of the charity, and the trustees ensure that any cash held surplus to immediate requirements is invested sensibly. Investment of surplus cash has been with the Higher Interest deposit accounts of first-class U.K banks and has produced an income of £84 (Year ended 31.12.2020: £1,312), which reflects the low interest rates available.

The charity holds reserves of £1,191,114 as of 31 December 2021, and the trustees consider that these reserves are adequate to provide for the continued expenditure from the charity's resources for the continued commitment to the Observatory Science Centre and ScienceWorks, and for the maintenance of sufficient funds to cushion the impact of the peaks and troughs of the contracting operations. The charity is also mindful that in order to compete in the commercial market for contracts, (the outcome of which helps to support its charitable activities) much weight is accorded by customers to the financial strength of the charity as well as its technical capabilities and maintaining the existing net asset balance is now essential to be able to qualify for these international contracts.

The Trustees are satisfied that the charity's assets attributable to each of its individual funds are available and adequate to fulfil its obligations in relation to those funds.

## **SCIENCE PROJECTS**

### **Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2021 (continued)**

#### **Achievements and performance:**

The COVID restrictions of 2020 continued to restrict the activities of the charity during the early part of the year. The financial reserve continued to decline over the year but appears to be levelling out.

##### **(i) Exhibit design and production.**

Continuing travel bans for the installation of one exhibition in particular has proved to be difficult to manage by not being able to be on site and inspect work by local contractors. This may inevitably prove to be costly.

Enquiries for new work have been substantially reduced as the whole science museum and science centre field has been severely affected by the pandemic. It will undoubtedly recover but may well take a year or more. The proposed move to take the workshop activity out of London by October 2023 is receiving attention and it is important that this occurs in advance of the anticipated recovery of the market in order to have full production capacity. The reserve should cover the financial cost the move.

##### **(ii) The Observatory Science Centre. (OSC)**

The Observatory re-opened on May 18 but with restrictions on the number of visitors on site which had to be booked in advance. Similarly, there were restrictions on school visits which were limited to one school at a time with adherence to social distancing. This resulted in limiting the income and increased staff costs. The situation eased during the year and the new booking system proved useful for organising events by indicating the number of visitors in advance.

##### **(iii) Travelling exhibition service**

This activity is now discontinued for the present. However, the exhibits continue to provide a resource for use at the OSC to provide a changing program of new exhibitions for the visiting public.

#### **Risk Management**

Work and decisions throughout the charity are now viewed through the prism of risk analysis.

Work began on assembling the information relating to procedures for managing risk within the charity following the 2013 audit. Trustees and senior managers are aware of document CC26 issued by the Charities Commission in 2010 and this has been used as the main reference. The document is particularly useful in highlighting the nature of the risks to be considered, their potential impact and the possible steps to mitigate them. These are grouped under the following headings:

- Governance risks
- Operational risks
- Financial risks
- External risks
- Compliance with law and regulation

Many of these are topics already addressed by the charity under the general heading of management and operation. For example, in contracting activities, we have always had to confront and mitigate the effects of currency fluctuations and have vigorously taken steps to remove or amend particularly punitive clauses in contracts. Similarly, the board and senior staff have tackled many other headings outlined in CC26 during the course of running the business. Part of the task regarding the assembly of the management of risk dossier is to transfer the issues we encounter or may encounter in the future into a risk register format. The Observatory and travelling exhibitions activities of charity have their own risk assessment forms which refer to operational activities mainly associated with health and safety issues regarding staff and public. Meetings have been held with the staff at the Observatory to take appropriate steps to adopt as risk management strategy throughout the organization.

## **SCIENCE PROJECTS**

### **Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2021 (continued)**

#### **Results**

Income for the period amounted to £1,117,493 (Year ended 31.12.2020: £1,658,392) and operating costs including depreciation totalled £1,350,796 (Year ended 31.12.2020: £1,693,725, leaving an increase of expenditure over income of £233,303 (Year ended 31.12.2020 Increase of expenditure over income: £35,333). As the whole of the income is applied to charitable purposes the company is not liable to direct taxation.

The Covid-19 pandemic continued to impact the charities' financial performance during 2021 with the Science Centre only able to reopen in May again under more restrictive circumstances and the financial results were creditable compared to the previous year.

The manufacturing operation was able to continue completion of the existing contracts although it has come under cost pressure because staff were in many instances unable to travel overseas due to Covid restrictions to complete the installation of the exhibits and we had to subcontract local contractors to complete the work.

Due to Covid most of our customers have had a serious decline in their income stream and have been reluctant to place business due to a lack of cash and that has been reflected in the orders received during the year. Happily, we are now seeing a return to normal levels of customer enquiries which we believe will translate into a stream of orders during late 2022 and into 2023.

Total income has decreased by £540,899 compared to the previous year with exhibit manufacturing decreasing by £668,870, and Science centre and exhibition hire and schools travelling exhibitions increasing by £177,293 an improvement on the previous year but still reflecting the impact of Covid -19 in the trading performance of the Observatory Science Centre at Herstmonceux, and the income for the travelling exhibitions. Grant income increased by £18,116. The trustees are examining ways in which grant funding can be increased in a cost-effective manner.

The Job Retention Scheme income also declined by £67,205 reflecting the reducing level of compensation paid under the scheme and the fact that more staff could return to work.

Exhibit manufacture includes projects both of a short term and long- term nature and revenue and contribution on these contracts are taken on a percentage complete basis. Much of the exhibit income comes from foreign contracts or from contracts destined for overseas locations. Contract work in the U.K. tends to be heavily dependent on the outcome of grant funding for U.K exhibition centres and therefore tends in nature to be that of an infrequent basis.

The company has now secured the removal of the 2020 break clause in our Acton premises lease which will give us security of tenure until 2023, with the lease due to expire in 2024. We have however agreed with the landlord to vacate the workshop in October 2023.

New contracts have been won for customers in Norway, the USA and the United Kingdom.

The auto enrolment pension scheme is now well established and there continues to be a gratifying take up of the scheme by the employees.

The trustees continue to view the future for exhibit manufacture with confidence. In order to fund the charity and specially to replenish funds applied to the restoration and improvement of the Observatory Science Centre, the trustees continue to pursue educational exhibit manufacture as a means of propagating their ideas as well as providing funds for the expansion of the charitable objectives.

It would seem prudent to assume that the Observatory Science Centre will in future always require financial support either from grants or from other activities of the charity. The charity has continued to invest in its Science Centre and invested in new exhibits during the year. New investment will be dependent on either Grant income or enhanced returns from manufacturing activities

The fixed assets of the charity are held in the form of exhibits for the Science Centre, Science Works and Exploring Science travelling exhibitions; workshop and office plant and machinery; and motor vehicles for equipment collection and delivery.

## **SCIENCE PROJECTS**

### **Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2021 (continued)**

#### **Results (continued)**

Trade debtors reflect the amounts owing by customers on exhibit contracts and exhibit hire, and the work in progress is the cost value of contract work not yet invoiced to customers. The estimated value of assets does not differ from that shown in the accounts.

The financial position of the Balance Sheet is sound and will enable the company to complete all its contracts and commitments and continue with its educational programmes.

#### **Investment policy**

The trustees, having regard to the liquidity requirements of operating the overall charity and of the reserves policy have operated a policy of keeping available funds in interest bearing deposit accounts and seek to achieve the best rate of interest return available to charities in the financial markets.

We are satisfied that the return on our investments is commensurate with our investment risk policy, but consideration will be given to seeking better returns on equally secure investments where available.

#### **Reserves policy**

The trustees have established the level of reserves (that is those funds that are freely available) that the charity ought to have. In calculating reserves, the trustees have excluded from total funds the restricted income funds, tangible fixed assets and the designated funds. Reserves are needed to provide for the continued expenditure from the charity's resources, for the continued commitment to the Observatory Science Centre and ScienceWorks, and for the maintenance of sufficient funds to cushion the impact of the peaks and troughs of the contracting operations. To be able to compete in the international science centre exhibit contract market, sufficient financial resources need to be maintained by the charity in order to be able to qualify to bid for these contracts and our reserves policy takes this factor into account.

#### **Reserves outcome**

At the year end unrestricted reserves were £1,191,114, none of which were designated, and none of which were specifically committed. Fixed assets represented £17,706 of this amount which would be realisable only on disposal of those fixed assets. The balancing figure of reserves available after the deduction of restricted funds, omitted funds and amounts only realisable after the sale of fixed assets is therefore £1,173,408. This exceeds our target policy of having available reserves of £1million and will allow us to cope with any potential trading downturn in the next financial year and to commit match funding to any grant funding we receive to advance our charitable objectives.

This policy has been vindicated by the unusual events of 2020 and 2021 and the impact worldwide of the Covid-19 pandemic and to provide some financial cushion for the future financial uncertainty of outcomes in 2022.

#### **Plans for future periods**

The charity plans to continue the activities outlined above in the forthcoming years subject to satisfactory funding arrangements. Because grants receivable by Science Projects tends to be of a capital expenditure nature and not available to fund revenue expenditure, the trustees have a policy of ensuring that all of the charity's activities are financially self-supporting. Where activities are not self-supporting on a continuing basis the trustees review the support that can be offered to those activities.

## **SCIENCE PROJECTS**

### **Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2021 (continued)**

#### **Trustees' responsibilities for the financial statements**

The trustees who are also directors for the purposes of company law are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), and are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and the incoming resources and application of resources, including the net income or expenditure of the charity for the year. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 and with the Accounting and Reporting by Charities, Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015). They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.


In accordance with company law, as the company's directors, we certify that:

- so far as we are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditor is unaware; and
- as the directors of the company we have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditor is aware of that information.

#### **Auditor**

Alpha Accountants (London) Ltd offer themselves for appointment as auditor in accordance with Section 492 of The Companies Act 2006.

ON BEHALF OF THE TRUSTEES

  
P.L. Allsop (UK) Ltd, 2022 123456789

Stirling House  
3 - 15 Stirling Road  
London, W3 8DJ

R L Allsop  
Director and Secretary  
28th September 2022

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SCIENCE PROJECTS [LIMITED BY GUARANTEE]**

### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Science Projects (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 December 2021 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows, and the related notes. 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 ... and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended:
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006

### **Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the 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 group and parent charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least 12 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 annual report, 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. In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements, or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

### **Opinions on other matters prescribed by the *Companies Act 2006***

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

- the information given in the Trustees' Report, which includes the Directors' Report prepared for the purposes of company law for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and the Directors' Report included within the Trustees' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

### **Matters on which we are required to report by exception.**

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

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where 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;
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns.
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made.
- 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.

### **Responsibilities of trustees**

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement set out on page 9, 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 company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

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

Based on our understanding of the charitable company and the environment in which it operates, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to the regulatory requirements of the Charity Commission, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the *Companies Act 2006*; the *Charities Act 2011*, and UK tax law.

We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls) and determined that the principal risks were related to posting inappropriate journal entries and management bias in certain accounting estimates and judgements such as the recognition of income from legacies and grants. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- Inspecting correspondence with regulators and tax authorities.
- Discussions with management including consideration of known or suspected instances of noncompliance with laws and regulation and fraud.
- Evaluating management's controls designed to prevent and detect irregularities.

Reviewing minutes of all Trustee Governor meetings during the year.

Identifying and testing journals, in particular journal entries posted with unusual account combinations, postings by unusual users or with unusual descriptions; and

Challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in their critical accounting estimates

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

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our auditor's report.

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

Haralambos Hambi (Senior statutory auditor)  
for and on behalf of Alpha Accountants (London) Limited, Statutory Auditor  
585A Fulham Road  
London  
SW6 5UA



Date 28/09/2022.

**SCIENCE PROJECTS**

**Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 December 2021**

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds Year ended 31 December 2021	Total Funds Year ended 31 December 2020
		£	£	£	£
<b>Income and expenditure</b>					
<b>Incoming resources</b>					
Grants received	14	-	31,216	31,216	13,100
Exhibit manufacture		674,130	-	674,130	1,343,000
Science Centre and Exhibition Hire		341,199	-	341,199	163,906
Other		995	-	995	-
Interest on deposits		84	-	84	1,312
Rental income		-	-	-	-
Job Retention Scheme Income		69,869	-	69,869	137,074
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		<b>1,086,277</b>	<b>31,216</b>	<b>1,117,493</b>	<b>1,658,392</b>
<b>Resources expended</b>					
Direct charitable expenditure	2,14	1,176,883	31,216	1,208,099	1,541,393
Fund-raising and publicity	3	179	-	179	7,532
Governance costs	4	142,518	-	142,518	144,800
<b>Total resources expended</b>	5	<b>1,319,580</b>	<b>31,216</b>	<b>1,350,796</b>	<b>1,693,725</b>
Net movement in funds		(233,303)	-	(233,303)	(35,333)
Balances brought forward at 1 January 2021		1,424,417	-	1,424,417	1,459,750
Balances carried forward at 31 December 2021		1,191,114	-	1,191,114	1,424,417

The accounting policies and notes on pages 16 to 22 form part of these financial statements

There were no recognised gains or losses other than those shown in the Statement of Financial Activities for the period.

**SCIENCE PROJECTS**  
**Balance sheet as at 31 December 2021**

	<u>Notes</u>	Year ended 31 December 2021	Year ended 31 December 2020
		£	£
FIXED ASSETS	6	17,706	27,393
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stock and work in progress	7	12,915	15,336
Debtors	8	152,754	207,258
Cash at bank and in hand		1,087,104	1,338,075
		<u>1,252,773</u>	<u>1,560,669</u>
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	9	(79,365)	(163,645)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>1,173,408</u>	<u>1,397,024</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>1,191,114</u>	<u>1,424,417</u>
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due after more than one year	10	-	-
NET ASSETS		<u>1,191,114</u>	<u>1,424,417</u>
FUNDS			
Unrestricted income funds			
General funds	13	1,191,114	1,424,417
Designated funds	13	-	-
Total unrestricted funds		<u>1,191,114</u>	<u>1,424,417</u>
Restricted funds	14	-	-
TOTAL FUNDS		<u>1,191,114</u>	<u>1,424,417</u>

The accounts were approved by the Board of Directors on 28th September 2022 and signed on their behalf by:

  
S Pizzey (Sep 15, 2022 10:24 GMT+1)

S Pizzey

  
R L Allsop (Sep 26, 2022 12:41 GMT+1)

R L Allsop

The notes on pages 15 to 21 form part of these financial statements.

**SCIENCE PROJECTS****Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 December 2021**

	Note	<u>Year ended</u> <u>31 December</u> <u>2021</u> £	<u>Year ended</u> <u>31 December</u> <u>2020</u> £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>			
Net cash generated from operating activities	1	(240,506)	133,608
<b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>			
Interest from investments		84	1,312
Purchase of plant and equipment		(10,549)	(3,345)
Net cash used in investing activities		(10,465)	(2,033)
Increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(250,971)	131,575
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		1,338,075	1,206,500
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	2	1,087,104	1,338,075

**Notes to the cash flow statement****1 Reconciliation of the net income to net cash flow generated from operating activities**

	<u>Year ended</u> <u>31 December</u> <u>2021</u> £	<u>Year ended</u> <u>31 December</u> <u>2020</u> £
Net income for the year	(233,303)	(35,333)
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
Depreciation charges	20,237	53,419
Interest from investments	(84)	(1,312)
Decrease/(Increase) in stocks	2,421	8,846
Decrease/(Increase) in debtors	54,503	71,163
Decrease in creditors	(84,280)	36,825
Net cash provided by operating activities	(240,506)	133,608

**2 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents**

	<u>Year ended</u> <u>31 December</u> <u>2021</u> £	<u>Year ended</u> <u>31 December</u> <u>2020</u> £
Cash in hand	199,024	470,368
Notice deposits (less than 3 months)	888,080	867,707
Total cash and cash equivalents	1,087,104	1,338,075

## **SCIENCE PROJECTS**

### **Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021**

#### **1. Principal accounting policies**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable United Kingdom accounting standards and follow the recommendations in the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities SORP (FRS102). They have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The principal accounting policies of the company have remained unchanged from the previous year and are set out below.

#### **(a) Incoming resources**

Grants of a revenue nature are credited to the statement of financial activities in the same period as the related expenditure. The revenue from long term contracts reflects the proportion of work completed to date on the project. Other income is included on the normal accruals basis when earned. Operating receipts exclude value added tax.

#### **(b) Resources expended**

Liabilities are recognised as resources expended as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs relating to the category. Charitable expenditure comprises the costs incurred in the delivery of its activities and services. Governance costs include those associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include the audit fee and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity.

#### **(c) Tangible fixed assets**

Tangible fixed assets are stated at their purchase price together with any incidental expenses of acquisition. Provision for depreciation is made so as to write off the cost of tangible fixed assets on a straight-line basis over the expected useful economic life of the asset concerned. The principal annual rates used for this purpose are:

Exhibition tent and flooring	25%
Exhibits	20%
Other equipment	50%
Motor vehicles	25%

#### **(d) Stock and work in progress**

Stock and work in progress are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Net realisable value is the price at which stocks can be sold in the normal course of business after allowing for the costs of realisation and, where appropriate, the cost of conversion from their existing state to a finished condition.

#### **(e) Long-term contracts**

The attributable contribution on long-term contracts is recognised once the outcome can be assessed with reasonable certainty. The contribution recognised reflects the proportion of work completed to date on the project. Costs associated with long-term contracts are included in stock to the extent that they cannot be matched with contract work accounted for as incoming resources. Long-term contract balances included in stock are stated at cost, after provision has been made for any foreseeable losses and the deduction of applicable payments on account. Full provision is made for losses on all contracts in the year in which the loss is first foreseen.

#### **(f) Operating leases**

Payments made under operating leases are charged to the statement of financial activities on a straight line basis over the lease term.

## **SCIENCE PROJECTS**

### **Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021**

#### **1. Principal accounting policies - continued**

##### **(g) Foreign currencies**

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated at the exchange rate ruling at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated at the rate of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. All other exchange differences are dealt with in the statement of financial activities.

##### **(h) Preparation of accounts on a going concern**

After careful consideration of the charity's current financial situation, with due regard to its cash flows, liquidity and future plans and prospects, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operation for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the accounts and there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

##### **(i) Public benefit**

The charity is a public benefit entity.

##### **(j) Incoming resources**

The revenue recognition policies of the charity are as follows:

- (i) Sales of entrance tickets, café and shop sales are recognised as revenue on receipt of the cash
- (ii) Travelling exhibitions are invoiced and the revenue recognised on completion of the exhibit rental. Sales in advance of the completion of the rental period are shown as deferred income.
- (iii) Income from the supply of goods and services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service provided that at the stage of completion, the costs incurred in delivering the service and the costs to complete the requirements of the contract can be measured reliably.  
The method used to measure the stage of completion of a contract is that of the proportion of costs incurred for work performed to date compared with the total estimated costs to completion.
- (iv) Unrestricted grants and legacies are recognised as income on receipt.

##### **(k) Financial instruments**

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

**SCIENCE PROJECTS****Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021****2. Direct charitable expenditure**

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds	Total Funds
			Year ended	Year ended
			31 December	31 December
	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
	£	£	£	£
<b><u>Provision of educational services</u></b>				
Exhibit manufacture	800,364	-	800,364	1,053,703
Science centre and exhibition hire	365,834	31,216	397,050	454,512
ScienceWorks	10,685	-	10,685	33,178
	<u>1,176,883</u>	<u>31,216</u>	<u>1,208,099</u>	<u>1,541,393</u>
<b>3. Fund-raising and publicity</b>				
Fund-raising	-	-	-	-
Publicity	179	-	179	7,532
	<u>179</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>179</u>	<u>7,532</u>
<b>4. Governance costs</b>				
Salaries and office costs	105,565	-	105,565	105,296
Legal and professional fees	26,453	-	26,453	30,004
Audit fees	10,500	-	10,500	9,500
	<u>142,518</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>142,518</u>	<u>144,800</u>

## **SCIENCE PROJECTS**

### **Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021**

#### **5. Total resources expended**

	Staff Costs	Depreciation	Other costs	Year ended 31 December Total 2021	Year ended 31 December Total 2020
	£	£	£	£	£
Educational services	720,984	20,237	466,878	1,208,099	1,541,393
Fund-raising and publicity	-	-	179	179	7,532
Governance costs	105,565	-	36,953	142,518	144,800
	<u>826,549</u>	<u>20,237</u>	<u>504,010</u>	<u>1,350,796</u>	<u>1,693,725</u>

	Year ended 31 December 2021	Year ended 31 December 2020
	£	£
Staff costs		
Wages and salaries	744,186	839,679
Social security costs	68,308	74,638
Employers pension contributions	14,055	14,666
	<u>826,549</u>	<u>928,983</u>
Other costs		
Premises	153,531	149,301
Materials	204,959	381,975
Miscellaneous	145,520	180,047
	<u>504,010</u>	<u>711,323</u>

	Year ended 31 December 2021	Year ended 31 December 2020
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The average number of employees, analysed by function was:

Educational services	26	40
Management and administration of the charity	4	4
	<u>30</u>	<u>44</u>
	—	—

#### **Directors' emoluments and employee information:**

In common with normal practice in charities, no remuneration has been paid to the directors (who are the trustees), except that by a special dispensation of the Charity Commission, the other directors approved a payment to the Chief Executive Officer, Mr Pizzey, of £53,968 (Year ended 31 December 2020: £61,007 for his services during the year. None of the trustees have been reimbursed any expenses during the period.

The number of employees whose emoluments exceeded £70,000 during the year was:

	Year ended 31 December 2021	Year ended 31 December 2020
	No	No
£60,000 - £70,000	1	1
£70,000 - £80,000	-	1

#### **Defined Contribution Pension Plan**

Employers pension contribution costs to the Defined Contribution Pension Plan amounted to £14,055 (2020 £14,666) and are allocated to activities in proportion to the related staffing costs incurred and are wholly charged to unrestricted funds.

**SCIENCE PROJECTS****Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021****6. Tangible fixed assets**

	Exhibition building tent and flooring £	Exhibits £	Motor vehicles £	Equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>					
At 1 January 2021	109,333	1,248,129	41,162	588,240	1,986,864
Expenditure in the year	-	-	-	10,549	10,549
Disposals	-	-	(12,600)	-	(12,600)
At 31 December 2021	109,333	1,248,129	28,562	598,789	1,984,813
<b>Depreciation</b>					
At 1 January 2021	109,333	1,245,440	32,592	572,105	1,959,470
Charge for the year	-	2,689	4,285	13,263	20,237
Disposals	-	-	(12,600)	-	(12,600)
At 31 December 2021	109,333	1,248,129	24,277	585,368	1,967,107
<b>Net book value</b>					
At 31 December 2021	-	-	4,285	13,421	17,706
<b>Net book value</b>					
At 31 December 2020	-	2,689	8,570	16,134	27,393

**Capital commitments**

There were no capital commitments authorised or contracted for at the balance sheet date.

**7. Stock and work in progress**

	Year ended 31 December 2021 £	Year ended 31 December 2020 £
Stock	12,915	15,230
Work in progress	-	106
	12,915	15,336

**8. Debtors**

	Year ended 31 December 2021 £	Year ended 31 December 2020 £
Trade debtors	12,068	14,332
Other debtors	26,500	26,500
Retentions	3,985	11,499
Amounts recoverable on contracts	84,616	93,782
Prepayments and accrued income	24,861	37,751
Other taxes	724	23,394
	152,754	207,258

The above amounts are due within one year of the balance sheet date.

**SCIENCE PROJECTS****Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021****9. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year**

	Year ended 31 December <u>2021</u> £	Year ended 31 December <u>2020</u> £
Bank overdrafts	-	-
Payments on account	1,177	42,332
Trade creditors	19,304	48,666
Social security and other taxes	22,570	37,613
Accruals and deferred income	33,344	30,948
Other creditors	2,970	4,086
	<u>79,365</u>	<u>163,645</u>

**10. Lease commitments**

	Year ended 31 December <u>2021</u> £	Year ended 31 December <u>2020</u> £
Operating leases in respect of land and buildings. Amounts payable within one year in respect of leases expiring:		
Within one year	5,040	5,040
Between two and five years	108,631	85,000
Over five years	-	22,067
	<u>113,671</u>	<u>112,107</u>

**11. Transactions concerning directors**

During the period covered by the accounts, the company received services on normal trading terms from Allsop Business Services in which Mr R L Allsop has an interest, at a cost of £24,440 (Year ended 31 December 2020: £29,991). The amount of outstanding balance at the year end was £1,280 (Year ended 31 December 2020 £1,440).

**12. Called up share capital**

The company is limited by guarantee without share capital. Every member has undertaken to contribute to the assets of the company, in the event of it being wound up, such amount as may be required, not exceeding £10.

**SCIENCE PROJECTS**  
**Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021**

**13. Unrestricted and designated funds**

	Designated funds £	Other Unrestricted funds £	Total Unrestricted funds £
Balances brought forward at 1 January 2021	-	1,424,417	1,424,417
(Deficit)/Surplus/ in the year	-	(233,303)	(233,303)
Balances carried forward at 31 December 2021	-	1,191,114	1,191,114

**14. Restricted funds**

	Balance 1 January 2021 £	Movement Incoming £	in resources Outgoing £	Balance 31 December 2021 £
The Association for Science and Discovery Centres	-	3,500	3,500	-
East Sussex County Council	-	8,985	8,985	-
The Royal Astronomical Society	-	700	700	-
The Science and Technologies Facilities Council	-	600	600	-
Wealden District Council	-	17,431	17,431	-
	-	31,216	31,216	-

All of the above grants were in respect of support for the Science centre covering repairs and refurbishment, support for educational programmes and contributions towards running costs.

**SCIENCE PROJECTS**

England & Wales - Charity number 298542

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# Accounts

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**SCIENCE PROJECTS**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

**Address and Registered Office:**  
**Stirling House, 3-15 Stirling Road, London, W3 8DJ**

**Charity No:**  
**298542**

**Company Limited by Guarantee No:**  
**2186073**

**SCIENCE PROJECTS**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Financial Statements**  
**For the Year Ended 31 December 2020**

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## SCIENCE PROJECTS

### Legal and administrative information

#### **Reference and administrative details**

Charity number: 298542

Company number: 2186073

Registered Office and principal operational address: Stirling House, 3-15 Stirling Road, Acton, London, W3 8DJ

#### **Directors and trustees**

Trustees:	R L Allsop	
	Dr J Bean	
	H Featherstone	Appointed 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2020
	A Rumbold	Appointed 20 <sup>th</sup> November 2020
	R B Scholefield	Deceased 9 <sup>th</sup> January 2021
	S Snowden	Resigned 20 <sup>th</sup> October 2021
	Dr S Wilkins	Appointed 23 <sup>rd</sup> April 2021

Chief Executive Officer: S Pizzey

Secretary : R L Allsop

#### **Auditor**

Alpha Accountants (London) Ltd, 585A Fulham Road, London, SW6 5UA

#### **Bankers**

Barclays Bank Plc, 54 High Street, Ruislip, Middlesex, HA4 7AT

#### **Solicitors**

Wedlake Saint, Crown House, 47/49 High Street, Redbourn, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL3 7LW

## **SCIENCE PROJECTS**

### **Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2020**

The Trustees present their report together with the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020.

#### **Structure, Governance and Management**

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 30 October 1987 and registered as a charity on 2 February 1988. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up, members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £10.

#### **Recruitment and Appointment of trustees**

The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the trustees. The membership of the board of trustees has remained stable over a number of years, and represents people with skills in the educational, scientific, legal and financial disciplines as well as a deep commitment to the aims of the charity. Consideration is given on an annual basis to reviewing any changes in requirements for any extra skills that the charity may require in its board of trustees.

The trustees serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

R L Allsop	
Dr J Bean	
H Featherstone	Appointed 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2020
S Pizzey	
A Rumbold	Appointed 20 <sup>th</sup> November 2020
R B Scholefield	Deceased 9 <sup>th</sup> January 2021
S Snowden	Resigned 20 <sup>th</sup> October 2021
Dr S Wilkins	Appointed 23 <sup>rd</sup> April 2021

#### **Trustee induction and training**

All of the trustees are already familiar with the practical work of the charity, having been encouraged to visit all of the sites where the charity operates and to discuss the progress of the charity with key members of staff. If it became necessary to introduce any new trustees to the board then those new trustees would be fully briefed on their legal obligations under charity and company law, the content of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the objects of the charity, the recent financial performance of the charity, and to visit the various operations during a normal working day.

#### **Organisation**

The board of trustees are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity. They meet on a regular basis at least four times a year, and they receive regular financial and written reports on the progress of the charity. A Chief Executive is appointed by the trustees to manage the day to day operations of the charity. To facilitate effective operations, the Chief Executive has delegated authority, within the terms of delegation approved by the trustees, for operational matters including the running of the Science Centre, the travelling exhibitions, the exhibit production and the finance functions.

#### **Related parties**

The charity does not have any related parties other than the operations that it undertakes itself. However the charity does work closely with other Science Centres in the U.K. and around the world, and regularly produces exhibits and exhibitions for sale to those other organisations that promulgate the objects of the charity.

## SCIENCE PROJECTS

### Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2020 (continued)

#### **Risk management**

The trustees, in conjunction with the management of the charity, consider at the regular trustees meetings the risks to the charity. These risks have been assessed in terms of financial risk, key personnel risk and health and safety. The financial risks are mitigated by maintaining adequate controls and margins on the contracting work, and through the monitoring and control of the current and future financial outlook of the science centres and the ScienceWorks. It is considered that the strength in depth of the necessary skills within the management, staff and directors of the charity, enable the charity to cope with most likely risks to the charity and to highlight those occasions when outside professional advice is required. Health and safety risks are considered both for staff where an active health and safety risk programme is maintained by management and an accredited outside organisation, and for customers and the public in risk assessment for the Science centres and the exhibits.

This is carried out through regular safety audits by the accredited outside organisation and reviewed at regular board meetings.

#### **Objectives and activities**

The aims of the charity are set out in the charitable objects, as laid down in the Memorandum of Association, for which the charity was founded, are to educate the public generally in respect of science and technology in all its branches and in particular to promote those objects by assembling and putting on interactive exhibitions of every kind.

Those objects continue to be fulfilled by the operation of the Observatory Science Centre at Herstmonceux and the operation of the ScienceWorks programme, the hiring out of the Exploring Science exhibits, the construction and sale of bespoke interactive exhibits, and the construction and exhibition of grant funded exhibits.

In addition to the continuance of the above policies we are continuing to encourage increased visitor numbers to our Science Centre especially in the numbers of school party visits and to expand the reach of our travelling programmes. New and expanded science related events are put on each year at Herstmonceux which are having a gratifying take up by the public.

As part of our aims we are aware of the national need to encourage more young people to take up science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) in their education and careers. We are also aware of the necessity to reach out to underrepresented and underserved parts of the community, especially in the disadvantaged parts of our target audience in the South East of England and particularly in the coastal towns of that region.

We have formulated a plan to address these requirements but they are dependent on finance being available and we are in the process of applying for financial resources from funding agencies

The Trustees set the policies of the Charity and monitor and control its management. The Observatory Science Centre is operated by its own full and part time staff, with central services being provided from the Acton premises. The ScienceWorks and exhibit hire operations are based at the Acton premises, which provides the administration, maintenance and some of the storage facilities with the remaining storage at Herstmonceux. The construction of interactive exhibits is performed at the Acton workshops and is managed from the offices at the same premises.

The Trustees hold the investment powers of the charity and the trustees ensure that any cash held surplus to immediate requirements is invested sensibly. Investment of surplus cash has been with the Higher Interest deposit accounts of first class U.K banks and has produced an income of £1,312 (Year ended 31.12.2019: £2,882), which reflects the low interest rates available.

The charity holds reserves of £1,424,417 as at 31 December 2020, and the trustees consider that these reserves are adequate to provide for the continued expenditure from the charity's resources for the continued commitment to the Observatory Science Centre and ScienceWorks, and for the maintenance of sufficient funds to cushion the impact of the peaks and troughs of the contracting operations. The charity is also mindful that in order to compete in the commercial market for contracts, (the outcome of which helps to support its charitable activities) much weight is accorded by customers to the financial strength of the charity as well as its technical capabilities, and maintaining the existing net asset balance is now essential to be able to qualify for these international contracts.

The Trustees are satisfied that the charity's assets attributable to each of its individual funds are available and adequate to fulfil its obligations in relation to those funds.

## **SCIENCE PROJECTS**

### **Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2020 (continued)**

#### **Achievements and performance**

The activities of the charity have been severely curtailed by the Covid restrictions which have impacted all departments.

##### **(i) Exhibit design and production.**

Design activities were transferred to home working which allowed some continuity but assembly and production was curtailed whilst the workshop was closed. Travel bans made installation at overseas sites expensive due to the necessity of recruiting and instructing local installers. Covid compliance when the workshop reopened reduced productivity and the pace at which work could be completed.

##### **(ii) The Observatory Science Centre (OSC)**

As with other science centres, museums and public attractions, the OSC was closed to the public and consequently there was no income whilst overheads continued. When the Centre re-opened, the number of visitors and hence the income was reduced due to social distance requirements and staff costs increased due to monitoring visitor flow and continuous sanitisation. Similarly no science shows could take place and certain exhibits had to be withdrawn. Schools attendance was in effect non-existent.

##### **(iii) Traveling exhibitions service.**

This activity was discontinued as the main clients, museums and science centres, were closed and their finances were restricted.

In conclusion, the year was a disaster for the whole sector. Fortunately the charity had financial reserves to draw on to stay in business for the moment.

#### **Risk Management**

Work and decisions throughout the charity are now viewed through the prism of risk analysis.

Work began on assembling the information relating to procedures for managing risk within the charity following the 2013 audit. Trustees and senior managers are aware of document CC26 issued by the Charities Commission in 2010 and this has been used as the main reference. The document is particularly useful in highlighting the nature of the risks to be considered, their potential impact and the possible steps to mitigate them.

These are grouped under the following headings;

Governance risks

Operational risks

Financial risks

External risks

Compliance with law and regulation

## SCIENCE PROJECTS

### Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2020 (continued)

#### **Risk Management (continued)**

Many of these are topics already addressed by the charity under the general heading of management and operation. For example in contracting activities, we have always had to confront and mitigate the effects of currency fluctuations and have vigorously taken steps to remove or amend particularly punitive clauses in contracts. Similarly the board and senior staff have tackled many other headings outlined in CC26 during the course of running the business. Part of the task regarding the assembly of the management of risk dossier is to transfer the issues we encounter or may encounter in the future into a risk register format. The Observatory and travelling exhibitions activities of charity have their own risk assessment forms which refer to operational activities mainly associated with health and safety issues regarding staff and public.

Meetings have been held with the staff at the Observatory to take appropriate steps to adopt a risk management strategy throughout the organization.

#### **Results**

Income for the period amounted to £1,658,392 (Year ended 31.12.2019: £1,788,872) and operating costs including depreciation totalled £1,693,725 (Year ended 31.12.2019: £1,755,553, leaving an increase of expenditure over income of £35,333 (Year ended 31.12.2019 Increase of income over expenditure: £33,319). As the whole of the income is applied to charitable purposes the company is not liable to direct taxation.

The overriding event of 2020 was the arrival of the Covid-19 pandemic which impacted the charity in a major way. The Observatory Science Centre had to be closed at the end of March 2020 and the majority of the staff placed on furlough. We also had most of our Outreach travelling exhibitions cancelled and whilst the Science Centre was able to reopen in August under very restricted circumstances in order to provide adequate protection for staff and visitors the Outreach programme was unable to receive any new bookings for the year. The increase in infection rates in the country again required the Science Centre to close for much of early 2021 and only reopen to visitors in May 2021. Fortunately the exhibit manufacturing operation entered 2020 with a full order book. Due to the pandemic all of the staff had to be sent home but we devised a method by working on-line of achieving completion of the contract design work whilst working from home and of liaising with our clients who were in a similar situation. We were then able to return to the workshop in a medically safe and secure manner to complete the fabrication of the exhibits. This has however had an impact on the cost and profitability of these contracts.

There has been a knock on effect of the pandemic because most of our clients around the world also had to close during the pandemic and have had their revenues severely affected and we are seeing a slowdown in the level of enquires and orders we would normally expect.

Total income has decreased by £130,480 compared to the previous year with exhibit manufacturing increasing by £279,770, and Science centre and exhibition hire and schools travelling exhibitions declining by £514,282, reflecting the impact of Covid -19 in the trading performance of the Observatory Science Centre at Herstmonceux, and the income for the travelling exhibitions. Grant income decreased by £400. The trustees are examining ways in which grant funding can be increased in a cost effective manner.

Exhibit manufacture includes projects both of a short term and long- term nature and revenue and contribution on these contracts are taken on a percentage complete basis. Much of the exhibit income comes from foreign contracts or from contracts destined for overseas locations. Contract work in the U.K. tends to be heavily dependent on the outcome of grant funding for U.K exhibition centres and therefore tends in nature to be that of an infrequent basis.

The company has now secured the removal of the 2020 break clause in our Acton premises lease which will give us security of tenure until 2023, with the lease due to expire in 2024. We have however agreed with the landlord to vacate the workshop in October 2023.

New contracts have been won for customers in the Norway, and the USA.

## **SCIENCE PROJECTS**

### **Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2020 (continued)**

#### **Results (continued)**

The auto enrolment pension scheme is now well established and there continues to be a gratifying take up of the scheme by the employees.

The trustees continue to view the future for exhibit manufacture with confidence. In order to fund the charity and especially to replenish funds applied to the restoration and improvement of the Observatory Science Centre, the trustees continue to pursue educational exhibit manufacture as a means of propagating their ideas as well as providing funds for the expansion of the charitable objectives.

It would seem prudent to assume that the Observatory Science Centre will in future always require financial support either from grants or from other activities of the charity. The charity has continued to invest in its Science Centre and invested in new exhibits during the year. New investment will be dependent on either Grant income or enhanced returns from manufacturing activities

The fixed assets of the charity are held in the form of exhibits for the Science Centre, ScienceWorks and Exploring Science travelling exhibitions; workshop and office plant and machinery; and motor vehicles for equipment collection and delivery.

Trade debtors reflect the amounts owing by customers on exhibit contracts and exhibit hire, and the work in progress is the cost value of contract work not yet invoiced to customers. The estimated value of assets does not differ from that shown in the accounts.

The financial position of the Balance Sheet is sound and will enable the company to complete all its contracts and commitments and continue with its educational programmes

#### **Investment policy**

The trustees, having regard to the liquidity requirements of operating the overall charity and of the reserves policy have operated a policy of keeping available funds in interest bearing deposit accounts and seek to achieve the best rate of interest return available to charities in the financial markets.

We are satisfied that the return on our investments is commensurate with our investment risk policy but consideration will be given to seeking better returns on equally secure investments where available.

#### **Reserves policy**

The trustees have established the level of reserves (that is those funds that are freely available) that the charity ought to have. In calculating reserves, the trustees have excluded from total funds the restricted income funds, tangible fixed assets and the designated funds. Reserves are needed to provide for the continued expenditure from the charity's resources, for the continued commitment to the Observatory Science Centre and ScienceWorks, and for the maintenance of sufficient funds to cushion the impact of the peaks and troughs of the contracting operations. To be able to compete in the international science centre exhibit contract market, sufficient financial resources need to be maintained by the charity in order to be able to qualify to bid for these contracts and our reserves policy takes this factor into account.

#### **Reserves outcome**

At the year end unrestricted reserves were £1,424,417, none of which were designated, and none of which were specifically committed. Fixed assets represented £27,393 of this amount which would be realisable only on disposal of those fixed assets. The balancing figure of reserves available after the deduction of restricted funds, omitted funds and amounts only realisable after the sale of fixed assets is therefore £1,397,024. This exceeds our target policy of having available reserves of £1million and will allow us to cope with any potential trading downturn in the next financial year and to commit match funding to any grant funding we receive to advance our charitable objectives. This policy has been vindicated by the unusual events of 2020 and the impact worldwide of the Covid-19 pandemic and to provide some financial cushion for the future financial uncertainty of outcomes in 2021 and 2022.

#### **Plans for future periods**

The charity plans to continue the activities outlined above in the forthcoming years subject to satisfactory funding arrangements. Because grants receivable by Science Projects tend to be of a capital expenditure nature and not available to fund revenue expenditure, the trustees have a policy of ensuring that all of the charity's activities are financially self-supporting. Where activities are not self-supporting on a continuing basis the trustees review the support that can be offered to those activities.

## SCIENCE PROJECTS

### Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2020 (continued)

#### Trustees' responsibilities for the financial statements

The trustees who are also directors for the purposes of company law are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), and are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and the incoming resources and application of resources, including the net income or expenditure of the charity for the year. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 and with the Accounting and Reporting by Charities, Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015). They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In accordance with company law, as the company's directors, we certify that:

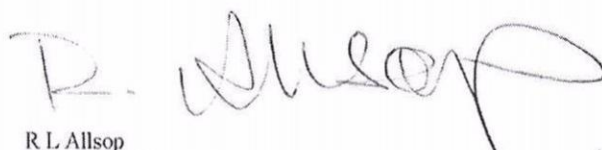
- so far as we are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditor is unaware; and
- as the directors of the company we have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditor is aware of that information.

#### Auditor

Alpha Accountants (London) Ltd offer themselves for appointment as auditor in accordance with Section 492 of The Companies Act 2006.

STIRLING HOUSE  
3 - 15 STIRLING ROAD  
LONDON, W3 8DJ

ON BEHALF OF THE TRUSTEES



R.L. Allsop  
Director and Secretary  
7<sup>th</sup> December 2021

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SCIENCE PROJECTS [LIMITED BY GUARANTEE]**

We have audited the financial statements of Science Projects for the year ended 31 December 2020 which comprise of the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and auditor**

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement set out on pages 4-9, 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.

Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's (APB's) Ethical Standards for Auditors.

### **Scope of the audit of the financial statements**

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the charitable company's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the trustees; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the Trustees' Report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

### **Opinion on financial statements**

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2020 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.


### **Opinion on other matter prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

In our opinion the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

**Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where 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.
- 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 Trustees' Annual Report.

Haralambos Hambi (Senior statutory auditor)  
for and on behalf of Alpha Accountants (London) Limited, Statutory Auditor  
585A Fulham Road  
London   
SW6 5UA

Date 9/12/2021.

**SCIENCE PROJECTS****Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 December 2020**

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total funds Year ended 31 December 2020	Total funds Year ended 31 December 2019
		£	£	£	£
<b>Income and expenditure</b>					
<b>Incoming resources</b>					
Grants received	14	-	13,100	13,100	13,500
Exhibit manufacture		1,343,000	-	1,343,000	1,063,230
Science Centre and Exhibition Hire		163,906	-	163,906	678,188
Other		-	-	-	4,832
Interest on deposits		1,312	-	1,312	2,882
Rental income		-	-	-	26,240
Job Retention Scheme Income		137,074	-	137,074	-
Total incoming resources		<u>1,645,292</u>	<u>13,100</u>	<u>1,658,392</u>	<u>1,788,872</u>
<b>Resources expended</b>					
Direct charitable expenditure	2,14	1,528,293	13,100	1,541,393	1,615,381
Fund-raising and publicity	3	7,532	-	7,532	20,455
Governance costs	4	144,800	-	144,800	119,717
Total resources expended	5	<u>1,680,625</u>	<u>13,100</u>	<u>1,693,725</u>	<u>1,755,553</u>
Net movement in funds		(35,333)	-	(35,333)	33,319
Balances brought forward at 1 January 2020		1,459,750	-	1,459,750	1,426,431
Balances carried forward at 31 December 2020		<u>1,424,417</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,424,417</u>	<u>1,459,750</u>

The accounting policies and notes on pages 15 to 21 form part of these financial statements

There were no recognised gains or losses other than those shown in the Statement of Financial Activities for the period.

**SCIENCE PROJECTS**  
**Balance sheet as at 31 December 2020**

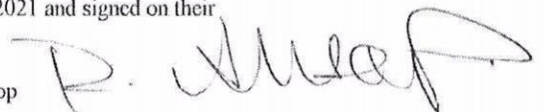
	Notes	Year ended 31 December 2020		Year ended 31 December 2019	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS	6		27,393		77,467
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Stock and work in progress	7	15,336		24,182	
Debtors	8	207,258		278,421	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,338,075		1,206,500	
		<u>1,560,669</u>		<u>1,509,103</u>	
<b>CREDITORS</b>					
Amounts falling due within one year	9	(163,645)		(126,820)	
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>			<u>1,397,024</u>		<u>1,382,283</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>1,424,417</u>		<u>1,459,750</u>
<b>CREDITORS: Amounts falling due after more than one year</b>					
	10		-		-
			<u>1,424,417</u>		<u>1,459,750</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			<u><u>1,424,417</u></u>		<u><u>1,459,750</u></u>
<b>FUNDS</b>					
Unrestricted income funds					
General funds	13	1,424,417		1,459,750	
Designated funds	13	-		-	
Total unrestricted funds			<u>1,424,417</u>		<u>1,459,750</u>
Restricted funds	14		-		-
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>			<u><u>1,424,417</u></u>		<u><u>1,459,750</u></u>

The accounts were approved by the Board of Directors on 7th December 2021 and signed on their behalf by:-

S Pizzey



R L Allsop



The notes on pages 15 to 21 form part of these financial statements.

**SCIENCE PROJECTS**  
**Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 December 2020**

	Note	Year ended 31 December 2020 £	Year ended 31 December 2019 £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>			
Net cash generated from operating activities	1	133,608	93,474
<b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>			
Interest from investments		1,312	2,882
Purchase of plant and equipment		(3,345)	(122,222)
Net cash used in investing activities		(2,033)	(119,340)
Increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the year		131,575	(25,866)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		1,206,500	1,232,366
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	2	1,338,075	1,206,500

**Notes to the cash flow statement**

**1 Reconciliation of the net income to net cash flow generated from operating activities**

	Year ended 31 December 2020 £	Year ended 31 December 2019 £
Net income for the year	(35,333)	33,319
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
Depreciation charges	53,419	55,815
Interest from investments	(1,312)	(2,882)
Decrease/(Increase) in stocks	8,846	9,523
Decrease/(Increase) in debtors	71,163	32,882
Decrease in creditors	36,825	(35,183)
Net cash provided by operating activities	133,608	93,474

**2 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents**

	Year ended 31 December 2020 £	Year ended 31 December 2019 £
Cash in hand	470,368	330,214
Notice deposits (less than 3 months)	867,707	876,286
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>1,338,075</b>	<b>1,206,500</b>

## SCIENCE PROJECTS

### Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020

#### **1. Principal accounting policies**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable United Kingdom accounting standards and follow the recommendations in the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities SORP (FRS102). They have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The principal accounting policies of the company have remained unchanged from the previous year and are set out below.

#### **(a) Incoming resources**

Grants of a revenue nature are credited to the statement of financial activities in the same period as the related expenditure. The revenue from long term contracts reflects the proportion of work completed to date on the project. Other income is included on the normal accruals basis when earned. Operating receipts exclude value added tax.

#### **(b) Resources expended**

Liabilities are recognised as resources expended as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs relating to the category.

Charitable expenditure comprises the costs incurred in the delivery of its activities and services. Governance costs include those associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include the audit fee and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity.

#### **(c) Tangible fixed assets**

Tangible fixed assets are stated at their purchase price together with any incidental expenses of acquisition. Provision for depreciation is made so as to write off the cost of tangible fixed assets on a straight line basis over the expected useful economic life of the asset concerned. The principal annual rates used for this purpose are:-

Exhibition tent and flooring	25%
Exhibits	20%
Other equipment	50%
Motor vehicles	25%

#### **(d) Stock and work in progress**

Stock and work in progress are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Net realisable value is the price at which stocks can be sold in the normal course of business after allowing for the costs of realisation and, where appropriate, the cost of conversion from their existing state to a finished condition.

#### **(e) Long-term contracts**

The attributable contribution on long-term contracts is recognised once the outcome can be assessed with reasonable certainty. The contribution recognised reflects the proportion of work completed to date on the project. Costs associated with long-term contracts are included in stock to the extent that they cannot be matched with contract work accounted for as incoming resources. Long-term contract balances included in stock are stated at cost, after provision has been made for any foreseeable losses and the deduction of applicable payments on account.

Full provision is made for losses on all contracts in the year in which the loss is first foreseen.

#### **(f) Operating leases**

Payments made under operating leases are charged to the statement of financial activities on a straight line basis over the lease term.

## **SCIENCE PROJECTS**

### **Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020**

#### **1. Principal accounting policies - continued**

##### **(g) Foreign currencies**

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated at the exchange rate ruling at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated at the rate of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. All other exchange differences are dealt with in the statement of financial activities.

##### **(h) Preparation of accounts on a going concern**

After careful consideration of the charity's current financial situation, with due regard to its cash flows, liquidity and future plans and prospects, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operation for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the accounts and there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

##### **(i) Public benefit**

The charity is a public benefit entity.

##### **(j) Incoming resources**

The revenue recognition policies of the charity are as follows:

- (i) Sales of entrance tickets, café and shop sales are recognised as revenue on receipt of the cash
- (ii) Travelling exhibitions are invoiced and the revenue recognised on completion of the exhibit rental. Sales in advance of the completion of the rental period are shown as deferred income.
- (iii) Income from the supply of goods and services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service provided that at the stage of completion, the costs incurred in delivering the service and the costs to complete the requirements of the contract can be measured reliably.  
The method used to measure the stage of completion of a contract is that of the proportion of costs incurred for work performed to date compared with the total estimated costs to completion.
- (iv) Unrestricted grants and legacies are recognised as income on receipt.

##### **(k) Financial instruments**

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

**SCIENCE PROJECTS****Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020****2. Direct charitable expenditure**

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total funds	Total funds
	Year ended	Year ended	Year ended	Year ended
	31 December	31 December	31 December	31 December
	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
	£	£	£	£
<b>Provision of educational services</b>				
Exhibit manufacture	1,053,703	-	1,053,703	995,263
Science centre and exhibition hire	441,412	13,100	454,512	573,553
ScienceWorks	33,178	-	33,178	46,565
	<u>1,528,293</u>	<u>13,100</u>	<u>1,541,393</u>	<u>1,615,381</u>
<b>3. Fund-raising and publicity</b>				
Fund-raising	-	-	-	-
Publicity	7,532	-	7,532	20,455
	<u>7,532</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,532</u>	<u>20,455</u>
<b>4. Governance costs</b>				
Salaries and office costs	105,296	-	105,296	89,740
Legal and professional fees	30,004	-	30,004	20,477
Audit fees	9,500	-	9,500	9,500
	<u>144,800</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>144,800</u>	<u>119,717</u>

## SCIENCE PROJECTS

### Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020

#### 5. Total resources expended

	Staff costs	Depreciation	Other costs	Year ended 31 December Total 2020	Year ended 31 December Total 2019
	£	£	£	£	£
Educational services	823,687	53,419	664,287	1,541,393	1,615,381
Fund-raising and publicity	-	-	7,532	7,532	20,455
Governance costs	105,296	-	39,504	144,800	119,717
	<u>928,983</u>	<u>53,419</u>	<u>711,323</u>	<u>1,693,725</u>	<u>1,755,553</u>

	Year ended 31 December 2020	Year ended 31 December 2019
	£	£
Staff costs		
Wages and salaries	839,679	854,451
Social security costs	74,638	75,181
Employers pension contributions	14,666	14,324
	<u>928,983</u>	<u>943,956</u>
Other costs		
Premises	149,301	161,097
Materials	381,975	310,337
Miscellaneous	180,047	233,915
	<u>711,323</u>	<u>705,349</u>

	Year ended 31 December 2020	Year ended 31 December 2019
The average number of employees, analysed by function was:		
Educational services	40	42
Management and administration of the charity	4	4
	<u>44</u>	<u>46</u>
	—	—

#### Directors' emoluments and employee information:

In common with normal practice in charities, no remuneration has been paid to the directors (who are the trustees), except that by a special dispensation of the Charity Commission, the other directors approved a payment to the Chief Executive Officer, Mr Pizzey, of £61,007 (Year ended 31 December 2019: £56,349) for his services during the year. None of the trustees have been reimbursed any expenses during the period.

The number of employees whose emoluments exceeded £70,000 during the year was:

	Year ended 31 December 2020	Year ended 31 December 2019
	No	No
£60,000 - £70,000	1	2
£70,000 - £80,000	1	-

#### Defined Contribution Pension Plan

Employers pension contribution costs to the Defined Contribution Pension Plan amounted to £14,666 (2019: £14,324) and are allocated to activities in proportion to the related staffing costs incurred and are wholly charged to unrestricted funds.

**SCIENCE PROJECTS**  
**Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020**

**6. Tangible fixed assets**

	Exhibition building tent and flooring	Exhibits	Motor vehicles	Equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Cost</b>					
At 1 January 2020	109,333	1,248,129	41,162	584,894	1,983,518
Expenditure in the year	-	-	-	3,345	3,345
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2020	109,333	1,248,129	41,162	588,239	1,986,863
<b>Depreciation</b>					
At 1 January 2020	94,866	1,242,752	28,307	540,126	1,906,051
Charge for the year	14,467	2,688	4,285	31,979	53,419
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2020	109,333	1,245,440	32,592	572,105	1,959,470
<b>Net book value</b>					
At 31 December 2020	-	2,689	8,570	16,134	27,393
<b>Net book value</b>					
At 31 December 2019	14,467	5,377	12,855	44,768	77,467

**Capital commitments**

There were no capital commitments authorised or contracted for at the balance sheet date.

**7. Stock and work in progress**

	Year ended 31 December 2020	Year ended 31 December 2019
	£	£
Stock	15,230	17,756
Work in progress	106	6,426
	15,336	24,182

**8. Debtors**

	Year ended 31 December 2020	Year ended 31 December 2019
	£	£
Trade debtors	14,332	190,982
Other debtors	26,500	26,500
Retentions	11,499	20,467
Amounts recoverable on contracts	93,782	14,065
Prepayments and accrued income	37,751	26,279
Other taxes	23,394	128
	207,258	278,421

The above amounts are due within one year of the balance sheet date.

## SCIENCE PROJECTS

### Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020

#### 9. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Year ended 31 December 2020 £	Year ended 31 December 2019 £
Bank overdrafts	-	-
Payments on account	42,332	37,703
Trade creditors	48,666	15,716
Social security and other taxes	37,613	41,032
Accruals and deferred income	30,948	28,038
Other creditors	4,086	4,331
	<u>163,645</u>	<u>126,820</u>

#### 10. Lease commitments

	Year ended 31 December 2020 £	Year ended 31 December 2019 £
Operating leases in respect of land and buildings.		
Amounts payable within one year in respect of leases expiring:		
Within one year	5,040	5,040
Between two and five years	85,000	85,000
Over five years	22,067	21,879
	<u>112,107</u>	<u>111,919</u>

#### 11. Transactions concerning directors

During the period covered by the accounts, the company received services on normal trading terms from Allsop Business Services in which Mr R L Allsop has an interest, at a cost of £29,991 (Year ended 31 December 2019: £20,464). The amount of outstanding balance at the year end was £1,440 (Year ended 31 December 2019 £120).

#### 12. Called up share capital

The company is limited by guarantee without share capital. Every member has undertaken to contribute to the assets of the company, in the event of it being wound up, such amount as may be required, not exceeding £10.

**SCIENCE PROJECTS****Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020****13. Unrestricted and designated funds**

	Designated funds £	Other Unrestricted funds £	Total Unrestricted funds £
Balances brought forward at 1 January 2020	-	1,459,750	1,459,750
(Deficit)/Surplus/ in the year	-	(35,333)	(35,333)
Balances carried forward at 31 December 2020	-	1,424,417	1,424,417

**14. Restricted funds**

	Balance 1 January 2020 £	Movement Incoming £	in resources Outgoing £	Balance 31 December 2020 £
STFC PPARC	-	3,100	3,100	-
Wealden District Council	-	10,000	10,000	-
	-	13,100	13,100	-

All of the above grants were in respect of support for the Science centre covering repairs and refurbishment, support for educational programmes and contributions towards running costs.