



The Treehouse School

THE TREEHOUSE TRUST

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 MARCH 2020

Company Registration 07655828
Charity Registration 1143650

THE TREEHOUSE TRUST

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Names of Trustees: Tim Hirst (Chair), Alison Robertson, Jane Randle, Lesley Carrington

Names of Senior Staff: Lee Ryman, Sharon Julian

Charity number: 1143650
Company number: 07655828

Principal Address: The Treehouse School
37 Wallingford Road
Cholsey
Oxfordshire
OX10 9LG

Registered office
and solicitors: Slade Legal
The Greenhouse
Stratton Way
Abingdon
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OX14 3QP

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CHAIR'S REPORT

Dear Donors, Supporters and Friends,

The Treehouse Trust was set up in 2011 and the Treehouse School opened in 2012 so we are now in our eighth successful year. As ever in the Treehouse firmament this year has been as exciting and stimulating as ever, and just a little more challenging than most hitherto.

This year we saw some very high profile changes to the Board and I would like to start by paying tribute to Alison Robertson & Mitch Fraser-Jones. Alison, as a founding trustee, Chair, benefactor, friend and incredible supporter of the Trust and the School has been a constant from the very inception of our organisation. It is not possible for me to adequately either enumerate or quantify the number, breadth and depth of her contributions over the years. Alison and James Robertson are both invaluable to the Trust and she is a very difficult act to follow. Therefore, I am delighted, and more than a little relieved, that we will be able to draw on her experience and knowledge for some time yet as she continues to serve as a Trustee.

Mitch Fraser-Jones is another Trustee who has been here seemingly for ever. As a parent (actually the most prolific parent thus far) and as a Trustee and Treasurer he has contributed in many, many ways to the life and growth of the Trust and the School. His contributions will also be sorely missed. When Mitch speaks we listen and his calm and wise counsel has always made a difference.

They will both be missed and we send you our most grateful thanks and very best wishes.

And so to the challenges: Ofsted and DfE have kept us quite busy this year. When our third inspection was announced we felt the usual dread that all schools do in this position. With a 'Requires Improvement' rating at the previous inspection everyone had put in a huge amount of work to address the concerns raised. It was some comfort that in all these areas we *had* improved and the dedication of Trustees, new and old must be applauded. In addition, the outstanding contribution made by our consultants Jane & Charlie Clare cannot be underestimated in the patient yet firm manner they brought to our own education. They are incredible professionals as well as wonderful people and we all owe them a massive debt of gratitude.

However, in our third inspection, we were pulled up on the issue of Safeguarding. After many hours of input from the staff, volunteers and trustees I am very pleased to report that the subsequent monitoring visit that took place recently noted very significant progress in all areas and that most of the issues had been fully resolved.

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The short term effect of this has been a stalling of our fund-raising activities. This is due to the immediate demands on the time of our key people meaning they have been unable to dedicate the necessary time to raising the much needed funds that will allow us to keep operating and develop our new school. Our next challenge, therefore, as a Trust is to really dedicate time and effort to renewing our fund raising. In this vein we are held a sell out quiz which was a great success and at which we launched our Treehouse Lottery. I would urge anyone who wishes to support the Treehouse to consider this as an easy and win-win means of helping out.

Before we turn to the real reason we are here – the education – I would like to acknowledge our founders and teachers; Lee Ryman and Sharon Julian. We thank them for everything that they have done and will continue to do. As the brains, backbone, arms, legs, eyes, ears and heart of our school they ARE the Treehouse. We thank you, we are in awe of you and are so proud and privileged to be part of the shared vision that is The Treehouse School

During the year we said a fond farewell to another incredible group of year 6 pupils as they made their way onto the next step in their education. We worked really hard to ensure as smooth and happy a transition as possible. Since that wonderful final assembly, the reports have been very positive and, once again, underline the Treehouse approach works well to prepare our students for life.

We continue to use the developmental approach to learning and monitor this via the Ferre Laever scales to ensure that all children are helped to maximise their own potential across all areas of the curriculum. We remain committed to the ethos of putting well-being and involvement at the heart of our approach to education. The evidence that we see, year after year, supports the idea that, when children are happy and engaged, they learn better.

Just before the end of the year we encountered the first of the COVID implications with the national impact from 23rd March. Thankfully for this year we were not hugely affected however the impact of this was unknown at that stage.

Tim Hirst

28 January 2021

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

The trustees, who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report together with the unaudited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2019.

The format and content of this report and financial statements comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Company's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Charities Act 1993 and the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' 2005.

The Treehouse Trust was incorporated on 2 June 2011 as a charitable company limited by guarantee with company registration number 07655828 and charity registration number 1143650. The Trust has achieved a great deal since it was set up largely due to the support and commitment of well over fifty volunteers.

You can follow the progress of the school and trust on our regularly updated blog:

<https://newschoolproject.wordpress.com/>

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in Note 1 to the accounts and comply with Charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, applicable law and the requirements of the SORP issued in March 2005.

Structure, Governance and Management

The trustees, some who are also directors for the purpose of company law and who served during the year were Tim Hurst (Chair and Treasurer), Alison Robertson, Jane Randle and Lesley Carrington

Trustees are elected by the Board to fill a vacancy or to enhance the particular skills of the Board. Potential Trustees are identified from a wide range of scholastic, business and professional fields and are considered against the Trust's specifications concerning eligibility, competence and specialist skills. They are elected at a meeting of the Board. New Trustees are inducted by the Chairman of the Trust. Training is offered to all trustees. The Trustees are legally responsible for the overall management of the Trust and its objectives.

The Company has no share capital and consequently no Trustee has any interest in the Company. The liability of the Trustees is limited to the extent of £1 each in the event of the Company winding up.

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STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees, who are also the directors of The Treehouse Trust for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently,
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP,
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent, and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the trust will continue in operation.

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

Small company exemption

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

T Hirst
28 January 2021

THE TREEHOUSE TRUST

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE TREEHOUSE TRUST

I report on the accounts of The Treehouse Trust for the year ended 31 March 2020, which are set out on pages 11 to 17.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purpose of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 122(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) Of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required under an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention, which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act 2011; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records, or the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered to be part of an independent examination.

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I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Nigel Thomas
Chartered Accountant
14 The Forty
Cholsey
Wallingford
Oxon
OX10 9LH

28 January 2021

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2020

| | Note | 31 March 2020 | 2019 |
|--|-----------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | | Unrestricted funds £ | Unrestricted funds £ |
| Incoming resources from generated funds | | | |
| Donations | 2 | 32,788 | 84,429 |
| Fundraising | 3 | 19,579 | 16,725 |
| Investment Income | 4 | - | - |
| | | <u>52,367</u> | <u>101,154</u> |
| Incoming resources from charitable activities | 5 | 8,855 | 10,632 |
| Other incoming resources | 6 | 3,981 | 2,538 |
| Total incoming resources | | <u>£65,203</u> | <u>£114,324</u> |
| Resources expended | | | |
| Charitable activities | | | |
| Provision of educational services | 7 | 54,958 | 39,777 |
| Governance costs | 8 | 4,350 | 6,721 |
| Total resources expended | | <u>59,308</u> | <u>46,498</u> |
| Net income for the year before tax | | 5,895 | 67,826 |
| Taxation | | - | - |
| Net income for the year after tax | 14 | <u>£5,895</u> | <u>£67,826</u> |

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

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BALANCE SHEET AT 31ST MARCH 2020

| | Note | 2020 Unrestricted funds £ | 2019 Unrestricted funds £ |
|---|-----------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Fixed assets | 10 | 147,413 | 75,833 |
| Current assets | | | |
| Stocks | 11 | 300 | 531 |
| Debtors | 12 | - | - |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | <u>31,313</u> | <u>106,980</u> |
| | | 31,613 | 107,511 |
| Creditors: amounts falling due within one year | 13 | <u>6,033</u> | <u>16,246</u> |
| Net current assets | | <u>25,580</u> | <u>91,265</u> |
| Net Assets | | <u>£172,993</u> | <u>£167,098</u> |
| Funds | | | |
| Unrestricted funds | 14 | <u>172,993</u> | <u>167,098</u> |
| Total funds | | <u>£172,993</u> | <u>£167,098</u> |

For the year ending 31 March 2020 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act.

The directors acknowledge their responsibility for:

- i. Ensuring the company keeps accounting records which comply with section 386; and
- ii. Preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its profit or loss for the financial year, in accordance with the requirements of section 393, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act relating to accounts, so far as is applicable to the company.

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

The financial statements were approved by the Board on XX January 2021 and were signed on its behalf by:

T Hirst
Trustee/Director

THE TREEHOUSE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2020

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Financial Reporting for Smaller entities (effective April 2008), the Companies Act 2006 and the requirements of the Statements of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included on the Statement of Financial Activities when the Trust is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Resources expended

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Improvements to leasehold properties | Straight line over 10 years. |
| Fixtures, fittings and equipment | Straight line over 4 years. |

Leasing and hire purchase commitments

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged against income on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

Stock

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

Pensions

The pension costs charged in the accounts represent the contributions payable by the trust during the year.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees. Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2020

2. DONATIONS

| | 2020 | 2019 |
|----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Donations and gifts – general | 31,463 | 22,817 |
| Donations and gifts – new school | 1,325 | 61,612 |
| | 32,788 | 84,429 |

3. FUNDRAISING

| | 2020 | 2019 |
|----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Fundraising events – income | 22,553 | 21,908 |
| Fundraising events – expenditure | 2,974 | 5,183 |
| | 19,579 | 16,725 |

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

| | 2020 | 2019 |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Interest received | - | - |

5. INCOMING RESOURCES FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

| | 2020 | 2019 |
|----------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Income for ancillary costs | 8,855 | 10,632 |

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2020

6. OTHER INCOMING RESOURCES

| | 2020 £ | 2019 £ |
|-------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Income from stall sales | <u>3,981</u> | <u>2,538</u> |

7. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COSTS

| | 2020 £ | 2019 £ |
|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Wages and freelancers | 32,507 | 17,065 |
| Utilities and rates | 2,380 | 1,801 |
| Insurance | 1,485 | 1,536 |
| Telephone and broadband | 1,183 | 1,022 |
| Ancillary costs | 7,023 | 11,356 |
| Administration costs | 3,150 | - |
| Equipment/repairs | 964 | 797 |
| Vehicle costs | 1,201 | 2,337 |
| Depreciation | 2,493 | 2,493 |
| Other costs | 2,572 | 1,370 |
| | <u>54,958</u> | <u>39,777</u> |

8. GOVERNANCE COSTS

| | 2020 £ | 2019 £ |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Professional fees | <u>4,350</u> | <u>6,721</u> |
| | <u>4,350</u> | <u>6,721</u> |

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2020

9. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2020 (2019: £Nil).

Trustees' Expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2020 (2019: £Nil).

10. FIXED ASSETS

| | New Build | Vehicles | Equipment | Total |
|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Cost | | | | |
| At 1 April 2019 | 70,616 | 11,400 | 5,218 | 87,234 |
| Additions | 74,073 | - | - | 74,073 |
| At 31 March 2020 | 144,689 | 11,400 | 5,218 | 161,307 |
| | | | | |
| Depreciation | | | | |
| At 1 April 2019 | - | 8,550 | 2,851 | 11,401 |
| Charge for the year | - | 1,710 | 783 | 2,493 |
| At 31 March 2020 | - | 10,260 | 3,634 | 13,894 |
| | | | | |
| Net Book Value | | | | |
| At 31 March 2020 | 144,689 | 1,140 | 1,584 | 147,413 |
| At 31 March 2019 | 70,616 | 2,850 | 2,367 | 75,833 |

11. STOCKS

| | 2020 | 2019 |
|------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Goods for resale | 300 | 531 |

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2020

12. DEBTORS

| | 2020 | 2019 |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Prepayments | - | - |

13. CREDITORS

| | 2020 | 2019 |
|------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Deferred income | 1,900 | 13,300 |
| Other taxes and national insurance | 948 | 499 |
| Accruals | 3,185 | 2,447 |
| | 6,033 | 16,246 |

14. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

| | General | New | Total |
|----------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | £ | School | £ |
| | | £ | |
| At 1 April 2019 | 63,518 | 103,580 | 167,098 |
| Surplus for the year | 5,895 | - | 5,895 |
| Transfers | (50,036) | 50,036 | - |
| At 31 March 2020 | 19,377 | 153,616 | 172,993 |