



STABLES CHRISTIAN CENTRE

Old Rectory, Bolnhurst, Bedford MK44 2ES

Website: www.stableschristiancentre.co.uk

Tel. (01234)376237

Charity No. 327398

Annual Report 2020

Overview

Despite the challenges that staff have faced during this year, the project has continued to provide training and support to clients both face to face and remotely.

The project has been well attended throughout the year with a high level of contact maintained during the national lockdown. Staff found creative ways to engage clients, such as video updates which included a "Herb Tutorial", a faith-based thought for the day, and sharing of artwork and photographs.

Clients were keen to return to the programme when lockdown restrictions were lifted, and they expressed how much they had missed working on site. The guardian of one of our clients referred to the programme as a "life-line".

Most clients were able to return to the project after the lockdown, however 2 continued to shield and were supported remotely.

Changes occurred within the staff team and the way in which they were able to work. New staff not only had to learn their new role, but also had to conduct their work within restrictive Covid safety measures.

Governance and management

The trustees met twice during the year and were available for ongoing support and advice. Trustees were unable to visit the project as often as they usually would but kept in touch with video messages and emails.

The health and safety committee met twice and reported to the Trustees. Staff meetings were held monthly and continued to form the basis for the day to day running of the project.

Trustees were actively involved in helping to ensure that the workplace was Covid Secure, and a new committee was formed for this purpose.

Staff

The Garden Manager left in July and was replaced by a new Garden and Outdoor Activities Coordinator in October. The Kitchen/Office Department Manager left in August and was replaced by a new Kitchen Coordinator in October. One client support worker resigned at the end of the year. An existing member of staff changed their role to Office Support.

1 volunteer worked on the Tuesday programme between January and March. One of the Trustees volunteered on the Thursday programme between July and December.

The Founder of the project stepped down as Deputy Manager but will continue to volunteer for the Trust.

Staff were dedicated to ensuring that the project ran effectively despite the challenges that they encountered. Increased cleaning, social distancing, and re-structuring of timetables increased staff workload, however this did not in any way diminish their enthusiasm and care for the clients.

Seed Sowers Project

Our Tuesday programme was fully attended by 12 clients. The Thursday group averaged 10 attendees who were all involved in varying ways in the practical tasks of the project. 2 Thursday clients moved away and were therefore unable to continue to attend.

Between March and June the running of the project was restricted due to the national lockdown. As lockdown restrictions were lifted, staff were able to return to the site to harvest and process soft fruit. Weather conditions were favourable for plant growth and we benefitted from a good yield of soft fruit, cat nip and lavender. This was followed by a successful apple harvest in the autumn, by which point clients had returned and were able to be involved in this process. Towards the end of the year clients were involved in the planning and preparation of a new strawberry growing project.

Sales and production

Customers were able to purchase preserves, plants, produce, handmade gifts and cards from the shop throughout the year. Although overall sales were down compared to previous years, the Autumn and Christmas sales were a success, and by making use of advertising on social media, we welcomed a significant number of new customers.

All external events were cancelled due to the pandemic. The Coffee Shop, which usually opens monthly between May and December, was closed.

We supplied 4 local retail outlets.

External liaison

External liaison with local councils, charities, churches and care professionals continued, however this was mainly by remote communication.

Building and grounds maintenance, and capital resources

No significant changes were made to the buildings or grounds. Wi-Fi was extended from the main house to the Stables building.

Summary

Throughout 2020 the project engaged 22 people in meaningful work. Approximately half of the year was spent in lockdown due to the Covid 19 pandemic. During lockdown clients were contacted regularly, which especially benefitted those who were socially isolated during that time.

Our clients were keen to return to the centre following the loosening of lockdown restrictions. Safety measures were put in place to ensure that the environment was as safe as possible and, although this presented many challenges, everyone adapted well to these changes.

This is the first year that the Stables has had to close its doors for a significant length of time. The enthusiasm of clients for the project to re-open has proved how much individuals value, not just the work, but the support that the Stables "community" provides.

The project has been well supported by local councils, parents, care workers and the local church community, for which we are extremely grateful.



Photograph on left: One our Tuesday clients participating in a “Covid safe” craft activity.

Photograph on right: A tent on loan to us from a local scout group enabled us to work at a safe distance from each other.

Seedsowers, Coffee Shop and Training Development Project

Summary of Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31st December 2020

	2020		2019		2018
	Total	Restricted *	Total	Restricted *	
Income					
Sales	5,213		7,444		7,596
Donations	13,336		10,329		11,128
Stewardship	-		5,000		-
Grants	12,001	624	4,037	1,037	-
Room Hire	-36		481		260
Course Fees	33,748		31,666		28,093
Tax Recovery	2,029		2,044		2,059
Bank Interest	9		14		8
Miscellaneous	111		45		-9
CJRS Claim	4,732				
	71,143	624	61,060	1,037	49,135
Expenditure					
Wages	45,942		44,495		41,041
Travel	1,987		2,463		620
Consumables to aid Sales	1,689		2,197		2,235
Office Supplies	452		553		401
Health & Safety	581	624	528		272
Water Rates	394		369		328
Fuel	1,725		2,250		2,240
Insurance	3,019		2,839		2,237
Repairs & Maintenance	2,330		2,157	1,037	2,018
Course Equipment	487		714		941
Training costs	392		304		226
Banking	72		87		-
Miscellaneous	911		129		1,091
	59,982	624	59,084	1,037	53,649
Surplus/deficit for the year	11,161		1,976		-4,515

Notes

* Restricted amount included in 'Surplus/deficit for the year'

Seedsowers, Coffee Shop and Training Development Project

Balance Sheet 31st December 2020

Notes	2020	2019	2018
Fixed Assets:			
1			
1			
1			
Current Assets:			
1			
2	2,146	754	2,300
		111	
3	18,723	10,228	9,570
	20,869	11,093	11,871
Current Liabilities:			
4	270	1,850	2,179
	43	-	291
	-	-	135
	313	1,850	2,605
Total Assets	20,556	9,243	9,265
Represented by:			
	9,243	9,265	13,780
	11,161	1,976 -	4,515
5			
	20,404	11,242	9,265
5	-	-	
	20,404	11,242	9,265

Signed

Chairman of the Trustees



Name in Full JOHN VIVIAN WOOD

Date 10/6/2021

Seedsowers, Coffee Shop and Training Development Project

Notes to the Accounts

1 Fixed Assets

All fixed assets and stock have been written off in the year of purchase

2 Debtors

Carol Fuller	T1574	20.00	Fees Invoiced
Lomack	T1576	95.00	Fees Invoiced
Bedford Borough Council	T1579 - T1588	1,640.00	Fees Invoiced
Paypal Giving Fund		367.70	Donation from Nick Amis
Karen Houck		23.20	Sales invoiced
		<u>2,145.90</u>	

3 Cash in hand and at bank

Bank balance	18,433.00
Cash in hand	274.10
Cash waiting to cleared at bank	16.25
	<u>18,723.35</u>

4 Creditors

Bedford Bourough Council	270.00	Fees overpaid
Unpresented cheques	0.00	
HMRC	43.44	Q3 payment due on 22/01/21
Payments in advance	<u>313.44</u>	

5 Restricted Funds

Grants received for Infection Control from Bedford Borough Council and Central Beds Council	624.00
	<u>624.00</u>



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Bolnhurst Stables Trust

On accounts for the year
ended

31st December 2020

Charity no
(if any)

327398

Set out on pages

3, 4 and 5

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2020

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent
examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination 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; 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 as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and 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.

Signed:

David Dwyer

Date:

8th February 2021

Name:

David Dwyer

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

Address:

The Forge

Keysoe Rd

Riseley, Beds. MK44 1DE