

Annual report April 2020/April 2021 The Callister Trust (former name EF Callister Youth Club)  
Charity no: 520017

Contact address: 29, Grafton Street, Prenton CH43 4UJ

Trustees: Catherine Warren, Allan Brame, Melanie Routledge, Laura Penn, Mary O Neill

### Introduction

The charity's purposes are 'for the welfare of girls and women in Birkenhead' and derive from a declaration of trust within a conveyance dated April 20<sup>th</sup> 1925.

The charity owns a property in Argyle Street, Birkenhead tenanted by Wirral Children and Young People's department.

The Charity also owns a half acre garden in Slatey Road, Birkenhead which had been boarded up and neglected for 15 years up until the appointment of new trustees in 2018.

The plan for April 2020/21 was to continue developing and restoring the Garden, to expand the use of the Garden for community activities and to continue the work towards a planning application for the new Pavilion. The activities were curtailed, particularly in the first part of the year by Covid 19 and the lockdown and restrictions around it.

The public benefit of the charity is as stated in the introduction. The Trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the Charity Commission's policy on public benefit.

The trustees do not at present have a policy on reserves.

### Tasks planned for 2020/21

The main tasks for 2020/21 were:

1. To continue the clearing and restoration of the garden for its use for the purposes of the charity.
2. To finalise the plans for a small indoor space in the Garden and with the help of a local architect and architecture firm to submit the plans for planning permission
3. To consolidate a group of local volunteers.
4. To work with local community groups to run small events to further the purposes of the charity.
5. To continue and complete the year's programme working with local refugees and asylum seekers in the Garden alongside community volunteers.

#### 1. Clearing and Restoration of the Garden

During April – early June 2020 volunteering ceased in the Garden in accordance with the Government's requirements to stay at home during the first Covid lockdown with one of the trustees visiting occasionally to keep the plants watered.

As the recommendation came for up to six people to meet outside the volunteers began to return to the Garden in small groups, its size making social distancing easy

to achieve. At the same time the days of the week that the Garden was open to volunteers increased to four mornings. These practical restrictions led to an unexpected benefit. Small groups of volunteers took over the management of the clearing and planting of different plots within the Garden. This has proved a very successful way of working for all concerned.

Tasks achieved during this year include:

- a. Preparation for a small wildflower meadow.
- b. Development of a vegetable area with planters and use of the Greenhouse to grow plants from seed.
- c. Planting of a living willow tunnel by volunteers.
- d. Developing nursery beds for plants donated by Ness gardens to be found permanent homes in early summer.
- e. Relining and rewilding of the pond.
- f. Clearing of areas at the back of the garden designated for use by a girls' gardening club to be established for local young people.

## 2. The Pavilion

A local Architecture lecturer working with a local firm of architects worked on the initial design ideas and planning by his final year architecture students at Liverpool John Moores University to complete the detail and practical requirements for the submission of the plans for planning permission to Wirral Council.

The plans were submitted in December 2020 and planning permission was granted in February 2021.

The trustees embarked on a fundraising plan to bring this project to fruition offering an indoor space to support the work of the charity, offer modern, accessible facilities and enable the Garden to be used all the year round.

## 3. Activities

- a. Women's wellbeing taster workshops Funding was received from Wirral local neighbourhood fund and the Hemby Trust towards a series of four seasonal women's wellbeing workshops to be run in the Callister Garden with local forest workshops provider GROW Wellbeing CIC during 2021. The first workshop originally intended for early 2021 was postponed until April because of Covid restrictions on numbers.
- b. Weekly reading group: This is held outdoors as long as weather makes it possible.
- c. Heritage Open Day The garden was opened to the public on the Saturday of National heritage Week, September 2020. In line with Covid restrictions at the

time 30 people were allowed in at a time. There were still 200 visitors during the course of the day.

- d. Gardening programme with local refugees and Asylum seekers Wirral Refugee resettlement programmes 'Bridging Communities' project has funded gardening workshops in the Callister garden for refugees and asylum seekers. Most of those who attended were young women who valued meeting local people and mixing with others in the safe space of the walled garden. The charity has facilitated these and offered the opportunity for the participants to garden alongside the Callister's volunteers. The first six sessions took place before lockdown required temporary suspension of activities at the end of March 2019. The programme resumed in Summer 2020 with a picnic in the Garden, followed by a family day and two more day sessions for autumn planting and pruning with Wirral Environmental Network.
- e. The trustees continued to develop links with local organisations:
- Women's organisation WEB used the Garden for a wellbeing day for their Sunshine prescriptions group.
  - It was agreed for The Older People's Parliament group to use an area to grow vegetables as part of a 'Soup Box' project to encourage young families to use fresh veg in their cooking.
  - GROW – Wellbeing delivered woodland workshops.
  - Wirral Environmental Network delivered Gardening workshops.
  - Articles about the work of the charity were published in the Ness Gardens magazine and the Oxton Society Newsletter.

### Conclusion

Despite and in some ways because of the Covid restrictions 2020/2021 continued to be a positive time for the Charity. The number of (mainly women) regular volunteers increased and up to 30 people have worked on bringing areas of the Garden back to life. A number of the volunteers said that the chance to work in the Garden had reduced their feelings of isolation during Covid and the need for outdoor activities has increased the number of volunteers.

The income from the property in Argyle Street ensures maintenance costs for the garden. The trustees have embarked on fund raising towards the capital cost of the new Pavilion.

The trustees thank all the volunteers for their hard work and thank community groups and local people for their support and enthusiasm.

*This report was approved by the Trustees at their annual meeting on 6/10/2021 and it was agreed that the Chairperson should sign on their behalf.*

Signed  ..... Catherine M Warren (Chairperson)



REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 520017

# THE CALLISTER TRUST

## Financial Statement Year 2020/21

<b>Balance brought forward</b>	<b>£85,759.98</b>
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<b>Income</b>	
Rent	£14,000.00
Donations	£11,390.18
Grants	£4,000.00
Scrap metal removal	£30.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£29,420.18</b>

<b>Expenditure</b>	
Event Costs	£3,387.86
Garden Materials	£754.29
Garden Works-Non Cap	£1,099.60
Insurance	£138.47
Consultants Fees	£3,610.00
Planning Fees	£487.00
Utilities	£37.94
Travel Expenses	£196.93
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£9,712.09</b>

<b>Balance at end of 2020/21</b>	<b>£105,468.07</b>
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I declare that the above statement is a true representation of the accounts of The Callister Trust previously known as the EF Callister Youth Club.

  
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Cathy Warren Chairperson

and

  
Treasurer

E F Callister Youth Club Charity no: 520017

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at April 2021

ASSETS

1. The Charity has cash in its bank account as shown in the accounts.
2. The Charity owns 2 freehold properties
  - A. 19 Argyle Street, Birkenhead
  - B. Gardens at 34A Slatey Road
3. There has been no recent valuation of either property but A yields a rent of £14,000 pa in accordance with a professional valuation.

LIABILITIES

1. The Charity has no liabilities.

## **Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Callister Trust**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Callister Trust (the trust) for the year ended March 2021.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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:



Name: Jane Ward

(Music administrator running own business for 30 years)

Address: 60 Shrewsbury Road, Oxton CH43 2HY

Date: 3 December 2021