



# The Treehouse School

## **THE TREEHOUSE TRUST**

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 MARCH 2013

Company Registration 07655828  
Charity Registration 1143650

# THE TREEHOUSE TRUST

## REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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Names of Trustees: Samantha Rhodes (Chair), Deborah Balchin, Eve Evans, Mitchell Fraser-Jones (Treasurer), Ann Harris, David Hodson, Alison Robertson, Andrea Turner, Gillian Williams (Secretary)

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 Old Bank  
137 Broadway  
Didcot  
Oxfordshire  
OX11 8RQ

# THE TREEHOUSE TRUST

## REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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# THE TREEHOUSE TRUST

## REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

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Dear Donors, Supporters and Friends,

Welcome to the second annual report of The Treehouse Trust, for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013.

The Treehouse Trust is a charity that was established in 2011 to support a small, non-fee paying, and alternative primary school in the Cholsey area. The Treehouse School opened in September 2012 with 15 pupils. It caters for children and parents who are not at ease with provision in the state sector. The school is run like a family home, with the children involved in and taking responsibility for, all aspects of the schools day to day running and decision making.

The Treehouse Trust aims are to ensure that local children have the opportunity to be children; learning using the most powerful tools of play, mimicry and experimentation. Their developmental needs rather than their chronological age determine the curriculum and the skills that are honed. Essential to the ethos of the school is the involvement of parents in their child's learning, and the involvement of and use of the community amenities to deliver the curriculum. Recognition that the outdoors is an excellent learning environment is harnessed, with pupils spending up to 50% of their week outside, either in the local community or further afield. Our project does not attract public funding and is therefore totally dependent on donations, sponsorship and legacies to maintain its principles.

The founders, Lee Ryman and Sharon Julian, have a wealth of teaching experience on which to draw. In addition to which they have visited many other educational settings both nationally and internationally, read a range of influential texts and talked to many notable acquaintances in the field of education. The Treehouse School responds to a local need; a substantial number of parents wish that their children's early experiences of school were less pressurised and structured. The school is encouraging different groups within the community to work together, sharing resources and expertise to the common good.

The first year at the school has shown very positive results. The children are happy and have gained in confidence and self-esteem; they have become more effective learners. The Trust and Founders have been overwhelmed by the continuing support that people have shown towards the school for which we are very grateful.

Samantha Rhodes  
November 2013

# THE TREEHOUSE TRUST

## REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

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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 2013.

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. Our achievements to date are listed below.

**September 2011:** Charitable status achieved for the project.

**Autumn 2011:** Policies, procedures and learning programmes established.

**January 2012:** Weekly Forest School sessions piloted with over 20 preschool children and parents attending on a weekly basis.

**April 2012:** Change of use granted on residential premises to house the school for a three year term.

Registration with the Department for Education commences.

**July 2012:** 15 children from our local community awarded places at the Treehouse School

**July/August:** Ofsted give their approval to open School in September 2012 in temporary premises in Cholsey. Over 50 volunteers contribute time, skills and resources to prepare the school to welcome its first 15 children. Volunteers include highly skilled tradesmen, parents and retired people.

**September 2012:** The Treehouse School opens.

**August 2013:** Permanent planning permission to use the current site is granted. Numbers at the school can also be increased from 15 to 20 children.

# THE TREEHOUSE TRUST

## REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

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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, who are also directors for the purpose of company law and who served during the year were Samantha Rhodes (Chair), Deborah Balchin, Eve Evans, Mitchell Fraser-Jones (Treasurer), Ann Harris, David Hodson, Mitchell Fraser-Jones (Treasurer), Alison Robertson, Andrea Turner, Gillian Williams (Secretary) 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.

### **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

# **THE TREEHOUSE TRUST**

## REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

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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

S Rhodes  
November 2013

# THE TREEHOUSE TRUST

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

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I report on the accounts of The Treehouse Trust for the year ended 31 March 2013, which are set out on pages 10 to 14.

### **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 matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting and Reporting by Charities

have not been met; or

# THE TREEHOUSE TRUST

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

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

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

December 2013

# THE TREEHOUSE TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2013

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	Note	2013	2013
<b>Incoming resources from generated funds</b>		Unrestricted funds £	Unrestricted funds £
Donations	2	24,468	8,439
Fundraising	3	9,481	5,177
Investment Income	4	36	7
		<u>33,985</u>	<u>13,623</u>
Incoming resources from charitable activities		-	-
Other incoming resources	5	2,017	999
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		<u>£36,002</u>	<u>£14,622</u>
<b>Resources expended</b>			
<b>Charitable activities</b>			
Provision of educational services	6	11,866	-
Governance costs	7	3,450	6,256
<b>Total resources expended</b>		<u>15,316</u>	<u>6,256</u>
<b>Net income for the year</b>		<u>£20,686</u>	<u>£8,366</u>

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

# THE TREEHOUSE TRUST

BALANCE SHEET AT 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2013

	Note	2013 Unrestricted funds £	2013 Unrestricted funds £
<b>Current assets</b>			
Stocks	8	392	486
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>30,574</u>	<u>8,130</u>
		<b>30,966</b>	<b>8,616</b>
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	9	<u>1,914</u>	<u>250</u>
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>29,052</u>	<u>8,366</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<u>£29,052</u>	<u>£8,366</u>
<b>Funds</b>			
Unrestricted funds		<u>29,052</u>	<u>8,366</u>
<b>Total funds</b>		<u>£29,052</u>	<u>£8,366</u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small charitable companies and with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008).

The financial statements were prepared by the Board of Trustees on and were signed on its behalf by:

M Fraser-Jones  
**Trustee/Treasurer**

# THE TREEHOUSE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2013

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## 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.

# THE TREEHOUSE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2013

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## 2. DONATIONS

	2013 £	2013 £
Donations and gifts	<u>24,468</u>	<u>8,439</u>

## 3. FUNDRAISING

	2013 £	2013 £
Fundraising events	<u>9,481</u>	<u>5,177</u>

## 4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2013 £	2013 £
Interest receivable	<u>36</u>	<u>7</u>

## 5. OTHER INCOMING RESOURCES

	2013 £	2013 £
Income from stall sales	<u>2,017</u>	<u>999</u>

## 6. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COSTS

	2013 £	2013 £
Wages and NI	6,980	-
Utilities and rates	2,071	-
Insurance	1,060	-
Repairs	1,715	-
Other costs	<u>40</u>	<u>-</u>

# THE TREEHOUSE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2013

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**11,866**      **6,256**

## 6. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	<b>2013</b>	<b>2013</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Planning application and associated costs	<b>710</b>	<b>4,878</b>
Professional fees	<b>1,365</b>	<b>1,300</b>
Other costs	<b>1,375</b>	<b>78</b>
	<b>3,450</b>	<b>6,256</b>

## 7. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2013 (2012: £Nil).

### Trustees' Expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2013 (2012: £Nil).

## 8. STOCKS

	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Goods for resale	<b>392</b>	<b>486</b>

# THE TREEHOUSE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2013

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## 9. CREDITORS AMOUNTS DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Accruals	<b><u>1,914</u></b>	<b><u>250</u></b>