



The Treehouse School

THE TREEHOUSE TRUST

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 MARCH 2016

Company Registration 07655828
Charity Registration 1143650

THE TREEHOUSE TRUST

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Names of Trustees: Alison Robertson (Chair), Eve Evans, Mitchell Fraser-Jones (Treasurer), Jane Randle, Chris Smith, Gillian Williams

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
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CHAIR'S REPORT

Dear Donors, Supporters and Friends,

Welcome to the fifth Annual Report of The Treehouse Trust, for the year ended 31 March 2016.

The Trust was established in 2011 to support The Treehouse School, a small, alternative, non fee-paying primary school which opened in September 2012 with 15 pupils. Now in its fifth year, the school was founded by two teachers, Lee Ryman, formerly a head teacher in the state system, and her deputy Sharon Julian. They believe that children's social, emotional, physical and metacognitive progress is as important as their academic achievement and have tailored the curriculum and timetable to reflect this. They recognise that children learn best in an environment where they are valued and where their strengths and interests are acknowledged and celebrated. The more involvement and responsibility children have for their learning, the greater their motivation and their progress.

Due to its status, The Treehouse is able to work with more autonomy than many other schools. There is a bias towards experiential and outdoor learning with a strong emphasis on sustainable and healthy life styles. Through constant evaluation, both from within the school and from external sources, methods for enhancing children's learning are constantly being developed.

We are entirely dependent on donations, grants and fundraising and the Trustees would again like to acknowledge and thank all our donors for their financial contributions, great and small, during the year. Also, we would like to record our gratitude for the continuing commitment of a hard-working group of parents and an ever widening circle of volunteers without whom the school could not function.

The Treehouse School has become well-integrated into the local community organising events such as the Treehouse 10k Run and the Wallingford Children's Film Festival which are now part of the local annual calendar, and participating in many events organised by others. There are particularly good links with the Cholsey Day Centre and with the Community Library which have helped the children develop their ability to mix with different age groups and with their enthusiasm for reading. They have gained confidence in public speaking and performance, helped by such events as joining with a local choir to sing and read in a Christmas concert in Cholsey Church.

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We continue to welcome practitioners and other interested visitors into the The Treehouse to see its approach in action and, of course, to learn from them. In September, inspired by local experts and practitioners, the school implemented two new strategies, both intended to enhance the children's ability to learn. 'Move to Learn', a simple exercise-based programme, has provided a calm start to the school day, as well as the opportunity for children to develop their stamina and ability to control their bodies. We have also welcomed the work of educationalist Carol Dweck, which promotes a culture of 'Growth Mindset' in schools, encouraging children to embrace challenge, and to learn that effort and making mistakes helps them to 'grow their brains'. Although it's still early days, I am pleased to report that both initiatives are already making a positive impact on the Treehouse community.

So the Trust is extremely proud of the children's achievements this year. Good behaviour, confidence, self respect and respect for others has meant that they have made excellent progress in all areas of their learning. Teachers worked hard to prepare four more children for their move into secondary education in September, building on the experience of the first six to move last year. Reports of this year's cohort so far show that they too have adapted very well into their new environments and are making excellent progress in all areas of their learning and development. Meanwhile, work was undertaken to prepare four children to enter the school in September which has ensured a smooth transition into life at the school both for them and for their fellow pupils.

We reported last year that we had obtained Planning Permission to build an eco-school for 30 children on land donated to the Trust in order to meet the ever increasing demand for places. We have been working hard on our fundraising campaign during the year. There are still more funds to raise but we are confident that construction will start early in the New Year and we are determined to launch our new school in September 2017. Meanwhile, the existing school will continue to deliver an enriching and rewarding education to its pupils whilst highlighting a successful alternative model to a wider educational audience.

Alison Robertson

22nd December 2016

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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 2016.

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.

In the knowledge that children learn most effectively when drawing on all their senses, our achievements during the financial year were many and varied. The Treehouse provides a continual stream of rich variety of experiences and learning opportunities, which both motivate and stimulate. This year has been no exception!

Pupils have participated in community events such as the Wallingford Carnival, Wallingford School Dance Festival and hosting some visitors from Africa; been involved in national initiatives such as the RSPB Bird Watch; provided events for the local community such as the Cholsey Pancake Race, Trufts (think Treehouse Crufts), The Treehouse 10k and put on a high quality production of the Lion King (followed by a visit to London, to see the real thing).

Food has continued to be high profile, with the children harvesting, juicing and making apple related products and jam; some of the older pupils have run some Food for Thought lunches, planning, preparing and serving food to local businesses in the community.

They have kept fit, walking and cycling on a regular basis. One fundraising event involved them cycling part of the Ridgeway! An indicator of their growing stamina was, as part of the annual Treehouse 10k run, many of the Treehouse children ran over five kilometers in the accompanying Bunny Run!

With a new build on the horizon, the children have camped out on the new site; visited Green Unit to look at the proposed pods and planted 200 hedging plants along the sites border.

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

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

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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 Alison Robertson (Chair), Eve Evans, Mitchell Fraser-Jones (Treasurer), David Hodson, Jane Randle, Chris Smith and Gillian Williams.

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

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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

A Robertson

22nd December 2016

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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 2015, 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 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

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have not been met; or

(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

22nd December 2016

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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2016

	Note	2016	2015
		Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
		£	£
Incoming resources from generated funds			
Donations	2	28,580	18,029
Fundraising	3	23,574	8,810
Investment Income	4	12	62
		<u>52,166</u>	<u>26,901</u>
Incoming resources from charitable activities	5	13,453	18,203
Other incoming resources	6	4,699	4,188
Total incoming resources		<u>£70,318</u>	<u>£49,292</u>
Resources expended			
Charitable activities			
Provision of educational services	7	43,503	51,675
Governance costs	8	5,910	3,260
		<u>49,413</u>	<u>54,935</u>
Net income/(deficit) for the year before tax		20,905	(5,643)
Taxation		-	850
Net income/(deficit) for the year after tax	14	<u>£20,905</u>	<u>£(6,493)</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 2016

	Note	2016 Unrestricted funds £	2015 Unrestricted funds £
Fixed assets	10	11,101	10,455
Current assets			
Stocks	11	317	373
Debtors	12	1,008	638
Cash at bank and in hand		50,899	31,503
		<u>52,224</u>	<u>32,514</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	<u>2,014</u>	<u>2,563</u>
Net current assets		<u>50,210</u>	<u>29,951</u>
Net Assets		<u>£61,311</u>	<u>£40,406</u>
Funds			
Unrestricted funds	14	<u>61,311</u>	<u>40,406</u>
Total funds		<u>£61,311</u>	<u>£40,406</u>

For the year ending 31 March 2016 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 23rd December 2016 and were signed on its behalf by:

M Fraser-Jones
Trustee/Treasurer

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2016

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 2016

2. DONATIONS

	2016 £	2015 £
Donations and gifts – general	17,400	18,029
Donations and gifts – new school	11,180	-
	<u>28,580</u>	<u>18,029</u>

3. FUNDRAISING

	2016 £	2015 £
Fundraising events - income	27,457	12,321
Fundraising events – expenditure	3,883	3,511
	<u>23,574</u>	<u>8,810</u>

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2016 £	2015 £
Interest received	12	62

5. INCOMING RESOURCES FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2016 £	2015 £
Income for ancillary costs	13,453	18,203

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2016

6. OTHER INCOMING RESOURCES

	2016	2015
	£	£
Income from stall sales	4,699	4,188

7. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COSTS

	2016	2015
	£	£
Wages and NI	16,633	16,831
Utilities and rates	1,560	1,730
Insurance	1,975	1,461
Telephone and broadband	680	559
Ancillary costs	12,856	22,316
Equipment/repairs	6,096	3,600
Vehicle costs	1,307	2,107
Staff training	-	901
Depreciation	2,285	1,845
Other costs	111	325
	43,503	51,675

8. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	2016	2015
	£	£
Planning application and associated costs	900	2,270
Professional fees	5,010	990
	5,910	3,260

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2016

9. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2016 (2015: £Nil).

Trustees' Expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2016 (2015: £Nil).

10. FIXED ASSETS

	Vehicles	Equipment	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1 April 2015	11,400	900	12,300
Additions	-	2,931	2,931
At 31 March 2016	11,400	3,831	15,231
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2015	1,710	135	1,845
Charge for the year	1,710	575	2,285
At 31 March 2016	3,420	710	4,130
Net Book Value			
At 31 March 2016	7,980	3,121	11,101
At 31 March 2015	9,690	765	10,455

11. STOCKS

	2016	2015
	£	£
Goods for resale	317	373

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2016

12. DEBTORS

	2016	2015
	£	£
Prepayments	<u>1,008</u>	<u>638</u>

13. CREDITORS

	2016	2015
	£	£
Corporation tax	-	850
Accruals	<u>2,014</u>	<u>1,713</u>
	<u>2,014</u>	<u>2,563</u>

14. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

	General	New	Total
	£	School	£
		£	
At 1 April 2015	40,406	-	40,406
Surplus for the year	20,905	-	20,905
Transfers	(21,570)	21,570	-
At 31 March 2016	<u>39,741</u>	<u>21,570</u>	<u>61,311</u>