

**Stories and Supper Trustee Annual
Report and Statutory Accounts to
31st March 2023
Charity number 1200744**



Stories and Supper CIO

Report of the Board of Trustees for the 16 months to year ended 31st March 2023

FOREWORD

The last 16 months have been an exciting time for Stories and Supper as we moved from a Community Interest Company to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation so that we can better deliver our aim to challenge the negative narratives around asylum and forced migration. This, the organisation's first annual report, will reflect on the last 16 months and look ahead to 2023-24.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

Stories and Supper's purpose as set out in the charity's constitution are as follows:

The objects of the CIO are, for public benefit, to relieve the needs of refugees, people seeking asylum and other forced migrants in London, primarily by:

1. advancing the education of the public in general about the issues relating to refugees, people seeking asylum and other forced migrants via workshops, public events and performances;
2. promoting equality and diversity and racial harmony between communities;
3. recreational and leisure time activities provided in the interests of social welfare designed to improve their conditions of life;
4. providing education and training in subjects relating to creative arts, food production and horticulture.

The activities and objectives that the charity set annually centre on this purpose and are guided by its Vision, Mission and Values.

Vision

We bring refugees, migrants and local residents together through stories, food and nature, to create a stronger, more inclusive community and a more welcoming society.

Mission

- Challenging negative migration narratives in the UK, to increase empathy with refugees and understanding of the migration process
- Boosting refugees' and migrants' self-confidence and skills, to assist with their integration and open the door to employment opportunities
- Increasing community cohesion by bringing refugees, migrants and local residents together in joint ventures

Values

Solidarity, community, equality, equal access, celebrating diversity, anti-racism, inclusivity, care for the environment, amplifying the voices of those with lived experience.

Significant activities throughout this period

We converted to a registered charity (charitable incorporated organisation) in November 2022 after five years as a Community Interest Company, and appointed a board of trustees to steer the charity. Half of our trustees have lived experience of the UK immigration system and we are an all female Board.

We held creative workshops for refugees, asylum seekers and local residents every Saturday. These were at Gnome House in Walthamstow until summer 2022, when floods forced a move to Walthamstow Toy Library, then Good Shepherd Studios in Leytonstone in November 2022. The return to regular in person workshops was welcome by all participants after prolonged periods of online workshops during successive lockdowns during the COVID-19 pandemic. We also continued with our weekly horticultural sessions at our allotment plot at Higham Hill Common allotments in Walthamstow, a project funded by City Bridge Trust.

Our second book, *In the Morning Birds Were Singing*, was published in November 2021 (with funding from Arts Council England), so the start of this accounting period saw us celebrate the publication through events and online promotion. This included a book launch in November 2021 and a Latin American supper club at Greenleaf Baptist Church in December 2021.

Our trustee Olivia Sheringham, a lecturer at Birkbeck university, secured academic funding to conduct research into the experiences of participants in *Stories & Supper* online workshops during the pandemic. A series of research interviews were conducted in January to March 2022 by Dr Sheringham and our Director Dr Helen Taylor.

We took part in a number of local festivals and events during this period, including curating a stage for the London Borough of Waltham Forest's High Street party for the late Queen's Jubilee in June 2022, in collaboration with African drumming group Mbilla Arts; the Gnome House summer fayre in July 2022; and in December 2022, curating a stage for a celebration of the installation of a new public artwork *The Griffin* in Walthamstow High Street.

Looking Ahead to 2023-24

Our core work of hosting creative workshops for refugees, asylum seekers and local residents continues, as does our work cultivating land together at Highams Hill Common Allotments.

We will look for new ways to take our stories and recipes off the page and share them in person and through social media as well as continuing our work to connect school children from London Borough of Waltham Forest (LBWF) with refugees and asylum seekers in our group.

The forthcoming year will focus on partnerships, we will work with educators to share stories. LBWF to contribute to it's role as a Borough of Sanctuary and with other organisations like Optimistic Foundation and their Power project to look at other ways to achieve equitability in society.

Audiences

Informed by our key aims and objectives, the work of Stories & Supper has reached a wide range of audiences. These include first and foremost the asylum seeker/refugee participants who attend our weekly workshops as well as the volunteers who attend and support the activities. Through a range of targeted events and activities (outlined below) we have reached wider audiences including

- local residents in Waltham Forest who have attended events such as our book launch and supper clubs, the High Street festival for the Queen's Jubilee, an allotment food and poetry workshop, Organiclea Open Day, Gnome House Summer Fayre
- people who have read Stories & Supper publications, watched our videos etc. who will have been introduced to new perspectives that foreground the lived experiences of people who have experienced displacement.

Ultimately our work seeks to contribute to wider structural and potential policy change to benefit the lives of refugees and asylum seekers in the UK.

We directly engaged 35 participants from a forced migration background in our activities during this period. Our creative workshops and allotment sessions were attended by refugees, asylum seekers and other people with lived experience of the immigration system. We had between 12 and 20 people with lived experience attending each session, some of whom have been coming to Stories & Supper for many years. Current countries of origin include Sudan, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, DRC, Congo, India, Nigeria, Tanzania, Abkhazia, Kazakhstan, Belarus and Iraqi Kurdistan. We have around 55% women and 45% men in the group, ages range from early twenties to seventies, and two of the women attend with their young children.

Stories & Supper has had a committed team of volunteers throughout this period, assisting with regular activities and one-off events. Many of our volunteers have been with us for years and are central to our work and our commitment to creating spaces of welcome and encounter. We had 15 active volunteers during this period who assisted at our creative workshops, the allotment and at events. Around six volunteers regularly attend and participate in weekly creative workshops, the majority of them women, ranging in age from thirties to seventies. The trustees would like to thank our volunteers for their hard work and commitment to helping us achieve our aims and objectives.

We welcomed 40 guests to our Latin American supper club, as well as participating in two major events (the High Street party for the Queen's Jubilee and the Griffin public art event) which attracted audiences of 20,000 and 2,000 respectively. Plus, we had an audience of 250 at a Gnome House summer fayre.

During this period we sold 190 recipe books and 150 poetry books.

Key Project Work

Creative workshops

Stories & Supper holds creative workshops every Saturday between 11am-1.30pm for refugees, people seeking asylum and local residents in the north-east London borough of Waltham Forest (see above for venue details). These workshops incorporate a variety of creative practices (including storytelling, poetry, drama), alongside the sharing (and sometimes cooking) of food. Most workshops are led by Stories & Supper director, Helen Taylor, but we have also collaborated with a range of creative practitioners, building on established relationships from previous years, as well as establishing new ones. New collaborations include a textile project (six workshops) led by artist Sarah May (from February to April 2022). We also welcomed Soho Theatre for two drama workshops, plus Clelia Bartoli from Giocherenda in Palermo, who ran a workshop for us on behalf of Stories in Transit. In addition to developing creative practice, the workshops have created a space for resisting the everyday inhumanities of the asylum system and building connections with the local community.

Allotment project

We have had an allotment plot since 2020 at Higham Hill Common Allotments in Walthamstow and our allotment project secured three years funding from City Bridge Trust in October 2021.

During this period our allotment sessions were attended by adult refugees/asylum seekers and volunteers local to the allotment in Walthamstow. We had between 5 and 25 people attending sessions, depending on the activity. Food cooperative Organiclea delivered a general training session on allotment design and planning, plus a session on pruning fruit trees for us. While our allotment work in spring and summer seasons focussed on growing, our autumn activities focussed on clearing the site, building and repairing our greenhouse, and building compost bins.

The allotment has been a site for sharing growing practices and stories, particularly about seasons, nature and connection, as well as sharing the produce we have grown, like apples, plums, potatoes, tomatoes, beans and chard. The plot became a haven for everyone involved, as a therapeutic activity, with a sense of common purpose and a meaningful outcome. The physical exercise of gardening, being outside, having hands in the soil and watching things grow all boosted wellbeing for our participants.

Our plot was visited by Clyde Loakes, Deputy Leader of Waltham Forest council in September 2022. We held a free event at our allotment in October 2022, inviting other plot holders to share poems and food with us.

Publishing- Recipes and Poems

Just before this accounting period started, we published our second book, *In the Morning Birds Were Singing: An Anthology*, including writing by 18 contributors who are refugees,

asylum seekers or people with experience of forced migration, and produced by the Stories & Supper team in November 2021. The book emerged from online workshops run during the COVID-19 pandemic, and saw us collaborate with award winning local poet Joelle Taylor, storyteller Jumana Moon and Phosphoros Theatre Company.

The book launch was held at a popular local venue, where new audiences had the chance to explore our previous book as well. Contributors performed their work during the event and a number of images and videos were shared in social media, furthering the reach and impact of the event and the content of the book. Both books were also promoted and sold in various events such as Hoe Street Christmas Market, Walthamstow's celebrations for the Queen's Jubilee and the Gnome House Summer Fayre. Additionally, selections from the book were performed by the refugee and asylum seeking writers at events we hosted or participated in during this time.

Part of the Community – events and collaborations

Stories & Supper held a Latin American supper club at Greenleaf Baptist Church Community Hall, an important local community space, in December 2021, led by a local Venezuelan chef and cooked and served by our members and volunteers. This ticketed event was an opportunity to showcase different aspects of our work while bringing people around a table of food for solidarity and sharing, in line with our founding objectives. Our participants performed their work, connecting with new audiences in the local community and beyond.

In December 2022 we took part in the Winter Feast, an event staged by local arts organisation Artillery to celebrate the unveiling of a new public artwork, the Walthamstow Griffin. We curated a storytelling and poetry stage, our participants performed their poems and stories, and we served food cooked by one of our participants based on her recipes which featured in our first book. The event took place on the local High Street, where Walthamstow's busy street market is located, allowing us to engage with people from the local community who might not have been previously familiar with our work.

In March 2023 we ran a story cafe as part of the open day at Good Shepherd Studios, where Stories & Supper was based. The event brought together members of the local community with our participants in small groups to connect and cultivate mutual empathy through storytelling activities.

Taking Centre Stage – leading workshops and becoming trustees

A key development of our work over the past two years has been the increased incorporation of people with lived experience in the development and delivery of core activities. Using funds from an Awards for All Grant in 2021 we delivered a programme to mentor four refugees/asylum seekers to lead workshops and assist with planning/delivery of a self-funding public event. This work has continued and these mentees and four other refugee/asylum seeker participants have played leading roles in the development and delivery of school workshops during Refugee Week (in June 2021 and 2023). One

participant, who was still waiting for a decision on her asylum claim at the time, joined our Board of Trustees as a result of our mentoring programme.

Public benefit

In setting objectives and planning activities the trustees have given due consideration to general guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial performance and position

Stories & Supper continues to succeed in securing a mixture of funding sources, 17% generated from book sales and supper clubs, 21% from partnership working and 56% from grant providers, with the remaining 6% of funding from donations and other unrestricted sources. We would like to thank City Bridge Trust for its ongoing support of our allotment project Seeds of Recovery, Awards for All for supporting our creative workshops and mentoring project and London Borough of Waltham Forest for its ongoing support from seed funding our recipe book to story cafés and school workshops.

The accounts presented are the first accounts for Stories & Supper following its change in constitution from Community Interest Company to Charitable Incorporated Organisation. The accounts presented are for a 16 month period. The charity's income for the year end 31 March 2023 was £46,225. Total expenditure amounted to £47,397 resulting in a deficit of £1,171 (30 November 2021 surplus £888). The deficit reflects a change in financial year and shift in planning cycles following change in constitution. The charity has unrestricted reserves of £1,945. Trustees accepted the deficit as income generating events in partnership with Barbican and the Optimistic Foundation took place in the first quarter of 2023-24. Taking into account the nature of the charity's income streams, and that its operating costs are low, the trustees are of the view that reserves at these levels are sufficient for the time being but will need to increase as the company grows. It will continue to work towards a reserve equal to three months wind up costs.

The balance sheet shows £18,238 (30 November 2021 was £18,185) of deferred income, this is comprised of grants received from City Bridge Trust, Awards for All and Foundation for Future London for projects in 2023-24. It reflects the charity's strategy of raising project funding in advance of the financial year.

The company mitigates financial risk with governance and oversight from its board of trustees including one financial controller who is a part-qualified accountant. The trustees have statutory responsibility for decision making and are provided with management accounts to support this.

Reserves Policy

Trustees commit to working towards the development of reserves equivalent of at least three months running costs to safeguard against future changes in income and as staff are appointed this will be greater than current reserves so will be kept under review. Current

commitments are not made more than one month in advance.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

CIO-Foundation status was granted by the Charity Commission on 19 October 2022.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

Stories & Supper aims to be led by trustees with lived experience of migration in all its forms. Currently 50% of the Board have lived experience of the migration system and one member was still in the asylum system during this period. Stories & Supper supports participants with lived experience to become trustees, when they are able to, and welcomes applications from candidates with lived experience. Successful candidates are briefed prior to attending their first board meeting where they are proposed to the full board. Useful information such as the Charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, management accounts, the business plan, and minutes of recent meetings are sent in advance to the new trustee

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Organisational structure

The management of the charity is delegated to the Director, Helen Taylor. She is supported in the day to day financial management by Treasurer, Terri Harris.

The business of the Charity is supervised by the Board of Trustees who meet six times a year, or more frequently as required. The

Charity's Business Plan and annual budgets are subject to Board approval.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number

1200724

Registered office

Hornbeam Centre
458 Hoe Street
London
E17 9AH

Trustees

Olivia Sheringham
Sharon Goldman
Laura Martinez Da Silva
Filiz Emre Cooke
Carine Zeka
Terri Harris

Company Secretary

Helen Taylor

Independent Examiner

Tom Mowat

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 14th December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:


.....

Sharon Goldman


.....

Terri Harris-Treasurer

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees	Stories and Supper		
On accounts for the year ended	31/03/23	Charity no (if any)	1200744
Set out on pages	2-14 (remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)		
Responsibilities and basis of report	<p>I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/23.</p> <p>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").</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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:</p> <p>the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or</p> <p>the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or</p> <p>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.</p>		
Independent examiner's statement	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:	Tom Mowat	Date:	30/08/23
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	N/A		
Address:	82 Park View Mansions, 2 Abercrombie Road, London, E20 1FQ		

Section B Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

**Statement of Financial
Activity
Account Year End 31st March
2023**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2021 £
Incoming resources	2				
Donations and legacies		2,758	26,394	29,152	24,042
Charitable activities		17,074	-	17,074	2,685
		<u>19,831</u>	<u>26,394</u>	<u>46,225</u>	<u>26,727</u>
Resources expended	3				
Raising funds		171		171	202
Charitable activities		20,142	26,834	46,976	24,293
Other		-	-	-	-
Total		<u>20,313</u>	<u>26,834</u>	<u>47,147</u>	<u>24,495</u>
Net movement in funds for the year		(481)	(440)	(921)	2,232
Total funds at 1st December 2021		(9,201)	12,421	3,119	888
Total funds at 31st March 2023		<u>(9,682)</u>	<u>11,981</u>	<u>2,198</u>	<u>3,119</u>

The notes form part of the accounts

**Statement of Financial
Position
Account Year End 31st March
2023**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2021 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	6	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-
Current assets					
Debtors	7	1,431		1,431	1,797
Cash at bank and in hand	9	4,205	18,238	22,443	18,185
		5,635	18,238	23,873	19,982
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	3,440	18,238	21,678	16,863
Net current assets/(liabilities)		2,198	-	2,198	3,119
Total assets less current liabilities		2,198	-	2,198	3,119
Accumulated fund	10				
Restricted income funds					
Unrestricted funds		3,119		3,119	888
Result for the period		(481)	(440)	(921)	2,232
		2,638	(440)	2,198	3,119

The notes form part of the
accounts

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the
trustees


.....

Sharon Goldman

14/12/23

Date


.....

Terri Harris

14/12/23

Date

Note 1 Accounting Policies**Basis of preparing the financial statements**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (Charities SORP FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

Financial reporting standard 102 - reduced disclosure exemptions

The charity has taken advantage of the following disclosure exemption in preparing these financial statements, as permitted by FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland':- the requirements of Section 7 Statement of Cash Flows.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. 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

The CIO has no tangible assets currently. Depreciation will be provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life. Fixtures and fittings - 20% on a straight line basis

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation 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.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The CIO has no salaried employees currently.

Reserves Policy

Trustees commit to working towards the development of reserves equivalent of at least 3 months running costs to safeguard against future changes in income. Current commitments are office rent at £280 per month. Workshops costs are circa £1,800 per month.

Note 2 Income

	Analysis of income	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Total funds 2023	Total funds 2021
				£	£
Donations and legacies:	Donations and gifts	1,821		1,821	2,924
	Grants	937	26,394	27,331	21,118
	Total	2,758	26,394	29,152	24,042
Charitable activities:	Book sales	5,689	-	5,689	2,685
	Events	11,385	-	11,385	
	Total	17,074	-	17,074	2,685
Total Income		19,831	26,394	46,225	26,727

Note 3 Expenditure

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Total funds 2023	Total funds 2021
Expenditure on raising funds:			£	£
Sundry costs	171		171	202
Total expenditure on raising funds	171	-	171	202
Expenditure on charitable activities:				
Workshop co ordinators and leaders	8,951	10,785	19,736	11,664
Venue Hire	414	1,875	2,289	1,707
Ingredients	639	715	1,354	197
Refreshments	925	1,071	1,996	340
Travel	5,880	11,575	17,455	5,850
Equipment	181	813	994	773
Postage	151		151	2,725
Insurance	314		314	
Compliance	119		119	58
Office Supplies	693		693	435
Training	27		27	
Marketing	295		295	423
Bank charges	152		152	121
Rent	1,400		1,400	
Total expenditure on charitable activities	20,142	26,834	46,976	24,293
Other				
Accountancy	-		-	-
Total other expenditure	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditure	20,313	26,834	47,147	24,495

Note 4 Independent Examiners Fees

	2023 £	2021 £
Independent examiner's fees		-

Note 5 Staff Costs

	2023 £	2021 £
Salaries and wages	-	-
Pension costs (defined contribution scheme)	-	-
Total staff costs	-	-

All coordinators and workshop leads paid on a freelance basis

No employees received employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) for the reporting period of more than £60,000

	2023 £	2021 £
Key Management Personnel		-

	2023	2021
Average Head Count		
Fundraising		
Charitable Activities		
Total		-

Note 6 Tangible assets

		Fixtures and Fittings £
Cost	At December 2021	0
	Additions	0
	At March 2023	0
Depreciation	At December 2021	0
	Charge for the year	0
	At March 2023	0
Net Book Value	At 31 March 2023	0
	At 31 March 2022	0

No tangible assets held by charity

Note 7 Debtors and prepayments

	2023 £	2021 £
Trade debtors	618	1,797
Prepayments and accrued income	813	
Total	1,431	1,797

Note 8 Creditors and deferred income

	Amounts falling due within one year	
	2023 £	2021 £
Trade creditors	-	
Accruals and deferred income	21,678	16,340
Taxation and social security	-	523
Total	21,678	16,863

Note 9 Cash at the bank and in hand

	2023 £	2021 £
Cash at bank and on hand	22,443	18,185
Total	22,443	18,185

Note 10 Funds movement in current year

	Fund balances brought forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Fund balance s carried forward £
Unrestricted funds					
General Fund	3,119	19,831	(20,313)	(440)	2,198
					-
Restricted Funds	-	-	-	-	-
Restricted Fund		26,394	(26,834)	440	0
Total Funds as per balance sheet	3,119	46,225	(47,147)	-	2,198

Note 11 Related parties

No related party transactions took place in the year to 31 March 2023. None of the trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from an employment with the charity or a related entity