



ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24

Families Like Us trading as Juniors Play Centre

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OVERVIEW

Message from the Chair

This has been a difficult year financially with lack of funding available and increased pressure on the service to deliver, but credit to the team who have kept going, kept providing and keep delivering new and inventive initiatives and ideas to keep the organisation relevant and sustainable in these uncertain times.

Kymberly Campbell, Chair

Our Mission

To remove feelings of isolation and loneliness for families with young children and to eradicate child poverty in Scotland.

We achieve this by offering a warm welcome to all families attending the play centre, creating community within the community by offering friendship and removing stigma and barriers to success by providing bespoke support services designed with families to build capacity and leave no one behind.

Program Highlights

This year we delivered:

850 play sessions, 96 ASN stay and play evenings, 12 courses of Baby Massage, 48 Walk & Talk sessions to get families active, 48 Massage Circle sessions, 48 Supper Club evenings, monthly focus group meetings, 12 Ready to Work courses, 48 Breast feeding and weaning sessions, 48 Tummy Time workshops, 2 uniform swap shops, 1 Baby items swap shop and 1 Toy swap event, 2 free clothes markets for families, 1 multiagency ASN information day and 1 ladies pamper day. Our community larder continues to provide emergency provision for families in need.

Visitor numbers increased by 35% with us seeing a total number of 20,156 visitors in 2024.

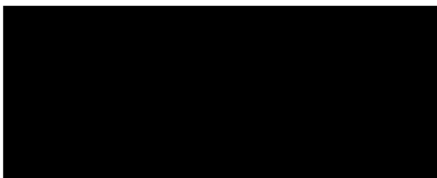
Looking Ahead

Our mission remains to help families out of poverty not only in our local area, but across Scotland. As such, we have developed our own brand of biscuits and coffee to be sold in all major retailers and the hospitality industry to raise much needed funds for our organisation, and the organisations operating throughout Scotland who share our mission. Contracts have been secured with Asda Scottish branches and the push is on to secure further contracts. This initiative will also provide training opportunities, work experience and employment opportunities.

Our ASN provision is being recognised for its outstanding work supporting families with children who have additional support needs as numbers exceed capacity. As such, we look to secure funding to grow and extend this provision offering additional stay and play sessions to keep numbers manageable, adult only evenings for respite, advocacy services within our area and seek partnership opportunities to provide a robust support network for families in need.

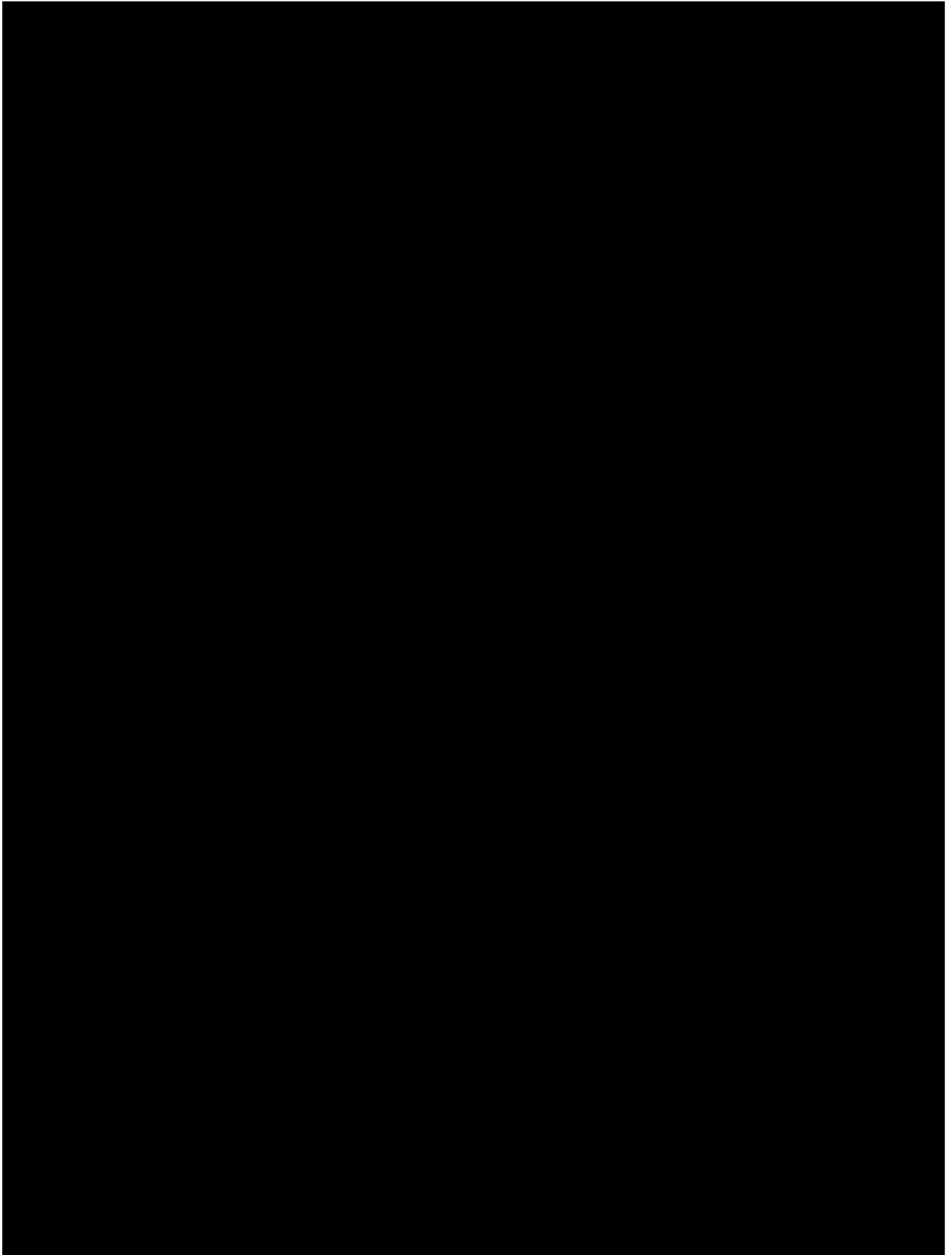
Over the coming year we will focus on community outreach to engage with a wider audience, promoting the organisation and the work of partner organisations to ensure local families know what services are available to them.

We will continue to work with all stake holders to design and deliver sessions and events that meet the needs of the families within our community.



TIMELINE

A picture says a thousand words, so here's a look back at another amazing year at Juniors.

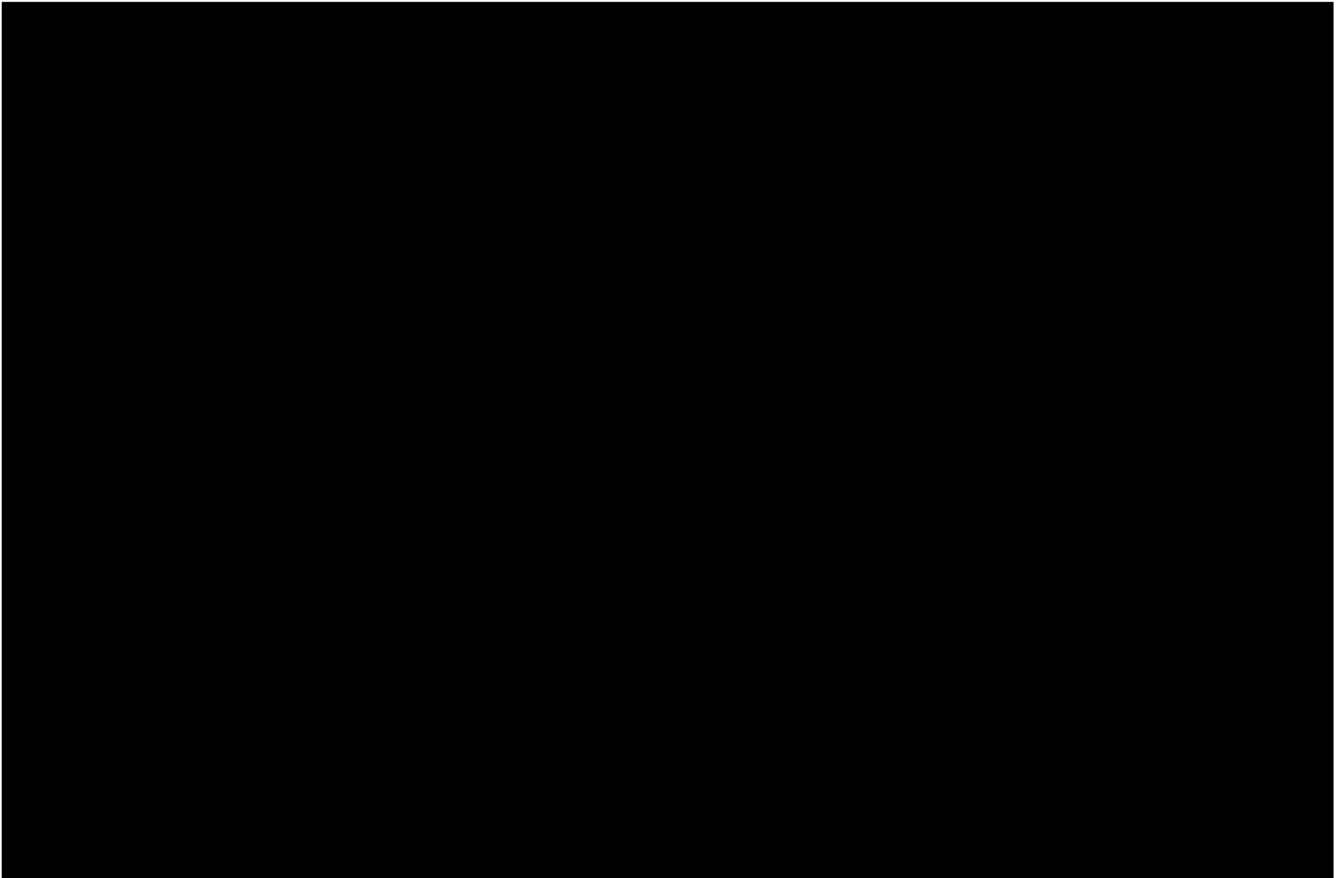


December 2023 – Christmas markets, multiple Santa visits both in the community and the centre, Afternoon Tea with Olaf & Elsa, 150 families given a Xmas including winter coats, hats, scarves, gifts and shopping vouchers, and a huge party to celebrate.

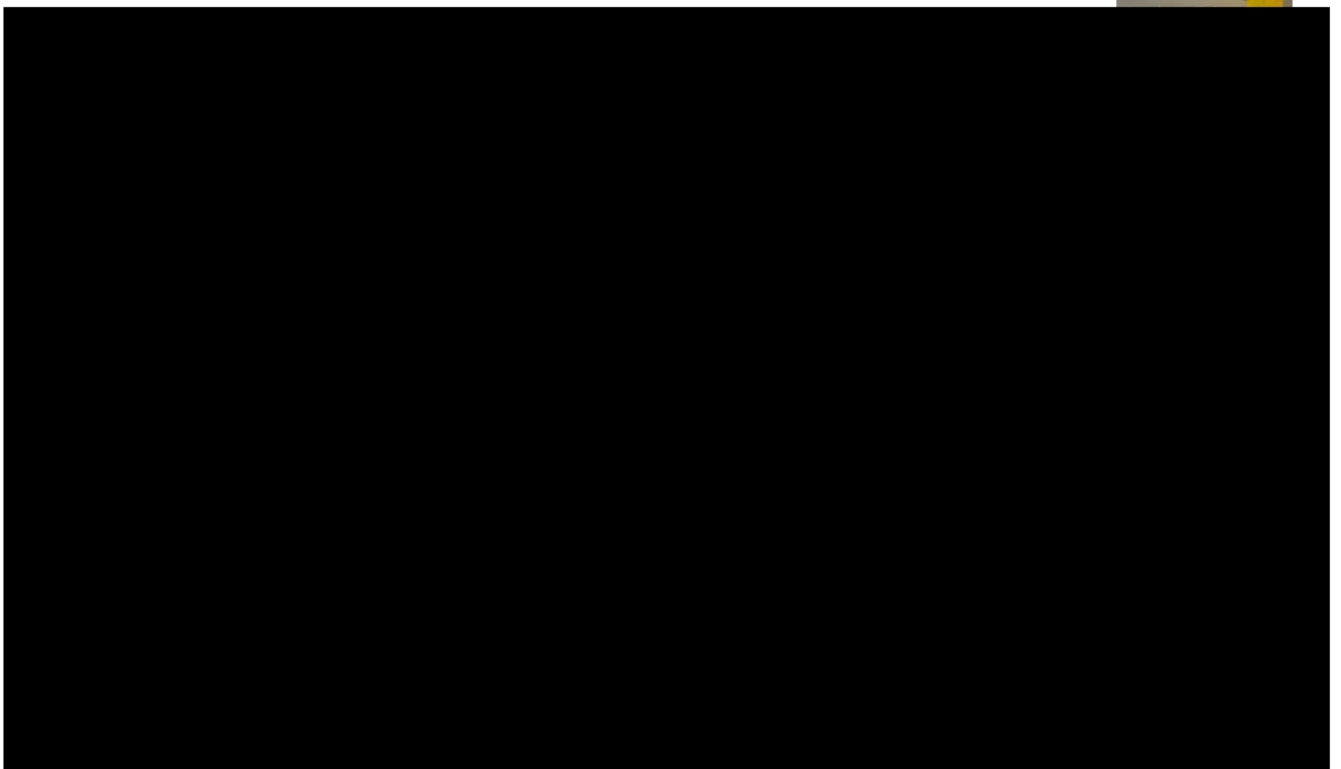
January 2024 – Start the year with a fully stocked community larder, an extra session a day, whole timetable of fun activities and kind donations from our supporters.

Tuesday @ Junior

February 2024 – Visit from Queens Park Football Club, YPI initiative at Hamilton Grammar won £3000 for Juniors, Multiagency partnership to deliver an ASN information day and don't forget pancake Tuesday!



March 2024 – Easter ready with a whole week of activities including easter bonnets, easter bunny visits, egg hunts, arts and crafts.



April 2024 – 20 families invited to Hampden Park by Queens Park to watch a game, focus on healthy snack choices in our family cookery sessions, baby massage and bubble fun.



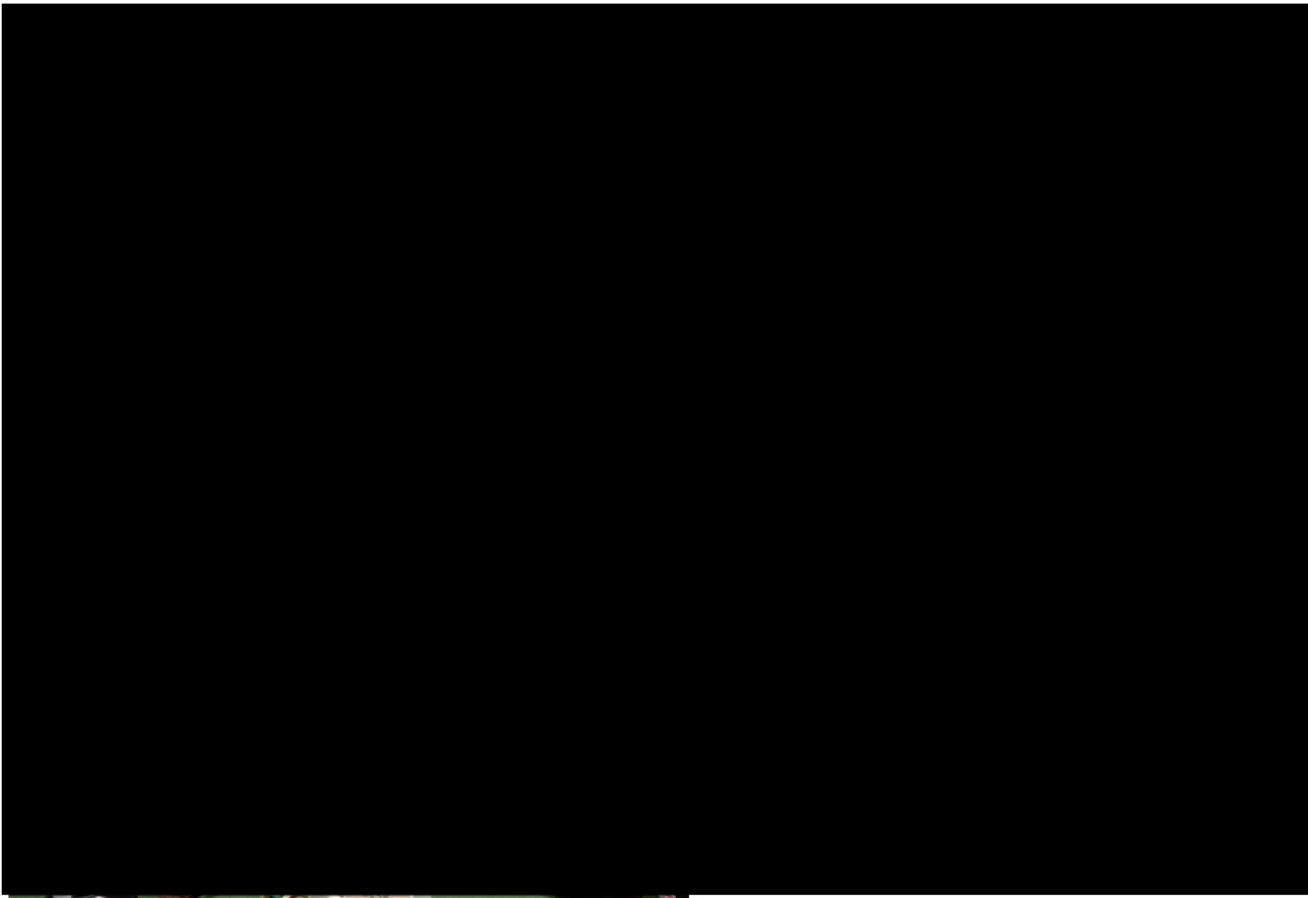
May 2024 – Working with partner agencies to promote Mental Health Awareness Month. The theme 'wear it green' even stretched to our mascot visits! Lesley being our superhero promoting the kindness coffee and cookies range, more healthy snacks and bubbles, and nursery graduation events begin.



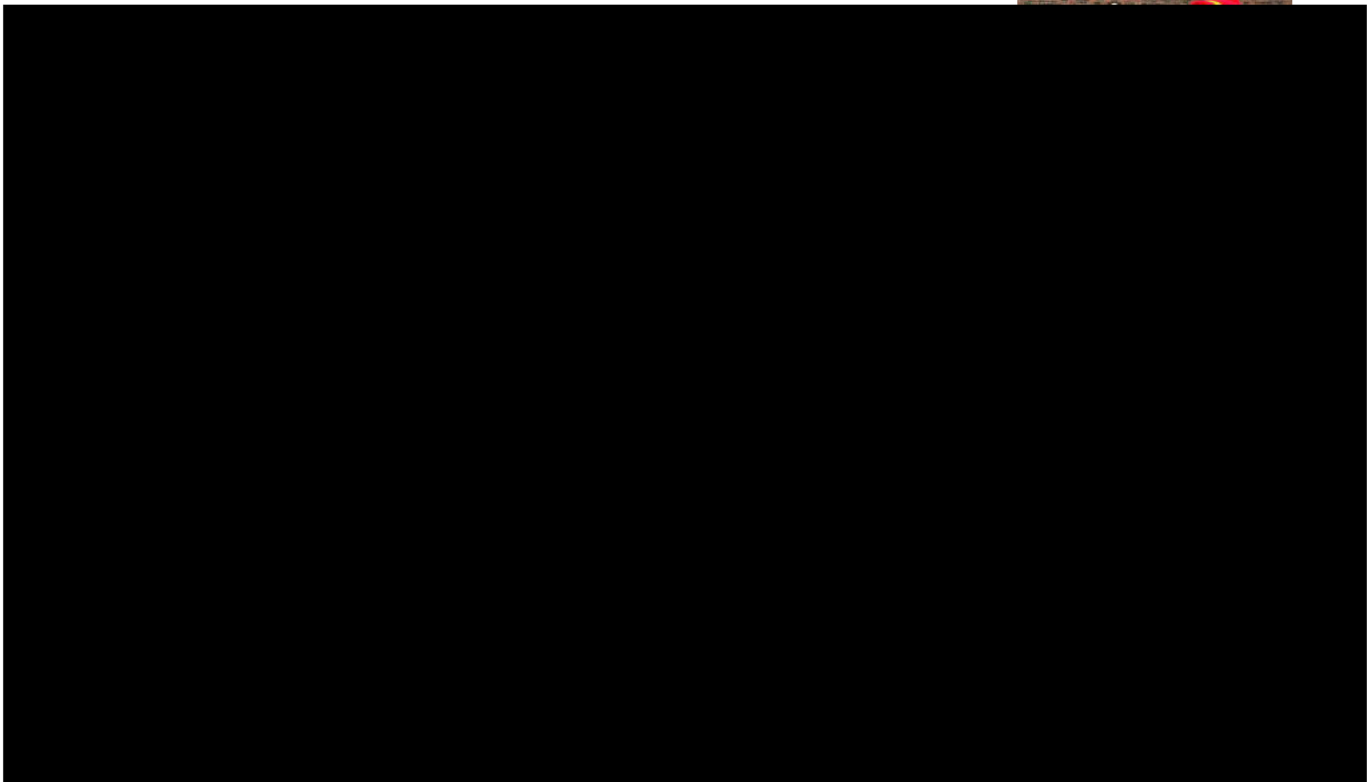
June 2024 – 'The Comeback Ball', our annual fundraiser this year held at Grand Central Hotel raised a whopping £20,000.00, the team representing Juniors as the chosen charity for the Scottish Business Awards raising a further £4,000, receiving our 'breast feeding friendly' certificate, and parachute play

July 2024 – Barbie Mania hits Juniors, summer outfit designers of the future, 'day at the beach' sand play, co-hosting Routes2Work south summer event, and more parachute play!

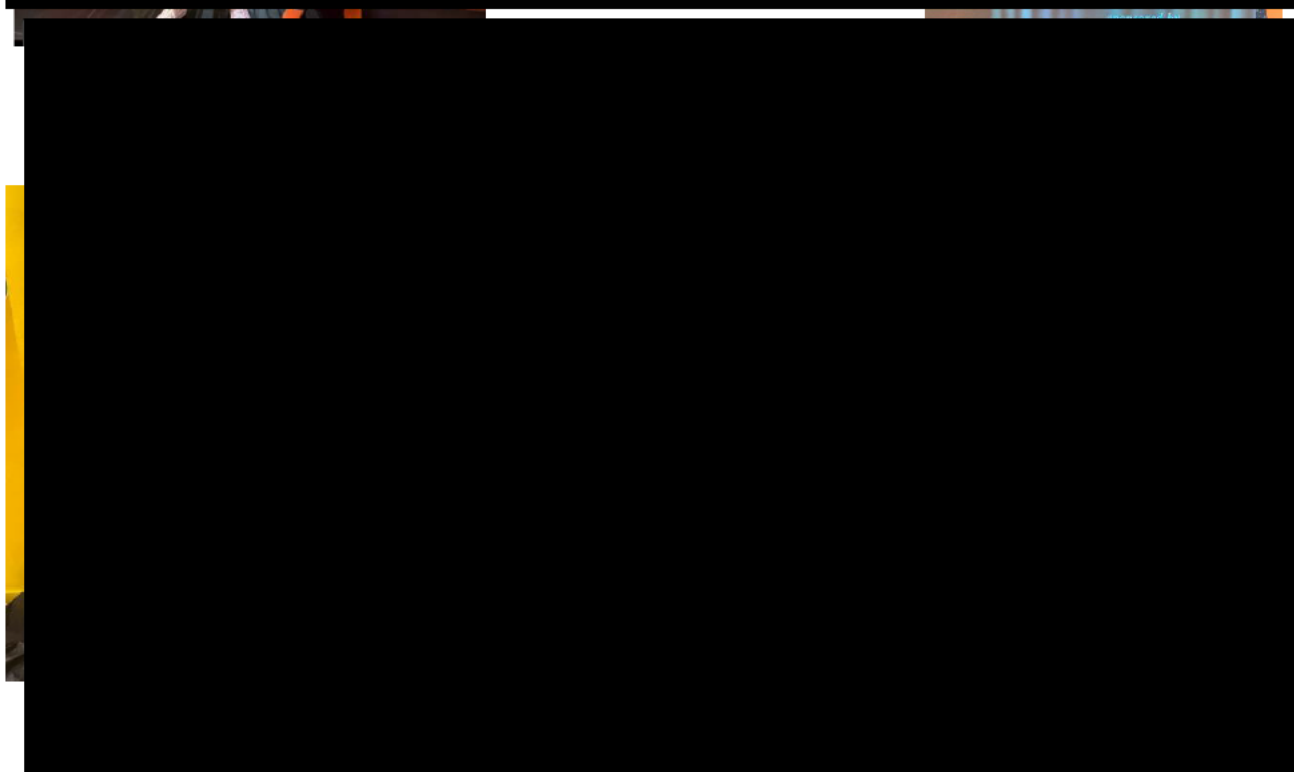
August 2024 – Target practice, fruit and dinosaur printing and more sand play to round off the summer, play centre facelift with new murals, students at work, and a much-needed team day out!



September 2024 – Messy play, create your own scarecrow and entertaining the crowds at Bothwell Scarecrow Festival. New storage for loose parts complete with microworlds.

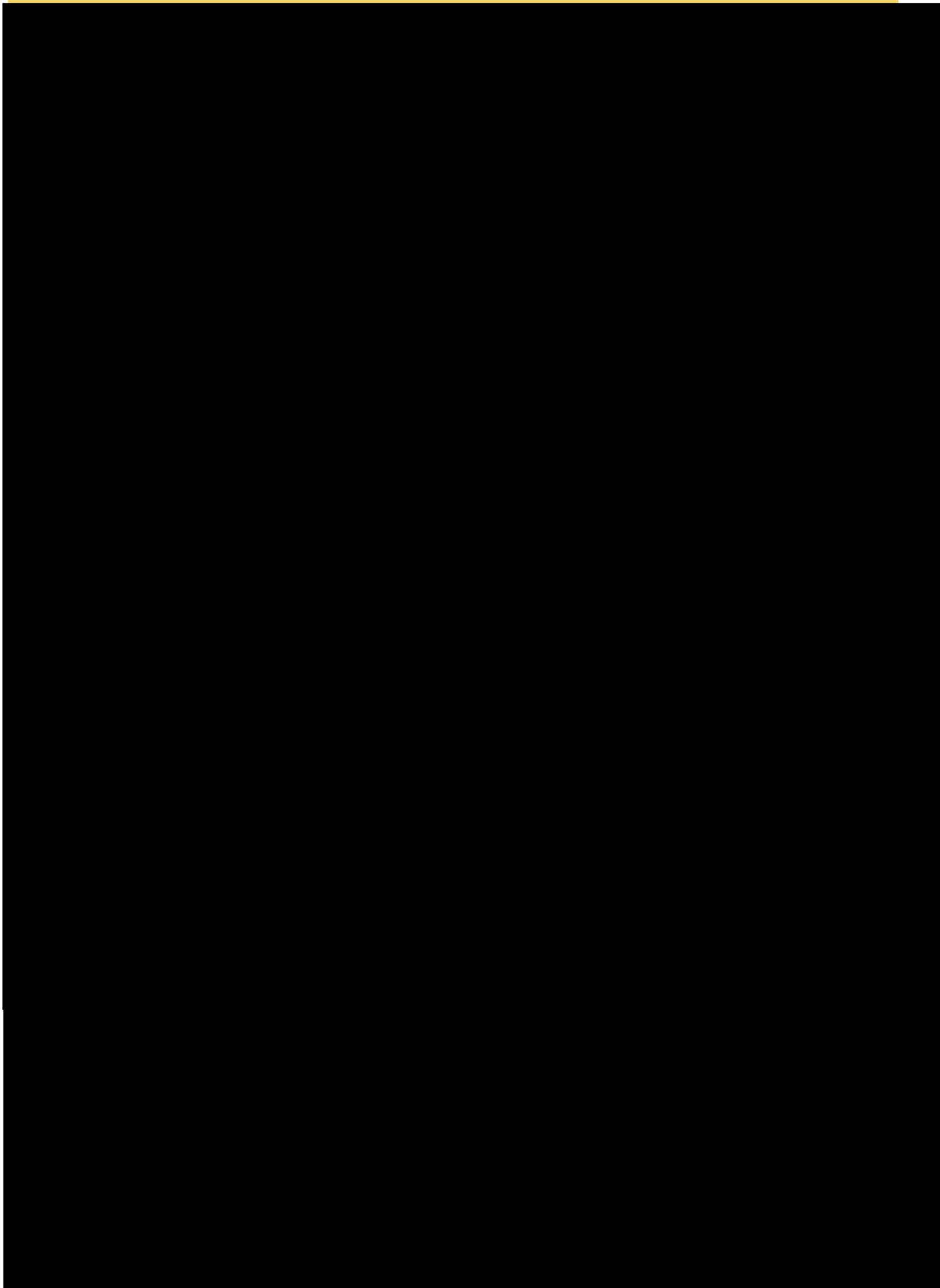


October 2024 – Halloween ready with pumpkin carving, decorations, costumes and no less than four Halloween Parties! Our donation bin entered Sainsbury's and Lesley won the Women in Business award for community impact in Edinburgh.



November 2024 – Mummy pamper day before the madness of Christmas begins, with every person receiving an OSMO goody bag, chocolates, clothing, facials, nail painting and eyebrow threading all donated by local businesses and families. We start our Christmas markets , Hamilton Light Switch on and local nurseries donate toys for our Christmas appeal.

December 2024 – Christmas appeal fed and clothed 183 families complete with gifts, we hosted afternoon tea with Elsa, Breakfast with Santa, Elf on the Shelf day, opened our giant advent calendar donated by a local business, made Christmas cookies, Christmas pyjama day



NEW SPONSORS, FUNDERS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

FUNDERS

Scottish Children's Lottery

SSE

The Big Lottery

The Robertson Trust

The Volant Trust

SPONSORS

CleanMe

JB Marketing

Northwest Roofing

Rocca

Sainsburys

Scotwaste

Stewarts Scotland

The Regus Business Centre

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Hamilton Bid

The Rocca Foundation

Social Services

Local primary, high schools and nurseries

Liber8

Routes2Work South

NHS Community Health and Social Care Partnership

Community Links

ARCH

University West Of Scotland, South Lanarkshire College, Queen Margaret University,

Glasgow Clyde College

Local MSP's Christina McKelvie & Monica Lennon

REACH Autism

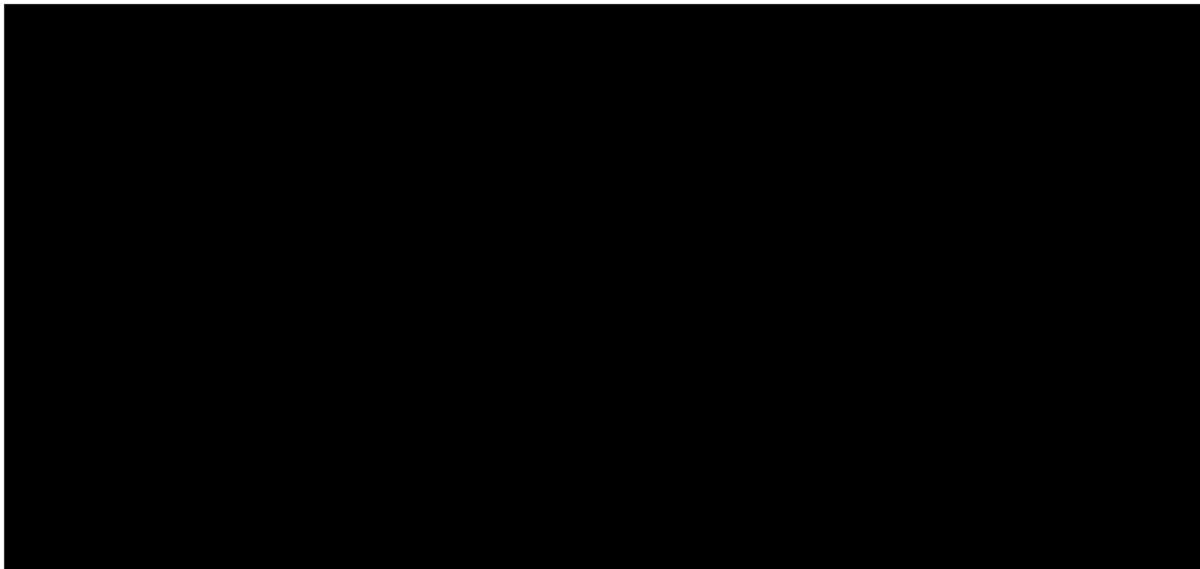
Kear Campus

PAMIS

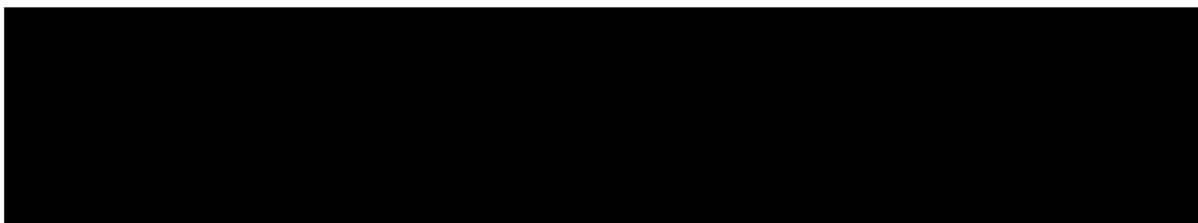
Women's Aid East Kilbride

Sainsburys Hamilton, Asda Scotland Wide

BOARD MEMBERS



Trustees



Charity Advisor



THANKS

The Families Like Us/Juniors family wish to thank everyone involved for their continued support allowing us to best serve the families of Hamilton and the wider community. Without your help, support and time we would be unable to provide a lifeline to those most in need.

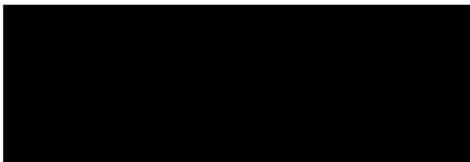
To our board members, thank you for sticking with us through some nerve-wracking times and working tirelessly to ensure we have the funds necessary to deliver our services. Your advice, time and patience are priceless.

To our sponsors and funders who continue to understand our vision and come on this adventure with us by providing not only much needed financial support but also offering services to help us keep the building running smoothly, promoting our service, and buying our coffee and cookies range, you are our superheroes.

To the staff team and volunteers who constantly offer a warm welcome, friendship and respect to every person who steps through the doors and who always give 100% to deliver our vision of a better future for families, we salute you!

To our partnership organisations, your skills, talent and information are invaluable to us and our families we refer to your service. Thank you for promoting us and referring families to our service as we share resources, information and time with each other to best meet the needs of our community.

And finally, to the families who continue to utilise Juniors Play Centre and all additional services, without you we would have no purpose or joy. Your willingness to share your hardest and best days, your ideas for projects, your commitment to us as an organisation gives us the motivation to continue pushing forward to make Scotland the best place for children to grow and families to flourish. Thank you for being part of our community where no one is left behind.



Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Famillics Like Us SC043484

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31st October 2024 set out in Page 1 and 2

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

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.

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 in 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.

Statement by Examiner

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

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

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

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

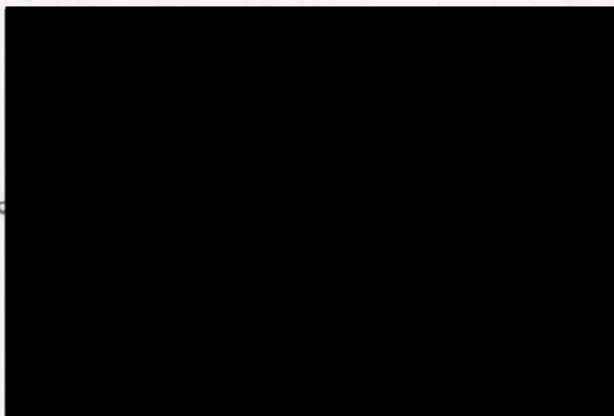
Signed :

Name:

Relevant professional qualification or bod

Address:

Date:



FAMILIES LIKE US

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS FOR PERIOD ENDED 31st October 2024

RECEIPTS

	2024 £	2023 £
Grant Funding	133,132.00	90,918.00
Income From Coffee Bar/Admissions	61,471.00	61,103.00
Donations	47,689.00	25,017.00
Government Support	-	59,300.00
Total Receipts	242,292.00	236,338.00

PAYMENTS

Rent	20,000.00	20,000.00
Repairs/Renewals	2,508.00	3,420.00
Toys/Soft Play Equipment	-	2,043.00
Administration/Wages	141,824.00	137,640.00
Insurance	1,448.00	2,952.00
Coffee Bar/Play Centre Costs	9,492.00	-
Heat and Lighting	4,813.00	4,522.00
Waste Collection/Cleaning	-	2,665.00
Fundraising Costs	10,637.00	-
Support To Families	12,832.00	20,286.00
Total Payments	203,554.00	193,528.00
Surplus for year	38,738.00	42,810.00

FAMILIES LIKE US

STATEMENT OF BALANCES AT
31st October 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
Bank and Cash In Hand		
Opening Balance	£ 96,667.00	£ 53,857.00
Surplus for year	£ 38,738.00	£ 42,810.00
Closing Balances	<u>£ 135,405.00</u>	<u>£ 96,667.00</u>
Reserves		
General Funds	<u>£ 135,405.00</u>	<u>£ 96,667.00</u>

All funds are unrestricted

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf

