

## **ANNUAL REPORT To March 31<sup>st</sup> 2020**

### **Covid-19: A foretaste of the unprecedented turbulence to come**

At the start of January, the World Health Organisation signalled that the Corona virus, Covid-19, was a significant global threat. By 11th March WHO had declared a pandemic. This annual report has been prepared amidst the unprecedented turbulence of Covid-19, which many environmentalists, scientists, welfare and health organisations believe will be just one pandemic amongst many.

Our failure to respect the limits of growth, and globalisation will continue to disrupt and destroy human life until we address the structural injustices that underpin and drive both global heating and the sixth, perhaps final mass extinction of all life-forms on earth.

At the start of the financial year the Greenhouse Board carried out an internal review of services. This was carried out in the context of the upswell in climate policy demands being made by the new generation of concerned global citizens. People taking part in Extinction Rebellion are amongst those of us who are terrified at the failure of government and policy makers to deliver the change needed to contain the climate crisis, and are demanding action. The original Trustees' foresight means that this charitable Trust is resilient to the turmoil, in part due to owning the building it operates from.

The Board agreed to reduce the café and food services to our busiest trading days in order to free up staff and volunteer time to focus on the delivery of events and the curation of the work in the Gallery. We moved steadily towards a two day week in the café a three day week in the bookshop and increased the opportunities to visit the gallery and engage with the artists briefings published by the Trust. This new way of working had begun to generate new ideas and ways of using the café and courtyard garden spaces. The plans were working well and enabled the Company to reduce its debts.

The café, shop and bookshop closed in March as the Covid 19 lockdown began. The trading company has been put on hold whilst plans are made to move online. The trust operates a reserve policy of three months operational expenses. The sum is kept under review and the trustees feel it is at a sufficient level. The trustees are confident the Trust remains a going concern.

### **Signed on Behalf of the Board of Trustees**



Margaret Charnley  
Chair of Trustees

# CULTURE DECLARES



## **Culture Declares: Responding to the Climate Crises and Species Extinction**

Our plans for a major decade long project connecting the legacy of Joseph Beuys, 7,000 Eichen (Oaks), with the cultural and climate justice issues we all need to engage with were being mapped out extensively. Our Gallery Manager had been tasked with the construction of a major funding bid to the Arts Council, with the ambition of securing two additional members of staff, who would work with the public in the Gallery. We had planned to launch the project and invite artists and the public to register as contributors to the social/land art project at COP26, the international climate conference, originally scheduled to be held in Glasgow in November of 2020 and now postponed by a year. We will return to this project as soon as the building and circumstances allow.



*"We must continue along the road of interrelating socio-ecologically all the forces present in our society until we perform an action which extends to the fields of culture, economy and democratic rights."*

Joseph Beuys, 1982

## **The Greenhouse: Our history**

In 1993 The Greenhouse Trust Fund was amongst the first UK educational trusts to be created with climate change science and policy at the heart of its educational objectives. With the support and involvement of hundreds of volunteers across more than two decades the Greenhouse Trust has successfully rebuilt 42-26 Bethel Street. The grade II\* listed building the Trust operates from, is an award-winning

exemplar of design, highlighting how old buildings can be retrofitted for the climate of the 21st century. Yet, with more than 1,500 listed buildings in Norwich alone, we remain just that, an exemplar, rather than common-place. It is estimated that 80% of buildings standing today will still exist in 2050, but the vast majority significantly contribute to CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and are unsustainable.

The Climate Change Committee's Adaptation Sub-Committee estimates that the UK average daily water consumption of around 140 litres per person needs to drop to well below 100 litres by 2050 to avoid water scarcity and tackle growing levels of poverty. The Greenhouse is equipped with 3.5 tonnes of rainwater storage capacity, along with triple glazing, solar hot water technology, photovoltaic (electricity generating) panels. The walls, floors and ceilings are heavily insulated with recycled paper, wool and cork, (within an internal, recycled timber frame). All these natural, low-embodied-energy materials help to reveal how old buildings can be significantly reduce their carbon footprint and running costs and improve the quality of life for those living in the building and reduce the pain being imposed on future generations, by the burning of fossil fuels.

Around 20% of homes currently overheat, even in cool summers. The National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) calls for energy efficiency of the UK's building stock to be prioritised. The NIC estimates that national investment in existing buildings would cut upwards of £5 billion from UK energy bills.

### **eARTh**

Diet, growing food and consumerism are all social issues that our supporters and the wider public can engage with on a daily basis (unlike the challenges of housing and infrastructure development, which need clear central government intervention). Consequently, our educational work has moved to a focus on the challenges of food production and soil management. The Trust's trading company, Green City Central Ltd., has historically sold a range of organic food and goods. As well as contributing to our funds, sales of these products are part of our commitment to the promotion and adoption of organic food production.

Until the end of January 2020 the Greenhouse had been open to the public, playing host to a series of themed exhibitions across the period, all exploring food and farming issues. eARTh is the over-arching title used to indicate the connectivity between art practice and the vital role that soils play in managing our climate and in improving environmental and human health. eARTh also promotes the Soil Association's campaign to increase organic matter in soils. On International Women's Day 2019, Helen Browning, Chief Executive of the Soil Association gave a talk the Forum to launch the artists briefing. Helen's book 'Pig' also formed the base-line for the curation of the exhibitions throughout the year and the creation of new work by the artists represented here. The Trust ran a series of public talks, meals and wine tasting all focussed on the practical benefits of increasing organic matter in soil, organic food production at both farm and garden scale, and the major benefits of agro-forestry. A 0.4% increase in global soil carbon would deliver annual carbon savings equivalent to the current total anthropogenic emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>. Though hypothetical, this illustrates how important soils are as a carbon store.

*"The planting of trees for fruit, nuts, biomass and timber could be the basis of a revolution for climate change, our diets, water management and wildlife. If we could achieve only one thing in the turbulent years ahead, knocking down the barriers to tree planting and securing support for organic farming combined with agro-forestry and other ecological methods across the country, then I would feel more confident of the future for us, for wildlife and for a free-ranging, good life for our farm animals too. And while the political debates seem very current, that's not really the case. Many of them stretch back over centuries, playing out in parts of the globe: the extent to which we should protect our industries, including farming, and strive for increasing national self-sufficiency; how we get the balance right between consumer affordability, fair trade, and the safety and ethical standards we should abide by; the assumed tensions between environmental and social objectives.*

*One of the many great things about trees is that they grow upright, catching sunlight from a different angle. As farming is essentially the art of catching sunlight and turning it into food, this means that an acre of land can produce much more if it has trees and shrubs as well as flat crops. It's three dimensional farming if you like."*



Helen Browning OBE, 2019

### **We couldn't do this without**

We are grateful to both the Paul Bassham Trust and Naturesave for grants to enable our environmental justice education work to continue into the future. Similarly we are indebted to the Geoffrey Watling Trust who have pledged £2,000 towards tree saplings, as part of the match funding for the Arts Council bid.

Sales of books continue to provide an important source of income. We have received some very generous donations of high-quality art and nature books, CDs and vinyl during the year from supporters. The reuse, redistribution and recycling of these items fits well with our ethos and sits comfortably alongside the quiet contemplative atmosphere that the Gallery and garden provided. A range of contemporary environmental writing and art books, were added to our sales list and in keeping with the plans to promote 7,000 Oaks, plants and tree saplings have been introduced into the building, literally transforming parts of the building into a greenhouse.

Thank you all and everyone who supports the Greenhouse. Onwards.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading 'M. Charnley'.

Margaret Charnley - Chair of Trustees



*"I believe that planting these oaks is necessary not only in biospheric terms, that is to say, in the context of matter and ecology, but in that it will raise ecological consciousness-raise it increasingly, in the course of the years to come, because we shall never stop planting."*

Joseph Beuys – 1982.

<b>Trustees:</b>	Margaret Charnley (Chair)
	Frankie Abel
	Kathryn Amos
	Alex Ives
	Roger Leaton
<b>Patrons:</b>	Greg Smith
	Lady Joffe
	Bruce Kent
	Dr Mick Kelly
	Marchioness of Worcester
<b>Secretariat:</b>	Tigger

## Objectives and activities

The principal objectives of the Trust are to: -

- Raise the public's awareness in all aspects of energy and resource conservation particularly in relation to Climate Change.
- Advance the education of the public in the efficient and effective use of energy, land resources, water, transport, waste recycling and other environmental issues.
- Conserve and protect the environment in the United Kingdom and particularly in Norfolk

## Activities

- The maintenance and development of the Greenhouse building as a working exemplar of environmental design.
- The creation and promotion of information to promote sustainability.
- Working with artists, scientists and artists in order to develop educational and cultural responses to Climate Change and associated environmental matters.

## Public benefit

- The Trustees are aware of the legal boundaries which charitable trusts are required to operate within and access the activities of the Trust accordingly. The board is confident that the creative visual arts and educational work promoted and organised by the Trust are right for the organisation and well within the range of public benefit activities as determined by the Charity Commission.

In order to deliver its charitable objectives, the Greenhouse organises:

- Events and exhibitions in the Greenhouse and other venues as appropriate, in partnership with other arts and environmental educational organisations.
- Operates its trading company to provide services and to assist in raising funds.

## Structure, governance and management

- The Greenhouse Trust is governed by a Trust Deed.
- The Greenhouse has a board of Trustees, which includes Directors of the wholly-owned trading subsidiary Green City Central Ltd.
- The Trust Deed determines the process of appointment for all Trustees. The board reviews the role of its members at meetings and invites new members to join the board. Similarly, the board considers and reviews the status of each member during the discussion of future plans.
- Given the small size of the organisation, Trustees and Directors are inducted using a similar procedure to all staff induction. This enables all parties to understand both management and governance.

**Charity number:** 1037992

**Registered office:** The Greenhouse Trust 42-46 Bethel Street Norwich Norfolk NR2 1NR

**Independent Examiner:** Peter Ellington FAIA Triple Bottom Line Accounting Limited The Enterprise Centre University of East Anglia Norwich Norfolk NR4 7TJ

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