

THE VEGAN-ORGANIC NETWORK

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30 NOVEMBER 2016**

Registered Charity No. 1080847
Company Registration No. 3869080

THE VEGAN-ORGANIC NETWORK

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Report of the trustees for the year ended 30th November 2016

The trustees present their annual directors' report and financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30th November 2016 which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and the 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 UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015).

Objectives and activities

The purposes of the charity are "to advance the education of the general public in the principles of vegan organic horticulture and agriculture, in particular but not exclusively through the undertaking of research into such horticulture and agriculture and disseminating the results of such research for the public benefit". The field of activity is worldwide. The resources required to operate effectively are exceedingly demanding.

We are, therefore, extremely fortunate to have a team of committed volunteers who research farms and farming internationally, answer queries about growing, deal with merchandise, communicate with and record membership details, edit, layout, and obtain articles for Growing Green

International our 44 page journal, manage our two websites, organise farm visits and manage the day to day running of VON. Our thanks also to all those members and supporters who help with stalls and events. Central to promoting and demonstrating stock free / vegan organic methods of producing our food are the farmers and growers who support our cause - they show that we can feed all the people healthily, sustainably and non-violently, that another world really is possible. The main activities are the promotion of stockfree vegan organic farming and growing. To this end VON organises training courses delivered on farm with experienced growers; VON organises 4 large events with up to 80 stalls and has a stand at other events that publicise our work; films and discussion; working with the Soil Association who carry out inspections on our behalf to certify that a farm meets the vegan organic standards; VON also carries out its own inspections without charge, where requested by the farmer, to certify that the farm is compliance with its Stockfree Organic Standards (SOS); the distribution of literature and communication with other organisations and groups with similar objectives.

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Charity's aims and objectives, in planning future activities, and setting the policies for the year.

The charity furthers its charitable purposes for the public benefit through carrying out the work of the Charity the trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit. The benefits arising from our charitable aims are broadly as detailed in the activities above. The trustees are not aware of any detriment or harm caused by our work. The charity's benefits are aimed at the general public without geographical restriction. Some benefits such as a free copy of the magazine are available to supporters who pay a subscription. Such membership is available to all interested in our work and a low-income rate is available. Many of the benefits such as the extensive information on the websites and an email and telephone helpline are available free. Some courses and other activities are charged for; in this case these are open to all and there is a low income rate. Grants from the bursary fund are primarily aimed at vegetarians and vegans in keeping with the grant made

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for this purpose; in some circumstances bursary grants may be available to others. Other examples of public benefit delivery are as detailed in activities mentioned above.

We continue to receive about 6 applications annually for a grant from our Bursary Fund. The applicant must show that they are engaged in farming or an allied occupation and that the course will enable them to use and promote the vegan organic method in their career. Social media continues to play a major role in the dissemination of ideas ranging from GMO's, health and diet, global warming, the use and non-use of humanure and how vegan organics relates to these. The grant to update the kitchen, toilet and accommodation facilities at Tolhurst Organic Farm was completed this summer. Our Advisory Panel continues to provide help with farmers queries and visit the farms where requested.

A review of our achievements and performance

The main achievements during the year were VON's training courses; carrying out more certifying inspections; the work of the advisory service; grants to farms to provide essential equipment and fund research; our educational activities with the general public that has enabled recipients to gain in confidence when discussing the fundamental difference between chemical, conventional organic farming and vegan organic – stockfree organic farming and growing. This understanding enables our members and supporters to more effectively advance our aims and objectives.

Financial review

The VON Trustees have ensured that there are sufficient financial reserves should the farms for which VON has major responsibilities require assistance is available. Because interest from VON's investments at one time were used to top up the Bursary Fund, are now almost non-existent the fund is being depleted to the extent that within 5 – 6 years, it will be spent. This situation could change if we receive specific donations or decide to use money from our general funds. VON has reserved the earmarked donation is received to continue to pay its part time events organiser for the next 5 years. The accounts demonstrate that our financial position remains sound. This is mainly due to the fortunate fact that VON is run by dedicated and skilled volunteers to whom we owe grateful thanks.

Investment powers and policy

The trustees, having regard to the liquidity requirements of operating the charity, have kept available funds in an interest bearing deposit account.

Reserves policy and going concern

The balance held in unrestricted reserves at 30th November 2016 was £220,692 of which £220,092 are free reserves, after allowing for funds tied up in tangible fixed assets.

The charity has reserves in place to protect the continuity of service delivery during uncertain financial times and to support general functions and the future projects as part of the development plans. The assumption is made that membership and donation income may reduce and bank interest will remain very low over the next five years. The plans for reserves are as follows:

1. Reserve to cover costs of basic operation, administration, basic educational functions, publishing magazine, maintaining website, etc., the balance of funds after allowing for the following items:

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2. Reserve for major revision and printing of Growing Green handbook and other one-off educational materials, and extensive promotion of stock free organic standards for the next five years = £20,000.

3. Reserve to develop Rufford Farm, in event of receiving farm as legacy, £80,000.

Significant restricted reserves additional to the above are as follows, balances as specified in the accounts:

1. Centre Network Fund, an ongoing programme is in place to spend this reserve to assist farmers and growers establish stock free / vegan organic farms and/or to help with specific grants where this is necessary for the farm to continue to secure its future and to function effectively.

2. Legacy from Movement for Compassionate Living, this is also dedicated to the Centre Network Programme.

3. Video Production balance to be spent as and when videos need to be restocked.

4. Bursary Fund, an ongoing fund spent as needed.

5. In 2012, a donation of £20,000 was received with the purpose of funding a consultation with a view to establishing an Iain Tolhurst Agroecology Centre in Hardwick (ITACH). After paying for the consultation the balance of £13,500 has been allocated for an upgrade of the toilet and kitchen facilities. The upgrade has been completed in August 2016.

The reserves policy for the above items is reviewed and reallocations to them are made in the light of changing circumstances; changes in restricted funds may only be made with the consent of the donor.

The Charity's main source of income is donations. The Trustees consider that it is appropriate to prepare the accounts on a going concern basis and, consequently, the accounts do not include any adjustments that would be necessary if these sources of income should cease.

Risk management

The trustees/directors have reviewed the major risks to which the charity/company is exposed and have established systems to mitigate those risks. Following a risk assessment, substantial funds are kept in a separate bank in case of the unlikely event of bank failure and to attract better interest.

Plans for Future Periods.

VON already works closely with the Vegan Society, the Kindling Trust, Debdale Eco Centre, Hulme Community Garden Centre, Fir Tree Farm and especially with Tolhurst Organic Farm. We will explore the possibility of creating a more formal relationship with The Vegan Society and the Kindling Trust so that as some of the older and more experienced members with farming and growing knowledge become less active they are replaced. This may require VON to use some of its income for part-time payment for these services. Marketing products as grown vegan organically continues to be one of our main aims as does the certification of vegan organic farms. The latter is especially the case where vegan organic farming courses are organised.

Structure, governance and management

The Vegan-Organic Network is a company limited by guarantee governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 23rd May 2000. It is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission and is constituted under a trust deed dated 23rd May 2000.

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Appointment of trustees

The directors are responsible for the overall management and control of the charity. Under the memorandum and articles, new trustees are appointed as required by the trustees. In appointing new trustees the trustees have regard to a balance of skills, age and gender, and this is reviewed at least annually. There is a procedure for approval of proposed new trustees.

There is a working group comprising the trustees and volunteers who have specific roles; this group carries out the day-to-day functions and planning. Sub groups to deal with specific areas are established as needed. Functions are reviewed at least annually. Under the memorandum and articles there is a category of supporter members who do not have voting rights and receive various benefits such as the magazine Growing Green International.

Trustee induction and training

New trustees will be familiar with the work of the charity. New trustees will receive / be directed to: the memorandum and articles; minutes of previous meetings; the last annual accounts (with advice on their content); Charity Commission and Companies House advice and regulations and the Charity Commission pack for new trustees. Additionally new trustees are given one to one advice on relevant aspects depending on their knowledge.

Organisation

The board of trustees administers the charity. The board normally meets January, May, Sept or as required if there are special circumstances.

Related parties and co-operation with other organisations

None of our trustees receive remuneration or other benefit from their work with the charity. Any connection between a trustee or senior manager with any service providers must be disclosed to the full board of trustees in the same way as any other contractual relationship with a related party.

Daniel Graham, trading as Danny Zapparelli, a relative of David and Jane Graham, was paid for services totalling £14,315 (2015: £5,000).

Reference and administrative information

Charity Name: The Vegan-Organic Network. The name of the charitable company was changed from Vegan-Organic Trust to The Vegan Organic Network on 2nd March 2005.

Charity Number: 1080847

Company Registration Number: 3869080

Directors and trustees

The directors of the charitable company (the charity) are its trustees for the purpose of charity law. The trustees and officers serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Key management personnel: Trustees and Directors

David Graham	Chair of Trustees
Jane Graham	Trustee and Treasurer
Graham Cole	Trustee and Secretary

THE VEGAN-ORGANIC NETWORK**Registered Office**

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Bankers

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Pannone and Partners
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M3 2BU

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Trustees responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The charity trustees (who are also the directors of The Vegan-Organic Network for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each 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 period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting principles and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- Make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures that must be disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is appropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

By order of the board of trustees

David Graham
Chair



Date: 5th May 2017

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of THE VEGAN ORGANIC NETWORK

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 30th November 2016, which are set out on pages 8 to 17.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes 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 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The charity is required by company law to prepare accrued accounts and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants.

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(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 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.

Independent examiner's statement

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

AM King FCCA *A.M. King*
 Community Accountancy Service Ltd
 The Grange, Pilgrim Drive, Beswick, Manchester, M11 3TQ

Date: 5th May 2017

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30 NOVEMBER 2016

	Further Details	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds Year Ended 30 November 2016 £	Total Funds Year Ended 30 November 2015 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	(3)	56,411	-	56,411	38,784
Charitable Activities	(4)	41,913	-	41,913	5,693
Other Trading Activities	(5)	4,072	-	4,072	-
Investment Income		1,468	-	1,468	1,607
Total		<u>103,864</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>103,864</u>	<u>46,084</u>
Expenditure on:					
Raising Funds	(6)	12,206	-	12,206	11,437
Charitable Activities	(6)	33,107	1,500	34,607	19,539
Other	(6)	12	-	12	-
Total		<u>45,325</u>	<u>1,500</u>	<u>46,825</u>	<u>30,976</u>
Net gains/(losses) on investments		-	-	-	(241)
Net income/(expenditure)		<u>58,539</u>	<u>(1,500)</u>	<u>57,039</u>	<u>14,867</u>
Transfers between funds	(17)	-	-	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses):					
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of fixed assets		-	-	-	-
Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit pension schemes		-	-	-	-
Other gains/(losses)		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		<u>58,539</u>	<u>(1,500)</u>	<u>57,039</u>	<u>14,626</u>
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	(17)	209,838	17,605	227,443	212,817
Total funds carried forward	(17)	<u><u>268,377</u></u>	<u><u>16,105</u></u>	<u><u>284,482</u></u>	<u><u>227,443</u></u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 11 to 17 form part of these accounts.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 NOVEMBER 2016

	Notes	2016 £	2015 £
Fixed assets:			
Tangible assets	(11)	600	1
Fixed Asset Investments	(11)	29,820	29,457
Total fixed assets		<u>30,420</u>	<u>29,458</u>
Current assets:			
Stocks	(12)	2,626	1,476
Debtors	(13)	953	49
Cash at Bank & in Hand		251,814	197,300
Total current assets		<u>255,393</u>	<u>198,825</u>
Liabilities:			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	(14)	1,331	840
Net current assets or liabilities		<u>254,062</u>	<u>197,985</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		284,482	227,443
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	(16)	-	-
Provisions for liabilities		-	-
Total net assets or liabilities		<u><u>284,482</u></u>	<u><u>227,443</u></u>
The funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds	(17)	16,105	17,605
Unrestricted income funds	(17)	268,377	209,838
Revaluation reserve		-	-
Total unrestricted funds		<u>268,377</u>	<u>209,838</u>
Total charity funds		<u><u>284,482</u></u>	<u><u>227,443</u></u>

For the period in question the company was entitled to the exemption conferred by section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, and that no notice has been deposited under section 476 in relation to its accounts for the financial year; and the directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

Approved by the trustees on 5th May 2017

David Graham Chair



The notes on pages 11 to 17 form part of these accounts.

Statement of Cash Flows for the year ending 30 November 2016

	Year Ended 30 November 2016 £	Year Ended 30 November 2015 £
Net cash used in operating activities	53,946	13,825
Cash flows from investment activities:		
Interest	1,468	1,607
Purchase of fixed assets	(900)	-
Net cash provided by investing activities	<u>568</u>	<u>1,607</u>
Increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents during the year	54,514	15,432
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward	197,300	181,868
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward	<u><u>251,814</u></u>	<u><u>197,300</u></u>

Notes to the accounts

1. Accounting policies**(a) Basis of preparation and assessment of going concern**

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16th July 2014 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

(b) Reconciliation with previous Generally Accepted Accounting Practice

In preparing the accounts, the trustees have considered whether in applying the accounting policies required by FRS 102 and the Charities SORP FRS 102, a restatement of comparative items was needed. No restatements were required.

(c) Funds structure

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donor or trust deed. There are 3 restricted funds.

Unrestricted income funds comprise those funds which the trustees are free to use for any purpose in furtherance of the charitable objects. Unrestricted funds include designated funds where the trustees, at their discretion, have created a fund for a specific purpose.

Further details of each fund are disclosed in note 17.

(d) Income recognition

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

Donations are recognised when the charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that those conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank. Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due.

(e) Expenditure Recognition

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 settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. All expenses including support costs and governance costs are allocated or apportioned to the applicable expenditure headings. For more information on this attribution refer to note (g) below.

(f) Irrecoverable VAT

Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the expenditure heading for which it was incurred.

(g) Allocation of support and governance costs

Support costs have been allocated between governance costs and other support costs. Governance costs comprise all costs involving the public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice. These costs include costs related to independent examination and legal fees together with an apportionment of overhead and support costs.

Governance costs and support costs relating to charitable activities have been apportioned based on type of expense. The allocation of support and governance costs is analysed in note 8.

(h) Costs of raising funds

The costs of raising funds consists of merchandise, events, stall hire and fundraising.

(i) Charitable Activities

Costs of charitable activities include governance costs and an apportionment of support costs as shown in note 7.

(j) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

All assets costing more than £500 are capitalised and valued at historical cost. Depreciation is charged on the following basis:

Computers 33.33% on cost

(k) Realised gains and losses

All gains and losses are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities as they arise. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and their opening carrying value or their purchase value if acquired subsequent to the first day of the financial year. Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the fair value at the year end and their varying value. Realised and unrealised investment gains and losses are combined in the Statement of Financial Activities.

(l) Pensions

The charity currently does not administer contributions to a pension scheme as it does not employ any staff.

2. Related party transactions and trustees' expenses and remuneration

The trustees all give freely their time and expertise without any form of remuneration or other benefit in cash or kind (2015: £nil). Expenses paid to the trustees in the year totalled £3,669 (2015: £2,084). These expenses were made up of 1 trustee reimbursed for their travel expenses, telephone and stationery.

Daniel Graham, trading as Danny Zapparelli, a relative of David and Jane Graham, was paid for services totalling £14,315 (2015: £5,000).

3. Donations and Legacies

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds	Total Funds
	Year Ended 30	Year Ended	Year Ended	Year Ended
	November	30 November	30 November	30
	2016	2016	2016	November
	£	£	£	£
Donations	56,411	-	56,411	38,784
	56,411	-	56,411	38,784

4. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds	Total Funds
	Year Ended 30	Year Ended	Year Ended	Year Ended
	November	30 November	30 November	30
	2016	2016	2016	November
	£	£	£	£
Income from Events	41,913	-	41,913	5,693
	41,913	-	41,913	5,693

5. Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds	Total Funds
	Year Ended 30	Year Ended	Year Ended	Year Ended
	November	30 November	30 November	30
	2016	2016	2016	November
	£	£	£	2015
				£
Merchandise	4,072		4,072	-
	4,072	-	4,072	-

6. Expenditure

	Promotion of Vegan Organic System of Agriculture and Horticulture	Year Ended 30 November 2016	Year Ended 30 November 2015
	£	£	£
Expenditure on raising funds:			
Merchandise	-	-	1,383
Event costs	11,087	11,087	8,881
Stall Hire	700	700	992
Fundraising and Advertising Costs	419	419	181
	12,206	12,206	11,437
Expenditure on charitable activities:			
Employment Costs	-	-	-
Freelance Workers	15,836	15,836	5,417
Volunteer Expenses	214	214	549
Books	378	378	-
Bursaries	1,500	1,500	-
Travel Expenses	2,623	2,623	2,119
Bank Charges	109	109	126
Minor Equipment	212	212	470
Grants Awarded	2,730	2,730	1,817
Refreshments	58	58	-
Repairs and Maintenance	13	13	-
IT Maintenance	580	580	65
Telephone	895	895	429
Insurance	108	108	165
Governance Costs	1,202	1,202	840
Post, Printing & Stationery	7,848	7,848	6,542
Depreciation	301	301	1,000
	34,607	34,607	19,539
Other expenditure:			
Miscellaneous	12	12	-
	12	12	-
	46,825	46,825	30,976

7. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

As per note 6.

8. Allocation of governance and support costs

The breakdown of support costs and how these were allocated between governance and other support costs is shown below:

	General Support	Governance	Total	Basis of apportionment
Accountancy Fees	-	840	840	type of expense
AGM Costs	-	194	194	type of expense
Book-keeping	168	-	168	type of expense
	<u>168</u>	<u>1,034</u>	<u>1,202</u>	

9. Analysis of staff costs

	Year Ended 30 November 2016 £	Year Ended 30 November 2015 £
Wages and Salaries	-	-
Redundancy	-	-
Social Security Costs	-	-
Pension Costs	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

The average number of employees during the year was nil (previous year: nil).
The charity considers its key management personnel comprises the trustees.

10. Independent Examiner Fees

	Year Ended 30 November 2016 £	Year Ended 30 November 2015 £
Independent examination fees	840	840
	<u>840</u>	<u>840</u>

11. Fixed Assets**Tangible Fixed Assets**

	Computers and Equipment	Total
Cost	£	£
At 1 December 2015	11,751	11,751
Additions	900	900
At 30 November 2016	<u>12,651</u>	<u>12,651</u>
Depreciation		
At 1 December 2015	11,750	11,750
Charge for Year	301	301
At 30 November 2016	<u>12,051</u>	<u>12,051</u>
NET BOOK VALUE		
At 30 November 2016	<u>600</u>	<u>600</u>
At 30 November 2015	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

Fixed Assets Investments

	2016	2015
	£	£
Valuation at 01.12.15	29,457	29,305
Additions	-	-
Unrealised Gains/(Losses)	-	(241)
Realised Gains	363	393
Valuation at 30.11.16	<u>29,820</u>	<u>29,457</u>

12. Stocks

	2016	2015
	£	£
Stocks of Magazines, CD's, DVD's and Books	<u>2,626</u>	<u>1,476</u>

13. Analysis of debtors

	2016	2015
	£	£
Debtors	939	-
Prepayments	-	49
Other debtors	14	-
	<u>953</u>	<u>49</u>

Debtors and prepayments related to unrestricted funds both in 2016 and 2015.

14. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2016	2015
	£	£
Creditors	323	-
Short-term compensated absences (holiday pay)	-	-
Other creditors and accruals	1,008	840
	<u>1,331</u>	<u>840</u>

15. Deferred income

The charity did not have any deferred income.

16. Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	2016	2015
	£	£
Provisions for liabilities	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

17. Analysis of charitable funds

Analysis of movements in unrestricted funds

	Balance at 1 December 2015	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers	Balance at 30 November 2016
	£	£	£	£	£
General Fund	162,153	103,864	(45,325)	-	220,692
Designated Fund	47,685	-	-	-	47,685
	<u>209,838</u>	<u>103,864</u>	<u>(45,325)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>268,377</u>

Name of unrestricted fund:

General Fund
Designated Fund

Description, nature and purpose of the fund

The "free reserves" after allowing for all designated funds
To establish and maintain and centre

Analysis of movements in restricted funds

	Balance at 1 December 2015	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers	Balance at 30 November 2016
	£	£	£	£	£
Donations - Bursary Fund	11,989	-	(1,500)	-	10,489
Donations - Events Fund	4,058	-	-	-	4,058
Donations - Centre	1,558	-	-	-	1,558
	<u>17,605</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,500)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,105</u>

Name of restricted fund:

Donations - Bursary Fund
Donations - Events Fund
Donations - Centre

Description, nature and purpose of the fund

to provide grants to students
to support VON attendance at events
to establish and maintain a centre

18. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	600	-	-	600
Fixed asset investments	29,820	-	-	29,820
Cash at bank and in hand	188,024	47,685	16,105	251,814
Other net current assets/(liabilities)	2,248	-	-	2,248
Total	<u>220,692</u>	<u>47,685</u>	<u>16,105</u>	<u>284,482</u>

19. Financial Instruments

The charity only has financial assets and liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised on a transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at an amortised cost using the effective interest method.

20. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	Year Ended 30 November 2016	Year Ended 30 November 2015
	£	£
Net movement in funds	57,039	14,867
Add back depreciation	301	1,000
Deduct investment income	(1,468)	(1,607)
Deduct gains/add back losses on investments	(363)	(152)
Decrease/(increase) in stocks	(1,150)	572
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	(904)	(49)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	491	(806)
Net cash used in operating activities	<u>53,946</u>	<u>13,825</u>

THE VEGAN-ORGANIC NETWORK

Report from David Graham, Trustee and Chair VON

This year, 2016, VON celebrates 20 years since its founding. It coincides with Tolhurst Organic Farm, one of VON's principal centres celebrating their 40th anniversary and the announcement that Tolly's book, *Back to Earth*, will be published in September. Tolly – as Iain Tolhurst is known with affection – was the first farm to obtain the Stockfree Organic symbol in 2004. About 40 supporters joined in the celebration at the farm that saw David unveil the plaque on the new extension that houses the upgrade to the toilets, kitchen and accommodation funded by VON's members

David reiterated that VON's commitment is to non-violence, peace and justice for people, animals, and the environment - to all life on earth. Tolly spoke in a similar vein emphasising that Tolhurst Organics is a unique long term experiment, and an excellent example of working with nature, without artificial chemicals or animal inputs.

At VON's 2016 AGM David asked the meeting to take note that considering his age and that of Jane's, their work as VON trustees together with other responsibilities will decline. He presented a paper 'Administrative Structures and Practice 2016' in order to clarify how VON works, its responsibilities and the role of current key workers. He stressed the need for at least two more trustees to work with himself, Jane Graham and Graham Cole, with one, preferably two, having transport and the time to visit farms, with another having some knowledge of farming.

Therefore, those carrying on the work of VON when Jane and David have left will be familiar with the full administrative requirements. This paper also makes it clear how we all work together and our connections with other organisations that forward the aims of VON. It details financial arrangements and summarises VON's relationships, grants and plans regarding farms and bursaries. This financial report details our income and expenditure and demonstrates that the Trustees have reserved funds to ensure that our responsibilities are met with farms that are currently or will be, in VON's trusteeship.

VON's membership of 450 members has remained about the same as when it was founded in 1996, 20 years ago. This could be a result of our literature being freely available on-line. Although the number of vegans for health, environmental or ethical reasons, has significantly increased from 150,000 in 2006 to about 542,000 people aged 15 or over (MORI poll for the Vegan Society) we face the challenge of communicating how food is grown. The term organic appears to be sufficient for most when buying produce. That fish, blood, and bone from the slaughterhouse and animal manure from farmed animals are widely used on conventional organic farms is VON's major objective in making this connection. This applies not only to vegans but to all who are concerned with animal exploitation, feeding the people and climate change. This challenge remains central to our educational programme.

Farm Inspections: In addition to the administration of VON David is engaged with promoting the stockfree organic growing method, ensuring, with Jenny Hall of Firtree Farm, that the certification inspections are carried out accurately, and to recruit and train more inspectors. As some farms that we visit entail long journeys VON would welcome help with accommodation. VON is most grateful to those members who already help with this.

David went through the details outlined in his report. There was discussion about payment for certification inspections. It was agreed that first year inspections would be free and all subsequent years would have to include a fee which would cover the cost of travel and, depending on the farmer's circumstances, the time involved.

It was considered desirable for producers and consumers to be in close contact. And that Community Supported Agriculture should be encouraged. This is a model that can be repeated everywhere.

VON's logo was discussed as there was some concern that we do not have legal control of this, and that it should be listed as our official Trade Mark. There has been discussion about this with the Vegan Society; it appears that our use over 20 years establishes our right to claim our symbol exclusively.

The following market gardens and farms have been certified in 2016 by the Soil Association or VON as being in compliance with VON's Stockfree Organic Standards: Kindling Trust, Woodbank Park, Stockport; Debdale Eco-Centre, Manchester; Growing with Nature, Pilling, Lancs; Tolhurst Farm, Pangbourne, Berks; Growing with Grace, Clapham, Yorks; Firtree Farm, Merseyside; Lazy Millennial Farms, California, USA independently certified adhering to VON Standards; Shumei Natural Agriculture, Yatesbury, Wiltshire, part of an international network, certification pending; La Ferme de L'Aube, Quebec Canada.

Close cooperation with those farms certified has grown over the years and they have become major sources of promoting VON. We aim to achieve increased certification in 2017. It will be interesting to see whether VON's partnership with the popular Vegan Show in Moldova will result in vegan organic farms coming into being in that country.

Bursary Fund Grants: The current vegan organic permaculture courses charge £450 - £550 with some places free or at reduced cost. A VON bursary is currently £300, but before a grant is considered applicants must show that they have applied for a free or reduced place on the course. Much administration work has been avoided by clearly stating that applicants must be engaged in agriculture or an allied field. At one time interest from investments helped top up the fund – this is no longer the case which means that although donations are made towards the fund, it is depleted with every grant made. If six bursaries are awarded annually the fund will be exhausted after five years. Therefore we need to raise funds to ensure the Bursary Fund continues – to train future vegan organic farmers. VON extends its thanks to the course organisers who have competently replaced those courses that have been discontinued at the former Welsh College of Agriculture and Schumacher College.

Shumei Natural Agriculture - Japanese Farm Yatesbury Wiltshire: Shumei farmers do not keep animals or use any products derived from animals. Their philosophy and agricultural practices are to yield the most productive and beneficial results for nourishing the human body, mind and spirit. Although their growing methods may differ from those of VON they are vegan organic. They have more than 5000 farmers and growers not only in Japan, their headquarters, but also in many countries in the world. A meeting is being organised with their farmers to clarify how we can work together to promote our common purpose. Following our preliminary discussions the courses, jointly sponsored by Shumei and VON, are planned to start in spring 2017

Farm DVDs and Growing Green International: Has digital media replaced the need for DVDs and literature? It was considered important to have Growing Green International, DVDs and VON literature to distribute at events, although social media is of growing importance as an educational and discussion tool. Members who have been consulted prefer to receive hard copy. However, there is a need to monitor the production of our material as it is all available on our website. Significant savings in postage, print, paper and time would be made if more members opted to access literature via the internet.

Marketing vegan organic products: This remains a major objective for VON. David described the amount of intensive work when the grain from Rufford Farm in Sussex was collected and milled and the flour marketed. There is ongoing discussion with Hodmedod who specialise in marketing pulses, also with Plamil, about supplying products that have been grown vegan organically and displaying our logo on the packaging. However, we may have to fundraise to employ someone to pursue this work in order to achieve a positive outcome.

The reports from VON's AGM from key workers are detailed below. These provide a comprehensive picture of how we work to achieve our aims for a cruelty-free agriculture and world.

Trustees David and Jane Graham and Graham Cole expressed their thanks to the volunteers. It is they who are the mainstay of VON and who have helped make it into an organisation that promotes an ethical, sustainable economically viable farming and growing system.

AGM Reports:

Naomi Jones - Gift Aid: Naomi said that she had submitted the claim, which had not been made since 2012, and that this had resulted in HMRC paying £20,000 into VON's Triodos account (cheering!) She said that claims can be made from annual Direct Debits. Naomi will be asked to take on this work and continue to make all Gift Aid claims. She said that she would consider this and that Jessica (Membership Secretary) would be asked to send her copies of all Gift Aid payments and that copies of all other Gift Aid donations should be sent to her.

Education: Gordon Newman and Rebecca Hughes Hall considered that education is still the most important part of VON's work. Even vegans don't see that there is cruelty and abuse to animals when domesticated animals are killed and their remains returned to the soil. We need to educate people that green manures are excellent for growing all crops and are kind to the environment. Some visual ideas could be considered, such as images of blood red soil as opposed to green/brown soil.

Daniel - Events: He briefly outlined his work over the past year. He proposes making some changes in 2017. Instead of the Snowdon event he is looking into a weekend vegan camping event near a stockfree organic farm with additional indoor accommodation nearby. Chyan Field /Swamp Circus in Cornwall were suggested. This would bring this event to a whole new group interested in the vegan way of life and, most importantly, demonstrate and understand VON's work to establish and promote vegan organic farming. Seeing food being grown on a vegan farm would be a new and educational experience for most, hopefully resulting in increased support for VON. Meeting said we still want the cake!

Vegan products which could carry our symbol still need a great deal of work. Discussions with Plamil have shown that as with so many plant crops the raw material is collected from a number of farms who may have different growing methods that could include vegan organic. To meet our requirements commercial suppliers of products would have to ask each farmer to give details of their growing methods. This is not impossible, if only we can get them to do it! Plamil have said they will help Daniel draw up a questionnaire that they will jointly send to farmers.

Vegan or Veganic? Because products in Canada/USA use veganic to indicate vegan and organic should we also adopt this term? The majority of the meeting preferred to keep the word Vegan whenever VON needs to describe our method, using descriptions on products such as Certified Vegan Organic Growing or Certified Vegan Grown. Stockfree Organic Certified – Farming and Growing or Stockfree Certified – Farming and Growing will be used when we are negotiating with farmers. It was emphasised that we hope that the symbol itself will become established globally to indicate products grown using vegan organic methods.

Promotion: Snappy videos on YouTube. All past GG Magazines freely available online with an invitation to join, after which members receive the current issue. Facebook etc. Graham said that 3 new members had joined via Facebook. School visits to educate how all plant foods are grown and to include awareness of wildlife and ecology. A monthly newsletter would be desirable and could include planting information.

Hulme Community Garden Centre: Kath Gavin reported on the forthcoming Abundance Festival on 1st October. This will transform an inner city area with stalls promoting veganism and vegan pizzas made in their newly crafted clay oven. She also wanted to know VON's position on the keeping of bees. This is permissible if the honey is not harvested by humans. They are preparing a pilot scheme for refugees to work in the Centre.

General discussion on the idea of a tour bus to take groups round the stockfree organic farms.

Malcolm Horne: GGI – Much appreciation expressed at the range of articles and very readable presentation. 44 pages were welcome, although the meeting wondered whether there had been any remarks about the 40 page issue. The meeting was aware of the difficulty in acquiring an attractive cover picture. Were members, farms and other possible sources approached early enough for them to submit colourful photos? David said that Malcolm sought eye-catching submissions for the cover well in advance of publication and that this had been an issue since day one. The GGIs that had sold well included some early issues like #10, 26 especially, 32, 34, with 36 and 37 well received.

Malcolm has no objections to all the back issues of GGI being freely available online, but John Curtis has reservations, as explained in the agenda. The meeting agreed that unless there are objections or other proposals when GGI 38 is published only 36+37 will be freely available online - and the other back issues will be available on request to members only. In future the back issues will probably be available to members via a simple link, with the members' forum (which is fiddly to operate) being phased out. This would mean that a lapsed member (or anyone they gave the link to) would be able to see the back issues.

Daniel M showed the dramatic picture of a woman on the cover of the German publication Vegan. It certainly made an impact – but was considered as sexist by the meeting.

Humanure: David said that the current position is that its use is not allowed under Soil Association and EU regulations. If tests being carried out show that all harmful pathogens and heavy metals are removed (by ecological systems) this regulation may change and humanure be permitted in organic farming. The use of human faeces (bio-solids) is an important discussion in the offing. It should be noted, however, that Vegan Organic farming where green manures, compost and mulching, have been used for more than 20 years demonstrates this system creates and maintains healthy soil that in turn makes healthy bodies. Farms that have composting toilets and animal sanctuaries are advised by VON to use the faeces on non-vegetable areas and land not certified by VON.

GGI on-line: In principle there was general agreement with the reservation that Malcolm's suggestion that we copy the Vegan Society if it did not result in VON losing members and thus income. VON is not comparable to the Vegan Society, which has income not only from a comparatively large membership, but also from selling its logo, and from property with significant legacies. Needs further consultation and maybe a trial period. Do we know how many non-members join? Price worth paying? Meeting's view was that although VON, from time to time, receives generous donations, the income from members guaranteed its continuity. Agreed that website needs updating – we will go through website with Rachel and ask key workers to make/suggest changes to their specific interest.

Members' Forum: Rename to Members' Area or Information area. Other suggestions welcome.

John Read: Appreciation of John and Helen's continued acting as VON Ambassadors by visiting far-flung projects thus making an important personal link where otherwise one might not materialise. John, Helen and Graham Cole will represent VON on 24th September at Tolly's 40th Anniversary as organic growers and book launch. As mentioned elsewhere a meeting to organise a course with Shumei is being organised. Meeting noted John and Helen's 5 star rating for Beans and Greens and prepared to dust down their sporrans.

Jessica Wintrip: Digital take up noted - encouraging - how many digital? Also though membership increase small this, together with overseas take good for VON. Could we check the 26 gratis – David said he would help with this.

New membership rates

Amended version

Current Membership Rates	Proposed by Jessica	Proposed by Dan
UK £20	UK £20	UK £20
UK low income £16	UK low income £16	
Rest of world £25	Rest of world £25	Rest of world £25
Organisation £25		
Family £25		
Digital only £17	Digital only £17	Digital £12
Digital only low income £13	Digital only low income £13	
Life £400	Life £400	Life £400

Final decision to be made before publication of the next GGI and new general info leaflet.

Terminology. When you join VON do you become a member or supporter? Which term is more positive? Much debate. The relevant age in GGI encourages SUPPORT and refers to Membership Secretary. No clear decision – meeting suggested that GGI could ask for feedback from VON members/supporters.

Five year plan: VON published its first five year plan almost 15 years ago and these have provided guidelines. Meeting agreed that VON should discuss another five year plan, even if all the objectives are not achieved as this provides clarification of purpose and how we are progressing towards our objectives. This, once again, raised the question of employing someone to do it.

Snowdon and publicity: Daniel covers Snowdon and another project in his report. Publicity and media – meeting agreed. Do we have the resources to do this? See last sentence above.

Posters: David said he was more than surprised to see five posters promoting different aspects of why vegan at a motorway service station. Meeting decided, desirable, but that we needed more time to make decision about this.

Meeting wishes to record its thanks to Jessica and are aware that she has demanding work teaching and family commitments. Jessica - Thank you.

Maggi Taylor: Please refer to Maggi's report re additional vegan organic farms and farms pending to be added to list. Meeting aware that the current vegan farms are widespread therefore unless you are within a reasonable distance of a vegan organic farm it's difficult to procure vegan grown veg. The map showing the location of vegan farms should be revisited with a view to making any alterations necessary then publishing in GGI, could also be a useful and interesting leaflet printed on the riverside of the farms list with info about volunteering. Consult Nick Ewing who has produced a draft.

The non-commercial growers could also prove to be a step towards members meeting together and publicising their growing method and maybe make available surplus veg to other members. Meeting agreed that John C's booklet will be a valuable aid when discussing growing methods with other growers.

John Curtis: VON has been trying for several years for the Information Sheets to be made into one coherent booklet. The series of 10 were difficult to display on our stalls as they soon became out of numerical order and untidy. Therefore, the meeting welcomed John's time and skill producing an A5, 64 page booklet with the provisional title: Grow Fruit and Veg organically – I (sub-title) using no animal by- products. The meeting noted John's suggested low price and his reasoning for this. The meeting suggested that that £2 cover price with the discounts as he suggests would not be excessive for the booklet, but were happy to accept his views on this. Amazon is being boycotted; the meeting agreed there were objections about similar sites. When John circulates the booklet as he suggests please note his request for corrections and alternative suggestion to Amazon.

Jan Deckers Book: Meeting decided to ask for review copy and base our orders on the review and cost of books.

Graham Burnett: His positive feedback noted. VON needs to follow up the bursaries that have been granted over the past two or three years to see how the recipients they have benefited vegan organic growing. Volunteer needed. Please contact David.

Firtree Community Growers – Jenny Hall: Meeting wishes Jenny well and appreciates her personal circumstances. Also that as difficult as her life is at present she has no plans to give up the farm, but to run this less intensively until her children are settled at school.

Meeting was pleased to hear that, with the expert help of Matthew Towers; the forest garden was thriving, and would like to visit at a convenient time before winter sets in.

David has had discussions with Jenny about a packhouse and juicing building and will continue to liaise with her. The meeting fully supports Jenny and will continue to do so. We look forward to her farm developing as a model for vegan organic growing and marketing.

Rachel Harrison: Thought the label should read Certified Vegan Organic Grown. Also suggested we get some famous Youtubers on board to promote VON. It was agreed that David, Daniel and Rachel would check out the website to update or erase various items and requested that other key workers do likewise with items that related to them.

Daniel Mettke: Daniel referred to his agenda paper and referred to building an alliance with groups that shared common values. The meeting agreed that VON would cooperate with such a positive and timely move particularly as VON was working with other international organisations. Daniel explained the need for a common definition of stockfree/vegan organic with products and farming. He said that they were concerned that all farmers were engaged and included in the discussion about growing systems and that, ideally, there could be an organic standard to which all would adhere. Daniel showed the dramatic cover page of the German Vegan magazine which met with varying degrees of approval. He was asked to email a copy for distribution.

The meeting expressed their appreciation of Daniel's interesting, thoughtful and positive contribution to the discussion and looked forward to further collaboration.

Graham Cole: The meeting wishes Graham much success in his new post which was more varied having an extensive orchard in addition to veg growing. It was hoped that at some convenient time members could visit. His popular DVD, Growing Green – Grow your own Fruit and Veg had been reprinted and the value of further DVDs, possibly covering several vegan farms interspersed with shots of abattoirs was discussed. It was agreed more thought was necessary to come to a decision whether DVDs were at all necessary as the video could be viewed on VON's website.

As Graham will be at Tolly's book launch on 24th together with John and Helen Read they can represent VON, therefore there is no necessity for David to be present especially as he will be travelling to that area shortly to discuss the Shumei course.

Meeting thanked David Mather for his continued scrutiny and authorisation of expense claims before they can be paid and recorded for the accountants.

Meeting closed at 5pm.

Meeting thanked Jane and David for their hospitality and a special thank you to Jane for the abundance of marvellous food throughout the day.

There were 15 reports to discuss, some requiring more consideration than we were able to give time to. This means that they have to be referred back to the group.

AGM: It was decided that the 2017 AGM would be held at High Lane, Chorlton on Saturday 23rd September from 12 noon.