

THE LUNCH CLUB



Annual Report 2023/2024





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MESSAGE FROM INGA LUKSEVICIUTE, OUR CHAIR

The Lunch Club has remained steadfast in our commitment to our community... and finding innovative solutions to combat hunger.

As Chair of The Lunch Club, I am honoured to reflect on our almost full first year of service and impact.

The Lunch Club has successfully launched and continued its mission to provide nourishing meals to vulnerable people and those facing social isolation. This year, being our first, has brought numerous challenges, yet the Lunch Club has remained steadfast in our commitment to our community. For this, I am immensely grateful to our Board of Trustees, sponsors and committed volunteers.

With the support of our dedicated volunteers, generous donors, and partners, we have expanded

our services and reached more individuals in need. Our work goes beyond providing meals; it offers hope and a sense of dignity to those we serve.

Looking ahead, we are excited to build on our progress. We will continue to enhance our programs and find innovative solutions to combat hunger. Our vision remains clear: a community where no one goes hungry or feels lonely.

Thank you for being a crucial part of our journey. Together, we are making a meaningful difference in the lives of many.



MESSAGE FROM RICHARD PIKE, OUR CEO

Creating a welcoming space where vulnerable individuals can come together, share nutritious meals and form new friendships.

Thank you for taking the time to read our 2024 annual report.

The idea for The Lunch Club first came to me in January 2023, while I was still working as an HR Director in the City of London. I wanted to take all the skills and experience I had gained during my many years in the corporate world and put them towards a more fulfilling and impactful charitable venture. Several years ago, I set up a corporate volunteering programme with the Ace of Clubs charity, who provide support for vulnerable people in Clapham, South London, and while volunteering with them in late 2022, I was inspired to replicate their incredible work in my local area of Streatham.

The Lunch Club Streatham is dedicated to addressing the pressing issues of food insecurity and social isolation within the local community. Over the past year, we have worked tirelessly to create a welcoming space where vulnerable individuals can come together, share nutritious meals, and form new friendships.

It's amazing to reflect on what we've achieved in such a short time and how quickly things have progressed. By May 2023, we were a registered charity. In August, we successfully secured our first funding. By October, we had organised supplies of surplus food

and built a team of volunteers. On November 3rd, 2023, we opened our doors for the first time and served our first meals.

We started off gradually, opening one day a week on Fridays. Three months later we opened our second day, and in July 2024 we will be operating three days a week. Our ambition is to be a Monday-to-Friday service by the end of 2024. Our success is reflected in the stories of those we support, whose lives have been helped by the warmth and support of our dedicated team of volunteers.

Our accomplishments so far have been significant and wouldn't have been possible without the collective effort of our community partners, donors, and volunteers. They have allowed us to build the foundation of success that we will build upon over the coming years.

As you read through our annual report, we will highlight what an amazing first year it has been – the journey and challenges we faced, the milestones we've achieved and our hopes and aspirations for the year ahead.

I personally want to thank the board of Trustees and all our wonderful volunteers, who have supported me in this venture and have been instrumental in our success.



MESSAGE FROM SCOTT BOWDEN, OUR TREASURER

We're excited about our future plans – to expand our service, be a local employer... and to play an even greater role in our community.

As a long-term resident of Streatham I was delighted to join The Lunch Club's board of trustees as treasurer.

The Lunch Club's stated aim is to tackle food insecurity and social isolation. Working in the NHS I am particularly aware how any change we can make to help people lead healthier lives, and therefore reduce inequalities in health outcomes, can have such an impact on both health and social care services. People who experience food poverty are more likely to suffer from diet related diseases such as obesity, diabetes and heart disease, and social isolation can affect both physical and mental health.

The Lunch Club has quickly become a welcoming space where people can enjoy good food and good company. We have had some very pleasing feedback from our beneficiaries on the quality of the food that we serve, which is in no small part down to our partners and volunteers.

Through our founder Richard's tireless efforts, we have generated a remarkable £47,000 income in less than a year of operation, which has enabled us to set up our services and invest in equipment, and we are immensely grateful to all our individual donors, from whom we have raised almost £12,000. We are

very aware though that we need to continue to raise funds to meet our objectives.

We are also very grateful to be given the opportunity to work in partnership with all those organisations who have awarded us grants and we are look forward to developing and strengthening our relationships with them in 2024/25, and to winning the additional grants that we are going to need.

We're very excited about our plans for the coming years – to expand our service, to be a local employer, to reach as many beneficiaries as we possibly can and to play an even greater role in our community.

I would like to thank Tanya Rogers for such a thorough job of examining our accounts, Richard and my fellow trustees, and our amazing volunteers who give up so much of their time to provide such wonderful food and fantastic service.



ABOUT THE LUNCH CLUB

The Lunch Club tackles food insecurity and social isolation by providing regular meals, social interaction, and support to vulnerable individuals in our community who are facing poverty or financial hardship.

Our service is targeted towards the sections of the population highlighted in the Lambeth Council Food Poverty and Insecurity Action Plan, namely:

- **Low-income households**
- **Black and minority ethnic groups**
- **Men living alone**
- **The homeless**
- **People suffering from mental health issues**
- **Frail and poor older people**
- **People with disabilities**

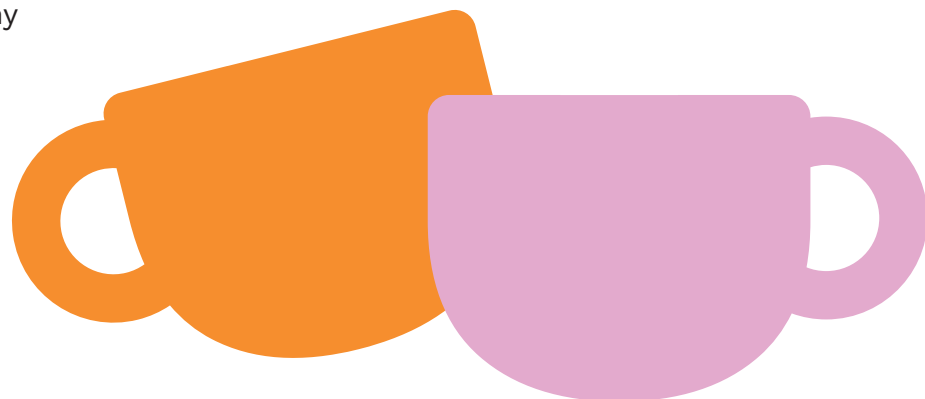
We have been providing nutritious, freshly cooked hot lunches to eat in or takeaway since November 2023 to people who struggle to provide this for themselves or their loved ones.

The Lunch Club relies on generous donations of surplus food from the local retail community and charity food hubs. Our dedicated team of volunteers cooks then turns this surplus food into amazing, healthy lunches.

We offer these meals in a safe and welcoming environment where beneficiaries can socialise and form new friendships, helping to alleviate loneliness and social isolation.

As we get to know our beneficiaries and any concerns or issues they may face, we plan to act as a gateway to other charities, organisations and the local authorities to support these individuals. We are already developing relationships with a homeless charity, food banks and refugee charities. We plan to employ specialised Support Workers to further strengthen this approach.

By providing this service, we hope to help people's physical and mental well-being. It is a holistic initiative that combines meals, social engagement, and collaborative efforts to support the lives of those most in need.



OUR MISSION:

The Lunch Club's mission is to provide nutritious meals, social interaction and support for vulnerable individuals in our local community.

OUR VISION:

To help our communities become places where no one is hungry or lonely.



THE STORY SO FAR

The Lunch Club's success has been built on a clear and focused plan from the very beginning. We identified five key areas essential for our success.

Without these, the whole project would not have taken off.

1. FUNDING

After establishing our board of Trustees and registering with the Charity Commission, our first step was to secure funding. Throughout August 2023, we submitted numerous funding applications.

To date, we have raised £47,000, which has enabled us to purchase essential kitchen equipment, a fridge and freezer, lease a van for surplus food pickups, and additional food costs. We would like to thank the following organisations for their generous support:

- Lambeth Council
- London Community Foundation
- The National Lottery
- Sainsbury's
- Albert Hunt Trust
- Sovereign Network Group
- All the wonderful people who contributed to our Crowdfunder campaign

2. VENUE & STORAGE

Finding the right venue was a challenge. We needed a space with a commercial kitchen, seating for over fifty people and storage for our food and equipment. There aren't many places in Streatham that tick all our boxes, and after a few months of searching, we were fortunate enough to be directed towards The Woodlawns Centre. This has everything we needed and has been the perfect venue to start our charity.

I want to say a special thank you to Cheryl Edwards, The Woodlawns Centre Manager, who has been, and continues to be, a tremendous supporter of ours.

3. SURPLUS FOOD SUPPLY

Food waste is a significant issue, with the UK wasting approximately 9.52 million tonnes of food annually. The hospitality and food service sectors generate around 920,000 tonnes of this waste, while the retail sector contributes around 270,000 tonnes. Only 7% of the total surplus food in UK retail and manufacturing is currently being redistributed.

The Lunch Club has partnered with The Felix Project, Fareshare and Neighbourly, which connects us with charity food hubs such as The Healthy Living Platform and Critical Support as well as retailers like Sainsbury's, Tesco, Co-op, Aldi and M&S. We would like to say a huge thanks to all the organisations that

have provided us with surplus food during our 1st year of operations.

The surplus food we collect from these partners provides the majority of the ingredients needed to serve one-hundred plus meals over the two days we are open. We never know what ingredients we'll receive each week, making it a bit like a large-scale version of 'Ready, Steady, Cook!' But we love a challenge. We also offer surplus food in our community pantry, allowing beneficiaries to take home a few items they need.

Each week, we do our little bit to help reduce the amount of food that goes to waste in our local community.

Surplus food in our community pantry





4. VOLUNTEERS

We have been blown away by all the fantastic support from the many volunteers who helped get The Lunch Club up and running.

Through the volunteering website Reach, we've been able to find Trustees, Graphic Designers, a Website Designer, Social Media Support, and a Copywriter who have all helped us get the infrastructure in place. From leafleting the cafés, shops, gyms, and the library along Streatham High Road, we have seen an amazing response from local people wanting to help out on our lunch days.

Something we hadn't anticipated when we first set up The Lunch Club is the benefit many of our volunteers felt of giving back. We've seen so many positive impacts, from providing them with a sense of community and being part of a team, to regaining

confidence, making new friendships, gaining new skills and being able to switch off, for a few hours, from life's worries. It is recognised that volunteering is linked to better physical, mental and emotional health, and this is something we're proud to support.

There are far too many to name here, but a massive collective thank you goes out to each and every one of you.

Jerline is one of our volunteers. She fled St Lucia with her two young sons and has been placed in an asylum seekers hotel in Streatham for the past 14 months. She loves to cook and help people, but she didn't have the opportunity until she found The Lunch Club. She's now become an invaluable part of our team, and what a cook she is!



"I've been volunteering with The Lunch Club for the past few months and it has been a wonderful experience."



"The team of volunteers were more than delighted to welcome me on board, where I was able to give back to my community. I have gotten support, love and also learnt new skills from the volunteers as well as learning different cultural dishes. My selfless dedication and contribution to the individuals in my community has brought joy to my heart. I am so glad to be part of the team and to help prepare fresh delicious hot meals for vulnerable individuals, where they sit, eat and enjoy."

Jerline

5. BENEFICIARIES

And last, but by no means least, the reason we are doing what we are doing – our beneficiaries, who have quickly become our friends. We have our regulars, who join us every Tuesday and Friday, others who come along when they can, and we are always seeing new faces

turn up. We constantly network with other Streatham charities and organisations to spread the word and reach as many vulnerable people as possible. **The growing number of people we welcome through our doors shows we are on the right path.**



WORDS FROM OUR BENEFICIARIES

“There is a good camaraderie and atmosphere at the lunch club, the staff are welcoming and when you live on your own it is nice to come to something like this in the community.”

Ron

“I enjoy the community aspect of the lunch club. It is nice to talk to people and good for people living on their own. I enjoy seeing the regular faces of people that come here.”

Mike

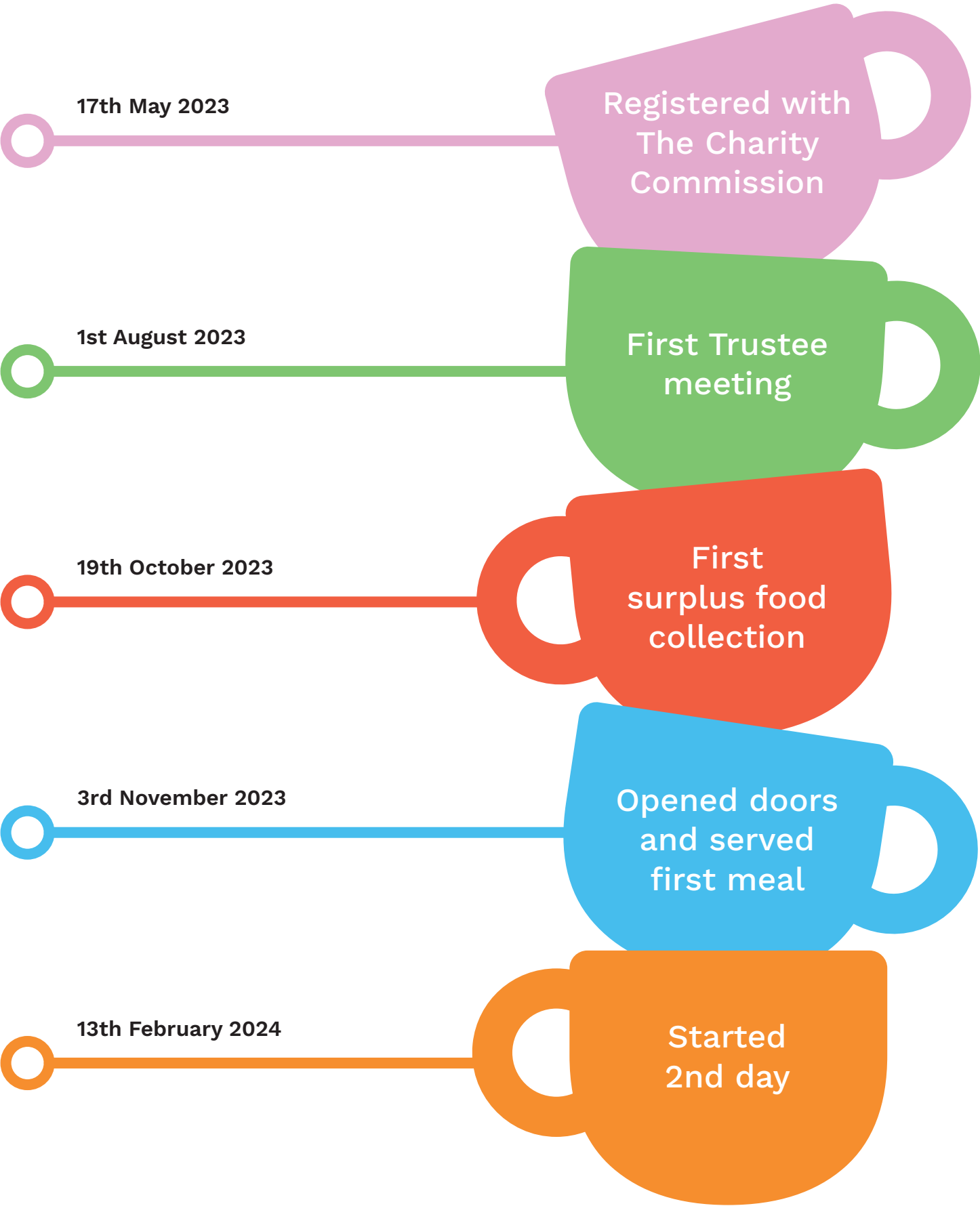
“It is a good thing for the community and we really appreciate it.”

Dolly

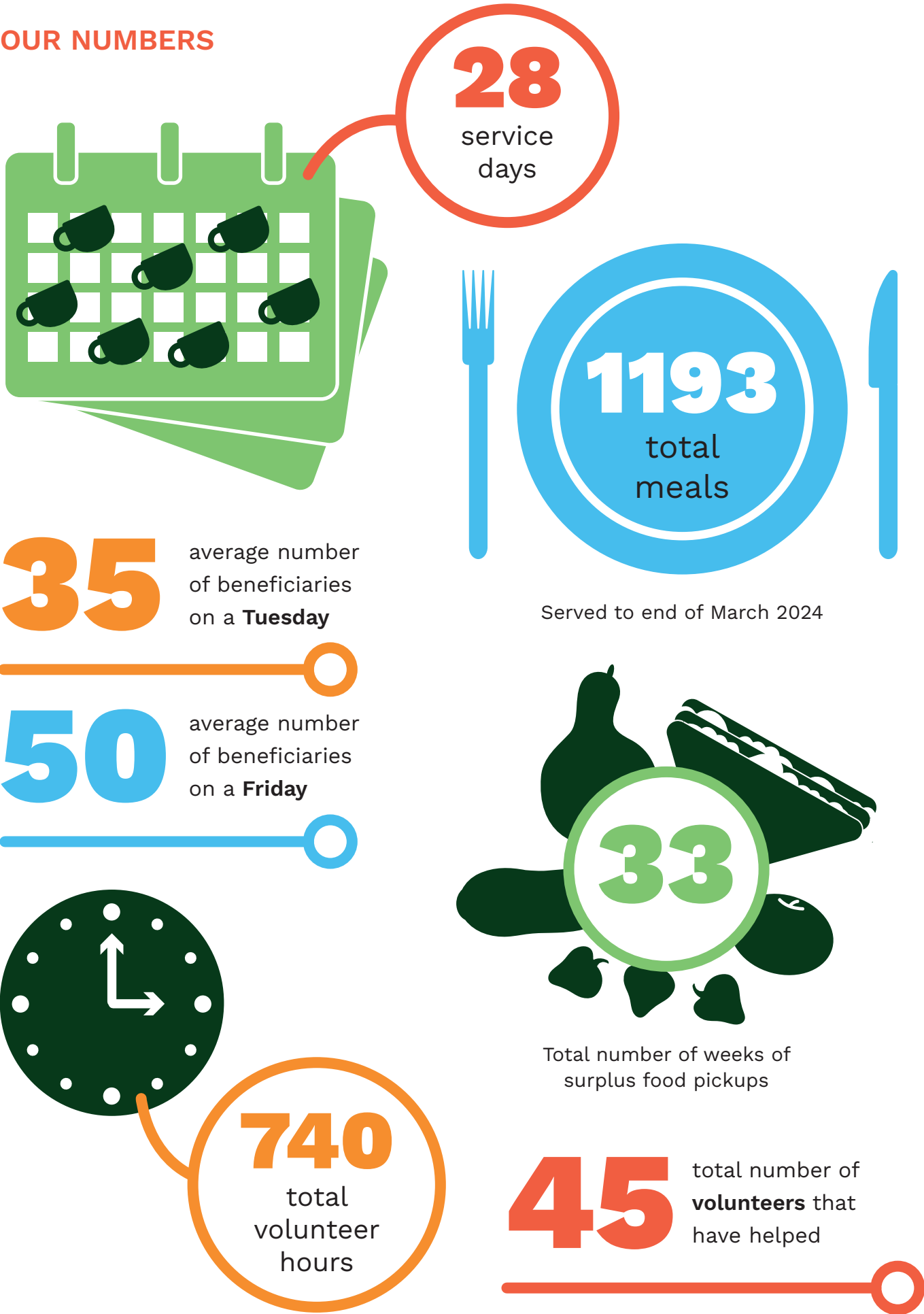
“The Lunch Club feels like home, everyone is very welcoming”.

Samuel

OUR TIMELINE



OUR NUMBERS



OUR AMBITIONS

THE LUNCH CLUB’S AMBITIONS FOR THE FUTURE

As we look to the future, The Lunch Club is driven by an ambitious vision: to become a cornerstone of support and community in Streatham and beyond. Our mission to tackle food insecurity and social isolation is just the beginning. Here’s a glimpse into our ambitious plans for the coming years.

EXPANDING OUR REACH

Our immediate goal is to increase our lunch service from two days a week to a full Monday-to-Friday service – our third day is already planned to start on July 18th, 2024. This expansion will allow us to provide consistent, reliable support to more individuals in need. By the end of 2024, we aim to serve hot, nutritious meals five days a week, ensuring none of our beneficiaries go hungry or feel isolated.

We also want to find a venue in the Streatham area we can call our own, where we can store, cook, and serve food as well as support our beneficiaries with any issues or concerns they may be facing.

STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS

Building strong relationships with local businesses and charity food hubs has been vital to our success. We plan to deepen these partnerships and forge new ones

with more organisations. By increasing our network of food donors, we can ensure a steady supply of surplus food, which is crucial for sustaining our operations and expanding our services.

COMMUNITY INTEGRATION AND OUTREACH

We envision The Lunch Club as more than just a place to eat. We aim to be a hub for community integration and support. This means enhancing our role as a gateway to other charities, social services, and local authorities. By collaborating with these partners, we can provide comprehensive assistance to our beneficiaries, addressing a wider range of needs from housing to mental health support.

SKILL-BUILDING WORKSHOPS

Empowering our beneficiaries with practical skills is key to our future plans. We aim to introduce workshops on cooking, budgeting, and financial literacy. These sessions will help individuals make healthier lifestyle choices and manage their resources more effectively, fostering greater independence and self-sufficiency.

CREATING A MODEL FOR NATIONWIDE INITIATIVES

Our vision extends beyond Streatham. We aspire to be a model for similar initiatives across the UK. By sharing our best practices and collaborating with other communities, we hope to inspire and support the creation of new Lunch Clubs nationwide. This network will amplify our impact, helping to address food insecurity and social isolation on a larger scale.

SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES

Sustainability is at the heart of our operations. We plan to continue focusing on reducing food waste by utilising surplus food from our partners. Additionally, we aim to adopt more eco-friendly practices, such as using biodegradable takeaway containers and minimizing our carbon footprint through efficient logistics and operations.

VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT AND TRAINING

Our volunteers are the lifeblood of The Lunch Club. To maintain and grow our dedicated team, we plan to implement comprehensive training programs and create more opportunities for volunteer engagement. This will ensure our volunteers are well-prepared to support our mission and can develop their own skills and connections.

We already have examples of beneficiaries becoming volunteers, giving them valuable skills and experience and we will continue to promote this to anyone who is interested.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

We recognise that providing nutritious meals and social interaction is just one aspect of supporting our community. Employment is another critical area where we aim to make a difference. In the coming years, The Lunch Club will create employment opportunities within our operations by offering paid positions, particularly for those who have been long-term volunteers or beneficiaries of our services. By doing so, we aim to provide a pathway to stable employment for individuals facing financial hardship.

Additionally, we will establish partnerships with local businesses and training organisations to offer job placements, internships, and apprenticeships.

FUNDING AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Securing stable funding is crucial for our growth. We will actively seek grants, donations, and sponsorships to support our expansion and new initiatives. Additionally, we plan to develop fundraising events and campaigns to engage the wider community and raise awareness about our cause.

A BRIGHT FUTURE AHEAD...

The Lunch Club’s ambitions are driven by a commitment to making a lasting difference in the lives of our community members. With a clear vision and a dedicated team, we are confident in our ability to grow and thrive. Together with our partners, volunteers, and supporters, we look forward to a future where no one in Streatham – or any community – feels hungry or alone, and is given the support they need.

MEASURING IMPACT AND SUCCESS

To ensure we are meeting our goals, we will implement robust evaluation methods to measure our impact. Regular feedback from our beneficiaries and stakeholders will guide our efforts, helping us to continuously improve our services and address the evolving needs of our community.

OUR PARTNERS



CORPORATE DIRECTORY

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Charity number: 1203102

Date of incorporation: 17th May 2023

Start of financial year: 17th May 2023

End of financial year: 31st March 2024

Trustees:

Inga Lukseviciute
(Chair, appointed 7th July 2023)

Sophie Taylor
(appointed 1st July 2023)

Scott Bowden, ACMA, CGMA
(Treasurer, appointed 1st May 2023)

Elsie Griffin
(appointed 23rd November 2023)

THOSE TO WHOM THE TRUSTEES DELEGATE
DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT OF THE CHARITY
IN A SENIOR MANAGEMENT ROLE:

Richard Pike, Chief Executive Officer (previously Founder Trustee),
appointed 1st April 2024

Governing document: Memorandum and Articles of Dated

Objects For the public benefit, the prevention or relief
of poverty in Streatham, South London and the
surrounding area by providing nutritious meals in
a welcoming and safe environment to individuals
who are struggling to feed themselves or their
families.

Bankers Lloyds Bank
Victoria
London

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER’S REPORT

REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES:

Charity Name: **The Lunch Club**
On accounts for the year ended: **31 March 2024**
Charity no: **1203102**

RESPONSIBILITIES AND BASIS OF REPORT

I report to the trustees, that on my examination of the accounts of The Lunch Club (the Charity) for the year ended 31 March 2024. Responsibilities and basis of report as the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (‘the Act’).

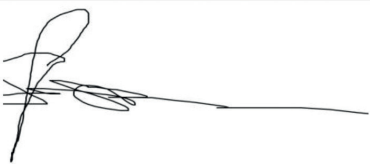
I report in respect of my examination of the Trust’s accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER’S STATEMENT:

I have completed my examination and can confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have concluded that there are no concerns that I have come across or 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.



Tanya Rogers ACMA CGMA
67 Tritton Fields, Kennington, Kent, TN24 9HL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME			
Donations and legacies	3,4	11,836	11,836
Charitable activities		35,145	35,154
Total income		46,981	46,981
EXPENDITURE			
Raising funds	6	589	589
Charitable activities		8,605	8,605
Total expenditure		9,194	9,194
NET INCOME		37,787	37,787
Net movement in funds		37,787	37,787
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		37,787	37,787

BALANCE SHEET
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Total this year £
FIXED ASSETS		–	–
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	19	1,077	1,077
Cash at bank and in hands	24	37,533	37,533
Total Current Assets		38,610	38,610
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	20	833	833
NET CURRENT ASSETS		37,777	37,777
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		37,777	37,777
TOTAL NET ASSETS		37,777	37,777
FUNDS OF THE CHARITY			
Unrestricted funds		37,777	37,777
TOTAL FUNDS		37,777	37,777

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

NOTE 1: BASIS OF PREPARATION

1.1 Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

The accounts 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 16 July 2014
- the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)
- and with the Charities Act 2011.

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

NOTE 2: ACCOUNTING POLICIES

INCOME

This standard list of accounting policies has been applied by the charity.

Recognition of income

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Offsetting

There has been no offsetting of assets and liabilities, or income and expenses, unless required or permitted by the FRS 102 SORP or FRS 102.

Grants and donations

Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the general income recognition criteria are met (5.10 to 5.12 FRS102 SORP).

Tax reclaims on donations and gifts

Gift Aid receivable is included in income when there is a valid declaration from the donor. Any Gift Aid amount recovered on a donation is considered to be part of that gift and is treated as an addition to the same fund as the initial donation unless the donor or the terms of the appeal have specified otherwise.

Contractual income and performance related grants

This is only included in the SoFA once the charity has provided the related goods or services or met the performance related conditions.

Support costs

The charity has incurred expenditure on support costs.

Volunteer help

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees’ annual report.

EXPENDITURE AND LIABILITIES

Liability recognition

Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

Governance and support costs

Support costs have been allocated between governance costs and other support. Governance costs comprise all costs involving public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice.

Redundancy cost

The charity made no redundancy payments during the reporting period.

Deferred income

No material item of deferred income has been included in the accounts.

NOTE 3: ANALYSIS OF INCOME

	Unrestricted funds £	Total funds £
DONATIONS AND LEGACIES:		
Donations and gifts	10,759	10,759
Gift Aid	1,077	1,077
General grants provided by government/other charities	34,200	34,200
Other	–	–
TOTAL	46,036	46,036
CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES:		
Meal fees	945	945
Other	–	–
TOTAL	945	945
TOTAL INCOME	46,981	46,981

NOTE 4: ANALYSIS OF RECEIPTS OF GRANTS

Description		This year £
The London Community Foundation	Lambeth Community Fund	10,000
London Borough of Lambeth	Changing Lives – Social Value Fund	5,000
National Lottery	Community Fund	5,000
Sainsburys	Neighbourly	5,000
Sovereign Network Group		4,750
London Borough of Lambeth		2,350
Albert Hunt Trust		2,000
The Blakemoor Foundation		100
TOTAL		34,200

NOTE 6: ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE

	This year	
	Unrestricted funds £	Total funds £
EXPENDITURE ON RAISING FUNDS:		
Advertising, marketing, direct mail and publicity	589	589
TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON RAISING FUNDS	589	589
EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES:		
	8,605	8,605
Total expenditure on charitable activities	8,605	8,605
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	9,194	9,194

OTHER INFORMATION:

ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Activity or programme	This year	
	Activities undertaken directly £	Total this year £
Providing meals for beneficiaries at The Lunch Club	8,605	8,605
Activity 2	–	–
Other	–	–
TOTAL	8,605	8,605

NOTE 19: DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS

19.1 Analysis of debtors

	This year £	Last year £
Trade debtors	–	–
Prepayments and accrued income	1,077	–
Other debtors	–	–
TOTAL	1,077	–

NOTE 20: CREDITORS AND ACCRUALS

20.1 Analysis of creditors

	Amounts falling due within one year £	Amounts falling due after more than one year £
Trade creditors	833	–
TOTAL	833	–

NOTE 24: CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

	This year £
Cash at bank and on hand	37,533
Other	–
TOTAL	37,533



CONTACT US

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London, SW16 2PJ

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07919 894 642

EMAIL US:

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www.thelunchclub.org.uk

