

Registered Number 1036982

CHESHIRE REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

31 OCTOBER 2023

CHESHIRE REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

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CHESHIRE REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

CHARITY INFORMATION

PRINCIPAL ADDRESS

RHQ The Mercian Regiment
The Castle
Chester
CH1 2DN

TRUSTEES

GE Szwejkowski
PJ Gresty
TE Pickering
T Ellis

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER

1036982

BANKERS

Royal Bank of Scotland
Holt's Military Banking
200 Fowler Avenue
Farnborough
GU14 7JP

ACCOUNTANTS

McLintocks (NW) Limited
2 Hilliards Court
Chester Business Park
Chester
CH4 9QP

CHESHIRE REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES REPORT

The Trustees present their report and the financial statements for year ended 31 October 2023.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and '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)' (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2019).

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Cheshire Regiment Association (CRA) comprises of a number of geographical branches and groups, all linked to the CRA through service with The Cheshire Regiment. Membership is restricted to men and women who have served in any unit of The Cheshire Regiment

- (a) The 13 current geographical branches of the Association are as follows; -
 Birkenhead, Chester, Halton, Kirkham, Limavady, Nantwich, Sandbach, Southern Region, South Wirral, Stockport, Stoke on Trent. Walsall, Winsford.
- (b) The 3 groups of the Association are as follows: -
 Band & Drums, Serjeants' Club, and The 22nd Riders Club

RECRUITMENT AND APPOINTMENT OF NEW TRUSTEES

- (a) The Officers of the Association are full members of the Association and are elected for a term of three years at an Annual General Meeting
 - (i) the Chairman - Currently Mr P J Gresty
 - (ii) the Secretary- Currently Capt (Ret'd) T Ellis
 - (iii) the Treasurer – Currently Maj (Ret'd) T E Pickering MBE

The positions of Secretary and Treasurer may be held by one member if there are insufficient volunteers. There is no limit on the number of terms any officer may serve in a position.

- (b) The Association will be administered by a Committee composed of:
 - (i) The Chairman
 - (ii) The Treasurer
 - (iii) The Secretary
 - (iv) The Chairman of each branch, who may be represented at meetings by a nominated officer of the branch.
- (c) Committee Meetings
 - (i) the Committee meets twice in each year; normally January and July.
 - (ii) there is a quorum when five members of the committee are present at a meeting.
 - (iii) every matter shall be determined by a majority of votes of the Committee present and voting on the question but in the case of equality of votes the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.
 - (iv) the Committee shall have power within the limits prescribed by the constitution to make or amend such detailed regulations as it thinks fit for the conduct of its own business or the affairs of the Association generally.

CHESHIRE REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES REPORT

RECRUITMENT AND APPOINTMENT OF NEW TRUSTEES

The following are the appointed Trustees of the Association:

- (i) Chairman – Currently Mr P J Gresty
- (ii) Secretary – Currently Capt (Ret'd) T Ellis
- (iii) Treasurer – Currently Maj (Ret'd) T E Pickering MBE

Up to two further Trustees may be appointed at their discretion and currently one additional trustee been appointed, this is;

- (i) Newsletter Editor - Currently Mr G Szwejkowski

Upon recruitment of a new trustee, they are to be appointed at an Annual General Meeting and the appointment is to be notified to the Charity Commission.

INDUCTION AND TRAINING OF TRUSTEES

New trustees are provided with information about the CRA and its work to supplement their knowledge of the CRA gained through being a full member.

New trustees are also provided with Charity Commission information and leaflets pertaining to the duties of a trustee as follows:

- a) Charity purposes and rules
- b) Making decisions at a charity
- c) Managing charity finances
- d) Managing conflicts of interest in a charity
- e) What to send to the Charity Commission and how to get help
- f) Safeguarding for charities and trustees
- g) Political activity and campaigning by charities

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the CRA are as follows: -

- (a) to keep alive the spirit of the Regiment and to maintain friendships and comradeship between members.
- (b) to support members and their dependants who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress.
- (c) the commemoration and remembrance of those members of The Regiment who have died whilst on active service; and the encouragement of public recognition of the sacrifice made by such persons.

CHESHIRE REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES REPORT

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The CRA has had a full and active reporting year in which the committee has continued to manage the running of the association to the satisfaction of the trustees and in accordance with their objectives.

The branches and groups of the association, as well as supporting the CRA central events, run their own social and remembrance events.

The CRA Annual General Meeting was held, in Chester, on the 18th of February 2023 with physical and remote attendance. All necessary matters were reported upon, and the association accounts were presented to those present before being submitted to the Charity Commission.

Following the inauguration, and dedication, of the new Regimental memorial a service was held in September 2023 to remember all past members, it is planned for this service to become an annual event and incorporate a pilgrimage to the National Memorial Arboretum. Details of this and other events, held in the reporting period, are in the table below:

Date	Event	Location	Attendance
Oct '22	75th East Cheshire Reunion	Stockport	130
Dec 22	40th Droppin Well Memorial	Ballykelly, NI	300
Feb '23	Annual General Meeting	Chester	50
Feb'23	Meeannee Reunion	Chester	300
May '23	Coronation Celebration Gathering	Chester	140
Aug '23	Acorn Camping Weekend	Chester	100
Aug '23	Mons Wreath Laying Service	Chester	8
Sep '23	Annual Remembrance Service	NMA	60

The CRA newsletter continues to be sent out three times a year and we thank our editor, George Szwejkowski, for the excellent work he does in assembling issues with something for everybody time and time again. The newsletter, along with the CRA Facebook page, are the main means of communicating with members.

This reporting period has seen the final transfer of all legacy funds, left over from the Cheshire Regiment Trust Funds to the Mercian Regiment, the funds have been transferred under *cy-près* rules which allows the wishes of a donor to charity to be carried out even if the original purpose of the gift has failed) and the money has been moved into Mercian Regiment funds with no restrictions. Maj (Retd) T E Pickering MBE, our Honorary Treasurer, is to be thanked for his diligence in carrying out these transfers.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The financial performance of the charitable company is reflected in the attached financial statements, which show a surplus of £8,760 (2022: £15,674 deficit). There are sufficient funds to allow the trustees to continue to pursue their objectives of continuing to develop the Association for the benefit of its members and the community in general.

Income shows an increase from £3,262 to £82,463. Expenditure shows an increase from £18,936 to £73,703.

CHESHIRE REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES REPORT

FUTURE PLANS

The CRA have a full calendar of events for the coming year focussed on supporting our objectives whilst keeping our members fully occupied, some of the events are listed the Forecast of Events below:

Date	Event	Location
17 Feb '24	Meannee Reunion	Chester
16 May '24	Inter Forces T20 Cricket	Lords Cricket Ground
18 May '24	"None Race Day" Gathering	Chester
22 Jun '24	Afternoon Tea	Preston Brook
29 Jun '24	Armed Forces Day	Various
29 Jun 24	Tom Sephton Trophy	Warrington
27 Jul '24	CRA Committee Meeting	Chester
24 Aug '24	Battle of Mons Commemoration	Chester & Audregnies
25-28 Aug 24	Acorn Camping Weekend	Alvanley
01 Sep '24	CRA Remembrance Service	NMA
14 Sep '24	Laying Up of 2 Mercian Colours	Lichfield
26 Oct '24	East Cheshire Reunion	Stockport
07 Nov '24	Field of Remembrance	Westminster
10 Nov '24	Remembrance Sunday	Various
08 Dec '24	Droppin Well Memorial	Ballykelly

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Association sees the public benefit of the CRA in that the veterans and residents of the County of Cheshire see their own Regiment remembered, and celebrated, more than just through static displays in a museum, although that aspect is also an important part of keeping the regiment alive in people's memories.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The CRA trustees and committee ensure that risks are identified and evaluated before any event takes place but in line with the rules of the CRA "every matter shall be determined by a majority of votes of the Committee present and voting on the question but in the case of equality of votes the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote".

The guidance published by The Charity Commission of England and Wales, Charities and Risk Management (CC26), is used to guide the trustees and committee when making decisions that could affect the CRA in many ways, including the following:

- a) Termination of funding (Already experienced so no longer applicable)
- b) The future of contracts
- c) Fundraising from members and the public
- d) Fluctuations in investments (Not applicable as none held)
- e) Unforeseen rise in demand for their services (Mitigated through Mercian Regiment looking after Benevolence Fund)

CHESHIRE REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES REPORT

RESERVES POLICY

The trustees have no plans to diminish the assets that they hold and intend to maintain sufficient reserves to enable future commitments to be financed.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

Charity Law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the income and expenditure of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (FRS102).
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- Prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy, the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the accounts show a true and fair state of affairs and of the income and expenditure. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

By order of the trustees



P J Gresty

Chairman

23rd April 2024

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF CHESHIRE REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Cheshire Regiment Association (the charity) for the year ended 31 October 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity, you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act).

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no 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 charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act;
or
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Alastair Jeffcott BA FCA
McLintocks (NW) Limited
2 Hilliards Court
Chester Business Park
Chester
Cheshire
CH4 9PX

Date: 23rd April 2024

CHESHIRE REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2023

	Note	2023	2022
INCOME			
Donations and legacies	2	82,187	3,244
Investment income		276	18
		<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL INCOME		82,463	3,262
		<hr/>	<hr/>
EXPENDITURE			
Costs of generating funds: Charitable activities	3	73,283	18,936
Management expenditure	4	420	-
		<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		73,703	18,936
		<hr/>	<hr/>
NET (EXPENDITURE) INCOME		8,760	(15,674)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
MOVEMENT IN FUNDS FOR THE YEAR		8,760	(15,674)
Fund balances brought forward		16,400	32,074
		<hr/>	<hr/>
FUND BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD		25,160	16,400
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The notes on pages 10 to 13 form part of these financial statements

CHESHIRE REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 OCTOBER 2023

	Note	2023	2022
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash at bank and in hand		27,105	17,945
CREDITORS Due within one year			
Accrued expenses		420	-
Trade creditors		1,525	1,545
		<u>1,945</u>	<u>1,545</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>25,160</u>	<u>16,400</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>25,160</u>	<u>16,400</u>
Represented by			
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	7	14,861	16,400
DESIGNATED FUNDS	8	10,299	-
		<u>25,160</u>	<u>16,400</u>

Approved on behalf of the Trustees on 23rd April 2024



P J Gresty
Chairman

CHESHIRE REGIMENT ASSOCIATION**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2023**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**a) Basis of preparation**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "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 2019).

The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity.

Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, except the investments which are included at market value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

b) Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus, the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

c) Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

d) Income

Grants and donations are recognised where there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

CHESHIRE REGIMENT ASSOCIATION**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2023**

e) Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Management expenditure represents expenditure not directly attributable to the operational activities of the Trust.

f) Taxation

The Charity is not considered liable to taxation.

g) Cash at bank

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the account.

h) Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity 's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted.

CHESHIRE REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2023

	2023	2022
2. INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies	4,099	3,244
The Mercian Regiment	66,435	-
War Memorial Fund merger	11,653	-
Investment income	276	18
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	82,463	3,262
	<hr/>	<hr/>
3. EXPENDITURE		
CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES		
NMA Appeal	420	15,053
NMA dedication	-	3,053
The Mercian Regiment	66,435	-
Memorial costs	5,623	-
Stationery	102	3
Awards	-	60
Subscriptions and licences	240	195
Meeanee reunion	150	37
Cathedral bench	-	400
Insurance	73	73
Travel	240	62
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	73,283	18,936
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	73,283	18,936
	<hr/>	<hr/>
4. MANAGEMENT EXPENDITURE		
Accountants' fees	420	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	420	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
5. TRUSTEES		
Trustees received no emoluments or expenses for the period (2022: £nil).		
6. TAXATION		

As a registered charity, Cheshire Regiment Association is not liable to taxation.

CHESHIRE REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2023**7. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS**

	At 31 October 2022	Movement	At 31 October 2023
Accumulated fund	16,400	(1,539)	14,861
	<u>16,400</u>	<u>(1,539)</u>	<u>14,861</u>
	<u>16,400</u>	<u>(1,539)</u>	<u>14,861</u>

8. MATERIAL DESIGNATED FUNDS

	At 31 October 2022	Movement	At 31 October 2023
War Memorial fund	-	10,299	10,299
	<u>-</u>	<u>10,299</u>	<u>10,299</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>10,299</u>	<u>10,299</u>

In the year, the War Memorial movement includes £12,239 of income and £1,940 of charitable expenditure.

The War Memorial fund is used to maintain the Regimental Garden of Remembrance at Chester Cathedral and maintain other memorials. It is also used to provide poppy wreaths for remembrances and also to pay for the Cheshire Regiment plot at the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey every November.