

AFOCC AGM
Chairman's Report
5 November 2023

At last, we can start our AGM without saying it has been a challenging year; it has been a good year!

The only downside was that we lost our previous Chairman, Mark Payne in May.

He was a lovely man and a true Friend of Connaught Court both for our Association and his work for the RMBI. I think we all miss him.

In 1973, the AFOCC, The Association of Friends of Connaught Court was formed by the three Provinces of Yorkshire West Riding, Yorkshire North and East and Lincolnshire.

Now, in our 50th Year, we are delighted that our three Provinces continue to support our lovely Connaught Court in so many ways big and small, by Individual Freemasons and especially our Provincial Grand Masters. Thank you all.

Marinda has settled into her new role very well and I thank her and her team for making us so welcome here on many occasions.

Last year, I highlighted the aims we had for this year, and I am delighted to say we have certainly achieved them all plus a few other bits!

We started our projects with more storage facilities, which involved creating a level and solid base upon which we placed a large storage container which would hold various items including marquees, tables, etc.

It wasn't a simple task but thanks to John Day and his various contacts, it has succeeded very well. Thank you John.

Thanks to contact from Neill Smith, the Prince Frederick Lodge 307 in Yorkshire West Riding, who were sadly returning their warrant to Grand Lodge, informed Neill that they wanted to give something to Connaught Court; they asked Neill what we needed, and he informed Bob Taylor, the Trustee, that we could do with a new minibus. Bob basically said, you've got it and the eventual donation amounted to £50,000.

I hope you've seen the new minibus outside, if not, please check it out on your way home.

Then Barrie Graham got involved with Neill and managed to sell the old Peugeot and £12,000 went to the home (or perhaps it was RMBI, I couldn't possibly comment!)

Barrie found Gowrings in Theale who provide and fit minibuses for wheelchair uses. They were to become a very patient and helpful company to work with.

As there was a long lead-time for the bus, we hired a similar vehicle from Gowrings until the new one was delivered.

Barrie and Neill sorted out the decoration for the bus acknowledging the wonderful help from Prince Frederick Lodge.

You will have seen the Facebook page showing Barrie and Neill handing the keys to Marinda.

We invited Bob Taylor and his wife to our Summer Fayre and Neil collected and returned them to Aysgarth, and they thoroughly enjoyed the day and our three PGM's all made a big fuss of them !

We hope soon to take the new vehicle to Aysgarth to give Bob and his wife a little trip around the Dales, (Bob's wife needs to use a wheelchair)

The minibus project was completed when we purchased a couple of new "crash tested" wheelchairs which were required under new regulations.

Our Grateful thanks to Neill and Barrie.

Another very generous donation we received some years ago was from Owen Brooks-Duxbury who wanted Connaught Court to have an Orangery.

As previously explained, due to costs and Planning Restrictions, our Committee decided to up-date the two existing conservatories.

The work was carried out by a local company, Eliments, who have done a great job on both units, after holding their prices for over a year!

Connaught Court now have two great conservatories which are "fit for purpose" throughout the year.

Special thanks again to John Day who obtained a gift of an Air Conditioner for the front conservatory from one of his suppliers!

We also bought a dozen small folding tables for indoor or outside use which are proving very useful.

Oh yes, we held a Summer Fayre this year; remember those?

It was one of the hottest days of the year, blue skies and sunshine!

About 30 stalls on the field behind the home, Brass Band, Food, Drink, Cake Stalls, Books, Raffle, Bouncy Castle, Curry tasting, vintage cars, a few motorbikes and lots more.

About £7000 was taken on the day.

A tremendous and happy Day.

The whole committee, wives, husbands, partners plus the Team from Connaught Court, Walter and Co, putting up marquees (and taking them down at the end), power, water and lots more before and after the day.

All the Connaught Court people making sandwiches, cakes; Steph and Fran organising stalls and fetching and carrying the residents to the Fayre

Kevin Priestley worked so very hard in organising the day; these events don't just happen.

Thank you Kevin (and your P.A. Margaret!) a massive effort and a great result.

Next year ? Saturday 8th June , the King's official Birthday and a Connaught Court party to celebrate it.

Put it in your diaries now please.

One of the Trustees of the RMBI, David Snowden was appointed to "caretake" Connaught Court, Scarborough Court and Harry Priestley homes.

I met him at Connaught Court with Marinda in February, and I think it will be very positive moving forward to have better contact with RMBI.

Away from the Home, John Boyington brought back the meetings of Associations of Friends at Grand Lodge on 11 October.

I participated along with Bruce Lowis and David Wadsworth, and we all enjoyed an interesting and informative day.

I hope that they are going to continue in the future as a very useful tool to know what is happening within RMBI and to meet our counterparts from other homes.

The function of our Association is to provide the "little extras" for the residents, home and staff of Connaught Court and we must be careful that we use the funds we are given for that purpose and not simply build a big deposit account; I don't think we do judging by what we have achieved in the past year.

We are a Team and I thank each one of that Team for their support, time, effort and friendship they have given me for nearly three years as Chairman.

Especial thanks have to go to our Secretary, Martin, for putting up with me; we have had some fun and so we should have as Masonry has to have fun to succeed.

Sincere thanks also to Bruce and David and of course Marinda who tolerates my phone calls on many occasions !

When I look at Connaught Court, it is filled fun, laughter, caring and love and long may it continue.

Association of Friends of Connaught Court
Year ending 30 September 2023

Treasurers Report

The end of the COVID restrictions enabled the Association to make progress during the year on the major projects which had been "on ice" for some time. As a result, our funds fell by £52,511 during the year, compared to a small decrease of £165 in 2022. We were also able to once again hold our Summer Fayre at Connaught Court, and were blessed with fine weather and splendid support. The funds movement during the year is set out below. The Owen Brooks Duxbury legacy was used to fund the two replacement conservatories at Connaught Court, and we were extremely grateful to receive a most generous donation of £50,000 from the Lodge of Prince Frederick on its closure. This splendid donation funded a replacement Multi-Purpose Vehicle (Minibus!) for the Connaught Court residents.

	2023 £	2022 £	2023 movement Increase/(Decrease) £
NatWest General Account	21,870.62	64,788.36	(42,917.74)
NatWest Deposit Account	75,775.76	25,011.30	50,764.46
NSI Account	-	67,507.73	(67,507.73)
HSBC Bond	2,500.00	2,500.00	0.00
Accruals	(2,000.00)	(9,150.00)	7,150.00
Total Funds	<u>98,146.38</u>	<u>150,657.39</u>	<u>(52,511.01)</u>
Represented by :-			
General Fund	30,000.00	25,000.00	5,000.00
Mini-bus/Special Projects Fund	68,146.38	58,149.66	9,996.72
Owen Brooks Duxbury Legacy	-	67,507.73	(67,507.73)
	<u>98,146.38</u>	<u>150,657.39</u>	<u>(52,511.01)</u>

**Association of Friends of Connaught Court
Year ending 30 September 2023**

Treasurers Report

INCOME

Income at £85,611 (2022: £30,033) shows an increase compared to last year of £55,578 as analysed below:

		Increase/ (Decrease) £
General Donations	Lodges	(5,172)
	Provinces	(3,000)
	Individuals	2,147
Shop Sales		(464)
Summer Fayre		6,569
Summer Fayre Flyers		4,963
Badges		(289)
Interest		922
Investment Income		7
Membership		(105)
Minibus Donation		50,000
		<u>55,578</u>

The Summer Fayre generated over £17,000 in total, with Summer Fayre Flyers contributing £10,876 and proceeds on the day £6,569. Flyer donations meant a reduction in general donations from lodges and provinces, although we did receive a further £5,000 from WRMCL for which we are most grateful. Donations from individuals totalled £5,612, an increase of £2,147. Improving interest rates resulted in receipts of £941, an increase of £922 on the previous year.

**Association of Friends of Connaught Court
Year ending 30 September 2023**

Treasurers Report

EXPENDITURE

Expenditure at £138,122 (2022: £30,198) was £107,924 higher than last year, with the net increase analysed below:

	(Increase)/ Decrease £	(Increase)/ Decrease £
Amenities		
Replacement Conservatories	(76,094)	
Replacement Minibus	(40,228)	
General Amenities	19,442	
Storage Container	(7,798)	
Minibus Rental	(5,670)	
	<hr/>	(110,348)
Website		24
Amenity Fund		(500)
Summer Fayre Expenses		2,865
Sundry		35
		<hr/>
		(107,924)

Actual expenditure for the year, excluding the add-back of unused provisions, is detailed below:

	£
2 Replacement Conservatories	76,094
Replacement Minibus	40,228
Storage Container	7,798
Temporary Minibus Rental	5,670
Servicing of Sound Systems	792
Blu-Ray Player	94
2 Crash-Tested Wheelchairs (for minibus use)	650
Regular Amenity Fund payments	12,600
Summer Fayre Expenses	2,796
Website	216
Sundry	334
Total Expenditure	<hr/>
	147,272
Less: unused provisions from 2022 added back	(9,150)
Expenditure per Accounts	<hr/>
	138,122

The HSBC Bond at a cost of £2,500 continues to show a positive return in terms of both interest and appreciation value.

The General Fund has been increased this year from £25,000 to £30,000, reflecting the impact of recent inflationary cost increases. I am confident that there is now sufficient capital in the General Fund to cover 2 years expenditure at present levels or to meet further enhancements as required.

The Summer Fayre expenses of £2,796 included printing of Flyers, equipment to accept card payments, refrigerated trailer rental, purchase of bar and food stock, waste bins for stalls, bouncy castle hire, replacement of damaged gazebos and hire of the brass band.

The Association's finances continue to be on a sound footing and we much appreciate the tremendous support of the membership across all three Provinces. With your help, we will endeavour to keep providing that much needed additional support to the residents of Connaught Court.

David Wadsworth

Treasurer

Independent Examiner's Report
to The Association of Friends of Connaught Court

I have examined the attached account and statement for the year ended 30th September 2023

Respective responsibilities of trustees and auditors

The trustees of the Charity are responsible for the preparation of accounts; they consider that the audit requirement under the Charities Act 2011 does not apply. I have been appointed under the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under that Act. It is my responsibility to

examine accounts,
to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission
Commission, and
to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

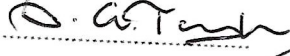
Basis of Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. 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 the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Examiner's Statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention.

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:
 - proper accounting records are kept; and
 - accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed  Date 17th October, 2023

David Arthur Taylor FCA
Beech House
4 Wentworth Street
Wakefield
WF1 2RX

Association of Friends of Connaught Court
Year ending 30 September 2023

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNT FUNDS

	September 2023	September 2022
Assets	£	£
NatWest General Account	21,870.62	64,788.36
NatWest Deposit Account	75,775.76	25,011.30
National Savings - Owen Brooks Duxbury	-	67,507.73
Investment at Cost - HSBC Bond	2,500.00	2,500.00
	<u>100,146.38</u>	<u>159,807.39</u>
Liabilities	£	£
Accruals		
Re: Secure Outbuilding	0.00	(6,500.00)
CDs	0.00	(100.00)
Boat Trip	0.00	(250.00)
Screens	0.00	(300.00)
Servicing Sound Systems	0.00	(2,000.00)
Minibus	(2,000.00)	0.00
	<u>(2,000.00)</u>	<u>(9,150.00)</u>
Net Assets	<u>98,146.38</u>	<u>150,657.39</u>
Represented by :-	£	£
General Fund	30,000.00	25,000.00
Special Projects Fund	68,146.38	58,149.66
Owen Brooks Duxbury Fund	-	67,507.73
	<u>98,146.38</u>	<u>150,657.39</u>

As at 30/09/2023

Association of Friends of Connaught Court

Consolidated Income and Expenditure Account
Year ending 30 September 2023

INCOME	Year to September 2023		Year to 30 September 2022	
	£	£	£	£
General Donations	6,189.55		11,361.51	
Lodges	0.00		3,000.00	
Provinces	5,000.00		5,000.00	
WRMCL	5,612.16		3,464.57	
Individuals	40.00		504.00	
Shop Sales	6,569.41		0.00	
Summer Fair	10,876.00		5,913.62	
Summer Fair Flyers	180.00		469.00	
Badges	940.59		18.67	
Interest	152.87		147.26	
Investment Income	50.00		155.00	
Membership	50,000.00		0.00	
Minibus Donation		85,610.58		30,033.63
EXPENDITURE				
Amenity Fund	(12,600.00)		(12,100.00)	
Secretary Expenses	0.00		0.00	
Life Membership	0.00		0.00	
Secretary Expenses	0.00		0.00	
Postage		(5,660.28)		
Summer Fair Expenses	(2,795.40)	0.00	(5,660.28)	
Less Sponsorship	0.00		(239.98)	
Website				
Amenities	(1,535.93)	(13,328.36)		
Storage Container	(7,797.60)	0.00		
Minibus Rental	(5,670.00)	0.00		
Replacement Minibus	(40,228.00)	0.00		
Replacement Conservatories	(76,094.34)	0.00		
Write back 2022 provision	9,150.00	1,500.00	(11,828.36)	
Sundry			(369.96)	
		(138,121.59)		(30,198.58)
Net Income/(Expenditure)		(52,511.01)		(164.95)

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to The Association of Friends of Connaught Court

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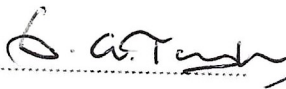
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