

The year 2024 has been an interesting year

The Association has continued to work hard in order to provide extras for the residents of the Home. The effects of the COVID years are still being felt by the RMBI and this has led to a blurring of the traditional lines between the facilities to be provided by either the RMBI or the Association of Friends whilst the RMBI recovers from that devastating time. At the Associations of Friends Conference last Thursday it emerged that all the Homes were in the same position.

Once again a great debt of thanks is due to the three Provinces, without whose support and generous contributions this year would have a very different end result. The third tranche of £5,000 was received from West Riding Masonic Charities Limited and was matched by both the Lincolnshire and the Yorkshire North & East Ridings Provinces when we started our projects of the year. We literally cannot thank you too much for all your ongoing support.

The Treasurer will be giving a detailed analysis as regards finances in his report, so I will not do the same. but as a broad outline this year has concentrated on three categories.

Firstly, to contribute the level of funding set as our baseline, now increased to £16,000pa for Activities Funding plus £2,000 for residents' Christmas presents. Due to setbacks at the Summer Fayre, which I will mention later, the donation from WRMCL was invaluable in our being able to meet this commitment without a reduction in our reserves.

Secondly, expenditure for specific requests put forward by Miranda and her team, namely £6,910 for specialist equipment (Kurton Chairs) and general improvements for the resident's wellbeing.

Thirdly, to forward plan by obtaining the necessary equipment to ensure successful fund raising in the future for many years to come, namely the marquees and gazebos, seating etc, together with

additional storage facility. These projects were financed by the Province of Lincolnshire and the Province of North and East Yorkshire.

The Associations main fund raising event is of course the Summer Fayre. It was tremendously disappointing, after all the months of planning, for us to suffer a major setback just 24 hours before the event. This was caused by a nearby resident raising concerns over parking near the trees and our driving across the ground where there were tree roots, despite their depth. Unfortunately, the Local Authority saw fit to judge against us, with the result that neither the stallholders nor the visitors were able to drive into or to park in the grounds. This resulted in a number of stallholders being unable to unload and so having to miss the event and as visitors were also unable to park in the congested surrounding streets our footfall was reduced, leading to a severe drop in takings for the year. The way forward currently rests with ourselves, with the assistance of the RMBI, because this will not only impact on the Fayre but also any other outdoor activities the Home may wish to participate in. It seems a great shame that after all the hard work put in by Kevin and Martin G that we did not have the result they richly deserved, and I thank all involved for the sheer physical effort it took to set up on the day before, when deliveries and heavy equipment had to be manhandled across the park. We will continue to monitor the situation going forward as a priority, as this will severely impact on our ability to provide even our basic funding.

On a positive note, the committee has enjoyed another year in close cooperation with the Home and I would like to thank Marinda and all her team for all their assistance and hope to be able to continue to fulfil what we consider our obligations. The reports we receive at our meetings from Miranda, Stephanie and Fran make us realise how worthwhile it all is and their presentations are the meeting's highlights.

At the end of my first year as Chairman may I sincerely thank all the members of the Committee for their hard work and regular attendance at meetings. If I may risk embarrassing some of them - A special thanks once again to John Day, unfortunately not able to attend due to family commitments, who seems to have both a wide ranging knowledge of

how to deal with every issue or setback we encounter, together with access to either the equipment or the personnel needed. And to Martin L, our Secretary, for his guidance and enthusiasm and his advice on Coffee Shops. To Barrie Graham for his work on the Social Media front, as well as his making our presence felt in the Provincial Publications. Also, our unsung hero, John Owen-Barnett, who tirelessly runs the Shop, rivalling Costco in its range and prices. The main things it provides however, cannot be bought, a welcoming smile and friendly chat.

A special thank you to our retiring Vice Chairman and ex-Chairman, Chris Turner, for all his boundless enthusiasm, advice and assistance. We will miss you and wish you well in the future, being sure that your Province and your Almshouse duties will keep you occupied. In short , to coin YOUR personal catchphrase. Keep smiling.

And finally, a special thanks to all who have attended, for showing your interest in the Association and for your support, both seen and behind the scenes.

Thank you.

Association of Friends of Connaught Court
Year ending 30 September 2024

Treasurers Report

Following the completion of our major projects in 2023 (two replacement conservatories and a new minibus), 2024 saw a significant reduction in expenditure of more than £90,000. We were once again able to hold our Summer Fayre at Connaught Court, and we spent nearly £12,000 on new marquees, chairs and tables and replacement gazebos. The Provinces generously responded to our request for funds to cover this cost, as detailed later in my report. Expenditure exceeded income in 2024 by £12,067, and the movement in funds is set out below.

	2024 £	2023 £	2024 movement Increase/(Decrease) £
NatWest General Account	10,968.59	21,870.62	(10,902.03)
NatWest Deposit Account	76,800.10	75,775.76	1,024.34
HSBC Bond	-	2,500.00	(2,500.00)
Accruals	(1,689.00)	(2,000.00)	311.00
Total Funds	86,079.69	98,146.38	(12,066.69)
Represented by :-			
General Fund	40,000.00	30,000.00	10,000.00
Special Projects Fund	46,079.69	68,146.38	(22,066.69)
	86,079.69	98,146.38	(12,066.69)

INCOME

Income at £35,609 (2023: £85,611) shows a decrease compared to last year of £50,002 as analysed below:

	Increase/ (Decrease) £
General Donations	
Lodges	(4,350)
Provinces	9,931
Individuals	(3,936)
Shop Sales	(40)
Summer Fayre	(1,176)
Summer Fayre Flyers	(1,705)
Badges	(145)
Interest	83
Investment Income	(83)
Membership	125
Minibus Donation	(50,000)
Capital growth - HSBC bond	1,294
	(50,002)

The main reason for 2023 income being higher was the £50,000 minibus donation received that year.

The Summer Fayre generated just over £14,500 in total, with Summer Fayre Flyers contributing £9,170 and proceeds on the day £5,393. This is down nearly £2,900 on 2023. General donations from lodges and individuals were also down by nearly £8,300, but this was more than offset by an increase of over £9,900 from Provinces.

The Provinces responded generously to our request for funds to purchase additional marquees, gazebos and other equipment for use at the Summer Fayres. The HSBC bond was encashed for £3,794, generating capital growth of just under £1,300. Excluding the minibus donation, total income was down by just £2.

Association of Friends of Connaught Court
Year ending 30 September 2024

Treasurers Report

EXPENDITURE

Expenditure at £47,675 (2023: £138,122) was £90,447 lower than last year, with the net decrease analysed below:

	(Increase)/ Decrease £	(Increase)/ Decrease £
Amenities		
Replacement Conservatories	76,094	
Replacement Minibus	39,845	
Summer Fayre Marquees etc.	(11,724)	
General Amenities	(16,523)	
Storage Container	2,513	
Minibus Rental	4,410	
		94,615
Website		(186)
Amenity Fund		(3,400)
Summer Fayre Expenses		(861)
Sundry		279
		<u>90,447</u>

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

	£
Marquees & gazebos	11,724
2 Kurten Chairs	5,002
Storage Container	5,286
Temporary Minibus Rental & signage	1,643
Garden benches	698
Christmas presents and raffle prizes	2,200
Christmas trees and decorations	1,320
Regular Amenity Fund payments	16,000
Summer Fayre Expenses	3,656
Tai Chi classes	750
Music therapy sessions	740
Bose speaker	199
Website	402
Sundry	55
Total Expenditure	<u>49,675</u>
Less: unused provisions from 2023 added back	<u>(2,000)</u>
Expenditure per Accounts	<u>47,675</u>

The General Fund has been increased this year from £30,000 to £40,000, 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 £3,656 included the purchase of folding chairs and tables, griddles, refrigerated trailer rental, purchase of bar and food stock, bouncy castle hire, 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 2024.

Respective responsibilities of director 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 David Arthur Taylor Date 19th October, 2024

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

Association of Friends of Connaught Court
Year ending 30 September 2024

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNT FUNDS

	September 2024	September 2023
Assets	£	£
NatWest General Account	10,968.59	21,870.62
NatWest Deposit Account	76,800.10	75,775.76
Investment at Cost - HSBC Bond	-	2,500.00
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<u>87,768.69</u>	<u>100,146.38</u>
Liabilities	£	£
Accruals		
Minibus	0.00	(2,000.00)
Tai Chi classes	(750.00)	0.00
Bose speaker	(199.00)	0.00
Music therapy sessions	(740.00)	0.00
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<u>(1,689.00)</u>	<u>(2,000.00)</u>
Net Assets	<u>86,079.69</u>	<u>98,146.38</u>
Represented by :-	£	£
General Fund	40,000.00	30,000.00
Special Projects Fund	46,079.69	68,146.38
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As at 30/09/2024

Consolidated Income and Expenditure Account

As at 30/09/2024

(12,066.69)

(52,511.01)

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