

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

England & Wales · Charity number 1075388

Details

Other names MERTON VISION

Status Registered

Legal form Charitable company

Company number [03758661](#)

Registered 1999-05-07

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Mertonvision
67 Clarendon Road
London
SW19 2DX

Phone 02085405446

Email info@mertonvision.org.uk

Website www.mertonvision.org.uk

Activities

Objects: .1 THE OBJECTS FOR WHICH THE CHARITY IS ESTABLISHED ARE TO GRANT ASSISTANCE TO ALL BLIND AND PARTIALLY SIGHTED PEOPLE AND TO HEARING IMPAIRED PEOPLE ORDINARILY RESIDENT IN THE LONDON BOROUGH OF MERTON AND IF THE TRUSTEES SO DETERMINE ELSEWHERE IN ENGLAND AND WALES. IN THESE OBJECTS BLIND SHALL INCLUDE PEOPLE WHO THOUGH NOT TOTALLY BLIND, ARE PARTIALLY OR INTERMITTENTLY DEPRIVED OF SIGHT OR ARE AT RISK OF BLINDNESS.

Activities: providing services for people with a visual impairment

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Disability
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** LONDON BOROUGH OF MERTON
- Merton

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£442,411	£555,035	-	-
2024-03-31	£580,156	£528,008	£638,308	11
2023-03-31	£506,889	£437,043	£586,160	15
2022-03-31	£291,421	£353,713	-	-
2021-03-31	£393,569	£360,261	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
HARRY COWD	Chair	
Francesca Hibbert		2023-07-25
Nikki Hughes		2025-11-20
Rachel Burrell		2025-11-20
SIMON COATES		
STEVEN MOORE		
Susan Fairbairn		2025-11-20
Trevor Hall		2025-11-20
VALERIE MORRISON		2011-11-16
WAYNE BUSBRIDGE		

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

England & Wales - Charity number 1075388

Accounts

Company registration number 03758661 (England and Wales)

Charity registration number 1075388 (England and Wales)

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees

R Bowman
S R D Coates
W A Busbridge
H A Cowd
F M Hibbert
S J Moore
V A Morrison
F P Pugh

Senior Management Team

Kevin Gregory
Nina Mitchell-Mckoy

Chief Executive officer
Office manager

Country of incorporation

United Kingdom
(England and Wales)

03758661

Charity registration

England and Wales

1075388

Registered office

The Guardian Centre
67 Clarendon Road
Colliers Wood
London
SW19 2DX

Independent examiner

J A Rickler, FCA
Alwyns LLP
Crown House
151 High Road
Loughton
Essex
IG10 4LG

Bankers

National Westminster Bank Plc
16 Wimbledon Hill Road
Wimbledon
London
SW19 7ZD

CAF Bank
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Mailing
Kent
ME19 4JQ

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

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MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The Trustees (who are also directors of the charitable company for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006) are pleased to present their annual Trustees Report and the financial statements for the period ended 31 March 2025.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the Charitable Company's governing document, the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" 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)".

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY

The charitable company's principal activity during the year was to provide services, information and support to residents of Merton who have a visual impairment. The aim is to support and empower people with a visual impairment, from their diagnosis of permanent sight loss through the entire rehabilitative process, in whatever form is appropriate for them. This includes children, adults, people with dual sensory loss and people with additional difficulties.

Public benefit

The Trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the Charitable Company should undertake.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Merton Voluntary Association for the Blind is a company limited by guarantee governed by its Article of Association dated 23 April 1999, amended 13 October 2000 and a further amendment 9 November 2017. The Charity was originally founded in 1965 and was registered as an unincorporated charity with the Charity Commission 9 March 1966.

Following the AGM 9 November 2017, a special resolution was passed and the Articles of Association of the Charity were changed in their entirety and replaced by new Articles.

All the Trustees shall automatically become members of the Charity and their names shall be entered into the Charity's register of members. The number of members of the Charity is unlimited. They remain members until they cease to be members in accordance with the Articles.

Membership shall be open to any individual aged 18 or over whom the Board decides to admit to membership. The Trustees may determine criteria for membership but are not obliged to admit any person satisfying such a criteria as members and may decline in their absolute discretion any person's application and need not give reasons for such decision.

Only members are eligible to vote at the AGM/EGM, general or special meetings convened for the purposes of discussing the business of the charitable company.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The Trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the Charity. Any expenses reclaimed from the Charity are set out in Note 11 to the accounts.

Ruth Bowman will resign at the next AGM, also 4 new Trustees Rachel Burrell, Sue Fairbairn, Trevor Hall and Nikki Hughes were co-opted on 11 September 2025 election to be ratified at the next AGM.

The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the period and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

R Bowman

S R D Coates

W A Busbridge

H A Cowd

F M Hibbert

S J Moore

V A Morrison

F P Pugh

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

As set out in the Articles of Association, Trustees are elected annually by the members of the charitable company attending the Annual General Meeting and serve for a period of three years and then one third of the Trustees are required to retire by rotation but may be re-elected.

None of the Trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the Trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

Trustees can be recruited by open advert or may be proposed and seconded by members and put forward for election at the AGM in accordance with the terms and timelines determined by the Board and subject to the Board's approval of such nomination.

The Make-up of the Board

The Board consists of not fewer than six and no more than fifteen persons appointed by the Trustees at any time at a meeting or in writing. The Board shall aim to have, as far as reasonable, equal representation on the Board of visually impaired, hearing impaired and sighted people with all Trustees having equal voting rights. Where this cannot be achieved the Board will still be valid irrespective of the make-up of the Board.

Filling vacancies in the Board and co-option

The Board can appoint anyone as a Trustee to fill a vacancy in the membership of the Board. They will hold office until the next annual general meeting where they may be elected by the members (unless they cease to be a Trustee prior to that by virtue of Article 38 or 39). For the purposes of this Article the Board shall decide how many vacancies there are, subject to the maximum and minimum numbers given in Article 33.1.

Trustee recruitment and induction

New Trustees are given induction on their roles, their legal obligations under charity and company law, the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit, and inform them of the content of the Articles of Association, the committee and decision-making processes, the business plan and recent financial performance of the Charity.

During the induction day they meet key employees and other Trustees. Trustees are encouraged to attend appropriate external training events where these will facilitate the undertaking of their role.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Governance and Organisational structure

The Trustees of Merton Voluntary Association for the Blind are responsible for the assets and strategic direction of the Charity. The Chief Executive Officer, who is appointed by the Trustees, is responsible for carrying out the day-to-day management of the Charity. To facilitate effective operations, the Chief Executive Officer has delegated authority, within terms of delegation approved by the Trustees, for operational matters including finance, employment and Charity related activities. The Trustees normally meet quarterly during the year to receive reports on all aspects of the Charity's activities and finance. The Chief Executive Officer attends all meetings.

Senior Management Team

Kevin Gregory Chief Executive Officer
Nina Mitchell-Mckoy Officer Manager

Pay policy for senior staff

The Trustees consider the Board of Trustees and the senior management team comprise the key management personnel of the Charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the Charity on a day-to-day basis. All Trustees give of their time freely and no trustee received remuneration in the year. Details of Trustees' expenses and related party transactions are disclosed in Note 11 to the accounts.

The pay of the senior staff is reviewed annually and normally increased in accordance with average earnings. The Trustees benchmark against pay levels in other local charities of a similar size, which are run on a voluntary basis.

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 management of the Charity with service user, external contractor or supplier of services must be disclosed to the Board of Trustees in the same way as any other contractual relationship with a related party. In the current year no such related party transactions were reported.

All related party transactions are managed in accordance with the Charity's conflicts of interest policy. All transactions and activities involving organisations in which a Trustee may have an interest are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the Charity's financial and procurement procedures. Total reimbursed expenses made to Trustees are shown in Note 11.

In the current year no such related party transactions were reported.

Merton Talking Newspaper share our premises, and members or Trustees of this charity are trustees of Merton Voluntary Association for the Blind. Trustees who are members of this charity keep the separate interests at 'arm's length'.

Use of volunteers

MertonVision is grateful to all its volunteers, who carry out a variety of different tasks both in and out of the Charity. Our diverse range of volunteers have a variety of interests and reasons for wanting to support the Charity - from gaining experience at the start of their careers to using their wealth of experience and knowledge to meeting the needs of our communities. All our volunteers add value to our work and make a real difference to our clients and communities. Our volunteers are supported and overseen by our Volunteer Service Manager and are managed in accordance with the Volunteers policy.

Due to the size of the Charity, staff and volunteers work closely together and several of the existing staff originally began as volunteers. Volunteers are recruited on a rolling basis. Our volunteers are made up of different groups. There are those who work with the Charity offering support to the clients and staff, sometimes running activities.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

Objects

The objects for which the Charity is established are to grant assistance to all blind and partially sighted people ordinarily resident in the London Borough of Merton and if the Trustees so determines elsewhere in England and Wales. The Charity operates using the trading name of MertonVision.

Aims

Our aim is to support and empower people with a visual impairment, from their diagnosis of permanent sight loss through the entire rehabilitative process, in whatever form is appropriate for them. This includes children, adults, people with dual sensory loss and people with other difficulties in addition to their visual loss.

Our services are informed by national guidelines and good practice, in particular 'Seeing it my way' which works to ensure that blind and partially sighted people can access the support, information and services needed for independent living.

We provide a 'pathway' of services and collaborate widely to ensure that as far as possible those needs are met.

Ensuring our work delivers our aims

We review our aims, objectives and activities each year. This review looks at what we achieved and the outcomes of our work in the previous 12 months. The review looks at the success of each key activity and the benefits they have brought to those groups of people we are set up to help.

The review also helps us ensure our aims, objectives and activities remained focused on our stated purposes. We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning our future activities. In particular, the Trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set.

Following the Coronavirus pandemic our staff and volunteers continue to help those members and clients who cannot leave their home with a delivery service for shopping, prescriptions and in some cases household emergencies. Any lingering concerns, requirements and anxieties are being actioned and addressed. The Guardian Centre has reintroduced our normal program of activities and added more. Members are however still reluctant to return, perhaps because pre-pandemic routines were disrupted.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

PEOPLE HAVE ACCESS TO INFORMATION ABOUT LIVING WITH SIGHT LOSS

We feel that this is best achieved through personal contact. During the past year we have had direct contact with 511 clients, with 2,985 telephone calls. We also made 116 home visits to deliver shopping, prescriptions, essential equipment and to help out with IT problems.

There were 109 new clients during the year.

The Guardian Centre is once again open Monday - Thursday 9 am to 5 pm and on Friday 9 am to 4 pm for personal and telephone callers, and at other times by appointment. In addition we provide:

Rehabilitation

MertonVision provides a comprehensive rehabilitation service for people with a visual impairment in Merton. The service is contracted from London Borough of Merton. Rehabilitation includes 'problem solving' to help individuals find solutions to the difficulties they may face, and gives them the skills, confidence and equipment to re-order their lives. This will include daily living skills such as cooking, personal care, mobility training and a wealth of information about what is available to help live with sight loss.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

MertonVision receive Certificates of Visual Impairment (CVI's) directly from hospital eye clinics, this enables rehabilitation and support services to be offered quickly. The Association of Directors of Social Services guidelines state that the patient should be contacted within 2 weeks. The service has been offered to 131 adults. Our average wait time for first contact was 4.6 days.

Habilitation Children

MertonVision has a project for one day per week with London Borough of Merton SENDIS (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Integrated Service) to provide mobility and independence training for children in the borough who have a visual impairment. We sub-contract a qualified rehabilitation and mobility officer to fulfil this project. MertonVision also provide early assessment and daily living skills training as appropriate to the child's age and ability.

Benefits Advice

We have a volunteer who is able to assist with filling in basic forms such as Blue Badge and Taxi Card applications.

Newsletter and other information media

Our main publication is a bi-monthly newsletter, which is distributed to 376 people with a visual impairment and 46 volunteers, supporters and local organisations. Information includes local and national issues of interest to people with a visual impairment. Each person's personal preference is accommodated, with standard or customised large print, Braille, email, and memory stick (MP3) format available.

Additionally we send information on a daily or ad hoc basis to those on our distribution list who have access to email with news and information as it arrives at MertonVision.

The MertonVision website is now supported by a new provider and is updated regularly, we are also using social media.

We work closely with Merton Talking Newspaper (MTN) to distribute MP3 players on permanent loan on their behalf. This ensures that people also have the appropriate equipment to listen to audio books and newsletters.

MertonVision is an agent for Wireless for the Blind, which provides specially adapted audio equipment for those in need.

EMOTIONAL SUPPORT AS APPROPRIATE IS OFFERED

Counselling service

While depression is not an inevitable consequence of vision impairment, it is common. An estimated one-third of older adults with vision loss report clinically significant depressive symptoms. Whether a person with vision loss becomes depressed appears to be more related to the impact the vision loss has on the person's functioning, rather than the severity of vision loss. We are now working in partnership with Wimbledon Guild of Social Welfare and Merton IAPPT who will provide counselling for our clients when required.

The Guardian Centre is fully operational and offers the following activities.

Peer Support

Peer support is often crucial to those newly diagnosed with enduring sight loss. By offering social opportunities MertonVision enables visually impaired people (especially those with a recent diagnosis) to meet with others who are living with sight loss and learn from each other. Our weekly daytime or special events encourage people to meet and socialise.

Weekly social activities

This includes coffee morning, social events and local peer support.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

Lunch clubs

This gives people the opportunity to meet other people and enjoy a freshly prepared meal on Thursday. We know that many people live alone and are unlikely to cook. We provided approximately 335 lunches.

Social events

MertonVision arrange social evenings, for example Burns night, Quizzes and Bridge tournaments. During the summer months we arrange trips out on our minibus to the seaside or places of interest. We are fortunate that many of our volunteers give up their free time to accompany and guide those who need it.

Macular group

The local Macular Group meet bi-monthly at MertonVision. Everyone who has macular disease, friends or family are welcome.

Transport

To enable people to get to our base at the Guardian Centre and take up our services we employ a part time driver to drive our fully accessible minibus, and to manage a team of volunteer drivers. We also hire additional minibuses when required, to ensure that we can provide the service when needed.

All our drivers are required to undertake the Minibus Driver Awareness Scheme (MiDAS) training and certification.

Young people with a visual impairment

Most of our service users are elderly, therefore our services are geared towards the needs of older people.

However, The Powell Family Foundation have provided 2-year funding to provide regular activities for children and young people such as theatre visits, magic shows, animal interactions and even fun extreme events such as a slime workshop. This has allowed us to employ a full-time co-ordinator, who received an award from Visionary for her outstanding work and an extension of the project.

PROVIDE PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS THEY MAY FACE

Home Support

We realised that many people with poor vision have difficulty resolving a problem at home that needs vision, so we set up a service in response to the need. We have helped with a variety of 'problems' for example, restoring the settings on a TV, delivery and setting up a talking microwave, fitting a replacement light bulb for a task lamp and doing a safety check. We also deliver and set up loan CCTV's and training on their use.

Daily Living Aids and Equipment Room

The resource centre offers the opportunity to try some of the practical or specialist equipment which people with a visual impairment may find useful. Equipment is available to buy. Some items are available on short-term loan so that people can try more expensive items in their own home first. Our agreement with the RNIB gives us ordering priority for our clients.

Low Vision Aids

We offer a Low Vision Aids service to people in the community who have been referred by local optometrist practices. The aim of the service is to enable people with low vision access to low vision aids (optical magnifiers) much earlier than the conventional route by referral to GP and subsequent hospital appointment. In addition to early referral, this project allows for a more 'person centred' approach, so that the patient emerges with greater skills in using their magnifiers. The service is funded by the Merton Clinical Commissioning Group, and is available at MertonVision by appointment.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

Social and Adult Learning Activities

IT training

We have an accessible IT Suite equipped with 6 PC's with large monitors and accessible software. We give training on the use of the integral magnification and other specialist software, as well as using the computer. We have a part time, in-house IT Support Trainer. MertonVision provides training for using 'tablets' (iPad and ePad), as these seem particularly accessible for people without previous computer skills. We also have a qualified 'Guide' trainer to help people to set up and use 'Guide' accessible software at home.

Arts and Crafts

We employ an Arts and Craft tutor for one session per week to accommodate people with a visual impairment.

Braille training

We offer regular Braille reading tuition classes.

Falls prevention

We offer a weekly Falls Prevention Chair Based Exercise Class, which helps to deliver the Falls Strategy for Older People locally.

Falls are usually caused by one or more of four triggers: trips and hazards, polypharmacy (more than four medications) poor muscle tone or poor vision. We have been working closely with Merton Falls Prevention Lead (NHS) to add a simple sight-screening tool when assessing those who are referred to their service. Those who failed were given our information about eye tests, cheaper options for spectacles and the number to call if they need a domiciliary visit. We are hoping the screening tool will be rolled out to more community assessors.

Martial Arts and Self-Defence Classes

A grant from Merton Borough of Sport (sponsored by Clarion Futures) has allowed us to employ a fully qualified instructor to run these weekly sessions for VI children and adults. The enjoyment, enthusiasm and respect for the instructor of the younger members is a joy to watch.

PROVIDE PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS THEY MAY FACE

Volunteer Services

The main focus of our volunteer services is to provide a Home Visiting Service to people with a visual impairment. This service provides a trained volunteer to people who need additional help not provided at the Guardian Centre.

Our full time Volunteer Service Manager recruits, trains and supports volunteers for a variety of roles within MertonVision. All volunteers undertake enhanced DBS checks. The volunteers have given 1112 hours of their time to support our clients.

We are pleased that we can accommodate volunteers from diverse cultures and those with disabilities. We are very grateful to our volunteers, without whom many of our services would not run.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

The Chief Executive Officer gives talks to community groups on the work of MertonVision. We also provide Visual Impairment Awareness Training.

During the year we have worked or collaborated with the following organisations to improve services locally for people with a visual impairment.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Close collaboration means that we can refer clients (with their permission) to other services or organisations where their need can be met.

- Merton Clinical Commissioning Group • MVSC
- LBM Library service • RSBC
- LBM Social services • Sight For Surrey
- LBM Education Dept. • Guide Dogs for the Blind
- Merton Public Health Team • Vision Foundation
- LBM Ageing Well Programme Phase 2 • Wimbledon Foundation
- Wimbledon Guild of Social Welfare • Commonsense Trust
- Age UK Merton • Merton Chamber of Commerce
- Merton Community Transport • Wimbledon Dons
- Safer Neighbourhood team • Kingston Association for the Blind
- Thomas Pocklington Trust • Sutton Vision
- The Powell Family Foundation • Croydon Vision

Transcription Services

Providers of written information are required to offer accessible formats such as large print, Braille and audio.

We are pleased that we are able to offer a transcription service free to our members and on a commercial basis to our customers. MertonVision is the preferred provider of braille transcription to the London Borough of Merton.

MertonVision is a member of COTIS (Confederation of Transcribed Information Services).

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The future of our 'restricted freehold' site is still uncertain, the London Borough of Merton are procrastinating over the release of the covenant and the officer dealing with negotiations has left the council. We have another developer keen to undertake a project but will not commit unless the covenant is removed. Most of the works to the centre have been completed with the exception of the heating system. The roof has been patched-up, complete rewiring, gas and fire remedial work and redecoration of the classrooms on the ground floor. The total cost to our bottom line being £81,500 less permission from the National Lottery to use £20,000 of the grant monies to fund the electrical work. The Trustees will continue to remain steadfastly committed to ensuring a sustainable organisation for the benefit of its service users. The Charity's Trustees consider the overall financial performance of the Charity for the year to be extremely disappointing due to a number of factors. Repair costs as above and the loss of grants from Wimbledon Foundation £25,000 and NHS SW London ICB £32,000 plus no legacies, £36,500 received last year.

As in the previous years the Charity's income is project led but also remains heavily reliant on the public sector funds with the Local Authority. Thanks to a 2-year grant from the Powell Family worth £32,582 this year, MertonVision was able to implement its long-awaited Children's and Young Person's Project. Finally a grant of £4,930 from Merton Borough of Sport (sponsored by Clarion Futures) was also received to set-up Martial Arts and self-defence classes. There have been some changes during the year within the other categories of income.

The Charity's Trustees wish to express our sincere gratitude to all our grant funders, listed in note 3 on page 20 of these accounts, for their support during the year.

The Charity's incoming resources have decreased by 23.74% to £442,411 (2024: £580,156) due to the reasons listed above. The Charity's expenditure has increased to £555,035 (2024: £528,008) due to exceptional costs associated with premises repairs. The net effect of the above is a decrease in total reserves of £112,624 (2024: increase £52,148).

The Charity's Trustees will continually attempt to keep the cost structure of the organisation stable and tightly controlled.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Future plans

Our Civic Pride Grant worth £81,467 per annum, has been extended for a further year by the London Borough of Merton and will now end 31 March 2027.

The original National Lottery Grant was completed at the end of June 2025, final reports were submitted and agreed with zero underspend. Due to its outstanding success, our Chief Executive Officer (CEO) has been able to secure a new 3 year grant worth almost £500,000 over that term, which began on 20 August 2025. The first half-yearly instalment of £83,754 was received shortly after. The Community Control Project addresses the isolation and exclusion experienced by people in Merton who are partially sighted, blind or have hearing impairments, with particular attention to vulnerable populations including LGBT+ individuals, those experiencing homelessness and survivors of domestic abuse. These individuals face compounded barriers and are often underrepresented in healthcare and social activities due to limited public awareness, prejudice and systematic failures.

Due to outstanding work and commitment by our CYP outreach worker, The Thomas Powell Family Foundation have extended their funding, worth £102,651 in total for a further 3 years.

After the loss of the £32,000 NHS ICB Grant in last years accounts, our CEO and other affected local charities lobbied Merton Connected to seek a solution. They have persuaded Merton Giving to cover the fund for 2025/26.

Although the Wimbledon Foundation Outreach Project has come to an end, they have further supported us by providing a one-off Capital Building Award of £50,000 in May 2025 to offset the major improvement works carried out to the Guardian Centre last year. Further improvement works, currently totalling £51,690 have been made on 2 new fire safety doors, renovations to the washrooms and painting the lobby, kitchen, main hall, staircase and upper floor offices. New desktop computers and other IT equipment, which support Windows 11, have been purchased and installed for all staff at a cost of £12,211 in August 2025.

The adult rehabilitation contract with the London Borough of Merton (LBM) has been renewed, the fees have been increased and backdated to 1 April 2025. The contract is for one year from 1 August 2025 and allows for a part-time assistant. Congratulations to our Vision Rehabilitation Specialist who has now successfully completed her university qualification in children's Habilitation work and has been promoted to Senior Rehab Officer. A new Habilitation contract is being negotiated with LBM.

Thomas Pocklington Trust has granted MertonVision a subsidised Communications Officer internship, the successful candidate will maintain the new website and all the charity's social media communications.

Merton Talking Newspaper Association have not been administered properly since 2022 and in an effort to resurrect the charity for the future benefit of our existing and new subscribers an EGM was held on 31 July 2025. Certain Trustees and officers were retired, a small amendment made to the Constitution and 4 new Trustees appointed. Two of which are MertonVision Trustees, Wayne Busbridge and Steven Moore who will try and mend ties with bankers and the Charity Commission as soon as possible.

There is a problem with the Council Tax on Emily Villa (EV) 65, Clarendon Road. The main building, number 67 has always been exempt from Rates and latterly Council Tax. However, EV is split into 2 halves. Upstairs is classed as residential from when we had a live-in caretaker many years ago and is ludicrously double rated this year as a 'second home'. We objected to this, failed to pay the instalments and after being threatened with a bailiff's order were forced to pay the full assessment pending appeal. Downstairs is classed as commercial and rented out between December 2017 and March 2021 to Merton Library (as a favour to LBM) and 2 separate NHS departments each paying their own taxes. Since the last tenant left the whole house has been uninhabited and is considered derelict, there is no residential use and should be exempt from property taxes as is the rest of the site. A problem has arisen because the last NHS tenant has only just realised they were still paying LBM, 4 years after they had vacated. They have been refunded and Merton Council have assessed MertonVision £15,497 to recover their losses – a total shambles. Merton Councillor Laxmi Attawar (a long suffering member of our working committee for the abortive building project) has kindly offered to mediate on our behalf.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Future plans - continued

Finally, on 21 August 2025 at the Guardian Centre, MertonVision celebrated its 60th Birthday. This well attended low key event began with 3 very interesting short talks, the first by a representative of The All England Club outlined the history of the Wimbledon Tennis Championships from its beginning in Nursery Road right up to their planned extension into Wimbledon Park. Two local historians gave separate talks on the origins of Colliers Wood and of lived experiences in the area. A barbeque lunch was then served, accompanied by Colliers Wood Choir and Orchestra and followed by cake. Our Chairman, Harry Cowd gave the closing speech emphasising that no dignitaries had been invited because the party had been designed to celebrate the Charity and its Members.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Investment policy and objectives

The Trustees, having regard to the liquidity requirements of operating the Charity, have kept available funds in an interest-bearing deposit account and seek to achieve a rate on deposit which matches or exceeds inflation as measured by the retail prices index.

The Trustees have designated the Emily Wells legacy (£51,526) as an income-generating fund. The Trustees have explored suitable short-term investments to generate income on the remainder of their free reserves. These investments have been placed with different banking institutions to mitigate any possible losses the institutions might suffer.

Reserves policy and going concern

At a committee meeting held on 11 March 2021 to address the continuing economic uncertainties ahead and the inability to attract new core funding the Trustees agreed to change their previously established policy, whereby the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in fixed assets (the free reserves) held by the Charity should be up to six rather than twelve months of the resources expended, which now equates to approximately £276,680. At this level the Board of Trustees feel that they would still be able to continue the current activities of the Charity in the event of a significant drop in funding.

Risk management

The Trustees have reviewed the major risks to which the Charity is exposed, in particular to operations and finances. Operational risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures and policies, with a regular review of these to ensure current good practice. A disaster plan to ensure business continuity in the event of unplanned events has been prepared. The Trustees have identified the inherent risks associated with having one primary funding source. Our reserves policy mitigates some of the risks of loss of funding. The Trustees have implemented and augmented an ongoing fundraising programme.

The Trustees report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

H A Cowd
Trustee

20 November 2025

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The Trustees, who are also the directors of Merton Voluntary Association for the Blind for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial period 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 these 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;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charitable Company will continue in operation.

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

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Merton Voluntary Association for the Blind (the Charitable Company) for the period ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Trustees of the Charitable Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law), you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the Charitable Company are not required to be audited under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the Charitable Company's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the Charitable Company's gross income exceeded £250,000, the independent examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of ICAEW, which is one of the listed bodies.

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 Charitable Company as required by section 386 of the Companies Act 2006;
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 other than any requirement that the financial statements give a true and fair view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- 4 the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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.

Ms J A Rickler, FCA

Alwyns LLP

Crown House

151 High Road

Loughton

Essex

IG10 4LG

15 December 2025

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Current financial period		Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
	Notes				
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	95,753	198,052	293,805	439,756
Charitable activities	4	140,910	-	140,910	132,486
Other trading activities	5	471	-	471	511
Investments	6	7,225	-	7,225	7,403
Total income		<u>244,359</u>	<u>198,052</u>	<u>442,411</u>	<u>580,156</u>
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	7	228	-	228	340
Charitable activities	8	310,693	244,114	554,807	527,668
Total expenditure		<u>310,921</u>	<u>244,114</u>	<u>555,035</u>	<u>528,008</u>
Net income/(expenditure) and movement in funds		<u>(66,562)</u>	<u>(46,062)</u>	<u>(112,624)</u>	<u>52,148</u>
Reconciliation of funds:					
Fund balances at 1 April 2024		<u>530,533</u>	<u>107,775</u>	<u>638,308</u>	<u>586,160</u>
Fund balances at 31 March 2025		<u>463,971</u>	<u>61,713</u>	<u>525,684</u>	<u>638,308</u>

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

The notes on pages 16 to 29 form part of these financial statements.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED) INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Prior financial year		Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
	Notes			
Income from:				
Donations and legacies	3	185,941	253,815	439,756
Charitable activities	4	132,486	-	132,486
Other trading activities	5	511	-	511
Investments	6	7,403	-	7,403
Total income		<u>326,341</u>	<u>253,815</u>	<u>580,156</u>
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	7	340	-	340
Charitable activities	8	294,304	233,364	527,668
Total expenditure		<u>294,644</u>	<u>233,364</u>	<u>528,008</u>
Net income and movement in funds		<u>31,697</u>	<u>20,451</u>	<u>52,148</u>
Reconciliation of funds:				
Fund balances at 1 April 2023		<u>498,836</u>	<u>87,324</u>	<u>586,160</u>
Fund balances at 31 March 2024		<u>530,533</u>	<u>107,775</u>	<u>638,308</u>

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

		2025	2024
	Notes	£	£
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	14	59,759	57,697
Investments	15	25,000	25,000
		<u>84,759</u>	<u>82,697</u>
Current assets			
Stocks	16	633	633
Debtors	17	34,918	32,680
Cash at bank and in hand		422,307	540,210
		<u>457,858</u>	<u>573,523</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	18	(16,933)	(17,912)
		<u></u>	<u></u>
Net current assets		440,925	555,611
		<u></u>	<u></u>
Total assets less current liabilities		525,684	638,308
		<u></u>	<u></u>
The funds of the Charitable Company			
Restricted income funds	20	61,713	107,775
Unrestricted funds	21	463,971	530,533
		<u>525,684</u>	<u>638,308</u>

The notes on pages 16 to 29 form part of these financial statements.

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the period ended 31 March 2025.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the period in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 20 November 2025

H A Cowd
Trustee

S J Moore
Trustee

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Merton Voluntary Association for the Blind is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is The Guardian Centre, 67 Clarendon Road, Colliers Wood, London SW19 2DX.

1.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charitable Company's governing document, the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" 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)". The Charitable Company is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

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

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charitable Company 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.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the Trustees. Unrestricted funds include designated funds where the Trustees, at their discretion, have created a fund for a specific purpose.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purpose within the objects of the Charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donors or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes. Where necessary, a quarterly report is sent to the donor detailing expenditure. 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 Charitable Company.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the Charitable Company is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Donated services or facilities are recognised when the Charitable Company has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use of the Charitable Company of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. Some management and activity of the Charitable Company is carried out by volunteers. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the volunteer time is not recognised and refer to the Trustees' report for more information about their contribution.

On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the Charitable Company which is the amount the Charitable Company would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the Charitable Company has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

1.5 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.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accrual basis. All expenses including support costs and governance costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure headings having regard to the nature of the expenditure.

Expenditure for raising funds includes only directly related costs for traditional fundraising including staff time where applicable. All roles within the senior management team that have fundraising responsibility in its broader sense of restricted income generation in the form of, for example, larger multi-year statutory grants remain within costs for charitable activities. This is to ensure that the fundraising income and costs shown in the Statement of Financial activities relate to each other and can be reasonably compared.

Grants paid to individuals

Certain grants are applied for on behalf of clients and where these applications are successful; the amounts received are expended in accordance with the terms and conditions of the grant application.

Donated services and facilities

Gifts are recorded as received however, as the value of most gifts received cannot be measured reliably these are not included in the accounts.

Voluntary help

A certain amount of time is expended on the Charitable Company's activities, which is donated free of charge, which includes pro bono counselling and therapist time. It is not possible to quantify the value of the time given and accordingly it is neither recorded as donated income nor as an expense in the accounts.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses. Individual fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Freehold land and buildings	Fully depreciated
Office furniture and fittings	25% on reducing balance
Computer equipment	33% straight line
Motor vehicles	20% on reducing balance
Plant and machinery	20% straight line

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

1.8 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the Charitable Company reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.9 Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Cost comprises direct materials and, where applicable, direct labour costs and those overheads that have been incurred in bringing the stocks to their present location and condition. Items held for distribution at no or nominal consideration are measured the lower of replacement cost and cost.

Net realisable value is the estimated selling price less all estimated costs of completion and costs to be incurred in marketing, selling and distribution.

1.10 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.11 Financial instruments

The Charitable Company 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 Charitable Company's balance sheet when the Charitable Company 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.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

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 at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the Charitable Company's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.12 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the Charitable Company is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.13 Retirement benefits

Since 1 August 2016 employees were able to join the money purchase scheme, which has been established in compliance with the regulations on the workplace pensions under the Pension Act 2008. Employees were automatically enrolled into the money purchase scheme unless they have exercised their right to opt out of scheme membership.

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the Charitable Company's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Donations and gifts	13,892	-	13,892	26,476	-	26,476
Legacies	-	-	-	36,554	-	36,554
Grants	81,467	198,052	279,519	122,467	253,815	376,282
Membership fees	394	-	394	444	-	444
	<u>95,753</u>	<u>198,052</u>	<u>293,805</u>	<u>185,941</u>	<u>253,815</u>	<u>439,756</u>
Grants						
London Borough Merton	81,467	-	81,467	81,467	-	81,467
Wimbledon Foundation	-	-	-	-	25,000	25,000
Thomas Powell Foundation	-	32,582	32,582	-	34,125	34,125
The National Lottery	-	-	-	-	(10,000)	(10,000)
Community Fund	-	-	-	-	28,486	28,486
DWP - Access to Work	-	12,411	12,411	-	500	32,500
NHS South West London	-	-	-	32,000	500	175,704
Big Lottery	-	147,619	147,619	-	175,704	175,704
Vision foundation for London	-	-	-	9,000	-	9,000
Merton Borough of Sport	-	4,930	4,930	-	-	-
Merton Connect Winter Grant	-	510	510	-	-	-
	<u>81,467</u>	<u>198,052</u>	<u>279,519</u>	<u>122,467</u>	<u>253,815</u>	<u>376,282</u>

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Sale of Goods and Services		
Activities income	273	326
Fees received	2,311	1,064
Catering income	1,359	559
Hall hire	4,365	3,280
Members club sales	225	1,276
Transport charges	1,032	1,276
Contracted Services		
Access to Work	27,864	34,757
Maintenance of LBM register	1,400	1,184
Merton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)	2,366	2,366
Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	-	(1,988)
Rehabilitation charges	99,715	88,386
	<u>140,910</u>	<u>132,486</u>

5 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Fundraising events	-	259
100 Club	471	252
	<u>471</u>	<u>511</u>
Other trading activities		
	<u>471</u>	<u>511</u>

6 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Deposit account interest	6,298	6,550
Investment income	927	853
	<u>7,225</u>	<u>7,403</u>

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

7 Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Fundraising and publicity		
Publicity and fundraising cost	58	50
100 Club prizes	170	290
	<u>228</u>	<u>340</u>

8 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Direct costs		
Wages and salaries	373,605	407,710
Depreciation and impairment	7,176	6,788
Other staff costs	13,921	17,415
Volunteer expenses	676	248
Direct project costs	16,511	7,512
Premises costs	94,333	35,959
Office costs	35,139	42,764
Sundry expenses	1,914	-
	<u>543,275</u>	<u>518,396</u>
Share of support and governance costs (see note 9)		
Governance	11,532	9,272
	<u>554,807</u>	<u>527,668</u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	310,693	294,304
Restricted funds	244,114	233,364
	<u>554,807</u>	<u>527,668</u>

9 Support costs allocated to activities

	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Governance	<u>11,532</u>	<u>9,272</u>

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

9 Support costs allocated to activities (Continued)

	2025	2024
	£	£
Governance costs comprise:		
Audit fees	2,580	2,063
Accountancy	1,800	1,337
Legal and professional	2,119	1,200
HR fees	2,863	2,863
Payroll fees	396	360
Subscriptions	1,774	1,449
	<u>11,532</u>	<u>9,272</u>

10 Net movement in funds

	2025	2024
	£	£

The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):

Fees payable for the independent examination of the charity's financial statements

	2,580	2,063
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	7,176	6,788
	<u>7,176</u>	<u>6,788</u>

11 Trustees

None of the Trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the Charitable Company during the period.

12 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the period was:

	2025	2024
	Number	Number
Senior Management Team	2	2
Other Direct Charitable Staff	11	9
	<u>13</u>	<u>11</u>

	2025	2024
	£	£
Employment costs		
Wages and salaries	339,359	370,638
Social security costs	25,274	26,876
Other pension costs	8,972	10,196
	<u>373,605</u>	<u>407,710</u>

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

12 Employees

(Continued)

Remuneration of key management personnel

The remuneration of key management personnel was as follows:

The key management personnel of the Charity comprise of the Trustees, the Chief Executive Officer and the Office Manager. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £88,904 (2024: 68,563).

13 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

14 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings	Fixtures and fittings	Motor vehicles	Computer equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost					
At 1 April 2024	108,541	37,800	27,295	83,863	257,499
Additions	-	-	-	9,238	9,238
Disposals	-	-	-	(1,118)	(1,118)
At 31 March 2025	108,541	37,800	27,295	91,983	265,619
Depreciation and impairment					
At 1 April 2024	58,521	37,064	26,980	77,237	199,802
Depreciation charged in the period	-	348	63	6,765	7,176
Eliminated in respect of disposals	-	-	-	(1,118)	(1,118)
At 31 March 2025	58,521	37,412	27,043	82,884	205,860
Carrying amount					
At 31 March 2025	50,020	388	252	9,099	59,759
At 31 March 2024	50,020	736	315	6,626	57,697

15 Fixed asset investments

	Income Bonds £
National Savings Income Bonds- valued at cost	
At 1 April 2024 & 31 March 2025	25,000
Carrying amount	
At 31 March 2025	25,000
At 31 March 2024	25,000

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

16	Stocks	2025	2024
		£	£
	Finished goods and goods for resale	633	633
		<u>633</u>	<u>633</u>
17	Debtors	2025	2024
		£	£
	Amounts falling due within one year:		
	Other debtors	22,043	27,971
	Prepayments and accrued income	12,875	4,709
		<u>34,918</u>	<u>32,680</u>
		<u>34,918</u>	<u>32,680</u>
18	Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2025	2024
		£	£
	Other taxation and social security	7,015	7,324
	Trade creditors	152	922
	Other creditors	-	330
	Accruals and deferred income	9,766	9,336
		<u>16,933</u>	<u>17,912</u>
		<u>16,933</u>	<u>17,912</u>
19	Retirement benefit schemes	2025	2024
		£	£
	Defined contribution schemes		
	Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	8,972	10,196
		<u>8,972</u>	<u>10,196</u>
		<u>8,972</u>	<u>10,196</u>

The Charitable Company operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Charitable Company in an independently administered fund.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

20 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 April 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£
Access to Work	4,898	12,411	(12,289)	5,020
Dora and Leslie Barter Conservatory Fund	6,250	-	-	6,250
Hearing Impaired Children	454	-	(454)	-
Wimbledon Foundation	16,462	-	(16,462)	-
Everyone Health	2,680	-	-	2,680
Big Lottery	76,531	147,619	(177,672)	46,478
NHS South West London	500	-	(500)	-
Merton Borough of Sport	-	4,930	(3,645)	1,285
Merton Connected	-	510	(510)	-
Thomas Powell Family Foundation	-	32,582	(32,582)	-
	<u>107,775</u>	<u>198,052</u>	<u>(244,114)</u>	<u>61,713</u>

Previous year:

	At 1 April 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£
Access to Work	7,390	28,486	(30,978)	4,898
Dora and Leslie Barter Conservatory Fund	6,250	-	-	6,250
Hearing Impaired Children	454	-	-	454
Wimbledon Foundation	14,167	25,000	(22,705)	16,462
Everyone Health	4,080	-	(1,400)	2,680
National Lottery Community Fund	10,000	(10,000)	-	-
Big Lottery	44,983	175,704	(144,156)	76,531
NHS South West London	-	500	-	500
Thomas Powell Family Foundation	-	34,125	(34,125)	-
	<u>87,324</u>	<u>253,815</u>	<u>(233,364)</u>	<u>107,775</u>

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

20 Restricted funds

(Continued)

Access to work

Funding received from the Department for Works and Pensions for various equipment and expenses by visually impaired members of staff to assist them in carrying out their employment. Certain items of computer equipment were capitalised and are being depreciated.

The Dora and Leslie Barter conservatory Fund

In accordance with the provisions of the Dora Barter legacy the funds donated therein are applied to the building of a new conservatory.

Hearing Impaired Children

Funding received from Wimbledon District Nursing and Midwifery Benevolent Society to enable hearing-impaired children to join the Eye Can Do It programme.

Wimbledon Foundation

We secured five year project funding to engage a Working Age Outreach Worker to develop social and peer support activities and to promote the take up of statutory and voluntary services for working age people with impaired vision in Merton. The project provides £25,000 per annum to cover salary costs, expenses and overheads of the Outreach Worker.

Everyone Health

A grant of £4,350 was received to support our new No One Left Behind, chair based, exercise classes.

Big Lottery

A three year grant to support our Outreach team who recruit and train volunteers to assist our members and clients to live better lives despite their visual impairment.

NHS South West London and Merton Connected

Winter and Spring engagement projects for half-term activities arranged to benefit visually impaired school children.

Merton Borough of Sports (sponsored by Clarion Futures)

A local authority project to run weekly Martial Arts and self-defence classes for adults and children.

Thomas Powell Family Foundation

A two year grant to support our children's and Young Person's Project, which provides regular activities for our younger members.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

21 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 April 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
General Funds	189,236	244,359	(310,921)	-	122,674
Designated - Emily Wells Memorial Fund	51,526	-	-	-	51,526
Designated - General Building Maintenance	184,131	-	-	-	184,131
Designated - Hall Refurbishment	20,640	-	-	-	20,640
Designated - New Minibus	15,000	-	-	-	15,000
Designated - Removal Costs	20,000	-	-	-	20,000
Designated - Social Club Refurbishment	50,000	-	-	-	50,000
	<u>530,533</u>	<u>244,359</u>	<u>(310,921)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>463,971</u>
Previous year:	At 1 April 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
General Funds	172,539	326,341	(294,644)	(15,000)	189,236
Designated - Emily Wells Memorial Fund	51,526	-	-	-	51,526
Designated - General Building Maintenance	104,131	-	-	80,000	184,131
Designated - Gym equipment	15,000	-	-	(15,000)	-
Designated - Hall Equipment	10,640	-	-	10,000	20,640
Designated IT, High Tech Loan equipment	60,000	-	-	(60,000)	-
Designated - New Minibus	-	-	-	15,000	15,000
Designated - Removal Costs	20,000	-	-	-	20,000
Designated - Resource Room Equipment	15,000	-	-	(15,000)	-
Designated - Social Club Refurbishment	50,000	-	-	-	50,000
	<u>498,836</u>	<u>326,341</u>	<u>(294,644)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>530,533</u>

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

21 Unrestricted funds

(Continued)

Funds have been designated as follows:

Emily Wells Memorial fund

This capital amount was designated in committee to provide revenue.

General Buildings Maintenance

The Trustees have taken advice on the risks involved in owning a large building and the likely repair and maintenance needs over the longer term. This amount has been set aside to meet large repair and maintenance needs.

Hall Refurbishment

The Trustees have agreed to refurbish the hall area.

Removal Costs

In a prior year, the Trustees have decided to set-up a fund to cover possible, unforeseen expenditure on our decampment during the reconstruction of The Guardian Centre.

Social Club Refurbishment

The Trustees have agreed to update and refurbish the social club area. Following a donation from the social club bank account and to recognise its source, it was decided in committee to increase the fund by a similar amount to a total now of £50,000.

New Minibus

The Trustees have agreed to transfer from General reserves £15,000 to signify our firm contribution towards a new minibus.

22 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £
At 31 March 2025:			
Tangible assets	54,739	5,020	59,759
Investments	25,000	-	25,000
Current assets/(liabilities)	384,232	56,693	440,925
	<u>463,971</u>	<u>61,713</u>	<u>525,684</u>
	<u><u>463,971</u></u>	<u><u>61,713</u></u>	<u><u>525,684</u></u>
	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
At 31 March 2024:			
Tangible assets	52,799	4,898	57,697
Investments	25,000	-	25,000
Current assets/(liabilities)	452,734	102,877	555,611
	<u>530,533</u>	<u>107,775</u>	<u>638,308</u>
	<u><u>530,533</u></u>	<u><u>107,775</u></u>	<u><u>638,308</u></u>

23 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the period (2024 - none).

This document was delivered using electronic communications and authenticated in accordance with the registrar's rules relating to electronic form, authentication and manner of delivery under section 1072 of the Companies Act 2006.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

England & Wales - Charity number 1075388

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 03758661 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1075388

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 MARCH 2024

FOR

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number
03758661 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number
1075388

Registered office
The Guardian Centre
67 Clarendon Road
Colliers Wood
London
SW19 2DX

Independent Examiner
Gareth Rees FCA CTA
PB Associates
Chartered Accountants & Chartered Tax Advisers
2 Castle Business Village
Station Road
Hampton
Middlesex
TW12 2BX

Principal Bankers
National Westminster Bank Plc
16 Wimbledon Hill Road
Wimbledon
London
SW19 7ZD

CAF Bank
25, Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Mailing
Kent
ME19 4JQ

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The Trustees (who are also directors of the charitable company for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006) are pleased to present their annual Trustees Report, together with the unaudited financial statements for the year ending 31 March 2024, 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 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) and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

TRUSTEES

All Trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the Charity. Any expenses reclaimed from the Charity are set out in Note 12 to the accounts. The Trustees serving during the year and to the date of this report were as follows: -

H A Cowd (Chairman)	
S J Moore (Treasurer)	
R F Bowman	
W A Busbridge (Vice Chairman)	
S R D Coates	
F Hibbert	Appointed 23 November 2023
N Gibson	Resigned 23 November 2023
H McAuley	Resigned 23 November 2023
H Meade	Resigned 23 November 2023
V A Morrison	
F P Pugh	

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY

The charitable company's principal activity during the year was to provide services, information and support to residents of Merton who have a visual impairment. The aim is to support and empower people with a visual impairment, from their diagnosis of permanent sight loss through the entire rehabilitative process, in whatever form is appropriate for them. This includes children, adults, people with dual sensory loss and people with additional difficulties.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

Merton Voluntary Association for the Blind is a company limited by guarantee governed by its Articles of Association dated 23 April 1999, amended 13 October 2000 and a further amendment 9 November 2017. The Charity was originally founded in 1965 and was registered as an unincorporated charity with the Charity Commission 9 March 1966.

Following the AGM 9 November 2017, a special resolution was passed and the Articles of Association of the Charity were changed in their entirety and replaced by new Articles.

All Trustees shall automatically become members of the Charity and their names shall be entered into the Charity's register of members. The number of members of the Charity is unlimited. They remain members until they cease to be members in accordance with the Articles.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES- CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Membership shall be open to any individual aged 18 or over whom the Board decides to admit to membership. The Trustees may determine criteria for membership but are not obliged to admit any person satisfying such criteria as members and may decline in their absolute discretion any person's application and need not give reasons for such decision.

Only members are eligible to vote at the AGM/EGM, general or special meetings convened for the purposes of discussing the business of the charitable company.

Appointment of new Trustees

As set out in the Articles of Association Trustees are elected annually by the members of the charitable company attending the Annual General Meeting and serve for a period of three years and then one third of Trustees are required to retire by rotation but may be re-elected.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES - CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Trustees can be recruited by open advert or may be proposed and seconded by members and put forward for election at the AGM in accordance with the terms and timelines determined by the Board and subject to the Board's approval of such nomination.

The Make-up of the Board

The Board consists of not fewer than six and no more than fifteen persons appointed by the Trustees at any time at a meeting or in writing. The Board shall aim to have, as far as reasonable, equal representation on the Board of visually impaired, hearing impaired and sighted people with all Trustees having equal voting rights. Where this cannot be achieved the Board will still be valid irrespective of the make-up of the Board.

Filling vacancies in the Board and co-option

The Board can appoint anyone as a Trustee to fill a vacancy in the membership of the Board. They will hold office until the next annual general meeting where they may be elected by the members (unless they cease to be a Trustee prior to that by virtue of Article 38 or 39). For the purposes of this Article the Board shall decide how many vacancies there are, subject to the maximum and minimum numbers given in Article 33.1.

Trustee recruitment and induction

New Trustees are given induction on their roles, their legal obligations under charity and company law, the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit, and inform them of the content of the Articles of Association, the committee and decision-making processes, the business plan and recent financial performance of the Charity.

During the induction day they meet key employees and other Trustees. Trustees are encouraged to attend appropriate external training events where these will facilitate the undertaking of their role.

Governance and Organisational structure

The Trustees of Merton Voluntary Association for the Blind are responsible for the assets and strategic direction of the Charity. The Chief Executive Officer, who is appointed by the Trustees, is responsible for carrying out the day-to-day management of the Charity. To facilitate effective operations, the Chief Executive Officer has delegated authority, within terms of delegation approved by the Trustees, for operational matters including finance, employment and Charity related activities. The Trustees normally meet quarterly during the year to receive reports on all aspects of the Charity's activities and finance. The Chief Executive Officer attends all meetings.

Senior Management Team

Kevin Gregory
Nina Mitchell-Mckoy

Chief Executive Officer
Officer Manager

Pay policy for senior staff

The Trustees consider the Board of Trustees and the senior management team comprise the key management personnel of the Charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the Charity on a day-to-day basis. All Trustees give of their time freely and no trustee received remuneration in the year. Details of Trustees' expenses and related party transactions are disclosed in Note 12 to the accounts.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES - CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The pay of the senior staff is reviewed annually and normally increased in accordance with average earnings. The Trustees benchmark against pay levels in other local charities of a similar size, which are run on a voluntary basis.

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 management of the Charity with service user, external contractor or supplier of services must be disclosed to the Board of Trustees in the same way as any other contractual relationship with a related party. In the current year no such related party transactions were reported.

All related party transactions are managed in accordance with the Charity's conflicts of interest policy. All transactions and activities involving organisations in which a Trustee may have an interest are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the Charity's financial and procurement procedures. Total reimbursed expenses made to Trustees are shown in Note 11.

In the current year no such related party transactions were reported.

Merton Talking Newspaper share our premises, and members or Trustees of this charity are potential trustees of Merton Voluntary Association for the Blind. Trustees who are members of this charity keep the separate interests at 'arm's length'.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES - CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Use of volunteers

MertonVision is grateful to all its volunteers, who carry out a variety of different tasks both in and out of the Charity. Our diverse range of volunteers have a variety of interests and reasons for wanting to support the Charity - from gaining experience at the start of their careers to using their wealth of experience and knowledge to meeting the needs of our communities. All our volunteers add value to our work and make a real difference to our clients and communities. Our volunteers are supported and overseen by our Volunteer Service Manager and are managed in accordance with the Volunteers policy.

Due to the size of the Charity, staff and volunteers work closely together and several of the existing staff originally began as volunteers. Volunteers are recruited on a rolling basis. Our volunteers are made up of different groups. There are those who work with the Charity offering support to the clients and staff, sometimes running activities.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

Objects

The objects for which the Charity is established are to grant assistance to all blind and partially sighted people ordinarily resident in the London Borough of Merton and if the Trustees so determines elsewhere in England and Wales. The Charity operates using the trading name of MertonVision.

Aims

Our aim is to support and empower people with a visual impairment, from their diagnosis of permanent sight loss through the entire rehabilitative process, in whatever form is appropriate for them. This includes children, adults, people with dual sensory loss and people with other difficulties in addition to their visual loss.

Our services are informed by national guidelines and good practice, in particular 'Seeing it my way' which works to ensure that blind and partially sighted people can access the support, information and services needed for independent living.

We provide a 'pathway' of services and collaborate widely to ensure that as far as possible those needs are met.

Ensuring our work delivers our aims

We review our aims, objectives and activities each year. This review looks at what we achieved and the outcomes of our work in the previous 12 months. The review looks at the success of each key activity and the benefits they have brought to those groups of people we are set up to help.

The review also helps us ensure our aims, objectives and activities remained focused on our stated purposes. We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning our future activities. In particular, the Trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES - CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Following the Coronavirus pandemic our staff and volunteers continue to help those members and clients who cannot leave their home with a delivery service for shopping, prescriptions and in some cases household emergencies. Any lingering concerns, requirements and anxieties are being actioned and addressed. The Guardian Centre has reintroduced our normal program of activities and added more. Members are however still reluctant to return, perhaps because pre-pandemic routines were disrupted.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE Charitable activities

PEOPLE HAVE ACCESS TO INFORMATION ABOUT LIVING WITH SIGHT LOSS

We feel that this is best achieved through personal contact. During the past year we have had direct contact with 566 clients, with 3,601 telephone calls. We also made 106 home visits to deliver shopping, prescriptions, essential equipment and to help out with IT problems.

There were 302 new clients during the year.

The Guardian Centre is once again open Monday - Thursday 9 am to 5 pm and on Friday 9 am to 4 pm for personal and telephone callers, and at other times by appointment. In addition we provide:

Rehabilitation

MertonVision provides a comprehensive rehabilitation service for people with a visual impairment in Merton. The service is contracted from London Borough of Merton. Rehabilitation includes 'problem solving' to help individuals find solutions to the difficulties they may face, and gives them the skills, confidence and equipment to re-order their lives. This will include daily living skills such as cooking, personal care, mobility training and a wealth of information about what is available to help live with sight loss.

MertonVision receive CVI's directly from hospital eye clinics, this enables rehabilitation and support services to be offered quickly. The Association of Directors of Social Services guidelines state that the patient should be contacted within 2 weeks. The service has been offered to 135 adults. Our average wait time for first contact was 12.25 days.

Habilitation Children

MertonVision has a project for one day per week with London Borough of Merton SENDIS (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Integrated Service) to provide mobility and independence training for children in the borough who have a visual impairment. We sub-contract a qualified rehabilitation and mobility officer to fulfil this project. MertonVision also provide early assessment and daily living skills training as appropriate to the child's age and ability.

Benefits Advice

We have a volunteer who is able to assist with filling in basic forms such as Blue Badge and Taxi Card applications.

Newsletter and other information media

Our main publication is a bi-monthly newsletter, which is distributed to 392 people with a visual impairment and 30 volunteers, supporters and local organisations. Information includes local and national issues of interest to people with a visual impairment. Each person's personal preference is

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES - CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

accommodated, with standard or customised large print, Braille, email, and memory stick (MP3) format available.

Additionally we send information on a daily or ad hoc basis to those on our distribution list who have access to email with news and information as it arrives at MertonVision.

The MertonVision website is now supported by a new provider and is updated regularly, we are also using social media.

We work closely with Merton Talking Newspaper (MTN) to distribute MP3 players on permanent loan on their behalf. This ensures that people also have the appropriate equipment to listen to audio books and newsletters.

MertonVision is an agent for Wireless for the Blind, which provides specially adapted audio equipment for those in need.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE Charitable activities

EMOTIONAL SUPPORT AS APPROPRIATE IS OFFERED

Counselling service

While depression is not an inevitable consequence of vision impairment, it is common. An estimated one-third of older adults with vision loss report clinically significant depressive symptoms. Whether a person with vision loss becomes depressed appears to be more related to the impact the vision loss has on the person's functioning, rather than the severity of vision loss. We are now working in partnership with Wimbledon Guild of Social Welfare and Merton IAPPT who will provide counselling for our clients when required.

The Guardian Centre is fully operational and offers the following activities.

Peer Support

Peer support is often crucial to those newly diagnosed with enduring sight loss. By offering social opportunities MertonVision enables visually impaired people (especially those with a recent diagnosis) to meet with others who are living with sight loss and learn from each other. Our weekly daytime or special events encourage people to meet and socialise.

Weekly social activities

This includes coffee morning, social events and local peer support.

Lunch clubs

This gives people the opportunity to meet other people and enjoy a freshly prepared meal on Thursday. We know that many people live alone and are unlikely to cook. We provided approximately 215 lunches. New menus are being trialled and a second club aimed at younger clients offering curries, burgers and lasagne held on Tuesday.

Social events

MertonVision arrange social evenings, for example Burns night, Quizzes and Bridge tournaments. During the summer months we arrange trips out on our minibus to the seaside or places of interest. We are fortunate that many of our volunteers give up their free time to accompany and guide those

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES - CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

who need it.

Macular group

The local Macular Group meet bi-monthly at MertonVision. Everyone who has macular disease, friends or family are welcome.

Transport

To enable people to get to our base at the Guardian Centre and take up our services we employ a part time driver to drive our fully accessible minibus, and to manage a team of volunteer drivers. We also hire additional minibuses when required, to ensure that we can provide the service when needed.

All our drivers are required to undertake the Minibus Driver Awareness Scheme (MiDAS) training and certification.

Young people with a visual impairment

Most of our service users are elderly, therefore our services are geared towards the needs of older people. However, we had a 5-year funded project to employ a Working Age Outreach worker to focus on communicating with this hard-to-reach client group. This project, funded by Wimbledon Foundation, has come to an end and unfortunately will not be renewed. The worker assisted and advised visually impaired working age people in Merton.

The Powell Family have provided 2-year funding to provide regular activities for children and young people such as theatre visits, magic shows and animal interactions. This has allowed us to employ a full-time co-ordinator.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

PROVIDE PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS THEY MAY FACE

Home Support

We realised that many people with poor vision have difficulty resolving a problem at home that needs vision, so we set up a service in response to the need. We have helped with a variety of 'problems' for example, restoring the settings on a TV, delivery and setting up a talking microwave, fitting a replacement light bulb for a task lamp and doing a safety check. We also deliver and set up loan CCTV's and training on their use.

Daily Living Aids and Equipment Room

The resource centre offers the opportunity to try some of the practical or specialist equipment which people with a visual impairment may find useful. Equipment is available to buy. Some items are available on short-term loan so that people can try more expensive items in their own home first. Our agreement with the RNIB gives us ordering priority for our clients.

Low Vision Aids

We offer a Low Vision Aids service to people in the community who have been referred by local optometrist practices. The aim of the service is to enable people with low vision access to low vision aids (optical magnifiers) much earlier than the conventional route by referral to GP and subsequent hospital appointment. In addition to early referral, this project allows for a more 'person centred'

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES - CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

approach, so that the patient emerges with greater skills in using their magnifiers. The service is funded by the Merton Clinical Commissioning Group, and is available at MertonVision by appointment.

Social and Adult Learning Activities

IT training

We have an accessible IT Suite equipped with 6 PC's with large monitors and accessible software. We give training on the use of the integral magnification and other specialist software, as well as using the computer. We have a part time, in-house IT Support Trainer. MertonVision provides training for using 'tablets' (iPad and ePad), as these seem particularly accessible for people without previous computer skills. We also have a qualified 'Guide' trainer to help people to set up and use 'Guide' accessible software at home.

Arts and Crafts

We employ an Arts and Craft tutor for one session per week to accommodate people with a visual impairment.

Braille training

We offer regular Braille reading tuition classes.

Falls prevention

We offer a weekly Falls Prevention Chair Based Exercise Class, which helps to deliver the Falls Strategy for Older People locally.

Falls are usually caused by one or more of four triggers: trips and hazards, polypharmacy (more than four medications) poor muscle tone or poor vision. We have been working closely with Merton Falls Prevention Lead (NHS) to add a simple sight-screening tool when assessing those who are referred to their service. Those who failed were given our information about eye tests, cheaper options for spectacles and the number to call if they need a domiciliary visit. We are hoping the screening tool will be rolled out to more community assessors.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES - CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

PROVIDE PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS THEY MAY FACE

Volunteer Services

The main focus of our volunteer services is to provide a Home Visiting Service to people with a visual impairment. This service provides a trained volunteer to people who need additional help not provided at the Guardian Centre.

Our full time Volunteer Service Manager recruits, trains and supports volunteers for a variety of roles within MertonVision. All volunteers undertake enhanced DBS checks. The volunteers have given 2632.50 hours of their time to support our clients.

We are pleased that we can accommodate volunteers from diverse cultures and those with disabilities. We are very grateful to our volunteers, without whom many of our services would not run.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

The Chief Executive Officer gives talks to community groups on the work of MertonVision. We also provide Visual Impairment Awareness Training.

During the year we have worked or collaborated with the following organisations to improve services locally for people with a visual impairment.

Close collaboration means that we can refer clients (with their permission) to other services or organisations where their need can be met.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Merton Clinical Commissioning Group | • MVSC |
| • LBM Library service | • RSBC |
| • LBM Social services | • London Vision |
| • LBM Education Dept. | • Sight For Surrey |
| • | • |
| • Merton Public Health Team | • Wandsworth Commissioning Team |
| • LBM Ageing Well Programme Phase 2 | • Vision Foundation |
| • Wimbledon Guild of Social Welfare | • Wimbledon Foundation |
| • Age UK Merton | • Commonsense Trust |
| • Merton Community Transport | • Merton Chamber of Commerce |
| • Safer Neighbourhood team | • Wimbledon Dons |
| • Merton Asian Elderly group | • The Powell Family |
| • Thomas Pocklington Trust | • Sutton Vision |
| | • Croydon Vision |

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES - CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Transcription Services

Providers of written information are required to offer accessible formats such as large print, Braille and audio.

We are pleased that we are able to offer a transcription service free to our members and on a commercial basis to our customers. MertonVision is the preferred provider of braille transcription to the London Borough of Merton.

MertonVision is a member of COTIS (Confederation of Transcribed Information Services).

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES - CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

FINANCIAL REVIEW

When we were approached over 9 years ago by a developer who wanted to demolish our building and supply a purpose-built new home for MertonVision, at no cost to us, on the ground floor it excelled our wildest dreams. On the top floor, in collaboration with the local NHS Commissioning Group, home for two GP practices. NHS England promised to contribute £1M towards the project. Constant demands for higher rents from the NHS for the GP surgeries and increases in building costs caused the developer to walk away. Top heavy bureaucracy within the NHS Commissioning Group and a complete lack of urgency caused the £1M funding offer to lapse. The NHS refuse to put in writing that the project has ended, which because of our 'restricted freehold' on the land is causing problems with any venture with the London Borough of Merton. Utterly frustrating. The Trustees will continue to remain steadfastly committed to ensuring a sustainable organisation for the benefit of its service users. The Trustees consider the overall financial performance of the Charity for the year to be extremely positive thanks to year 2 of the National Lottery grant.

As in the previous year the Charity's income is project led but also remains heavily reliant on the public sector funds with the Local Authority. The Wimbledon Foundation project to engage a Working Age Outreach Worker has ended and will not be extended. The grant from the National Lottery in respect of funding the extra cost of transporting members and clients to attend activities at the Wilson Hospital consequently, the ending of the project has meant that the grant has been repaid. Thanks to a 2-year grant from the Powell Family worth £34,125 this year, MertonVision was able to implement its long-awaited Children's and Young Person's Project. Finally, grants from Vision Foundation for cost-of-living increases and building repairs £9,000 and £32,000 from NHS SW London ICB for Loneliness and Isolation Outreach Work were also received. There have been some changes during the year within the other categories of income.

The Charity's Trustees wish to express our sincere gratitude to all our grant funders, listed in note 3 on page 24 of these accounts, for their support during the year.

The Charity's incoming resources have increased by 14.45% to £580,156 (2023: £506,889) due to the grants listed above. The Charity's expenditure has increased to £528,008 (2023: £437,043) due to additional costs associated with the National Lottery grant. The net effect of the above is an increase in total reserves of £52,148 (2023: £69,846).

The Charity's Trustees will continually attempt to keep the cost structure of the organisation stable and tightly controlled.

Future plans

Going back to the building project, for over 9 years no repairs were undertaken on the buildings because we had always assumed that they would eventually be demolished and therefore be a waste of our funds. The centre now needs to be totally recommissioned requiring a new roof, heating system, complete rewiring to gain a new Electrical Certificate, gas and fire inspections and any resulting costs. Then redecoration works to bring the property back to a suitable state to welcome staff, clients, members and guests.

This is a huge expense, which MertonVision cannot fund on its own, so we are frantically looking for external funding.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES - CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The National Lottery grant has transformed the Charity's finances with the exciting prospect of having 1 more year left to run. After our year 2 progress report, our funding manager commented that it was the best and most encouraging he had ever seen, but unfortunately he cannot sit on the panel to consider funding extensions. Special congratulations to the Outreach Team, the Chief Executive Officer, his staff and the volunteers once again.

Thanks to a 1-year grant from Merton Borough of Sport (Clarion Futures) worth £4,930 for two-thirds of the cost of a new Martial Arts and self-defence class for visually impaired children, young person's and adults.

Our Chief Executive Officer (CEO) has had discussions with our National Lottery funding manager about a possible underspend of grant funds at the end of June 2025. He will allow a certain amount to be spent on the Centre refurbishment and to pay the Outreach team for July 2025. In December 2024 our CEO will put forward a bid to the National Lottery to try and extend the grant funding for another 3 years. The very favourable response to our year 2 report should hopefully give us a good chance.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES - CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Investment policy and objectives

The Trustees, having regard to the liquidity requirements of operating the Charity, have kept available funds in an interest-bearing deposit account and seek to achieve a rate on deposit which matches or exceeds inflation as measured by the retail prices index.

The Trustees have designated the Emily Wells legacy (£51,526) as an income-generating fund. The Trustees have explored suitable short-term investments to generate income on the remainder of their free reserves. These investments have been placed with different banking institutions to mitigate any possible losses the institutions might suffer.

Reserves policy and going concern

At a committee meeting held on 11 March 2021 to address the continuing economic uncertainties ahead and the inability to attract new core funding the Trustees agreed to change their previously established policy, whereby the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in fixed assets (the free reserves) held by the Charity should be up to six rather than twelve months of the resources expended, which now equates to approximately £264,000. At this level the Board of Trustees feel that they would still be able to continue the current activities of the Charity in the event of a significant drop in funding.

Risk management

The Trustees have reviewed the major risks to which the Charity is exposed, in particular to operations and finances. Operational risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures and policies, with a regular review of these to ensure current good practice. A disaster plan to ensure business continuity in the event of unplanned events has been prepared. The Trustees have identified the inherent risks associated with having one primary funding source. Our reserves policy mitigates some of the risks of loss of funding. The Trustees have implemented and augmented a fundraising programme.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES - CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees (who are also the directors of Merton Voluntary Association for the Blind for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

Company law requires the Charity's Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the Trustees must not approve the Financial statements unless they are satisfied they 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 those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- :
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP 2019 (FRS102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements, and;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company 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 charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the Charity and financial information included on the Charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

This Trustees report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:



H A Cowd - Chairman

21 November 2024

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

I report to the Charity's Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2024, which are set out on pages 18 to 32.

Respective and basis of report

As the Charity's Trustees of the charitable company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the charitable company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your Charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the '2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

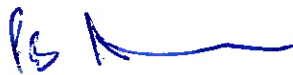
Independent examiner's report

Since the Charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in Section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

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:

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the charitable company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those accounting records; or
- (3) the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
- (4) the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended practice for accounting and reporting by charities.

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 accounts to be reached.



Gareth Rees FCA CTA
On behalf of
PB Associates
2 Castle Business Village
Station Road
Hampton
Middlesex
TW12 2BX

21/4/2024

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

			2024	2023
		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
	Notes	£	£	£
INCOME				
Income and endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	2	63,474	-	63,474
Income from charitable activities:	3			
Grants		122,467	253,815	376,282
Charitable Activities		7,780	-	7,780
Contracted services		124,706	-	124,706
Other trading activities:				
Fundraising and events	4	511	-	511
Investment income	5	7,403	-	7,403
Total Income		326,341	253,815	580,156
EXPENDITURE ON:				
Raising funds	6	340	-	340
Charitable activities:				
Charity Activities	7	294,304	233,364	527,668
Total expenditure		294,644	233,364	528,008
NET Income/(expenditure) before transfers		31,697	20,451	52,148
Transfers between funds		-	-	-
NET Income/(expenditure) after transfers		31,697	20,451	52,148
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS	19			
Total funds brought forward		498,836	87,324	586,160
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		530,533	107,775	638,308
		=====	=====	=====

CONTINUING OPERATIONS

All incoming resources and resources expended arise from continuing activities.

The notes form part of these financial statements

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 MARCH 2024

				2024	2023
	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Total Funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	15	52,799	4,898	57,697	58,787
Investments	16	25,000	-	25,000	25,000
		<u>77,799</u>	<u>4,898</u>	<u>82,697</u>	<u>83,787</u>
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stocks		633	-	633	633
Debtors: amounts falling due within one year	17	27,345	5,335	32,680	49,584
Cash at bank and in hand		434,909	105,301	540,210	468,179
		<u>462,887</u>	<u>110,636</u>	<u>573,523</u>	<u>518,396</u>
LIABILITIES					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	18	(10,153)	(7,759)	(17,912)	(16,023)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>452,734</u>	<u>102,877</u>	<u>555,611</u>	<u>502,373</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>£530,533</u>	<u>£107,775</u>	<u>£638,308</u>	<u>£586,160</u>
TOTAL FUNDS OF THE CHARITY					
Unrestricted Funds	19			530,533	498,836
Restricted Funds	19			107,775	87,324
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>£638,308</u>	<u>£586,160</u>

The Trustees consider that the charitable company is entitled to exemption from the requirement to have an audit under the provisions of section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 ("the Act") relating to small companies and members have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Act.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 21 November 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:

H A Cowd – Chairman and Trustee

S J Moore – Treasurer and Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

CASHFLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	2024	2023
Cashflows from Operating Activities		
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities (see note below)	£72,031	£47,996
	=====	=====
Change in Cash and Cash Equivalents in the Reporting Period	72,031	47,996
Cash and Cash Equivalents at Beginning of the Reporting Period	468,179	420,183
	-----	-----
Cash and Cash Equivalents at End of the Reporting Period	£540,210	£468,179
	=====	=====
Reconciliation of Net Income/Expenditure to Net Cashflow from Operating Activities		
Net Income/(Expenditure) for the Reporting Period (per Statement of Financial Activities)	52,148	69,846
Depreciation	6,788	4,125
(Increase) in Debtors	16,904	(18,383)
Increase in Creditors	1,889	3,494
Purchase of Fixed Assets	(5,698)	(11,086)
	-----	-----
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	£72,031	£47,996
	=====	=====
Analysis of Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Cash at Bank	£540,210	£468,179
	=====	=====

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Company status

Merton Voluntary Association for the Blind is a charitable company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales. The registered office and company registration number are detailed on page 1.

Basis of preparation

Merton Voluntary Association for the Blind meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The financial statements are presented in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Charity.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The Trustees have considered the company's balance sheet, trading activity and estimated cash flows for a period of at least 12 months from the date these financial statements were signed and have concluded that the charity will continue to be able to meet its obligations as these fall due.

Judgement and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the Charity's accounting policies, the Charity is required to make judgments, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an on-going basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the Trustees. Unrestricted funds include designated funds where the Trustees, at their discretion, have created a fund for a specific purpose.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the Charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes. Where necessary, a quarterly report is sent to the donor detailing the expenditure.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in Note 20 on pages 30 & 31 of the financial statements.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Income

All incoming resources are included on the Statement of Financial Activities when the Charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Income is deferred only when the Charity has to fulfil conditions before becoming entitled to it or where the donor has specified that the income is to be expended in future period.

Donated services or facilities are recognised when the Charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use of the Charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. Some of the management and activity of the Charity is carried out by volunteers. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the volunteer time is not recognised and refer to the Trustees' report for more information about their contribution.

On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the Charity which is the amount the Charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payment to a third party, 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 to the applicable expenditure headings having regard to the nature of the expenditure.

Expenditure for raising funds includes only directly related costs for traditional fundraising including staff time where applicable. All roles within the senior management team that have fundraising responsibility in its broader sense of restricted income generation in the form of, for example, larger multi-year statutory grants remain within costs for charitable activities. This is to ensure that the fundraising income and costs shown in the Statement of Financial Activities relate to each other and can be reasonably compared.

Grants paid to individuals

Certain grants are applied for on behalf of clients and where these applications are successful; the amounts received are expended in accordance with the terms and conditions of the grant application.

Donated services and facilities

Gifts are recorded as received however, as the value of most gifts received cannot be measured reliably these are not included in the accounts.

Voluntary help

A certain amount of time is expended on the Charity's activities, which is donated free of charge, which includes pro bono counselling and therapist time. It is not possible to quantify the value of time given and accordingly it is neither recorded as donated income nor as an expense in the accounts.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

Since 1 August 2016 employees were able to join the money purchase scheme, which has been established in compliance with the regulations on workplace pensions under the Pensions Act 2008. Employees were automatically enrolled into the money purchase scheme unless they have exercised their right to opt out of scheme membership.

Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS- CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost or valuation less depreciation. Individual fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Asset Category	Annual Rate
Freehold buildings	Fully depreciated
Computer equipment	33% on cost
Plant and machinery	20% on cost
Office furniture and fittings	25% on reducing balance
Motor vehicles	20% on reducing balance

Investments

Investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price. The income arising on the investments is shown under investment income in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Gains and losses on investment assets disposed of are shown as gains and losses in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and 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 deposit or similar account, as well as cash in hand held by Charity at the year end.

Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are recognised at the invoiced cost prepaid.

Creditors and Provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the Charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Taxation

The Charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010. Accordingly it is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income and capital gains received to the extent that such income or gains are applied to exclusively charitable purposes. No provision for taxation has been made in these financial statements.

2. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2024	2023
	£	£
Donations	17,394	25,107
Contribution towards accounts intern salary	9,082	4,541
Legacies	36,554	-
Membership	444	852
	<u>63,474</u>	<u>30,500</u>

Income from Donations was £63,474 (2023: £30,500) all of which was unrestricted in both financial years.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS- CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

3. INCOME RESOURCES FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Activity	2024	2023
		£	£
Grants	Grants	376,282	245,566
Activities income	Charitable Activities	326	257
Fees received	Charitable Activities	1,064	4,156
Catering income	Charitable Activities	559	1,130
Hall Hire	Charitable Activities	3,280	4,354
Members club sales	Charitable Activities	1,276	967
Other income	Charitable Activities	-	218
Transport charges	Charitable Activities	1,276	878
Access to Work	Contracted Services	34,757	41,497
Maintenance of LBM register	Contracted Services	1,184	1,292
Merton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)	Contracted Services	2,366	2,684
Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	Contracted Services	(1,988)	21,869
Rehabilitation Charges	Contracted Services	88,386	128,239
PHP Primary care	Contracted Services	-	24,056
		<u>508,768</u>	<u>477,163</u>

Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
London Borough of Merton	81,467	54,715
Merton Connect Work with Children	-	469
Wimbledon Foundation (restricted grant)	25,000	25,000
Thomas Powell Foundation (restricted grant)	34,125	-
The National Lottery Community Fund (restricted grant)	(10,000)	10,000
Merton Connect Vaccination Championships	-	2,500
DWP - Access to Work (restricted grant)	28,486	18,259
Other Small Grants	-	108
NHS South West London (part restricted grant)	32,500	500
Big Lottery (restricted grant)	175,704	129,665
Everyone Health (restricted grant)	-	4,350
Vision foundation for London	9,000	-
	<u>376,282</u>	<u>245,566</u>

4. FUNDRAISING AND EVENTS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Fundraising events	259	-
MVAB Lottery	-	168
100 Club	252	468
Quiz Night	-	823
	<u>511</u>	<u>1,459</u>

All of the Charity's Fundraising income of £511 (2023: £1,459) is unrestricted.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS- CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

5. INVESTMENT INCOME	2024 £	2023 £
Deposit account interest	6,550	1,938
Investment income	853	370
	<u>7,403</u>	<u>2,308</u>
	=====	=====

All of the Charity's investment income of £7,403 (2023: £2,308) arises from money held in interest bearing deposit accounts and is unrestricted.

6. RAISING FUNDS COSTS	2024 £	2023 £
Publicity and fundraising cost	50	70
100 club prizes	290	405
	<u>340</u>	<u>475</u>
	=====	=====

7. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS	Direct costs £	Governance costs £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Charity Activities	518,396	9,272	527,668	436,568
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>518,396</u>	<u>9,272</u>	<u>527,668</u>	<u>436,568</u>
	=====	=====	=====	=====

8. ANALYSIS OF DIRECT COSTS	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2024 Totals £	2023 Totals £
Wages and salaries	240,339	167,371	407,710	365,797
Other staff costs	2,349	15,066	17,415	3,417
Volunteer expenses	-	248	248	379
Direct project costs	7,512	-	7,512	2,360
Premises costs	14,834	21,125	35,959	22,751
Office costs	19,998	29,554	49,552	34,014
Grants paid to individuals	-	-	-	250
	<u>285,032</u>	<u>233,364</u>	<u>518,396</u>	<u>428,968</u>
	=====	=====	=====	=====

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS- CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

9. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Accountancy	1,337	1,260
HR fees	2,863	2,863
Independent Examiner fees	2,063	1,943
Legal fees	1,200	13
Payroll fees	360	360
Subscriptions and fees	1,449	1,161
	<u>9,272</u>	<u>7,600</u>

10. NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES

Net resources are stated after charging/(crediting):

Independent Examiner's fees	2,063	1,943
Depreciation - owned assets	6,788	4,125
	<u>=====</u>	<u>=====</u>

11. STAFF COSTS

Gross Wages	370,638	333,937
Employers National Insurance	26,876	22,819
Pension costs	10,196	9,041
	<u>407,710</u>	<u>365,797</u>
	<u>=====</u>	<u>=====</u>

No employees had employee benefits in excess of £60,000 (2023: £60,000). Pension costs are allocated to activities in proportion to the related staffing costs incurred.

The key management personnel of the Charity comprise of the Trustees, the Chief Executive Officer and the Office Manager. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £68,563 (2023: £74,785).

The average monthly number of employees (including casual and part time staff) during the year was as follows:

	2024 No	2023 No
Senior Management Team	2	2
Other Direct Charitable Staff	9	11
	<u>11</u>	<u>13</u>
	<u>=====</u>	<u>=====</u>

12. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

The Charity Trustees were not paid or received any other benefits from employment with the Charity in the year (2023: £Nil) During the year, no Trustees were reimbursed for disbursements (2023: £Nil) in respect of fundraising and other related expenses.

No charity Trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the Charity (2023: £Nil).

13. PENSION COSTS

The Charity has a defined contribution pension scheme, which all employees are entitled to join. From 1 April 2019 the Charity contributes 3% and the employees contribute a minimum of 5%, however employees may make further additional voluntary contributions.

During the year ended 31 March 2024, the Charity's total contributions amounted to £10,196 (2023: £9,041). The Trustees are satisfied that any foreseeable change in employer's contributions can be budgeted for without detriment to the Charity's on-going activities.

14. TRANSACTIONS AND RELATED PARTIES

There were no related party transactions during the year or the previous year, other than the remuneration of key management personnel set out in Note 11.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS- CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

15. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold Property £	Fixtures and fittings £	Motor vehicles £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST					
At 1 April 2023	108,541	37,800	27,295	90,980	264,616
Additions	-	-	-	5,698	5,698
Disposals	-	-	-	(12,815)	(12,815)
At 31 March 2024	108,541	37,800	27,295	83,863	257,499
DEPRECIATION					
At 1 April 2023	58,521	36,818	26,901	83,589	205,829
Charge for year		246	79	6,463	6,788
Eliminated on disposal	-	-	-	(12,815)	(12,815)
At 31 March 2024	58,521	37,064	26,980	77,237	199,802
NET BOOK VALUE					
At 31 March 2024	50,020	736	315	6,626	57,697
At 31 March 2023	50,020	982	394	7,391	58,787

16. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	2024 £	2023 £
National Savings Income Bonds - valued at cost	25,000	25,000

17. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

Other debtors & accrued income	27,971	44,397
Prepayments	4,709	5,187
	32,680	49,584

18. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

Trade creditors	922	3,024
Other creditors	330	1,209
Accruals	16,660	11,790
	17,912	16,023

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS- CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

19. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

Current Year	At 1/4/23 £	Net movement In funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31/3/24 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	172,539	31,697	(15,000)	189,236
Designated - Emily Wells Memorial Fund	51,526	-	-	51,526
Designated - General Building Maintenance	104,131	-	80,000	184,131
Designated - Gym Equipment	15,000	-	(15,000)	-
Designated - Hall Refurbishment	10,640	-	10,000	20,640
Designated - High Tech Loan Equipment	15,000	-	(15,000)	-
Designated - IT and other Equipment	45,000	-	(45,000)	-
Designated - New Minibus	-	-	15,000	15,000
Designated - Removal Costs	20,000	-	-	20,000
Designated - Resource Room Equipment	15,000	-	(15,000)	-
Designated - Social Club Refurbishment	50,000	-	-	50,000
	498,836	31,697	-	530,533
Restricted funds				
Access to Work	7,390	(2,492)	-	4,898
Dora and Leslie Barter Conservatory Fund	6,250	-	-	6,250
Hearing Impaired Children	454	-	-	454
Wimbledon Foundation	14,167	2,295	-	16,462
Everyone Health	4,080	(1,400)	-	2,680
National Lottery Community Fund	10,000	(10,000)	-	-
Big Lottery	44,983	31,548	-	76,531
Thomas Powell Family Foundation	-	-	-	-
HHS South West London	-	500	-	500
	87,324	20,451	-	107,775
TOTAL FUNDS	586,160	52,148	-	638,308

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Movement In Funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	326,341	(294,644)	31,697
	326,341	(294,644)	31,697
Restricted funds			
Access to Work	28,486	(30,978)	(2,492)
Wimbledon Foundation	25,000	(22,705)	2,295
Everyone Health	-	(1,400)	(1,400)
Thomas Powell Family Foundation	34,125	(34,125)	-
National Lottery Community Fund	(10,000)	-	(10,000)
Big Lottery	175,704	(144,156)	31,548
NHS South West London	500	-	500
	253,815	(233,364)	20,451
TOTAL FUNDS	580,156	(528,008)	52,148

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS- CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

19. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS continued
Comparative Year

	At 1/4/22 £	Net movement In funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31/3/23 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	114,820	2,719	55,000	172,539
Designated - Emily Wells Memorial Fund	51,526	-	-	51,526
Designated - General Building Maintenance	104,131	-	-	104,131
Designated - Gym Equipment	15,000	-	-	15,000
Designated - Hall Refurbishment	10,640	-	-	10,640
Designated - High Tech Loan Equipment	15,000	-	-	15,000
Designated - IT and other Equipment	45,000	-	-	45,000
Designated - Minibus	55,000	-	(55,000)	-
Designated - Removal Costs	20,000	-	-	20,000
Designated - Resource Room Equipment	15,000	-	-	15,000
Designated - Social Club Refurbishment	50,000	-	-	50,000
	496,117	2,719	-	498,836
Restricted funds				
Access to Work	-	7,390	-	7,390
Dora and Leslie Barter Conservatory Fund	6,250	-	-	6,250
Hearing Impaired Children	454	-	-	454
Wimbledon Foundation	10,828	3,339	-	14,167
Wimbledon Foundation-Child activities	687	(687)	-	-
Merton Connect IT Project	1,978	(1,978)	-	-
Everyone Health	-	4,080	-	4,080
National Lottery Community Fund	-	10,000	-	10,000
Big Lottery	-	44,983	-	44,983
	20,197	67,127	-	87,324
TOTAL FUNDS	516,314	69,846	-	586,160

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Movement In Funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	319,615	(316,896)	2,719
	319,615	(316,896)	2,719
Restricted funds			
Access to Work	18,259	(10,869)	7,390
Wimbledon Foundation	25,000	(21,661)	3,339
Wimbledon Foundation-Child activities	-	(687)	(687)
Merton Connected IT Project	-	(1,978)	(1,978)
Everyone Health	4,350	(270)	4,080
National Lottery Community Fund	10,000	-	10,000
Big Lottery	129,665	(84,682)	44,983
	187,274	(120,147)	67,127
TOTAL FUNDS	506,889	(437,043)	69,846

20. FUNDS DETAILS

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

Funds have been designated as follows:

Emily Wells Memorial Fund

This capital amount was designated in committee to provide revenue.

General Buildings Maintenance

The Trustees have taken advice on the risks involved in owning a large building and the likely repair and maintenance needs over the longer term. This amount has been set aside to meet large repair and maintenance needs.

Hall Refurbishment

The Trustees have agreed to refurbish the hall area.

Removal Costs

In a prior year, the Trustees have decided to set-up a fund to cover possible, unforeseen expenditure on our decampment during the reconstruction of The Guardian Centre.

Social Club Refurbishment

The Trustees have agreed to update and refurbish the social club area. Following a donation from the social club bank account and to recognise its source, it was decided in committee to increase the fund by a similar amount to a total now of £50,000.

New Minibus

The Trustees have agreed to transfer from General Reserves £15,000 to signify our firm contribution towards a new minibus.

RESTRICTED FUNDS

Access to Work

Funding received from the Department for Work and Pensions for various equipment and expenses by a visually impaired members of staff to assist them in carrying out their employment. Certain items of computer equipment were capitalised and are being depreciated.

20. FUNDS DETAILS - continued

The Dora and Leslie Barter Conservatory Fund

In accordance with the provisions of the Dora Barter legacy the funds donated therein are to be applied to the building of a new conservatory.

Hearing Impaired Children

Funding received from Wimbledon District Nursing and Midwifery Benevolent Society to enable hearing-impaired children to join the Eye Can Do It programme.

Wimbledon Foundation

We secured five year project funding to engage a Working Age Outreach Worker to develop social and peer support activities and to promote the take up of statutory and voluntary services for working age people with impaired vision in Merton. The project provides £25,000 per annum to cover salary costs, expenses and overheads of the Outreach Worker until 31 March 2024.

Everyone Health

A grant of £4,350 was received to support our new No One Left Behind, chair based, exercise classes.

Big Lottery

A 3 year grant to support our Outreach Team who recruit and train volunteers to assist our members and clients to live better lives despite their visual impairment.

Thomas Powell Family Foundation

A 2-year grant to support our Children's and Young Person's project, which provides regular activities for our younger members.

NHS South West London

Provision of services grant from 19 February 2024 to 31 May 2025 to Health Watch Sutton.

21. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

The Charity has authorised and contracted for expenditure of £Nil. The Charity has authorised but not contracted for expenditure of £Nil in its capital budget for the upcoming year.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS- CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

22. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

INCOME	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2023 Total Funds £
Income and endowments from: Donations and legacies	25,959	-	25,959
Income from charitable activities:			
Grants	58,292	187,274	245,566
Charitable Activities	11,960	-	11,960
Contracted services	219,637	-	219,637
Other trading activities:			
Fundraising and events	1,459	-	1,459
Investment income	2,308	-	2,308
Total Income	319,615	187,274	506,889
EXPENDITURE ON:			
Raising funds	475	-	475
Charitable activities:			
Charity Activities	316,421	120,147	436,568
Total expenditure	316,896	120,147	437,043
NET Income/(expenditure) before transfers	2,719	67,127	69,846
NET Income/(expenditure) after transfers	2,719	67,127	69,846

The following pages do not form part of the financial statements.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
INCOME		
Donations and legacies		
Donations	17,394	20,566
Contribution towards accounts intern salary	9,082	4,541
Legacies	36,554	-
Membership	444	852
Fundraising Income	63,474	25,959
Fundraising	259	823
MVAB Lottery	-	168
100 Club	252	468
Investment income	511	1,459
Deposit Account Interest	6,550	1,938
Investment Income	853	370
Income from charitable activities	7,403	2,308
Grants		
Compensation for avoidable overheads incurred	376,282	245,566
Activities Fees	-	24,056
Fees Received	326	257
Catering Income	1,064	4,156
Hall Hire	559	1,130
Members Club Sales	3,280	4,354
Other Income	1,276	967
Transport Charges	-	218
Access to work	1,276	878
Maintenance of LBM register	34,757	41,497
Merton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)	1,184	1,292
Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	2,366	2,684
Rehabilitation Charges	(1,988)	21,869
	88,386	128,239
	508,768	477,163
Total Income	580,156	506,889

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
EXPENDITURE		
Raising Funds Costs	50	70
Publicity and fundraising cost	290	405
100 Club Prizes		
	340	475
Charitable Activities		
Wages	370,638	322,995
Redundancy Pay	-	10,942
Employer's National Insurance	26,876	22,819
Pension	10,196	9,041
Volunteer costs	301	155
Insurance	5,214	4,725
Light, heat and water rates	13,204	11,676
Rates	1,465	1,382
Telephone	4,151	2,955
Postage and Stationery	5,275	3,719
Sundries	2,040	593
Transport costs	4,463	3,345
Travel costs	2,679	1,425
Office cleaning and materials	9,633	1,678
Activity costs	4,427	996
Catering expenses	2,973	1,344
Members club purchases	-	360
Computer and IT costs	10,429	9,347
Repairs and maintenance	7,969	4,916
Access to work equipment	24,946	7,174
Staff training	3,904	2,389
Bank charges	439	416
Resales	386	201
Grants to individuals	-	250
Depreciation of fixtures and fittings	6,788	4,125
	518,396	428,968
Governance costs		
Accountancy	1,337	1,260
Independent Examiners fees	2,063	1,943
HR fees	2,863	2,863
Legal fees	1,200	13
Payroll Fees	360	360
Subscriptions and fees	1,449	1,161
	9,272	7,600
Total Expenditure	528,008	437,043
Net Income (expenses)	52,148	69,846

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

England & Wales - Charity number 1075388

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 03758661 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1075388

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 MARCH 2023

FOR

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number
03758661 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number
1075388

Registered office
The Guardian Centre
67 Clarendon Road
Colliers Wood
London
SW19 2DX

Independent Examiner
Gareth Rees FCA CTA
PB Associates
Chartered Accountants & Chartered Tax Advisers
2 Castle Business Village
Station Road
Hampton
Middlesex
TW12 2BX

Principal Bankers
National Westminster Bank Plc
16 Wimbledon Hill Road
Wimbledon
London
SW19 7ZD

CAF Bank
25, Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Mailing
Kent
ME19 4JQ

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The Trustees (who are also directors of the charitable company for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006) are pleased to present their annual Trustees Report, together with the unaudited financial statements for the year ending 31 March 2023, 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 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) and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

TRUSTEES

All Trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the Charity. Any expenses reclaimed from the Charity are set out in Note 12 to the accounts. The Trustees serving during the year and to the date of this report were as follows: -

Natascha Gibson, Helen McAuley and Harry Meade will all resign at the next AGM, also 1 new Trustee, Francesca Hibbert, our former Chief Executive Officer, was co-opted on 25 July 2023 election to be ratified at the next AGM.

H A Cowd (Chairman)	
S J Moore (Treasurer)	
R G Benjamin	Resigned 23 March 2023
R F Bowman	
W A Busbridge (Vice Chairman)	
S R D Coates	
N Gibson	
M Jurgens	Resigned 23 March 2023
H McAuley	
H.Meade	Appointed 23 March 2023
V A Morrison	
F P Pugh	
S.Scott	Resigned 23 March 2023

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY

The charitable company's principal activity during the year was to provide services, information and support to residents of Merton who have a visual impairment. The aim is to support and empower people with a visual impairment, from their diagnosis of permanent sight loss through the entire rehabilitative process, in whatever form is appropriate for them. This includes children, adults, people with dual sensory loss and people with additional difficulties.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

Merton Voluntary Association for the Blind is a company limited by guarantee governed by its Articles of Association dated 23 April 1999, amended 13 October 2000 and a further amendment 9 November 2017. The Charity was originally founded in 1965 and was registered as an unincorporated charity with the Charity Commission 9 March 1966.

Following the AGM 9 November 2017, a special resolution was passed and the Articles of Association of the Charity were changed in their entirety and replaced by new Articles.

All Trustees shall automatically become members of the Charity and their names shall be entered into the Charity's register of members. The number of members of the Charity is unlimited. They remain members until they cease to be members in accordance with the Articles.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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ME19 4JQ

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PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY

The charitable company's principal activity during the year was to provide services, information and support to residents of Merton who have a visual impairment. The aim is to support and empower people with a visual impairment, from their diagnosis of permanent sight loss through the entire rehabilitative process, in whatever form is appropriate for them. This includes children, adults, people with dual sensory loss and people with additional difficulties.

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Following the AGM 9 November 2017, a special resolution was passed and the Articles of Association of the Charity were changed in their entirety and replaced by new Articles.

All Trustees shall automatically become members of the Charity and their names shall be entered into the Charity's register of members. The number of members of the Charity is unlimited. They remain members until they cease to be members in accordance with the Articles.

Membership shall be open to any individual aged 18 or over whom the Board decides to admit to membership. The Trustees may determine criteria for membership but are not obliged to admit any person satisfying such criteria as members and may decline in their absolute discretion any person's application and need not give reasons for such decision.

Only members are eligible to vote at the AGM/EGM, general or special meetings convened for the purposes of discussing the business of the charitable company.

Appointment of new Trustees

As set out in the Articles of Association Trustees are elected annually by the members of the charitable company attending the Annual General Meeting and serve for a period of three years and then one third of Trustees are required to retire by rotation but may be re-elected.

Trustees can be recruited by open advert or may be proposed and seconded by members and put forward for election at the AGM in accordance with the terms and timelines determined by the Board and subject to the Board's approval of such nomination.

The Make-up of the Board

The Board consists of not fewer than six and no more than fifteen persons appointed by the Trustees at any time at a meeting or in writing. The Board shall aim to have, as far as reasonable, equal representation on the Board of visually impaired, hearing impaired and sighted people with all Trustees having equal voting rights. Where this cannot be achieved the Board will still be valid irrespective of the make-up of the Board.

Filling vacancies in the Board and co-option

The Board can appoint anyone as a Trustee to fill a vacancy in the membership of the Board. They will hold office until the next annual general meeting where they may be elected by the members (unless they cease to be a Trustee prior to that by virtue of Article 38 or 39). For the purposes of this Article the Board shall decide how many vacancies there are, subject to the maximum and minimum numbers given in Article 33.1.

Trustee recruitment and induction

New Trustees are given induction on their roles, their legal obligations under charity and company law, the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit, and inform them of the content of the Articles of Association, the committee and decision-making processes, the business plan and recent financial performance of the Charity.

During the induction day they meet key employees and other Trustees. Trustees are encouraged to attend appropriate external training events where these will facilitate the undertaking of their role.

Governance and Organisational structure

The Trustees of Merton Voluntary Association for the Blind are responsible for the assets and strategic direction of the Charity. The Chief Executive Officer, who is appointed by the Trustees, is responsible for carrying out the day-to-day management of the Charity. To facilitate effective operations, the Chief Executive Officer has delegated authority, within terms of delegation approved by the Trustees, for operational matters including finance, employment and Charity related activities. The Trustees normally meet quarterly during the year to receive reports on all aspects of the Charity's activities and finance. The Chief Executive Officer attends all meetings.

Senior Management Team

Kevin Gregory
Wendy Walsh

Chief Executive Officer
Officer Manager

Pay policy for senior staff

The Trustees consider the Board of Trustees and the senior management team comprise the key management personnel of the Charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the Charity on a day-to-day basis. All Trustees give of their time freely and no trustee received remuneration in the year. Details of Trustees' expenses and related party transactions are disclosed in Note 12 to the accounts.

The pay of the senior staff is reviewed annually and normally increased in accordance with average earnings. The Trustees benchmark against pay levels in other local charities of a similar size, which are run on a voluntary basis.

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 management of the Charity with service user, external contractor or supplier of services must be disclosed to the Board of Trustees in the same way as any other contractual relationship with a related party. In the current year no such related party transactions were reported.

All related party transactions are managed in accordance with the Charity's conflicts of interest policy. All transactions and activities involving organisations in which a Trustee may have an interest are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the Charity's financial and procurement procedures. Total reimbursed expenses made to Trustees are shown in Note 11.

In the current year no such related party transactions were reported.

Merton Talking Newspaper share our premises, and members or Trustees of this charity are potential trustees of Merton Voluntary Association for the Blind. Trustees who are members of this charity keep the separate interests at 'arm's length'.

Use of volunteers

MertonVision is grateful to all its volunteers, who carry out a variety of different tasks both in and out of the Charity. Our diverse range of volunteers have a variety of interests and reasons for wanting to support the Charity - from gaining experience at the start of their careers to using their wealth of experience and knowledge to meeting the needs of our communities. All our volunteers add value to our work and make a real difference to our clients and communities. Our volunteers are supported and overseen by our Volunteer Service Manager and are managed in accordance with the Volunteers policy.

Due to the size of the Charity, staff and volunteers work closely together and several of the existing staff originally began as volunteers. Volunteers are recruited on a rolling basis. Our volunteers are made up of different groups. There are those who work with the Charity offering support to the clients and staff, sometimes running activities.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

Objects

The objects for which the Charity is established are to grant assistance to all blind and partially sighted people ordinarily resident in the London Borough of Merton and if the Trustees so determines elsewhere in England and Wales. The Charity operates using the trading name of MertonVision.

Aims

Our aim is to support and empower people with a visual impairment, from their diagnosis of permanent sight loss through the entire rehabilitative process, in whatever form is appropriate for them. This includes children, adults, people with dual sensory loss and people with other difficulties in addition to their visual loss.

Our services are informed by national guidelines and good practice, in particular 'Seeing it my way' which works to ensure that blind and partially sighted people can access the support, information and services needed for independent living.

We provide a 'pathway' of services and collaborate widely to ensure that as far as possible those needs are met.

Ensuring our work delivers our aims

We review our aims, objectives and activities each year. This review looks at what we achieved and the outcomes of our work in the previous 12 months. The review looks at the success of each key activity and the benefits they have brought to those groups of people we are set up to help.

The review also helps us ensure our aims, objectives and activities remained focused on our stated purposes. We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning our future activities. In particular, the Trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set.

Following the Coronavirus pandemic our staff and volunteers continue to help those members and clients who cannot leave their home with a delivery service for shopping, prescriptions and in some cases household emergencies. Any lingering concerns, requirements and anxieties are being actioned and addressed. The Guardian Centre is gradually reintroducing our normal program of activities. Members are however still reluctant to return, perhaps because pre-pandemic routines were disrupted or the uncertainties caused by the continuing problems with the building project.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

PEOPLE HAVE ACCESS TO INFORMATION ABOUT LIVING WITH SIGHT LOSS

We feel that this is best achieved through personal contact. During the past year we have had direct contact with 561 clients, with 5274 telephone calls or visits. We also made 172 home visits to deliver shopping, prescriptions, essential equipment and to help out with IT problems.

There were 287 new clients during the year.

The Guardian Centre is once again open Monday - Thursday 9 am to 5 pm and on Friday 9 am to 4 pm for personal and telephone callers, and at other times by appointment. In addition we provide:

Patient Support Service at Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

We have found that people are often shocked by the diagnosis of untreatable sight loss, and have provided a support service at Moorfields at St. Georges for the past 25 years. Unfortunately, our contract was terminated on 27 January 2023. This service was supported by Moorfields NHS trust. Our worker would talk to people at a very emotional time and give information about the help that is available outside of the hospital – this could be their local social services, national or local sight loss charities. Our worker also ensured that the Certificate of Visual Impairment (CVI) 'paperwork' is completed and sent to the appropriate social services or their agents. This advice is still available at MertonVision through our Peer Support service.

The service was available to all patients who attended Moorfields NHS trust eye clinic at St George's Healthcare NHS Trust, not just Merton residents.

Rehabilitation

MertonVision provides a comprehensive rehabilitation service for people with a visual impairment in Merton. The service is contracted from London Borough of Merton. Rehabilitation includes 'problem solving' to help individuals find solutions to the difficulties they may face, and gives them the skills, confidence and equipment to re-order their lives. This will include daily living skills such as cooking, personal care, mobility training and a wealth of information about what is available to help live with sight loss. The London Borough of Merton have given a one-off payment for a rehabilitation assistant to clear the backlog of cases brought about during the Coronavirus pandemic.

MertonVision receive CVI's directly from hospital eye clinics, this enables rehabilitation and support services to be offered quickly. The Association of Directors of Social Services guidelines state that the patient should be contacted within 2 weeks. The service has been offered to 146 adults. Our average wait time for first contact was 8.02 days.

Habilitation Children

MertonVision has a project for one day per week with London Borough of Merton SENDIS (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Integrated Service) to provide mobility and independence training for children in the borough who have a visual impairment. We sub-contract a qualified rehabilitation and mobility officer to fulfil this project. MertonVision also provide early assessment and daily living skills training as appropriate to the child's age and ability.

Benefits Advice

We have a volunteer who is able to assist with filling in basic forms such as Blue Badge and Taxi Card applications.

Newsletter and other information media

Our main publication is a bi-monthly newsletter, which is distributed to 454 people with a visual impairment and 67 volunteers, supporters and local organisations. Information includes local and national issues of interest to people with a visual impairment. Each person's personal preference is accommodated, with standard or customised large print, Braille, email, and memory stick (MP3) format available.

Additionally we send information on a daily or ad hoc basis to those on our distribution list who have access to email with news and information as it arrives at MertonVision.

The MertonVision website is updated regularly, and we are using social media.

We work closely with Merton Talking Newspaper (MTN) to distribute MP3 players on permanent loan on their behalf. This ensures that people also have the appropriate equipment to listen to audio books and newsletters.

MertonVision is an agent for Wireless for the Blind, which provides specially adapted audio equipment for those in need.

EMOTIONAL SUPPORT AS APPROPRIATE IS OFFERED

Counselling service

While depression is not an inevitable consequence of vision impairment, it is common. An estimated one-third of older adults with vision loss report clinically significant depressive symptoms. Whether a person with vision loss becomes depressed appears to be more related to the impact the vision loss has on the person's functioning, rather than the severity of vision loss. We are now working in partnership with Wimbledon Guild of Social Welfare and Merton IAPPT who will provide counselling for our clients when required.

Despite the uncertainties surrounding the proposed redevelopment of the site, the Guardian Centre is fully operational and offers the following activities.

Peer Support

Peer support is often crucial to those newly diagnosed with enduring sight loss. By offering social opportunities MertonVision enables visually impaired people (especially those with a recent diagnosis) to meet with others who are living with sight loss and learn from each other. Our weekly daytime or special events encourage people to meet and socialise.

Weekly social activities

This includes coffee morning, social events and local peer support. We also organise an 'Out and About' group, which meets at various venues in Merton for coffee or lunch.

As this group grows we will be setting up other local groups across Merton.

Lunch club

This gives people the opportunity to meet other people and enjoy a freshly prepared meal. We know that many people live alone and are unlikely to cook. We prepared approximately 168 buffet lunches.

Social events

MertonVision arrange social evenings, for example Burns night, Quizzes and Bridge tournaments. During the summer months we arrange trips out on our minibus to the seaside or places of interest. We are fortunate that many of our volunteers give up their free time to accompany and guide those who need it.

Macular group

The local Macular Group meet bi-monthly at MertonVision. Everyone who has macular disease, friends or family are welcome.

Transport

To enable people to get to our base at the Guardian Centre and take up our services we employ a part time driver to drive our fully accessible minibus, and to manage a team of volunteer drivers. We also hire additional minibuses when required, to ensure that we can provide the service when needed.

All our drivers are required to undertake the Minibus Driver Awareness Scheme (MiDAS) training and certification.

Young people with a visual impairment

Most of our service users are elderly, therefore our services are geared towards the needs of older people. However, we are 4 years into a 5-year funded project to employ a Working Age Outreach worker to focus on communicating with this hard-to-reach client group. The worker assists and advises visually impaired working age people in Merton.

Thanks to a grant from the Wimbledon Foundation, we were able to run various activities for young and older visually impaired children during school holidays at Easter 2022 with the help of the Royal Society for Blind Children.

PROVIDE PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS THEY MAY FACE

Home Support

We realised that many people with poor vision have difficulty resolving a problem at home that needs vision, so we set up a service in response to the need. We have helped with a variety of 'problems' for example; restoring the settings on a TV, delivery and setting up a talking microwave, fitting a replacement light bulb for a task lamp and doing a safety check. We also deliver and set up loan CCTV's and training on their use.

Daily Living Aids and Equipment Room

The resource centre offers the opportunity to try some of the practical or specialist equipment which people with a visual impairment may find useful. Equipment is available to buy. Some items are available on short-term loan so that people can try more expensive items in their own home first. Our agreement with the RNIB gives us ordering priority for our clients.

Low Vision Aids

We offer a Low Vision Aids service to people in the community who have been referred by local optometrist practices. The aim of the service is to enable people with low vision access to low vision aids (optical magnifiers) much earlier than the conventional route by referral to GP and subsequent hospital appointment. In addition to early referral, this project allows for a more 'person centred' approach, so that the patient emerges with greater skills in using their magnifiers. The service is funded by the Merton Clinical Commissioning Group, and is available at MertonVision by appointment.

We also worked in partnership with Moorfields Eye Hospital until 27 January 2023 to offer local patients the choice of attending a clinic either at Moorfields or at MertonVision.

Social and Adult Learning Activities

IT training

We have an accessible IT Suite equipped with 6 PC's with large monitors and accessible software. We give training on the use of the integral magnification and other specialist software, as well as using the computer. We have a part time, in-house IT Support Trainer. MertonVision provides training for using 'tablets' (iPad and ePad), as these seem particularly accessible for people without previous computer skills. We also have a qualified 'Guide' trainer to help people to set up and use 'Guide' accessible software at home.

Arts and Crafts

We employ an Arts and Craft tutor for one session per week to accommodate people with a visual impairment.

Falls prevention

We offer a weekly Falls Prevention Chair Based Exercise Class, which helps to deliver the Falls Strategy for Older People locally.

Falls are usually caused by one or more of four triggers; trips and hazards, polypharmacy (more than four medications) poor muscle tone or poor vision. We have been working closely with Merton Falls Prevention Lead (NHS) to add a simple sight-screening tool when assessing those who are referred to their service. Those who failed were given our information about eye tests, cheaper options for spectacles and the number to call if they need a domiciliary visit. We are hoping the screening tool will be rolled out to more community assessors.

Volunteer Services

The main focus of our volunteer services is to provide a Home Visiting Service to people with a visual impairment. This service provides a trained volunteer to people who need additional help not provided at the Guardian Centre.

Our full time Volunteer Service Manager recruits, trains and supports volunteers for a variety of roles within MertonVision. All volunteers undertake enhanced DBS checks. The volunteers have given 1541 hours of their time to support our clients.

We are pleased that we can accommodate volunteers from diverse cultures and those with disabilities. We are very grateful to our volunteers, without whom many of our services would not run.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES - CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

The Chief Executive Officer gives talks to community groups on the work of MertonVision. We also provide Visual Impairment Awareness Training.

During the year we have worked or collaborated with the following organisations to improve services locally for people with a visual impairment.

Close collaboration means that we can refer clients (with their permission) to other services or organisations where their need can be met.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Merton Clinical Commissioning Group | • MVSC |
| • LBM Social services | • London Vision |
| • LBM Education Dept. | • Sight For Surrey |
| • Moorfields NHS Trust | • Linden Lodge |
| • Merton Public Health Team | • Wandsworth Commissioning Team |
| • LBM Ageing Well Programme Phase 2 | • Vision Foundation |
| • Wimbledon Guild of Social Welfare | • Wimbledon Foundation |
| • Age UK Merton | • Commonsense Trust |
| • Merton Community Transport | • Merton Chamber of Commerce |
| • Safer Neighbourhood team | • Wimbledon Dons |
| • Merton Asian Elderly group | • RSBC |
| • Thomas Pocklington Trust | • Sutton Vision |
| | • Croydon Vision |

Transcription Services

Providers of written information are required to offer accessible formats such as large print, Braille and audio.

We are pleased that we are able to offer a transcription service free to our members and on a commercial basis to our customers. MertonVision is the preferred provider of braille transcription to the London Borough of Merton.

MertonVision is a member of COTIS (Confederation of Transcribed Information Services).

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Difficulties with the new building project are still frustrating our plans to extend the range of activities and services that we can offer our members and clients who are reluctant to commit to regular classes and events when the venues may change at short notice. The Trustees will however, continue to remain steadfastly committed to ensuring a sustainable organisation for the benefit of its service users. The Trustees consider the overall financial performance of the Charity for the year to be rejuvenated and exciting thanks to the 3 year National Lottery grant.

During the current year, the Charity's income profile has changed significantly. The Charity's income is project led but also remains heavily reliant on the public sector funds with the Local Authority. The Wimbledon Foundation project to engage a Working Age Outreach Worker has been extended until 2024. Our finances were further boosted by a grant from the National Lottery in respect of funding the extra cost of transporting members and clients to attend activities at the Wilson Hospital, our decampment site once the rebuilding project starts. The impasse between the developers and NHS services may mean that the grant may need to be repaid. Finally, grants from Merton Connected for championing Covid vaccination programs and No One Left Behind to fund the exercise class were also received. There have been some changes during the year within the other categories of income.

The Charity's Trustees wish to express our sincere gratitude to all our grant funders, listed in note 3 on page 21 of these accounts, for their support during the year.

The Charity's incoming resources have increased by 73.94% to £506,889 (2022: £291,421) due entirely to the National Lottery grant. The Charity's expenditure has increased to £437,043 (2022: £353,713) due to additional costs associated with the National Lottery grant. The net effect of the above is an increase in total reserves of £69,846 (2022 – decrease of £62,292).

The Charity's Trustees will continually attempt to keep the cost structure of the organisation stable and tightly controlled.

Future plans

The National Lottery grant has transformed and rejuvenated the Charity's finances with the exciting prospect of having 2 more years left to run, the possibilities are endless. Well done to the Outreach Team, the Chief Executive Officer, his staff and the volunteers. On 28 July 2023 the National Lottery paid us a cost of living increase for years 1 and 2 totalling £59,957 with the promise of a similar increase for year 3.

Thanks to a 2 year grant from the Powell Family worth £34,125 per annum, MertonVision is able to implement it's long awaited Childrens Project. Our new Children and Young Person Outreach Worker started work on 27 August 2023.

The new building project has stalled due to an impasse between the developer and the NHS services. The project has not moved forward during the year and is currently still on hold, therefore we will need to increase member participation in centre activities at the Guardian Centre.

Our Chief Executive Officer has successfully tendered for a 3 year Pride Grant from the London Borough of Merton starting 1 April 2023. It has 3 separate components Preventative Activities (Well-Being), Emergency Support and Growing Strengths and Capabilities and is worth £81,467 per annum, an increase of £26,752 a year.

Investment policy and objectives

The Trustees, having regard to the liquidity requirements of operating the Charity, have kept available funds in an interest-bearing deposit account and seek to achieve a rate on deposit which matches or exceeds inflation as measured by the retail prices index.

The Trustees have designated the Emily Wells legacy (£51,526) as an income-generating fund. The Trustees have explored suitable short-term investments to generate income on the remainder of their free reserves. These investments have been placed with different banking institutions to mitigate any possible losses the institutions might suffer.

Reserves policy and going concern

At a committee meeting held on 11 March 2021 to address the continuing economic uncertainties ahead and the inability to attract new core funding the Trustees agreed to change their previously established policy, whereby the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in fixed assets (the free reserves) held by the Charity should be up to six rather than twelve months of the resources expended, which now equates to approximately £218,500. At this level the Board of Trustees feel that they would still be able to continue the current activities of the Charity in the event of a significant drop in funding.

Risk management

The Trustees have reviewed the major risks to which the Charity is exposed, in particular to operations and finances. Operational risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures and policies, with a regular review of these to ensure current good practice. A disaster plan to ensure business continuity in the event of unplanned events has been prepared. The Trustees have identified the inherent risks associated with having one primary funding source. Our reserves policy mitigates some of the risks of loss of funding. The Trustees have implemented and augmented a fundraising programme.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees (who are also the directors of Merton Voluntary Association for the Blind for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

Company law requires the Charity's Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the Trustees must not approve the Financial statements unless they are satisfied they 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 those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP 2019 (FRS102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements, and;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company 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 charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the Charity and financial information included on the Charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

This Trustees report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:



H A Cowd - Chairman

23 November 2023

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

I report to the Charity's Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2023, which are set out on pages 15 to 29.

Respective and basis of report

As the Charity's Trustees of the charitable company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the charitable company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your Charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the '2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's report

Since the Charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in Section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

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:

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the charitable company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those accounting records; or
- (3) the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
- (4) the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended practice for accounting and reporting by charities.

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 accounts to be reached.

Gareth Rees FCA CTA
On behalf of
PB Associates
2 Castle Business Village
Station Road
Hampton
Middlesex
TW12 2BX

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MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

				2023	2022
		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
INCOME	Notes	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from: Donations and legacies	2	25,959	-	25,959	19,531
Income from charitable activities:	3				
Grants		58,292	187,274	245,566	117,516
Charitable Activities		11,960	-	11,960	8,005
Contracted services		219,637	-	219,637	144,785
Other trading activities:					
Fundraising and events	4	1,459	-	1,459	1,502
Investment income	5	2,308	-	2,308	82
Total Income		319,615	187,274	506,889	291,421
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Raising funds	6	475	-	475	680
Charitable activities:					
Charity Activities	7	316,421	120,147	436,568	353,033
Total expenditure		316,896	120,147	437,043	353,713
NET Income/(expenditure) before transfers		2,719	67,127	69,846	(62,292)
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
NET Income/(expenditure) after transfers		2,719	67,127	69,846	(62,292)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS	19				
Total funds brought forward		496,117	20,197	516,314	578,606
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		498,836	87,324	586,160	516,314
		=====	=====	=====	=====

CONTINUING OPERATIONS

All incoming resources and resources expended arise from continuing activities.

The notes form part of these financial statements

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 MARCH 2023

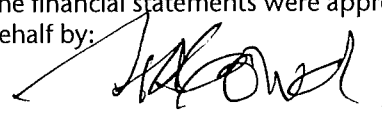
				2023	2022
	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Total Funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	15	51,397	7,390	58,787	51,826
Investments	16	25,000	-	25,000	25,000
		<u>76,397</u>	<u>7,390</u>	<u>83,787</u>	<u>76,826</u>
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stocks		633	-	633	633
Debtors: amounts falling due within one year	17	23,237	26,347	49,584	31,201
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>364,785</u>	<u>103,394</u>	<u>468,179</u>	<u>420,183</u>
		<u>388,655</u>	<u>129,741</u>	<u>518,396</u>	<u>452,017</u>
LIABILITIES					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	18	(10,882)	(5,141)	(16,023)	(12,529)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>377,773</u>	<u>124,600</u>	<u>502,373</u>	<u>439,488</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>£454,170</u>	<u>£131,990</u>	<u>£586,160</u>	<u>£516,314</u>
TOTAL FUNDS OF THE CHARITY					
Unrestricted Funds	19			498,836	496,117
Restricted Funds	19			<u>87,324</u>	<u>20,197</u>
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>£586,160</u>	<u>£516,314</u>

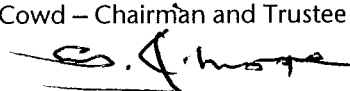
The Trustees consider that the charitable company is entitled to exemption from the requirement to have an audit under the provisions of section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 ("the Act") relating to small companies and members have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Act.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 23 November 2023 and were signed on its behalf by:


H A Cowd – Chairman and Trustee


S J Moore – Treasurer and Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

CASHFLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	2023	2022
Cashflows from Operating Activities		
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities (see note below)	£47,996	(£58,911)
	=====	=====
Change in Cash and Cash Equivalents in the Reporting Period	47,996	(58,911)
Cash and Cash Equivalents at Beginning of the Reporting Period	420,183	479,094
	-----	-----
Cash and Cash Equivalents at End of the Reporting Period	£468,179	£420,183
	=====	=====
Reconciliation of Net Income/Expenditure to Net Cashflow from Operating Activities		
Net Income/(Expenditure) for the Reporting Period (per Statement of Financial Activities)	69,846	(62,292)
Depreciation	4,125	2,524
(Increase) in Debtors	(18,383)	904
Increase in Creditors	3,494	(47)
Purchase of Fixed Assets	(11,086)	-
	-----	-----
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	£47,996	(58,911)
	=====	=====
Analysis of Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Cash at Bank	£468,179	£420,183
	=====	=====

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Company status

Merton Voluntary Association for the Blind is a charitable company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales. The registered office and company registration number are detailed on page 1.

Basis of preparation

Merton Voluntary Association for the Blind meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The financial statements are presented in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Charity.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The Trustees have considered the company's balance sheet, trading activity and estimated cash flows for a period of at least 12 months from the date these financial statements were signed and have concluded that the charity will continue to be able to meet its obligations as these fall due.

Judgement and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the Charity's accounting policies, the Charity is required to make judgments, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an on-going basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the Trustees. Unrestricted funds include designated funds where the Trustees, at their discretion, have created a fund for a specific purpose.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the Charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes. Where necessary, a quarterly report is sent to the donor detailing the expenditure.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in Note 20 on pages 27 & 28 of the financial statements.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Income

All incoming resources are included on the Statement of Financial Activities when the Charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Income is deferred only when the Charity has to fulfil conditions before becoming entitled to it or where the donor has specified that the income is to be expended in future period.

Donated services or facilities are recognised when the Charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use of the Charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. Some of the management and activity of the Charity is carried out by volunteers. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the volunteer time is not recognised and refer to the Trustees' report for more information about their contribution.

On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the Charity which is the amount the Charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payment to a third party, 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 to the applicable expenditure headings having regard to the nature of the expenditure.

Expenditure for raising funds includes only directly related costs for traditional fundraising including staff time where applicable. All roles within the senior management team that have fundraising responsibility in its broader sense of restricted income generation in the form of, for example, larger multi-year statutory grants remain within costs for charitable activities. This is to ensure that the fundraising income and costs shown in the Statement of Financial Activities relate to each other and can be reasonably compared.

Grants paid to individuals

Certain grants are applied for on behalf of clients and where these applications are successful; the amounts received are expended in accordance with the terms and conditions of the grant application.

Donated services and facilities

Gifts are recorded as received however, as the value of most gifts received cannot be measured reliably these are not included in the accounts.

Voluntary help

A certain amount of time is expended on the Charity's activities, which is donated free of charge, which includes pro bono counselling and therapist time. It is not possible to quantify the value of time given and accordingly it is neither recorded as donated income nor as an expense in the accounts.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

Since 1 August 2016 employees were able to join the money purchase scheme, which has been established in compliance with the regulations on workplace pensions under the Pensions Act 2008. Employees were automatically enrolled into the money purchase scheme unless they have exercised their right to opt out of scheme membership.

Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost or valuation less depreciation. Individual fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Asset Category	Annual Rate
Freehold buildings	Fully depreciated
Computer equipment	33% on cost
Plant and machinery	20% on cost
Office furniture and fittings	25% on reducing balance
Motor vehicles	20% on reducing balance

Investments

Investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price. The income arising on the investments is shown under investment income in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Gains and losses on investment assets disposed of are shown as gains and losses in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and 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 deposit or similar account, as well as cash in hand held by Charity at the year end.

Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are recognised at the invoiced cost prepaid.

Creditors and Provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the Charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Taxation

The Charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010. Accordingly it is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income and capital gains received to the extent that such income or gains are applied to exclusively charitable purposes. No provision for taxation has been made in these financial statements.

2. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2023	2022
	£	£
Donations	25,107	13,603
Legacies	-	5,016
Membership	852	912
	<u>25,959</u>	<u>19,531</u>
	=====	=====

Income from Donations was £25,959 (2022: £19,531) all of which was unrestricted in both financial years.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS- CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

3. INCOME RESOURCES FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Activity	2023 £	2022 £
Grants	Grants	245,566	117,516
Activities income	Charitable Activities	257	-
Fees received	Charitable Activities	4,156	-
Catering income	Charitable Activities	1,130	1,220
Hall Hire	Charitable Activities	4,354	4,122
Members club sales	Charitable Activities	967	1,210
Other income	Charitable Activities	218	286
Resales	Charitable Activities	-	229
Transport charges	Charitable Activities	878	938
Access to Work	Contracted Services	41,497	38,124
Maintenance of LBM register	Contracted Services	1,292	1,254
Merton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)	Contracted Services	2,684	2,184
Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	Contracted Services	21,869	23,857
Rehabilitation Charges	Contracted Services	128,239	79,366
PHP Primary care	Contracted Services	24,056	-
		<u>477,163</u>	<u>270,306</u>
		=====	=====

Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
London Borough of Merton	54,715	59,429
Merton Connect IT (restricted grant)	-	9,915
Merton Connect Work with Children	469	2,000
Wimbledon Foundation (restricted grant)	25,000	25,000
Wimbledon Foundation Child Fund (restricted grant)	-	5,000
The National Lottery Community Fund (restricted grant)	10,000	9,940
Merton Connect Vaccination Championships	2,500	-
HMRC Furlough Grants	-	5,039
DWP - Access to Work (restricted grant)	18,259	1,123
Other Small Grants	108	70
NHS South West London	500	-
Big Lottery (restricted grant)	129,665	-
Everyone Health (restricted grant)	4,350	-
	<u>245,566</u>	<u>117,516</u>
	=====	=====

4. FUNDRAISING AND EVENTS

	2023 £	2022 £
Fundraising events	-	580
MVAB Lottery	168	286
100 Club	468	636
Quiz Night	823	-
	<u>1,459</u>	<u>1,502</u>
	=====	=====

All of the Charity's Fundraising income of £1,459 (2022: £1,502) is unrestricted.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS- CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

5. INVESTMENT INCOME	2023 £	2022 £
Deposit account interest	1,938	48
Investment income	370	34
	<u>2,308</u>	<u>82</u>
	=====	=====

All of the Charity's investment income of £2,308 (2022: £82) arises from money held in interest bearing deposit accounts and is unrestricted.

6. RAISING FUNDS COSTS	2023 £	2022 £
Publicity and fundraising cost	70	70
100 club prizes	405	610
	<u>475</u>	<u>680</u>
	=====	=====

7. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS	Direct costs £	Governance costs £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Charity Activities	428,968	7,600	436,568	353,033
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>428,968</u>	<u>7,600</u>	<u>436,568</u>	<u>353,033</u>
	=====	=====	=====	=====

8. ANALYSIS OF DIRECT COSTS	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2023 Totals £	2022 Totals £
Wages and salaries	255,158	110,639	365,797	280,853
Other staff costs	2,059	1,358	3,417	3,612
Volunteer expenses	271	108	379	1,780
Direct project costs	1,895	465	2,360	7,280
Premises costs	22,751	-	22,751	23,556
Office costs	26,437	7,577	34,014	28,168
Grants paid to individuals	250	-	250	225
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>308,821</u>	<u>120,147</u>	<u>428,968</u>	<u>345,474</u>
	=====	=====	=====	=====

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS- CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

9.	GOVERNANCE COSTS	2023	2022
		£	£
	Accountancy	1,260	1,200
	HR fees	2,863	2,863
	Independent Examiner fees	1,943	1,850
	Legal fees	13	13
	Payroll fees	360	432
	Subscriptions and fees	1,161	1,201
		<u>7,600</u>	<u>7,559</u>
		=====	=====
10.	NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES		
	Net resources are stated after charging/(crediting):		
	Independent Examiner's fees	1,943	1,850
	Depreciation - owned assets	4,125	2,524
		<u>=====</u>	<u>=====</u>
11.	STAFF COSTS		
	Gross Wages	333,937	258,220
	Employers National Insurance	22,819	15,662
	Pension costs	9,041	6,971
		<u>365,797</u>	<u>280,853</u>
		=====	=====

No employees had employee benefits in excess of £60,000 (2022: £Nil). Pension costs are allocated to activities in proportion to the related staffing costs incurred.

The key management personnel of the Charity comprise of the Trustees, the Chief Executive Officer and the Office Manager. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £74,785 (2022: £70,827).

The average monthly number of employees (including casual and part time staff) during the year was as follows:

	2023	2022
	No	No
Senior Management Team	2	2
Other Direct Charitable Staff	11	12
	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>
	=====	=====

12. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

The Charity Trustees were not paid or received any other benefits from employment with the Charity in the year (2022: £Nil) During the year, no Trustees were reimbursed for disbursements (2022: £Nil) in respect of fundraising and other related expenses.

No charity Trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the Charity (2022: £Nil).

13. PENSION COSTS

The Charity has a defined contribution pension scheme, which all employees are entitled to join. From 1 April 2019 the Charity contributes 3% and the employees contribute a minimum of 5%, however employees may make further additional voluntary contributions.

During the year ended 31 March 2023, the Charity's total contributions amounted to £9,041 (2022: £6,971) The Trustees are satisfied that any foreseeable change in employer's contributions can be budgeted for without detriment to the Charity's on-going activities.

14. TRANSACTIONS AND RELATED PARTIES

There were no related party transactions during the year or the previous year, other than the remuneration of key management personnel set out in Note 11.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS- CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

15. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold Property £	Fixtures and fittings £	Motor vehicles £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST					
At 1 April 2022	108,541	37,800	27,295	79,894	253,530
Additions	-	-	-	11,086	11,086
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2023	108,541	37,800	27,295	90,980	264,616
DEPRECIATION					
At 1 April 2022	58,521	36,486	26,803	79,894	201,704
Charge for year	-	332	98	3,695	4,125
Eliminated on disposal	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2023	58,521	36,818	26,901	83,589	205,829
NET BOOK VALUE					
At 31 March 2023	50,020	982	394	7,391	58,787
At 31 March 2022	50,020	1,314	492	-	51,826

16. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	2023 £	2022 £
National Savings Income Bonds - valued at cost	25,000	25,000

17. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

Other debtors & accrued income	44,397	25,625
Prepayments	5,187	5,576
	49,584	31,201

18. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

Trade creditors	3,024	895
Other creditors	1,209	-
Accruals	11,790	11,634
	16,023	12,529

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS- CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

19. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

Current Year	At 1/4/22 £	Net movement In funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31/3/23 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	114,820	2,719	55,000	172,539
Designated - Emily Wells Memorial Fund	51,526	-	-	51,526
Designated - General Building Maintenance	104,131	-	-	104,131
Designated - Gym Equipment	15,000	-	-	15,000
Designated - Hall Refurbishment	10,640	-	-	10,640
Designated - High Tech Loan Equipment	15,000	-	-	15,000
Designated - IT and other Equipment	45,000	-	-	45,000
Designated - Minibus	55,000	-	(55,000)	-
Designated - Removal Costs	20,000	-	-	20,000
Designated - Resource Room Equipment	15,000	-	-	15,000
Designated - Social Club Refurbishment	50,000	-	-	50,000
	496,117	2,719	-	498,836
Restricted funds				
Access to Work	-	7,390	-	7,390
Dora and Leslie Barter Conservatory Fund	6,250	-	-	6,250
Hearing Impaired Children	454	-	-	454
Wimbledon Foundation	10,828	3,339	-	14,167
Wimbledon Foundation-Child activities	687	(687)	-	-
Merton Connect IT Project	1,978	(1,978)	-	-
Everyone Health	-	4,080	-	4,080
National Lottery Community Fund	-	10,000	-	10,000
Big Lottery	-	44,983	-	44,983
	20,197	67,127	-	87,324
TOTAL FUNDS	516,314	69,846	-	586,160
	=====	=====	=====	=====

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Movement In Funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	319,615	(316,896)	2,719
	319,615	(316,896)	2,719
	=====	=====	=====
Restricted funds			
Access to Work	18,259	(10,869)	7,390
Wimbledon Foundation	25,000	(21,661)	3,339
Wimbledon Foundation-Child activities	-	(687)	(687)
Merton Connected IT Project	-	(1,978)	(1,978)
Everyone Health	4,350	(270)	4,080
National Lottery Community Fund	10,000	-	10,000
Big Lottery	129,665	(84,682)	44,983
	187,274	(120,147)	67,127
	=====	=====	=====
TOTAL FUNDS	506,889	(437,043)	69,846
	=====	=====	=====

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS- CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

19. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS continued

Comparative Year

	At 1/4/21 £	Net movement In funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31/3/22 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	168,530	(53,710)	-	114,820
Designated - Emily Wells Memorial Fund	51,526	-	-	51,526
Designated - General Building Maintenance	104,131	-	-	104,131
Designated - Gym Equipment	15,000	-	-	15,000
Designated - Hall Refurbishment	10,640	-	-	10,640
Designated - High Tech Loan Equipment	15,000	-	-	15,000
Designated - IT and other Equipment	45,000	-	-	45,000
Designated - Minibus	55,000	-	-	55,000
Designated - Removal Costs	20,000	-	-	20,000
Designated - Resource Room Equipment	15,000	-	-	15,000
Designated - Social Club Refurbishment	50,000	-	-	50,000
	<u>549,827</u>	<u>(53,710)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>496,117</u>
Restricted funds				
Access to Work	1,964	(1,964)	-	-
Dora and Leslie Barter Conservatory Fund	6,250	-	-	6,250
Hearing Impaired Children	454	-	-	454
The London Community Foundation	14,461	(14,461)	-	-
Wimbledon Foundation	5,650	5,178	-	10,828
Wimbledon Foundation-Child activities	-	687	-	687
Merton Connect IT Project	-	1,978	-	1,978
	<u>28,779</u>	<u>(8,582)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20,197</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>578,606</u>	<u>(62,292)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>516,314</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Movement In Funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	250,383	(304,093)	(53,710)
	<u>250,383</u>	<u>(304,093)</u>	<u>(53,710)</u>
Restricted funds			
Access to Work	1,123	(3,087)	(1,964)
Wimbledon Foundation	25,000	(19,822)	5,178
Wimbledon Foundation – Child Activities	5,000	(4,313)	687
Merton Connected IT Project	9,915	(7,937)	1,978
The London Community Foundation	-	(14,461)	(14,461)
	<u>41,038</u>	<u>(49,620)</u>	<u>(8,582)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>291,421</u>	<u>(353,713)</u>	<u>(62,292)</u>

20. FUNDS DETAILS

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

Funds have been designated as follows:

Emily Wells Memorial Fund

This capital amount was designated in committee to provide revenue.

General Buildings Maintenance

The Trustees have taken advice on the risks involved in owning a large building and the likely repair and maintenance needs over the longer term. This amount has been set aside to meet large repair and maintenance needs.

Gym Equipment

To augment our ageing well services the Trustees have decided to purchase suitable equipment for use in the hall.

Hall Refurbishment

The Trustees have agreed to refurbish the hall area.

High Tech Loan Equipment

A fund to build a bank of loan equipment, iPads, laptops and similar equipment that can be loaned to members, under the instruction of volunteers, to access online meetings, tutorials and activities from home.

IT and other Equipment

In prior years the Trustees have decided to designate the following:

- Charitylog - The Trustees are setting up a fund to train new staff in the use of and enhancements to our members treatment monitoring system - £10,000
- Computer System - The Trustees have decided to replace the outdated hardware and software - £35,000

Removal Costs

In a prior year, the Trustees have decided to set-up a fund to cover possible, unforeseen expenditure on our decampment during the reconstruction of The Guardian Centre.

Resource Room Equipment

The Trustees have decided to refurbish the demonstration equipment available to members and begin a travelling demo service

Social Club Refurbishment

The Trustees have agreed to update and refurbish the social club area. Following a donation from the social club bank account and to recognise its source, it was decided in committee to increase the fund by a similar amount to a total now of £50,000.

RESTRICTED FUNDS

Access to Work

Funding received from the Department for Work and Pensions for various equipment and expenses by a visually impaired member of staff to assist them in carrying out their employment. Certain items of computer equipment were capitalised and are being depreciated.

20. FUNDS DETAILS - continued

The Dora and Leslie Barter Conservatory Fund

In accordance with the provisions of the Dora Barter legacy the funds donated therein are to be applied to the building of a new conservatory.

Hearing Impaired Children

Funding received from Wimbledon District Nursing and Midwifery Benevolent Society to enable hearing-impaired children to join the Eye Can Do It programme.

Wimbledon Foundation

We secured three year project funding to engage a Working Age Outreach Worker to develop social and peer support activities and to promote the take up of statutory and voluntary services for working age people with impaired vision in Merton. The project provides £25,000 per annum to cover salary costs, expenses and overheads of the Outreach Worker until 31 March 2023. Due to the disruption caused by the COVID pandemic the project has been extended until 31 March 2024.

Everyone Health

A grant of £4,350 was received to support our new No One Left Behind, chair based, exercise classes.

National Lottery Community Fund

A grant of £10,000 to fund the extra cost of transporting members and clients to our decampment site whilst the rebuilding project is completed. Due to delays with the project this may need to be repaid.

Big Lottery

A 3 year grant to support our Outreach Team who recruit and train volunteers to assist our members and clients to live better lives despite their visual impairment. In the first year the grant was worth £129,665 plus a cost of living supplement.

21. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

The Charity has authorised and contracted for expenditure of £Nil. The Charity has authorised but not contracted for expenditure of £Nil in its capital budget for the upcoming year.

MertonVision are in negotiations with a developer to exchange our restricted freehold of the Guardian Centre site for a long leasehold interest in a newly constructed building to be shared with two GP practices in collaboration with the local NHS Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). Planning permission was authorised by the London Borough of Merton on 15 July 2022. No agreements have been exchanged between the parties. The Charity Commission must first give a ruling as to whether MertonVision are receiving fair value for its freehold interest.

In prior years a designated fund has been created by the trustees for any potential removal costs and a transfer of £20,000 has been made from the general fund.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS- CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

22. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

INCOME	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2022 Total Funds £
Income and endowments from: Donations and legacies	19,531	-	19,531
Income from charitable activities:			
Grants	76,478	41,038	117,516
Charitable Activities	8,005	-	8,005
Contracted services	144,785	-	144,785
Other trading activities:			
Fundraising and events	1,502	-	1,502
Investment income	82	-	82
Total Income	250,383	41,038	291,421
EXPENDITURE ON:			
Raising funds	680	-	680
Charitable activities:			
Charity Activities	303,413	49,620	353,033
Total expenditure	304,093	49,620	353,713
NET Income/(expenditure) before transfers	(53,710)	(8,582)	(62,292)
NET Income/(expenditure) after transfers	(53,710)	(8,582)	(62,292)

The following pages do not form part of the financial statements.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	2023 £	2022 £
INCOME		
Donations and legacies		
Donations	20,566	13,603
Contribution towards accounts intern salary	4,541	-
Legacies	-	5,016
Membership	852	912
	<u>25,959</u>	<u>19,531</u>
Fundraising Income		
Fundraising	823	580
MVAB Lottery	168	286
100 Club	468	636
	<u>1,459</u>	<u>1,502</u>
Investment income		
Deposit Account Interest	1,938	48
Investment Income	370	34
	<u>2,308</u>	<u>82</u>
Income from charitable activities		
Grants	245,566	117,516
Compensation for avoidable overheads incurred	24,056	-
Activities Fees	257	-
Fees Received	4,156	-
Catering Income	1,130	1,220
Hall Hire	4,354	4,122
Members Club Sales	967	1,210
Other Income	218	286
Resales	-	229
Transport Charges	878	938
Access to work	41,497	38,124
Maintenance of LBM register	1,292	1,254
Merton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)	2,684	2,184
Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	21,869	23,857
Rehabilitation Charges	128,239	79,366
	<u>477,163</u>	<u>270,306</u>
Total Income	<u>506,889</u>	<u>291,421</u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	2023 £	2022 £
EXPENDITURE		
Raising Funds Costs	70	70
Publicity and fundraising cost	405	610
100 Club Prizes	<u>475</u>	<u>680</u>
Charitable Activities		
Wages	322,995	258,220
Redundancy Pay	10,942	-
Employer's National Insurance	22,819	15,662
Pension	9,041	6,971
Volunteer costs	155	119
Insurance	4,725	4,489
Light, heat and water rates	11,676	11,633
Rates	1,382	1,326
Telephone	2,955	2,734
Postage and Stationery	3,719	3,842
Sundries	593	2,191
Transport costs	3,345	2,894
Travel costs	1,425	209
Office cleaning and materials	1,678	765
Activity costs	996	6,203
Catering expenses	1,344	1,137
Members club purchases	360	987
Computer and IT costs	9,347	9,262
Repairs and maintenance	4,916	8,868
Access to work equipment	7,174	1,123
Staff training	2,389	3,374
Bank charges	416	465
Resales	201	251
Grants to individuals	250	225
Depreciation of fixtures and fittings	4,125	2,524
	<u>428,968</u>	<u>345,474</u>
Governance costs		
Accountancy	1,260	1,200
Independent Examiners fees	1,943	1,850
HR fees	2,863	2,863
Legal fees	13	13
Payroll Fees	360	432
Subscriptions and fees	1,161	1,201
	<u>7,600</u>	<u>7,559</u>
Total Expenditure	<u>437,043</u>	<u>353,713</u>
Net Income (expenses)	<u>69,846</u>	<u>(62,292)</u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

England & Wales - Charity number 1075388

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 03758661 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1075388

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 MARCH 2022
FOR
MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

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MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number
03758661 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number
1075388

Registered office
The Guardian Centre
67 Clarendon Road
Colliers Wood
London
SW19 2DX

Independent Examiners
Andrea L Kibble FCCA
A K Accounting Solutions Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
126a High Street
Whitton
Twickenham
Middlesex
TW2 7LL

Resigned 17 November 2021

Gareth Rees FCA CTA
PB Associates
Chartered Accountants & Chartered Tax Advisers
2 Castle Business Village
Station Road
Hampton
Middlesex
TW12 2BX

Appointed 22 March 2022

Principal Bankers
National Westminster Bank Plc
16 Wimbledon Hill Road
Wimbledon
London
SW19 7ZD

CAF Bank
25, Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Mailing
Kent
ME19 4JQ

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

The Trustees (who are also directors of the charitable company for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006) are pleased to present their annual Trustees Report, together with the unaudited financial statements for the year ending 31 March 2022, 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 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) and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

TRUSTEES

All Trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the Charity. Any expenses reclaimed from the Charity are set out in Note 12 to the accounts. The Trustees serving during the year and to the date of this report were as follows: -

Mariza Jurgens has returned to South Africa and must resign at the next AGM, also 1 new Trustee, Harry Meade, was co-opted on 25 January 2022 election to be ratified at the next AGM.

H A Cowd (Chairman)
S J Moore (Treasurer)
R G Benjamin
R F Bowman
W A Busbridge
S R D Coates
N Gibson
M Jurgens
H McAuley
V A Morrison
F P Pugh
S Scott

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY

The charitable company's principal activity during the year was to provide services, information and support to residents of Merton who have a visual impairment. The aim is to support and empower people with a visual impairment, from their diagnosis of permanent sight loss through the entire rehabilitative process, in whatever form is appropriate for them. This includes children, adults, people with dual sensory loss and people with additional difficulties.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

Merton Voluntary Association for the Blind is a company limited by guarantee governed by its Articles of Association dated 23 April 1999, amended 13 October 2000 and a further amendment 9 November 2017. The Charity was originally founded in 1965 and was registered as an unincorporated charity with the Charity Commission 9 March 1966.

Following the AGM 9 November 2017, a special resolution was passed and the Articles of Association of the Charity were changed in their entirety and replaced by new Articles.

All Trustees shall automatically become members of the Charity and their names shall be entered into the Charity's register of members. The number of members of the Charity is unlimited. They remain members until they cease to be members in accordance with the Articles.

Membership shall be open to any individual aged 18 or over whom the Board decides to admit to membership.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES – CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Trustees may determine criteria for membership but are not obliged to admit any person satisfying such criteria as members and may decline in their absolute discretion any person's application and need not give reasons for such decision.

Only members are eligible to vote at the AGM/EGM, general or special meetings convened for the purposes of discussing the business of the charitable company.

Appointment of new Trustees

As set out in the Articles of Association Trustees are elected annually by the members of the charitable company attending the Annual General Meeting and serve for a period of three years and then one third of Trustees are required to retire by rotation but may be re-elected.

Trustees can be recruited by open advert or may be proposed and seconded by members and put forward for election at the AGM in accordance with the terms and timelines determined by the Board and subject to the Board's approval of such nomination.

The Make-up of the Board

The Board consists of not fewer than six and no more than fifteen persons appointed by the Trustees at any time at a meeting or in writing. The Board shall aim to have, as far as reasonable, equal representation on the Board of visually impaired, hearing impaired and sighted people with all Trustees having equal voting rights. Where this cannot be achieved the Board will still be valid irrespective of the make-up of the Board.

Filling vacancies in the Board and co-option

The Board can appoint anyone as a Trustee to fill a vacancy in the membership of the Board. They will hold office until the next annual general meeting where they may be elected by the members (unless they cease to be a Trustee prior to that by virtue of Article 38 or 39). For the purposes of this Article the Board shall decide how many vacancies there are, subject to the maximum and minimum numbers given in Article 33.1.

Trustee recruitment and induction

New Trustees are given induction on their roles, their legal obligations under charity and company law, the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit, and inform them of the content of the Articles of Association, the committee and decision-making processes, the business plan and recent financial performance of the Charity.

During the induction day they meet key employees and other Trustees. Trustees are encouraged to attend appropriate external training events where these will facilitate the undertaking of their role.

Governance and Organisational structure

The Trustees of Merton Voluntary Association for the Blind are responsible for the assets and strategic direction of the Charity. The Chief Executive Officer, who is appointed by the Trustees, is responsible for carrying out the day-to-day management of the Charity. To facilitate effective operations, the Chief Executive Officer has delegated authority, within terms of delegation approved by the Trustees, for operational matters including finance, employment and Charity related activities. The Trustees normally meet quarterly during the year to receive reports on all aspects of the Charity's activities and finance. The Chief Executive Officer attends all meetings.

Senior Management Team

Kevin Gregory
Wendy Walsh

Chief Executive Officer from 21 April 2021
Officer Manager

Pay policy for senior staff

The Trustees consider the Board of Trustees and the senior management team comprise the key management personnel of the Charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the Charity on a day-to-day basis. All Trustees give of their time freely and no trustee received remuneration in the year. Details of Trustees' expenses and related party transactions are disclosed in Note 12 to the accounts.

The pay of the senior staff is reviewed annually and normally increased in accordance with average earnings. The Trustees benchmark against pay levels in other local charities of a similar size, which are run on a voluntary basis.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES – CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

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 management of the Charity with service user, external contractor or supplier of services must be disclosed to the Board of Trustees in the same way as any other contractual relationship with a related party. In the current year no such related party transactions were reported.

All related party transactions are managed in accordance with the Charity's conflicts of interest policy. All transactions and activities involving organisations in which a Trustee may have an interest are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the Charity's financial and procurement procedures. Total reimbursed expenses made to Trustees are shown in Note 12.

In the current year no such related party transactions were reported.

Merton Sports and Social Club and Merton Talking Newspaper share our premises, and members or Trustees of these charities are potential trustees of Merton Voluntary Association for the Blind. Trustees who are members of these charities keep the separate interests at 'arm's length'.

Use of volunteers

MertonVision is grateful to all its volunteers, who carry out a variety of different tasks both in and out of the Charity. Our diverse range of volunteers have a variety of interests and reasons for wanting to support the Charity - from gaining experience at the start of their careers to using their wealth of experience and knowledge to meeting the needs of our communities. All our volunteers add value to our work and make a real difference to our clients and communities. Our volunteers are supported and overseen by our Volunteer Coordinator and are managed in accordance with the Volunteers policy.

Due to the size of the Charity, staff and volunteers work closely together and several of the existing staff originally began as volunteers. Volunteers are recruited on a rolling basis. Our volunteers are made up of different groups. There are those who work with the Charity offering support to the clients and staff, sometimes running activities.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

Objects

The objects for which the Charity is established are to grant assistance to all blind and partially sighted people ordinarily resident in the London Borough of Merton and if the Trustees so determines elsewhere in England and Wales. The Charity operates using the trading name of MertonVision.

Aims

Our aim is to support and empower people with a visual impairment, from their diagnosis of permanent sight loss through the entire rehabilitative process, in whatever form is appropriate for them. This includes children, adults, people with dual sensory loss and people with other difficulties in addition to their visual loss.

Our services are informed by national guidelines and good practice, in particular 'Seeing it my way' which works to ensure that blind and partially sighted people can access the support, information and services needed for independent living.

We provide a 'pathway' of services and collaborate widely to ensure that as far as possible those needs are met.

Ensuring our work delivers our aims

We review our aims, objectives and activities each year. This review looks at what we achieved and the outcomes of our work in the previous 12 months. The review looks at the success of each key activity and the benefits they have brought to those groups of people we are set up to help.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES – CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

The review also helps us ensure our aims, objectives and activities remained focused on our stated purposes. We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning our future activities. In particular, the Trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set.

Following the Coronavirus pandemic our staff and volunteers continued to help those members and clients who are still self-isolating with a delivery service for shopping, prescriptions and in some cases household emergencies. Any concerns, requirements and anxieties were actioned and addressed. This is still on going and the Guardian Centre gradually opened up again during the current financial year to 31st March 2022 with restricted activities. Members were however reluctant to return due to the continuing fear of infection.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE Charitable activities

PEOPLE HAVE ACCESS TO INFORMATION ABOUT LIVING WITH SIGHT LOSS

We feel that this is best achieved through personal contact. During the past year we have had direct contact with 583 clients, with 3,417 telephone calls. We also made 86 home visits to deliver shopping, prescriptions, essential equipment and to help out with IT problems.

There were 292 new clients during this period.

The Guardian Centre is once again open Monday - Thursday 9 am to 5 pm and on Friday 9 am to 4 pm for personal and telephone callers, and at other times by appointment. In addition we provide:

Patient Support Service at Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

We have found that people are often shocked by the diagnosis of untreatable sight loss, and have provided a support service at Moorfields at St. Georges for the past 24 years. This service is supported by Moorfields NHS trust. Our worker will talk to people at a very emotional time and give information about the help that is available outside of the hospital – this could be their local social services, national or local sight loss charities. Our worker also ensures that the Certificate of Visual Impairment (CVI) 'paperwork' is completed and sent to the appropriate social services or their agents.

The service is available to all patients who attend Moorfields NHS trust eye clinic at St George's Healthcare NHS Trust, not just Merton residents.

Rehabilitation

MertonVision provides a comprehensive rehabilitation service for people with a visual impairment in Merton. The service is contracted from London Borough of Merton. Rehabilitation includes 'problem solving' to help individuals find solutions to the difficulties they may face, and gives them the skills, confidence and equipment to re-order their lives. This will include daily living skills such as cooking, personal care, mobility training and a wealth of information about what is available to help live with sight loss.

MertonVision receive CVI's directly from hospital eye clinics, this enables rehabilitation and support services to be offered quickly. The Association of Directors of Social Services guidelines state that the patient should be contacted within 2 weeks. The service has been offered to 109 adults. Our average wait time for first contact was 25 days the delays have been due to difficulty in recruiting a new rehabilitation officer and assistant.

Habilitation Children

MertonVision has a project for one day per week with London Borough of Merton SENDIS (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Integrated Service) to provide mobility and independence training for children in the borough who have a visual impairment. We sub-contract a qualified rehabilitation and mobility officer to fulfil this project. MertonVision also provide early assessment and daily living skills training as appropriate to the child's age and ability.

Benefits Advice

We have a volunteer who is able to assist with filling in basic forms such as Blue Badge and Taxi Card applications.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES – CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Newsletter and other information media

Our main publication is a bi-monthly newsletter, which is distributed to 440 people with a visual impairment and 72 volunteers, supporters and local organisations. Information includes local and national issues of interest to people with a visual impairment. Each person's personal preference is accommodated, with standard or customised large print, Braille, email, and memory stick (MP3) format available.

Additionally we send information on a daily or ad hoc basis to those on our distribution list who have access to email with news and information as it arrives at MertonVision.

The MertonVision website is updated regularly, and we are using social media.

We work closely with Merton Talking Newspaper (MTN) to distribute MP3 players on permanent loan on their behalf. This ensures that people also have the appropriate equipment to listen to audio books and newsletters.

MertonVision is an agent for Wireless for the Blind, which provides specially adapted audio equipment for those in need

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

EMOTIONAL SUPPORT AS APPROPRIATE IS OFFERED

Counselling service

While depression is not an inevitable consequence of vision impairment, it is common. An estimated one-third of older adults with vision loss report clinically significant depressive symptoms. Whether a person with vision loss becomes depressed appears to be more related to the impact the vision loss has on the person's functioning, rather than the severity of vision loss. We are now working in partnership with Wimbledon Guild of Social Welfare and Merton IAPPT who will provide counselling for our clients when required. A grant from the London Community Foundation has allowed us to continue a new telephone Counselling Service, free to our clients who are suffering from the effects of the pandemic. A total of 64 sessions were provided to our clients and staff.

The closures of the Guardian Centre during the financial year meant that face to face meetings, classes, clubs and events under the next headings could not take place fully. These activities are listed here for information and will resume when public confidence grows and the Centre gets back to some normality.

Peer Support

Peer support is often crucial to those newly diagnosed with enduring sight loss. By offering social opportunities MertonVision enables visually impaired people (especially those with a recent diagnosis) to meet with others who are living with sight loss and learn from each other. Our weekly daytime or special events encourage people to meet and socialise.

Weekly social activities

This includes coffee morning, social events and local peer support. We also organise an 'Out and About' group, which meets at various venues in Merton for coffee or lunch.

As this group grows we will be setting up other local groups across Merton.

Lunch club

This gives people the opportunity to meet other people and enjoy a freshly prepared hot meal. We know that many people live alone and are unlikely to cook. MertonVision has retained its 5 stars hygiene rating with London Borough of Merton. We prepared approximately 185 hot and buffet lunches.

Social events

MertonVision arrange social evenings, for example Burns night, Quizzes and Bridge tournaments. During the summer months we arrange trips out on our minibus to the seaside or places of interest. We are fortunate that many of our volunteers give up their free time to accompany and guide those who need it.

Macular group

The local Macular Group meet bi-monthly at MertonVision. Everyone who has macular disease, friends or family are welcome.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES – CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Young people with a visual impairment

Most of our service users are elderly, therefore our services are geared towards the needs of older people. However, we are 3 years into a 5-year funded project to employ a Working Age Outreach worker to focus on communicating with this hard-to-reach client group. The worker assists and advises visually impaired working age people in Merton.

Thanks to a grant from the Wimbledon Foundation, we were able to run various activities for young and older visually impaired children during school holidays from Summer 2021 to Easter 2022 with the help of the Royal Society for Blind Children. For the younger children there were circus skills, clowns, magicians and art classes, while the older ones had sports coaching. There was also a Christmas party and disco for all.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

PROVIDE PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS THEY MAY FACE

Home Support

We realised that many people with poor vision have difficulty resolving a problem at home that needs vision, so we set up a service in response to the need. We have helped with a variety of 'problems' for example; restoring the settings on a TV, delivery and setting up a talking microwave, fitting a replacement light bulb for a task lamp and doing a safety check. We also deliver and set up loan CCTV's and training on their use.

Daily Living Aids and Equipment Room

The resource centre offers the opportunity to try some of the practical or specialist equipment which people with a visual impairment may find useful. Equipment is available to buy. Some items are available on short-term loan so that people can try more expensive items in their own home first. Our agreement with the RNIB gives us ordering priority for our clients.

Low Vision Aids

We offer a Low Vision Aids service to people in the community who have been referred by local optometrist practices. The aim of the service is to enable people with low vision access to low vision aids (optical magnifiers) much earlier than the conventional route by referral to GP and subsequent hospital appointment. In addition to early referral, this project allows for a more 'person centred' approach, so that the patient emerges with greater skills in using their magnifiers. The service is funded by the Merton Clinical Commissioning Group and is available at MertonVision by appointment.

We also work in partnership with Moorfields Eye Hospital to offer local patients the choice of attending a clinic either at Moorfields or at MertonVision.

Social and Adult Learning Activities

IT training

We have an accessible IT Suite equipped with 6 PC's with large monitors and accessible software. We give training on the use of the integral magnification and other specialist software, as well as using the computer. We have an IT tutor for 1 session per week. MertonVision provides training for using 'tablets' (iPad and ePad), as these seem particularly accessible for people without previous computer skills. We also have a qualified 'Guide' trainer to help people to set up and use 'Guide' accessible software at home.

Arts and Crafts

We employ an Arts and Craft tutor for one session per week to accommodate people with a visual impairment.

Falls prevention

We offer a weekly Falls Prevention Chair Based Exercise Class, which helps to deliver the Falls Strategy for Older People locally.

Falls are usually caused by one or more of four triggers; trips and hazards, polypharmacy (more than four medications) poor muscle tone or poor vision. We have been working closely with Merton Falls Prevention Lead (NHS) to add a simple sight-screening tool when assessing those who are referred to their service. Those who failed were given our information about eye tests, cheaper options for spectacles and the number to call if they need a domiciliary visit. We are hoping the screening tool will be rolled out to more community assessors.

Yoga

We also offer a weekly Yoga class.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES – CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

PROVIDE PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS THEY MAY FACE

Volunteer Services

The main focus of our volunteer services is to provide a Home Visiting Service to people with a visual impairment. This service provides a trained volunteer to people who need additional help not provided at the Guardian Centre.

Our project worker recruits, trains and supports volunteers for a variety of roles within MertonVision. All volunteers undertake enhanced DBS checks. The volunteers have given 875 hours of their time mostly shopping for our clients.

We are pleased that we can accommodate volunteers from diverse cultures and those with disabilities. We are very grateful to our volunteers, without whom many of our services would not run.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

The Chief Executive Officer gives talks to community groups on the work of MertonVision. We also provide Visual Impairment Awareness Training.

During the year we have worked or collaborated with the following organisations to improve services locally for people with a visual impairment.

Close collaboration means that we can refer clients (with their permission) to other services or organisations where their need can be met.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Merton Clinical Commissioning Group | • MVSC |
| • LBM Library service | • RSBC |
| • LBM Social services | • London Vision |
| • LBM Education Dept. | • Sight For Surrey |
| • Moorfields NHS Trust | • Linden Lodge |
| • Merton Public Health Team | • Wandsworth Commissioning Team |
| • LBM Ageing Well Programme Phase 2 | • Vision Foundation |
| • Wimbledon Guild of Social Welfare | • Wimbledon Foundation |
| • Age UK Merton | • Commonsense Trust |
| • Merton Community Transport | • Merton Chamber of Commerce |
| • Safer Neighbourhood team | • Wimbledon Dons |
| • Merton Asian Elderly group | • Merton Mutual Aid |
| • Thomas Pocklington Trust | • Sutton Vision |
| | • Croydon Vision |

Transcription Services

Providers of written information are required to offer accessible formats such as large print, Braille and audio.

We are pleased that we are able to offer a transcription service free to our members and on a commercial basis to our customers. MertonVision is the preferred provider of braille transcription to the London Borough of Merton.

MertonVision is a member of COTIS (Confederation of Transcribed Information Services).

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Difficulties with the new building project have been both frustrating and disappointing. Staff time has been wasted disposing of fixtures and fittings and packing up for our temporary move to the Wilson Hospital. Trustee time has also been wasted on endless meetings, more often than not fruitless, with the developer and the NHS. This time could have been devoted to our clients, trying to tempt them back to the Guardian Centre with old favourites and new, innovative activities. The Trustees will however, continue to remain steadfastly committed to ensuring a sustainable organisation for the benefit of its service users. The Trustees consider the overall financial performance of the Charity for the year to again be disappointing, but there is light at the end of the tunnel for 2022/2023 with the award of the 3 year National Lottery grant.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES – CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

During the current year, the Charity's income profile has not changed significantly. The Charity's income remains heavily reliant on the public sector funds with the Local Authority who have, because of the pandemic, extended our grant funding for another year until March 2023. The Wimbledon Foundation project to engage a Working Age Outreach Worker has, again due to the pandemic, been extended by 2 more years. A further grant was received from them to support various activities for visually impaired children during school holidays. A grant was also received from Merton Connected to run a sports satellite scheme for physically inactive young people. Our finances were further boosted by a further Coronavirus crisis grant from the National Lottery in respect to our response towards caring for our members, clients and staff during the pandemic. Finally, a grant from the National Lottery Community Fund, distributed by Merton Giving, to increase our existing IT Support Worker's time to train members, clients and staff to access technology and encourage the use of devices primarily to aid isolation and to facilitate online shopping. The Government Job Retention Scheme also continued to allow us to subsidise the salaries of our four furloughed staff who were paid in full throughout the period to 30 September 2021. There have been some changes during the year within the other categories of income.

The Charity's Trustees wish to express our sincere gratitude to all our grant funders, listed in note 3 on page 20 of these accounts, for their support during another unprecedented year.

The Charity's incoming resources have decreased by 25.95% to £291,421 (2021: £393,569) due to decrease in grants. The Charity's expenditure has decreased to £353,713 (2021: £360,261) due mainly to an overall decrease in activity. The net effect of the above is a decrease in total reserves of £62,292 (2021 – increase of £33,308).

The Charity's Trustees will continually attempt to keep the cost structure of the organisation stable and tightly controlled.

Future plans

We are very pleased to report that our grant application to the National Lottery was successful, with a 3 year total grant of £363,509. The first 6 monthly advance was received on 10 June 2022 and involves the creation of, 2 full time and 1 part time, new staff roles. A Volunteer Service Manager, an Outreach Activities Worker and an IT Support Trainer, all of whom are now in place. They will be collectively known as the Outreach Team. The Volunteer Service Manager will support existing, find and train new volunteers to support the home visiting service, befriending and running social activities. The Outreach Activities Worker will utilise these volunteers to support existing and new centre activities, mainly to our older members. Finally, the IT Support Trainer will through a team of volunteers train those members, still not confident to leave their homes, with new and existing ways to use technology to communicate with relatives, friends and order shopping online. This will alleviate feelings of isolation and depression. He will also train staff to use new technology.

The new building project was progressing well with our decampment to the Wilson Hospital imminent but was dramatically halted due to differences between the developer and the NHS Clinical Commissioning Group. The project is currently on hold, therefore we will need to increase member participation in centre activities at the Guardian Centre.

After 25 years, Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust have unfortunately terminated our contract to supply an Eye Clinic Liaison Officer (ECLO) at St. George's Hospital with effect from 27 January 2023. Fortunately, the London Borough of Merton have given a one-off payment for a rehabilitation assistant to clear the backlog of cases brought about during the Coronavirus pandemic. Our ECLO staff member has been transferred to this new role.

Our Chief Executive Officer has successfully tendered for a 3 year Pride Grant from the London Borough of Merton starting 1 April 2023. It has 3 separate components Preventative Activities (Well-Being), Emergency Support and Growing Strengths and Capabilities and is worth £81,467 per annum, an increase of £26,752 a year.

We are currently awaiting the outcome of a grant application to Children in Need for desperately needed support for a full time Children's Facilitator to enable us to continue our previous work with visually impaired and deaf children.

Investment policy and objectives

The Trustees, having regard to the liquidity requirements of operating the Charity, have kept available funds in an interest-bearing deposit account and seek to achieve a rate on deposit which matches or exceeds inflation as measured by the retail prices index.

The Trustees have designated the Emily Wells legacy (£51,526) as an income-generating fund. The Trustees have explored suitable short-term investments to generate income on the remainder of their free reserves. These investments have been placed with different banking institutions to mitigate any possible losses the institutions might suffer.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES – CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Reserves policy and going concern

At a committee meeting held on 11 March 2021 to address the continuing economic uncertainties of the Coronavirus pandemic and the inability to attract new core funding the Trustees agreed to change their previously established policy, whereby the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in fixed assets (the free reserves) held by the Charity should be up to six rather than twelve months of the resources expended, which now equates to approximately £177,000. At this level the Board of Trustees feel that they would still be able to continue the current activities of the Charity in the event of a significant drop in funding.

Risk management

The Trustees have reviewed the major risks to which the Charity is exposed, in particular to operations and finances. Operational risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures and policies, with a regular review of these to ensure current good practice. A disaster plan to ensure business continuity in the event of unplanned events has been prepared. The Trustees have identified the inherent risks associated with having one primary funding source. Our reserves policy mitigates some of the risks of loss of funding. The Trustees have implemented and augmented a fundraising programme.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES – CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees (who are also the directors of Merton Voluntary Association for the Blind for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

Company law requires the Charity's Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the Trustees must not approve the Financial statements unless they are satisfied they 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 those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

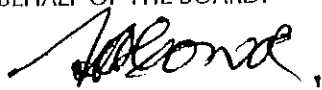
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP 2019 (FRS102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements, and;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company 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 charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the Charity and financial information included on the Charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

This Trustees report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:



H A Cowd - Chairman

21 March 2023

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

I report to the Charity's Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2022, which are set out on pages 15 to 29.

Respective and basis of report

As the Charity's Trustees of the charitable company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the charitable company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your Charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the '2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's report

Since the Charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in Section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

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:

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the charitable company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those accounting records; or
- (3) the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
- (4) the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended practice for accounting and reporting by charities.

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 accounts to be reached.

Gareth Rees FCA CTA
On behalf of
PB Associates
2 Castle Business Village
Station Road
Hampton
Middlesex
TW12 2BX

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

				2022	2021
		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
INCOME	Notes	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	2	19,531	-	19,531	10,198
Income from charitable activities:	3				
Grants		76,478	41,038	117,516	232,640
Charitable Activities		8,005	-	8,005	10,089
Contracted services		144,785	-	144,785	139,989
Other trading activities:					
Fundraising and events	4	1,502	-	1,502	293
Investment income	5	82	-	82	360
Total Income		250,383	41,038	291,421	393,569
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Raising funds	6	680	-	680	737
Charitable activities:					
Charity Activities	7	303,413	49,620	353,033	359,524
Total expenditure		304,093	49,620	353,713	360,261
NET Income/(expenditure) before transfers		(53,710)	(8,582)	(62,292)	33,308
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
NET Income/(expenditure) after transfers		(53,710)	(8,582)	(62,292)	33,308
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS	19				
Total funds brought forward		549,827	28,779	578,606	545,298
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		496,117	20,197	516,314	578,606

CONTINUING OPERATIONS

All incoming resources and resources expended arise from continuing activities.

The notes form part of these financial statements

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 MARCH 2022

				2022	2021
	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Total Funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	15	51,826	-	51,826	54,350
Investments	16	25,000	-	25,000	25,000
		<u>76,826</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>76,826</u>	<u>79,350</u>
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stocks		633	-	633	633
Debtors: amounts falling due within one year	17	31,131	70	31,201	32,106
Cash at bank and in hand		399,776	20,407	420,183	479,094
		<u>431,540</u>	<u>20,477</u>	<u>452,017</u>	<u>511,833</u>
LIABILITIES					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	18	(12,249)	(280)	(12,529)	(12,577)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>419,291</u>	<u>20,197</u>	<u>439,488</u>	<u>499,256</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>496,117</u>	<u>20,197</u>	<u>516,314</u>	<u>578,606</u>
TOTAL FUNDS OF THE CHARITY					
Unrestricted Funds	19			496,117	549,827
Restricted Funds	19			20,197	28,779
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>516,314</u>	<u>578,606</u>

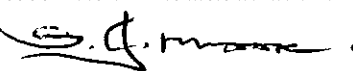
The Trustees consider that the charitable company is entitled to exemption from the requirement to have an audit under the provisions of section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 ("the Act") relating to small companies and members have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Act.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 21 March 2023 and were signed on its behalf by:


H A Cowd – Chairman and Trustee


S J Moore – Treasurer and Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Company status

Merton Voluntary Association for the Blind is a charitable company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales. The registered office and company registration number are detailed on page 3.

Basis of preparation

Merton Voluntary Association for the Blind meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The financial statements are presented in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Charity.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The Trustees have considered the company's balance sheet, trading activity and estimated cash flows for a period of at least 12 months from the date these financial statements were signed and have concluded that the charity will continue to be able to meet its obligations as these fall due.

Judgement and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the Charity's accounting policies, the Charity is required to make judgments, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an on-going basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the Trustees. Unrestricted funds include designated funds where the Trustees, at their discretion, have created a fund for a specific purpose.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the Charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes. Where necessary, a quarterly report is sent to the donor detailing the expenditure.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in Note 20 on pages 27 & 28 of the financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS- CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Income

All incoming resources are included on the Statement of Financial Activities when the Charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Income is deferred only when the Charity has to fulfil conditions before becoming entitled to it or where the donor has specified that the income is to be expended in future period.

Donated services or facilities are recognised when the Charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use of the Charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. Some of the management and activity of the Charity is carried out by volunteers. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the volunteer time is not recognised and refer to the Trustees' report for more information about their contribution.

On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the Charity which is the amount the Charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payment to a third party, 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 to the applicable expenditure headings having regard to the nature of the expenditure.

Expenditure for raising funds includes only directly related costs for traditional fundraising including staff time where applicable. All roles within the senior management team that have fundraising responsibility in its broader sense of restricted income generation in the form of, for example, larger multi-year statutory grants remain within costs for charitable activities. This is to ensure that the fundraising income and costs shown in the Statement of Financial Activities relate to each other and can be reasonably compared.

Grants paid to individuals

Certain grants are applied for on behalf of clients and where these applications are successful; the amounts received are expended in accordance with the terms and conditions of the grant application.

Donated services and facilities

Gifts are recorded as received however, as the value of most gifts received cannot be measured reliably these are not included in the accounts.

Voluntary help

A certain amount of time is expended on the Charity's activities, which is donated free of charge, which includes pro bono counselling and therapist time. It is not possible to quantify the value of time given and accordingly it is neither recorded as donated income nor as an expense in the accounts.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

Since 1 August 2016 employees were able to join the money purchase scheme, which has been established in compliance with the regulations on workplace pensions under the Pensions Act 2008. Employees were automatically enrolled into the money purchase scheme unless they have exercised their right to opt out of scheme membership.

Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS- CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost or valuation less depreciation. Individual fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Asset Category	Annual Rate
Freehold buildings	Fully depreciated
Computer equipment	33% on cost
Plant and machinery	20% on cost
Office furniture and fittings	25% on reducing balance
Motor vehicles	20% on reducing balance

Investments

Investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price. The income arising on the investments is shown under investment income in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Gains and losses on investment assets disposed of are shown as gains and losses in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and 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 deposit or similar account, as well as cash in hand held by Charity at the year end.

Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are recognised at the invoiced cost prepaid.

Creditors and Provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the Charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Taxation

The Charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010. Accordingly it is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income and capital gains received to the extent that such income or gains are applied to exclusively charitable purposes. No provision for taxation has been made in these financial statements.

2. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2022	2021
	£	£
Donations	13,603	9,334
Legacies	5,016	-
Membership	912	864
	<u>19,531</u>	<u>10,198</u>

Income from Donations was £19,531 (2021: £10,198) all of which was unrestricted in both financial years.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS- CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

3. INCOME RESOURCES FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Activity	2022 £	2021 £
Grants	Grants	117,516	232,640
Catering income	Charitable Activities	1,220	-
Hall Hire	Charitable Activities	4,122	9,550
Members club sales	Charitable Activities	1,210	-
Other income	Charitable Activities	286	372
Resales	Charitable Activities	229	267
Transport charges	Charitable Activities	938	(100)
Access to Work	Contracted Services	38,124	34,429
Maintenance of LBM register	Contracted Services	1,254	1,238
Merton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)	Contracted Services	2,184	2,172
Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	Contracted Services	23,857	23,857
Rehabilitation Charges	Contracted Services	79,366	78,293
		<u>270,306</u>	<u>382,718</u>

Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
Vision Foundation for London (formally GLFB)	-	90,000
London Borough of Merton	59,429	54,715
Merton Connect IT (restricted grant)	9,915	-
Merton Connect Work with Children	2,000	-
Wimbledon Foundation (restricted grant)	25,000	25,000
Wimbledon Foundation Child Fund (restricted grant)	5,000	-
Wimbledon Foundation Coronavirus Fund Grant	-	5,000
The National Lottery Community Fund	9,940	18,097
The London Community Foundation (restricted grant)	-	19,994
HMRC Furlough Grants	5,039	15,564
DWP - Access to Work (restricted grant)	1,123	3,844
Other Small Grants	70	426
	<u>117,516</u>	<u>232,640</u>

4. FUNDRAISING AND EVENTS

	2022 £	2021 £
Fundraising events	580	-
MVAB Lottery	286	269
100 Club	636	24
	<u>1,502</u>	<u>293</u>

All of the Charity's Fundraising income of £1,502 (2021: £293) is unrestricted

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS- CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

5. INVESTMENT INCOME	2022 £	2021 £
Deposit account interest	48	176
Investment income	34	184
	<u>82</u>	<u>360</u>

All of the Charity's investment income of £82 (2021: £360) arises from money held in interest bearing deposit accounts and is unrestricted.

6. RAISING FUNDS COSTS	2022 £	2021 £
Publicity and fundraising cost	70	737
100 club prizes	610	-
	<u>680</u>	<u>737</u>

7. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS	Direct costs £	Governance costs £	2022 Total £	2021 Total £
Charity Activities	345,474	7,559	353,033	359,524
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>345,474</u>	<u>7,559</u>	<u>353,033</u>	<u>359,524</u>

8. ANALYSIS OF DIRECT COSTS	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2022 Totals £	2021 Totals £
Wages and salaries	234,760	46,093	280,853	297,708
Other staff costs	3,315	297	3,612	6,346
Volunteer expenses	1,670	110	1,780	48
Direct project costs	5,345	1,935	7,280	3,947
Premises costs	23,556	-	23,556	27,470
Office costs	26,983	1,185	28,168	16,678
Grants paid to individuals	225	-	225	214
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>295,854</u>	<u>49,620</u>	<u>345,474</u>	<u>352,411</u>

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS- CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

9. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	2022	2021
	£	£
Accountancy	1,200	1,200
HR fees	2,863	2,863
Independent Examiner fees	1,850	1,850
Legal fees	13	13
Payroll fees	432	360
Subscriptions and fees	1,201	827
	<u>7,559</u>	<u>7,113</u>

10. NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES

Net resources are stated after charging/(crediting):

	2022	2021
	£	£
Independent Examiner's fees	1,850	1,850
Depreciation - owned assets	2,524	6,610
	<u>=====</u>	<u>=====</u>

11. STAFF COSTS

	2022	2021
	£	£
Gross Wages	258,220	273,345
Employers National Insurance	15,662	17,156
Pension costs	6,971	7,207
	<u>280,853</u>	<u>297,708</u>

No employees had employee benefits in excess of £60,000 (2021: £Nil). Pension costs are allocated to activities in proportion to the related staffing costs incurred.

The key management personnel of the Charity comprise of the Trustees, the Chief Executive Officer and the Office Manager. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £70,827 (2021: £70,844).

The average monthly number of employees (including casual and part time staff) during the year was as follows:

	2022	2021
	No	No
Senior Management Team	2	2
Other Direct Charitable Staff	12	12
	<u>14</u>	<u>14</u>

12. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

The Charity Trustees were not paid or received any other benefits from employment with the Charity in the year (2021: £Nil) During the year, no Trustees were reimbursed for disbursements (2021: £Nil) in respect of fundraising and other related expenses.

No charity Trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the Charity (2021: £Nil).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS- CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

13. PENSION COSTS

The Charity has a defined contribution pension scheme, which all employees are entitled to join. From 1 April 2019 the Charity contributes 3% and the employees contribute a minimum of 5%, however employees may make further additional voluntary contributions.

During the year ended 31 March 2022, the Charity's total contributions amounted to £6,971 (2021: £7,207) The Trustees are satisfied that any foreseeable change in employer's contributions can be budgeted for without detriment to the Charity's on-going activities.

14. TRANSACTIONS AND RELATED PARTIES

There were no related party transactions during the year or the previous year, other than the remuneration of key management personnel set out in Note 11.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS- CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

15. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold Property £	Fixtures and fittings £	Motor vehicles £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST					
At 1 April 2021	108,541	37,800	27,295	82,168	255,804
Additions	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	(2,274)	(2,274)
At 31 March 2022	108,541	37,800	27,295	79,894	253,530
DEPRECIATION					
At 1 April 2021	58,521	36,049	26,680	80,204	201,454
Charge for year	-	437	123	1,964	2,524
Eliminated on disposal	-	-	-	(2,274)	(2,274)
At 31 March 2022	58,521	36,486	26,803	79,894	201,704
NET BOOK VALUE					
At 31 March 2022	50,020	1,314	492	-	51,826
At 31 March 2021	50,020	1,751	615	1,964	54,350

16. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	2022 £	2021 £
National Savings Income Bonds - valued at cost	25,000	25,000

17. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2022 £	2021 £
Other debtors & accrued income	25,625	22,571
Prepayments	5,576	9,535
	31,201	32,106

18. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade creditors	895	722
Other creditors	-	95
Accruals	11,634	11,760
	12,529	12,577

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS- CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

19. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

Current Year	At 1/4/21 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31/3/22 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	168,530	(53,710)	-	114,820
Designated - Emily Wells Memorial Fund	51,526	-	-	51,526
Designated - General Building Maintenance	104,131	-	-	104,131
Designated - Gym Equipment	15,000	-	-	15,000
Designated - Hall Refurbishment	10,640	-	-	10,640
Designated - High Tech Loan Equipment	15,000	-	-	15,000
Designated - IT and other Equipment	45,000	-	-	45,000
Designated - Minibus	55,000	-	-	55,000
Designated - Removal Costs	20,000	-	-	20,000
Designated - Resource Room Equipment	15,000	-	-	15,000
Designated - Social Club Refurbishment	50,000	-	-	50,000
	<u>549,827</u>	<u>(53,710)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>496,117</u>
Restricted funds				
Access to Work	1,964	(1,964)	-	-
Dora and Leslie Barter Conservatory Fund	6,250	-	-	6,250
Hearing Impaired Children	454	-	-	454
The London Community Foundation	14,461	(14,461)	-	-
Wimbledon Foundation	5,650	5,178	-	10,828
Wimbledon Foundation-Child activities	-	687	-	687
Merton Connect IT Project	-	1,978	-	1,978
	<u>28,779</u>	<u>(8,582)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20,197</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>578,606</u>	<u>(62,292)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>516,314</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Movement In Funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	250,383	(304,093)	(53,710)
	<u>250,383</u>	<u>(304,093)</u>	<u>(53,710)</u>
Restricted funds			
Access to Work	1,123	(3,087)	(1,964)
Wimbledon Foundation	25,000	(19,822)	5,178
Wimbledon Foundation – Child Activities	5,000	(4,313)	687
Merton Connected IT Project	9,915	(7,937)	1,978
The London Community Foundation	-	(14,461)	(14,461)
	<u>41,038</u>	<u>(49,620)</u>	<u>(8,582)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>291,421</u>	<u>(353,713)</u>	<u>(62,292)</u>

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS- CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

19. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS continued

Comparative Year	At 1/4/20 £	Net movement In funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31/3/21 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	312,612	26,035	(170,117)	168,530
Designated - Emily Wells Memorial Fund	51,526	-	-	51,526
Designated - General Building Maintenance	105,915	(1,784)	-	104,131
Designated - Gym Equipment	-	-	15,000	15,000
Designated - Hall Refurbishment	10,640	-	-	10,640
Designated - High Tech Loan Equipment	-	-	15,000	15,000
Designated - IT and other Equipment	-	-	45,000	45,000
Designated - Minibus	33,373	-	21,627	55,000
Designated - Removal Costs	-	-	20,000	20,000
Designated - Resource Room Equipment	-	-	15,000	15,000
Designated - Social Club Refurbishment	15,000	-	35,000	50,000
	<u>529,066</u>	<u>24,251</u>	<u>(3,490)</u>	<u>549,827</u>
Restricted funds				
Access to Work	5,564	(3,600)	-	1,964
Dora and Leslie Barter Conservatory Fund	6,250	-	-	6,250
Eye Can Do It	775	(4,265)	3,490	-
Grants to Individuals	214	(214)	-	-
Hearing Impaired Children	454	-	-	454
The London Community Foundation	-	14,461	-	14,461
Wimbledon Foundation	2,975	2,675	-	5,650
	<u>16,232</u>	<u>9,057</u>	<u>3,490</u>	<u>28,779</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>545,298</u></u>	<u><u>33,308</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>578,606</u></u>
Net movement In funds, included in the above are as follows:		Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement In funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund		344,731	(318,696)	26,035
Designated - General Building Maintenance		-	(1,784)	(1,784)
		<u>344,731</u>	<u>(320,480)</u>	<u>24,251</u>
Restricted funds				
Access to Work		3,844	(7,444)	(3,600)
Eye Can Do ft		-	(4,265)	(4,265)
Grants to Individuals		-	(214)	(214)
Hearing Impaired Children		-	-	-
The London Community Foundation		19,994	(5,533)	14,461
Wimbledon Foundation		25,000	(22,325)	2,675
		<u>48,838</u>	<u>(39,781)</u>	<u>9,057</u>
TOTAL FUNDS		<u><u>393,569</u></u>	<u><u>(360,261)</u></u>	<u><u>33,308</u></u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS- CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

20. FUNDS DETAILS

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

Funds have been designated as follows:

Emily Wells Memorial Fund

This capital amount was designated in committee to provide revenue.

General Buildings Maintenance

The Trustees have taken advice on the risks involved in owning a large building and the likely repair and maintenance needs over the longer term. This amount has been set aside to meet large repair and maintenance needs.

Gym Equipment

To augment our ageing well services the Trustees have decided to purchase suitable equipment for use in the hall.

Hall Refurbishment

The Trustees have agreed to refurbish the hall area.

High Tech Loan Equipment

A fund to build a bank of loan equipment, iPads, laptops and similar equipment that can be loaned to members, under the instruction of volunteers, to access online meetings, tutorials and activities from home.

IT and other Equipment

In the prior year the Trustees have decided to designate the following:

- Charitylog - The Trustees are setting up a fund to train new staff in the use of and enhancements to our members treatment monitoring system - £10,000
- Computer System - The Trustees have decided to replace the outdated hardware and software -£35,000

Minibus

In a prior year an amount of £33,373 had been reserved for the purchase of a replacement minibus, however the replacement cost increased, so an additional £21,627 has been transferred from general funds.

Removal Costs

In a prior year, the Trustees have decided to set-up a fund to cover possible, unforeseen expenditure on our decampment during the reconstruction of The Guardian Centre.

Resource Room Equipment

The Trustees have decided to refurbish the demonstration equipment available to members and begin a travelling demo service

Social Club Refurbishment

The Trustees have agreed to update and refurbish the social club area. Following a donation from the social club bank account and to recognise its source, it was decided in committee to increase the fund by a similar amount to a total now of £50,000.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS- CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

20. FUNDS DETAILS - continued

RESTRICTED FUNDS

Access to Work

Funding received from the Department for Work and Pensions for various equipment required by a visually impaired member of staff to assist them in carrying out their employment. Certain items of computer equipment were capitalised and are being depreciated.

The Dora and Leslie Barter Conservatory Fund

In accordance with the provisions of the Dora Barter legacy the funds donated therein are to be applied to the building of a new conservatory.

Hearing Impaired Children

Funding received from Wimbledon District Nursing and Midwifery Benevolent Society to enable hearing-impaired children to join the Eye Can Do It programme.

The London Community Foundation

Two grants totally £14,461 were received to provide a specialist counselling service from an empathetic visual impairment background to tackle the growing feelings of anxiety and depression our service users are experiencing brought on from Covid19 isolation which is directly blamed on their visual impairment. In addition, the worry from fall out after lock down is over.

Wimbledon Foundation

We secured three year project funding to engage a Working Age Outreach Worker to develop social and peer support activities and to promote the take up of statutory and voluntary services for working age people with impaired vision in Merton. The project provides £25,000 per annum to cover salary costs, expenses and overheads of the Outreach Worker until 31 March 2022. Due to the disruption caused by the COVID pandemic the project has been extended until 31 March 2024.

Wimbledon Foundation - Child Activities

A grant of £5,000 was received to support various activities for visually impaired children during school holidays.

Merton Connected IT Project

Grant of £9,915 to increase our IT support worker's time to train members, clients and staff to access technology.

21. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

The Charity has authorised and contracted for expenditure of £Nil. The Charity has authorised but not contracted for expenditure of £Nil in its capital budget for the upcoming year.

MertonVision are in negotiations with a developer to exchange our restricted freehold of the Guardian Centre site for a long leasehold interest in a newly constructed building to be shared with two GP practices in collaboration with the local NHS Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). Planning permission was authorised by the London Borough of Merton on 15 July 2021. No agreements have been exchanged between the parties. The Charity Commission must first give a ruling as to whether MertonVision are receiving fair value for its freehold interest.

In a prior year a designated fund has been created by the trustees for any potential removal costs and a transfer of £20,000 has been made from the general fund.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS- CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

22. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

INCOME	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2021 Total Funds £
Income and endowments from: Donations and legacies	10,198	-	10,198
Income from charitable activities:			
Grants	183,802	48,838	232,640
Charitable Activities	10,089	-	10,089
Contracted services	139,989	-	139,989
Other trading activities:			
Fundraising and events	293	-	293
Investment income	360	-	360
Total Income	344,731	48,838	393,569
EXPENDITURE ON:			
Raising funds	737	-	737
Charitable activities:			
Charity Activities	319,743	39,781	359,524
Total expenditure	320,480	39,781	360,261
NET Income/(expenditure) before transfers	24,251	9,057	33,308
Transfers between funds	(3,490)	3,490	-
NET Income/(expenditure) after transfers	20,761	12,547	33,308

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

The following pages do not form part of the financial statements.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	2022 £	2021 £
INCOME		
Donations and legacies		
Donations	13,603	9,334
Legacies	5,016	-
Membership	912	864
	<u>19,531</u>	<u>10,198</u>
Fundraising Income		
Fundraising	580	-
MVAB Lottery	286	269
100 Club	636	24
	<u>1,502</u>	<u>293</u>
Investment income		
Deposit account interest	48	176
Investment income	34	184
	<u>82</u>	<u>360</u>
Income from charitable activities		
Grants	117,516	232,640
Catering income	1,220	-
Hall Hire	4,122	9,550
Members club sales	1,210	-
Other income	286	372
Resales	229	267
Transport charges	938	(100)
Access to work	38,124	34,429
Maintenance of LBM register	1,254	1,238
Merton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)	2,184	2,172
Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	23,857	23,857
Rehabilitation Charges	79,366	78,293
	<u>270,306</u>	<u>382,718</u>
Total income	<u><u>291,421</u></u>	<u><u>393,569</u></u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	2022 £	2021 £
EXPENDITURE		
Raising Funds Costs	70	737
Publicity and fundraising cost	610	-
100 Club Prizes		
	680	737
Charitable Activities		
Wages	258,220	273,345
Employer National Insurance	15,662	17,156
Pension	6,971	7,207
Locum costs	-	3,150
Volunteer costs	119	48
Insurance	4,489	5,774
Light, heat and water rates	11,633	5,136
Rates	1,326	1,251
Telephone	2,734	2,891
Postage and Stationery	3,842	1,741
Sundries	2,191	487
Transport costs	2,894	2,985
Travel costs	209	72
Office cleaning and materials	765	1,047
Activity costs	6,203	-
Catering expenses	1,137	51
Members club purchases	987	545
Computer and IT costs	9,262	9,795
Repairs and maintenance	8,868	7,651
Access to work equipment	1,123	1,570
Staff training	3,374	3,125
Bank charges	465	427
Resales	251	133
Grants to individuals	225	214
Depreciation of fixtures and fittings	2,524	6,610
	345,474	352,411
Governance costs		
Accountancy	1,200	1,200
Independent Examiners fees	1,850	1,850
HR fees	2,863	2,863
Legal fees	13	13
Payroll Fees	432	360
Subscriptions and fees	1,201	827
	7,559	7,113
Total exemptions	353,713	360,261
Net Income (expenses)	(62,292)	33,308

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

England & Wales - Charity number 1075388

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 03758661 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1075388

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 MARCH 2021
FOR**

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

**CONTENTS OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

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MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

**LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

03758661 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

1075388

Registered office

The Guardian Centre
67 Clarendon Road
Colliers Wood
London
SW19 2DX

Independent Examiner

Andrea L Kibble FCCA
A K Accounting Solutions Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
126a High Street
Whitten
Twickenham
Middlesex
TW2 7LL

Principal Bankers

National Westminster Bank Plc
16 Wimbledon Hill Road
Wimbledon
London
SW19 7ZD

CAF Bank
25, Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Mailing
Kent
ME19 4JQ

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

The Trustees (who are also directors of the charitable company for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006) are pleased to present their annual Trustees Report, together with the unaudited financial statements for the year ending 31 March 2021, 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 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) and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

TRUSTEES

All Trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the Charity. Any expenses reclaimed from the Charity are set out in Note 12 to the accounts. The Trustees serving during the year and to the date of this report were as follows: -

H A Cowd (Chairman)	
S J Moore (Treasurer)	
R G Benjamin	
R F Bownan	Appointed 26 November 2020
W A Busbridge	
S R D Coates	
N Gibson	Appointed 26 November 2020
M Jurgens	Appointed 26 November 2020
H McAuley	Appointed 26 November 2020
V A Morrison	
F P Pugh	
S Scott	Appointed 26 November 2020

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY

The charitable company's principal activity during the year was to provide services, information and support to residents of Merton who have a visual impairment. The aim is to support and empower people with a visual impairment, from their diagnosis of permanent sight loss through the entire rehabilitative process, in whatever form is appropriate for them. This includes children, adults, people with dual sensory loss and people with additional difficulties.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

Merton Voluntary Association for the Blind is a company limited by guarantee governed by its Articles of Association dated 23 April 1999, amended 13 October 2000 and a further amendment 9 November 2017. The Charity was originally founded in 1965 and was registered as an unincorporated charity with the Charity Commission 9 March 1966.

Following the AGM 9 November 2017, a special resolution was passed and the Articles of Association of the Charity were changed in their entirety and replaced by new Articles.

All Trustees shall automatically become members of the Charity and their names shall be entered into the Charity's register of members. The number of members of the Charity is unlimited. They remain members until they cease to be members in accordance with the Articles.

Membership shall be open to any individual aged 18 or over whom the Board decides to admit to membership. The Trustees may determine criteria for membership but are not obliged to admit any person satisfying such criteria as members and may decline in their absolute discretion any person's application and need not give reasons for such decision.

Only members are eligible to vote at the AGM/EGM, general or special meetings convened for the purposes of discussing the business of the charitable company.

Appointment of new Trustees

As set out in the Articles of Association Trustees are elected annually by the members of the charitable company attending the Annual General Meeting and serve for a period of three years and then one third of Trustees are required to retire by rotation but may be re-elected.

Trustees can be recruited by open advert or may be proposed and seconded by members and put forward for election at the AGM in accordance with the terms and timelines determined by the Board and subject to the Board's approval of such nomination.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES - CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Make-up of the Board

The Board consists of not fewer than six and no more than fifteen persons appointed by the Trustees at any time at a meeting or in writing. The Board shall aim to have, as far as reasonable, equal representation on the Board of visually impaired, hearing impaired and sighted people with all Trustees having equal voting rights. Where this cannot be achieved the Board will still be valid irrespective of the make-up of the Board.

Filling vacancies in the Board and co-option

The Board can appoint anyone as a Trustee to fill a vacancy in the membership of the Board. They will hold office until the next annual general meeting where they may be elected by the members (unless they cease to be a Trustee prior to that by virtue of Article 38 or 39). For the purposes of this Article the Board shall decide how many vacancies there are, subject to the maximum and minimum numbers given in Article 33.1.

Trustee recruitment and induction

New Trustees are given induction on their roles, their legal obligations under charity and company law, the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit, and inform them of the content of the Articles of Association, the committee and decision-making processes, the business plan and recent financial performance of the Charity.

During the induction day they meet key employees and other Trustees. Trustees are encouraged to attend appropriate external training events where these will facilitate the undertaking of their role.

Governance and Organisational structure

The Trustees of Merton Voluntary Association for the Blind are responsible for the assets and strategic direction of the Charity. The Service Manager, who is appointed by the Trustees, is responsible for carrying out the day-to-day management of the Charity. To facilitate effective operations, the Service Manager has delegated authority, within terms of delegation approved by the Trustees, for operational matters including finance, employment and Charity related activities. The Trustees normally meet quarterly during the year to receive reports on all aspects of the Charity's activities and finance. The Service Manager attends all meetings.

Senior Management Team

Kevin Gregory
Wendy Walsh

Chief Executive Officer from 21 April 2021
Officer Manager

Pay policy for senior staff

The Trustees consider the Board of Trustees and the senior management team comprise the key management personnel of the Charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the Charity on a day-to-day basis. All Trustees give of their time freely and no trustee received remuneration in the year. Details of Trustees' expenses and related party transactions are disclosed in Note 12 to the accounts.

The pay of the senior staff is reviewed annually and normally increased in accordance with average earnings. The Trustees benchmark against pay levels in other local charities of a similar size, which are run on a voluntary basis.

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 management of the Charity with service user, external contractor or supplier of services must be disclosed to the Board of Trustees in the same way as any other contractual relationship with a related party. In the current year no such related party transactions were reported.

All related party transactions are managed in accordance with the Charity's conflicts of interest policy. All transactions and activities involving organisations in which a Trustee may have an interest are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the Charity's financial and procurement procedures. Total reimbursed expenses made to Trustees are shown in Note 11.

In the current year no such related party transactions were reported.

Merton Sports and Social Club and Merton Talking Newspaper share our premises, and members or Trustees of these charities are potential trustees of Merton Voluntary Association for the Blind. Trustees who are members of these charities keep the separate interests at 'arm's length'.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES - CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Use of volunteers

MertonVision is grateful to all its volunteers, who carry out a variety of different tasks both in and out of the Charity. Our diverse range of volunteers have a variety of interests and reasons for wanting to support the Charity - from gaining experience at the start of their careers to using their wealth of experience and knowledge to meeting the needs of our communities. All our volunteers add value to our work and make a real difference to our clients and communities. Our volunteers are supported and overseen by our Volunteer Coordinator and are managed in accordance with the Volunteers policy.

Due to the size of the Charity, staff and volunteers work closely together and several of the existing staff originally began as volunteers. Volunteers are recruited on a rolling basis. Our volunteers are made up of different groups. There are those who work with the Charity offering support to the clients and staff, sometimes running activities.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

Objects

The objects for which the Charity is established are to grant assistance to all blind and partially sighted people ordinarily resident in the London Borough of Merton and if the Trustees so determines elsewhere in England and Wales. The Charity operates using the trading name of MertonVision.

Aims

Our aim is to support and empower people with a visual impairment, from their diagnosis of permanent sight loss through the entire rehabilitative process, in whatever form is appropriate for them. This includes children, adults, people with dual sensory loss and people with other difficulties in addition to their visual loss.

Our services are informed by national guidelines and good practice, in particular 'Seeing it my way' which works to ensure that blind and partially sighted people can access the support, information and services needed for independent living.

We provide a 'pathway' of services and collaborate widely to ensure that as far as possible those needs are met.

Ensuring our work delivers our aims

We review our aims, objectives and activities each year. This review looks at what we achieved and the outcomes of our work in the previous 12 months. The review looks at the success of each key activity and the benefits they have brought to those groups of people we are set up to help.

The review also helps us ensure our aims, objectives and activities remained focused on our stated purposes. We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning our future activities. In particular, the Trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set.

On 23 March 2020, in order to protect citizens over 70 and those with underlying health issues, the Government introduced a total lockdown to minimise the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic. Our staff and volunteers were able to help those members and clients who were self-isolating with a delivery service for shopping, prescriptions and in some cases household emergencies. Once the Guardian Centre closed, most of the staff worked from home and were able to telephone each client on a regular basis for a chat. Any concerns, requirements and anxieties were actioned and addressed. This is still on going and the Guardian Centre remained closed for the whole of the current financial year to 31st March 2021.

The Report of the Trustees relates purely to the financial period under review only.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES - CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

PEOPLE HAVE ACCESS TO INFORMATION ABOUT LIVING WITH SIGHT LOSS

We feel that this is best achieved through personal contact. During the past year we have had direct contact with 515 clients, with 2928 telephone calls. We also made 320 home visits to deliver shopping, prescriptions, essential equipment and to help out with IT problems.

There were 186 new clients during this period.

The Guardian Centre is once again open Monday - Thursday 9 am to 5 pm and on Friday 9 am to 4 pm for personal and telephone callers, and at other times by appointment. In addition we provide:

Patient Support Service at Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

We have found that people are often shocked by the diagnosis of untreatable sight loss, and have provided a support service at Moorfields at St. Georges for the past 23 years. This service is supported by Moorfields NHS trust. Our worker will talk to people at a very emotional time and give information about the help that is available outside of the hospital – this could be their local social services, national or local sight loss charities. Our worker also ensures that the Certificate of Visual Impairment (CVI) 'paperwork' is completed and sent to the appropriate social services or their agents.

The service is available to all patients who attend Moorfields NHS trust eye clinic at St George's Healthcare NHS Trust, not just Merton residents.

Rehabilitation

MertonVision provides a comprehensive rehabilitation service for people with a visual impairment in Merton. The service is contracted from London Borough of Merton. Rehabilitation includes 'problem solving' to help individuals find solutions to the difficulties they may face, and gives them the skills, confidence and equipment to re-order their lives. This will include daily living skills such as cooking, personal care, mobility training and a wealth of information about what is available to help live with sight loss.

MertonVision receive CVI's directly from hospital eye clinics, this enables rehabilitation and support services to be offered quickly. The Association of Directors of Social Services guidelines state that the patient should be contacted within 2 weeks. The service has been offered to 152 adults. Our average wait time for first contact was 25 days the delays have been due to difficulty in contacting people as many moved to stay with family during the lockdown.

Habilitation Children

MertonVision has a project for one day per week with London Borough of Merton SENDIS (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Integrated Service) to provide mobility and independence training for children in the borough who have a visual impairment. We employ a qualified rehabilitation and mobility officer to fulfil this project. MertonVision also provide early assessment and daily living skills training as appropriate to the child's age and ability.

Benefits Advice

We have a volunteer who is able to assist with filling in basic forms such as Blue Badge and Taxi Card applications.

Newsletter and other information media

Our main publication is a bi-monthly newsletter, which is distributed to 475 people with a visual impairment and 159 volunteers, supporters and local organisations. Information includes local and national issues of interest to people with a visual impairment. Each person's personal preference is accommodated, with standard or customised large print, Braille, email, and memory stick (MP3) format available.

Additionally we send information on a daily or ad hoc basis to those on our distribution list who have access to email with news and information as it arrives at MertonVision. During lockdown we introduced a very popular weekly e-mail called 'And Now for Some Good News'. This is a round-up of good news stories from around the World plus two quizzes.

The MertonVision website is updated regularly, and we are using social media.

We work closely with Merton Talking Newspaper (MTN) to distribute MP3 players on permanent loan on their behalf. This ensures that people also have the appropriate equipment to listen to audio books and newsletters.

MertonVision is an agent for Wireless for the Blind, which provides specially adapted audio equipment for those in need.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES - CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

EMOTIONAL SUPPORT AS APPROPRIATE IS OFFERED

Counselling service

While depression is not an inevitable consequence of vision impairment, it is common. An estimated one-third of older adults with vision loss report clinically significant depressive symptoms. Whether a person with vision loss becomes depressed appears to be more related to the impact the vision loss has on the person's functioning, rather than the severity of vision loss. We are now working in partnership with Wimbledon Guild of Social Welfare and Merton IAPPT who will provide counselling for our clients when required. A grant from the London Community Foundation has allowed us to start a new telephone Counselling Service, free to our clients who are suffering from the effects of the pandemic. After an initial telephone session, which would determine whether the person would benefit from the service, 8 more weekly sessions would be offered on a first come first served basis. A total of 90 sessions were provided to our clients and staff.

The closure of the Guardian Centre for the whole of the financial year has meant that face to face meetings, classes, clubs and events under the next headings could not take place. These activities are listed here for information and will resume when public confidence grows and the Centre gets back to some normality.

Peer Support

Peer support is often crucial to those newly diagnosed with enduring sight loss. By offering social opportunities MertonVision enables visually impaired people (especially those with a recent diagnosis) to meet with others who are living with sight loss and learn from each other. Our weekly daytime or special events encourage people to meet and socialise.

Weekly social activities

This includes coffee morning, social events and local peer support. We also organise an 'Out and About' group, which meets at various venues in Merton for coffee or lunch.

As this group grows we will be setting up other local groups across Merton.

Lunch club

This gives people the opportunity to meet other people and enjoy a freshly prepared hot meal. We know that many people live alone and are unlikely to cook. MertonVision has retained its 5 stars hygiene rating with London Borough of Merton.

Social events

MertonVision arrange Social evenings, for example Quiz nights and Bridge tournaments. During the summer months we arrange trips out on our minibus to the seaside or places of interest. We are fortunate that many of our volunteers give up their free time to accompany and guide those who need it.

Macular group

The local Macular Group meet bi-monthly at MertonVision. Everyone who has macular disease, friends or family are welcome.

Transport

To enable people to get to our base at the Guardian Centre and take up our services we employ a part time driver to drive our fully accessible minibus, and to manage a team of volunteer drivers. We also hire additional minibuses when required, to ensure that we can provide the service when needed.

All our drivers are required to undertake the Minibus Driver Awareness Scheme (MIDAS) training and certification.

Young people with a visual impairment

Most of our service users are elderly, therefore our services are geared towards the needs of older people. However, we are 2 years into a 3-year funded project to employ a Working Age Outreach worker to focus on communicating with this hard to reach client group. The worker assists and advises visually impaired working age people in Merton. Our member of staff was able to carry on this project by working from home throughout the year.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES - CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

PROVIDE PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS THEY MAY FACE

Home Support

We realised that many people with poor vision have difficulty resolving a problem at home that needs vision, so we set up a service in response to the need. We have helped with a variety of 'problems' for example; restoring the settings on a TV, delivery and setting up a talking microwave, fitting a replacement light bulb for a task lamp and doing a safety check. We also deliver and set up loan CCTV's and training on their use.

Daily Living Aids and Equipment Room

The resource centre offers the opportunity to try some of the practical or specialist equipment which people with a visual impairment may find useful. Equipment is available to buy. Some items are available on short-term loan so that people can try more expensive items in their own home first. Our agreement with the RNIB gives us ordering priority for our clients.

Low Vision Aids

We offer a Low Vision Aids service to people in the community who have been referred by local optometrist practices. The aim of the service is to enable people with low vision access to low vision aids (optical magnifiers) much earlier than the conventional route by referral to GP and subsequent hospital appointment. In addition to early referral, this project allows for a more 'person centred' approach, so that the patient emerges with greater skills in using their magnifiers. The service is funded by the Merton Clinical Commissioning Group, and is available at MertonVision by appointment.

We also work in partnership with Moorfields Eye Hospital to offer local patients the choice of attending a clinic either at Moorfields or at MertonVision.

Social and Adult Learning Activities

IT training

We have an accessible IT Suite equipped with 6 PC's with large monitors and accessible software. We give training on the use of the integral magnification and other specialist software, as well as using the computer. We have an IT tutor for 1 session per week. MertonVision provides training for using 'tablets' (iPad and ePad), as these seem particularly accessible for people without previous computer skills. We also have a qualified 'Guide' trainer to help people to set up and use 'Guide' accessible software at home.

Arts and Crafts

We employ an Arts and Craft tutor for one session per week to accommodate people with a visual impairment.

Falls prevention

We offer a weekly Falls Prevention Chair Based Exercise Class, which helps to deliver the Falls Strategy for Older People locally.

Falls are usually caused by one or more of four triggers; trips and hazards, polypharmacy (more than four medications) poor muscle tone or poor vision. We have been working closely with Merton Falls Prevention Lead (NHS) to add a simple sight-screening tool when assessing those who are referred to their service. Those who failed were given our information about eye tests, cheaper options for spectacles and the number to call if they need a domiciliary visit. We are hoping the screening tool will be rolled out to more community assessors.

Yoga

We also offer a weekly Yoga class.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES - CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

PROVIDE PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS THEY MAY FACE

Volunteer Services

The main focus of our volunteer services is to provide a Home Visiting Service to people with a visual impairment. This service provides a trained volunteer to people who need additional help not provided at the Guardian Centre. Unfortunately this service was suspended during the Covid lockdown.

Our project worker recruits, trains and supports volunteers for a variety of roles within MertonVision. All volunteers undertake enhanced DBS checks. We were very fortunate to recruit several new volunteers at the start of the Covid lockdown and they with our existing volunteers have given 761 hours of their time mostly shopping for our clients. We are pleased that we are able to accommodate volunteers from diverse cultures and those with disabilities. We are very grateful to our volunteers, without whom many of our services would not run.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

The Service Manager gives talks to community groups on the work of MertonVision. We also provide Visual Impairment Awareness Training.

During the year we have worked or collaborated with the following organisations to improve services locally for people with a visual impairment.

Close collaboration means that we can refer clients (with their permission) to other services or organisations where their need can be met.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Merton Clinical Commissioning Group | • MVSC |
| • LBM Library service | • RSBC |
| • LBM Social services | • London Vision |
| • LBM Education Dept. | • Sight For Surrey |
| • Moorfields NHS Trust | • Linden Lodge |
| • Merton Public Health Team | • Wandsworth Commissioning Team |
| • LBM Ageing Well Programme Phase 2 | • Vision Foundation |
| • Wimbledon Guild of Social Welfare | • Wimbledon Foundation |
| • Age UK Merton | • Commonsense Trust |
| • Merton Community Transport | • Merton Chamber of Commerce |
| • Safer Neighbourhood team | • Wimbledon Dons |
| • Merton Asian Elderly group | • Merton Mutual Aid |
| • Thomas Pocklington Trust | • Sutton Vision |
| | • Croydon Vision |

Transcription Services

Providers of written information are required to offer accessible formats such as large print, Braille and audio.

We are pleased that we are able to offer a transcription service free to our members and on a commercial basis to our customers. MertonVision is the preferred provider of braille transcription to the London Borough of Merton.

MertonVision is a member of COTIS (Confederation of Transcribed Information Services).

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES - CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Uncertainties brought about by the Coronavirus pandemic still remains and it was disappointing that we were not able to open up the Guardian Centre for the whole of the financial year and beyond. However, thanks to the Government vaccination program our services are slowly returning to what is a new social norm, the Trustees will continue to remain steadfastly committed to ensuring a sustainable organisation for the benefit of its service users. The Trustees consider the overall financial performance of the Charity for the year to again be disappointing even though the accounts show a surplus for the year. The unrestricted compensation from Vision Foundation for London (formally GLFB) has been eroded by other expenditure, as we would have expected £60,000 for years 2 and 3 to be fully reflected in our general reserves.

During the current year, the Charity's income profile has not changed significantly. The Charity's income remains heavily reliant on the Vision Foundation and on public sector funds with the Local Authority who have, because of the pandemic, extended our grant funding for another year until March 2023. The Wimbledon Foundation project to engage a Working Age Outreach Worker has one more year left to run and by home working has been able to operate during the whole year. A further Coronavirus top-up grant was also received to support the Outreach Worker. Our finances were further boosted by two Coronavirus crisis grants from the National Lottery in respect to our response towards caring for our members, clients and staff during the pandemic. Two further crisis grants from the London Community Foundation allowed us to start our new telephone Counselling Service, free to our clients who are suffering from the effects of the pandemic. The balance can be used for any other Coronavirus related purpose. The Government Job Retention Scheme also allowed us to subsidise the salaries of our four furloughed staff who were paid in full throughout the year. There have been some changes during the year within the other categories of income.

The Charity's Trustees wish to express our sincere gratitude to all our grant funders, listed in note 3 on page 18 of these accounts, for their support during this unprecedented year.

The Charity's incoming resources have increased 14.83% to £393,569 (2020: £342,742) due to an increase in grants. The Charity's expenditure has decreased to £360,261 (2020: £394,281) due mainly to an overall decrease in activity. The net effect of the above is an increase in total reserves of £33,308 (2020 – decrease of £51,539).

The Charity's Trustees will attempt to keep the cost structure of the organisation stable and tightly controlled.

Future plans

We have managed to retain all our staff, with four on furlough, because most of our normal income is still being received. Our contracted services are also still being fulfilled. The staff were working from home and telephoning our members and clients regularly to try and alleviate the feeling of isolation and thanks to our volunteers provide a collection service for shopping and prescriptions. The commitment of MertonVision to provide the most appropriate and timely services and support to people with a visual impairment and hearing loss is still being maintained.

Most of the staff returned to the Guardian Centre to work in June and July 2021, but because of various lockdowns, working from home and fear of returning to a World still recovering from Coronavirus some are understandably suffering from mental health issues which are currently common throughout the voluntary sector. Counselling and individual help is being offered to those affected. Coffee mornings, the bar is open again on Tuesday nights, Merton Talking Newspaper resumed broadcasting in August and the Lunch Club will start again on 7 October 2021. Baby steps but it all helps to build confidence and convince others to take part in activities and classes again.

Mindful of the challenges ahead that we face following national funding cuts, our professional fundraiser has finally submitted the National Lottery grant application and we hope that we will be allowed to move to the second phase in due course. Other grants are starting to come in. Some of our new Trustees have embarked on a project to educate the local authority and schools about the problems visually impaired pupils face in mainstream education and to suggest ways these can be addressed.

Our plans to redevelop the Guardian Centre site have moved in the right direction when planning permission was authorised on 15 July 2021 and although monthly meetings with all stakeholders have continued, minor disruptions to the schedule keep occurring, the latest being yet more negotiations between developer and district valuer about future GP rents in the new building. The Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) have guaranteed the funding of the project and insist that it is extremely important that the scheme goes ahead but are doing very little to finalise the deal. We have reassembled our professional project team and are working on the internal specifications but until the developer releases funds to pay these professionals we cannot progress any further. Tentative temporary relocation plans are still being offered by the CCG at the old Wilson Hospital site because the central heating and roof are in desperate need of repair with yet another Winter approaching in our humble abode.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES - CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Future Plans continued

We received funding from MVSC and Wimbledon Foundation to run a visually impaired children's club during the school summer and half-term holidays. The children can try various sports, Wimbledon Foundation have promised a session with one of their tennis coaches. Other activities included Circus Skills and Safari Pete. Another funding application has been made to BBC Children in Need for a more comprehensive children's project.

Our talks are still on-going with LBM, Social Services to review the Rehabilitation Contract following changes to the Care Act 2014, which now incorporates new guidelines regarding the provision of Rehabilitation Services. In addition, we also intend to continue to work more closely with NHS staff to identify older people with low vision with a view to encouraging them to visit an optometrist regularly. Regular eye examinations can detect eye disease early to enable more effective treatment and the provision of correct spectacles (and their use) can prevent falls in the elderly.

We continue to develop our social media communication and we are successfully delivering our information via these new media platforms. In addition, we are always developing our Website with innovative ideas and maintaining up to date information for our Service Users.

Investment policy and objectives

The Trustees, having regard to the liquidity requirements of operating the Charity, have kept available funds in an interest-bearing deposit account and seek to achieve a rate on deposit which matches or exceeds inflation as measured by the retail prices index.

The Trustees have designated the Emily Wells legacy (£51,526) as an income-generating fund. The Trustees have explored suitable short-term investments to generate income on the remainder of their free reserves. These investments have been placed with different banking institutions to mitigate any possible losses the institutions might suffer.

Reserves policy and going concern

At a committee meeting held on 11 March 2021 to address the continuing economic uncertainties of the Coronavirus pandemic and the inability to attract new core funding the Trustees agreed to change their previously established policy, whereby the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in fixed assets (the free reserves) held by the Charity should be up to six rather than twelve months of the resources expended, which now equates to approximately £180,000. At this level the Board of Trustees feel that they would still be able to continue the current activities of the Charity in the event of a significant drop in funding.

Risk management

The Trustees have reviewed the major risks to which the Charity is exposed, in particular to operations and finances. Operational risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures and policies, with a regular review of these to ensure current good practice. A disaster plan to ensure business continuity in the event of unplanned events has been prepared. The Trustees have identified the inherent risks associated with having one primary funding source. Our reserves policy mitigates some of the risks of loss of funding. The Trustees have implemented and augmented a fundraising programme.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES - CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees (who are also the directors of Merton Voluntary Association for the Blind for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

Company law requires the Charity's Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the Trustees must not approve the Financial statements unless they are satisfied they 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 those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- :
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP 2019 (FRS102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements, and;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company 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 charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the Charity and financial information included on the Charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

This Trustees report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:



H A Cowd - Chairman

26 October 2021

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND**

I report to the Charity's Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2021, which are set out on pages 13 to 26.

Respective and basis of report

As the Charity's Trustees of the charitable company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the charitable company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your Charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the '2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's report

Since the Charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, which is one of the listed bodies.

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:

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the charitable company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those accounting records; or
- (3) the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
- (4) the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended practice for accounting and reporting by charities.

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 accounts to be reached.



Andrea L Kibble FCCA
A K Accounting Solutions Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
Minster House
126a High Street, Whitton
Twickenham
Middlesex
TW2 7LL

26 October 2021

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2021 Total Funds £	2020 Total Funds £
INCOME					
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	2	10,198	-	10,198	46,317
Income from charitable activities:	3				
Grants		183,802	48,838	232,640	124,794
Charitable Activities		10,089	-	10,089	35,476
Contracted services		139,989	-	139,989	126,726
Other trading activities:					
Fundraising and events	4	293	-	293	8,915
Investment income	5	<u>360</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>360</u>	<u>514</u>
Total Income		344,731	48,838	393,569	342,742
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Raising funds	6	737	-	737	3,243
Charitable activities:					
Charity Activities	7	<u>319,743</u>	<u>39,781</u>	<u>359,524</u>	<u>391,038</u>
Total expenditure		<u>320,480</u>	<u>39,781</u>	<u>360,261</u>	<u>394,281</u>
NET Income/(expenditure) before transfers		24,251	9,057	33,308	(51,539)
Transfers between funds		<u>(3,490)</u>	<u>3,490</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
NET Income/(expenditure) after transfers		20,761	12,547	33,308	(51,539)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
	19				
Total funds brought forward		529,066	16,232	545,298	596,837
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>549,827</u>	<u>28,779</u>	<u>578,606</u>	<u>545,298</u>

CONTINUING OPERATIONS

All incoming resources and resources expended arise from continuing activities.

The notes form part of these financial statements

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

**BALANCE SHEET
AT 31 MARCH 2021**

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2021 Total Funds £	2020 Total Funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	15	52,386	1,964	54,350	58,687
Investments	16	<u>25,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>25,000</u>	<u>25,000</u>
		77,386	1,964	79,350	83,687
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stocks		633	-	633	1,234
Debtors: amounts falling due within one year	17	32,036	70	32,106	45,258
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>451,757</u>	<u>27,337</u>	<u>479,094</u>	<u>429,917</u>
		484,426	27,407	511,833	476,409
LIABILITIES					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	18	(11,985)	(592)	(12,577)	(14,798)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		472,441	26,815	499,256	461,611
NET ASSETS		<u>549,827</u>	<u>28,779</u>	<u>578,606</u>	<u>545,298</u>
TOTAL FUNDS OF THE CHARITY					
Unrestricted Funds	19			549,827	529,066
Restricted Funds	19			28,779	16,232
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>578,606</u>	<u>545,298</u>

The Trustees consider that the charitable company is entitled to exemption from the requirement to have an audit under the provisions of section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 ("the Act") relating to small companies and members have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Act.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on **26 October 2021** and were signed on its behalf by:

H A Cowd - Chairman & Trustee

S J Moore - Treasurer & Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Company status

Merton Voluntary Association for the Blind is a charitable company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales. The registered office and company registration number are detailed on page 1.

Basis of preparation

Merton Voluntary Association for the Blind meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The financial statements are presented in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Charity.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

Grant funding from the local authority has been significantly reduced and due to their financial pressures it is unlikely to be reinstated or continued. The Trustees were aware of this and planned accordingly. They are implementing more stringent cost cutting, such as not replacing staff wherever possible, increasing income from other sources and have started actively fundraising.

Judgement and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the Charity's accounting policies, the Charity is required to make judgments, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an on-going basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the Trustees. Unrestricted funds include designated funds where the Trustees, at their discretion, have created a fund for a specific purpose.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the Charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes. Where necessary, a quarterly report is sent to the donor detailing the expenditure.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in Note 20 on page 25 of the financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES – continued

Income

All incoming resources are included on the Statement of Financial Activities when the Charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Income is deferred only when the Charity has to fulfil conditions before becoming entitled to it or where the donor has specified that the income is to be expended in future period.

Donated services or facilities are recognised when the Charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use of the Charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. Some of the management and activity of the Charity is carried out by volunteers. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the volunteer time is not recognised and refer to the Trustees' report for more information about their contribution.

On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the Charity which is the amount the Charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payment to a third party, 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 to the applicable expenditure headings having regard to the nature of the expenditure.

Expenditure for raising funds includes only directly related costs for traditional fundraising including staff time where applicable. All roles within the senior management team that have fundraising responsibility in its broader sense of restricted income generation in the form of, for example, larger multi-year statutory grants remain within costs for charitable activities. This is to ensure that the fundraising income and costs shown in the Statement of Financial Activities relate to each other and can be reasonably compared.

Grants paid to individuals

Certain grants are applied for on behalf of clients and where these applications are successful; the amounts received are expended in accordance with the terms and conditions of the grant application.

Donated services and facilities

Gifts are recorded as received however, as the value of most gifts received cannot be measured reliably these are not included in the accounts.

Voluntary help

A certain amount of time is expended on the Charity's activities, which is donated free of charge, which includes pro bono counselling and therapist time. It is not possible to quantify the value of time given and accordingly it is neither recorded as donated income nor as an expense in the accounts.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

Since 1 August 2016 employees were able to join the money purchase scheme, which has been established in compliance with the regulations on workplace pensions under the Pensions Act 2008. Employees were automatically enrolled into the money purchase scheme unless they have exercised their right to opt out of scheme membership.

Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES – continued

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost or valuation less depreciation. Individual fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Asset Category	Annual Rate
Freehold buildings	100%
Computer equipment	33% on cost
Plant and machinery	20% on cost
Office furniture and fittings	25% on reducing balance
Motor vehicles	20% on reducing balance

Investments

Investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price. The income arising on the investments is shown under investment income in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Gains and losses on investment assets disposed of are shown as gains and losses in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and 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 deposit or similar account, as well as cash in hand held by Charity at the year end.

Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are recognised at the invoiced cost prepaid.

Creditors and Provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the Charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Taxation

The Charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010. Accordingly it is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income and capital gains received to the extent that such income or gains are applied to exclusively charitable purposes. No provision for taxation has been made in these financial statements.

2. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2021 £	2020 £
Donations	9,334	11,528
Legacies	-	10,724
Contribution towards services manager's salary	-	22,779
Membership	864	1,286
	<u>10,198</u>	<u>46,317</u>

Income from Donations was £10,198 (2020: £46,317) all of which was unrestricted in both financial years.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

3. INCOME RESOURCES FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

		2021	2020
	Activity	£	£
Grants	Grants	232,640	124,794
Activities fees	Charitable Activities	-	2,720
Awareness training	Charitable Activities	-	1,735
Catering income	Charitable Activities	-	4,810
Hall Hire	Charitable Activities	9,550	20,471
Members club sales	Charitable Activities	-	2,857
Other income	Charitable Activities	372	364
Resales	Charitable Activities	267	1,204
Transport charges	Charitable Activities	(100)	1,315
Access to Work	Contracted services	34,429	23,226
Maintenance of LBM register	Contracted services	1,238	1,238
Merton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)	Contracted services	2,172	2,040
Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	Contracted services	23,857	23,857
Rehabilitation Charges	Contracted services	78,293	76,365
		<u>382,718</u>	<u>286,996</u>

Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Vision Foundation for London (formally GLFB)	90,000	22,400
London Borough of Merton	54,715	54,715
London Borough of Merton – Winter Lunch Club (restricted grant)	-	1,000
Wimbledon Foundation (restricted grant)	25,000	25,000
The National Lottery Community Fund	18,097	-
The London Community Foundation (restricted grant)	19,994	-
HMRC Furlough Grants	15,564	559
Wimbledon Foundation Coronavirus Fund Grant	5,000	-
DWP - Access to Work (restricted grant)	3,844	13,717
BBC Children in Need (restricted grant)	-	4,830
Thomas Pocklington Trust	-	1,000
Grants to Individuals (restricted)	-	1,448
Other Small Grants	426	125
	<u>232,640</u>	<u>124,794</u>

4. FUNDRAISING AND EVENTS

	2021	2020
	£	£
Fundraising events	-	7,961
MVAB Lottery	269	270
100 Club	24	684
	<u>293</u>	<u>8,915</u>

All of the Charity's Fundraising income of £293 (2020: £8,915) is unrestricted

5. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2021	2020
	£	£
Deposit account interest	176	226
Investment income	184	288
	<u>360</u>	<u>514</u>

All of the Charity's investment income of £360 (2020: £514) arises from money held in interest bearing deposit accounts and is unrestricted.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

6. RAISING FUNDS COSTS

	2021 £	2020 £
Publicity and fundraising cost	737	2,743
100 club prizes	-	500
	<u>737</u>	<u>3,243</u>

7. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct costs £	Governance costs £	2021 Totals £	2020 Totals £
Charity Activities	352,411	7,113	359,524	391,038
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>352,411</u>	<u>7,113</u>	<u>359,524</u>	<u>391,038</u>

8. ANALYSIS OF DIRECT COSTS

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2021 Totals £	2020 Totals £
Wages and salaries	274,717	22,991	297,708	269,728
Other staff costs	3,746	2,600	6,346	44,848
Volunteer expenses	48	-	48	629
Direct project costs	1,427	2,520	3,947	11,293
Premises costs	18,930	8,540	27,470	35,446
Office costs	13,762	2,916	16,678	19,746
Grants paid to individuals	-	214	214	1,234
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>312,630</u>	<u>39,781</u>	<u>352,411</u>	<u>382,924</u>

9. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	2021 £	2020 £
Accountancy	1,200	1,350
HR fees	2,863	2,869
Independent Examiner fees	1,850	1,850
Legal fees	13	13
Payroll fees	360	360
Subscriptions and fees	827	1,672
	<u>7,113</u>	<u>8,114</u>

10. NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES

Net resources are stated after charging/(crediting):

	2021 £	2020 £
Independent Examiner' fees	1,850	1,850
Depreciation - owned assets	<u>6,610</u>	<u>3,752</u>

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

11. STAFF COSTS

	2021	2020
	£	£
Gross Wages	273,345	247,229
Employers National Insurance	17,156	16,124
Pension costs	<u>7,207</u>	<u>6,375</u>
	<u>297,708</u>	<u>269,728</u>

No employees had employee benefits in excess of £60,000 (2020: £Nil). Pension costs are allocated to activities in proportion to the related staffing costs incurred.

The key management personnel of the Charity comprise of the Trustees, the Service Manager and the Office Manager. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £70,844 (2020: £70,890).

The average monthly number of employees (including casual and part time staff) during the year was as follows:

	2021	2020
	No:	No:
Senior Management Team	2	2
Other Direct Charitable Staff	<u>12</u>	<u>12</u>
	<u>14</u>	<u>14</u>

12. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

The Charity Trustees were not paid or received any other benefits from employment with the Charity in the year (2020: £Nil). During the year, no Trustees were reimbursed for disbursements (2020: £Nil) in respect of fundraising and other related expenses.

No charity Trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the Charity (2020: £Nil).

13. PENSION COSTS

The Charity has a defined contribution pension scheme, which all employees are entitled to join. From 1 April 2019 the Charity contributes 3% and the employees contribute a minimum of 5%, however employees may make further additional voluntary contributions.

During the year ended 31 March 2021, the Charity's total contributions amounted to £7,207 (2020: £6,375). The Trustees are satisfied that any foreseeable change in employer's contributions can be budgeted for without detriment to the Charity's on-going activities.

14. TRANSACTIONS AND RELATED PARTIES

There were no related party transactions during the year or the previous year, other than the remuneration of key management personnel set out in Note 11.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

15. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property £	Fixtures and fittings £	Motor vehicles £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST					
At 1 April 2020	108,541	37,800	27,295	86,896	260,532
Additions	-	-	-	2,273	2,273
Disposals	-	-	-	(7,001)	(7,001)
At 31 March 2021	<u>108,541</u>	<u>37,800</u>	<u>27,295</u>	<u>82,168</u>	<u>255,804</u>
DEPRECIATION					
At 1 April 2020	58,521	35,466	26,526	81,332	201,845
Charge for year	-	583	154	5,873	6,610
Eliminated on disposal	-	-	-	(7,001)	(7,001)
At 31 March 2021	<u>58,521</u>	<u>36,049</u>	<u>26,680</u>	<u>80,204</u>	<u>201,454</u>
NET BOOK VALUE					
At 31 March 2021	<u>50,020</u>	<u>1,751</u>	<u>615</u>	<u>1,964</u>	<u>54,350</u>
At 31 March 2020	<u>50,020</u>	<u>2,334</u>	<u>769</u>	<u>5,564</u>	<u>58,687</u>

The additions to computer equipment in the year were purchased using grants from the DWP – Access to Work scheme.

16. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	2021 £	2020 £
National Savings Income Bonds – valued at cost	<u>25,000</u>	<u>25,000</u>

17. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2021 £	2020 £
Other debtors & accrued income	22,571	33,694
Prepayments	<u>9,535</u>	<u>11,564</u>
	<u>32,106</u>	<u>45,258</u>

18. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade creditors	722	868
Other creditors	95	242
Accruals	<u>11,760</u>	<u>13,688</u>
	<u>12,577</u>	<u>14,798</u>

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

19. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

Current Year	At 1/4/20	Net movement in funds	Transfers between funds	At 31/3/21
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	312,612	26,035	(170,117)	168,530
Designated – Emily Wells Memorial Fund	51,526	-	-	51,526
Designated – General Building Maintenance	105,915	(1,784)	-	104,131
Designated – Gym Equipment	-	-	15,000	15,000
Designated – Hall Refurbishment	10,640	-	-	10,640
Designated – High Tech Loan Equipment	-	-	15,000	15,000
Designated – IT and other Equipment	-	-	45,000	45,000
Designated – Minibus	33,373	-	21,627	55,000
Designated – Removal Costs	-	-	20,000	20,000
Designated – Resource Room Equipment	-	-	15,000	15,000
Designated – Social Club Refurbishment	15,000	-	35,000	50,000
	529,066	24,251	(3,490)	549,827
Restricted funds				
Access to Work	5,564	(3,600)	-	1,964
Dora and Leslie Barter Conservatory Fund	6,250	-	-	6,250
Eye Can Do It	775	(4,265)	3,490	-
Grants to Individuals	214	(214)	-	-
Hearing Impaired Children	454	-	-	454
The London Community Foundation	-	14,461	-	14,461
Wimbledon Foundation	2,975	2,675	-	5,650
	16,232	9,057	3,490	28,779
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>545,298</u>	<u>33,308</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>578,606</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Movement in funds
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	344,731	(318,696)	26,035
Designated – General Building Maintenance	-	(1,784)	(1,784)
	344,731	(320,480)	24,251
Restricted funds			
Access to Work	3,844	(7,444)	(3,600)
Eye Can Do It	-	(4,265)	(4,265)
Grants to Individuals	-	(214)	(214)
Hearing Impaired Children	-	-	-
The London Community Foundation	19,994	(5,533)	14,461
Wimbledon Foundation	25,000	(22,325)	2,675
	48,838	(39,781)	9,057
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>393,569</u>	<u>(360,261)</u>	<u>33,308</u>

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

19. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS – continued

Comparative Year	At 1/4/19 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31/3/20 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	364,069	(51,457)	-	312,612
Designated – Emily Wells Memorial Fund	51,526	-	-	51,526
Designated – General Building Maintenance	108,097	(2,182)	-	105,915
Designated – Hall Refurbishment	10,640	-	-	10,640
Designated – Minibus	33,373	-	-	33,373
Designated – Social Club Refurbishment	15,000	-	-	15,000
	<u>582,705</u>	<u>(53,639)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>529,066</u>
Restricted funds				
Access to Work	-	5,564	-	5,564
Dora and Leslie Barter Conservatory Fund	6,250	-	-	6,250
Eye Can Do It	6,829	(6,054)	-	775
Grants to Individuals	-	214	-	214
Hearing Impaired Children	1,053	(599)	-	454
Wimbledon Foundation	-	2,975	-	2,975
	<u>14,132</u>	<u>2,100</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,232</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>596,837</u>	<u>(51,539)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>545,298</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	296,747	(348,204)	(51,457)
Designated – General Building Maintenance	-	(2,182)	(2,182)
	<u>296,747</u>	<u>(350,386)</u>	<u>(53,639)</u>
Restricted funds			
Access to Work	13,717	(8,153)	5,564
Eye Can Do It	4,830	(10,884)	(6,054)
Grants to Individuals	1,448	(1,234)	214
Hearing Impaired Children	-	(599)	(599)
London Borough of Merton – Lunch Club	1,000	(1,000)	-
Wimbledon Foundation	25,000	(22,025)	2,975
	<u>45,995</u>	<u>(43,895)</u>	<u>2,100</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>342,742</u>	<u>(394,281)</u>	<u>(51,539)</u>

20. FUNDS DETAILS

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

Funds have been designated as follows:

Emily Wells Memorial Fund

This capital amount was designated in committee to provide revenue.

General Buildings Maintenance

The Trustees have taken advice on the risks involved in owning a large building and the likely repair and maintenance needs over the longer term. This amount has been set aside to meet large repair and maintenance needs.

Gym Equipment

To augment our ageing well services the Trustees have decided to purchase suitable equipment for use in the hall.

Hall Refurbishment

The Trustees have agreed to refurbish the hall area.

High Tech Loan Equipment

A fund to build a bank of loan equipment, iPads, laptops and similar equipment that can be loaned to members, under the instruction of volunteers, to access online meetings, tutorials and activities from home.

IT and other Equipment

The trustees have decided to designate the following:

- Charitylog – The Trustees are setting up a fund to train new staff in the use of and enhancements to our members treatment monitoring system. - £10,000
- Computer System – The Trustees have decided to replace the outdated hardware and software - £35,000

Minibus

An amount of £33,373 had been reserved for the purchase of a replacement minibus, however the current replacement cost is now £55,000, so an additional £21,627 has been transferred from general funds.

Removal Costs

The Trustees have decided to set-up a fund to cover possible, unforeseen expenditure on our decampment during the reconstruction of The Guardian Centre.

Resource Room Equipment

The Trustees have decided to refurbish the demonstration equipment available to members and begin a travelling demo service

Social Club Refurbishment

The Trustees have agreed to update and refurbish the social club area. Following a donation from the social club bank account and to recognise its source, it was decided in committee to increase the fund by a similar amount to a total now of £50,000.

20. FUNDS DETAILS - continued

RESTRICTED FUNDS

Access to Work

Funding received from the Department of Work and Pensions for various equipment required by a visually impaired member of staff to assist them in carrying out their employment. Certain items of computer equipment were capitalised and are being depreciated.

The Dora and Leslie Barter Conservatory Fund

In accordance with the provisions of the Dora Barter legacy the funds donated therein are to be applied to the building of a new conservatory.

Eye Can Do It Fund

This fund represents the remaining underspend from a three year grant from BBC Children in Need (Pudsey) to provide sporting and social activities for children with a visual impairment, which ended in July 2019. This underspend was fully spent in this financial year, with the remaining costs of £3,490 being made good by our general reserves.

Grants to Individuals

Grants from other charities to supply in need items to our clients. The items were purchased and an underspend refunded to one of the charities.

Hearing Impaired Children

Funding received from Wimbledon District Nursing and Midwifery Benevolent Society to enable hearing-impaired children to join the Eye Can Do It programme.

The London Community Foundation

Two grants totally £19,994 were received to provide a specialist counselling service from an empathetic visual impairment background to tackle the growing feelings of anxiety and depression our service users are experiencing brought on from Covid19 isolation which is directly blamed on their visual impairment. In addition, the worry from fall out after lock down is over.

Wimbledon Foundation

Last year we secured three year project funding to engage a Working Age Outreach Worker to develop social and peer support activities and to promote the take up of statutory and voluntary services for working age people with impaired vision in Merton. The project provides £25,000 per annum to cover salary costs, expenses and overheads of the Outreach Worker until 31 March 2022.

MERTON VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

21. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

The Charity has authorised and contracted for expenditure of £Nil. The Charity has authorised but not contracted for expenditure of £Nil in its capital budget for the upcoming year.

MertonVision are in negotiations with a developer to exchange our restricted freehold of the Guardian Centre site for a long leasehold interest in a newly constructed building to be shared with two GP practices in collaboration with the local NHS Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). Planning permission was authorised by the London Borough of Merton on 15 July 2021. No agreements have been exchanged between the parties. The Charity Commission must first give a ruling as to whether MertonVision are receiving fair value for its freehold interest.

A designated fund has been created by the trustees for any potential removal costs and a transfer of £20,000 has been made from the general fund.

22. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2020 Total Funds £
INCOME			
Income and endowments from:			
Donations and legacies	46,317	-	46,317
Income from charitable activities:			
Grants	78,799	45,995	124,794
Charitable Activities	35,476	-	35,476
Contracted services	126,726	-	126,726
Other trading activities:			
Fundraising and events	8,915	-	8,915
Investment income	<u>514</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>514</u>
Total income	296,747	45,995	342,742
EXPENDITURE ON:			
Raising funds	3,243	-	3,243
Charitable activities:			
Charity Activities	<u>347,143</u>	<u>43,895</u>	<u>391,038</u>
Total expenditure	<u>350,386</u>	<u>43,895</u>	<u>394,281</u>
NET income before transfers	(53,639)	2,100	(51,539)
Transfers between funds	-	-	-
Operating (deficit)/surplus	<u>(53,639)</u>	<u>2,100</u>	<u>(51,539)</u>