

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

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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
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Whitten
Twickenham
Middlesex
TW2 7LL

Principal Bankers

National Westminster Bank Plc
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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>