

BLANDINA MARSHE CHARITY

Charity Reg. No. 1089412

Trustees Annual Report for the period 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024

Charity Address:

Association of Dunstable Charities Grove House,
76 High Street North, Dunstable, Bedfordshire.
LU6 1NF

Trustees for the period 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024

Ex Officio:

Rector of Dunstable - Rev.d Rachel Phillips

Representative Governors Dunstable Town Council:

Cllr Mr Kenson Gurney
Cllr Mrs Elizabeth Jones

Co-optative Governors:

Mrs Carole Owens	Mr John Bradley
Mrs Pat Larkman	Mr Trevor Owens

Chairman:

Mrs Carole Owens

Clerk to the Governors:

Mrs Julie Tipler

Charity Structure, Governance and Management:

Governing document: Charity known as Blandina Marshe's Charity founded by will be dated 5.11.17.30 and comprised in a Scheme of the Charity Commissioners of 25.01.1876 and in the matter of the Charities Act 1960.

Trustee Selection Methods:

One ex officio – Incumbent of the benefice of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Dunstable

Two Nominative Trustees – Appointed by Dunstable Town Council

Four Co-optative Trustees – Appointed by resolution of the Trustees.

Objectives and Activities

Maintenance and upkeep of the Ladies Lodge Almshouses and the gardens and help towards energy and other costs for residents. Concern for the welfare of the six residents.

Achievements and Performance in the past year

Trustees inspect all the lodges in the Almshouse and grounds annually.

Residents are contacted regularly, and the Chairman/Clerk make regular visits throughout the year. The gardens continue to be well maintained, and all residents are happy and enjoying socialising together in the garden.

Maintenance of the gardens and building is in progress. One lodge became empty, and this was updated and renovated and a new resident moved in. The whole lodge was completely decorated externally.

Finances

Buildings and grounds are the main asset. Money is invested although there is little interest currently. Other income is obtained from the maintenance charges received from residents.

Mrs Julie Tipler
Clerk to the Charity
4th December 2024

BLANDINA MARSHE CHARITY**Accounts for the period ending 31/03/2024****RECEIPTS**

Maintenance Charges
Grant JCT
Grant Mary Lockington
Donation

Income from Investments:

C.O.I.F
Higher Interest a/c
Principality interest

Total receipts**EXPENDITURE****Administration of Ladies Lodge:**

Water
Trustee Insurance
Insurance
Electricity
Gas
Council Tax 103
T.V. Licence
Fire Protection - Annual Inspection
Garden Maintenance
Carelines
Other

Maintenance of Ladies Lodge

General external
Internal decoration
White goods
Building Survey
Plumbing/Drainage
Electrics
Pest control
Reinstall Gas
Heating
Carpets
Locks & Keys
Aerials
Other

Apr 2023 - Mar 2024		Apr 2022 - Mar 2023	
£	£	£	£
	19,659.55		13,463.77
	0.00		9,320.00
	20,000.00		
	0.00		
1,132.03		1,201.21	
10.90		2.43	
	1,142.93		1,203.64
	40,802.48		23,987.41
731.92		643.00	
369.60		369.60	
2,672.20		2,554.74	
1,639.07		1,125.79	
		526.44	
		1,274.73	
22.50		45.03	
277.42		157.38	
2,631.00		3,206.00	
334.40		393.60	
20.70			
	8,698.81		10,296.31
46,146.13		0.00	
0.00		9,512.40	
0.00		603.00	
0.00		4,320.00	
194.40		9,648.00	
269.88		7,103.75	
0.00		80.00	
0.00		1,020.00	
6,357.60		0.00	
0.00		1,100.00	
0.00		527.88	
165.00		348.00	
30.00		96.00	

Administration of Charity:		53,163.01		34,359.03
ADC - Rent, Admin & Payroll	3,120.00		3,689.62	
Almshouse Assoc	0.00		0.00	
Computer Equipment/IT	83.33			
		3,203.33		3,689.62
Total Expenditure		65,065.15		48,344.96
NET RECEIPTS / (EXPENDITURE)		(24,262.67)		(24,357.55)
Total assets brought forward		112,593.00		134,122.30
Add Net Receipts/(Expenditure)		(24,262.67)		(24,357.55)
Add movement in investments		9,184.47		2,828.25
Total assets carried forward		97,514.80		112,593.00
Check		0.00		0.00

43 Summer Street
Slip End
Luton
LU1 4BL

15th January, 2025

To Whom It May Concern

BLANDINA MARSHE CHARITY – Charity Reg. No: 1089412

I have been asked by the Clerk to The Trustees of the above charity, Mrs Julie Tipler, to carry out an independent inspection of the accounts for the period from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024.

I have been given full access to all relevant documents including:

- The list of current Trustees & their appointment dates
- The Trustees Annual Report for the period 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024
- Minutes of the Trustees Meeting for this charity & the associated Mary Lockington Charity (No: 204766) dated 31/5/2023
- Minutes of the Trustees Meeting (as above) dated 22/11/2023
- Minutes of the Trustees Budget Meeting dated 13/3/2024 & budget documentation.
- Financial Summary & Assets and Liabilities for 2023-4 and 2022-3 & Cashbook spreadsheet
- BACS confirmations for all transactions, supported by suppliers invoices.
- Bank Statements for both bank accounts.

I have fully cross-checked all the Bank Statements, BACS payment confirmations, and the relevant invoices for the period, against the cash book spreadsheet and have found no inconsistencies or errors. There are no cash transactions. VAT is paid where it is due and is correctly managed. The Clerk has confirmed that all tax and NI due on her salary and that of her assistant, is paid and in order – this is managed via the Association of Dunstable Charities to which the Blandina Marshe Charity pays a monthly contribution. The very limited number of queries I raised with the Clerk were answered swiftly and satisfactorily. Day to day financial accounting and record-keeping is accurate, efficient and timely. Suppliers are paid promptly. Paperwork is very well managed and there is clear evidence that income and outgoings are regularly scrutinised.

It is clear from both the minutes and the financial transactions that the objectives of this charity are being met, despite the considerable amount of time that has elapsed since the charity was formed. Managing the upkeep of these historic properties and their gardens is challenging but there is clear evidence that the trustees, and the Clerk and her assistant, are doing all they can to respond pro-actively to meet those challenges. The assessment and ongoing maintenance of each lodge appears thorough and prompt. All capital and ongoing expenditure is prudent and in line with the spirit of the charity. Budgeting is well thought through and realistic. Property repairs and improvements are carried out in a timely and cost-effective manner, by tradespeople with a proven track record known to the Association of Dunstable Charities. Whilst the majority of residents are paying a rather modest maintenance charge (due to their very long tenancy) there is clear evidence of efforts to raise this by applying a sensible annual increase, and new residents are charged a more realistic monthly rate.

“Concern for the welfare of the residents” is also demonstrated in the minutes with awareness of both physical and mental health concerns being noted and addressed sensitively.

The situation, raised in the May 2023 minutes, regarding the Jane Cart Trust withholding grant money due to their view on the suitability of the lodges for habitation is a cause for concern. However, the willingness of the Trustees to solicit professional help and guidance and the setting up

of a working committee to manage this problem is a good move. From an outsider's viewpoint, it was heartening to see that a range of views on the way forward for the Ladies Lodge (partial sale of land, sale of whole property, renovation, relocation) were all being considered.

Thank you for asking me to carry out this inspection. Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

Nicola E West