

THE CHRISTOPHER CENTRE

England & Wales · Charity number 1120942

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	06173167
Registered	2007-09-21
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Christopher Centre 10 Gainsborough Street Sudbury Suffolk CO10 2EU
Phone	01787313914
Email	info@christophercentre.org.uk
Website	www.christophercentre.org.uk

Activities

Objects: SHALL BE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE INHABITANTS WITHIN THE DISTRICT OF SUDBURY AND SURROUNDING AREAS, (HEREINAFTER CALLED "THE AREA OF BENEFIT") WITHOUT DISTINCTION OF SEX, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, RACE OR POLITICAL, RELIGIOUS AND/OR OTHER OPINIONS AND IN PARTICULAR TO PROVIDE FACILITIES FOR LOCAL AND COMMUNITY GROUPS TO COME TOGETHER AND FIND INFORMATION ABOUT LOCAL VOLUNTARY AND OTHER SERVICES IN THE AREA OF BENEFIT. TO MAINTAIN AND MANAGE A COMMUNITY CENTRE, KNOWN AS "THE CHRISTOPHER CENTRE", WHETHER ALONE OR IN CO-OPERATION WITH ANY OTHER BODY FOR THE BENEFIT AND USE OF THE INHABITANTS RESIDING IN THE AREA OF BENEFIT.

Activities: provides office accomodation and room hire for charities and small businesses

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** NOT DEFINED. IN PRACTICE, SUFFOLK
- Suffolk

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£83,245	£74,596	-	-
2024-03-31	£66,495	£61,540	-	-
2023-03-31	£50,776	£51,995	-	-
2022-03-31	£50,428	£60,172	-	-
2021-03-31	£63,673	£38,739	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
ROBIN WILLIAM RYDING HODGKINSON	Chair	
Belinda Joyce Green		2022-11-24
Caroline Jean Wells		2018-06-28
David John Lowe		2017-06-15
David John Sullivan		2021-12-13
JENNIFER MAY WILKINS		
Jesse Kate Carter		2021-12-13
SUSAN LINDA HOWTING		2026-03-18

Accounts

THE CHRISTOPHER CENTRE

Trustees' Report

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Administrative Information

The Christopher Centre is a company limited by guarantee, registration no: 6173167 and registered with the Charity Commission no. 1120942.

The Christopher Centre, 10 Gainsborough Street, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 2EU

Trustees

Robin Hodgkinson (Chairperson)

Jennifer Wilkins

Kathleen Leigh

David Lowe

Karoline Wells

Susan Ayres

Dave Sullivan

Jesse Carter

Belinda Green

Jan Osborne

Centre Co-ordinators

Linda Adams

Kathy Lee-Rimmer

Company Secretary

David Lowe

Treasurer

David Holmes

Cleaner

Sarah Dovell

Volunteers

Receptionists: Jane Benton, Sarah Dovell, Belinda Green, Sue Howting, Jenny Ince, Jennie Wilkins, Lizzie Alexander, Jen Mullan MBE, Jolanta Giudici, Ann Crowther, Beverly Freeman and Liz Ward.

Volunteer Handyman: Niall Hennessy

Volunteer Graphic designer: M J Watts

Volunteer Photographer/Website Adviser: Ian Matthews

Volunteer Gardener: Lee Young

Structure, Governance & Management

1. Nature of governing document

The activities of *The Christopher Centre* are governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association that were incorporated by Companies House on 20 March 2007 and approved by the Charity Commission on 21 September 2007.

2. Recruitment and appointment of trustees

The trustees and staff are always on the lookout for potential new trustees who can bring their skills and expertise to assist in the organisation's governance. Potential trustees have access to both the chair and the centre co-ordinators to discuss their involvement. When recruited, new trustees are inducted through meetings and an induction pack, which not only covers information about the organisation but their roles and responsibilities as trustees.

3. Review of the financial position

Total income for 2024/5 was £83,245 an increase of £16,750 on the previous year due to an increase in rent & user charges, increased use of rooms hired and more fundraising and successful grant applications.

Expenditure for 2024/5 was £74,596. an increase of £13,056 on 2023/24.

The net result was an increase of £8,649 in the fund balances carried forward to £45,183. This is a large improvement of the overall financial position.

4. Financial Management

The Christopher Centre accounts are managed by a Treasurer who is not one of the trustees.

Bank accounts continue to be held at the Sudbury branch of Barclays Bank. All cheques require two signatories. The signatories are Robin Hodgkinson (Chair) and Belinda Green, in addition to the Treasurer.

The systems of internal control include written reports submitted by the Treasurer at the quarterly trustees' meetings. Also, consideration of the financial results and forecasting of possible funding shortfalls are discussed in detail at trustee meetings.

5. Reserve Policy

The Christopher Centre has built up a reserve for possible redundancies (£3000). There is also a general reserve fund of around £40,000 which includes a maintenance contingency, for any major repairs to the building.

6. Risk analysis and plan

There are a number of areas that the Trustees consider as potential risks. These are as follows:

- a. The Christopher Centre Building - being an old building there is always a risk of the need for major structural repairs.
- b. The Christopher Centre Users - losing potential hirers of office accommodation and meeting rooms always remains a risk. Organisations' and people's circumstances change and this is obviously out of our hands. The Trustees ensure that rents and meeting room charges are kept at a competitive level to avoid losing users who might otherwise remain. However, office users who do decide to vacate the

accommodation, are required to give three months' notice of their intention and this provides a reasonable window of opportunity to find a replacement.

c. Energy costs - Energy costs have only slightly increased in the year since having a more efficient boiler purchased quite recently.

7. Funding

The running of the Christopher Centre is financed from renting out office space and casual hire of rooms for meetings and community activities and donations or grants.

A number of grants were received during the year. These included:

A Babergh District Council grant of £350

A £1,000 grant from CAS for the Menopause Group.

Donations included:

£670 from sponsorship of five runners in the 2024 Sudbury Easter Fun Run

£750 from Sudbury Freeman's Trust (for the Monday Morning group)

£500 from the Countryside Lodge of Sudbury

£150 from Co-op Community

£46 from the University of The Third Age Archaeology Group

£800 from the Ballingdon Fete

£1,725 from Roys (we were their charity of the year)

£200 from Oddfellows.

We are very grateful to all our benefactors, funders and local organisations for their support and encouragement.

8. Objectives and Activities

The Christopher Centre's objects are primarily for the benefit of the inhabitants of the district of Babergh and surrounding areas (in practice, the Sudbury district) to:

- provide premises for the use of local and community groups, advance education through the provision of advice, advocacy, guidance, training, resources and associated activities
- facilitate and encourage opportunities for local and community groups to come together to identify charitable need, express views on matters of local interest and to establish projects or policies to meet these needs. This includes running its own activities such as drop-ins, a community choir, a vegan supper club, arts and crafts activities.
- develop the capacity and skills of said inhabitants in such ways as is thought fit, and particularly to enhance voluntary participation within the area of benefit
- develop and promote community services for said inhabitants who are in need of such a service because of age, sickness or disability (mental or physical), or poverty, or because of a lack or availability of adequate and safe public services
- improve or assist in the improvement of the physical and social environment in an effort to enhance the quality of life for said inhabitants.

The Christopher Centre has continued to fulfil its objects in a number of ways:

- by providing office space within the building for affordable and reasonable rents for a number of different voluntary and community groups
- by providing rooms available for hire by voluntary, community and statutory local groups

- by offering space free of charge within the reception area for local groups and services to promote their work, display leaflets and posters etc
- by utilising volunteers as reception staff who have a good knowledge of the local area and who can therefore offer information about local activities.
- by looking at ways of supporting or setting up community groups to help people who are disadvantaged or vulnerable to provide them with opportunities to learn new skills, make friends and build their confidence and self-esteem.

9. Meeting the Principles of Public Benefit

The Christopher Centre has continued to fulfil its objects in a number of ways:

- through its facilities, activities and information services which are open to all voluntary and community groups, The Christopher Centre provides services which help local groups to meet, exchange information and develop their own services to a wide variety of people within the local community. It also develops its own services to help vulnerable and isolated members of the community through activities such as the Monday morning Drop-in Coffee and Chat, the Monday lunchtime Community Lunches, the Community Choir, monthly Community Markets etc.
- it provides a community resource which members of the public can visit to find out information about local groups, events and services.
- The Christopher Centre is a Grade 2 listed building and the staff, volunteers and trustee board are therefore maintaining and preserving an important piece of Sudbury heritage, ensuring that any improvements and refurbishments made are in keeping with local heritage regulations.

10. Achievements & Performance

2024/2025 has probably been the busiest year we have ever had at the Centre with a host of new hirers booking rooms for their meetings and activities. These include the Veterans Foundation, Rainbird Counselling, Apricot Art Therapy and Suffolk Dramatic Society. This has almost all been due to the tireless efforts of our wonderful Centre Co-ordinators, Linda Adams and Kathy Lee-Rimmer who have been brilliant in publicising the Centre and welcoming new groups into the fold. In addition, the Centre's own group activities continue to flourish - the Monday morning coffee mornings and community lunch continues to attract good numbers, the monthly menopause group regularly attracts 20 people, with a list of high-profile speakers. The Community Singers and the Vegan Supper group continue to flourish. The Christopher Centre has linked up with Macmillan Cancer Support to set up regular support group meetings. In addition, regular users like the Diabetic Eye Clinic have extended their bookings and several commercial companies have used the centre for their training. The Christopher Centre has also gained recognition as a preferred NHS provider. New facilitators were found to help run the Menopause and Macmillan Cancer Support groups.

During the year the trustees signed a new ten year lease with Sudbury Common Lands Charity and in October 2024 a celebration was held to mark the Centre's 30th birthday. This provided an opportunity to also mark the retirement of the Common Lands long-standing Clerk by renaming the Babergh Room as the Adrian Walters Room. During the year staff helped to promote the Centre by attending both the Sudbury and Lavenham health Awareness Days.

A lot of maintenance jobs were undertaken during the year. The Vanners Room and Commonlands Room were refurbished, the Adrian Walters Room floor was replaced, old window frames were repaired, and new internal signage was introduced. In addition, the Centre now has its own tool shed in the Cart Lodge, kindly erected by the Stour

Valley Men's Shed group. CCTV has been introduced to the building, both inside and out to improve security.

Staffing and governance have remained the same this year. Sarah Dovell, our cleaner ensures that the building is spotless. Kathy and Linda continue to ensure that the building is well-used and have created a very welcoming atmosphere. David Holmes, our Treasurer, has completed his first year in the role and provided excellent and accurate financial management. Of course, the centre would not survive without all our volunteers, and it is estimated that the volunteer time given to the Centre totals around a monetary value of £50,000.

We would like to thank all the volunteers who have contributed to a very successful year, whether helping out at reception, keeping the outside of the building tidy, doing odd jobs or helping with publicity and marketing.

11. Future Plans

The Centre will continue to offer an excellent service to the local community and through increased marketing, will attract even more hirers to the building. Already in 2025/6 we have received donations of £1,124 from the White Horse Custom and Classic Bike Rally and Oddfellows have donated a further £750. A new project starting in September is the creation of a Volunteer Hub at the Centre one afternoon a week. This would provide a service whereby people wanting to volunteer in the local area could be linked with groups who are looking for volunteers. We have received a grant of £3000 from Suffolk Community Foundation to take this forward.

Maintenance tasks have continued including refurbishing the toilets upstairs. We have also purchased a new projector and screen recognising that we have increased the number of business and commercial hirers who want to run meetings and training courses at the Centre.

I would finally pay tribute to my fellow trustees, who have discharged their duties and responsibilities as trustees and directors with pragmatism and good sense. Although the Charity Governance Code suggests that trustees should only serve a maximum term of nine years before stepping down, a number of our trustees have served for much longer than that. Their knowledge and experience of the Centre, the local area and good governance is invaluable, and the Board has ensured that newer trustees have been recruited to ensure that new ideas and new approaches are considered and welcomed.



Robin Hodgkinson

24th September 2025

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Christopher Centre

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2025 which are set out on pages 7 to 11.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the 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 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 company'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 statement

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 company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those 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 [applicable to charities preparing their accounts 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 accounts to be reached.



Signed:

Name: Nick Farr FCA
Moore Green

Address: 22 Friars Street
Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 2AA

Date: 29th September 2025

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year ended 31 March 2025

For the Christopher Centre (Charity no.1120942 and company limited by guarantee, registration no: 6173167)

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2025	2024
Income & Expenditure					
Incoming Resources					
Voluntary income	2a	4,788	-	4,788	1,341
Activities for generating funds	2b	-	-	-	1,161
Income from investments	2c	449	-	449	327
Charitable activities	2d	73,808	4,200	78,008	63,666
Other incoming resources	2e	-	-	-	-
Total Incoming resources		<u>79,045</u>	<u>4,200</u>	<u>83,245</u>	<u>66,495</u>
Resources Expended					
Cost of generating voluntary income	3a	-	-	-	-
Fund raising trading costs	3b	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities	3c	66,908	6,578	73,486	60,275
Governance costs	3d	1,110	-	1,110	1,265
Total Resources Expended		<u>68,018</u>	<u>6,578</u>	<u>74,596</u>	<u>61,540</u>
Net movement in funds for the Year					
		11,027	(2,378)	8,649	4,955
Fund Balances Brought Forward		31,402	5,132	36,534	31,579
Fund balances carried forward		<u>42,429</u>	<u>2,754</u>	<u>45,183</u>	<u>36,534</u>

The Christopher Centre
(Registered Charity No: 1120942)

BALANCE SHEET as at 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible assets		-	-
Current Assets			
Bank Current Account		2,380	9,703
Tracker Account	6	38,018	27,518
Petty Cash		81	63
Prepayments		3,921	-
Debtors/Accrued Income		4,985	-
		49,384	37,284
Current Liabilities			
Creditors		-	-
Accruals	7	4,201	750
		4,201	750
Net Assets			
		45,183	36,534
Funds			
Unrestricted (General)		42,429	31,402
Restricted		2,754	5,132
		45,183	36,534

-

(Registered Charity No: 1120942)

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime and in accordance with FRS 102, the Financial Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland. For the year ended 31st March 2025, the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476; the directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of financial statements.



Robin Hodgkinson

24th September 2025

The notes (below) form part of these financial statements.

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2025

1 Accounting Policies

- a. The accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards.
- b. Income is not anticipated, but recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities only when it is received. Grants and donations are credited to income in the year to which they relate.
- c. Full provision is made for all known liabilities (expenses and losses) whether the amount is known with certainty or is a best estimate in the light of the information available.
- d. Only fixed assets under five years of age are capitalised and depreciation is calculated on a straight-line basis from the year of purchase so as to reduce their value to nil at the end of five years. Computer equipment is depreciated over three years.

2 Incoming Resources	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
a. Voluntary income				
Donations	4,788		4,788	1,341
Activities for generating funds				
b. Fund raising	0		0	1,161
c. Income from investments				
Bank interest	449		449	327
d. Charitable activities				
Grants	1,700	4,200	5,900	14,616
Other income			0	0
Rent & user charges	72,108		72,108	49,050
e. Other incoming resources	0		0	0
Total Incoming Resources	79,045	4,200	83,245	66,495
3 Resources Expended				
a. Cost of generating voluntary income			0	0
b. Fund raising trading costs			0	0
c. Charitable activities				
Restricted grant		6,578	6,578	6,996
Salaries	21,635		21,635	17,505
Council tax & waste	1,751		1,751	1,699
Rent	13,304		13,304	15,646
Insurance	639		639	570
Stationery & postage	1,019		1,019	721
Telephone	1,269		1,269	1,282
Legal Fees	2,980		2,980	0
Advertising	0		0	289
Volunteer expenses	54		54	457
Repairs & maintenance	8,657		8,657	5,152
Gas, electric & water	10,931		10,931	5,855
Furniture & equipment	1,873		1,873	2,282
Cleaning	1,123		1,123	825
Other admin	1,673		1,673	996
Depreciation	0		0	0
	66,908	6,578	73,486	60,275
d. Governance costs				
Independent examination	1,110		1,110	1,265
Company House			0	0
	1,110	0	1,110	1,265
Total Resources Expended	68,018	6,578	74,596	61,540

4 Donations

Donations received from private individuals, local businesses and charitable trusts. The amount does not include any Gift Aid tax refunds.

5 Lease

The lease for the Christopher Centre was extended in 2024 for a further 10 years with 3 yearly reviews. The current cost of the lease is now £18,600 per annum, but with concession. It is paid quarterly with building insurance payments to the trustees of *the Sudbury Common Lands Charity*.

6 Tracker Accounts

The tracker account is an interest earning account with Barclays Bank.

7 Accruals

Expenses received after the year end which related to goods received or expenses incurred during the year ended 1.3.25

8 Trustee Remuneration & Related Party Transactions

No member of the Trustee Board received any remuneration during the year.

No trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity during the year (2023/4- nil).

Accounts

THE CHRISTOPHER CENTRE

Trustees' Report

For the year ended 31 March 2024

Administrative Information

The Christopher Centre is a company limited by guarantee, registration no: 6173167 and registered with the Charity Commission no. 1120942.

The Christopher Centre, 10 Gainsborough Street, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 2EU

Trustees

Robin Hodgkinson (Chairperson) (SAVO CIC)

Jennifer Wilkins

Kathleen Leigh

David Lowe (Treasurer)

Karoline Wells

Susan Ayres

Dave Sullivan

Jesse Carter

Belinda Green

Jan Osborne (appointed December 2023)

Centre Co-ordinators

Linda Adams

Kathy Lee-Rimmer

Company Secretary

David Lowe

Cleaner

Gregory Bishop

Sarah Dovell

Volunteers

Receptionists: Jane Benton, Sarah Dovell, Belinda Green, Sue Howting, Jenny Ince, Jennie Wilkins, Lizzie Alexander, Jen Mullan MBE, Jolanta Giudici, Ann Crowther, Beverly Freeman and Liz Ward.

Volunteer Handyman: Niall Hennessy

Volunteer Graphic designer: M J Watts

Volunteer Photographer/Website Adviser: Ian Matthews

Volunteer Gardener: Lee Young

Structure, Governance & Management

1. Nature of governing document

The activities of *The Christopher Centre* are governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association that were incorporated by Companies House on 20 March 2007 and approved by the Charity Commission on 21 September 2007.

2. Recruitment and appointment of trustees

The trustees and staff are always on the lookout for potential new trustees who can bring their skills and expertise to assist in the organisation's governance. Potential trustees have access to both the chair and the manager to discuss their involvement. When recruited, new trustees are inducted through meetings and an induction pack, which not only covers information about the organisation but their roles and responsibilities as trustees.

3. Review of the financial position

Total income for 2023/4 was £66,495 an increase of £15,719 on the previous year due to an increase in rent & user charges, increased use of rooms hired and more fundraising and successful grant applications.

Expenditure for 2023/4 was £61,540, an increase of £9,545 on 2022/23.

The net result was an increase of £4,955 in the fund balances carried forward to £36,534. This is a large improvement of the overall financial position.

4. Financial Management

The Christopher Centre accounts are managed by a Treasurer who is one of the trustees.

Bank accounts continue to be held at the Sudbury branch of Barclays Bank. All cheques require two signatories. The signatories are Robin Hodgkinson (Chair) and Jennie Wilkins, replaced by Belinda Green, in addition to the Treasurer.

The systems of internal control include written reports submitted by the Treasurer at the quarterly trustees' meetings. Also, consideration of the financial results and forecasting of possible funding shortfalls are discussed in detail at trustee meetings.

5. Reserve Policy

The Christopher Centre has built up a reserve for possible redundancies (£3000). There is also a general reserve fund of £31,402, which includes a maintenance contingency.

6. Risk analysis and plan

There are a number of areas that the Trustees consider as potential risks. These are as follows:

- a. The Christopher Centre Building – being an old building there is always a risk of the need for major structural repairs.
- b. The Christopher Centre Users – losing potential hirers of office accommodation and meeting rooms always remains a risk. Organisations' and people's circumstances change and this is obviously out of our hands. The Trustees ensure that rents and meeting room charges are kept at a competitive level to avoid losing users who might otherwise remain. However, office users who do decide to vacate the accommodation, are required to give three months' notice of their intention and this provides a reasonable window of opportunity to find a replacement.
- c. Energy costs – Energy costs have only slightly increased in the year since having a more efficient boiler purchased last year.

7. Funding

The running of the Christopher Centre is financed from renting out office space and casual hire of rooms for meetings and community activities and the occasional donation or grant.

A number of donations were also received totalling £1,341.

We are very grateful to all our benefactors for their support and encouragement.

8. Objectives and Activities

The Christopher Centre's objects are primarily for the benefit of the inhabitants of the district of Babergh and surrounding areas (in practice, the Sudbury district) to:

- o provide premises for the use of local and community groups, advance education through the provision of advice, advocacy, guidance, training, resources and associated activities
- o facilitate and encourage opportunities for local and community groups to come together to identify charitable need, express views on matters of local interest and to establish projects or policies to meet these needs. This includes running its own activities such as drop-ins, a community choir, a vegan supper club, arts and crafts activities.
- o develop the capacity and skills of said inhabitants in such ways as is thought fit, and particularly to enhance voluntary participation within the area of benefit
- o develop and promote community services for said inhabitants who are in need of such a service because of age, sickness or disability (mental or physical), or poverty, or because of a lack or availability of adequate and safe public services

- o improve or assist in the improvement of the physical and social environment in an effort to enhance the quality of life for said inhabitants.

The Christopher Centre has continued to fulfil its objects in a number of ways:

- by providing office space within the building for affordable and reasonable rents for a number of different voluntary and community groups
- by providing rooms available for hire by voluntary, community and statutory local groups
- by offering space free of charge within the reception area for local groups and services to promote their work, display leaflets and posters etc
- by utilising volunteers as reception staff who have a good knowledge of the local area and who can therefore offer information about local activities.
- by looking at ways of supporting or setting up community groups to help people who are disadvantaged or vulnerable to provide them with opportunities to learn new skills, make friends and build their confidence and self-esteem.

9. Meeting the Principles of Public Benefit

The Christopher Centre has continued to fulfil its objects in a number of ways:

- through its facilities, activities and information services which are open to all voluntary and community groups, The Christopher Centre provides services which help local groups to meet, exchange information and develop their own services to a wide variety of people within the local community. It also develops its own services to help vulnerable and isolated members of the community through activities such as the Monday morning Drop-in Coffee and Chat, the Monday lunchtime Community Lunches, the Community Choir, monthly Community Markets etc.
- it provides a community resource which members of the public can visit to find out information about local groups, events and services.
- The Christopher Centre is a Grade 2 listed building and the staff, volunteers and trustee board are therefore maintaining and preserving an important piece of Sudbury heritage, ensuring that any improvements and refurbishments made are in keeping with local heritage regulations.

10. Achievements & Performance

2023/2024 has probably been the busiest year we have ever had at the Centre with a host of new hirers booking rooms for their meetings and activities. These include Macmillan Cancer Support, 3 new therapists, Babergh Housing, Turning Point, After School Art Class, a Life drawing Class, the WI, Creative writing classes, a Lego Group and a U3 Class in Sign Language. This has almost all been due to the tireless efforts of our wonderful Centre Co-ordinators, Linda Adams and Kathy Lee-Rimmer who

have been brilliant in publicising the Centre and welcoming new groups into the fold. In addition, the Centre's own group activities continue to flourish – the Monday morning coffee mornings and community lunch continues to attract good numbers, the monthly menopause group regularly attracts 20 people with a list of high-profile speakers. The Community Singers and the Vegan Supper group continue to flourish. In addition, regular users like the Diabetic Eye Clinic have extended their bookings and several commercial companies have used the centre for their training.

The Centre has also put on its own events, including two successful quiz evenings in July and December, the latter event's catering provided by Fig and Olive. Questions were set by the Centre's Chairman who kept the evenings fun and light-hearted. Kathy and Linda also promoted a number of art exhibitions and sales of local artists' work as well as a Christmas market.

The Centre was recognised in various ways. Our wonderful receptionists were joint winners of the Group of Volunteers award at the Sudbury Volunteers award in Summer 2023. Roys made the centre its charity of the year for 2024 and the Mayor kindly agreed to the Christopher Centre being one of her two charities of the year (alongside the Kernos Centre). In addition the centre also benefitted from TOAST, who donated coffee to the centre for both staff and users.

Various maintenance jobs were undertaken during the year. The Weavers Room was refurbished, the tree in the car park was cut back and new laptops were purchased for staff. On a less positive note, the bad weather and heavy rain in the autumn and winter led to flooding problems at the front of the building. Sadly, although representations have been made to Suffolk County Council to improve the drainage on the main road, the underlying problem has not been rectified. On a more positive note, the Christopher Lane residents raised the money to install a defibrillator at the centre and a training course was run to learn how to use it.

There were various personnel changes at the end of the year. David Lowe stepped down as Treasurer, though he will continue as a trustee. We were delighted to welcome David Holmes as our new Treasurer. After many years of handling all the booking invoices, Jennie Wilkins stepped down and Belinda Green took on this role, alongside becoming a finance signatory. We were also delighted to welcome Jan Osborne as a new trustee.

Work has also been undertaken to re-brand the centre and update the website. This work was completed in the Autumn and has drawn high praise from the public.

The Centre received various grants that have allowed many of the above groups and plans to take shape. Two separate grants (totalling £5,000) came from Suffolk Community Foundation to pay for extra hours worked by the Centre Co-ordinators, £500 was received from Magic Little Star, £750 came from the closure of the Sudbury Market Town Partnership (£250 of which went to the Depot), £820 from Suffolk Town Council for replacement of lights and £1000 from the Mayor's Charity Fund.

Gregory Bishop retired in early 2024 after many years working as the Centre's cleaner. Part of the reason for the success of the centre has been because of the high standard of cleanliness within the building, thanks to

Gregory's hard work. This standard has been maintained by our new cleaner, Sarah Dovell.

We would like to thank all the volunteers who have contributed to a very successful year, whether helping out at reception, keeping the outside building tidy, doing odd jobs or helping with publicity and marketing.

11. Future Plans

The Centre will continue to offer an excellent service to the local community and through increased marketing, will attract even more hirers to the building. In October the Centre will be celebrating 30 years of its existence with a special tea party. It will also launch a new volunteering service, helping to place volunteers with local organisations. During the year a new lease agreement will be developed with Sudbury Common Lands Charity who own the building. Although the annual rent will be going up (after 10 years of nil rises), the trustees of the Common Lands Charity have agreed to stagger this rise over three years.

I would finally pay tribute to my fellow trustees, who have discharged their duties and responsibilities as trustees and directors with pragmatism and good sense. In particular I would like to thank David Lowe for his excellent work in looking after the finances and to Jennie Wilkins who has been managing the invoices of hirers and office users over many years. Thanks must also go to Adrian Walters and the Sudbury Common Lands Trustees for their help during the year and also to those who have donated money or given grants to The Christopher Centre.



Robin Hodgkinson
Chairperson

September 2024

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Christopher Centre

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2024 which are set out on pages 7 to 11.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the 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 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 company'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 statement

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 company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those 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 [applicable to charities preparing their accounts 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 accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Name: Nick Farr FCA
Moore Green

Address: 22 Friars Street
Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 2AA

Date:

The Christopher Centre
(Registered Charity No: 1120942)

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year ended 31 March 2024

	Note s	Unrestrict ed Funds	Restrict ed Funds	2024	2023
Income & Expenditure					
Incoming Resources					
Voluntary income	2a	1,341		1,341	530
Activities for generating funds	2b	1,161		1,161	-
Income from investments	2c	327		327	59
Charitable activities	2d	56,380	7,286	63,666	50,187
Other incoming resources	2e			-	-

Total Incoming resources		<u>59,209</u>	<u>7,286</u>	<u>66,495</u>	<u>50,776</u>
Resources Expended					
Cost of generating voluntary income	3a	-	-	-	-
Fund raising trading costs	3b	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities	3c	53,279	6,996	60,275	50,945
Governance costs	3d	1,265		1,265	1,050
Total Resources Expended		<u>54,544</u>	<u>6,996</u>	<u>61,540</u>	<u>51,995</u>
Net movement in funds for the Year		4,665	290	4,955	(1,219)
Fund Balances Brought Forward		26,737	4,842	31,579	32,798
Fund balances carried forward		<u>31,402</u>	<u>5,132</u>	<u>36,534</u>	<u>31,579</u>

The Christopher Centre

(Registered Charity No: 1120942)

BALANCE SHEET as at 31 MARCH 2024

	Note	2024	2023
	s	£	£
Fixed Assets			
Tangible assets		-	-
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Current Assets			
Bank Current Account		9,703	4,771
Tracker Account	6	27,518	27,191
Petty Cash		63	152

Prepayments	-	-
Debtors	-	-
	<u>37,284</u>	<u>32,114</u>

Current Liabilities

Creditors	-	-
Accruals	7 <u>750</u>	<u>535</u>
	<u>750</u>	<u>535</u>

Net Assets

<u>36,534</u>	<u>31,579</u>
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Represented by

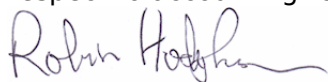
Funds

Unrestricted (General)	31,402	26,737
Restricted	5,132	4,842
	<u>36,534</u>	<u>31,579</u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime and in accordance with FRS 102. The Financial Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland. For the year ended 31st March 2024, the company was entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476. The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the act with respect to accounting records and preparation of financial statements.



Robin Hodgkinson – Chairperson

The notes form part of these financial statements.

The Christopher Centre
(Registered Charity No: 1120942)

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2024

1 Accounting Policies

- The accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance
- a with applicable accounting standards. Income is not anticipated, but recognised in the Statement of Financial
 - b Activities only when it is received. Grants and donations are credited to income in the year to which they relate.
 - c Full provision is made for all known liabilities (expenses and losses) whether the

amount

is known with certainty or is a best estimate in the light of the information available.

Only fixed assets under five years of age are capitalised and

d depreciation is calculated

on a straight-line basis from the year of purchase so as to reduce their value to nil at the

end of five years. Computer equipment is depreciated over three years.

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
2 Incoming Resources				
a Voluntary income				
Donations	1341		1341	530
Activities for generating				
b funds				
Fund raising	1161		1161	0
c Income from investments				
Bank interest	327		327	59
d Charitable activities				
Grants	7330	7286	14616	6334
Other income			0	17
Rent & user charges	49050		49050	43836
e Other incoming resources	0		0	0
Total Incoming Resources	<u>59209</u>	<u>7286</u>	<u>66495</u>	<u>50776</u>
3 Resources Expended				
a Cost of generating				
voluntary income	0	0	0	0
b Fund raising trading costs	0		0	0
c Charitable activities				
Restricted grant		6996	6996	6435
Salaries	17505		17505	14091
Travel expenses	0		0	0
Council tax & waste	1699		1699	1915
Rent	15646		15646	16326
Stationery & postage	721		721	564
Telephone	1282		1282	1274
Advertising	289		289	0
Volunteer expenses	457		457	515
Repairs & maintenance	5152		5152	1936
Gas, electric & water	5855		5855	4861
Furniture & equipment	2282		2282	1997
Cleaning	825		825	207
Other admin	996		996	824
Depreciation	0		0	0
	<u>52709</u>	<u>6996</u>	<u>59705</u>	<u>50945</u>
Governance costs				
d Independent examination	1265	0	1265	1050
Company House	0		0	0
	<u>1265</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1265</u>	<u>1050</u>

Total Resources Expended	<u>53974</u>	<u>6996</u>	<u>60970</u>	<u>51995</u>
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Donations

Donations received from private individuals, local businesses and charitable trusts.

- 4 The amount
does not include any Gift Aid tax refunds.

Lease

- 5 The 21 year lease for the Christopher Centre expired 4th July 2014 and has been
extended for a
further 10 years with 3 yearly reviews. The current cost of the lease is now £14,000
per annum,
Paid quarterly with building insurance payments to the trustees of *the Sudbury
Common Lands Charity*.

Tracker Accounts

- 6 The tracker account is an interest earning account with Barclays
Bank.

Accruals

- 7 Expenses received after the year end which related to goods received or
expenses incurred
during the year ended
31.3.24

Trustee Remuneration & Related Party Transactions

- 8 No member of the Trustee Board received any remuneration during the year.

No trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract
or transaction entered into by the charity during the year (2023/4- nil).

Accounts

THE CHRISTOPHER CENTRE

Trustees' Report

For the year ended 31 March 2023

Administrative Information

The Christopher Centre is a company limited by guarantee, registration no: 6173167 and registered with the Charity Commission no. 1120942.

Registered office:

The Christopher Centre, 10 Gainsborough Street, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 2EU

Trustees

Robin Hodgkinson (Chairperson) (SAVO CIC)

Jennifer Wilkins

Kathleen Leigh

David Lowe (Treasurer)

Karoline Wells

Susan Ayres

Dave Sullivan

Jesse Carter

Belinda Green (appointed November 2022)

Centre Co-ordinators

Linda Adams

Kathy Lee-Rimmer

Company Secretary

David Lowe

Cleaner

Gregory Bishop

Volunteers

Receptionists: Jane Benton, Sarah Dovell, Belinda Green, Sue Howting, Jenny Ince, Jennie Wilkins, Lizzie Alexander, Judy Parmenter, Connie Gourlay and Liz Ward.

Volunteer Handyman: Niall Hennessy

Volunteer Gardener: Lee Young

Structure, Governance & Management

1. Nature of governing document

The activities of *The Christopher Centre* are governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association that were incorporated by Companies House on 20 March 2007 and approved by the Charity Commission on 21 September 2007.

2. Recruitment and appointment of trustees

The trustees and staff are always on the lookout for potential new trustees who can bring their skills and expertise to assist in the organisation's governance. Potential trustees have access to both the chair and the manager to discuss their involvement. When recruited, new trustees are inducted through meetings and an induction pack, which not only covers information about the organisation but their roles and responsibilities as trustees.

3. Review of the financial position

Total income for 2022/3 was £50,776 an increase of £348 on the previous year due to an increase in Rent & User Charges.

Expenditure for 2022/3 was £51,995, a decrease of £8,176 on 2021/22.

The net result was a decrease of £1219 in the fund balances carried forward of £31,579. This is less of a decrease than last year therefore improving the overall financial position.

4. Financial Management

The Christopher Centre accounts are managed by a Treasurer who is one of the trustees.

Bank accounts continue to be held at the Sudbury branch of Barclays Bank. All cheques require two signatories. The signatories are Robin Hodgkinson (Chair) and Jennie Wilkins, in addition to the Treasurer.

The systems of internal control include written reports submitted by the Treasurer at the quarterly trustees' meetings. Also, consideration of the financial results and forecasting of possible funding shortfalls are discussed in detail at trustee meetings.

5. Reserve Policy

The Christopher Centre has built up a reserve for possible redundancies (£3000). There is also a general reserve fund of £26,738, which includes a maintenance contingency.

6. Risk analysis and plan

There are a number of areas that the Trustees consider as potential risks. These are as follows:

- a. The Christopher Centre Building – being an old building there is always a risk of the need for major structural repairs.
- b. The Christopher Centre Users – losing potential hirers of office accommodation and meeting rooms always remains a risk. Organisations' and people's circumstances change and this is obviously out of our hands. The Trustees ensure that rents and meeting room charges are kept at a competitive level to avoid losing users who might otherwise remain. However, office users who do decide to vacate the accommodation, are required to give three months' notice of their intention and this provides a reasonable window of opportunity to find a replacement.
- c. Energy costs – Energy costs have only slightly increased in the year since having a more efficient boiler purchased last year.

7. Funding

The running of the Christopher Centre is financed from renting out office space and casual hire of rooms for meetings and community activities and the occasional donation or grant.

A number of donations were also received totalling £530.

We are very grateful to all our benefactors for their support and encouragement.

8. Objectives and Activities

The Christopher Centre's objects are primarily for the benefit of the inhabitants of the district of Babergh and surrounding areas (in practice, the Sudbury district) to:

- o provide premises for the use of local and community groups, advance education through the provision of advice, advocacy, guidance, training, resources and associated activities
- o facilitate and encourage opportunities for local and community groups to come together to identify charitable need, express views on matters of local interest and to establish projects or policies to meet these needs. This includes running its own activities such as drop-ins, a community choir, a vegan supper club, arts and crafts activities.
- o develop the capacity and skills of said inhabitants in such ways as is thought fit, and particularly to enhance voluntary participation within the area of benefit
- o develop and promote community services for said inhabitants who are in need of such a service because of age, sickness or disability (mental or physical), or poverty, or because of a lack or availability of adequate and safe public services

- o improve or assist in the improvement of the physical and social environment in an effort to enhance the quality of life for said inhabitants.

The Christopher Centre has continued to fulfil its objects in a number of ways:

- by providing office space within the building for affordable and reasonable rents for a number of different voluntary and community groups
- by providing rooms available for hire by voluntary, community and statutory local groups
- by offering space free of charge within the reception area for local groups and services to promote their work, display leaflets and posters etc
- by utilising volunteers as reception staff who have a good knowledge of the local area and who can therefore offer information about local activities.
- by looking at ways of supporting or setting up community groups to help people who are disadvantaged or vulnerable to provide them with opportunities to learn new skills, make friends and build their confidence and self-esteem.

9. Meeting the Principles of Public Benefit

The Christopher Centre has continued to fulfil its objects in a number of ways:

- through its facilities, activities and information services which are open to all voluntary and community groups, The Christopher Centre provides services which help local groups to meet, exchange information and develop their own services to a wide variety of people within the local community. It also develops its own services to help vulnerable and isolated members of the community through activities such as the Monday morning Drop-in Coffee and Chat, the Monday lunchtime Community Lunches, the Community Choir, monthly Community Markets etc.
- it provides a community resource which members of the public can visit to find out information about local groups, events and services.
- The Christopher Centre is a Grade 2 listed building and the staff, volunteers and trustee board are therefore maintaining and preserving an important piece of Sudbury heritage, ensuring that any improvements and refurbishments made are in keeping with local heritage regulations.

10. Achievements & Performance

Teresa Bishop and Helen Martin retired at the end of March 2022 and so April saw the start of two new Centre Co-ordinators, Linda Adams and Kathy Lee-Rimmer. Since joining the Christopher Centre in April 2022, their aim has been to continue to bring the Centre to the forefront of the community. Regular columns in publications such as the local Community News has brought in new hirers and new volunteers.

Room bookings have increased significantly with the addition of some exciting and vibrant groups including Weight Watchers, U3a Whist, Boomerang Petfood Bank, Turning Point and the Makers Market to name but a few. The Diabetic Eye Clinic has continued to use the Centre on a regular basis. The Pet Food Bank has been using the Centre's Cart Lodge to distribute much needed pet food to local residents on a regular basis.

One significant development came out of Linda and Kathy's attendance at a local Health Awareness Day. An issue that cropped up was the need for older women to have more menopause support. This led to the creation of a Support Group in the Autumn with monthly meetings offering a range of support and talks by a variety of speakers offering advice on medical, dietary and exercise issues. The inaugural meeting would have featured on BBC's Look East Programme had a certain East Anglian MP not resigned as Prime Minister on the same day!

The Centre's own groups have continued to flourish with the Monday morning Drop-in sessions and Community Lunch proving as popular as ever. The Community Singers have met on a regular basis and have given a number of concerts locally. C'Art continues to offer the centre a variety of workshops and its Jubilee Window display in the Summer drew many favourable comments.

The building is looking very smart with a number of improvements made, including new carpets and the redecoration of some of the downstairs rooms. Some of the lighting has been replaced with more efficient LED lighting and further grant applications will be submitted in the future to replace all the lighting in the building. A welcome addition to the exterior of the building has been the purchase of a defibrillator, funded by the Curly Wurlies (the Christopher Lane Residents Group).

Work has also been undertaken to re-brand the centre and update the website. Hopefully this work will be completed by September 2023.

The Centre received various grants that have allowed many of the above groups and plans to take shape. This included £1000 from Cllr Carter's Locality Budget for the Monday Drop-in, a £1000 Winter Warmth grant from Babergh District Council, £250 from Sudbury Common Lands and £272 from Cavendish Church.

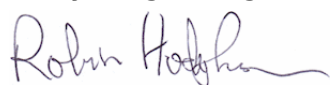
Gregory Bishop has continued to give an excellent service in ensuring that the building is smart and tidy and our volunteer receptionists, gardeners and handyman have helped to ensure the smooth running of the building.

11. Future Plans

The Centre will continue to offer an excellent service to the local community and through increased marketing, will attract even more hirers to the building. Plans are already afoot to increase our funds through holding events such as Quiz Evenings to ensure that we can keep our hire charges as low as possible.

Many thanks must go to the wonderful work undertaken by our volunteer receptionists and others who have continued to provide a great service.

I would finally pay tribute to my fellow trustees, who have discharged their duties and responsibilities as trustees and directors with pragmatism and good sense. Thanks must also go to Adrian Walters and the Sudbury Common Lands Trustees for their help during the year and also to those who have donated money or given grants to The Christopher Centre.



Robin Hodgkinson
Chairperson

29 September 2023

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Christopher Centre

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2023 which are set out on pages 7 to 11.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the 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 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 company'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 statement

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 company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those 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 [applicable to charities preparing their accounts 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 accounts to be reached.



Signed:

Name: Nick Farr FCA
Moore Green

Address: 22 Friars Street
Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 2AA

Date: 02/10/2023

The Christopher Centre

(Registered Charity No: 1120942)

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year ended 31 March 2023

	Note s	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2023
Income & Expenditure				
Incoming Resources				
Voluntary income	2a	530		530
Activities for generating funds	2b	-		-
Income from investments	2c	59		59
Charitable activities	2d	44,353	5,834	50,187
Other incoming resources	2e			-
Total Incoming resources		44,942	5,834	50,776

Resources Expended

Cost of generating voluntary income	3a	-	-	-
Fund raising trading costs	3b	-	-	-
Charitable activities	3c	44,510	6,435	50,945
Governance costs	3d	1,050		1,050
Total Resources Expended		<u>45,560</u>	<u>6,435</u>	<u>51,995</u>
Net movement in funds for the Year		(618)	(601)	(1,219)
Fund Balances Brought Forward		27,355	5,443	32,798
Fund balances carried forward		<u>26,737</u>	<u>4,842</u>	<u>31,579</u>

The Christopher Centre

(Registered Charity No: 1120942)

BALANCE SHEET as at 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible assets	6	-	-
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Current Assets			
Bank Current Account		4,771	6,156
Tracker Account	7	27,191	27,132
Petty Cash		152	151
Prepayments		-	13

Debtors		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
		32,114	33,452
Current Liabilities			
Creditors		-	-
Accruals	8	<u>535</u>	<u>654</u>
		535	654
Net Assets		<u>31,579</u>	<u>32,798</u>
Represented by			
Funds			
Unrestricted (General)		26,737	27,355
Restricted		4,842	5,443
		<u>31,579</u>	<u>32,798</u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime and in accordance with FRS 102. The Financial Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

For the year ended 31st March 2020, the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

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

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



29/09/2023

Robin Hodgkinson - Chairperson

The notes form part of these financial statements

The Christopher Centre
(Registered Charity No: 1120942)

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2023

1 Accounting Policies

a

- . The accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards.

b

- . Income is not anticipated, but recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities only when it is received. Grants and donations are credited to income in the year to which they relate.

- c. Full provision is made for all known liabilities (expenses and losses) whether the amount is known with certainty or is a best estimate in the light of the information available.

d

- . Only fixed assets under five years of age are capitalised and depreciation is calculated

on a straight-line basis from the year of purchase so as to reduce their value to nil at the end of five years. Computer equipment is depreciated over three years.

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
2 Incoming Resources				
a				
. Voluntary income				
Donations	530		530	1007
b				
. Activities for generating funds				
Fund raising	0		0	0
c. Income from investments				
Bank interest	59		59	3
d				
. Charitable activities				
Grants	500	5834	6334	13875
Other income	17		17	430
Rent & user charges	43836		43836	32865
e				
. Christopher centre activities	0		0	2248
f. Other incoming resources		0	0	0
Total Incoming Resources	44942	5834	50776	50428
3 Resources Expended				
a				
. Cost of generating voluntary income	0	0	0	0
b				
. Fund raising trading costs	0	0	0	0
c. Charitable activities				
Restricted grant		6435	6435	12833
Salaries	14091		14091	11810
Staff travel	0		0	0
Christopher centre activities	0		0	2021
Council tax & waste	1915		1915	1852
Rent & Insurance	16326		16326	16096
Stationery & postage	564		564	546
Advertising	0		0	601
Telephone	1274		1274	828
Volunteer expenses	515		515	514
Repairs & maintenance	1936		1936	6225
Gas, electric & water	4861		4861	4424
Furniture & equipment	1997		1997	245
Cleaning	207		207	738
Other admin	824		824	466
Depreciation	0			0
	44510	6435	50945	59199
d				
. Governance costs				
Independent examination	1050	0	1050	972
Company House	0		0	0
	1050	0	1050	972
Total Resources Expended	45560	6435	51995	60171

4 Donations

Donations received from private individuals, local businesses and charitable trusts. The amount does not include any Gift Aid tax refunds.

5 Lease

The 21 year lease for the Christopher Centre expired 4th July 2014 and has been extended for a further 10 years with 3 yearly reviews. The current cost of the lease is now £14,000 per annum, Paid quarterly with building insurance payments to the trustees of *the Sudbury Common Lands Charity*.

6 Tracker Accounts

The tracker account is an interest earning account with Barclays Bank.

7 Accruals

Expenses received after the year end which related to goods received or expenses incurred during the year ended 31.3.23

8 Trustee Remuneration & Related Party Transactions

No member of the Trustee Board received any remuneration during the year.

No trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity during the year (20189- nil).

Accounts

THE CHRISTOPHER CENTRE

Trustees' Report

For the year ended 31 March 2022

Administrative Information

The Christopher Centre is a company limited by guarantee, registration no: 6173167 and registered with the Charity Commission no. 1120942.

Registered office:

The Christopher Centre, 10 Gainsborough Street, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 2EU

Trustees

Robin Hodgkinson (Chairperson) (SAVO CIC)

Jennifer Wilkins

Kathleen Leigh

David Lowe (Treasurer)

Karoline Wells

Susan Ayres

Dave Sullivan (appointed December 2021)

Jesse Carter (appointed March 2022)

Manager

Teresa Bishop

Administrator

Helen Martin

Company Secretary

David Lowe

Cleaner

Gregory Bishop

Volunteers

Receptionists: Jane Benton, Sarah Dovell, Belinda Green, Collette Harrop, Sue Howting, Jenny Ince, Jennie Wilkins and Lizzie Alexander.

Volunteer Handyman: Niall Hennessay
Michael Francis

Volunteer Gardener: Lee Young

Structure, Governance & Management

1. Nature of governing document

The activities of *The Christopher Centre* are governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association that were incorporated by Companies House on 20 March 2007 and approved by the Charity Commission on 21 September 2007.

2. Recruitment and appointment of trustees

The trustees and staff are always on the lookout for potential new trustees who can bring their skills and expertise to assist in the organisation's governance. Potential trustees have access to both the chair and the manager to discuss their involvement. When recruited, new trustees are inducted through meetings and an induction pack, which not only covers information about the organisation but their roles and responsibilities as trustees.

3. Review of the financial position

Total income for 2021/2 was £50,428 a decrease of £13,245 on the previous year largely due to a decrease in grants.

Expenditure for 2021/2 was £60,172, an increase of £21,433 on 2020/21. This was in part due to the purchase of a new boiler which cost £5,500.

The net result was a decrease of £9,744 in the fund balances carried forward of £32,798.

4. Financial Management

The Christopher Centre accounts are managed by a Treasurer who is one of the trustees.

Bank accounts continue to be held at the Sudbury branch of Barclays Bank. All cheques require two signatories. The signatories are Robin Hodgkinson (Chair) and Jennie Wilkins, in addition to the Treasurer.

The systems of internal control include written reports submitted by the Treasurer at the quarterly trustees' meetings. Also, consideration of the financial results and forecasting of possible funding shortfalls are discussed in detail at trustee meetings.

5. Reserve Policy

The Christopher Centre has built up a reserve for possible redundancies (£3,000) and a maintenance contingency fund of £226. There is also a general reserve fund of £27,335. This is because some of the grant money and donations received in 2021/2 includes money that is due to be spent in 2022/3. Being an old Grade 2 listed building, the trustees consider the maintenance contingency fund a necessity and strive to build the fund up each year, where possible. In some years this is not possible when essential repairs and maintenance are necessary.

6. Risk analysis and plan

There are a number of areas that the Trustees consider as potential risks. These are as follows:

- a. The Christopher Centre Building - being an old building there is always a risk of the need for major structural repairs.
- b. The Christopher Centre Users - losing potential hirers of office accommodation and meeting rooms always remains a risk. Organisations' and people's circumstances change and this is obviously out of our hands. The Trustees ensure that rents and meeting room charges are kept at a competitive level to avoid losing users who might otherwise remain. However, office users who do decide to vacate the accommodation, are required to give three months' notice of their intention and this provides a reasonable window of opportunity to find a replacement.
- c. The Current Pandemic and Future Pandemics - the pandemic and Lockdown has meant that activities in the building had to be curtailed at certain times of the year. Although Lockdown restrictions have been lifted, there is no guarantee that the Government may impose further lockdowns in the future.
- d. Energy costs - we wait to see what impact the huge rises in energy costs will have on the building and the Christopher Centre's finances. Hopefully, having a new boiler, which should be more efficient, will mitigate some of the effects that price increases will have.

7. Funding

The running of the Christopher Centre is financed from renting out office space and casual hire of rooms for meetings and community activities and the occasional donation or grant. During 2021/2 We had a number of grants and donations to help us through the tail end and aftermath of the Pandemic. We again received a Covid grant from Babergh District Council to counter the effects of the Omicron variant.

A number of donations were also received totalling £1,007. These include £200 from Dave Sullivan (in memory of Mike Norton) plus additional donations from Michael Williams, Jane Bentley and Miriam Toosey.

We received a General Grant of £4,000 from Babergh District Council General Payments.

We also received a number of Restricted Grants including: £100 from Martyn Chaper; £500 from Sudbury Freeman's Trust; £1,000 from Sudbury Municipal Charities; £2,385 and £3,355 from Suffolk County Council PORS; £120 from Ciaravolo; £50 from Martyn Preceptory; £115 from Babergh Lodge; £500 from Stour Valley Lodge; £1,000 from Sudbury Rotary; and £750 from Sudbury Freeman's Trust.

We are very grateful to all our benefactors for their support and encouragement.

8. Objectives and Activities

The Christopher Centre's objects are primarily for the benefit of the inhabitants of the district of Babergh and surrounding areas (in practice, the Sudbury district) to:

- provide premises for the use of local and community groups, advance education through the provision of advice, advocacy, guidance, training, resources and associated activities
- facilitate and encourage opportunities for local and community groups to come together to identify charitable need, express views on matters of local interest and to establish projects or policies to meet these needs. This includes running its own activities such as drop-ins, a community choir, a vegan supper club, arts and crafts activities.
- develop the capacity and skills of said inhabitants in such ways as is thought fit, and particularly to enhance voluntary participation within the area of benefit
- develop and promote community services for said inhabitants who are in need of such a service because of age, sickness or disability (mental or physical), or poverty, or because of a lack or availability of adequate and safe public services
- improve or assist in the improvement of the physical and social environment in an effort to enhance the quality of life for said inhabitants.

The Christopher Centre has continued to fulfil its objects in a number of ways:

- by providing office space within the building for affordable and reasonable rents for a number of different voluntary and community groups
- by providing rooms available for hire by voluntary, community and statutory local groups
- by offering space free of charge within the reception area for local groups and services to promote their work, display leaflets and posters etc
- by utilising volunteers as reception staff who have a good knowledge of the local area and who can therefore offer information about local activities.
- by looking at ways of supporting or setting up community groups to help people who are disadvantaged or vulnerable to provide them with opportunities to learn new skills, make friends and build their confidence and self-esteem.

9. Meeting the Principles of Public Benefit

The Christopher Centre has continued to fulfil its objects in a number of ways:

- through its facilities, activities and information services which are open to all voluntary and community groups, The Christopher Centre provides services which help local groups to meet, exchange information and develop their own services to a wide variety of people within the local community. It also develops its own services to help vulnerable and isolated members of the community through activities such as the Monday morning Drop-in Coffee and Chat, the Monday lunchtime Community Lunches, the Community Choir, monthly Community Markets etc.

- it provides a community resource which members of the public can visit to find out information about local groups, events and services.
- The Christopher Centre is a Grade 2 listed building and the staff, volunteers and trustee board are therefore maintaining and preserving an important piece of Sudbury heritage, ensuring that any improvements and refurbishments made are in keeping with local heritage regulations.

10. Achievements & Performance

Despite the year starting with continued Lockdown restrictions with both some easing and then some further restrictions due to the Omicron variant, bookings and activities continued to flourish during the year. We welcomed a number of new groups to the building including a number of University of Third Age classes, Oddfellows and Speech Therapy Clinics; in addition, the Diabetic Eye Clinic increased the length of its hirings.

Because many of our activities are set up to help those who are most vulnerable and isolated in the community or who suffer from mental health issues, these continued throughout the year. These included the very successful drop-in coffee mornings on a Monday morning which was followed by delicious lunches, often attracting up to thirty people, once restrictions were eased. The Community Singers, Vegan Suppers and the Cinema Club (particularly for the more elderly members of the community) continued to attract more people.

We also continued, when possible, with our monthly fundraising Community Markets, although to adhere to COVID restrictions these were reduced in size. We were able to programme community markets until January which saw a variety of stall holders selling their wares, particularly local food products; whilst Teresa in the kitchen provided mouth-watering snacks and lunches during the day. The kitchen also provided take away lunches once a month (mainly curries and chilli dishes) and these proved very popular with around 50 - 60 orders per month.

During the year we purchased a gazebo which certainly helped with the Saturday monthly community markets as it meant that people could eat outside in the courtyard. The gazebo proved very resilient during the winter storms and high winds with minimal damage caused. During the year the major maintenance item was a new boiler for the building. We were told that the old boiler would last about ten years and almost to the day it finally gave up the ghost! Hopefully, the new boiler should be more efficient

At the beginning of 2022 Teresa and Helen, our loyal and very proficient staff members, indicated that they would be retiring at the end of March. Words cannot express how highly they were held in regard by the trustees, the volunteers and by local groups. They were very much the driving force behind all the community events initiated over the past few years. We will not be saying a total goodbye to Teresa however, as she will still be involved with the Monday drop-ins and lunches, the vegan suppers and the Community Singers.

Gregory Bishop has continued to give an excellent service in ensuring that the building is smart and tidy and our volunteer receptionists, gardeners and handymen have helped to ensure the smooth running of the building.

We are delighted to welcome Linda Adams and Kathy Lee-Rimmer as our new Centre Co-ordinators. They worked alongside Teresa and Helen during the latter part of March to ensure a smooth handover.

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11. Future Plans

As I write this report, Linda and Kathy are settling into their new posts. In the coming months they will no doubt be putting their stamp on the building and starting some new activities. One project, that has been on the cards for a while, is the possibility of creating a Man Shed at the Christopher Centre using the old cart lodge. This idea has got a long way to go before it becomes a reality, but initial meetings are being held with interested parties.

Many thanks must go to the wonderful work undertaken by our volunteer receptionists and others who have continued to provide a great service at times when the building has been open.

I would finally pay tribute to my fellow trustees, who have discharged their duties and responsibilities as trustees and directors with pragmatism and good sense. Thanks must also go to Adrian Walters and the Sudbury Common Lands Trustees for their help during the year and also to those who have donated money or given grants to The Christopher Centre.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Robin Hodgkinson'.

Robin Hodgkinson
Chairperson

21st September 2022

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Christopher Centre

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2022 which are set out on pages 8 to 11.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the 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 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 company'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 statement

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 company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those 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 [applicable to charities preparing their accounts 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 accounts to be reached.

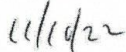
Signed:



Name: Nick Farr FCA
Moore Green

Address: 22 Friars Street
Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 2AA

Date:



The Christopher Centre
(Registered Charity No: 1120942)

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year ended 31 March 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2022	2021
Income & Expenditure					
Incoming Resources					
Voluntary income	2a	1,007		1,007	2,456
Activities for generating funds	2b	-		-	-
Income from investments	2c	3		3	7
Charitable activities	2d	39,543	9,875	49,418	61,210
Other incoming resources	2e		-	-	-
Total Incoming resources		<u>40,553</u>	<u>9,875</u>	<u>50,428</u>	<u>63,673</u>
Resources Expended					
Cost of generating voluntary income	3a	-	-	-	-
Fund raising trading costs	3b	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities	3c	46,873	12,833	59,706	38,193
Governance costs	3d	466	-	466	546
Total Resources Expended		<u>47,339</u>	<u>12,833</u>	<u>60,172</u>	<u>38,739</u>
Net movement in funds for the Year		(6,786)	(2,958)	(9,744)	24,934
Fund Balances Brought Forward		34,141	8,401	42,542	17,608
Fund balances carried forward		<u>27,355</u>	<u>5,443</u>	<u>32,798</u>	<u>42,542</u>

The Christopher Centre

(Registered Charity No: 1120942)

BALANCE SHEET as at 31 MARCH 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible assets	12	-	-
Current Assets			
Bank Current Account		6,156	10,538
Tracker Account		27,132	32,628
Petty Cash		151	17
Prepayments		13	13
Debtors		-	-
		33,452	43,196
Current Liabilities			
Creditors		-	-
Accruals		654	654
		654	654
Net Assets			
		32,798	42,542
Represented by			
Funds			
Unrestricted (General)		27,355	34,141
Restricted		5,443	8,401
		32,798	42,542

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime and in accordance with FRS 102. The Financial

Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

For the year ended 31st March 2022, the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

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

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



Chairman

21st September 2022

The Christopher Centre
(Registered Charity No: 1120942)

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2022

1 Accounting Policies

- a. The accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards.
- b. Income is not anticipated, but recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities only when it is received. Grants and donations are credited to income in the year to which they relate.
- c. Full provision is made for all known liabilities (expenses and losses) whether the amount is known with certainty or is a best estimate in the light of the information available.
- d. Only fixed assets under five years of age are capitalised and depreciation is calculated on a straight-line basis from the year of purchase so as to reduce their value to nil at the end of five years. Computer equipment is depreciated over three years.

2 Incoming Resources	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
a. Voluntary income				
Donations	1007		1007	2456
b. Activities for generating funds				
Fund raising	0			0
c. Income from investments				
Bank interest	3		3	7
d. Charitable activities				
Grants	4000	9875	13875	37854
Other income	430		430	0
Rent & user charges	32865		32865	21659
e. Christopher Centre activities	2248		2248	1697
f. Other incoming resources	0	0		0
Total Incoming Resources	40553	9875	50428	63673

3 Resources Expended

a. Cost of generating voluntary income		0		0
b. Fund raising trading costs	0	0		0
c. Charitable activities				
Salaries	11810		11810	11023
Christopher Centre activities	2021		2021	2128
Restricted Grant	0	12833	12833	3953
Council tax & waste	1852		1852	1594
Rent & Insurance	16096		16096	12482
Stationery & postage	546		546	246
Advertising	601		601	0
Telephone	828		828	809
Volunteer expenses & Companies				
House	514		514	153
Repairs & maintenance	6225		6225	1352
Gas, electric & water	4424		4424	3721
Furniture & equipment	245		245	170
Cleaning	738		738	329
Other admin	466		466	233
	46366	12833	59199	38193

d Governance costs				
Independent examination	972	0	972	546
Company House	0			0
	<u>972</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>972</u>	<u>546</u>
Total Resources Expended	<u>47338</u>	<u>12833</u>	<u>60171</u>	<u>38739</u>

4 Donations

Donations received from private individuals, local businesses and charitable trusts. The amount does not include any Gift Aid tax refunds.

5 Lease

The 21 year lease for the Christopher Centre expired 4th July 2014 and has been extended for a further 10 years with 3 yearly reviews. The current cost of the lease is now £14,000 per annum, Paid quarterly with building insurance payments to the trustees of *the Sudbury Common Lands Charity*.

6 Tracker Accounts

The tracker account is an interest earning account with Barclays Bank.

7 Accruals

Expenses received after the year end which related to goods received or expenses incurred during the year ended 31.3.22

8 Trustee Remuneration & Related Party Transactions

No member of the Trustee Board received any remuneration during the year.

No trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity during the year (20189- nil).

Accounts

THE CHRISTOPHER CENTRE

**TRUSTEES' REPORT, INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
AND STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

MOORE GREEN
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
SUDBURY SUFFOLK

THE CHRISTOPHER CENTRE

Trustees' Report

For the year ended 31 March 2021

Administrative Information

The Christopher Centre is a company limited by guarantee, registration no: 6173167 and registered with the Charity Commission no. 1120942.

Registered office:

The Christopher Centre, 10 Gainsborough Street, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 2EU

Trustees

Robin Hodgkinson (Chairperson) (SAVO CIC)

Jennifer Wilkins

Laurence Reynolds (Resigned December 2020)

Kathleen Leigh

David Lowe (Treasurer)

Karoline Wells

Susan Ayres

Manager

Teresa Bishop

Administrator

Helen Martin

Company Secretary

David Lowe

Cleaner

Gregory Bishop

Volunteers

Receptionists: Jenny Ciaravolo, Sarah Dovell, Belinda Green, Collette Harrop, Sue Howting, Jenny Ince, Jennie Wilkins.

Volunteer Handyman: Niall Hennessay.

Structure, Governance & Management

1. Nature of governing document

The activities of *The Christopher Centre* are governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association that were incorporated by Companies House on 20 March 2007 and approved by the Charity Commission on 21 September 2007.

2. Recruitment and appointment of trustees

The trustees and staff are always on the lookout for potential new trustees who can bring their skills and expertise to assist in the organisation's governance. Potential trustees have access to both the chair and the manager to discuss their involvement. When recruited, new trustees are inducted through meetings and an induction pack, which not only covers information about the organisation but their roles and responsibilities as trustees.

3. Review of the financial position

Total income for 2020/1 was £63,673 an increase of £20,041 on the previous year when a grant of £33,000 was received for the refurbishment of the kitchen. The income from office rents was down £2,400 and room hire was down £12,786.

Expenditure for 2020/1 was £38,739, £9,593 below 2019/20. Maintenance costs were down on the previous year.

The net result was an increase of £24,934 in the fund balances carried forward of £42,542.

4. Financial Management

The Christopher Centre accounts are managed by a Treasurer who is one of the trustees.

Bank accounts continue to be held at the Sudbury branch of Barclays Bank. All cheques require two signatories. The signatories are Robin Hodgkinson (Chair) and Jennie Wilkins, in addition to the Treasurer.

The systems of internal control include written reports submitted by the Treasurer at the quarterly trustees' meetings. Also, consideration of the financial results and forecasting of possible funding shortfalls are discussed in detail at trustee meetings.

5. Reserve Policy

The Christopher Centre has built up a reserve for possible redundancies (£3,000) and a maintenance contingency fund of £8,401. There is also a general reserve fund of £31,141. This is because some of the grant money and donations received in 2020/1 includes money that is due to be spent in 2021/2. Being an old Grade 2 listed building, the trustees consider the maintenance contingency fund a necessity and

strive to build the fund up each year, where possible. In some years this is not possible when essential repairs and maintenance are necessary.

6. Risk analysis and plan

There are a number of areas that the Trustees consider as potential risks. These are as follows:

- a. The Christopher Centre Building - being an old building there is always a risk of the need for major structural repairs.
- b. The Christopher Centre Users - losing potential hirers of office accommodation and meeting rooms always remains a risk. Organisations' and people's circumstances change and this is obviously out of our hands. The Trustees ensure that rents and meeting room charges are kept at a competitive level to avoid losing users who might otherwise remain. However, office users who do decide to vacate the accommodation, are required to give three months' notice of their intention and this provides a reasonable window of opportunity to find a replacement.
- c. The Current Pandemic and Future Pandemics - the current pandemic and Lockdown has meant that the building has been completely closed at certain times of the year. Although Lockdown restrictions are currently being eased and more activities can return to the Christopher Centre, there is no guarantee that the Government may impose further lockdowns in the future.

7. Funding

The running of the Christopher Centre is financed from renting out office space and casual hire of rooms for meetings and community activities and the occasional donation or grant. During 2020/1 the level of grants and donations increased to help us through the Pandemic. We received a generous Covid grant from Babergh District Council and grants from Suffolk Community Foundation, the Tudwick Foundation and Cllrs Spence, Ayres and Jan Osbourne to help with our community activities.

A number of donations were also received. These include:

- £192.25 from Paypal for a publicised request for donations
- £500 from the Sudbury Freemans' Trust
- £50 from Babergh Masonic Lodge
- £200 from Priory Lodge
- £500 from Stour Valley Lodge
- Donations from the funeral of Derek Hurrell, who was the first manager of the Christopher Centre and with his wife Audrey was very much involved in setting up the Centre, £371.25
- Donations from the funeral of Mike Norton, who was a volunteer on the Monday morning drop-ins, £325.75

as well as individual donations from Roger Fleming, J & J Wiles, GR Tanner, A Bailey Jones, FC Gault and Mike Williams.

We are very grateful to all our benefactors for their support and encouragement.

8. Objectives and Activities

The Christopher Centre's objects are primarily for the benefit of the inhabitants of the district of Babergh and surrounding areas (in practice, the Sudbury district) to:

- provide premises for the use of local and community groups, advance education through the provision of advice, advocacy, guidance, training, resources and associated activities
- facilitate and encourage opportunities for local and community groups to come together to identify charitable need, express views on matters of local interest and to establish projects or policies to meet these needs. This includes running its own activities such as drop-ins, a community choir, a vegan supper club, arts and crafts activities.
- develop the capacity and skills of said inhabitants in such ways as is thought fit, and particularly to enhance voluntary participation within the area of benefit
- develop and promote community services for said inhabitants who are in need of such a service because of age, sickness or disability (mental or physical), or poverty, or because of a lack or availability of adequate and safe public services
- improve or assist in the improvement of the physical and social environment in an effort to enhance the quality of life for said inhabitants.

The Christopher Centre has continued to fulfil its objects in a number of ways:

- by providing office space within the building for affordable and reasonable rents for a number of different voluntary and community groups
- by providing rooms available for hire by voluntary, community and statutory local groups
- by offering space free of charge within the reception area for local groups and services to promote their work, display leaflets and posters etc
- by utilising volunteers as reception staff who have a good knowledge of the local area and who can therefore offer information about local activities.
- by looking at ways of supporting or setting up community groups to help people who are disadvantaged or vulnerable to provide them with opportunities to learn new skills, make friends and build their confidence and self-esteem.

9. Meeting the Principles of Public Benefit

The Christopher Centre has continued to fulfil its objects in a number of ways:

- through its facilities, activities and information services which are open to all voluntary and community groups, The Christopher Centre provides services which help local groups to meet, exchange information and develop their own services to a wide variety of people within the local community. It also develops its own services to help vulnerable and isolated members of the community through activities such as the Monday morning Drop-in Coffee and Chat, the Monday lunchtime Community Lunches, the Community Choir, monthly Community Markets etc.

- it provides a community resource which members of the public can visit to find out information about local groups, events and services.
- The Christopher Centre is a Grade 2 listed building and the staff, volunteers and trustee board are therefore maintaining and preserving an important piece of Sudbury heritage, ensuring that any improvements and refurbishments made are in keeping with local heritage regulations.

10. Achievements & Performance

During Covid - our bookings were greatly reduced, but we have been pleased to be able to continue to support some of the most vulnerable members of our community. We were also happy that the diabetic eye screening clinic returned to the Centre at the beginning of March until the end of April. It is always a pleasure to have them with us and hopefully they will return in the Autumn. During the break between Lockdowns we welcomed a number of new hirers to the centre including a variety of University of the Third Age (U3A) groups.

We also continued when possible with our monthly fundraising Community Markets, although to adhere to COVID restrictions these were reduced in size. We were able to programme community markets between July and November which saw a variety of stall holders selling their wares, whilst Teresa in the kitchen provided mouth-watering snacks and lunches during the day. When the second Lockdown occurred, the kitchen moved to providing take away lunches once a month (mainly curries and chilli dishes) and these proved very popular with around 50 - 60 orders per month.

Because many of our community activities involved supporting vulnerable and lonely people and people with mental health issues (where risks to their mental health outweighed covid considerations), our Monday morning drop-ins were able to continue under strict Covid-guidelines during the Lockdown periods with a maximum of 16 people allowed to attend. We also started Monday Community Lunches in July as well, as normally the same people from the Drop-in would continue onto the lunches. We also continued with the Community Choir, sometimes practicing outside or inside (maximum 8 people). The Art Group also continued to meet with a maximum of 8 people suitably spaced.

Our three staff members continued to work throughout the year re-organising rooms, files and storage space and ensuring that all our activities were covid-compliant. A new online booking system has been introduced which has made the taking of bookings much easier to administer.

We have added a handyman to our list of volunteers.

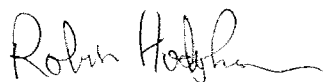
11. Future Plans

As I write this report, Lockdown restrictions are beginning to ease and, in time, things may return to some sort of normality. The risk of further Lockdowns however has not gone away, but the Christopher Centre is more prepared for such situations.

Many thanks must go to the wonderful work undertaken by our volunteer receptionists and others who have continued to provide a great service at times when the building has been open. Thanks must also go to the staff - Teresa. Helen and Gregory who have reacted quickly and conscientiously to all the different stages

of Lockdowns and re-openings and researching what is and is not allowed to happen. They continued working throughout the Pandemic and often went above and beyond their duties.

I would finally pay tribute to my fellow trustees, who have discharged their duties and responsibilities as trustees and directors with pragmatism and good sense. Thanks must also go to Adrian Walters and the Sudbury Common Lands Trustees for their help during the year and also to those who have donated money to The Christopher Centre.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robin Hodgkinson', with a stylized, flowing script.

Robin Hodgkinson
Chairperson

5th August 2021

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Christopher Centre

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2021 which are set out on pages 8 to 11.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the 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 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 company'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 statement

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 company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those 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 [applicable to charities preparing their accounts 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 accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Name: Nick Farr FCA
Moore Green

Address: 22 Friars Street
Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 2AA

Date:

18/8/21

The Christopher Centre
(Registered Charity No: 1120942)

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year ended 31 March 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2021	2020
Income & Expenditure					
Incoming Resources					
Voluntary income	2a	2,456		2,456	5,472
Activities for generating funds	2b	-		-	986
Income from investments	2c	7		7	34
Charitable activities	2d	48,856	12,354	61,210	36,935
Other incoming resources	2e	-	-	-	205
Total Incoming resources		<u>51,319</u>	<u>12,354</u>	<u>63,673</u>	<u>43,632</u>
Resources Expended					
Cost of generating voluntary income	3a	-	-	-	-
Fund raising trading costs	3b	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities	3c	34,240	3,953	38,193	47,780
Governance costs	3d	546		546	552
Total Resources Expended		<u>34,786</u>	<u>3,953</u>	<u>38,739</u>	<u>48,332</u>
Net movement in funds for the Year		16,533	8,401	24,934	(4,700)
Fund Balances Brought Forward		17,608	-	17,608	22,308
Fund balances carried forward		<u>34,141</u>	<u>8,401</u>	<u>42,542</u>	<u>17,608</u>

The Christopher Centre

(Registered Charity No: 1120942)

BALANCE SHEET as at 31 MARCH 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible assets	6	-	-
Current Assets			
Bank Current Account		10,538	4,461
Tracker Account	7	32,628	13,621
Petty Cash		17	167
Prepayments		13	13
Debtors		-	-
		43,196	18,262
Current Liabilities			
Creditors		-	-
Accruals	8	654	654
		654	654
Net Assets			
		42,542	17,608
Represented by			
Funds			
Unrestricted (General)		34,141	17,608
Restricted		8,401	-
		42,542	17,608

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime and in accordance with FRS 102. The Financial Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

For the year ended 31st March 2021, the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of financial statements.

Robin Hodgkinson - Chairperson
The notes form part of these financial statements

The Christopher Centre
(Registered Charity No: 1120942)

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2021

1 Accounting Policies

- a. The accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards.
- b. Income is not anticipated, but recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities only when it is received. Grants and donations are credited to income in the year to which they relate.
- c. Full provision is made for all known liabilities (expenses and losses) whether the amount is known with certainty or is a best estimate in the light of the information available.
- d. Only fixed assets under five years of age are capitalised and depreciation is calculated on a straight-line basis from the year of purchase so as to reduce their value to nil at the end of five years. Computer equipment is depreciated over three years.

2 Incoming Resources	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
a. Voluntary income				
Donations	2456	0	2456	5472
b. Activities for generating funds	0			
Fund raising	0		0	986
c. Income from investments	0			
Bank interest	7		7	34
d. Charitable activities				
Grants	25500	12354	37854	0
Other income	0			0
Rent & user charges	21659		21659	36935
e. Christopher Centre Activities	1697		1697	
f. Other incoming resources	0	0	0	205
Total Incoming Resources	<u>51319</u>	<u>12354</u>	<u>63673</u>	<u>43632</u>

3 Resources Expended

a. Cost of generating voluntary income		0	0	0
b. Fund raising trading costs	0	0	0	0
c. Charitable activities				
Basic Salaries	11023		11023	11674
Christopher Centre Activities	2128		2128	0
Restricted Grants	0	3953	3953	0
Staff travel	0		0	482
Council tax & waste	1594		1594	1572
Rent & Insurance	12482		12482	16058
Stationery & postage	246		246	799
Telephone	809		809	516
Volunteer expenses & Companies House	153		153	341
Repairs & maintenance	1352		1352	11106
Gas, electric & water	3721		3721	4335
Furniture & equipment	170		170	0
Cleaning	329		329	0
Other admin	233		233	897
	<u>34240</u>	<u>3953</u>	<u>38193</u>	<u>47780</u>

The Christopher Centre
(Registered Charity No: 1120942)

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2021

d Governance costs

Independent examination	546	0	546	539
Company House	0		0	13
	<u>546</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>546</u>	<u>552</u>
 Total Resources Expended	 <u>34786</u>	 <u>3953</u>	 <u>38739</u>	 <u>48332</u>

4 Donations

Donations received from private individuals, local businesses and charitable trusts. The amount does not include any Gift Aid tax refunds.

5 Lease

The 21 year lease for the Christopher Centre expired 4th July 2014 and has been extended for a further 10 years with 3 yearly reviews. The current cost of the lease is now £14,000 per annum, Paid quarterly with building insurance payments to the trustees of *the Sudbury Common Lands Charity*. One quarters rent was not requested because of Covid19 restrictions.

6 Tracker Accounts

The tracker account is an interest earning account with Barclays Bank.

7 Accruals

Expenses received after the year end which related to goods received or expenses incurred during the year ended 31.3.21

8 Trustee Remuneration & Related Party Transactions

No member of the Trustee Board received any remuneration during the year.

No trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity during the year (20189- nil).